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OPINION

Vision For Highway 52 Taking Shape

The development of Highway 52 west of Yankton is a key component to the local economy. Thus, having at least a vision in place to guide that development is essential.

That vision seems to be coming a little more in focus, according to the discussion at a joint city-county meeting held last week.

During the meeting, Yankton County zoning administrator Pat Garrity said that a zoning overlay for the area between Majestic Bluffs, located on the west edge of Yankton, out to the marina area. The overlay would basically provide the nuts and bolts for the area's development in regards to lighting, landscaping, structure design and parking.

The details are still being worked out and should be submitted for consideration by the County Commission in late winter or early next spring.

This is an important development in the structuring of the Highway 52 corridor, which is currently a patchwork of ideas without a cohesive, overall vision. It's a deficiency — which is a fair description of the situation — that county officials have been working on recently.

The overlay would serve as a sort of template for how properties are to be developed. It's not the same as zoning, which would designate specific areas for specific uses, but it is a necessary component to the project.

Nevertheless, the overlay could have some potent impact of its own. Garrity pointed out that the overlay could encourage storage facilities to be set back farther from the roadway while "more retail or more active" businesses could be put up front, giving a much better overall presentation to the area.

The Highway 52 corridor has not really been tapped to its full potential, and yet it is the main artery that serves a lake area that is teeming with visitors in the summer and residents year-round. It is currently a random collection of dwellings, businesses, RV parks and farmland. It's also an area that is seeing more development with each new year. As such, it is an area in need of an overall vision for development and growth.

With that in mind, corridor planning is under way, with county officials seeking input from the public about his this area should grow in the future. While infrastructure issues are a pressing concern — as it always is in any area of development — the need to have a plan to facilitate growth in this area to the satisfaction of most everyone is essential.

An overlay plan would be a step forward. The recommendations from a planning committee working with it should be interesting and offer some insight into where this vital piece of the county is headed next.

kmh



The Rez Of The Story

Facing 'Homogeneity'

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Happy Neewollah, my relatives. I trust you will make sure everyone within the sphere of your care (including yourself, of course) will be safe and sound as we commence with the tricking or the treating this Halloween season.

Lately, I've noticed that there seems to be another stereotype of Indian people that bears some comment. This stereotype is one I've observed even Indian people taking part in, and that's this notion that Native people somehow have this special corner on the truth when it comes to our so-called religious practices. It's as if all Indian people understand metaphysical questions in the same manner. You will hear these "Newagers" refer to what they call "Native Spirituality" as "the way."

I call you attention this week to some thoughts penned by Jack Utter in his book "American Indians: Answers to Today's Questions." It rightfully points out that, although there may be similarities, there are also vast differences in Native religious thought and these "New Age" non-Indians who take and teach from tribal cultures of American Indians do themselves and the Native people a great disservice:

"We call them "poodle people," you know, "Dances With Poodles." Two Navajo women and one White Mountain Apache, in response to the 'New Age' question ...

Obviously, some Indian people (most that I've spoken with) view the "New Agers" as just silly. However, if a non-Indian's appropriation of culture and religion is more than minimal, many Indian people are greatly offended. On the other hand, there are some Indians who have taken economic and social advantage of



Vince TWO EAGLES

the New Age phenomenon by becoming participants or even leaders of New Age groups.

Normally organizations like "The Rainbow Tribe" are viewed with distain in much of Indian Country. And publications of New Agers, such as Ed "Eagle Man" McGaa's "Rainbow Tribe: Ordinary People Journeying on the Red Road" or Winfred Noe's "Native American Astrology" (translated from German), are frequently scoffed at.

On the lighter side, reproduced below is selected material from an anonymous email that recently circulated through Indian Country in the U.S. and Canada. There is a message mixed with the humor.

If you spend too much time around American Indians, you will discover that we have a deep dislike for "New Age Crystal Waving Twinkies" who shamelessly appropriate, distort, misuse and disrespect our cultures. The following test will help you determine if you're a twinkie. You might be a twinkie if:

Your Indian spirit guide only speaks English. You gave your dog an "authentic" Indian name. Your great grandmother was a Cherokee princess. You were a Cherokee princess—in a former life. You mistook an Italian man (Iron Eyes Cody) for an Indian chief. You are "part Cherokee" but you don't quite know how or how much. You think Indians should put up with your New Age nonsense because, after all, "We are all related." You had a dream in which you discovered your true name is "Spirit of the Red Wolf Who Runs with Crystals."

Homogeneity? I think not, my friend. Diversity is the rule of nature.

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

Good Sense And Ebolaphobia

BY JACQUELYNN FLOYD

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Dear World:
Greetings from Dallas! Since we seem to be top of mind for pretty much everybody on the planet right now, I'd like to share a few facts.

Far-fetched though it might seem, we are not all running through the streets, yodeling in terror and ripping the hair from our scalps. We are not duct-taping doors and windows, we aren't wearing gas masks to the grocery store and we're not stockpiling any more weapons than is usual for these parts.

We are using public transportation, dining in restaurants, sending our kids to school and drinking city water right out of the tap.

We are not unhinged by Ebolaphobia. Well, most of us aren't. There are exceptions, such as an unidentified caller who left me a voice mail this week. He expressed a kind of grim satisfaction that all his darkest suspicions about secret government plots and conspiracies are finally being proved.

He let loose with a typhoon of invective against Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, Mayor Mike Rawlings, Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, the president, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, immigrants, Africa, Doctors Without Borders and — his voice conveying icy air quotes — "science."

"What will it take for you to understand they are lying to us?" he demanded. "Why don't you get that?"

It's too bad I don't know his name, since we might have gotten together for a cup of joe and hashed over lies vs. facts. There's some crazy stuff floating around out there.

Such as: A family of five in Navarro County have all been stricken with the virus! (Hoax, check Snopes). Presbyterian has six other confirmed cases they're not telling us about! (Presby foolishly compromised its record for strict accuracy early in this crisis, but there's no reason for them to hide confirmed cases at this late date). The virus was invented in a secret government lab as a form of population control! (Too crazy to merit discussion). Ebola has "gone airborne" and they don't want us to know because they're afraid we'll panic!

What is this panic "they" fear more than death, contagion, mass graves and bleeding eyeballs? I dunno, but "they're" not doing a very good job of controlling it. Because in my book, panic includes spreading crazy rumors, scaring

the bejeezus out of your neighbors and wallowing in bunker-brained xenophobia. Panic is already way, way out of the barn.

Well, at least for some people, like my poor caller and a few of the more excitable emailers I have heard from. I think there's a point at which, if people want to believe that the Ebola virus can pass through walls like armor-piercing bullets, there's no talking them out of it.

So far, the people who were infected by "Patient Zero" Thomas Eric Duncan are the very people who science tells us are most at risk: Selfless front-line health care workers in direct contact with patients who are clearly sick and symptomatic.

We need to do all we can to help the people who are sick.

We could also use something that might serve as an antidote to fear.

One of the best messages I received this week was a suggestion from a worshipper at Wilshire Baptist Church that I review a video of a 20-minute sermon delivered last week by its senior pastor, George Mason.

Duncan's fiancée, Louise Troh, is a member of Wilshire. Since the beginning of this crisis, Mason's calm demeanor has been a powerful antidote to panic, both for his church and for anybody else who can use his message. I wish there was a TV channel playing him in a continuous loop.

"Fear is understandable," Mason told me this week. "We are made with an instinct for survival. That is God-given, and if you are not a spiritual person, we can just say it's a function of the hypothalamus."

We are also equipped, he pointed out, with a developed cerebral cortex. That allows us to choose reason and good sense, and to care for one another as dearly as we care for ourselves.

I don't think I'm unhinged, but I suppose I'm as anxious as the average dude or dudette in this town right now. Hearing George Mason made me feel better.

"Sometimes, we just need to stop and listen to what we're telling ourselves," he said. "There are values higher than fear and self-preservation."

So don't worry about us. The weather's beautiful — wish you were here!

Jacquelynne Floyd is a columnist for the Dallas Morning News. Readers may send her email at jfloyd@dallasnews.com.

YOUR LETTERS

A Ray Of 'Hope'

Karen Edler, Yankton Team HOPE

It's that time again, where the symbolic color of pink reminds us that it is Breast Cancer Awareness month. It reminds us of the evil disease that takes so much from so many people. It leaves behind many scars, physically and emotionally, and unfortunately, many lives each year. It symbolizes the importance of scheduling that yearly physical and expresses the importance of a mammogram, because not always can a tumor be detected by a physical exam. So, for ourselves, our daughters, moms, sisters and friends, please make that call. If you are unable to pay for an exam, please call me (605-857-0133) and Team

HOPE will assist you with that.

I want to stress too, that not only is October Breast Cancer Awareness month, but it is Liver Cancer Awareness as well. Too many times, the different types of cancer aren't socially recognized as significantly as Breast Cancer. So please, let's not get so wrapped up in the campaign of "pink," but rather remember that cancer is cancer, and no matter what type it is, every day of every month should be a reminder that there are so many individuals, young and old, fighting hard against this horrific disease. Too many fight so terribly hard, but sadly lose the strength to continue. Let's dedicate every single month to all cancer survivors, the fighters and especially to the memory of those that have lost the fight.

FROM THE BIBLE

This man receives sinners and eats with them. Luke 15:2. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis