



Thinking About The East

BY KELLY HERTZ

kelly.hertz@yankton.net

It might seem that Yankton's East Entryway issue is back, but that isn't correct. It never really went anywhere in the first place.

This time, however, it's on the clock. In fact, it was a major point of discussion earlier this week at a city budget hearing precisely because time is short and an opportunity (or deadline) to address the matter is at hand. With major construction along Highway 50 in the works in the coming years, now is the time to deal with this issue.

For those who are unfamiliar with Yankton's East Entryway along Highway 50 — or for those of you who have lived with it for so long that you no longer notice it — you could perhaps consider yourself fortunate. You don't have to deal with it, as such.

The East Entryway is our gateway to the world, but it doesn't speak well of us. While some decent new developments have popped up out there in recent years, they are mixed with marginal properties and undeveloped stretches that give no particular evidence of what Yankton really has to offer, or that this town has progressed much past the early 1980s.

I've had to deal with it numerous times over the years when I've interacted with job applicants who were coming to town for interviews. The odds favored these people coming to Yankton via the Highway 50 expressway that connects this community with Interstate 29. So, the East Entryway is the first piece of Yankton they would see. This always compelled me to explain the checkerboard, underdeveloped nature of the strip. When I was done, I felt as if I was practically apologizing for something that I had no control over, which is an empty feeling.

I was not alone in such feelings, which was a big reason why the East Entryway issue was a hot municipal item more than a decade ago. Back then, it produced vigorous discussion among city leaders and City Commission candidates, all of whom favored doing something to address the situation.

And something was done: the building of a berm along the north side of Highway 50 to enhance the looks of the livestock sales lots. I suppose the berm project was a nice touch, although the cattle statues the live-

stock operation put up probably did more for the aesthetics of the area than the berm. Frankly, the berm is rather hard to spot if you aren't paying close attention to it as you're driving by.

So, it was curious that some city commissioners on Monday night suggested that a berm be built on the south side of Highway 50 to improve the area. The south side is a somewhat different beast — it's more jungle-like in places — so a berm would be little more than a fig leaf. Unless it's 10 feet tall and adorned with tall, pristine pines, it would serve merely as a mild accent, not a landscape game-changer.

No, the real game-changer could come with the construction planned for Highway 50 beginning in 2015. This two-year project will run from Broadway east to Archery Lane, and it should have a major impact on the travel patterns and the aesthetics of that area. In this stretch are some plots of land that are, to be kind, less than ideal in their appearance. Here, then, is a chance for real change. As Community Development Director Dave

Mingo pointed out in a public meeting last April, this kind of project "only comes along every 30 or 40 years," meaning this is not only Yankton's best chance for dealing with the East Entryway issues, but it may also be its last chance.

As Mingo said, this is a "once in a lifetime" opportunity. But can the city seize the day? It's a good question because making the kind of changes that some officials want to see — or accelerating the gradual changes that have already taken place — will surely meet obstacles, both from area landowners as well as the city's budgetary bottom line. Nevertheless, city officials need a clear vision for what Yankton really wants to do with this very important sector of the community and how it wants to get there.

The time is now to find that vision. And it's time to think big, not berm-like, about the matter. When this construction project gets under way in two years, Yankton has to know what it wants to do, and the public needs to be on board. They have to want it, and the time to bring that vision into focus at long last is right now.

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



Kelly HERTZ

The Mess That Is Mexico

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

What the heck is wrong with Mexico?

It's got everything it needs to be a prosperous First World country.

It's got a \$1.7 trillion free-market economy — the 12th largest in the world.

It's got 116 million of the hardest working people on the planet.

It's got its own oil, gas, silver and other natural resources. It's got beautiful beaches and ancient ruins to attract tourists.

So why is Mexico such a mess?

Why are its wages so low and its per capita income a third of ours? Why is its unemployment rate so high? Why is its pollution so bad?

Why are drug cartels killing tens of thousands of people each year in turf wars? Why are the drug traffickers effectively in charge of the Mexican side of the U.S.-Mexico border?

And, most important to us, why do so many of Mexico's poorest citizens have to leave their families, become criminals and sneak across the U.S. border just to get a decent-paying job?

The answer is simple, and no secret. The reason Mexico is not the safe, prosperous First World country it should be is because of its corrupt government and the politicians who run it.

Thirty years ago Ronald Reagan shocked the professional appeasers, the Cold War wimps and the détenté-forever crowd when he called the Soviet Union exactly what it was and always had been — "The Evil Empire."

My father's politically incorrect truth-telling told the whole world what he thought of the USSR and announced that he was going to use moral and spiritual weapons, not just military strength, to fight Soviet communism.

My father knew it was not the captive peoples of the Soviet Union who were evil. It was their totalitarian government and the terrible ideas that it enforced so brutally.

Mexico's people are equally blameless. They're not the source of their country's economic ills or our illegal-immigration problem.

The Mexicans who cross into the USA looking for work are doing what most people I know, including myself, would do if they were trapped in a politically corrupt country.

It's time for Washington to stop arguing over the length or height or strength of our border fences, or how many years our 11 million illegal immigrants must wait in line to become an American citizen.

It's time for Washington to address the root cause of our immigration problem — the mess that is Mexico.

We need to stake out the moral high ground and do what it takes to help Mexico — and it's not money.

Mexico already has all the human and natural resources it needs. But it's being held back by corruption.

It's time for an American president — this president — to stand up and call Mexico what it has been for at least a century, "The Corrupt Empire."

We — through the president — have to tell the people of Mexico we want to help them clean up their corrupt government.

We have to tell them we understand why they must risk their lives to come here illegally. And we have to tell them we want to help them become a First World country so they can stay home.

Michael Reagan. Michael Reagan is the son of President Ronald Reagan, a political consultant, and the author of "The New Reagan 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.



Michael REAGAN

YOUR LETTERS

A Taxing Response

Charles Snyder, Apple Valley, Minn.

In a recent column (*Press & Dakotan*, June 7), Michael Reagan denounces the tax code, and rightly so; however, his remedial suggestions favor his kind of people, the moneyed class.

One of his suggestions is the flat tax, whereas everyone pays the same percentage. Flat tax booster Dick Arney hypes filing your taxes on a postcard. His website has an example where you list only earned income and pensions. So, investment income would not be taxed, a lucrative tip of the hat to those that do not have to work for a living.

Teddy Roosevelt said, "The wealthy enjoy unusual protections from government and therefore has a peculiar obligation to the state because he derives spe-

cial advantages from the mere existence of government."

Another of Mr. Reagan's suggestions, the so-called fair tax, is a national sales tax of about 23 percent (actually it is more like 30 percent but that is another story). Those promoting this tax fail to explain how it would be implemented. It would have a huge impact on big ticket items; manufacturers would least prior to its implementation and starve in the aftermath. And who do you think would have the wherewithal to load up on those items before the tax was implemented?

Mr. Reagan is affiliated with the Cagle Post which along with commentary includes cartoons. He mentions Donald Trump as a candidate to convene a national tax convention. It seems that his mention of "The Donald" would have been more appropriate in the cartoon section.

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OPINION | WE SAY

Bein' Green



THUMBS UP to the color green — as in the green that dominates the countryside these days. We still recall all too well what this same landscape looked like about 10 months ago, as a hot summer of drought wilted the prairies. It was particularly stressful on livestock that usually grazed the land: Hay was scarce, and we saw too many fields that had been eaten down to dusty nubs by hungry cattle. If you bear all that in mind, this year looks

like an emerald image of lushness. The rains may stop, of course, but for now, we can look across these plains and appreciate (at least for now) just how different things are from last year.

Hitting The Books



THUMBS UP to several area sports teams and fine arts groups being recognized by the SDHSAA as Academic Achievement Teams. To be honored, a team or group must have a combined GPA of 3.0 or better. All four spring sports teams — girls' golf, boys' tennis, boys' and girls' track & field — hit this milestone for YHS, as did the all-state jazz and large-group bands, large-group orchestra, large-group chorus, yearbook, student council and newspaper. Students from Andes Central, Armour, Dakota Valley, Elk Point-Jefferson, Irene-Wakonda, Menno and Parkston — including state-championship girls' golf teams from Andes Central and Parkston — also had teams and groups named to this list.

Tornado Tuesday



THUMBS DOWN to a sad anniversary: the 2003 tornadoes that wreaked havoc on Coleridge, Neb., and Parker on the respective June 23 and 24, 2003. The Coleridge tornado claimed one fatality, while the Parker tornado was part of "Tornado Tuesday" which tied a national record with 67 twisters in South Dakota during a 24-hour period. The Coleridge and Parker tornadoes remain seared in people's memories as the 10th anniversary approaches.

Storm predictions and warnings have made much progress during the past decade, which will hopefully spare us many tragic endings with future storms.

Lending A Hand



THUMBS UP to the state agencies exploring more agricultural opportunities for American Indian reservations in South Dakota. Agriculture Secretary Lucas Lentsch and Tribal Relations Secretary Leroy "J.R." LaPlante told the *Press & Dakotan* that they are partnering to find new ag-related avenues and to expand current operations for the tribes. Some tribes are already finding success with ventures ranging from popcorn production to buffalo herds. More ag also means more jobs, which are desperately needed on the poverty-stricken reservations.

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think Yankton County should support the creation of a 211 helpline service?
No57%
Yes36%
Not sure17%
TOTAL VOTES CAST134

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:

Do you attend church on a regular basis?

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

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Friday, June 21, the 172nd day of 2013. There are 193 days left in the year. Summer arrives at 1:04 a.m. Eastern time.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 21, 1963, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini was chosen during a conclave of his fellow cardinals to succeed the late Pope John XXIII; the new pope took the name Paul VI.

On this date: In 1788, the United States Constitution went into effect as New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.

In 1834, Cyrus Hall McCormick received a patent for his reaping machine.

In 1913, Georgia "Tiny" Broadwick became the first woman to parachute from an airplane as she jumped over Los Angeles.

In 1932, heavyweight Max Schmeling lost a title fight rematch in New York by decision to Jack Sharkey, prompting Schmeling's manager, Joe Jacobs, to exclaim: "We was robbed!"

In 1942, German forces led by Generaloberst (Colonel General) Erwin Rommel captured the Libyan city of Tobruk during World War II. (Following his victory, Rommel was promoted to Field Marshal; Tobruk was retaken by the Allies in November 1942.)

In 1943, Army nurse Lt. Edith Greenwood became the first woman to receive the Soldier's Medal for showing heroism during a fire at a military hospital in Yuma, Ariz.

In 1964, civil rights workers Michael H. Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James E. Chaney were murdered in Philadelphia, Miss.; their bodies were found buried in an earthen dam six weeks later.

In 1973, the Supreme Court, in *Miller v. California*, ruled that states may ban materials found to be obscene according to local standards.

In 1982, a jury in Washington, D.C., found John Hinckley Jr. not guilty by reason of insanity in the shootings of President Ronald Reagan and three other men.

In 1989, a sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that burning the American flag as a form of political protest was protected by the First Amendment.

In 1997, the WNBA made its debut as the New York Liberty defeated the host Los Angeles Sparks 67-57.

In 2005, 41 years to the day after three civil rights workers were beaten and shot to death, Edgar Ray Killen, an 80-year-old former Ku Klux Klansman, was found guilty of manslaughter in a Mississippi court. (Killen was sentenced to 60 years in prison.)

Ten years ago: Ten weeks after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime, President George W. Bush offered a broadly positive status report on the U.S. mission in Iraq in his weekly radio address. Lennox Lewis retained his heavyweight title after a cut stopped Vitali Klitschko

after six brawling rounds in Los Angeles. Author Leon Uris died in New York at age 78; playwright George Axelrod died in Los Angeles at age 81.

Five years ago: The ferry *Princess of the Stars*, carrying more than 800 people, capsized as Typhoon Fengshen battered the Philippines; only some four dozen people survived. The body of a pregnant Army soldier, Spc. Megan Touma, 23, was found submerged in a motel room bathtub in Fayetteville, N.C. (Sgt. Edgar Patino, the unborn baby's father, pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to between 16 to 20 years in prison.) Scott Kalitta died when his Funnys Car burst into flames and crashed at the end of the track during the final round of qualifying for the Lucas Oil NHRA SuperNationals at Old Bridge Township Raceway Park in New Jersey.

One year ago: The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously threw out penalties against Fox and ABC television stations that violated the Federal Communications Commission policy regulating curse words and nudity on television, but the justices declined to issue a broader constitutional ruling. Miami's LeBron James capped his title bid with 26 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds in a 121-106 win over the Oklahoma City Thunder in Game 5 of the NBA Finals. Broadway composer-lyricist Richard Adler, 90, died in Southampton, N.Y.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Lalo Schifrin is 81. Actor Bernie Kopell is 80. Actor Monte Markham is 78. Songwriter Don Black is 75. Actress Mariette Hartley is 73. Comedian Joe Flaherty is 72. Rock singer-musician Ray Davies (The Kinks) is 69. Actress Meredith Baxter is 66. Actor Michael Gross is 66. Rock musician Joe Molland (Badfinger) is 66. Rock musician Don Airey (Deep Purple) is 65. Country singer Leon Everette is 65. Rock musician Nils Lofgren is 62. Actress Robyn Douglass is 60. Actor Leigh McCloskey is 58. Cartoonist Berke Breathed is 56. Country singer Kathy Mattea is 54. Actor Marc Copage is 51. Actress Sammi Davis is 49. Actor Doug Savant is 49. Country musician Porter Howell is 49. Actor Michael Dolan is 48. Writer-director Lana Wachowski is 48. Actress Paula Irvine is 45. Rapper/producer Pete Rock is 43. Country singer Allison Moorer is 41. Actress Juliette Lewis is 40. Musician Justin Cary is 38. Rock musician Mike Einziger (Incubus) is 37. Actor Chris Pratt is 34. Rock singer Brandon Flowers is 32. Britain's Prince William is 31. Pop singer Kris Allen ("American Idol") is 28. Actor Jascha Washington is 24. Pop singer Rebecca Black is 16.

Thought for Today: "Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do." — Jean-Paul Sartre, French philosopher (1905-1980).

FROM THE BIBLE

Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die. Proverbs 11:19. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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