

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861  
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## We Say

### No Show



**THUMBS DOWN** to the weak 24 percent turnout for Tuesday's referendum vote on the proposed levy for Yankton County bridges and roads. This is an issue that impacts a lot of people — and will continue to do so — but just less than one in four people bothered to voice their concerns. Kudos to those who did turn out to make their sentiments known.

Unfortunately, this is something that happens in too many other places: Too little interest is shown in local elections, referendums and initiatives that have the most direct impact on the voters.

### Harrisburg



**THUMBS DOWN** to Wednesday's school shooting in Harrisburg, in which the principal was slightly wounded before the perpetrator was subdued by two other school personnel. It's a terrible feeling when such violence, which we see elsewhere on regular basis, hits so close to home. It had a local connection for us, as the principal, Kevin Lein, is a Mount Marty College alum, former women's basketball coach and an MMC Hall of Famer. (Also, he was a part-time sports writer for the *Press & Dakotan* for several years.) Fortunately, no one else was injured in the incident. It's sobering but it could have been so much worse — the headlines screaming from Oregon Thursday, where 10 people were gunned down at a community college, were a harrowing reminder of that. It also makes one wonder: What will happen tomorrow? And where?

### Manufactured



**THUMBS UP** to local area manufacturers for assembling another great Manufacturing Week in Yankton. Community members can now build an appreciation for those locations in constructing economic progress. Check out the manufacturer employee Olympics that is sure to produce an entertaining end to the week.

### Good Weather



**THUMBS UP** to this week's news that the October climate outlook looks good for the fall harvest. The warmer-than-average temperatures, combined with the lack of a hard freeze, improve the harvest prospects, according to the South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service. In addition, harvest shouldn't suffer any slowdown from wet conditions, the report said. If all remains on course, both South Dakota and Nebraska could see record or near-record harvests for corn and soybeans.

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

**Do you think Matt Michels will run for governor in 2018?**  
Yes.....49%  
No.....37%  
Not sure.....14%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST** .....219

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 support legalizing and developing the production of industrial hemp?**  
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

## 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 Friday, October 2, the 275th day of 2015. There are 90 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On October 2, 1985, actor Rock Hudson, 59, died at his home in Beverly Hills, California, after battling AIDS.

**On this date:** In 1780, British spy John Andre was hanged in Tappan, New York, during the Revolutionary War.

In 1835, the first battle of the Texas Revolution took place as American settlers fought Mexican soldiers near the Guadalupe River; the Mexicans ended up withdrawing.

In 1890, comedian Groucho Marx was born Julius Marx in New York.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson suffered a serious stroke at the White House that left him paralyzed on his left side.

In 1939, the Benny Goodman Sextet (which included Lionel Hampton) made their first recording, "Flying Home," for Columbia.

In 1944, German troops crushed the two-month-old Warsaw Uprising, during which a quarter of a million people had been killed.

In 1955, the suspense anthology "Alfred Hitchcock Presents" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1967, Thurgood Marshall was sworn as an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court as the court opened its new term.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford formally welcomed Japan's Emperor Hirohito to the United States during a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House.

In 1990, the Senate voted 90-9 to confirm the nomination of Judge David H. Souter to the Supreme Court.

In 2002, the Washington D.C.-area sniper attacks began, setting off a frantic manhunt lasting three weeks. (John Allen Muhammad and Lee Boyd Malvo were finally arrested for 10 killings and three wounding; Muhammad was executed in 2009; Malvo was sentenced to life in prison.)

In 2009, the International Olympic Committee, meeting in Copenhagen, chose Rio de Janeiro to be the site of the 2016 Summer Olympics; Chicago was eliminated in the first round, despite a last-minute in-person appeal by President Barack Obama.

**Ten years ago:** A tour boat, the Ethan Allen, capsized on New York's Lake George, killing 20 elderly passengers.

Playwright August Wilson died in Seattle at age 60. Actor-comedian Nipsey Russell died in New York at age 87.

**Five years ago:** A coalition of progressive and civil rights groups marched by the thousands on the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C., pledging to support Democrats struggling to keep power on Capitol Hill.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama acknowledged his pivotal role in the midterm political campaign, arguing in a speech at Northwestern University that the November congressional elections were a referendum on his economic policies and blaming Republicans for blocking his efforts to boost wages and create more jobs. Hong Kong's embattled leader, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, refused demands by pro-democracy protesters to step down.

**Today's Birthdays:** Country singer-musician Leon Rausch (Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys) is 88. Retired MLB All-Star Maury Wills is 83. Movie critic Rex Reed is 77. Singer-songwriter Don McLean is 70. Cajun-country singer Joel Sonnier is 69. Actor Avery Brooks is 67. Fashion designer Donna Karan is 67. Photographer Annie Leibovitz is 66. Rock musician Mike Rutherford (Genesis, Mike & the Mechanics) is 65. Singer-actor Sting is 64. Actress Lorraine Bracco is 61. Country musician Greg Jennings (Restless Heart) is 61. Rock singer Phil Oakey (The Human League) is 60. Rhythm-and-blues singer Freddie Jackson is 57. Singer-producer Robbie Nevil is 57. Retro-soul singer James Hunter is 53. Former NFL quarterback Mark Rypien is 53. Rock musician Bud Gaugh (Sublime, Eyes Adrift) is 48. Folk-country singer Gillian Welch is 48. Country singer Kelly Willis is 47. Actor Joey Slotnick is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Dion Allen (Az Yet) is 45. Actress-talk show host Kelly Ripa (TV: "Live with Kelly and Michael") is 45. Singer Tiffany is 44. Rock singer Lene Nystrom is 42. Actor Efrén Ramirez is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer LaTocha Scott (Xscape) is 42. Gospel singer Mandisa (TV: "American Idol") is 39. Actress Brianna Brown is 36. Rock musician Mike Rodden (Hinder) is 33. Tennis player Marion Bartoli is 31. Actor Christopher Larkin is 28. Rock singer Brittany Howard (Alabama Shakes) is 27. Actress Samantha Barks is 25. Actress Elizabeth McLaughlin is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "There's one way to find out if a man is honest — ask him. If he says 'yes' you know he is a crook." — Groucho Marx (1890-1977).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*I therefore, a prisoner of the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:1-2.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



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# The Kingdom Of No

BY KELLY HERTZ

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Well, at least Yankton is consistent. That was demonstrated again Tuesday. With the County Commission facing a long list of road issues and a shortage of funds with which to address them, an effort was made to institute a levy, recently approved by the Legislature, that would have raised about \$1.5 million annually to be used specifically for road and bridge maintenance. The move was referred and the voters resoundingly said no. The message — and this is essentially how it was put by an opponent of the levy — is that the commissioners need to look harder within the budget to find ways to pay for the road repairs, which they didn't really do, and not take the "easy way out" of soaking the taxpayers.

This episode follows on the heels in recent years of two failed opt-outs by the Yankton School District. Both times, voters rose up and told the district to live within its means and make cuts to the education system. (Tellingly, these were the only times many people even paid attention to school issues: Turnout for the opt-out votes was around 40 percent, but the turnout for school board elections usually wasn't even half that.)

And last year, we had the chaotic Dakota Plains matter in which the county, in effect, said "no" to a grain terminal facility and other potential development at the Napa Junction area. A new County Commission is now working to rectify that, but the incident nevertheless managed to confirm the idea — and this really does exist, especially in Pierre — that Yankton doesn't have a serious interest in economic development.

We seem to have become the kingdom of no. No to fixing roads. No to helping education. No to economic development. No to anything that could cost the taxpayers money. No to moving forward. That may be too broad and a bit unfairly, but it's a perception we've created for ourselves.

The road levy episode is a curious case. To be fair, the opposition ran a strong campaign. Opponents dictated the narrative almost entirely, and the county and levy proponents were simply too slow in their response. When the matter was referred to a vote, there was one information forum held three weeks ago, and commissioners attended listening sessions throughout the county, but that was about it. On Tuesday, the result wasn't a real shock, although even the most pessimistic proponent was probably surprised by the 70

percent rejection vote.

However, there's a problem with the manufactured perception of a county government that wasn't thorough enough in scrutinizing its budget and lazily decided to tap the taxpayers to fund the road maintenance. Anyone who has followed how this county operates through the years knows how disconnected that image is. This has historically been a fiscally conservative county, to the point of being borderline stingy. The annual budgets are traditionally lean, and any increase in taxation has never been viewed lightly. Thus, when commissioners say they sifted through the budget thoroughly and couldn't find enough money to cover a modest list of repairs, I tend to believe them. I also believe it because road issues have been discussed for years at county meetings, with money continually

looming as a sticking point. (At the July meeting to approve the levy, even those opposing it admitted the county needed to start fixing the roads years ago.) And when the commissioners say they hate the idea of raising taxes, I look at the history and their political makeup, and I believe them. However, that's not the image that came through during this referendum. When the county tries to pass this levy again, which it almost certainly will, we may well see the same narrative emerge again from people who haven't been paying much attention to how the county conducts business. No matter; they simply don't want to foot the bill.

But that leads to another problem with Tuesday's outcome: Nothing has changed as far as the roads and bridges go, or as far as the budget goes. Well, that's not quite true: When fixes are pushed back, they usually cost more down the line. We are postponing the inevitable, and it will come back to us at a higher price. Meanwhile, the county needs more revenue, either by raising taxes (which no one likes) or by generating more economic growth. But with poor roads, such development becomes a tougher sell.

Such is life in the kingdom of no: Either you pay or you pay, one way or another.

The thing is, even when we say "no," we are saying "yes" to other things. And whether it's saying "yes" to hamstringing education or to not fixing roads, we're speaking loud and clear. And people are noticing.

It's hard to know what the future holds for this kingdom of ours — Tuesday's result may not bode well for another school opt-out attempt, for instance — but at least we have a good idea of what kind of road we'll have to get us there. And unless things change, it will be a bumpy and unfortunate path forward indeed.

Follow @kelly\_hertz on Twitter.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A Tough Job

*EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter, which ran in Thursday's Press & Dakotan, contained a couple of typographical errors. We are reprinting it here. We apologize for the inconvenience.*

### Don Munson, Yankton

When I served in the South Dakota Legislature, there were several former county commissioners in the Legislature. I asked some of the former county commissioners which public service position was the hardest. These former county commissioners stated the elected position at the county level was the hardest as every decision was closely scrutinized by the local voters.

The Yankton County commissioners made a difficult decision and addressed the need to maintain and upgrade the county roads and bridges. This costs money. That is a problem at the county level. The county government has very limited revenue sources compared to city or state governments. That is a problem.

Regardless of the vote outcome, I applaud the county commissioners for addressing this issue.

### It's A Scam

#### Gregg C. Hubner, Avon

On Sept. 26, I read an article about NorthWestern Energy negotiating the rate hike with the PUC. In early May, NorthWestern asked for a rate increase, and imposed that increase on an interim basis. Walmart, Toshiba American, Trail King and Redfield Energy intervened; apparently, they weren't going to accept the rate increase.

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:** "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." — **THE FIRST AMENDMENT to the U.S. Constitution**

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