

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

## CONTACT US

PHONE:  
(605) 665-7811  
(800) 743-2968  
NEWS FAX:  
(605) 665-1721  
ADVERTISING FAX:  
(605) 665-0288  
WEBSITE:  
[www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net)  
EMAIL ADDRESS:  
[news@yankton.net](mailto:news@yankton.net)

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## OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

# SD Juvenile Justice System Improving

**RAPID CITY JOURNAL, Rapid City (Dec. 29):** South Dakota has been making strides in recent years in changing its criminal justice system from one in which offenders are simply sentenced to jail or prison with the hope that they stay out of trouble when they are released. That doesn't work in many cases, and the state's prison cells are filling up with repeat offenders.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard recognized that something needed to be done to more effectively rehabilitate offenders, and his justice reform initiative that was passed in the 2013 legislative session was an effort to find alternatives to prison.

What has failed in the adult justice system is being recognized as more of a problem in the juvenile justice system. A recent study found that South Dakota has the highest rate of incarcerating juvenile offenders in the nation.

According to the National Juvenile Justice Network and the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Center for Effective Justice, South Dakota confined 489 juveniles for every 100,000 youth in 2011, a rate that was 2.6 times the national average of 195.

The report said that while the juvenile confinement rate fell by 42 percent from 2001 to 2011 nationally, South Dakota's rate dropped by just 5 percent for youth held in detention facilities.

However, the state's juvenile justice system is changing its ways by moving away from detaining low-risk juvenile offenders in order to prevent them from continuing criminal behavior.

Pennington and Minnehaha counties have been leading the way, using a program that for the past two years is trying to keep juvenile offenders out of detention facilities. The Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, known as JDAl, has been so successful, that it is now being expanded to other communities.

JDAl was begun with the help of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and has reduced the number of juveniles sent to Minnehaha and Pennington county detention centers by about half.

"We've made great strides. The numbers are just phenomenal," said Circuit Judge Jeff Davis of Rapid City, who wants to see the program expanded statewide.

The program requires that juveniles be assessed when they are first arrested and detained. Those who are a low risk to public safety or are unlikely to flee are put into alternative programs instead of being locked up. Options include home detention, wearing an electronic bracelet, non-secure shelters or evening check-ins with officials.

The study noted that South Dakota is improving its juvenile system by adopting four of six suggested reforms, including minimizing the use of secure detention, increasing community-based alternatives to incarceration, closing or downsizing confinement facilities and avoiding confinement for minor offenses.

We supported the governor's justice system reforms as a more effective and less costly alternative to building another prison. Expanding the JDAl program, which has been proven to be effective at rehabilitating offenders in the state's largest counties, is the next step in reducing the number of repeat offenders. Juveniles who make a habit of being held in detention, almost certainly will repeat the process as adults.

Expanding JDAl, if successful, should improve South Dakota's ranking with how it treats juvenile offenders and, more importantly, turn them away from criminal behaviors.

## SPEAK UP!

■ Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: 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).

## ON THIS DATE

### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Jan. 6, the sixth day of 2014. There are 359 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Jan. 6, 1994, in an incident that shook the world of figure skating, Nancy Kerrigan was clubbed on the leg by an assailant at Detroit's Cobo Arena: four men, including the ex-husband of Kerrigan's rival, Tonya Harding, went to prison for their roles in the attack. (Harding, who denied knowing about plans for the attack, received probation after pleading guilty to conspiracy to hinder prosecution.)

**On this date:** In 1540, England's King Henry VIII married his fourth wife, Anne of Cleves. (The marriage lasted about six months.)

In 1759, George Washington and Martha Dandridge Custis were married in New Kent County, Va.

In 1838, Samuel Morse and Alfred Vail gave the first successful public demonstration of their telegraph, in Morristown, N.J.

In 1912, New Mexico became the 47th state.

In 1919, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, died in Oyster Bay, N.Y., at age 60.

In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his State of the Union address, outlined a goal of "Four Freedoms": Freedom of speech and expression; the freedom of people to worship God in their own way; freedom from want; freedom from fear.

In 1945, George Herbert Walker Bush married Barbara Pierce in Rye, N.Y.

In 1950, Britain recognized the Communist government of China.

In 1963, "Oliver!", Lionel Bart's musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel "Oliver Twist," opened on Broadway. "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" premiered on NBC-TV. In 1974, year-round daylight saving time began in the United States on a trial basis as a fuel-saving measure in response to the OPEC oil embargo.

In 1987, the U.S. Senate voted 88-4 to establish an eleven-member panel to hold public hearings on the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1993, authorities rescued Jennifer Stolpa and her infant son, Clayton, after Jennifer's husband, James, succeeded in reaching help, ending the family's eight-day ordeal after becoming lost in the snow-covered Nevada desert. Jazz trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie, 75, died in Englewood, N.J.; ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev died in suburban Paris at age 54.

**Ten years ago:** Thirteen children and two adults were killed in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province by a time-bomb concealed in

an apple cart on a street regularly used by U.S. military patrols. A design consisting of two reflecting pools and a paved stone field was chosen for the World Trade Center memorial in New York. Mijailo Mijailovic confessed to the fatal stabbing of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh in Sept. 2003. Hitting star Paul Molitor and reliever Dennis Eckersley were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame.

**Five years ago:** Congress opened for business at the dawn of a new Democratic era with vows to fix the crisis-ridden economy; Republicans pledged cooperation in Congress as well as with President-elect Barack Obama — to a point. Obama vowed to "bring a long-overdue sense of responsibility and accountability to Washington" and called the need for budget reform "an absolute necessity." Cheryl Holdridge, one of the original Mouseketeers on "The Mickey Mouse Club," died in Santa Monica, Calif., at age 64.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama returned to Washington after a winter vacation in Hawaii that was interrupted by the "fiscal cliff" crisis. In his first public speech in six months, a defiant Syrian President Bashar Assad rallied a cheering crowd to fight the uprising against his authoritarian rule, dismissing any chance of dialogue with what he called "murderous criminals." The NHL and the players' association agreed on a tentative pact to end a 113-day lockout.

**Today's Birthdays:** Pollster Louis Harris is 93. Retired MLB All-Star Ralph Branca is 88. Author E.L. Doctorow is 83. Country musician Joey, the CowPolka King (Riders in the Sky) is 65. Former FBI director Louis Freeh is 64. Rock singer-musician Kim Wilson (The Fabulous Thunderbirds) is 63. Singer Jett Williams is 61. Rock musician Malcolm Young (AC-DC) is 61. Actor-comedian Rowan Atkinson is 59. World Golf Hall of Famer Nancy Lopez is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kathy Sledge is 55. TV chef Nigella Lawson is 54. Rhythm-and-blues singer Eric Williams (BLACKstreet) is 54. Movie composer A.R. Rahman is 48. Movie director John Singleton is 46. Actor Norman Reedus (TV: "The Walking Dead") is 45. TV personality Julie Chen is 44. Actor Danny Pintauro (TV: "Who's the Boss?") is 38. Actress Rinko Kikuchi is 33. NBA player Gilbert Arenas is 32. Actress-comedian Kat McKinnon (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 30. Rock singer Alex Turner (Arctic Monkeys) is 28.

**Thought for Today:** "He threatens many that hath injured one." — Ben Jonson, English dramatist and poet (1572-1637).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*What is that to you? You follow Me! John 21:22.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



# President Obama's Afghanistan Mess

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Bill O'Reilly has retired his column as of the New Year. To replace him, we have picked up conservative columnist Michelle Malkin.

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

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Is President Obama sleeping well on his Hawaiian holiday? I can think of many families of American soldiers who might not be enjoying the same bliss right now. That's because 2014 opens with alarming news that the Afghan government will free an estimated 650 prisoners from a Bagram detention facility — including scores involved in deadly attacks on our men and women in uniform.

The White House handed over control of the jihadi-clogged prison to the Afghan government last spring. Some 3,000 notorious Taliban and al-Qaeda killers call the jail home. Surprise, surprise: After the Obama administration supposedly secured "private assurances" that no dangerous criminal operatives would be released, U.S. officials are now balking that the agreement has been broken. Everyone, put on your shocked faces.

An anonymous U.S. official told the *Wall Street Journal* this week: "We are concerned that 88 people who have blood on their hands — Afghan and coalition blood — would be turned loose, but more important, that an agreement that we have with the Afghan government is being violated." The *New York Times* reports that Muslim terrorists who trained teen suicide bombers and planted IEDs at schools are among the lucky thugs slated for release. "These are guys that are tied directly to killing, and trying to kill our forces and Afghan forces," an American military official told the *New York Times*. "This is an issue of deep concern. It is serious." Cue the "UNDERSTATEMENT" klieg lights.

Members of Afghanistan's own parliament are decrying the lax review process and dangerous unilateral decisions of a "Bagram Inmates' Assessment Committee" established by presidential decree. Afghan senator Dawood Hasas told the *Afghanistan Times*: "Among the released prisoners from Bagram jail, many were murder convicts, and release of notorious prisoners would not be in the national interests."

Who knows how many others will be freed to kill American soldiers again? President Hamid Karzai is busy pandering to Taliban forces in advance of the country's spring election season. He is also stalling approval of a bilateral security deal with the U.S. and U.K. It's a recipe for bloody recidivism. The new batch of freed jihadists will join a burgeoning population

of other freed Taliban commanders who promptly returned to the battlefield. Last fall, Karzai freed senior Taliban leader Maulawi Ghulam Mohammad — who now commands some 400 insurgents and immediately launched several deadly attacks on security forces' checkpoints in the Badghis province.

Mohammad joins Mullah Zakir, the Taliban's top "surge commander," who was released from

Gitmo to Afghanistan custody and let loose by the Afghanistan government in 2007. He's back at work, killing in the name of Allah without skipping a beat. Former Gitmo detainee Abu Sufian bin Qumu, also released in 2007, has been named a possible lead plotter in the Benghazi attack. Karzai's jail-emptying scheme comes as the Obama administration continues to widen the Gitmo revolving door for even more potential recidivists-to-be. In December alone, the White House returned Guantanamo detainees to Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, and dispatched three Uighur detainees to Slovakia.

Question: Are the Taliban leaders detained and arrested last fall in connection with the deadly 9/14/12 attack on our Marines at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan on Karzai's release list? Don't forget that the infiltration of 15 jihadists disguised in U.S. combat fatigues took place three days after the 9/11 attack on our Benghazi consulate.

Refresher: The Camp Bastion attack came exactly six months after a failed suicide bombing that targeted then Defense Secretary Leon Panetta. The meticulously coordinated siege resulted in the deaths of Lt. Col. Christopher Raible and Sgt. Bradley Atwell, along with the most devastating loss of U.S. airpower since Vietnam. British commanders knew the airfield was insecure before 9/14/12. Leaders on both sides of the pond failed to coordinate their defenses. Three months before the raid, the Pentagon acknowledged, military officials had been warned of "uncontrolled access" that left "personnel and equipment exposed."

The families of the fallen continue to fight for accountability on both sides of the pond, and to push for both the U.S. and U.K. to take meaningful remediation steps to secure coalition bases. It's safe to say that "Freeing imprisoned Taliban and al Qaeda jihadists who targeted and killed American troops" wasn't on any military family's New Year's wish list.

As for the commander-in-chief? It's back to the golf course. Fore!

*Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is [malkinblog@gmail.com](mailto:malkinblog@gmail.com).*

## Capitol Notebook

# Adelstein: Smarts And Courage

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — During 11 years Stan Adelstein never got much traction in the Legislature.

Of 99 bills he introduced, 14 became law. Not one of the senator's 21 in 2012 and 2013 made it out of the Senate.

But the courage of Adelstein, R-Rapid City, shouldn't be misestimated.

He clearly was a feminist. He defended legalized abortion. He tried to stop the practice of an aggrieved spouse or parent seeking compensation in court for abduction, enticement or seduction. He wanted Medicaid benefits expanded to pregnant mothers.

Likewise, he tried to raise more money for state and local governments through alcohol tax increases and a summer increase in sales tax. He championed ignition-interlock for convicted drunk drivers.

He occasionally brought legislation and resolutions regarding Judaism. Once in the House he let loose after an anonymous note was left at his desk about being a Jew. That came after he paid for lights to better show a historic mural in the House chamber.

Those who truly understand Rapid City politics know too his roles in city elections.

Adelstein, 82, resigned on Dec. 30 from the Senate because of illness after surgery. With the 2014 session starting Jan. 14, Gov. Dennis Daugaard has little time to appoint a replacement.

Republicans will still control the Senate, 27-

7.

You likely heard or read how then-Gov. Bill Janklow called Adelstein in the spring of 2002 and suggested some financial oomph might make the difference for Mike Rounds in the Republican primary for governor.

Rounds won the nomination. He was elected governor, twice.

And you likely remember two years ago when Adelstein demanded state Attorney Gen-



Adelstein

conventions. This was a direct shot at the process that led to Gant's election.

The bill failed but the dissent was planted. On Sept. 3, Sen. Shantel Krebs, R-Renner, filed paperwork to run for secretary of state. Gant soon announced he wouldn't seek re-election in 2014.

For action Adelstein also showed how political action committees funded largely by one man — him — could be used to steer large amounts of money to candidates.

The Legislature adopted limits, but that merely led to multiple PACs relying on a wealthy contributor, such as those used by Republican Gordon Howie of Rapid City and Democrat Scott Heidepriem of Sioux Falls to fuel their 2010 campaigns for governor.

Adelstein's heavy emphasis on pro-choice legislation in 2005 led to rejection by Pennington County Republican voters in 2006. Eli Schwiesow took the nomination with 2,145 votes in his 1971.

Democrat Tom Katus rolled past Schwiesow in the general election 4,994 to 4,515. Adelstein came back in 2008. He won a three-way contest, polling 3,834 votes to edge Katus at 3,464 and Schwiesow at 3,683 running as an independent.

Lesson learned: Adelstein didn't have a challenger in 2010 or 2012.

He wasn't a great legislator. But at times Stan Adelstein was good at politics — very good.