

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

CONTACT US

PHONE:
(605) 665-7811
(800) 743-2968
NEWS FAX:
(605) 665-1721
ADVERTISING FAX:
(605) 665-0288
WEBSITE:
www.yankton.net
EMAIL ADDRESS:
news@yankton.net

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Published Daily Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26, 1875.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotian, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Will Sanctions On Russia Work?

THE POST-INTELLIGENCER, Paris, Tenn. (April 29): Can we punish Russia without hurting ourselves? Probably not, and that's the problem with economic sanctions as a tool to push the Russians to make nice over Ukraine.

Sanctions announced Monday by the United States and Europe are aimed at a group of high-tech and defense companies in Russia, but not the really big ones that would have a chance of making Vladimir Putin change his course.

The West has the power to impose sanctions so significant that they would wreck the Russian economy, an analysis by *USA Today* declares. The Russian president knows that, but he also knows that those same sanctions would probably wreck the economy of Europe, too, and he's apparently betting that the West dares not go that far.

Washington's approach so far has been to "limit the blow-back" on companies in the United States and Europe that do business with Russian customers.

"It sends the signal we're willing to act, but only so far as it doesn't cost us very much," one diplomat said. "The risk is it reinforces his (Putin's) view he's the one with the leverage because of our view of the risk or cost of sanctions."

Monday's sanctions are the fourth round that the White House has imposed since Russia began fostering unrest in the Ukraine. They freeze assets and forbid travel to the United States of officials at 17 companies "linked to Putin's inner circle."

They also deny export licenses to U.S. companies selling high-tech items to Russia that could contribute to Russia's military clout.

"The goal here is not to go after Mr. Putin personally," President Barack Obama said. "The goal is to change his calculus with respect to how the current actions that he's engaging in could have an adverse impact on the Russian economy over the long haul."

The United States so far has sanctioned 45 individuals and 19 companies, the newspaper said. In addition, the European Union has acted against 46 individuals.

Missing from the list are the "oligarchs," the business giants with close personal ties to the Russian president.

Going after these heavy hitters could turn the tide, but businesses in the United States and Europe also would feel the bite.

That's exactly what the United States should do, in the opinion of Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn. He described Obama's latest sanctions as a "slap on the wrist."

It's a high-stakes game of chicken. Who's going to blink first? Do we dare take the strong medicine that could turn the tide, or will we say the cost is too high?

THE VIEWS PAGE

■ The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** Views page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the **PRESS & DAKOTAN**. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 1, the 121st day of 2014. There are 244 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 1, 1898, Commodore George Dewey gave the command, "You may fire when you are ready, Gridley," as an American naval force destroyed a Spanish squadron in Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War.

On this date: In 1707, the Kingdom of Great Britain was created as a treaty merging England and Scotland took effect.

In 1786, Mozart's opera "The Marriage of Figaro" premiered in Vienna.

In 1911, the song "I Want a Girl (Just Like the Girl That Married Dear Old Dad)," by Harry Von Tilzer and Will Dillon, was first published.

In 1931, New York's 102-story Empire State Building was dedicated. Singer Kate Smith made her debut on CBS Radio on her 24th birthday.

In 1941, the Orson Welles motion picture "Citizen Kane" premiered in New York.

In 1960, the Soviet Union shot down an American U-2 reconnaissance plane over Sverdlovsk and captured its pilot, Francis Gary Powers.

In 1961, the first U.S. airline hijacking took place as Antulio Ramirez Ortiz, a Miami electrician, commandeered a National Airlines plane that was en route to Key West, Fla., and forced the pilot to fly to Cuba.

In 1963, James W. Whittaker became the first American to conquer Mount Everest as he and Sherpa guide Nawang Gombu reached the summit.

In 1964, the computer programming language BASIC (Beginner's All-Purpose Symbolic Instruction Code) was created by Dartmouth College professors John G. Kemeny and Thomas E. Kurtz.

In 1971, the intercity passenger rail service Amtrak went into operation.

In 1982, the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tenn., was opened by President Ronald Reagan.

In 1992, on the third day of the Los Angeles riots, a visibly shaken Rodney King appeared in public to appeal for calm, pleading, "Can we all get along?"

Ten years ago: Attackers stormed the offices of Houston-based ABB Lummus Global Inc. in Yanbu, Saudi

Arabia, killing six Westerners and a Saudi; all four attackers were killed after an hour-long police chase in which they dragged the body of an American from the bumper of their car. The European Union swelled from 15 nations to 25 by taking in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, along with the Mediterranean nations of Cyprus and Malta. Smarty Jones won the Kentucky Derby.

Five years ago: Supreme Court Justice David Souter announced his retirement effective at the end of the court's term in late June. (President Barack Obama chose federal judge Sonia Sotomayor to succeed him.) Singer-actor-impressionist Danny Gans, one of Las Vegas' most popular entertainers, died at age 52.

One year ago: Workers around the world united in anger during May Day rallies — from fury in Europe over austerity measures that cut wages, reduced benefits and eliminated many jobs altogether, to rage in Asia over relentlessly low pay, the rising cost of living and hideous working conditions. Portland Trail Blazers point guard Damian Lillard was a unanimous choice as the NBA's Rookie of the Year. Chris Kelly, 34, half of the 1990s kid rap duo Kris Kross, died in Atlanta.

Today's Birthdays: Country singer Sonny James is 85. Singer Judy Collins is 75. Actor Stephen Macht is 72. Singer Rita Coolidge is 69. Pop singer Nick Fortuna (The Buckinghams) is 68. Actor-director Douglas Barr is 65. Actor Dann Florek is 63. Singer-songwriter Ray Parker Jr. is 60. Hall of Fame jockey Steve Caution is 54. Actress Maia Morgenstern is 52. Country singer Wayne Hancock is 49. Actor Charlie Schlatter is 48. Country singer Tim McGraw is 47. Rock musician Johnny Colt is 46. Rock musician D'Arcy is 46. Movie director Wes Anderson is 45. Actress Julie Benz is 42. Actor Bailey Chase is 42. Country singer Cory Morrow is 42. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Tina Campbell (Mary Mary) is 40. Actor Darius McCrary is 38. Actor Jamie Dornan (Film: "Fifty Shades of Grey") is 32. Actress Kerry Bishe is 30.

Thought for Today: "By indignities men come to dignities." — Francis Bacon, English philosopher (1561-1626).

FROM THE BIBLE

The rod and reproof give wisdom. Proverbs 29:15. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

Team Support

Rita Stanage, Yankton

I would like to thank everyone that was involved in, contributed to and showed support for me by purchasing a Team Rita T-shirt. I would especially like to thank Corey Vitek for his unconditional love, caring, kindness and support. Corey's design on the T-shirt is

awesome and comes straight from the heart.

I would like to once again thank Janelle Tacke for her spearheading, organizing and unending support. And of course, many thanks to my family and friends. This journey will be made, but not by me alone.

May God bless each and every one of you.

STAR TRIBUNE
S&K



SLAM DUNK

In The Balance: Prisons And Tobacco

BY THOMAS E. SIMMONS

University of South Dakota

The image of blindfolded Lady Justice holding a balance scale evokes the role of the courts in our society. The courts are intentionally blind to status or wealth in meting out orders and rulings. All who come before an impartial judge are treated as equals in terms of their rights and their ability to be heard.

If you look carefully, the scales in the hand of Lady Justice are tilted slightly; one side of her scale has just perceptively greater mass than the other. I've always viewed these tilting scales an analogy for determining which side in a lawsuit would prevail; which side would win. The scales, I believed, were a tool for declaring a verdict based on the more compelling law and facts on that party's side.

In National American Council of Tribes v. Weber, a three-judge panel of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed a decision about tobacco use in South Dakota prisons by South Dakota District Judge Karen Schreier.

The South Dakota Department of Corrections implemented its first restriction on inmates' use of tobacco in 1998 in the form of a smoking ban. The ban contained an exception for tobacco use during Native American religious activities. Later, faced with several violations of the policy by inmates using tobacco for non-religious purposes, the Department implemented a total ban, concluding that Native Americans could use non-tobacco ingredients like red willow bark for their religious ceremonies.

The use of tobacco is central to the religious practices of essentially every North American tribe. Tobacco is used to make tobacco ties and prayer flags. Tobacco is an important part of sweat lodge and pipe ceremonies. For most Native American religions tobacco is, according to one of the witnesses who testified before federal Judge Schreier, like the Bible.

The Department of Corrections argued that its ban of tobacco promoted order and security within South Dakota prisons. Otherwise, tobacco



Thomas E. SIMMONS

might be traded as contraband, leading to numerous additional problems. The Court noted that prison order and security are compelling interests, but concluded that a total ban of tobacco was not the least restrictive means of fulfilling the Department's objectives.

Judge Schreier's order allowed the Department of Corrections to suspend an inmate for one year from all tobacco ceremonies for abusing the privilege. It allowed video surveillance of ceremonies other than the sweat lodge ceremony. It allowed mixtures of red willow bark with not more than one percent tobacco. It allowed for ground mixtures of bark and tobacco for prayer ties (but not for mixtures to be smoked in pipes).

Judge Schreier's remedial order was narrowly tailored to accommodate inmates' religious practices, while allowing the Department of Corrections to advance most of its goals of public safety.

Native Americans comprise 27 percent of the population at South Dakota's six adult correctional facilities in Sioux Falls, Rapid City, Pierre, Springfield and Yankton. It's the highest concentration of Native American prisoners in any state in the country. The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals took note of other states' correctional facilities that permit inmates to use tobacco for religious purposes.

Perhaps Lady Justice isn't declaring a winner with her balancing scales, but rather balancing the interests of the parties before her; accommodating the values and the goals of each under the rubric of the law. In National American Council of Tribes v. Weber, it's less about who wins and who loses. It's more about carefully balancing the responsibilities of prison administrators against the religious rights of their Native American inmates.

Thomas E. Simmons is an assistant professor at the University of South Dakota School of Law in Vermillion. Simmons' views are his own and not those of USD.

Disingenuous To The 'Core'

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

This weekend on "Fox News Sunday," anchor Chris Wallace credited his guest, Republican Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, with leading the nation as the "first state to fall out of the Common Core national education standards." If only it were true.

Wallace didn't do his homework. And presidential aspirant Pence was too busy daydreaming about 2016 to correct him.

Reality check: Last week, Pence faced the anger of hundreds of Indiana parents, educators and activists at a public Indiana Business Roundtable meeting to discuss his phony charade. The protesters openly booed Pence's derision of critics as out-of-staters and elitists. They roared their disapproval when he claimed that his "new" standards were superior and homework.

Indiana mom Heather Crossin, one of the earliest and strongest grassroots voices against the federalized standards/textbook/testing racket, exposed the truth: "The proposed standards are simply a cloned version of the Common Core re-branded."

Indiana mom Erin Tuttle, also a leading Hoosier activist for true academic excellence, reported that state officials had failed to prove that their "new" scheme included "internationally and nationally benchmarked" standards as required by state law.

Indiana native and Hillsdale College professor Terrence Moore, who reviewed the "new" English standards, concluded that if the proposal were turned into him as a college paper, he would give it an F and write "plagiarism" across the top. The "new" regime recycles old Common Core ideology, eschews phonics and fails to define "what constitutes good reading and good literature."

Indiana native, Stanford University emeritus math professor and former member of the Common Core math standards validation committee James Milgram blasted the "new" Indiana math standards supported by Pence and the state school board. He begged the state to ask qualified mathematicians to revise the standards. He was ignored. Milgram revealed that "there are even more errors in the current document than were present in (an earlier draft). The standards for these courses are completely disorganized and, mathematically speaking, can only be described as bizarre."

Indiana mom and vigilant education analyst Joy Pullmann added: "Pence's decision is all the more foolish because Indiana has been renowned as one of the two or three states with the highest standards in the nation. ... Now Indiana has even worse standards than the Common Core Hoosier mothers and fathers spent three exhausting years attempting to defenestrate."

It wasn't just opponents who spotlighted the "new" Indiana standards' eerie echoes of the federal Common Core program.

A pro-Common Core educator in Indiana, Tami Hicks, counseled her colleagues: "(D)on't stop your work on CCSS (Common Core State Standards) — they are just getting a new name. ... If you compare the new drafted standards to the CCSS, they will see that they are practically (or even exactly) the same."

A spokesman from Pence's office sent me materials purporting to refute the critics. But the documents he sent revealed a fascinating tidbit: Common Core architects have generously waived copyright claims on their materials, will not sue Indiana recyclers and "did not see any problems with Indiana using excerpts or portions of the Common Core State Standards within Indiana's standards." How convenient.

Pence's friend Republican Utah Gov.

Gary Herbert also inadvertently spilled the beans on the Rename That Common Core Tune game. "I've talked to Gov. Pence about what they're doing there," he told a local reporter. "In essence, they're creating what's called the Indiana Core. It's not the Common Core. It's the Indiana Core, but their standards are almost mirroring exactly what's commonly referred to as the Common Core standards. So they're just doing it in a different way, which is what we've already been doing in Utah."

GOP Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer pulled a similar move, issuing an executive order last fall to whitewash "Common Core" from state government documents. She replaced the name with "Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards." But the old racket is still in place. And Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded lobbyists from Achieve Inc. and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers are still in the driver's seat.

This retreat-and-rebrand strategy was explicitly championed by Fed Ed advocate and former Arkansas GOP Gov. Mike Huckabee. Huckabee told his allies at the Gates Foundation-funded Council of Chief State School Officers earlier this year that since Common Core had become "toxic," the group needed to "rebrand it, refocus it, but don't retreat."

While disingenuous Republican governors tout their "withdrawals" from Common Core, it's more of the same old, same old: Diluted standards, tied to testing/textbook/technology cash cows, manufactured a top-down cadre of big-government D.C. education lobbyists and big-business interests, in violation of local control and state sovereignty.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.