

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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**OPINION | OUR VIEW** 

# **Yankton Shines As State Celebrates 125th**

t's going to be party time in Yankton, and this town should feel honored.

The party is going to be for South Dakota's 125th anniversary of statehood, which will take place Nov. 2, 2014. And as of now, it appears Yankton is going to play a significant role in the proceedings.

Indeed, the celebration year is scheduled to kick off in Yankton next month — on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2013 — with a ball slated for the Riverfront Event Center. Gov. Dennis Daugaard is among the dignitaries tentatively expected to be on hand for the activi-

The community's inclusion in the proceedings is a nod to its historical importance to the state and, of course, the old Dakota

And that historical significance is nothing to take for granted. The state's 125th (or quasquicentennial) celebration has been 125 years in the making, obviously, but the planning for any kind of commemoration of the milestone has been only a few months in development. Despite the late start, a schedule of events appears to be coming together quite well.

Speaking to Yankton's Rotary Club Tuesday, Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, who is a member of the state committee, said the planning for next month's event has come together quickly.

Besides the ball, the day is expected to include reenactors and programs. And all events are expected to be free, Hunhoff said, in order to get as many people as possible exposed to South Dakota's rich historical heritage.

This event will again allow Yankton to showcase its considerable history — even before statehood, when this community served as the territorial capital for two decades until it was snatched away under the cover of political darkness. That history remains vital to modern-day Yankton, as evidenced by the conversion of the historic Meridian Bridge into a pedestrian walkway and, now, the effort to renovate the majestic Mead building on the old Human Services Center campus.

The 125th anniversary will be an opportunity not only to celebrate our history but also to rekindle some of the drive behind the state's centennial celebration in 1989. Hunhoff said Tuesday that there are many people who wish to revive the vision of the late Gov. George Mickelson, who wanted to use the 100th anniversary event as a vehicle for reconciliation with the Native American tribes of this state. It's hoped that this will be a chance to rekindle that spirit.

The quasquicentennial will be something that will happen only with the help of the people of places like Yankton. The activities are formulating on a short schedule and a tight budget, but great things can come with vision and drive. We encourage Yankton area citizens and businesses to get involved in this event, whether it's by lending a hand, by getting the word out or just by attending. It can be a great time for everyone.

#### CORRECTION

In regards to the "Capitol Notebook" column in Monday's Press & Dakotan: GSG Strategies leases its Pierre office location from Bob Burke rather than from the Fischer Rounds firm. Burke is managing broker for Fischer Rounds Century 21 in Pierre. The U.S. Senate campaign of former Gov. Mike Rounds makes a monthly payment to GSG for rent. Rounds is president and treasurer of Fischer Rounds. GSG is managing the Senate campaign.

#### THE VIEWS PAGE

■ The PRESS & DAKOTAN Views 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 to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

#### ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Wednesday, Oct. 9, the 282nd day of 2013. There are 83 days

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 9, 1813, Giuseppe Verdi, the composer of such classic operas as "Aida," "La Traviata," "Rigoletto" and "Il Trovatore," was born in the Italian village of Le Roncole. (There is some dispute over Verdi's date of birth, with numerous sources saying he was ac-

tually born on Oct. 10.)

On this date: In 1446, the Korean alphabet, created under the aegis of King Sejong, was first published.

In 1776, a group of Spanish missionaries settled in present-day San

In 1888, the public was first admitted to the Washington Monument. In 1910, a coal dust explosion at the Starkville Mine in Colorado left 56 miners dead.

In 1930, Laura Ingalls became the first woman to fly across the United States as she completed a nine-stop journey from Roosevelt Field, N.Y., to Glendale, Calif.

In 1936, the first generator at Boulder (later Hoover) Dam began transmitting electricity to Los Angeles. In 1940, rock and roll legend John Lennon was born in Liverpool, England.

In 1946, the Eugene O'Neill drama "The Iceman Cometh" opened at the Martin Beck Theater in New

In 1958, Pope Pius XII died at age 82, ending a 19-year papacy. (He was succeeded by Pope John XXIII.) In 1962, Uganda won autonomy

from British rule. In 1974, businessman Oskar Schindler, credited with saving about 1,200 Jews during the Holocaust, died in Frankfurt, West Germany (at his request, he was buried in Jerusalem).

In 1987, author, politician and diplomat Clare Boothe Luce died in Washington at age 84.

Ten years ago: A suicide car bombing at a Baghdad police station killed eight people; Spanish military attache Jose Antonio Bernal Gomez

was shot to death in Baghdad. Five years ago: Calm gave way to fear in financial markets, turning a

relatively steady day into a rout that pushed the Dow Jones industrials below 9,000 — to 8,579.19 — for the first time in five years. Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clezio of France won the Nobel Prize in literature.

One year ago: Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky was sentenced to 30 to 60 years in prison following his July conviction on 45 counts of sexual abuse of boys. The producers of "Sesame asked President Barack Obama's re-election campaign to take down an ad featuring Big Bird, saying the Sesame Workshop is a nonparti san nonprofit and does not participate in political campaigns. The ad mocked Mitt Romney's vow to end federal

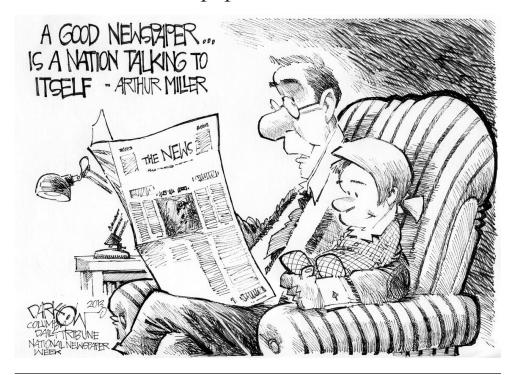
funding for public broadcasting. **Today's Birthdays:** Actor Fyvush Finkel is 91. Retired MLB All-Star Joe Pepitone is 73. Former Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nona Hendryx is 69. Singer Jackson Browne is 65. Actor Gary Frank is 63. Actor Richard Chaves is 62. Actor Robert Wuhl is 62. Actress-TV personality Sharon Osbourne is 61. Actor Tony Shalhoub is 60. Actor Scott Bakula is 59. Musician James Fearnley (The Pogues) is 59. Actor John O'Hurley is 59. Writer-producerdirector-actor Linwood Boomer is 58. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Mike Singletary is 55. Actor Michael Pare is 55. Jazz musician Kenny Garrett is 53. Rock singer-musician Kurt Neumann (The BoDeans) is 52. Country singer Gary Bennett is 49. Movie director Guillermo del Toro is 49. British Prime Minister David Cameron is 47. Singer P.J. Harvey is 44. World Golf Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam is 43. Country singer Tommy Shane Steiner is 40. Actor Steve Burns is 40. Sean Lennon is 38. Actor Randy Spelling is 35. Christian hip-hop artist Lecrăe is 34. Actor Brandon Routh is 34. Actor Zachery Ty Bryan is 32. Actress Spencer rammer is 30. Actor Tyler James Williams ("Everybody Hates Chris") is 21. Country singer Scotty McCreery (TV: "American Idol" winner) is 20.

Thought for Today: "There is nothing harder than the softness of indifference." — Clare Boothe Luce (1903-1987).

#### FROM THE BIBLE

Set your minds on things that are above. Colossians 3:2. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

National Newspaper Week • October 6-12



# The Cynicism Trap

Robert

REICH

BY ROBERT B. REICH

Tribune Content Agency

An old friend who has been active in politics for more than 30 years tells me he's giving up. "I can't stomach what's going on in Washington anymore," he says. "The hell with all of them. I have better things to

do with my life. My friend is falling into exactly the trap that the extreme right wants all of us to fall into — such disgust and cynicism that we all give up on politics. Then they're free to take over everything.

Republicans blame the shutdown of Washington and possible default on the nation's debt on the president's "unwillingness to negotiate" over the Affordable Care Act. But that law has already been negotiated. It passed both houses of Congress and was signed into law by the president. It withstood a Supreme Court challenge.

The Affordable Care Act is hardly perfect, but neither was Social Security or Medicare when first enacted. The Constitution allows Congress to amend or delay laws that don't work as well as they were intended, or even to repeal them. But to do any of this requires new legislation including a majority of both houses of Congress and a president's signature (or else a vote to override a president's veto).

Our system does not allow one party to delay, amend or repeal a law of the land by shutting down the rest of the government until its demands are met. If that were the way our democracy worked, no law would ever be safe or settled. A disciplined majority in one house could always use the threat of a shutdown or default to gut any law it didn't like.

So the president cannot renegotiate the Affordable Care Act. And I don't believe Tea Party Republicans expect him to.

Their real goal is far more insidious. They want to sow even greater cynicism about the capacity of government to do much of anything. The shutdown and possible default are only the most recent and most dramatic instances of terminal gridlock, designed to get people like my friend to give up.

And on this score, they're winning. The approval rating for Congress was already at an alltime low before the shutdown, according to a poll released just hours before Washington went dark. The CNN/ORC poll showed that only 10 percent of Americans approved the job Congress was doing, while 87 percent disapproved. It was

the all-time lowest approval rating for Congress in a CNN poll.

A recent Gallup survey found that only 42 percent of Americans — also a record low have even a "fair" amount of confidence in the

government's capacity to deal with domestic matters.

And in a recent survey by the Pew Research Center, 26 percent of Americans said they're angry at the federal government, while 51 percent said they were frustrated. Only 17 percent said they are basically content with the government. The share expressing anger has risen seven points since January, equaling the record high reached in August 2011, just after the widely unpopular debt-ceiling agreement between the president and Congress.

It's a vicious cycle. As average Americans give up on government, they pay less attention to what government does or fails to do — thereby making it easier for the moneyed interests to get whatever they want: tax cuts for themselves and their businesses; regulatory changes that help them but harm employees, consumers and small investors; special subsidies and other forms of corporate welfare. And these skewed benefits only

serve to confirm the public's cynicism. The same cynicism also makes it easier to convince the public that even when the government does act for the benefit of the vast majority, it's not really doing so. So a law like the Affordable Care Act, which, for all its shortcomings, is still a step in the right direction relative to the costly mess of the nation's health-care system, is transformed into a nightmarish "government takeover."

So here's what I told my friend who said he's giving up on politics: Don't. If you give in to bullies, their bullying only escalates. If you give in to cynicism about our democracy, our democracy

steadily erodes. If you believe the fix is in and the game is rigged, and that a handful of billionaires and their Tea Party puppets are destroying our government, do something about it. Rather than give up, get more involved. Become more active. Make a ruckus. It's our government, and the most important thing you can do for yourself, our family, your community and the future is to make it work for all of us.

Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, is professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of "Beyond Outrage," now available in paperback. He blogs at www.robertreich.org.

#### YOUR LETTERS

## Appreciation

Barb Hansen and Family, and members of the Dale "Ole" Hansen Appreciation Day committee On behalf of the family of the late Dale

"Ole" Hansen, as well as all the close friends involved, we would like to thank all those that took part in the appreciation day events on

Ole was a huge supporter of our youth and it was great to see such a turnout of family and friends wearing their "Ole" T-shirts at the Bucks football game.

A special thank you to JJ Benji, EASW, Olson Pest Technicians, HyVee, Conkling Distributing, Frito Lay, Yankton School District, Boller Printing, and the P for all their support. Thanks also to everyone for their generous

Ole will be greatly missed but the infinite number of memories of him will continue to live on in all of us.

#### **Self-Destruction?**

#### Mike Slama, Ed.D., Yankton

It's just unimaginable that a bunch of ideologues like Kristi Noem can hold hostage the entire federal government — all because 80 Republican Tea Party members dislike a law. Will you stand for the rule of law or join some political nut-bags on their course of self-destruction? This new Republican norm is frightening because the Affordable Care Act was passed by both houses of government, signed by the president and approved as constitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Our country was founded on the rule of law, but this rabble ignores our democratic principles — and these Republicans have no regard for common citizens. You'd think that Kristi Noem would be just satisfied with the \$300.000 subsidy her farm family just got from the federal government. That doesn't even count the hundreds of thousands of dollars this outfit has gotten from all of us taxpayers!

This political crossfire will wreak havoc on hundreds of thousands of American families. Kristi doesn't have to worry as she and her despicable partiers will get their salary. Children fighting a despicable cancer battle will be turned away from the National Institutes of Health and many families will be economically ruined all because Tea Partiers want their irrational attack to be successful at any cost.

I have already e-mailed Noem's office that I will not under any circumstances vote for her or anyone else that is a supporter of the Tea

#### **OUR LETTER POLICY**

The PRESS & DAKOTAN encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it 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

■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will accept no letters at-

tacking 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 let-

ter 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 to views@yankton.net/.

Party philosophy.

You can do your part and remember this week and the weeks to come when you go to the polls and rid ourselves of this political garbage.

#### **Pedestrian Safety**

#### Jean Knodel, Yankton

Pedestrians are exposed to many hazardous situations, especially in residential areas. This is the case where the rummage sale was held and a pedestrian lost their life.

Drivers must use extreme caution whenever in residential areas; especially, when pedestrians are present. Unfortunately, new technologies, speed and driver conveniences have taken priority over safety. Drivers can cause accidents when operating vehicles irresponsibly. Law enforcement cannot patrol irresponsibility; nor, can there be enough manpower available in

busy traffic areas. West City Limits Road (WCLR) is not unlike the Burleigh St./Highway 50 project concerning safety issues. However, WCLR has a 45 mph speed limit in much of its residential area. These areas also have no sidewalks. There are 14 or more busy traffic accesses in this area. Large trucks, recreational, farm, school, county and city maintenence vehicles often travel this road. Turn lanes are often used as passing lanes and frequently traffic speeds are in excess of

the posted limit. Changes should be made to reduce this speed limit. Anyone using this road should not have their safety compromised by its dangers.