

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION

Siren Roadblock: Questions Of Safety

A plan to place up to 10 storm sirens in the lake area west of Yankton is a good idea, a needed idea and a practical idea by every measure.

Well, almost. The idea is momentarily on hold, thanks to objections raised by some residents in the very same area.

This network of sirens is designed to alert residents and visitors in the lake area, including at the Boy Scout camp, of possible life-threatening weather conditions. It's early-warning protection that is found in Yankton and in other communities across the county, state and country. It's an alert system that could save lives.

And yet, it's some of the people who would fall under this protection who are complaining. The Yankton County Commission was told last Thursday that some residents near the sites of the first two sirens — the 10 sirens, which could cost up to \$219,000, were scheduled to be deployed over the course of a few years — complained about the aesthetics and the potential impact on property values.

"The main concern was having to look at a 40-foot pole out front of their homes and the valuation of their property would take a hit with them being there," said Yankton County emergency management director Paul Scherschligt.

With all due respect — and some respect was expressed for this opposing sentiment by some of the commissioners — this opposition really seems to miss the point.

That point is security and early warning. That point is the potential security of a lot of people — Commissioner Garry Moore stated there are more than 4,000 residents in the area and this is what he accurately labeled "a life safety issue." And it would also provide coverage in an area than gets more than 1 million visitors a year and figures to continue growing as more housing and businesses are built.

The County Commission reluctantly decided not to proceed with the project at this time, heading instead back to the drawing board. This doesn't mean the project is dead, but it does mean the search for placing these sirens in the very difficult and uneven terrain along the lake area must begin again. It also means time will be lost and, of course, there is the potential that new objections will arise with whatever new locations are chosen.

It could be argued — and we certainly would concede the point — that most of the people who are perhaps scratching their heads now don't live out there and don't appreciate the issues that the complaining residents have put forth. After all, those lake-area residents are the ones who will be living with those poles. And that argument is very true.

At the same time, the non-lake-area residents aren't the ones who are going to be served by the sirens. It won't be their lives that will be protected. It won't be their lives who might get a few minutes of notice in a situation where every second counts. (Of course, most of them WILL be helping to pay for these sirens through tax dollars if they live anywhere in Yankton County, but that is besides the point.)

For now, the best plan for being alerted to bad weather in the lake area is for residents to be near a TV or radio when an alert is issued, or someone thinks to call a friend or relative when a siren sounds in town. Or we just hope the situation never arises. Until sites are found that can host the sirens while not obstructing views or possibly, allegedly hitting resale values, that's the best option looming. And the less effective.

kmh

ELECTION LETTERS

■ With the election season here, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** has decided that all political letters received as of Sept. 9 will only run for a fee. All letters 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.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 23, the 266th day of 2014. There are 99 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 23, 1779, during the Revolutionary War, the American warship Bon Homme Richard, commanded by John Paul Jones, defeated the HMS Serapis in battle off Yorkshire, England; however, the seriously damaged Bon Homme Richard sank two days later.

On this date: In 1780, British spy John Andre was captured along with papers revealing Benedict Arnold's plot to surrender West Point to the British.

In 1806, the Lewis and Clark expedition returned to St. Louis more than two years after setting out for the Pacific Northwest.

In 1846, Neptune was identified as a planet by German astronomer Johann Gottfried Galle.

In 1889, American newspaperman and columnist Walter Lippmann was born in New York City. Nintendo was founded in Kyoto, Japan, as a playing card company.

In 1908, an apparent baserunning error by Fred Merkle of the New York Giants cost his team a victory against the Chicago Cubs and left the game tied 1-1. The Cubs won a rematch and with it, the National League pennant.

In 1939, Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, died in London at age 83.

In 1952, in what became known as the "Checkers" speech, Sen. Richard M. Nixon, R-Calif., salvaged his vice-presidential nomination by appearing live on television to refute allegations of improper campaign fundraising.

In 1957, nine black students who'd entered Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas were forced to withdraw because of a white mob outside.

In 1962, New York's Philharmonic Hall (later renamed Avery Fisher Hall) formally opened as the first unit of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. "The Jetsons," an animated cartoon series about a Space Age family, premiered as the ABC television network's first program in color.

In 1973, former Argentine president Juan Peron won a landslide election victory that returned him to power; his wife, Isabel, was elected vice president.

In 1981, the Reagan administra-

tion announced plans for what became known as Radio Marti.

In 1999, the Mars Climate Orbiter apparently burned up as it attempted to go into orbit around the Red Planet.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush denied painting too rosy a picture about Iraq, and said he would consider sending more troops if asked; Iraq's interim leader, Ayad Allawi, standing with Bush in the White House Rose Garden, said additional troops weren't needed.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama addressed the U.N. General Assembly, where he challenged world leaders to shoulder more of the globe's critical burdens, warning they could no longer castigate the U.S. as a go-it-alone bully while still demanding it cure all ills.

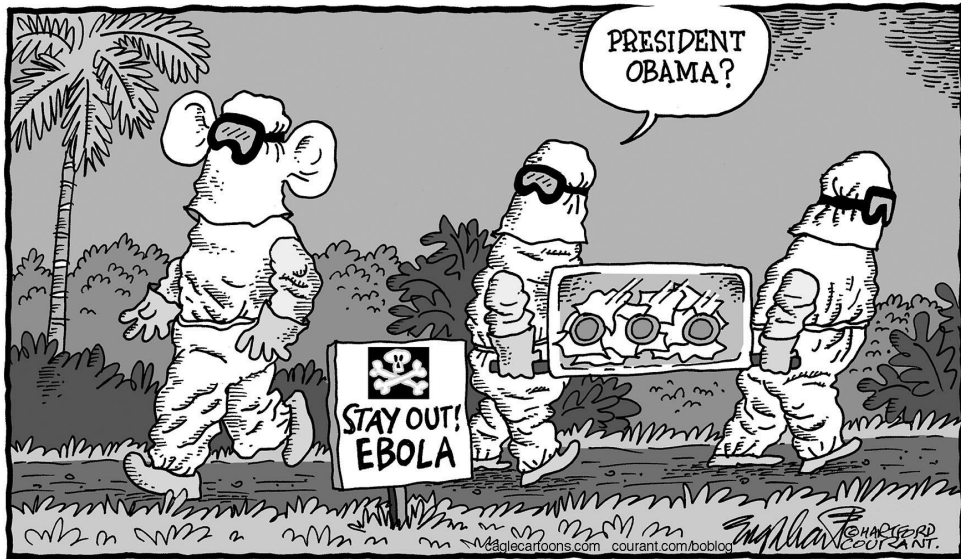
One year ago: Facing possible firing, Lois Lerner, the Internal Revenue Service official at the center of the agency's tea party scandal, retired. An Egyptian court ordered the banning of the Muslim Brotherhood and the confiscation of its assets. After 20 consecutive years of losing, the Pittsburgh Pirates clinched at least a National League wild card when they beat the Chicago Cubs 2-1 and Washington lost to St. Louis 4-3. (The Pirates' year came to an end as they lost to the St. Louis Cardinals in a division series that went the full five games.)

Today's Birthdays: Singer Julio Iglesias is 71. Actor Paul Petersen (TV: "The Donna Reed Show") is 69. Actress-singer Mary Kay Place is 67. Rock star Bruce Springsteen is 65. Rock musician Leon Taylor (The Ventures) is 59. Actress Rosalind Chao is 57. Golfer Larry Mize is 56. Actor Jason Alexander is 55. Actress Elizabeth Pena is 55. Actor Chi McBride is 53. Country musician Don Herron (BR549) is 52. Actor Erik Todd Dellums is 50. Actress LisaRaye is 48. Singer Ani DiFranco is 44. Rock singer Sarah Bettens (K's Choice) is 42. Recording executive Jermaine Dupri is 42. Actor Kip Pardue is 38. Actor Anthony Mackie is 36. Pop singer Erik-Michael Estrada (TV: "Making the Band") is 35. Actress Aubrey Dollar is 34. Tennis player Melanie Oudin is 23.

Thought for Today: "Ours is a problem in which deception has become organized and strong; where truth is poisoned at its source; one in which the skill of the shrewdest brains is devoted to misleading a bewildered people." — Walter Lippmann (1889-1974).

FROM THE BIBLE

*But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as He chose. 1 Corinthians 12:18. Portals of Prayer, Concor-
dia Publishing House, St. Louis*



The Rez of the Story

A National Disgrace

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),
The contemporary writer and author, Vashti Quiroz-Vega writes: "Don't turn your face away. Once you've seen, you can no longer act like you don't know."

Open your eyes to the truth. It's all around you. Don't deny what the eyes to you soul have revealed to you. Now that you know, you cannot feign ignorance. Now that you're aware of the problem, you cannot pretend you don't care. To be concerned is to be human. To act is to care."

According to USA Sports, an article by Mike Ross was published which included the following: "The Minnesota Vikings placed Adrian Peterson on the Exempt/Commissioner's Permission List [meaning] Peterson is now barred from all team activities as he faces child abuse charges. The 29-year-old has an arraignment scheduled for Oct. 8. If found guilty, Peterson could be sentenced to up to two years in prison."

The Dalai Lama in his book entitled, "How to See Yourself as You Really Are," submitted the following profound quote: "Just as one comes to ruin through wrong eating but obtains long life, freedom from disease, strength and pleasures through right eating, so one comes to ruin through wrong understanding but attains happiness and highest enlightenment through right understanding."

So which is it to be? That "switching" children is the right understanding of how to teach children right from wrong or that "switching" children is the wrong understanding? This violent act by one of America's most recognized citizens has triggered a country wide conversation here in the United States as

well as here in Indian Country.

Among the Dakotah people who still practice their cultural understanding of striking their children for any reason, Mr. Peterson's behavior toward his son would be condemned without equivocation by our Native people. I can't say what child-rearing practices are used by other Native cultures here in America, to be clear, but it is understood and agreed upon among Dakotah people that harming children either physically, emotionally or mentally would undoubtedly be considered "unbalanced."

For Dakotah people, there is no "fine line" between spanking and abuse. Once you strike a child, it is abuse.

This is obviously not so among non-Native people here in the United States. In fact, according to the Childhelp organization, "Children are suffering from a hidden epidemic of child abuse and neglect. Every year more than 3 million reports of child abuse are made in the United States involving more than 6 million children. The United States has one of the worst records among industrialized nations — losing an average of between four and seven children every day to child abuse and neglect."

In Indian Country, we also are now plagued by unacceptable numbers of incidents and reports of child abuse I largely attribute to being raised in boarding schools. The aftermath has rendered many of our communities unsafe for our own children. We all — Indian and non-Indian alike — need to join in the national discourse about how we're going to address this national disgrace.

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...



Vince
TWO EAGLES

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

My mother was a child abuser. I was, too. In fact, growing up, pretty much every parent I knew abused their kids.

Or so many of Adrian Peterson's critics would have you believe. Peterson, a star of the Minnesota Vikings, was arrested recently for child abuse after hitting his 4-year-old son with a switch. A "switch," for those who don't know, is a long twig. I should know, having been on the receiving end of quite a few. When no switch was available, mom was also known to employ a section of the orange plastic track from my Hot Wheels.

Admittedly, a few of the "child abusers" I knew were bad and neglectful parents back in that era before "parent" was a verb, but most were caring and attentive people who scraped and sacrificed so their kids might have better than they themselves ever did. My own mother — you may take my word for this — was the best mother in the history of mothering, fixer of scrapes, keeper of confidences, stretcher of dollars, listener of prayers, critic of a certain budding writer's earliest work. And, yes, a spanker of behinds when the owners of said behinds got too outrageously out of line.

I don't write any of this in defense of Peterson, by the way; I have no idea of the severity of the punishment he gave his child. No, I'm just here to express the sense of dislocation, of sheer, unadulterated "Huh?!" that comes with hearing that the best mother in the history of mothering was a child abuser. But Peterson's critics have been very clear.

"Spanking isn't parenting; it's child abuse," goes a headline on CNN's website.

"Violence is violence," argues a piece on Bleacher Report.

Sorry, but that's going to be a hard sell for me — and for the three other people my mom raised successfully, and essentially alone, in the gang- and poverty-ridden slums of Los Angeles. But then, the idealized model of modern mothering now resembles less her example than it does that of a woman I once saw pleading with a child to behave. The child in question, a boy of about



Leonard
PITTS

four, was frolicking barefoot through the ice cream cooler in the supermarket.

Never raising her voice, his mom reasoned with him. He giggled.

She cajoled him. He ignored her.

She threatened him with a "time out." He didn't even look her way.

He was still tip-toeing through the Ben & Jerry's and she was still begging him not to, as I left the store. This was maybe 25 years ago and I find myself wondering: If she couldn't stop a 4-year-old from strolling through the ice cream cooler, what in the world did she do when that same child was 13 and ditching school, 14 and using drugs, 15 and getting horizontal with some little girl in his class?

I don't believe in spanking reflexively. Not every offense merits it. Indeed, most don't.

I don't believe in spanking to excess. The idea is to sting, not hurt.

I don't believe in spanking in anger. Anger leads to loss of control.

And no, I don't believe all spanking is abuse. A 2001 study by Dr. Diana Baumrind — a psychologist who opposes spanking — found that mild to moderate corporal punishment causes no lasting harm.

Here's what I do believe. A parent must be loving, accessible, involved, but also an authority figure, the one who sets limits, and imposes real and painful consequences for kids who flout them.

Otherwise, you risk sending into the world something we already have in excess — children poisoned by "self-esteem," walking in serene self-entitlement, convinced the sun shines for them alone. Such children are invariably brought up short. The universe is a rough teacher and its lessons sting worse than any spanking you could get. The worst thing you can do is send your offspring into that classroom unprepared.

Speaking of classroom abuse.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for *The Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miami-herald.com.

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YOUR LETTERS

Sapa Expansion

James L. Van Osdel, Yankton

Many folks in the Yankton area are pleased that the aluminum extrusion plant east of Yankton, owned by a Swedish company and known here as SAPA, is finally utilizing the space provided through considerable taxpayer expense several years ago.

Even the state has become involved donating some \$25,000 to facilitate the addition to the plant. And SAPA management says there are plans to add as many as 50 additional employees.

But, according to some local sources, as many as 10 more area residents could find gainful employment in Yankton should SAPA decide to again to buy some particular products locally. They proudly state they sell products locally but purchasing locally could increase the local workforce. There has to be a considerable savings involved, buying locally versus shipping products from the East or West Coast.

Most coins have two sides. It may be prudent, even if controversial, to check the flip side on occasion.

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 a firearms training class should be offered in schools?
No53%
Yes42%
Not sure5%
TOTAL VOTES CAST344

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 think Hillary Clinton will run for president in 2016?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.