

# The Press & Dakotan

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**OPINION**

## Task Force Ideas: The Easy Part?

South Dakota's blue ribbon task force on teacher salaries has made its recommendations for lifting the state's rate of teacher pay out of last place nationally. It's an intriguing plan that would cost an estimated \$75 million but hoist the state's pay from 50th in the nation up to about 39th, which would make it far more competitive with surrounding states.

But formulating these proposals, based on numerous meetings held throughout the summer, may have been the easy part. The hard part will be selling this idea in Pierre this winter to lawmakers who have for years presided over South Dakota's dead-last national ranking.

Perhaps that's not a particularly fair accusation to make — but the nagging situation can no longer be ignored, and there are reasons why this state has ranked last in the country for many years.

The proposal by the task force calls for raising the pay of the state's 9,300 teachers by an average of \$8,000, which would be a 20 percent rise. However, task force co-chair Sen. Deb Soholt, R-Sioux Falls, said the plan wouldn't require that every teacher receive a raise; that would be determined by the individual school districts, and it could also depend on each district's situation.

That's all fine, but the real question, of course, is HOW the state will come up with \$75 million to pay for this boost.

Given the news recently that state revenue appears to be soft, that's a valid question to ask. According to Soholt, increasing the state's sales and use taxes might be the best way to raise such revenue. A half-penny hike in the state sales tax could produce about \$105 million, less about \$30 million that would be required from such a move to go toward property tax relief. That would still leave \$75 million for the proposal.

Nevertheless, there's still a long way to go for this idea to reach reality. There are other pressing needs in the state, including highway infrastructure, that must also be addressed. And no one knows for certain at this moment what kind of money will be available for the governor's budget proposals come December, let alone by next March when the hard figures are due.

Still, we at least have a roadmap of sorts that could offer a long-overdue solution to a problem that is plaguing South Dakota — that is, not just the schools, but every person in every town and farm. It will likely be the blueprint that is pointed to this winter and several winters to come as the pay issue is addressed. How actively state officials pursue it remains to be seen.

knh

## Citizen Of The Year

November is here, which means it's time again to begin our quest for nominees for this year's Yankton "Citizen of the Year" honor. The award was started in 1970 as a means of recognizing an individual (or couple) who have committed their time and energy to make Yankton a better place.

The list of past winners, shown below, covers a broad spectrum of background and personalities, from coaches to politicians, from entrepreneurs to volunteers. It ranges from a former senator, a legendary coach and a great author to people that some of us are only remotely aware of — until we learn of the many wonderful things they do for the people of Yankton.

Mail your nominations to: Citizen of the Year, c/o Yankton Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078; visit www.yankton.net/coy or drop them off at our office. The deadline is Nov. 30.

### PAST HONOREES

1970..... Carl Youngworth	1993..... Hod Nielsen
1971..... Joe Vinatieri	1994..... Millie Wootton
1972..... Jeff Scott	1995..... Tom Merrill
1973..... Freeman Otto	1996..... Ted Blakey
1974..... George Bauer	1997..... Bob Karolevitz
1975..... Harold Levinger	1998..... Gladys Woolm
1976..... C.B. McVay	1999..... Dr. Ken Halverson
1977..... Chan Gurney	2000..... Sister Jacquelyn Ernest
1978..... Dorothy Jencks	2001..... Don and Dores Allan
1979..... Lucy and J. Laiten Weed	2002..... Beulah Larson
1980..... Irene Scott	2003..... Ken Jones
1981..... Sister Jerome Schmitt	2004..... Arletta Tisher
1982..... Laddie Cimpl	2005..... Larry and Kathy Hintgen
1983..... T.H. Sattler	2006..... Don and Peg Schiedel
1984..... Elizabeth Rempp	2007..... Jim Black
1985..... Mary Alice Halverson	2008..... Pauline Rhoades
1986..... Don Dendinger	2009..... Jack and Margaret Lyons
1987..... Bessi Burgi	2010..... Myrtle Andersen
1988..... Don Peterson	2011..... Thomas and Jo Stange
1989..... Frank Yaggie	2012..... Brooks and Vi Ranney
1990..... Willis Stange	2013..... Don and Pam Katterring
1991..... Wynn Speece	2014..... Ben Hanten
1992..... Don Bierle	

### IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Tuesday, Nov. 3, the 307th day of 2015. There are 58 days left in the year. This is Election Day.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Nov. 3, 1900, the first major U.S. automobile show opened at New York's Madison Square Garden under the auspices of the Automobile Club of America.

**On this date:** In 1839, the first Opium War between China and Britain broke out. In 1903, Panama proclaimed its independence from Colombia.

In 1911, the Chevrolet Motor Car Co. was founded in Detroit by Louis Chevrolet and William C. Durant. (The company was acquired by General Motors in 1918.)

In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won a landslide election victory over Republican challenger Alfred M. 'Alf' Landon.

In 1954, the Japanese monster movie "Godzilla" was released by Toho Co.

In 1957, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 2, the second manmade satellite, into orbit; on board was a dog named Laika who was sacrificed in the experiment. In 1964, the Meredith Willson musical "The Unsinkable Molly Brown" opened on Broadway with Tammy Grimes in the title role.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson soundly defeated Republican Barry Goldwater to win a White House term in his own right.

In 1970, Salvador Allende was inaugurated as president of Chile. In 1979, five Communist Workers Party members were killed in a clash with heavily armed Ku Klux Klansmen and neo-Nazis during an anti-Klan protest in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1986, the Iran-Contra affair began to come to light as Ash-Shiraa, a pro-Syrian Lebanese magazine, first broke the story of U.S. arms sales to Iran. In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, was arrested for drowning her two young sons, Michael and Alex, nine days after claiming the children had been abducted by a black carjacker.

**Ten years ago:** Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, pleaded not guilty to a five-count felony indictment in the CIA leak case. (Libby was later convicted, but had his 30-month prison sentence commuted by President George W. Bush.) Merck and Co. won its first court battle over its Vioxx painkiller when a New Jersey state jury found the drugmaker had properly warned consumers about the risks of the medication.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama acknowledged that Democrats had taken "a shellacking" in midterm elections. The Federal Reserve announced a plan to buy \$600 billion in Treasury bonds over the next eight months in an attempt to boost lending and stimulate the economy. Former Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin died in Moscow at age 72.

**One year ago:** Thirteen years after the 9/11 terrorist attack, the resurrected World Trade Center opened for business, marking an emotional milestone for both New Yorkers and the nation. Tom Magliozzi, 77, one half of the brother duo who had hosted National Public Radio's "Car Talk," died near Boston.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Peggy McCay is 88. Actress Lois Smith is 85. Actress Monica Vitti is 84. Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 82. Actor-dancer Ken Berry is 82. Actor Shadove Stevens is 69. Singer Lulu is 67. Comedian-actress Roseanne Barr is 63. Actress Kate Capshaw is 62. Comedian Dennis Miller is 62. Actress Kathy Kinney is 62. Singer Adam Ant is 61. Actor Dolph Lundgren is 58. Rock musician C.J. Pierce (Drowning Pool) is 43. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evgeni Plushenko is 33. Actress Julie Berman (TV: "General Hospital") is 32.

**Thought for Today:** "Love is never merely an amiable tolerance of whatever form human frailty and folly may take." — Josiah Royce, American philosopher (1855-1916).

### FROM THE BIBLE

Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows. Luke 12:7.  
Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



### The Rez Of The Story

# Yes, Indians Had Board Games, Too

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),

The so called "holiday season" has arrived everywhere at once here in our country-yes even in Indian Country. Many families have begun conversations about where they are going to spend Thanksgiving and Christmas, complaints about the out-of-control cost of Xmas gifts are also thrown into the mix for good measure. So be it. But I thought it a bit appropriate to call your attention to an interesting fact of history about what may surprise you as a legitimate subject for possible conversation about the so called "savage" and "ignorant" nature of the indigenous peoples who's savagery and ignorance was of course lifted by the "certainty" of European culture brought here by European immigrants.

One of the more common gifts I noticed families like to give each other during this coming time of year is board games. Yes, I said board games— you know like Monopoly, Scrabble and the like. Well, I got news for you, American Indian people had already invented "board games" without any "help" or "enlightenment" from white America thank you very much.

Case in point—Keoke and Porterfield in their book American Indian Contributions to the World put it this way: "... Patolli and bul, two board games played by ancient Mesoamericans, were engaged in recreationally, as a form of gambling, and for religious purposes. These games, blending strategy and chance, were just as challenging and entertaining as those devised in Europe or Asia. Boards of patolli have been found scratched into buildings floors and on benches at Aztec archaeological sites; the Florentine Codex shows two people playing patolli. (The Aztec Empire was established in what is now Mexico and parts of Mesoamerica in about A.D. 1100.) Although bul is certain to have originated with the Maya, who were playing it by the time the Europeans arrive, no game boards have been found. (Maya culture flourished starting in about 1500 B.C.)"



Vince TWO EAGLES

They go on: "Patolli is often credited with having Aztec origins; however, some archeologists believe that both games are Maya in origin. Patolli boards have been discovered throughout the Maya world."

And they continue: "Both patolli and bul could be played on round or square boards, but the rules were different. Patolli was similar to modern-day backgammon or Parcheesi. Generally it was played on a marked board or bark paper, with beans for counters. The first person to travel around the board and return home safely would be the winner. Whether or not the Aztec originated the game, they played it frequently and bet high stakes on who would win."

Then they tell us: "Bul, the Maya word for playing with dice, utilizing grains of corn for markers and involving throwing other grains of corn that had been burned on one side as dice. Players advanced their markers by throwing the dice. If they landed on a space occupied by another player's marker, or "warrior," they could capture it, then change direction to drag it back to the other end of the board. At the point the opponent's warrior would be officially dead. The game ended when all of one of the player's men had been "killed." When more than two people played, the rules were more complex. Some Maya still play a version of the game today.

"Board games were popular throughout North America as well. Much like modern board games, they were played with dice and counters, or "men," that were moved around a course marked out on a board. For example the Hopi ... played a game called totolopsi, using dice made of two pieces of cane with designs burned into the round side. Players placed stones they called animals on a board marked with a square design, including a number of circles around the perimeter."

Thus the stereotype of Indian people being living out violent and poverty ruled lives, so popular among many white Americans, becomes less and less tenable when you know the rez of the story.

Doksha (later) ...

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Picture This

Ryan Byykkonen, Tyndall

Perhaps my favorite hobby is photography — specifically, taking pictures of abandoned places: Old houses, stores and schools, etc. And sometimes, even entire communities. So many of these small towns were once thriving middle-class communities and are now ghost towns.

As election season ramps up and two major parties in this county vie for the middle-class vote, I cannot help but think of those once thriving communities now abandoned and forgotten. The real shame is the culpability of both parties. Sure, they both do a good job blaming one another. From the Democrats, you hear it is greedy Republicans and their corporate cronies that wiped out the little guy; from the Republicans, you hear that it is the Democrats and their laundry list of regulations, licensing, inspection and oversight that put the little guy out of business. The sad truth is that they are both right.

The big box store and multi-national corporations, in collusion with its government operations on both sides of the aisle, have rigged the tax codes, the licensing and the rules, thus stomping out the competition ... the little guy. And while this is great for my hobby, it has never been great for the middle class.

So thank you, Democrats and Republicans, for providing me with a ton of photographic opportunities. But don't for a second think I'm going to vote for either one of you. You represent the establishment and legislate for your own benefit and the benefit of those who have bought and paid for your allegiance. You've

#### Poll Results

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

##### LATEST RESULTS:

**Do you support the development of a rail park at Napa Junction?**  
Yes.....56%  
No.....33%  
Not sure.....11%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST.....240**

The Press & 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:

**Have you ever been injured in an automobile accident?**  
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

sold the middle class, the little guy and the individual down the river. You've crushed the small business. You've sold out and padded your own wallet on the backs of an over-worked, over-taxed, over-regulated populace. The income gap has grown. The dollar has shrunk and entire communities have been swallowed up by your greed.

In the end I suspect the people will eventually wise up to your two party blame game. I just can't help but wonder how many new ghost towns and abandoned buildings I will get to visit before that day arrives.

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