

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Gay Marriage, Pot Not Sure Things

MCCOOK DAILY GAZETTE (Nov. 7): Gay marriage and legalized marijuana are the wave of the future, right?

Well, maybe or maybe not. And it's not just because of the results of Tuesday's mid-term election.

Since the Supreme Court struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act in 2013, a number of state bans on gay marriage have been struck down.

But now the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati overturned lower court rulings against bans in Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky, voting 2-1 that the issue should be settled through the democratic process and not the judicial.

One wonders why the same principle should not be applied to other issues, such as abortion.

The gay marriage issue will doubtless end up in the Supreme Court.

We're not sure how, but the marijuana issue is bound to wind up in the high court as well, despite more states legalizing its recreational use in Alaska, Oregon and the District of Columbia.

Alaska and Oregon will set up regulated cannabis systems similar to Colorado and Washington, but D.C. voters favored a non-commercial system which legalizes the growing and possession of small amounts of marijuana.

But legal marijuana dealers in Colorado and Washington are finding a major obstacle in the form of the IRS.

A federal tax code amendment from the War on Drugs days, Section 280E, specifically denies tax credits or exemptions to businesses "trafficking" in controlled substances, which the federal government still considers marijuana to be.

As a result, some pot businesses are paying as much as 90 percent of their revenue in federal taxes.

Many potential marijuana businesses are staying out of the industry as a result, and many of those that try it are going out of business within a year or two as a result of the tax.

It will be interesting to see how the Republicans who now control Congress will respond to both issues — will social conservatism, free market advocacy or simple political pragmatism carry the day?

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 kelly.hertz@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, Nov. 17, the 321st day of 2014. There are 44 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 17, 1889, the Union Pacific Railroad Co. began direct, daily railroad service between Chicago and Portland, Oregon, as well as Chicago and San Francisco.

On this date: In 1558, Elizabeth I acceded to the English throne upon the death of Queen Mary.

In 1800, Congress held its first session in Washington in the partially completed Capitol building.

In 1869, the Suez Canal opened in Egypt.

In 1917, French sculptor Auguste Rodin died in Meudon at age 77.

In 1934, Lyndon Baines Johnson married Claudia Alta Taylor, better known as Lady Bird, in San Antonio, Texas.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman, in an address to a special session of Congress, called for emergency aid to Austria, Italy and France. (The aid was approved the following month.)

In 1968, NBC outraged football fans by cutting away from the closing minutes of a New York Jets-Oakland Raiders game to begin the TV special "Heidi" on schedule. (After being taken off the air, the Raiders came from behind to beat the Jets, 43-32.)

In 1973, President Richard Nixon told Associated Press managing editors in Orlando, Florida: "People have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I'm not a crook."

In 1979, Iran's Ayatollah Khomeini ordered the release of 13 black and/or female American hostages being held at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

In 1987, a federal jury in Denver convicted two white supremacists of civil rights violations in the 1984 slaying of radio talk show host Alan Berg. (Both men later died in prison.)

In 1989, the Walt Disney animated feature "The Little Mermaid" opened in wide release.

In 1994, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Sunset Boulevard" opened on Broadway with Glenn Close as faded movie star Norma Desmond.

Ten years ago: It was announced that Kmart was acquiring Sears in a surprise \$11 billion deal. In Washington

state, officials said Republican gubernatorial candidate Dino Rossi led Democratic opponent Christine Gregoire by only 261 votes. (After three counts of the ballots, Gregoire was declared the winner by just 129 votes out of 2.9 million cast.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama held formal, closed-door talks in Beijing with Chinese President Hu Jintao. Sarah Palin's autobiography "Going Rogue" was released; 1 million copies sold in less than two weeks.

One year ago: Intense thunderstorms and tornadoes swept across the Midwest, causing extensive damage in several central Illinois communities, killing more than half a dozen people. A Tatarstan Airlines Boeing 737 crashed 450 miles east of Moscow, killing all 50 people on board. Doris Lessing 94, an independent and often irascible author who won the Nobel Prize in 2007, died in London.

Today's Birthdays: Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., is 80. Rock musician Gerry McGee (The Ventures) is 77. Singer Gordon Lightfoot is 76. Singer-songwriter Bob Gaudio is 73. Movie director Martin Scorsese is 72. Actress Lauren Hutton is 71. Actor-director Danny DeVito is 70. "Saturday Night Live" producer Lorne Michaels is 70. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Tom Seaver is 70. Movie director Roland Joffe is 69. Former Democratic National Chairman Howard Dean is 66. House Speaker John Boehner is 65. Actor Stephen Root is 63. Rock musician Jim Babjak (The Smithereens) is 57. Actress Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio is 56. Actor William Moses is 55. Entertainer RuPaul is 54. Actor Dylan Walsh is 51. National Security Adviser Susan Rice is 50. Actress Sophie Marceau is 48. Actress-model Daisy Fuentes is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Ronnie DeVoe (New Edition; Bell Biv DeVoe) is 47. Rock musician Ben Wilson (Blues Traveller) is 47. Actor David Ramsey is 43. Actor Leonard Roberts is 42. Actress Leslie Bibb is 41. Actor Brandon Call is 38. Country singer Aaron Lines is 37. Actress Rachel McAdams is 36. Rock musician Isaac Hanson (Hanson) is 34. Actor Justin Cooper is 26. Musician Reid Perry (The Band Perry) is 26. Actress Raquel Castro is 20.

Thought for Today: "The upper classes are merely a nation's past; the middle class is its future." — Ayn Rand, Russian-American author (1905-1982).

FROM THE BIBLE

So the Lord said to Moses, "Take Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him." Numbers 27:18. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Mandate?

Paul Harens, Yankton

The Republicans are in charge. However, remember this is the lowest voter turnout in 70 years, don't yell "mandate!" yet.

The most basic observation one can make is that the VOTERS will be watching.

The one contentious issue is that of Affordable Health Care Act. Republicans in Congress (Mike Rounds included) want to repeal it. They say they will replace the AHCA. What are they replacing it with? Or will they just delete the millions of people's policies that are in the program?

The S.D. Legislature: the biggest issue wasn't even in Gov. Daugaard's top four issues. That issue is education. State government took over funding in the 1990's. Since 1969, funding for education has decreased more than 20 percent. More than 20 percent of school districts started school missing teachers in the classroom. Every state surrounding is \$10,000 (or more) in pay and benefits. Governor blames

the schools. It is not the school districts fault. What are you going to do about it?

Gov. D refuses to take the Medicaid money (backed by Republican legislators). Some 40,000 S.D. citizens are denied care. The New England Journal of Medicine reports that this rejection has resulted in 173 lives lost each year. These deaths are in your ball park. Save lives or stop AHC Act, which are you going to do?

The XL Pipeline is an issue for both Congress and Legislature. The Canadians want it across the U.S. and yet, the Canadian people won't let them build it to the west coast of Canada. Did you ever ask why? It equals no jobs in S.D. No one got any the last pipeline they put through the state. They had a major spill in S.D. (more than 20,000 barrels) and, last I heard, it's not cleaned up yet.

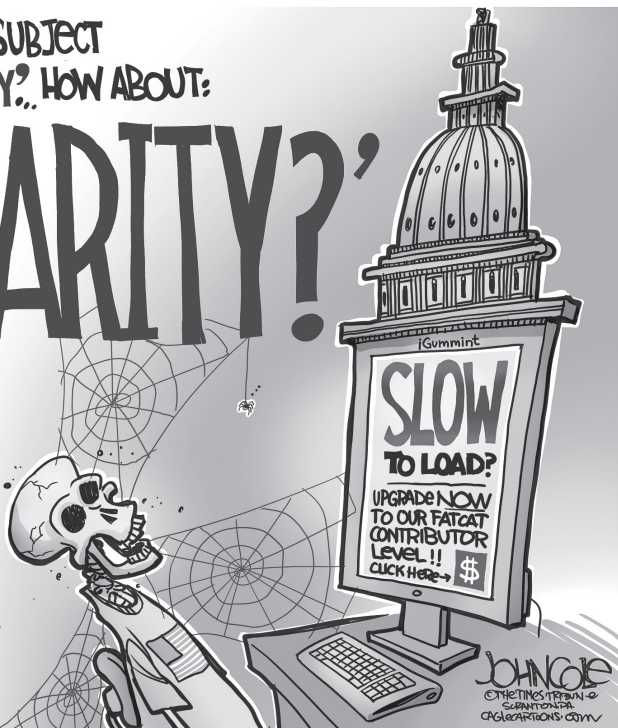
OK, Republicans, you are in charge. Two last notes: 1) how much cannon fodder do you want to give Hillary Clinton; and 2) after the election, I changed my registration from Republican to Independent. Can you tell why?

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF 'NET NEUTRALITY'.. HOW ABOUT:

'POL PARITY?'

THE PRINCIPLE THAT ACCESS TO THE AMERICAN POLITICAL PROCESS SHOULD BE OPEN AND EQUAL.

('NET NEUTRALITY' WOULD LIKELY TAKE CARE OF ITSELF, THEN. :))



Capitol Notebook | Bob Mercer

Dem Shortfalls Aided GOP's S.D. Sweep

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — To win elections in South Dakota you need candidates. And those candidates need gravity, pizzazz, message, money and voters.

Republicans had more candidates and more of those elements on Nov. 4.

Near the end our house received at least one phone call daily, with a different message each time, urging a vote for Republicans.

We heard little from Democrats, other than Rick Weiland for U.S. Senate, and mail from the local Democratic candidate for state Senate.

The Republican in our house is a woman (as a newspaper reporter, I purposely don't vote). Yet our house heard nothing from the Democratic women seeking statewide office.

By comparison, we heard a number of times from Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem.

Only a few exceptions kept Nov. 4 from being a total wipeout of Democrats by Republicans.

Democrats, working with organized labor groups, won a statewide ballot measure raising the minimum wage to \$8.50 from \$7.25 per hour. It also requires an increase each year tied to the consumer price index.

Democrats lost ground in the Legislature but still won more seats than they should have, based on voter registration in the 35 legislative districts drawn by Republicans after the 2010 census.

Democratic legislators Jim Peterson of Revillo, Bernie Hunhoff of Yankton, Ray Ring of Vermillion, Julie Bartling of Burke, Scott Parsley of Madison and Peggy Gibson of Huron won in Republican areas.

But Democrats no longer match the collective strength of the county-level and state-level Republican organizations.

South Dakota Republicans chose a serious, tested, accomplished and fiercely competi-

Michelle Malkin

America Has Become One Nation Under Godlessness

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

Cheating. Bullying. Cybersexting. Hazing. Molestation. Suicide. Drug abuse. Murder. Scanning the headlines of the latest scandals in America's schools, it's quite clear that the problem is not that there's too much God in students' lives.

The problem is that there isn't nearly enough of Him.

With the malfunction of moral seatbelts and the erosion of moral guardrails, too many kids have turned to a pantheon of false gods, crutches and palliatives. They're obsessed with "Slender Man" and "Vampire Diaries." Alex from Target's hair and Rihanna's tattoos. Overpriced basketball sneakers and under-dressed reality stars. Choking games and YouTube games. Gossip and hookups. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat.

It's all about selfies over self-control, blurred lines over bright lines.

In a metastatic youth culture of soullessness and rootlessness, the idea of high school teens voluntarily using their free time to pray and sing hymns is not just a breath of fresh air. It's salvation.

But leave it to secularists run amok to punish faithful young followers of Christ.

Last week, the Alliance Defending Freedom filed a religious freedom lawsuit against Pine Creek High School here in my adopted hometown of Colorado Springs. Chase Windebank, a senior at the District 20 school, had been convening an informal prayer group for the past three years "in a quiet area to sing Christian religious songs, pray and to discuss issues of the day from a religious perspective."

Windebank and his friends weren't disrupting classroom time. They shared their Christian faith during an open period earned by high-achieving students. Other kids used the time to play on their phones, eat snacks, get fresh air outside or schedule meetings for a wide variety of both official and unofficial school clubs.

A Pine Creek choir teacher had given permission to Windebank and his fellow worshipers to meet in an empty music practice room. No complaints ever ensued from other students or faculty. For three years, the group encountered no problems, according to ADF's complaint. But in late September, Windebank

tive leader in Craig Lawrence as their state chairman.

His speech in Fort Pierre two winters ago concentrated on the opportunity for Republicans to sweep to victories in every statewide office in the 2014 elections.

Lawrence made loans to get the Republican state committee out of debt left from 2012. Gov. Dennis Daugaard's re-election committee assisted with five- and six-figure contributions.

Then Republicans fielded candidates for the nine statewide offices up for election. They won every one.

Democrats conceded attorney general, auditor and commissioner of school and public lands.

The lands office was an open seat. Democrats held it under Curt Johnson and Bryce Healy from 1991 through 2006. Republican Ryan Brunner won Nov. 4 in his first attempt at statewide election.

The secretary of state office also was open. Republican state Sen. Shantel Krebs declared her candidacy before Republican Jason Gant decided he wouldn't seek re-election. The Democrats eventually fielded Angelia Schultz, a novice who had lost in a June primary for a state Senate nomination.

Democrats ran another novice, Corinna Robinson, for U.S. House against Noem, and state Rep. Susan Wismer from a reliably safe Democratic district made her first statewide race, challenging Daugaard.

Democrats saw voter registration plunge in the past six years. And going farther back, Democrats once had superior voter turnout efforts. That's how Tom Daschle in 1986 and Tim Johnson in 1996 won U.S. Senate seats.

Now Republicans have the better voter turnout