

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
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OPINION | WE SAY

Farewell



THUMBS DOWN to this week's departure of Yankton Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Lisa Scheve for a new job as executive director of the Cass County Nebraska Economic Development Council.

Responsibility



THUMBS DOWN to the unfortunate incident this week in which a 12-year-old girl was mauled by a pit bull east of Yankton. The most troubling part of the story is that the attack was not unforeseeable.

Minimal



THUMBS DOWN to the successful effort by a minority of 41 Republican senators — including South Dakota Sen. John Thune and Nebraska Sens. Deb Fischer and Mike Johanns — to at least temporarily halt progress on a federal minimum wage increase to \$10.10 per hour and to peg future raises to inflation.

Passing



THUMBS DOWN to the death of 71-year-old English actor Bob Hoskins. While many news stories this week said he was best known for roles in films like "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" and "Hook," we'll most remember him for his turns in less Hollywood fare like "The Long Good Friday," "Pennies from Heaven" and "Mona Lisa."

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner will ever be found?
No ... 58%
Yes ... 42%
TOTAL VOTES CAST ... 326

CURRENT QUESTION:

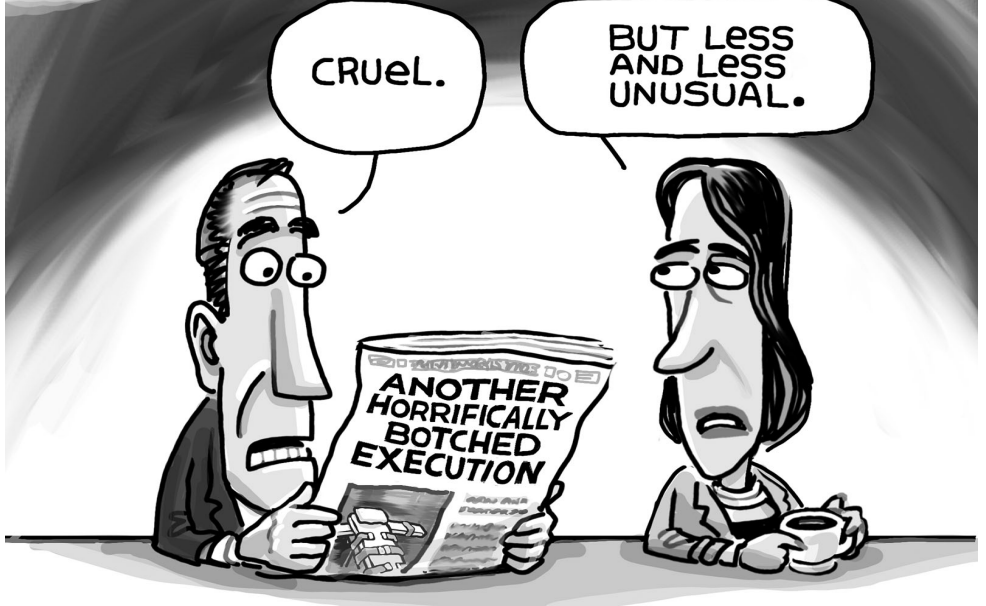
Should each state be required to recognize concealed carry gun permits from other states?
To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Friday, May 2, the 122nd day of 2014. There are 243 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On May 2, 1908, the original version of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game," with music by Albert Von Tilzer and lyrics by Jack Norworth, was published by Von Tilzer's York Music Co.

FROM THE BIBLE

Four things on earth are small. Proverbs 30:24. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



An Instant Lesson

BY KELLY HERTZ

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I learned a fascinating lesson this week about the power of social media. But I'm not quite sure what to do with it. This lesson began about midday Tuesday when a rumor came in about a bomb threat at Yankton High School.



Kelly HERTZ

Right here, I need to pause to briefly discuss the newspaper business here in the second decade of the 21st century. As you know, a "newspaper" isn't about just a newspaper anymore. We have been producing a non-print online product for almost 17 years.

Lately (and perhaps a tad belatedly), we've ramped up our presence on social media such as Twitter and Facebook, which allows us to push out instant, snapshot updates of what's going on in our market.

As a result, the Press & Dakotan now has the kind of immediacy at our disposal that was unknown here for nearly 140 years. And only within the last few years have we really begun to showcase this instantaneous fact (which also includes video by the way) of our operation.

That, arguably, was demonstrated Tuesday. Let's get back to the bomb threat story. After the situation was confirmed to me, I dashed off a two-sentence synopsis of what I knew and put it online. I also tweeted it out (which promptly began getting retweeted) and sent out a text alert to mobile users.

But apparently, the "damage" — if that's what you want to call it — was done. What I didn't reckon upon in my reactive re-

sponse to the situation was that many of the kids who were inside the school confined to their fifth-period classrooms didn't know what was going on until they saw this newspaper's text alert come across their phones. With that, I've been told, the mood changed. (A lot of them apparently thought it was another routine drug search.)

I was so focused on getting this information (such as it was, when you look back on it) out in short order that I didn't reckon on the fact that some of the people directly involved would be finding out about it through what I was doing.

And that's the lesson learned. But now, what do we do with it? Do we slow down and not report information in a timely fashion what has been confirmed to us, waiting instead until everything can be neatly summarized some time after the fact?

Or do we damn the torpedoes and go full speed ahead, even delving into second-hand accounts and rumors (which a couple other media in this region have done, but not anybody in the Yankton market) that may or may not prove to be wholly accurate? Well, you know that answer.

I tend to see each news day as unexplored territory. We have the tools and training to deal with whatever happens, but we never know precisely WHAT will happen — or how or even if it will happen — until it does. And every such event seems to play out a little bit differently, demanding slight variations in our process. It's an exhilarating challenge.

But now, when you have only seconds instead of hours to make some journalistic decisions, the demands of immediacy are capable of taking you down unexpected paths.

I look at what happened Tuesday with genuinely mixed feelings — but honestly, I don't really know if I would have done anything differently. Perhaps that will change. This episode gave me some valuable experience in what is for us a new realm of possibilities. It provided me with some fresh insights and it reinforced some old instincts.

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

Meet Dumb And Dumberer

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency



Leonard PITTS

Oh, my Lord, where to begin? You already know what this column is about. You know even though we are barely three sentences in. You knew before you saw the headline.

There are days in the opinion business when one story makes itself inevitable and unavoidable, one story sucks up all the air in the room. This is one of those times. One story.

Bundy, of course, is the Nevada rancher whose refusal to pay fees to allow his cattle to graze on public land made him a cause celebre on the political right. They enthusiastically embraced his government-is-the-enemy ideology (Timothy McVeigh would be proud) and militia types flocked to his side, eager for an armed standoff.

Until the press conference where Bundy relieved himself of a few opinions regarding — ahem — "the Negro."

And again: where to begin? Black people "put" their sons in jail? Slavery promoted family life? And get pardon, but what is free usage of federal land if not a government subsidy? There is so much stupid packed into those words you'd need a chisel to get it all out.

Small wonder that last week the extreme right treated its hero as the rats treated Titanic, shocked — simply shocked! — to learn that a guy who leads an army in refusing to recognize the existence of the federal government might be nuts.

YOUR LETTERS

City Services

Stacey Kruger, Yankton
I am writing this letter because I wonder how many people in this city care about the cost of the City of Yankton's utilities (ie, water, sewer, garbage) and if anyone else thinks the prices are getting out of line.

and bringing them to his games. Sterling also says of Clippers players: "I support them and give them food, and clothes, and cars and houses. Who gives it to them?"

So there you have it: frick and frack, the dumb and dumberer of American racial discourse, and predictably, dutifully, media figures, pundits and pols have come together to blow raspberries in their direction, to say all the right things in condemnation of them and their diarrhetic mouths. And yes, they deserve that. Still, there is something facile and dishonest in it, something that reeks of unearned righteousness and even moral cowardice.

The truth is, the idiocy of these men doesn't mean a whole lot, doesn't impact much beyond their immediate lives. We hyperventilate about it, yet somehow manage not to be overly concerned as black boys are funneled into prison, brown ones are required to show their papers, voting rights are interdicted, Fourth Amendment rights are abrogated and some guy has his job application round-filed when the hiring woman sees that his name is Malik.

We keep declaring our country cured of its birth defect of racial hatred. Indeed, that's an article of faith on the political right. It is only possible to think that so long as you don't look too closely, so long as you are willing to ignore dirty deeds done largely out of sight and back of mind by collective hands — everyone guilty, so no one is. Then some guys who didn't get the memo speak a little too stupidly a little too loudly and people condemn them and feel good about themselves for doing so.

But many of us don't really understand what they purport to condemn. Otherwise, how could there be all this noise about that which doesn't matter — and silence about that which does?

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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make government standards.

Recently I tried to pay my utility bill on the phone or online or something, and found out that it isn't possible. This seems antiquated for a community of this size and along with the prices we pay, I think we deserve better!

It is a travesty that more people did not get involved in the City Commission voting. We should expect more from our representatives!