

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861  
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## We Say

### Banned Together



**THUMBS UP** to the Yankton School District for adding nicotine to the list of banned substances in its district training rules. This addition is in response to the growing popularity of e-cigarettes, which are electronic devices that mimic the behavior of smoking, using vapor instead of smoke, but do include the chemical nicotine, which is a potent stimulant found in tobacco products. According to the U.S. National Library on Medicine, nicotine can be addictive and create serious withdrawal issues. The e-cigarettes themselves can look like regular cigarettes, or they can look like pens which are hard to distinguish in a school setting. By adding nicotine to the training rules for anyone involved in school activities, the school district is adding another step of prevention in looking out for the well-being of students.

### Coming Up Short



**THUMBS DOWN** to the persisting teacher shortage in South Dakota, which this week was spelled out in a press release from the School Administrators of South Dakota. Its survey found that one-third of 837 open positions advertised for the coming school year remained unfilled at the end of May. That's a disturbing number (up from 803 at the same point last year) that does not bode well for our students, our school districts and the towns that support them. It also points to the importance and the urgency of work being done by the Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Education, which convened last in Yankton. Everyone is basically agreed on the problem — low wages, which are last in the country; the key is finding the solutions. Hopefully, the task force can present something concrete to lawmakers this winter.

### Opening Up



**THUMBS UP** to Yankton and Pickstown native Tom Brokaw, for addressing the very personal issue of his battle with cancer in his new book, "A Lucky Life Interrupted." In an interview in today's "River City" section of the *Press & Dakotan*, the former NBC Nightly News anchor, newsman and author discusses the battled he has faced and the goals he still has in his life. His cancer is in remission, and the thankful Brokaw says he is revising his "bucket list" of life goals — a big chore for a life that has already seen and accomplished so much. We're delighted with his prognosis and wish him well as he tackles the next chapters of his life — of which, no doubt, there will be many.

## ONLINE OPINION

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

### LATEST RESULTS:

Do you view the massacre at the Charleston, South Carolina, church as an act of "domestic terrorism?"  
No.....50%  
Yes.....46%  
Not sure.....4%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST .....294**

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 agree with the U.S. Supreme Court decision that essentially upholds the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare)?  
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, June 26, the 177th day of 2015. There are 188 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On June 26, 1945, the charter of the United Nations was signed by 50 countries in San Francisco.

**On this date:** In 1483, Richard III began his reign as King of England (he was crowned the following month at Westminster Abbey).  
In 1870, the first section of Atlantic City, New Jersey's Boardwalk was opened to the public.  
In 1915, following a whirlwind courtship, poet T.S. Eliot married Vivienne Haigh-Wood in London. (The marriage proved disastrous, but the couple never divorced.) Air conditioning manufacturer Carrier Engineering Corp. was incorporated in New York.

In 1875, Charles Chaplin's classic comedy "The Gold Rush" premiered at Grauman's Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.  
In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a second term of office by delegates to the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia.  
In 1950, President Harry S. Truman authorized the U.S. Air Force and Navy to enter the Korean War.  
In 1959, President Dwight D. Eisenhower joined Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in ceremonies officially opening the St. Lawrence Seaway. Swedish boxer Ingemar Johansson knocked out Floyd Patterson in the third round of their match at New York's Yankee Stadium to win the heavyweight title.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy visited West Berlin, where he delivered his famous speech expressing solidarity with the city's residents, declaring: "Ich bin ein Berliner" (I am a Berliner).  
In 1973, former White House counsel John W. Dean told the Senate Watergate Committee about an "enemies list" kept by the Nixon White House.  
In 1974, the supermarket price scanner made its debut in Troy, Ohio, as a 10-pack of Wrigley's Juicy Fruit chewing gum costing 67 cents and bearing a Uniform Product Code (UPC) was scanned by a Marsh Supermarket cashier.  
In 1988, three people were killed when a new Airbus A320 jetliner carrying more than 130 people crashed into a forest during a demonstration at an air show in Mulhouse, France.  
In 1990, President George H.W. Bush went back on his "no-new-taxes" campaign pledge, conceding that tax increases would have to be included in any deficit-reduction package worked out with congressional negotiators.  
**Ten years ago:** Dozens of international leaders met in San Francisco to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the United Nations' birth. Tens of thousands of festively dressed people marched in parades around the country to celebrate the 35th anniversary of gay pride. South Korea's

Birdie Kim holed a 30-yard bunker shot to birdie the 18th hole and win the U.S. Women's Open.

**Five years ago:** At odds over how to strengthen the global economic recovery, Group of Eight leaders meeting in Canada did find common ground on foreign policy, condemning North Korea for the alleged sinking of a South Korean warship and endorsing a five-year exit timetable for Afghanistan. Ghana sent the U.S. packing from the World Cup in South Africa, eliminating the Americans in the second round.

**One year ago:** The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that President Barack Obama had exceeded his executive authority in 2012 when he appointed members to the National Labor Relations Board without Senate confirmation. The nation's highest court also unanimously struck down the 35-foot protest-free zone outside abortion clinics in Massachusetts, declaring it an unconstitutional restraint on the free-speech rights of protesters. Former Senate majority leader and White House chief of staff Howard Baker, 88, died at his Tennessee home. Julius Rudel, 93, who was the general director and principal conductor for the New York City Opera for 22 years, died in New York. Mary Rodgers, 83, the daughter of famed Broadway composer Richard Rodgers who found her own fame as composer of "Once Upon a Mattress" and as author of the body-shifting book "Freaky Friday," died in New York.

**Today's Birthdays:** Jazz musician-film composer Dave Grusin is 81. Actor Josef Sommer is 81. Singer Billy Davis Jr. is 77. Rock singer Georgie Fame is 72. Actor Clive Francis is 69. Rhythm-and-blues singer Brenda Holloway is 69. Actor Michael Paul Chan is 65. Actor Robert Davi is 64. Singer-musician Mick Jones is 60. Actor Geddie Watanabe is 60. Rock singer Chris Isaak is 59. Rock singer Patty Smyth is 58. Singer Terri Nunn (Berlin) is 54. U.S. Bicycling Hall of Famer Greg LeMond is 54. Rock singer Harriet Wheeler (The Sundays) is 52. Country musician Eddie Perez (The Mavericks) is 47. Rock musician Colin Greenwood (Radiohead) is 46. Writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson is 45. Actor Sean Hayes is 45. Actor Matt Letscher is 45. Actor Chris O'Donnell is 45. Actor Nick Offerman is 45. Actress Rebecca Budig is 42. MLB All-Star Derek Jeter is 41. Contemporary Christian musician Jeff Frankenstein (Newsboys) is 41. Country singer Gretchen Wilson is 41. Rock musician Nathan Followill (Kings of Leon) is 36. Pop-rock singer-musician Ryan Tedder (OneRepublic) is 36. Actor-musician Jason Schwartzman is 35. Actress Aubrey Plaza is 31. Actress-singer Jennette McCurdy is 23. Actress-singer Ariana Grande is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "The formula for success is simple: practice and concentration then more practice and more concentration." — Babe Didrikson Zaharias, American athlete and golfing Hall of Famer (born this date in 1911, died in 1956).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*Not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. 1 Peter 1:18-19.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



# Confederate Flag: What's In The Breeze

BY KELLY HERTZ

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The Confederate flag has to go — but not too far, because we're not through with it.

That in itself is surprising, if you assess the matter from a coldly historical perspective. The fact that we still tolerate and/or proudly embrace the emblem of a movement that attempted to secede from this nation (a wanton act of rebellion and treason) and practiced the moral cancer of slavery has always baffled me. (I was also told several years ago that the flag is a resolute symbol of states' rights; that's fine, I thought, but look at the damning issue to which that cause attached itself. Seriously.)

However, the flag is not the real problem.

You might not realize that fact if you've listened to the rhetoric about the flag since nine people were gunned down at a historic black church in Charleston, South Carolina, last week.

Gov. Nikki Haley (S.C.) made an emotional appearance at a press conference in which she decried the slaughter, carried out by a white supremacist who, on a website filled with racial rants, had posted several photos of himself with a small Confederate flag. Haley professed her grief at South Carolina's statehouse, where a Confederate "Stars and Bars" fluttered on a flagpole over the proceedings. To call this awkward would be terribly kind.

Soon thereafter, the longtime call to remove the controversial flag became a hot battle cry. On Monday, Haley relented, sort of, by asking her state's Legislature to consider taking the flag down. Also, the retail likes of Walmart and Amazon announced they would stop selling items bearing the flag. Pressure began mounting on Mississippi, which has the Stars and Bars incorporated into its state flag, to remove the thing from its banner. Alabama has announced it is taking down its four Confederate flags from its state capitol grounds, and Virginia's governor has ordered the flag to be removed from its state's license plates.

Predictably, a backlash



against the backlash also occurred. Sales of Confederate flags and imagery reportedly spiked on Amazon before it pulled the plug, and some South Carolina legislators were digging in to fight the removal of the statehouse flag; for them, it is a symbol of a deep generational pride from a war waged on their own soil 150 years ago.

Nevertheless, the flag needs to go.

I understand the pride that's tied to the symbol (and the historical variations of it) by some people, most of whom don't consider it an emblem of racial subjugation.

But I also understand what millions of African-Americans probably see in the thing. The spirit tied to that flag didn't die with the end of the Civil War: What followed was a century of civil rights oppression, lynchings and other acts that laid bare how far our racial maturity had yet to go.

Racial animus is still woven into our fabric. Last week's massacre was an extreme expression of that, but there are many other, far less genocidal threads that can be found (and certainly, not just in the South, not just toward blacks and, really, not just among whites). In very many minds, the old Confederate flag still represents all that ugliness and more. And to be fair, there are those who see the flag as an emblem of familial pride who favor its removal.)

But while the flag should be removed as an official symbol of 21st century governmental symbolism — that it was even a part of the 20th century seemed surreal — it should not be purged from our society.

Former Florida governor and current Republican

presidential hopeful Jeb Bush is right when he says the flag should be put into a museum. That's precisely where it belongs, as a reminder of what was. While there would be those who still see it as a symbol of pride, it could be inspected by many others as a relic of the brutal institution of slavery and what it meant to millions of human beings who were black. Who were constitutionally considered three-fifths of a person. Who were bought and sold as property. Who were deemed inferior.

Ultimately, however, the Confederate flag needs to be considered in its real perspective.

It must be remembered that the flag didn't enslave people, inflict whipping and abuse or break up whole families as easily as one might cull cattle from a herd.

It wasn't that flag that lynched black people or ran them out of towns.

It wasn't that flag that created Jim Crow laws, segregation, the Ku Klux Klan and other racial specters that have haunted this nation and still scar us today.

No, that flag is just a piece of cloth.

It's the people who make the flag a symbol of heritage, hate, resistance and hell.

So, the flag has to go, simply out of practical sanity. It has no place in this age, other than as a lesson about old times that must not be forgotten.

But the actions and the attitudes that gave the flag such fierce worth are the real problem. And they still seem to twist in an unsettled American breeze.

Follow @kelly\_hertz on Twitter.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A Bypass For Yankton

Frank Kloucek, Scotland

Recently, excellent letters have been written concerning the need for a truck bypass around Yankton. I agree wholeheartedly with those comments.

It's time to put the word "we" back into Yankton's vocabulary to help truckers cope with the ongoing traffic issues. It's time to help farmers when they're busy hauling grain and livestock to Stockmen's Livestock Auction, Yankton Livestock Auction and Cimpl's, and hauling grain, fertilizer, feed and other products to and from Yankton and other destinations. It's time to help delivery, service and other trucks by providing a bypass to avoid the congestion on Highway 81/Broadway.

A bypass would also prevent the state's expensive plan to expand Fourth Street to five lanes. That project will make the roadway more dangerous for pedestrians, bicyclists and local traffic in historic downtown Yankton. It's ironic that, as the city is spending great resources to create a plaza, walking paths and parks on the south side of the downtown area, citizens are being forced to accept a five-lane truck corridor two blocks away.

A bypass will help alleviate wear and tear on Yankton's road system and extend road life, reduce repair costs, etc., for years to come. Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Rapid City and many other towns have such bypasses.

With the huge tax increases passed by this year's Legislature totaling approximately \$185 million in license fees, wheel taxes and property taxes for roads and bridges, the time's right for such a project. Updating existing roads around Yankton for a bypass is a real possibility.

### 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.

● Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

● Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at [kelly.hertz@yankton.net](mailto:kelly.hertz@yankton.net).

Please consider attending the Regional State Transportation Improvement Plan meeting July 14 at the Sioux Falls Ramkota starting at 7 p.m. to show your support. We'll try to organize car pooling if possible for the trip to Sioux Falls.

Also consider contacting Ralph Marquardt, our regional representative on the state Transportation board, and request his support.

The time has come to do the right thing for Yankton and the surrounding area. Let's make a good-faith effort to put the truck bypass on the five-year STIP plan to benefit everyone for years to come.