

# The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION

## Housing Is Only Part Of The Issue

Last week's groundbreaking for the Westbrook Apartment project on the western edge of Yankton was entirely a symbolic affair. The ground for the 70-unit project was actually broken long ago, and in fact, the basic frame of the foundation is already in place. The area in general is a great swath of exposed, reshaped earth long since cleared for construction. To the adjacent north, the curbs and gutters for the first phase of the Westbrook Estates development are already in place, and heavy machinery is digging foundations that will someday be covered by new homes.

So, the ceremony was more about updating the handful of local dignitaries present on where the project is and where it's headed. However, it does draw public attention again to efforts by this community to address what is really a growth issue. And housing is only a small part of it.

Yankton has long had a housing problem, with not enough affordable homes or apartment spaces available. This creates problems for companies trying to attract new workers to town, only to find there isn't any place for them to live. In fact, one anecdote related at last week's ceremony noted that one local company had hired an individual, but that person had to quit and look for a job elsewhere after housing couldn't be found. We're not sure how common that is, but then again, we can't tell you how unique it is, either. Nevertheless, it does point to a problem.

The Westbrook project is a high-profile step in helping address that pressing shortage. But it can only be a start. Much more is needed. In fact, there is more needed than housing to address the crunch that Yankton may soon face.

A central principle of economic development is creating jobs, either by growing them here with new companies or expansion, or by luring them here from elsewhere. This can only bolster the local bottom line.

But what happens if the jobs are available but the workers are not? This is a problem for places like Yankton, which are blessed by a low unemployment rate — somewhere just below 3 percent. But that blessing can also be a curse when there aren't enough able or qualified bodies to fill those positions.

This is by no means unique to Yankton. Other cities in the region are facing the same problem of finding enough workers to fill jobs. Thus, while increased housing may help address this issue, it's not really a silver bullet. Even communities with more housing options than are currently found in Yankton are struggling to find enough workers. And these communities can range from bona fide cities to very small towns.

So, expanding the housing menu in Yankton, while it does address a dire need, isn't necessarily going to be enough to solve the worker shortage. And if projections of at least 500 new jobs coming into the market in the next few years are accurate, the shortage is going to grow even more acute.

Yankton must also support and bolster its training/retraining options — which is why the Technical Education Center and RTEC are so crucial to the community — and perhaps examine the possibility of luring foreign workers here to meet those job needs. That latter idea is already being mentioned at some levels, as it has in numerous other communities across the country. It looks increasingly like an enticing option.

The worst thing that can happen is for Yankton area firms to have numerous job openings but no workers to fill them and no place for potential workers to live. That could lead to the loss of jobs and companies, which would land a crippling blow to the local economy.

Last week's ceremony was indeed an exercise in symbolism, but it was also a celebration of moving forward. But it's just one step in a longer and very necessary journey.

kmh

### 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 Tuesday, Oct. 27, the 300th day of 2015. There are 65 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Oct. 27, 1787, the first of the Federalist Papers, a series of essays calling for ratification of the United States Constitution, was published.

**On this date:** In 1858, the 26th president of the United States, Theodore Roosevelt, was born in New York City. In 1890, Theodore Roosevelt married his first wife, Alice Lee.

In 1922, the first annual celebration of Navy Day took place. In 1938, Du Pont announced a name for its new synthetic yarn: "nylon."

In 1947, "You Bet Your Life," starring Groucho Marx, premiered on ABC Radio. (It later became a television show on NBC.)

In 1954, U.S. Air Force Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr. was promoted to brigadier general, the first black officer to achieve that rank in the USAF. Walt Disney's first television program, titled "Disneyland" after the yet-to-be completed theme park, premiered on ABC.

In 1962, during the Cuban Missile Crisis, a U-2 reconnaissance aircraft was shot down while flying over Cuba, killing the pilot, U.S. Air Force Maj. Rudolf Anderson Jr.

In 1978, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin were named winners of the Nobel Peace Prize for their progress toward achieving a Middle East accord.

In 1980, opera star Beverly Sills gave her last public performance during a farewell gala at New York's Lincoln Center.

In 1990, death claimed bandleader Xavier Cugat at age 90, author Elliott Roosevelt at age 80 and French movie director Jacques Demy ("The Umbrellas of Cherbourg") at age 59.

In 1995, a sniper killed one soldier and wounded 18 others at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. (Paratrooper William J. Kreutzer was convicted in the shootings, and condemned to death; the sentence was later commuted to life in prison.)

In 2004, the Boston Red Sox won their first World Series since 1918, sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in Game 4, 3-0.

**Ten years ago:** White House counsel Harriet Miers withdrew her nomination to

the Supreme Court after three weeks of brutal criticism from fellow conservatives. As many Floridians continued to struggle to find food, water and fuel in the wake of Hurricane Wilma, President George W. Bush visited the state to inspect the damage. Tropical Storm Beta formed in the Caribbean Sea, becoming the 23rd tropical storm of the Atlantic hurricane season.

**Five years ago:** Dozens of Jewish extremists hoisting Israeli flags defiantly marched through the Arab-Israeli town of Umm el-Fahm, chanting "death to terrorists" and touching off clashes between rock-throwing residents and police. Former Argentine President Nestor Kirchner died at age 60. The San Francisco Giants won the first game of the World Series, defeating the Texas Rangers 11-7.

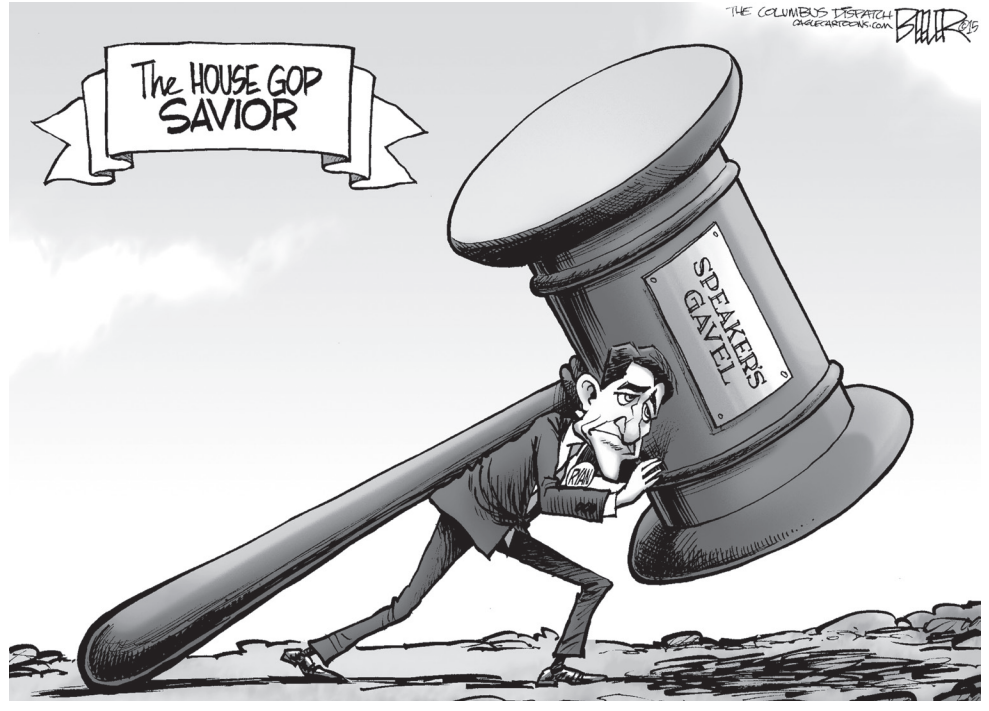
**One year ago:** The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended new restrictions for people at highest risk for coming down with the Ebola virus and symptom monitoring for those at lower risk. Toronto elected John Tory, a moderate conservative, as the new mayor, ending the scandal-ridden Rob Ford era.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Nanette Fabray is 95. Actor-comedian John Cleese is 76. Author Maxine Hong Kingston is 75. Country singer Lee Greenwood is 73. Producer-director Ivan Reitman is 69. Country singer-musician Jack Daniels is 66. Rock musician Garry Tallent (Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band) is 66. Author Fran Lebowitz is 65. Rock musician K.K. Downing is 64. TV personality Jayne Kennedy is 64. Actor-director Roberto Benigni is 63. Actor Peter Firth is 62. Actor Robert Picardo is 62. World Golf Hall of Famer Patty Sheehan is 59. Singer Simon Le Bon is 57. Country musician Jerry Dale McFadden (The Mavericks) is 51. Internet news editor Matt Drudge is 49. Rock musician Jason Finn (Presidents of the United States of America) is 48. Rock singer Scott Weiland is 48. Actor Sean Holland is 47. Actor Channon Roe is 46. Actress Sheeri Rappaport is 38. Actor David Walton is 37. Violinist Vanessa-Mae is 37. Actress-singer Kelly Osbourne is 31. Actress Christine Evangelista is 29. Actor Troy Gentile is 22.

**Thought for Today:** "Happiness is a way station between too much and too little." — Channing Pollock, American author and dramatist (1880-1946).

### FROM THE BIBLE

No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God. Luke 9:62. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



### The Rez Of The Story

## Native World View: Is It Still Relevant?

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), The tapestry of multiculturalism making up our human community is absolutely, without question, relevant to today's conversation about the ongoing development past, present and future of collective mankind. Clearly, ideas about maintaining purely homogeneous cultures without absolute isolation and an ensuing singularly scripted world view is unequivocally unattainable nor is the idea sustainable or even desirable.

The relatively recent history of efforts by organized religion to convert Natives to Christianity, and its attendant dogma, has been devastating for many aboriginal people around the world.

Just another share by one of the great thinkers and writers of our time, namely Vine Deloria Jr., who writes from his perspective:

"The average Christian when hearing of the disasters wreaked on aboriginal peoples by his religion and its adherents is quick to state: 'But the people who did this where not really Christians.' In point of fact they really were Christians. In their day they enjoyed all the benefits and prestige Christendom could confer. They were cheered as heroes of the faith, enduring hardships that a Christian society might be built on the ruins of pagan villages. They were featured in Sunday school lessons as saints of the Christian Church. Cities, rivers, mountains and seas were named after them.

"And if the explorers of old were not Christians, why did not the true Christians rise up in defiance of the derogation of their religious heritage and faith? ... If the leaders of the Brazilian government are not Christians, where are the Christians coming forth to disclaim their actions? If exploitation of the Amazon for commercial purposes purposed by American investors results in the un-Christian activity of poisoning thousands of Indians, why were not the true Christians demanding the resignations of the heads of American corporations supporting Amazon development?"

"At this point in the clash between Western industrialism and the planet's aboriginal peoples we find little or no voice coming from the true Christians to prevent continued exploitation. Instead we find rhetorical assertions that the Christian God is controlling history and fulfilling His divine plan for all mankind. In the

face of world events this assertion is fraudulent at best, an insult to the intelligence of mankind at worst. It is time to call a halt to the unchallenged assumptions of the Christian conception of history. This conception is even breaking apart in the national strongholds of Christianity. The various tribal peoples of Europe that were bludgeoned into accepting super-nationalism a century or more ago are flexing their muscles in resistance to continued oppression. The Irish, Welsh, and Celts are demanding freedom. In France the Bretons have a national movement, the Flemish are reviving their ancient customs, Italy is a virtual conglomerate rebelling at the continued supremacy of national government. Even Russia has problems of ethnic restlessness and the desire for freedom. Not only is Christian history at an end but quite possibly the end is in sight for its secular manifestation — manifest destiny of Europeans to rule the world.

"The first step in this process should be recitals by sincere followers of the Christian religion admitting their guilt for past wrongs. We have already seen a multitude of tears fall over the demise of Dee Browns Indians, for example, without a corresponding change in attitude or treatment of American Indians. Further confession of sins is useless and avoids the central question of history: Why must men repeat past mistakes? Being guilty for remote sins is easy, accepting responsibilities for current and future sins is difficult. It is this contemporary attitude toward aboriginal peoples that must be changed rather than compensation for past wrongs.

"Christians must disclaim the use of history as a weapons of conquest today. In doing so they must support the fight of the aboriginal peoples wherever it exists. They must demand protection of Natives and of their lands, cultures, and religions. They must honestly face the problems of the Western societies and consider what real alternatives now exist for those societies to survive in a world that is growing smaller—a world that must contain a great number of smaller groups whose existence is guaranteed and whose rights are not to be trampled underfoot."

As I believe Dr. Martin Luther King once said, "A threat to justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Hetchetudo! And so it is!

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



Vince TWO EAGLES

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### When 'No' is a Good Thing

Cheri Loest, PE, Utica

I attended the Yankton County Commission meeting on Oct. 20 to learn more about the \$6 million NAPA rail site loan. Toby Morris ensured that the Yankton County taxpayer has absolutely no risk to lose money, as Dakota Plains is shouldering 100 percent of the financial risk. If tax revenues from the site don't total \$6 million within 20 years, Dakota Plains makes up the difference. Obviously, the commissioners and audience members were tickled.

So I ponder back to early 2014 when Dakota Plains and YAPG first approached the commission with this project. The proposed TID/TIF had grown to around \$9 million with the Yankton County taxpayer funding the full risk should the project fail to meet projections. Wow. What a difference.

Thus, I send a big "Thank You" to those folks who during the 2014 discussions were willing to ask the tough questions, stand their ground, and say our taxpayers deserve a better deal. There was a lot of change-over in leadership directly stemming from these events. In hind-sight, aren't you glad they said "NO" to that original deal? Imagine how different it would be if they had said "YES."

#### Poll Results

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

##### LATEST RESULTS:

**Do you plan on seeing the new "Star Wars" movie, "The Force Awakens"?**  
No, the force isn't with me on this one. ....66%  
Yes, sign me up! .....27%  
Not sure .....7%  
**TOTAL VOTES CAST** .....231

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 ousting Saddam Hussein as the Iraqi leader in 2003 was a mistake?**  
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

So I disagree with the Press & Dakotan's and Pierre's assertions that Yankton County is "the kingdom of NO." Maybe we just expect the best deal for the taxpayer, not the business.

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