

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Don't Overlook Habitat Incentives

THE DAILY REPUBLIC (Mitchell): Blaze orange filled fields across South Dakota over the weekend.

Yes, the statewide pheasant opener arrived again, and the buzz about pheasant numbers is as prevalent as ever.

From what we hear, bird numbers are up.

That's great.

Better hunting means a better economy for Mitchell, the surrounding area and all of South Dakota, and it also gives way for great memories for outdoor enthusiasts. Friday night's Pheasants Forever banquet was sold out, and it was clear its attendees are ever-willing to help fund habitat for the birds.

In Saturday's edition, we showed the several ways people can help fund the habitat for wildlife, specifically pheasants. Some of the funding mechanisms from the story were directly related to the Governor's Pheasant Habitat Work Group report, which was presented in September.

Why is it so important that habitat is on the ground?

A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation report shows that 13.7 million people aged 16 or older — approximately 6 percent of the United States' population — went hunting in 2011 and spent a whopping \$38.3 billion on equipment, licenses, trips and other hunting-related items.

That report also shows hunting created 680,300 jobs in the United States, and about 11,000 in South Dakota.

Our state sees economic contributions from upland game hunters — mainly people hunting pheasants — higher than any other state. The 2011 report shows pheasant hunting contributed \$20 million to state and local tax bases and \$25 million in federal taxes.

We're not ready to get in a battle over whether agriculture is more important to South Dakota's economy than pheasants and hunting. We know agriculture is, by far, the top industry in the state.

However, South Dakota's producers should look at all the incentives out there, and keep some of their land in habitat. We understand farming is a business, and producers should make decisions based on that. But we feel any producer can make a good decision by getting paid to put some of their marginal land into wildlife habitat, rather than farm it.

To make sure blaze orange continues filling South Dakota's fields each year when the statewide pheasant season opens, it's going to take habitat. And that takes important decisions from producers.

THE VIEWS PAGE

■ The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** Views page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the **PRESS & DAKOTAN**. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Oct. 27, the 300th day of 2014. There are 65 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Oct. 27, 1914, author-poet Dylan Thomas was born in Swansea, Wales.

On this date: In 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the United States Constitution, was published.

In 1858, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was born in New York City.

In 1880, Theodore Roosevelt married his first wife, Alice Lee.

In 1904, the first rapid transit subway, the IRT, was inaugurated in New York City.

In 1922, the first annual celebration of Navy Day took place.

In 1938, Du Pont announced a name for its new synthetic yarn: "nylon."

In 1947, "You Bet Your Life," starring Groucho Marx, premiered on ABC Radio. (It later became a television show on NBC.)

In 1954, U.S. Air Force Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was promoted to brigadier general, the first black officer to achieve that rank in the USAF. Walt Disney's first television program, titled "Disneyland" after the yet-to-be completed theme park, premiered on ABC.

In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down while flying over Cuba, killing the pilot, U.S. Air Force Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr.

In 1978, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for their progress toward achieving a Middle East accord.

In 1980, opera star Beverly Sills gave her last public performance during a farewell gala at New York's Lincoln Center.

In 1995, a sniper killed one soldier and wounded 18 others at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (Paratrooper William J. Kreuzer was convicted in the shootings, and condemned to death; however, the sentence was later

commuted to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: The Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 4, 3-0. New York City's subway system marked its 100th anniversary. Bandleader Lester Lanin died in New York at age 97.

Five years ago: Eight American troops were killed in two separate bomb attacks in southern Afghanistan. Michael Jackson's last work, the documentary "Michael Jackson: This Is It," opened.

One year ago: The Boston Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals 4-2 to tie the World Series at two games apiece; the game finished with a pick-off play, a first in postseason history. Lou Reed, 71, who radically challenged rock's founding promise of good times and public celebration as leader of the Velvet Underground and a solo artist and was a founder of indie rock, died in Southampton, New York.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Nanette Fabray is 94. Actor-comedian John Cleese is 75. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 74. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 72. Producer-director Ivan Reitman is 68. Country singer-guitarist Jack Daniels is 65. Rock musician Garry Tallent (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 65. Author Fran Lebowitz is 64. Rock musician K.K. Downing is 63. TV personality Jayne Kennedy is 63. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 62. Actor Peter Firth is 61. Actor Robert Picardo is 61. World Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 58. Singer Simon Le Bon is 56. Country musician Jerry Dale McFadden (The Mavericks) is 50. Internet news editor Matt Drudge is 48. Rock musician Jason Finn (Presidents of the United States of America) is 47. Rock singer Scott Weiland is 47. Actor Sean Holland is 46. Actress Sheeri Rappaport is 37. Actor David Walton is 36. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 36. Actress-singer Kelly Osbourne is 30. Actress Christine Evangelista is 28.

Thought for Today: "He who seeks rest finds boredom. He who seeks work finds rest." — Dylan Thomas (1914-1953).

FROM THE BIBLE

While He blessed them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. Luke 24:51. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

After The Fire ...

EDITOR'S NOTE: A portion of this letter, which was published in last Thursday's Press & Dakotian, was lost in e-mail transmission. We are reprinting the letter today in its entirety.

Chris and Jennifer Hauger and family, Yankton

"Thank you" does not even describe how we feel towards people in the Yankton Area.

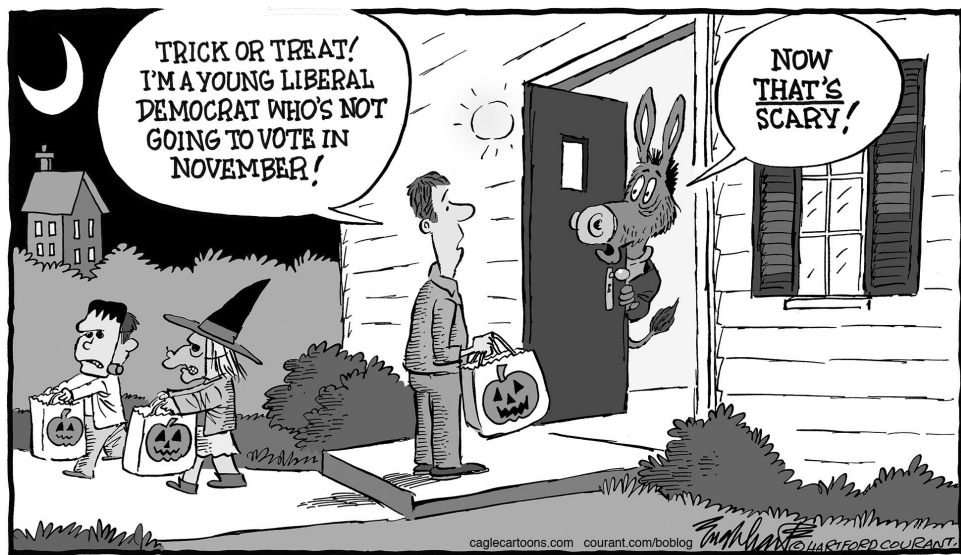
The March fire that destroyed our home took so much from our family that we

thought we would never recover. Thanks to all of you we have had a place to stay, clothes on our backs and furniture for our home.

Since it is impossible to thank everyone personally since we had so many anonymous donations, I hope you accept our sincere thanks.

A special thanks to the firefighters of Yankton and surrounding areas, for risking your lives to try and save our home.

I'm not sure where we would be without this wonderful community. Thank You.



Where Was Obama?

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

President Obama says he's "shaken" by this week's violent attacks on three soldiers in Ottawa by an Islamic jihadist. He immediately phoned Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to offer support and "solidarity." He vowed to "remain vigilant."

Too bad Obama didn't show the same resolve after multiple attacks and plots against our troops by Muslim terrorists on our soil. And I'm not just talking about the "workplace violence" of jihadist Nidal Hasan, whose Koran-inspired Fort Hood rampage took the lives of 13 American servicemen and servicewomen and one unborn baby.

An entire parade of infidel-hating fanatics targeted U.S. soldiers long before Islamic State barbarians issued threats against our military personnel and their families this fall. What happened in Canada — what ISIS wants worldwide — has been happening here for years under Barry-come-lately's watch.

Where was President Obama when Muslim convert Muhammad Hussain was arrested in Maryland in 2010 after scheming to blow up an Army recruitment office to avenge his "Muslim brothers and sisters"? Hussain's message: "Whoever joins the military, they will be killed." He planned to "blow one recruiting center up ... then we hit another ... and just keep it movin' ... Insha' Allah. ... Insha' Allah. ... Do it for jihad." Next, Hussain told informants he would take on Andrews Air Force Base, blow it up and then take over the homes of military personnel.

Where was President Obama when Ethiopian-born Muslim Marine reservist Jonathan Melaku — shouting "Allahu Akbar" — fired shots at the Marine Corps Museum in D.C., the Pentagon, a vacant Marine Corps recruiting station in Chantilly, Va., and a Coast Guard recruiting station in Woodbridge, Va., during a months-long jihad campaign in 2010-2011?

Where was President Obama when Muslim Pvt. Naser Jason Abdo, who went AWOL from Fort Campbell, Ky., was arrested in 2011 with explosives, a gun and jihadi propaganda? Abdo, who shouted, "Nidal Hasan Fort Hood 2009!" after his arrest, planned to attack soldiers at a restaurant near the base.

Where was President Obama when a gang of Islamic thugs in Newburgh, N.Y., was arrested plotting to "bring death to Jews" at nearby synagogues and "commit jihad" by shooting planes at the local Air National Guard base with Stinger surface-to-air guided missiles?

Where was President Obama in June 2011 when Seattle jihadist Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif, also known as Joseph Anthony Davis of Seattle, and Wali Mujahid, also known as Frederick Domingue Jr., were busted after plotting to attack the Military Entrance Processing Station in Seattle in a shooting and grenade spree. "Imagine how many young Muslims, if we're successful, will try to hit these kinds of centers," Abdul-Latif (an admirer of Fort Hood killer Nidal Hasan) exulted. "Imagine how fearful America will be, and they'll know they can't push the Muslims



Michelle MALKIN

around." His bloodthirsty agenda: "Hopefully there will be more soldiers who come out of the woodwork to serve Allah."

Where was President Obama when Muslim convert Muhammad Yusuf (a.k.a. Jose Pimentel) was caught by New York City police in 2011 building a pipe bomb he planned to use to kill police and U.S. soldiers returning from war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Yusuf declared that he would wage holy war in the Big Apple to show that "there (were) mujahideen in the city ready to fight jihad here."

Where was President Obama when Rezwana Matin Ferdaus was arrested in Framingham, Mass., in 2011 while planning an attack on the Pentagon and the U.S. Capitol with explosives-packed model airplanes, automatic weapons and grenades? Ferdaus declared his intent to "disable their military center," "cut off the military" and then "take care of the politicians."

Where was President Obama after an Islamic terrorist ring in Raleigh, N.C., got busted in 2009 plotting to bomb military installations and die "as martyrs in furtherance of violent jihad"? They received overseas training, conducted surveillance of the Quantico, Va., Marine base and conspired to kidnap, maim and kill American targets abroad, as well.

And where was President Obama in June 2009 when Abdul Hakim Mujahid Muhammad walked into an Arkansas Army recruiting center, murdered 24-year-old Pvt. William Long and gravely wounded 18-year-old Pvt. Quinton Ezeagwula?

The Little Rock jihadist had planned on killing many more "infidel forces" in the name of Allah. "The U.S. has to pay for the rape, murder, bloodshed, blasphemy it has done and still doing to the Muslims and Islam," Muhammad warned. "So consider this a small retaliation the best is to come Allah willing. This is not the first attack and won't be the last."

It took three days for the White House to issue a pathetic politically correct statement expressing "sadness" over the attack, which Obama opaquely described as a "senseless act of violence" (instead of the intentional, systematic act of Islamic terrorism that it was). In the same week, the Obama administration issued an immediate condemnation and statement of "outrage" over the shooting death of late-term abortionist George Tiller.

Where was Obama? Sabotaging our borders, restricting our gun rights, working to free Gitmo jihadists, decrying Islamophobia, demonizing conservatives, welcoming jihad sympathizers to the White House and putting politics over national security.

Now "shaken" over the death of a Canadian soldier killed by a jihadist, our president has barely stirred in response to the homegrown Islamic terror campaign against our men and women in uniform under his own aloof nose.

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.

Capitol Notebook

Getting Farther Up A Mountain Of Obstruction In Government

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — South Dakota's laws and practices often remain too restrictive regarding public records and open meetings, but we have seen progress in the four years under Gov. Dennis Daugaard.

A small example: Wireless Internet service is being added at more of state government's meeting areas in Pierre, such as the Matthew training center where state environmental boards frequently gather.

The goal is to make more of the meetings available to the general public through the Internet, similar to what's done by the Legislature and the Public Utilities Commission.

Digital audio can be archived for citizens and public officials to hear later as well.

There are many important state boards and commissions that will benefit by convening at locations where their meetings can be live-cast through the Internet and archived.

Daugaard also wants the meeting minutes and membership lists for boards and commissions to be more easily found on state government's sd.gov website.

He personally looks at minutes to help assess whether appointees should be reappointed, according to his spokesman, Tony Venhuizen. That's why he knows how difficult they can be to find.

A major change that is permanently in place is the rules.sd.gov site. It was added as a one-stop location for all of the proposed rule changes from state departments and agencies under the governor's supervision.

The Legislature didn't respond to suggestions that a rules-change site be added to its Internet site, even though all of the rules are listed there and all rule changes eventually have to be heard

by the Legislature's rules review committee.

Officials in Daugaard's administration such as chief of staff Dusty Johnson and Venhuizen grasped the need for it.

The new site contains rules notices, proposed rule changes, any additional changes made as the result of public hearings, and the required documents about financial impacts and small-business impacts.

Then we came to the EB-5 immigrant investor program and the Future Fund grant program.

Every document that I requested from the Daugaard administration regarding EB-5 was provided.

Venhuizen and top people in the Governor's Office of Economic Development, commissioner Pat Costello and former deputy Nathan Lukkes, responded to every request and tried to answer every question.

The state contract signed in 2009 by Richard Benda, secretary of tourism and state development for the Rounds administration, and Joop Bollen, president of SDRC Inc., the Aberdeen business that managed EB-5 for state government, required various information be submitted.

But the public didn't know about that contract until after Benda died of a self-inflicted shotgun wound on Oct. 20, 2013.

The contract wasn't listed on state government's website because the amount involved seemed to be less than \$50,000. Actually, it was worth tens of millions of dollars in fees for SDRC Inc. from immigrant