

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION

Weighing A New Sediment Option

An interesting, not-so-little “what if” possibility cropped up last week that could have a big impact on the area around Lewis and Clark Lake.

At the annual meeting of the Missouri Sedimentation Action Coalition (MSAC) in Niobrara, Nebraska, Ron Zelt, a hydrologist with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), discussed the possibility of using the sediment gradually choking out Lewis and Clark Lake as material for hydraulic fracturing — or fracking — operations in the North Dakota oilfields.

The industrial use of the sedimentation could be the answer that has long been sought to the question of how to save the manmade lake from eventually turning into a vast marshland. What that future might look like is already showing itself in the Springfield area, where the once wide river is now composed mostly of small channels, sandbars and vegetation.

Coping with the sedimentation would come at a hefty — and some might argue prohibitive — cost.

But can the rising need for industrial sand and gravel be the answer?

That’s what Zelt wants to find out. He said a research team is currently preparing studies on some sandbars, starting at the Chief Standing Bear Bridge near Niobrara/Springfield. The process would include up to 30 borings to test the feasibility of the product.

Fracking is a process, albeit highly controversial, in which high-pressure water and sand are injected into a geologic formation, creating small fissures that allow for the extraction of crude oil or natural gas. The sand acts as a “proppant,” an agent that props open the newly created fracture to allow extraction.

If the sediment in Lewis and Clark Lake proves usable, it could have significant economic benefits here. The handiest example cited was the Loup River region in Nebraska, where more than 1 million tons of sand are removed annually and commercial dredging operations have created up to 150 jobs.

The search for industrial sand and gravel has grown greatly in recent years, thanks in no small part to the North Dakota oil boom. Such demand has created a search for new sources of material, and Lewis and Clark Lake could be a prime candidate.

There are no guarantees right now, which is why the studies are needed. Not all sand is of the right quality, for instance. Then again, the material could have more uses beyond industrial fracking.

It’s too early to bank on this as a sure answer to the lake’s sedimentation issue. But it is a fascinating new option that needs to be watched closely.

knh

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 the Minnesota Twins will finish above .500 this year?

No.....38%
I don't care.....33%
Yes.....29%

TOTAL VOTES CAST.....310

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 have a favorable or unfavorable view of Hillary Clinton?

To cast your vote in the **PRESS & DAKOTAN'S** Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

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 kelly.hertz@yankton.net.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, April 7, the 97th day of 2015. There are 268 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On April 7, 1945, during World War II, American planes intercepted and effectively destroyed a Japanese fleet, which included the battleship Yamato, that was headed to Okinawa on a suicide mission.

On this date: In 1788, an expedition led by Gen. Rufus Putnam established a settlement at present-day Marietta, Ohio.

In 1862, Union forces led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated the Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh in Tennessee.

In 1915, jazz singer-songwriter Billie Holiday, also known as “Lady Day,” was born in Philadelphia.

In 1927, the image and voice of Commerce Secretary Herbert Hoover were transmitted live from Washington to New York in the first successful long-distance demonstration of television.

In 1939, Italy invaded Albania, which was annexed less than a week later.

In 1949, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical “South Pacific” opened on Broadway.

In 1953, the U.N. General Assembly ratified Dag Hammarskjöld of Sweden as the new secretary-general, succeeding Trygve Lie of Norway.

In 1955, movie actress Theda Bara died in Los Angeles at age 69.

In 1966, the U.S. Navy recovered a hydrogen bomb that the U.S. Air Force had lost in the Mediterranean Sea off Spain following a B-52 crash.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announced he was deferring development of the neutron bomb, a high-radiation weapon.

In 1985, British pop sensation Wham! (George Michael and Andrew Ridgeley) performed at a packed Beijing stadium in Communist China’s first big-name rock concert.

In 1990, a display of Robert Mapplethorpe photographs opened at Cincinnati’s Contemporary Arts Center, the same day the center and its director were indicted on obscenity charges (both were acquitted). An arson fire aboard a ferry en route from Norway to Denmark killed 158 people.

Ten years ago: The blockbuster painkiller Bextra was taken off the market, and the FDA said all similar prescription drugs should strongly warn about possible risk of heart attacks and strokes. Ibrahim al-Jaafari, a Shiite, was named Iraq’s interim prime minister; Kurdish leader Jalal Talabani was sworn in as interim president.

Historic bus service began between the two parts of Kashmir, one controlled by India, the other by Pakistan.

Five years ago: North Korea said it had convicted and sentenced an American man to eight years in a labor prison for entering the country illegally and unspecified hostile acts. (Aijalon Mahli Gomes was freed in August 2010 after former U.S. President Jimmy Carter secured his release.) Opponents seized Kyrgyzstan’s government headquarters after clashes between protesters and security forces that had left dozens of people dead. Space shuttle Discovery docked at the International Space Station, its astronauts overcoming a rare antenna breakdown that had knocked out radar tracking.

One year ago: Pro-Russian activists barricaded inside government buildings in eastern Ukraine proclaimed their regions to be independent and called for a referendum on seceding from Ukraine, an echo of events that had led to Russia’s annexation of Crimea. Alonzo Mourning, a seven-time NBA All-Star, and NCAA championship-winning coaches Nolan Richardson and Gary Williams were voted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. Connecticut won its second NCAA men’s title in four years, beating Kentucky 60-54 in the championship game. Model and media personality Peaches Geldof was found dead at her home in Wrotham, Kent, England, at age 25.

Today’s Birthdays: Actor Wayne Rogers is 82. Media commentator Hording Carter III is 80. Country singer Bobby Bare is 80. Rhythm-and-blues singer Charlie Thomas (The Drifters) is 78. California Gov. Jerry Brown is 77. Movie director Francis Ford Coppola is 76. Singer Patricia Bennett (The Chiffons) is 68. Singer John Oates is 67. Former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels is 66. Singer Janis Ian is 64. Country musician John Ditttrich is 64. Actor Jackie Chan is 61. College and Pro Football Hall-of-Famer Tony Dorsett is 61. Actor Russell Crowe is 51. Christian/jazz singer Mark Kibble (Take 6) is 51. Actor Bill Bellamy is 50. Rock musician Dave “Yorkie” Palmer (Space) is 50. Former football player-turned-analyst Tiki Barber is 40. Actress Heather Burns is 40. Christian rock singer-musician John Cooper (Skillet) is 40. Actor Kevin Alejandro is 39. Rock musician Ben McKee (Imagine Dragons) is 30. Actor Ed Speleers is 27. Actor Conner Rayburn is 16.

Thought for Today: “Verba movent, exempla trahunt.” (Words move people, examples compel them.) — Latin proverb.

FROM THE BIBLE

Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me. ... Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy, and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God. Psalm 43:3-4. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

STAR TRIBUNE/CagleCartoons.com



The Rez Of The Story

Acceptance And Truth

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Acceptance is defined in the dictionary (among other things) as the “willingness to tolerate a difficult or unpleasant situation” or “agreement with or belief in an idea, opinion or explanation.” If submission is implied, Kathleen Casey Theisen, author and writer, says this: “Acceptance is not submission; it is acknowledgement of the facts of a situation. Then deciding what you’re going to do about it.”

It is certainly true that in past generations and ages we have lived in homogenous communities and believed at one time that “sticking with our own” was the wiser choice in who we socialized with. We were taught to mistrust others who were different than us and to not only mistrust but to think our group superior to “those people” from a different group — hence racism.

Thomas Stephen Szasz, the well-known psychiatrist and academic, wrote: “The plague of mankind is the fear and rejection of diversity: monotheism, monarchy, monogamy and in our age, mono-medicine. The belief that there is only one right way to live, only one right way to regulate religious, political, sexual and medical affairs is the root cause of the greatest threat to man: members of his own species, bent on ensuring his salvation, security and sanity.”

Native people in this country have been, and continue to be, the objects of this kind of “everyone must be the same, think the same, look the same, feel the same” mentality. That’s how it is — which is not to say that’s how it ought to be.

We know that the gap between what “is” and what “ought” to be is tremendous in a lot of ways and although not necessarily so deep as to be insurmountable, in my opinion, closing that gap or bridging that gap remains a daunting task. And it remains true, nonetheless, that accepting this challenge we are called to address in our time needs to be a top priority in our communities. If we choose to build on a foundation that has not been inclusive of all points of view in our community, we



Vince
TWO EAGLES

are dooming whatever is built to a rocky and unsure existence to possibly one of complete rejection and/or indifference.

There is relentless pressure in this country for Native people to “let go of the past” and “get over it.” There’s a popular “cartoon” (to use the term loosely) in Indian Country which depicts a military person in black silhouette split with a Native person holding up what looks like a buffalo skull in prayer — also in black silhouette — with the caption, “you wouldn’t tell a soldier to ‘get over it,’ so don’t tell a Native to ‘get over it.’”

So one definition of acceptance asks us to “tolerate a difficult or unpleasant situation” and to stop complaining, hence the pressure, while the other definition more applicable to this discussion points us toward understanding that acceptance is not an act of submission, but rather one that simply says we are accepting

the facts of a situation but says nothing about the nature of those facts.

History is about interpretation of “historical fact” and one side of the perspective of how to interpret these facts being unilaterally controlled by one side is not only counter productive in terms of our coming to terms with these “facts,” but is cruel and insidious, not to mention shady.

Take, for example, the issue of U.S. treaties with Native Nations. More than 300 treaties have been made with the various indigenous peoples of this hemisphere and have all been unceremoniously relegated to a status of historical curiosity and no longer binding even though Article Six of the Constitution tells us otherwise. Get over it?

If the best and only response Native people get to wanting to put treaty and other issues on the table for serious dialogue is “get over it,” what does that say about the true character of those Americans who choose to be that indifferent?

Acceptance is about getting at the truth and seeking remedy, not shoving things under a rug with hopes of it going away — because all our wishful thinking will not make it so.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chamber's Remarks

Keith Kube, Crofton

Nebraska citizens have a unique responsibility in the governance of our state by the fact that we have only a Senate in our Unicameral Legislature. Our House of Representatives consists of the citizens of our state. That means we, the citizens, must be engaged in the legislative process and speak directly to all our senators when pressing issues arise. We must let our senators know what must be done to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity.

If these words are compromised in any way by a member of our Legislature, we have an obligation to voice our concern to our senators. When Sen. Chambers says he would “kill a cop if he had a gun” and “police have a license to kill,” he is bordering on treason and is sowing the seeds of anarchy. This language cannot be tolerated by any elected official in the state or country, and he must be impeached. This is not free speech; it is “yelling fire in a crowded theater” and undermines our system of law and order.

If we do not express our outrage at these remarks, we are agreeing with these state-