

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

D.C. Shootings Come With A Lesson

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE (Sept. 18): America's latest mass shooting, in which 12 victims were gunned down at the Washington Navy Yard by a killer who also lost his life, is another stomach-turning episode in the life of the nation.

While the government operates a sophisticated surveillance program in which every citizen's phone records can be inspected to protect the country from foreign threats, the nation is powerless against a lone deranged American who will use guns to speak for himself.

Many questions will be answered in the days ahead about the motive and conduct of Aaron Alexis, the 34-year-old employee of a military contractor, and the weapons he used in Monday's shooting.

On Tuesday, news reports were changing on the guns Alexis used in the attack. Initial reports said that he fired an AR-15 assault rifle, a shotgun and a handgun taken from a police officer at the scene. Later in the day, The Associated Press said the gunman carried an AR-15, but did not fire it — instead using a shotgun and two handguns grabbed from officers.

Another question must be addressed by the military. Should Alexis have had security clearance to enter the Navy Yard despite the pattern of misbehavior he displayed, with both civilian and military authorities, before his early, yet honorable, discharge from the Navy Reserve in 2001? ...

Until more of the facts are known, it is difficult to see whether better gun laws could have averted this tragedy. Meanwhile, this remains a nation awash in arms and firepower beyond the needs of any hunter, sportsman or person seeking protection.

If nothing else, the Aaron Alexis case demonstrates the sorrowful toll that can result when an explosive personality gets quick access to guns. In a culture where that access is made exceptionally easy, where sensible limits are denounced as threats to the Second Amendment and where lawmakers are too spineless to balance the right to bear arms with the need to be secure, the next mass shooting is just a matter of time.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 19, the 262nd day of 2013. There are 103 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 19, 1982, the smiley emoticon was invented as Carnegie Mellon University professor Scott E. Fahlman proposed punctuating humorously intended computer messages by employing a colon followed by a hyphen and a parenthesis as a horizontal "smiley face." :-)

On this date: In 1777, the first Battle of Saratoga was fought during the Revolutionary War; although the British forces succeeded in driving out the American troops, the Americans prevailed in a second battle the following month.

In 1796, President George Washington's farewell address was published.

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2 1/2 months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; Chester Alan Arthur became president.

In 1934, Bruno Hauptmann was arrested in New York and charged with the kidnap-murder of Charles A. Lindbergh Jr.

In 1945, Nazi radio propagandist William Joyce, known as "Lord Haw-Haw," was convicted of treason and sentenced to death by a British court.

In 1957, the United States conducted its first contained underground nuclear test, code-named Rainier, in the Nevada desert.

In 1959, Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev, visiting Los Angeles, reacted angrily upon being told that, for security reasons, he wouldn't get to visit Disneyland.

In 1960, Cuban leader Fidel Castro, in New York to visit the United Nations, angrily checked out of the Shelburne Hotel in a dispute with the management; Castro ended up staying at the Hotel Theresa in Harlem.

In 1961, Barney and Betty Hill, a New Hampshire couple driving home from vacation, experienced what they later claimed under hypnosis was a short-term abduction by extraterrestrials.

In 1962, the Western TV series "The Virginian" debuted on NBC.

In 1970, the situation comedy "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" debuted on CBS-TV.

In 1985, the Mexico City area was struck by a devastating earthquake that killed at least 9,500 people.

Ten years ago: Former Hurricane Isabel raced from Virginia to Canada, delivering far less rain than expected but leaving millions without power. Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's defense minister, Sultan Hashim Ahmad, surrendered to U.S. forces.

Five years ago: Struggling to stave off financial catastrophe, the Bush administration laid out a radical bailout plan calling for a takeover of a half-trillion dollars or more in worthless mortgages and other bad debt held by tottering institutions. Relieved investors sent stocks soaring on Wall

Street and around the globe. Baseball's new instant replay system produced its first reversal when Tampa Bay's Carlos Pena had a two-run double changed to a three-run homer during the fourth inning of a game against Minnesota. (The Rays beat the Twins, 11-1.)

One year ago: Members of Congress presented the Congressional Gold Medal to Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi in a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. The Justice Department's internal watchdog found fault with the agency's handling of a gun-trafficking probe in Arizona that resulted in hundreds of weapons turning up at crime scenes in the U.S. and Mexico. The inspector general's report referred more than a dozen people for possible disciplinary action for their roles in Operation Fast and Furious. The Windseeker ride at Knott's Berry Farm in Buena Park, Calif., broke down, leaving about 20 riders who expected a three-minute thrill dangling 300 feet over the amusement park for nearly two hours.

Today's Birthdays: Author Roger Angell is 93. TV host James Lipton ("Inside the Actors Studio") is 87. Actress Rosemary Harris is 86. Former Defense Secretary Harold Brown is 86. Actor Adam West is 85. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Bob Turley is 83. Actor David McCallum (TV: "NCIS") is 80. Singer-songwriter Paul Williams is 73. Singer Bill Medley is 73. Singer Sylvia Tyson (Ian and Sylvia) is 73. Singer Freda Payne is 71. Golfer Jane Blalock is 68. Singer David Bromberg is 68. Actor Randolph Mantooth is 68. Rock singer-musician Lol Creme (10cc) is 66. Former NFL running back Larry Brown is 66. Actor Jeremy Irons is 65. Actress Twiggy Lawson is 64. TV personality Joan Lunden is 63. Singer-producer Daniel Lanois is 62. Actor Scott Colomby is 61. Musician-producer Nile Rodgers is 61. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Reggie Williams is 59. Singer-actor Rex Smith is 58. Actor Kevin Hooks is 55. Actress Carolyn McCormick is 54. Country singer Jeff Bates is 50. Country singer Trisha Yearwood is 49. Actress-comedian Cheri Oteri is 48. News anchor Soledad O'Brien is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Espranza Griffitt (Society of Soul) is 44. Celebrity chef Michael Symon is 44. Actress Sanaa Lathan is 42. Actress Stephanie J. Block is 41. Rock singer A. Jay Popoff (Lit) is 40. Comedian and TV talk show host Jimmy Fallon is 39. TV personality Carter Oosterhouse is 37. Actress-TV host Alison Sweeney is 37. Rock musician Ryan Dusick is 36. Folk-rock singers-musicians Sara and Tegan Quin are 33. Actor Columbus Short is 31. Rapper Eamon is 30. Christian rock musician JD Frazier is 30. Actor Kevin Zegers is 29. Actress Danielle Panabaker is 26.

Thought for Today: "Start every day off with a smile and get it over with." — W.C. Fields, American comedian (1880-1946).

FROM THE BIBLE

But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you. Luke 6:27. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Kindle's Korner

New School Year, Same Commitment To Education

EDITOR'S NOTE: Debuting today is a monthly column written by Yankton School District Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle.

BY DR. WAYNE KINDLE

Superintendent, Yankton School District

As superintendent, I am honored to lead a district with a strong commitment to education, which is evident in the programs and opportunities available to our students. The Yankton School District has a reputation for excellence in Academics, Career and Technical Education, Fine Arts and Extracurricular programming. Our curriculum and course content PK-12 and our Birth to 3 programs allow us to focus on the whole child.

Our focus on the whole child means we are able to interact with families and children at a very young age, educate our students to become successful, productive citizens who are critical thinkers and who exhibit strong character. In order to provide these types of educational opportunities we need the support from our parents, community members, and business community.

We will continue to reach out to our business community and partner with them to ensure we have a strong and viable educational system, which encourages graduates to return to Yankton and grow our community. Economic Development and Education go hand in hand. A skilled and educated workforce complements the ever growing needs facing many of our current businesses.

SURVEY PARTICIPATION

I know that we face many challenges. However, I look to those challenges as opportunities. We are willing to accept and embrace those opportunities as a partner with our entire community. Students learn best when educators develop meaningful partnerships with parents, businesses, and the community. We believe in working together for the benefit of our children, families and community. We encourage and value your input as parents, businesses and patrons of the Yankton School District.

I have developed an on-line survey and am encouraging our parents, students, staff, patrons, businesses, and community members to participate in this survey. Your input and ideas regarding the future of the Yankton School District is imperative for future planning. If access to a computer is a concern, I welcome you to take the survey at any of the following locations: Yankton High School Library; Yankton Middle School Library; Stewart Elementary Library; Webster Elementary Library; Lincoln School Library; Beadle School Library; Yankton School District Administration Office; Yankton City Library and the Yankton Senior Center

You can walk into any of these locations and tell them you would like to access a computer to take part in the YSD Survey. A person at each location will assist you in accessing the survey. Your participation in this on-line survey is greatly appreciated. The results of this survey will help guide Strategic Planning for the Yankton School District. The survey results will also be discussed publicly. The on-line survey is available through Oct. 3. The survey can be accessed at the following: <http://www.ytd.k12.sd.us/pages/default.aspx>

STRATEGIC PLANNING INVITATION

On Oct. 23 beginning at 6 p.m. a Strategic

YOUR LETTERS

Sportsmanship

Curtis Roth, Yankton

Parents, be a good sport and set a good example.

After hearing some harsh criticism over the outcome of a local 5th and 6th grade football game, I feel the need to express some concern.

Unfortunately, too many people feel the need to criticize officials, opposing coaches and opposing players for coming out on the wrong side of a score. Having both officiated and coached, I know that you may not always agree with the final outcome, but instead of putting so much effort into criticizing everyone, appreciate the opportunities our kids have and support them.

Yankton recently lost a great advocate of our youth and their activities, and he taught me that it is not about the final outcome, but rather the opportunity.

Parents, realize the opportunities your children have to learn life lessons. Don't teach them that winning is the only thing that matters in youth sports. By publicly criticizing



Kindle

Planning Meeting will be held at the YHS Commons. A light meal will be served at 6 p.m. with the meeting starting at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please call the Superintendent's Office at 665-3998.

The Mission Statement of the Yankton School District is to optimize student potential for success in a global society. I welcome you to be part of the change and vision for our students. We need our entire community to become an engaged and welcomed partner of the Yankton School District. Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success."

CHROME BOOKS

The South Dakota Department of Education is requiring state testing of students to be done on-line beginning in the Spring of 2014. Yankton School District Administrators met this past summer and revamped the Technology purchases planned for the 2013-14 school year. The changes made resulted in purchasing Chrome Books rather than portable laptop units, which were originally budgeted. The cost difference between the two budgeted items will allow the school district to purchase nearly twice as many Chrome Books than the portable laptop units.

The Yankton School District purchased nearly 400 Chrome Books, which will be distributed at every school building throughout the school district PK-12. The Chrome Books will be used for a variety of instructional purposes during the school year and will be a primary tool used in the state on-line testing during the Spring of 2014.

A Yankton School District Technology Committee will be formed this fall to take a look at our short-term needs in the next 2-3 years. Technology is a moving target and changes often. We want to make sure we make good use of budgeted money for Technology and also meet the needs of our students and teachers in the next 2-3 years.

STATE TESTING RESULTS

The results for Yankton School District students taking the Dakota Step Test last spring were no surprise when revealed this past month. Our test scores and other areas we were evaluated on were among some of the best in the state. As stated earlier in my article, excellence in academics is the standard in the Yankton School District. We have had a long standing tradition of our students not only meeting state standards, but in many cases exceeding the state standard. These types of outcomes are a reflection of high quality teaching, improved attendance, high expectations for academics and student behavior, conducive learning environments, great facilities, advanced technology, and effective leadership from school administrators. In next month's Kindle's Korner, I will highlight a number of these accomplishments.

Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me to lead the Yankton School District. You are welcome to contact me at any time to visit. I am also available and would enjoy meeting with your group. You are welcome to contact me via email at wkindle@ysd.k12.sd.us or call me at 665-3998 to arrange a meeting.

Let's have a great year!

ABOUT THIS PAGE

■ The View 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 on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

what are you really proving — that winning is the only important thing? Volunteers put countless hours into all of the organized sports in Yankton to make them possible. Appreciate the activities our children do have and take every chance you get to help out and support them.

Maybe if you put in a little time to help instead of sitting on the sideline criticizing, you may have a different outlook. Set a good example and be a good role model. If winning a game was the most important thing we have to worry about, man, life would be easy!