

Nun

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Campbell told the *Press & Dakotan* Tuesday via telephone. “(The ACA) is being used as a political football to bolster one party and hurt another party. It’s all about the game of politics. What I’m trying to do is talk about ‘We the People’ and how this will benefit us as a nation. It’s not perfect. It’s not the best bill ever. In fact, it was never really intended to be the final bill. But politics made it that. Now, what we have to do is make it work.” Campbell is executive director of NETWORK, a Catholic social justice lobby that educates, lobbies and organizes in support of economic and social transformation. When Campbell authored the “nuns’ letter” in 2010 that supported the health care reform bill and got 59 leaders of Catholic Sisters to sign on, it was cited by many as critically important in passing the ACA. President Barack Obama thanked Campbell for the support and invited her to the ceremony celebrating its being signed into law. “Writing the letter in support of the Affordable Care Act is something we do all the time at NETWORK,” Campbell said. “What was different was, we had a different position than the U.S.

Conference of Catholic Bishops. The conference opposed the Affordable Care Act because they feared there was federal funding of abortion in the bill. I read the bill, and it specifically prohibits federal funding of abortion. It also says there will be an annual audit to ensure there is no federal funding of abortion. We took the bill at what it said.” The issue brought media attention to NETWORK, and Campbell said a decision was made to use it as a way to promote the organization’s mission. “The result was our first ‘Nuns on the Bus’ trip (to oppose the ‘Ryan Budget’ approved by the U.S. House of Representatives),” Campbell said. “The media attention kept going since then. I keep thinking it will stop, but so far it hasn’t. It’s kind of amazing.” Campbell said there is a lot of misinformation circulating about the ACA. She is particularly concerned about states like South Dakota that have so far declined to expand Medicaid as intended by the new healthcare law. “What that is going to mean is a serious dislocation for low-income people in South Dakota,” Campbell stated. “In the current law, there are payments to hospitals who serve the uninsured. They’re called disproportionate share adjustment payments. In the new law, those are sched-

uled to decrease, because the whole point of the law is getting more people covered by insurance. “What’s going to happen because South Dakota has not chosen to expand Medicaid coverage is, you will not experience a decline in the uninsured in the low-income bracket where a large percentage of the uninsured are. At the same time, you’re going to experience a decline in the amount of money paid to hospital facilities who serve the uninsured. The big worry is, what is going to happen to those hospitals? Even bigger than that, what is going to happen to these people who have no access?” Campbell said she is surprised at how many Catholics are opposed to the ACA even though it will help the currently uninsured. “I think they’ve misunderstood the birth-control provision,” she stated. “The Obama administration basically accepted all of the requests of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and made modifications. And yet, the bishops persist in saying it isn’t sufficient. They keep moving the goal post. It’s a question of giving people true information and not just fear. “We agreed with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops initially that the contraception provision did not provide sufficient protection for religious conscience and objected,” Campbell continued. “The administration

worked hard and created a very functional rule. The Catholic Health Association says it’s functional. Our analysis says it will work. Most people who have studied it carefully — and not just from a politically-driven analysis — believe it is an accommodation. I think our people are not being well served by getting misinformation and fear. In the gospel, Jesus said over and over, ‘Fear not.’ We try to give information and alleviate fear.” Although the Catholic faith informs Campbell’s worldview, she said her lecture Thursday will be for a general audience. “Where I say we meet in the political realm is not in faith, it’s in the Constitution,” Campbell stated. “It’s about ‘We the People’ trying to form this more perfect union. We’re a nation that can solve our problems. Fear is not who we are as America. We are about engaging and solving our problems. In a democracy, we don’t have the luxury of being afraid of one another. It requires us to work together to solve our problems. It seems we’ve drifted quite far away into an individualistic approach of ‘my way or the highway.’ That’s hurting us as a nation.”

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Hansen

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years ago during the founding of the Haas tournament. “They needed the help for insurance for the tournament,” he said. “I got elected to go over and be with these guys. That’s when I got to know Ole and (tournament co-founder) Doug Nelson real well.” For the next 23 years, Hansen did whatever was needed to make the Haas tournament flourish, Hovland said. That included helping organize and run the event, recruiting other volunteers, and soliciting sponsors and other funding. He also made sure every child could play in the tournament, even if that meant giving them rides or finding a way to pay for their registration fees. Hovland said the only thing Hansen shied away from was the recognition for his efforts. “Ole was never one for the limelight,” he said. “He just wanted to make sure the kids had an opportunity to play basketball, whether they could afford it or not.” In addition to his work with the Roger Haas Youth Basketball Tournament, Hansen also helped build the Jaycees’ Junior Leader football program and was a member of the Optimist Club, the Yankton High School Adult Athletic Booster Club and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. “Ole lived for volunteering,” longtime friend Dick Kulbel told the *Press & Dakotan* following Hansen’s passing. “He always had to

be doing something.” Hovland added, “The guy was as optimistic as the day was long. He always felt there was some way to do something as long as we got the right people involved — and he was right. We got a lot of things done because we just kept working at it.” As part of the celebration, T-shirts in memory of Hansen are available and fans are asked to wear them to the game — a perfect tribute, Hovland said. “Ole was notorious for being able to sell T-shirts to anybody and everybody for everything he did,” he said. “We thought there wouldn’t be anything more fitting than getting T-shirts made.” To purchase a T-shirt, contact Karla Olson at krolson@cedarwb.net or 605-661-1012. Shirts will be available for pickup at the SAC meeting room on Thursday from 4-6:30 p.m. Prior to the game, there also will be a “free will donation” dinner of pulled pork sandwiches and chips beginning at 5 p.m. Proceeds from the T-shirt sales and the dinner will go to the Hansen family. Hovland said he hopes there will be a large turnout for Friday’s event and that there are “Ole shirts running around all over the place.” “Ole was always there for everybody,” he said. “It would be nice to see everybody there for Ole.”

Press & Dakotan sports editor James D. Cimburek contributed to this report.

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Syria

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izing the use of force against Assad. With public opinion polls consistently showing widespread opposition to American military intervention, the White House has struggled mightily to generate support among lawmakers — liberal Democrats and conservative Republicans alike — who have expressed fears of involvement in yet another war in the Middle East and have questioned whether U.S. national security interests were at stake in Syria. Obama had trouble, as well, building international support for a military attack designed to degrade Assad’s military. Suddenly, though, events

took another unexpected turn this week. First Russia and then Syria reacted positively to a seemingly off-hand remark from Secretary of State John Kerry indicating that the crisis could be defused if Damascus agreed to put its chemical weapons under international control. The president said he was sending Secretary of State John Kerry to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Thursday, and he added, “I will continue my own discussion” with Russian President Vladimir Putin. At the same time, he said the United States and its allies would work with Russia and China to present a resolution to the United Nations Security Council “requiring Assad to give up his chemical weapons and to ultimately destroy them under

international control.” In a speech that lasted 16 minutes, Obama recounted the events of the deadly chemical weapons attack on Aug. 21 that the United States blames on Assad. “When dictators commit atrocities, they depend upon the world to look the other way until these horrifying pictures fade from memory. But these things happened. The facts cannot be denied,” he said. The president said firmly that Assad’s alleged attack was “not only a violation of international law, it’s also a danger to our security.” If diplomacy now fails and the United States fails to act, he said, “the Assad regime will see no reason to stop using chemical weapons” and “other tyrants will have no reason to think twice about acquiring poison gas

and using” it. Over time, he added, U.S. troops could face the threat of chemical warfare, and if fighting escapes Syria’s border, “these weapons could threaten allies like Turkey, Jordan and Israel.” The president sought to deal methodically with what he said were questions asked by lawmakers and citizens who took the time to write him with their concerns about U.S. military action. “I will not put American boots on the ground in Syria,” he promised. “I will not pursue an open-ended action like Iraq or Afghanistan. I will not pursue a prolonged air campaign like Libya or Kosovo.” “This would be a targeted strike to achieve a clear objective: deterring the use of chemical weapons and degrading Assad’s capabilities.”

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