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OPINION

Water Plant Future Still Has Options

While we understand the frustration of those who have argued otherwise, the Yankton City Commission made the right decision — or, technically, non-decision — last week when it decided to go ahead with its new water plant at the site of the current plant at the foot of the Meridian Bridge.

But that does not necessarily have to be the end of the story. The decision was the right one because it was the most cost-effective one for city residents. The plan to build a new plant adjacent to Water Plant No. 2, located just west of Riverside Park, comes in the lowest at \$28.7 million. That's still a hefty price, but it's one this city must pay in order to ensure that it has an adequate water supply for residents.

A motion to examine other options, most of which would have moved the plant away from the riverfront corridor, failed to advance when the commission, working with just eight members, deadlocked 4-4 on the proposal. With that, the measure died.

Other options ranged from an estimated \$29 million (to build the plant just north of Plant No. 2 on Levee St.) to an estimated \$45.7 million for building a new plant at the industrial park on Alumax Drive and Bill Baggs Road.

But we do sympathize with those commissioners who argued that building the new plant at the current location of Plant No. 2 would seriously infringe upon Yankton's ability to further develop the riverside area.

This looms as a problem because of the original decisions to build Yankton's two existing plants right on the river with no real thought given to future municipal development along the riverfront. In a very real sense, we are paying for those decisions now and will continue to do so for many decades to come. But the costs now of changing that course are simply prohibitive.

With that being settled, it should be mentioned that there are also ways to build a water plant that goes beyond the image of a sterile block of bricks and mortar. As has been seen at other locations, the plant could also include waterfalls (since the water is already there, right?), picnic areas, green spaces and so forth. This could serve as a great addition to Riverside Park and a terrific link between the park and the Meridian Bridge and its upcoming plaza. Obviously, there would be an extra cost to pursue such designs — how much depends, of course, on what vision the city would want to pursue — but it would certainly be far less than relocating the plant elsewhere, and even a vision that only modestly strays outside the basic lines of thinking could be quite appealing to the riverfront sector.

So, while the location of the plant is set, how it can become part of Yankton park structure and riverfront development might still be open to some discussion. It's something that city officials should at least be open to considering as this process moves forward.

knh

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Should Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki resign?
Yes 66%
No 22%
Not sure 12%
TOTAL VOTES CAST 193

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 agree with the decision to permanently remove the traffic lights at Fourth and Walnut in Yankton?

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, June 3, the 154th day of 2014. There are 211 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On June 3, 1989, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, died. Chinese army troops began their sweep of Beijing to crush student-led pro-democracy demonstrations.

On this date: In 1621, the Dutch West India Co. received its charter for a trade monopoly in parts of the Americas and Africa.

In 1808, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was born in Christian County, Kentucky.

In 1888, the poem "Casey at the Bat," by Ernest Lawrence Thayer, was first published in the San Francisco Daily Examiner.

In 1924, author Franz Kafka, 40, died near Vienna.

In 1937, Edward, The Duke of Windsor, who had abdicated the British throne, married Wallis Warfield Simpson in a private ceremony in Monts, France.

In 1948, the 200-inch reflecting Hale Telescope at the Palomar Mountain Observatory in California was dedicated.

In 1963, Pope John XXIII died at age 81; he was succeeded by Pope Paul VI.

In 1964, South Korean President Park Chung-hee declared martial law in the face of student protests.

In 1965, astronaut Edward White became the first American to "walk" in space during the flight of Gemini 4.

In 1972, Sally J. Priesand was ordained as America's first female rabbi at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati, Ohio.

In 1983, Gordon Kahl, a militant tax protester wanted in the slayings of two U.S. marshals in North Dakota, was killed in a gun battle with law-enforcement officials near Smithville, Arkansas.

In 1989, SkyDome (now called Rogers Centre) opened in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush announced the resignation of CIA Director George Tenet amid a controversy over intelligence lapses about suspected weapons of mass destruction in Iraq and the September 11 terrorist attacks. Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of the late Princess Diana, died at her home near Oban, Scotland, at age 68. Julio Franco became, at age 45, the oldest player in major league history to hit a grand slam, connecting in Atlanta's 8-4 vic-

tory over Philadelphia (he repeated the feat a year later, at age 46).

Five years ago: New Hampshire became the sixth state to legalize same-sex marriage. The Organization of American States cleared the way for Cuba's possible return to the group by lifting a 47-year ban on the country. Death claimed Koko Taylor, 80, the "Queen of the Blues," in Chicago and Las Vegas saxophonist Sam Butera, 81.

One year ago: The prosecution and defense presented opening statements in the court-martial of U.S. Army Pfc. Bradley (now Chelsea) Manning over the biggest leak of classified material in American history. (Manning was found guilty at Fort Meade, Maryland, of espionage and theft but was acquitted of the most serious charge, aiding the enemy, and was sentenced to up to 35 years in prison.) A sharply divided Supreme Court cleared the way for police to take a DNA swab from anyone they arrest for a serious crime. A poultry plant fire in the northeastern Chinese city of Jilin killed 121 people. A suicide bomber targeting U.S. troops outside an Afghanistan government office killed 9 children and two of the Americans. Sen. Frank Lautenberg, D-N.J., died at a New York hospital at age 89. Football Hall of Fame defensive end Deacon Jones died in Anaheim Hills, California, at age 74.

Today's Birthdays: TV producer Chuck Barris is 85. The president of Cuba, Raul Castro, is 83. Actress Irma P. Hall is 79. Author Larry McMurtry is 78. Rock singer Ian Hunter (Mott The Hoople) is 75. Singer Eddie Holman is 68. Actor Tristan Rogers is 68. Musician Too Slim (Riders in the Sky) is 66. Rock musician Richard Moore is 65. Singer Suzi Quatro is 64. Singer Deniece Williams is 63. Singer Dan Hill is 60. Actress Suzie Plakson is 56. Actor Scott Valentine is 56. Rock musician Kerry King (Slayer) is 50. Rock singer-musician Mike Gordon is 49. TV host Anderson Cooper is 47. Country singer Jamie O'Neal is 46. Singers Gabriel and Ariel Hernandez (No Mercy) are 43. Actor Vik Sahay is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lyfe Jennings is 41. Actress Ariane Zucker (TV: "Days of Our Lives") is 40. Actress Nikki M. James is 33. Tennis player Rafael Nadal is 28. Actress-singer Lalaine is 27. Actor Sean Berdy is 21.

Thought for Today: "There are two cardinal sins from which all the others spring: impatience and laziness." — Franz Kafka (1883-1924).

FROM THE BIBLE

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



The OBAMA DOCTRINE

The Rez Of The Story

A Sun Dance Story

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Summer is upon us, which means, among other things to Traditional Native Dakotah people, that it is time to make ready to take part in one of our most sacred ceremonies — namely, the Sun Dance.

I know some traditionalists object to any public discussion about this most sacred ceremony, and I respect their right to think like that. However, I also think that to be able to talk about our cultural ways is a healthy thing which will not only inform but also enlighten many non-Indians about what we believe as traditionalists. Indian people who were not brought up around these ceremonies — or maybe never even seen one, or participated in one — tell me it would be beneficial to remedying their uninformed and possibly misguided information about how our people still practice their religious ceremonies.

It is important that you know and remember that any historical rendition, whether it be oral or written, is local. In other words, just because you may have experienced or have been told about Dakotah (or for that matter, Lakota or Nakota) religious ceremonies differently than what another traditionalist might tell, this does not mean that any one way to conduct these ceremonies is necessarily right or automatically wrong. Different clans (or extended families — Tiyospayes) have their own unique take on the practice of the sacred Sun Dance and other ceremonies and must be respected in that way.

It is important to note for posterity that it was Mr. Fred Zepher Sr. who brought back the Sun Dance to the Ianktowan (Yankton) people after many years of it being outlawed throughout Indian Country. Here is that story written by his son, Fred Zepher Jr. and reprinted here with his most gracious permission told in four parts over the next four weeks:

"In July of 1975, the Green Grass Sundance was held near the residence of Stanley Looking Horse on the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Frank Fools Crow, a traditional Oglala from Kyle, South Dakota, conducted that Sundance.

"Stanley was the Keeper of the Sacred Calf Pipe. That honor has since been passed down to his son, Arvol Looking Horse. Arvol is the nineteenth generation to have that honor, which in itself gives one a



Vince TWO EAGLES

good idea of how old the Pipe really is. The Calf Pipe as it is known to the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota people is the center of their spirituality. It is the center of their way of life. The following story tells of how the Buffalo Calf Pipe came to the people:

"One day two hunters wandered far from their village to hunt buffalo. While they were out they happened to see off in the distance something coming toward them. They waited out of sight, hoping it would come closer. When it did come closer to where they were hiding they could see that it was a White Buffalo.

"When it came over the hill toward them they could see it was a woman and not a Buffalo, and she was carrying something in her arms. They watched and as she came closer, they saw she was carrying a bundle made from a Buffalo hide. They could see she was very beautiful. One of the hunters took an interest in her beauty, he wanted her and could not restrain himself. The other hunter had more respect for her mystique and stayed away. When the amorous hunter approached her, she knew what he had on his mind. When he got close to her, a cloud of smoke and dust enveloped him. After the smoke and dust cleared the hunter was gone and all that remained were a pile of bones and ashes.

"She then told the hunter to go home and tell the people to prepare a Tipi for her; that she would be coming to their village. The hunter returned to his village and told the people what had happened to the other hunter. He told the people, "a sacred woman took his life because he could not restrain his sexual urges for her." He also said, "this sacred woman is coming and we must prepare a Tipi for her."

"One day she approached the village, she was carrying the bundle. The people welcomed her to the village and took her onto the Tipi. She presented the bundle to the Elders and the people of the village. She told them, "this Pipe is made from the red stone which is the life blood of Mother Earth and it is very sacred. It is so sacred that only a person pure of heart and mind should see it. When the stem and the pipe are put together it is a sacred moment in preparation for a ceremony and it is done so for the sake of the people."

Next week look for part two of four. Doksha (later) ...

Kathleen Parker

Eating Michelle's Lunch

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — To hear tell, the mean ol' GOP is waging war on Michelle Obama and, brace yourself, America's children.

Got it? The newest war on women/children relates to the first lady's well-intentioned but disastrous school nutrition program, otherwise known as the Dumpster Derby.

First to good intentions: Kudos to Obama for recognizing and trying to address childhood obesity. If you think health care is expensive now, wait until these little human pillows reach adulthood and then, assuming their hearts hold out, advanced age. Assuming, too, that our bottom-line bureaucrats haven't begun recycling high-maintenance humans by then. Might want to keep an eye on the Soylent Green market.

No, I'm not suggesting death panels. I'm employing hyperbole in the service of a point, the necessary clarification of which highlights our mind-numbing politics and our nation's diminishing sentience.

The first lady's "Let's Move!" program and her focus on whole foods (as opposed to fast) and water instead of sodas have been welcome developments. Who better to bring needed attention to such issues? Obama is merely expanding her maternal focus to include all those public school kids whose mothers apparently have forgotten how to make a sandwich. Or whose fathers have forgotten to say, "Get those plugs out of your ears and make friends with the lawn mower" — or whatever its urban comparable.

But, as is often the case with mammoth federal programs, one size does not fit all. Many school districts have inadequate funding to meet the new nutrition standards and have had to borrow from educational programs, in some cases shutting them down.

Moreover, the kids detest the food and are tossing their lunches, so to speak, into the dumpster. Some school districts report having to purchase or lease more dumpsters to accommodate the extra garbage, increasing their waste-collection costs as well.

These are but a few of the stories I heard recently when I spoke to about 1,000 members of the national School Nutrition Association. There isn't a more dedicated, decent, heroic group of people in the association encyclopedia. Not only are they

burdened with meeting unfunded federal mandates, but they have to hear the gripes of America's hungry darlings. The association, which initially supported the new standards, has been lobbying for just the sort of bill Republicans have produced.

This doesn't mean that the first lady's program is "gastro-fascism," as one writer put it, though I rather like the term. Nor is this a Republican war on the first lady or the children who refuse to eat food they don't like. I am not blind to the brat factor here, but nutritious food needn't be inedible. Also at play are cultural differences. Apparently, children in the Southwest don't like whole-wheat tortillas and Southern kids prefer their chicken fried.

I'm with the first lady all the way on making modifications to lunches swimming in grease and over-seasoned with sugar and salt. But perhaps there's a middle ground that allows a little local wiggle room.

Surely school nutritionists are capable of coming up with healthier meals that also taste good.

Alternatively — and this is where I wish this debate were heading — Mrs. Obama could suggest that parents prepare their children's meals.

What?! You've got to be kidding! We're too busy!

Since when were we too busy to scramble an egg or toast a slice of bread? Since the national narrative of women's liberation concentrated on the kitchen as metaphor for home-bound drudgery and oppression, that's when. On the upside, more men are learning to cook, if my home is an example.

When it comes to home food preparation, the very poor need extra help, obviously, but quality nutrition, as most important things, begins at home. And for a majority of people, the cost is not prohibitive. Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a piece of toast spread with peanut butter and topped with sliced banana — a filling breakfast loaded with protein, carbohydrates and potassium among other nutrients — costs on average about 50 cents.

We can't all have a chef or send our children to private schools with meatier lunches, as the Obamas do. But we can feed our children for less trouble and money than some think. Maybe the first lady can modify her message along with our menus: Cook for your kids and they'll grow smart and strong.

Not to get too carried away, but food, you know, is love.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleen-parker@washpost.com.

YOUR LETTERS

The Pit Bull Issue

Patty Taylor, Yankton

What is it going to take to get the pit bulls off the street and in a strong kennel before someone's child is killed? Or anyone for that matter?

We were camping this past week and saw people with three and not on leashes. Wow!

Rules out there say that dogs have to be on a leash no longer than 10 feet but these were not — and I thought Yankton had a leash law and a pick-up-the-poop law.

Hope the city can wake up before it's too late for someone when there is no police officer around to help. I would be thanking him big time.