

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

# Obama Plays It Smart On Intelligence

**THE AUSTRALIAN (Jan. 20):** Barack Obama has been wise to largely ignore the lunar Left's clamor for what would amount to the crippling of America's intelligence-gathering capabilities following the allegations made by the National Security Agency defector Edward Snowden from his sanctuary in Moscow.

The US President deserves credit for the way in which, in his keynote Washington address on the issue, he emphasized the crucial importance of intelligence gathering in the post-9/11 world and pointed out that the NSA, with which our intelligence agencies enjoy a close relationship, has not abused its powers, violated the law or been cavalier about civil liberties. He said nothing that comes even close to vindicating Snowden's contemptible actions or those of his campaigners, led by London's *The Guardian* newspaper.

He has, however, given ground on some issues — declaring an end, for example, to NSA eavesdropping on the heads of government of friendly countries, a move that has potential ramifications for Australia and our issues with Indonesia. How smart Obama was to effectively admit to the spying without reciprocal assurances from those leaders over their own intelligence gathering remains to be seen. His intention to impose fresh controls over the bulk collection of metadata by the US government, placing it in the hands of a non-profit consortium or even private phone companies and allowing searches only after a court approval process, also suggests unnecessary meddling in a system vital to the security of the US and its allies. With the metadata in private hands it might lead to Chinese hackers having quicker access than the NSA. It is the comprehensive collection of all records in one database and the ability to search rapidly that enables terrorist links to be uncovered. So, too, is it hardly reassuring that Obama has instructed the NSA to abandon its practice of following suspicious phone call patterns across three "hops" and now limiting it to just two "hops" although common sense demands terrorist data is followed wherever it goes. The rationale behind Obama's determination to give foreigners the same privacy rights as Americans is also hard to fathom.

Balancing national security and the right to privacy is always challenging, especially in a world confronted by jihadist terrorism, with no country immune to its evil. Washington's interests and those of its allies will be best served if Obama stands firm and does not give in to those who hypocritically see the US as a threat yet laud Snowden's perfidy when he works hand in glove with Moscow's intelligence agencies in disseminating what the Pentagon now believes are the 1.7 million intelligence files he stole, many concerning and potentially compromising current operations against terrorists across the globe. The 9/11 Commission's report devastatingly detailed how Washington's inability to track terrorist communications allowed the hijackers to go undetected. There is always a legitimate case for control over agencies involved in surveillance. But crippling them would be a sure-fire way of allowing more 9/11s. Obama must be extremely cautious about changing a system that has proved effective. He must ignore the absurd narrative that Snowden is a hero. He is not. He is hell-bent on doing as much damage as possible to the US and allies like Australia. No changes should be made that could help him in that objective.

## ON THIS DATE

### By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Jan. 23, the 23rd day of 2014. There are 342 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Jan. 23, 1964, the 24th Amendment to the United States Constitution, eliminating the poll tax in federal elections, was ratified as South Dakota became the 38th state to endorse it.

**On this date:** In 1789, Georgetown University was established in present-day Washington, D.C.

In 1845, Congress decided all national elections would be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

In 1932, New York Gov. Franklin D. Roosevelt announced his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In 1933, the 20th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the so-called "Lame Duck Amendment," was ratified as Missouri approved it.

In 1937, 17 people went on trial in Moscow during Josef Stalin's "Great Purge." (All were convicted of conspiracy; all but four were executed.)

In 1944, Norwegian painter Edvard Munch ("The Scream") died near Oslo at age 80.

In 1950, the Israeli Knesset approved a resolution affirming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

In 1960, the U.S. Navy-operated bathyscaphe *Trieste* carried two men to the deepest known point in the Pacific Ocean, reaching a depth of more than 35,000 feet.

In 1964, Arthur Miller's play "After the Fall," widely regarded as a thinly-disguised account of Miller's failed marriage to Marilyn Monroe, opened in New York.

In 1968, North Korea seized the Navy intelligence ship *USS Pueblo*, charging its crew with being on a spying mission. (The crew was released 11 months later.)

In 1973, President Richard Nixon announced an accord had been reached to end the Vietnam War, and would be formally signed four days later in Paris.

In 1989, surrealist artist Salvador Dali died in his native Figueres, Spain, at age 84.

**Ten years ago:** The Illinois Supreme Court upheld former Gov.

George Ryan's powers to commute sentences, keeping 32 spared inmates off death row. The enduring situation comedy "Friends" filmed its final episode in front of an invitation-only audience. Bob Keeshan, TV's "Captain Kangaroo," died in Windsor, Vt., at age 76.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama quietly ended the Bush administration's ban on giving federal money to international groups that performed abortions or provided information on the option. New York Gov. David Paterson chose Democratic Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand to fill the Senate seat vacated by Hillary Rodham Clinton.

**One year ago:** Appearing before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered fiery rejoinders to Republican critics of the Obama administration's handling of the deadly attack on a U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya. Cardinal Jozef Glemp, 83, the longtime head of Poland's influential Roman Catholic church at a time when it played a key role in the fight against communism, died in Warsaw.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Jeanne Moreau is 86. Actress Chita Rivera is 81. Actor-director Lou Antonio is 80. Actor Gil Gerard is 71. Actor Rutger Hauer is 70. Rhythm-and-blues singer Jerry Lawson (The Persuasions) is 70. Sen. Thomas R. Carper, D-Del., is 67. Singer Anita Pointer is 66. Actor Richard Dean Anderson is 64. Rock musician Bill Cunningham is 64. Rock singer Robin Zander (Cheap Trick) is 61. Former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is 61. Princess Caroline of Monaco is 57. Singer Anita Baker is 56. Reggae musician Earl Falconer (UB40) is 55. Actress Gail O'Grady is 51. Actress Mariska Hargitay is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Nelson is 43. Actress Tiffani Thiessen is 40. Rock musician Nick Harmer (Death Cab for Cutie) is 39. Christian rock musician Nick DePatie (Kutless) is 29. Singer-actress Rachel Crow is 16.

**Thought for Today:** "What is important is to spread confusion, not eliminate it." — Salvador Dali (1904-1989).

## FROM THE BIBLE

Do not consent. Proverbs 1:10. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

## YOUR LETTERS

### SD Items Sought

**Allie L., Conway School, Mount Vernon, Wash.**

My name is Allie. The reason for this letter is, in fifth grade we have an assignment called "State Fair." It's where we pick our favorite state and make a huge report on that state. Now, I need South Dakota related flags, maps, crops, pictures and licence plates. Please make sure the items are school appropriate, are useable and won't break. Also, if you have some background knowledge, please tell it to me, if you can.

Make sure to spread the news. Don't forget that I need the items by April. Also, these are donations, so I will be keeping them. If you donate, you are being kind. Plus, I'm the only student with South Dakota. If you can tell me who you are, that will help.

It doesn't matter what size the donations are and you don't have to send something. Plus, if you just have some gift shop stuff, that will work, too.

Please send to: Mrs. Talbert's Class, Conway School, 19710 State Route 534, Mount Vernon, WA 98274.

STAR TRIBUNE  
S&D



## Point Of View

# Highlights Of Yankton's Updated Animal Ordinance

BY ROSS K. DEN HERDER, DAVID HOSMER

AND LISA BRASEL

For the Press & Dakotan

The City of Yankton updated its pet and animal ordinances in November. There are a number of changes that each pet owner should know. The highlights of the ordinance are the following:

1. Every cat and dog must be licensed. This is not new. As before, you may license your pet by going to the Police Department; you must bring proof of vaccination. The cost is minimal. However, you may now license your pet through your local veterinarian at the time you obtain vaccinations, which is a new provision. Licensing assists animal control to identify your pet and to protect the public from unvaccinated animals.

2. The City continues to require you to vaccinate your pet. Vaccinations protect your pet and other persons who come into contact with your pet. Failing to vaccinate your pet is an infraction. Pets under 6 months of age do not have to be vaccinated.

3. Each City license shall become effective on the date that it is issued. This could be during any month of the year. The license is valid for one year, or until your vaccination ends, whichever date occurs first. I recommend that you keep in contact with your veterinarian. After you have vaccinated and licensed your pet you will be given a metal identification tag. That tag must be on the animal's collar.

4. The number of pets that you may own is now limited by number. No person may possess in any dwelling unit more than three adult dogs. A dog or cat is considered an "adult" if it is six months old or older. No person shall possess more than any mix of six domesticated animals, excluding fish. Current owners with more than six licensed animals are grandfathered in. However, once the animal passes away, the grandfathering ends.

5. If you have more than six animals, you may be a kennel. Kennels are more highly regulated. Kennels must be clean and sanitary, not a nuisance to their neighbors, animal control may inspect at reasonable times and issue orders to clean with 24 hours. In addition, there are zoning requirements. These provisions are also designed to assist animal control if persons are having difficulties maintaining the number of pets. Hoarding animals is not permitted.

6. Some animals are now prohibited in the City. No fowl, livestock or exotic animals are permitted, except for six hens. What is permitted? Domestic animals. In general, if you can find the animal at a local pet store, then it is probably permitted. Please contact animal control if you have a question.

7. No dangerous animals are permitted, which is not new. A dangerous animal is one that is a threat to the physical well-being of other owned animals or humans. Factors that a court will consider are: provocation, severity of the attack, the person injured (such as a child), prior aggressive history of the animal, the behavior of the animal, and the circumstances of the incident. If a court determines that an animal is dangerous, then it should be destroyed. If you believe that an ani-

## Point Of View

# Some More Napa Jct. Questions

BY JAMES L. VAN OSDEL

For the Press & Dakotan

There appear to be even more questions available concerning the Napa Junction fast grain train loading facility proposed for a field in Utica Township just two miles northwest of Yankton.

1. Yankton County has a great many roads being used in a manner — i.e. heavy grain trucks — not foreseen when they were constructed many years ago. These are in constant need of repair, both hard surface and gravel roads. It would have seemed inconceivable several years ago that a small, front-wheel-drive car could nearly get stuck on a county gravel road after a rain, but not anymore. Those who live on these roads and must use them every day for commuting and for farm to market trucking must wonder why the county should have to put all their eggs in a single basket just to get this Napa facility off the ground.

It would now appear the financiers of the grain loading terminal will foot the bill for the concrete surface street that would serve Napa Junction. But county residents will still pay to maintain the road and keep it clear of snow, yet another burden for farmers in the eastern portion of the county who would be out of the loop, as they would probably patronize grain storage facilities closer to their operation. Would they question that expense?

2. What, if any, tax revenue would the county reap from this facility? It would appear any financing of the Napa project done through a bonding agency would mean no tax revenue available to the county coffers until

mal is dangerous, please call animal control. Do not take the matter into your own hands.

8. There are a number of laws designed to regulate animals, which I refer to as "good neighbor" rules. Unless your pet is on your own yard, it must be on a leash. By the way, not only can the "owner" be ticketed for an at large animal, but so can the person who is taking care of someone else's pet. You must clean up after pets under your control.

9. Barking dogs have periodically caused problems. A bright line rule has been established. If your dog barks on and off for 15 consecutive minutes, then you may be subject to a fine. If you witness such a barking dog, then please call animal control.

10. To no one's surprise, abusing or neglecting animals is not permitted. Please keep in mind that leaving your pet in a hot car is neglectful. An animal may not be abandoned.

11. Animals in vehicles must be restrained. The intent is to prohibit animals from biting or scaring people as they walk past a vehicle. However, keeping a dog in the back of a pickup (which is openly visible) is OK.

12. Striking a dog or cat with a vehicle, and knowingly failing to report the collision, is an offense. There are a number of other animal infractions, and that list may be found at the City's website.

13. Poisoning another person's pet is now illegal. If you have an issue with someone else's pet, then please call animal control. This same rule applies to stray animals. Also, it is now illegal to feed stray animals.

14. If your animal is at large and unlicensed and/or unvaccinated, then it may be impounded. If your animal is missing, please call animal control. There may be impound and transportation fees. The City will keep the animal for up to 10 days, and thereafter the animal may be given away to another person or organization. The City goes to great lengths to ensure that animals are treated humanely.

15. If you suspect that an animal is rabid, please do not do anything to stop the animal. Call animal control at once. Rabid animals can be dangerous. If a person is infected by a rabid animal and does not receive treatment before symptoms of the disease appear, the disease is almost always fatal.

Our experiences have convinced us that many problems with animals are caused by either a lack of communication or a lack of attention. Talk to your neighbor if you have concerns. If your concerns are not addressed, then call animal control or the City attorney. Also, many good neighbor problems are created by owners that do not properly care for their pets. These ordinances cannot solve all such problems. Pet owners must take personal responsibility for their pets. If they are unwilling or unable to do so, they are advised to find an appropriate alternative home for their pets.

Ross K. Den Herder is the interim city attorney for the City of Yankton, David Hosmer is the most recent city attorney and Lisa Brasel is the city's animal control officer.