

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | WE SAY

The Wrong Track



THUMBS DOWN to some members of the South Dakota Railroad Board, who reportedly have taken a dim view of the Yankton County Commission's concerns about the impact of the proposed Napa Junction project on the area. During Tuesday's County Commission meeting, there was discussion about the proposed grain facility project northwest of Yankton, to be built by Dakota Plains Ag Center. The Ag Center has not communicated with the commissioners for months. However, it was reported that members of the state board were frustrated by the lack of progress, with one member referring to the County Commission as "this bunch of renegades who don't want to do business with us." One of the sticking points of the local negotiation is the impact the truck traffic to and from the grain facility would have on area roads. The heavy volume of traffic would have a major impact on local infrastructure and the people who use it. Commissioners are now hoping to attend a proposed meeting with the Napa-Platte Regional Rail Authority and prospective developers to clear the air. We hope this comes about, because those other entities need to understand the valid concerns that exist here.

The Right Way



THUMBS UP to the good crowd on hand Thursday for the public forum concerning Yankton's plans to upgrade its water system. City Manager Amy Nelson, Environmental Services Director Kyle Goodmanson and City Finance Officer Al Viereck were on hand to discuss the proposed \$28.7 million project, which would necessitate a large increase in Yankton water fees. The officials spelled out the reasons the project is needed and why it is important to the future growth of the community. The city officials have done a good job in laying out the details of this plan, and we commend them for it, as well as the citizens who have listened and asked questions.

Hitting The Books



THUMBS UP to area college student-athletes for making the grade this past year. Fourteen Mount Marty College's varsity athletic programs were named to NAIA Scholar Teams, meaning the team grade-point average was 3.0 or better. The MMC women's basketball team also ranked ninth in the NAIA as the WBCA announced its Top 25 lists. The University of South Dakota women were also on the WBCA list, ranked 24th. Also on the WBCA Division I list were fellow Summit League members North Dakota State (10th), Oakland (11th, left Summit after this year) and South Dakota State (13th), as well as incoming Summit League member Denver (8th). Wayne State College made the NCAA Division II list at 25th, with Great Plains Athletic Conference members Northwestern (5th) and Concordia (24th) joining MMC on the NAIA list. It's another sign that student-athletes do emphasize the "student" portion of their collegiate careers.

Danish Delight



THUMBS UP to Danish Viking Days at Viborg, which runs today (Friday) through Sunday. The festival will enjoy a true Danish touch this year, as Mayor Soren Pape Poulson of Viborg, Denmark, will visit the celebration and speak at two events, including 1 p.m. Saturday at the school lunchroom following the Taste of Denmark ethnic foods luncheon. The Turner County community has hosted Danish dancers and gymnasts, but this is the first Danish government official to pay a visit. Danish Viking Days chairman Paul Christensen hopes that Poulson's visit will launch a sister-city relationship between the Viborgs, including cultural, business or other ties. As the Danish-speaking residents say, Mange Tak! (Many Thanks!)

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you agree with the verdict in the George Zimmerman murder trial?
Yes 69%
No 21%
Not sure 10%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 413

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:

Should the Food Stamp program be removed from the Farm Bill?
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 Friday, July 19, the 200th day of 2013. There are 165 days left in the year.
Today's Highlight in History: On July 19, 1943, Allied air forces raided Rome during World War II, the same day Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini met in Feltre in northern Italy.
On this date: In 1553, King Henry VIII's daughter Mary was proclaimed Queen of England after pretender Lady Jane Grey was deposed.
In 1812, during the War of 1812, the First Battle of Sackets Harbor in Lake Ontario resulted in an American victory as U.S. naval forces repelled a British attack.
In 1848, a ground-breaking women's rights convention convened in Seneca Falls, N.Y.
In 1870, the Franco-Prussian war began.
In 1903, the first Tour de France was won by Maurice Garin.
In 1952, the Summer Olympics opened in Helsinki, Finland.
In 1961, TWA became the first airline to begin showing regularly scheduled in-flight movies as it presented "By Love Possessed" to first-class passengers on a flight from New York to Los Angeles.
In 1979, the Nicaraguan capital of Managua fell to Sandinista guerrillas, two days after President Anastasio Somoza fled the country.
In 1980, the Moscow Summer Olympics began, minus dozens of nations that were boycotting the games because of the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.
In 1989, 111 people were killed when a United Air Lines DC-10 crashed while making an emergency landing at Sioux City, Iowa; 185 other people survived.
In 1990, President George H.W. Bush joined former presidents Ronald Reagan, Gerald R. Ford and Richard M. Nixon at ceremonies dedicating the Nixon Library and Birthplace (since redesignated the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum) in Yorba Linda, Calif.
In 1993, President Bill Clinton announced a policy allowing homosexuals to serve in the military under a compromise dubbed "don't ask, don't tell." Clinton fired FBI Director William Sessions, citing "serious questions" about Sessions' conduct and leadership.
Ten years ago: A chartered aircraft

carrying three families to a game reserve plowed into Mount Kenya, killing all 12 American tourists and the two South African pilots on board.
Five years ago: Democrat Barack Obama visited U.S. troops and met with officials in Afghanistan as part of a congressional fact-finding tour. The Indiana Fever defeated the New York Liberty 71-55 in the WNBA's first outdoor game, played at Arthur Ashe Stadium.
One year ago: A calm-looking Syrian President Bashar Assad made his first appearance on state TV a day after a bomb killed some of his top lieutenants. Russia and China again vetoed a Western-backed U.N. resolution aimed at pressuring Assad's government to end the escalating civil war in Syria. Omar Suleiman, 76, Egypt's former spy chief, deposed President Hosni Mubarak's top lieutenant and keeper of secrets who ran for president earlier in the year, died in Cleveland, Ohio. Sylvia Woods, 86, founder of the famed soul food restaurant in New York's Harlem neighborhood that carries her name, died in Mount Vernon, N.Y.
Today's Birthdays: Actress Helen Gallagher is 87. Country singer Sue Thompson is 87. Country singer George Hamilton IV is 76. Singer Vikki Carr is 73. Country singer-musician Commander Cody is 69. Actor George Dzundza is 68. Rock singer-musician Alan Gorrie (Average White Band) is 67. Tennis player Ilie Nastase is 67. Rock musician Brian May is 66. Rock musician Bernie Leadon is 66. Actress Beverly Archer is 65. Movie director Abel Ferrara is 62. Actor Peter Barton is 57. Rock musician Kevin Haskins (Love and Rockets; Bauhaus) is 53. Movie director Atom Egoyan is 53. Actor Campbell Scott is 52. Actor Anthony Edwards is 51. Country singer Kelly Shiver is 50. Actress Clea Lewis is 48. Percussionist Evelyn Glennie is 48. Country musician Jeremy Patterson is 43. Classical singer Urs Buhler (Il Divo) is 42. Actor Andrew Kavovit is 42. Rock musician Jason McGerr (Death Cab for Cutie) is 39. Actor Benedict Cumberbatch is 37. Actor Jared Padalecki is 31. Actor Steven Anthony Lawrence is 23.
Thought for Today: "The most beautiful experience we can have is the mysterious...the fundamental emotion which stands at the cradle of true art and true science." — Albert Einstein (1879-1955).

FROM THE BIBLE

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. Ephesians 5:1. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

POPE FRANCIS ANSWERS THE QUESTION:

WWJD?

(WHAT WOULD JESUS DRIVE?)



Forgetting Korea

BY KELLY HERTZ

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I can tell you a lot about history in general, but to my regret, I must admit that I cannot tell you much about the Korean War.

I'm familiar with some of the basics about the conflict. I know it was a line drawn in foreign sand against communism in an era when communist hysteria was boiling throughout this nation. I know about the roller-coaster nature of the war's early months. I recognize benchmarks such as the Pusan Perimeter, Inchon and the Yalu River. I also know that, after dramatic early shifts in momentum in which the stakes grew greater and more precarious with each offensive, the war settled into a brutal stalemate not unlike the murderous trench warfare in France back in World War I. And, I've known a lot of people who were involved in it or impacted directly by it.

Alas, Korea has been shuttled to the dusty corners of our history. It has become a faceless episode that few people think about when weighing the grim narrative of war.

The Korean War — or the Korean conflict, as some have taken to call it, when it's not referred to as "the forgotten war" — ended 60 years ago this month. The moment may pass unnoticed by many people, although the conflict still means a lot to those who fought in it, who lived through it, who lost friends or family in it, who were maimed by it. They know it was a war like any other — like every other.

But it was a stalemate — or, a triumph of the strategy of "containment" — that belies our old notions of wartime victory. After all, we still herald the end of World War I with Veterans Day, even though those participants are gone now and that war largely set the stage for a second conflagration. We remember World War II as an epic tale of hell and heroism, when light prevailed over darkness. Both wars ended in parades and massive celebrations to exalt those great victories and the collapse of evil regimes.

Korea is different. In signing the peace accord for the conflict, Gen. Mark W. Clark declared that he had "the unenviable distinction of being the first U.S. Army commander to sign an armistice without victory."

In many ways, the Korean War is remembered as a beginning. It reflected a new kind of reality known as the Cold War, a global chess game in

which great powers pecked at one another through smaller regional rivals. It was a scenario that played out many times in many places for decades. Korea was simply one of the opening acts.

We also struggle with the legacy of the Korean conflict because it never truly ended. We are still subject to the longtime animosities and periodic crises that emanate from the Asian peninsula where time, in a political sense, seems to stand still, at least north of the 38th parallel. Thus, the war always seems one flash-point away from returning, zombie-like, and again enflaming the western Pacific.

However, what may be most significant about the Korean War in historical terms is what didn't happen. The U.S. seriously contemplated a number of options in which it would use its atomic weapons on the North Koreans and/or their Chinese allies (with a nod to Russia thrown in). Presidents Truman and Eisenhower both saw these options as unthinkable last resorts, thus projecting a strategy of "limited war" that dominated the Cold War era. This was not insignificant: The world would be a far different place now if another, more aggressive nuclear strategy had been pursued in Korea.

But celebrating what didn't happen is difficult to embrace.

One thing that DID happen in Korea was that death came calling. Some estimates say more than 2 million soldiers and civilians were killed during this conflict; other estimates range much higher.

That was the toll of a "forgotten war." Ultimately, Korea ended where it began, consolidating a theme of attrition that reigned throughout the Cold War. But the conflict still staggers on, with no sane end in sight at a DMZ that still separates two countries — North and South — which exist now in two completely different worlds, a mad remnant of an era of constant nuclear brinkmanship.

Korea is still with us, in more ways than one. For those who fought in the war 60 years ago and lived through its furious hell, the stalemate legacy dismisses what really happened there. It tosses aside the significance of this conflict that sowed murder and suffering, and rolled out the ground rules for decades of rattled sabers and ideological counterpunches to come — the consequences of which we still live with to this very day.

A "forgotten war"? We should wish.

You can follow Kelly Hertz on Twitter at twitter.com/kelly_hertz

The Zimmerman Soap Opera

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

In a better world, we should never have been subjected to the Zimmerman trial.

But politically motivated prosecutors in Florida turned a local tragedy into a race crime, and then the media turned a murder trial into a primetime soap opera.

The trial accusing George Zimmerman of murdering Trayvon Martin wasn't about seeking justice. It was a ginned-up, politically motivated morality play presented on the national media stage.

Even the president helped with the pre-trial publicity, saying, "If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon."

The Zimmerman soap opera couldn't have been written any better. Zimmerman was the perfect bad guy for a courtroom drama about race — a "wannabe cop" packing a gun on his side.

Trayvon Martin was the perfect good guy — the innocent victim of a racist "white Hispanic," as the imaginative scriptwriters at *The New York Times* dubbed Zimmerman in their effort to create a racial narrative where there was none.

In supporting roles the soap opera featured Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson, so-called black leaders who still make their livings spotting racism everywhere and inciting the black community with their hate speech.

The Zimmerman trial was an American tragedy. It had no winners.

A teenager was shot to death in the heat of a fight that never should have happened. The young man who pulled the trigger was acquitted. But he will have to live with what he did — and the fear that he'll be killed by some thug in the name of "justice" — for the rest of his life.

Meanwhile, the country watched as the justice system was abused and exploited for political reasons by prosecutors whose courtroom incompetence was obvious.

Prosecutors got it wrong in the Zimmerman case. The media got it wrong — before, during and after the trial.

In the end it was the jury of six women that got it right. Because they did their job perfectly, the justice system ultimately delivered justice.



Michael REAGAN

Those women sat through every minute of the trial. Sequestered and unaware of the national attention on the case, they listened to the evidence and then weighed it and debated it among themselves without getting the "help" of TV legal experts like Jeffrey Toobin.

Then those six ordinary citizens — unsung heroes, really — had to decide Zimmerman's guilt or innocence based not on racial grounds or the history of blacks being mistreated by the justice system, but on the actual evidence.

The race baiters and the media experts are still re-trying the case and desperately trying to figure out how six women on a jury could be so naive or stupid to not see the "truth" they saw right away — that Zimmerman was a murderer and a bigot.

For the race baiters, facts and the decision of the jury don't matter. To them Zimmerman will always be a racist white vigilante who got away with murder.

And Trayvon will always be just an innocent victim — a young kid in a hoodie who died simply because he was black.

The Sharptons and Piers Morgans, like the thousands who will take to the streets this weekend to protest Zimmerman's acquittal, don't care what that jury of women decided.

They don't care that Zimmerman-the-racist was a cardboard character created and perpetuated by the media to heighten the tension and boost the only thing the media really care about in the end — higher ratings.

The Zimmerman Trial may be over but the Zimmerman Soap Opera may never end. The race-baiters still have lots of work to do and money to make keeping Trayvon Martin's tragic death alive. So do the media.

Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New American Revolution" (St. Martin's Press). He is the founder of the email service reagan.com and president of The Reagan Legacy Foundation. Visit his websites at www.reagan.com and www.michaelereagan.com. Send comments to Reagan@caglecartoons.com. Follow @reaganworld on Twitter.

YOUR LETTERS

Successful Tourney

The U-10 and U-12 Yankton Twins and Coaches: Aaron Feser, Jay Fitzgerald, Darin Cunningham, Ryan Mors, Mark Ryken, Jim Sawatzke, and Travis Wishon:

We would like to thank everyone who participated in and played a part in making the third annual Yankton Twins Baseball Tournament a great success! Bringing 20 U-10 and 18 U-12 teams to Yankton for a weekend was enjoyed by 450 boys, plus their families/friends from the communities they represented (from Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota) and Yankton. To our team sponsors: Drotzmann Farm &

Hay, First Dakota National Bank, Grandpa Harvey (in memory of Grandma Bernice), JJ Benji's, Mark's Machinery, Pizza Ranch, R&R Cattle Company, Wagner-Tyndall Chiropractic, Xtreme Car Wash, and VisionCare Associates;

To our welcome back sponsors: Avera Sacred Heart Hospital, Dunham's, First Dakota National Bank, Fryn' Pan, Hy-Vee, Pizza Ranch, Yankton Riverboat Days, Wal-Mart SuperCenter, and Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce;

To the Yankton Baseball Association, umpires, Chop Johnson, Tim Kenney, Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce staff and volunteers, Yankton Twins' players and families who helped organize, prepare for and work the event, Thank you to each of you!