

OPINION

OUR VIEW

Now is the time

When the termination of one-third of the work force of this community’s largest employer was announced, many people wanted to take action.

And while members of this community wanted to help, at that time there was no plan, no cohesive vision of how to move forward, and no clear idea of what to do.

Since then, economic response teams have been established and plans have been drafted.

And now is the time to do something.

Members of this community are encouraged to attend a “forward thinking discussion” at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at Backus Community Center sponsored by one of several teams created to assist in developing plans to address different aspects of the community’s economic situation.

Now is the time to hear about what’s been done and what needs to be done to improve our community’s economy, and to make this a better place to work and live.

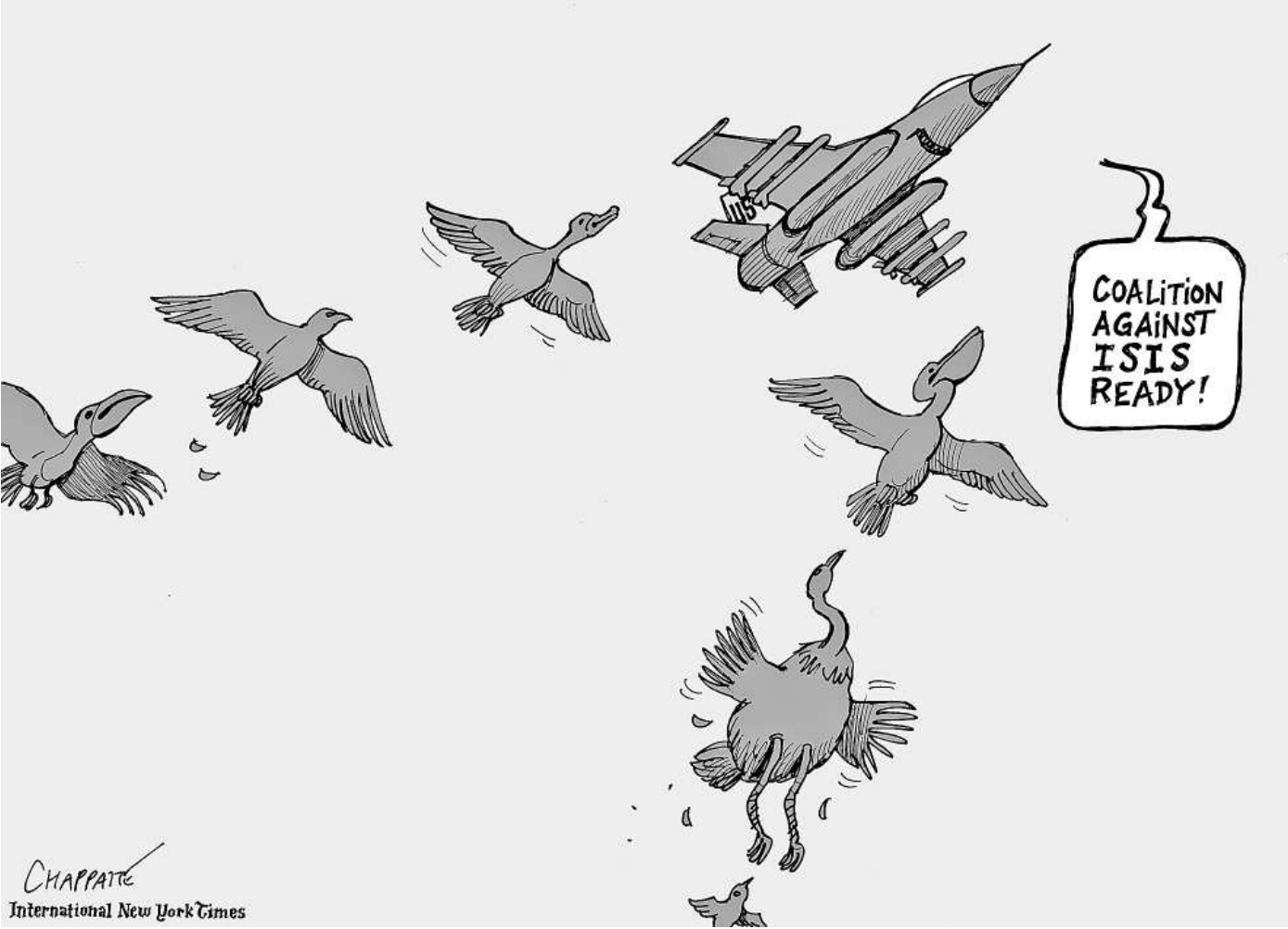
Now is the time to

hear and learn from presentations from groups formed by other communities to change their situations.

Now is the time to volunteer to be a steward: Ordinary people from all walks of life who care deeply about their community. These are the people who are willing to step up and do what is needed to move their community in a direction that will mean economic stability and job growth while at the same time maintaining and improving the quality of life for people who live and work here.

Thursday’s meeting is a chance to help shape our destiny, to help identify what we value, create a vision of what we want this community to be in the future and to establish a path to reach that destiny.

We urge all members of this community from all reaches of Koochiching County to take this opportunity to set aside any differences on other issues and work together to create the future we all want to experience.



GUEST COLUMN

ISIS even worse than the Nazis

Whither the Islamic State? That’s a real double-edged question: where is the group otherwise known as ISIS headed, and can the United States and other civilized nations make it shrivel up and die? The group is and has taken off like a bat out of hell, gobbling up territory and becoming a virtual murder machine.

President Barack Obama’s speech on his plan to try to eliminate the ISIS threat could not have come soon enough for him and the Democrats. Obama’s perceived hesitancy in responding to ISIS’s threat has decimated the Democrats Party’s numbers on national security. And ISIS’s nearly gleeful beheadings of American journalists James Foley and Steven Sotloff had a huge impact on Americans: a NBC/Wall Street Journal poll found Americans paid more attention to those stories than any other over the past five years.

How fearful and/or angry are Americans? An ABC News/Washington Post poll found 71 percent of Americans want air strikes against ISIS, 65 percent want expanded strikes and 74 percent of Republicans and 60 percent of Democrats want the strikes. Only 38 percent approved of Obama’s performance in foreign policy, an 8 point



Joe GANDELMAN
INDEPENDENT’S EYE

drop. Being the guy who got Osama bin Laden doesn’t do you much good if you’re now the guy whose name is becoming linked with the Democratic Party’s biggest modern failure as President, Jimmy Carter. But it isn’t just the issue of bombing, striking back, and even protecting the American homeland. The bottom line is that ISIS is unlike anything the world has seen since the Nazis. And in terms of their mercilessness and sheer pride in butchering men, women and children, they are even outdoing the Nazis.

Yes, the Nazis killed WAY many more. But just give ISIS time and opportunity and perhaps they’d compete. The big difference been the Nazis and ISIS is that Nazis tried to hide (or at least publicly downplay) their inhumanity. Even today, Neonazis angrily email those writing about the

Holocaust, insisting Adolf Hitler would never do such a thing and that photos of Nazi executions and numbers of Jew killed are doctored. History shows the Nazis didn’t want word to get out about their “final solution” to the Jewish “problem,” and that Hitler ordered that the murders of Jewish innocents not be referred to directly in any documentation.

But, as some analysts increasingly note, ISIS members seem to be getting off on their power as they talk before their helpless, terrified victims in front of a camera. A depressing look at Google Images and videos under “ISIS” shows its members proudly holding bloody heads, and emotionless ISIS soldiers mowing down rows and rows of tied-up prisoners. Reports describe how fathers and their preteen sons are executed or young boys are taken out alone and shot. One of the most disturbing videos shows a clad-in-black ISIS executioner standing behind young woman and strangling her with a metal cord as a crowd watches. She violated some ISIS rules.

There is no mercy, so, yes, you can imagine what would happen if an ISIS team went into U.S. mall or what would happen to a

city if the group obtained a nuclear weapon. ISIS’s enemies are all who don’t adopt its specific brand of Islam. But unlike the Nazis, ISIS wants to get images of its murder and barbarism out to the world. When Twitter began shutting down ISIS linked accounts, ISIS threatened Twitter employees in San Francisco and Europe with assassination.

So what is ISIS? A movement? A real nation state? A group defiling the image of law-abiding Muslims who wouldn’t dream of chopping someone’s head off? A group acting out the most Orthodox instructions from Muhammad? A group totally distorting what Muhammad really meant or wanted? The debate over this and more will continue as Obama begins to implement his anti-ISIS policy and seeks to build an effective international coalition.

In truth, ISIS is a death-cult that celebrates and tries to glorify brutality. They’ve become the world’s biggest, unapologetic producer and marketer of real “snuff” videos.

That isn’t exactly found in the Koran.

Gandelman’s columns are distributed exclusively by Cagle Cartoons newspaper syndicate.

How to contact your lawmakers

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Letters should be limited to 500 words or less. Longer letters may be edited. Letters must be signed and include the telephone number and address of the letter writer. Only the author’s city address will be published.

Mail letters to The Journal, 1602 Highway 71, International Falls 56649. Letters can also be sent by e-mail to laurel@ifallsjournal.com.

Candidate letter policy

The beginning of 2014 brought a new policy to The Journal. A charge of \$30 will be required to publish letters to the editor from candidates or about candidates. The letters must be 500 words or less and the fee must be paid prior to the letter being published. The name and city of the author will be published with the letter.

Letters may be emailed to laurel@ifallsjournal.com. The Journal will publish a deadline for publication of paid election letters prior to the Aug. 12 primary and Nov. 4 general elections.