

## THE PRESS &amp; DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION | OUR VIEW

Zoning Issue Points  
To Ordinance Flaw

Yankton County arrived at the right conclusion in a zoning case only because the parameters defined in the zoning ordinance are inadequate.

The case involved Larson's Landing and a complaint that some "structures" that have been erected on the property by campers were not compliant with zoning regulations.

These structures are basically wooden patios that have been constructed by occupants alongside campers at the Yankton camping resort, located just downstream from Gavins Point Dam. If you drove into the place and saw them, you would probably think nothing of them. And since they must be dismantled and taken away when the campers leave, they are clearly not permanent structures.

No matter. The area in which Larson's Landing is located is zoned as a Moderate Density Rural Residential District (R-2). Thus, the structures need building permits or officially approved variances.

Thus, more than 30 such structures that have been constructed at the 94-unit resort must be removed within 30 days, according to Zoning Administrator Pat Garrity.

Thus, the issue exposes a problem with the zoning ordinance in that it does not recognize the existence of what are essentially temporary structures that are being built alongside temporary/mobile dwellings.

Last week's final decision by the County Commission on this case was technically the correct one because, as Garrity pointed out, the residents surrounding Larson's Landing are also living in an R-2 zone and complying with the rules, and they have every right to expect the inhabitants at Larson's Landing to do the same. The wording of the ordinance effectively tied the hands of the commissioners.

The real problem, as acknowledged during last week's commission meeting, is that Yankton County's zoning laws apparently don't really differentiate between campground residents — who are temporary and seasonal, but are definitely fixtures in Yankton County's tapestry — and permanent residents.

This is something that must be remedied. Garrity suggested that the matter could be visited, and Commission Chairman Bruce Jensen agreed.

Yankton's heavy tourism economy has spawned a significant strata of campground dwellings. Demanding that these campers be held accountable to zoning rules that are generally designed for permanent structures makes little sense. There are certainly enough camp pads and parks in the county to devise a new section of the ordinance to accommodate those needs and situations.

As was noted last week, situations like what occurred at Larson's Landing will come up again. Hopefully, the county's zoning ordinance will be amended accordingly so that it can better and more adequately address the matter next time.

kmh

## ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the *Press & Dakotan's* Web site are as follows:

## LATEST RESULTS:

Should the U.S. consider boycotting the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia?	
No	69%
Yes	19%
Not sure	12%
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>270</b>

*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:

Should the U.S. take military action in the Syrian conflict?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## ON THIS DATE

## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 27, the 239th day of 2013. There are 126 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On August 27, 1883, the island volcano Krakatoa erupted with a series of cataclysmic explosions; the resulting tidal waves in Indonesia's Sunda Strait claimed some 36,000 lives in Java and Sumatra.

**On this date:** In 1776, the Battle of Long Island began during the Revolutionary War as British troops attacked American forces, who ended up being forced to retreat two days later.

In 1859, Edwin L. Drake drilled the first successful oil well in the United States, at Titusville, Pa.

In 1908, Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th president of the United States, was born near Stonewall, Texas.

In 1928, the Kellogg-Briand Pact was signed in Paris, outlawing war and providing for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

In 1939, the first turbojet-powered aircraft, the Heinkel He 178, went on its first full-fledged test flight over Germany.

In 1942, the Times of London published an editorial calling on the British government to promote the production of penicillin, the first mention of the antibiotic by a newspaper.

In 1957, the USS *Swordfish*, the second Skate Class nuclear submarine, was launched from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Maine.

In 1962, the United States launched the Mariner 2 space probe, which flew past Venus in December 1962.

In 1963, author, journalist and civil rights activist W.E.B. Du Bois died in Accra, Ghana, at age 95.

In 1967, Brian Epstein, manager of the Beatles, was found dead in his London flat from an overdose of sleeping pills; he was 32.

In 1979, British war hero Lord Louis Mountbatten and three other people, including his 14-year-old grandson Nicholas, were killed off the coast of Ireland in a boat explosion claimed by the Irish Republican Army.

In 1989, the first U.S. commercial satellite rocket was launched from Cape Canaveral, Fla. — a Delta booster carrying a British communications satellite, the Marcopolo 1.

**Ten years ago:** A granite monument of the Ten Commandments that became a lightning rod in a legal storm over the separation of church and state was wheeled from the ro-

tunda of the Alabama Supreme Court building as protesters knelt, prayed and chanted, "Put it back!" In Chicago, a man who had been fired from an auto parts warehouse six months earlier came back with a gun and killed six employees before being shot dead by police. Thirty-nine people died in a stampede at an Indian religious festival. A multinational summit on North Korea's nuclear program opened in Beijing.

**Five years ago:** Barack Obama was nominated for president by the Democratic National Convention in Denver. A federal judge in Boise, Idaho, sentenced longtime sex offender Joseph Edward Duncan III to death for the 2005 kidnapping, torture and murder of 9-year-old Dylan Groene.

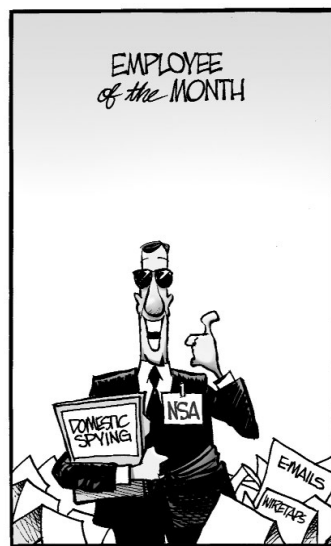
**One year ago:** Republicans opened their national convention in Tampa, Fla., a day late, then immediately adjourned as Tropical Storm Isaac surged toward New Orleans and the northern Gulf Coast.

**Today's Birthdays:** Cajun-country singer Jimmy C. Newman is 86. Author Dame Antonia Fraser is 81. Actor Tommy Sands is 76. Bluegrass singer-musician J.D. Crowe is 76. Musician Daryl Dragon is 71. Actress Tuesday Weld is 70. Actor G.W. Bailey is 69. Rock singer-musician Tim Bogert is 69. Actress Marianne Sagebrecht is 68. Country musician Jeff Cook is 64. Actor Paul Reubens is 61. Rock musician Alex Lifeson (Rush) is 60. Actress Diana Scarwid is 58. Rock musician Glen Matlock (The Sex Pistols) is 57. Golfer Bernhard Langer is 56. Country singer Jeffrey Steele is 52. Gospel singer Yolanda Adams is 52. Country musician Matthew Basford (Yankee Grey) is 51. Writer-producer Dean Devlin is 51. Rock musician Mike Johnson is 48. Rap musician Bobo (Cypress Hill) is 45. Country singer Colt Ford is 44. Actress Chandra Wilson is 44. Rock musician Tony Kanal (No Doubt) is 43. Actress Sarah Chalke is 37. Actor RonReaco Lee is 37. Rapper Mase is 36. Actress-singer Demetria McKinney is 35. Actor Aaron Paul is 34. Rock musician Jon Siebels (Eve) is 34. Actor Shaun Weiss is 34. Contemporary Christian musician Megan Garrett (Casting Crowns) is 33. Actor Kyle Lowder is 33. Actor Patrick J. Adams is 32. Singer Mario is 27. Actress Alexa Vega is 25.

**Thought for Today:** "In order to have wisdom we must have ignorance." — Theodore Dreiser, American author (born this date in 1871, died 1945).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for His name in serving the saints, as you still do. Hebrews 6:10.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



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## The Rez of the Story

## Dancing With Closed Eyes

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives, In traditional Dakota story telling, one of the more prominent figures is a spider called Iktomi (pronounced eek-doo-mee). Iktomi is always playing the fool. He tries to trick (con) others but often only succeeds in fooling himself. Iktomi stories are used to teach morals and ethical behavior among the people. I also think there is the story behind the story sometimes meant to serve as a warning to listeners.

Case in point: One Iktomi story tells how the duck got its red eyes — but I think that the duck getting its red eyes is only one aspect of the story and this is my own take on this Dakota classic.

Iktomi is walking down by a big lake they call Miniota (lots of water) one day with a bag slung over his shoulder much like travelers did in those days. He approached a gathering of several ducks near the shore when they asked, "Iktomi, what are you carrying in that bundle you've got hung over your shoulder?"

"Hau (greetings) my relatives," he said. "Before I tell you what I have in this bag, I'm going to ask your permission to sit here on the shore for a short while to catch my breath and rest up a bit."

The ducks, having their curiosity now near over-spill, agreed to allow Iktomi to sit in his chosen place. "What a polite and gracious soul was he," they discussed among themselves.

He thanked them for their kind and generous hospitality, and said, "I am carrying a bag full of songs that I'm taking with me over to the pow-wow that's being put up by the Cheyenne people just south of here. If you'd like I can get a couple of those songs out of the bag and sing them for you in exchange for being so kind to me this fine day."

Now these ducks liked to dance, so they quickly agreed to Iktomi's proposal. Iktomi added, "These songs are very sacred, so out of respect, I'm going to ask that when you dance, you have to keep your eyes shut. Hearing these songs with your eyes open could cause them to turn red, I have heard it told."

And so Iktomi sang his song and the ducks all danced, much to their great delight. Whenever one of the ducks came close, Iktomi would hit it over



Vince  
**TWO EAGLES**

the head with his drum stick and put it in his bag. After a little while, one of the ducks couldn't contain his curiosity any longer and decided to take a quick peek at Iktomi and the others dancing. He saw what Iktomi was up to and immediately sounded the alarm to the other ducks who also opened their eyes and were able to get away.

As it was told, the duck's eyes had indeed turned red and to this day, their eyes have stayed red to remind the generations to always keep their eyes open whenever they danced.

The world is full of Iktomi con artists and tricksters of many shapes, sizes and nationalities, and they come in all colors: black, white, red and yellow. Some tricksters are as deadly as they are all liars and thieves.

On Nov. 18, 1978, 909 members of the Peoples Temple under the control of the Rev. Jim Jones committed mass suicide, of which 200 children were murdered, almost all by cyanide poisoning — dancing with their eyes closed.

In March 1993, four ATF agents and 77 perished in fires ultimately resulting from cult activity directed by David Koresh — dancing with their eyes closed.

The Manson cult, or "The Family" as it was called, committed mass murder in 1969.

The "Heavens Gate" cult members killed themselves leaving 39 dead — dancing with their eyes closed.

Every year, we hear about hundreds of thousands of people getting ripped off through one scam or another — sleeping with their eyes closed.

L. Ron Hubbard the founder of Scientology, has been quoted as saying, "If a man really wants to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion."

By all means, feel free to dance but only if you're going to keep those eyes open. Get and stay informed. Education is the best hedge against being tricked and made a fool of. Informing others about scams and scam artists is a responsibility none of us should nor can we afford to shirk or ever take lightly.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

## Kathleen Parker

## 'If I Had A Son/Father ...'

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — If I had a son, he would look like Christopher Lane, the 22-year-old Australian baseball player shot dead while jogging in Oklahoma.

If I had a father, he'd look like Delbert Belton, the 88-year-old World War II veteran beaten to death in Spokane, Wash.

And yes, if I had a son, he'd look like the white teenager who police say drove the getaway car in the Oklahoma killing.

These are all true statements if we identify ourselves and each other only by the color of our skin, which, increasingly seems to be the case — including our own president.

Barack Obama helped lead the way when he identified himself with Trayvon Martin, shot by George Zimmerman in the neighborhood-watch catastrophe with which all are familiar. Stepping out from his usual duties of drawing meaningless red lines in the Syrian sand, the president splashed red paint across the American landscape.

"If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon."

In so saying, he essentially gave permission for all to identify themselves by race with the victim or the accused. How sad as we approach the 50th anniversary of the march Martin Luther King Jr. led on Washington that even the president resorts to judging not by the content of one's character but by the color of his skin — the antithesis of the great dream King articulated with those words.

Obama went even further after the Zimmerman verdict, expressing his self-identification not as leader of a racially diverse nation — or as the son of a white mother — but as a black man who remembers women clutching their purses tighter when he entered an elevator, and being followed in department stores. All because he was black?

Even today, I am followed when I go to the second floor of a boutique in Georgetown. Apparently, store policy requires that an attendant be upstairs when a shopper is. The way department store clerks follow me around, you'd think my face was plastered on a "Wanted for Shoplifting" poster. This is especially so if I'm dressed like a slob.

In my 20s, I conducted an experiment when I had the opposite problem. No clerk would help me. It occurred to me that my ratty jeans and T-shirt might be the problem, so I went home,

## YOUR LETTERS

## Good Sailing!

Jarett C. Bies, Yankton

Organizer, Yankton Riverboat Days Kayak Run

On behalf of the volunteer team of the Yankton Riverboat Days Kayak Run, I write today to say thank you to all the racers and agencies that made our inaugural year a success. More than 50 racers, many from Yankton, took part in our six-mile race on the Missouri River and 100 percent of our participants finished the course.

The Yankton Riverboat Days Committee, Yankton Search & Rescue and the Yankton

Parks and Recreation Department all played key roles in allowing our event to happen smoothly with much celebration. It was a hoot to be a part of the signature festival of southeastern South Dakota. We also thank the *Press and Dakotan* for its preview coverage as well as the entire community for its receptive support.

Plans are in place to bring the Yankton Riverboat Days Kayak Run back on Aug. 16, 2014, so if you were unable to join us this year, we hope you'll come out and put some time on the river into your Riverboat Days in 2014!

Kathleen Parker's email address is [kathleen-parker@washpost.com](mailto:kathleen-parker@washpost.com).