VIEWS PAGE: kelly.hertz@yankton.net



THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

ment: the U.S. Supreme Court.

that ruling ever since.

senile elders

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

OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Supreme Court

And Gun Control

BLOOMBERG NEWS: Conservative majorities in legislatures

in the Southern and Western U.S. have aggressively expanded gun rights in recent years. But there is one venue where the conserva-

tive majority has proved surprisingly reluctant to join this move-

In 2008, the court's five conservatives issued the landmark 5-4

decision in Heller v. District of Columbia, which held that the Sec-

ond Amendment guarantees an individual right to bear arms. Gun-

While the gun-rights movement's legislative success in conserva-

The city's police code requires handguns at home to be stored in

tive states has been extraordinary, its record in the courts has been

mixed. In 2014, the Supreme Court opted not to weigh in on a New

Jersey law requiring residents to show a "justifiable need" to carry

a locked container or disabled with a trigger lock when not carried

Circuit Court of Appeals that said the 2007 law did not significantly

While plaintiffs, including the National Rifle Association, argued

on the person. The Supreme Court let stand a ruling by the Ninth

that the San Francisco law was similar to the Washington law the

court struck down seven years ago, the city countered that its ordi-

That appears to have been enough of a distinction to carry the

nance "allows citizens to carry loaded and unlocked handguns on

day — or at least avoid dealing with the issue for another day. The

locked or carried, then they will remain out of reach of children or

to hear the case, writing that the lower court's ruling was "in seri-

ous tension" with Heller. Yet in that decision, Thomas's conserva-

The court's refusal to hear the appeal of the San Francisco law

is, however, in serious tension with the gun-rights movement and

its proposition that the Second Amendment trumps all other rights

and considerations. Until the court says otherwise, states, counties

time, states with maximalist gun laws will offer striking counter-

examples. The politics — and law — of gun regulation is far from

and cities can maintain reasonable restrictions on guns. At the same

The PRESS & DAKOTAN invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask that

Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject,

• In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will ac-

Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to

Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number

sloshed ashore in the Florida Panhandle

London to write off more than \$40 billion of debt owed by the poorest nations.

French journalist Florence Aubenas and her Iraqi assistant were freed after more

than five months as hostages in Iraq. Afleet Alex won the Belmont Stakes by

seven lengths.

Five years ago: Twenty campers in

a southwestern Arkansas gorge died in a pre-dawn flash flood of the Little Missouri

River, Joran van der Sloot was ordered

jailed in Peru on first-degree murder and robbery charges in the beating and stran-gling death of Stephany Flores. The FIFA World Cup opened in South Africa to the joyous sound of vuvuzelas; it was the first

Joyous sound or vuvuzetas; it was the linst World Cup to be played in Africa.

One year ago: During a Capitol Hill hearing, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel aggressively defended the secret prisoner exchange of five Taliban detainees for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, telling Congress that the risker were too great road the city to the

risks were too great and the situation too uncertain for the administration to tell law-

makers about the plan. Acclaimed actress and civil rights activist Ruby Dee, 91, died

Today's Birthdays: U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., is 85. Actor Gene Wilder is 82. Comedian Johnny Brown is 78. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 76. Singer

Joey Dee is 75. Actress Adrienne Bar-beau is 70. Rock musician Frank Beard

(ZZTop) is 66. Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk is 66. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 63. Actor Peter Bergman is 62. Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is

59. Actor Hugh Laurie is 56. TV personality Mehmet Oz, M.D., is 55. Singer Gioia Bruno (Expose) is 52. Rock musician Dan Lavery (Tonic) is 49. Country singer-song-

writer Bruce Robison is 49. Actress Clare
Carey is 48. Actor Peter Dinklage is 46.
Country musician Smilin' Jay McDowell
is 46. Actor Lenny Jacobson is 41. Rock

musician Tai Anderson (Third Day) is 39. Actor Joshua Jackson is 37. Christian rock

musician Ryan Shrout is 35. Actor Shia LaBeouf is 29.

Thought for Today: "People do not believe lies because they have to, but because they want to." — Malcolm Muggeridge, British author and commentator (1903-1990).

in New Rochelle, New York.

read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

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be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity

tive colleague Antonin Scalia wrote: "Like most rights, the right

secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited.

OUR LETTER POLICY

cept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

a few simple guidelines be followed:

clarity and newspaper style in mind.

IN HISTORY

day of 2015. There are 203 days left in the

Today's Highlights in History: On June 11, 1919, Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's

Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine

of Aragon.
In 1770, Captain James Cook, com-

mander of the British ship Endeavour, discovered the Great Barrier Reef off Aus-

tralia by running onto it. In 1938, Johnny Vander Meer pitched

the first of two consecutive no-hitters as

he led the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-0 victory

over the Boston Bees. (Four days later, Vander Meer refused to give up a hit to the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost, 6-0.)
In 1942, the United States and the

Soviet Union signed a lend-lease agreement to aid the Soviet war effort in World

1, the first operational hovercraft, was publicly demonstrated off the southern

in San Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft; they

were never found or heard from again. In 1963, a Buddhist monk, Thich

Quang Duc, set himself afire on a Saigon street to protest the government of South

Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem. In 1975, Robert Altman's ensemble

musical drama "Nashville," released by

Paramount Pictures, opened in New York.
In 1977, Seattle Slew won the Belmont Stakes, capturing the Triple Crown.

In 1985, Karen Ann Quinlan, the co-matose patient whose case prompted a

historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, New Jersey, at age 31.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that people who commit "hate crimes"

motivated by bigotry may be sentenced to extra punishment; the court also ruled

religious groups had a constitutional right to sacrifice animals in worship services.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by injection at the federal prison

in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

Ten years ago: The first tropical storm of the 2005 season, Arlene,

Grateful Thanks

FROM THE BIBLE

But taking her by the hand He called, saying, "Child, arise." Luke

8:54. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

coast of England.

In 1959, the Saunders-Roe Nautical

In 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz

On this date: In 1509, England's King

hursdav. June 11. the

By The Associated Press

first Triple Crown winner.

Justice Clarence Thomas disagreed with the court's decision not

public-policy rationale is clear: If guns are required to be stored,

impinge on gun owners' Second Amendment rights.

their person at any time, including in a holster."

a handgun in public. Now it has sidestepped a dispute over a San

Francisco law that places limits on handguns inside the house.

rights proponents have been pushing both to clarify and expand

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President of Tri-State Old Iron

Rodger Harts, Yankton

On behalf of Tri-State Old Iron Association, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jack and Cindy of JoDean's Steakhouse for allowing us to celebrate our 10 year anniversary of Tri-State Old Iron. We are an antique and small engine club whose purpose is to help preserve the history and agricultural heritage of the farming community.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR A special thanks to Jack of JoDean's for providing hot dogs and drinks to the guests who came to view the 135 antique tractors and 32 small engines, as well as all the other exhibits displayed both outside and

inside. What a fantastic day we had to celebrate this occasion! Thanks to all of our members for taking the time to make this the best show we ever had.

As Jack would say "Tri-State Old Iron is 10 years old and still going strong.'





Pool Party Mayhem

Kathleen

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON - Video imagery doesn't get much worse than a white police officer throwing an African-American girl in a bikini to the ground, kneeling on her back as she cries, and drawing his gun on other

What in God's name is wrong with our cops?

I should say, what was wrong with McKinney, Texas, police Cpl. Eric Casebolt, the officer in the video? Would that this were an isolated case, but we've seen other videos the past year or so involving other police officers, mostly white, whose aggressive tactics resulted in death or injury to unarmed, black victims.

PARKER While it's necessary to qualify that most cops are good and risk their lives to protect our safety, nothing justifies what millions of Americans witnessed in the latest viral video described above.

The 15-year-old girl reportedly was mouthing off; Casebolt may have felt flustered as he faced dozens of teenagers following a fight he didn't yet understand; the moment may even have felt dangerous to him. We don't know.

What has been reported is that the original melee, which had ended by the time police arrived, may have been prompted by two white women hurling racial slurs when a crowd of teens, mostly black, arrived for a cookout at the private, planned-community pool.

"Go back to [your] Section 8 home," one of them reportedly said, according to the party's host, a teen who lives in the pool's neighbor-

Most anyone can understand the women's irritation at the suddenly overcrowded scene but not their resort to cruel and inflammatory language. Some of the teens apparently were shouting at the gate to be let in, while others scaled the wall. The mixed-race community has strict rules that residents can bring only two guests to the pool.

A fight eventually erupted and the police were called. This would have been a daunting situation for anyone, but Casebolt couldn't have picked a less appropriate individual to subdue as an example to others. Many have asked: Didn't he realize he was being filmed? As though, if only he'd known, he would have behaved better. The more compelling question to me is: What in the world was he thinking?

Obviously, Casebolt felt he had to take command of what appeared to be a chaotic situation. But we've reached a point where something has to be done, not only to better monitor police behavior, but also to quell inevitable racial tensions.

Were Casebolt's actions racially motivated? A black resident said no; a white resident said

yes, according to CNN. The white teen who filmed the incident, partygoer Brandon Brooks, said police were targeting blacks. Benet Embry, a 43-yearold black resident, said the incident was not racially motivated.

Perhaps. Yet the image of a black girl pinned down by a white cop is impossible to shake and brings to mind the closing defense argument in the film "A Time to Kill." The attorney, whose black client had killed his little girl's rapists and torturers, described the scene of the broken, nearly dead child to the all-white jury.
"I want you to picture that little girl.

Now imagine she's white."

It was a chilling, convincing moment. Does anyone think that Casebolt would have treated a bikini-clad white girl with long, blond hair the same way?

Recent debate has focused on body cameras for police. Although cameras can positively modify actions, they only capture what happens, not what motivates behavior. It seems our greater concern should be getting at those motivations with a greater focus on in-depth psychological testing and monitoring

Even if some departments do background checks and take other measures, they're apparently not doing enough. The Cleveland officer who shot and killed a 12-year-old boy last November had been cited in a previous job for emotional immaturity, yet the Cleveland department didn't review those records before

Many officers come from the military. Have they seen battle? Do they suffer post-traumatic stress? Casebolt was a former military police officer in the Navy, which may mean nothing, but he brings that experience to the job. Are there factors therein?

It was clear from the footage that Casebolt had lost his cool. He was angry. Maybe anybody would have been under the circumstances. But a police officer shouldn't be just "anybody." Armed with a gun and the authority to use it, he should always be the exception to ordinary human behavior.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

Writer's Block

A Few Old Horse Tales

BY JIM VAN OSDEL

For the Press & Dakotan

Sitting on a bench waiting for my girls to shop in a few months ago gave me the opportunity to enjoy a brief visit with another fellow horse lover, John Morman of rural Crofton. He had told me in an earlier

visit he had sold our Dad, J. Lyle Van Osdel, a sorrel horse with white mane and tail in the early Forties. (Coincidentally, I had worked with Lois Ann, his daughter-in-law, at the *P&D* years Mr. Morman told me he had won

three prizes with the horse he called Trigger. Then a high school buddy came along and told him, "You know the horse won those prizes, don't

Our Mom, Franny, took lots of pictures in those early days. Raising six kids has a tendency to reduce time available for most hobbies. One of her early pictures shows her diminutive first-born astride a sorrel with white mane and tail which, I believe, was the horse Dad had purchased from Mr. Morman. I remembered the name Dad gave to the horse was Tony, the name given to the horse ridden by movie cowboy star, Tom Mix.

Our father's only hobby, other than having a long conversation with friends, was working with horses. In the late 1940s, a school teacher/ administrator from Gayville brought a wild white mare to be boarded on our farm seven miles east of Yankton. Dad said that he didn't offer such service as a business. The owner of the mare said she was so wild that most people could not handle her, which immediately peaked Dad's interest. A deal was struck and so ensued an interesting relationship.

Memory recalls that, after supper, Dad would light a straight Camel and saunter down to the corral where the mare was kept, between the three-story corn crib and the loading chute next to the livestock watering tank supplied by an artesian well. He held a straight white training whip and whistled at the horse. The uninitiated may think the whip was an instrument of terror but, in reality, it was the baton of authority to the horse. That's about all I remember. But a few weeks later, the teacher drove onto the farm and asked Dad if he could borrow

an ear of corn in order to try to catch the mare that was out in the pasture west of the house.

Dad told the man he needed no corn. They walked down the lane, west of our home, to the gate of the pasture where the milk cows, horses and ponies all grazed together in a field of tall,

waving brome grass. Dad whistled and the mare promptly sauntered over to the gate to be patted. The owner was amazed and thoroughly enjoyed his horse thereafter.

I wish I had more than a mental picture of Dad with his team of Palominos. On spring, summer and fall evenings and on Sunday (the Dutch never worked on Sunday), Dad would hitch up the pair of palominos, named Pal and Pat, to an old horse-drawn sickle bar mower and he and the palominos would clean up around the farm feed yards and commence to mow his fence rows around the edge of the fields.

Our Dad was born in 1907 which would place him going on 107 years had he not died a painful death from bone cancer in 1974. Mom would be 97 had she not contracted lung cancer at age 93. The lady doctor told Franny that those cigarettes she had puffed so many years ago finally caught up with her.

But, she insisted, she had never inhaled. I told her that was Bill Clinton's story, as well. I caught one of those baleful stares that indicated she would deal with me later.

Dad told me once that, although the tractor was much more efficient, he really missed farming with horses. He said that cultivating corn on a hot summer day could put you to sleep. At the end of the row, the horses would impatiently stamp their feet and snort through their noses or elsewhere I suppose, until the driver awoke, clucked at the team, turned them around and got them back on automatic pilot down the next corn row.

Can you imagine cleaning the barn on Saturday morning with six or eight teams of horses kept in their stalls? If you cannot, too bad. Quite an era. The Saturday morning barn created some interesting language that 3-year-olds can carry to the dinner table. Then the hired men and I were all in deep trouble. Just another page in the diary.



Van Osdel