

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

With ConAgra Exit, Tax Reform More Urgent

THE KEARNEY HUB (Oct 2): If the resounding pleas for tax relief from Nebraska farmers, whose property bears the bulk of school support and many other governmental costs, hasn't gotten our state leaders' attention, then perhaps the move of ConAgra's headquarters from downtown Omaha will. Nebraskans are looking for tax relief, and so are the companies doing business here.

The food giant — one of five Fortune 500 companies headquartered in Omaha — is moving its head offices to Chicago, where efficiencies and a host of incentives helped ice the decision.

Nebraska's business-minded Gov. Pete Ricketts has issued a call for a serious review of tax rates and incentive programs to ensure Nebraska remains competitive. We can't help but believe that when companies are recruited to move or expand into Nebraska, some serious reservations arise about property taxes.

The state's tax and incentive situation also comes up in trade talks. Ricketts has led a couple of missions overseas to promote Nebraska's investment opportunities, but we get downgraded on the desirability scale because of our high taxes.

While lawmakers and political leaders discuss reforms this year, we hope they also look closely at how Nebraska doles out incentives.

Jim Vokal, CEO of the Platte Institute for Economic Research, reacted to ConAgra's relocation announcement on Thursday by complaining that, "For too long, Nebraska has played the special interest tax break game, and today we have lost to a higher bidder in Illinois."

The task that faces Nebraska lawmakers is difficult, and it's complicated by the entrenchment of our state's system of incentives and tax exemptions.

Policies and ideas that were born years ago to promote growth in agriculture and on main street now may be working against Nebraskans.

Although change inevitably inspires resistance, most Nebraskans accept that something must be done, and our unified attitude should carry over as our state tackles its property tax problems and updates its business incentives.

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.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, October 12, the 285th day of 2015. There are 80 days left in the year. This is the Columbus Day holiday in the U.S., as well as Thanksgiving Day in Canada.

Today's Highlight in History: On October 12, 1915, English nurse Edith Cavell was executed by a German firing squad for helping Allied soldiers escape from occupied Belgium during World War I. (The night before the sentence was carried out, Cavell met with chaplain H. Stirling Gahan, who later quoted her as saying: "I realize that patriotism is not enough. I must have no hatred or bitterness towards any one.")

On this date: In 1492 (according to the Old Style calendar), Christopher Columbus arrived with his expedition in the present-day Bahamas.

In 1870, General Robert E. Lee died in Lexington, Virginia, at age 63.

In 1915, former President Theodore Roosevelt, speaking to the Knights of Columbus in New York, criticized native-born Americans (as opposed to naturalized citizens) who identified themselves by dual nationalities, saying that "a hyphenated American is not an American at all."

In 1933, bank robber John Dillinger escaped from a jail in Allen County, Ohio, with the help of his gang, who killed the sheriff, Jess Barber.

In 1935, opera star Luciano Pavarotti was born in Modena, Italy.

In 1942, during World War II, American naval forces defeated the Japanese in the Battle of Cape Esperance. Attorney General Francis Biddle announced during a Columbus Day celebration at Carnegie Hall in New York that Italian nationals in the United States would no longer be considered enemy aliens.

In 1964, the Soviet Union launched a Voskhod space capsule with a three-man crew on the first mission involving more than one crew member (the flight lasted just over 24 hours).

In 1973, President Richard Nixon nominated House minority leader Gerald R. Ford of Michigan to succeed Spiro T. Agnew as vice president.

In 1984, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher escaped an attempt on her life when an Irish Republican Army bomb exploded at a hotel in Brighton, England, killing five people.

In 1994, the Magellan space probe ended its four-year mapping mission of Venus, apparently plunging into the planet's atmosphere.

In 2000, 17 sailors were killed in a suicide bomb attack on the destroyer USS Cole in Yemen.

In 2002, bombs blamed on al-Qaida-linked militants destroyed a nightclub on the Indonesian island of Bali, killing 202 people, including 88 Australians and seven Americans.

Ten years ago: China launched

its second manned space flight, during which two astronauts orbited Earth for five days. Syria's interior minister, Brig. Gen. Ghazi Kanaan, died in his Damascus office of what authorities said was a suicide. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder announced he would not participate in Germany's new coalition government, ending seven years in power.

Five years ago: The Obama administration announced it was lifting the six-month moratorium on deep water oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico imposed after the BP oil spill. General Motors CEO Dan Akerson and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner met for the first time in New York to discuss GM's initial public offering as the automaker waited for approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission to sell the shares. At least 44 people were killed when a train hit a bus at a crossing in eastern Ukraine.

One year ago: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed that a health care worker at the Texas hospital where Ebola victim Thomas Eric Duncan was treated before his death had tested positive for the illness in the first known case of Ebola being contracted or transmitted in the U.S. (The worker, later identified as nurse Nina Pham, was treated and declared free of Ebola.) The St. Louis Cardinals beat the San Francisco Giants 5-4 to tie the NL Championship Series at one game apiece. Mississippi State was the new No. 1 in The Associated Press college football poll, replacing Florida State and making the fastest rise to the top spot in the history of the poll. (The Bulldogs were the first team in the poll's 78-year history to go from unranked to No. 1 in five weeks.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Antonia Rey is 88. Comedian-activist Dick Gregory is 83. Former Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, is 83. Singer Sam Moore (formerly of Sam and Dave) is 80. Broadcast journalist Chris Wallace is 68. Actress-singer Susan Anton is 65. Rock singer-musician Pat DiNizio is 60. Actor Hiroyuki Sanada is 55. Actor Carlos Bernard is 53. Jazz musician Chris Botti is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Claude McKnight (Take 6) is 53. Rock singer Bob Schneider is 50. Actor Hugh Jackman is 47. Actor Adam Rich is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Garfield Bright (Shai) is 46. Country musician Martie Maguire (Courtyard Hounds, The Dixie Chicks) is 46. Actor Kirk Cameron is 45. Olympic gold medal skier Bode Miller is 38. Rock singer Jordan Pundik (New Found Glory) is 36. Actor Brian J. Smith is 34. Actor Tyler Blackburn is 29. Actor Marcus T. Paulk is 29. Actor Josh Hutcherson is 23.

Thought for Today: "The want of logic annoys. Too much logic bores. Life eludes logic, and everything that logic alone constructs remains artificial and forced." — Andre Gide, French author and critic (1869-1951).

FROM THE BIBLE

Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of heaven.
Luke 6:20. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting DAV

Ritch Wilson, Sioux Falls
Commander, Disabled American Veterans

As Commander of the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), we wish to thank the businesses and the public for their generous support of the Disabled American Veterans during our DAV Annual Forget-Me-Not Drive in Yankton Sept. 18-19, 2015.

Every cent of the money raised will go to projects that directly assist veterans in the following programs and services in our area:

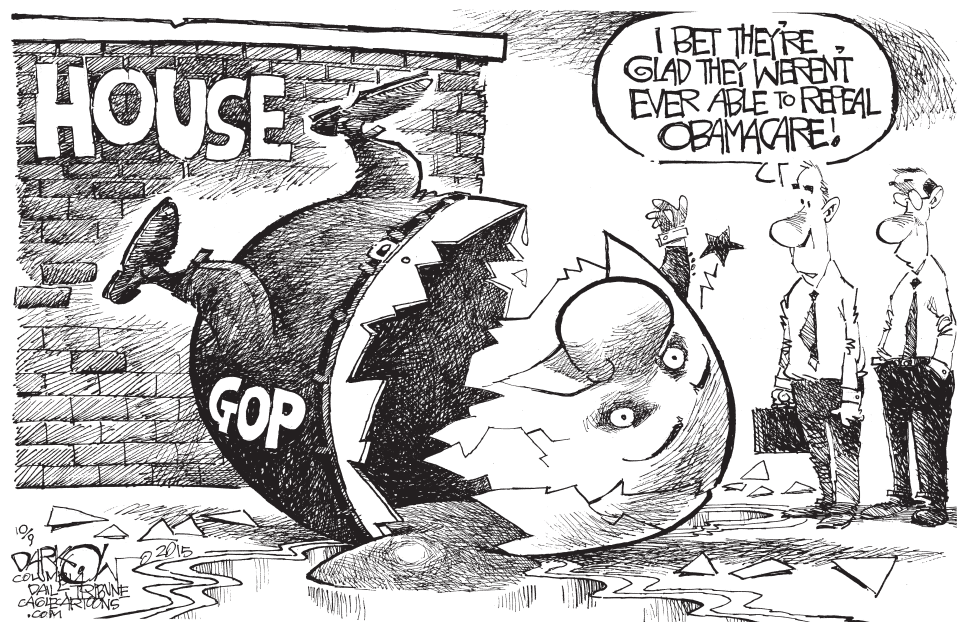
- Donations to VA Medical Centers
- Financial assistance to

needy veterans

- Meal programs for veterans
- Homeless and Needy Veterans Program
- Hospital Transportation Network – Purchase vans to provide free rides for veterans
- Veterans Administration Voluntary Service (VAVS Program)
- Older Veterans Assistance Programs

The public should know that the DAV will put 100 percent of their contributions to work assisting veterans who need our help.

Thanks again for your donations and your support of our country's veterans.



Feminist Fabricator Dunham Rides Again

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

In Hollywood, anything is possible — if you're a privileged femme fraudster with cover-up pals in all the right (or rather, left) places.

Last week, upper-crust Manhattanite actress Lena Dunham dropped in at the Beverly Hills home of billionaire mogul Ron Burkle, who was co-hosting an event with Hanoi Jane Fonda, organized by the Rape Foundation, to honor her longtime friend and HBO "Girls" show producer, Judd Apatow.

Apatow's a strident liberal who tweets a lot about women and rape, so naturally Dunham and the Rape Foundation lionized him for his brave advocacy for women and against rape.

"He's a tireless advocate for women," Dunham gushed. "We know he refuses to follow the pack in silence," she told the pack of entertainment left-wingers as they remained mum about Dunham's spectacular self-unawareness.

And then lyn' Lena set about her real task: extolling and remartyring herself.

"When I decided to write about my experience with sexual assault, Judd was one of the first people I shared my essay with."

I, my, I, ay-ay-ay.

"His notes were kind and considerate and made the work infinitely stronger when the story was met with backlash," Dunham shared.

Fascinating. Too bad she won't share Apatow's specific contributions to "strengthening" her phony-baloney story. The collaborative fiction-writing process must be protected.

"I can safely say I would not have emerged from the darkness of that period without the constant check-ins, sweet jokes and unwaveringly loving presence of Judd," she added. "But he was more than a friend; he was a consistent reminder to me of something his work has always represented — which is that it's never wrong to speak the truth."

What is the "darkness" she speaks of — and what could she and her obsequious friends possible know about speaking the "truth"?

From People.com to *Variety* to *Glamour* magazine, Dunham's enablers in the entertainment press have failed to report the full context of her "sexual assault" story and the purported "backlash" against her for capitalizing on her claimed status as a rape victim.

Let me remind you, since the sycophants in Tinseltown media won't: Dunham is a freaky-deaky fabulist and creepy Hollywood sexual deviant. After signing a hefty \$3.5 million book deal with Random House, the hipster creator of HBO's "Girls" and her publisher were forced late last year to walk back bogus allegations about a "rape" attack by an "Oberlin College Re-



Michelle MALKIN

publican" named "Barry" that she neglected to disclose for nearly a decade — until she needed to generate book publicity.

Please note: "Oberlin College Republicans" are as rare as Axolotls. Dunham insists that naming her conjured assailant "Barry" was sheer coincidence. But the harm done to the only Republican named Barry who attended the school at the same time as Dunham was quite real. He was forced off social media, his privacy was invaded and he had his name dragged through feminist spittle-flecked mud.

When John Nolte of conservative website Breitbart investigated, he discovered that Dunham's description didn't match up with the real Barry. "In the end, Breitbart News could not find a Republican named Barry who attended Oberlin during Dunham's time there who came anywhere close to matching her description of him," Nolte reported. "In fact, we could not find anyone who remembered any Oberlin Republican who matched Dunham's colorful description."

Wham: "Under scrutiny, Dunham's rape story didn't just fall apart; it evaporated into pixie dust and blew away."

Humiliated and facing a litigation nightmare, Random House paid the falsely accused college Republican's legal fees after his lawyer complained. Stung and exposed, Dunham carped about conservative journalists who refused to cover up the real truth. She nursed her self-inflicted wounds by publishing a self-pitying diatribe on liberal website Buzzfeed and posted a prominent Twitter selfie with runny mascara mimicking two black eyes.

Let me also remind you that Dunham's best-selling memoir also contained disturbing accounts of her forcing her younger sister to kiss her, masturbating in bed next to her, joking about acting like a "sexual predator," and examining her genitals. When bona fide sexual abuse victims started expressing their disgust with Dunham's cavalier attitude, she naturally blamed "conservative white men."

Dunham also viciously attacked conservatives after critics questioned her soft-porn photo shoot with skeezy fashion photographer and accused serial sexual harasser Terry Richardson.

Blame the messenger. Wallow in self-pity. Collect awards. Repeat.

Delusional "progressive" do-gooders pretend to care about rape victims while indulging a perverted smear merchant who does nothing but disgrace the truth and undermine real rape victims. Hollywood rides again.

Michelle Malkin is author of the new book "Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs." Her email address is malkinblog@gmail.com.

Capitol Notebook

Elder Abuse Task Force's Report Will Be Done Soon

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — South Dakota's special task force on elder abuse gathers Oct. 29 to discuss its final report.

Based on the statistics, findings and recommendations that comprise the core of the draft, this promises to be a call to action across South Dakota.

Drawing on real situations in South Dakota and upon proven practices in other states, the report will lay out changes to be made.

Accomplishing the reforms identified in the report will demand a stronger focus on elderly protections from the Legislature, the state's courts, the state's attorney general, the governor, local law enforcement, banks, lawyers and care givers.

The take-away is South Dakota has a long way to go to in protecting older citizens.

David Gilbertson, chief justice of the South Dakota Supreme Court, called for the study during his State of the Judiciary speech to the Legislature in January.

An earlier attempt by Gilbertson to put elder abuse on the political agenda went unheeded. This time, Sen. David Novstrup, R-Aberdeen, took up the issue.

Legislation sponsored by Novstrup, R-Aberdeen, led to establishing the task force.

With the Legislature's approval came the chief justice's offer for the Unified Judicial System to fund and lead the work.

In his speech to the Legislature, Gilbertson used the word tsunami to describe the problem. Based on demographic trends in the draft, tsunami wasn't too strong.

Presuming the final report is generally similar to the draft version, the task force will present a set of recommendations for achieving much stronger protection of elderly people in South Dakota.