

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

# Wanted: A Place In SD To Hunt

**CAPITAL JOURNAL, Pierre (Oct. 19):** If you pounded the fields after pheasants over the weekend, chances are good that you may have set foot on public land, or at the very least, bagged a few birds that had. Public hunting areas are one of the great blessings of central South Dakota. Without a doubt, access to state and federal lands is one of the reasons Pheasants Forever in 2013 named Pierre the best place in the country for upland game bird hunting.

That is why acquiring more land for public access to hunting and other recreational opportunities should be a key part of what we do as we move forward on Gov. Dennis Daugaard's wise move in late 2013 to begin looking at ways to keep a healthy population of pheasants on the land.

But if you're from South Dakota, you know how political this issue can be.

Even though the money to buy lands for hunting often comes from fees charged to hunters, sometimes supplemented by agencies such as Pheasants Forever, some people don't like to see the government in the business of shopping for land.

That is why South Dakota and some other states now and then end up with something like a moratorium on land acquisitions by wildlife agencies.

But as Pheasants Forever pointed out on its website in 2013, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks as of a year ago owned less than 0.6 percent of the land in South Dakota.

And frankly, to view land acquisitions by a wildlife agency as something the government does is wrong-headed; the government agency is only the middleman. It's we, the people, who want to buy more land; and that is because John Q. Public needs a place to hunt for himself, his boy and his dog - and maybe his cousin from the Twin Cities.

Yes, there are lease programs we can pursue, and of course there are programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program that can have far greater impact on habitat by influencing what private landowners do. But there is something to be said for buying land for the public. It guarantees hunting access to the people of South Dakota, and their guests, forever.

Far from shying away from buying more lands for public access to wildlife, we ought to ramp up what we do through agencies such as South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, making strategic purchases in areas that may not have as much as we have around Pierre. Fortunately, some of the lands that are less desirable for agriculture often make great habitat.

South Dakota is the last best place for hunting upland game birds; no other state has what we have. We must continue to be different than other places, and buying more land for public hunting ought to be one of the tools in our kit as we set about fixing the habitat problem in South Dakota.

## 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](mailto:views@yankton.net).

## ON THIS DATE

### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 3, the 307th day of 2014. There are 58 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Nov. 3, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson soundly defeated Republican Barry Goldwater to win a White House term in his own right.

**On this date:** In 1839, the first Opium War between China and Britain broke out.

In 1852, Emperor Meiji of Japan was born in Kyoto.

In 1903, Panama proclaimed its independence from Colombia.

In 1911, the Chevrolet Motor Car Co. was founded in Detroit by Louis Chevrolet and William C. Durant. (The company was acquired by General Motors in 1918.)

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won a landslide election victory over Republican challenger Alfred M. "Alf" Landon.

In 1954, the Japanese monster movie "Godzilla" was released by Toho Co.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 2, the second man-made satellite, into orbit; on board was a dog named Laika who was sacrificed in the experiment.

In 1960, the Meredith Willson musical "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" opened on Broadway with Tammy Grimes in the title role.

In 1970, Salvador Allende was inaugurated as president of Chile.

In 1979, five Communist Workers Party members were killed in a clash with heavily armed Ku Klux Klansmen and neo-Nazis during an anti-Nazi protest in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair began to come to light as Ash-Shiraa, a pro-Syrian Lebanese magazine, first broke the story of U.S. arms sales to Iran.

In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, was arrested for drowning her two young sons, Michael and Alex, nine days after claiming the children had been abducted by a black carjacker.

**Ten years ago:** President George W. Bush claimed a re-election mandate a day after more than 62 million Americans chose him over Democrat John Kerry; Kerry conceded defeat in make-or-break Ohio rather than launch a legal fight reminiscent of the contentious Florida recount of four years earlier. Hamid Karzai was declared the winner of Afghanistan's first-ever presidential election after a three-week probe into vote fraud

found no grounds to invalidate his triumph. Sgt. Charles Jenkins, who'd spent nearly 40 years in North Korea, pleaded guilty to deserting the U.S. Army in 1965 (he served 25 days in jail and was discharged).

**Five years ago:** In the 2009 elections, Chris Christie, a Republican former U.S. attorney, unseated New Jersey Democratic Gov. Jon Corzine while in Virginia, Republican Bob McDonnell beat Democrat R. Creigh Deeds. German Chancellor Angela Merkel marked the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall with a speech to the U.S. Congress by exhorting the world to "tear down the walls of today" and reach a deal to combat global warming. Actor-comedian Carl Ballantine ("McHale's Navy") died in Los Angeles at age 92.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama stepped into Virginia's gubernatorial race, throwing the political weight of the White House behind Democrat Terry McAuliffe, who ended up defeating Republican Ken Cuccinelli. In a double victory for Kenya, Geoffrey Mutai successfully defended his New York City Marathon title and Priscah Jeptoo rallied to win the women's race amid heightened security after the Boston Marathon bombings. Houston Texans coach Gary Kubiak collapsed from a mini-stroke while leaving the field at halftime of a game with the Indianapolis Colts, who rallied for a 27-24 victory. Miami Dolphins offensive lineman Richie Incognito, accused of bullying fellow player Jonathan Martin, was suspended for conduct detrimental to the team. (Incognito missed the final eight games of the season before becoming a free agent when his contract with Miami expired.)

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Peggy McCay is 87. Actress Lois Smith is 84. Actress Monica Vitti is 83. Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 81. Actor-dancer Ken Berry is 81. Actor Shadow Stevens is 68. Singer Lulu is 66. Comedian-actress Roseanne Barr is 62. Actress Kate Capshaw is 61. Comedian Dennis Miller is 61. Actress Kathy Kinney is 61. Singer Adam Ant is 60. Actor Dolph Lundgren is 57. Rook musician C.J. Pierce (Drowning Pool) is 42. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evgenii Plushenko is 32. Actress Julie Berman (TV: "General Hospital") is 31.

**Thought for Today:** "Among these things but one thing seems certain — that nothing certain exists, and that nothing is more pitiable or more presumptuous than man." — Pliny the Elder, Roman scholar.

## FROM THE BIBLE

*For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. Luke 19:10.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

## YOUR LETTERS

### Holiday Support

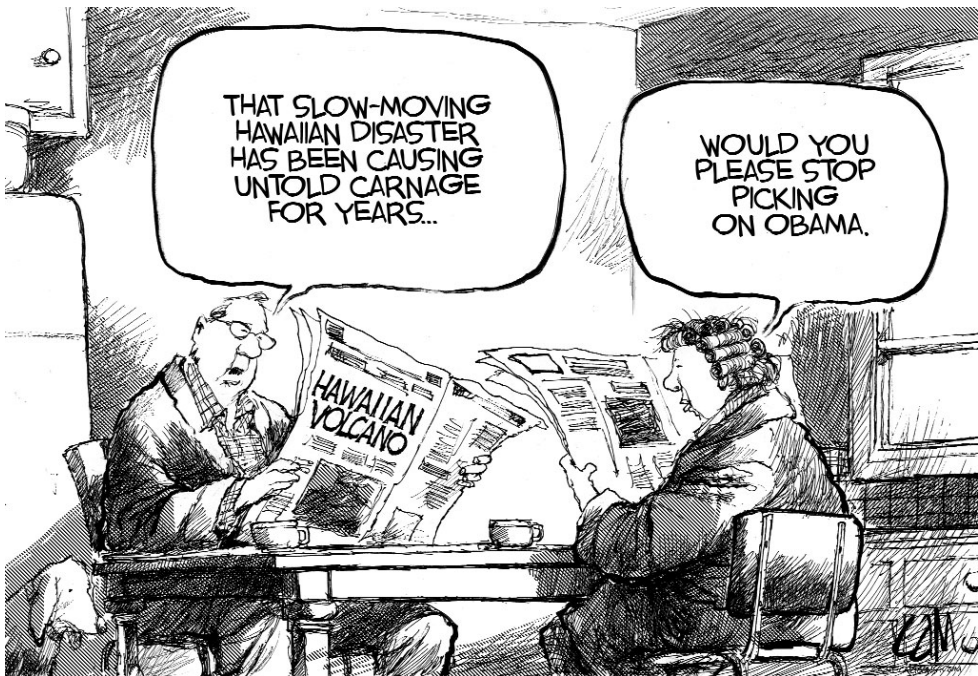
**Melissa Pratt, Yankton**  
*Admin. Secretary, United Church of Christ (Congregational)*

The United Church of Christ (Congregational) would like to thank the Yankton community for the wonderful response to the recent Trick-Or-Treat for UNICEF fundraiser that they held.

The UCC Jr. High Youth organ-

ized the event and invited the families of the church to participate. We had a wonderful turnout and the community response was tremendous. We collected just more than \$500 for UNICEF. If this money is used for one project, it could provide a pump for a well for a school or a village.

Thank you, Yankton, for your great support!



## Capitol Notebook

# For GOP, Obama Is Villain Of SD Campaigns

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

**PIERRE** — In a place where voters haven't backed a Democratic candidate for the White House in 50 years, Republican candidates know they have a winning card again this fall when they pick on President Barack Obama.

No one has suggested he should come to South Dakota for U.S. Senate candidate Rick Weiland or U.S. House candidate Corinna Robinson. Obama isn't campaigning for many Democratic candidates anywhere.

Nationally, the tracking poll run by Rasmussen Reports showed Obama with 46 percent approval for job performance, while 53 percent disapproved.

In South Dakota, he's been between 36 and 42 percent approval during three surveys run July 23-28, Sept. 21-25 and Oct. 23-26 by Neilson Brothers Polling of Sioux Falls.

That's consistent with the percentages of votes he received in South Dakota: 44.75 in 2008; and 39.9 in 2012.

Our nation changed in some major ways during the six years of his presidency.

Laws against gay marriage fell in many states. South Dakota's ban still stands while a challenge proceeds in U.S. District Court.

Two years ago Colorado and Washington legalized recreational use of marijuana. Oregon, Alaska and the District of Columbia vote on it Tuesday.

The use of coal to generate electricity fell into extreme disfavor at Obama's Environmental Protection Agency. Rural electric cooperatives are battling against the latest round of stiffer clean-air regulations.

Plans for a major expansion at the Big Stone coal-fired plant were shelved.

A new coal-shipping line from the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana likewise



Bob  
**MERCER**

went awry for the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern railroad.

Obama's State Department won't give an answer whether the Keystone XL pipeline can pierce the Canada-U.S. border. It would carry oil from Alberta tar sands through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, to eventually be sold to China.

The Affordable Care Act, passed with Obama's support while he still had Democratic majorities in both chambers of Congress, has been met with disdain by many Republicans in South Dakota, led first by Gov. Mike Rounds and now by Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

State Attorney General Marty Jackley, a Republican, has joined others in trying to stop the ACA in federal court. The two Republican members of South Dakota's congressional delegation, Rep. Kristi Noem and Sen. John Thune, want it replaced or repealed.

Rounds, running to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Tim Johnson, wants to repeal Obamacare too.

Two of his campaign aides meanwhile lobbied to pass a state law requiring any Obamacare policy sold in South Dakota must go through a South Dakota agent.

Johnson is the only Democrat statewide officeholder in South Dakota. He might be the last for some time.

Republicans don't talk much about how the stimulus packages distributed under Obama and the Democratic Congress made a big difference for South Dakota during the Great Recession of 2009-2011.

Our highways are better. So are community sewer and water systems. South Dakota also did well several times with federal grants for railroad rehabilitation west of Mitchell.

But this is politics. Obama, whom the majority of South Dakota voters never wanted, makes an easy — and perhaps deserved — villain.

# The NY Times' War On Gun-Owning Rape Victims

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

Nasty *New York Times* editorial writer David Firestone pretends to care about campaign scare-mongering. But what he and his elitist ilk really fear are independent-thinking women who have dared to exercise their First Amendment powers to defend their Second Amendment rights.

This week, Firestone took aim at "attack ads" sponsored by the National Rifle Association. The "worst commercial," he says, "features a rape victim describing her assault and accusing" former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg "of wanting to take away her right to defend herself."

That rape victim has a name and a story Firestone couldn't even bother to mention. She is Kimberly Weeks, a brave and fierce Colorado woman who testified against the Bloomberg-backed gun-control measures that beleaguered Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper now admits he passed "without basic facts" and concedes were ineffective from the get-go.

Weeks was brutally raped as a college junior at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. As she recounted last year, "I will never know if I would have been able to stop my rape if I had owned a firearm. I can tell you that any fear I had of guns evaporated as soon as I got a second chance at living my life. Had I been armed, I very well could have changed my circumstances and possibly prevented another attack on myself or the next victim."

Firestone dismissed Weeks' response to Bloomberg's gun-grabbing efforts by asserting that "the former mayor is not trying to take away anyone's legal handgun, and neither is any Democrat." Never mind that Colorado Democrats, goaded by Bloomberg and lobbied by Vice President Joe Biden, were contemplating a radical ban on concealed carry on college campuses.

Victims of sexual assault in Colorado were snubbed by Democratic state legislators, Weeks reminded voters. She is speaking out to prevent other rape victims and rape targets from being disarmed and dismissed. Another rape victim and pro-concealed carry advocate, Amanda Collins, faced similar hostile treatment from Colorado Democrats when she protested draconian gun-control laws that undermined women's self-defense autonomy.



Michelle  
**MALKIN**

"I just want to say, statistics are not on your side, even if you had had a gun. ...

Chances are that if you had had a gun, then he would have been able to get that from you and possibly use it against you," former Democratic state Sen. Evie Hudak lectured Collins. But as I've reported previously, even the liberal *Denver Post* pointed out that the old statistics Hudak cited from a liberal anti-gun group applied only to women with guns who were attacked by "intimate acquaintances," not strangers, as was the case with Collins.

But let's not let facts get in the way of a liberal *New York Times* writer's hysterical anti-hysteria diatribe.

While Firestone pronounces Weeks' ads as the "worst" example of the "use of fear," abortion rights group NARAL is running election ads telling Colorado women that Republicans are going to take away all their

condoms. Harry Reid's super PAC is accusing North Carolina GOP Senate candidate Thom Tillis of causing "the shooting death of Trayvon Martin." And the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee has poured \$2.5 million into scare-mongering ads in Alaska, Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana and New Hampshire telling elderly voters that Republicans are going to strip them of their Social Security and Medicare.

When victims embrace liberal orthodoxies, they're heroes and absolute moral authorities in the eyes of *The New York Times* editorial board.

When victims become survivors who reject the Nanny State, they're liars, ideologues and pot-stirrers who deserve to be sneered at from the rarefied offices of the Fishwrap of Record.

The *Times* has spilled barrels and barrels of ink decrying the campus rape epidemic. Its opinion writers and reporters call for more money for sexual assault prevention, more government programs and more respect for rape victims. But when a rape victim advocates armed self-defense, where's the crusading *New York Times*?

Catcalling courageous armed women like a Big Apple street bum. Shame on the smug rape-survivor shamers.

*Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and His Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is [malkinblog@gmail.com](mailto:malkinblog@gmail.com).*