

# The Press & Dakotan

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

## CONTACT US

PHONE:  
(605) 665-7811  
(800) 743-2968  
NEWS FAX:  
(605) 665-1721  
ADVERTISING FAX:  
(605) 665-0288  
WEBSITE:  
www.yankton.net

## SUBSCRIPTIONS/ CIRCULATION

Extension 104  
jim.gevens@yankton.net  
CLASSIFIED ADS  
Extension 116  
tera.schmidt@yankton.net

## NEWS DEPT.

Extension 114  
news@yankton.net  
SPORTS DEPT.  
Extension 106  
sports@yankton.net

## ADVERTISING DEPT.

Extension 122  
sales@yankton.net

## BUSINESS OFFICE

Extension 119  
ar@yankton.net

## NEW MEDIA:

Extension 136  
beth.rye@yankton.net

## COMPOSING DEPT.

Extension 129  
kathy.larson@yankton.net

## MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood  
Publisher

Michele Schievelbein  
Advertising Director

Jim Gevens  
Circulation Director

Tonya Schild  
Business Manager

Tera Schmidt  
Classified Manager

Kelly Hertz  
Editor

James D. Cimburek  
Sports Editor

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Digital Media Director

Kathy Larson  
Composing Manager

\*\*\*

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Brenda Willcuts  
Alissa Wookman

\*\*\*

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## We Say

### On The Air



**THUMBS UP** to Lake Andes radio station KDKO as it serves the Yankton Sioux Tribe and other listeners. The station gains a worldwide audience by livestreaming on the Internet. KDKO takes its call letters from an abbreviated form of "Dakota." The station recently covered the Yankton Sioux tribal council inauguration for the first time. In addition, the station is co-sponsoring an Oct. 21 conference at Fort Randall Casino on the sex trafficking issue. The station bills itself as "the voice of the people" and offers news, entertainment and dialogue. It's another important tool for improved communication among tribal members and others.

### Great Gift



**THUMBS UP** to Avera Sacred Heart Hospital for donating the Avera Care Center to Mount Marty College. As an institution that thrives on its extended nursing program, this will be a great addition to the facilities. This will create added experience for the students as well as improve overall community health.

### Native American Day



**THUMBS DOWN** to what appears to be the lack of activities this Monday to commemorate Native American Day in South Dakota. Yes, this is Columbus Day in most other parts of the United States, but South Dakota has redesignated the day to honor its indigenous people and their considerable heritage. As far as we know at press time, there doesn't seem to be any activities planned in Yankton, whose name is derived from those who were here before white settlers came. If there are events going on, we apologize for this rant and ask you to contact us with that information. It would be a good gesture to see on this one day that we devote to genuine diversity in this state.

### The Shame!



**THUMBS DOWN** to the continuous flow of salary shaming posts on social media. With the concept of a \$15 minimum wage being implemented in cities throughout the country, there has been some criticism. One manifestation of this on social media is usually some variation of the following: two photos are shown side by side — one of soldiers/EMTs/teachers/fire fighters/police officers and another of fast-food workers protesting for higher wages — along with a condescending message about how the fast-food workers should feel ashamed for asking a higher wage when these public servants are putting in long hours for a lower pay. First off, yes, certain jobs are more taxing on people and of greater civic importance than others, but that doesn't merit dehumanizing others for protesting for a better wage. Second, there's one great irony that many of these posts miss: the fast-food workers are demanding private entities — some of which have annual earnings exceeding the GDPs of small nations — pay out more while soldiers/EMTs/teachers/fire fighters/police officers are public servants. Many of the people making these posts are the same individuals who fight tooth-and-nail for lower taxes. If you feel so strongly that public servants ought to make more than fast-food workers, get off Facebook, stop asking for tax decreases and open your wallets.

## 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 ongoing congressional investigation into the 2012 Benghazi attack is politically motivated?**  
Yes.....56%  
No.....36%  
Bot sure/don't care.....8%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST .....275**

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:

**Do you support the idea of building a wall between the U.S. and Mexico?**  
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

## IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Friday, October 9, the 282nd day of 2015. There are 83 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On October 9, 1940, rock-and-roll legend John Lennon was born in Liverpool, England. (On this date in 1975, his son, Sean, was born in New York.)

**On this date:** In 1514, Mary Tudor, the 18-year-old sister of Henry VIII, became Queen consort of France upon her marriage to 52-year-old King Louis XII, who died less than three months later.

In 1776, a group of Spanish missionaries settled in present-day San Francisco.

In 1888, the public was first admitted to the Washington Monument.

In 1914, the Belgian city of Antwerp fell to German forces during World War I.

In 1934, King Alexander I of Yugoslavia was assassinated in Marseille, France, by a Macedonian gunman.

In 1946, the Eugene O'Neill drama "The Iceman Cometh" opened at the Martin Beck Theater in New York.

In 1958, Pope Pius XII died at age 82, ending a 19-year papacy. (He was succeeded by Pope John XXIII.)

In 1967, Latin American guerrilla leader Che Guevara was killed by the Bolivian army a day after he was captured.

In 1975, Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1985, the hijackers of the Achille Lauro cruise liner surrendered two days after seizing the vessel in the Mediterranean. (Passenger Leon Klinghoffer was killed by the hijackers during the standoff.)

In 1995, a sabotaged section of track caused an Amtrak train, the Sunset Limited, to derail in Arizona; one person was killed and about 80 were injured (the case remains unsolved).

In 2009, President Barack Obama was named the recipient of the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for what the Norwegian Nobel Committee called "his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

**Ten years ago:** Dozens of foreign tourists fled devastated lakeside Mayan towns as Guatemalan officials said they would abandon communities buried by landslides caused by Hurricane Stan and declare them mass graveyards. A driverless Volkswagen Touareg, designed by Stanford University, won a \$2 million race across the rugged Nevada desert, beating four other robot-guided vehicles that completed a Pentagon-sponsored contest aimed at making warfarer safer for humans. Actor-comedian Louis Nye died in Los Angeles at age 92.

**Five years ago:** Chile's 33 trapped miners cheered and embraced each other as a drill punched into their underground chamber where they had been stuck for an agonizing 66 days. The International Monetary Fund wrapped up two days of talks in Washington without resolving deep differences over currency movements. A crush of fans circled a flower-graced mosaic in Central Park's Strawberry Fields and sang lyrics from "Imagine" to honor John Lennon on his 70th birthday.

**One year ago:** Six U.S. military planes arrived in the Ebola hot zone with more Marines as West African leaders pleaded for the world's help in dealing with what Sierra Leone President Ernest Bai Koroma described as "a tragedy unforeseen in modern times." French novelist Patrick Modiano was named the recipient of the Nobel Prize in literature. Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Carolyn Kizer, 89, died in Sonoma, California.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Fyush Finkel is 93. Retired MLB All-Star Joe Penitone is 75. Former Sen. Trent Lott, R-Miss., is 74. C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb is 74. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nona Hendryx is 71. Singer Jackson Browne is 67. Nobel Peace laureate Jody Williams is 65. Actor Gary Frank is 65. Actor Richard Chaves is 64. Actor Robert Wuhl is 64. Actress-TV personality Sharon Osbourne is 63. Actor Tony Shalhoub is 62. Actor Scott Bakula is 61. Musician James Fearnley (The Pogues) is 61. Actor John O'Hurley is 61. Writer-producer-director-actor Linwood Boomer is 60. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Mike Singletary is 57. Actor Michael Pare is 57. Jazz musician Kenny Garrett is 55. Rock singer-musician Kurt Neumann (The BoDeans) is 54. Country singer Gary Bennett is 51. Movie director Guillermo del Toro is 51. British Prime Minister David Cameron is 49. Singer P.J. Harvey is 46. Movie director Steve McQueen (Film: "12 Years a Slave") is 46. World Golf Hall of Famer Annika Sorenstam is 45. Actress Cocoa Brown is 43. Country singer Tommy Shane Steiner is 42. Actor Steve Burns is 42. Rock singer Sean Lennon is 40. Actor Randy Spelling is 37. Christian hip-hop artist Lecrae is 36. Actor Brandon Routh is 36. Actress Spencer Grammer is 32. Actor Tyler James Williams is 23. Country singer Scotty McCreery (TV: "American Idol") is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "I think everyone should go to college and get a degree and then spend six months as a bartender and six months as a cabdriver. Then they would really be educated." — Al McGuire, American Basketball Hall of Fame coach (1928-2001).

## FROM THE BIBLE

(Jesus) went out to the mountain to pray, and all night He continued in prayer to God. Luke 6:12. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

cagecartoons.com



# Gun Violence And What We Sacrifice

BY KELLY HERTZ  
kelly.hertz@yankton.net

There was another terrible mass shooting last week. How many died this time? Ten? Does it even matter?

It happened one day after a school shooting in Harrisburg. That one got my attention: It was close to home and a friend of mine was wounded. That's a crazy feeling, but at least I *felt* something.

As for the Oregon incident? Well, I know how the story will numbly play out.

I know it doesn't matter how many people are killed in these tragedies. It doesn't matter how much outcry against gun violence these incidents ignite. All that matters is what we, as a nation, resolve to do about it.

And usually, it's nothing. However, I did find it somewhat disconcerting to see how mightily pro-gun rights politicians, craving NRA approval, have contorted their logic this past week to place blame for the Oregon slaughter on anything other than the recklessly easy access to guns. The fault apparently lies in "no-gun" zones, the victims who failed to attack the shooter, the shooter's father, abortions, movies — anybody or anything but a conspicuous common denominator in this genocidal epidemic.

If I were to even suggest pursuing things like increased background checks, addressing mental health issues and gun access, or banning assault weapons, the reflex counter-accusation would be that I'm trying to "take away" your guns. That kind of dense logic is a diversionary tactic deployed to incite gun owners and bury any constructive conversation on the topic under an avalanche of sputtering emotion.

As for me, I could care less about your guns. Keep them. Hunt with them. Use them at a gun range or out in a pasture. (However, quit shooting up signs along country roads. There simply MUST be better ways to expend your ammo.) The people I know who own guns know what they're doing and act accordingly. In fact, the vast majority of gun owners take care of their weapons and treat them with the respect such things require.

But there are others, we can all agree, who don't.

However, our national response to this has been to accommodate the problem rather than confront it — to double down in the defense of gun rights and our de facto willingness to dismiss the victims: both the dead and those who'll die in the incidents to come. It's really a macabre exercise in denial. In response to rising concerns



Kelly HERTZ

about gun violence in the mid-1990s, Congress passed a law forbidding government-funded research into gun crimes. When 28 people, including 20 kids, at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut were massacred three years ago, lawmakers decided to put more guns in schools — a move that many school and law enforcement officials didn't particularly appreciate. Last week, Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson, who is a doctor, declared on Facebook, "I never saw a body with bullet holes that was more devastating than taking the right to arm ourselves away." Perhaps Carson can deliver that sentiment in a eulogy for the victims of the next mass shooting; hopefully, one of the bullet-riddled corpses won't be anyone he knows or loves.

I'm constantly told that enacting tighter gun control laws is a slippery slope toward destroying our constitutional right to bear arms altogether. However, consider the slope we're slipping down now. The numbers of U.S. mass shootings and active shooter incidents have risen steadily during the last 30 years and have tripled since 2011. (Between 1982-2011, a mass shooting took place in this country every 200 days; since 2011, it's every 64 days.) Thirty Americans die every day on average from gun violence, the *New York Times* reported Thursday. Overall, almost 10,000 Americans have died this year from gun violence. As a result, more people (even those who advocate tighter gun laws) are arming themselves out of concern for and fear of the threats posed in our locked-and-loaded society. Not surprisingly, Americans possess nearly half of the civilian-owned guns in the world.

Then again, what does any of it matter ...? The vigorous, accusatory political defense of gun rights — which often subordinated, and even blamed, the victims and their families — this past week brought to mind something Abraham Lincoln wrote to a grieving mother who lost a son in the Civil War. Perhaps, in a warped way, the long-ago words apply today to presidential hopefuls like Carson, Donald Trump, Mike Huckabee and Bobby Jindal, and to many others who so fiercely place their gun rights ahead of the aching need to create a safer, saner society. Perhaps these people revel, as Lincoln wrote in a far different context, in "the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom."

When the next mass shooting comes — if it registers enough for any of us to even care — at least we'll have that bloody consolation going for us.

Follow @kelly\_hertz on Twitter.

## Point Of View

# Missing Out On Wind Energy?

BY DAVID GANJE  
Rapid City

America is entrepreneurial and innovative. It looks, learns and goes forward.

South Dakota is full of innovative entrepreneurs. One should also say that South Dakotans, by sheer dint of the environment, are also resourceful.

Why then does state government stand with its hands in its pockets when it comes to wind as a renewable energy resource? The state is handed by God a non-fossil natural resource in abundance. Everyone knows the statistics — the state is either third or fifth in the nation as a source of wind energy depending on the study. But the state's attitude is to "wait and see what happens." Challenges exist. Challenges should be overcome. To do little or nothing is a missed opportunity.

The state tried, but in the third inning walked off the field.

In 2005 the Legislature created the South Dakota Energy Infrastructure Authority. It was, by statute, "created ... to diversify and expand the state's economy by developing in this state the energy production facilities and the energy transmission facilities necessary to produce and transport energy to markets within the state and outside of the state." The Authority consisted of respectable members who undertook a series of important wind energy reports. The independent agency was successful in presenting an analysis of the wind energy issues as well as the potential of wind energy.

The Authority, however, did not fully engage in the underlying issue affecting long-term promotion and development of wind energy. Right before its eyes, during the Authority's limited lifetime, more than 85 percent of currently operating commercial turbines were erected. This growth occurred without any financial participation by the Authority. Business put up its own capital at its own risk. That's a good thing. Yet the Authority — or those overseeing the Authority — missed the obvious trend in renewable energy potential. It did not wish to tackle the problem of expanding the state's energy infrastructure. This in turn would have promoted the state's wind energy potential.

The Authority was disbanded in 2015 by the Legislature. You can't win a ball game if you forfeit in the third inning.

A closer look at wind farm benefits is necessary. The rural school districts in Brookings

County for example received \$464,329 in tax monies in 2014 from wind taxes.

A report by the Authority stated that investment in transmission infrastructure will have to be made for development to occur. This is true. This was true when the report was written in 2008, and it is true now. The problem is, the Authority did not dig down politically or economically to address the problem. It had the power. The Authority could have, by statute, provided for the financing, construction, development, maintenance and operation of new or upgraded energy transmission facilities. By law, the Authority was also to "analyze how the authority could proactively assist in developing the generation and transmission infrastructure." The Authority was also to "assist any entity that wants to build new or upgrade existing electric transmission facilities."

The wind is here, the will is missing. Opponents of wind energy grab the media's attention, but miss the long-term and intrinsic value of renewable energy development.

On the left of the ideological spectrum, opponents pose the issues of noise pollution, injury to livestock, wildlife and environmental damage to terrain. In principal, these are legitimate issues. But in reality they don't exist. Opponents raise such issues but fail to cite any examples among the 500 existing commercial wind turbines in the state. The proof is in the pudding and the pudding is edible.

On the far right of the spectrum, opponents seem to complain that the wind farm projects are not really profitable and are just "tax havens." Opponents often cite Warren Buffet's comments about the speculative tax nature of wind energy projects. The proof is again in the pudding, however. Mr. Buffet, through his Berkshire subsidiary BHE, has invested about \$10 billion in renewable energy projects since 2011. I also question why wind farm owners would keep 500 wind turbines operating if they were not making money and if future tax issues were so speculative. But they do continue to operate. So this pudding is also edible.

Warren Buffet has always steered his business towards the future. Now South Dakota needs to steer itself in that direction.

David Ganje of Ganje Law Offices practices in the area of natural resources, environmental and commercial law in North and South Dakota with offices in Rapid City.