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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

the development of an Industrial

YAPG sees

other future developments occurring that would increase the value of that rail yard. Initially

it 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.

# kelly.hertz@yankton.net events elsewhere.)

Kelly

**HERTZ** 

I'm Glad It Wasn't Us

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?

SO IT'S FLOODS, EARTHQUAKES, BURNING HAIL, LOCUST SWARMS, AND DROUGHT.

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

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

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 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/. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net/.

# ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, Feb. 28, the 59th day of 2014. There are 306 days left in the

Today's Highlight in History: On Feb. 28, 2013, Benedict XVI became the first pope in 600 years to resign, ending an eight-year pontificate shaped by struggles to move the Catholic Church past sex abuse scandals and to reawaken Christianity in an indifferent world. (Benedict was succeeded the following month by Pope Francis.)

On this date: In 1844, a 12-inch gun aboard the USS Princeton exploded as

the ship was sailing on the Potomac River, killing Secretary of State Abel P. Upshur, Navy Secretary Thomas W. Gilmer and several others.

In 1861, the Territory of Colorado

was organized. In 1911, President William Howard Taft nominated William H. Lewis to be the first black Assistant Attorney General of the United States.

In 1942, the heavy cruiser *USS* Houston and the Australian light cruiser HMAS Perth were attacked by Japanese forces during the World War II Battle of Sunda Strait; both were sunk shortly

after midnight. In 1953, scientists James D. Watson and Francis H.C. Crick announced they had discovered the double-helix structure of DNA.

In 1960, a day after defeating the Soviets at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, Calif., the United States won its first Olympic hockey gold medal by defeating Czechoslovakia's team, 9-4. In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon

and Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai issued the Shanghai Communique, which called for normalizing relations between their countries, at the conclusion of

Nixon's historic visit to China. In 1974, the United States and Egypt re-established diplomatic relations after

a seven-year break. In 1986, Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme was shot to death in central Stockholm. (The killing remains un-In 1988, the 15th Olympic Winter

Games held its closing ceremony in Calgary, Canada. In 1993, a gun battle erupted at a re-

ligious compound near Waco, Texas, when Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents tried to arrest Branch Davidian leader David Koresh on weapons charges; four agents and six Davidians were killed as a 51-day stand-

off began.
In 1994, Lorena Bobbitt was released from a state mental hospital in Virginia, five weeks after being acquitted by reason of insanity of sexually mutilating her husband, John.

Ten years ago: Iraq's U.S.-picked leaders failed to meet a deadline for adopting an interim constitution. Six-na-

tion talks on ending North Korea's nuclear weapons program ended in Beijing with an agreement to hold more negotitions. The *Bow Mariner,* a tanker ca ing ethanol, exploded and sank off the Virginia coast; 21 crew members died while six men survived. Former Librarian

while six men survived. Former Librarian of Congress Daniel J. Boorstin died in Washington, D.C. at age 89.

Five years ago: Paul Harvey, the news commentator and talk-radio pioneer whose staccato style made him one of the nation's most familiar voices, died in Phoenix at age 90. Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, free-agent NFL defensive lineman Corey Smith and former South Florida player William Bleakley died when their boat overturned in rough seas off the coast of Florida.

One year ago: President Barack Obama urged the Supreme Court to overturn California's same-sex marriage ban and turn a skeptical eye on similar prohibitions across the country. Bradley Manning, the Army private arrested in the biggest leak of classified information in U.S. history, pleaded guilty at Fort Meade, Md., to 10 charges involving ille-gal possession or distribution of classified material. (Manning, who has since adopted the female identity Chelsea Manning, was sentenced to up to 35 years in prison after being convicted of additional charges in a court-martial.) In Seffner, Fla., a sinkhole opened up under a man's bedroom and swallowed him up without a trace; Jeff Bush is pre-

Today's Birthdays: Architect Frank Gehry is 85. Actor Gavin MacLeod is 83. Actor Don Francks is 82. Singer Sam the Sham is 77. Actor-director-dancer Tommy Tune is 75. Hall of Fame auto racer Mario Andretti is 74. Actor Frank Bonner is 72. Actress Kelly Bishop is 70. Actress Stephanie Beacham is 67.
Writer-director Mike Figgis is 66. Actress
Mercedes Ruehl is 66. Actress
Bernadette Peters is 66. Former Energy Secretary Steven Chu is 66. Actress llene Graff is 65. Nobel Prize-winning economist Paul Krugman is 61. Comedian Gilbert Gottfried is 59. Basketball Hall-of-Famer Adrian Dantley is 59. Actor John Turturro is 57. Rock singer Cindy Wilson is 57. Actress Rae Dawn Chong is 53. Actress Maxine Bahns is 45. Actor Robert Sean Leonard is 45. Rock singer Pat Monahan is 45. Author Daniel Handler (AKA "Lemony Snicket") is 44. Actress Tasha Smith is 43. Actor Rory Cochrane is 42. Actress Ali Larter is 38. Country singer Jason Aldean is 37. Actor Geoffrey Arend is 36. Actress Michelle Horn is 27. Actress Quinn Shephard (TV: "Hostages") is 19. Actor Bobb'e J. Thompson is 18.

Thought for Today: "In science, all facts, no matter how trivial or banal,

enjoy democratic equality." — Mary Mc-Carthy, American author and critic (1912-1989).

# FROM THE BIBLE

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

# 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 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 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

Willer movie do you tillik will will the F	toauciny
Award for Best Motion Picture?	
"Nebraska"	31%
"12 Years a Slave"	
"Gravity"	
"The Wolf of Wall Street"	11%
"American Hustle"	10%
"Captain Phillips"	
"Dallas Buyers Club"	
"Her"	2%
"Philomena"	1%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	183
The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a s	cientific
survey and reflects the opinions only of those w	
choose to participate. The results should not be	e con-
strued as an accurate representation or scienti	fic meas-
chaca ac an accanal representation of colonia	ouo

# **CURRENT QUESTION:**

urement of public opinion.

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.vankton.net.

# YOUR D.C. LAWMAKERS

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