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OPINION | OUR VIEW

New Directions For Yankton's Ribfest

We have to admit that the idea of Yankton's Rockin' Ribfest moving its date and changing its venue caught us by surprise. But the more we think about it, the better we like the ideas.

The issue officially went public last Friday when the agenda for Monday's Yankton City Commission meeting was released. During a media briefing, it was learned that the Ribfest organizers are moving the festival away from its longtime downtown home to Memorial Park. The event will also move from the Labor Day weekend time slot it occupied last year to sometime in June, and may expand to two days.

The moves are being made in order to give the festival a chance to grow. And in fact, it has seemed a bit constrained in recent years, particularly in terms of finding a suitable weekend for the festivities.

First off, the move to Memorial Park makes sense. As was demonstrated during Yankton's 150th anniversary festivities in 2011, Memorial Park is a great venue for such events, but it has been underutilized for such large scale activities. As it was laid out for the 150th anniversary concerts, Memorial provides a great open space with ample room for vendors and activities while still keeping it all connected in the musical staging area. This is something the downtown district really had trouble providing. The Memorial Park site would also allow the festival to grow. The tight downtown area offered room for only so many vendors and was rather constrictive to the rib-cooking contest. Memorial gives Ribfest organizers a chance to branch out, especially with plans to possibly stretch the festival to two days.

Moving Ribfest to June may be an even better idea, since the event has had trouble finding a permanent home in the late summer calendar.

The inaugural Ribfest was held in early September, but was then moved to the third week of September so as to not conflict with Vermilion's Ribs, Rods and Rock 'n Roll event the weekend after Labor Day. The later date worked fine the first year, but then weather issues caused significant problems. Last year, the festival was moved to Labor Day weekend, which seemed to work somewhat better but did cut into the holiday weekend. Another issue that certainly may have worked against Ribfest, especially last year with its late August date, was its proximity to Riverboat Days, an entrenched festival that saps much of the energy from this community for a few weeks afterwards. (Ask organizers of the late Lewis and Clark Festival about that.)

Moving Ribfest to June gives Yankton an early summer draw that this community, which depends a lot on the summer tourism season, has lacked. The only real similar competition it might have would come from the Argus Leader Ribfest held in Sioux Falls late May-early June, and the most notable festival in the region is Czech Days in Tabor a few weeks later. There should be a window in between to allow plenty of room (and favorable weather) for the Yankton event to carve out its own niche.

Yankton's Rockin' Ribfest has been a nice draw for this community, but it has seemed that the event's momentum has stalled in recent years, due in part to changing dates and in part to the lack of room to expand. The change in venue and the switch to June should give the festival what it needs to grow to the next level, and give Yankton a great early-summer attraction in the heart of town. (Organizers of the event were expected to name their headline acts for the 2014 festival today [Tuesday].) This move should open a lot of great new opportunities.

kmh

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you believe that marijuana is more dangerous than alcohol?

No 51%
Yes 40%
Not sure 9%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 436

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:

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?

To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 28, the 28th day of 2014. There are 337 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Cape Canaveral, killing all seven crew members, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

On this date: In A.D. 814, Holy Roman Emperor Charlemagne died in Aachen in present-day Germany. In 1547, England's King Henry VIII died; he was succeeded by his 9-year-old son, Edward VI.

In 1813, the novel "Pride and Prejudice" by Jane Austen was first published anonymously in London.

In 1853, Cuban revolutionary Jose Marti was born in Havana.

In 1909, the United States withdrew its forces from Cuba as Jose Miguel Gomez became president.

In 1915, the United States Coast Guard was created as President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill merging the Life-Saving Service and Revenue Cutter Service.

In 1939, Irish poet-dramatist William Butler Yeats died in Menton, France.

In 1945, during World War II, Allied supplies began reaching China over the newly reopened Burma Road.

In 1958, Elvis Presley made his first national TV appearance on "Stage Show," a CBS program hosted by Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey.

In 1973, a cease-fire officially went into effect in the Vietnam War.

In 1980, six U.S. diplomats who had avoided being taken hostage at their embassy in Tehran flew out of Iran with the help of Canadian diplomats.

In 1982, Italian anti-terrorism forces rescued U.S. Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier, 42 days after he had been kidnapped by the Red Brigades.

Ten years ago: British Prime Minister Tony Blair won a legal victory when a judge said the BBC was wrong to report the government had "sexed up" intelligence to justify war in Iraq. Former U.S. Navy commander Lloyd "Pete" Bucher, who'd helped his USS Pueblo crew survive brutal captivity in North Korea, then faced criticism back home, died in Poway, Calif., at age 76.

Five years ago: In a swift victory

for President Barack Obama, the Democratic-controlled House approved, 244-188, a huge \$819 billion stimulus bill with Republicans unanimous in opposition despite Obama's pleas for bipartisan support. Lynnyrd Skynnyrd keyboard player Billy Powell, who survived the 1977 plane crash that killed three band members, died in Orange Park, Fla., at age 56.

One year ago: Side by side, leading Democratic and Republican senators pledged to propel far-reaching immigration legislation through the Senate by summer, providing a possible path to citizenship for an estimated 11 million people in the U.S. illegally. (Although the Senate did pass such a measure, it has encountered opposition from House Republicans who insist on a more limited approach.) Backed by French helicopters and paratroopers, Malian soldiers entered the fabled city of Timbuktu after al-Qaida-linked militants who'd ruled the outpost by fear for nearly 10 months fled into the desert.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-dancer John Ronald Dennis is 89. Musician-composer Acker Bilk is 85. Actor Nicholas Pryor is 79. Actor Alan Alda is 78. Actress Susan Howard is 72. Actress Marthe Keller is 69. Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, D-N.H., is 67. Actress-singer Barbi Benton is 64. Evangelical pastor Rick Warren is 60. Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy is 59. Actress Harley Jane Kozak is 57. Movie director Frank Darabont is 55. Rock musician Dave Sharp is 55. Rock singer Sam Phillips is 52. Rock musician Dan Spitz is 51. Country musician Greg Cook (Ricochet) is 49. Gospel singer Marvin Sapp is 47. Singer Sarah McLachlan is 46. Rapper Rakim is 46. DJ Muggs (Cypress Hill) is 46. Actress Kathryn Morris is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Anthony Hamilton is 43. Rock musician Brandon Bush is 41. Retired MLB All-Star Jermaine Dye is 40. Singer Joey Fatone Jr. (N Sync) is 37. Rapper Rick Ross is 37. Actress Rosamund Pike is 35. Singer Nick Carter (Backstreet Boys) is 34. Actor Elijah Wood is 33. Rapper J. Cole is 29. Actress Alexandra Krosney is 26. Actress Ariel Winter (TV: "Modern Family") is 16.

Thought for Today: "In dreams begin responsibilities." —William Butler Yeats (1865-1939).

FROM THE BIBLE

Hear, O sons, a father's instruction. Proverbs 4:1. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Pierre Report | Bernie Hunhoff

An Important Opportunity

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

Some lucky people defend their opposition to health care reform on Darwin's "survival of the fittest" theory. I call them lucky because they must have avoided all the misfortunes that befall most families at some point — disabilities, accidents, job shutdowns and all the other trials of life.

We have an opportunity during South Dakota's 89th legislative session to make health care available to everyone — whether you are a U.S. senator or a woman working two part-time jobs to keep food in the fridge.

South Dakota only has to invest \$1.5 billion in administrative costs to achieve this long-sought reform. The federal government, thanks to your tax dollars, will provide the rest — an estimated \$274 million in 2014.

That's a 182-to-1 return on investment.

To put that in perspective, last week in Pierre we celebrated the success of tourism and all of your elected officials applauded enthusiastically when it was announced that we get a 5-to-1 return on our public/private tourism investments.

Eventually, our state share of expanding health care would grow — but over the next seven years the federal government will pay 95 percent and our communities would benefit by an infusion of \$2 billion, which would reverberate through our state's economy and generate jobs — possibly even saving some rural hospitals and clinics. Eventually the federal/state split will be 90-10, still a bargain by any stretch.

Expansion of care for the poor will also save taxpayers millions of dollars. A county commissioner recently told me that his county will spend a half million dollars this year on in-



B. Hunhoff

dent care. That now comes from your property taxes.

Expansion should also lower your health insurance premiums, because unpaid costs for low-income neighbors eventually get passed onto paying customers.

Aside from all the monetary reasons, it's just the right thing

to do. Governors and legislators have labored for decades over ways to provide health care for low income workers. Finally, we have an opportunity through the Affordable Care Act.

It's not a perfect plan. My fellow Democrats need to accept that fact and be open to fixes. Our Republican colleagues need to accept that it's here to stay and work with us to make it better.

But Americans always come around to the right decision, and South Dakotans are a compassionate people so I'm confident that health care reform will be adopted. The question is when.

If you have health care, expansion probably doesn't seem so urgent. But it will help people in your community. And it will make South Dakota stronger, because as Charles Darwin explained when asked about his "survival of the fittest" theory, "It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can best manage change."

Change does come hard in American politics. Social Security, Medicare and other reforms also had torturous beginnings. South Dakota legislators even voted several times in the 1940s before agreeing to the rural electric (REA) program; some apparently thought farm families could manage without automatic milkers, refrigeration and washing machines.

But eventually the lights came on.

The Rez Of The Story

A Look At 'American History'

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Felix Okoye who is a contemporary African American author writes, "It would be better not to know so many things than to know so many things that are not so." This week I would like to share with my readers some thoughts about what passes for "American History" via the textbooks used by our education system particularly as it relates to Native people.



Vince TWO EAGLES

I clearly remember when growing up in Yankton for part of my school-age years an incident that haunts me to this day. My little sister came home from school one day in tears. She blurted out that her teacher told the class that Indians ate buffalo dung. My sister lived with my grandfather at the time but I clearly remember how this incident created a disturbance that swept throughout our entire family.

My grandfather wasn't one to tolerate being put down like that from anyone. So he talked to the school principal, who questioned the teacher who was reported to have made such a statement in the classroom. The teacher denied making this statement, which pretty much created a stalemate as to the truth of my sister's experience. To this day, no one has ever doubted my sister's story in my family and this incident has been chalked up to an all-too-common experience of Native children in our public school systems when studying American history.

Typically, Native people, not knowing what else to do in these kinds of situations especially when dealing with authority figures who are non-Indian, will relegate like experiences to, "that's how the white man is." Because of such experiences that deal with our people's history in such a misleading way we disconnect from the very educational systems which one would think are supposed to make at least minimal effort to provide a balanced picture of "American history."

James W. Loewen has provided an opportunity for all Americans to take a serious look at the how the past is imparted to the next generation through textbooks in his vitally important national bestseller, "Lies My Teacher Told Me." Here are a few excerpts from his book in two

parts (part two in next week's "Rez of the Story") for your consideration:

"High school students hate history. When they list their favorite subjects, history invariably comes in last. Students consider history 'the most irrelevant' of 21 subjects commonly taught in high school. Bor-r-ing is the adjective they apply to it. When students can, they avoid it, even though most students get higher grades in history than in math, science or English. Even when they are forced to take classes in history, they repress what they learn, so every year or two another study decries what our seven-year-olds don't know.

"African American, Native American and Latino students view history with a special dislike. They also learn history especially poorly. Students of color do only slightly worse than white students in mathematics. If you'll pardon my grammar, non-white students do more worse in English and more worse in history. Something intriguing is going on here: surely history in not more difficult for minorities than trigonometry. ... In college, most students of color give history departments a wide berth.

"Perhaps I do not need to convince you that American history is important. More than any other topic, it is about us. Whether one deems our present society wondrous or awful or both, history reveals how we arrived at this point. Understanding our past is central to our ability to understand ourselves and the world around us.

"Outside of school, Americans show great interest in history. Historical novels, whether by Gore Vidal ('Lincoln,' 'Burr,' et al.) or Dana Fuller Ross ('Idaho!,' 'Utah!,' 'Nebraska!,' 'Oregon!,' 'Missouri!') and on! and on!) often become bestsellers. The National Museum of American History is one of the three big draws of the Smithsonian Institute. ... Movies based on historical incidents or themes are a continuing source of fascination, from 'Birth of a Nation' through 'Gone with the Wind' to 'Dances with Wolves' and 'JFK.'

So what's the problem you might ask? Next week I will cover some specifics that answer this question and the author's own, "What has gone wrong?"

Doksha (later) ...

YOUR LETTERS

Dog Gone

Verne Hull, Yankton

Roy Wilcox is my step-brother. Roy's dog Casper, an 85-pound yellow Lab, had to be put down by a veterinarian on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Late that evening, Roy texted me the following:

"I am very sad. I spend so many nights with Linda (Roy's wife) gone to work & I am home not really alone, because Casper was always here with me. Every room I would go in, he would show up & lay down on the floor ...

computer room, living room, basement or bedroom. He would come over to the bed & want to be petted. He would run his nose under my arm so my arm would end up around his neck. He got close to me, but the best part about Casper was always his excitement in seeing Mark (Roy's son) come home. He just totally gave his friendship & affection to everyone. He just had a way of getting you to mess/pet him. Casper, you were the best, 'big dude'; I'll love you forever.

"Time to sleep off the first night alone."