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CONTACT US

PHONE: (605) 665-7811 (800) 743-2968 NEWS FAX: (605) 665-1721 ADVERTISING FAX: (605) 665-0288 WEBSITE: www.yankton.net



SUBSCRIPTIONS/ CIRCULATION Extension 104 jim.gevens@yankton.net CLASSIFIED ADS Extension 116 tera.schmidt@yankton.net NEWS DEPT.

Extension 114 news@yankton.net SPORTS DEPT. Extension 106 sports@yankton.net

ADVERTISING DEPT. Extension 122 sales@yankton.net

BUSINESS OFFICE Extension 119 ar@yankton.net

NEW MEDIA: Extension 136 beth.rye@yankton.net

COMPOSING DEPT. Extension 129

kathy.larson@yankton.net



Gary L. Wood Publisher

Michele Schievelbein Advertising Director

Jim Gevens Circulation Director

Tonya Schild Business Manager

Tera Schmidt Classified Manager

Kelly Hertz Editor

James D. Cimburek Sports Editor Beth Rye Digital Media Director

Kathy Larson Composing Manager

* * *

DAILY STAFF Reilly Biel Cassandra Brockmoller

Brandi Bue Rob Buckingham Caryn Chappelear Randy Dockendorf



Dry Autumn

views

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THUMBS DOWN to the dry conditions and the associated fire dangers that currently prevail in the area, creating added danger during the harvest season. Of course, the lack of rain certainly helps farmers get into the fields; in that respect, this dry October -Yankton has not received any measureable precipitation so far this month — has been a great help. But

that lack of rain comes with a price, and the high winds that have swept through a couple days this week magnifies the fire dangers. Sometimes, all it takes is a rock dinging off a combine to set unfortunate circumstances in motion. Thus, extra caution is needed, especially with a possible freeze in the works and no significant chance of rain in sight for a few days.

Mussel Warnings



Even though summer is over and we're deep into autumn already, THUMBS DOWN to the invasive species of zebra mussels, the tiny filter feeders that have been growing across Lewis & Clark Lake by attaching themselves to visiting boats and spreading into freshwater reservoirs. They can cause serious

cal officials are going to take their campaign against the mussels up a notch or two to get the word out about the threat posed by this specie. Boaters should follow all regulations to prevent the spread. Don't move a mussel.

Safety Boost



THUMBS UP to the Yankton City Commission and property owners along Douglas Ave. between Anna St. and 31st St. for coming up with an agreement to move forward with the long-proposed reconstruction of Douglas. The stretch of road currently boasts a large population along it, but the roadway has not been developed. This has created a danger-

ous situation for pedestrians who use the road. The project, set to commence next spring, is a welcome solution to this issue.

Resounding Silence

THUMBS DOWN to the gradual dimming of outrage following the massacre at Umpqua Community College. This is neither new, nor was it unexpected, but two weeks after eight students and an assistant professor were gunned down on a college campus, it seems the outrage that's felt after such an event has subsided. Advocates of change have drifted off, and

the pro-gun lobby has quickly moved on from advocating for better mental health as a distraction from the fact that the shooter had 13 legally purchased firearms. It seems the only ones talking about Umpqua still are GOP candidates — and mostly to fantasize about someone having a Harry Callahan "Make My Day" moment. At this rate, a "next time" is inevitable. Will that be the time the outrage sustains itself?

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 President Obama could win a third term if he were allowed to run for re-election? 75%



Who Lives And Dies: **Apologies Of War?**

BY KELLY HERT7 kelly.hertz@yankton.net

This year, we've remembered numerous anniversaries tied to the end of World War II 70 years ago. But there was one anniversary that remains uncomfortable to contemplate.

In August 1945, the United States dropped atomic bombs on two Japanese cities, forcing the Tokyo government to finally surrender instead of undertake what would surely have been a bitter, suicidal defense of its homeland.

The bombing of Hiroshima on Aug 6, 1945, instantly killed an estimated 80,000 people; three days later, Nagasaki was struck, resulting in 40.000 more deaths. Tens of thousands more died in both cities during the following years from radiation poisoning.

And perhaps the only reason I'm here to talk about it today is because of those bombs.

Which leads to another looming anniversary — this one for what never Kelly was. Had Japan not surrendered, the HERTZ Allies were prepared to launch Operation Downfall, a ground invasion of Kyushu, the large island at the bottom of the Japan chain, on Nov. 1, 1945. This would have set the stage for the final assault on Tokyo in the spring of 1946. Japanese military and civilians were already digging in for an all-out defense in early August. The invasion would likely have been a bloodbath: The expected Allied casualty rate was estimated, on the low end, at 20 percent — a figure admittedly dwarfed by the number of predicted Japanese deaths.

Such an invasion would have altered many thousands of family histories — possibly including mine. My father turned 18 in 1945, and he might have been part of the invasion force. How destiny might have changed - for me and so many others — is a cold thing to contemplate.

But I also understand the history. So, what would I say to the victims of the atomic bombs — those who died, and those who were never born, so that I might live?

l would say, "I'm sorry.' But don't confuse that for an apology for what was done seven decades ago to bring a bloody war to a conclusion.

Instead, I'm sorry that those people who were vaporized or died a lingering death were placed in such a position by their ruthless government, which killed millions in a furious

bid for empire. Theirs was a regime that ignited wars, massacred civilians and looked down upon other cultures. They saw expansionism as a divine right and death as a divine wind.

I'm sorry there has still been no reconciliation on either side. There's still a deep bitterness

in China about what that nation endured at the hands of the Japanese; it's the stuff of legends, nightmares and war crimes. An anger still smolders in some Allied veterans over what they saw and experienced. From Pearl Harbor to

Nanking, from Bataan to Singapore, the old wounds still ache.

This past August, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe declared his support for past official apologies for his nation's wartime expansionism, and he admitted Tokyo inflicted "immeasurable damage and suffering (on) innocent people." But he stopped short of formally issuing a new apology, declaring that future generations shouldn't be "predestined" to apologize for the past.

Meanwhile, Time magazine and the BBC noted a tide of denial rising within Japan toward its war crimes: A top Japanese media

damage to the river's ecology and infrastructure. Lo-





Rachel Frederick Jeremy Hoeck Nicole Myers Robert Nielsen Diana Smallwood David Stephenson Cathy Sudbeck JoAnn Wiebelhaus Brenda Willcuts Alissa Woockman

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TOTAL VOTES CAST ...

.320 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 think alcohol sales should be allowed on college campuses? To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

visit Poland, the homeland of his prede

cessor, John Paul II. The Chicago White

Sox beat the Los Angeles Angels 6-3 to

win the American League Championship

Series in five games, their first pennant since 1959. Elmer "Len" Dresslar Jr., the

booming voice of the Jolly Green Giant,

Five years ago: Iran freed an Ameri-can businessman jailed in Tehran for more

than two years on suspicion of ties to an allegedly violent opposition group. (Reza Taghavi, 71, hadn't been charged with a crime and denied knowingly supporting the organization, known as Tondar.) Ac-

tress Barbara Billingsley, the matriarch

of TV's "Leave It to Beaver," died in Santa

One year ago: During a special con-gressional hearing on the Ebola crisis, Republican lawmakers pressed for a ban on travel to the U.S. from the West African

outbreak zone; the White House resisted

the idea and tried to tamp down fear as

the pool of Americans being monitored expanded. Tim Hauser, founder and a

over the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 5.

Sportscaster Tim McCarver is 74. Rock musician C.F. Turner (Bachman-Turner

Overdrive) is 72. Actress Suzanne Som-

ers is 69. Rock singer-musician Bob Weir

is 68. Producer-director David Zucker is

68. Record company executive Jim Ed

Norman is 67 Actor Daniel Gerroll is 64

Actor Morgan Stevens is 64. Actress Mar-

tha Smith is 63. Comedian-actor Andy

Kindler is 59. Actor-director Tim Robbins

is 57. Actor-musician Gary Kemp is 56. Singer-musician Bob Mould is 55. Actor

Randy Vasquez is 54. Rock musician Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers) is 53. Actor Chris-

tian Stolte is 53. Actor Todd Stashwick is 47. Jazz musician Roy Hargrove is 46. Ac-

Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 46. Singer Wendy Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 46. Rapper B-Rock (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 44. Rock singer Chad Gray (Mudvayne) is 44. Actor Paul Sparks is 44. Actress Kellie Martin is

40. Singer John Mayer is 38. Actor Jeremy

Jackson is 35. Actress Caterina Scorsone is 35. Actress Brea Grant is 34.

Monica, California, at age 94.

died at age 80.

IN HIST<u>ORY</u> By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, October 16, the 289th day of 2015. There are 76 days left in the

Today's Highlight in History: On October 16, 1995, a vast throng of black men gathered in Washington, D.C. for the "Million Man March" led by Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan

On this date: In 1793, during the French Revolution, Marie Antoinette, the queen of France, was beheaded.

In 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown led a group of 21 men in a raid on Harpers Ferry in western Virginia. (Ten of Brown's men were killed and five escaped. Brown and six followers were captured; all were executed.)

In 1916, Margaret Sanger opened the first birth control clinic in Brooklyn, New York. (The clinic ended up being raided on October 25 by police who arrested Sanger.) In 1934, Chinese Communists, un-

der siege by the Nationalists, began their "long march" lasting a year from southeastern to northwestern China.

In 1943, Chicago Mayor Edward J. Kelly officially opened the city's new sub-way system during a ceremony at the State and Madison street station.

In 1951, Johnnie Ray and the Four Lads recorded "Cry" by Churchill Kohlman and "The Little White Cloud That Cried" (written by Ray) in New York for Okeh Records

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy was informed that reconnaissance photographs had revealed the presence of missile bases in Cuba.

In 1968, American athletes Tommie Smith and John Carlos sparked controversy at the Mexico City Olympics by giving "black power" salutes during a victory ceremony after they'd won gold and bronze medals in the 200-meter race.

In 1969, the New York Mets capped their miracle season by winning the World Series, defeating the Baltimore Orioles, 5-3, in Game 5 played at Shea Stadium.

In 1978, the College of Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church chose Cardinal Karol Wojtyla to be the new pope; he took the name John Paul II.

In 1984, Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize for his decades of non-violent struggle for racial equality in South Africa. In 1987, a 58-1/2-hour drama in Mid-

land, Texas, ended happily as rescuers freed Jessica McClure, an 18-month-old girl trapped in an abandoned well.

Thought for Today: "No persons are more frequently wrong, than those who Ten years ago: Polish television broadcast a recorded interview with Pope will not admit they are wrong." — Francois, Duc de la Rochefoucauld, French moralist Benedict XVI, who said that he planned to (1613-1680).

FROM THE BIBLE

Are You the one who is to come, or shall we look for another? Luke 7:20. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

Of course, there is another way to look at it.

What of the generations of people that would have sprang from those who died at Hiroshima and Nagasaki? What do you say to those ghosts, and to those souls who never were?

Out of grim interest, I once tried to compose such a response. "To whom it may concern ...," it began. But I struggled to speak from there. What do you say to spirits who died, or who never existed, so that you might live?

But that question is too simple. It cannot be asked outside of the universe from which it sprang — in this case, the universe of a war. Through the years, there have been attempts by some nations and groups to cast the question outside of that realm — asking it instead against a backdrop of guilt and regret. I understand those motives.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Happy Emergency Nurses Week!

Yankton County EMS Employees

Since 2001, the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) recognizes a week in October as Emergency Nurses Week, a special week honoring emergency nurses for their commitment

Care." Yankton County EMS employees believe the emergency nurses at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital deserve recognition for all they do to save lives and keep us healthy.

During a year when Ebola, measles and the flu made national headlines, emergency nurses courageously stood at the front lines of healthcare, prepared for all challenges. We are proud to be on the same team with these nurses who provide excellent patient care every day.

This Emergency Nurses Week, Yankton County EMS employees would like to extend

YOUR D.C. LAWMAKERS

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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.

SEN. MIKE ROUNDS: 502 Hart Senate Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Washington Phone: 202-224-5842; D.C. Fax: 202-224-7482; Sioux Falls Phone: 605-336-0486; S.D. Fax: 605-336-6624; email: N/A

REP. KRISTI NOEM: 2422 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Wash-ington Phone: (202) 225-2801 or (855) 225-2801; Sioux Falls Phone: (605) 275-2868; Fax: (202) 225-5823; email: visit https://noem.house.gov

official (and a close friend of Abe's) dismissed such charges last winter as fictions concocted to whitewash such U.S. "crimes" as the atomic bombings and the firebombing of Tokyo, which also killed tens of thousands. Decades later, Japan's former adversaries remain wary. The corpse of the long past marches on.

I'm sorry to see that, too.

But I cannot apologize for a decision, frightful though it was, that likely saved lives including potentially those of many Japanese that might have otherwise perished in a hopeless homeland defense. It really was a decision of last resort in the face of brutal alternatives.

I am sorry there is still no real peace for the living or the dead. These anniversaries have underscored that fact. There's still uneasiness in East Asia and elsewhere toward Tokyo. Forgiveness is not so easily dispensed.

"To whom it my concern"? Actually, it applies to a lot more people than I had ever imagined.

Follow @kelly_hertz on Twitter.

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/.

a special Thank You to the wonderful nurses in the Emergency Department at Avera Sacred Heart Hospital for their commitment to "Safe Practice. Safe Care.'

Happy Emergency Nurses Week!

NEBRASKA

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

SEN. BEN SASSE: B40E Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington DC 20510; Washington Phone: (202) 224-4224; email: N/A

REP. ADRIAN SMITH: 503 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515-2703; Washington Phone: (202) 225-6435; Fax: (202) 225-0207: District Phone: (308) 633-6333: email: log on at www.house.gov/writerep/

member of the Grammy-winning vocal troupe The Manhattan Transfer, died in Sayre, Pennsylvania, at age 72. Travis Ishikawa hit the first homer to end an NL to patient care. This year, Emergency Nurses Week is Oct. 11-17 and the theme is "Safe Practice. Safe Championship Series, a three-run drive that sent San Francisco to a 6-3 victory Today's Birthdays: Actress Angela Lansbury is 90. Actor-producer Tony An-thony is 78. Actor Barry Corbin is 75.