

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION

Events Coordinator A Smart Addition

The City of Yankton is making a good investment in the community by adding an events coordinator position. And this could turn into a great investment if that position is used to recruit more events to the community. The city has decided to create this position — officially called the City Events and Promotions Coordinator — to assist organizers of events with lining up a police or security presence, getting streets cordoned off, acquiring the needed permits, coordinating cleanup efforts, facilitating site preparation and other functions. So, instead of an event organizer or organizers pursuing these matters of a piecemeal basis, the event coordinator could help the organizers shepherd these processes through as quickly and/or efficiently as possible.

City Manager Amy Nelson said the position was in the budget when she arrived three years ago, so the idea is not new. The position is needed. The community has a number of events on its calendar — including Riverboat Days, Rockin' Ribfest, Harvest Halloween Festival and the Rock and Rumble — in which all manner of items need to be addressed to make them happen. Most people only see the finished products; few of them ever consider all the hurdles that must be overcome to make such events happen. With the city's increasingly busy calendar, the need for a coordinator, who could assist in the smooth implementation of such activities is clear.

But there could be more to this position than servicing Yankton's existing events and activities.

There are events that occur here that aren't annual affairs — last summer's World Archery Youth Tournament is one recent example. Such events would be even more in need of assistance with lining up whatever amenities, permits and necessities it would take to stage those activities. Again, the coordinator could handle this role. Here also lies a real opportunity for Yankton. An events coordinator could help recruit new events such as tournaments or conventions, for instance, that don't often find their way to the community. If this person could help demonstrate to event organizers that this community has the means to efficiently assist them in their contractual or set-up needs, it could provide a big plus in that recruiting process.

Yankton has established itself as a destination community. As such, it presents itself as an attractive site for events like golf or fishing tournaments, expos and other offerings. If an events coordinator could help market Yankton's possibilities and, at the same time, offer efficiency with paperwork and the other details that make events happen, it would be a big plus that could well pay for itself.

kmh

P&D LETTER POLICY

The PRESS & DAKOTAN invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask that a few simple guidelines be followed:

- Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.
- In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.
- Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.
- Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Dec. 2, the 336th day of 2015. There are 29 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 2, 1995, NASA launched the Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO), a joint project of the United States and the European Space Agency, on a \$1 billion mission to study the sun and interplanetary space; since then, SOHO has discovered 3,000 comets.

On this date: In 1804, Napoleon crowned himself Emperor of the French. In 1823, President James Monroe outlined his doctrine opposing European expansion in the Western Hemisphere.

In 1859, militant abolitionist John Brown was hanged for his raid on Harper's Ferry the previous October. Artist Georges-Pierre Seurat was born in Paris. In 1927, Ford Motor Co. unveiled its Model A automobile that replaced its Model T.

In 1939, New York Municipal Airport-LaGuardia Field (later LaGuardia Airport) went into operation as an airliner from Chicago landed at one minute past midnight.

In 1942, an artificially created, self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction was demonstrated for the first time at the University of Chicago.

In 1954, the U.S. Senate passed, 67-22, a resolution condemning Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., saying he had "acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute."

In 1961, Cuban leader Fidel Castro declared himself a Marxist-Leninist who would eventually lead Cuba to Communism.

In 1970, the newly created Environmental Protection Agency opened its doors; its first director was William D. Ruckelshaus. In 1980, four American churchwomen were raped and murdered outside San Salvador. (Five El Salvador national guardsmen were later convicted of murdering nuns Ita Ford, Maura Clarke and Dorothy Kazel, and lay worker Jean Donovan.)

In 1982, in the first operation of its kind, doctors at the University of Utah Medical Center implanted a permanent artificial heart in the chest of retired dentist Dr. Barney Clark, who lived 112 days with the device.

In 1990, composer Aaron Copland died in North Tarrytown, New York, at age 90. Actor Bob Cummings died in Woodland Hills, California, at age 80.

Ten years ago: North Carolina in-

mate Kenneth Lee Boyd became the 1,000th person executed since the U.S. resumed capital punishment in 1977. Singapore executed a Vietnamese-born Australian heroin trafficker (Nguyen Tuong Van) despite a warning by Australian Prime Minister John Howard that the hanging would sour relations between the two countries.

Five years ago: The House voted, 333-79, to censure Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., for financial and fundraising misconduct; it was only the 23rd time that the House had invoked its most serious punishment short of expulsion. LeBron James scored 38 points to lead the visiting Miami Heat to a 118-90 victory over the host Cleveland Cavaliers; it was James' first game back in the city where he had played for seven years before leaving via free agency. The tiny desert nation of Qatar beat out the United States as the 2022 World Cup host (however, questions have since been raised about the bidding process).

One year ago: Israel's divided government fell apart as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired two rebellious Cabinet ministers and called for a new election more than two years ahead of schedule. Islamic militants killed 36 quarry workers in northern Kenya who they believed were non-Muslims.

Today's Birthdays: Former Attorney General Edwin Meese III is 84. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is 76. Actress Cathy Lee Crosby is 71. Movie director Penelope Spheeris is 70. Actor Ron Raines is 66. Country singer John Wesley Ryles is 65. Actor Keith Szarabajka is 63. Actor Dan Butler is 61. Broadcast journalist Stone Phillips is 61. Actor Dennis Christopher is 60. Actor Steven Bauer is 59. Country singer Joe Henry is 55. Rock musician Rick Savage (Def Leppard) is 55. Actor Brendan Coyle (TV: "Downton Abbey") is 52. Rock musician Nate Mendel (Foo Fighters) is 47. Actress Suzy Nakamura is 47. Actress Rena Sofer is 47. Rock singer Jimi HaHa (Jimmie's Chicken Shack) is 47. Actress Lucy Liu (too) is 47. Rapper Treach (Naughty By Nature) is 45. Actor Joe Lo Truglio is 45. Tennis player Monica Seles is 42. Singer Nelly Furtado is 37. Pop singer Britney Spears is 34. Actress-singer Jana Kramer is 32. Actress Daniella Ruah is 32. NFL quarterback Aaron Rodgers is 32. Actor Alfred Enoch is 27. Actresses Deanna and Daniella Carterman are 23.

Thought for Today: "When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt." — Henry J. Kaiser, American industrialist (1882-1967).

FROM THE BIBLE

And [Jesus] opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:2-3. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



When Candidates Fan Flames Of Hate

BY ROBERT B. REICH

Tribune Content Agency

On Friday, a gunman killed three at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado. Later, in explaining his motive to the police, he reportedly said, "No more baby parts."

On Nov. 23, gunmen opened fire on Black Lives Matter protesters in Minneapolis who were demanding action against two white Minneapolis police officers involved in the fatal shooting of Jamar Clark, 24, an unarmed black man, on Nov. 15.

Meanwhile, the FBI has warned of an uptick in threats against Muslims and mosques in the United States.

In Connecticut, police are investigating reports of multiple gunshots fired at a local mosque. Two Tampa-area mosques in Florida received threatening phone messages. One of the calls threatened a firebombing. In an Austin suburb, leaders of the Islamic Center of Pflugerville discovered feces and torn pages of the Quran that had been thrown at the door to the center.

Hate crimes will never be eliminated entirely. A small number of angry, deranged people inevitably will vent their rage at groups they find threatening. Some will do so violently.

But this doesn't absolve politicians who have been fueling such hatefulness.

Perpetrators of hate crimes often take their cues from what they hear in the media. And the recent inclination of some politicians to use inflammatory rhetoric is contributing to a climate of hate and fear.

Carly Fiorina continues to allege, for example, that Planned Parenthood is selling body parts of fetuses. Although the claim has been proven baseless, it's been repeated not only by Fiorina but also by other candidates. Mike Huckabee calls it "sickening" that "we give these butchers money to harvest human organs."

Even in the wake of Friday's Colorado shootings, Donald Trump referred to videos "with some of these people from Planned Parenthood talking about it like you're selling parts to a car."

Some candidates are also fomenting animus toward Muslims.

Huckabee says he'd "like for Barack Obama to resign if he's not going to protect America and instead protect the image of Islam."

Ben Carson says allowing Syrian refugees into the United States is analogous to exposing a neighborhood to a "rabid dog." In September, Carson said he "would not advocate that

we put a Muslim in charge of this nation."

Since the attacks that killed 130 people in Paris earlier this month, Trump has advocated registering all Muslims in the United States and putting American mosques under surveillance. He's also claimed that Muslim-Americans in New Jersey celebrated by the "thousands" when the World Trade Center was destroyed on Sept. 11, 2001, although there's no evidence to back that claim.

Indeed, much of Trump's campaign is built on hatefulness. And Trump not only fails to condemn violence he provokes but finds excuses for it. After a handful of white supporters recently punched and attempted to choke a Black Lives Matter protester at one of his campaign rallies, Trump said "maybe he should have been roughed up."

Trump began his campaign in June by falsely alleging Mexican immigrants are "bringing crime. They're rapists."

Weeks later, in Boston, two brothers were arrested for beating and urinating on a 58-year-old homeless Mexican national. One of the brothers reportedly told police, "Donald Trump was right, all these illegals need to be deported."

But instead of condemning that brutality, Trump excused it by saying "people who are following me are very passionate. They love this country and they want this country to be great again."

I'm not suggesting that Trump, Carson, Fiorina or any other presidential candidate is directly to blame for hate crimes erupting across America. But by virtue of their standing as presidential candidates, their words carry particular weight. They have a responsibility to calm people with the truth rather than stir them up with lies.

In suggesting that Muslims, Planned Parenthood staffers, Black Lives Matter protesters and Mexican immigrants are guilty of venal acts, these candidates are fanning the flames of hate.

This itself is despicable.

Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich is Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at the University of California at Berkeley and Senior Fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. His new book, "Saving Capitalism: For the Many, Not the Few," is now in bookstores. His film "Inequality for All" is now available on iTunes and Amazon streaming.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thankful B&G Club

Marc Mooney, Yankton
Board President, Boys & Girls Club of Yankton
Advisory Board

As we prepare for Thanksgiving, it's always a time of reflection and thankfulness. On behalf of the Boys & Girls Club of Yankton Family, I want to thank YOU, each and every one. Whether you are a donor, board member, staff member, volunteer, advocate, parent or just someone who cares about youth, you are making a difference in the lives of so many youth. Without you, the Boys & Girls Club of Yankton could not carry out our mission to inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.

We are most thankful for the investment that the community is making to serve more youth, more often. The new Boys & Girls Club building is under construction north of the middle school. It's exciting to watch the progress, and we're looking forward to opening the doors of the new building in the fall of 2016.

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