

The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
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Published Daily Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotan established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan established April 26, 1875.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES*

(Payable in advance)
CARRIER DELIVERY
1-month.....\$12.09
3 months.....\$36.27
6 months.....\$72.53
1-year.....\$133.09

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We Say

McFly!



THUMBS UP to the dose of nostalgia generated by the classic 1980s "Back to the Future" movies. Wednesday, Oct. 21, was the day that Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) materialized in the future in "Back to the Future II." In the movie, a big news headline was that the Chicago Cubs had just won the World Series. The movie didn't get that right (or, for that matter, the timing of the World Series, which might drag into November this year), we can still appreciate the futuristic flourishes that the movie brought to our pop culture — and now witness what the movie's futuristic view got right (big-screen TVs, drones, increased automation) and wrong (hoverboards, all the "Jaws" sequels). It's been fun looking back into the "Future."

Warm Thoughts



THUMBS UP to the lingering warm conditions that have hung over the region throughout October. This, combined with the dry weather (which we are somewhat ambivalent about) have done more than helped farmers gather up their harvest in a timely fashion. It has also helped builders and construction crews that have been able to take advantage of the mild autumn to get some additional work done before the colder weather does eventually arrive. Interestingly, Yankton has not had a freeze yet; according to the National Weather Service, the latest freeze on record is Nov. 4, 1998. And, we could use some moisture at some point just so we can bank it for next spring. But for now, enjoy the nice fall while you can.

A Big Problem



THUMBS DOWN to the growing problem of sex trafficking in our region and across the country. Fort Randall Casino hosted a conference this week focused on "Sex Trafficking In Indian Country." Twin Cities advocate Bonnie Clairmont spoke about the warning signs of sex trafficking, how to confront the perpetrators and how to assist the victims. Sex trafficking comes in all forms and, unfortunately, has spread to the rural areas and reservations. Clairmont shared distressing stories of how parents have pimped out their children, with some victims as young as 8 years old. Members of the Yankton Sioux police department spoke with the *Press & Dakotan* about the issues they are seeing and the need for public involvement in combating the problem. The issue will garner more local attention when Mount Marty College hosts Christian band Remedy Drive for a Nov. 12 concert spotlighting the fight against human trafficking.

Civil Tones



THUMBS UP to the example of political respect shown at this week's Farber Forum on the University of South Dakota campus. Former congressmen Barry Goldwater Jr. and David Minge spoke on the need for civility in politics. They also responded on why they think maverick billionaire Donald Trump has gained massive appeal in his Republican presidential bid amidst the current rancor found in Washington. As Minge noted, he and Goldwater stood far apart in their political views but shared the stage for a respectful discussion. Let's hope their example spreads far and wide — and soon.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Would you support a proposal to increase the federal fuel tax to pay for road construction and repair?
No.....59%
Yes.....36%
Not sure.....5%
TOTAL VOTES CAST.....263

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 plan on seeing the new "Star Wars" movie, "The Force Awakens"?
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, October 23, the 296th day of 2015. There are 69 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On October 23, 1915, tens of thousands of women paraded up Fifth Avenue in New York City, demanding the right to vote.

On this date: In 1707, the first Parliament of Great Britain, created by the Acts of Union between England and Scotland, held its first meeting.

In 1864, forces led by Union Maj. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis repelled Confederate Maj. Gen. Sterling Price's army in the Civil War Battle of Westport in Missouri.

In 1925, talk show host Johnny Carson was born in Corning, Iowa.

In 1935, mobster Dutch Schultz, 34, was shot and mortally wounded with three other men during a gangland hit at the Palace Chophouse in Newark, New Jersey. (Schultz died the following day.)

In 1942, during World War II, Britain launched a major offensive against Axis forces at El Alamein in Egypt, resulting in an Allied victory.

In 1944, the World War II Battle of Leyte Gulf began, resulting in a major Allied victory against Japanese forces.

In 1956, a student-sparked revolt against Hungary's Communist rule began; as the revolution spread, Soviet forces started entering the country, and the uprising was put down within weeks.

In 1963, the Neil Simon comedy "Barefoot in the Park," starring Elizabeth Ashley and Robert Redford, opened on Broadway.

In 1972, the musical "Pippin" opened on Broadway.

In 1983, 241 U.S. service members, most of them Marines, were killed in a suicide truck-bombing at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon; a near-simultaneous attack on French forces killed 58 paratroopers. NBC News reporter and anchorwoman Jessica Savitch, 36, and New York Post executive Martin Fischbein, 34, died in a car accident in New Hope, Pennsylvania.

In 1989, 23 people were killed in an explosion at Phillips Petroleum Co.'s chemical complex in Pasadena, Texas. In a case that inflamed racial tensions in Boston, Charles Stuart claimed that he and his pregnant wife, Carol, had been shot in their car by a black robber. (Carol Stuart and her prematurely delivered baby died; Charles Stuart later died, an apparent suicide, after he himself was implicated.)

In 1995, a jury in Houston convicted Yolanda Saldívar of murdering Tejano singing star Selena. (Saldívar was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.)

Ten years ago: Warsaw's conservative mayor, Lech Kaczynski, won Poland's presidential runoff vote. The Chicago White Sox took a 2-1 game-to-nothing lead in the World Series as they beat the Houston Astros 7-6.

Five years ago: The world's leading advanced and emerging countries vowed during a meeting in Gyeongju, South Korea, to avoid potentially debilitating currency devaluations, aiming to quell trade tensions that could threaten the global recovery. San Francisco's Juan Uribe hit a tiebreaking homer off Ryan Madson with two outs in the eighth inning and the Giants held off Philadelphia 3-2 to win the NL pennant in six games.

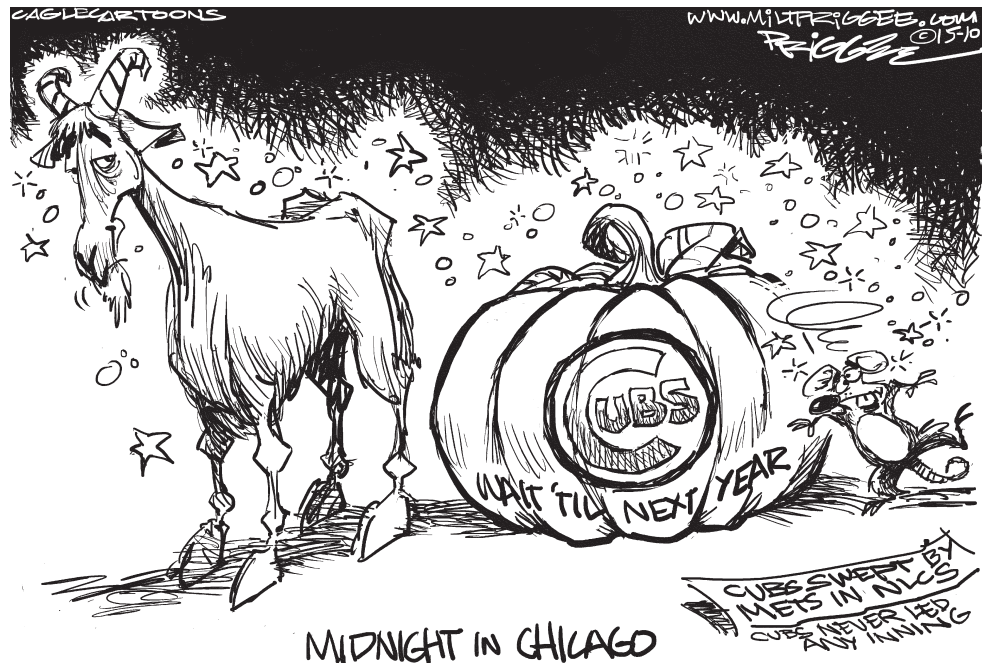
One year ago: Officials announced that an emergency room doctor who'd recently returned to New York City after treating Ebola patients in West Africa tested positive for the virus, becoming the first case in the city and the fourth in the nation. (Dr. Craig Spencer later recovered.) John "Bull" Bramlett, a former professional football and baseball player who was nicknamed the "Meanest Man in Football," died in Memphis, Tennessee, at age 73.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall of Famer and former U.S. Senator Phil Neri, R-Ky., is 84. Movie director Philip Kaufman is 79. Soccer great Pele (pay-lay) is 75. Rhythm-and-blues singer Barbara Ann Hawkins (The Dixie Cups) is 72. ABC News investigative reporter Brian Ross is 67. Actor Michael Rupert is 64. Movie director Ang Lee is 61. Jazz singer Dianne Reeves is 59. Country singer Dwight Yoakam is 59. Community activist Martin Luther King III is 58. Movie director Sam Raimi is 56. Parodist "Weird Al" Yankovic is 56. Rock musician Robert Trujillo (Metallica) is 51. Christian/jazz singer David Thomas (Take 6) is 49. Rock musician Brian Nevin (Big Head Todd and the Monsters) is 49. Country singer-musician Junior Bryant is 47. Actor Jon Huertas is 46. Movie director Chris Weitz is 46. CNN medical reporter Dr. Sanjay Gupta is 46. Country singer Jimmy Wayne is 43. Actress Vivian Bang is 42. Rock musician Eric Bass (Shinedown) is 41. TV personality and host Cat Dealey is 39. Actor Ryan Reynolds is 39. Rock singer Matthew Shultz (Cage the Elephant) is 32. Rhythm-and-blues singer Miguel is 30. Actress Masiela Lusha is 30. Actress Emilia Clarke is 29. Actress Briana Evigan is 29. Actress Jessica Stroup is 29. Neo-soul musician Allen Branstetter (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 25.

Thought for Today: "Just be yourself — it's the only way it can work." — Johnny Carson (1925-2005).

FROM THE BIBLE

Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Luke 1:28. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



Biden: Pass Tense

BY KELLY HERTZ
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In the end, it would have been a huge surprise if Joe Biden had decided to run for president. The current vice president finally, officially discarded that possibility Wednesday after months of speculation.

That was Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015, about one year and three weeks before Election Day 2016.

There was a day when a decision made at such a distance from the finish line would have still given Biden plenty of time to set up an operation and mount a credible campaign.

But this is a different age with far different rules. Now, those who are in the race at this juncture have been mapping it out for at least a year or more already. They've been "all in," heart and soul, since the very start.

Contrast that to Biden's approach: He appeared reticent about running, and when his son passed away in May, that basically cinched it. He simply didn't seem emotionally driven enough for such a soul-sucking slog. No credible 21st century candidate for president could still be undecided about running 18 months out, let alone a year out.

Biden simply didn't have the fire, but — at age 74 — the veteran lawmaker also may not of had the will to pass on this last go-round so easily.

And so, as Biden was bidin' time, the rumors and speculation danced on, throughout the summer and well into the autumn. Perhaps he was waiting to see if Hillary Clinton imploded. Or perhaps he just couldn't bring himself to finally say no.

Personally, I think Biden is either rather smart or quite fortunate. I can't see why on earth anyone would want to be president.

Yes, I appreciate the allure of having the power to make a sweeping difference in people's lives, to right wrongs and fix problems. A lot of people really do dream about it. But precious few have the energy and the money streams it realistically takes to vie for the job.



Kelly HERTZ

Look at what the job does to presidents physically. If you compare photos of any president taken at the beginning of his time in office to photos at the end, it's like Dorian Gray in reverse. It's a stark portrait. Barack Obama looks like he's aged far more than the seven years he's been on the job.

Consider what a president must endure while in office. There are constant pressures, endless criticism and ridicule, fierce opposition and wavering loyalties. You are forever isolated and protected, and there are people who are making threats — legitimate or otherwise — that must always be taken seriously.

And when you're president, you are ALWAYS president until you leave office. It's not a 9 to 5 gig. You can't take a day off to lose yourself in a crowd or go for a long ride in the country. You apparently don't call in sick — we never really hear about this, anyway. And when you take time off, you're still on call — and yet, you're criticized for trying to take a break.

Being the president of the United States really sucks, to put it bluntly, and I don't begrudge any individual harboring such lofty aspirations who instead decides to pass on it.

That's why I had dismissed Biden a while ago: There seemed to be nagging doubts in his heart. And, to paraphrase one of the many classic lines from the movie "Casablanca," that must be your least vulnerable spot if you're going to undertake such a mission.

I wouldn't guess right now who'll be our next president, for what we've seen so far has defied conventional wisdom — or absurdity — on many levels. But whoever does get the job, I wish him or her well. That person will need all the strength, energy and support that can be mustered to confront the spirit-crushing rigors of the job. And that lucky person won't be getting much help from any of us.

Follow @kelly_hertz on Twitter.

Michael Reagan

It's Time For GOP To Choose

BY MICHAEL REAGAN
CagleCartoons.com

Maybe Joe took my advice. I told a friend of the VP's recently that he should not run for president in 2016 but instead should leave the political stage as an elder statesman.

No matter why Biden really decided to let Hillary Clinton have the Democrats' presidential nomination without a fight, it's great news for the GOP.

At least it should be. In an ordinary election season, the GOP should be thrilled to pieces at the chance to duke it out with Hillary and the U-Haul load of dirty old political baggage she and her husband are always dragging around with them.

But this is no ordinary season. It's the upside-down season of Donald Trump.

What Trump has done to hurt the GOP's chances so far is enough to make a conspiratorialist think Hillary and Bill paid him to run as a Republican.

But I forgot. Trump is so rich no one has enough loot to buy him off, not even Bill and Hillary.

What Trump is doing to the GOP continues to amaze me. It's bad enough he has infected what's left of the party's conservative brand with his Democrat-lite ideas.

One-by-one he's been biting his fellow Republicans like a liberal attack dog — even ones he's not running against.

As part of his nonstop bullying of Jeb Bush, Trump tried to make it seem Jeb's big brother George W. was somehow responsible for the 9/11 attack on America.

It was a cheap shot that knocked Jeb off his message — a message no one is hearing anyway — and forced him to defend his brother.

Democrats have been unfairly blaming George W. for 9/11 — and everything else that's gone wrong in the world — for eight years. So now Trump piles on?

GW could have done nothing to stop the attack, which occurred just nine months after he replaced Bill Clinton in the White House.

People like Trump forget that in 2001 the U.S.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Gun Sales Issues

Joe Carda, Yankton

I just tried to put an ad in this newspaper and, to my surprise, I was told that company policy is not to allow individuals to put ads in this paper to sell guns. This is not a law; it is this paper's policy. They would allow a gun company to put an ad in this paper but not a law-abiding citizen as myself.

This is where things get a little murky to me. I understand that everyone is running scared with all the shootings. People don't understand how some of these things can happen and how it can be stopped. I am all for looking for solutions and would even be willing to go the extra mile if it would help stop another shooting.

But then something like this happens where someone decides to make a policy that has no bearing on the problem at hand, and those same

people wonder why no one will sit down and discuss solutions. People will put their feet in the dirt and say, "No new gun laws," but no way am I giving up my rights. You give them a mile and they will take 1,000 miles.

Sure, it's the newspaper's right to make new policies, but I ask why? Is this really going to make a difference? So if I was a licensed gun company, would that make any difference in the end?

All it did was make me more afraid that other policies will be implemented at some point which will infringe my rights as a gun owner. Go NRA!

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Press & Dakotan has had this policy about private-party gun ads in place since at least the mid-1990s. There are potential liability issues that come into play, plus we simply do not feel it is our place to get involved in transactions like this that are otherwise regulated by state and federal laws.