After Pope's Visit, Hard Work Ahead For C. African Republic

BY KRISTA LARSON

Associated Press

BANGUI, Central African Republic — The Rev. Justin Nary opened his gate to nearly 800 Muslims threatened with death from the roving gangs of Christian militia fighters who even threatened to burn his church down. Nearly two years later, more than 500 of the displaced are still living there in fear of going home.

While Pope Francis' message of peace and reconciliation during his landmark visit to Central African Republic was warmly received at the cathedral and mosque alike, the hard work of reuniting communities still lies ahead if there is to be lasting change in this

country where nearly 1 million people have been forced from their homes.

The Muslims who live on the grounds of Nary's church may now venture out occasionally into town, though they always return at night because of the precarious security that still reigns, he

"Reconciliation is a process because it requires hearts to change," Nary said. "It is not automatic but we will take the steps. And it will take time.

The danger that remains was highlighted Tuesday with the news that one of the Muslim men who followed the pope out of the neighborhood was shot in the head and killed by a Christian militia, residents said Tuesday.

Christians and Muslims had long lived together in Central African Republic. where it was not hard to a find an interfaith couple before a political crisis erupted in early 2013 when Muslim rebels overthrew the Christian president and committed atrocities. By the end of the year, an armed militia opposed to the rebels attacked the capital, setting into motion the worst sectarian violence the country had ever seen.

The origins of the conflict stem from political disputes, not religious ideology. And yet the attacks of 2014 clearly targeted religious symbols: Dozens of mosques were destroyed and leveled to the ground.

Peace has only come

through separation by force: Nearly all of Bangui's Muslims have fled to the country's north or beyond to neighboring Cameroon and Chad after coming under brutal attacks. Untold thousands have died and left behind relatives wary of living among those of other faiths: The brutal reign of the Muslim rebel government for most of 2013 provokes painful memories for many Christians.

One enormous question looms: Will the anti-Balaka fighters who identify as Christian heed the call of Pope Francis? Nary said many of the militants who have threatened Muslims in his community are not faces he had ever seen at Mass

Center

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cates, for those baskets.

And as the project enters the month of December, the goal of \$17,000 appears within reach because of the community-wide support, Stanage said.

"It's a good group of people that all works well together," she said.

In addition to the Knights of Columbus, the local Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have also pitched in to help put together baskets, Stanage added.

The baskets will be organized on Dec. 21 and will then be passed out on Dec. 22-23. In addition to the area families and individuals, the Contact Center will also be handing out baskets to 150 shut-ins, according to

Stanage.
"It's nice to stop and visit with them, and not just drop something off and leave,"

Stanage said. Families and individuals wishing to participate in the basket project have to complete an application, provide proof of address, the number of people in the household, and have an active Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

"We welcome anyone in need," Stanage said. "We definitely don't want to turn anyone away.

Donations may be sent to: Contact Center Food Pantry, 321 West 3rd Street, Suite B02, Yankton, SD

For more information on the Holiday Baskets, contact the Contact Center at (605) 260-4400, ext. 2.

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Roads

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to evaluate is, sometimes we have to hire someone to do that, which is another expense.

He added that any reconstruction or grinding of roads will come at a cost.

"You're still looking at spending \$10,000-\$15,000 per mile just by taking it from asphalt to gravel, depending on how much gravel is needed," he said. "There's still an expense to do it and we've got to figure out the most cost-effective way. The voters have told us, 'Make do with what we've got.' So we're trying to make do with what we've got."

Woods said any roads that transition from asphalt to gravel will have a long process back to being paved

again.
"We're budget-strapped and money's tight," he said. "I would guess it would go to gravel permanently. I would have a hard time seeing it go-ing to asphalt unless, all of a sudden, we had a population boon out there and we could justify it."

In hopes of trying to find the path forward, the commission also approved the formation of a committee made up of opponents and proponents of the failed road and bridge levy, commissioners and township board members. Two from each entity will serve on the committee including Cheri Loest and former commissioner Garry Moore representing the opposition and Louis Johnson and Jeff Goodall who had supported the measure. Brian Gustad will also be on the committee representing the Highway Department.

Woods said this committee is intended to find a longterm solution for funding.

The task force's job is pretty much, in my eyes, to figure out a way to keep our county moving forward," he said. "Whether that's taking another run at an increased tax levy. The roads have their issues. We all know that. The only thing I know that will fix those roads is either to close them or to put money into them, and we don't have money for

it. We've got to find way to bring in money."

In other business Tues-

day, the commission: • Held a special, one-hour public meeting before its regular meeting to discuss the five-year road plan with members of township boards. A second special public meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday.

Chose Intuvio to reconstruct and host the county's website \$5,100.

• Declared intent to hold another set of town hall meetings spread out throughout 2016.

Approved a number of

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Students

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while off-campus enrollments are up by 740.

That trend toward more off-campus courses is most evident at Black Hills State University at Spearfish and at Northern State University at Aberdeen.

BHSU lost 521 on-campus students and gained 194 offcampus students since 2010. NSU lost 399 students on campus but picked up 599

students off campus. The only double-gainer is South Dakota School of Mines and Technology at Rapid City, which saw oncampus enrollment climb 438 since 2010 and off-campus students increase by 51.

South Dakota State Uniersity at Brookings saw oncampus enrollment drop 320 while off-campus students

The University of South Dakota at Vermillion saw on-campus enrollment go up slightly by 67 while offcampus fell 247. USD was the only state university where off-campus enrollment declined since 2010.

Dakota State University at Madison was essentially stable in its mix, with oncampus students down six and off-campus up 50.

Overall, enrollment in fall 2010 for the system was a headcount of 36,440. It peaked in fall 2014 at 36,532. The fall 2015 count was

Within those system numbers are individual universities' trends since 2010. Three lost headcount and three gained.

BHSU fell by 6.9 percent

dropped 1.8 percent to 12,589 from 12,816. USD likewise dropped 1.8 percent from 10,151 to 9,971.

DSU rose 1.4 percent to 3,145 from 3,101. NSU increased 6.1 percent to 3,496 from 3,296. SDSMT climbed 20.8 percent to 2,843 from

But those numbers also have stories within them driven by residents and nonresidents. Four campuses saw fewer South Dakota students and two saw more since 2010.

BHSU's South Dakota students dropped 11.4 percent to 3,317 from 3,742. DSU fell 12.7 percent to 2,121 from 2,429. SDSU declined 13.3 percent to 7,404 from 8,537. USD slid 12.1 percent to

6,447 from 7,333 NSU saw South Dakota students rise 9.9 percent to 2,664 from 2,425. SDSMT edged up 0.3 percent to 1,378 from 1,374.

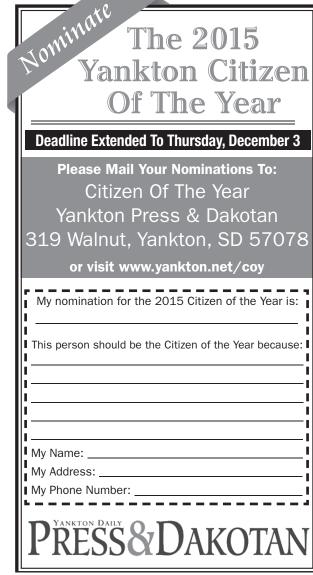
Overall, South Dakota students declined 9.7 percent for a loss of 2,509 from 2010. when their numbers totaled 25,840. Their total in fall 2015 was 23,331.

Meanwhile gains in nonresident students essentially offset those losses. Nonresidents increased by 23.7 percent since 2010, a gain of 2,508. Their numbers totaled 10,600 in fall 2010 and were 13,108 in fall 2015.

NSU was the only campus that saw non-resident students drop since 2010. Their numbers fell to 832 this fall from 871 in fall 2010. NSU has the smallest non-resident enrollment.

Want to listen Wednesday and Thursday to the regents meeting in Spearfish? The regents agenda and a liveaudio link are at www.sdbor.

Member FDIC



CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

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39 Carter's successor 43 Spur on **44** Doio doings

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Yesterday's answer

18 Innocence 33 Exhausted indicator **35** Sacred 19 Colleague chests

of Kermit 36 Orderly 21 Magazine 37 Worthless unit **38** Pitching 22 Useful stat

40 Guy's skill 24 Speckled friend **41** Had horses **25** Yale some-

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AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

12-2 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

ZSAB XFBCO I C T UC M GUVWMLT. DMQBTT KSD CFB XFBCOWML TUDII, KSD CFB

MSU ZSAWML ICTU BMSDLV.

Z C F O Y D N O B F X B F L Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NEVER LET A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED BECOME MORE IMPORTANT THAN A PERSON TO BE LOVED. — THOMAS S. MONSON

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