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Pierre Report

A Day Of Reckoning Ahead

BY STATE REP. BERNIE HUNHOFF  
D-District 18 (Yankton)

Yankton is rich with historic buildings. We've lost some to neglect, but many more continue to be useful as residences, commercial property and public space. We've seen great progress downtown in recent years thanks to Gurney's Landing, Bernard Properties and other entrepreneurs.

Transformation of the big Yankton College campus by the Federal Bureau of Prisons ranks as one of the most impressive restoration projects in the Midwest. We've had great successes, but we've also had a colossal failure. When the state completed the new Mickelson Center for the Neurosciences 27 years ago, a dozen or more grand old stone buildings were vacated on the state hospital campus north of town. State and local leaders have made efforts to find new uses for the structures but to no avail.

Today, a prison trustee unit operates in the building known as Pierce. Kyle has been linked to the new campus as an activities center. The Yankton County Historical Society and its friends, with help from the state, are on a path to renovate Mead, the grandest of the buildings, into a museum. Scaffolding surrounding the old stone is a sight to behold.

Mead is named after Dr. Leonard Mead, a visionary doctor who envisioned a psychiatric facility with the appearance of a college campus. He believed such aesthetics would help the healing process. Perhaps legislators felt guilty after a fire in a substandard structure resulted in the deaths of 17 women in 1899. They funded Dr. Mead's dream and within a decade his campus became reality.

But the buildings, which form a square, have deteriorated badly in the past three decades. State officials have long maintained that new uses of the buildings could not be incompatible with the state hospital mis-



B. Hunhoff

He is asking the legislature for \$6 million to conduct renovation and demolition on the campus. His bill (HB 1033) passed the House 64-4 and is now in the Senate. It calls securing the big calf barn for future restoration partnerships and demolition of other farm buildings. He also recommends preserving Burbank but razing the 1950s-era office buildings as well as four of Mead's original buildings - Lee, Herreid, Mellette and Ordway.

The plan will be accomplished over a maximum of three years. In the meantime, the governor and his staff have assured me that they will continue to welcome any viable proposals from the private sector. In fact, they hope to find a private partner for the barn and Burbank.

I sense that the governor would like nothing better than to find a modern-day Dr. Mead who sees some potential in the fortress-like buildings. He says the previous restrictions on "compatible use" no longer apply. The museum project has broken that precedent. But the governor also wants resolution to a long-lingering issue, and that seems reasonable.

Yankton is well connected to the nation's historic preservation community. Let's try one more time to see if anybody has a use for the some of the strongest structures ever built in the Dakotas. We have some time, but we also have a deadline and maybe that's good.

Pierre Report

Public Safety Bill Signed Into Law

BY STATE SEN. DAN LEDERMAN  
R-District 16 (Dakota Dunes)

Gov. Daugaard signed into law SB70 to place new reforms on public safety. I'm proud to support the measure and look forward to seeing the cost savings with this new approach to rehabilitation.

SB 177, the Military Spouse Licensure bill, which would streamline the process for the families of military men and women to transfer professional licenses and certifications from one state to another. This bill is part of a national effort to encourage states to adopt pro-military spouse license portability measures.

This bill allows military spouses to enter the work force quickly without losing income for their family. This bill passed out of the senate and will head to the house for final passage.

A package of bills resulting from the Teen Driving Safety Task Force passed the senate this week.

- SB 105 - extends length of time that a teenager would have their instruction permits.
- SB 106 prohibits drivers under the age of 16 from using any form of electronic devices while operating a motor vehicle.
- SB 107 limits the number of passengers a minor is allowed in their car unless they are family members.

Senate State Affairs committee passed two bills this week to further protect South Dakotan's second amendment right.

SB 166 revises licensing terms for concealed firearms. By passing SB 166 it allows a person to carry a concealed weapon for five years instead of four.

SB 207 is a legislative findings bill, which protects the rights of citizens from the federal government infringing on our Constitutional rights.

Members of the Dakota Valley Business Council spent two days in Pierre meeting with state officials,



Lederman

legislators and department heads to discuss issues important to our area. Special thanks to Barb Sloniker and Teresa Rosenboom for organizing the meetings.

Beresford had several representatives come to Pierre this week with two different organizations. On behalf of the Beresford, City Councilman Art Schott attended the Municipal League Legislative Forum and met with several legislators and state officials. It was an honor to speak with Councilman Schott about the bills being brought on behalf of municipalities.

Beresford Veteran and VFW Junior Vice Commander Donald Dahlin joined the ranks in Pierre to lobby on behalf of military issues. This year we have seen more 20 bills introduced to benefit Veterans and military personnel.

One of the highlights of the session is when students visit the capitol. This last week saw hundreds of students from across the state participate in the legislative process. I was proud to meet with several young people including the son of former Jaycees President Kristie Hackley, Bryce Hackley.

I was also honored to have Callie Sleep from Spearfish as my 4H Legislative Shadow for a day. As a former member of 4H it was great to show Callie the process in committee and during session debate. The motto of 4H, Head, Heart, Hands, Health are good reminders of the values needed to be a catalyst for positive change.

Our district is one of the farthest from the Capitol so it is a treat to see folks who travel to be part of the process. Please contact me if you are in Pierre for a tour of the capitol or just to sit down and visit.

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

Medicaid Expansion Should Be Pursued

South Dakota is grappling with the proposed Medicaid expansion being offered under the Affordable Healthcare Act. It's seen as a difficult balancing act between the benefits that embracing the expansion would have for tens of thousands of South Dakotans and the economic demands it would place on state resources, particularly if the federal government fails to live up to its part of the bargain.

While the Medicaid expansion does indeed look like a good idea, the reticence that is currently being expressed in Pierre — especially given the maddening fiscal uncertainty being general in Washington — is understandable.

Ultimately, though, it should not be a roadblock. The Medicaid expansion plan is a sound course to pursue, and the state should eventually change its mind on its decision not to join this program.

The Medicaid expansion was among the items that the Supreme Court effectively validated last June when it ruled that the Affordable Health Care Act (also known as Obamacare) was constitutional. However, the court also gave the states the option of participating in the expansion, which would cover most people earning 138 percent of the poverty level.

If South Dakota embraced the expansion, more than 48,000 uninsured adults would be eligible for Medicaid coverage. According to the South Dakota Budget and Policy Research Project, most of these adults would "not be eligible for tax subsidies through exchanges, leaving the lowest income adults in South Dakota without access to affordable health coverage."

Under the Medicaid expansion, the federal government would fund 100 percent of the South Dakota coverage for the first three years, then the state would gradually pick up a portion of the cost until, by 2020, Pierre would be responsible for 10 percent of the bill. In the first 10-year period, the federal government would be projected to fund \$2.1 billion of South Dakota's expansion while the state would pay \$157 million. However, it's also estimated that the savings in health costs generated by embracing Medicaid expansion would cover 40 percent of the cost of expansion during that decade.

But the expansion has not been an easy sell across the board. As of late last week, 21 states and the District of Columbia were participating in the expansion and four were leaning toward it, according to American Health Line. Eleven states said no, including South Dakota, and five others (including Nebraska) are leaning toward non-participation. (For what it may or may not be worth, all those states opposing the expansion have Republican governors.)

However, some governors who are outspoken critics of Obamacare are nevertheless embracing the expansion. The list includes Gov. John Kasich of Ohio, Gov. Rick Perry of Texas and Gov. Jan Brewer of Arizona.

One big hang-up is the concern that the feds won't come through on its promise — which is certainly not unheard of. Gov. Dennis Daugaard is resisting expansion, in part, because of that uncertainty. He also said last week that he believes that almost half of those 48,000-plus eligible adults should be eligible for subsidies in order to purchase private health insurance.

The fiscal uncertainty in D.C. — which is a great national self-inflicted wound — is a compelling concern. If Washington does renege on its pledge, it could theoretically leave South Dakota — as well as many other states — facing a staggering medical bill.

However, the website Governing.com, citing a study by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, notes that states could adopt the Medicaid expansion, then drop it if they so desire. This is something that other governors have emphasized when going into the program.

Considering all that, the best choice for the people of South Dakota seems clear.

The state can still reverse course and pursue expansion, even after this year. But that will amount to a year lost for a lot of people.

Given the benefits that this state could see, and given the fact that a state can withdraw from the expansion if the federal government does live up to its part of the bargain, South Dakota should change course and embrace Medicaid expansion.

kmh

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 12, the 43rd day of 2013. There are 322 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Feb. 12, 1809, Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States, was born in present-day Larue County, Ky.

**On this date:** In 1554, Lady Jane Grey, who'd claimed the throne of England for nine days, and her husband, Guildford Dudley, were beheaded after being condemned for high treason.

In 1818, Chile officially proclaimed its independence, more than seven years after initially renouncing Spanish rule.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

In 1912, Pu Yi, the last emperor of China, abdicated, marking the end of the Qing Dynasty.

In 1915, the cornerstone for the Lincoln Memorial was laid in Washington D.C., a year to the day after groundbreaking.

In 1924, George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" premiered in New York.

In 1940, the radio play "The Adventures of Superman" debuted with Bud Collyer as the Man of Steel.

In 1959, the redesigned Lincoln penny — with an image of the Lincoln Memorial replacing two ears of wheat on the reverse side — went into circulation.

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation with a reception at the White House. A Northwest Orient Airlines Boeing 720 broke up during severe turbulence and crashed into the Florida Everglades, killing all 43 people aboard.

In 1973, Operation Homecoming began as the first release of American prisoners of war from the Vietnam conflict took place.

In 1993, in a crime that shocked and outraged Britons, two 10-year-old boys, Robert Thompson and Jon Venables, lured 2-year-old James Bulger from his mother at a shopping mall near Liverpool, England, then beat him to death. (Thompson and Venables were kept in custody before being paroled in 2001 at age 18; Venables was jailed in 2010 for possessing and distributing child pornography.)

In 1999, the Senate voted to acquit President Bill Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice.

**Ten years ago:** The U.N. nuclear agency declared North Korea in violation of international treaties, sending the dis-

pute to the Security Council. India conducted its fourth missile test of 2003, firing a supersonic cruise missile. Holiday Inn chain founder Kemmons Wilson died in Memphis, Tenn., at age 90.

**Five years ago:** Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain won their respective parties' primaries in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia. General Motors reported losing \$38.7 billion in 2007, a record annual loss in automotive history, and offered buyouts to 74,000 hourly workers. Imad Mughniyeh, one of world's most wanted terrorists, was killed in a car bombing in Damascus, Syria. Character actor David Groh died in Los Angeles at age 68. Uno became the first beagle named Westminster's best in show.

**One year ago:** Adele emerged as the top winner at the Grammy Awards, winning six trophies, including record, song and album of the year, in a ceremony shadowed by the death of Whitney Houston the day before. State governor Henrique Capriles won Venezuela's first-ever opposition presidential primary by a wide margin. Irish character actor David Kelly ("Waking Ned Devine") died in Dublin at age 82.

**Today's Birthdays:** Movie director Franco Zeffirelli is 90. Actor Louis Zorich is 89. Baseball Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Joe Garagiola is 87. Movie director Costa-Gavras is 80. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Bill Russell is 79. Actor Joe Don Baker is 77. Author Judy Blume is 75. Rock musician Ray Manzarek (The Doors) is 74. Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak is 71. Country singer Moe Bandy is 69. Actress Maud Adams is 68. Actor Cliff DeYoung is 67. Actor Michael Ironside is 63. Rock singer Michael McDonald is 61. Actress Joanna Kerns is 60. Actor-former talk show host Arsenio Hall is 58. Actor John Michael Higgins is 50. Actor Raphael Sbarge is 49. Actress Christine Elise is 48. Actor Josh Brolin is 45. Singer Chynna Phillips is 45. Rock musician Jim Creeggan (Barenaked Ladies) is 43. Rhythm-and-blues musician Keri Lewis is 42. Actor Jesse Spencer is 34. Actress Sarah Lancaster is 33. Actress Christina Ricci is 33. NFL quarterback Robert Griffin III is 23. Actress Jennifer Stone is 20.

**Thought for Today:** "Quarrel not at all. No man resolved to make the most of himself can spare time for personal contention. Still less can he afford to take all the consequences, including the vitiation of his temper and loss of self-control." — Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865).

FROM THE BIBLE

*When [Jesus] saw the crowds, He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Matthew 9:36. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*

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YOUR LETTERS

A Sound Plan

Tom Stange, Yankton

This is in response to the article entitled "HSC Plan Stirs Concern" (*Press & Dakotan*, Feb. 4).

I am writing in support of Gov. Daugaard's plan for the old Human Services Center campus. The governor's plan is indeed the right thing to do. Contrary to the criticism by the National Trust cited in Monday's article, the issues regarding what to do with the old campus have received more than ample study. I applaud and appreciate the governor's leadership in putting forward his plan.

Gov. Daugaard's plan carefully considers factors having to do with both the condition of the buildings and the preservations costs/options. The criticism from the National Trust is unfounded and is based on a lack of understanding of buildings themselves and of critical economic considerations. Further, the comments in Monday's article suggesting that the National Trust has resources to assist in the rehabilitation of the old campus are misleading to the extent that the reader was lead to believe that such resources would fund a large part of the rehabilitation costs.

The governor's plan is well thought out and represents the best solution to the vexing problem of

Online Opinion

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the *Press & Dakotan's* Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Would you support a law requiring older drivers to pass a cognitive test before renewing their driver licenses?

Yes . . . . . 61%  
No . . . . . 33%  
Not sure . . . . . 6%  
TOTAL VOTES CAST . . . . . 543

*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:

Are you surprised by the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our Web site at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

"what to do with those old buildings on the old Human Service campus." The Governor's plan is the right solution for the Human Services Center, the Yankton community, and the State of South Dakota.