

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION | WE SAY

Healthy Choice



partment of Human Services.

THUMBS UP to Gov. Dennis Daugaard's choice of Gloria Pearson as the new Secretary of Human Services. She has spent the last 13 years as executive director of Yankton's Ability Building Services. We have spoken with Pearson while observing numerous milestones for ABS during her tenure, and we hope she oversees many more milestones for the Department of Human Services.

Park Place



THUMBS DOWN to the news this week that visitor numbers at the Lewis and Clark Recreation Area were down this year as compared to last year. It wasn't a major drop, and park numbers overall again seemed robust. It's frustrating because numbers rebounded last year from the flood year of 2011, despite the summer of 2012 being so beastly hot. This year, the

The Wrong Pace



downturn in visitor numbers was due to cool, wet weather early in the season. However, the parks saw great numbers for the Fourth of July and Labor Day, and will hopefully still draw decent crowds as we slide into the autumn (which is actually a great time to use the system).

THUMBS DOWN to news that our lives pale in comparison to medieval peasants in at least one respect: They had much more leisure time than we do. According to a recent Reuters article, European peasant enjoyed anywhere from eight weeks to half the year off. "The Church, mindful of how to keep a population from rebelling, enforced frequent mandatory holidays. Weddings, wakes and births might mean a week off quaffing ale to celebrate, and when wandering jugglers or sporting events came to town, the peasant expected time off for entertainment." English peasants in the 14th century might sometimes work no more than 150 days per year. In contrast, the average American worker is granted an average of eight vacation days (in addition to weekends). Instead of using leisure to deter rebellion, our current system apparently uses exhaustion. This pace affects our relationships and mental health. At some point we must ask, is it worth it?

Retirement Wreck



Speaking of leisure, we must also offer a **THUMBS DOWN** to the findings of an Economic Policy Institute report that the 401(k) revolution created a few big winners and many losers when it comes to retirement savings. It concludes that as retirement savings for Americans are increasingly inadequate, and there are growing disparities by income, race, ethnicity, education and marital status. "Even women, who by some measures appear to be narrowing gaps with men (in large part because men are faring worse than they did before) are ill-served by an inefficient retirement system that shifts risk onto workers, including the risk of outliving one's retirement savings." The report concludes that Social Security should be preserved and strengthened, defined-benefit pensions should be defended.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Should the traffic lights at the corner of Fourth and Walnut in Yankton be discontinued?
Yes 55%
No 35%
Not sure/Don't care 10%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 488

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:

Should Congress give approval for the use of U.S. military force in Syria?

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, Sept. 6, the 249th day of 2013. There are 116 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On September 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y. (McKinley died eight days later; Czolgosz was executed on October 29.)

On this date: In 1861, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant occupied Paducah, Ky., during the Civil War. In 1888, diplomat and financier Joseph P. Kennedy, Sr. was born in Boston.

In 1916, the first self-service grocery store, Piggly Wiggly, was opened in Memphis, Tenn., by Clarence Saunders. In 1939, the Union of South Africa declared war on Germany.

In 1943, 79 people were killed when a New York-bound Pennsylvania Railroad train derailed and crashed in Philadelphia.

In 1952, Canadian television broadcasting began in Montreal.

In 1966, South African Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd was stabbed to death by an apparently deranged page during a parliamentary session in Cape Town.

In 1970, Palestinian guerrillas seized control of three U.S.-bound jetliners. (Two were later blown up on the ground in Jordan, along with a London-bound plane hijacked on September 9; the fourth plane was destroyed on the ground in Egypt. No hostages were harmed.)

In 1985, all 31 people aboard a Midwest Express Airlines DC-9 were killed when the Atlanta-bound jetliner crashed just after takeoff from Milwaukee's Mitchell Field.

In 1991, the Soviet Union recognized the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. Russian lawmakers upheld a decision by residents of Leningrad to restore the city's pre-revolutionary name, St. Petersburg.

In 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris.

In 2002, meeting outside Washington, D.C. for only the second time since 1800, Congress convened in New York to pay homage to the victims and heroes of September 11.

Ten years ago: Mahmoud Abbas resigned as Palestinian prime minister. In the U.S. Open, Justine Henin-Hardenne won the all-Belgian women's singles final, beating fellow countrywoman Kim Clijsters, 7-5, 6-1.

Five years ago: In the wake of Rus-

sia's military standoff with Georgia, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said that now was not the right time for the U.S. to move forward on a once-celebrated deal for civilian nuclear cooperation with Russia. (President George W. Bush canceled the deal two days later.) More than 100 people died in a rockslide that crashed into a shantytown just outside Cairo, Egypt. Actress Anita Page died in Los Angeles at age 98.

One year ago: President Barack Obama conceded only halting progress toward solving the nation's economic woes, but vowed in a Democratic National Convention finale, "Our problems can be solved, our challenges can be met." Drew Peterson, the former Illinois police officer who'd gained notoriety after his much-younger wife, Stacy, vanished in 2007, was convicted of murdering a previous wife, Kathleen Savio. (Peterson was later sentenced to 38 years in prison.) Rihanna won video of the year at the MTV Awards for "We Found Love." One Direction won best pop video, best new artist and most share-worthy video for "What Makes You Beautiful."

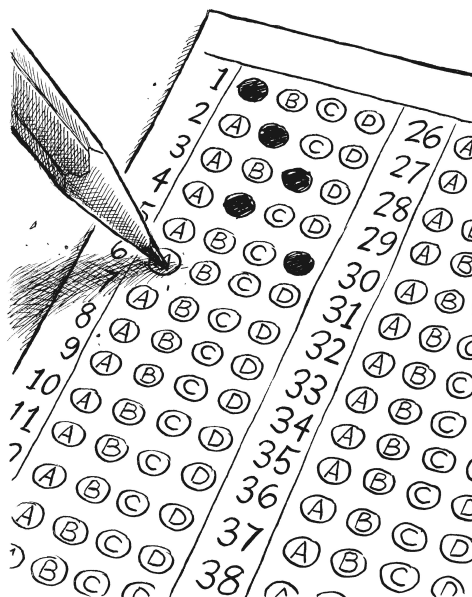
Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 78. Country singer David Allan Coe is 74. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 70. Actress Swoosie Kurtz is 69. Comedian-actress Jane Curtin is 66. Country singer-songwriter Buddy Miller is 61. Country musician Joe Smyth (Sawyer Brown) is 56. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 55. Actor-comedian Michael Winslow is 55. Rock musician Perry Barmonte is 53. Actor Steven Eckholdt is 52. Rock musician Scott Travis (Judas Priest) is 52. Pop musician Pal Waaktaar (a-ha) is 52. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 51. Rock musician Kevin Miller is 51. ABC News correspondent Elizabeth Vargas is 51. Country singer Mark Chesnutt is 50. Actress Betsy Russell is 50. Actress Rosie Perez is 49. Rhythm and blues singer Macy Gray is 46. Singer CeCe Peniston is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Anthony (Az Yet) is 44. Actress Daniele Gaither is 43. Rock singer Dolores O'Riordan (The Cranberries) is 42. Actor Dylan Bruno is 41. Actor Idris Elba is 41. Actress Justina Machado is 41. Actress Anika Noni Rose is 41. Rock singer Nina Persson (The Cardigans) is 39. Actor Justin Whalin is 39. Actress Naomie Harris is 37. Rapper Noreaga is 36. Actress Natalia Cigliuti is 35. Rapper Foxy Brown is 35. Rock singer Max George (The Wanted) is 25.

Thought for Today: "We live in a fantasy world, a world of illusion. The greatest task in life is to find reality." — Iris Murdoch, Anglo-Irish author and philosopher (1919-1999).

FROM THE BIBLE

He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

WHICH BUBBLE should OUR KIDS BE ASKED TO FILL IN?



Ending Well: How Dave Boots Changed History

BY KELLY HERTZ

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The sudden departure this week of Dave Boots as men's basketball coach at the University of South Dakota took everyone by surprise, but that was only fitting. It's almost as surprising as the way he arrived in Vermillion 25 years ago, as well as what happened afterwards.

And as I write this, I have to pause. *Twenty-five years.* That's more than a generation; Boots had for the last several years been targeting recruits who weren't even born when he first took the Coyote reins. That's one sobering measure of the man's enduring success.

Back in 1988, the USD men's basketball program was sobering in a much different way. It was an underfunded fiasco and a perennial doormat in the old North Central Conference; anytime the team won, it felt like an upset. As a USD alum, I can tell you that my expectations were permanently anchored quite low. Up to that point, the team had recorded just five winning seasons in my lifetime, so I'd been trained well.

In April 1988, what we didn't expect, first off, is what happened when the U began a dysfunctional hunt for a new coach.

I was a sports writer here at the time, and the *Press & Dakotan* staff — which also included sports editor Kevin Henseler and sports editor emeritus/eternal Coyote Hod Nielsen — kept close tabs on USD's search. This process stalled into a slow, embarrassing ordeal — Hod called it "bungled" in one of his columns — undertaken by a search committee with generally little basketball background. The application process was opened in mid February and then reopened six weeks later. It dragged on interminably, and it highlighted the funding deficiencies in and the lack of administrative commitment to the school's athletic programs. Meanwhile, valuable recruiting time was being fumbled away. Clearly, the basketball program's sad-sack reputation had been richly earned.

"The basketball history of University of South Dakota," Hod wrote with dismay on Feb. 12, 1988, shortly after the coaching search began, "is a history of losing."

(As a footnote, any resemblance this situation had to the USD women's basketball program's crash and burn several years later was probably systemic and quite predictable.)

But that wasn't the worst of it. The school eventually lost control of the process to an impatient, carnivorous media circus — somewhat common now, but starkly foreign to us back then — with journalists from Sioux Falls, Sioux City and elsewhere working to outdo one another to stay ahead of this story. In that pre-social media age, reporters floated broad rumors that were officially denied — in effect, offering the job to individuals before the more discreet due process had played out.

It was maddening and discouraging. I remember Hod shaking his head one day at another speculative story fired off from one of the larger regional media. He had known the reporter responsible for years, and Hod said he couldn't figure out what the guy was doing by issuing such presumptive pieces, which seemed geared more



Kelly HERTZ

to generate headlines themselves than to tell the actual story.

Those were not bright days for USD fans by any measure. I seem to recollect that when one much-talked-about coaching prospect arrived on the campus for an interview, the school received a bomb threat; what an inviting impression *that* must have made. And yet it seemed somehow symbolic of the whole situation.

Finally, as relatively high-profile names flew onto and slipped off of the radar, USD officials settled on their man at the end of April: A guy from Augsburg College in Minnesota that not many of us had really heard of. Dave Boots — whoever THAT was — was finally chosen to breathe some life into the floundering program.

There was the requisite press conference, at which the soft-spoken new coach was introduced and said all the right things, as most new hires do. I was there taking photos, and I suppose his words were a tonic of some slight hope for me. But my inner cynic probably spat it all out reflexively as vacant rhetoric that held no bearing on the program's entrenched historical arc. I had, after all, seen too much — or rather, not nearly enough — to believe, accept or even dream otherwise.

But that's not the way it played out. USD posted a *winning* record in Boots' debut season — the school's first winning mark in a decade — and ascended continually thereafter. Five years later, he guided the U to back-to-back national tournament berths. The Coyotes transformed from perennial also-rans to annual contenders. Every winter, they seemed to reload, not rebuild, as Boots — aided by a new commitment from the school's administration — helped turn the program into a well-run machine.

The last couple of years have been tough for the Coyote men, to be sure. It happens to everyone — but it's only happened lately in Vermillion after 23 straight winning seasons of Boots' brand of basketball. Nobody would have predicted that back in 1988 in the wake of the clumsy process that brought him to the U. Nobody would have expected his 503-225 record at USD with 16 seasons of 20 wins or more. Nobody would have guessed his teams would earn six NCC championships and, later in Division I, a Great West Conference title, as well as 10 postseason tournament berths.

More than all that, Boots changed Coyote fans. Success became a wintertime ritual in Vermillion, not a lonely, wistful anomaly. We began expecting more, wondering if, this year, the team would be good or if it would be REALLY good.

As Hod might say now, Dave Boots changed history. And nobody could have foreseen that in April 1988. (By the way, Hod liked Boots from the get-go.)

It's an amazing — and I dare say unmatched — legacy marked by a generation of memorable winter magic, all of which arrived so unceremoniously 25 years ago in the unlikelyst of places. But all's well that ends well, as they say. And in sum, the Dave Boots era ended quite well indeed.

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

YOUR LETTERS

A Great Gift!

Kathy Harens, Yankton

I wanted to thank the *Press Dakotan/Her Voice* for the wonderful Stay-Vacation gift package I received in your latest contest. What

a great way to appreciate what we have for businesses in Yankton. My husband read the magazine and signed me up for the package. I am so excited to use the coupons. Thanks again and we will keep reading.

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