

## THE PRESS &amp; DAKOTAN

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## OPINION

Now It's Your Turn:  
Get Out And Vote!

Today is the whole point. After all the weeks and months of campaigning, after all the candidate forums and after all the political advertising, today is the finish line. It's the day every candidate points to when he or she announces for office.

Today is when we — the voters, the people — render our verdicts. Or at least a lot of us will. But there will still be those who won't. After all we've seen, there will still be a number of people who will give the election a pass. They won't bother to express their preferences on candidates or ballot issues. They won't devote the time to get involved in this crucial part of our democracy. In fact, it's the whole point of the process and our republic. Without it, our concepts of America and of freedom would be quite different.

So vote today. In Yankton County, there is a lot on the ballot and a lot on the line. The County Commission race has turned into an unexpected donnybrook, thanks to a highly unusual situation in which four of the five positions are up for re-election. There are eight candidates seeking those four open seats in two races. With one commissioner choosing not to seek re-election, it guarantees that there will be at least one new face on the board.

In some minds, today's County Commission election is a de facto referendum on the Napa Junction project. Whether they disagree with or endorse the way the matter played out, it is a major issue. It's quite probably the reason why there are a total of eight candidates in the field.

What's arguably at stake in the County Commission race is the future direction of the vision of economic development in Yankton County. That's one of the many reasons why you should vote today.

There are also State House and Senate races in District 18/Yankton County that have revealed clear splits on a number of issues. Voters have very clear choices in these regards.

There are also some compelling statewide races, headlined by an unusual Senate race with four candidates, three of which have polled strongly so far. The race has drawn national attention, which marks a return of the spotlight that South Dakota voters last saw a decade ago with a pair of high-profile Senate races.

There are some intriguing ballot measures, including one on minimum wage and another about choosing doctors out of an insurance group's network.

Also, Nebraska voters also weigh in on a minimum wage issue, as well as crucial state and federal races.

And in Yankton County, there is an ordinance on the ballot about funding historic preservations, which for a county so steeped in history, would seem like a crucial question to answer.

You know what's on the ballot. You've heard the rhetoric. You've endured the onslaught of attack ads.

Now it's time to do your part. Vote, vote, vote!

kmh

## ONLINE OPINION

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

## LATEST RESULTS:

Who do you support in the South Dakota U.S. Senate race?	Percentage
Rick Weiland	46%
Mike Rounds	32%
Larry Pressler	13%
Not sure	6%
Gordon Howie	3%
<b>TOTAL VOTES CAST</b>	<b>489</b>

The Press &amp; 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:

Would you support a travel ban on African nations hit by the Ebola outbreak?

To vote in the Press &amp; Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

## ON THIS DATE

## By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Nov. 4, the 308th day of 2014. There are 57 days left in the year. This is Election Day.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Nov. 4, 1924, President Calvin Coolidge, who'd succeeded the late President Warren G. Harding, was elected to a full term of office; Nellie T. Ross of Wyoming was elected the nation's first female governor to serve out the remaining term of her late husband, William B. Ross.**On this date:** In 1862, inventor Richard J. Gatling received a U.S. patent for his rapid-fire Gatling gun.

In 1884, Democrat Grover Cleveland was elected to his first term as president, defeating Republican James G. Blaine.

In 1922, the entrance to King Tutankhamen's tomb was discovered in Egypt.

In 1939, the United States modified its neutrality stance in World War II, allowing "cash and carry" purchases of arms by belligerents, a policy favoring Britain and France.

In 1942, during World War II, Axis forces retreated from El Alamein in North Africa in a major victory for British forces commanded by Lt. Gen. Bernard Montgomery.

In 1980, Republican Dwight D. Eisenhower was elected president, defeating Democrat Adlai Stevenson. The highly secretive National Security Agency came into existence.

In 1964, comedian Lenny Bruce was convicted by a three-judge panel in New York of obscenity charges stemming from his performances at the Cafe Au Go Go in Greenwich Village. (The club's owner, Howard Solomon, was also found guilty, but had his conviction overturned; Bruce died before his appeal was decided, but he received a pardon in 2003 from New York Gov. George Pataki.)

In 1979, the Iran hostage crisis began as militants stormed the United States Embassy in Tehran, seizing its occupants; for some, it was the start of 444 days of captivity.

In 1980, Republican Ronald Reagan won the White House as he defeated President Jimmy Carter by a strong margin.

In 1991, Ronald Reagan opened his presidential library in Simi Valley, California; in attendance were President George H.W. Bush and former Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald R. Ford and Richard Nixon — the first-ever gathering of five past and present U.S. chief executives.

In 1995, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a right-wing Israeli minutes after attending a festive peace rally.

In 2008, Democrat Barack Obama was elected the first black president of

the United States, defeating Republican John McCain.

**Ten years ago:** Following his re-election victory, President George W. Bush pledged to aggressively pursue major changes in Social Security, the tax code and medical malpractice awards. It was revealed that Elizabeth Edwards, wife of former Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards, had been diagnosed with breast cancer the same day her husband and Sen. John Kerry conceded the 2004 presidential race. (Mrs. Edwards died of the disease in Dec. 2010 at age 61.)**Five years ago:** An Italian judge convicted 23 Americans in absentia along with two Italians in the kidnapping of an Egyptian terror suspect, delivering the first legal convictions anywhere in the world against people involved in the CIA's extraordinary renditions program. The New York Yankees won the World Series, beating the defending champion Philadelphia Phillies 7-3 in Game 6 behind Hideki Matsui's record-tying six RBIs. Former NBA referee Tim Donaghy was released after serving most of a 15-month sentence in a gambling scandal.**One year ago:** Ousted Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi, refusing to wear a prisoner jumpsuit, entered the dock at the start of his trial on murder charges in a dark suit, defiantly questioning the legitimacy of the court and proclaiming himself still Egypt's leader. In Tehran's largest anti-U.S. rally in years, tens of thousands of demonstrators joined in chants of "death to America" as hard-liners directed a major show of resolve against President Hassan Rouhani's outreach to Washington.**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Doris Roberts is 84. Actress Loretta Swit is 77. Rhythm-and-blues singer Harry Elston (Friends of Distinction) is 76. Blues singer Delbert McClinton is 74. Former first lady Laura Bush is 68. Actress Markie Post is 64. Rock singer-musician Chris Difford (Squeeze) is 60. Country singer Kim Forester (The Forester Sisters) is 54. Actress-comedian Kathy Griffin is 54. Actor Ralph Macchio is 53. "Survivor" host Jeff Probst is 53. Rock singer-musician Wayne Static (Static-X) is 49. Actor Matthew McConaughey is 45. Rapper-producer Sean "Puff" Combs is 45. Talk show host Bethenny Frankel is 44. Soul/jazz singer Gregory Porter is 43. Rhythm-and-blues singer Shawn Rivera (Az Yet) is 43. Actress Heather Tom is 39. Rhythm-and-blues/gospel singer George Huff is 34. Actress Gillian Zinser (TV: "90210") is 29.**Thought for Today:** "There is no dignity quite so impressive, and no independence quite so important, as living within your means." — President Calvin Coolidge (1872-1933).

## FROM THE BIBLE

And they will not leave one stone upon another in you, because you did not know the time of your visitation. Luke 19:44. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

REGARDLESS OF WHY...

...IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU DO.  
VOTE!

## The Rez Of The Story

## Honoring 'Native Heritage'

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives, "What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose."

"In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 'National American Indian Heritage Month.' Similar proclamations under variants of the name have been issued each year since 1994." — (Library of Congress website).



Vince TWO EAGLES

Richard Taylor, author of Metaphysics, writes: "... whether I am a spirit, or soul, or perhaps only a collection of thoughts and feelings — whatever I am, I cannot doubt my own being, cannot doubt that I am part of the world, even prior to my philosophical reflection on the matter. For surely if I know anything at all, as presumably I do, I know that I exist. There seems to be nothing I could possibly know any better ..."

Although broken, marginalized, yet having gained a "day of recognition," Native Americans still exist. We are still here — speaking our respective languages; occupying our traditional homelands; sharing our Mother Earth's oxygen with our brethren and struggling to reconcile our history now convergent with that of the immigrants who call themselves American. Perhaps it is in the future we can explore new ideas about what will shape Native American's destiny.

Thus it is that Lenore A. Stiffarm and Phil Lane, Jr. (both Native American authors) came to pen the following called, "The Future of Native America":

"In many ways the future of Native North America hinges on the posing of a lengthy series of questions. The first, and perhaps most impor-

tant, issue is whether American Indians will continue to allow themselves to be defined mainly by their colonizers, in exclusive racial/familial terms (as "tribes), or whether they will (re)assume responsibility for advancing the more general and coherently political definition of themselves they once held, as nations defining membership/citizenship in terms of culture, socialization and commitment to the good of the group. Put another way, the central question is whether Indians can recover in any meaningful way their age-old and inclusive traditions of bringing "outsiders" — whether from other native peoples, or from entirely different races — into their membership by way of marriage, birth, adoption and naturalization.

"Hence it is demonstrably possible to be inclusive without eradicating traditionalism."

"... It is entirely possible that the next 100 years could see a veritable rebirth of Native North America, one that is autonomous, self-determining and self-defining, one in which indigenous laws and the indigenous world view once again hold sway over the ways in which people inhabit the environment of this continent. Where there is possibility, there is hope that provides the core of motivation to struggle. In a way, this has been the history of the native peoples of this land for the past three centuries and more: always envisioning the possibilities that rest beyond the realm of the lies that have been imposed upon us, always struggling to attain a future for our children that is better and more true than the one we have been forced to inherit. Contrary to the non-Indian academics who have been predicting that we were on the verge of vanishing for the past 150 years, we are still here. We take pride in our survival against all odds. And we take heart in the vision which is our future."

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...

## Closing Of The American Mind

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

You can't handle the truth. There is a temptation to take that line from Jack Nicholson — snarled at Tom Cruise in "A Few Good Men" — as the moral of the story, the lesson to be learned from a new study on trustworthiness and the news media.

The study, conducted by the non-partisan Pew Research Center, informs us that America's least-trusted news source is conservative radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh, rated unreliable by almost 40 percent of all Americans. The also conservative Fox "News" follows closely at 37 percent. So America's least-trusted news sources are also its most popular; Limbaugh hosts the number one show on radio and Fox is the highest-rated cable news outlet.

It gets better. Pew tells us America's most trusted news source is CNN; the network that eschews any ideological identifier is considered reliable by 54 percent of us. Yet for as much as we supposedly trust it, we don't seem to like it very much. Its ratings — despite a mild resurgence in recent months — are but a fraction of Fox's and it is undergoing massive layoffs.

For what it's worth, there's evidence to support America's perception of who is and is not trustworthy. PunditFact, an offshoot of PolitFact, the Pulitzer Prize-winning fact-checking website, has issued a report card on the truthfulness of broadcast pundits by network. It's an imperfect measure, but the results are still compelling. Over 60 percent of Fox pundit statements rated by PunditFact have been found to be some flavor of false. CNN? Just 22 percent.

If all this sounds like a commercial for the network of holograms and missing plane obsessions, it isn't. Rather, it's a lament for the closing of the American mind.

There is an axiom that he who builds the best mousetrap enjoys the greatest success. But if that's true, how is it the greatest successes in a business measured by trustworthiness are those entities judged least trustworthy of all? Maybe the answer is that



Leonard PITTS

conservative hardliners are more rabid in support of those who validate their views than the rest of us are in pursuit of simple truth.

In a nation where political discourse is increasingly a facts-optional exercise and reality now comes in shades of red and blue, that's hardly reassuring.

Two years ago, at the request of yours truly, the people at Nielsen crunched some numbers. They found that in times of major breaking news — the examples used were the Columbine shooting, the Sept. 11 attacks, the commencement of the Iraq War, the Japanese tsunami and the death of Michael Jackson — ratings for all three cable news outlets tend to rise. But, almost without exception, the most dramatic spikes on a percentage basis are enjoyed by CNN. The week of Sept. 11, its ratings rose by 800 percent. No other network came close.

In other words, when something big has happened and people need to know what's going on, they know where to go. They go where they can trust.

But on a routine day, many Americans, for as much as they will say otherwise, really don't want to be informed so much as to be confirmed in their political biases, in the partisan version of truth that explains the world to them while making the fewest demands on intellect — and conscience. They need the "death panels" and "anchor" babies, the birther controversies and supposedly rampant voter fraud, the "threats" of sharia law and Obama-caused Ebola, the whole rickety structure of falsehood and fear upon which conservatism has built its alternate reality. That's the whole reason Fox exists — and CNN barely does.

And it's why Nicholson's quote, tempting as it is, provides no proper moral for this story.

It's not that we can't handle the truth. It's that some of us prefer the lie.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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## YOUR LETTERS

## Fast Reply

Laurie Lacroix, Yankton

I agree wholeheartedly with Phyllis Schwandt's letter on slowing down (Press &amp; Dakotan, Oct. 20). I also live on Highway 50 west of Yankton and must make a left-hand turn onto my property. As I'm slowing down or

stopped on the road, I'm passed many times on the shoulder by people still going 60 mph. I have been passed on the left even though my turn signal is on!

Yes, let's all slow down, pay attention and be more courteous — the life you save might be that of someone you know or love.

WRITE US: Letters, Yankton Press &amp; Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078