



The Rez Of The Story

Be A Responsible Patient

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Healthcare is a personal issue for all of us. It entails knowing all that we can about our “state of health” because the more we know the better decisions we can make about preventing illness, diagnosing, and treating what ails us. We necessarily enter into formal and informal partnerships with all those individuals we come in contact with when we access the healthcare system. It is wise to know who we are working with and to let them know as much about you as is necessary to increase your odds of having a good experience while doing your best to get well or to prevent illness in the first place.

Because we live in a society that thankfully provides basic rights to effective healthcare, there is another side to the coin — that of being a responsible patient.

We Indian people rely primarily on the Indian Health Service to meet our healthcare needs and as such have been afforded certain “Patient Rights” as discussed in last week’s column. Along with these rights come the following responsibilities as well. These basic patient responsibilities are posted throughout the IHS facility. If you would like a copy I am quite sure that the staff there will get you a copy.

Here then, in part two of two, is the list of “Patient Responsibilities” to balance last week’s “Patient Rights.” You have the responsibility to:

- Know and follow rules and regulations. (If you don’t understand a particular rule or regulation do not hesitate to have it/them explained to you!)
- Show mutual respect and consideration for those providing medical care. (Remember they are human too. They have compassion and empathy for what you are going through, they are not robots.)
- Provide your caretakers accurate and complete information. (If your caretakers are to be effective partners, they need to know what they need to know.)
- Ask questions if you do not understand information about ... procedures/treatments, medications, etc. (There is no such thing as a dumb question. You



Vince TWO EAGLES

can’t know if you don’t ask. You will experience far less stress if you know what they are going to do and why.)

- Give cooperation and follow the care prescribed or recommended to you by your physician, nurse, or allied personnel. (Do not be afraid to have a conversation with your care provider about your body.)
 - Assume responsibility for your personal actions AND accept the consequences of your actions. (Saying, “they made me mad” or “they made me do what I did” are not ways to take responsibility but only reveal our own immaturity.)
 - Report any unexpected changes in your condition to your physician or other healthcare provider. (You will save yourself much grief if you address problems right a way.)
 - Keep appointments when they are scheduled. (The IHS facility must provide many life saving services to large numbers of people and so it only makes sense to do your best to keep your appointments. If you cannot keep an appointment be sure to call the IHS and let them know what’s up and to reschedule.)
 - Advise your nurse, physician or administrator of any dissatisfaction you may have regarding your care at this facility or a referral facility. (Notifying your caretaker of your concerns is the right thing to do! Remember to stay calm and keep your wits about you when doing so.)
 - Be considerate and observe all reasonable clinic regulations designed for the comfort and safety of all other patients and staff, such as fire, safety, infection control and noise control. (This patient responsibility speaks for itself.)
 - Do not share your medication and medical supplies with other patients. (Your friend or relative might ask to use some of your medicines — just say no can do. It is not wise to lend your medical supplies or medications because you are not a physician. Let the pro’s handle it. You and your friend or relative will be far better off.)
- Now you know the rez of the story.
Doksha (later) ...

Pierre Report

Texting Ban Not The Right Message

BY STATE REP. STACE NELSON
R-District 19 (Fulton)

My fellow South Dakotans,
My family and my belated Christmas & New Year best wishes to you and yours.
One of the hot issues facing your District 19 legislators, is Senate Bill 152 that prohibits the use of certain handheld electronic wireless devices while driving. While everyone is for safer drivers on the road, the question is, would this help or hurt?
Numerous studies of states that have enacted such “texting bans” have shown no decreases in accidents, and in about 75 percent of the states that enacted such bans, they actually saw a RISE in accident rates. The unintended consequences of these laws have been that people attempt to hide their actions which makes them even more distracted and thus the increase in accident rates.
The other problem is law abiding people being stopped and receiving tickets for being mistaken for violating such laws. It is very easy to mistake some-



Nelson

one legally talking on the phone, glancing at their GPS, or simply glancing at an object in their hand, or mistake a hand below the horizon of the dashboard, as a violation of such statutes.
Because of these reasons, I will not support the bill.
To see the bills that I am sponsoring or co-sponsoring, please view them here: <http://legis.state.sd.us/sessions/2013/MemberBills.aspx?Member=179>
Please follow all legislation, and feel free to contact all of the legislators, online via the state legislature portal at: WWW.Legis.State.SD.US While in session, the best way to get in touch with me is via my state email address: rep.nelson@state.sd.us by the legislative fax number (605) 773-6806, or by message on the floor (605) 773-3851. If you do write, please include your town in the subject line so I can immediately see that you are a constituent, as we get hundreds of emails a day from all over the world.

YOUR LETTERS

‘Unintended Consequences’

John Magnuson, Yankton

Firstly, it is dismaying to see the front page article (Press & Dakotan, Jan. 26) about the school gun bill advancing. It is hoped that state legislators will listen more carefully to Rob Munson, who is quoted in this article as objecting to this measure. One cringes at the possibility of guns being forcibly taken from teachers and wrongly used. Legislators seem to have a habit of getting out in front of the voters on issues and not reflecting the will of the people. This issue should be placed on the ballot for voter consideration where it will get what it deserves. There are better ways to address this issue.
Secondly, there have been articles addressing the moral and ethical problems of using military drones. The newly published, “The Untold History of the United States” by Oliver Stone and Peter Kuznick reports the U.S. has provided drones to Israel, who has in a convoluted manner re-gifted these drones to the Chinese. The Chinese have reportedly reverse-engineered the drone technology and is now manufacturing them for resale to countries not particularly friendly to the U.S. In addition, research is being conducted to miniaturize drones to the size of birds and maybe even insects. Very small drones would be undetectable and could be used for surveillance and assassination. This becomes interesting if drones used

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 Yankton is doing enough to promote river tourism?
No 56%
Yes 34%
Not sure 10%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 416

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.

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CURRENT QUESTION:

Who do you want to win the Super Bowl?
To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our Web site at www.yankton.net.

face-recognition technology, accessing Facebook and other social sites for data. Reportedly the U.S. company that manufactures military drones is lobbying to lower restrictions for export so that it can compete with Chinese companies.
It’s the world of unintended consequences — and how scary is that?

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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

OPINION | OUR VIEW

The County And Its Tax Issues

What on earth is going on in the Yankton County Auditor’s Office? That’s a regrettably pressing question these days as the office has had two major problems in the last two months that are impacting taxpayers and undercutting public confidence in the office and, in effect, the county.

The most recent incident is the fact that property tax billings for 2012 have yet to be finalized. By law, these figures should be available by Jan. 1, but as of late last week, those levy figures had not been properly calculated, according to the South Dakota Department of Revenue. This is the only county in the state that had failed to produce that information this late date.

This follows in the wake of the disclosure in December of a report from the state Department of Legislative Audit declaring that the county had miscalculated 2011 tax levies payable in 2012. Yankton County had failed to collect \$223,796.23 in levies — money that had to be distributed to local entities. The county must now dip into its reserve to make good on those commitments.

So, what IS going on in the auditor’s office? Yankton County residents deserve an answer, and they deserve to know what will be done about it.

Such answers have proven either murky or elusive, and county auditor Paula Jones must be held accountable for these problems. Frankly, Jones, who has served as the county’s auditor since 1999, has been her own worst enemy in both of these situations.

During the December tax shortfall episode, it was revealed that she had been contacted last spring by the Department of Legislative Audit about problems in the tax collections. However, this information was not conveyed to the County Commission, either by Jones or the state. (The commissioners were not happy with either party about that situation, and we don’t blame them one bit.) When this matter came up with the commission during a December meeting, Jones, who is a fixture at these meetings, was inexplicably absent. She later said she had a previous commitment — but she failed to convey that fact to the commissioners. She finally did respond to a *Press & Dakotan* inquiry, but only after several attempts to reach her.

Clues about the current property tax snafu (whether that acronym is applicable remains to be seen) began appearing earlier this month when the Treasurer’s Office asked the commission to approve overtime pay because of the crunch that was looming in regards to coping with the tardy tax levy statements. Now, the commissioners are hearing from the public about the situation, real estate agents are concerned that the late levies will impact land sales and the zoning administrator is facing a growing backlog of plat requests because tax bills are not ready to be settled.

Meanwhile, the Department of Revenue has been having problems getting complete documentation from Jones. A department spokesman said an email was sent to Jones on Jan. 15 requesting a report showing the proper valuations in the proper taxing districts; it was finally received last Friday.

This is utterly unacceptable. It’s also embarrassing, especially when the Department of Revenue spokesperson told the *Press & Dakotan* her department is “going the extra mile” to help the county avoid what happened last year with its tax valuations. That gives the impression that the county simply can’t handle this very vital job itself. (To be fair, other Yankton County officials must also share a small portion of blame in this for not notifying the public about the tax levy problems. This has caused confusion and inconvenience. The county really needed to communicate the problems to those affected.)

So, what happens now? Obviously, the county must get the tax levies calculated and finalized as quickly as possible. Also, the December revelation may cast doubt on calculations of past years, and as such, a full independent audit may be in order, if that is a realistic option.

What happens going forward? That’s simple. Mistakes of this magnitude CAN-NOT be tolerated again. Whether current personnel — including Jones, who is an elected official — are up to that task is problematic at the moment. As of now, there is genuine doubt about that prospect — which is a damning indictment. One way or another, the citizens of Yankton County must demand that this be righted.

kmh

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Tuesday, Jan. 29, the 29th day of 2013. There are 336 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History: On Jan. 29, 1963, poet Robert Frost died in Boston at age 88.

On this date: In 1820, Britain’s King George III died at Windsor Castle.

In 1843, the 25th president of the United States, William McKinley, was born in Niles, Ohio.

In 1845, Edgar Allan Poe’s poem “The Raven” was first published in the *New York Evening Mirror*.

In 1861, Kansas became the 34th state of the Union.

In 1863, the Bear River Massacre took place as the U.S. Army attacked Shoshone in present-day Idaho. The *New York Stock & Exchange Board* changed its name to the *New York Stock Exchange*.

In 1919, the ratification of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, which launched Prohibition, was certified by Acting Secretary of State Frank L. Polk.

In 1929, The Seeing Eye, a New Jersey-based school which trains guide dogs to assist the blind, was incorporated by Dorothy Harrison Eustis and Morris Frank.

In 1936, the first inductees of baseball’s Hall of Fame, including Ty Cobb and Babe Ruth, were named in Cooperstown, N.Y.

In 1958, actors Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward were married in Las Vegas.

In 1963, the first charter members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame were named in Canton, Ohio (they were enshrined when the Hall opened in September 1963).

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter formally welcomed Chinese Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping to the White House, following the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In 1998, a bomb rocked an abortion clinic in Birmingham, Ala., killing security guard Robert Sanderson and critically injuring nurse Emily Lyons. (The bomber, Eric Rudolph, was captured in May 2003 and is serving a life sentence.)

Ten years ago: The Congressional Budget Office predicted the federal deficit for fiscal 2003 would soar to \$199 billion even without President George W. Bush’s new tax cut plan or a war against Iraq. A dust explosion at the West Pharmaceutical Services plant in Kinston, N.C., killed six people and injured dozens more.

Five years ago: John McCain won a breakthrough triumph in the Florida primary, easing past Mitt Romney for his first-ever triumph in a primary open only to Republicans. Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton claimed victory in a campaign-free

Florida presidential primary in which all the candidates had signed pledges not to compete. (The national Democratic Party had stripped the state of its delegates as punishment for moving its primary ahead of Feb. 5.) Margaret Truman, the only child of President Harry S. Truman, died in Chicago at age 83. Raymond Jacobs, believed to be the last surviving member of the group of Marines photographed during the first U.S. flag-raising on Iwo Jima, died in Redding, Calif., at age 82.

One year ago: Eleven people were killed when smoke and fog caused a series of fiery crashes on I-75 in Florida. Lydia Ko of New Zealand became the youngest person to win a professional golf tour event by winning the Bing Lee/Samsung Women’s NSW Open on the ALPG Tour (she was 14 years and 8 months at the time). Novak Djokovic began defense of his Australian Open title with a 5-hour, 53-minute match against Rafael Nadal (Djokovic won 5-7, 6-4, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 7-5 at 1:37 a.m. Jan. 30). Team Chara won a 12-9 victory over Team Alfredsson in the NHL All-Star game. The AFC beat the NFC 59-41 in the Pro Bowl. Jeremy Abbott won his third title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships in San Jose, Calif.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Noel Harrison is 79. Author Germaine Greer is 74. Actress Katharine Ross is 73. Actor Tom Selleck is 68. Rhythm-and-blues singer Bettye LaVette is 67. Actor Marc Singer is 65. Actress Ann Jillian is 63. Rock musician Tommy Ramone (Ramones) is 61. Rock musician Louie Perez (Los Lobos) is 60. Rhythm-and-blues/funk singer Charlie Wilson is 60. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey is 59. Country singer Irlene Mandrell is 57. Actress Diane Delano is 56. Actress Judy Norton Taylor (“The Waltons”) is 55. Rock musician Johnny Spampinato is 54. Olympic gold-medal diver Greg Louganis is 53. Rock musician David Baynton-Power (James) is 52. Rock musician Eddie Jackson (Queensryche) is 52. Actor Nicholas Turturro is 51. Rock singer-musician Roddy Frame (Aztec Camera) is 49. Actor-director Edward Burns is 45. Actress Heather Graham is 43. Actor Sharif Atkins is 38. Actress Sara Gilbert is 38. Actor Justin Hartley is 36. Actor Sam Jaeger is 36. Actor Andrew Keegan is 34. Actor Jason James Richter is 33. Blues musician Jonny Lang is 32. Pop-rock singer Adam Lambert (“American Idol”) is 31.

Thought for Today: “And were an epitaph to be my story I’d have a short one ready for my own. I would have written of me on my stone: ‘I had a lover’s quarrel with the world.’” — Robert Frost (1874-1963).

FROM THE BIBLE

These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Colossians 2:17. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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**Published Daily
Monday-Saturday**

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly *Dakotan* established June 6, 1861. *Yankton Daily Press* and *Dakotian* established April 26, 1875.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan*, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

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The *Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan* is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

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