



THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Include Voter Voice  
In Ed. Reform Bill

ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (Nov. 13): Before South Dakota makes another ill-fated run at reforming our schools, let's answer one key question: What are we trying to fix?

Voters overwhelmingly rejected Referred Law 16, but the measure was framed before the election as a showdown between Gov. Dennis Daugaard and teachers. The law would have implemented merit pay and teacher evaluations based in part on their students' test scores. It also would have added \$15 million to teachers' salaries.

Voters — the same people who often gripe that teachers are the lowest paid in the nation — also rejected Initiated Measure 15, which would have added a penny to the state sales tax to generate revenue for schools and Medicaid.

With lots of entry points on each bill, it is difficult to know why voters rejected them. We don't think lawmakers and the governor should misread what their intentions were with those votes, either. Instead, they should seek to get citizens — all of us — involved in what education reform should accomplish.

That's why we hope the state asks people to contribute their ideas before moving forward with new legislation. Everyone has skin in the education game — students, parents, grandparents, neighbors or taxpayers. We all understand the value of a well-educated society.

If the problem we hope to solve is better student performance, as Daugaard has suggested, then we need to know what we're shooting for and how to support teachers in doing a better job. If the issue is paying teachers what they deserve, then we need to spend some money, and that money has to come from somewhere.

As we examine the question of what it is we're trying to fix, the administration must include all stakeholders at the table: teachers, superintendents, business leaders, academics, lawmakers and ordinary citizens.

Before we introduce more bills that will only draw the ire of teachers and superintendents, let's work together to identify what we're trying to do and then develop an appropriate strategy. Governor, it's your move.

USPS: Stopping The Bleeding

OMAHA (Neb.) WORLD-HERALD (Nov. 10): Severely cutting the retail window hours of 13,000 of the least-used post offices is a way for the U.S. Postal Service to address its serious funding shortage. But many Americans no doubt see it as the lesser of two evils.

The greater evil, at least to many of the rural and small-town residents who depend on those little outposts of mail and sociability, would be to shut them down completely.

The Postal Service, which gets no taxpayer money, went \$5.1 billion in the red in fiscal year 2011 and lost \$8.5 billion overall in 2011. This year, it's on track to lose \$15 billion. First-class mail deliveries have fallen 25 percent since 2006.

The part-time post offices would retain some of the advantages of the full-time operations: People still would have access to the retail lobby and post office boxes; a town's ZIP code and community identity would remain intact. ...

The alternatives: curbside delivery, not now available in many small communities; service from a post office in a nearby community; or setting up a small Village Post Office in a local business. The existing post office would close if 60 percent of local residents want one of those alternatives.

A small-town post office can be a center of community life, where residents meet, exchange news and greetings. Even with the retail window closed, under the Postal Service's plan the mailboxes would still be accessible and townspersons could still meet as they do now when picking up their mail.

Perhaps, with these cutbacks, the Postal Service can stanch its flow of red ink and stand on its feet again. There are millions of rural residents who would applaud that outcome.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 19, the 324th day of 2012. There are 42 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Nov. 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address as he dedicated a national cemetery at the site of the Civil War battlefield in Pennsylvania.

**On this date:** In 1600, King Charles I of England was born in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland.

In 1794, the United States and Britain signed Jay's Treaty, which resolved some issues left over from the Revolutionary War.

In 1831, the 20th president of the United States, James Garfield, was born in Orange Township, Ohio.

In 1887, American poet Emma Lazarus, who'd written "The New Colossus" to help raise money for the Statue of Liberty's pedestal, died in New York at age 38.

In 1919, the Senate rejected the Treaty of Versailles by a vote of 55 in favor, 39 against, short of the two-thirds majority needed for ratification.

In 1942, during World War II, Russian forces launched their winter offensive against the Germans along the Don front.

In 1959, Ford Motor Co. announced it was halting production of the unpopular Edsel.

In 1969, Apollo 12 astronauts Charles Conrad and Alan Bean made the second manned landing on the moon.

In 1977, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

In 1985, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev met for the first time as they began their summit in Geneva.

In 1990, the pop duo Milli Vanilli were stripped of their Grammy Award because other singers had lent their voices to the "Girl You Know It's True" album.

In 1997, Iowa seamstress Bobbi McCaughey gave birth to septuplets, four boys and three girls. The space shuttle Columbia zoomed into orbit on a two-week science mission.

**Ten years ago:** An oil tanker carrying 20 million gallons of fuel oil broke in two and sank in the Atlantic Ocean off northwest Spain. U.N. weapons inspectors wrapped up a two-day visit to Iraq. The Senate voted 90-9 to approve creation of the Department of Homeland Security. In a moment that drew criticism, singer Michael Jackson briefly held his youngest child, Prince Michael II, over a fourth-floor balcony rail at a Berlin hotel in front of dozens of fans waiting below. (Jackson later said he'd made a "terrible mistake.")

**Five years ago:** In Pakistan, a Supreme Court hand-picked by President

Gen. Pervez Musharraf dismissed legal challenges to his continued rule, opening the way for him to serve another five-year term — solely as a civilian president. The FBI reported hate crime incidents had risen nearly 8 percent in 2006. President George W. Bush announced that Fran Townsend, the leading White House-based terrorism adviser, was stepping down. Milo Radulovich, the Air Force Reserve lieutenant championed by CBS newsmen Edward R. Murrow when the military threatened to decommission him during the anti-communist crackdown of the 1950s, died in Vallejo, Calif., at age 81. Actor Dick Wilson, who played the fussy, mustachioed grocer who told customers, "Please, don't squeeze the Charmin," died in Woodland Hills, Calif., at age 91.

**One year ago:** Moammar Gadhafi's former heir apparent, Seif al-Islam, was captured by revolutionary fighters in the southern desert just over a month after his father was killed, setting off joyous celebrations across Libya. British-born Canadian actor John Neville, who'd appeared in the TV series "The X-Files," died in Toronto at age 86.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Alan Young is 93. Talk show host Larry King is 79. Former General Electric chief executive Jack Welch is 77. Talk show host Dick Cavett is 76. Broadcasting and sports mogul Ted Turner is 74. Singer Pete Moore (Smokey Robinson and the Miracles) is 73. Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, is 73. TV journalist Garrick Utley is 73. Actor Dan Haggerty is 71. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy G. Thompson is 71. Fashion designer Calvin Klein is 70. Sportscaster Ahmad Rashad is 63. Actor Robert Beltran is 59. Actress Kathleen Quinlan is 58. Actress Glynnis O'Connor is 57. Broadcast journalist Ann Curry is 56. Former NASA astronaut Eileen Collins is 56. Actress Allison Janney is 53. Rock musician Matt Sorum (Guns N' Roses, Velvet Revolver) is 52. Actress Meg Ryan is 51. Actress-director Jodie Foster is 50. Actress Terry Farrell is 49. TV chef Rocco DiSpirito is 46. Actor Jason Scott Lee is 46. Olympic gold medal runner Gail Devers is 46. Actress Erika Alexander is 43. Rock musician Travis McNabb is 43. Singer Tony Rich is 41. Country singer Jason Albert (Heartland) is 39. Country singer Billy Currington is 39. Dancer-choreographer Savion Glover is 39. Country musician Chad Jeffers is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Tamika Scott (Xscape) is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lil' Mo is 35. Olympic gold medal gymnast Kerri Strug is 35. Actor Reid Scott is 35. Rapper Tyga is 23.

**Thought for Today:** "The facts are, always less than what really happened." — Nadine Gordimer, South African Nobel Prize-winning author.

FROM THE BIBLE

The boy cannot leave his father, for if he should leave his father, his father would die. Genesis 44:22. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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Are We All Puritans?

BY BILL O'REILLY  
Creators Syndicate

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, it is time to talk about Puritans — but not the crew who fled England for the New World and established the Massachusetts Bay Colony back in the 17th century. No, let's talk about the modern Puritans: we the American people.

The United States is considered a puritanical society by many Western nations. For example, they can't believe we hassle public servants like Gen. David Petraeus because he had a mistress. In France, if a powerful man doesn't have a mistress, he's considered a wimp. In Italy, they elected Silvio Berlusconi, who allegedly puts together old-fashioned Roman-type orgies and brags about it.

You may remember the outcry in Western Europe over the impeachment of President Clinton. They couldn't believe it over there. Lying about sex? In some countries, that's the national pastime.

So the question is this: Are we Americans basically puritanical? Throwbacks to the days when Cotton Mather was hunting witches in Salem?

The answer, surprisingly, is yes to some degree. While it's true that secular forces are whittling away traditional standards of behavior, we Americans still expect some decorum from our elected officials.

If you're a rock or film star or play professional sports, we expect you to cat around and do self-destructive things. But if we count on you to protect us, like Petraeus did, we want your full attention. Part of the outcry over Clinton's behavior was that it took place in the Oval Office, right beneath portraits of



Bill  
O'REILLY

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Turning the most powerful room in the world into a Motel 6 is not acceptable to most Americans.

The truth is that many powerful guys have fooled around while working for the people: Dwight Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy and Warren Harding to name just a few. Grover Cleveland even fathered a child outside of marriage. We all know these things happen. But we don't want them to happen, or at least most of us don't. I can't speak for San Francisco.

That may be because American tradition is based on Judeo-Christian philosophy, and that tradition has served us well. Honesty and loyalty are still esteemed values in most parts of this country. When the defenders of Bill Clinton wailed that it was "just about sex," they were wrong. In cases where powerful people get caught in compromising situations, there is always more to it than a physical act.

I am deeply saddened that Petraeus is no longer protecting this nation. He is a patriot and a brilliant warrior in the cause of freedom. Frankly, I don't care what the general does on his personal time. It is a damn shame he had to resign.

We are all sinners, but here's what comes along with that: You always pay for the sin. Unfortunately, all of us would suffer along with the general, and that is why he had to go. If the folks trust you, don't burn them.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

Point Of View

Yankton Answers The Challenge

BY NANCY WENANDE  
Mayor of Yankton

Through Pierre mayor Laurie Gill, Yankton was extended the opportunity to participate in the "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" event hosted in Pierre on Oct. 6.

Each community in South Dakota was encouraged to put a team together, raise at least \$1,000 and share the story of a local breast cancer survivor. With my schedule being too busy, Pauline Akland and Jake Hoffner graciously volunteered to lead this initiative.

They took the time to design shirts that the City Commission and city staff could wear at a commission meeting when we proclaimed October as breast cancer awareness month. They also organized a team, planned a celebrity bartending event at The Landing, travelled to Pierre to walk in the event, sent out fundraising letters to local businesses and connected with local survivors who shared their stories with others around the state.

I am so proud that we were the number one fundraising team within the entire state by raising \$4,146.05 for the American Cancer Society.

The top fundraisers were invited to a luncheon hosted by Mrs. Daugaard in Pierre Nov. 14. Pauline was one of the speakers since she was the top fundraiser in South Dakota, bringing in almost \$1,500.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Pictured at last month's "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" event in Pierre are, from left, Yankton city commissioners Jake Hoffner and Paula Akland, First Lady Linda Daugaard and Yankton Mayor Nancy Wenande.

Jake Hoffner, the second-highest fundraiser in the state, and I will also attended the luncheon.

The Yankton community should feel proud to have wrapped our arms and hearts around such an important initiative.

We would like to thank the businesses and individuals that donated over \$100: Applied Engineering, Vishay Dale Electronics, Ordell and Pauline Akland, Jim and Pam Cunningham, Jake and Sandy Hoffner, Brad and Nancy Wenande, Charlie Gross, Bob Chavis, Kathy Heydlauff and many others who chose to keep their donations anonymous. Special thanks to Applied Engineering for

the bake sale and PTO raffle they held, raising over \$1,470, and the Human Services Center for raising more than \$400 with a cupcake sale.

We are grateful for Karen Edler, Dawn Stoner and Kelly Koletzky for participating in the process with us, as well. As survivors, they are role models for other women and men who may be dealing with cancer and exemplify the strong spirit and determination it takes to battle the disease and win.

Thank you to all who participated in some way to show the rest of South Dakota our Yankton spirit and pride. I'm so proud to live in Yankton!

were open on Monday, Nov. 12. We recognize that all Federal, as well as many other offices/schools, were closed on Monday in observance of Veteran's Day and also recognize that most Veteran's Day ceremonies were held on Nov. 11 in accordance with Federal legislation. Our decision to observe Veteran's Day on Monday rather than on Nov. 11 was to align MMC's observance to a day where classes were in session and staff were at work. Our program was held over the noon hour to allow a broader campus participation and was open to the general public. The program involved the singing of our National Anthem by the College Chamber Choir, a presentation by Dr. Krisma DeWitt (U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ret.) and a benediction by our campus Chaplain, Fr. Thomas Wordekemper.

I greatly appreciate Mr. Wieseler's passion for honoring our veterans and active duty military personnel and respect the fact that he contacted me directly by email on Monday to express his concerns. As a result, I invited him to serve on the 2013 Veteran's Day Program planning committee. I look forward to having Mr. Wieseler as a member of our organizing committee as we plan for a day to remember and honor the contributions of our veterans and armed forces personnel.

YOUR LETTERS

Due Respect?

Dominic Wieseler, Yankton

First and foremost, this is not an issue of, "Oh, my friends at school X don't have class, why do we?" It's not an issue of, "Why don't we get a three-day weekend!"

Rather, this is an issue of Mount Marty not observing a day that is reserved to honor those people who have allowed us to be where we are now. The school not observing this holiday is one of the most selfish happenings I've witnessed in my time here at Mount Marty. It's downright sickening to me that we can get time off of school for holidays such as Thanksgiving and Labor Day — yet we can't pay our due respects to the men and women who have served and allowed us to retain the freedoms we take for granted every day?

This is a response from Mount Marty College president Joseph N. Benoit: First of all, I wish to thank Mr. Wieseler for taking time to express his concern both as a student of Mount Marty College and as a citizen with a high level of regard for the women and men that we honor on Veteran's Day. Mount Marty College did hold classes and offices