

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION OTHER VIEWS

# Exports Offer Hope For Stronger Economy

**KEARNEY HUB (April 25):** According to the latest Gallup poll, 58 percent of Americans believe that increased trade is “an opportunity for economic growth.” Only one-third of Gallup’s respondents view trade as “a threat to the economy.” That’s the highest vote of confidence in trade in two decades, and yet President Obama has encountered stiff resistance from his own party as he pushes for the reinstatement of Trade Promotion Authority.

TPA authorization is a first step in getting the United States back on track to enter trade agreements with a number of overseas partners.

Many presidents have exercised TPA, but it lapsed in 2007. TPA is a fast track for approval because Congress can only vote for or against the pact that’s placed before it. No amendments are allowed.

Among lawmakers who are wary of TPA are representatives of states with heavy labor union constituencies. Unions claim that after many years of watching jobs shipped overseas for cheap labor, it’s against U.S. interests to hastily enter trade deals without first examining the effect on domestic industries.

Such protectionist attitudes ignore the fact that exports support 11.3 million good jobs, according to a recent report from the federal Export-Import Bank of the United States. The Ex-Im report says that exports now support more jobs than at any time in the past 20 years. Those jobs pay 18 percent above the national average, according to the Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration.

The growth in export-related jobs signals that boosting trade is a wise way to boost the economy. We in Nebraska understand how exports benefit our agricultural economy. Nebraska’s 3rd District Rep. Adrian Smith, noted in his weekly column how exports support one of every five jobs here. Smith supports TPA because it will clear the way for two mega agreements: the Trans-Pacific Partnership with 11 countries bordering the Pacific Ocean, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the European Union.

“Opening more markets to Nebraska products is essential to growing our rural economy,” Smith wrote. “These agreements also help maintain U.S. leadership in our global economy, rather than allowing countries like China to make the rules. If we do not step up and lead in the trade arena, American agriculture producers will be left behind.”

Obama must tell colleagues standing in the way of TPA to consider how trade can boost the U.S. economy. Expanded trade will create far more jobs than it will destroy, and lower-cost goods will stretch the budgets of American households.

## IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 4, the 124th day of 2015. There are 241 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On May 4, 1925, an international conference opened in Geneva to forge an agreement against the use of chemical and biological weapons in war; the Geneva Protocol was signed on June 17, 1925 and went into force in 1928.

**On this date:** In 1776, Rhode Island declared its freedom from England, two months before the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

In 1886, at Haymarket Square in Chicago, a labor demonstration for an 8-hour work day turned into a deadly riot when a bomb exploded.

In 1904, the United States took over construction of the Panama Canal from the French.

In 1932, mobster Al Capone, convicted of income-tax evasion, entered the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. (Capone was later transferred to Alcatraz Island.)

In 1942, the Battle of the Coral Sea, the first naval clash fought entirely with carrier aircraft, began in the Pacific during World War II. (The outcome was considered a tactical victory for Imperial Japan, but ultimately a strategic one for the Allies.)

In 1959, the first Grammy Awards ceremony was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. Domenico Modugno won Record of the Year and Song of the Year for “Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu (Volare);” Henry Mancini won Album of the Year for “The Music from Peter Gunn.”

In 1961, the first group of “Freedom Riders” left Washington D.C. to challenge racial segregation on interstate buses and in bus terminals.

In 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen opened fire during an anti-war protest at Kent State University, killing four students and wounding nine others.

In 1975, comedy performer Moe Howard of “Three Stooges” fame died in Los Angeles at age 77.

In 1980, Marshal Josip Broz Tito, president of Yugoslavia, died three days before his 88th birthday.

In 1994, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat signed an accord on Palestinian autonomy that granted self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

In 2000, the destructive “ILOVEYOU” malware, sent by e-mail, began to infect computer networks and hard drives across the globe. Londoners chose political maverick Ken Livingstone to be their first elected mayor.

**Ten years ago:** A military judge at Fort Hood, Texas, threw out Pfc. Lynndie England’s guilty plea to abusing Iraqi detain-

ees at Abu Ghraib prison, saying he was not convinced the Army reservist knew her actions were wrong at the time. (England was later convicted in a court-martial and sentenced to three years in prison — she served half that term.) A suicide bombing at a police recruitment center in Irbil, Iraq, killed 60 people. Prosecutors rested their case in the molestation trial of Michael Jackson, who ended up being acquitted. Retired Army Col. David Hackworth, 74, a highly decorated Vietnam veteran who spoke out against the war and later became a journalist and advocate for military reform, died in Tijuana, Mexico.

**Five years ago:** A Pakistani-born U.S. citizen was charged with terrorism and attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction in the botched Times Square bombing. (Faisal Shahzad) later pleaded guilty to plotting to set off the propane-and-gasoline bomb in an SUV and was sentenced to life in prison.)

**One year ago:** Eight acrobats were injured, most of them seriously, when a carabiner clip broke during an aerial hair-hanging stunt, sending the women plummeting to the ground during a Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus show in Providence, Rhode Island. Sinn Fein party leader Gerry Adams was released without charge after five days of police questioning over his alleged involvement in the decades-old IRA killing of a Belfast mother of 10, Jean McConville.

**Today's Birthdays:** The former president of Egypt, Hosni Mubarak, is 87. Opera singer Roberta Peters is 85. Katherine Jackson, matriarch of the Jackson musical family, is 85. Jazz musician Ron Carter is 78. Rock musician Dick Dale is 78. Pop singer Peggy Santiglia Davison (The Angels) is 71. Actor Richard Jenkins is 68. Country singer Stella Parton is 66. Actor-turned-clergyman Hilly Hicks is 65. Irish musician Darryl Hunt (The Pogues) is 65. Singer Jackie Jackson (The Jacksons) is 64. Singer-actress Pia Zadora is 63. Rhythm-and-blues singer Oleta Adams is 62. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sharon Jones is 59. Violinist Soozie Tyrell (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 58. Country singer Randy Travis is 56. Actress Mary McDonough is 54. Comedian Ana Gasteyer is 48. Actor Will Arnett is 45. Rock musician Mike Dirnt (Green Day) is 43. Contemporary Christian singer Chris Tomlin is 43. TV personality and fashion designer Kimora Lee Simmons is 40. Rock musician Jose Castellanos is 38. Sports reporter Erin Andrews is 37. Singer Lance Bass (’N Sync) is 36. Actor Alexander Gould is 21. Actress Amara Miller is 15.

**Thought for Today:** “The trouble with being punctual is that nobody’s there to appreciate it.” — Franklin P. Jones, American journalist-humorist (1908-1980).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. ... I came not to call the righteous, but sinners. Matthew 9:12-13.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A Great Celebration

**Patti and Joe Vig, Yankton**

What a great celebration of a giving career Sunday, April 26, at MMC’s Marian Auditorium! Thank you, Mount Marty, for the FREE band concert and thank you, Mr. Dean Rettetdal, for your ongoing gift to the college, to the Yankton community, and probably most importantly, to all those young musicians (and some old ones) whom you taught and nurtured their love for music.

Dean joked that he had a “perfect life,” in that he was able to teach and play music, run a family business in his hometown, and play all the golf he wanted. However, we suspect that he could have played much more golf had he not chosen to make that 60-mile round trip from Scotland many times a week to teach and direct, not the least of which is the enthusiasm and great sounds he brings to all

MMC home basketball games. What a commitment!

Dean, your enthusiasm and love for music shines through in all that you do. This concert, along with the one last Friday brought to us by the Yankton Concert Association, demonstrate the interest and support of culture in our great community. Mount Marty is very gracious in opening up their doors to the area as they continue to strive to be a major and integral part in what makes this city a great one. All of us, in turn, need to reciprocate and provide our moral and financial support to them as they strive to grow and educate our youth. YANKTON NEEDS MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE to make it an even greater place to live. Without this college, our recruitment efforts to grow our town will not be productive.

Thanks again, MMC, and thank you, Dean, for all you’ve done. Best of luck on those birdie putts.



## Capitol Notebook

# Name Change Doesn't Change Facts For County

**BY BOB MERCER**

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The county long known as Shannon received its official new name of Oglala Lakota on Friday.

The county’s voters used a state law that three legislators from that region of South Dakota created 23 years ago.

None of them — Sen. Paul Valandra of Rosebud, Rep. Dick Hagen of Pine Ridge and Rep. Larry Lucas of Mission — remains in the Legislature now.

Hagen died in 2002 at age 65 while still in office. He served 20 years starting in 1983.

Valandra, now 61, put in 16 years. Lucas gave 18 years over two different periods. Now 64, he moved to the Pickstown area last year and didn’t seek re-election.

Valandra and Lucas were first-term lawmakers when they got the law passed in 1992.

The Legislature was politically different than the place of Republican super-majorities that it previously was and now is again.

That term Republicans held a one-vote majority in the Senate and a more comfortable margin of 45-25 in the House.

Yet Democrats were on the rise politically in the statehouse — they took majority control of the Senate the next term — and Republican Gov. George S. Mickelson was emphasizing racial reconciliation.

The 1992 law allows a county’s citizens to consider a different name for their county. The hurdles aren’t low.

First, valid signatures on a petition are needed from 15 percent of the registered voters in the county.

Then, for the new name to be adopted, yes votes are needed from two-thirds of the voters in that next general election.

Rarely does legislation sponsored by three



Bob  
**MERCER**

Democrats and no Republicans become law in South Dakota. But they did it.

Valandra was the bill’s prime sponsor. He credits the idea to Hagen.

The Senate Local Government Committee amended Valandra’s original bill so that a two-thirds majority of yes votes was required.

That higher mark satisfied the Senate, whose members voted 34-0 for the amended version.

Eight days later, the House of Representatives approved it 49-16.

Shannon County was the home of Dick Hagen. The other two came from Todd County.

So it seemed fitting that Shannon County’s voters became the first to use the law. The tally on Nov. 4 was 2,196 yes and 531 no.

It was a statement of a tribal people’s self-affirmation.

As required, the governor communicated the results to lawmakers and they approved a resolution declaring the change.

The House voted 64-5, the Senate 32-2.

What persists, despite different names, is the county’s inability to function financially, because so much land is in tribal trust.

Back in 1943, the Legislature combined Washington County into Shannon County. Both were what are considered in state law as unorganized.

Then in 1951, the Legislature declared money left in Washington County’s road fund could be used only for matching federal funds for secondary roads, and taxes collected in what had been Washington County could be spent only in what had been Washington.

Today, Oglala Lakota County remains unorganized. The citizens depend on Fall River County for administrative services, just as Shannon County did.

No matter the name, without a real tax base, deep challenges remain.

# Protests And Policies

**BY LEONARD PITTS JR.**

Tribune Content Agency

On the Thursday before Baltimore burned, Mr. Lee went to Washington.

He didn’t have far to go. Rev. Tony Lee is the 46-year-old pastor of Community of Hope, an AME church housed in a shopping mall in Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, just minutes from the D.C. line.

Under the auspices of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation, a Washington-based advocacy group, he led a delegation of 200 African-American men to Capitol Hill. They went to their capital to talk to their legislators about issues that impact their lives: racially stratified policing, education reform, voting rights and more.

It was not about protest. It was about policy.

“Protests,” Lee told me in a telephone interview, “are one way that pushes people’s feet to the fire. Whatever the issue is, it’s brought to the forefront. But ... there’s still a need for people to do legislative advocacy, dealing with policy, whether it’s from the national to the local, showing people how to be engaged and (affecting) the policies that have such direct impact.”

Too often, said Lee, African-Americans have focused solely on protest – an important element of social change, but not the only one. He used the analogy of weightlifters that focus solely on building upper-body mass while “their legs are toothpicks. ... In many ways, our policy legs are like toothpicks. Most people don’t know how to engage that. What you find in the policy area is more the politicos, more the people who have been doing this stuff a while. But we want just everyday brothers — and sisters — to see how they can get engaged in policy and to make sure that their legislators, whether it’s federal, or ... local, city, state, know who they are, hear their voices ...

Full disclosure: I’ve known Rev. Tony Lee for about eight years. He christened my granddaughter. And I couldn’t think of a better person to respond to Tracy. As I said in my last column, she is a reader from Austin, Texas, a 55-year-old white woman, who wrote me that she is heart sick about police violence against unarmed African-American men. I decided to focus a series of columns — open-ended and running irregularly — on finding answers to the question she asked me:

What can I do?

“I have a framework for people like her and for others,” said Lee. “It’s educate, advocate and participate. Educate means to get educated on the issue. A lot of times, what will happen is ... you can end up having a lot



Leonard  
**PITTS**

of blind spots because you haven’t educated yourself on the issues. ... Some of those local and national organizations have a great wealth of information that you can be able to educate yourself on what’s happening around some of the issues.”

Nor, he said, should she keep what she learns to herself. “As she’s becoming more informed, start talking to the people in her life. She should never minimize what it means to talk to people who are around her, people that she daily deals with. It sounds like that would be white people. She can talk to her friends and her neighbors and ... educate them on what she’s learning.”