

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION

Napa's Promise: Time For Action

A decision last week by the South Dakota Transportation Commission to grant a loan to Yankton County that paves the way (literally) for the development of the Napa Junction property is a crucial step forward for the long-discussed project — and it puts the pressure on local entities to do something with it.

The commission voted 7-0 to extend to Yankton County a \$6 million loan to be used to construct an industrial-grade service road between Highway 50 west of Yankton to a proposed rail park which would feature a grain terminal built by Dakota Plains Ag Center north-west of town. The proposed park sits at a junction of the Burlington

In order to make this rail park work and to pay off the state loan, other businesses have to come in. That means recruitment and courtship will be needed.

Northwestern Santa Fe line and the state-owned Napa-Plate line, the local stretch of which has been dormant for many years. The awarding of the loan addresses one of the biggest issues brought up last year when the County Commission debated the Dakota Plains proposal. Many commissioners and members of the public expressed concerns about what the increased traffic would do to the roads, and subsequently, how those roads

would be maintained. (As last week's referendum reflected, funding for road and bridge maintenance is a sore spot in local budgeting.) The proposal ultimately wilted, and Dakota Plains turned its sights ultimately to a location in Bon Homme County. (Thereafter, the Yankton County Commission underwent a major turnover — with four new commissioners joining the five-person board — and talks with Dakota Plains were revived.)

The \$6 million loan features a 1 percent payment over a term of 20 years, with a 10-year balloon payment. However, Dakota Plains' development would not be enough to help the county pay back the entirety of the loan. Other development will be needed in the rail park to generate the tax revenue necessary to pay back the loan.

And that puts the ball in the hands of the County Commission and, presumably, other local interested parties such as Yankton Area Progressive Growth.

For a long time, we have heard a lot of talk about the potential of the Napa Junction site. Dakota Plains has weathered a lot of questions, concerns and, at times, contempt from the County Commission in pursuing this matter. County officials have been interested in developing this area, but the road issues have been a major concern, and fairly so. For its part, the county has also been frustrated with Dakota Plains at times in regards to how it has handled this matter.

Now, both sides seem to finally be on the same page.

But for Yankton County, there's more than one page to this story. In order to make this rail park work and to pay off the state loan, other businesses have to come in. That means recruitment and courtship will be needed. It will require aggressiveness by local interests. The will to make this happen has long been promised; now it must be demonstrated.

So, this Napa Junction story is far from over. But the narrative does appear to be pointed in a promising direction.

knh

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you support legalizing and developing the production of industrial hemp?

Yes.....52%

No.....45%

Not sure.....3%

TOTAL VOTES CAST268

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:

Do you think the ongoing congressional investigation into the 2012 Benghazi attack is politically motivated?

To cast your vote in the **PRESS & DAKOTAN'S** Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, October 6, the 279th day of 2015. There are 86 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On October 6, 1973, war erupted in the Middle East as Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel during the Yom Kippur holiday. (Israel, initially caught off-guard, suffered heavy losses before rebounding and pushing back the Arab forces before a cease-fire finally took hold in the nearly three-week conflict.)

On this date: In 1683, thirteen families from Krefeld, Germany, arrived in Philadelphia to begin Germantown, one of America's oldest settlements.

In 1884, the Naval War College was established in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1921, the musical "Bombo," starring Al Jolson, opened on Broadway.

In 1927, the era of talking pictures arrived with the opening of "The Jazz Singer" starring Al Jolson, a movie featuring both silent and sound-synchronized sequences.

In 1939, in a speech to the Reichstag, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler spoke of his plans to reorder the ethnic layout of Europe — a plan which would entail settling the "Jewish problem."

In 1949, U.S.-born Iva Toguri D'Aquino, convicted of treason for being Japanese wartime broadcaster "Tokyo Rose," was sentenced in San Francisco to 10 years in prison (she ended up serving more than six).

In 1958, the nuclear submarine USS Seawolf surfaced after spending 60 days submerged.

In 1960, the historical drama "Spartacus," starring Kirk Douglas and directed by Stanley Kubrick, had its world premiere in New York.

In 1976, in his second presidential debate with Democrat Jimmy Carter, President Gerald R. Ford asserted there was "no Soviet domination of eastern Europe." (Ford later conceded that was not the case.)

In 1979, Pope John Paul II, on a week-long U.S. tour, became the first pontiff to visit the White House, where he was received by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1981, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat was shot to death by extremists while reviewing a military parade.

In 1989, actress Bette Davis died in Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, at age 81.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush sought to rally flagging public sup-

port for the war in Iraq, accusing militants of seeking to establish a "radical Islamic empire" with Iraq as the base.

Five years ago: A presidential commission said the Obama administration had blocked efforts by government scientists to tell the American public just how bad the Gulf oil spill could become and committed other missteps that raised questions about its competence and candor during the crisis. Roy Halladay pitched the second no-hitter in postseason history, leading the Philadelphia Phillies over the Cincinnati Reds 4-0 in Game 1 of the NL division series. Social networking app Instagram, which enables users to share photos and videos on smartphones, was launched by Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger.

One year ago: The Supreme Court unexpectedly cleared the way for a dramatic expansion of gay marriage in the United States as it rejected appeals from five states seeking to preserve their bans, effectively making such marriages legal in 30 states. Husband-and-wife scientists Edward Moser and May-Britt Moser of Norway and New York-born researcher John O'Keefe were named recipients of the Nobel Prize in medicine for discovering the brain's GPS-like system. USA Swimming suspended Michael Phelps for six months as a result of the Olympic champion's second DUI arrest. Actress Marian Seldes, 86, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Broadcaster and writer Melvyn Bragg is 76. Actress Britt Ekland is 73. Singer Millie Small is 69. The president of Sinn Féin, Gerry Adams, is 67. Singer-musician Thomas McClary is 66. Musician Sid McGinnis is 66. CBS chief executive officer Les Moonves is 66. Rock singer Kevin Cronin (REO Speedwagon) is 64. Rock singer-musician David Hidalgo (Los Lobos) is 61. Former NFL player and coach Tony Dungy is 60. Actress Elisabeth Shue is 52. Singer Matthew Sweet is 51. Actress Jacqueline Obradors is 49. Country singer Tim Rushlow is 49. Rock musician Tommy Stinson is 49. Actress Amy Jo Johnson is 45. Actress Emily Mortimer is 44. Actor Lamman Rucker is 44. Actor Ioan Gruffudd is 42. Actor Jeremy Sisto is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Melinda Doolittle is 38. Actor Wes Ramsey is 38. Singer-musician Will Butler is 33.

Thought for Today: "Sin is too stupid to see beyond itself." — Alfred, Lord Tennyson, British poet laureate (born 1809, died this date in 1892).

FROM THE BIBLE

We have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 2 Peter 1:19.

Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



The 'Papal Bull'?

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),

The throngs of the faithful came out by the hundreds of thousands — with some reports submitting numbers more in the millions — to witness the Pontiff "grace" this land now called America, marking the first papal visit to the U.S. since Benedict XVI's 2008 visit.

Where do the "disenfranchised, marginalized, heathens" — otherwise referred to as "Native Americans" — fit into this so-called "celebration of presence?"

Steven T. Newcomb, author of "Pagans in the Promised Land," tells us: "In his 1882 'Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs,' U.S. Indian Commissioner Hiram Price commented on the need for the federal government to cooperate with religious societies in order to "civilize" the Indians:

"One very important auxiliary in transforming men from savage to civilized life is the influence brought to bear upon them through the labors of Christian men and women as educators and missionaries. [Shades of Boarding School nightmares!] ... In no other manner and by no other means, in my judgment, can our Indian population be so speedily and permanently reclaimed from the barbarism, idolatry, and savage life, as by the educational and missionary operations of the Christian people of our country."

Last week's visit by Pope Francis should give cause to any thinking man to ponder the words of Mahatma Gandhi as stated in *Time Magazine's* "Francis in America" article, penned by Nancy Gibbs and Elizabeth Dias, as follows: "Those who believe that religion and politics aren't connected don't understand either. They've forever been connected in this country; in that sense, the Pope was right at home as he balanced his spiritually driven, politically explosive agenda about the poor and climate change alongside the leaders of the country and the world. It was a bracing demonstration of the strengths and limits of moral leadership in the modern age."

Don't you find it the least bit curious that the Pontiff never once saw it necessary to mention the history of this country's treatment of its indigenous people? It seems like



Vince
TWO EAGLES

the Pope's "moral and political agenda" ignores this important fact of American history. For example, will this country ever come to terms with Pope Alexander VI's Inter Caetera bull, issued in 1493, which according to Vine

Deloria Jr. in his book "God is Red," ... "laid down the basic Christian attitude toward the New World. "Among other works well pleasing to the Devine Majesty and cherished of our heart, this assuredly ranks highest, that in our times especially the Catholic faith and the Christian religion be exalted and everywhere increased and spread, the health of souls be cared for and that barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself.

"What this pious language meant in practical terms was if confiscation of lands were couched in quasi-religious sentiments, the nations of Europe could proceed. In an immensely practical gesture the Pope noted that he did thereby 'give, grant and assign forever to you and your heirs and successors, kings of Castle and Leon, all singular the aforesaid countries and islands ... hitherto discovered ... and to be discovered ... together with all their dominions, cities, camps, places and villages, and all rights, jurisdictions and appurtenances of the same.'"

Vine continues, "The lands and villages were not, of course, the Pope's to give, unless the understanding of the universe, history and the planet promulgated by Christianity were correct. If such were the case, then it would have followed that, the entire planet being a franchise of the Holy Father, he could distribute it to whomever he found in need of rewarding. Regardless of the later totally secular exploitations of the native peoples conducted by the secular governments of Europe, this papal bull of 1493 marked the attitude of Christianity toward peoples it has previously thought to exist."

Maybe Francis' visit should have been billed as the "Emperor Has No Cloths." For all its feigned piety, the Vatican's moral and political agenda — without the obvious issues facing millions of Indian people included on his "moral and political agenda" — would perhaps be better termed the Papal's bull.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Buying America

Chris Svarstad, Yankton

Over the last several years, millions of Americans have signed up for affordable health insurance — many for the first time ever, many for the first time in many years. Millions of young people have stayed on their parents' insurance plans while they pursue higher education to start their first jobs. Millions of senior citizens have saved money on prescription bill, they average about \$1,200 saved, each senior — and tens of millions of women have access to free preventive care. Americans who were once denied insurance because they suffered from something like cancer or something as simple as acne were able to buy quality health insurance they could afford and they could trust.

Despite all that good news, there's plenty of horror stories being told. We heard about the evils of Obamacare, about the lives it is ruining in the Republican stump speeches and in ads paid for by oil magnates, the Koch brothers.

But those tales turned out to be just that — tales, made up from whole cloth, lies, distorted by the Republicans to grab headlines or make political advertisements.

The Koch Brothers are trying to buy America. They not only funnel money through their phony Americans for Prosperity, they funnel money into all kinds of organizations to do the same thing that they are doing. I honestly do not believe America is for sale.

But as soon as these two power-drunk billionaires are called out, they say, "It's free speech, what's wrong?" Most actual Americans trace their free speech to the Constitution —

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