

# The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

## A Dream Comes True, Even After Death

**ABERDEEN AMERICAN NEWS, Aberdeen (Jan. 7):** Sometimes, great things can come from even the greatest of tragedies. On Nov. 18, 8-year-old Jayla Marie Rodriguez was killed when she was attacked by a pack of wild dogs while she was sledding on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

When the news spread, people got angry. Dogs were rounded up. Some were killed; a few were saved.

As a result, the already broken hearts of Jayla's family broke a little more.

A few weeks prior to her death, Jayla and her mom, Danielle Griffith, saw a dog walking on three legs through the reservation.

"My daughter looked at the dog and became really sad. She said, 'When I get older, I want to bring all the dogs home and teach them what it's like to love and have a family,'" Griffith said.

All of that compassion came from the lips of an 8-year-old. We hear kids talk about what they want to be when they grow up all the time. But we don't think that they will not get the chance to grow up.

It's easy for those less affected — or at least for those who live less "in the moment" — to offer cliches like "things happen for a reason" and how "the unfortunate happenings eventually make people stronger." But we see it happening.

What we're surprised by is the family's response — or more so, the strength that they have found and their newfound determination to create something good from something so awful.

Jayla's Dream has the possibility of making an entire community — perhaps even an entire culture — stronger and better.

The Griffith family is making steady progress on Jayla's Dream, which would improve animal control and start a shelter in her memory.

On Dec. 19, the state approved Jayla's Dream as a nonprofit. As of Tuesday, a Go Fund Me account was only \$325 short of its \$10,000 goal.

Family members have helped every step of the way: Jayla's mom designed the logo; her father helped with getting nonprofit approval; and extended family has assisted with setting up a website, a Facebook page and the Go Fund Me account. They also expressed interest in donating land for the shelter.

Others are paying attention, too. Change is happening. Late last month, Griffith told the Rapid City Journal that she was having a hard time finding what her purpose is now. We are not sure that it has ever changed. She's doing what mothers do. When something bad happens, moms have a tendency to do something so that same something bad doesn't happen to someone else.

And moms also make their little girl's dreams come true. We can only imagine how proud Jayla would be.

### ABOUT THIS PAGE

The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the **PRESS & DAKOTAN**. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

### IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Monday, Jan. 12, the 12th day of 2015. There are 353 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlights in History:** On Jan. 12, 1915, the U.S. House of Representatives rejected, 204-174, a proposed constitutional amendment to give women nationwide the right to vote. The silent film drama "A Fool There Was," which propelled Theda Bara to stardom with her portrayal of a predatory vamp, premiered in New York.

**On this date:** In 1519, Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian I died.

In 1773, the first public museum in America was organized in Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1828, the United States and Mexico signed a Treaty of Limits defining the boundary between the two countries to be the same as the one established by an 1819 treaty between the U.S. and Spain.

In 1912, textile workers at the Everett Mill in Lawrence, Massachusetts, most of them immigrant women, walked off the job to protest wage cuts.

In 1932, Hattie W. Caraway became the first woman elected to the U.S. Senate after initially being appointed to serve out the remainder of the term of her late husband, Thaddeus.

In 1945, during World War II, Soviet forces began a major, successful offensive against the Germans in Eastern Europe. Aircraft from U.S. Task Force 38 sank about 40 Japanese ships off Indochina.

In 1959, Berry Gordy Jr. founded Motown Records (originally Tamla Records) in Detroit.

In 1965, the music variety show "Hullabaloo" premiered on NBC-TV with host-of-the-week Jack Jones; guests included Joey Heatherton, the New Christy Minstrels and Woody Allen. Playwright Lorraine Hansberry ("A Raisin in the Sun") died in New York at age 34.

In 1975, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Minnesota Vikings 16-6 to win Super Bowl IX at Tulane Stadium in New Orleans.

In 1986, the shuttle Columbia blasted off with a crew that included the first Hispanic-American in space, Dr. Franklin R. Chang-Diaz.

In 1995, Qubilah Shabazz, the daughter of Malcolm X, was arrested in Minneapolis on charges she'd tried to hire a hitman to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan (the charges were later dropped in a settlement with the government).

In 2000, in a 5-4 decision, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Illinois v. Wardlaw, gave police broad authority to stop and question people who run at the sight of an officer.

**Ten years ago:** A NASA spacecraft, Deep Impact, blasted off on a mission to smash a hole in a comet and give scientists a glimpse of the frozen primordial ingredients of the solar system. (The probe crashed into Comet Tempel 1 in July 2005). Democrat Christine Gregoire, winner of the extremely close Washington governor's race, was inaugurated. Britain's Prince Harry apologized after a newspaper published a photograph of the young royal wearing a Nazi uniform to a costume party.

**Five years ago:** Haiti was struck by a magnitude-7 earthquake; the Haitian government says 316,000 people were killed, while a report prepared for the U.S. Agency for International Development suggests the death toll may have been between 46,000 and 85,000. U.S. and Mexican authorities announced the capture of Teodoro Garcia Simental, a high-ranking member of the Tijuana cartel known as "El Teo."

**One year ago:** Officials announced that Iran had agreed to limit uranium enrichment and to open its nuclear program to daily inspection by international experts. Southwest Flight 4013, a Boeing 737 from Chicago, landed at the wrong Missouri airport while enroute to Branson. Jeremy Abbott won his fourth U.S. figure skating title at the championships in Boston. At the Golden Globes, "12 Years a Slave" won for best motion picture drama while "American Hustle" was named best musical or comedy picture.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Katherine MacGregor (TV: "Little House on the Prairie") is 90. Singer Glenn Yarbrough is 85. The Amazing Kreskin is 80. Country singer William Lee Golden (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 76. Rock musician Cynthia Robinson (Sly and the Family Stone) is 71. Actor Anthony Andrews is 67. Movie director Wayne Wang is 66. Radio commentator Rush Limbaugh is 64. Actress Kirstie Alley is 64. Writer Walter Mosley is 63. Country singer Ricky Van Shelton is 63. Radio-TV personality Howard Stern is 61. Writer-producer-director John Lasseter is 58. Broadcast journalist Christiane Amanpour is 57. Rock musician Charlie Gillingham (Counting Crows) is 55. Actor Oliver Platt is 55. Basketball Hall of Famer Dominique Wilkins is 55. Entrepreneur Jeff Bezos is 51. Actor Olivier Martinez is 49. Rapper TBird (B-Rock and the Bizz) is 48. Model Vendela is 48. Actress Farrah Fokke is 47. Actress Rachael Harris is 47. Rock singer Zack de la Rocha is 45. Rapper Raekwon (Wu Tang Clan) is 45. Singer Dan Haseltine (Jars of Clay) is 42. Rock musician Matt Wong (Reel Big Fish) is 42. Singer Melanie Chisholm (Spice Girls) is 41. Contemporary Christian singer Jeremy Camp is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer America is 35. Actress Naya Rivera is 28. Actor Will Rothhaar is 28. Actor Andrew Lawrence is 27. Rock singer Zayn Malik (One Direction) is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "Censorship covered in logical completeness when nobody is allowed to read any books except the books that nobody reads." — George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright (1856-1950).

### FROM THE BIBLE

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. Romans 13:1. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

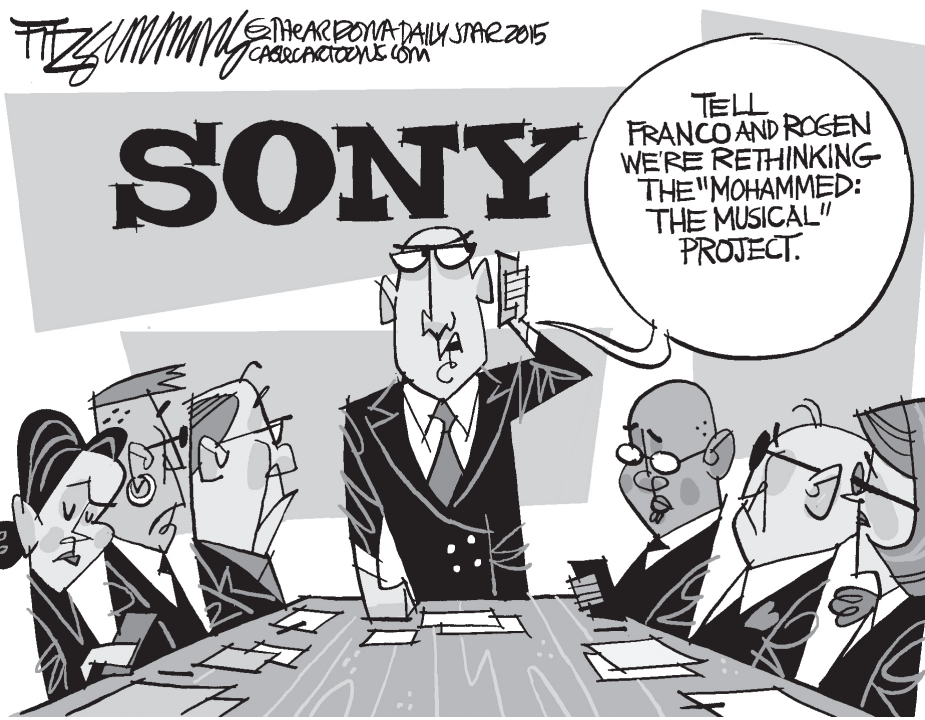
### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Raising Funds

**Rebecca Johnson, Yankton**  
Thank you to everyone who attended and donated to my free will donation yoga classes at the Dakota Theatre on Dec. 27 and Jan. 1. Together we

raised \$300 for the Yankton Area Homeless Shelter.

Thank you, also, to Tara Gill and the Dakota Theatre for letting me use the stage and to the Press and Dakotan for running my press releases to promote.



### Capitol Notebook

## A Range Of Extremes On Weather And Pay

BY BOB MERCER  
State Capitol Bureau

**PIERRE** — The deadly wind and cold make South Dakota a mean place to live at times. But on minimum wage, South Dakota suddenly doesn't look so mean.

Voters raised the minimum wage to \$8.50 from \$7.25. The increase took effect on Jan. 1.

For an eight-hour workday, that's \$10 more.

For a 40-hour week, that's \$50 more: The difference between \$290 at \$7.25, and \$340 at \$8.50.

How did people live on \$290, or now \$340?

It's understandable some employers wouldn't want to pay \$1.25 more per hour to their lowest-wage workers, unless forced.

A majority of South Dakota's voters on Nov. 4 made them do it.

Our state's motto "Under God, the people rule" proved true again. The vote was 150,819 yes and 123,167 no.

That margin is similar to the state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage that passed 172,305 to 160,152 in 2006.

On a geographic basis, the minimum wage increase won in 35 counties and lost in 31.

Why would so many voters oppose it? \$8.50 was too much.

They didn't like the automatic inflation adjustment for annual increases.

They didn't want government between employer and employee.

There could be some attempt in the 2015 legislative session to repeal the inflation adjuster.

That could mean voters would face the issue again, if the repeal gets referred to the 2016 ballot. A referral would put the repeal on hold until then.

At \$8.50, South Dakota's minimum wage is



Bob MERCER

now higher than in most states. South Dakota voters put our state in the top nine nationally. That is uncommon ground.

Those still higher are California \$9.00, Connecticut \$9.15, Massachusetts \$9.00, New York \$8.75, Oregon \$9.25, Rhode Island \$9.00, Vermont \$9.15 and Washington \$9.47.

Some states don't have a state minimum wage. They are Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Hampshire, South Carolina and Tennessee.

There are two questions ahead. First, will the \$8.50 help attract workers to South Dakota?

South Dakota needs workforce development. This is a priority for Gov. Dennis Daugaard (who opposed the increase to \$8.50 and doesn't believe in a minimum wage) and for many employers.

And second, will employers suffer from the automatic inflation adjustment? Sixteen states now have that

feature.

For nearly 20 years, South Dakota has used one of the national versions of the consumer price index as the basis to increase state aid to public schools through the per-pupil allocation.

Many school officials say the CPI hasn't kept up. One indicator is South Dakota's last-place ranking for teacher salaries.

Teacher salaries would need a big bump from taxpayers — perhaps \$100 million, to get a \$10,000 average raise, requiring another 1 percent sales tax — to get out of the bottom drawer.

Voters did that to employers on minimum wage. Would voters tax themselves for schools? They already can, locally, with extra property taxes, but opt-outs tend to be more about survival than improvement.

As for CPI, if it reaches 2 percent this year, the minimum wage becomes \$8.67 for 2016.

That's 17 cents per hour, or \$6.80 more per week: A fast-food meal.

## The Media Cowards And The Cartoon Jihad

BY MICHELLE MALKIN  
Creators.com

I have never laughed so bitterly as I did while reading Thursday's lead editorial by the great pretender-defenders of free speech at *The New York Times*.

Paying obligatory lip service to the 12 cartoonists and staffers of the Paris satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo* who were slaughtered for offending Islam, the *Times* intoned: "It is absurd to suggest that the way to avoid terrorist attacks is to let the terrorists dictate standards in a democracy."

My GPS tracker of journalistic hypocrisy immediately identified the *Times* editorial board's high-altitude location — ensconced atop their own Mt. Everest of absurdity and self-unawareness.

The Fishwrap of Record priggishly refuses to print any of the Islam-provoking art that cost the brave French journalists their lives. In case you forgot (as its own editorialists have), the *Times* cowered in 2005-2006 when the Mohammed Cartoons conflagration first ignited. And the publication is capitulating again.

Behold this groveling bow to terrorists dictating democracy's standards:

"Under *Times* standards," a newspaper spokesman said in a statement this week, "we do not normally publish images or other material deliberately intended to offend religious sensibilities. After careful consideration, *Times* editors decided that describing the cartoons in question would give readers sufficient information to understand today's story."

So says the paper that blithely published a Catholic-bashing photo of the Virgin Mary covered in elephant dung and defended the taxpayer-funded "Piss Christ" exhibit thusly: "A museum is obliged to challenge the public as well as to placate it, or else the museum becomes a chamber of attractive ghosts, an institution completely disconnected from art in our time."

While they feign free-speech fortitude, what *Times* editorialists really don't want to see is their heads completely disconnected from their necks. Neither do editors at *The Boston Globe*, ABC News, NBC News, MSNBC and CNBC, who won't publish any possibly, remotely upsetting images of Mohammed, either.

But these quivering double-talkers aren't even the most laughable of Cartoon Jihad cowards.

The Associated Press wins the pusillanimity prize after invoking the sensitivity card to explain why it refrained from publishing "deliberately provocative" Mo toons — even though the media conglomerate had been selling



Michelle MALKIN

deliberately provocative "Piss Christ" photos on its website. After the *Washington Examiner's* Tim Carney pointed out the double standards, AP tried to cover its tracks by yanking the pic.

More absurdity? The *New York Daily News* pixelated a Mo toon carried by *Charlie Hebdo* as if it were pornography. CNN did the same in 2006, when it explained it was censoring the

offending images "in respect for Islam" and "because the network believes its role is to cover the events surrounding the publication of the cartoons while not unnecessarily adding fuel to the controversy itself."

And therein lies the cartoon capitulationists' grand self-delusion. This isn't about cartoons.

Reminder: The First Mo Toons Wars were instigated in 2005 by demagogue imams who toured Egypt stoking hysteria with faked anti-Islam comic strips attributed to the Danish *Jyllands-Posten* newspaper (whose actual cartoons criticizing Islam were far more innocuous). The real agenda: Islamist thugs were attempting to pressure Denmark over the International Atomic Energy Agency's decision to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council for continuing with its nuclear research program. From Afghanistan to Egypt to Lebanon to Libya, Pakistan, Turkey and in between, hundreds died in insane riots under the pretext of protecting Mohammed from Western slight. Courageous journalists who stood up to the madness were silenced, jailed and threatened with beheading.

Cartoons did not start militant Islam's fire. Neither did the Bushes, Israel, the Satanic Verses, the Pope, beauty pageants, KFC restaurants in the Middle East, Mohammed teddy bears or a YouTube video.

The Religion of Perpetual Outrage hates all infidels for all reasons for all time. The targeting of Mohammed cartoonists is a convenient excuse to feed the eternal flame of radical Islamists' hatred of the West. If it isn't cartoons, it's something else. The grudge is everlasting.

Instead of acknowledging their gutlessness in the face of Koran-inspired Muslim vigilantes, press pontificators cloak their fear in the mumbo-jumbo of "tolerance." They demand that the rest of us pledge fealty to their selective multi-culti sensitivities lest we be branded "Islamophobes."

And then they have the audacity to play "I am free-speech Spartacus" with those who risked life and limb to speak truth to Islamic supremacist power.

Sit down, fakers. You fakin'.

*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.*