

# The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

## Add Shot Clock To SD 'B' Basketball

**THE DAILY REPUBLIC, Mitchell (April 10):** Is there anything more boring than watching a basketball game in which a player holds the ball and is not forced to make an offensive play?

It can be like watching paint dry. That's why we feel all levels of South Dakota high school basketball should have a shot clock, which is like a 35-second timer that forces teams to shoot the ball.

Since the 2008-09 season, teams that play in Class AA — the state's largest schools — have used a shot clock. Then, Class A teams joined in the 2014-15 season.

At that time, some Class A teams were not in favor of adding the shot clock because of the costs associated with it.

Not only does it cost in the neighborhood of \$2,000 to \$5,000 to install a shot clock in a school's gymnasium, but there also can be costs to hire someone to run the shot clock at the scorer's table.

Recently, officials have considered adding the shot clock to Class B basketball. As it is now, teams are not forced to shoot the ball during an offensive possession, which can affect the end of games dramatically.

If a team is leading by a point or two late, that team can essentially play "keep away" until the game clock runs out. But in Class AA or Class A, the team trailing typically gets its chance to score.

At last week's athletic directors meeting in Pierre, Ads from around the state supported adding a shot clock to Class B basketball games. The final step to have the measure approved will be getting passed by the South Dakota High School Activities Association Board of Directors.

We hope it's passed. While the measure would be additional expenses forced on schools that already have tight budgets, we feel the shot clock is a worthy expense.

The end of highly contested games will be more exciting to watch, and for any player considering a college basketball future, it will prepare them since all levels of collegiate basketball play with a shot clock.

Also, it will make basketball even across all levels in the state. Best of all, though, fans won't be forced to watch players hold the ball for the final minute.

Rather, they will more often get to see a potential game-winning shot attempt, the most exciting play in basketball.

### IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Monday, April 20, the 110th day of 2015. There are 255 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On April 20, 2010, an explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil platform, leased by BP, killed 11 workers and caused a blow-out that began spewing an estimated 200 million gallons of crude into the Gulf of Mexico. (The well was finally capped nearly three months later, on July 15.)

**On this date:** In 1314, Pope Clement V, the first of the Avignonese popes, died at Roquemaure, France.

In 1792, France declared war on Austria, marking the start of the French Revolutionary Wars.

In 1861, Col. Robert E. Lee resigned his commission in the United States Army. (Lee went on to command the Army of Northern Virginia, and eventually became general-in-chief of the Confederate forces.)

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln signed a proclamation admitting West Virginia to the Union, effective in 60 days (on June 20, 1863).

In 1889, Adolf Hitler was born in Braunau am Inn, Austria.

In 1912, Boston's Fenway Park hosted its first professional baseball game while Navin Field (Tiger Stadium) opened in Detroit. (The Red Sox defeated the New York Highlanders 7-6 in 11 innings; the Tigers beat the Cleveland Naps 6-5 in 11 innings.)

In 1914, the Ludlow Massacre took place when the Colorado National Guard opened fire on a tent colony of striking miners; about 20 (accounts vary) strikers, women and children died.

In 1945, during World War II, allied forces took control of the German cities of Nuremberg and Stuttgart.

In 1968, Pierre Elliott Trudeau was sworn in as prime minister of Canada.

In 1972, Apollo 16's lunar module, carrying astronauts John W. Young and Charles M. Duke Jr., landed on the moon.

In 1988, gunmen who'd hijacked a Kuwait Airways jumbo jet were allowed safe passage out of Algeria under an agreement that freed the remaining 31 hostages and ended a 15-day siege in which two passengers were slain.

In 1999, the Columbine High School massacre took place in Colorado as two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, shot and killed 12 classmates and one teacher before taking their own lives.

**Ten years ago:** President George W. Bush signed a bill making it harder for debt-ridden people to wipe clean their financial slates by declaring bankruptcy. In his first Mass as pontiff, Pope Benedict XVI pledged to work for unity among Christians and to seek "an open and sincere dialogue" with other faiths. Ecuador's Congress voted to remove embattled President Lucio Gutierrez from office and swear in Vice President Alfredo Palacio to replace him.

**Five years ago:** Airliners began taking to the skies of Europe again after five days of being grounded by a drifting volcanic ash. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down a federal ban on videos that showed graphic violence against animals. Civil rights activist Dorothy Height died in Washington D.C. at age 98. Keli McGregor, 48, president of baseball's Colorado Rockies, was found dead in a hotel room of natural causes.

**One year ago:** Pope Francis made an Easter Sunday plea for peace and dialogue in Ukraine and Syria, for an end to attacks against Christians in Nigeria and for more attention to the hungry and neediest close to home. Rubin "Hurricane" Carter, the boxer whose wrongful murder conviction in New Jersey became an international symbol of racial injustice, died in Toronto at age 76.

**Today's Birthdays:** Retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens is 95. Actor Leslie Phillips is 91. Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., is 79. Actor George Takei is 78. Singer Johnny Tillotson is 77. Actor Ryan O'Neal is 74. Bluegrass singer-musician Doyle Lawson (Quicksilver) is 71. Rock musician Craig Frost (Grand Funk; Bob Seger's Silver Bullet Band) is 67. Actor Gregory Itzin is 67. Actress Jessica Lange is 66. Actress Veronica Cartwright is 66. Actor Clint Howard is 56. Actor Crispin Glover is 51. Actor Andy Serkis is 51. Olympic silver medal figure skater Rosalynn Summers is 51. Country singer Wade Hayes is 46. Actor Shemar Moore is 45. Actress Carmen Electra is 43. Reggae singer Stephen Marley is 43. Rock musician Marty Crandall is 40. Actor Joey Lawrence is 36. Country musician Clay Cook (Zac Brown Band) is 37. Actor Tim Jo is 31.

**Thought for Today:** "Life is made up of desires that seem big and vital one minute, and little and absurd the next. I guess we get what's best for us in the end." — Alice Caldwell Rice, American humorist (1870-1942).

### FROM THE BIBLE

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God of Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Time For Bypass

**Randy Gleich, Yankton**  
A General Development Plan was issued April 1967, which included a proposal for North Bypass for Yankton.

It's great to look back at the vision of what Yankton could possibly be in the future, however many things have changed on the retail and employment front.

One thing that seems to NOT have changed is the need for a North bypass around Yankton and similar to the Vermillion bypass. With the rejection of the \$10 million bid for the Highway 50 project, it would seem very logical to scrap that whole plan and take this money and spend it on a bypass around Yankton.

Let's face it folks, is this an improvement or just a convenience project to allow our "Truck Traffic" to easily flow through a section of town that should not be gone through in the first place? If people bypass Yankton on this

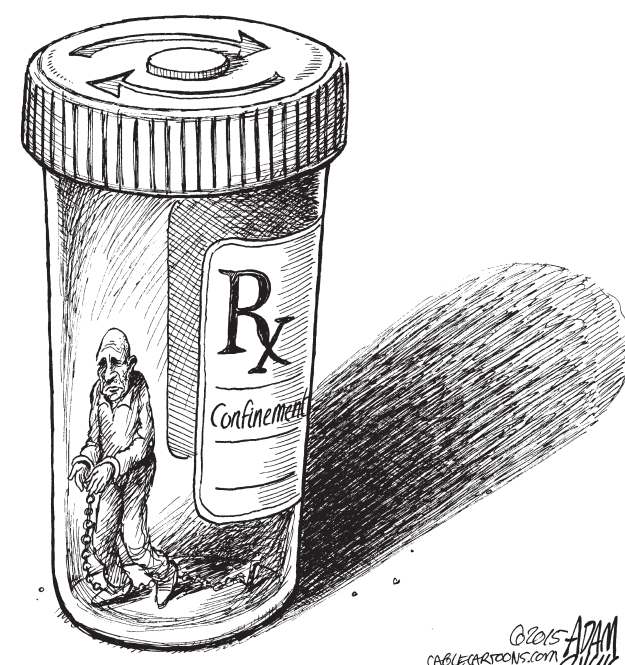
route, they had no intention in the first place to stop in Yankton. Many of us have used the bypass around Vermillion, and our habits probably confirm, that the only time we exit to enter Vermillion is when we have a specific need to go there.

With our outstanding newly elected county officials and somewhat new Yankton city officials, maybe they should really take this bypass into consideration, when talking about development of our industrial corridor, the Napa Rail Junction, and just the overall growth of Yankton.

Maybe the time has come to seriously get this bypass done and it might be just the final piece of the puzzle to really puts Yankton on the map.

Someone is spending up to \$10 million of our taxpayer's money for what — the luxury of a turning lane? Scrap this Highway 50 project and build the bypass and be done with it.

REPORT:  
THOUSANDS OF  
MENTALLY ILL  
FILL LOCAL  
JAILS



CREATED BY  
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THE BUFFALO NEWS

### Capitol Notebook

## For SD Dems, Will Obama's Visit Help?

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Surely it is impossible that any other state's Democratic Party suffered more damage since President Barack Obama took office than what South Dakota has seen.

It is likewise impossible that any other state's Republican Party gained more political power than the total control gained of every statewide elected office in South Dakota.

What has happened since 2009 is worth considering ahead of President Obama's May 8 visit to Water-

town. The president will speak at commencement for Lake Area Technical Institute. That certainly is an honor for the school and the community.

But it's unsurprising that South Dakota is the last of the 50 states to be visited by him during presidency.

Remember the Democratic presidential primary election in South Dakota between Hillary Clinton and Obama in spring 2008?

She beat him statewide 55 percent to 45 percent.

In Codington County, where he'll be speaking next month, she beat him 59 percent to 41 percent.

Obama won his party's nomination nationally and won the 2008 general election nationally.

But in South Dakota, Republican John McCain beat him 53 percent to 45 percent.

And in Codington County, McCain won 52 percent to 46 percent.

Yet South Dakota's two Democratic members of Congress won new terms on that 2008 ballot.

It would be the last victory for U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, however. She fell in a three-way contest in 2010 to Republican challenger Kristi Noem.

Noem hasn't been beaten since. The Democrats next saw their last remain-

ing member of the state Public Utilities Commission, Steve Kolbeck, resign in June 2011 with 18 months left in his six-year term.

In 2012, when Obama sought re-election as president, South Dakota gave him 40 percent. Republican Mitt Romney received 58 percent.

The 2008 election also would be the last victory for U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson.

The last Democrat in statewide office in South Dakota, Johnson retired at the end of 2014 rather than seek re-election. The open seat went to Republican former Gov. Mike Rounds for a six-year term.

The Obama years also saw a disastrous erosion of Democratic voter registration in South Dakota.

For the 2006 general election, registration was 240,101 Republicans; 190,905 Democrats; and 74,608 independents.

For the 2008 general, registration was 241,528 Republicans; 204,413 Democrats; and 83,147 independents.

The Democratic surge didn't last but a shift to independents did. By general election time in 2014, registration was 239,355 Republicans; 176,169 Democrats; and 100,547 independents.

The latest statewide numbers as of April 6 showed 242,163 Republicans; 175,514 Democrats; and 105,784 independents.

Then there is the new memoir by David Axelrod, who was Obama's campaign manager for U.S. Senate and the presidency.

In the 500-plus pages of "Believer" Axelrod three times mentions Tom Daschle, who was the U.S. Senate Democratic leader from South Dakota until he lost in 2004, and makes just one mention of South Dakota itself, from the 2008 primary.

Axelrod describes South Dakota as among "states with white, rural voters — some undoubtedly less than enthused about a black man in the White House."

It can be interesting to know what people think about you. Now we know.



Bob MERCER

## 'Normal' Is Gone For Good

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.  
Tribune Content Agency

Maybe, conservatives are done with dog whistle politics.

After all, NRA chief Wayne LaPierre traded his dog whistle for an air horn at a recent gathering of the gun faithful in Washington, D.C. "I have to tell you," he said, "eight years of one demographically-symbolic president is enough."

Subtle, it was not.

Still, as insults go, it was a rather neatly-crafted twofer. On the one hand, it demeaned the nation's first African-American president and welcomed the day the White House is, well ... de-Negro-fied. On the other hand, it demeaned the candidate seeking to become the nation's first female-American president and promised to save the White House from, well ... woman-ification. Evidently, LaPierre wants America to get back to normal, "normal" being defined as when the president is white and male.

So out come the air horns, blatting Woman! Woman! seeking to reduce a former senator and secretary of state to the sum of her chromosomes. Now the race is apparently on to see who will be first to tag the former law professor, senator and secretary of state with which crude, sexist epithet. Oh, the suspense.

The blazing irony is that conservatives have at least two "demographically-symbolic" candidates vying for their favor: Marco Rubio, a Cuban-American senator from Florida and Ted Cruz (does no one else see Joe McCarthy strapping back when they look at this guy?), a senator from Texas whose father was born in Cuba.

So the "normal" LaPierre seeks is threatened, regardless.

Not that he is the only one tripped up by Clinton's woman-ness. Consider, a recent piece from *Time* magazine which argued that Clinton is "the perfect age to be president" because, at 67, she is "postmenopausal." Granted, the essay, by a doctor named Julie Holland, flatters Clinton and women of her age, assuring us that, having been freed from the "cyclical forces" that "dominated" the first half of her

life, she emerges with the "experience and self-assurance" to be president.

Still, could you not have happily gone the rest of your days without contemplating Hillary Clinton's "cyclical forces?" More to the point, can you imagine such an essay being written about a male candidate? Marco Rubio

is 43, which means he's probably already had his first digital prostate exam. Will anyone analyze how that factors into his readiness for the presidency? Rick Perry is 65. If he jumps in, will anyone speculate on how possible issues of erectile dysfunction might inform his foreign policy?

Here's the thing about "demographically symbolic" presidents and candidates: They tend to function like Rorschach inkblots. Meaning that what we see in them reveals more about us than them. Where Barack Obama is concerned, the right-wing panic over birth certificates and fist bumps and the left-wing tendency to idealize and canonize his every exhalation revealed the rank bigotry and messy irresolution beneath our "post-racial" happy talk. Where Clinton is concerned, these very early indications suggest her woman-ness will likewise be a minefield for friend, foe and media — even more, perhaps, than in 2008.

And that's not to mention Cruz and Rubio. Who do you think will be the first to wear a sombrero to a Cruz rally in misguided solidarity, or to tell the Miami-born Rubio to go back where he came from?

Point being that in America, markers of identity — gender, race, ethnicity — have a way of becoming identity itself, of blinding us to the singular, individual one in front of us. And campaigns tend to magnify that failing. To put that another way: Strap in. It's going to be a very long 19 months until the 2016 election. Even so, one thing is already clear, and it should please the rest of us, if not Wayne LaPierre.

"Normal" is gone for good.

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