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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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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Changes Needed In Video Lottery

RAPID CITY JOURNAL, Rapid City (Oct. 8): South Dakota's income from video lottery gaming peaked in 2008 but has been dropping — well before the state's smoking ban in 2010 — according to a report to the state lottery commission.

Net income from video lottery machines was \$224.7 million in 2008, and last year's net income was \$176.4 million, for a drop of \$48.3 million.

The drop-off in income is important because the state receives half the net proceeds, with machine owners receiving the other half.

Consider that the loss of about \$24 million in video lottery income is about the same amount that educators and lawmakers have recently complained was cut from state aid to education two years ago.

When video lottery was adopted, the revenue was supposed to be used to reduce property taxes. As revenue drops, the state will have to cut services or find replacement revenue.

The lottery commission believes the answer is to encourage video lottery casinos to replace older lottery terminals with newer machines that get more play and more revenue. The newer machines are similar to casino slot machines. However, only 18 percent of video lottery machines are the newer machines.

The study's consultant suggests that the 50-50 split of net machine income between the state and vendor be changed, depending on the type of machine. As an inducement to retire older "legacy" machines, the state's share of income on the older machines would be increased to 60 percent and then 70 percent, while the government's split from the new machines would be 30 percent the first year, increasing to 50 percent by the third year. The report also recommended increasing the casinos' machine limit to 15 terminals from 10 games if the additional games are the newer type.

"If the industry doesn't change, we're not going to get the share of income the state of South Dakota has gotten over the last 25 years," lottery commissioner Doyle Estes of Hill City told the *Journal* in a Sept. 30 story.

In our view, it's a smart move by the lottery commission to look for ways to recover the revenues that video lottery has been losing over the last five years.

Like it or not, South Dakota is addicted to gambling revenues in all forms to pay for government services. As video lottery revenues drop, services like education get cut or taxpayers have to pay higher taxes.

We support the commission's efforts to encourage the video lottery industry to modernize its equipment and recover lost revenues.

SPEAK UP!

Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 14, the 287th day of 2013. There are 78 days left in the year. This is the Columbus Day observance in the United States, as well as Thanksgiving Day in Canada.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 14, 1912, former President Theodore Roosevelt, campaigning for the White House as the Progressive candidate, was shot in the chest in Milwaukee by New York saloonkeeper John Schrank. Despite the wound, Roosevelt went ahead with a scheduled speech, declaring, "It takes more than one bullet to kill a bull moose."

On this date: In 1066, Normans under William the Conqueror defeated the English at the Battle of Hastings.

In 1586, Mary, Queen of Scots, went on trial in England, accused of committing treason against Queen Elizabeth I. (Mary was beheaded in February 1587.)

In 1890, Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th president of the United States, was born in Denison, Texas.

In 1908, the E.M. Forster novel "A Room With a View" was first published by Edward Arnold of London.

In 1939, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the *HMS Royal Oak*, a British battleship anchored at Scapa Flow in Scotland's Orkney Islands; 833 of the more than 1,200 men aboard were killed.

In 1944, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel committed suicide rather than face execution for allegedly conspiring against Adolf Hitler.

In 1947, Air Force test pilot Charles E. ("Chuck") Yeager (YAY-gur) broke the sound barrier as he flew the experimental Bell XS-1 (later X-1) rocket plane over Muroc Dry Lake in California.

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy suggested the idea of a Peace Corps while addressing an audience of students at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

In 1961, the Frank Loesser (LEH-sur) musical "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," starring Robert Morse as J. Pierrepont Finch, opened on Broadway.

In 1964, civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1977, singer Bing Crosby died outside Madrid, Spain, at age 74.

In 1987, a 58-hour drama began in Midland, Texas, as 18-month-old Jessica McClure slid 22 feet down an abandoned well at a private day care center; she was rescued on Oct. 16.

Ten years ago: John Allen Muhammad pleaded not guilty to murder as the first trial in the deadly Washington-area sniper rampage got under way in Virginia Beach, Va. (Muhammad was later convicted of killing Dean Harold Meyers and executed in 2009.) The United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution that would have condemned Israel for building a barrier that cut into the West Bank. In Game 6 of the National League Championship Series, a Cubs fan inadvertently deflected a foul ball away from the outstretched glove of Chicago outfielder Moises Alou; the Florida Marlins, down 3-0 at the time, rallied to

win the game and went on to win Game 7 and advance to the World Series, where they beat the New York Yankees.

Five years ago: Big banks started falling in line behind a revised bailout plan that was fast becoming more of a buy-in; the Bush administration announced it would fork over as much as \$250 billion in exchange for partial ownership. A grand jury in Orlando, Fla. returned charges of first-degree murder, aggravated child abuse and aggravated manslaughter against Casey Anthony in the death of her 2-year-old daughter, Caylee. (She was acquitted in July 2011.) Syria formally recognized Lebanon for the first time by establishing diplomatic relations with its neighbor. Canada's Conservative Party won in national elections but fell short of a parliamentary majority.

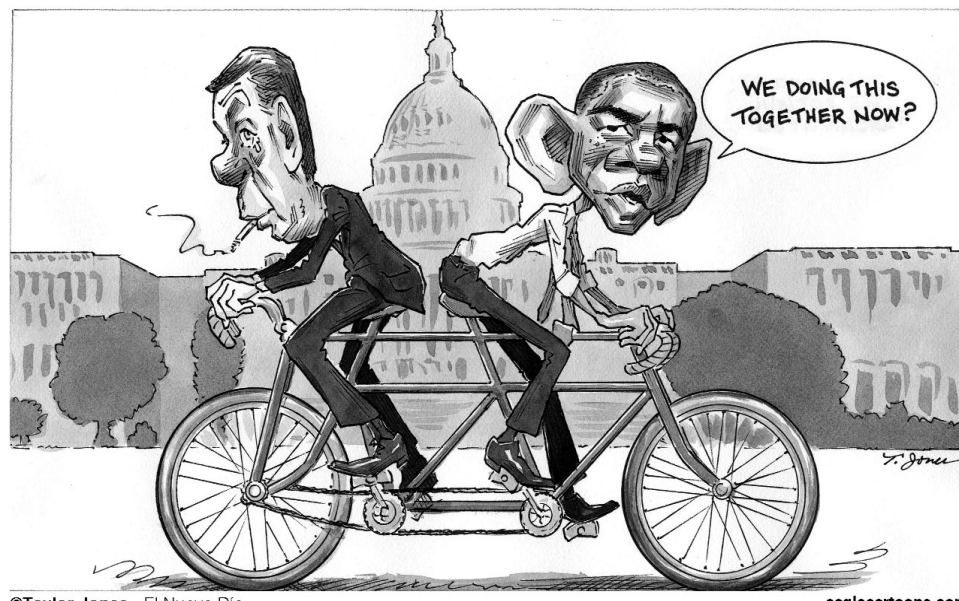
One year ago: Former Sen. Arlen Specter died at 82 of complications from non-Hodgkins lymphoma. For most of his 30 years representing Pennsylvania in the U.S. Senate, Specter was a Republican, though he began his political career as a Democrat and returned to that party in 2009. Daredevil skydiver Felix Baumgartner became the first man to shatter the sound barrier without traveling in a jet or a spacecraft, jumping from a balloon 24 miles above the New Mexico desert. Sixty-five years after becoming the first human to fly faster than the speed of sound, 89-year-old retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Chuck Yeager commemorated the event by smashing through the sound barrier again, this time in the backseat of an F-15. The St. Louis Cardinals beat the San Francisco Giants 6-4 in Game 1 of the National League Championship Series, while the Detroit Tigers blanked the New York Yankees 3-0 to take a 2-0 lead in the American League Championship Series.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Roger Moore is 86. Classical pianist Gary Graffman is 85. Movie director Carroll Ballard is 76. Former White House counsel John W. Dean III is 75. Country singer Melba Montgomery is 76. Fashion designer Ralph Lauren is 74. Singer Sir Cliff Richard is 73. Actor Udo Kier is 69. Singer-musician Justin Hayward (The Moody Blues) is 67. Actor Harry Anderson is 61. Actor Greg Evigan is 60. TV personality Arleen Sorokin is 58. World Golf Hall of Famer Beth Daniel is 57. Singer-musician Thomas Dolby is 55. Actress Lori Petty is 50. MLB manager Joe Girardi is 49. Actor Steve Coogan is 48. Singer Karyn White is 48. Actor Edward Kerr is 47. Actor Jon Seda is 43. Country musician Doug Virden is 43. Country singer Natalie Maines (The Dixie Chicks) is 39. Actress-singer Shaznay Lewis (All Saints) is 38. Singer Usher is 35. TV personality Stacy Keibler is 34. Actor Ben Whishaw is 33. Actor Jordan Brower is 32. Director Benh Zeitlin is 31. Actress Skyler Shaye is 27. Actor-comedian Jay Pharoah (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 26.

Thought for Today: "Sometimes we have to get really high to see how small we are." — Skydiver Felix Baumgartner, after becoming the first man to shatter the sound barrier without using a jet or a spacecraft.

FROM THE BIBLE

When He heard that Lazarus was ill, He stayed two days longer in the place where He was. *John 11:6.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



©Taylor Jones - El Nuevo Dia

caglecartoons.com

Capitol Notebook

The Dog Days Of Fall

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — We are now in dog season in South Dakota. Also known by some as retriever season, it falls between walleye-boat season and roads-closure season.

These few months when South Dakotans hunt pheasants (and ducks and geese and sharp-tailed grouse) are why so many households have dogs.

Those pleasant spaniels and wiry pointers and big retrievers are good companions all year long. This time of year, they get to do their real stuff.

And with pheasants scarce in many places, the dogs will be at their most valuable.

One of my friends is a lumbering older Lab named Yukon. We looked in on him a few times last weekend while his owners were away seeing their daughter at college.

It's a treat for me to take Yukon for a walk. He sets the pace, which at his age happens to match mine at my age.

He listens so well and behaves so well, there's never been a need for a leash.

Last Sunday morning I sat on the front steps of their house with a hot cup of coffee in my hands and watched Yukon make his checks of the yard.

Life was pretty good. Back home, we had another dog for the weekend. Scout is a puppy with all of the energy and joy of a good West Highland terrier.

Westies were bred as hunting dogs for small ground animals. Now they mostly serve as companions. They look sharp and often will want to

chase almost anything that moves.

Scout's owners were away for the weekend, too, visiting their daughter. It was wonderful to have a dog in our house again.

In June we lost our 10-year-old Westie. I ran Scooter over on the way to the ball field for a run one evening.

I routinely let him ride on my lap to look out the window. He liked that sense of being in charge and being on the edge. I should have been smarter.

He slipped and fell out as I made a turn that night. He was on the window ledge checking out the driver in another car. I grabbed his leash and had an instant to make a decision.

I let go, fearing he would break his neck. In the next instant came the sickening thump of the tire as I couldn't stop in time. I took him in my arms and could see there was no way to save his life. He died because of my carelessness.

We had to leave early the next morning to help our daughter move. I wrapped him in his blankets and kissed him goodbye. Four friends buried Scooter later that morning for us.

Our neighborhood has dogs in about half of the houses. All happen to be well-behaved hunting dogs that never seem to bark.

As I pulled up at our house after visiting Yukon, I saw beautiful Sadie come loping down her family's driveway across the street. She retrieved the newspaper. I didn't see anyone else and wondered what happens next.

The front door at her house opened a crack and in she went.

Man's best friend? Indeed!

American Graffiti Plus 40

BY BILL O'REILLY

Creators Syndicate

On Saturday nights at my house, I often trot out classic movies and force the urchins to watch them.

There is much wailing and gnashing of teeth, but I think it's important to teach kids about American culture, and films certainly are a big part of it. Actors like John Wayne, Cary Grant, Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn are worth seeing and remembering.

So the other night I trotted out "American Graffiti," a film released 40 years ago. The movie was directed by "Star Wars" creator George Lucas and chronicles one night in the lives of some California teenagers in the year 1962.

The first thing the kids noticed was Harrison Ford playing a young hood driving a hot rod. That got their attention. The movie features other great actors such as Richard Dreyfuss and Charles Martin Smith, along with Ron Howard and Cindy Williams, who turned the "Graffiti" success into the television hits "Happy Days" and "Laverne and Shirley."

About 20 minutes into the movie, which is heavy on dialogue and light on explosions, the urchins pulled out their iPads and began typing away. Dismay enveloped me.

"So you don't like this?" I asked the 14-year-old.

"It's OK. I'm listening."
"But you're playing with that machine!"
"I can multitask!"

A few minutes later, the 10-year-old demanded popcorn. I told him we'd get some halfway through the flick.



Bill O'REILLY

"Do they ever get out of the cars?" the urchin wailed.

"That's the culture in California. They cruise around in cars listening to the radio."

"But there are so many cars!"

I was losing them. So I paused the movie and brought in snacks. I demanded they shut off the machines while eating.

"Why?" the 14-year-old asked.

"Because you can't text, eat and watch a movie at the same time."

"Yes, I can. I always do that."

"They're still in cars," the 8-year-old said.

We got through the movie, but just barely. Their interest peaked when The Pharaohs, a gang of juvenile delinquents, forced Dreyfuss to vandalize a police car. Finally, some destruction!

After "American Graffiti" concluded, I asked for their reviews. I got them while their heads were down looking at their iPads.

The consensus: It was OK. Too many cars.

These days, the machines and awful films that blow things up every 10 seconds are delivering heavy blows to American culture. The graffiti is on the wall. The attention spans of young people average about 30 seconds. Baseball? Forget it. Chess? Are you kidding me?

We live in a time where machines that deliver instant gratification rule. But I will continue to fight the cyberspace power. Coming attraction: Hitchcock's "The Birds."

Let the texting begin.

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

A Great Message

Dan Specht, Yankton

On Friday, Oct. 4, students from Yankton High, Yankton Middle, and Sacred Heart Middle schools had the opportunity hear motivational speaker Jessica Cox. Jessica was born without arms. She spoke about the importance of never giving up, standing up for people who might be a little different, and thinking outside the shoe (box). You can check out her website at www.rightfooted.com/.

On behalf of XYY, Inc. and the promoters of Wire Me Awake, we truly want to thank Yankton Rotary, Yankton Morning Optimists, and Sertoma for helping defer the costs of the program. Without their assistance and support of our youth events like this wouldn't be possible in our community.

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SOUTH DAKOTA

SEN. TIM JOHNSON: 136 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: (202) 224-5842; Sioux Falls Phone: (605) 332-8896; email: http://johnson.senate.gov/emailform.html

SEN. JOHN THUNE: United States Senate SR-493, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: (866) 850-3855; Sioux Falls Phone: (605) 334-9596; Fax: (202) 228-3855; Web: thune.senate.gov.

REP. KRISTI NOEM: 226 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Washington Phone: (202) 225-2801; Sioux Falls Phone: (605) 367-8371; Fax: (202) 225-5823; email: visit https://noem.house.gov

NEBRASKA

SEN. DEB FISCHER: 825 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: (202) 224-6551; email: N/A

SEN. MIKE JOHANNIS: 1 Russell Courtyard, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: (202) 224-4224; email: log on at http://johannis.senate.gov/public/?p=EmailSenatorJohannis

REP. JEFF FORTENBERRY: 1517 Longworth House, Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Washington Phone: (202) 225-4806; District Phone: (402) 438-1598; email: log on at www.house.gov/writer/ep

REP. ADRIAN SMITH: 503 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Washington Phone: (202) 225-6435; Fax: (202) 225-0207; District Phone: (308) 633-6333; email: log on at www.house.gov/writer/ep