

# The Press & Dakotan

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**OPINION OTHER VIEWS**

## The Veto Of The Keystone Pipeline

**WALL STREET JOURNAL (Feb. 24):** White House aides are whispering that President Barack Obama's veto of the Keystone XL pipeline authorization bill signals a new phase of his presidency, and we suppose they're right. He'll finish out his tenure as a Howard Hughes-like penthouse recluse who is ever more withdrawn from the political and economic center.

The legislation to build the Keystone XL pipeline that Obama rejected Tuesday enjoys a broad bipartisan consensus, including support from nine Senate Democrats and 28 in the House. Business, labor unions, most consumers, and ally and trading partner Canada are also in favor of this \$8 billion infrastructure project, which will create jobs, strengthen North American energy security and increase prosperity.

Obama is refusing these benefits to bow to the environmental-left fringe that opposes all carbon energy. The reason he gave in a quiet veto message to Congress—no speech, no cameras—was that the bill "cuts short thorough consideration of issues that could bear on our national interest." The Keystone has been in regulatory limbo for about 2,300 days in perhaps the most extensive permitting review in the history of American government.

Aside from his green billionaire friends, we suspect Obama also wanted to frustrate what happens to be an incidental Republican priority: The House is 11 votes and the Senate merely four votes short of the two-thirds majority necessary for an override.

The Washington press corps is all but filing profiles of Obama's veto pen (a Cross Townsend roller-ball) and explaining that his wall of vetoes against anything that comes out of Congress is his "strategy" for the next two years. The better way of putting it is that Obama will leave office increasingly isolated, obstructionist and partisan.

**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/.

**P&D LETTER POLICY**

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask that a few simple guidelines be followed:

- Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

- In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

- Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

- Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

**IN HISTORY**

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Thursday, Feb. 26, the 57th day of 2015. There are 308 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Feb. 26, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte escaped from exile on the Island of Elba and headed back to France in a bid to regain power.

**On this date:** In 1904, the United States and Panama proclaimed a treaty under which the U.S. agreed to undertake efforts to build a ship canal across the Panama isthmus.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed a congressional act establishing Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.

In 1929, President Calvin Coolidge signed a measure establishing Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

In 1940, the United States Air Defense Command was created.

In 1945, authorities ordered a midnight curfew at nightclubs, bars and other places of entertainment across the nation.

In 1952, Prime Minister Winston Churchill announced that Britain had developed its own atomic bomb.

In 1962, after becoming the first American to orbit the Earth, astronaut John Glenn told a joint meeting of Congress, "Exploration and the pursuit of knowledge have always paid dividends in the long run."

In 1970, National Public Radio was incorporated.

In 1987, the Tower Commission, which had probed the Iran-Contra affair, issued its report, which rebuked President Ronald Reagan for failing to control his national security staff.

In 1993, a truck bomb built by terrorists exploded in the parking garage of New York's World Trade Center, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000 others.

In 1995, Barings PLC, Britain's oldest investment banking firm, collapsed after Nick Leeson, a 28-year-old securities dealer, lost over \$1.4 billion by gambling on Tokyo stock prices.

In 2012, Trayvon Martin, 17, was shot to death in Sanford, Florida, during an altercation with neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, who said he'd acted in self-defense. (Zimmerman was subsequently acquitted of second-degree murder.)

**Ten years ago:** Fifteen months after Japan's last liftoff ended in a spectacular fireball, an orange and white H-2A rocket blasted off from a remote southern island, carrying a weather and navigation satellite into orbit.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ordered his country's constitution changed to allow presidential challengers in an upcoming fall election. A fragment of granite bearing the name "John" — all that remained of a memorial to the six people killed in the 1993 terror attack on the World Trade Center — was installed as the central piece of a new post-9/11 memorial. Former Time magazine editor and U.S. ambassador to Austria, Henry A. Grunwald, died in New York at age 82.

**Five years ago:** New York Gov. David Paterson announced he wouldn't seek re-election amid a criminal investigation over his handling of a domestic violence complaint against a top aide. (Investigators found no evidence of witness tampering.) At the Vancouver Olympics, the Americans reached 34 medals with a silver and a bronze in short-track speedskating.

**One year ago:** President Barack Obama, speaking in St. Paul, Minnesota, said he would ask Congress for \$300 billion to update aging roads and railways. Republican Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed a bill pushed by social conservatives that would have allowed people with sincerely held religious beliefs to refuse to serve gays.

**Today's Birthdays:** Game show host Tom Kennedy is 88. Singer Fats Domino is 87. Country-rock musician Paul Cotton (Poco) is 72. Actor-director Bill Duke is 72. Singer Mitch Ryder is 70. Actress Maria Kristen (TV: "Lost in Space") is 70. Rock musician Jonathan Cain (Journey) is 65. Singer Michael Bolton is 62. The president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is 61. Actor Greg Germann is 57. Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., is 57. Bandleader John McDaniel is 54. Actress Jennifer Grant is 49. Rock musician Tim Commerford (Audioslave) is 47. Singer Erykah Badu is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Rico Wade (Society of Soul) is 43. Olympic gold medal swimmer Jenny Thompson is 42. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kyle Norman (Jagged Edge) is 40. Actor Greg Kinnear is 38. Rock musician Chris Culos (O.A.R.) is 36. Rhythm-and-blues singer Corinne Bailey Rae is 36. Country singer Rodney Hayden is 35. Pop singer Nate Ruess (fun.) is 33. Tennis player Li Na is 33. Actor Alex Heartman is 25. Actress Taylor Dooley is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "Only the meanderings of life hide behind the alibi 'in conference.' The great of this earth are not only simple but accessible." — Isaac Frederick Marcossan, American journalist (1876-1961).

**FROM THE BIBLE**

*But some of them said, "Could not He who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" John 11:37. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.*

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

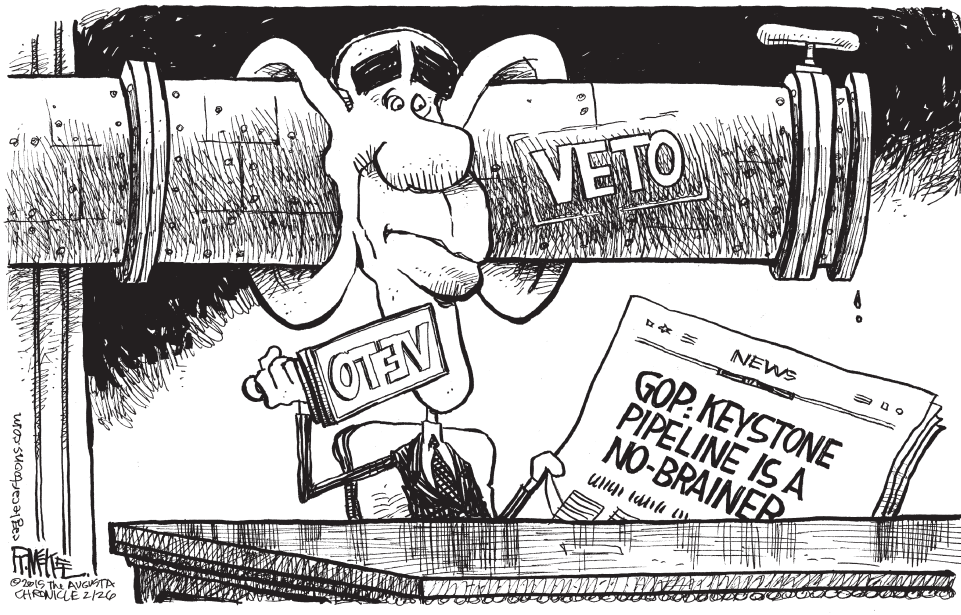
**Merry Men?**

**Lois Kerr, Yankton**  
John Boehner has overreached himself still another time.

After ignoring protocol and deliberately asking Israel's prime minister to address Congress without consulting with the White House, Boehner and his merry men are now trying

to place the blame for the lack of Homeland Security funding on President Obama (*Press & Dakotan*, Feb. 19) for their own failure to function.

How much longer will the pretty boy with the very bad manners be allowed to sit at the head of the table before he's sent to his room? He needs disciplining — firmly.



**Pierre Report**

## More Money Matters

**BY REP. JEAN HUNHOFF**  
R-District 18 (Yankton)

As the departments continue to present their budgets, the Appropriations Committee continues to request from them what are they doing for the citizens of South Dakota.

- The Department of Human Services will enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities, in partnership with its stakeholders. In FY16, the total projected people serviced is 27,639. Services to the blind and visually impaired will be provided to 1698 individuals, South Dakota Developmental Center 131 individuals, rehabilitation services to 11,010 individuals, social security disability determinations to 9,500 individuals and developmental disabilities services to 5,300 individual.

The department is asking for an overall increase of \$7,579,133, with the majority of dollars coming from general fund dollars to an amount of \$4,147,419. The general fund increase requested will support the reduction in Federal Match Assistance Percentage (FMAP) dollars, requiring states to increase general fund dollars to replace lost federal dollars, growth in home and community based services for projected growth to serve 70 more adults, family support expansion to assist up to 80 children and adults with intellectual disabilities, 2 percent provider inflation, and an increase in utility costs at Redfield.

The South Dakota Developmental Center provides individualized treatment services and supports to people with developmental disabilities and challenging behaviors only when needed services are not available in a community setting. The center continues to see a decline in residents due to the improvement in community-based services to reengage these individuals back into the community. The population has dropped from 188 in 2002 to 135 residents currently. The cost per day for a resident in the facility is \$531.57.

The Center is challenged with having a workforce to support these individuals. Turnover rate for direct care providers is 26 percent. The elephant in the room is, can this facility be cost effective for the citizens in South Dakota in serving a declining number of residents? This requires the department to begin assessing how best to utilize this facility. The secretary did indicate that planning for the future for best utilization of this campus was beginning to be discussed.

- The Department of Health represents .6 percent of their share of the general budget. The department is requesting:

- a decrease of \$320,842 of general funds due to the final health laboratory bond payment;

- an increase of \$90,258 from general funds to keep pace with the costs associated with statutorily mandated inspections of food service, lodging and campground establishments;

- and an increase of \$70,000 for Rural Experiences for Health Professions Students Summer Experience Program to increase student stipend amounts, as well as add six new student spots and three additional academic disciplines to the program (medical laboratory science, clinical psychology and social work).

They are requesting \$150,000 to allow the Department of Health to bill third-party payers for immunizations provided by Department of Health Staff. Their biggest request is \$345,990 for hiring 4 FTE nurses to work on disease prevention and infectious disease control activities. A reduction of \$345,990 is requested for medical supplies due to transitioning payment for immunizations to insurance providers. Infectious disease cases

**Writer's Block**

## Those Are The Brakes!

**BY JIM VAN OSDEL**  
For the Press & Dakotan

Negotiating slippery streets the early morning hours after a recent ice and snow storm reminded me of a subject very few motorists even think about when approaching a stop sign on slippery streets — four-wheel anti-lock brakes. Only a recovering car salesman might think of such a thing, but I remember when ....

Ford and Chevy were real proud of the fact they included rear wheel anti-lock brakes on their pickup models in the late 1980s, and not until Dodge offered their redesigned Ram in late August of 1993 did very many vehicles even offer four-wheel anti-lock brakes as an option. Dodge trucks could now be ordered with this feature.

Since this really was a very big deal, our employers sent us salesmen to driving schools in Des Moines to learn how to drive a truck with four-wheel anti-lock brakes. The training was conducted on an asphalt oval racetrack. We were directed to get behind of the wheel of Ford and Chevy trucks. Professional drivers riding shotgun offered stern instructions:

"When we give you the nod, accelerate the truck in a straight line as fast as you can and, at our direction, you will step on the brakes hard and turn the wheel to the right to follow the track."

Everybody was nervous but we felt we were pros. We tromped on the accelerator, got up to 35 or 40 miles per hour and then we had to stand on the brakes and turn the truck to the right to follow the oval asphalt race track. But the front wheels were sliding, locked up and the trucks went straight ahead.

We were not surprised. This is what happens when you overdrive conditions.



**J. Hunhoff**

continue to escalate, in 2005 there were 4,586 reported as compared to 7,329 in 2014, a 29 percent increase. Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) represent the largest percentage of communicable disease growth. Interestingly, enteric cases from 2005 to 2014 saw a 13 percent increase from 713 cases to 1,404 cases. In 2014 there were 13 cases of measles.

- Corrections represent 6.6 percent of the share of budgeted general funds. The average daily population (ADP) of adult inmates is projected to be 3,598 in FY16. This represents a decrease of 29 inmates over the actual FY14 average daily prisoners (ADP) of 3,627 inmates and a decrease of 24 inmates over the budgeted FY15 ADP of 3,622. The average daily population of juveniles in institutional settings is projected to be 608 in FY15 and FY16. The represents a decrease of 33 juveniles when compared to the FY 14 of 641.

The Penitentiary is asking for an increase of four FTE correctional officers for Armed Escorts. Prisoners needing health care that cannot be provided in the penitentiary are transported to health care providers in Sioux Falls. The specific request is for the transfer of high risk offenders which are defined as those offenders classified as violent or with prior escape issues. There have been serious security issues that have resulted during prisoner transports. There are no additional guards to provide this escort service so existing correctional staff must leave their areas to go with the prisoners. By having a trained escort team, the administration believes it will increase the security necessary to prevent any escapes and/or danger to the public sector.

The other major request is \$500,000 of general funds to treat offenders that have Hepatitis C. This is a slow progressing disease, with symptoms that may not appear for years. When left untreated, chronic Hepatitis C can lead to liver damage and potentially even liver cancer. The introduction of a new medication has changed the treatment to a cure for Hepatitis C. The cure comes with a significant cost of \$1,000 per pill per day. The cost to treat an inmate using this medication is between \$90,000 to \$180,000 depending on the patient genome type.

Inmates' health care is the responsibility of the state when they are incarcerated. There are 31 inmates being evaluated for treatment. Inmates are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Level of disease is used to help determine treatment. Length of sentence is considered so inmate fully completes treatment and post-treatment follow up. As inmates age, they too are requiring care for chronic disease conditions. All this adds up on continuing costs for inmate health care.

Juvenile Corrections is asking for a "shift" pay increase of \$1/hour for differential pay for the hours of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. in the juvenile centers in the Black Hills. They are having recruitment problems for getting staff for the night shift. There were reductions in both the adult and juveniles budgets for food services. They were able to renegotiate their contracts for a reduction in the per meal charge.

March 3 will be the last day for budget hearings. There will be subcommittees working on specific topics for the remainder of the session. I have been appointed to the Subcommittee on FTEs. If you have concerns/issues, please contact me. Rep.JeanHunhoff@state.sd.us Only three weeks left for this legislative session.

Then they brought out the new Dodge Rams. Same drill. "Accelerate rapidly, step sharply on the brakes at our command and turn the wheel to the right." This time the front wheels did not lock up. When we stomped the brake pedal, the anti-lock brakes computer pumped the brakes eight to 10 times per second, allowing the tires to maintain contact with the road surface and the truck went around the corner where we intended for it to go. *Voila!*

We were instantly sold on this absolutely amazing safety feature.

When a farmer friend from Gayville came in to test drive a new Dodge truck, I provided the test drive. We drove up to the ice-packed (now middle school) parking lot and when I jammed on the brakes, the truck made a noise like grinding of teeth but the truck came to a sure stop. Done deal. Truck sold.

As usual, I called the customer a few days later to thank him for his business, but he was mad. "Hey, you little so-and-so, I drove my old '75 truck to town for coffee, came to a stop sign, hit the brakes and slid right through it"

He was just kidding and was sold on the value of four-wheel anti-lock brakes, even if they did cost an extra \$400.

Most drivers do not concern themselves these days with such trivialities, although the way some people drive (or aim) their cars, this feature saves lots of accidents.

But \$400 was a lot of money in 1993 and, as a vehicle salesman, I had to know my business in asking for so much more money. That overnight trip to Des Moines 21 years ago was worth the effort. Did your salesman tell you about four-wheel anti-lock brakes on your last vehicle, or were you more concerned about getting heated seats, remote start and backup camera?



**Jim VAN OSDEL**