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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Benghazi And The Inconvenient Truth

MARIETTA (Georgia) DAILY JOURNAL (May 8): President Barack Obama has now spent the past year and a half wishing that questions about the Benghazi attack would just go away. You can bet that former Secretary of State and Democratic presidential nominee-in-waiting Hillary Clinton is wishing the same thing, except more so. But that isn't likely to happen thanks to damning information that has now come to light. And while our friends on the left here in Georgia and elsewhere love to try and spin Benghazi as a Fox News fantasy, the public has the New York Times to thank for the latest revelations about how minimizing the damage to Obama's 2012 reelection campaign — not national security — was the top priority in the White House in the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2012, tragedy that left Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans dead at the hands of Libyan terrorists. The attack on the embassy there came against a backdrop of Team Obama's repeated assertions that the war on terror was over and that we had won. The attacks in Libya ran counter to that, so Obama and those around him quickly came up with an alternative version: that the supposedly spontaneous demonstrations and the attacks that followed were inspired by an amateurish, obscure Internet video, even though the evidence and common sense ran counter to that. The Times reported late last month that Obama's deputy national security adviser, Benjamin J. Rhodes, emailed U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice on Sept. 14, 2012, just before she made a round of high-profile appearances on Sunday morning news-talk shows that day. Rhodes urged Rice to "underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy" and that she should "reinforce the President and Administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges." It's the "smoking gun" that proves the administration misled the American public about the Benghazi incident right from the very start. It cynically considered that ensuring the re-election of Obama was more important than telling the public the truth. But truth has a way of ultimately coming out.

Addressing Energy

THE POST-INTELLIGENCER, Paris, Tennessee (May 9): President Barack Obama is announcing a bundle of plans for boosting solar power and promoting energy efficiency. That may be about all he can do on his own authority without support from Congress, but it's still half a loaf. One of the steps he was touting was completion of solar panel installation on the White House roof. Well, whoopee. Jimmy Carter put solar panels on the roof of the executive residence, but Ronald Reagan had them removed. That made the panels a political football rather than a modest efficiency tool. The panels will be more effective as a symbol of presidential policy than as a real contribution to the nation's energy efficiency. America needs a broader, more inclusive energy policy, but it's never going to get one as long as political leaders hold to hard-line policy. "The president can't claim an 'all of the above' strategy while he's blocking the Keystone pipeline, slow-rolling the approval of new energy exploration and proposing job-killing regulations that will destroy the American coal industry," said a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, the ultra-Republican from Ohio. Filter out the partisan rhetoric, and the man has a point. Solar panels do not a policy make. Power-saving green steps alone can't meet our energy needs. The energy efficiency guys and the we-need-more-power bunch need to bury the hatchet. The issue is too important to the national well-being to be a focus for political games.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Thursday, May 15, the 135th day of 2014. There are 230 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On May 15, 1972, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace was shot and left paralyzed by Arthur H. Bremer while campaigning in Laurel, Maryland, for the Democratic presidential nomination. (Bremer served 35 years of a 53-year sentence for attempted murder.) On this date: In 1602, English navigator Bartholomew Gosnold and his ship, the Concord, arrived at present-day Cape Cod, which he's credited with naming. In 1776, Virginia endorsed American independence from Britain. In 1863, Edouard Manet's painting "Le déjeuner sur l'herbe" (The Lunch on the Grass) went on display in Paris, scandalizing viewers with its depiction of a nude woman seated on the ground with two fully dressed men at a picnic in a wooded area. In 1911, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that Standard Oil Co. was a monopoly in violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, and ordered its breakup. In 1930, registered nurse Ellen Church, the first airline stewardess, went on duty aboard an Oakland-to-Chicago flight operated by Boeing Air Transport (a forerunner of United Airlines). In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, whose members came to be known as WACs. Wartime gasoline rationing went into effect in 17 Eastern states, limiting sales to three gallons a week for non-essential vehicles. In 1954, the Fender Stratocaster guitar, created by Leo Fender, was officially released. In 1963, astronaut L. Gordon Cooper blasted off aboard Faith 7 on the final mission of the Project Mercury space program. In 1974, three Palestinian infiltrators took 100 pupils hostage at a school in the town of Maalot in northern Israel; the gunmen killed 22 children as Israeli troops stormed the building, killing the hostage-takers. In 1975, U.S. forces invaded the Cambodian island of Koh Tang and recaptured the American merchant ship Mayaguez. (All 40 crew members had already been released safely by Cambodia; some 40 U.S. servicemen were killed in the operation.) In 1988, the Soviet Union began the process of withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, more than eight years after Soviet forces had entered the country. In 1991, Edith Cresson was appointed by French President Francois Mitterrand to be France's first female prime minister. Ten years ago: A 40-ton steel girder dropped from a freeway overpass con-

FROM THE BIBLE

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. Ephesians 6:18. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Kindle's Korner

On School Safety

DR. WAYNE KINDLE Yankton School District

As many of you know, we experienced two extremely serious, and unfortunate events in the Yankton School District during the past few days. We encountered a bomb threat and a menacing social media message. In both incidents, law enforcement officials were involved with the investigations, resulting in the arrests of the individuals involved. Any type of threat, which involves the health, safety, and well-being of our students and staff will be taken seriously. Unlike a disagreement between two students, these threats impacted hundreds of students in our school district. These incidents created fear, anxiety, anger and uncertainty disrupting the learning of students, as well as threatening student safety. Our students and staff do not deserve these senseless acts. Each of our school buildings has a School Safety Plan and Procedures in place, ready to implement at a moment's notice. These plans are reviewed annually. We practice fire drills, storm drills, and lockdown drills in cooperation with our local law enforcement. During these drills, we emphasize the serious importance of practicing these drills in case of a real emergency. The Yankton School District will continue to work side by side with local law enforcement and our community in keeping our students safe. We will be meeting with local law enforcement and media to review how we handled these situations and seeking their input. We will discuss protocol changes if recommended from law enforcement and communication input from our local media sources. I want to personally thank our law enforcement for their expertise and immediate response ensuring the safety of our students. Amy Nelson, Yankton City Manager communicated directly with me promising any and all city resources would be used to accommodate our needs. A special thank you to our teachers and building administrators who are with our students during these types of situations. They handle these situations professionally, always keeping in mind the best interest of our students. We live in a world with many dangers, even in our safe community of Yankton. As we talk to our children about their school day and their school building and teachers, it is important that all of us create a positive, supportive image of education. Our children learn by listening to the grown-ups around them. Attending school each day should be about learning, listening, relationships, team work, and respect for others. As your school superintendent, I'd like to clarify my priorities for our parents and the general public so there is no misunderstanding. In an emergency situation such as the two recent situations, it is unrealistic to expect personal phone calls from me or anyone else in the Yankton School District. My first priority is handling the emergency itself, protecting the health, safety, and well-being of our students. Under those circumstances, I'm in immediate and constant contact with local law enforcement and with our school building administrators. Once our students are safe and I have accurate information to share, I will do just that by using our computer messaging system. So it's very important that you provide your accurate contact information to your child's school if you wish to receive those messages.



Wayne KINDLE YSD Superintendent

CONNECT 5 MESSAGING

In order to improve communication, the Yankton School District implemented a computer messaging system called Blackboard Connect 5. This service allows the school district to reach thousands of people within minutes with a personalized voice message, email and/or text message. If you are not receiving these messages, and wish to do so, please check with the secretary of your child's school to make sure we have your home phone, cell phone and email address. We will add you to the system. Anyone in the Yankton community — alumni, students, grandparents, parents, and friends — can receive these messages. Just be sure we have your contact information in our system. Anyone can also subscribe to selectively receive district-wide communications as well as information about a specific school building at www.https://ysd633.bbcportal.com/

We have used personalized voice message, email and/or text messaging as ways to communicate with parents regarding school closures, a particular school event, upcoming book fairs, etc. However, there are some limits to the system. For instance, a text message written with Connect 5 is limited to 160 characters. Since some complicated information cannot be easily explained in 160 characters, you may only receive an email notice. We are looking at new ways to use the text-messaging component more since we know that parents use that mode of communication regularly. When you register your child for school, the contact information you give us is automatically included in our student management computer software called PowerSchool. You are then automatically signed up to receive communications from your child's school and district-wide announcements, alerts and reminders. At times you may receive a text message, an email and a phone call for the same event. If families have not provided an email address or do not receive text messages, we may send the messages out in all modes available so as to reach as many families as possible. If you do not want to receive text messages from the school district, reply STOP to the next text message you receive. That will stop all text messages to that phone number.

KINDLE'S COFFEE

The coffee time is open to anybody who wishes to come and visit. The Superintendent will provide a 10-minute update on the Yankton School District. The building principal will give a 10-minute overview of their school, and a 15-minute tour of the building. The remaining 25 minutes will be Question and Answer time from those attending. Along with coffee, there will be rolls/donuts served. We held our final coffee for the school year on May 14 at Beadle Elementary School. Thank you to all who have attended the Kindle's Coffee events this past school year. I am looking forward to these types of events for next school year. In addition to the Kindle Coffees, I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization. I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place. If there is a specific topic you would like for me to address in the future, please call me at 665-3998 or email me at wkindle@ysd.k12.sd.us. Let's continue to have a great year! Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success."

YOUR LETTERS

Program Appreciated!

Lois and Bill Kerr, Yankton We want to give a great big "Thank You" to those who conceived, produced, and performed the World War II Veterans Program on Monday, May 5, at Yankton High School to connect the veterans with the students. David Hosmer and Doug Harr who conceived the program and created the documentary films of our local veterans sharing their wartime experiences are to be applauded. Yankton High School principal Jennifer Johnke, the school choir, and the student escorts and small group student participants in the personal sharing of veteran's experiences all get "A+" grades for their efforts. I'm sure that the veterans who participated would agree with us that it was a first class idea developed into a wonderful way to show appreciation for the veterans' services.

Something To Repeal

Brian Engebretson, Yankton Mike Rounds is campaigning on repealing "Obamacare," but there's a health care law that's far more socialistic than ACA. To combat "patient dumping," President Reagan in 1986 signed into law EMTALA, which requires hospitals participating in Medicare to

ABOUT THIS PAGE

The View 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 on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

give emergency treatment to everyone regardless of citizenship, legal status or ability to pay. This was an unfunded mandate, and to recap losses, hospitals had to charge more to "paying customers," insurance companies and Medicare. This started the massive inflationary rate in health care. The practice of Medicare and insurance companies limiting what they would pay for services is a result of this and started long before ACA, as stated by Rounds' campaign. President Obama signed a law requiring people to buy health insurance for the financial protection of others. President Reagan signed a law saying hospitals must treat you regardless of legal status. Which law should Republicans want repealed?