

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

# It's Important To Pass The Farm Bill

**RAPID CITY JOURNAL, Rapid City (Oct. 27):** Following the Oct. 4-5 blizzard that killed as many as 30,000 head of cattle in western South Dakota, all three members of the state's congressional delegation and Gov. Dennis Daugaard have toured the impacted areas and met with worried ranchers, some of whom lost half their herds.

For many area ranchers, the storm wiped out an entire year's income as they were close to beginning their fall roundups and gaining income from cattle sales. Ranchers who have been hurt badly by the disaster are asking Sens. Tim Johnson, D-S.D., and John Thune, R-S.D., and Rep. Kristi Noem, R-S.D., for help.

The problem is that the Farm Bill, which could provide compensation to ranchers who lost livestock in the storm, expired on Sept. 30. As is typical for how things have been done in Washington, D.C., in recent years, Congress let the Farm Bill lapse before trying to resolve partisan differences.

Rep. Noem is on the conference committee that has begun meeting — a full month after the bill's expiration — to negotiate differences between the House and Senate versions of the legislation.

Among the provisions that could provide relief to area ranchers are the Livestock Indemnity Program and the Emergency Livestock Assistance Program, both of which expired in 2011, and which would be funded in the 2013 Farm Bill. Noem said in a release that she was eager to negotiate on the Farm Bill that would provide funding for livestock disaster programs that "would bring much needed relief to West River ranchers who were hit hard by the recent storm."

Both Johnson and Thune have said resolving the differences between the House and Senate versions would be difficult. Thune said the fight over how much to cut the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, more commonly known as the food stamp program, is key to getting the Farm Bill through Congress. The Senate bill cuts the SNAP program by \$4 billion over 10 years, and the House version includes a \$40 billion reduction. There is a number between the two figures that will get enough votes to pass both houses of Congress, Thune told the *Journal*.

The amount of cuts to the food stamp program is relatively small, given that the program has doubled in size since 2008 to around \$80 billion a year. Waging an ideological war over whether to cut 5 percent or 0.5 percent from the food stamp program that has increased 100 percent in five years is pointless, in our view.

The more important issue is getting the 2013 Farm Bill through Congress as swiftly as possible. Since Rep. Noem asked to be included in the conference committee, we urge her to take a leading role in urging her Republican colleagues to bend on their ideological opposition to expanding the food stamp program in order to get the Farm Bill passed. If she can also persuade the ideologues on the Democratic side to also compromise, all the better.

Let's get the long-delayed 2013 Farm Bill passed and on President Barack Obama's desk for a signature as soon as possible.

## SPEAK UP!

Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

## ON THIS DATE

### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2013. There are 57 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Nov. 4, 1942, during World War II, Axis forces retreated from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Bernard Montgomery.

**On this date:** In 1862, inventor Richard J. Gatling received a U.S. patent for his rapid-fire Gatling gun.

In 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland was elected to his first term as president, defeating Republican James G. Blaine.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1924, Nellie T. Ross of Wyoming was elected the nation's first female governor to serve out the remaining term of her late husband, William B. Ross.

In 1939, the United States modified its neutrality stance in World War II, allowing "cash and carry" purchases of arms by belligerents, a policy favoring Britain and France.

In 1952, Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson. The highly secretive National Security Agency came into existence.

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1987, 6-year-old Elizabeth (Lisa) Steinberg was pronounced dead at a New York City hospital in a child-abuse case that sparked national outrage; her illegal adoptive father, Joel Steinberg, served nearly 17 years behind bars for manslaughter.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, Calif.; in attendance were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon — the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

**Ten years ago:** Firefighters in San

Diego County contained the biggest and deadliest of Southern California's wildfires. Following a conservative outcry over a made-for-TV movie about former President Ronald Reagan, CBS scrapped plans to televise "The Reagans," sending it off to the Showtime cable network instead.

**Five years ago:** Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first black president of the United States, defeating Republican John McCain. California voters approved Proposition 8, a constitutional amendment outlawing same-sex marriage, overturning a state Supreme Court decision that gave gay couples the right to wed just months earlier. Author Michael Crichton died in Los Angeles at age 66.

**One year ago:** New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said cold temperatures would leave "tens of thousands" of people whose homes were damaged by Superstorm Sandy in need of alternate housing. Two-year-old Maddox Derkosh was mauled to death by a pack of African wild dogs when he fell into their pen from a viewing area at the Pittsburgh Zoo. Zac Vawter, a 31-year-old amputee from Yelm, Wash., climbed the 103 floors of Chicago's Willis Tower, becoming the first person ever to complete the task wearing a mind-controlled prosthetic limb.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Doris Roberts is 83. Actress Loretta Swit is 76. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 75. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 73. Former first lady Laura Bush is 67. Actress Markie Post is 63. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 59. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 53. Actress-comedian Kathy Griffin is 53. Actor Ralph Macchio is 52. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 52. Rock singer-musician Wayne Static (Static-X) is 48. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 44. Rap-producer Sean "Puffy" Combs is 44. Talk show host Bethenny Frankel is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 42. Actress Heather Tom is 38. Rhythm-and-blues/gospel singer George Huff is 33. Actress Gillian Zinser (TV: "90210") is 28.

**Thought for Today:** "No one is so eager to gain new experience as he who doesn't know how to make use of the old ones." — Marie Ebner von Eschenbach, Austrian writer (1830-1916).

## FROM THE BIBLE

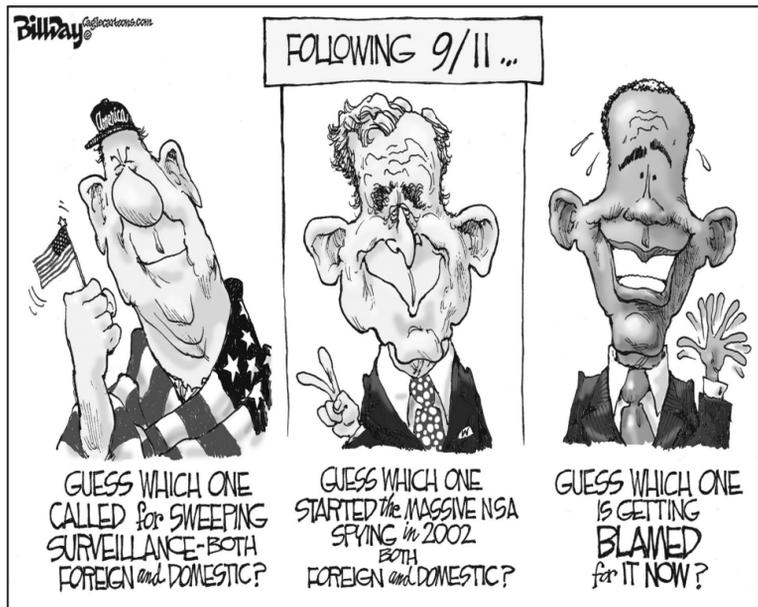
For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Romans 15:4. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

## YOUR LETTERS

### Protecting Freedom

**Matt Craft, Yankton**  
In U.S. history it will be the biggest protest of all! Over the U.S. this letter will be put in every newspaper. Why? Because we need people to realize that no law was passed to take away our religious free-

dom! We will not stop! No matter what. I will blare Christian music in schools, and all over. And if President Obama decides to stop us, it will take long. He needs to deal with this situation. And it will be ASAP! So whoever is reading this, start now!



## Capitol Notebook

# A Lineup Card In The Mystery Of GOED Probe

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

**PIERRE** — Who and what are state and federal investigators probing in the Governor's Office of Economic Development?

We might never know unless criminal charges are brought. The matter allegedly happened before Gov. Dennis Daugaard took office in January 2011.

The governor has been careful to point that out, twice. Most recent was Wednesday. His office issued a statement declaring investigations had been under way.

The previous time was Oct. 22. His office issued a statement regarding the gunshot death of Rich Benda two days earlier. Daugaard noted Benda hadn't worked in his administration.

Benda was secretary of tourism and state development from 2006 through 2010. That was in the cabinet of the previous governor, Mike Rounds, who is a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 2014.

Daugaard was lieutenant governor for the eight years while Rounds was governor.

During Rounds' tenure, the state Board of Economic Development made a \$5 million loan to Northern Beef Packers for the Aberdeen plant. That was in 2010.

Daugaard followed up in December 2011 with a \$2 million state grant for Northern Beef Packers.

Here is Gov. Daugaard's statement about the investigations:

"Earlier this year, I became aware of alleged misconduct, prior to my administration, at the economic development office. I asked the state Attorney General to investigate and provided all relevant materials to him. There has also been a federal investigation. I refer any further questions regarding the investigations to the Attorney General and the U.S. Attorney. I take very seriously my responsibility as

# Advice Columnist To GOP

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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**WASHINGTON** — Ms. Know-It-All, the anonymous political advice columnist whose identity remains a popular Georgetown cocktail party guessing game, is also known to live up to her title now and then. Herewith a correspondence worth sharing.

Dear Ms. Know-It-All:

It appears that the witch Hillary Rodham Clinton is going to run for president. It makes my skin crawl to think of her and that husband of hers back in our White House, not to mention that they are Marxists like Obama and want to turn us into Sweden, for God's sake. It's not too soon for Republicans to marshal our forces for a little shock and awe when the Hildebeast finally announces. How can we stop her?

Signed, A proud, God-fearing, right-wing wacko-bird.

Dear Wacko:

Thank you for what seems to be your sincere interest in participating in our country's health and welfare. And thanks, too, for contacting me because you need to hear what I have to say. You might want to sit down for this. If you're on anti-anxiety medication, all the better.

You are, how shall I put this? Idiot seems too strong, so I'll go with foolish little man. "The witch Hillary"? Yes, I saw the little photo on Drudge with Hillary wearing a witch's hat. Clever! And on Halloween, too. The headline suggested that someone somewhere should be upset that she earned close to \$500,000 for two speeches for Goldman Sachs.

I do believe I detect the scent of envy. Is that the best you've got? I don't think I heard you folks express outrage when Sarah Palin was paid \$100,000 a clip, and she was just a short-term governor and a failed vice-presidential candidate. Ronald Reagan once was paid \$2 million for two 20-minute speeches by a Japanese manufacturing company.

You get my drift. Speakers are commodities and they earn what they're worth to an audience. A former U.S. senator and secretary of state who also was once first lady is not a coupon item.

To the larger point, you must stop witchifying this woman. She has one of the best resumes in the country, certainly compared to anyone who might challenge her. This doesn't speak to her personality, which seems to aggravate a certain kind of male, or to her in-

volvement with issues that have inspired legitimate criticism. But in hurling personal insults, you are hurting only yourself. The bully always looks worse than the bullied. In so doing, you not only seem juvenile but look petty and bereft of substantive arguments.

While you consider this assessment, imagine how much Hillary must welcome such schoolboy taunts.

Pivot now to your less-than-sterling record with women voters. Does the "war on women" ring a bell? I understand that this was mainly a fiction created by the Obama campaign (brilliant, I must say), but you had some help from a couple of star witnesses regarding "legitimate rape" and God's will when a rape victim becomes pregnant. Why, do tell, would you be surprised that women who value their autonomy in making the most personal decisions might view such statements as "war"?

My point: Don't attack a woman as a woman. No allusions to awful female characters or anything to do with her appearance. If you have to resort to commentary about someone's personal attributes, assuming they're not wearing ridiculous headgear, you are signaling that you have no arrows in your quiver.

This is especially relevant to women candidates for two reasons. One, men beating up a woman summons a number of associations that only make women recoil in revulsion. Two, while you were hunkering in your duck blind, women the world over were getting busy organizing and helping each other. There's a global movement afoot in which Hillary Clinton has played a crucial part. If you attack her, all but the most rigidly ideological women will circle the wagons and you will lose. On the bright side, you won't have to worry anymore about birth control. Your own, that is.

At the moment, though Hillary's ratings have slipped a bit, the GOP holds the distinction of being the first party in polling history to have a negative rating over 50 percent (53), according to a *Wall Street Journal*/NBC News survey. Thus, my advice: Marshal your sharpest thinkers and create a product that people want. If you can't win with the strength of your arguments and the clarity of your vision, you can at least lose with your dignity intact — a decent start to a much-needed Republican Reformation. Good luck.

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



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