

THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

Yankton Faces 'Motel-Room Gap'

While the City of Yankton is undertaking a housing study to determine its needs - and there are many - in this area, another issue of concern involves another kind of lodging: motel space.

These two issues are somewhat related in that both reflect the capacity of this community to accommodate people. While the housing issue deals with available and affordable dwellings for permanent residents, the motel room issue points to a problem that is more transient - literally - but also much more common: the ability of the community to house visitors, and consequently, to host events that draw visitors.

A survey used by the South Dakota High School Activities Association illustrates the shortage that Yankton faces in the motel room issue, and spotlights the problem this community has in drawing revenue-generating events like state tournaments.

Based on mid-2012 estimates, Yankton rated in the lower tier among all Eastern South Dakota Conference cities in motel room space. Yankton offered the availability of just 472 motel rooms, topping only Huron (430) and Brandon (175). The latter, of course, has the distinct advantage of being literally next door to Sioux Falls and its 4,300 motel rooms. (This is also an advantage that incoming ESD school Harrisburg has.)

Meanwhile, Yankton badly trails the communities of Mitchell (1,095 motel rooms), Pierre (1,025) Aberdeen (918), Watertown (825) and Brookings (615).

This can be a serious drawback when it comes to attracting not only tournaments but also conventions, meetings and other gatherings. It has already had an impact, as the lack of motel space was cited as one of the reasons why the state Special Olympics basketball tournament was moved from Yankton to Pierre.

(While Yankton does have the advantage of several hundred camping spaces in the lake area, that's seasonal at best and doesn't do much to bolster bids for state-sanctioned, school-related events.)

The motel room shortage translates into lost opportunity for Yankton. State tournaments (or national and international events, such as archery competitions) attract a lot of people who bring money to town. By not being able to offer the motel space that would make bids for such events more attractive, Yankton is placing itself in an inferior position and is forfeiting revenue and exposure as a result.

There is some relief in sight. There are currently plans for the construction of a new motel near the Yankton Mall that will add almost 60 new rooms to the city's offerings. It only incrementally addresses the "motel room gap" this community faces, but it's a start.

Motel expansion, either by existing operations or with new entities, is not something that city officials can necessarily legislate; rather, it's an issue that really serves a barometer of what this city has to offer visitors and what this community can do to attract more high-profile events to town. This barometer says there is considerable room for growth. Determining how we as a community make that happen must be a top priority.

kmh

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

How often go you fill your vehicle with ethanol-blended fuel?

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| All the time | 54% |
| Very rarely/never | 35% |
| Part of the time | 9% |
| I don't pay attention | 2% |
| TOTAL VOTES CAST | 317 |

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:

Are you ready for school to start again?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 6, the 218th day of 2013. There are 147 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 6, 1945, during World War II, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 140,000 deaths.

On this date: In 1813, during the Venezuelan War of Independence, forces led by Simon Bolivar recaptured Caracas.

In 1825, Upper Peru became the autonomous republic of Bolivia.

In 1862, the Confederate ironclad *CSS Arkansas* was scuttled by its crew on the Mississippi River near Baton Rouge, La., to prevent capture by the Union.

In 1926, Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim the English Channel, arriving in Kingsdown, England, from France in 14 1/2 hours.

In 1930, New York State Supreme Court Justice Joseph Force Crater went missing after leaving a Manhattan restaurant; his disappearance remains a mystery.

In 1942, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands became the first reigning queen to address a joint session of Congress, telling lawmakers that despite Nazi occupation, her people's motto remained, "No surrender."

In 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Gherman Titov became the second man to orbit Earth as he flew aboard Vostok 2.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act.

In 1973, former Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista, 72, died in exile in Spain. Entertainer Stevie Wonder was seriously injured in a car accident in North Carolina.

In 1978, Pope Paul VI died at Castel Gandolfo at age 80.

In 1988, an attempt by New York City police to enforce a curfew in Tompkins Square Park triggered a melee that left 52 people injured and led to the filing of more than 110 claims of police brutality.

In 1993, Louis Freeh won Senate confirmation to be FBI director.

Ten years ago: Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger used an appearance on NBC's "The Tonight Show with Jay Leno" to announce his successful bid to replace California Gov. Gray Davis. The same day, Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante said he was entering the recall race as well. Israel freed 334 Palestinian prisoners in a bid to jump-start peace efforts, but the gesture fell flat among Palestinians. Record-breaking heat, already blamed for three dozen deaths, continued to torment Europe.

Five years ago: The government declared that Army scientist Bruce Ivins was solely responsible for the anthrax attacks that killed five and rattled the nation in 2001. (Ivins had committed suicide on July 29.) A U.S. military jury convicted Osama bin Laden's former driver, Salim Hamdan, of supporting terrorism in the first war crimes trial at Guantanamo Bay (however, the jury imposed a surprisingly light 5 1/2-year sentence, making Hamdan eligible for parole in five months; the U.S. later transferred Hamdan to his home country of Yemen, which released him in January 2009.) President George W. Bush, on his Asia tour, met with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak; Bush then traveled to Thailand, where he met with Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej.

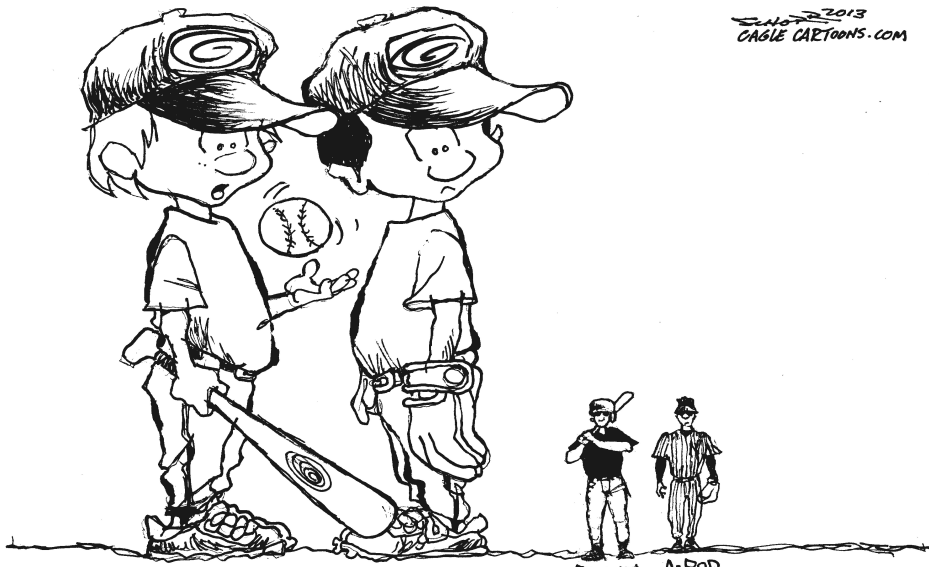
One year ago: Syria's prime minister, Riad Hijab, defected two months after being forced into the position by President Bashar Assad. Marvin Hamlish, 68, who composed or arranged the scores for dozens of movies including "The Sting" and the Broadway smash "A Chorus Line," died in Los Angeles. Art critic and historian Robert Hughes, 74, died in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Charlie Haden is 76. Actor-director Peter Bonerz is 75. Actress Louise Sorel is 73. Actor Michael Anderson Jr. is 70. Actor Ray Buktenica is 70. Actor Dorian Harewood is 63. Actress Catherine Hicks is 62. Rock singer Pat MacDonald (Timbuk 3) is 61. Country musician Mark DuFresne (Confederate Railroad) is 60. Actress Stephanie Kramer is 57. Actress Faith Prince is 56. Rhythm-and-blues singer Randy DeBarge is 55. Actor Leiland Orser is 53. Country singers Peggy and Patsy Lynn are 49. Basketball Hall of Famer David Robinson is 48. Actor Jeremy Ratchford is 48. Singer Lisa Stewart is 45. Movie writer-director M. Night Shyamalan is 43. Actress Merin Dungey is 42. Singer Geri Halliwell is 41. Actor Jason O'Mara is 41. Singer-actor David Campbell is 40. Actress Vera Farmiga is 40. Actress Ever Carradine is 39. Actress Soleil Moon Frye is 37. Actress Melissa George is 37. Rock singer Travis McCoy (Gym Class Heroes) is 32. Actor Leslie Odum Jr. is 32. Actress Romola Garai is 31. Rock musician Eric Roberts (Gym Class Heroes) is 29.

Thought for Today: "No man ever got very high by pulling other people down. The intelligent merchant does not knock his competitors. The sensible worker does not work those who work with him. Don't knock your friends. Don't knock your enemies. Don't knock yourself." — Alfred, Lord Tennyson, British poet (1809-1892).

FROM THE BIBLE

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



"I THOUGHT DOPING WAS SUPPOSED TO MAKE THEM BIGGER..."

Recalling All Mavericks

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — As congressional leaders depart the nation's capital for a much-deserved five-week break, it is with a sense of relief and pride in accomplishment: A grand bargain budget that ends sequestration and makes rational spending cuts, a sane immigration reform package, and progress on a cost-cutting health care plan.

Well, a girl can dream, can't she? You know how it goes. You wake up smiling at the memory of love when you realize that the nose nuzzling your neck belongs to the dog that needs to go out. It is not, in fact, your birthday. And you have not, alas, been notified that a recently discovered document at Buckingham Palace identifies you as rightful heir to a vast fortune and several well-managed countries.

Which is to say, Congress went home without doing much of anything.

As everyone knows, Republicans are to blame. They are the obstructionists, the just-say-no enemies of women, immigrants, health care for the poor, shoes for the born, and equality for gay whales, to mention a few.

This "narrative," as they say, is pure propaganda. President Obama achieved huge legislative victories (Obamacare, Dodd-Frank, bailouts, two Supreme Court appointments) when he had hefty majorities in Congress. Once those margins were lost or reduced in the 2010 election, the president's focus shifted to scoring political points by shouting, "Obstruction!" In truth, no serious efforts have been made toward compromise because it is in neither side's political interest.

This is not to say that the GOP is problem-free. Far from it. The tea party/libertarian express poses a serious threat to the party and, therefore, the nation. (Don't we really want two healthy parties?) Then again, stepping back just a tad, what we're witnessing is perhaps an inevitable generational realignment.

Think maverick.

Remember when John McCain was the bad boy, always going his own way? Thinking for himself? Talking candidly with the press? (Out of respect for seniority, we'll lurch past his temporary lapse of judgment in 2008.)

Actually, McCain wasn't that much of a maverick, a nickname first suggested in 1989 by Dan Casey, then executive director of the American Conservative Union, which consistently gave McCain respectable marks for conservative votes.

Today, as time would have it, McCain is Mr. Establishment. He not only lunches with the enemy but dines with the president. Isn't this



Kathleen PARKER

how life goes? Teenagers eventually grow up and become their parents. McCain is the GOP grandpa swatting at ankle-biting upstarts such as fellow Sens. Ted Cruz and Rand Paul.

They are the new, out-of-the-box mavericks. And the squabbles that threaten to shut down the government come Oct. 1 may be part of a larger generational struggle to redefine the party. Suicide isn't as catchy as "Winning!" — but, as Rush Limbaugh has suggested, at least it's a stand.

Cruz and Paul, whom McCain once called "wacko birds," have threatened to shut down the government unless Obamacare is defunded. (On Friday, McCain said that both Cruz and Paul would be "viable" presidential candidates in 2016. Hardly a ringing endorsement, but ... something.)

Obviously, Obama won't sign off on a budget that defunds his chief achievement. But the alternative of Republicans reforming Obamacare isn't appealing because they don't want to help save it. The threatened shutdown, however, is more tilting at windmills than slingshots against giants.

Either Cruz and Paul have sincerely deluded themselves about the political consequences of a shutdown or, plausibly, they don't really think they can cause a shutdown and would never have to suffer the consequences. Meanwhile, they make political points with the base by blaming the GOP "sellouts" when the establishment adults keep the trains running on time.

Even if these newbie mavericks were successful in their defunding effort, it would only be a temporary "win," since funding comes up annually. Moreover, such a temporary victory would give Democrats a far-reaching advantage. Thereafter, responsibility for any dissatisfaction with the health care system would shift to the GOP.

Alternatively, the old maverick could prevail. Dropping from his cockpit, the flight-suited McCain strides toward the microphone, pausing briefly to high-five wingman Lindsey Graham and crew member Kelly (Ayotte, not McGillis), and announces: "We passed a bipartisan budget today that ends sequestration, includes significant spending cuts and a tax overhaul. Eleven million illegal immigrants have been invited to become legal residents and begin a rigorous path toward citizenship. We have accepted Disney World's offer to revamp the nation's infrastructure and mass transportation systems. With the president's blessing, Switzerland has agreed to fix Obamacare. That's it. Enjoy the rest of your summer."

In our dreams.

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleen-parker@washpost.com.

The Rez Of The Story

Four Myths About Poverty

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives). Poverty is ugly, complicated and oftentimes avoided by our lawmakers seemingly due to lack of understanding.

Here presented by Dr. Donna M. Beegle, in her book, "See Poverty ... Be The Difference," are four general myths about poverty in this country that have profound impact on the supposed "war on poverty" being waged in this country since the Johnson years.

In his State of the Union Address in 1964 President Lyndon Johnson said, "Unfortunately, many Americans live on the outskirts of hope—some because of their poverty, and some because of their color, and all too many because of both. Our task is to help replace despair with opportunity. This administration today, here and now, declares unconditional war on poverty in America."

Dr. Beegle says that, "The overriding belief in the United States is that people are making a 'choice' to be in poverty. The prevailing view is that education is there if you want it and you can get a good job if you work hard. Daily life experiences and how we get our information shape the ways in which we relate to one another, our expectations, and how we experience the world. The context of our life situation selects, reflects, and defines our values, thus creating our worldview and determining what is possible. People born into poverty are handed a different description of reality than those born with privilege and resources."

"There is a prevalent lack of understanding about poverty and about people who suffer under its cruel conditions. Building a foundation for understanding poverty requires us to address the common myths often attached to this issue."

Myth # 1. Poverty is solely a minority issue. Poverty is often perceived as race or ethnic issue. Poverty needs to be acknowledged as a large-scale societal problem that cuts across racial/ethnic lines, and special attention should be paid to the voices and needs of those in poverty who have often been marginalized, ignored, and treated as invisible.

Myth # 2. Government assistance is adequate to the extent that it encourages independence. Contrary to this myth, people in poverty in the United States cannot get out of poverty by relying on government assistance. Nationally, the average welfare check for one parent and two

children in 2005 was \$478 per month. Twenty years later, it was \$408. Despite a commonly held, but misinformed, belief that people in poverty have babies to get more welfare, the monthly welfare check only increases, on average, about \$60 if you have a baby. In some states,

such as Idaho, no additional money is added to the welfare check after the second child is born. In other states, the support increases only slightly. For instance, in North Carolina, the amount increases \$25 to support the new baby.

"The available assistance from government and social services barely helps people in poverty cope with their poverty conditions, let alone break loose from their grip. Instead of providing support, the current welfare policies create additional barriers, even to those struggling to get out of poverty."

Myth # 3. Social mobility is easily achievable. It is a common belief that people can pull themselves out of

poverty if they work hard. Social mobility is portrayed as a real possibility for those with a strong work ethic. Statistics on job advancement clearly show that for many people, there is little, if any, correlation between hard work and wage increase. If an individual has a high school diploma or less and takes a minimum-wage job, the research shows that in 10 years, on average, his or her income will increase just \$2 per hour. Then after working another 15 years, the hourly rate will increase only 25 cents more — totaling an increase of \$2.25 in 25 years.

Myth # 4. Education is readily available and accessible to all people. If you come from poverty, [according to Dr. Beegle] you have very likely never identified with people who benefited from education. Schools may be seen as places where you don't belong or places where you are punished for your poverty. It is difficult to value something when you don't have any sense of ownership over it."

Perpetuating myths will only add to the problem and prolong arrival at sorely needed solutions. People in poverty don't want to be in the position they find themselves economically and socially any more than anyone else in society. Lets fix this with collaboration with those who are poor instead of trying to fix things for people in poverty.

Native people have been described as the poorest of the poor in this country, why is that?

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



Vince TWO EAGLES