

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861 Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

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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. While we wish Scheve the best in her new endeavor, she will be missed as someone who truly embodied the characteristics needed for her role as

Yankton's tourism industry leader. She could be counted on for a welcoming smile, informed and empathetic assistance for individuals or organizations, and a spark to ignite laughter and comfort in any room. We will miss Scheve for the professional manner in which she carried out her job, but more so we will miss her as a friend to our newsroom. We hope she finds nothing but success in her new economic development role.

OPINION | WE SAY

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. In 2012, the dog committed an unprovoked attack on a boy (not a girl, as the Press & Dakotan had been pre-

viously told by authorities) at the annual Fourth of July fireworks show in Riverside Park. The mother in that case said she and her son were walking past the animal when it bolted at the boy, shredded his shorts and left him with scratches and lacerations all despite being on a leash held by the owner. The mother of Monday's 12-year-old victim said the dog was known to lunge at passersby in the neighborhood while tied up outside its residence. It finally broke free and severely injured an innocent child. Why would someone want to own a pet that reportedly showed so much aggression toward humans? We understand the bonds people create with their pets, but when a dog is so clearly a threat to the public, it should be euthanized — or the responsibility of its actions fall squarely on the owner's shoulders.

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. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. It is a

question of economic justice for millions of laborers. Although only .55 million workers are currently at or below the minimum wage of \$7.25, the increase would directly impact 21.3 million Americans. Recent polls have shown that 65 to 69 percent of Americans support the measure. There is no reason for this subject to be controversial.

Passing



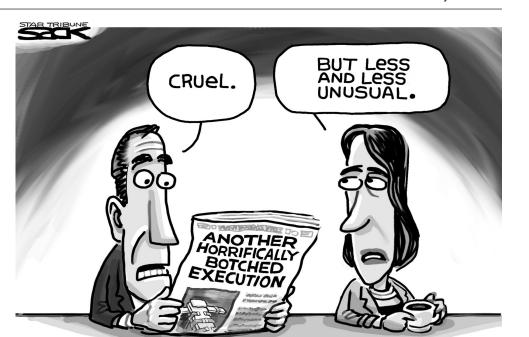
THUMBS DOWN to the death of 71-year-old English actor Bob Hoskins. While many news stories this week said he was best known for roles in films like "Who Framed Roger Rabbit?" and "Hook," we'll most remember him for his turns in less Hollywood fare like "The Long Good Friday," "Pennies from Heaven' and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

ous man who did not have the enlarged ego that can sometimes come with success. Hoskins always brought honesty, enthusiasm and warmth to the screen — even if he wasn't playing an entirely nice per-son. His presence will be missed.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:



An Instant Lesson

Kelly

HERTZ

BY KELLY HERTZ kelly.hertz@yankton.net

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. I called the school district administration building, and it was confirmed to me that there was a threat and that the police were "on site" ...

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. (We still call this "New Media," even though a child born the day our website first went up could be a senior in high

school this fall, which is stunning for me to contemplate.) Because of the web, 24 hours has become a terribly long time to wait to put out news, so we often post items online in between press runs

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. We've also re-launched our mobile service and are now able to blast out text updates to mobile users on any breaking news story that occurs.

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 facet (which also includes video by the way) of our operation.

I confess that I'm still trying to grasp the art of immediacy. It's like new muscle, and the use of it has to become an instinct — and I'm not there yet. But I'm trying, and my skills, I think, are getting better.

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. I then went into a meeting on something utterly unrelated to anything involved

sponse to the situation was that many of the kids who were inside the school confined to their fifthperiod 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.) The same went for a lot of parents, I

later learned.

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.

Perhaps we should just stick to a 24-hour news cycle and leave breaking news to others. Short answer: No.

Or do we keep doing what we're doing?

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 gen-uinely 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. That's a curious lesson, and one that I will probably build upon the next time the unexpected pays a visit.



Sally Whiting Jo Ann Wiebelhaus Brenda Willcuts Jackie Williams

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Do you think the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner will ever be found? TOTAL VOTES CAST .326

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:

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.

boys'

New York at 79.

geles

Bikel

U.S. servicemen were killed across the

country. Martin Torrijos, the son of a for-mer dictator, won Panama's first presi-

dential vote since the handover of the

lapsed during a severe storm in Irving, Texas; a dozen people were hurt, includ-

ing scouting assistant Rich Behm, who

was left paralyzed from the waist down,

and special teams coach Joe DeCamil

is, whose neck was broken. Mine That

Bird, a 50-1 shot, stunned the field by

capturing the Kentucky Derby. Jack

Kemp, former quarterback, congress-man and vice presidential nominee, died in Bethesda, Md., at 73. Author Marilyn

French ("The Women's Room") died in

One year ago: President Barack Obama arrived in Mexico City on his first

trip to Latin America since winning re-

election. Dutchman Robert-Jan Derksen

shot a 6-under 66 to take the first-round

shot a b-under bb to take the first-round lead in the China Open, while 12-year-old Ye Wocheng opened with a 79 at Bin-hai Lake; at 12 years, 242 days, Ye became the youngest player in Euro-pean Tour history, breaking Guan Tian-lang's mark of 13 years, 177 days. Jeff Hanneman, 49, a founding member of heavy metal bank Slayer, died in Los An-reles

Today's Birthdays: Actor Theodore

Bikel is 90. Singer Engelbert Humperdinck is 78. Actress-activist

Bianca Jagger is 69. Country singer R.C. Bannon is 69. Singer Lesley Gore is 68. Actor David Suchet is 68. Singer-song-writer Larry Gatlin is 66. Rock singer Lou

Gramm (Foreigner) is 64. Actress Chris-tine Baranski is 62. Singer Angela Bofill

is 60. Actor Brian Tochi is 55. Movie di-

rector Stephen Daldry is 54. Actress

Elizabeth Berridge is 52. Country singer Ty Herndon is 52. Actress Mitzi Kapture

is 52. Rock musician Todd Sucherman (Styx) is 45. Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson (AKA The Rock) is 42.

Soccer player David Beckham is 39. Ac-

tress Jenna Von Oy is 37. Actress Ellie Kemper is 34. Actor Robert Buckley is

33. Actor Gaius Charles is 31. Pop singer Lily Rose Cooper is 29. Olympic gold medal figure skater Sarah Hughes is 29.

Rock musician Jim Almgren (Carolina

Liar) is 28. Actress Kay Panabaker is 24. **Thought for Today:** "Like ships, men founder time and again." — Henry Miller, American novelist (1891-1980).

Five years ago: The Dallas Cow-s' tent-like practice structure col-

Panama Canal in December 1999.

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 Nor-worth, was published by Von Tilzer's York Music Co.

On this date: In 1519, artist Leonardo da Vinci died at Cloux, France, at age 67

In 1863, during the Civil War, Con-federate Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jack-son was accidentally wounded by his own men at Chancellorsville, Va.; he died eight days later.

In 1890, the Oklahoma Territory was organized.

In 1936, "Peter and the Wolf," a symphonic tale for children by Sergei rokofiev, had its world premiere in Moscow.

In 1945, the Soviet Union announced the fall of Berlin, and the Allies announced the surrender of Nazi troops

in Italy and parts of Austria. In 1957, Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., died at Bethesda Naval Hospital in Maryland.

In 1963, the Children's Crusade began in Birmingham, Ala., as more than 1,000 black schoolchildren skipped classes and marched downtown to protest racial segregation; hundreds were arrested.

In 1964, American-born Nancy Astor, Viscountess Astor, the first woman to serve in the British Parliament, died in Lincolnshire, England, at age 84

In 1972, a fire at the Sunshine silver mine in Kellogg, Idaho, claimed the lives of 91 workers who succumbed to carbon monoxide poisoning. Longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover died in Washing-

ton at age 77. In 1982, the Weather Channel made its debut.

In 1994, Nelson Mandela claimed victory in the wake of South Africa's first democratic elections; President F.W. de Klerk acknowledged defeat.

In 2011, Osama bin Laden was killed by elite American forces at his Pakistan compound, then quickly buried at sea after a decade on the run.

Ten years ago: American truck driver Thomas Hamill, taken captive three weeks earlier, escaped from his kidnappers in Iraq; that same day, nine

FROM THE BIBLE

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

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-

Meet Dumb And Dumberer

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

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.

Well ... two, actually: the misadventures of Cliven Bundy and Donald Sterling.

Bundy, of course, is the Nevada Leonard rancher whose refusal to pay fees to allow his cattle to graze on public land PITTS 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."

"They abort their young children, they put their young men in jail, because they never learned how to pick cotton. And I've often wondered, are they better off as slaves, picking cotton and having a family life and doing things, or are they better off under government subsidy?

And again: where to begin? Black people "put" their sons in jail? Slavery promoted family life? And beg 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.

Which brings us to Sterling, owner of the NBA team the Los Angeles Clippers. A leaked audiotape has Sterling telling a woman friend to stop publicizing her relationships with African-American people

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 Čity of Yankton's utilities (ie, water, sewer, garbage) and if anyone else thinks the prices are getting out of line.

Since 2005, my utilities have doubled and this when getting many notices that the water did not

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

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?

'Give." Mind you, the man is talking about people who work for him.

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. © 2014, The Miami Herald

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!

