



THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861 Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

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SUBSCRIPTIONS/ **CIRCULATION:** Extension 112 **CLASSIFIED ADS:** Extension 108 NEWS DEPARTMENT: Extension 114 **SPORTS DEPARTMENT:** Extension 106 **ADVERTISING OFFICE:** Extension 122

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OPINION | OTHER VIEWS

GOP Seems To Prefer Crisis To Compromise

THE KANSAS CITY STAR (Sept. 25): It appears that Republicans in Congress would rather shut down the federal government or breach the debt ceiling than make peace with a law that is making health insurance more accessible and fair for the American public.

What a disgrace they are. Ordinary Americans desperately want to see their elected leaders pull together for the good of the country. Polls show they oppose defunding or dismantling the Affordable Care Act, especially if it means shutting down the government or defaulting on debt.

But Republicans aren't listening to the American people. They are tuned in to the roar of the tea party, which hysterically portrays the full rollout of Obamacare as the end of the world as we know it, and finds even the pain of a government shutdown to be a preferable alternative.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and his minions are wrong about that. A shutdown would be costly and traumatic. The two during President Bill Clinton's time in office - six days in November 1995 and a second, three-week-long stretch beginning about a month later — cost the American people \$1.4 billion. Nearly 300,000 federal workers were furloughed, and almost half a million "essential" employees worked without a paycheck.

GOP members of Congress are callous about the hardship they've already imposed on government workers with their misguided sequestration policy. The Republican-controlled House budget keeps sequestration in place, forcing continued pay cuts upon a sizable number of middle-income families.

But elected officials will have a harder time ignoring the effects of a shutdown, which could include stalled benefits for military veterans and delays in processing everything from passports to gun permits.

What could justify such a disruption? In the flawed logic of Repub-licans, the funding legislation that must be passed by Monday presents the last, best shot to upend Obamacare. Offering more evidence of their distorted view of reality, Cruz and his allies think a shutdown would persuade some Democrats to defund health care reform. Other Republicans hope to delay its implementation.

None of that is going to happen. And funding for the Affordable Care Act would continue in the event of a shutdown. Away from the hysteria in Washington, states, businesses and families are preparing for the Oct. 1 opening of insurance marketplaces that will enable millions of Americans to purchase insurance policies without being penalized for being sick or older or female.

Yes, there will be glitches. And yes, there are fixes to be made in the sprawling health care law. But congressional Republicans aren't interested in fixes. Their fear is not that Obamacare won't work, it's that it will, and Democrats will get the credit for bringing financial and medical security to American families.

After five years of opposing the president's attempts to transform the nation's broken health care system, Republicans still have presented no serious proposal for making medical care affordable and accessible to all Americans. Their plan begins and ends with getting rid of Obamacare. What a sad group they represent.

Congress used to be a place where people with deep political and philosophical differences came together and compromised for the good of the nation. Now obstruction for no rational reason is seen as the gold standard of performance.

It isn't, and it never will be. But Republicans seem prepared to harm the nation before they learn that lesson.

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 the legalization of marijuana for recreational use?

CRUZ **A Cynical Game BY MICHAEL REAGAN** CagleCartoons.com stream media. I get it.

I understand Obamacare is a total crock. I know it's going to make our current health care system even more expensive,

more complicated, more irrational and more socialized than it already is.

I know it's something that needs to be repealed, delayed, defunded, shredded, stomped or killed forever by any legislative means necessary. But if I were Ted Cruz, or anyone

else who is willing to shut down the government to deny funding for Obamacare, I wouldn't use the issue of raising the debt ceiling to get the American people engaged.

I'd use an issue that every American can relate to and should be outraged about — the failure of the United States

Senate to pass a budget since 2007. It's hard to believe, but America hasn't had a budget since Obama took over the White

House and Harry Reid took over the Senate. Why aren't Republicans using this ongoing

travesty as a weapon in their seemingly hopeless congressional fight to defund Obamacare? Every American understands what a

budget is. Every family has to have one. Why not the country? It's a constitutional issue, yet no one cares.

Instead of a federal budget, what we've been getting under the Reid/Obama regime for five years has been a series of continuing resolutions to fund our bloated government.

Passing continuing resolutions is the coward's way out, and if we're short of anything in Washington it's not political cowards.

Congress loves passing continuing resolutions, which don't have their names attached to them, because that's where they can all hide their favorite pork-barrel projects.

Meanwhile the country goes further and

further and further into debt and no one makes a peep in D.C. Not the Democrats or the Republicans. Certainly not the liberal main-

The big argument now is over raising the debt ceiling. The average American doesn't

care if the federal debt ceiling goes up another few hundred billion.

I don't either. And I don't care if the United States government goes bankrupt for a few months.

It's no big deal in the long run. Congress will just pass another continuing resolution to fund government.

Then, two months later, when the debt ceiling is raised by Congress, as it always is, everyone who's owed money by the federal government will be paid retroactively and it will be business as usual until the next debt 'crisis.

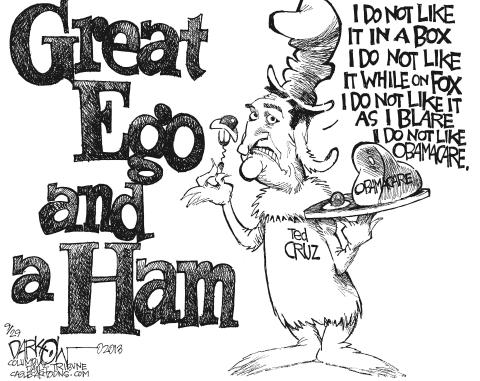
It's a cynical game played with the people's money and everyone, Democrats and Republicans, play it. Meanwhile, we go further and further into debt.

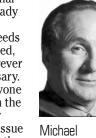
It's time for their dirty game to end. It's time for the American people — and Ted Cruz, Rand Paul and anyone else in the GOP who has the courage to raise their voices - to get outraged and start screaming at Obama, Reid and the rest of Congress to pass a budget.

They aren't screaming, but I will: "Pass a budget, you bums. Either pass a darn budget or get the hell out of Washington."

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and

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REAGAN

Sally Whiting Brenda Willcuts Jackie Williams Not sure

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Published Daily Monday-Saturday

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

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

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

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TOTAL VOTES CAST .422 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:

Which do you watch more: network television, cable television or streaming video?

To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yank ton.net

curity.

13 minutes.

the steps of the U.S. Capitol to sign the

"Contract with America," a 10-point plat-form they pledged to enact if voters sent

asked the nation's governors to post Na-

tional Guard troops at airports as a first

step toward federal control of airline se-

W. Bush and Russian President Vladimin

Putin urged Iran and North Korea to

abandon suspected nuclear-weapons

programs but disagreed over how to

deal with both countries; Putin also de-

clined at the end of a two-day summit at

Camp David to pledge any postwar help

for Iraq. Entertainer Donald O'Connor died in Calabasas, Calif., at age 78.

Five years ago: China marked its first spacewalk as astronaut Zhai Zhi-gang floated outside the Shenzhou 7 for

One year ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, holding a diagram

of a cartoon-like bomb, told the U.N.

only a matter of months to stop Iran be-

fore it could build a nuclear bomb. NFL

referees returned to the field, after a ten-

tative deal with the league ended a lock-

out: games had been marred by

controversy, blown calls and confusion

as substitute referees officiated during

the first three weeks of the season. Today's Birthdays: Actress Jayne

Meadows is 93. Actress Kathleen Nolan is 80. Actor Wilford Brimley is 79. Actor

Claude Jarman Jr. is 79. Author Barbara Howar is 79. World Golf Hall of Famer

Kathy Whitworth is 74. Singer-musician

rive) is 70. Rock singer Meat Loaf

Randy Bachman (Bachman-Turner

is 66. Actress Liz Torres is 66. Actor A

Martinez is 65. Baseball Hall of Famer

Mike Schmidt is 64. Actor Cary-Hiroyuki

Tagawa is 63. Singer Shaun Cassidy is 55. Comedian Marc Maron is 50. Rock

singer Stephan Jenkins (Third Eye Blind) is 49. Actor Patrick Muldoon is 45.

Singer Mark Calderon is 43. Actress Amanda Detmer is 42. Actress Gwyneth

Paltrow is 41. Rock singer Brad Arnold

(3 Doors Down) is 35. Christian rock mu-

sician Grant Brandell (Underoath) is 32

Actress Anna Camp is 31. Rapper Lil

Wayne is 31. Singer Avril Lavigne is 29.

Thought for Today: "Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you only spend it once." — Lillian

Dickson, American missionary (1901-

General Assembly that the world had

In 2001, President George W. Bush

Ten years ago: President George

a GOP majority to the House.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, Sept. 27, the 270th day of 2013. There are 95 days left in the

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 27, 1991, President George H.W. Bush announced in a nationally broadcast address that he was eliminating all U.S. battlefield nuclear weapons and called on the Soviet Union to match the gesture

On this date: In 1540, Pope Paul III issued a papal bull establishing the Society of Jesus, or Jesuits, as a religious order

In 1779. John Adams was named by Congress to negotiate the Revolutionary War's peace terms with Britain.

In 1854, the first great disaster in-volving an Atlantic Ocean passenger vessel occurred when the steamship SS Arctic sank off Newfoundland; of the more than 400 people on board, only 86 survived.

In 1928, the United States said it was recognizing the Nationalist Chinese government

In 1939. Warsaw. Poland. surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II. In 1941, on "Liberty Fleet Day," the

United States launched 14 rapidly built military cargo vessels, including the first Liberty ship, the SS Patrick Henry, which was personally launched by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in Baltimore. In 1942, Glenn Miller and his orches-

tra performed together for the last time, at the Central Theater in Passaic. N.J. prior to Miller's entry into the Army. In 1954, "Tonight!" hosted by Steve

Allen made its network debut on NBC-TV.

In 1964, the government publicly released the report of the Warren Commis-sion, which found that Lee Harvey Oswald had acted alone in assassinat ing President John F. Kennedy.

In 1988, three days after placing first in the men's 100-meter dash at the Seoul Summer Olympics, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson left for home in disgrace, stripped of his gold medal by officials who said Johnson had used anabolic steroids.

In 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee deadlocked, 7-7, on the nomina-tion of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1994, more than 350 Republican congressional candidates gathered on

FROM THE BIBLE

For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

1983).

What We're Supposed To Feel

BY KELLY HERTZ

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There are questions and there are answers. When the former lacks the latter, it can be irritating, exasperating, nerve-wracking or, sometimes, just heartbreaking.

A long lost answer to a nagging question may have finally been uncovered this week in a 42-year-old cold case involving two Vermillionarea girls who went missing in Union County back in 1971. The answer apparently materialized in, of all places, a local creek bed.

It was here, it seems, that the answer to whatever happened to Pam Jackson and Cheryl Miller on May 29, 1971, quietly rested. It was discov-

ered in Brule Creek, a meandering waterway that cuts across northern Union County. A low level of water revealed an overturned car, its protruding tires giving away elusive secrets. Subsequent examination concluded that the car was a 1960 Studebaker, the same kind of vehicle Jackson and Miller were traveling in on a spring night four decades ago on their way to a party just a half-mile from where this vehicle was found.

This may be the answer that the families of these girls have waited a lifetime or two to hear. Ăn autopsy will determine if it is so.

It could be a verdict wrought by an extraordinary interplay of circumstance and fate. Union County law enforcement said Tuesday that tests are being conducted to see if the vehicle had been exposed or even lodged loose when heavy rains rolled through the area earlier this year. Recent low water levels uncovered the vehicle's existence just this week.

After so many years and so many questions, it boggles the mind.

This is an odd story for me to deal with. I was vaguely aware of this case when it happened when I was a kid, and I can't say I ever

YOUR LETTERS

A Sign Of HOPE

Karen Edler, Yankton

Saturday marks the second annual "Team HOPE" Cancer Benefit. It begins with a poker run beginning at noon to 1 p.m. registration at Joe's Substation. It will conclude in Lesterville with a free-will donation pork BBQ supper starting at 5 p.m. and a street dance, which will start at 8 p.m. In the event of inclement weather, the dance will be held in the Community Hall. The public is more than welcome to attend any or all the functions.

thought about it much through the years. But I do understand the aching emptiness that surrounded this event — this question without an answer. The emptiness lurked behind the

scant, infrequent headlines and the occasional mention of the matter, usually as a reference point for cold cases and hopeless dead ends in general.

When I heard Tuesday that skeletal remains had been found underneath the car, I wasn't sure what I felt - rather, I wasn't sure what I was SUPPOSED to feel: whether it was a sense of sadness or a sense of relief. There was certainly sadness about the fate that may be presenting itself, but there was a relief that, pending tests, their loved ones can now embrace some sense of closure.

There are other questions that still lack solid answers, but they fade in the glow of the coalescing picture. The discovery. The closure. The possible end.

One of the more compelling aspects of the story may be its saddest. This discovery came less than a week after Jackson's father Oscar died at age 102. He likely spent all those answer-less years grappling with his daughter's fate. He grappled with the prospect that foul play may have been involved; there were investigations that came to nothing, or at least to not enough.

Oscar Jackson went to his grave never knowing what happened to his daughter.

After 42 years, he missed the answer, it now appears, by one week.

If the possibilities stand, it seems it was the last unlikely, heartbreaking near-miss in a case that was filled with loose ends and sad chance. And that, it now seems to appear, may be

the final answer.

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

Team HOPE is dedicated to all those who've lost the fight against cancer and to those who won't quit.

It is such a blessed and humbling feeling to know that family, friends, neighbors, and complete strangers can join together for one single and worthy cause.

Please join Team HOPE in our mission to continue helping individuals and families affected by cancer.

For more information, please contact me at teamHOPErocks@yahoo.com/.



HERTZ