

## THE PRESS &amp; DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

The House Tackles  
The Amnesty Issue

**SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS (July 22):** The bipartisan group of U.S. House members working on its version of comprehensive immigration reform has reportedly come up with a different "trigger" for citizenship.

This involves E-Verify, the electronic system for employers to confirm workers have legal residency. Mostly, these triggers have focused on securing the border, where extensive security measures already are in place.

Under the proposal, E-Verify would have to be operational after five years. If it isn't, immigrants would be bumped out of "probation" and revert to undocumented status.

This was reported by Greg Sargent of the *Washington Post* last week.

This E-Verify component, at least, has the virtue of addressing the problem at a more critical point — in the workplace, giving employers the tools so that they can no longer claim that they "unknowingly" hired a person with no legal right to a job.

As long as jobs are available — and employers can evade legal responsibility for hiring those without papers — undocumented immigrants will come. And stay.

The border security measure in the Senate plan would cost \$30 billion to nearly double the number of Border Patrol agents. It would also build 700 miles of fence.

This, though the country has already doubled the number of Border Patrol agents since 2005, spends more on border security than other federal law enforcement endeavors combined and net migration has dwindled to about net zero.

Politics drive this yen for border security, the need to give Republicans cover so that they can claim they are "getting tough" on immigration. ...

What does operational mean? And if this "admission" means fewer of the 11 million estimated undocumented workers here step forward, it will be counterproductive.

Why, after all, step forward if there is a chance you will have set yourself up for deportation if E-Verify isn't "operational?"

Still, the approach has more promise than border security, which can most charitably be described as pork whose only saving grace is that it gives some members cover to do the right thing.

We await details and, should the plan even get through the House, we are hopeful that a conference committee with the Senate will iron out the differences to the common good.

## OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks 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 to [views@yankton.net](mailto:views@yankton.net).

## ON THIS DATE

## By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 25, the 206th day of 2013. There are 159 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On July 25, 1963, the United States, the Soviet Union and Britain initialed a treaty in Moscow prohibiting the testing of nuclear weapons in the atmosphere, in space or underwater. The treaty was formally signed on August 5, 1963.

**On this date:** In 1866, Ulysses S. Grant was named General of the Army of the United States, the first officer to hold the rank.

In 1898, the United States invaded Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War.

In 1909, French aviator Louis Bleriot became the first person to fly an airplane across the English Channel, traveling from Calais to Dover in 37 minutes.

In 1943, Benito Mussolini was dismissed as premier of Italy by King Victor Emmanuel III and placed under arrest. However, Mussolini was later rescued by the Nazis and re-asserted his authority.

In 1946, the United States detonated an atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific in the first underwater test of the device.

In 1952, Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth of the United States.

In 1956, the Italian liner *Andrea Doria* collided with the Swedish passenger ship *Stockholm* off the New England coast late at night and began sinking; at least 51 people were killed.

In 1960, a Woolworth's store in Greensboro, N.C., that had been the scene of a sit-in protest against its whites-only lunch counter dropped its segregation policy.

In 1978, Louise Joy Brown, the first "test tube baby," was born in Oldham, England; she'd been conceived through the technique of in-vitro fertilization.

In 1984, Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya became the first woman to walk in space as she carried out more than three hours of experiments outside the orbiting space station Salyut 7.

In 1992, opening ceremonies were held in Barcelona, Spain, for the Summer Olympics.

In 2000, a New York-bound Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris shortly after takeoff, killing all 109 people on board and four people on the ground; it was the first-ever crash of the supersonic jet.

**Ten years ago:** President George W. Bush ordered U.S. troops into position off the coast of Liberia to sup-

port the arrival of a West African peacekeeping force, as renewed violence in the capital brought despairing pleas for American help. President Bush received Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas at the White House. Movie director John Schlesinger ("Midnight Cowboy") died in Palm Springs, Calif., at age 77.

**Five years ago:** An oxygen tank exploded aboard a Qantas Boeing 747-400, ripping a hole in the fuselage and forcing an emergency landing in the Philippines. President George W. Bush signed an executive order expanding sanctions against individuals and organizations in Zimbabwe associated with the regime of President Robert Mugabe. Computer science professor Randy Pausch, whose "last lecture" about facing terminal cancer became an internet sensation and a best-selling book, died in Chesapeake, Va. at age 47. The Federal Communications Commission formally approved Sirius Satellite Radio Inc.'s \$3.3 billion buyout of rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc. California became the first state to ban trans fats from restaurant food.

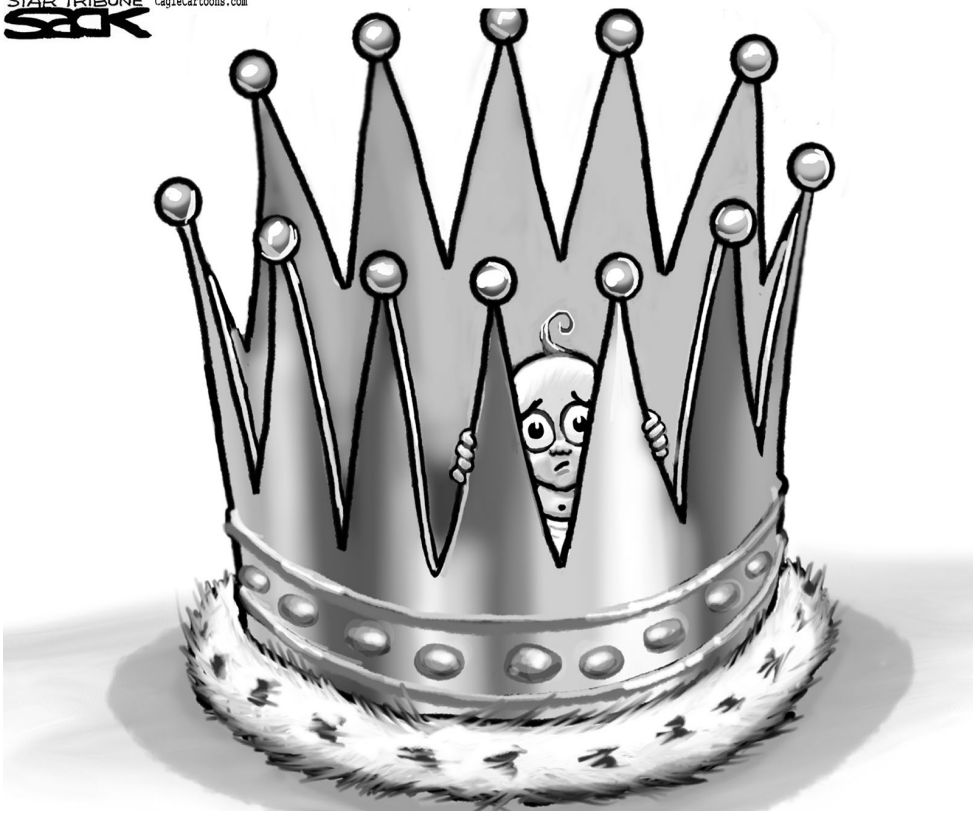
**One year ago:** President Barack Obama embraced some degree of control on the sale of weapons but also told the National Urban League in New Orleans he would also seek a national consensus on combating violence. NBC announced it had topped the \$1 billion mark in advertising sales for the upcoming Olympic Games in London, topping the \$850 million in ad sales for the Beijing games in 2008.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Barbara Harris is 78. Rock musician Jim McCarty (The Yardbirds) is 70. Rock musician Verdine White (Earth, Wind & Fire) is 62. Singer-musician Jem Finer (The Pogues) is 58. Model-actress Iman is 58. Cartoonist Ray Billingsley ("Curtis") is 56. Rock musician Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth) is 55. Actress-singer Bobbie Eakes is 52. Actress Katherine Kelly Lang is 52. Actress Illeana Douglas is 48. Country singer Marty Brown is 48. Actor Matt LeBlanc is 46. Actress Wendy Raquel Robinson is 46. Rock musician Paavo Lotjonen (Apocalyptica) is 45. Actor D.B. Woodside is 44. Actress Miriam Shor is 42. Actor Jay R. Ferguson ("Mad Men") is 39. Actor James Lafferty is 28. Actress Shantel VanSanten is 28. Actor Michael Welch is 26. Classical singer Faryl Smith is 18.

**Thought for Today:** "No matter what side of an argument you're on, you always find some people on your side that you wish were on the other side." — Jascha Heifetz, Russian-born American violinist (1901-1987).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*I will vindicate the holiness of My great name, which has been profaned among the nations. Ezekiel 36:23. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*

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## Writer's Block

## Raffling Off The Farm

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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When it came to pursuing her dream, Dr. Annette Bosworth literally gave away the farm.

Actually, she raffled off part of it.

The Sioux Falls physician, a Republican candidate for U.S. Senate, spoke with the *Press & Dakotan* about the April 2012 raffle drawing during a recent campaign stop in Yankton.

Bosworth said the raffle originated when she saw a number of unmet health care needs that required bold action. However, she couldn't get the needed resources.

"The problems were unfolding in front of my eyes as a physician. I couldn't just sit and watch. I wanted to do something," she said. "But I couldn't get the government's attention, and I didn't have the capacity to generate grants or other funds."

Reaching a roadblock, she formed a non-profit corporation to launch health initiatives. For start-up funds, she leveraged a very valuable and personal asset — family farmland that she owned near Plankinton in Aurora County.

Bosworth decided to raffle off the 160 acres, and she sold all 500 tickets at \$1,000 each. She drew entrants from every South Dakota county and from out of state, she said.

"The land might have sold in the high \$300,000s, but there's no way it would have sold for \$500,000," she said, explaining her decision to raffle rather than sell the land.

The raffle was far less popular with family members than it was with the ticket purchasers.

"The land was in our family for five generations, and I bought it from my aunt," she said. "There's the black sheep in the world, and then there's what happens when you raffle off a piece of your family's farmland for a non-profit in South Dakota to say that health care in South Dakota needs change."

Bosworth likened the raffle decision to her uphill battle to win the U.S. Senate seat.

"It's not traditional, it's not status quo, it's not how you will progress through the journey of life," she said.

Giving away family farmland carried a very emotional as well as financial impact, Bosworth said.

"Our family has acquired this piece of land, and it's your (unspoken) obligation never to sell it," she said. "One thing my dad told me about business, you always buy land and never sell it. That's the rule never to be broken. But he said nothing about raffling it off for a non-profit organization."

Just launching the raffle proved a monumental task, Bosworth said.

"It's the largest raffle ever in South Dakota," she said. "I had to get permission and go through the Gaming Commission because it was considered a game of chance. There was all the paperwork (that went with it)."

Bosworth promoted the raffle while appearing with Sioux Falls radio talk show host Rick Knobe, himself a former Sioux Falls mayor.

"It was a goofy thing for (Knobe)," she said. "He didn't quite understand what I was telling him (about the raffle), so I told him that he needed to come draw the winning ticket."

And the raffle winner? The land went to Sioux Falls resident David Ernster, who wanted

to enter farming like his grandfathers, but whose family no longer had farmland.

"(Ernster) was just stunned, shocked to learn he had just won a half-million dollar piece of land," Bosworth said, adding that the winner didn't respond to the news at first because he didn't believe it.

"This was a kid who had three fingers cut off in a skill saw accident. He didn't have any insurance, because this (accident) occurred the week after he graduated from college," the doctor said. "The medical bills really cost him a lot of money. He was living in the basement of his parent's house and working several jobs."

The young man's parents balked at his desire to spend \$1,000 for a raffle ticket, given his financial circumstances. The father offered to pay for half, but the son eventually decided to cover the entire cost of the ticket.

By winning the land, Ernster fulfilled a lifelong dream of farming and even grew beans on the acreage last year, Bosworth said. She has remained Facebook friends with him, and he has indicated a desire to join one of her medical mission trips to Haiti and to participate in other projects.

As for Bosworth, the raffle has helped launch a number of initiatives assisting children, veterans, addicts, low-income women and others needing medical access.

Bosworth can't serve on the non-profit board, but she offers many suggestions for using the funds.

"I am pointing out the needs. I can be the scout. I'm on the front lines, behind the exam room door," she said. "Patients tell the doctor things that, if you ask questions like that in public, you'd get punched in the nose. But if you ask them as a physician, it's part of how we can help to understand where the community is failing to meet the needs of people. How can we make things better?"

Bosworth also relies on her strong faith in learning God's direction for her life and health care ministry. "Prayer very much helps me make the next right decision," she said.

Bosworth broke the cardinal rule about parting with family farmland, but she sees it part of her parents' bigger life lesson — to stand up for your convictions, to show courage and to be a caregiver and a voice for the powerless.

"There's always a part of you, when you cause pain for somebody you respect like my family, that always feels a little bit of remorse," she said.

"I see how much my family has taken the hit (from the raffle). My parents are living in the community where their daughter did something that people may consider very strange and bizarre — even if it was for the betterment of South Dakota."

Appropriately, Bosworth recently announced her U.S. Senate run at the family farm near Plankinton.

She told the *Press & Dakotan* she's considering another raffle of other farmland to raise more funds for other health initiatives.

"When you're talking farmland, \$1,000 is a good deal (for a raffle ticket). You have a 1 in 500 chance of winning a \$500,000 piece of land," she said.

"Those odds are a great deal. You don't get those odds with Powerball."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at [twitter.com/RDockendorf](https://twitter.com/RDockendorf)

## YOUR LETTERS

## Under The Law

Charles Snyder, Apple Valley, Minn.

I usually disagree with the slant of Michael Reagan columns, but in his recent one concerning the Zimmerman case (*Press & Dakotan*, July 19), with respect to the prosecutors being overzealous and to the verdict, he was right. Under Florida law, it seems not guilty was the only verdict possible.

Still, one wonders if Zimmerman was black and Martin was white, would the verdict have been the same?

That brings to mind another case.

Last year a surprising verdict was rendered, calling into question the wisdom of Florida gun laws. Marissa Alexander, a black woman, 31 years old, the mother of a toddler and 11-year-old twins, had never been ar-

**KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:** "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." — **THE FIRST AMENDMENT to the U.S. Constitution**

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