

# The Press & Dakotan

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## OPINION OTHER VIEWS

# Terrorism And 'Lone Wolves'

**MORNING NEWS, Savannah, Georgia (Dec. 16):** Experts seemed divided about whether the self-proclaimed Islamic "sheikh" who was killed Monday in a standoff with police in Sydney, Australia, was a nutcase or a terrorist who was acting alone.

It doesn't matter. Both are essentially the same thing. What matters is that citizens in America and in other countries targeted by Muslim fanatics keep their guards up. Intelligence is vital. Individuals with a history of violent acts and links to terrorism must be monitored. While that's tough to do within the confines of existing laws, local and national authorities must not forget that America is in the cross hairs. It takes just one lunatic to cause havoc.

Man Haron Monis, 50, who was identified by Australian media as the gunman behind a tense 16-hour standoff inside a Sydney coffee shop, fits that bill.

Monis was born in Iran — a sponsor of terrorism — then migrated to Australia in 1996. He pleaded guilty last year to sending letters to the families of fallen Australian servicemen in which he called them "murderers" and child-killers. This creep was sentenced to community service but appealed that ruling — an appeal that was denied Friday, which may have triggered the hostage-taking.

Monis also had been linked to other crimes and violence. He had been charged in connection with the death of his ex-wife, who had been stabbed 18 times and set on fire. He was charged with more than 50 allegations of indecent and sexual assault related to a time when he worked as a self-proclaimed "spiritual healer."

Why someone with this disturbed and violent background was still walking the streets is a question Australian authorities haven't answered.

Sadly, two innocent people were killed during the rescue operation. Their deaths are tragic reminders of what's at stake in the battle against terror.

But in describing Monis, don't call him a "lone wolf." That's an insult to wolves.

Instead, it's important to be accurate. Call them "lone rats."

# The Taliban Strikes Back

**BOSTON HERALD (Dec. 17):** The loss of life at a Pakistani school is unfathomable — at least 141 dead, 132 of them children.

What kind of monsters target children? The same kind who two years ago would target a Pakistani school girl named Malala Yousafzai, now a Nobel Prize laureate.

The Taliban — whose name President Obama somehow chose to omit from his prepared response to the attack — seems fixated on targeting the innocent. This school in the northwestern city of Peshawar was part of a network of schools run by the military. Its students in grades one-10 were the children of military personnel and civilians. Most of the students at this school were from civilian families.

"The fight will continue. No one should have any doubt about it," Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said.

In fact, the Pakistani government has spent the past six months targeting the Taliban in the North Waziristan tribal area.

The seven gunmen who attacked the school, all now dead, were equipped with explosive vests — determined to kill the maximum number of children one way or another.

"By targeting students and teachers in this heinous attack, terrorists have once again shown their depravity," President Obama said in a one-paragraph statement that praised Pakistan's efforts against these terrorists he refused to name — although the Taliban was quick to claim responsibility.

Perhaps to name the terrorists is also to draw attention to the similar horrific reality in neighboring Afghanistan from which the president has been so eager to extricate U.S. troops. To name the terrorists is to bring back memories of how the Taliban provided safe haven and training camps for al-Qaeda, for Osama bin Laden, for those who claimed 3,000 lives on our own shores.

No, we cannot be policeman to the world or attempt to settle age-old grudges halfway around the globe. But neither can we be as inattentive to the consequences of a global retreat as the Obama administration has been. To do so is to invite more mayhem and more killing. Weakness and retreat are not a foreign policy.

## IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Thursday, Dec. 18, the 352nd day of 2014. There are 13 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Dec. 18, 1944, in a pair of related rulings, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Korematsu v. United States*, upheld, 6-3, the government's wartime evacuation of people of Japanese descent, including U.S. citizens, from the West Coast (the decision was limited to the exclusion policy, and did not take up the issue of internment), while in *Ex parte Endo*, the justices unanimously agreed that "concededly loyal" Americans of Japanese ancestry could not continue to be detained. (Both rulings came a day after the U.S. Department of War said it was lifting the internment policy.)

**On this date:** In 1787, New Jersey became the third state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1863, in a speech to the Prussian Parliament, Prime Minister Otto von Bismarck declared, "Politics is not an exact science."

In 1865, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery, was declared in effect by Secretary of State William H. Seward.

In 1892, Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" publicly premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia.

In 1912, fossil collector Charles Dawson reported to the Geological Society of London his discovery of supposed early human remains at a gravel pit in Piltdown. (More than four decades later, Piltdown Man was exposed as a hoax.)

In 1915, President Woodrow Wilson, widowed the year before, married Edith Bolling Galt at her Washington home.

In 1940, Adolf Hitler ordered secret preparations for Nazi Germany to invade the Soviet Union. (Operation Barbarossa was launched in June 1941.)

In 1958, the world's first communications satellite, SCORE (Signal Communication by Orbiting Relay Equipment), nicknamed "Chatterbox," was launched by the United States aboard an Atlas rocket.

In 1969, Britain's House of Lords joined the House of Commons in making permanent a 1965 ban on the death penalty for murder.

In 1972, the United States began heavy bombing of North Vietnamese targets during the Vietnam War. (The bombardment ended 11 days later.)

In 1980, former Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin died at age 76.

In 1992, Kim Young-sam was elected South Korea's first civilian president in three decades.

**Ten years ago:** The former Iraqi general known as "Chemical Ali," Ali Hassan al-Majid, went before a tribunal of judges in the first investigative hearings of former members of Saddam Hussein's regime. (Al-Majid was executed in Jan. 2010.) Former Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet was hospitalized after suffering a stroke.

**Five years ago:** The infamous iron sign bearing the Nazis' cynical slogan "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Sets You Free) that spanned the main entrance to the former Auschwitz death camp in Poland was stolen. (The sign was later recovered, six suspects in the theft were later jailed.) Jon and Kate Gosselin officially divorced after 10 years of marriage, eight children and a year of tabloid headlines.

**One year ago:** A presidential advisory panel released a report recommending sweeping changes to government surveillance programs, including limiting the bulk collection of Americans' phone records by stripping the National Security Agency of its ability to store that data in its own facilities. Ronnie Biggs, 84, known for his role in Britain's 1963 Great Train Robbery, died in London.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark is 87. Actor-producer Roger Smith is 82. Blues musician Lonnie Brooks is 81. Actor Roger Moseley is 76. Rock singer-musician Keith Richards is 71. Writer-director Alan Rudolph is 71. Movie producer-director Steven Spielberg is 68. Blues artist Ron Piazza is 67. Movie director Gillian Armstrong is 64. Movie reviewer Leonard Maltin is 64. Rock musician Elliot Easton is 61. Actor Ray Liotta is 59. Comedian Ron White is 58. Actor Brad Pitt is 51. Professional wrestler-turned-actor "Stone Cold" Steve Austin is 50. Actor Shawn Christian is 49. Actress Rachel Griffiths is 46. Singer Alejandro Sanz is 46. Country/rap singer Cowboy Troy is 44. Rapper DMX is 44. International Tennis Hall of Famer Arantxa Sanchez Vicario is 43. DJ Lethal (Limp Bizkit) is 42. Pop singer Sia is 39. Country singer Randy Houser is 38. Actor Josh Dallas is 36. Actress Katie Holmes is 36. Singer Christina Aguilera is 34. Christian rock musician Dave Luetkenhoelter (Kullback) is 32. Actress Ashley Benson is 25. Actress-singer Bridgit Mendler is 22. Actress Isabella Cramp (TV: "The Neighbors") is 10.

**Thought for Today:** "It's a complex fate, being an American." — Henry James, American author (1843-1916).



## Kindle's Korner

# More On Legacy Of Crane-Youngworth

BY DR. WAYNE KINDLE  
Yankton School District

Last month, I shared some history of Crane-Youngworth Stadium and results from an engineering firm regarding the stadium. I want to begin by doing a condensed overview of both.

Prior to the current concrete stadium a wooden stadium had been built, but was demolished during a storm in 1924. On Oct. 23, 1926, the current concrete stadium was officially dedicated. The concrete stadium at Crane-Youngworth Field celebrated its 88th birthday on Oct. 23.

As you may recall, last spring an engineering firm was hired to provide a report to the school board regarding the safety and durability of the concrete stadium. Below were the recommendations from the firm:

"While the grandstand does not appear to be at a critical juncture at this time, in the absence of repairs the structure will continue to deteriorate. The deterioration could possibly accelerate rendering the structure unsafe in as few as 3-5 years.

As the initial investigation was limited to a visual observation only a more in-depth investigation involving a materials testing company is recommended. This study would determine the extent of deterioration beyond what can currently be observed and lay-out an action plan for required repair work. The alternative to repair is to plan for the abandonment and replacement of the grandstand."

The school district concurred with the recommendation and since my last writing, a more in-depth investigation involving a materials testing company has been completed. This involved taking core samples within the raker beams and performing multiple tests with a rebound hammer to determine an estimated compressive strength of the concrete.

The results from the materials testing company were reviewed by a structural engineering firm. The findings from the structural engineering firm are the following:

"We have reviewed the report prepared by Geotek Engineering & Testing Services, Inc. relative to the concrete testing for the referenced project. The average adjusted compressive strength determined via field testing indicates the concrete is in good condition. Based on the strength tests the structure appears to be viable for rehabilitation."

With no rehabilitation work it is our opinion the structure, at the present time, is satisfactory for up to five years. We recommend the district begin planning/budgeting for either a major rehabilitation or replacement of the structure beyond the five-year window."

The combined findings from the original report and recent structural engineering firm would indicate the school district will need to begin planning and budgeting for major repairs or replacement of the Crane-Youngworth Stadium in the next 3-5 years. As most folks know who attend functions at Crane-Youngworth, there is an additional need to address the concession and restroom facilities when considering this project.

The school district has budgeted money in the Capital Outlay account for some repairs



Dr. Wayne  
KINDLE

at Crane-Youngworth. However, the amount budgeted will not be sufficient to address all of the concerns. The good news is we have some time and this will allow us to budget accordingly. There also appears to be no imminent danger for us to continue using Crane-Youngworth in the short term.

Prior to any costly repairs or upgrades at Crane-Youngworth there will need to be discussion about location, location, location! We would want to seek public input regarding the feasibility of remaining at Crane-Youngworth or moving to Williams Field at Yankton High School.

Stay tuned for Crane-Youngworth Report Chapter 3!

## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

The sound of music in our school system is alive and well! We have incredible music instruction taking place throughout the district. The hard work, time, and love for music have all combined to produce a variety of fabulous music concerts.

The talent of our students is second to none. Their passion and love for music warm the hearts of those attending the concerts. I along with hundreds of others attending the concerts have walked away with an extra bounce in our step and most likely singing one of the songs.

Thank you to the students and staff for making music a valued part of education and learning in the Yankton School District!

## LEGISLATIVE COFFEES

Legislative Coffees are held monthly during the South Dakota State Legislative Session (January-March) and serve as an open forum for discussion with elected officials. This is an opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas regarding educational issues facing the Yankton School District.

The Legislative Coffees are open to the public. All Legislative Cracker Barrels will be from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Avera Office Pavilion Amphitheatre, 409 Summit Street. The 2015 Legislative Coffee dates will be held on Jan. 31, Feb. 21 and March 7.

## PRESENTATIONS

As Superintendent, I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization. I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place.

Since taking my new position as Superintendent, I have spoken to several groups through our community and have hosted groups at our Administration Building. Please feel free to contact me at 665-3998 to arrange a time to visit.

Let's continue to have a great year! Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success."

Dr. Wayne Kindle is superintendent of Yankton School District.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Fantastic Feast!

**Yankton Community Holiday Feast Committee**  
The Yankton Community Holiday Feast would like to say THANK YOU to all who contributed and volunteered to the 19th annual Feast this year!

We had another successful year and without the support from our generous community, we would not have seen all of our friends and neighbors come to share in this event. Even though the weather was bitterly cold,

our community came together to enjoy this special event. It is nice to be able to share in a hot meal and the Feast allows the committee to be part of your Thanksgiving celebration and start the holiday with everyone!

We would not be able to do this so successfully if it were not for people like you who support the activities that are happening in the Yankton community!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at next year's Feast in 2015!

## P&D LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask 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 us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

## FROM THE BIBLE

*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. John 15:5.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.