

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 Associat-
ed 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.....\$135.09

MOTOR ROUTE

(where available)

1 month.....\$14.51
3 months.....\$43.53
6 months.....\$87.05
1 year.....\$139.14

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We Say

In The Cards



THUMBS UP to the Yankton Cribbage Club for hosting the 34th annual Grand National Cribbage Tournament this weekend. After all the work of organizing the next three days of competition, the benefit to the community of Yankton and to the world of cribbage is appreciated. It's a great thing for Yankton to be hosting yet another event of this caliber. Welcome to all visiting cribbage players.

Fresh Face



THUMBS UP to the Yankton City commission and Amy Miner. During its regular meeting this week, the commission appointed Amy Miner to the position recently vacated by Brooke Blaaid. This puts the commission back to nine members and also helps put a new, curious voice in city government. Eight people expressed interest in the post, which is encouraging since there weren't enough candidates last spring to warrant an election. Let's hope that trend continues.

Watching The Skies



THUMBS DOWN to the prospect of rain dampening Yankton's Pioneer Days homecoming festivities today (Friday). At press time, the National Weather Service reported that there was an increasing chance of rain showers as the day wore on, although they are expected to subside by 8 p.m. Whether or not there is enough rain to impact the annual homecoming parade remains to be seen. Of course, Yankton's homecoming had weather issues last year, which led to some rescheduling matters that still irk some YHS fans. (However, all's well that ended well, as be might recall.) Lightning doesn't figure to be part on today's agenda, so hopefully, only a little chilly rain will play a hand in the action.

Autumn Thunder



THUMBS UP to the return of the National Football League season. It's easy to get caught up in some of the off-field drama, but the first week of action has once again been a reminder that the sport will always be bigger than those who don't give the sport the best of names. Already we're seeing up and coming teams like the Buffalo Bills and the Tennessee Titans making big statements, and it should be quite the ride this season.

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 the Minnesota Twins will make the playoffs?

I don't care39%
No36%
Yes25%
TOTAL VOTES CAST217

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 Kristi Noem will run for governor in 2018?

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, September 18, the 261st day of 2015. There are 104 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On September 18, 1793, President George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol.

On this date: In A.D. 14, the Roman Senate officially confirmed Tiberius as the second emperor of the Roman Empire, succeeding the late Augustus.

In 1759, the French formally surrendered Quebec to the British.

In 1810, Chile made its initial declaration of independence from Spain with the forming of a national junta.

In 1927, the Columbia Phonograph Broadcasting System (later CBS) made its on-air debut with a basic network of 16 radio stations.

In 1931, an explosion in the Chinese city of Mukden damaged a section of Japanese-owned railway track; Japan, blaming Chinese nationalists, invaded Manchuria the next day.

In 1940, Harper and Brothers published "You Can't Go Home Again" by Thomas Wolfe, two years after the author's death.

In 1961, United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld was killed in a plane crash in northern Rhodesia.

In 1965, the situation comedies "I Dream of Jeannie" and "Get Smart" premiered on NBC.

In 1970, rock star Jimi Hendrix died in London at age 27.

In 1975, newspaper heiress Patricia Hearst was captured by the FBI in San Francisco, 19 months after being kidnapped by the Symbionese Liberation Army.

In 1984, retired U.S. Air Force Col. Joe Kittinger became the first person to complete a solo balloon flight across the Atlantic Ocean as he landed in Italy, four days after leaving Maine.

In 1990, the city of Atlanta was named the site of the 1996 Summer Olympics. The organized crime drama "GoodFellas," directed by Martin Scorsese, had its U.S. premiere in New York.

Ten years ago: Tropical Storm Rita formed southeast of the Florida Keys. Millions of Afghans defied a Taliban boycott call and militant attacks to vote for a new parliament. German conservative challenger Angela Merkel's bloc won the most votes in elections, but fell short of a clear mandate to govern. "Everybody Loves Raymond" won the Emmy for best comedy in its final season; first-year hit "Lost" was named best drama.

Five years ago: Despite Taliban rocket strikes and bombings, Afghans voted for a new parliament in the first election since a fraud-marred ballot cast doubt

on the legitimacy of the embattled government. During his visit to Britain, Pope Benedict XVI apologized to five people who'd been molested by priests as children in his latest effort to defuse the sex abuse crisis shaking the Roman Catholic Church.

One year ago: In a show of solidarity with Ukraine, President Barack Obama welcomed the new president of the embattled former Soviet republic, Petro Poroshenko, to the White House. Congress cleared the way for the U.S. military to train and equip Syrian rebels for a war against Islamic Group militants. Home Depot said a data breach that lasted for months at its stores in the U.S. and Canada had affected 56 million debit and credit cards. Don Spirit, a convicted felon living in Bell, Florida, fatally shot his six grandchildren and his daughter before killing himself. Voters in Scotland rejected independence, opting to remain part of the United Kingdom in a historic referendum. The Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St. Andrews, Scotland, ended years of male-only exclusivity as its members voted overwhelmingly in favor of inviting women to join. Will Radcliff, 74, who'd built a multi-billion-dollar global business from flavored, icy Slush Puppie drinks, died in Cincinnati.

Today's Birthdays: Voice actress June Foray is 98. Singer Jimmie Rodgers is 82. Actor Robert Blake is 82. Former Sen. Robert Bennett, R-Utah, is 82. Actor Fred Willard is 82. Actor Eddie Jones is 81. Gospel singer Bobby Jones is 77. Singer Frankie Avalon is 75. Actress Beth Grant is 66. Rock musician Kerry Livgren is 66. Actress Anna Deavere Smith is 65. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Rick Pitino is 63. College Football Hall of Famer and retired NFL player Billy Sims is 60. Movie director Mark Romanek is 56. Baseball Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg is 56. Alt-country-rock musician Mark Olson is 54. Singer Joanne Catherall (Human League) is 53. Actress Holly Robinson Peete is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ricky Bell (Bell Biv DeVoe and New Edition) is 48. Actress Aisha Tyler is 45. Former racing cyclist Lance Armstrong is 44. Opera singer Anna Netrebko is 44. Actress Jada Pinkett Smith is 44. Actor James Marsden is 42. Actress Emily Rutherford is 41. Actor Travis Schuldt is 41. Rapper Xzibit is 41. Comedian-actor Jason Sudeikis is 40. Actress Sophia Brown is 39. Actor Barrett Foa is 38. TV correspondent Sara Haines is 38. Actress Allison Lohman is 36. Actors Taylor and Brandon Porter are 22. Actor C.J. Sanders is 19.

Thought for Today: "Make your mistakes, take your chances, look silly, but keep on going. Don't freeze up." — From "You Can't Go Home Again" by Thomas Wolfe (1900-1938).

FROM THE BIBLE

For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. Psalm 91:11-12. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



Political Fairy Tales In Paradise

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — Once upon a time in a twinkling city on a hill, little boys and girls were taught that anyone could grow up to become president.

The children all believed it and today many, many of them are trying to fulfill the promise. While it has been proved true that anyone really can become president, it has also been proved even more true that most shouldn't.

Including, sad to say, more than a few on the debate stage at the Reagan Library Wednesday night. One wonders why these folks don't wake up each day and exclaim: *Wow! I don't have to run the country! How awesome is that?!*

To each his own motivation, but sane people routinely ask themselves: *Why would anyone want this job?* We've witnessed what the office does to a person — the graying temples, deepening lines and sagging shoulders. Do the pomp, chauffeurs, chefs, private jets and post-presidency speaking fees really compensate for the assault on one's privacy, the loss of freedom and the terrible burden of the worldly woes? Probably.

But the question — Why do you want to be president? — is worth asking each candidate. Why, indeed. We can predict most of the answers, none of which will be remotely true.

• "We need to make America great again and I'm your man," seems to be a favorite.

• "It's time to take our country back and when I was governor, I blahblablah." Or, "It's time for a nonpolitician."

But for many, running for president is The Next Thing — for them. After you've saved lives, built hotel empires, been secretary of state or a governor, what's next?

It is a fine thing to reach the summit of one's aspirations. It is a necessary thing, I suppose, that some are driven to leadership and, we hope, altruistic endeavors. But governance isn't easy. And effective leadership doesn't necessarily convey to the White House from the boardroom or surgical ward — or the gilded world of luxury hotels where women are "cherished" and the "hair is real."

This isn't to suggest that professional politicians are better qualified than others (necessarily), though it's likely some are. Nor is it axiomatic that distance from the political class makes someone a better choice just because he/she hasn't a clue how Washington works.

Kelly Hertz

A Complex Write Of Passage

BY KELLY HERTZ

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I paid my final respects to an old acquaintance this week. The end was due not to age or sickness but to something just as bad: obsolescence.

This friend's name was NewsEditPro, a word processing software we had used here at the newspaper to write and edit stories for more than 25 years. It joined us when we brought in Apple computers and began designing pages on a computer screen instead of with pencils, paper, scissors, hot wax and large galley sheets.

But that software is gone now. We've switched to new a computer platform that requires something different, something else.

Actually, the NewsEdit brand is still around, but it's been mutated (or, as they call it, upgraded) into something that was no longer practical for us.

There was a lot to like about the program when we first got it. It was designed specifically for newspapers — in fact, its desktop icon in later versions was a retro image of a reporter's hat with a pencil in the band ready to go to work. Its greatest strength was simplicity: You created a new file and started typing. It featured a dictionary and a thesaurus. It could tell you the size of your story in words, characters or — for newspaper purposes — column inches. It could create menus to see other stories in other folders. And when you were done, you closed the file. Simple.

I've learned in this technological age that functional simplicity is a rare and beautiful thing.

Newspapers, as you know, have changed greatly, too. Now we're on the Internet — we have been for 18 years. (Historical aside: The *Press & Dakotan* has technically been on the Web since July 11, 1997; buried deep in the software that lets us upload stories online, there is still a file from that date bearing the compellingly ironic headline "No headline provided.") The file itself is blank, no doubt uploaded as a test of the new technology — a toe dipped into a new ocean teeming with possibilities. The first actual stories are dated Sept. 1, 1997, but I do recall that we "soft launched" a couple weeks before that.) Now we use social media. We report around the clock, or at least as

Knowing nothing — or having no relationships with those you're hoping to lead toward productive alliances — is hardly a recommendation for the job. This should go without saying and would be unnecessary were we not at this silly moment when the nation seems primed to favor the rabble-rousing purveyor of emotional potions and fantastical fixes.

Billionaires have too much money, says Democratic candidate and socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders. Agreed. I should be a billionaire, too. But do others' billions prevent me from accruing my own? Only to the extent that their wisdom stops short of employing my talents. How many poor people is Oprah responsible for creating?

Donald Trump doesn't like American cars being manufactured in other countries? What would President Trump do? Slap a \$35 tariff on each car and part, he exclaims to applause. But there's this little hitch called the U.S. Constitution, which gives Congress the

power to levy taxes, and the small matter of the North American Free Trade Agreement, which forbids what Trump proposes.

Facts don't matter, apparently, when voters are determined to evict those who have made the federal government dysfunctional. Frustration noted. But wasn't the last elected president an outlier who was largely unqualified and had no talent for "politics"? But most Americans liked the way he sounded, so, why not?

The why-not vote vexes the natural-born frowner. Often, the best leader is the reluctant one, who, like George Washington, wishes he weren't the people's choice. He knows from experience the burdens of leadership and humbly recognizes his own limitations before the task. It is duty that draws him out.

We live in a different world, obviously, and the medium has become the message. The humble man times out before he can manage a quotable response. It is up to us, therefore, to listen carefully to the candidates and ask ourselves, why? The answer to this question — more than the how of policy — may help you sort things out.

Finally, as you tuck in your little darlings tonight, remember: Your child does not need to be president. Mine does.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleen-parker@washpost.com.



Kathleen
PARKER

much as our small staff can be. Where once, the 24 hours between print editions felt like a blink of an eye, it now seems like forever, and we use new technology to help us fill in the growing spaces in between.

Now, word-processing programs aren't designed merely for the mundane task of writing. They allow you to create graphics and to migrate content to online sites. They generate instant updates across various platforms. The term "bells and whistles" doesn't even begin to describe what these things do.

And of course, they are priced accordingly (read: much, much, MUCH more). One person I spoke to during this quest for an alternative told me that companies aren't going to market the kind of basic software we wanted anymore because, given all the work that is done to make the new super programs, simplicity just isn't a money-maker.

The thing is, we already have software that does all that online, multi-platform migration. Adding onto it creates compatibility issues. So, we just needed something with which to write. Something very simple and basic ... period.

And we're out of luck ... frustrated exclamation point and other random symbols to connote swearing.

We're left now with Microsoft Word, a popular program that meets our needs but seems so clunky. (For me, it's like trying to knit while wearing thick winter gloves, and the fact that I don't know how to knit only makes it worse.) While it's not particularly simple or basic, it does provide us with the functionality we need to produce stories.

So, I mourn the loss of our old software mostly — well, entirely — because it was a basic program that allowed us to do a very essential task with nothing else getting in the way. But that's no longer in fashion. I'll miss it.

Conversely, I yearn for the day when simplicity — when something does less but does it quite well — becomes all the rage in the technological arena. If that day ever arrives, I'll be in line to try it out.

Follow @kelly_hertz on Twitter.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Pet Peeve

Ruth Ann Dickman, Utica

My biggest "Pet Peeve" is when he/she is sick, and family and "friends" know about it, but most of them don't come to visit while he/she is still alive and would enjoy a good visit.

I can understand the people who live far

away, but the people who live in the same town or close by, and didn't come to visit should be ashamed of themselves.

I have witnessed this many times, and just recently I saw it again. Oh! They all come to the Prayer Service and the funeral service, but it's too late for him/her to enjoy what might be their last visit!