

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

CONTACT US

PHONE:
(605) 665-7811
(800) 743-2968
NEWS FAX:
(605) 665-1721
ADVERTISING FAX:
(605) 665-0288
WEBSITE:
www.yankton.net
EMAIL ADDRESS:
news@yankton.net

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The End



OPINION | WE SAY

A tired **THUMBS UP** to the end of the election season. Elections are an important part of our democratic process, but they have become so calamitous and noisy in some cases, it has turned into a season of weary headaches for some voters. Nationally, this was one of the most expensive off-year elections ever, with \$3.7 billion spent by candidates, parties and other entities throwing their cash into the fray. (Much of it comes now from large donors; it's estimated that just 0.2 percent of the U.S. population gets involved monetarily.) However, as a *Washington Post* blog noted Thursday, Americans spend twice that amount on Halloween, which is certainly more fun and perhaps less scary. So, maybe all this was a bargain. At any rate, kudos to everyone who voted. If nothing else, your right to complain has been renewed until the next time we're beckoned to the polls.

Remembering



THUMBS UP to those communities, schools, organizations and other entities that will be holding events next week in honor of Veterans Day. Here's our annual lament: This used to be a very big, very important holiday — schools and businesses closed, parades were held, newspapers did not publish — in our lives. Now, it has become almost an afterthought in some places. One obvious reason why is that the veterans of World War I — the end of which is the reason we have this day of special commemoration — are all gone now, and we've filled the years since with other wars and other memories. But Veterans Day still has an important meaning. And this year — the centennial year of the start of the "Great War" — the ghosts of the ancient conflict need to be raised on this day, if for no other reason than to commemorate everyone who has fought and died for our nation and our freedom through the years. Remember the ghosts and remember the day, Tuesday, Nov. 11, for the solemn moment it always will be.

The Last Ride



A sad **THUMBS DOWN** to the passing of Tom Magliozzi, who along with his brother Ray starred in the popular "Car Talk" radio program on NPR and wrote a syndicated column that has appeared in the pages of the *Press & Dakotan* since the mid 1990s. Tom (if you look at the photo we run with each column, he's the one with the beard) died this week at age 77 from complications of Alzheimer's disease. He and his brother formed a hilarious and insightful team — affectionately called "Click and Clack" — that each week helped out listeners (and readers) with their automotive problems. The radio program, which debuted in 1977, stopped its first-run production in 2013, but compilation episodes still air. We're happy to report that Ray Magliozzi has decided to continue writing the newspaper columns as a tribute to his brother. So, Tom's entertaining spirit will drive on, and we're glad of it.



Notes From An Election: A Napa Referendum?

BY KELLY HERTZ
kelly.hertz@yankton.net

A couple of passing thoughts on a hectic — and strange — election season:
• I suppose someone could try to argue that Tuesday's Yankton County Commission election really wasn't a referendum on the Napa Junction episode, but when voters decide to change out 80 percent of a board, something is surely up.
To be fair, we were guaranteed at least one new face, with one incumbent retiring from the five-member commission. But the other three incumbents in the race all lost to new candidates who promised a new economic direction.



Kelly HERTZ

Which brings us back inescapably to Napa Junction. No topic on the county agenda was more divisive and emotional this past year. And Tuesday's winners had all pointed to the issue as a lost opportunity. What we saw Tuesday was the kind of wholesale change one rarely sees in any election, given the power of incumbency. Incumbents are known factors, which is usually a plus for them. But not in this instance; in fact, it appeared to have the opposite effect.
How this result translates into change remains to be seen; we have a very inexperienced — and thus unpredictable — board that will convene come January. Will they wield a "mandate" mentality? Will things look a little different on the other side of the table? Still, what we've just witnessed is something that, in time, may seem breathtaking in retrospect. It was an electorally seismic event.

• South Dakota's Democratic Party may now be in the weakest position it's been in since the days before George McGovern, and that says a lot. How weak? Nebraska now seems more Democratic in comparison. Seriously, *Nebraska!*
For the first time in recent memory, the party holds no statewide offices here. (Remember that it was a little more than 10 years ago that Democrats briefly held all three Washington seats.) Also, the party's small clout in the state Legislature decreased slightly.

What's more, there seem to be few intriguing prospects on the horizon. While gubernatorial candidate Susan Wismer and congressional candidate Corinna Robinson were probably likable enough, they clearly couldn't mount a serious challenge to Gov. Dennis Daugaard or Rep. Kristi Noem in their respective races. Meanwhile, Rick Weiland was an alternately affable and tenacious senatorial candidate, but he wasn't the fresh jolt of energy the party desperately needs.

With a thin bench and a shrinking base, the Democrats need to regroup and recruit fast.
• There was some intriguing drama Tuesday night, and it started when a couple of people couldn't get out of bed that morning.
Earlier in the day, two poll workers in Shannon County didn't show up to their posts on time (actually, one never showed at all) after reportedly oversleeping, causing those polling stations to open late. Because of that, Secretary of State Jason Gant announced that the

release of all state results would be pushed back one hour, to 9 p.m. central time, in order to allow the Shannon County residents their full allotted time to vote.

But just after 8 p.m. central time, The Associated Press started calling races anyway based on exit polling and projections, not official results. Apparently, AP felt the needs of the many outweighed the civil liberties of a few and the sleeping patterns of a couple. This steamed Gant, who took to social and conventional media to chastise AP as "irresponsible."

Was he right? Probably.
But was I unhappy about it? Honestly, no, because we were able to get some stories in place before 9 p.m. and get that much work out of the way while waiting for our own local results, which generated the mad rush I dreaded given the hour delay.

• I wasn't surprised Mike Rounds won the Senate race, but I'm perplexed by what he has become. He sounded shrill at times during the campaign (even when he wasn't talking about EB-5), embracing some extreme stands (like vowing to get rid of the Department of Education) in an effort, I suspect, to appeal to a segment of the GOP base that genuinely distrusted him. This just didn't seem like the same guy I met when he first ran for governor 12 years ago — soft-spoken and perhaps slightly overwhelmed by his upset primary victory.

One of Rounds' more irritating attacks this fall, which he unleashed in at least one press release I saw, was to assail former Sen. Larry Pressler, who was seeking a comeback, for being "friends with the president." So, having a friendship with someone from another party and with another viewpoint makes you unsuitable for public office? Almost every American decries D.C. gridlock, but this kind of mentality seems like one of the ingredients in the recipe.

Somewhere, I wonder if Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill — two tenacious political adversaries who were also friends — were either rolling in their graves or chuckling over drinks in an ethereal Irish pub about that one.

• Finally, two numbers surprised me Tuesday. One was that the turnout in Yankton County was 59 percent — which isn't bad, but given the issues, all the rhetoric on display and the good crowds at the forums, it seemed disappointingly low. I expected better, but I always do. Maybe I'm just too close to it in my position.

The other was relayed in a story by reporter Bob Mercer, noting that 41 percent of South Dakota's legislative candidates ran unopposed this fall. Whether it was due to political redistricting or increased apathy, that's not a healthy sign, no matter what party you're in. And unless that number improves, there will be little reason to ever expect a Legislature that will grow more responsive to our everyday concerns and issues.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Would you support a travel ban on African nations hit by the Ebola outbreak?

Yes	82%
No	15%
Not sure	3%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	426

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:

Do you believe the "Great Recession" is over?
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, Nov. 7, the 311th day of 2014. There are 54 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 7, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Republican Thomas E. Dewey.
On this date: In 1861, former U.S. President John Tyler was elected to the Confederate House of Representatives (however, Tyler died before he could take his seat).
In 1914, the first issue of *The New Republic* magazine was published, presenting itself as "A Journal of Opinion which Seeks to Meet the Challenge of a New Time."
In 1916, Republican Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress.
In 1917, Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place as forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky.
In 1940, Washington state's original Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nicknamed "Galloping Gertie," collapsed into Puget Sound during a windstorm.
In 1954, the CBS News program "Face the Nation" premiered with Ted Koo as host; the guest was Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis.
In 1962, Republican Richard Nixon, having lost California's gubernatorial race, held what he called his "last press conference," telling reporters, "You won't have Nixon to kick around anymore." Former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt, 78, died in New York City.
In 1972, President Richard Nixon was re-elected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern.
In 1973, Congress overrode President Richard Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.
In 1974, British peer Richard John Bingham, 7th Earl of Lucan, disappeared after his children's nanny, Sandra Rivett, was bludgeoned to death at his family's London home; he has not been seen since.
In 1980, actor Steve McQueen died in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, at age 50.
In 1989, L. Douglas Wilder won the governor's race in Virginia, becoming the first elected black governor in U.S. history; David N. Dinkins was elected New York City's first black mayor.
Ten years ago: France rolled out overwhelming military force to put down an explosion of anti-French violence in Ivory Coast, its former West African colony. In the New York City Marathon, Britain's Paula Radcliffe won the women's race in 2:23:10, edging Kenya's Susan Chepkemei by only four seconds; South Africa's Hendrik Ramaala won the men's race in 2:09:28. Actor and musical star Howard Keel died at age 85.
Five years ago: In a victory for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House narrowly passed, 220-215, landmark health care legislation to expand coverage to tens of millions lacking it and place tough new restrictions on the insurance industry. David Haye won the WBA heavyweight title with a majority decision over Nikolai Valuev in Nuremberg, Germany.
One year ago: Seeking to calm a growing furor, President Barack Obama told NBC News he was "sorry" Americans were losing health insurance plans that he repeatedly had said they could keep under his health care law, but he stopped short of apologizing for making those promises in the first place. The Food and Drug Administration announced it was requiring the food industry to phase out artery-clogging trans fats. Shares of Twitter went on sale to the public for the first time; by the closing bell, the social network was valued at \$31 billion. A Russian spacecraft carrying the Olympic torch and three astronauts docked with the International Space Station ahead of the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.
Today's Birthdays: Evangelist Billy Graham is 96. Actor Barry Newman is 76. Singer Johnny Rivers is 72. Singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell is 71. Former CIA Director David Petraeus is 62. Actor Christopher Knight (TV: "The Brady Bunch") is 57. Rock musician Tommy Thayer (KISS) is 54. Actress Julie Pinson is 47. Rock musician Greg Tribbett (Mudvayne) is 46. Actor Christopher Daniel Barnes is 42. Actors Jason and Jeremy London are 42. Actress Yunjin Kim is 41. Actor Adam DeVine is 31. Rock musician Zach Myers (Shinedown) is 31. Actor Lucas Neff is 29. Rapper Timie Tempah is 26. Rock singer Lorde is 18.
Thought for Today: "Man cannot live by incompetence alone." — Charlotte Whitton, Canadian feminist (1896-1975).

FROM THE BIBLE

But when one stronger than he attacks him and overcomes him, he takes away his armor in which he trusted and divides his spoil.
Luke 11:22. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

Changing An Institution?

Rev. Charles W. Wonnemberg, Wakonda
The motto on the state seal of South Dakota proclaims: "Under God the People Rule." Under God we confirmed, constitutionally, marriage as a union exclusively between one man and one woman. "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and cleave to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?'" (Jesus, quoting Genesis 1:27 in Matthew 9:45).
Judicial tyranny would redefine the institution of marriage to validate same-sex couplings. Our state founders "would turn over in their graves" at such inversion of natural order and subversion of the constitution they ratified in good faith 125 years ago.
No federal court has the right to change

ABOUT THIS PAGE

■ The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the **PRESS & DAKOTAN**. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at kelly.hertz@yankton.net.

our Biblically-grounded institution of marriage. We must defend and uphold our state constitution and its statutes. Otherwise our state seal becomes an emblem of hypocrisy.
A monk in Ken Follett's epic, "The Pillars of The Earth," says something pertinent: "Politics may be a bargain between beggars. But compromise with good and evil is never possible."

PRESS & DAKOTAN LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor and asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.
■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less.
Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.
■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.
■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at views@yankton.net.