

## The Press &amp; Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION

Last Chance For  
Your 'Big Idea'

It's crunch time for Onward Yankton — and for anyone who has a vision for the community's future.

The 100-day campaign to find Yankton's "next big idea" has dwindled down to its final days, meaning it's your last chance to submit a proposal — if you haven't done so already.

When this campaign was unveiled in the spring, there was, frankly, a bit of mixed reaction to it. While some were amped by the idea of seeking a big idea to propel Yankton forward, others were a bit skeptical, especially given the campaign's big kickoff: There was a mysterious buildup, but some people wanted it to lead to an actual idea, not to a promissory note for possible idea down the line.

But honestly, the big kickoff seemed to work. There has been a lot of talk about the campaign. It has also produced an impressive collection ideas: As of Friday, 377 ideas had been submitted, and the website has received a considerable amount of traffic. The interest was kindled and has produced the feedback that Onward Yankton officials had hoped to see.

While we don't yet know what ideas will be the finalists for the potential \$10,000 prize being offered, there can be no question that the interest created by this campaign has not only been gratifying, but also important.

If the Onward Yankton campaign had failed to produce much interest or feedback, it would have been a rather disheartening comment on the citizenry of Yankton. This is a low-risk endeavor that simply sought out ideas; if no one cared enough to get involved, it really wouldn't have said too much about how interested people are about propelling the community forward. In fact, it really would have been something of an indictment.

Instead, we have an encouraging acquittal, and we're anxious to see the outcome.

It's not too late to submit your idea to the Onward Yankton campaign. You can do so by logging on to [onwardyankton.com/](http://onwardyankton.com/). The deadline is Thursday, July 9

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## 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 South Dakota lawmakers may repeal the death penalty during the 2016 legislative session?

No.....74%

Yes.....20%

Not sure.....6%

TOTAL VOTES CAST.....214

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 support refurbishing the grandstand and turf at Yankton's Crane Youngworth Field?

To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

## IN HISTORY

## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 7, the 188th day of 2015. There are 177 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On July 7, 1865, four people were hanged in Washington D.C. for conspiring with John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Abraham Lincoln: Lewis Powell (aka Lewis Payne), David Herold, George Atzerodt and Mary Surratt, the first woman to be executed by the U.S. federal government.

**On this date:** In 1846, U.S. annexation of California was proclaimed at Monterey after the surrender of a Mexican garrison.

In 1898, the United States annexed Hawaii.

In 1919, the first Transcontinental Motor Convoy, in which a U.S. Army convoy of motorized vehicles crossed the United States, departed Washington D.C. (The trip ended in San Francisco on September 6, 1919.)

In 1937, the Second Sino-Japanese War erupted into full-scale conflict as Imperial Japanese forces attacked the Marco Polo Bridge in Beijing.

In 1948, six female U.S. Navy reservists became the first women to be sworn in to the regular Navy.

In 1954, Elvis Presley made his radio debut as Memphis, Tennessee, station WHBQ played his first recording for Sun Records, "That's All Right."

In 1969, Canada's House of Commons gave final approval to the Official Languages Act, making French equal to English throughout the national government.

In 1975, the daytime drama "Ryan's Hope" premiered on ABC-TV.

In 1976, President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford hosted a White House dinner for Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

In 1981, President Ronald Reagan announced he was nominating Arizona Judge Sandra Day O'Connor to become the first female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1987, Lt. Col. Oliver North began his long-awaited public testimony at the Iran-Contra hearing, telling Congress that he had "never carried out a single act, not one," without authorization.

In 1990, the first "Three Tenors" concert took place as opera stars Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo and Jose Carreras performed amid the brick ruins of Rome's Baths of Caracalla on the eve of the World Cup championship.

**Ten years ago:** Suicide terrorist bombings in three Underground stations and a double-decker bus killed 52 victims and four bombers in the worst attack on London since World War II. Al-Qaida's top envoy, Ihab al-Sherif, who'd been abducted by gunmen.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama bypassed the Senate and appointed Dr. Donald Berwick to run Medicare and Medicaid. In Philadelphia, a disabled sightseeing "duck boat" adrift in the Delaware River was struck by a barge and capsized; two Hungarian tourists died. Los Angeles police charged Lonnie Franklin Jr. in the city's "Grim Sleeper" serial killings.

**One year ago:** Washington state issued its first retail marijuana licenses. Pope Francis begged forgiveness in his first meeting with Catholics sexually abused by members of the clergy and vowed to hold bishops responsible for their handling of pedophile priests. Eduard Shevardnadze, 86, the Soviet Union's foreign minister who helped end the Cold War but then as Georgia's president was forced into retirement by parliament, died in Tbilisi. Actor Dick Jones, 87, the voice of Pinocchio in the classic 1940 Walt Disney cartoon, died in Los Angeles.

**Today's Birthdays:** Musician-conductor Doc Severinsen is 88. Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough is 82. Rock star Ringo Starr is 75. Rock musician Jim Rodford is 74. Comedian Bill Oddie is 74. Singer-musician Warren Entner (The Grass Roots) is 72. Actor Joe Spano is 69. Pop singer David Hodo (The Village People) is 68. Country singer Linda Williams is 68. Actress Shelley Duvall is 66. Actress Roz Ryan is 64. Actor Billy Campbell is 56. Actor Robert Taylor is 55. Rock musician Mark White (Spin Doctors) is 53. Singer-songwriter Vonda Shepard is 52. Actor-comedian Jim Gaffigan is 49. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ricky Kinchen (Mint Condition) is 49. Actress Amy Carlson is 47. Actress Jorja Fox is 47. Actress Cree Summer is 46. Actress Robin Weigert is 46. Actress Kirsten Vangsness is 43. Actor Troy Garity is 42. Actress Berenice Bejo is 39. Actor Hamish Linklater is 39. Olympic silver and bronze medal figure skater Michelle Kwan is 35. Rapper Cassidy is 33. Country singer Gabbie Nolen is 33. Actor Ross Malinger is 31. Pop singer Ally Hernandez (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 22. Pop musician Ashton Irwin (5 Seconds of Summer) is 21.

**Thought for Today:** "Memory depends very much on the perspicuity, regularity, and order of our thoughts. Many complain of the want of memory, when the defect is in their judgment; and others, by grasping at all, retain nothing." — Margaret Fuller, American critic and social reformer (1810-1850).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*We know that our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. Romans 6:6.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## On Same-Sex Marriage

Kim Dale, Yankton

I was dismayed to see a photo (*Press & Dakotan*, June 27) of two lesbians celebrating the Supreme Court's decision on allowing gay marriage everywhere.

South Dakotans voted against this atrocity. Where is our voice? It just gets thrown out the door?

One of the ladies in the article said something about how now she knows that we'll all accept it. Really? Have you asked true Christians if they accept it?

Why is the government trying to force us to change our beliefs? Obama said so when he said we have to change our religious views. Hillary said the same thing recently. We are to change our religious views to accommodate all of the immorality this country is forcing upon us.

That will not happen.

What did Jesus say about marriage?

"And He answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall

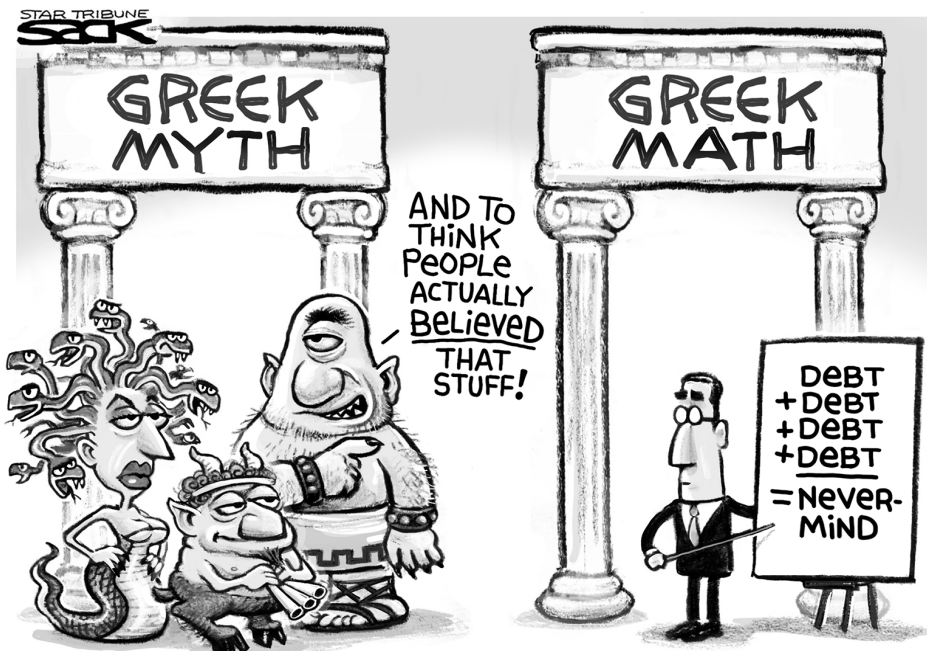
cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" Matthew 19:3-5

Yes, we know gay people pretend to be the husband and the wife. Kind of like playing house. Jesus meant male and female, not male and male nor female and female. And in the end, it will be God's law, not man's law, that we will be judged by.

It looks like persecution is finally at its peak here in the U.S. It had been nice to live in South Dakota where we weren't stuck watching gay pride parades, etc. Now if we say anything, we'll be called

homophobic, sued, spit on, etc.

Anti-gay marriage people don't hate the people who happen to be gay. We hate the fact that you're trying to stuff your beliefs down our throats. We will not bend. We won't. I respect all people; I just don't care for the choices many make. It would be one thing if they just quietly got married or lived together and shut up about their sex life. Don't force gay marriage in our face and we won't say a thing.



## The Rez Of The Story

## What Is 'Traditional'?

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Arthur M. Schlesinger, a Harvard professor and historian (1888-1965), once said: "Science and technology revolutionize our lives, but memory, tradition and myth frame our response."

In Indian Country, you will often hear the conversation about being a traditional Indian as opposed to being an Indian person who is assimilated. Thus weighing into this discussion is somewhat treacherous even for a Native because there is no one easy answer.

Being a "traditional Indian" is not something easily understood let alone defined. Perspective is of utmost importance. If your looking for a generalized answer do not make the mistake of forgetting that considering oneself to be a traditional Indian person is as much about society's version as it is about an individual's self-identification.

The Nobel Prize winning laureate Herman Hesse tells us, "Every age, every culture, every custom and tradition has its own character, its own weaknesses and its own strength, its beauties and cruelties; it accepts certain sufferings as matters of course, puts up patiently with certain evils. Human life is reduced to real suffering, to hell, only when two ages, two cultures and religions overlap."

Tradition as defined by the dictionary narrows the conversation to the following but does little to help define what I would call "historical tradition." For example, according to the dictionary, tradition is defined as follows:

1. Custom or belief: a long established action or pattern of behavior in a community or group of people, often one that has been handed down from generation to generation.
2. Body of customs: a body of long-established actions or beliefs viewed as a set of precedents.
3. Handing down of customs: the handing down of patterns of behavior, practices, and beliefs that are valued by a culture.

Practicing "traditional Indian" customs and beliefs is one thing but the question that begs to be asked is who can honestly claim to know what is the traditional custom or belief that rep-

Vince  
TWO EAGLES

resents a homogeneous description of all Indian people? The answer of course is that there is no "one-size-fits-all" explanation. In truth every "tiyoshpaye" or extended Indian family has its own unique definition of "traditional" let alone trying to include the practices of other Native nation's own cultural beliefs. It would be like trying to use Italian culture to explain German culture.

I once toured Italy as a performer and discovered that the interest in Native culture and life is indeed very intense but, of course, often misguided and misinformed. For example: "Do we still live in tipis?" is frequently asked and the answer is of course is that those of us from the plains region of North America who lived in tipis, traditionally, as a rule, do so no more. However, there are those who live in their tipis throughout the summer months and when traveling to pow wows if they can afford one. Owning a tipi plus transporting one from one place to another is a complicated and expensive proposition.

In Indian Country and elsewhere, one will often still see Native males wearing their hair long, either in braids (traditional Dakotah) or in a pony tail (regarded by many Natives as non-traditional). Having long hair does not automatically qualify an individual as either a so-called "Medicine Man" or a "Chief." Some Native people who wear their hair long, in fact, know very little about their culture but who never the less self-identify as Native.

If distinguishing who is "traditional" from who is not is important to you it might be a good idea to ask an individual Native person if 'they' consider themselves to be traditional or not and possibly ask them why if their willing to answer your questions.

The more I observe and contemplate this definition of someone's personhood, the more I am convinced that be a "traditional Indian" is more of an idea or a group of ideas than anything else. If one self-identifies as a traditional Indian and can demonstrate a lineal linkage to a Native American nation, what body of individuals or what individual has the authority to decide that someone else should or should not identify themselves accordingly?

And now you know the rez of the story.

Doksha (later) ...

## Capitol Notebook

## Reigning In The Lawmakers

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The work by Cory Heidelberger of Aberdeen and other petition carriers during recent months means South Dakota voters get to decide whether they agree with the Legislature on two matters.

One referendum will be on the \$7.50 youth minimum wage for employees younger than age 18.

This came from Sen. David Novstrup, R-Aberdeen, in response to voters in the 2014 election.

A majority of voters had raised the statewide minimum wage to \$8.50 through a Democratic Party-led initiative.

The other referendum will be on a complex assortment of changes to South Dakota election laws regarding candidacies. Many of the changes came from the Legislature's Republican super-majorities.

The legislation began as a more focused effort from the state Board of Elections, largely dealing with timing of certain steps in the candidacy process.

Republican legislative leaders then added many pieces to the board's bill without the board's full support — and in some cases, opposed by board members.

The effort by board member Heidelberger, a Democrat, and company gathered sufficient signatures to block both laws from taking effect July 1.

The referrals put the laws on hold until voters statewide have their say in the November 2016 general election.

The referral isn't used very often in South Dakota. There have been nine referral votes since 1970.

The Legislature lost one more times than won. Three laws that were overturned by voters were partisan work by Republican majorities.

In 2012, voters rejected two Republican-led laws. One would have provided tax refunds to

Bob  
MERCER

large business projects. The other was a sweeping package of changes for K-12 education.

The story was different in 2010. Voters supported the Legislature's bipartisan approval of a broader smoking ban.

In 2006 voters rejected the Legislature's ban on most abortions. The ban had support from legislators in both major parties, but the voting public was more liberal.

The voters who overturned the ban however were the same voters who sent a strongly anti-abortion majority of legislators back to the Capitol.

In 1998 voters rejected the Legislature's approval of transferring the unclaimed-property office. This was partisan.

Republicans were trying to take responsibility away from the state treasurer, who is elected, and who at the time was a Democrat, Dick Butler.

The law sought to shift the duty to the state Department of Revenue, which is controlled by the governor, who at the time was a Republican, Bill Janklow.

In 1994 voters supported the Legislature's bipartisan approval of mandatory seat-belt use in passenger vehicles.

A 1993 referral happened under special circumstances. The Legislature created a special election so voters could act on a law expanding legal gambling in Deadwood. Voters rejected the Deadwood expansion. The Legislature split along views about gambling rather than along political party.

Voters in 1988 upheld the Legislature's bipartisan decision to loosen state regulations of telephone companies.

Voters in 1980 supported the Legislature's decision to allow hunting of mourning doves.

This year, neither the youth minimum wage nor the election law changes were bipartisan legislation. Now voters will decide whether Republican legislators chose wisely or acted excessively.