

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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**GUEST OPINION**

## Why YAPG Supports The Napa Project

BY JOHN A. KRAMER  
Yankton Area Progressive Growth.

Yankton Area Progressive Growth, Inc., was created to expand the economic base of our area by working with our primary employers and others to enhance job creation and economic growth. We have been doing that for more than 35 years. Industrial parks have been created, new companies have been added to the community and existing companies have expanded. We either grow the economic base of our region or we slowly die.

NAPA junction is located northwest of Yankton and is part of the railroad line that runs through Yankton. So when we learned about Dakota Plains Ag plans for the development at Napa Junction, we supported it for several reasons.

- The development of Napa Junction creates the opportunity to develop a new Industrial Park. Dakota Plains Ag is just one of what we think would be several potential developments. Why, simply put, manufacturers today are worldwide and the use of rail (containers) or bulk is the way products are shipped in the world market. Providing an Industrial Park with rail services that can assist them in international business is a strong component of future growth. There is one major advantage to the rail that passes through that area; any rail company can use it, thanks to the State of South Dakota's foresight. Companies located on that rail can negotiate rail cost with several different carriers. That is the unique feature of that location, competition, not monopoly. We are not on an interstate highway, but developing this industrial park could provide us with that kind of advantage.

- YAPG has the opportunity to develop, with Dakota Plains Ag, a rail system on that property that other companies do not have to duplicate, thus saving them millions of dollars and giving us a competitive advantage. Not only will they be able to negotiate rail use with several different carriers, but a potential new client will not have to spend millions to repeat what has already been built. There is excess property to allow for several other developments, and Dakota Plains Ag has agreed to allow others to use that access. It is a great asset to have a private



Kramer

sector partner in the development of an Industrial Park.

- YAPG sees other future developments occurring that would increase the value of that rail yard. Initially we would be for bulk, shuttle loading, but we anticipate additional rail developments on that site that would allow for products such as steel, wood, fertilizers and maybe even containers. Our plan is to develop a facility that no other location in South Dakota or the region has.

- Agriculture in today's world is big business. Will our local producers suffer with this development? No, we do not believe so. Having more markets for local producers to sell to brings more competition into the market place. The more competition, the better the free enterprise system works. The price per bushel can only be better.

- Developing an adequate roadway system to the site is essential. Initially Dakota Plains Ag has agreed to pay to rebuild the road system off of Highway 50 and 435th Avenue. If the road is built correctly, with concrete pavement, utilizing the State of South Dakota's standards, there will be little road maintenance for several years. YAPG has offered to be involved in this process of maintenance and future development of that road system. Our goal is to acquire funding from Federal and State sources to help us in controlling our local costs with the roads in this development. This Industrial Park has regional, if not state advantages, so asking for financial assistance is not out of line.

The economic impact of the development of Napa Junction is huge. Not only will we see a nice economic boost during construction of Dakota Plains Ag, but we also hope to see hundreds of jobs created over the next 10 to 20 years as other projects occur at that location. As we have learned in the past, growing the economy requires investment and courage to move forward, and that's always accompanied by some level of risk. Investing in our future is essential and with our partners, Yankton County, the State of South Dakota and the private sector, we will be successful.



## I'm Glad It Wasn't Us

BY KELLY HERTZ  
kelly.hertz@yankton.net

So, where was all the national hand-wringing when South Dakota was considering its own "religious freedom" law regarding same-sex couples a few weeks ago?

Based on a lot of what I've been hearing or reading lately, one might have deduced that Arizona invented such a measure, which of course it didn't. It was one of several states — including South Dakota — that just *coincidentally* proposed similar legislation at the same time.

But, whereas our state dispensed with this matter in committee, the Arizona measure made it all the way through the Legislature and onto Gov. Jan Brewer's desk. And given that state's history of taking provocative stands on social issues ranging from immigration to Martin Luther King Day, it became a big story for the media and in political circles. (You could almost hear the minds of weary Arizonans thinking, "Lord! Here we go again.")

Fortunately, South Dakota was spared all this. As I noted, our legislators dealt with the matter far away from the governor's desk. There was some early reaction — this newspaper weighed in on the matter, for instance — to measures that would have, for example, allowed bakeries to cite religious beliefs as grounds for refusing services to same-sex couples, then the bills died a quiet death in committee. I don't think these measures would have made much headway if they had lived on: At last Saturday's District 18 legislative forum, the lawmakers seemed dismissive of the measures, without going into detail.

So, our version of the legislation never got far, but I'm not sure the nation would have taken a lot of notice if it did. (Some websites pointed out the bills' existence when they were introduced, but paid little attention when they were scuttled.) I don't think there would have been great armies of protesters in front of our state capitol demanding passage or defeat of the legislation because, well, YOU try organizing an outdoors protest in Pierre in February. I don't think Mitt Romney would have been publicly calling upon Gov. Dennis Daugaard to not sign the bill. I don't think the cable news channels would have become fixated on "what South Dakota will do." And obviously, the NFL wouldn't be threatening to move next year's Super Bowl away from Sioux Falls if the governor signed the bill because ... OK, you can figure that one out. (There is, arguably, some economic karma in the fact that a bill that would let business owners withhold services based on

their beliefs was then squeezed by outraged business entities threatening to take their events elsewhere.)

Anyway, I'm not complaining about this lack of notice.

In fact, a lot of things happen in rural, relatively remote places like South Dakota that don't get the same kind of national attention that they might elsewhere.

Certainly, we aren't completely immune from such scrutiny. The 2002 U.S. Senate race between Tim Johnson and John Thune drew a lot of interest, and our 2006 vote on proposed new abortion restrictions also put us in the spotlight.

Otherwise, South Dakota — located in the heart of "flyover country" — generally flies under the radar.

Part of this is due to the fact that we aren't really on main street as far as the national media are concerned. It's a lot easier to get reporters and TV cameras on the scene in Arizona, which is situated amid several major media hubs, than it is to get them to trudge out to South Dakota — which, contrary to what some people actually think, isn't located in the South at all.

When I think of this effect, my mind drifts back to a grim incident in 2005 when a school massacre occurred in Red Lake, Minn. The event, which took place on a remote Ojibwe reservation north of Bemidji, resulted in 10 deaths, including the shooter. At the time, it was the deadliest school shooting since the 1999 Columbine massacre in Colorado. So this was big.

But the national media coverage of this tragedy was relatively muted. We didn't see live television footage from the scene because TV crews could not easily access the reservation. When the reporters did finally get there, it was a relatively small contingent. The matter faded away quickly — except, of course, for the families of the victims — as more conveniently accessible events took place.

That's the flip side of living the quiet life out here on the lonely plains: No one generally pays much attention to us.

This week, at least, I'm glad of it.

Arizona took the heat for doing the same thing that several other states tried or are still trying to do. That's what a high profile gets you sometimes. However, the issues we deal with are just as important here as they are anywhere else. Such matters certainly deserve our attention and coverage, and I sure don't mind having those decisions made outside of the contentious arena of obsessive national scrutiny.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at [twitter.com/kelly\\_hertz/](http://twitter.com/kelly_hertz/). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net/](http://www.yankton.net/).

**YOUR LETTERS**

**Generosity Appreciated**

**Kappa Pi Chapter of the University of South Dakota, Vermillion**

The Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Kappa Pi Chapter at the University of South Dakota's event Taylor Trudeau Cycle for Life has helped raise more than \$1,700 for leukemia, lymphoma and melanoma cancer research, succeeding last year's amount by more than \$400.

Taylor Trudeau Cycle for Life is an annual cycling philanthropy event that is open to all members of the University as well as members of the community. The philanthropy event promotes healthy habits while raising awareness and funds for leukemia, lymphoma and melanoma research.

The Kappa Pi Chapter would like to thank all of the generous donations of families, businesses and of course the record attendance from the USD and Vermillion community that we experienced this year.

For more information, contact Cole Hensley at [cole.hensley@coyotes.usd.edu](mailto:cole.hensley@coyotes.usd.edu) or at (605) 413-6987.

**Online Opinion**

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

**LATEST RESULTS:**

**Which movie do you think will win the Academy Award for Best Motion Picture?**  
"Nebraska" . . . . .31%  
"12 Years a Slave" . . . . .21%  
"Gravity" . . . . .15%  
"The Wolf of Wall Street" . . . . .11%  
"American Hustle" . . . . .10%  
"Captain Phillips" . . . . .7%  
"Dallas Buyers Club" . . . . .2%  
"Her" . . . . .2%  
"Philomena" . . . . .1%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST . . . . .183**

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 support barring the sale of e-cigarettes to minors?**  
To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

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**FROM THE BIBLE**

Blessed are his children after him. Proverbs 20:7. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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