

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861  
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## WE SAY

### Blue-Blood Bucks



Everyone knew the Yankton High School football team had some talent, but **THUMBS UP** to three players from that championship squad signing Wednesday to play football at South Dakota State. Seeing Yankton players head to the Division I level is nothing new, but three from one team going to the same D-I school? That's rare. And not likely to happen any time again soon.

### Milestone



**THUMBS UP** to World War II veteran Verne Hendricks, who celebrated his 100th birthday last Friday (Jan. 30) with an open house at the Elk Point United Parish. Reaching the century mark is a historic milestone in itself, but Hendricks made it even more historic with a personal decision. For more than 70 years, he has kept his wartime memories to himself.

However, he decided at last week's open house to share stories of his battles in Africa, the D-Day invasion at Normandy and in Japan. He met Gen. Dwight Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, and he was awarded two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star among a host of medals. Hendricks's story remains inspiring. We salute his decision to share his memories, because it's so critical to hear those stories before they are lost forever.

### Ethical Choice?



**THUMBS DOWN** to the South Dakota House of Representatives for killing a bill to restore the state Ethics Commission. The Democratic-sponsored bill was killed Wednesday on a party-line vote of 56-13. The commission was started in 1975 in the wake of the national Watergate scandal, but then disappeared in 1979. The measure to revive the commission was

inspired greatly by the EB-5 scandal that played out through much of last year. So, one might argue there was a political motivation to bringing the board back. However, South Dakota is one of just six states that does not have such a watchdog commission. The state does not score highly in national surveys in regards to open government, and a survey on corruption two years ago by the Center for Public Integrity gave South Dakota an "F" rating. Nevertheless, the idea of reviving the Ethics Commission was criticized and ridiculed as a terrible idea. That may explain the survey results and the perception of our government sometimes being a rather closed operation.

### Uninspired



A big **THUMBS DOWN** to this year's Super Bowl advertising. As uninspiring as it was to watch the New England Patriots win another Super Bowl under a cloud of suspicion, one element of this sports spectacle stood out for its lack of creativity — the advertising. While this year's ads may have cost around \$4.5 million for 30 seconds, it's apparent the creative departments didn't see that money. All that managed to stand out this year — for the wrong reasons — was a Nationwide commercial implying the death of a child.

## 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 a driver license should also display the driver's blood type?  
Yes.....64%  
No.....27%  
Not sure.....9%

**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:

Would you favor moving South Dakota to year-round Daylight Saving Time (summer hours)?  
To cast your vote in the **PRESS & DAKOTAN'S** Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2015. There are 328 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Feb. 6, 1852, Britain's King George VI died at Sandringham House in Norfolk, England; he was succeeded as monarch by his elder daughter, who became Queen Elizabeth II.

**On this date:** In 1788, Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1815, the state of New Jersey issued the first American railroad charter to John Stevens, who proposed a rail link between Trenton and New Brunswick. (The line, however, was never built.)

In 1899, a peace treaty between the United States and Spain was ratified by the U.S. Senate.

In 1911, Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th president of the United States, was born in Tampico, Illinois.

In 1922, Cardinal Archille Ratti was elected pope; he took the name Pius XI.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "lame duck" amendment, was proclaimed in effect by Secretary of State Henry Stimson.

In 1943, a Los Angeles jury acquitted actor Errol Flynn of three counts of statutory rape.

In 1958, British European Airways Flight 609 crashed on takeoff from Munich, West Germany, killing 23 of the 44 people on board.

In 1973, Dixy Lee Ray was appointed by President Richard Nixon to be the first woman to head the Atomic Energy Commission.

In 1987, Wall Street Journal reporter Gerald Seib was released after being detained six days by Iran, accused of being a spy for Israel; Iran said the detention was a result of misunderstandings.

In 1995, the space shuttle Discovery flew to within 37 feet of the Russian space station Mir in the first rendezvous of its kind in two decades.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton signed a bill changing the name of Washington National Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Pop music star Falco, who'd had a 1986 hit with "Rock Me Amadeus," died in a traffic accident in the Dominican Republic; he was 40.

**Ten years ago:** The New England Patriots won their third NFL championship in four years, defeating the Philadelphia Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX (39) by a score of 24-21. Fans of the late reggae singer Bob Marley celebrated his 60th

birthday in his birthplace of Jamaica as well as the Rastafarian holy land of Ethiopia. Eighteen people were found dead of carbon monoxide poisoning in a mountain hostel in eastern Spain. Acclaimed Russian pianist Lazar Berman died in Florence, Italy, at age 74. The animated series "American Dad!" premiered on the Fox Network.

**Five years ago:** Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, delivering the keynote address at the first national convention of the tea party coalition in Nashville, declared, "America is ready for another revolution." American missionary Robert Park headed home after North Korea released him from six weeks' detention for crossing its border on Christmas Day to protest religious suppression in the totalitarian regime. Jerry Rice and Emmitt Smith led a class of seven new members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

**One year ago:** House Speaker John Boehner all but ruled out passage of immigration legislation before the fall elections. A suicide bomber blew himself up at the gates of a Syrian prison and rebels stormed in behind him, freeing hundreds of inmates. Baseball Hall of Famer Ralph Kiner, 91, died in Rancho Mirage, California. Former U.S. poet laureate Maxine Kumin died in Warner, New Hampshire, at age 88. Jay Leno said goodbye to NBC's "The Tonight Show" for the second time, making way for Jimmy Fallon to take over as host.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor is 98. Actor Patrick Macnee is 93. Cinematographer and filmmaker Haskell Wexler (Film: "Medium Cool") is 93. Actor Rip Torn is 84. Actress Mamie Van Doren is 84. Actor Mike Farrell is 76. Former NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw is 75. Singer Fabian is 72. Actress Gayle Hunnicutt is 72. Producer-director-writer Jim Sheridan is 66. Singer Natalie Cole is 65. Actor Jon Walmsley is 59. Actress Kathy Najimy is 58. Rock musician Simon Phillips (Toto) is 58. Actor-director Robert Townsend is 58. Actor Barry Miller is 57. Actress Megan Gallagher is 55. Rock singer Axl Rose (Guns N' Roses) is 53. Country singer Richie McDonald is 53. Singer Rick Astley is 49. Rock musician Tim Brown (Boo Radleys) is 46. "Good Morning America" co-host Amy Robach is 42. Actor Brandon Hammond is 31. Actress Alice Greczyn is 29.

**Thought for Today:** "Cherish your wilderness." — Maxine Kumin (1925-2014).

## FROM THE BIBLE

Your will be done. Matthew 6:10. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



# The Best Response?

BY KELLY HERTZ

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What if the Islamic State group now decides to back off from Jordan?

That question could produce a grim answer.

The terrorist group, alternately known as ISIS or IS or other such initials, has been waging a high-profile reign of terror in Iraq and Syria as it works to carve out its own territory, called a caliphate. It has beheaded hostages and shocked the world while attempting to woo supporters not only on the ground but also through the Internet and social media. It is a brand of terrorism, simultaneously sophisticated and barbarous, unlike anything we've ever seen or imagined. This has compelled the formation of an international military coalition, led by the U.S. and featuring several Middle Eastern nations, to launch airstrikes against the group.

Earlier this week, ISIS brought a new wrinkle to its appalling act. It killed Lt. Muath Al-Kaseasbeh, a captured Jordanian pilot, by burning him alive in a cage and purportedly on video. This act was labeled as punishment for Jordan's part in the anti-ISIS coalition.

But Jordan didn't react simply by condemning the group or calling for renewed rounds of airstrikes or sanctions, as, say, the U.S. probably would have done. Instead, Jordan promised an "earth-shaking response," which started with the immediate executions of two militants, one of whom was a failed female suicide bomber who was the subject of negotiation between the Jordanians and ISIS.

"The revenge will be as big as the calamity that has hit Jordan," a military spokesman from that country declared, utilizing the kind of bellicose rhetoric that we've heard so many times before, but usually aimed at us and not at our presumed enemies. (Why did this feel oddly refreshing?)

But is this the only real way we can deal with groups like the Islamic State? Let's be clear on this. I'm not saying the only alternative to what Jordan has done is offer overtures of a ceasefire and/or appeasements. There are other military, diplomatic and economic tools in the box that could be used.

But Jordan has shifted to another level — the level of angry vengeance, a state of mind where anything can be on the table against a group capable, it seems, of *perpetrating* anything.

The allied fight against ISIS has been shaky at times, especially when it relied upon Iraqi troops to make a stand against the powerful Islamic State military. There were various embarrassing reports of Iraqi units dissolving

into the countryside rather than take on the ISIS forces. At that point, the terrorist group, operating in territories comprised of populations somewhat sympathetic to their cause, seemed disturbingly unstoppable.

That has reportedly changed recently, as Kurdish and Iraqi forces, backed by the airstrikes, have made headway against ISIS and have taken back some of the lost territory.

However, ISIS, which is a mind set as opposed to a nation with boundaries, is far from defeated.

Jordan is an intriguing player here. It has faced domestic criticism from those who are uncomfortable with the prospect of Muslims launching airstrikes on other Muslims. (Why this trumps what ISIS is doing to Muslims is not entirely clear.) There have also been indications of sympathy for ISIS among the young and poor in Jordan, according to The Huffington Post.

But if the burning of a pilot was meant to further amplify those divisions, it may be a great mistake. Jordan's instant and decisive response makes it clear that it has no tolerance for such tactics and its will is unshakable.

So, if ISIS does back off from Jordan now, what message does this send?

In dealing with terrorism, there is always the underlying narrative that it's the civilized world and the rule of law that is really under attack from such forces, and the light of that law must prevail over the cruel darkness.

But if the only effective response to an ISIS execution is a snap execution or two of our own, what would it say about our "civilized" principles (drone strikes notwithstanding)? What law would cover that?

Perhaps Jordan's strong response will at least embolden some of its fellow Mideast partners in this coalition. In that respect, it certainly couldn't hurt. And perhaps it will make ISIS think twice about such tactics, although no sane person should bank on that.

Here is the 21st century, as conventional warfare has taken a back seat to the unconventional perils we face from terrorist groups, lone wolves and sleeper cells, we may find that our civilized ambitions and calculated military responses may seem impractical. If the only way to respond to violent hate is with a countermeasure that falls in line with violent hate, then what do we become?

And would we have a choice?  
The ugly business of war would seem destined to become even uglier. And tough questions will follow and must be confronted.

You can 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/).

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Public Health

**Jon Devine, Washington**  
Senior Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council  
Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) will have a fresh opportunity to defend public health when lawmakers in Congress convene a hearing on a proposed Clean Water Rule that would guarantee protections for America's streams and wetlands, including those in South Dakota. Some in Congress are seeking to block the rule. Instead of promoting the interests of big polluters, Sen. Rounds should work to ensure that our kids have clean water to swim in and that everyone in South Dakota will have safe

water to drink. Sen. Rounds is a member of one of the committees that is taking part in the hearing.

At issue is a proposal by the Environmental Protection Agency to close a loophole in our national clean water rules and restore protections to small streams, wetlands and other waters that are vital by themselves and because they directly affect water quality downstream. The streams this rule would protect feed into the drinking water supplies of 117 million Americans. It's a common-sense adjustment that is long overdue and supported by reams of scientific evidence. We're counting on Sen. Rounds to support clean water.

## 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.

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