

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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**OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS**

## South Dakota Competes For Jobs

**RAPID CITY JOURNAL (June 21):** It's no secret that states try to lure companies from another state in hopes of creating jobs. Gov. Dennis Daugaard recently visited Connecticut to court that state's gun manufacturers.

Following the school shooting tragedy in Newtown, Conn., in which 20 children and six adults were killed, Connecticut enacted several laws that impact gun sales and manufacturing. Several Connecticut gun makers — including Colt Firearms, Mossberg & Sons and Stag Firearms — have expressed interest in expanding outside the state.

Gov. Daugaard met with Connecticut gun companies to let them know they would be welcome in South Dakota.

"Business is busy. They have more demand than they can meet right now, so they are looking to grow and Connecticut is a hard state to do any kind of manufacturing because their regulatory environment is burdensome and their tax environment is burdensome," he said.

Daugaard isn't the only state governor trying to entice Connecticut's gun companies to move their operations. Texas Gov. Rick Perry visited the state on the same day as South Dakota's governor and also met with the gun makers. The competition among states for businesses and jobs is fierce.

Courting gun manufacturers wasn't the main reason Daugaard was in Connecticut. He met with site selection companies, who consult with businesses on the best location to move or expand operations. After a luncheon with site selectors on Monday, Daugaard also had dinner with a group of financial firms that are interested in relocating to South Dakota.

Daugaard has a good pitch to make to lure companies out of high-tax, high-regulation states. The Tax Foundation's annual State Business Tax Climate report ranked South Dakota second in the nation for the most business-friendly tax code. The National Association of Manufacturers and the Council of Competitiveness ranked the state seventh in its list of Most Business Friendly States, with a No. 3 ranking in the "Cost of Business" category.

Lower taxes and lower regulatory burden are important criteria for companies in deciding where to locate or expand. Gov. Daugaard has a positive message to make in selling South Dakota to businesses looking to move.

An important part of a governor's job is salesmanship. We hope that Daugaard is a good enough salesman to bring companies and jobs to South Dakota. Jobs are jobs, whether from financial companies or gun manufacturers.

**THE VIEWS PAGE**

■ The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** Views page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the **PRESS & DAKOTAN**. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

**ON THIS DATE**

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, July 1, the 182nd day of 2013. There are 183 days left in the year. This is Canada Day.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On July 1, 1863, the pivotal, three-day Civil War Battle of Gettysburg, resulting in a Union victory, began in Pennsylvania.

**On this date:** In 1535, Sir Thomas More went on trial in England, charged with high treason for rejecting the Oath of Supremacy. (More was convicted, and executed.)

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the first Pacific Railroad Act.

In 1867, Canada became a self-governing dominion of Great Britain as the British North America Act took effect.

In 1903, the first Tour de France began. (It ended on July 19; the winner was Maurice Garin.)

In 1912, aviator Harriet Quimby, 37, was killed along with her passenger, William Willard, when they were thrown out of Quimby's monoplane at the Third Annual Boston Aviation Meet.

In 1942, the First Battle of El Alamein began during World War II. Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra and vocalist Frank Sinatra recorded "There Are Such Things" in New York for Victor Records.

In 1946, the United States exploded a 20-kiloton atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office inaugurated its five-digit ZIP codes.

In 1973, the Drug Enforcement Administration was established.

In 1980, "O Canada" was proclaimed the national anthem of Canada.

In 1993, a gunman opened fire in a San Francisco law office, killing eight people and wounding six before killing himself.

In 2004, actor Marlon Brando died in Los Angeles at age 80.

**Ten years ago:** At a summit, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas rededicated themselves to peace efforts and spoke of a shared future for their peoples. Bishop Sean O'Malley was named by Pope John Paul II the new archbishop of Boston, succeeding Cardinal Bernard Law, who'd resigned in the wake of a clerical sex abuse scandal. Jazz flutist Herbie Mann died in Pecos, N.M., at age 73.

**Five years ago:** Ex-convict Nicholas T. Sheley, suspected in eight

grisly slayings in two states, was arrested outside a bar in Granite City, Ill. (Sheley has since been convicted of two murders.) The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Denver agreed to pay \$5.5 million to settle 18 more claims by people who said they'd been sexually abused by priests when they were children. Clay Felker, founding editor of New York magazine, died at age 82.

**One year ago:** Syria's main opposition groups rejected a new international plan that called for a transitional government because the compromise agreement did not bar President Bashar Assad from participating. Voters in Mexico returned the Institutional Revolutionary Party to power. Spain won its third straight major soccer title, beating Italy 4-0 in the European Championship final in Kiev, Ukraine. Tiger Woods won the AT&T National at Congressional in Bethesda, Md. for the 74th win of his career.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Olivia de Havilland is 97. Actress-dancer Leslie Caron is 82. Actress Jean Marsh is 79. Actor Jamie Farr is 79. Bluesman James Cotton is 78. Actor David Prowse is 78. Cookiecaker Wally Amos is 77. Actress Karen Black is 74. Dancer-choreographer Twyla Tharp is 72. Actress Genevieve Bujold is 71. Rock singer-actress Deborah Harry is 68. Movie-TV producer-director Michael Pressman is 63. Actor Daryl Anderson is 62. Actor Trevor Eve is 62. Actor Terrence Mann is 62. Rock singer Fred Schneider (B-52's) is 62. Pop singer Victor Willis (Village People) is 62. Actor-comedian Dan Aykroyd is 61. Actress Lorna Patterson is 57. Actor Alan Ruck is 57. Rhythm-and-blues singer Evelyn "Champagne" King is 53. Olympic gold medal track star Carl Lewis is 52. Country singer Michelle Wright is 52. Actor Andre Braugher is 51. Actress Pamela Anderson is 46. Rock musician Mark Pirro is 43. Rock musician Franny Griffiths (Space) is 43. Actor Henry Simmons is 43. Hip-hop artist Missy Elliott is 42. Actress Julianne Nicholson is 42. Actress Melissa Peterman is 42. Actress Liv Tyler is 36. Bluegrass musician Adam Haynes (Dailey & Vincent) is 34. Actress Hilary Burton is 31. Actress Lynsey Bartilson is 30. Actor Evan Ellingson is 25. Actors Andrew and Steven Cavarno are 21.

**Thought for Today:** "The more we learn the more we realize how little we know." — R. Buckminster Fuller (1895-1983).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

*But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." Matthew 14:30. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*

**YOUR LETTERS**

**Fundraiser Success**

**Margie O'Hara, Yankton**  
Many thanks to all of the people who donated to my yoga fundraiser for Children of the Promise. The weather just did not cooperate but in spite of that I raised more than twice my goal of \$100.  
Special thanks to the "coffee

guys" and to Peloton Physical Therapy for offering their building in case of inclement weather. Also thanks Emily Niebrugge (of the *Press & Dakotan*) for writing the original article.  
I will do this again in a heartbeat sometime in the not too distant future.



## N-Word Vs. Cracker

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — The trial of George Zimmerman, accused of fatally shooting Trayvon Martin, inevitably and quickly devolved into a contest of who is more racist — the victim or the accused?

The question was inevitable because the prosecution is basing its case largely on the suggestion that Zimmerman profited the 17-year-old African-American, allegedly deciding he was a potential threat by virtue of his race.

This assumption was somewhat complicated Thursday during testimony by 19-year-old Rachel Jeantel, a friend of Martin's who was talking to him by cellphone shortly before he was shot. Sidebar: Poor Jeantel. Whether she is a credible witness will be determined by the jury, but the rest of us really ought to cut the girl some slack. She is young, obviously playing on alien turf and having a tough-enough time on the witness stand without further commentary. She may, indeed, be the best argument yet for keeping cameras out of the courtroom, but that is another discussion.

Jeantel's contribution to the race discussion included a quote she attributed to Martin when he told her a "creepy-ass cracker" was watching him. No doubt Zimmerman did seem creepy. He was following Martin after all, who, as far as anyone knows with certainty, was merely walking home from a convenience store. Does Martin's use of "cracker" mean he was a racist and, therefore, may have instigated the struggle that, according to the defense, compelled Zimmerman to shoot Martin in self-defense?

Jeantel told defense attorney Don "Knock-Knock" West that, no, she doesn't consider "cracker" a racist term. Apparently, most whites don't either. In street interviews aired Thursday, CNN found that whites are not as offended by the term "cracker" as they are by the N-word.

For the record, there's no evidence that Zimmerman ever used the N-word. He is captured on tape saying "F — ing punks" and "These a — holes, they always get away." Is he talking about blacks? Teens wearing hoods? Burglars, some number of whom recently had been targeting his neighborhood? Only conjecture produces a strictly racist interpretation.

So what about "cracker?" Is it ever or always an insult? And what might we infer by Martin's use of it to describe his pursuer?

Merriam-Webster defines cracker as: *usually disparaging: a poor usually Southern*

*white; capitalized: a native or resident of Florida or Georgia — used as a nickname.*

But the best explanation of crackers can be found in "The Cracker Kitchen," a cookbook and story collection by novelist and proud cracker Janis Owens. It is a both a cultural defense and literary critique of the poor, white folks whence Owens (and most of us Scots-Irish) came — an unfriendly valentine pressed between recipes for fried frog legs and baked armadillo. The daughter of a fire-breathing Pentecostal preacher, Owens traces "cracker" to William Shakespeare's "The Life and Death of King John:" "What cracker is this same that deafs our eares with this abundance of superfluous breath?"

Now there's an inventive worth memorizing for future hurling. Native-born to Florida's panhandle, aka Alabama's Riviera, Owens has embraced her crackerhood and uses the term endearingly, just as African-Americans often use the N-word, recovered from racist whites, to refer to one another.

Similarly, Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues" includes a chapter celebrating the C-word, effectively stealing it back from those who use it to denigrate women. Reclaiming ownership of an offensive word is a revolutionary act that strips the term of its power to wound. Call it linguistic disarmament.

For those needing a refresher course, here are just a few reasons why cracker doesn't compare to the N-word. Cracker has never been used routinely to:

- Deny a white person a seat at the lunch counter;
- Systematically deny whites the right to vote;
- Deny a white person a seat near the front of a bus;
- Crack the skulls of peaceful white protesters marching for equality;
- Blow up a church and kill four little white girls;

Need more? Didn't think so. Cracker may be a pejorative in some circles. It may even be used to insult a white person. But it clearly lacks the grievous, historical freight of the other.

Martin's use of the term "cracker" doesn't make him a racist any more than Zimmerman's resentment of "punks" necessarily makes him a murderous racial profiler. These words, and the case built upon them, ultimately may prove little more than an abundance of superfluous breath.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleen.parker@washpost.com.

## Border Surge A Misguided Idea

BY ROBERT C. BONNER

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The U.S. immigration system is broken and in need of comprehensive reform. But the border surge amendment proposed last week by Sens. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., and John Hoeven, R-N.D., and agreed to Monday — which would double the size of the Border Patrol and mandate an additional 700 miles of border fencing — is misguided and would be a great waste of taxpayer dollars.

Congress is right to be concerned about avoiding the mistakes of the Immigration Reform Act of 1986, which provided legal status to several million people but did virtually nothing to reduce illegal migration. But it also has to consider what has happened since then.

Over the last 10 years, the U.S. has spent billions to double the size of the Border Patrol to 21,000 agents. Fencing has been installed along virtually every single section of border where it makes sense to do so, primarily in urbanized areas along the Mexican border. These things have helped. The border is more secure today than it has ever been, and the goal of a 90 percent or greater apprehension rate, championed by Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, and others, is within reach.

The next task, therefore, shouldn't be to further tighten the border, which has diminishing returns at this point. Instead, the goal should be to cut off the "job magnet" that draws nearly all illegal immigrants to the United States.

Removing incentives to cross the border illegally will require ratcheting up sanctions (criminal and administrative) for U.S. employers hiring people not authorized to work here, sparing those employers who use E-Verify and hire only individuals cleared to work legally. This would, of course, require some additional resources to improve E-Verify and to enforce employer sanctions, but it would take nowhere near the tens of billions of dollars required to hire 20,000 more Border Patrol agents and build hundreds of miles of fencing.

Based on my experience, most employers will comply with the law if there is the potential for jail time for corporate executives coupled with heavy corporate fines for illegal hiring. That has been the nation's experience with antitrust and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act violations, to use just two examples of how tougher penalties com-

bined with effective enforcement have resulted in widespread compliance by U.S. companies. We should take the same approach to put an end to the practice of hiring undocumented workers.

Adopting this course of action will not only reduce the numbers of illegal migrants attempting to enter the United States, it will also lead to a higher apprehension rate of those still attempting to cross the border. This is simple mathematics: With fewer people pouring in, law enforcers will be able to concentrate more effort on each illegal entry that is attempted. The apprehension rate will thus go up without increases in resources, providing both the best and least expensive means for achieving a 90 percent apprehension rate and more tightly controlling the borders.

This is not to say that Congress should authorize no additional investments in border security. In particular, there is a need to upgrade and expand detection capabilities at the border. Not only can greater detection lead to a greater apprehension rate, it also can increase border agents' ability to accurately measure illegal crossings (and thus credibly determine the apprehension rate). It would also permit the use of a CompStat-style management approach, which would evaluate statistical data to effectively and quickly deploy Border Patrol agents to areas seeing spikes in attempted crossings.

The Senate is clearly trying to make immigration reform more politically palatable by focusing on enforcement. That is an understandable goal. But the so-called border surge proposal would simply throw a phenomenal amount of money at border enforcement without achieving control of the border. There are cheaper and more effective ways of achieving that goal.

It seems that the Senate has chosen its path forward. But there's still hope that members of the House will understand that cutting off the employment magnet would be by far the most cost-effective way to achieve border control, deter over-stays and move the current illegal population to legal status more quickly. Now that would be a true "grand bargain."

Robert C. Bonner headed the Drug Enforcement Administration from 1990 to 1993 and served as a commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection from 2001 to 2005. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.