

# The Press & Dakotan

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**OPINION**

## Open Schools And Safe Driving

Yes, it really is hard to believe that a new school year is upon us. Some students, including those in Yankton, are returning to classroom this week, while others will follow shortly thereafter.

And as always, it's time for motorists to be mindful of the fact that those students will again be out and about, and extra precaution is needed.

But that annual advice comes with a 21st century addendum or two.

As surely as adult motorists must now be on the lookout for young pedestrians and school buses that will be making frequent stops along busy routes, it's also time for young drivers to pay even more attention to their surroundings as school gets into session.

Distracted driving is an epidemic among motorists of all ages. Portable electronic devices such as smartphones are practically omnipresent in our lives, and the urge or unthinking reflex to utilize them while we are driving — even to take a call — is extremely high.

But it is a particular threat to young drivers, who are faced with these alluring attractions (which are also social connections) while possessing driving skills that are still very much under development.

A recent study by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety noted that 3,000 people were killed and 400,000 people were injured in teen-related crashes in 2013, and that two-thirds of those people injured were not the teens driving.

"Teen crash rates are higher than any other age group, and this data confirms that the impact of their crashes extends well beyond the teen who is behind the wheel," stated Peter Kissinger, president and CEO of the AAA Foundation.

While there are several factors for this, distracted driving remains a major concern. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that distracted driving is responsible for about 11 percent of all highway accidents but the AAA Foundation reports that distraction is the cause of nearly six out of 10 moderate to severe teen crashes.

However, it's not just electronic devices that cause dangerous distraction. As NBC News reported recently: "Add one passenger under 21 and the risk of being killed jumps 44 percent. With two, it doubles, and it quadruples if there are three or more passengers onboard under 21."

So, the prospect of teen drivers heading for school also having to cope with young students scurrying through crosswalks or walking along streets magnifies the dangers even more.

The best advice is to keep your eyes open, your hands on the wheel and your thoughts concentrated on the task at hand. And frankly, that's not a matter of picking on young drivers, for that same advice applies to everyone.

To all motorists: Have a safe school year, and mind the road and pedestrians.

knh

### ONLINE OPINION

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

**LATEST RESULTS:**

Who would you vote for in a hypothetical presidential matchup between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump?  
Trump.....51%  
Clinton.....30%  
Third party.....12%  
Undecided.....7%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST.....346**

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 consider yourself a native of the city/zip code in which you are now living?  
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 Tuesday, August 18, the 230th day of 2015. There are 135 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On August 18, 1587, Virginia Dare became the first child of English parents to be born in present-day America, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the Roanoke colony ended up mysteriously disappearing.)

**On this date:** In 1838, the first marine expedition sponsored by the U.S. government set sail from Hampton Roads, Virginia; the crews traveled the southern Pacific Ocean, gathering scientific information.

In 1846, U.S. forces led by General Stephen W. Kearny captured Santa Fe, New Mexico.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.

In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing all American women's right to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

In 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King dedicated the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting the United States and Canada.

In 1955, the romantic drama "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing," starring William Holden and Jennifer Jones, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1963, James Meredith became the first black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, wound to a close after three nights with a mid-morning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1976, two U.S. Army officers were killed in Korea's demilitarized zone as a group of North Korean soldiers wielding axes and metal pikes attacked U.S. and South Korean soldiers.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage. The Kansas City Royals defeated the New York Yankees, 5-4, in the completion of the "pine-tar" game in just 12 minutes.

In 1988, Vice President George H.W. Bush accepted the presidential nomination of his party at the Republican National Convention in New Orleans.

In 1995, Shannon Faulkner, who'd won a 2 1/2-year legal battle to become the first female cadet at The Citadel, quit the South Carolina military college after less than a week, most of it spent in the infirmary.

**Ten years ago:** Cindy Sheehan, who'd started an anti-war demonstration near President George W. Bush's Texas

ranch nearly two weeks earlier, left the camp after learning her mother had suffered a stroke, but told supporters the protest would go on. A judge in Wichita, Kansas, sentenced BTK serial killer Dennis Rader to 10 consecutive life terms, the maximum the law would allow. Pope Benedict XVI began his first foreign trip as pontiff in low-key style, returning to his "beloved" German homeland.

**Five years ago:** General Motors filed the first batch of paperwork to sell stock to the public again, a significant step toward shedding U.S. government ownership a year after the automaker had filed for bankruptcy. A bull leapt into the packed grandstands of a bullring in northern Spain and ran amok, charging and trampling spectators and leaving dozens of people injured. (The bull was brought under control by handlers and was later killed.)

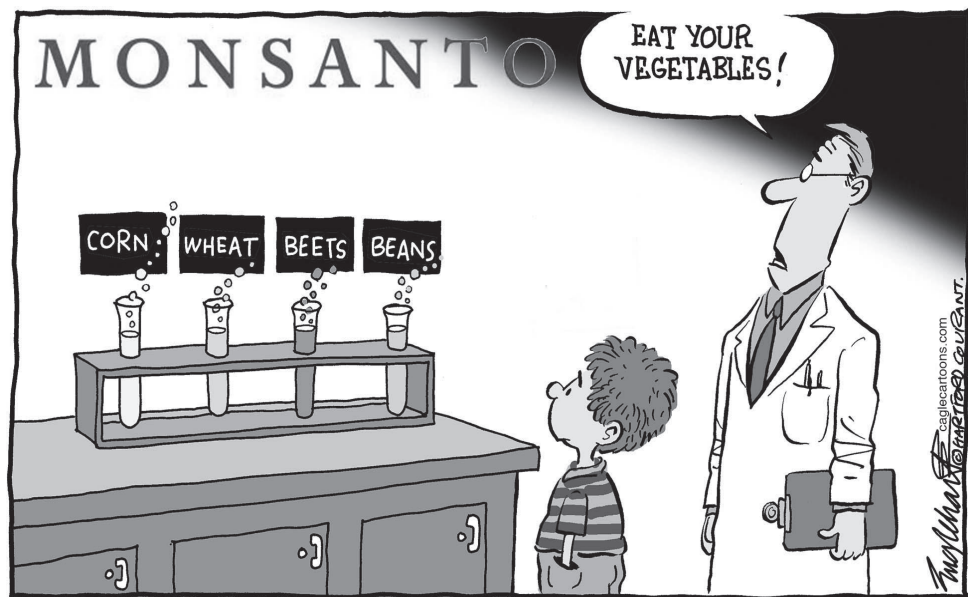
**One year ago:** Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the National Guard to Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis convulsed by protests over the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teen. Former Vermont U.S. Sen. James Jeffords, who in 2001 tipped control of the Senate when he quit the Republican Party to become an independent, died in Washington; he was 80. Don Pardo, 96, a durable radio and television announcer whose booming baritone became as much a part of the U.S. cultural landscape as the shows and products he touted, died in Tucson, Arizona.

**Today's Birthdays:** Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is 88. Movie director Roman Polanski is 82. Olympic gold medal decathlete Rafer Johnson is 80. Actor-director Robert Redford is 79. Actor Henry G. Sanders is 73. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sarah Dash (LaBelle) is 70. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 65. Comedian Elaine Bosler is 63. Country singer Steve Wilkinson (The Wilkinson) is 60. Actor Denis Leary is 58. Actress Madeleine Stowe is 57. Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is 54. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 54. The former president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is 53. Bluegrass musician Jimmy Mattingly is 53. Actor Adam Storke is 53. Actor Craig Bierko is 51. Rock singer-musician Zac Maloy (The Nixons) is 47. Rock singer and hip-hop artist Everlast is 46. Rapper Masta Killa (Wu-Tang Clan) is 46. Actor Christian Slater is 46. Actor Edward Norton is 46. Actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner is 45. Actress Kaitlin Olson is 40. Actor-writer-director Hadji is 39. Rock musician Dirk Lance is 39. Actor-comedian Andy Samberg (TV, "Saturday Night Live") is 37. Actress Mika Boorem is 28. Actress Maia Mitchell is 22. Actress Parker McKenna Posey is 20.

**Thought for Today:** "Memory is more indelible than ink." — Anita Loos, American author and screenwriter (1888-1981).

### FROM THE BIBLE

You have found favor with God. Luke 1:30. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



## A Lion's Life Cut Short By Arrogance

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Cesar Chavez, who fought to improve the lot of all living things here on planet-Mother Earth, once wrote: "Kindness and compassion towards all living things is a mark of a civilized society. Conversely, cruelty, whether it is directed against [animals] in the name of sport, exploiting animals in the name of fashion, and yes, exploiting animals in the name of food."

Case in point. Justin Worland in a recent article published in Time magazine out it this way:

"When the world learned in late July about the death of Cecil the lion — a beloved resident of a national park in Zimbabwe who had been lured away by hunters, killed and beheaded for a trophy — outrage came swiftly. Walter James Palmer, the Minnesota dentist who killed Cecil, became the target of online death threats. Investigations have been launched on two continents, with a trial for Palmer's hunting guide set for September. And big airlines rushed to announce they would no longer fly the trophies on their planes.

"But while Cecil's death has put a new focus on illegal poaching, other hunters are pursuing their own trophies — and it's perfectly legal. That's because of another, less publicized side of big-game trophy hunting: the sanctioned stalking of animals that are bred, grown and kept in captivity so that the right to kill them can be sold to wealthy sportsmen. It's called 'canned hunting'... where lions and other big game await the same fate as Cecil — just without the global mourning."

There is something fundamentally wrong with killing animals for the sake of a "trophy." What makes people think that they have the right to kill living creatures for the "fun of it?" They are our relatives and we are all bound together in this life journey like it or not. "The time will come when men such as I will look upon the murder of animals as they now look on the murder of men." — Leonardo da Vinci —

The great Dali Lama says, "There is no question that persons and things exist; the question is how, or in what manner, do they exist."

In what manner shall we describe our sense-



Vince TWO EAGLES

lessness when it comes to our treatment of our fellow creatures who cannot speak for themselves? In what manner do we co-exist along side other sentient beings. Do we not have an equal responsibility to guard and protect their right to exist without exploitation in any form?

I see folks all the time who claim to "love animals" mistreat and neglect their so-called family pets. They leave them tied up for days, weeks, months, even years on end, with out any affection or proper attention to their needs. These family pets suffer without relief unless we humans pass strong enough laws and ordinances so as to not only prohibit this kind of treatment but to justly punish those who by their own behavior reveal themselves to be cruel and inhuman.

Any doctrine that claims humans to be superior over animals and other living things should be declared false in my estimation. For thousands of years Dakotah people have passed down from generation to generation about the true nature of our relationship with the earth and all its living things — our relatives. Whether all of life was "created" by some unknown creator or not, we are all made of the same stuff and our lives are inescapably interdependent.

Killing a lion or any other animal for sport and a trophy is evidence of our own adolescence as a thinking, compassionate species as we like to think of ourselves. Some of us lack the understanding necessary to help them draw the right conclusions. There is much ignorance in this world, of this there can be no doubt. But it doesn't have to stay that way. We can reach out to each other and teach each other about how it is we should be living together with one another and our fellow living relatives.

Let us let go of our arrogance and "know-it-allness" so that the future of those yet unborn can enjoy their life and be free from exploitation of any kind or manner. Cecil the lion's life was cut short for very many reasons, all wrong and in need of change, but primarily Cecil's life was cut short by arrogance.

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

### Capitol Notebook

## A Spike In Direct Democracy

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Here is the immediate question about the wild multitude of petitions circulating in South Dakota proposing changes to the state constitution and to state laws.

Is there enough ink? At least 235,801 valid signatures are needed.

The latest two cleared the attorney general's desk Wednesday. We stood at three measures already qualified for the November 2016 ballot... Plus five petitions seeking signatures for initiated laws...

And four petitions seeking signatures for constitutional amendments...

And the latest two, for constitutional amendments, ready to go.

That's 14 possibilities for next year's general-election ballot for voters to decide.

The last time South Dakota had 14 measures on the ballot was 1916. The number has reached 10 or more only five other times. Those were in the elections of 1910, 1914, 1918, 1970 and 2006.

Now here's the next crazy thing. Having so many measures on the ballot didn't equal success. Defeat was the most common result.

In 1910, voters rejected 10 of the 11. In 1914, they rejected 10 of the 11 — and also refused to call a constitutional convention.

In 1916, voters approved four but killed the other 10. One that won approval was creation of the rural-credit system, which quickly went bankrupt but took decades to pay off the debt.

The 1918 election saw voters saying yes a lot. They approved 12 of 13 measures.

Women received the right to vote. A graduated income tax passed. State government received authority to sell cement, coal and hail

insurance, and to build and operate grain elevators and warehouses, and to get into the flour milling and meat packing businesses.

Women's suffrage is the only one of those activities in which South Dakota still engages.

In the 1970 election, only four of the 11 measures passed. One inserted the clause in the state constitution providing for limited legalized gambling. That was more than a decade before the South Dakota Lottery, Deadwood casinos and video lottery came along.

The nay tended to prevail in the 2006 election as well. Of 11 measures, three won approval.

One was a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage; the U.S. Supreme Court has since decided differently. Another increased the taxes on tobacco.

And a third that passed in 2006 prohibited personal use of state-owned aircraft, a response to the frequent flying for non-official use by then-Gov. Mike Rounds.

Looking at the past 10 years, there were more defeats than victories for ballot measures. The 2008 score was one approval and six losses. In 2010 it was two and two. For 2012 two wins and four defeats. In 2014 three wins.

Only three measures are on the 2016 ballot so far. One of them — a constitutional amendment proposed by Rep. Mark Mickelson dealing with technical institutes and the Board of Regents — might need further amending in the 2016 session. Not clear how that happens.

That leaves 11 petition measures still needing signatures.

Petitioned measures topped five only twice. There were six that made the ballot in 1988 and nine that made it in 2006.

And don't forget: You must be registered to vote in South Dakota before you sign.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### 'Slippery Slope'

Tom Jones, Viborg

Former State Legislator and Appropriations Committee Member

Many South Dakotans do not want to read about numbers, dollars, and percentages, but for those of you that don't mind doing so, I'd like to give you some information about your tax dollars and what is happening to them.

For the fourth year in a row, South Dakota's financial leaders have under estimated our revenue and over estimated our expenses. The four years total is over \$103 million dollars. Each year's amounts are: almost \$48 million, \$24 million, almost \$10 million, and \$21 million. These monies are placed (by law) in the Budget Reserve Fund. As a result of this continuous action, these dollars are not spent as "ongoing" dollars, but can be used as "one-time" dollars. When these dollars are spent (or saved) by the legislature there is no commitment to do this each year.

The Budget Reserve Fund now has over \$126 million; that added to the Property Tax Relief

Fund of over \$44 million shows a total of \$170 million on hand. This represents 12.2 percent of South Dakota's 1.39 billion dollars of the General Fund contribution to our state's total budget.

We have also amassed another \$1 BILLION in trust funds. We've built a Medicaid surplus by, once again, overestimating costs. Our cash flow account (the state's checking account) keeps climbing. All these factors are evidence that state government is awash in cash while we starve the schools and push expenses onto our homeowners in the form of property taxes.

Perhaps our formulators of our state budget should attempt to be closer to "spot-on" and adjust their numbers and percentages to fit what is actually happening to our income and expenses. Being conservative is South Dakota's way of living, but not to the point of being miserly.

Touching quickly on another subject, I see that we have lowered the requirements to be able to teach some of our math courses. This is a start of going down the "slippery slope" in education. There is a better way of solving the qualified teacher shortage that we have.