

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861  
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**Published Daily  
Monday-Saturday**  
Periodicals postage  
paid at Yankton, South  
Dakota, under the act of  
March 3, 1979.  
Weekly Dakotan  
established June 6, 1861.  
Yankton Daily Press and  
Dakotian established April  
26, 1875.  
Postmaster: Send  
address changes to Yankton  
Daily Press & Dakotan,  
319 Walnut, Yankton, SD  
57078.

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The Yankton Daily  
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ated Press, the Inland  
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and the South Dakota  
Newspaper Association.  
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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

## Good News For Our Smallest Citizens

**THE CAPITAL JOURNAL, Pierre, Nov. 5:** There's good news for South Dakota from the March of Dimes. That organization said South Dakota earned a "B" on its 2015 Premature Birth Report Card, thanks to a preterm birth rate of 8.5 percent, or more than a full percentage point below the national preterm birth rate of 9.6 percent in 2014.

Those figures come from the National Center for Health Statistics. Setting the pace for South Dakota are counties such as Brookings, Codrington and Lincoln, which posted preterm birth rates of 5.8, 6.8, and 6.0 percent, respectively. Even Minnehaha County, which has the largest number of births in the state, recorded an 8.3 percent rate.

That's great news for everyone who has shared first lady Linda Dugaard's concern for the smallest, most fragile citizens of our state. It's an important issue not just for families, but for the taxpayers, since babies who survive an early birth frequently face serious, sometimes lifelong health problems.

Those can include breathing problems, vision loss, cerebral palsy, even intellectual delays.

A "B" is not bad. South Dakota's recent data suggests the state is capable of attaining the new March of Dimes goal: a national preterm birth rate of 8.1 percent by 2020.

The down side for South Dakota? The organization reports that there are still large gaps in the preterm birth rate between some counties in the state, while racial and ethnic disparities continue.

Overall, South Dakota ranked 33rd among U.S. states and territories on the disparities index with a score of 27 to indicate the gaps between racial and ethnic groups in its preterm birth rate.

Yes, there is more to do. But this is good news for our smallest, most vulnerable citizens.

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/.

IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Monday, Nov. 16, the 320th day of 2015. There are 45 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlights in History:** On Nov. 15, 1945, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was founded at the conclusion of a conference in London. "The Lost Weekend," starring Ray Milland and Jane Wyman, was released by Paramount Pictures. "The Friendly Ghost," an animated short featuring the debut of Casper, was released by Paramount's cartoon division.

**On this date:** In 1776, British troops captured Fort Washington in New York during the American Revolution.

In 1885, Canadian rebel leader Louis Riel was executed for high treason.

In 1907, Oklahoma became the 46th state of the union.

In 1914, the newly created Federal Reserve Banks opened in 12 cities.

In 1917, Georges Clemenceau again became prime minister of France.

In 1933, the United States and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations.

In 1939, mob boss Al Capone, ill with syphilis, was released from prison after serving 7 1/2 years for tax evasion and failure to file tax returns.

In 1959, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "The Sound of Music" opened on Broadway.

In 1960, Academy Award-winning actor Clark Gable died in Los Angeles at age 59.

In 1973, Skylab 4, carrying a crew of three astronauts, was launched from Cape Canaveral on an 84-day mission.

In 1989, six Jesuit priests, a housekeeper and her daughter were slain by army troops at the University of Central America Jose Simeon Canas in El Salvador.

In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, making it harder for government to interfere with religious practices.

**Ten years ago:** Hoping to reverse the deterioration of pension plans, the Senate voted 97-2 to force companies to make up underfunding and live up to promises made to employees. (The bill, however, has yet to become law.) Vice President Dick Cheney joined the chorus of Republican criticism of Democrats who contended the Bush administration had manipulated intelligence on Iraq, an accusation Cheney called "one of the most dishonest and reprehensible charges ever aired in this city." "This Is Your Life" host Ralph Edwards died in West Hollywood at age 92.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama presented the Medal of Honor to Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, the first living service member from the Afghanistan and Iraq wars to receive the nation's top military award. U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel was convicted on 11 of 13 charges related to financial misconduct, prompting fellow lawmakers to censure the 80-year-old New York Democrat. The engagement of Prince William and Kate Middleton was announced in London. Hollywood publicist Ronni Chasen, 64, was shot to death in her car on Sunset Boulevard. (Police believe the killer was Harold Martin Smith, who took his own life when confronted by officers.) Roy Halladay of the Philadelphia Phillies unanimously won the NL Cy Young Award.

**One year ago:** The Islamic State group released a video featuring a masked militant standing over the severed head of Peter Kassig, a former U.S. soldier-turned-aid worker in Syria; President Barack Obama denounced the killing as one of "pure evil." President Obama returned to Washington following the conclusion of the Group of 20 economic forum in Brisbane, Australia. Erica Enderis-Stevens won the Auto Club NHRA Finals in Pomona, California, to become the first woman to earn the Pro Stock world championship title.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Clu Gulager is 87. Journalist Elizabeth Drew is 80. Blues musician W.C. Clark is 76. Actress Joanna Pettet is 73. Actor Steve Railsback is 70. Actor David Leisure is 65. Actor Miguel Sandoval is 64. Actress Marg Helgenberger is 57. Rock musician Mani is 53. Country singer-musician Keith Burns (Trick Pony) is 52. Tennis player Zina Garrison is 52. Former MLB All-Star pitcher Dwight Gooden is 51. Jazz singer Diana Krall is 51. Actor Harry Lennix is 51. Rock musician Dave Kushner (Velvet Revolver) is 49. Actress Lisa Bonet is 48. Actress Tammy Lauren is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bryan Abrams (Color Me Badd) is 46. Actress Martha Plimpton is 45. Actor Michael Irby is 43. Actress Missi Pyle is 43. Olympic gold medal figure skater Oksana Baiul is 38. Actress Maggie Gyllenhaal is 38. Pop singer Trevor Penick is 36. NBA player Amare Stoudemire is 33. Actress Kimberly J. Brown is 31. Rock singer Siva Kaneswaran (The Wanted) is 27. Actor Casey Moss (TV: "Days of Our Lives") is 22. Actor Noah Gray-Cabey is 20.

**Thought for Today:** "An American who can make money, invoke God, and be no better than his neighbor, has nothing to fear but truth itself." — Marya Mannes, American critic (1904-1990).

FROM THE BIBLE

*But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. Luke 15:20.*  
Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wind Farm Opportunity

**Mark Winegar, Vermillion**  
Democracy was alive and well in the Turner County Courthouse as the planning commission met Tuesday to share their zoning plan update. The audience spilled out of the hearing room and filled the extensive hallway outside. Many had something to say while others came to listen and learn.

Two hours of testimony focused on the topic of CAFOs. Two camps emerged revealing a dichotomy of interests between economic growth and passion for our rural lifestyle. Many remained to witness the planning council delay their vote for time to find a compromise between these opposing interests.

Our rural lifestyle is precious and we need to find ways to sustain it. Many rural communities are on the verge of collapse and schools are the glue holding

them together. Survival depends on finding new ways to bolster local economies and wind energy seems to be the most likely solution on the horizon.

Wind farms co-exist nicely with agriculture using only a small footprint of land and provide extra income for farmers and ranchers. They increase tax revenues which means more funding for education. New jobs are created, too!

Bon Homme County Commission is making their move by unanimously approving Article 17 to include wind energy systems in their county zoning ordinance. A commissioner cited the need to look at wind farms as a badly-needed form of economic development at their Nov. 3 meeting. He didn't think the county could afford to pass up the opportunity, including the tax revenues.

Let's hope Turner and Clay counties do likewise.



Capitol Notebook

## Hold The Press: Fantasy Betting Might Be Illegal

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Today's column on corruption was already written for this space when I received the latest news release from state Attorney General Marty Jackley.

It being a Friday the Thirteenth, I scrapped the column on corruption and wrote one instead about, well, more corruption.

The attorney general said he plans to address fantasy-sports betting.

He said he would wait for the state Commission on Gaming to talk about it Nov. 18.

The question facing the commission and the attorney general is whether fantasy-sports betting sites that operate via the Internet are legal.

State law would seem to clearly say they are illegal.

I play fantasy NBA basketball for free on a CBS Sports site on the Internet. I've played NFL, NBA, Major League Baseball — even NHL one dull winter — over the years on the Internet.

But those were never for money. The money games I played with buddies and their buddies. NFL. NBA. MLB. Face to face, we'd pick our teams, usually with cold adult beverages in close proximity.

We'd gather at someone's house or a bar, and hold our drafts.

The pots were small, the entry fees were never more than two digits, the mood was friendly, usually.

Many weeks later, if you finished in the money near the top, you'd break even, more or less.

If you won first place, you might have enough to buy a piece of exercise equipment, or two



Bob MERCER

tickets for good seats at an actual game.

To us, it was about as illegal as the card games lots of people play in each other's basements.

Or the bets that U.S. Supreme Court justices sometimes placed with one another.

One of my buddies dropped out one year.

That was after I told him in passing about news from some other state, where some government personnel were under investigation over their fantasy league.

He didn't need trouble. Nor did we. He withdrew. But for years afterward, he would check in, just to see how things were going.

It was recreation.

I don't play in any of those buddy leagues any more. I miss the camaraderie of the drafts. But there are things I don't miss.

I spent way too much time during the NFL season watching games in which I lacked any true interest, other than I had a player on one of the teams, or my opponent that week had a player in the game.

I play in a CBS Sports NBA league this fall. I like the NBA — it's what I can watch reliably during the legislative session at night as a way to wind down — and I had always done well in NBA fantasy.

This season, I decided I couldn't draft any player who wasn't a rookie or in his second or third season in the NBA.

I won week one. I am getting drilled in week two.

So on Friday, after seeing the attorney general might take action, I joined DraftKings. Had to try it. Put in \$25. Got the \$3 promo. Played the free \$3 in an NBA contest.

It's illegal, I think. Soon we'll see.

Michelle Malkin

## H1-B's Job Creation Myth

BY MICHELLE MALKIN  
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Every day brings new headlines, ignored by the Washington press corps, of U.S. workers losing their livelihoods to cheap H1-B visa replacements.

Just this week, *Computerworld* reported: "Fury and fear in Ohio as IT jobs go to India."

Yet, it remains an article of faith among Big Business flacks and Beltway hacks that H-1B not only protects American jobs, but also fuels miraculous job growth.

The myths are recycled and regurgitated by the likes of Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who claims that "foreign-born STEM workers complement the American workforce, they don't take American jobs."

Bill Gates, citing the National Foundation for American Policy, which is run by one-man Beltway advocacy research shop operative Stuart Anderson, testified before Congress that "a recent study shows for every H-1B holder that technology companies hire, five additional jobs are created around that person."

Citing another NFAP study by economics professor Madeline Zavodny of Agnes Scott College, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's FWD.us and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce asserted: "2.62 MORE JOBS are created for U.S.-born workers for each foreign-born worker in the U.S. with a U.S. STEM graduate degree."

But even the reliably pro-immigration expansionist *Wall Street Journal* had to call out Bill Gates on his misleading testimony to Congress regarding oft-cited NFAP job-creation figures. First off, the data set was confined to S&P 500 technology companies, which "excludes the leading users" of H-1B visas — offshore outsourcing companies from India such as Infosys, Wipro and Tata.

Moreover, Carl Bialik, the newspaper's "Numbers Guy," reported that the study Gates cited to claim amazing H-1B job generation "shows nothing of the kind. Instead, it finds a positive correlation between these visas and job growth. These visas could be an indicator of broader hiring at the company, rather than the cause."

University of California, Davis professor Norm Matloff explained that Gates' false conclusion is a common analytical error known as Simpson's Paradox, "in which the relation between two variables is very misleading, due to their mutual relation to a third variable."

NFAP's Zavodny study was published by the American Enterprise Institute, sponsored by open-borders billionaire Michael Bloomberg's Partnership for a New American Economy and touted by the open-borders U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the pro-H-1B FWD.us.

Zavodny's study initially examined data from the years 2000 to 2010. She hypothesized that states with more foreign-born workers would have higher rates of employment among native-born Americans. Initially, she was unable to find a significant effect of foreign-born workers on U.S. jobs.

So what changed? In correspondence with

John Miano, co-author of our new book "Sold Out" on the foreign guest-worker racket, and I, Zavodny revealed that when she showed her initial results to the study sponsor, the backers came up with the idea of discarding the last three years of data — ostensibly to eliminate the effects of the economic recession — and trying again.

Voila! After re-crunching the numbers at the sponsor's request, Zavodny found the effect the study sponsor was hoping to find.

Standard research practice is to formulate a research hypothesis and specify a study sample before the analysis has been completed. The practice of "data dredging" — that is, tweaking the sample data until one gets rid of "anomalous results" — is frowned upon.

To her credit, Zavodny provided her data to a curious software developer in Silicon Valley who was interested in immigration policy. The blogger, R. Davis, discovered a number of serious methodological deficiencies in Zavodny's work.

Most importantly, he documented that Zavodny's results are highly sensitive to the date range selected. When she studied the years 2000-2007, she found 100 foreign-born workers in STEM fields with advanced degrees from U.S. universities were associated with 262 additional jobs for native-born Americans. But change the date range a little bit to 2002-2008, and the exact same regression model shows the destruction of 110 jobs for natives, according to the independent researcher.

Also, Zavodny's "262 additional jobs" factoid deals not with H-1B visa holders but with foreign-born workers in so-called STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and math) who have advanced degrees (that is, a master's or doctorate) from U.S. universities. About 45 percent of H-1B visa holders do not have advanced degrees (as noted above), let alone advanced degrees from U.S. universities.

According to public policy professor Ron Hira of Howard University, only 1 in 206 of H-1B workers at offshore outsourcing giant Infosys holds an advanced degree from a U.S. university. Even fewer of Tata Consultancy Services H-1B workers do — just 1 in 222. So there is almost no overlap between the highly educated workers in Zavodny's "262 additional jobs" analysis and the mostly entry-level workers who actually come to the U.S. on H-1B visas.

While industry lobbyists have to employ dubious and convoluted means to show H-1B creates jobs, it is brutally simple to show that H-1B workers take American jobs. Just ask the folks who trained their H-1B replacements at Disney, Southern California Edison, Toys R Us, Fossil and countless other companies across the nation.

*This column is adapted from Malkin and Miano's new book, "How High-Tech Billionaires & Bipartisan Beltway Crapweasels Are Screwing America's Best & Brightest Workers" (Mercury Ink/Simon & Schuster). Michelle Malkin is author of the new book "Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs." Her email address is malkinblog@gmail.com.*