

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION

# Libraries Play An Important Role

Today's topic is libraries and their importance to our community.

This fact was manifested in some news items that have occurred in recent days.

It was reported in Tuesday's *Press & Dakotan* that the Yankton School District has reinstated librarians in each of its four elementary schools. Budget cuts after the failed opt-outs a few years ago forced the district to cut the positions, but concerns expressed by parents compelled the district to find ways by which a position for each school could be restored.

The need for a librarian in each school was rightly seen as a priority. A library full of books can be an imposing challenge to young minds in search of knowledge but lacking guidance. These librarians can open up those doors to those kids, allowing them to expand their minds in wonderful directions.

The return of the librarians is an important development for Yankton's elementary education regimen and encouraging gesture for young minds seeking knowledge.

Young minds and libraries are also part of new endeavor by the Yankton Community Library, which is looking to put together a student advisory board to promote more interest in the library and its offerings among younger readers, particularly teens, who are at an age when they are transitioning from kids and tween material to sophisticated literary offerings — if they are doing much reading at all.

It's no secret to anyone — not library officials, not newspaper operators, not school teachers, not parents — that reading isn't perceived to be a pressing priority these days, especially among younger people.

Certainly, offerings on the Internet, television, social media and streaming video can lure eyeballs away from the printed word, but that may only suggest that reading habits are changing, not disappearing.

And the library is not a static place simply filled with books. It offers electronic portals that can take consumers (and that's really what people who use libraries are) to myriad resources, from state archives to distance depositories of information. The library also offers digital reading material as well as new sources for information.

But what makes a library come alive is not the number of books on hand or the computers available. It's the people who have a thirst to use it — or, in some cases, to discover it — and broaden their horizons in impressive and unexpected ways.

That's why it's important to get younger readers/users involved with this tremendous knowledge hub that serves the community. And the student advisory board seems like a practical way to promote that resource.

Libraries are important to schools and to communities because they are portals to knowledge and cultivators of curiosity. Today, Yankton's library offerings appear to be in good shape — and the future looks bright.

kmh

## 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 Wednesday, September 3, the 246th day of 2014. There are 119 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On September 3, 1939, Britain, France, Australia and New Zealand declared war on Germany, two days after the Nazi invasion of Poland; in a radio address, Britain's King George VI said, "With God's help, we shall prevail." The same day, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner SS Athenia some 250 miles off the Irish coast, killing more than 100 out of the 1,400 or so people on board.

**On this date:** In 1189, England's King Richard I (the Lion-Hearted) was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1658, Oliver Cromwell, the Lord Protector of England, died in London; he was succeeded by his son, Richard.

In 1783, representatives of the United States and Britain signed the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the Revolutionary War.

In 1868, the Japanese city of Edo was renamed Tokyo.

In 1914, Cardinal Giacomo Della Chiesa became pope; he took the name Benedict XV.

In 1923, the United States and Mexico resumed diplomatic relations. In 1944, British forces liberated Brussels during World War II.

In 1951, the television soap opera "Search for Tomorrow" made its debut on CBS.

In 1967, the original version of the television game show "What's My Line?" hosted by John Charles Daly, broadcast its final episode after more than 17 years on CBS.

In 1976, America's Viking 2 lander touched down on Mars to take the first close-up, color photographs of the planet's surface.

In 1989, a Cubana de Aviacion jetliner crashed after takeoff in Havana, killing all 126 aboard and 45 people on the ground.

In 1994, China and Russia proclaimed an end to any lingering hostilities, pledging they would no longer target nuclear missiles or use force against each other.

**Ten years ago:** A three-day

hostage siege at a school in Beslan, Russia, ended in bloody chaos after Chechen militants set off bombs as Russian commandos stormed the building; more than 330 people, over half of them children, were killed. Former President Bill Clinton was hospitalized in New York with chest pains and shortness of breath; he ended up undergoing heart bypass surgery.

**Five years ago:** Vice President Joe Biden told a Brookings Institution gathering that the Obama administration was fiercely determined to get a health care overhaul, although he conceded it likely wouldn't happen without "an awful lot of screaming and hollering." A private funeral service was held in Glendale, California, for pop superstar Michael Jackson, whose body was entombed in a mausoleum more than two months after his death.

**One year ago:** Ariel Castro, who'd held three women captive in his Cleveland home for nearly a decade before one escaped and alerted authorities, was found hanged in his prison cell, a suicide. Former NBA star Dennis Rodman arrived in Pyongyang for his second visit to North Korea.

**Today's Birthdays:** "Beetle Bailey" cartoonist Mort Walker is 91. Actress Anne Jackson is 89. Actress Pauline Collins is 74. Rock singer-musician Al Jardine is 72. Actress Valerie Perrine is 71. Rock musician Donald Brewer (Grand Funk Railroad) is 66. Rock guitarist Steve Jones (The Sex Pistols) is 59. Actor Steve Schirripa is 57. Actor Holt McCallany is 50. Rock singer-musician Todd Lewis is 49. Actor Charlie Sheen is 49. Singer Jennifer Paige is 41. Dance-rock musician Redfoo (LMFAO) is 39. Actress Ashley Jones is 38. Actress Nichole Hiltz is 36. Actor Nick Wechsler is 36. Rock musician Tomo Milicevic (30 Seconds to Mars) is 35. Actress Christine Woods (TV: "Hello Ladies") is 31. Actor Garrett Hedlund is 30. Olympic gold medal snowboarder Shaun White is 28. Hip-hop singer August Alsina is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "It is awfully important to know what is and what is not your business." — Gertrude Stein, American author (1874-1946).

## FROM THE BIBLE

For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth. Job 19:25. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



## The Rez Of The Story

# A Look At 'Relocation'

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Anatole France, the Nobel Prize-winning

French writer who lived between 1844 and 1924, once wrote: "All changes, even the most longed for, have their melancholy; for what we leave behind us is a part of ourselves; we must die to one life before we can enter another."

Beginning in the 1950s, the U.S. government hatched another scheme to rid America of the so-called "Indian problem." The "solution" entailed persuading the remaining Native populations left living on reservations to leave the reservation and "relocate" to the cities of America to ostensibly be absorbed by the dominant society — never to be heard from again.

Well, this strategy failed, thankfully. In the minds of many Native people, the requirement to "die to one life before entering another" was much too much to bear.

Here, in part one of two, I begin the story of "relocation."

In Peter Nabokov's book, "Native American Testimony," I came across this somewhat "melancholy" rendition of the relocation experience as told by Bennie Bearskin, a Winnebago Indian: "For rural Indians who signed up for the government's Voluntary Relocation program, the big city could be a confusing place. Scary as it was, the experience drew enough families to Los Angeles, Chicago and other cities to produce a new sociological category: the Urban Indian."

For example, Peter goes on to say: "... thousands of Indian immigrants, many from the southwest adapted to Chicago. At first the government tried to assist them with housing and employment, but most relocatees wound up in substandard apartments and menial jobs; by 1955, at least 600 of them left Chicago for home."

From Bennie Bearskin: "Getting Urbanized, I like this term. It means you have to learn the ropes, just like a person moving from prairie country into the woods. You know, there are certain dangers in such a transition, and it's the same way in a city. You have to learn the ropes. And once you become urbanized, this means to me that you're gonna settle down, and you have to have a goal to look forward to. Otherwise, I

think it would drive you crazy.

"I'll tell you the extent to which I'm urbanized, after being there for seventeen years. Some years ago, we went back to Nebraska, to my wife's parents' place. And for three or four nights in a row, I'd wake up in the middle of the night, feeling that there was something drastically wrong. And it puzzled me until I began to realize: it was quiet, that's what was wrong. There's no fire engines or police sirens passing by, no street noises. It's funny.

"I was raised all the way from Winnebago Indian reservation in northeast Nebraska, to Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin. My father was a laborer. He moved his family whenever there was employment. So I got an early introduction to the melting pot.

"In those days, I didn't give discrimination much thought since we moved around quite a lot. The one thing that stands out in my mind is that every new school we attended, we had to go through an ordeal. The toughest fellows wanted to see how tough we were. So we kind of oriented that way. And if we could whip the toughest kid, why then, we had it made from then on. We had a lot of friends. Of course, that didn't always happen that way either.

"I came to Chicago in 1947, after I had been married, and later on I sent for my wife and my one child and since that time we've lived here in the city. The most important reason was that I could at least feel confident that perhaps 50 paychecks a year here ... and you can't always get that way. Even though it might be more pleasant to be back home, for instance, Nebraska.

"I think this is one feature most Indians have in common. They have a deep attachment for the land. This has been so for a long, long time. Many different tribes of Indians are now residing in Chicago, but most of them maintain ties with the people back home. Even in cases where the older members of their families have passed away, they still make a point to go home. Many of them make the trip twice a year to go back to the place where they were born and raised."

Next week will be part two of this series about relocation.

Doksha (later) ...

## YOUR LETTERS

### Plaza Plausibility

James L. Van Osdel, Yankton

More than a few folks are concerned with their rising water bills and the fact the City Commission is also planning to spend nearly \$500,000 on a water fountain "plaza" at the north end of the Meridian Bridge.

This during the time the city is also planning to spend some \$20,000,000 on drinking water system improvements, apparent reason for the ever rising water rates.

And others have asked why the city did not conduct sufficient tests on water quality before spending so much on two wells covered by nicely appointed pump houses at the south end of Discovery Bridge? Now it is reported that new water source just isn't the quality city officials were looking for.

No, folks say, they do not want to attend City Commission meetings. Maybe they can clip letters to the editor that they like and send them to commissioners to have their views made known.

From personal experience, we would also advise homeowners to check their bills to make sure they are not being billed for more water than they use. One water bill in particular we are familiar with went down 4,000 gallons per month — and a new meter was installed. Squeaky wheels do get the grease — along with the dust.

### Risky Business

Pam Koch, Fordyce, Neb.

Recently, I was introduced to the experience of sky diving. No, I wasn't a participant, but an observer; personally I see no reason to jump out of a perfectly good airplane!

My youngest of three sons, Shawn, had talked about wanting to be a skydiver. Of course, he had also talked about being a Karate Kid, Ninja Turtle and other super-heroes, so I had not given it much credence.

However, he's now 33, so I tend to take him more seriously. He not only had his older brother, Chad, check on it for him, he got them all into the act!

## ELECTION LETTERS

■ During the election season, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** is limiting any letter related to the political campaigns to 150 words. (A letter that exceeds that total by a small margin may be edited down to fit within that parameter.) Letters that surpass that limit will be referred to the advertising department, and author will be given the option of paying to have the letter printed in its entirety elsewhere in the newspaper. Send your letters or questions to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at views@yankton.net.

Chad wasn't going to let him go alone and Chad's wife, Jessi, wasn't going to let him go without her when my second oldest, Eric, heard about it and jumped on the bandwagon!

I wasn't a nervous Nellie, like I thought I would be. However, I wasn't about to let them take this momentous step in their lives without mom and dad bearing witness, so we packed up the whole family and headed to Luverne, Minnesota