

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

125th: Yankton Sets A High Bar

South Dakota's yearlong 125th anniversary celebration officially kicked off Saturday in Yankton, and it got it going in style.

The festivities on Saturday — exactly one year before this state celebrates its 125th birthday — were a solid success. Reenactors took to the downtown streets, the Dakota Territorial Capitol and the Cramer-Kenyon Home and performed to good crowds — not a mass of humanity, by no means, but a steady stream of curious business that ideally provided for a lot of interaction. Thereafter, a social and program were held that packed the Riverfront Event Center and included a raucous recreation of the state's bid for statehood, featuring Gov. Dennis Daugaard and Lt. Gov. Matt Michels. A public dance put the finishing touches on a day of historic fun.

It's important to note that Saturday's successful sendoff was by no means a foregone conclusion.

Two major concerns that we had about the state's 125th anniversary plans were how late in the game this process came together and how little time Yankton had to prepare for Saturday's kickoff event.

Planning for the 125th anniversary celebration only began coming together in late summer, which did not seem to be enough time to mount a statewide celebration. It also had little money with which to work. The committee appointed to organize this event had to make something out of nothing in a hurry.

This was especially true for Yankton. It was announced just a month ago that the community would host the kickoff event on Nov. 2, the state's 124th birthday. State Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, who is a member of the state committee, spearheaded a local charge to put together a gala event in just a few weeks that could not only get the state celebration rolling but also spotlight Yankton's pivotal role as a former territorial capitol.

During those weeks, a local committee worked hard to bring everything together virtually on the fly. This included recruiting reenactors who had to be outfitted with costumes and putting together the details of the evening festivities, which also included a performance by first-graders from Beadle Elementary School, plenty of cake and the hiring of a small orchestra for the dance.

The fruits of it all Saturday may have surprised everyone. We heard a couple of crowd forecasts prior to the event — one was very optimistic and one could probably be cast as being more tempered and "realistic." Ultimately, both prognostications fell happily short of the actual turnout.

We congratulate everyone involved with making Saturday's event such a success. Literally, no one knew what exactly to expect from an event that was thrown together so quickly. But the local organization was outstanding, and it got the state's celebration plans off to a rousing start.

Yankton set a high bar with Saturday's opening gala, and we can be proud of everyone who helped make this happen. Here's hoping that the other activities planned throughout the coming year are up to the challenge of meeting what Yankton has started.

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ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, Nov. 5, the 309th day of 2013. There are 56 days left in the year. This is Election Day.
Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 5, 1912, Democrat Woodrow Wilson was elected president, defeating Progressive Party candidate Theodore Roosevelt, incumbent Republican William Howard Taft and Socialist Eugene V. Debs.

On this date: In 1605, the "Gunpowder Plot" failed as Guy Fawkes was seized before he could blow up the English Parliament.

In 1781, the Continental Congress elected John Hanson of Maryland its chairman, giving him the title of "President of the United States in Congress Assembled."

In 1872, suffragist Susan B. Anthony defied the law by attempting to cast a vote for President Ulysses S. Grant. (Anthony was convicted by a judge and fined \$100, but she never paid the fine.)

In 1911, aviator Calbraith P. Rodgers arrived in Pasadena, Calif., completing the first transcontinental airplane trip in 49 days.

In 1938, Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings" and "Essay for Orchestra" made their world debuts on the NBC Blue radio network as they were performed by the NBC Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Arturo Toscanini.

In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented third term in office as he defeated Republican challenger Wendell L. Willkie. In 1942, American showman George M. Cohan died in New York at age 64.

In 1968, Richard M. Nixon won the presidency, defeating Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and American Independent candidate George C. Wallace.

In 1974, Ella T. Grasso was elected governor of Connecticut, becoming the first woman to win a gubernatorial office without succeeding her husband.

In 1987, Supreme Court nominee Douglas H. Ginsburg admitted using marijuana several times in the 1960s and 70s, calling it a mistake. (Ginsburg ended up withdrawing his nomination.)

In 1990, Rabbi Meir Kahane, the Brooklyn-born Israeli extremist, was shot to death at a New York hotel. (Egyptian native El Sayyed Nosair was convicted of the slaying in federal court.)

In 1992, Malice Green, a black motorist, died after he was struck in the head 14 times with a flashlight by a Detroit police officer, Larry Nevers, outside a suspected crack house. (Nevers and his partner, Walter Budzyn, were found guilty of second-degree murder, but the convictions were overturned; they were later convicted of involuntary manslaughter.)

In 2009, a shooting rampage at the Fort Hood Army post in Texas left 13 people dead; Maj. Nidal Hasan, an Army psychiatrist, was charged with premeditated murder and attempted murder. (Hasan was convicted by a military jury and sentenced to death in August 2013.)

Ten years ago: President Bush signed a bill outlawing the procedure known by its critics as "partial-birth abortion"; less than an hour later, a federal judge in Nebraska issued a temporary restraining order against the ban. (In 2007, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.) Green River serial killer Gary Leon Ridgway pleaded guilty to strangling 48 women over two decades, most of them near Seattle. (Ridgway was sentenced to life in prison. In 2011, he pleaded guilty to a 49th murder.) Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean apologized for urging Democrats to court Southern whites who displayed Confederate flags on their pickup trucks. Bobby Hatfield of the musical duo the Righteous Brothers died in Kalamazoo, Mich., at age 63.

Five years ago: One day after being elected president, Barack Obama began filling out his new administration, selecting Illinois Rep. Rahm Emanuel to be White House chief of staff. A case of postelection nerves on Wall Street sent the Dow industrials plunging nearly 500 points. Two men were shot to death in St. Johns, Ariz.; the 8-year-old son of one of the victims was arrested. (The boy later pleaded guilty to negligent homicide in the death of his father's roommate; prosecutors dropped charges in the father's death as part of a plea deal.) Literary critic John Leonard died in New York at age 69. Bollywood movie director B.R. Chopra died in Mumbai at age 94.

One year ago: On the eve of the presidential election, President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney held rallies seven miles apart in Columbus, Ohio, as two polls showed Obama with a one-percentage-point lead over Romney. The Supreme Court ruled a South Carolina sheriff's office could be held liable for attorneys' fees for stopping abortion protesters who wanted to hold up signs showing aborted fetuses.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Chris Robinson is 75. Actress Elke Sommer is 73. Singer Art Garfunkel is 72. Actor-playwright Sam Shepard is 70. Singer Peter Noone is 66. TV personality Kris Jenner is 58. Actor Nestor Serrano ("24") is 58. Actress-comedian Mo'Nique is 55. Actor Robert Patrick is 55. Singer Bryan Adams is 54. Actress Tilda Swinton is 53. Actor Michael Gaston is 51. Actress Tatum O'Neal is 50. Actress Andrea McArdle is 50. Rock singer Angelo Moore (Fishbone) is 48. Actress Judy Reyes is 46. Rock musician Mark Hunter (James) is 45. Actor Sam Rockwell is 45. Country singers Heather and Jennifer Kinley (The Kinleys) are 43. Actor Corin Nemec is 42. Rock musician Jonny Greenwood (Radiohead) is 42. Country singer-musician Ryan Adams is 39. Actor Sam Page is 37. Actor Jeremy Lelliott is 31. Rock musician Kevin Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 26.

Thought for Today: "Examine what is said, not him who speaks." — Arab proverb.

FROM THE BIBLE

Jesus said to them, "Children, do you have any fish?" They answered him, "No." John 21:5. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Rez of the Story

Thanksgiving Roots

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), I have been asked to tell about the historical "Thanksgiving" — beings the holiday in question looms close on the horizon of this year's holiday season — from a Native perspective. Many questions still remain about the actual Thanksgiving event, if there even was one. Maybe in the final analysis all we will have left is contrasting perspectives.

In November 2007, I wrote: On the fourth Thursday of November each year we celebrate what Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 set aside as "Thanksgiving Day" (approved by Congress in 1940). So then it is officially on the list of holidays America takes time out to recognize every year.

Historians tell us that what we call Thanksgiving Day today had its beginnings in 1620, where on Sept. 6, fortune-hunting pilgrims decided to set sail for the "New World." Sixty-six days later, in November, land was sighted. In 1621 Plymouth Colony (now known as Plymouth, Mass.) held a feast with the Algonquian Wampanoag who helped these "strangers" survive here in the so-called "New World."

According to authors Emory Dean Keoke and Kay Marie Porterfield, who wrote "American Indian Contributions to the World": "Wampanoag had set aside a time for giving thanks long before Europeans set foot on this continent. They traditionally had six thanksgiving festivals during the year, including the Maple Dance, the Planting Feast, the Strawberry Festival, the Green Corn Celebration, a harvest festival, and a midwinter ceremony. They called the time to give thanks for the first harvest the Green Corn Celebration or Ceremony. The Massachusetts gathering in 1621, however, is the one credited for inspiring the holiday that U.S. citizens now celebrate each year.

"Unable to practice their religious beliefs in England, the Pilgrims had sailed to America to establish a new 'Kingdom of God' in 1620. Although they believed it to be their God-given destiny to live on the land inhabited by the Indians, during the first winter, nearly half of them died from disease or starvation. Lost and hungry in August 1620, the colonists raided not only Indian storehouses but also graves in search of corn. Then American



Vince TWO EAGLES

Indian farming advice brought the Pilgrims from the brink of starvation. Squanto, the only surviving member of the Patuxet band, who had learned to speak English when he was captured and sold into slavery, met the Pilgrims in the spring of 1621. According to historians at Plymouth Colony, he taught the Puritans to plant corn in mounds and to fertilize it with herring or shad. Other historians say he also provided the Pilgrims with deer meat and taught them which plants to use for medicinal purposes.

"According to the Plymouth Plantation Foodways manager, Kathleen Curtin, fruits available at the time would have been raspberries, strawberries, grapes, plums, cherries, blueberries and gooseberries, all of which would have been dried. Cranberries were indigenous to the Northeast but were not on the menu. Fish, eel, clams, lobsters, mussels, honey, maple syrup, beans and nuts would have all been available and might have been served.

"The feast was not repeated the next year or in the year that followed. By 1675 the Puritans and the Wampanoag, led by Chief Massasoit's son Metacom, whom the Pilgrims called King Philip, were at war over land and conflicting values. The puritans won the war, killing Metacom in 1676, tracking down members of the Wampanoag and other Algonquian bands, and selling those who did not escape to Canada into slavery in the Mediterranean and the West Indies.

"Thanksgiving was revived in 1789, when President George Washington proclaimed Nov. 26 to be a national day of thanksgiving. Not until 1863, however, did President Abraham Lincoln set aside the last Thursday in November as an annual celebration."

Some choose to celebrate what they are thankful for in their own individual families like good health, food to eat, and a roof over their heads and ignore the so-called "national holiday."

John F. Kennedy once said of Thanksgiving, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not utter words but to live by them."

Our elders always say it is good to live in a thankful way. Hechetaado! (And so it is!) And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) . . .

Cultivating A Welfare Nation

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

My parents were children during the Great Depression, and it scarred them, especially my father, who saw destitution in his Brooklyn, N.Y., neighborhood: adults standing in so-called "bread lines," children begging in the streets. My grandfather was a New York City cop, and so my dad did not suffer as others did. But he never forgot the brutal scenes and worked hard his whole life to build some financial independence.

Fast-forward to the severe recession of 2008, when millions of Americans lost jobs and equity in their homes. No bread lines, but much pain. The Obama administration responded by pouring trillions of dollars into stimulus and rescue programs, some of which succeeded in stabilizing tottering banks and auto companies. But along with that, the president and his acolytes openly encouraged Americans to use the welfare system. And now the entitlement culture has exploded.

According to the Census Bureau, more people in America today are on welfare than have full-time jobs. There is a culture of dependency being created that is truly shocking. A recent study by the Cato Institute concludes that welfare now pays more than minimum-wage work in 35 states. So why enter the workforce at the bottom if the government will give you the same compensation for sitting on your butt?

Some believe that the Democratic Party, which champions the entitlement culture, is doing so to assure future votes from those receiving benefits. And right now, about half of all American households are getting some kind of compensation from the feds. Some of that, such as Social Security and Medicare, has been earned. But nearly 50 million



Bill O'REILLY

Americans are receiving food stamps, and 83 million are on Medicaid.

The United States became the world's strongest economy by folks working hard. Layabouts and people who game the system actually harm our country. Safety nets for the poor and disadvantaged are a must for any compassionate nation, but encouraging folks to go on the dole when it's not absolutely necessary is disgraceful.

And that's what the Obama administration is doing. How else can you explain a 40 percent rise in food stamp recipients in just three years (2009 to 2011, the last statistics available) and a rise of 15 percent in federal disability payments over the same period of time? Is the workplace that dangerous? Really?

As a person who has worked extremely hard for more than 40 years, I don't want my tax dollars going to drunkards and drug addicts. And in America, there is no substance testing for welfare recipients. Every time that comes up, the civil liberties lobby screams.

America has become a much weaker nation since 2001. The wars we have fought to protect ourselves against terrorism have drained our treasury and created a deep distrust of authority. The hope and change espoused by President Obama has led to chaos in the health care arena and a massive entitlement industry that is growing larger every day. Unless the voters wise up and get back to self-reliance and responsible government, this nation will continue down the Nanny State road. That path is unsustainable. But even worse, it is un-American.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of many books, including the newly released "Killing Jesus."

YOUR LETTERS

Helping Handrails

Leta Levinger, Yankton

To Yankton City Commission members: I have talked to Todd at the Parks and Recreation Department several times since 2011 regarding handrails on the middle steps at the amphitheater in Riverside Park. Todd has been very patient with my "bugging" him and very understanding and accommodating in finding out details, procedures and costs of new steps and rails.

It is extremely difficult for the elderly and handicapped to use the middle steps with no rails. I realize there are rails on each end, but when lawn chairs are placed on the tiers, it is very difficult to walk across to reach the middle. When summer concerts are in session, people who can't walk the steps put their chairs outside the seating and back onto the lawn. Some can hear, but not see the entertainment.

This project is finally in the budget and the City Commission members have planned it for 2015. I realize this is not a major undertaking, but I'm asking the commissioners to please prioritize this project so it can be completed in the spring

Online Opinion

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the Press & Dakotan's Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think the U.S. is prepared to deal with a major cyberattack?
No84%
Yes8%
Not sure8%
TOTAL VOTES CAST213

The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

What is your favorite season of the year?
To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our Web site at www.yankton.net.

of 2014. It's a shame to let another year go by with a project that should have been completed long ago. I thank them for their consideration.