



THE SIDEBAR

Born on this day

- Composer-conductor John Williams is 77.
- ABC News anchor Ted Koppel is 69.
- Actor Nick Nolte is 68.
- Comedian Robert Klein is 67.
- Country singer Dan Seals is 61.
- Actress Brooke Adams is 60.
- Actress Mary Steenburgen is 56.
- Author John Grisham is 54.
- Singer Vince Neil of Motley Crue is 48.
- Singer-guitarist Sammy Llanas of The BoDeans is 48.
- Actor Gary Coleman is 41.
- Actress Mary McCormack is 40.
- Guitarist Keith Nelson of Buckcherry is 40.
- Actor Seth Green is 35.
- Bassist Phoenix of Linkin Park is 32.
- Bassist Jeremy Davis of Paramore is 24.
- Actress Karle Warren ("Judging Amy") is 17.



Gary Coleman

Top fives

Here's what topped sales this week in albums and concerts.

- ALBUMS**
1. "Fearless," Taylor Swift. Big Machine.
 2. "I Am Sasha Fierce," Beyonce. Music World/Columbia/Sony Music. (Platinum)
 3. "Dark Horse," Nickelback. Roadrunner. (Platinum)
 4. "808s & Heartbreak," Kanye West. Roc-a-Fella/Def Jam/IDJMG. (Platinum)
 5. "Twilight." Soundtrack. Summit/Chop Shop/Atlantic/AG. (Platinum)
- CONCERT TOURS**
1. Madonna.
 2. Tina Turner.
 3. AC/DC.
 4. Coldplay.
 5. Metallica.

Celeb news

James Franco wins Harvard Hasty Pudding award

CAMBRIDGE, MASS. — James Franco, who won recent acclaim for playing both a goofy pot dealer and Harvey Milk's lover, has been named Harvard's Hasty Pudding Man of the Year.

Franco will receive the award at a roast Feb. 13 by the Hasty Pudding — the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe.

The 31-year-old actor was nominated for a Golden Globe for his supporting role in "Pineapple Express" and starred opposite Sean Penn in "Milk."



— Free Press Staff and news services

Honest Abe

Historian puts on play to commemorate 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth



Photos by Pat Christman

Lincoln will be portrayed at various ages in "Young Abe Lincoln," from childhood to when he was president-elect. Bryce Stenzel (left) portrays adult Lincoln. Joshua Kloster plays teen Lincoln.



It's important to Stenzel that Lincoln be portrayed accurately. All of his plays are historically accurate, and the costuming the children wear are as close to the period as possible.

By Amanda Dyslin
Free Press Staff Writer

MANKATO — In the basement of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, little girls and boys ran around a dressing room putting on their top hats and pinafores.

No, this wasn't the 1800s. It was just last week. And aside from a zipper or two hidden by scarves (there probably weren't zippers in the 1800s, they decided), these kids could have stepped right out of the era of Abraham Lincoln's presidency — which was actually the point.

Historian Bryce Stenzel, whose passion for many years has been studying and portraying Lincoln, wrote four plays about the 16th president. He is staging the first of the four, called "Young Abe Lincoln" dedicated to Lincoln's boyhood, to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth on Feb. 12.

The play will be presented Monday and Tuesday at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild, with each showing followed with birthday cake to celebrate the occasion.

"(The play) is specifically geared toward children and young adults," Stenzel said, "but everybody identifies with Abraham Lincoln."

Stenzel's fascination with Lincoln is due in part to Stenzel's father, who fought in WWII. Stenzel said he saw a lot of similarities between the two men, both believing in the importance of fighting for their country.

Stenzel enjoys the opportunity to present this philosophy, and many more of Lincoln's, to the community. And he's been having fun teaching students in grades kindergarten through eighth about Lincoln as a boy and his presidency, he said.

There will be four Lincolns in "Young Abe Lincoln." Stenzel will play the president-elect version, who will narrate sections and give a speech at the end. Connor Oldenburg, 10, will play Lincoln ages 7 to 10. Lucas Youngerberg, 12, will play Lincoln at age 14. And Joshua Kloster, 14, will play 18- or 19-year-old Lincoln.

The boys said they've learned a great deal about the president by working on the play.

"Stuff you can't find in history books, basically," Oldenburg said. "Like his mother died of the milk sick. I didn't know that. And I didn't know he had a step-mother."

The play follows Lincoln as he grows up and commences with his farewell address at Springfield, Ill., on Feb. 11, 1861.

"My friends, no one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting," Stenzel said, dressed as Lincoln from beard to shoes at rehearsal. "To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything. ... I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task before me greater than that which rested upon Washington ..."

If You Go

What
"Young Abe Lincoln," written and directed by Bryce Stenzel. The play will be enacted by The Homeschool families, winners of a Lincoln Legacy School Award, and will last about an hour.
When
7:30 p.m. Feb. 9 and 10 at the Emy Frenz Arts Guild, 523 S. Second St., Mankato
Admission
\$5 for adults; \$3 for children ages 5 to 16; free for children ages under 5

More to 'The Great Emancipator'

By Jean Lundquist
Special to The Free Press

The man known as "The Great Emancipator" for ending slavery in the United States is also the man who ordered the largest mass execution in American history.

That execution was carried out on Dec. 26, 1862, in downtown Mankato. He signed The Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 in Washington, D.C., just five days later.

Local historian Bryce Stenzel says that though Abraham Lincoln is known for sending 38 American Indians to the gallows following the Dakota

Conflict of 1862, it also should be noted that Lincoln pardoned 265 men who had been convicted by a military tribunal in Minnesota. Following their trials, all 303 men were sentenced to hang.

After the convictions of the men, Minnesota officials sent word to Lincoln in Washington, D.C., asking him to order the executions at once.

Stenzel says Lincoln knew that by granting any pardons, he would be committing "political suicide." In his time, Lincoln was not as revered as he is today, according to Stenzel.

Please see EMANCIPATOR, Page E5

Paid to perform: The American way of life is under attack

A lot of people have been picking on Tom Daschle because he forgot to pay \$102,000 in taxes on a free round-the-clock limousine service someone provides for him.

Which is so unfair.

The former South Dakota senator and now big-time health industry lobbyist is a busy man.

I can see him leaving his house in the tony Foxhall Lane neighborhood of Washington, D.C., kissing his wife good-bye as he walks to the driveway:

"Hey, what's that?"
"That's your limo and driver, honey."
"Really? I have a limo?"
"Yes, you've had it for years."
"I've been so busy I never

thought about how I get to work."

Sure, when he was growing up in Aberdeen he probably had time to remember he drove a pickup truck. But now, toiling at a lobbying firm for \$2 million a year, he has a lot on his mind.

I'm guessing that now that he remembers he has a limo, he'll probably want to take it on a visit back home.

"Hey, Bernard, go down to the Corn Palace, just keep driving the limo around the block so people can see me."

"Yes sir, Mr. Daschle."
"Then let's go to that big steel dinosaurs display and head over to Wall Drug. They got free water there."
"Yes sir."

There's been a lot of unhealthy wealth envy lately. It's all those socialist-leaning liberals, intoxicated with power after the election. They just don't understand the free market.

They complain because executives in corporations that received taxpayer bailouts are still giving themselves millions in bonuses.

But you have to pay well to attract top talent and motivate people.

I don't get paid a lot and look what you're getting.

If my boss would just double my salary I'd be way funnier. As it is, I'm barely motivated to stay awake in my cubicle. I sometimes spend much of the afternoon adding up all the change in my pocket to see if it's divisible by seven or doing Google searches

using various phrases that contain the word "booger."

Recently, people got really worked up when they learned that banks were planning on buying new corporate jets and booking corporate retreats.

Millions of "Working Americans," as the media likes to call them, got all lathered up because the banks received billions in taxpayer money and they're still traveling in luxury and playing at high-end resorts.

But these bankers could really use a little relaxation. They've been under an awful lot of stress lately. Their loan managers were hectoring underwriting the sub-prime mortgages that helped spin the world economy into the tank. And they've watched their company's stock fall by half or more.

It's not just anyone who can perform like that. With that kind of pressure, they deserve some R&R.

And now President Obama wants companies that take bailout money to limit executives' pay to a half-million a year.

Let's just take off those stars and stripes and put the hammer and sickle on our flag.

If this kind of craziness keeps up our corporations will be run by a bunch of people who think they should be compensated based on the stability of their business and their level of ethical oversight.

How un-American.

Tim Krohn is a Free Press staff writer. He can be contacted at 344-6383 or tkrohn@mankatofreepress.com.

Couple clashes over roles played by men and women

DEAR ABBY: I'm a fiercely independent and headstrong woman. I have recently begun dating my childhood sweetheart, "Jess," again after 20 years. Jess is traditional and would prefer I surrender my independence and allow him to take the "man's" role. We are trying to compromise, but now another issue has come up. My best friend, "Wendell," recently proposed to his girlfriend and asked me to be his best woman at the wedding. Of course I accepted. I'm excited about the honor he has bestowed upon me, and I will be wearing a tuxedo and stiletto heels.

Jess is totally against it. He says Wendell is treating me like I'm a man and I'm going along with it. Every time the subject comes up, Jess gets angry. He hasn't met Wendell yet, and I would love more than anything for my two special guys to get along. What am I to do? — **On the spot in Waldorf, Md.**



DEAR ABBY
Universal Press

DEAR ON THE SPOT: Before you go much further with Jess, it is important that you clearly understand not only what he feels a "man's role" is, but also exactly what he thinks a woman's role should be. Your relationship with him would be a lot healthier if he could accept you just as

you are — and from your description of what's going on, I'm not sure he's flexible enough to do that. It appears that Jess' thinking is firmly rooted in the 1930s. He may be a lovely person, but from my perspective, his definition of "compromise" is for you to assume the role of a female of that era. Women have come a long way since then, and I don't think assuming that role would be healthy for you.

DEAR ABBY: I have two grandsons and a new granddaughter. My daughter-in-law keeps dressing the infant in black dresses for her monthly pictures.

Abby, I can't stand to see a beautiful baby dressed in black. I have purchased

lovely, colorful outfits for her at children's shops only to have her mother return them. Is this a new trend, does she have terrible taste, or am I crazy? — **Feeling blue in Richland, Wash.**

DEAR FEELING BLUE: It's not a new trend, it isn't terrible taste, and you're not crazy. It is, however, a matter of PERSONAL taste. Black garments are available for children of all ages. When I mentioned your letter to a photographer who specializes in children's portraits, I was informed that wearing black is not typical in children's photos — unless the parents are into Goth. Could this include your daughter-in-law?

DEAR ABBY: A few months ago, my sister's

husband of 20 years suddenly left her for a 23-year-old girl. He is living openly with her, even though he is still married to my sister. What is most disturbing is some members of his family are openly supporting this affair.

The shock of my brother-in-law's infidelity is painful enough, but the insensitivity of these family members is unbelievable. Are those people ignorant or just plain evil? — **Hurting for my sister**

DEAR HURTING: The situation you have described is very sad. Not knowing the husband's family, I can't judge whether they are ignorant or evil. However, it's clear that in this case, blood is thicker than water — and for whatever reason,

some of the in-laws never bonded emotionally with your sister.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone — teens to seniors — is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

One hand never proves anything

Q: In a team game, I picked up ♠ 2, ♥ Q-10-9-7-2, ♦ A-J-9-5, ♣ A-8-6 and passed because I only had 11 points. We never bid, but defended to four spades down one. In the other room, they opened my hand, got to four hearts, and made it. Was I wrong to pass? — **Left at the Post, Dodge City, Kan.**



BOBBY WOLFF
The Aces on Bridge

A: One hand never proves anything. But here you do not JUST have an 11-count. Your two suits are in an easy sequence to bid, you have two aces, and two building cards are in each of your long suits. This is a minimal but respectable opening. And remember, thrice blessed is he who strikes the first blow.

Q: We recently had a problem when I picked up a balanced 16-count and opened my five-card major. My partner had a balanced 18-count with only three hearts and four clubs. Is there a generally agreed way to describe these strong hands if playing two-over-one? — **Overbalanced, Levittown, Pa.**

A: The bidding should go one heart - two clubs - three

no-trump, and then on to slam. The jump in no-trump in a game-forcing auction is NOT weak; it shows a strong no-trump equivalent. The same principle applies to responder's jump and also in fourth-suit-forcing auctions. Using such jumps as weak not only is counterintuitive, but wastes space when you need it most.

Q: How much do I need to balance over a minor suit? And if the answer is "less than is needed for direct action," how does my partner know when to pull in a notch? — **Balancing Act, Corpus Christi, Texas**

A: The answer is simple. The hand in balancing seat throughout the auction mentally adds a king to his high cards and bids appropriately, while responder subtracts a king. So if I had 14 points and did balance, I would consider moving over a simple raise from my partner (for which the range is approximately 8-10 points, not 5-7 points).

If you would like to contact Bobby Wolff, e-mail him at bobbywolff@mindspring.com.

I just want that spark back in our lives

DEAR DR. GOTT: I am a trim and healthy 65-year-old man. I have been married to my wife for 25 years. She is overweight and has no energy. I am writing because I am concerned about her lack of a sex drive.



DR. GOTT
United Media

She has been on antidepressants for about 10 or 12 years. She blames her lack of energy on her weight and her lack of sex drive on her antidepressants. She has not been to a doctor in years and doesn't even have one. She doesn't get her "happy pills" from a physician, but rather from a friend who works for a doctor.

She refuses to see a physician about anything because she says she is afraid of what a doctor may find wrong with her. She has a good job, and I own my own business. We have insurance and can afford to go to the doctor, so it is not a matter of not being able to.

Her lack of libido is hurting our relationship and our marriage. I love her more than anything or anyone else on earth, and I want us to have a mutually satisfying sex life. I do not want to seek sex outside of the marriage. I simply want her and her libido back.

We have three children who are all grown and on

their own now. She had a hysterectomy and gallbladder removal in her 40s, and since then she has not been the same. She has had stomach problems ever since. Her constant companions are Tums, Rolaids and Pepto Bismol. Neither of us smokes or drinks alcohol.

We are a typical upper/middle-class white suburban couple who attend church regularly, keep our home and yard neat and get along with each other, our children and neighbors. We do not fight about this touchy subject. When I attempt to discuss it and urge her to see a doctor, she refuses, so I do not push her.

DEAR READER: There are several issues at play here. I will first discuss the most serious and potentially harmful one first: the antidepressants.

You say your wife hasn't been to a doctor in years but is on antidepressants she receives from a "friend." Was she first prescribed antidepressants by a doctor but then stopped going, or did she and her so-called friend come up with the diagnosis and treatment on their own? These are important questions in that not only is your wife's friend breaking the law by giving your wife

prescription medication without a prescription or medical license, but he or she is potentially harming your wife. Without proper testing and diagnosis by a trained, licensed medical doctor, there is no way to know whether your wife truly has depression or some other condition that is causing depression-like symptoms.

Another issue here is that your wife appears to be suffering, perhaps from depression that is not responding to medication (assuming she truly is receiving an antidepressant). This could mean many things, such as she doesn't have typical depression, doesn't have depression at all or is suffering from an underlying medical condition such as thyroid disease or other hormone imbalance.

Your wife's comments about why she will not see a doctor suggest to me that she may have a degree of paranoia. She appears to be coming up with excuses to justify her actions and behavior.

You have clearly reached a limit and are now writing to me for help. However, I believe you have your priorities slightly askew. Your wife needs help immediately, not for her lack of libido but rather for her assumed depression, stomach issues, weight and other symptoms. She needs to be seen

by a physician and psychologist or psychiatrist for thorough physical and mental examinations. She cannot get any better until she is diagnosed properly.

As an aside, antidepressants can cause weight gain, loss of libido and gastrointestinal upset (heartburn, nausea and others). Perhaps everything that is currently wrong with her is due to the illegal medication.

Now, on to advice for you. If your wife is not interested in changing, perhaps you need to alter your approach. For example, counseling may be beneficial in helping you to cope with your feelings, coming to terms with your wife's behavior and allowing you to move on to a more healthful place. With this approach, your wife may want to have the same successes you are achieving. You cannot make her get the help she clearly needs; she must do it on her own terms and in her own time. It may not be what you want to hear, but there is only so much you can do before it's time to throw in the towel, and I fear that time may be approaching for both of you.

If readers would like to contact Dr. Gott, they may send their mail directly to Dr. Gott c/o United Media, 200 Madison Ave., 4th fl., New York, NY 10016.

EMANCIPATOR: Booth part of kidnapping conspiracy

Continued from Page E1

Lincoln had been popular in Minnesota, though, and with an election looming, he needed the Minnesota vote in order to win.

Additionally, Lincoln knew that European nations believed in states' rights, meaning they should not have to bow to a national government. Lincoln was said to fear that pardoning the Indians in Minnesota would propel Europe into the Civil War on the side of the Confederacy.

Lincoln worried about the state of the Union even as he decided he could not condone "wholesale slaughter" of 303 men in Mankato. Initially, he pardoned 264 men and sentenced 39 to hang. At the last minute, the 39th man was pardoned.

Lincoln's days were fraught with concern between the Civil War, the situation in Minnesota and what many scholars believe was clinical depression. John Wilkes Booth, the man who assassinated him, was determined to destroy Lincoln in an effort to separate the North from the South, according to Stenzel. Booth was part of a conspiracy trying to kidnap



The children gather around Bryce Stenzel, dressed as Abe Lincoln, giving his farewell speech at the end of the play.

Pat Christman

Lincoln, said Stenzel. He waited for Lincoln's carriage to pass by while he laid in wait. When the carriage appeared, Booth and his cohorts attacked, only to find the carriage empty. Stenzel said Lincoln was speaking at the hotel where Booth was staying. Had Booth stayed at the hotel, he would have been closer to Lincoln.

Stenzel said Booth had hoped to kidnap Lincoln to exchange him for Confederate prisoners of war and perhaps some ransom money.

Instead, Booth decided to assassinate the President at Ford's Theater. Booth,

who was a Shakespearean actor, hid behind Lincoln's theater box, waiting for the funniest line of the play to be said, hoping the laughter would drown out the sound of the gunshot. The play was "Our American Cousin."

When the line was spoken, Booth fired at point-blank range. The line of the play was, "You sock-dologizing old man-trap."

According to reports, Lincoln's bodyguard, who had wandered away, was close enough to jump Booth. Booth leapt over the edge of the box onto the theater. In that leap, he broke his leg.

Still, in the astonishment and confusion of the moment, Booth was able to escape.

Lincoln was transported across the street from the theater for medical care. After being in a coma for several hours, he died on Saturday, April 15, 1865. He was shot on Good Friday, the day before.

Stenzel believes one of the least known facts about the 16th president might be how religious he was. Though he never joined a church, nor did he attend religious services, Lincoln cited a higher being in nearly every public speech he made.

3AM! What's on TV?

Check local TV listings at

www.mankatofreepress.com

SENIOR SERVICES GUIDE



HY-VEE PHARMACY

Fast, Convenient Drive Thru Service

Downtown - 345-5091

Hilltop - 625-7565

If you would like to be included in next week's Senior Services Directory

Call 344-6334

OPHTHALMOLOGY ASSOCIATES

Outpatient Cataract Surgery
Laser & General Eye Surgery
Eye Examinations

1630 Adams St.

Mankato

345-6151

NEW ULM FURNITURE

Adjustable Beds, Lift Chairs, Electric Scooters, Wheel Chairs

Free Delivery

16 N. German St., New Ulm

507-354-2716

800-968-3876