

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION | WE SAY

### Historic Move



**THUMBS UP** to the Yankton County Commission for going ahead with a public vote on using a small portion of the mill levy to fund historical preservation projects within the county. Specifically, the money raised — about 1/20th of the mill, amounting to about \$50,000 annually — would be used to fund the Mead restoration project. Mem-

bers of the county's newly minted historical preservation commission made the request this week of the county commissioners, most of whom were very enthused about the possibilities that are tied to the Mead project. It's a worthy cause to pursue, and the County Commission offered a strong and important show of support for the endeavor.

### Spending Up



**THUMBS UP** to the news that consumer spending in South Dakota and Nebraska has been growing faster than the national average since the end of the Great Recession. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis noted Thursday that consumer spending in our state jumped 14.9 percent from 2009-2012, while the national growth was 10.7 percent.

(While very good, we had nothing on oil-booming North Dakota which saw its consumer spending jump a whopping 28 percent during that same period.) Also, Nebraska's jump was a solid 12.5 percent. Much of robust spending seen in South Dakota and Nebraska was no doubt due to an agricultural economy that has been rolling along the past few years. However, low inflation the past few years has kept many prices relatively stable, which has aided in the acquisition of such goods. Overall, it's good news that we hope continues.

### Fatal Attraction



**THUMBS DOWN** to the fatalities related to the Sturgis motorcycle rally. It's always distressing to see the injuries and deaths arising from the traffic surge during the rally and the weeks preceding and following it. On the other hand, the accident numbers need to be kept in the perspective of nearly 500,000 visitors traveling to and from the

Black Hills. In addition, the bikers, pedestrians and other traffic are reportedly doing an excellent job of keeping the flow going. Law enforcement is also doing its part to keep things under control. We hope everyone stays safe and has fun.

## ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the *Press & Dakotan's* Web site are as follows:

### LATEST RESULTS:

**Are you concerned about bringing American Ebola patients back to the U.S. from Africa for treatment?**  
Yes, very concerned . . . . . 44%  
Perhaps a little concerned . . . . . 28%  
Not concerned at all . . . . . 28%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST** . . . . . 290

*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 support cutting the number of deer licenses in South Dakota in order to rebuild population numbers?**

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## ON THIS DATE

### By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, August 8, the 220th day of 2014. There are 145 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On August 8, 1974, President Richard Nixon announced his resignation, effective the next day, following damaging new revelations in the Watergate scandal.

**On this date:** In 1814, during the War of 1812, peace talks between the United States and Britain began in Ghent, Belgium.

In 1911, President William Howard Taft signed a measure raising the number of U.S. representatives from 391 to 433, effective with the next Congress, with a proviso to add two more when New Mexico and Arizona became states.

In 1937, during the Second Sino-Japanese War, Japan completed its occupation of Beijing.

In 1942, during World War II, six Nazi saboteurs who were captured after landing in the U.S. were executed in Washington, D.C.; two others who'd cooperated with authorities were spared.

In 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed the U.S. instrument of ratification for the United Nations Charter. The Soviet Union declared war against Japan during World War II.

In 1953, the United States and South Korea initiated a mutual security pact.

In 1963, Britain's "Great Train Robbery" took place as thieves made off with 2.6 million pounds in banknotes.

In 1968, the Republican national convention in Miami Beach nominated Richard Nixon for president on the first ballot.

In 1973, Vice President Spiro T. Agnew branded as "damned liars" reports he had taken kickbacks from government contracts in Maryland, and vowed not to resign — which he ended up doing.

In 1978, the U.S. launched Pioneer Venus 2, which carried scientific probes to study the atmosphere of Venus.

In 1994, Israel and Jordan opened the first road link between the two once-warring countries.

In 2007, space shuttle Endeavour roared into orbit with teacher-astronaut Barbara Morgan on board.

**Ten years ago:** Alan Keyes, the Republican two-time presidential hopeful, threw his hat into Illinois' U.S. Senate race (he ended up losing in a landslide to Democrat Barack Obama). Actress Fay Wray, the damsel held atop the Empire State Building by the giant ape in "King

Kong," died in New York City at age 96.

**Five years ago:** Sonia Sotomayor was sworn in as the U.S. Supreme Court's first Hispanic and third female justice. A small plane collided with a sightseeing helicopter over the Hudson River in New York City, killing nine people, including five Italian tourists. Typhoon Morakot slammed into Taiwan, leaving more than 670 either dead or missing (the typhoon also killed 22 people in the Philippines and eight in China).

**One year ago:** The U.S. sharply escalated its drone war in Yemen, with military officials in the Arab country reporting three strikes that left a dozen dead. Actress Karen Black, 74, who was featured in such counterculture favorites as "Easy Rider," "Five Easy Pieces" and "Nashville," died in Los Angeles. Opera singer Regina Resnik, 90, died in New York.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Richard Anderson is 88. Actress Nita Talbot is 84. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Jerry Tarkanian is 84. Singer Mel Tillis is 82. Actor Dustin Hoffman is 77. Actress Connie Stevens is 76. Country singer Phil Balsley (The Statler Brothers) is 75. Actor Larry Wilcox is 67. Actor Keith Carradine is 65. Rhythm-and-blues singer Airrion Love (The Stylistics) is 65. Country singer Jamie O'Hara is 64. Movie director Martin Brest is 63. Radio-TV personality Robin Quivers is 62. Percussionist Anton Fig (TV: "Late Show With David Letterman") is 61. Actor Donny Most is 61. Rock musician Dennis Drew (10,000 Maniacs) is 57. TV personality Deborah Norville is 56. Actor-singer Harry Crosby is 56. Rock musician The Edge (U2) is 53. Rock musician Ricki Rockett (Poison) is 53. Rapper Kool Moe Dee is 52. Rock musician Ralph Rieckermann is 52. Middle distance runner Suzy Favor Hamilton is 46. Rock singer Scott Stapp is 41. Country singer Mark Wills is 41. Actor Kohl Suduth is 40. Rock musician Tom Linton (Jimmy Eat World) is 39. Singer JC Chasez ("N Sync) is 38. Actress Tawny Cypress is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Drew Lachey (98 Degrees) is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marsha Ambrosius is 37. Actress Lindsay Sloane is 37. Actress Countess Vaughn is 36. Actor Michael Urie is 34. Tennis player Roger Federer is 33. Actress Meagan Good is 33. Britain's Princess Beatrice of York is 26. Actor Ken Baumann is 25. Pop singer Shawn Mendes is 16.

**Thought for Today:** "It is the anonymous 'they,' the enigmatic 'they' who are in charge. Who is 'they'? I don't know. Nobody knows. Not even 'they' themselves." — Joseph Heller, American author (1923-1999).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*Jesus looked at them and said, "With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God." Mark 10:27. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*



# Fear For Sale

BY KELLY HERTZ

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And for the moment, it's Ebola. It's a contagious evil that has squirmed out of Third World hovels — where, after all, we expect such things — and is now stalking us across the face of our dangerous world. Our feelings of insular safety have been pulverized yet again.

Or so it seems from watching some of the national news coverage of the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Two American doctors have been exposed to the disease there and — gasp! — been brought home to the U.S. for treatment.

While Ebola has not infected us, it's certainly infected our headlines.

And once again, as a journalist, I have to regrettably acknowledge the obvious: fear sells. I certainly can't defend this practice of reporting terrifying news loudly and repeatedly to scare up (literally) business, other than to make one unavoidable point: it usually works.

In having this rather judgmental conversation, we must first acknowledge that it's really hard for either of us to pretend to be totally above this fray. We've both willingly dabbled in the dissemination of bad news per se. I can think back on editions of this newspaper that had positive, feel-good stories as their anchors, as well as editions that featured bad news above the fold and in your face. Sales figures and the empty racks told me which editions sold better. So, yes, I've peddled bad news. However, you've made a habit of buying it, even demanding it. It's supply and demand — or demand and supply, however you want to look at it.

But bad news is one thing. Marketing fear for the sake of fear itself is quite another. The Ebola storyline is a gift for news organizations. It's foreign and menacing, and it's armed with a wonderful advantage: Not many people really understand it. That allows each of us to fill in the awful blanks.

Ebola is a disease that spreads through direct interaction, such as in the passing of bodily fluids or through exposure to, say, needles. That complex transmission would explain why the disease hasn't spread faster or farther than it has. Ebola has been confined mostly to the poorer parts of West Africa, where health care is spotty at best. If it were truly apocalyptically infectious, it would have hopped a plane years ago and taken root in other parts of the world. Some people are freaking out now because two Ebola patients have been brought to the U.S.; but the Ebola virus has reportedly been in this country for years, confined to laboratories where it has been studied.



Kelly  
**HERTZ**

To be sure, this story is NOT unimportant. The current Ebola outbreak in West Africa is harvesting a dreadful toll, as we are currently well aware.

But that awareness is also being used on us for other purposes.

Unfortunately, not all of them are for mere ratings or readership. At least one U.S. lawmaker has claimed that the kids coming up from Central America to cross our southern border may be carrying the Ebola virus, even though, according to the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, there has never been a reported case of Ebola in the Western Hemisphere. And some state governors, including South Dakota's, have recently issued press releases declaring that those immigrant children brought to those states will be checked for unspecified diseases, thus generating a nervous, defensive mind set in a fertile climate for such reactions. Perhaps it was unintentional — a response to prevailing concerns — but I've never heard it pointed out before. Or perhaps non-journalists also know fear sells and use it as a means toward an end.

It's little wonder that many of us look at the world sometimes as a disintegrating place: Too often, we see our planet through the tunnel vision of our national media. Is the world more violent now? Are there more murders and rapes now? Is there more perversion in our souls now? Or are we just being made more aware of these things now than ever before? With 24-hour television news channels, instant media blasts and social media, there's a lot of time and space to fill with all sorts of lurid activities.

Bad news and fearful headlines will never go away. When the Ebola storyline fades, which it will shortly (even though people in Africa are still dying, but no matter), something new will come along to scare us into a panic.

So, you might want to latch onto something I read this week on the website of *The Guardian UK*. A story noted that we shouldn't worry so much about Ebola because there's another disease headed our way that could pose a far greater threat to the general population. Researchers say it could potentially infect millions of people and kill hundreds of thousands around the world.

The name of this disease: seasonal flu.

However, you can actually do something to protect yourself ...

With that, I'll leave you with some good news for a change.

Follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at [twitter.com/kelly\\_hertz/](https://twitter.com/kelly_hertz/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

## YOUR LETTERS

### Great Greyhound Reunion

Jan Garrity, Yankton

*Executive Director for Yankton College*

Like the words in Elton John's 2013 hit song, Yankton College alumni and their spouses recently returned "back home again" to attend their 2014 All-Class Reunion for the 30-year milestone (1984 to 2014) celebrating the continuation of Yankton College after the campus closing. The alumni appear from all parts of the nation and several countries to rekindle life-long friendships and share fond memories of their education and meaningful experiences that were made while attending this beloved school, their provisional "home" during those youthful days.

There are many Yankton businesses and individuals who lend a hand in making this biennial event a success whom I would like to publicly thank: to the efficient and friendly staff at the Best Western Kelly Inn and Minervas where many of the YC events were held; to Murdo and his staff for providing hospitality at Murdo's Athens Resort where the rousing athletic Greyhound Greats program was held; to Warden Scott Willis and his assistant Deb Stucky at the U.S. Federal Prison Camp for the guided tours of the camp(us) and being continually mindful of the 103-year-old history of Yankton College and what it means to the alumni and our community; to Yankton Area Arts for providing a stunning venue for the Class of 1963 & 1964 gathering; to Hillcrest Country Club for the ample golfing accommodations; to Rev. Molly Carlson and music directors, Ted and Jennifer Powell, at the Yankton United Church of Christ for providing a meaningful and musical Sunday service; to the local news media for sharing the YC reunion news and its historic accounts; to the considerate staff at Yankton's Chamber of Commerce for welcoming our visitors; to the thoughtful and eager YC staff and volunteers for their teamwork; to the members of the Board of Trustees for administering the mission of Yankton College which partly includes alumni outreach; to the members of the Alumni Advisory Board for overseeing the

## OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to [views@yankton.net](mailto:views@yankton.net).

reunion plans and to the YC alumni who made it a point "to get back home again."

Hail! Yankton College!

### A Bridge Too Many?

Randy Gleich, Yankton

Is it time to abandon the James River Bridge on Old Highway 50?

The county should consider developing 446th avenue as a direct route to Mission Hill and Volin. Spending money on this new route (Highway 50 to 309th) might be less expensive. The positive outcome would be the housing and business developments that could be created on both sides of this route.

Spending \$2.1 million on the bridge really makes no sense, while the new route would create "opportunities" that did not exist before, increasing the tax base and still service the population of that area.

Yankton County commissioners should consider this option.