

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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**OPINION | WE SAY**

**A Baseball Spirit**



A sad THUMBS DOWN to the passing of longtime baseball advocate Morrie Wachendorf, who passed earlier this week in Bismarck, North Dakota, at age 84. Wachendorf was a war veteran and a longtime U.S. Army Corps of Engineers employee, but his great love was baseball. He helped reinvent Yankton's youth baseball programs in the 1990s, donating endless energy and countless hours to that quest. His dedication (and success) was such that his name is now affixed to the annual the Morrie Wachendorf Wooden Bat Classic — which, as it so happens, is this weekend in Yankton. Wachendorf provided a vision that helped steer local baseball programs here to where they are today. His commitment won't be forgotten and will always be appreciated.

**Pay Inequality**



THUMBS DOWN to a new low for increasing economic inequality in the United States. An Associated Press/Equilar pay study found that the median pay package for a CEO at a Standard & Poor's 500 company was \$10.5 million. That was 8.8 percent higher than in 2012. A chief executive now makes about 257 times the average worker's salary, up sharply from 181 times in 2009. In comparison to CEO pay increases, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that average weekly wages for U.S. workers rose 1.3 percent in 2013. At that rate an employee would have to work 257 years to make what a typical S&P 500 CEO makes in a year. We question the wisdom — and morality — of investing so much money into one person at the expense of the vast majority of employees and fail to see how it can lead to positive results in the long term.

**New Responsibilities**



THUMBS UP to ISG Brooks Schild, who will be honored in a change of responsibility at 3:30 p.m. today (Friday) in the Yankton Armory. Schild has served with Bravo Battery, including combat duty with then-Charlie Battery during the war on terror. The ceremony will mark another in the long and honored history of the Yankton unit.

**Birthday Wishes**



THUMBS UP to our readers — whoever and wherever you are — who have kept this newspaper, today known as the *Press & Dakotan*, in business for 154 years. Today (Friday) in this newspaper's birthday, coming to life back in 1861 during the earliest days of what was really little more than a sparse prairie settlement nestled along a very major river. We started off as a weekly before becoming a daily publication in 1875, in part in response to the Black Hills gold rush. So many things have changed through the decades, whether its print styles, the introduction of computers and, now, our ability to provide information beyond the print medium. But one thing has been forever constant: our readers, without whom this business would have faded away long ago. We realize that every day, and it drives us to bring you the best local news we can. So as we celebrate our birthday, we are really celebrating your interest and your devotion. Thank you!

**ONLINE OPINION**

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

**LATEST RESULTS:**

**Do you agree with the decision to permanently remove the traffic lights at Fourth and Walnut in Yankton?**  
Yes . . . . . 65%  
No . . . . . 22%  
I don't care . . . . . 13%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST . . . . . 360**  
*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 the prisoner trade that led to the release of American POW Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl?**  
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

**ON THIS DATE**

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, June 6, the 157th day of 2014. There are 208 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On June 6, 1944, Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, on "D-Day," beginning the liberation of German-occupied western Europe during World War II.

**On this date:** In 1799, American politician and orator Patrick Henry died at Red Hill Plantation in Virginia.

In 1844, the Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London.

In 1912, the greatest volcanic eruption of the 20th century took place as Novarupta in Alaska began a series of explosive episodes over a 60-hour period.

In 1925, Walter Percy Chrysler founded the Chrysler Corp.

In 1934, the Securities and Exchange Commission was established.

In 1939, the first Little League game was played as Lundy Lumber defeated Lycoming Dairy 23-8 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In 1955, the U.S. Post Office introduced regular certified mail service.

In 1966, black activist James Meredith was shot and wounded as he walked along a Mississippi highway to encourage black voter registration.

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, a day after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

In 1978, California voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13, a primary ballot initiative calling for major cuts in property taxes.

In 1984, government forces in India stormed the Golden Temple in Amritsar in an effort to crush Sikh extremists; at least 1,000 Sikhs and 200 soldiers were killed.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton joined leaders from America's World War II allies to mark the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. A China Northwest Airlines passenger jet crashed near Xian, killing all 160 people on board.

**Ten years ago:** World leaders, including President George W. Bush and French President Jacques Chirac, put aside their differences to commemorate the D-Day invasion that broke Nazi Germany's grip on continental Europe. "Avenue Q" won best musical at the Tony Awards, while "I Am My Own Wife" was named best play; Phylicia Rashad, who starred in a revival of "A Raisin in the

Sun," became the first black actress to win a Tony for a leading dramatic role. Unseeded Gaston Gaudio upset Guillermo Coria 0-6, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, 8-6 to win the French Open.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama visited the American cemetery at Omaha Beach in France to commemorate the 65th anniversary of D-Day. Summer Bird won the Belmont Stakes, rallying past Mine That Bird to spoil jockey Calvin Borel's attempt at winning all three legs of the Triple Crown. Svetlana Kuznetsova beat top-ranked Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-2 in an all-Russian final at the French Open.

**One year ago:** Director of National Intelligence James Clapper moved to tamp down a public uproar spurred by the disclosure of secret surveillance programs involving phone and Internet records, declassifying key details about one of the programs while insisting the efforts were legal, limited in scope and necessary to detect terrorist threats. Russian President Vladimir Putin and his wife, Lyudmila Putina, announced they were divorcing after nearly 30 years of marriage. Esther Williams, 91, the swimming champion turned actress, died in Los Angeles. Longtime soap opera actress Maxine Stuart, 94, died in Beverly Hills, California.

**Today's Birthdays:** Financier Kirk Kerkorian is 97. Actress Billie Whitelaw is 82. Civil rights activist Roy Innis is 80. Singer-songwriter Gary "U.S." Bonds is 75. Country singer Joe Stampley is 71. Actor Robert Englund is 67. Folk singer Holly Near is 65. Singer Dwight Twilley is 63. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein is 62. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 59. International Tennis Hall of Famer Bjorn Borg is 58. Actress Amanda Pays is 55. Comedian Colin Quinn is 55. Record producer Jimmy Jam is 55. Rock musician Steve Vai is 54. Rock singer-musician Tom Araya (Slayer) is 53. Actor Jason Isaacs is 51. Rock musician Sean Yseult (White Zombie) is 48. Actor Max Casella is 47. Actor Paul Giamatti is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Damon Hall (Guy) is 46. Rock musician Bardi Martin is 45. Rock musician James "Munky" Shaffer (Korn) is 44. TV correspondent Natalie Morales is 42. Country singer Lisa Brokop is 41. Rapper-rocker Uncle Kracker is 40. Actress Sonya Walger is 40. Actress Staci Keanan is 39. Actress Amber Borycki is 31. Actress Aubrey Anderson-Emmons is seven.

**Thought for Today:** "To win without risk is to triumph without glory." — Pierre Corneille, French dramatist (1606-1684).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

*The LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart. 1 Samuel 16:7.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



## To D-Day's Heroes!

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

Here in this little French village of Sainte Mere Eglise they remember D-Day.

Sainte Mere Eglise, as students of history and World War II movies know, became the first town to be liberated from Hitler's armies when hundreds of American paratroopers fell from the sky early on the morning of June 6, 1944.

The people of Sainte Mere Eglise have never forgotten the men of the 101st Airborne and 82nd Airborne divisions who were killed or wounded during an operation designed to prevent the Germans from using a road to counterattack the amphibious landings at Utah and Omaha beaches.

They've renamed village streets for Dwight Eisenhower and other American generals and they have hung a white parachute and a dummy of a paratrooper from the spire of the village church to commemorate the story of John Steele.

Steele was the U.S. 82nd Airborne private — played by Red Buttons in "The Longest Day" — whose chute got hung up on the church roof and survived being shot by the German soldiers below only by playing dead for two hours.

My wife Colleen and I are in Normandy with my Reagan Legacy Foundation, which raised money to help send 14 veterans of D-Day back to France to celebrate an important day in history that too few Americans under 60 know anything about.

We'll walk on Omaha and Utah beaches. We'll visit the American cemetery at Colleville. And on Friday morning, the 6th of June, we'll be at Sword Beach for the official international ceremony co-chaired by President Obama and French President Hollande.

For understandable reasons, D-Day is a huge deal here. The people of Sainte Mere Eglise have already been marking the 70th anniversary for a week with parades, dedications, reenactments, speeches, walking tours, music performances and a 250-man parachute drop.

To the 1,500 people of this town and

throughout this part of France, June 6 is like a hundred of our Memorial Days rolled into one.

It makes me sad that D-Day means so much to the French but almost nothing to most Americans, particularly those under 60.

I've made a habit for years of asking young people I meet if they know what D-Day is or was.

Most have no clue what I'm talking about. And I'm afraid the few who do know something about the brave and tragic things that happened at Normandy only know it because they've seen "Saving Private Ryan."

When I tell young people D-Day was the day their grandfather's generation landed on the beaches of France, kicked the German war machine's butt and began the liberation of Nazi Europe, many of them are amazed.

"Really?" they say. Their teachers

have clearly never gotten around to telling them what was so important about D-Day — or much else about World War II and the sacrifices our soldiers and sailors made.

Tom Brokaw has said he's shocked by how so many young people are oblivious about our history. They're especially uninformed when it comes to what the "Greatest Generation" did to preserve our freedom and the freedom of millions around the world.

Fewer and fewer members of that great WWII generation are left. The American teenagers who came ashore at Normandy and fought their way to Germany are pushing 90.

In 2024 we'll be lucky to have a platoon of them to help us mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, a day we need to give more respect to and can never afford to forget.

*Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.*



Michael REAGAN

## Our Wars, Our Memories

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

For the first time in my life — which also means for the first time in the course of our history — it's becoming somewhat difficult to find veterans who were part of the D-Day invasion of Normandy, which took place 70 years ago today.

It's not impossible yet, mind you. There are still some old World War II soldiers among us who were part of that armada in some form or another. And they, like the other veterans left from that war, are great veins of knowledge that really should be mined while they are still available to us.

This D-Day anniversary is another unwelcome reminder of the passage of time and the passing of a generation.

However, I've been through this ritual before.

When I was a kid, we had the great benefit of having many veterans at our disposal to talk to about what life was like in the belly of war. There were tales that stoked the imagination and provided living links to our past.

Of course, the war I'm referring to was World War I — also known as the "Great War" or the sadly overoptimistic "War to End all Wars." It was a defining conflict for our society the likes of which we had never seen before and, God willing, would never see again.

As a kid, I played with family war mementoes tucked away in my grandparents' attic, things like musty gas masks, a spiked German helmet and flat American doughboy helmets. I was also given a battlefield trinket: a large bandana-type cloth, bordered in a deep and regal red, that was adorned with a detailed map of a section of Poland around Danzig and had etchings of Germany's Kaiser Wilhelm and Gen. Paul Von Hindenburg prominent above all that cartographic detail. I was told this heirloom was plucked from the body of a dead German soldier by a relative; indeed, there were even blood stains on the cloth — blotches of DNA from a nameless soul who died somewhere in some wartime fashion many wars ago.

The people who lived through the era of that war — not only the soldiers — were resources that served me for a long time. I did a story back in the late 1980s about America's entry into World War I in 1917. I spoke with legendary Yankton College coach Carl Youngworth, who recalled being a student at YC when he got word of a commotion downtown the day

the U.S. entered the war. He and a friend went down to check it out, and they witnessed the enthusiastic burning (or purging) of German-language books in Yankton's streets. There were other stories from other sources, like German-language tombstones being vandalized,

dachshunds being burned alive by jeering crowds and hostilities that forced people of German descent to flee some towns in our area for the safety of others. It was an extraordinary age in this country and for the people here, and I heard several fascinating tales.

Now, most all those people are gone. All the old soldiers, wherever they scattered to around the globe after the war ended, are believed to have passed, joining and completing the ranks of the 9 million other soldiers who perished during the conflict. Their ancient stories are now second-hand memories, and they

surely took some unspoken and unimagined tales to their graves.

That's our loss — a predictably inevitable one, to be sure.

This summer marks the centennial of the beginning of World War I in Europe, which is a sobering milestone. At least it is to me: I knew people who were involved in a war that took place 100 years ago. I am truly getting old, I guess. And in a way, all that remains of them is what they shared with people like me.

As much as we will remember the start of that first World War this summer, it will never be quite the same as when its veterans were here to paint more vivid pictures.

That's a lesson to bear in mind on this Normandy anniversary. Seventy years ago today was a moment when the fate of mankind teetered in the balance. We need to understand what was done on this day in 1944, and the days, weeks and months thereafter — as well as the things that happened at other places in that war far removed from the beaches of France. We need to know. And right now, we still have some resources left to teach us about our history and ourselves.

It's an opportunity too rich to pass up. And today reminds us, rather insistently, that our opportunities are quickly running out.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly\_hertz/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.



Kelly HERTZ

**YOUR LETTERS**

**Medicaid Expansion**

**Francis McCabe, Lake Andes**  
What can be said about refusal to expand Medicaid in South Dakota in spite of promised assistance from the federal government? This can be said:  
• Cruel

- Merciless
- Stone-hearted
- Partisan politics at its very worst and ugliest form

South Dakotans, please speak out! Make an effort to ensure that tens of thousands of working poor gain access to this program which could save lives.