

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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PRESS&DAKOTAN

Friday, 10.10.14

ON THE WEB: www.yankton.net

VIEWS PAGE: Views@yankton.net

Water Issues



THUMBS UP to the Lesterville city officials and residents for surviving this week's ban of usage of their water system. The ban arose following readings nearly 22 times the standard for tetrachloroethylene (PCE), a solvent-related chemical with a mild, chloroform-like odor. Its greatest use is in the textile industry and as a component of aerosol dry-cleaning products. The city was under a full or partial ban, and officials provided bottled water and a portable shower for residents' use. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources issued Wednesday an "all clear" following the latest round of testing. Mayor Muriel Pratt issued her thanks for those who provided services during this trying time and for all the residents who made the sacrifices.

Issue Avoidance



THUMBS DOWN to that relatively weak turnout for the Yankton Chamber of Commerce-sponsored meeting on education featuring Joy Smolinsky from the South Dakota Budget and Policy Institute, held Tuesday night. Specifically, the two-hour presentation was a non-partisan budget conversation on K-12 education funding and teacher salaries. While the event was well attended by school officials, the general public failed to show. With the debate of school funding in the state of South Dakota not going away anytime soon, the community missed a great opportunity to listen to unbiased research and participate in a debate that could help decide what changes, if any, are needed to in how public schools are funded in the future.

Dakota Days



THUMBS UP to the 100th annual Dakota Days at the University of South Dakota. This week has been filled with fun, not only for the college students, but for the whole community. So far homecoming has brought a talent show, inflatables, carnival games, a battle of the bands and much more to the city of Vermillion. But there is more fun to come! Homecoming events tonight (Friday) will include a historic photo re-creation exhibit and a pep-rally. Saturday will offer the Dakota Days Parade, tailgating events and USD will take on Northern Iowa at the DakotaDome. Fun will be had by all.

A Nice Ride For Now



At the great risk of jinxing the trend, **THUMBS UP** to the continued decline in gasoline prices in the area. On Wednesday, the price of a gallon of regular gasoline in Yankton hit \$2.999 in some places — the first time the prices had resides that low in quite some time. The price has dropped nearly 50 cents since early spring. Prices are doing this despite of the uncertain future in the Middle East; according to AAA South Dakota, declining prices are due to global supply outpacing demand. How long this will continue is unknown, especially with the winter heating season approaching which will certainly increase overall demand for oil. For now, however, we can enjoy the respite, which is really a small economic stimulus for each motorist.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Who do you support in the District 18 State Senate race?
Bernie Hunhoff57%
Matt Stone32%
Not sure11%
TOTAL VOTES CAST291

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:

Who do you most support in the District 18 State House race?

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, Oct. 10, the 283rd day of 2014. There are 82 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 10, 1964, the Summer Olympics were opened in Tokyo by Japanese Emperor Hirohito; it was the first time the games were held in Asia.

On this date: In 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy was established in Annapolis, Maryland.

In 1913, the Panama Canal was effectively completed as President Woodrow Wilson sent a signal from the White House by telegraph, setting off explosives that destroyed a section of the Gamboa dike.

In 1914, "The Missouri Waltz" by John Valentine Eppel was first published.

In 1935, the George Gershwin opera "Porgy and Bess," featuring an all-black cast, opened on Broadway; it ran for 124 performances.

In 1938, Nazi Germany completed its annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

In 1943, Chiang Kai-shek took the oath of office as president of China.

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower apologized to the finance minister of Ghana, Komla Agbeli Gbedemah, after the official was refused seating in a Howard Johnson's restaurant near Dover, Delaware.

In 1964, entertainer Eddie Cantor, 72, died in Beverly Hills, California.

In 1967, the Outer Space Treaty, prohibiting the placing of weapons of mass destruction on the moon or elsewhere in space, entered into force.

In 1970, Quebec Labor Minister Pierre Laporte was kidnapped by the Quebec Liberation Front, a militant separatist group. (Laporte's body was found a week later.) Fiji became independent after nearly a century of British rule.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew, accused of accepting bribes, pleaded no contest to one count of federal income tax evasion and resigned his office.

In 1985, U.S. fighter jets forced an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro to land in Italy, where the gunmen were taken into custody. Actor-director Orson Welles died in Los Angeles at age 70; actor Yul Brynner died in New York at age 65.

Ten years ago: Christopher Reeve, the "Superman" of celluloid who became a quadriplegic after a May 1995 horse riding accident, died

in Mount Kisco, New York, at age 52. Ken Caminiti, the National League's 1996 most valuable player who later admitted using steroids during his Major League baseball career, died in New York at age 41.

Five years ago: Turkey and Armenia signed a landmark agreement to establish diplomatic relations and open their sealed border after a century of enmity. President Barack Obama, addressing the Human Rights Campaign, restated his campaign pledge to allow homosexual men and women to serve openly in the military. Stephen Gately, 33, a singer with the Irish boy band Boyzone, died while vacationing on the Spanish island of Mallorca.

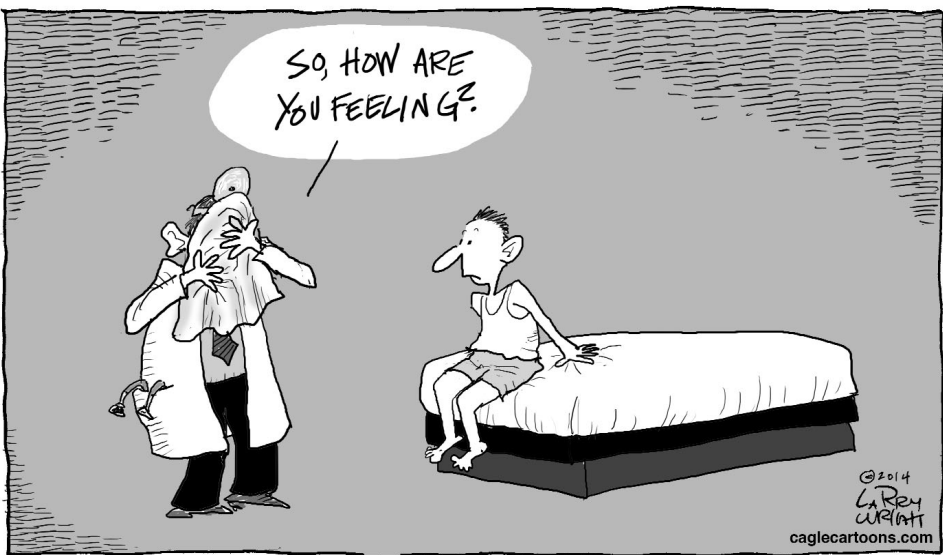
One year ago: Gunmen from one of Libya's many militias stormed a hotel where Prime Minister Ali Zidan had a residence and held him for several hours. Kwame Kilpatrick, a former Democratic mayor of Detroit, was sent to federal prison to serve a 28-year sentence for widespread corruption that occurred under his watch. Scott Carpenter, 88, the second American to orbit the Earth and one of the last surviving Mercury 7 astronauts, died in Denver.

Today's Birthdays: Former Illinois Sen. Adlai Stevenson III is 84. Actor Peter Coyote is 73. Entertainer Ben Vereen is 68. Singer John Prine is 68. Actor Charles Dance is 68. Rock singer-musician Cyril Neville (The Neville Brothers) is 66. Actress Jessica Harper is 65. Author Nora Roberts (aka "J.D. Robb") is 64. Singer-musician Midge Ure is 61. Rock singer David Lee Roth is 60. Actor J. Eddie Peck is 56. Country singer Tanya Tucker is 56. Actress Julia Sweeney is 55. Actor Bradley Whitford is 55. Musician Martin Kemp is 53. Rock musician Jim Glennie (James) is 51. Actress Rebecca Pidgeon is 49. Rock musician Mike Malinin (Goo Goo Dolls) is 47. NFL quarterback Brett Favre is 45. Actor Manu Bennett is 45. Actress Joelle Carter is 45. Actress Wendi McLendon-Covey is 45. Actor/TV host Mario Lopez is 41. Race driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. is 40. Actress Jodi Lyn O'Keefe is 36. Singer Mya is 35. Actor Dan Stevens is 32. Singer Cherie is 30. Actress Aimee Teegarden is 25.

Thought for Today: "The opposite of a fact is falsehood, but the opposite of a profound truth may very well be another profound truth." — Niels Bohr, Danish physicist (1885-1962).

FROM THE BIBLE

And David said, "The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." 1 Samuel 17:37. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The Password Is ...

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

A baffling question was put to me the other day. It was during a service call involving some electronics and Internet access. The process was going quite smoothly until that question came up and derailed all the momentum.

"What's your password?" the service man asked.

My mind drew a helpless and familiar blank.

We now live in a digital culture woven with passwords. They bind together the fabric of who we are in their own simple, personalized, maddening way.

For the three or four of you who aren't aware, a password is a string of letters and/or numbers you create or is generated for you in order to safeguard your electronic devices or online accounts.

These "words" are the backbone of what passes for online or gadget security in this increasingly dangerous age of hackers, scammers and thieves. Passwords are usually quite specifically personal to you, so as to (in theory) allow you to easily remember them when they're needed.

I imagine that my history with passwords is rather typical of millions of other people.

When these magic words were first required of me, probably with my home computer as well as some devices at work, my passwords were very simple. It could be a basic word, and the password could be less than six characters long if I wished. And I tended to use the same password for everything. In other words, I did everything wrong.

As times changed and as security standards became more rigorous — because the threats are more pernicious — the demands on passwords evolved. Now, many sites or devices want at least eight characters, with a combination of letters and numbers. There's also case-sensitive password recognition, which I hate for fairly predictable reasons. Some programs make you change your password every two months or so, just to add that extra level of protection and mystery to your life.

Sometimes, you aren't even given the convenience of creating your own password. We have one program at work that's needed to access a remote site, and the password it generates for us is a ghastly jumble of lower-case and upper-case letters and numbers that's virtually impossible to remember. So, of course, we have it written down, which some experts suggest you should never do.

Part of the problem is actually also a conven-



Kelly
HERTZ

ience: Some devices and accounts "remember" your password, so you tend to forget what it actually is for each instance — until you need it, by which time it's long since slipped your mind. (Some companies, like Apple, offer prompts to jog your memory for certain passwords. I like the idea proposed on Twitter by [I think] Steve Martin, who joked that he was changing his password to "incorrect," so when he types in the wrong password and the computer responds "That password is incorrect," he has his prompt.)

Another big problem with passwords is that they are selfish tools. It's easy to remember ONE password, but remembering seven or eight of them is a problem for anyone.

The only thing that makes this mind-numbing exercise tolerable is the fact that it's essential, albeit flawed. This is the basic means of security we have in a fairly defenseless electronic age.

But it is indeed flawed, and for more reasons than inconvenience. Last month, for instance, it was reported that a list of 5 million Gmail passwords was leaked. Last week, 83 million email customers of JP Morgan Chase Bank in New York were advised to change their passwords after a hacking incident exposed accounts to the potential of theft. And the recent iCloud hacking of "sensitive" celebrity photos exposed (pardon the verb) the nagging weakness of password security: Someone often figures out how to unravel them.

Another flaw is that many of us just aren't that computer-immersed. As a *Washington Post* article noted last month, "As many, many people have said over the past few years, the password system itself is broken. The system places too much demand on the memories and patience of people who aren't trained to think about computer security all day."

There is talk of something called biometrics, which would utilize fingerprint and facial recognition as security safeguard. But that method is far from perfected and would certainly vary in quality according to the purpose.

So, for the moment, most of us are left with struggling to keep tabs on which password goes to what device or program. It's apparently our best means of defense in a predatory universe, which is not a comforting thought.

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

Some Words To The Wise

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — Words have a way of seeping into our vocabulary and, through overuse or distortion, soon begin to lose their meaning.

Who could have imagined that the word "beheading" would become commonplace, as though we were discussing a sport or a new product?

"Another American was beheaded yesterday," the newscaster explains. And then, "On a brighter note, a lost little kitten found her way home in a shocking way. We'll tell you about that ... right after this."

Who doesn't love a kitten story? But thus juxtaposed, the beheading, so atrocious and mind-boggling at first, now becomes nearly routine-ish and banal in the way that evil can become.

Online, our eye wanders to an array of sensational stories. Suddenly, our attention is averted from the horror of what-they-did to the 10 worst celebrity plastic surgeries, or Hollywood actresses who look terrible in a bikini, or suburban kangaroo street fight!

In the blink of an eye, we flit from the unflinching courage of a young man facing a most savage death to the trivial pursuits of a mindless voyeur. The brain absorbs and files these images, where? Are they different, or do we perceive them as more or less equal — titillations not dissimilar to what we observe in any random R-rated movie or video game? Sex and violence are the horse and carriage of modern culture.

But it isn't just the media that cause these passive psychic blendings of the obscene and the absurd. Public servants — officials, leaders and presidents — do it, too. We're all fluent in the language foretold by George Orwell, where messages are designed to be vague or meaningless, the better to inoculate the people against thought or understanding.

But actions do speak louder than words. This is why so many found it jarring that President Obama blandly condemned the beheading of American journalist James Foley just minutes before hopping into a golf cart. Message: Beheading bad; golf good. If your mind doesn't spin, then the spin must be working.

Reasonable people might protest: Do we really mind if the president can be worried sick about an American's murder and also play golf? Many a



Kathleen
PARKER

golfer will extol the virtues of the game as a way both to relax and to focus one's mind.

Yet reasonable people are also justified in wondering whether the president is really present in his job. Forget the optics. The relevant question is, where is his mind? Is he engaged? Does he care?

It is unfair to ascribe nefarious motives to the president, as many on the far right have done. Still, effective leadership requires that one not only speak the truth but speak it with conviction and authentic passions natural to events. Obama's remarkable dispassion, punctuated occasionally by a brilliant smile that seems attached to a timer, has the effect of no affect whatsoever.

What is really going on?

His demeanor conveys a lack of involvement that is both disconcerting and potentially dangerous. For whatever reasons, he is resistant to decision-making (destroy, not manage, that JV team the Islamic State), slow on the uptake when conditions are dire (Ebola), dismissive of his own lack of follow-through (the red line for Bashar al-Assad), and quick to blame others for his failings (he knew nothing about fill-in-the-blank until he read it in the papers).

While he brandishes incompetence, America's friends and foes stroke their chins. Is this guy for real?

We now have a case of Ebola in the U.S. despite the president's assurances that chances of an outbreak were "extremely low." More beheadings are promised and presumably will continue until we prevail in a battle that is more likely to last decades rather the two or three years that the administration has suggested. The worst things imaginable aren't just possible, they're already happening.

Not to be a party pooper for End Timers, who are doubtless giddy right now, but we can prevail over the pestilence of savages and the plague of Ebola. But government is only as good as we are, and we have work to do. Next month, vote because you can — and vote only for those who understand what's really at stake. If Iran gets a nuke, if the Islamic State takes over more territory or is allowed to flourish here at home, it's everyone's necks on the line. This is the grisly truth, the meaning of which should be clear.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleen-parker@washpost.com.

YOUR LETTERS

Siren Solution?

Randy Gleich, Yankton

Here is a simple solution to the problem of a (cream-colored or white) storm siren (shown in the *Press & Dakotan* online photo) placed amongst the timberline at Lewis and Clark Lake area.

Military grade camouflage spray paint used in Desert Storm and else ware by the military. It is a fast drying, corrosion-proof enamel that is exceptionally resistant to harsh environmental conditions.

Prices vary online but I bet a pole with siren could be painted for about on hundred dollars and would blend in with the natural landscape quite nicely and would resolve the aesthetics issue at hand.

But on a final note, I do believe that in the 2015 budget there was no provision to set aside any money for siren expenditures in 2015. Just another example of "head in the sand" mentality and lack of foresight on the commission to meet the safety needs of the ever-growing lake area, its residents and visitors.