

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION | WE SAY

Wagon Train



THUMBS UP to the fine turnout Wednesday for the start of the South Dakota 125th Anniversary Wagon Train. The participants (both human and equine) and their vehicles started gathering Wednesday afternoon at Yankton's rodeo grounds, and were treated to an evening of food, entertainment and speeches. The event is part of the state's 125th birthday celebration, which began last November with a successful kickoff party right here in the original capital of Dakota Territory. As Gov. Dennis Daugaard noted in his speech here Wednesday, Yankton has gone above and beyond to make this celebration a success. The wagon train stopped in Tabor Thursday, then heads to Scotland today (Friday) and Tripp Saturday on its winding way to Pierre. It's a long trip, but the participants were set off right.

Schoolhouse Rock!



THUMBS UP to this week's celebration in Vermillion, marking the 150th anniversary of the first permanent school house in Dakota Territory. The ceremony also dedicated the replica of the one-room log cabin schoolhouse. Yankton educator Jim Miner and his cousins received recognition as the great-great-grandchildren of Capt. Nelson Miner, who proposed to settlers that they build a schoolhouse. Retired Vermillion teachers Donna Schafer and Shirley Huber, dressed in pioneer attire, taught current elementary students in the schoolhouse during the afternoon and later offered tours during the open house. Education remains important to this day for Vermillion, both at the K-12 level and with the University of South Dakota.

Loss Of Laughter



THUMBS DOWN to the passing of tart-tongued comedian Joan River, who died Thursday age 81. She is remembered now for her brazen style and her red carpet quips, as well as for her many plastic surgeries, which she readily joked about through the years. But few people recall that she was also something of a pioneer, becoming one of the few female comedians to make a mark in the male-dominated standup business of the 1950s and 1960s. She did it in the trenches, mixing in insults with her life tales, and she meticulously refined her jokes for maximum hilarity. She also endured personal upheaval when her husband committed suicide in 1987. She slowly worked her way back and was still a fixture on television up to the very end. She made generations of people laugh, and that's a gift that's always tough to lose.

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 all police should be required to wear cameras when they are in the field?	
Yes	66%
No	26%
Not sure	8%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	403

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:

Who do you support in the South Dakota governor's race?

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

SPEAK UP!

Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, September 5, the 248th day of 2014. There are 117 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On September 5, 1914, the First Battle of the Marne, resulting in a French-British victory over Germany, began during World War I.

On this date: In 1774, the first Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia.

In 1793, the Reign of Terror began during the French Revolution as the National Convention instituted harsh measures to repress counter-revolutionary activities.

In 1836, Sam Houston was elected president of the Republic of Texas.

In 1864, voters in Louisiana approved a new state constitution abolishing slavery.

In 1913, fire devastated Hot Springs, Arkansas, destroying some 60 blocks.

In 1939, four days after war had broken out in Europe, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation declaring U.S. neutrality in the conflict.

In 1957, the novel "On the Road," by Jack Kerouac, was first published by Viking Press.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed legislation making aircraft hijackings a federal crime.

In 1972, the Palestinian group Black September attacked the Israeli Olympic delegation at the Munich Games; 11 Israelis, five guerrillas and a police officer were killed in the resulting siege.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford escaped an attempt on his life by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a disciple of Charles Manson, in Sacramento, California.

In 1984, the space shuttle Discovery ended its inaugural flight as it landed at Edwards Air Force Base in California.

In 1997, breaking the royal reticence over the death of Princess Diana, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II delivered a televised address in which she called her former daughter-in-law "a remarkable person." Mother Teresa died in Calcutta, India, at age 87; conductor Sir Georg Solti died in France at age 84.

Ten years ago: Hurricane Frances struck Florida's central-eastern coast with heavy rain, submerging entire roadways and tearing off rooftops before entering the Gulf of Mexico. Grief-stricken Russians began burying victims of a terror attack on a school in Beslan that left more than 330 people dead.

Five years ago: Top finance officials from rich and developing countries agreed during a meeting in London to curb hefty bankers' bonuses and maintain stimulus measures such as extra government spending and low interest rates to boost the global economy.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, in St. Petersburg for a G-20 summit, pressed fellow world leaders to support a U.S. strike on Syria; however, he encountered opposition from Russia, China and even the European Union, who said it was too soon for military action.

Today's Birthdays: Former Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul A. Volcker is 87. Comedian-actor Bob Newhart is 85. Actress-singer Carol Lawrence is 82. Actor William Devane is 75. Actor George Lazenby is 75. Actress Raquel Welch is 74. Movie director Werner Herzog is 72. Singer Al Stewart is 69. Actor-director Dennis Dugan is 68. College Football Hall of Famer Jerry LeVias is 68. Singer Loudon Wainwright III is 68. "Cathy" cartoonist Cathy Guisewite is 64. Actor Michael Keaton is 63. Country musician Jamie Oldaker (The Tractors) is 63. Actress Debbie Turner-Larson (Film: Marta in "The Sound of Music") is 58. Actress Kristian Alfonso is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Terry Ellis is 51. Rock musician Brad Wilk is 46. TV personality Dweezil Zappa is 45. Actress Rose McGowan is 41. Actress Carice Van Houten (TV: "Game of Thrones") is 38. Actor Andrew Ducente is 28. Actress Kat Graham is 28. Olympic gold medal figure skater Kim Yu-na is 24. Actor Skandar Keynes is 23.

Thought for Today: "Those who foresee the future and recognize it as tragic are often seized by a madness which forces them to commit the very acts which makes it certain that what they dread shall happen." — Dame Rebecca West, Irish author and journalist (1892-1983).

FROM THE BIBLE

When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. Luke 24:30-31. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



A Tornadic Mystery

BY KELLY HERTZ

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This has been a strange summer for weather, so it stands to reason that last week's tornado in Yankton County makes total sense — mostly because it made almost no sense at all.

The tornado that touched down north of Yankton several times last Thursday was notable not for what it was but rather for what it wasn't. It wasn't expected — there wasn't even a weather watch at the time because the conditions didn't seem conducive to such a development — and it wasn't picked up on weather service radar. The chatter of surprise that filled the scanner that night wasn't deadly urgent but actually somewhat entertaining.

So much so, in fact, that I did something that, once upon a time, I would have never dreamed possible. When I was a kid, I was terrified of violent weather — and as it happens, the last time I saw a tornado was decades ago when I was very young. I've often wondered how I might react if I encountered a tornado again. I also wondered what I would do if there was a tornado report at work: Would I have the courage to go out to take a photo? Would I have the strength to essentially order someone else into harm's way?

I got my answer last week while listening to the aforementioned surprise that was crackling on the scanner. I was so intrigued by the befuddlement and disbelief, I grabbed my camera and informed a co-worker that I had to "check this out." And when I finally saw the mystery funnel cloud bobbing out of the skies several miles distant, I had no desire to scream or run. Instead, I calmly shot photos and video for several minutes. I demonstrated an unexpected bravery, mostly because I had other priorities just then besides panicking.

Then again, no one else seemed to be anxious either. As I stood along Highway 81 watching this tornado materialize, disintegrate and re-form again, there was no tension or fear in the crowd I was with. Mostly, we were in surprised awe that, on what was an otherwise pleasant late-summer evening, THIS happened.

But in retrospect, perhaps this wonder was something that should have all of us wondering.

When I first heard the tornado chatter, I pulled up radar on a computer website and saw absolutely nothing north of Yankton. As I zoomed the display in, I finally spotted a small, red, lonely speck hugging Highway 81. It wasn't part of a line of angry blobs marching across a radar screen. Until I saw the tornado for myself,

it was still hard to believe that such a minute blip could amount to anything so ominous.

It's since been confirmed that the weather service radar didn't even pick up the threat, which is why no one was alerted and we were subsequently surprised. It was called in by eyewitnesses rather than detected by state-of-the-art technology that can spot potentially menacing cloud rotations. Remember, there have been concerns that the weather service issues so many tornado warnings based on such radar readings that people might start ignoring them. That makes last week's stealth tornado all the more fascinating.

But what if that mystery tornado had materialized a few miles south over Yankton or over some other area town? Without a warning or any inkling of a threatening weather, what would have happened. (An unfair comparison could be made to last fall's tornado in Wayne. That event was certainly MUCH larger and was heralded with some warning, but I've been told a lot of people didn't expect a tornado in October, until it happened.) This is a rather nervous possibility to consider, made all the more so by the fact that no one knows precisely why it happened.

But it does fit in with this weird summer of weather. There have been epic storms and massive rains. It hasn't been truly hot, although there was one day a few weeks ago in which the dew point reached a smothering 81 degrees. On some days, it's been comfortably chilly. There really hasn't been a lot of wind — and this is South Dakota, for goodness sake. And then, right when you think fall is moving in, a tornado flies in out of nowhere. (To add to the surreal nature of last week, the local weather spotters were mobilized last Thursday after the tornado was sighted and a warning issued; much later, as things subsided, they were told to stand down, which is usually not done until all potential threats have been exhausted. About 10 minutes after that, another tornado warning was issued in the northeast part of the county, where the phantom tornado cell suddenly re-generated.)

Whether all this is due to climate change (as some are no doubt thinking, so you may carry on the debate from here) or it's been simply a series of "one of those things," the weather this summer has certainly been an adventure. And there are still two weeks left in the season. Frankly, if it snows between now and the autumn equinox, I don't think I could be surprised anymore.

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

YOUR LETTERS

Sack Pack Thanks

Yankton Sack Pack Program Board of Directors

The Yankton Sack Pack Program would like to thank the Upper Deck for hosting their third annual Poker Run to help raise funds for the Yankton Sack Pack Program. This year's event was held in conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Fire and Iron Motorcycle Club. Funds raise were split between the Yankton Sack Pack Program and Southeast CASA.

A huge thank you goes out to the people that participated in the poker run as well and the live auction.

We would also like to thank the local businesses for their generous donations for the auction. Words cannot express the gratitude we feel toward Mark and Kenneth Hausmann of the Upper Deck as well as, Toby Wahl and Chad Miller of the Lewis and Clark Fire and Iron Motorcycle Club, for their hard work toward this fundraising event.

Through this event and the support of the

people of our community, the Yankton Sack Pack Program and Southeast CASA will be able to continue our mission of being able to provide to children in need in our area.

Wonderful Trip!

Chip and Ann Horton, Yankton

Thank you to Larry and Jane Rupiper and Rupiper Travel! As the lucky recipients of the grand prize Alaskan Cruise for YAIA and the 4-H Kitchen remodel — we would like to thank you for the wonderful adventure!

The accommodations and service were top notch and our travel guides, Suzi Showers and Cassie Hansen were professional, well informed, organized, and we enjoyed sharing the experience with them and the other travelers, very much.

We highly recommend Rupiper Travel for anyone thinking about a cruise, or any kind of travel adventure.

Thank you again!

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