

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS/

CIRCULATION

Extension 104

mike.hrycko@yankton.net

CLASSIFIED ADS

Extension 108

tera.schmidt@yankton.net

NEWS DEPT.

Extension 114

news@yankton.net

SPORTS DEPT.

Extension 106

sports@yankton.net

ADVERTISING DEPT.

Extension 122

sales@yankton.net

BUSINESS OFFICE

Extension 119

ar@yankton.net

NEW MEDIA:

Extension 136

beth.rye@yankton.net

COMPOSING DEPT.

Extension 129

kathy.larson@yankton.net

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood

Publisher

Michèle Schievelbein

Advertising Director

Tonya Schild

Business Manager

Michael Hrycko

Circulation Director

Tera Schmidt

Classified Manager

Kelly Hertz

Editor

James D. Cimburek

Sports Editor

Beth Rye

New Media Director

Kathy Larson

Composing Manager

Martin Bishop

District Manager

DAILY STAFF

Melissa Bader

Cassandra Brockmoller

Brandi Bue

Rob Buckingham

Caryn Chappell

Randy Dockendorf

Jeannine Economy

Jordynne Hart

Jeremy Hoeck

Sauna Marlette

Robert Nielsen

Cathy Sudbeck

Sally Whiting

JoAnn Wiebelhaus

Brenda Willcuts

Published Daily Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan established April 26, 1875.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES*

(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY

1-month.....\$12.09
3 months.....\$36.27
6 months.....\$72.53
1-year.....\$133.09

MOTOR ROUTE

(where available)

1 month.....\$14.51
3 months.....\$43.53
6 months.....\$87.05
1 year.....\$139.14

MAIL IN RETAIL

Trade Zone

1-month.....\$16.93
3 months.....\$50.79
6 months.....\$101.57
1-year.....\$148.82

MAIL OUTSIDE

RETAIL TRADE ZONE

1 month.....\$19.35
3 months.....\$58.05
6 months.....\$116.09
1-year.....\$186.33

* Plus applicable sales tax for all rates

WE SAY

Food For Thought



THUMBS UP to everyone involved in next week's Yankton Community Feast, which will be held at Calvary Baptist Church, 2407 Broadway, on Wednesday, Nov. 26. The annual Thanksgiving Eve event is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship as well as a delicious hot meal. Of course, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes — and in the kitchens — to make this feast come off, and they deserve a big helping of thanks from everyone who partakes in this holiday tradition. The feast will be held from 4:30-7 p.m. Wednesday. Meal deliveries for shut-ins must be made in advance by 5 p.m. today (Friday) by calling 760-3170.

It's A Gas



Ignoring any fears of jinxing the whole thing, **THUMBS UP** to the falling gasoline prices that motorists are facing/enjoying as they head into one of the busiest travel seasons of the year. Prices have reached their lowest levels since 2010, according to AAA. On Thursday, the price for a gallon of unleaded gasoline dipped down to \$2.599 at some Yankton locations. Even better news is a recent prediction that low fuel prices will likely carry into 2015. The Energy Department says motorists may pay on average 45 cents less per gallon next year as opposed to 2014, which will result in an estimated \$61 billion in savings for consumers — which is somewhat like a small stimulus deal. Here's hoping this trend can last, for it's a welcome present for everyone.

Honored



THUMBS UP to World War II veteran Orvin Oien, who recently received the Knight of the Legion of Honor Medal from the French government. Oien, a Volin native, now lives in a Wakonda nursing home. He expressed surprise at receiving the medal 70 years after he completed his military service. The French award represents the latest decoration for his role in the D-Day invasion at Normandy and the subsequent liberation of France and other parts of Europe. Even seven decades later, it's never too late to say thanks for outstanding service.

End Credits



THUMBS DOWN to the passing of film and stage director Mike Nichols, who died Wednesday in New York at age 83. Nichols was a revered master of many mediums, having won nine Tony Awards for his Broadway work, numerous Oscars and even a Grammy. He is probably best known cinematically for his Oscar-winning turn at directing 1968's "The Graduate," about an older, married woman seducing a younger man, played by Dustin Hoffman in a hilarious star-making turn. His other credits ranged from the bawdy, funny "The Birdcage" to the 1966 domestic nightmare "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" He also made an impact on television by directing the 2003 miniseries "Angels in America," which looked at the early days of the AIDS epidemic. He was a consummate craftsman of many art forms. Little wonder that director Steven Spielberg said Nichols' death was "a seismic loss."

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Should the U.S. pay ransoms to terrorists holding Americans hostage?

No.....85%
Not sure.....11%
Yes.....4%
TOTAL VOTES CAST277

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 plan to check out any "Black Friday" shopping sales events?

To cast your vote in the **PRESS & DAKOTAN'S** Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, Nov. 21, the 325th day of 2014. There are 40 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 21, 1864, a letter was signed by President Abraham Lincoln expressing condolences to Lydia Bixby, a widow in Boston whose five sons supposedly died while fighting in the Civil War. (As it turned out, only two of Mrs. Bixby's sons had been killed in battle; also, historians are not certain that Lincoln actually wrote the letter.)

On this date: In 1789, North Carolina became the 12th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1861, Judah Benjamin, who had been acting Confederate Secretary of War, was formally named to the post.

In 1922, Rebecca L. Felton of Georgia was sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate.

In 1934, the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes," starring Ethel Merman as Reno Sweeney, opened on Broadway.

In 1942, the Alaska Highway, also known as the Alcan Highway, was formally opened at Soldier's Summit in the Yukon Territory.

In 1964, the upper level of New York's Verrazano Narrows Bridge, connecting Brooklyn and Staten Island, was opened.

In 1969, the Senate voted down the Supreme Court nomination of Clement F. Haynsworth, 55-45, the first such rejection since 1930.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's attorney, J. Fred Buzhardt, revealed the existence of an 18-1/2-minute gap in one of the White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1974, bombs exploded at a pair of pubs in Birmingham, England, killing 21 people. (Six suspects were convicted of the attack, but the convictions of the so-called "Birmingham Six" were overturned in 1991.)

In 1980, 87 people died in a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada.

In 1989, the proceedings of Britain's House of Commons were televised live for the first time.

In 1991, the U.N. Security Council chose Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt to be Secretary-General.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, trying to mend relations with Latin America, pledged during an economic summit in Chile to make a fresh push for stalled immigration reforms. Iraqi authorities set January 30, 2005, as the date for the nation's first election since the collapse of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship. Six Wisconsin hunters were shot to death by Chai Soua Vang, an ethnic Hmong immigrant

who was later sentenced to life in prison.

Five years ago: The Senate voted 60-39 to open debate on health care legislation. An explosion at the Xinxing coal mine near Hegang city in China killed 108 miners. The University of East Anglia, in eastern England, reported that hackers had broken into a server at its Climatic Research Unit. (The hackers posted hundreds of private e-mails and documents online, stoking debate on whether some scientists had overstated the case for man-made climate change.) The shimmering, white glove Michael Jackson wore when he premiered his trademark moonwalk dance was auctioned off for \$350,000 (plus \$70,000 in taxes and fees) at the Hard Rock Cafe in New York's Times Square.

One year ago: Sweeping aside a century of precedent, Democrats took a chunk out of the Senate's hallowed filibuster tradition, clearing the way for speedy confirmation of controversial appointments made by President Barack Obama; Republicans warned Democrats would regret their actions once political fortunes were reversed and they could no longer block appointments made by a GOP president. Fifty-four people were killed in a supermarket roof collapse in Riga, Latvia. Three women were freed after being held captive 30 years in a south London home.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Joseph Campanella is 90. Country singer Jean Shepard is 81. Actor Laurence Luckinbill is 80. Actress Mario Thomas is 77. Actor Rick Lenz is 75. Singer Dr. John is 74. Actress Juliet Mills is 73. Basketball Hall of Famer Earl Monroe is 70. Television producer Marcy Carsey is 70. Actress Goldie Hawn is 69. Movie director Andrew Davis is 68. Rock musician Lonnie Jordan is 64. Singer Livingston Taylor is 64. Actress-singer Lorna Luft is 62. Actress Cherry Jones is 58. Rock musician Brian Ritchie (The Violent Femmes) is 54. Gospel singer Steven Curtis Chapman is 52. Actress Nicolle Sheridan is 51. Singer-actress Bjork is 49. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Troy Aikman is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chanequa Hannibal (BLACKstreet) is 46. MLB All-Star player Ken Griffey Jr. is 45. TV personality Rik Hillis is 44. Rapper Pretty Lou (Lost Boyz) is 43. Football player-turned-talk show host Michael Strahan is 43. Country singer Kelsi Osborn (SheDAISY) is 40. Singer-actress Lindsey Haun is 30. Actress Jena Malone is 30. Pop singer Carly Rae Jepsen is 29. Actor-singer Sam Palladio is 27.

Thought for Today: "Never confuse motion with action." — Ernest Hemingway, American author (1899-1961).

FROM THE BIBLE

And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more." John 8:11. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



Kelly Hertz

This War Is Over

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

Since we're probably gearing up for more of the annual "War on Christmas" talk, I think we might be better served instead talking about the "War on Thanksgiving."

We might be ... except the war is mostly over now. And Thanksgiving has lost.

It has fallen — ironically but not surprisingly — to Christmas, which despite all the protests that it's under siege from secular forces trying to obliterate its sacred spirit, is more gargantuan and unstoppable than ever. It's practically devoured Thanksgiving in much the same way many of us will devour turkey and cranberry sauce next week.

For proof, I submit the fact that I have to talk about Christmas *now*. It seems the song "Christmastime is Here" becomes applicable to our current lives earlier and earlier with each passing year; on that topic, there's a radio station in Sioux City that's been playing (mostly) wall-to-wall Christmas music since just after Halloween. There's a cable television channel that's been airing Christmas movies since November started. Of course, Christmas decor has been exploding in stores; some places started flashing their holiday colors in late September. Radio and television commercials are quickly filling with Christmas sounds and images. (Also, the City of Yankton has already put up its Christmas decorations along some of its streets, although — in keeping with local tradition — you'd be hard pressed to notice.)

Meanwhile, Thanksgiving has a relatively modest footprint in those media and venues.

The "war" on Thanksgiving hasn't been much of a battle in recent years because Christmas has a potent ally — Black Friday — that has aggressively undercut our nostalgic notions of giving thanks.

Actually, "Black Friday" is now a misnomer. Remember when stores used to open at, say, 5 a.m. on the Friday after Thanksgiving to draw in shoppers? Now they're opening on Thanksgiving Day. I drove by a few places in Yankton on Thanksgiving Night last year and saw flocks of cars at several locations. This year, there are reports that some major chains are planning on opening even earlier on Thanksgiving to help shoppers get a faster start on their Christmas spending spree.

That's the mighty genius of the battle. Thanksgiving still has an irresistible pull upon us — and we certainly don't overlook it — but

that gravity is now being used as a slingshot to hurl us toward the Yuletide. In the process, Thanksgiving proper has been chopped up before our eyes — a fact I've mourned here before, but it has grown even more vigorous now.

The Thanksgiving mindset today is far removed from the holiday's humble origins.

The initial concept of Thanksgiving began as a day set aside by our leaders to acknowledge our blessings and reflect on our good fortunes, even in times when those fortunes weren't so evident.

Days of thanksgiving have been part of American life since before there was an America. We all know the tale about the pilgrims and their reasons for celebrating thanksgiving in 1621 with the Native American inhabitants they encountered (although some Native American groups now refer to it as a national day of mourning, according to History.com/). President George Washington declared a day of thanksgiving for Nov. 26, 1789, calling on fellow Americans to offer prayer and thanks to "the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be" — and, while we're at it, to celebrate the ratification of the new U.S. Constitution. President Abraham Lincoln made Thanksgiving a national holiday in the murderous depths of the Civil War in 1863, calling for a day of thanks on Nov. 26 of that year as a gesture to "heal the nation's wounds." (The November date was decreed in October, but it coincidentally fell only about a week after Lincoln delivered his Gettysburg address, which was really a solemn prayer that reflected the national spirit of the holiday.)

Alas, Thanksgiving's humble roots seem buried from our sensibilities now. The day has been mostly reduced to a big meal held at the starting line for the holiday shopping race.

And now even that isn't soon enough to get the retail juices cascading.

In some ways, I wonder if people see Black Friday as a bigger "holiday" now than Thanksgiving. No one will probably admit to that, but in terms of anticipation and planning, I wouldn't be surprised if there's some truth to it.

Unquestionably, Thanksgiving has lost the war.

In the process, we're losing a little bit of ourselves.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On The Run

Michael Welch, Yankton

As we have now adjusted the clock to standard time for the benefit of daylight at the end of the day we have more darkness in the early morning hours.

I leave my house by the airport every morning just after 6 a.m. and then head south on Peninah St. there are two sets of morning joggers both female that believe fashion is more vital than visibility. Both of these ladies run with the lane of traffic and run in the lane instead of on the shoulder wearing completely black outfits and they run with the direction of traffic instead of facing the traffic.

There have been two instances that they were not visible until they were within feet of the front of my vehicle. In this morning's fog they were invisible until within inches of the vehicle.

I would recommend that fashion considerations give way to reflectorized clothing or high visibility colors, or even an available LED light that can be worn on the arm band. If they can't view themselves out of fashion at least schedule an appointment with a good photographer so that your children will have a memory of what mom looked like before she was an over.

This same situation happens along west city limits road. It is only a matter of time before we have an auto pedestrian fatality unless the pedestrians take some more responsibility on visibility.

Bridge View

Dominic Russo, Yankton

In reference to the "Meridian Musings" letter to the editor (*Press & Dakotan*, Nov. 12), it is worth mentioning that according to Bob Karolevitz in "Yankton The Way It Was!" the *Press & Dakotan* previously published an article that some will find downright interesting!

On Feb. 26, 1996, the headline read "Meridian Bridge — After decades of Dreams And Years Of Work, The Bridge Becomes Reality." That article had several details about the bridge such as "six of the seven spans were 250 feet long ..." (implying they were the same

size and weight.) It also stated "A special feature of the bridge was a lift span between Piers 2 and 3. Weighing 824 tons, the unit was designed to raise 27 feet, six inches, high enough for any river vessel to pass under. Two huge counterweights — connected to the span by 32 88-foot cables which passed over giant wheels atop each of the two towers rising from the piers — operated the lift. The counterweights were so equally balanced that a single 20-horsepower engine could activate the ascent and descent." The article gave several more details and this is where it gets very interesting and again I quote the article "Because the Missouri is so notorious for shifting its main channel, engineers designed the lift span so that it could be dismantled and moved to other piers ..."

It is true that this article does not say that the towers could be rolled to other piers as the "coffee shop patron" in the "Meridian Musings" may have misstated, but it does say that the bridge was built with the feature that the lift span could be moved.

I first learned of the moveable lift section while having coffee with my uncle so "Yes, coffee conversations can get exciting" and as Paul Harvey would say "now you know the rest of the story."

Support The Pipeline

Harry Mansheim, Brookings

Other thoughts to consider in regard to the value of the XL Pipeline: Consider that the product it will deliver is for the welfare of the greater public, and that this delivery system would be less hazardous and less expensive over many years than the railroad. The railroad then would be able to transport other consumer goods.

I realize and understand the concern (which has been sensationalized) about safety to a public few. What we need to evaluate in the big picture is the greater good for the majority and move forward.

I've been pleased that many public officials realize what's best for most and will proceed to support XL in spite of extra expenses caused by those who have taken a position against its benefits.

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/.