

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

CONTACT US

PHONE:
(605) 665-7811
(800) 743-2968
NEWS FAX:
(605) 665-1721
ADVERTISING FAX:
(605) 665-0288
WEBSITE:
www.yankton.net
EMAIL ADDRESS:
news@yankton.net

SUBSCRIPTIONS/
CIRCULATION:
Extension 104
CLASSIFIED ADS:
Extension 108
NEWS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 114
SPORTS DEPARTMENT:
Extension 106
ADVERTISING OFFICE:
Extension 122
BUSINESS OFFICE:
Extension 119
NEW MEDIA:
Extension 136
COMPOSING DESK:
Extension 129

* * *

MANAGERS

Gary L. Wood
Publisher
Michele Schievelbein
Advertising Director
Tonya Schild
Business Manager
Michael Hrycko
Circulation Director
Tera Schmidt
Classified Manager
Kelly Hertz
Editor
James D. Cimburek
Sports Editor
Beth Rye
New Media Director
Kathy Larson
Composing Manager

* * *

DAILY STAFF

Melissa Bader
Cassandra Brockmoller
Brandi Bue
Rob Buckingham
Randy Dockendorf
Jeannine Economy
Jordynne Hart
Jeremy Hoek
Shauna Marlette
Robert Nielsen
Muriel Pratt
Jessie Priestley
Cathy Sudbeck
Sally Whiting
JoAnn Wiebelhaus
Brenda Willcuts
Jackie Williams

* * *

Published Daily

Monday-Saturday
Periodicals postage
paid at Yankton,
South Dakota, under
the act of March 3,
1979.
Weekly Dakotian
established June 6,
1861. Yankton Daily
Press and Dakotian
established April 26,
1875.
Postmaster: Send
address changes to
Yankton Daily Press
& Dakotian, 319 Wal-
nut, Yankton, SD
57078.

* * *

MEMBERSHIPS

The Yankton Daily
Press & Dakotian is a
member of the Associ-
ated Press, the Inland
Daily Press Associa-
tion and the South
Dakota Newspaper
Association. The Associ-
ated Press is entitled
exclusively to use of all
the local news printed
in this newspaper.

* * *

SUBSCRIPTION RATES*

(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY
1-month . . . \$12.09
3 months . . . \$36.27
6 months . . . \$72.53
1-year . . . \$133.09
MOTOR ROUTE
(where available)
1 month . . . \$14.51
3 months . . . \$43.53
6 months . . . \$87.05
1 year . . . \$139.14
MAIL IN RETAIL
TRADE ZONE
1-month . . . \$16.93
3 months . . . \$50.79
6 months . . . \$101.57
1-year . . . \$148.82
MAIL OUTSIDE
RETAIL TRADE ZONE
1 month . . . \$19.35
3 months . . . \$58.05
6 months . . . \$116.09
1-year . . . \$186.33
* Plus applicable sales
tax for all rates

OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

End Secrecy With Lawmakers' Trips

RAPID CITY JOURNAL (Sept. 21): During the legislative session and when lawmakers are not in session, the Legislature's website at legis.sd.gov provides a wealth of information about proposed laws, committee hearings and votes. But the website is only valuable if information that the public has a right to know is made available.

Despite claims by lawmakers and state government officials that South Dakota is taking great strides toward transparency, much of what public officials and elected representatives are up to remains hidden.

While Gov. Dennis Daugaard has taken the initiative to make state government more open and created a website (open.sd.gov) where the public can go to get information about local and state governments, his Open Government Task Force failed miserably, in our view, when only three of its recommended bills — minor ones at that — were passed by the 2013 Legislature. Lawmakers, apparently, don't share the governor's view on transparency in government.

That much became more clear this month when some lawmakers complained about a marked increase in travel by lawmakers this past year to functions that previously were off-limits to reimbursement by lawmakers. Even worse, finding out which lawmakers are having their travel expenses paid by taxpayers, where they are going and how much the trips cost is not easily obtained by members of the public, unless they know exactly where to look or who to ask.

The Legislature's Executive Board approves travel reimbursement for lawmakers. Its budget for taxpayer-paid trips by lawmakers was increased for 2014 by 40 percent to \$1.4 million. The amount budgeted for the 2015 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1 wasn't available.

The board's travel policy allows reimbursement for trips to events that are intended to educate lawmakers on legislative processes and potential laws. Some of the groups included in the policy are: the National Conference of State Legislatures, Council of State Governments, Midwest Legislative Conference, American Legislative Exchange Council, Streamlined Sales Tax Project, Uniform Laws Commission, Education Commission of the States and Legislators Forum.

Some Democratic lawmakers objected to paid travel to the controversial American Legislative Exchange Council, or ALEC, a conservative think-tank. One lawmaker was reimbursed for travel to ALEC even though they aren't seeking re-election. Another lawmaker attended the Mount Vernon Assembly in Indianapolis that focused on a possible constitutional convention.

In our view, the Legislature and the Executive Board need to take tighter reins on taxpayer-paid travel by lawmakers. A 40 percent increase in their travel budget is out of line while other priorities are inadequately funded — teacher compensation comes immediately to mind.

We also urge that all taxpayer-paid reimbursements to lawmakers — travel, lodging and meals — are available to the public online. The Legislative Research Council maintains the Legislature's website, but its usefulness is compromised if what should be public information isn't available.

Stop wasting taxpayers' money, and stop being so secretive.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, Sept. 29, the 272nd day of 2014. There are 93 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 29, 1789, the U.S. War Department established a regular army with a strength of several hundred men.

On this date: In 1829, London's reorganized police force, which became known as Scotland Yard, went on duty.

In 1862, Prussia's newly appointed minister-president, Otto von Bismarck, declared the issue of German unification would be decided "not through speeches and majority decisions but by 'iron and blood' (Eisen und Blut)."

In 1910, the National Urban League, which had its beginnings as The Committee on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, was established in New York.

In 1938, British, French, German and Italian leaders concluded the Munich Agreement, which was aimed at appeasing Adolf Hitler by allowing Nazi annexation of Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland.

In 1943, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Italian Marshal Pietro Badoglio signed an armistice aboard the British ship HMS Nelson off Malta.

In 1954, the movie "A Star Is Born," starring Judy Garland and James Mason, had its world premiere at the Pantages Theater in Hollywood.

In 1963, "The Judy Garland Show" premiered on CBS-TV.

In 1978, Pope John Paul I was found dead in his Vatican apartment just over a month after becoming head of the Roman Catholic Church.

In 1982, Extra-Strength Tylenol capsules laced with deadly cyanide claimed the first of seven victims in the Chicago area. (To date, the case remains unsolved.)

In 1989, actress Zsa Zsa Gabor was convicted of battery for slapping Beverly Hills police officer Paul Kramer after he'd pulled over her Rolls-Royce for expired license plates. (As part of her sentence, Gabor ended up serving three days in jail.)

In 1999, The Associated Press reported on the killing of hundreds of South Korean refugees by U.S. soldiers in the early days of the Korean War, beneath a bridge at a hamlet called No Gun Ri. (In 2001, after its own investigation, the U.S. Army affirmed that killings had occurred, but said they were not deliberate.)

In 2005, John G. Roberts Jr. was sworn in as the nation's 17th chief justice after winning Senate confirmation.
Ten years ago: A video surfaced showing Kenneth Bigley, a British hostage held by Iraqi militants, pleading for help between the bars of a makeshift cage. (Bigley was later killed.) The privately built SpaceShipOne rocket plane hurtled past the edge of earth's atmosphere, completing the first stage of a quest to win the \$10 million Ansari X Prize.

Five years ago: New York City terrorism suspect Najibullah Zazi pleaded not guilty to conspiring to use

weapons of mass destruction in what authorities said was a planned attack on commuter trains. (Zazi later pleaded guilty to charges including conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction and supporting al-Qaida.) Former Democratic fundraiser Norman Hsu was sentenced in New York to more than 24 years in prison for his guilty plea to fraud charges and another four years and four months in prison for his conviction at trial for breaking campaign finance laws; he's due to be released in 2030. A tsunami killed nearly 200 people in Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga.

One year ago: NASA's newest delivery service, Orbital Sciences Corp.'s unmanned cargo spacecraft Cygnus, made its first-ever shipment to the International Space Station. Some four dozen people were shot to death at an agricultural college in Gujba, Nigeria, in an attack blamed on Boko Haram. A car bomb tore through a market in Peshawar, Pakistan, killing at least 41 people. On the last day of the season, Miami's Henderson Alvarez pitched one of baseball's most bizarre no-hitters. Alvarez celebrated in the on-deck circle when the Marlins scored on a two-out wild pitch in the bottom of the ninth inning to beat the Detroit Tigers 1-0.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Lizabeth Scott is 93. Conductor Richard Bonyne is 84. Actress Anita Ekberg is 83. Writer-director Robert Benton is 82. Singer Jerry Lee Lewis is 79. Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is 78. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., is 72. Actor Ian McShane is 72. Jazz musician Jean-Luc Ponty is 72. Nobel Peace laureate Lech Walesa, the former president of Poland, is 71. Television-film composer Mike Post is 70. Actress Patricia Hodge is 68. TV personality Bryant Gumbel is 66. Rock singer-musician Mark Famer is 66. Rock singer-musician Mike Pinera is 66. Country singer Alvin Crow is 64. Actor Drake Hogestyn is 61. Broadcast journalist Gwen Ifill is 59. Former child actor Ken Weatherwax (TV: "The Addams Family") is 59. Olympic gold medal runner Sebastian Coe is 58. Singer Suzzie Roche (The Roches) is 58. Comedian-actor Andrew "Dice" Clay is 57. Rock singer John Payne (Asia) is 56. Actor Roger Bart is 52. Singer-musician Les Claypool is 51. Actress Jill Whelan is 48. Actor Luke Goss is 46. Rock musician Brad Smith (Blind Melon) is 46. Actress Erika Eleniak is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Devante Swing (Jodeci) is 45. Country singer Brad Cotter (TV: "Nashville Star") is 44. Actress Emily Lloyd is 44. Actress Natasha Gregson Wagner is 44. Actress Rachel Cronin is 43. Country musician Danick Dupelle (Emerson Drive) is 41. Actor Alexis Cruz is 40. Actor Zachary Levi is 34. Country singer Katie McNeill (3 of Hearts) is 32. Rock musician Josh Farro is 27. Actor Doug Brochu is 24. Singer Phillip Phillips is 24. Actress Clara Mamet is 20.

Thought for Today: "Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both." — Eleanor Roosevelt, American first lady (1884-1962).

FROM THE BIBLE

For we do not present our pleas before You because of our righteousness, but because of Your great mercy. Daniel 9:18. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



ALWAYS READ THE SMALL PRINT

Capitol Notebook

7 Steps To Preventing A Reprise Of EB-5

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — There are less than 40 days before the Nov. 4 elections and voting began Sept. 19. Yet South Dakotans still don't have clear answers about what former Gov. Mike Rounds knew or didn't know, and what he approved or didn't approve, regarding the secret EB-5 foreign investment program in his administration.

Setting aside those unresolved questions for now, what's clear is that Richard Benda and the EB-5 program's guru, Joop Bollen, operated in a shadow world of state government.

Secrecy is one of the characteristics of economic development at the state level in South Dakota. Secrecy cloaked the actions of Benda, who was Rounds' secretary of tourism and state development, and Bollen.

Slick operators will continue to work the shadows, to the detriment of South Dakota and U.S. taxpayers, without changes that reduce the secrecy in state government's economic development activities and its grant-making authority.

Here are seven steps. All would make fraud in state grant programs more difficult.

1: Require the state attorney general's office review all grant and service contracts, and require all lawyers representing state government answer directly to the attorney general, other than special circumstances such as when an independent counsel is required.

The attorney general's office doesn't represent the Governor's Office of Economic Development. GOED uses private counsel. AG Marty Jackley said he didn't see the state contract signed by Benda and Bollen in 2009 outsourcing EB-5 to Bollen's company, SDRC Inc. of Aberdeen.

2: Prohibit changes in amounts and condi-

tions of state grants without the signatories' approval.

Benda appears to have changed a condition of a December 2010 grant agreement that was signed by Rounds for \$1 million to the Northern Beef project at Aberdeen.

Benda also appears to have increased amounts of two Future Fund grants in December 2010 to the South Dakota Development Corporation that were ultimately intended to assist Northern Beef.

3 and 4: State grants should be listed on a website under control of the state auditor when the request for payment is submitted, with a minimum 10-day waiting period from the listing until the payment is made.

This would allow people to see whether a grant is submitted as intended. Rounds said he didn't know Benda made changes in those three Future Fund grants for Northern Beef during the final month of governorship.

5: Assign responsibility to the state Department of Legislative Audit to randomly check grants for compliance and accuracy during the 10-day waiting period. DLA wasn't aware of the 2009 state contract with SDRC Inc.

6: List grant contracts, regardless of amount if any, on a state website.

The 2008 contract Bollen signed as director of South Dakota International Business Institute and his SDRC Inc. would have shown up. So would the 2009 contract between Benda's office and SDRC Inc.

7: Grant withdrawals should be publicly listed on the website.

Outgoing governors make many grants. Incoming governors sometimes withdraw some of them.

Many tens of millions of dollars flow from state government in grants each year. Taxpayers should be able to follow their money.



Bob MERCER

In Colorado, 'A' Is For Agitation

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com1

There's a big battle brewing in the Jefferson County, Colorado, school system. The manufactured controversy over a proposed curriculum review is generating national headlines. But the fight is not about what misguided students and biased reporters say it's about. "Censorship" is a red herring. The real issue is union control.

Here's the deal: Public school teachers in this Denver-area district walked out of their classrooms this week to protest the implementation of performance-based pay. The JeffCo school board approved the new compensation system last week, which rewards the most highly effective teachers with 4.2 percent raises, effective teachers with 2.4 raises and inferior teachers with no pay raises.

One fact the grievance-mongering teachers conveniently left out of their politicized pep talks to student sympathizers: The board gave bonuses to 450 teachers who would have otherwise received no raises under the union's arbitrary step scale. The old system didn't take performance into any consideration at all.

Despite the hefty rewards for teacher competence and excellence, disgruntled union leaders called for a strike last Friday (or as they prefer to whitewash it, a "sickout"). The Big Labor avengers succeeded in shutting down two schools — and enlisting students to protest with them. But the optics of robbing kids of valuable educational time to protest an \$18.2 million salary compensation package did not play well with taxpayers.

Enter the "censorship" fakeout. At the same board meeting where the new pay system was approved, elected school board members heard a proposal to form a curriculum review committee. Under the state constitution, elected local school boards are responsible for instructional and curriculum matters. It's their duty. The proposal called for the creation of a new, nine-member panel "to review curricular choices for conformity to JeffCo academic standards, accuracy and omissions, and to inform the board of any objectionable materials."

The panel's first review items would be the elementary health curriculum and the A.P. U.S. History (APUSH) curriculum, which has undergone a radical revamp over the past few years.

The chief architect of the APUSH revisions is David Coleman, a progressive ideologue who is also one of the prime movers and shakers behind the Common Core standards scheme. Objections to the shoddy, intrusive, costly, top-down, backroom-designed Common Core agenda cross party lines. Rank-and-file teachers across the country have joined a diverse anti-Common Core coalition of parents, administrators, scholars, grassroots activists, privacy advocates and anti-cronyism watchdogs.

The JeffCo school board takes its deliberative role seriously. The proposal is the opposite of censorship. The debate over history standards is part of a wider battle between left-leaning militant teachers' unions, who explicitly see their primary role as Saul Alinsky-trained political agitators, and those who want to restore academic excellence, rigor and ideological balance in the schools.

While every liberal "ism" has been incorporated into the school day — from environmentalism and collectivism to social justice activism to mandatory volunteerism, feminism and transgenderism — JeffCo school board members are now being mocked for simply proposing that citizenship, individualism and patriotism have a fundamental place at the school-teacher's table.

Somehow, this perfectly reasonable proposal morphed into "JeffCo wants to remove slavery from the history curriculum!" Next thing you know, students were walking out of class two days in a row this week with "We (Heart) Our Teachers" signs. And the liberal Denver Post was running propaganda stories on Twitter mockery of the school board.

"It upsets me greatly to see children being used as pawns and missing educational time," school board president Ken Witt told me. And "we're not just going to rubber-stamp" the top-down APUSH changes, he says. But the bigger picture, Witt points out, is that the district's "union contract expires in August. It will be entirely redrafted." The agitators' ultimate goal is "to create turmoil and discredit board before those negotiations."

And they are trying to do so by any means necessary — including misleading kids, spreading falsehoods in the classroom and instigating walkouts through student-managed organizing websites.

The parting words of former top National Education Association lawyer Bob Chanin a few years ago in explaining the union's main agenda say it all. After calling conservative opponents "bastards," he said:

"This is not to say that the concern of NEA and its affiliates with closing achievement gaps, reducing dropout rates, improving teacher quality and the like are unimportant or inappropriate. To the contrary — these are the goals that guide the work we do. But they need not and must not be achieved at the expense of due process, employee rights and collective bargaining. That simply is too high a price to pay.

Listen up, class. For public employee union leaders, it's not really about the children or academic excellence or curricular freedom. It's about their own political self-preservation. Always.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.