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OPINION

A Lesson Learned For Yankton

Yankton should consider itself lucky. That could be one way to consider that incident that occurred at Yankton High School last Thursday, in which two individuals walked into the school and were eventually apprehended by school officials.

As of this writing, the motives of these two individuals aren't clear, although we're willing to guess that they may not have been anything destructive or, to use a trendy term, terroristic. While law enforcement officials later discovered there was a rifle and a shotgun in the vehicle the two arrived in, the weapons were not loaded. It would appear at this juncture that the two suspects, who were college kids from the University of South Dakota, may be most guilty of having exercised some seriously stupid judgment. But the final outcome remains to be seen.

However, that's not why the Yankton School District and the community are lucky.

Instead, Yankton's lucky because it learned a momentous lesson at a bargain price.

Shooting rampages in schools have been frequent outbursts in American society for too many years, with incidents like Columbine in 1999 and Newtown in 2012 setting the genocidal standards for such horror. (The number of school incidents involving guns has escalated dramatically: There have been 104 this decade alone, compared to 49 throughout the 2000s and 40 in the 1990s. During the nine decades preceding that, there were a total of 125 reported shootings nationwide.) These are appalling acts, hitting at what are really among the softest of soft targets. Because of these incidents — in particular, the two aforementioned tragedies — the mindset of school security has changed dramatically across the country.

But there are really no uniform standards for such security. And vigilance can be a difficult thing to maintain, especially in a small-town atmosphere where the threat of these things would appear remote.

South Dakota is a place like that, or at least it was until last September when there was a shooting at the Harrisburg school in which the principal — Kevin Lein, who is an alumnus of Mount Marty College — was slightly wounded. This incident was a sobering reminder that such unthinkable things could happen here. (We can't violate any embargo rules of publication, but we can tell you that this incident will be touched on in a "Dear Abby" column later this week.)

Last week, that lesson was reinforced deeply in Yankton, but it came without any bloodshed or violence. The incident seemed to expose a gap in the school district's security measures. It also apparently revealed that some of the security training does work, as a YHS teacher spotted the suspects and confronted them, thus ending the incident. Whether anything more serious than this breach would have taken place is unknown — and probably doubtful — but the fact that the suspects got that far beyond the front door indicates some new planning must take place.

Since the Thursday incident, there has been a police officer at each of the public schools, and the doors have been locked. It would be fair to say, then, that the schools were somewhat safer Friday morning than they were Thursday morning.

Thus, a lesson was learned without the terrible circumstances that sometimes necessitate it.

Much more thinking must be devoted to this topic, with discussions devoted to proper protocols and what should and shouldn't be done. We have confidence this will happen, which would be a constructive outcome from this incident.

kmh

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

How closely are you following the U.N. climate conference in Paris?
Very little.....46%
Not at all/never heard of it.....29%
Off and on.....19%
Very closely.....6%
TOTAL VOTES CAST.....241

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:

Should all Muslims in the U.S. be required to register and carry special identification?
To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Dec. 8, the 342nd day of 2015. There are 23 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Dec. 8, 1941, the United States entered World War II as Congress declared war against Imperial Japan, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

On this date: In 1765, Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton gin, was born in Westborough, Massachusetts.

In 1854, Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Catholic dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which holds that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was free of original sin from the moment of her own conception.

In 1865, Finnish composer Jean Sibelius was born in Haemeenlinna.

In 1914, "Watch Your Step," the first musical revue to feature a score composed entirely by Irving Berlin, opened in New York.

In 1940, the Chicago Bears defeated the Washington Redskins, 73-0, in the NFL Championship Game, which was carried on network radio for the first time by the Mutual Broadcasting System (the announcer was Red Barber).

In 1949, the Chinese Nationalist government moved from the Chinese mainland to Formosa as the Communists pressed their attacks.

In 1962, the first session of the Second Vatican Council was formally adjourned. Typographers went on a 114-day strike against four New York City newspapers.

In 1972, a United Airlines Boeing 737 crashed while attempting to land at Chicago-Midway Airport, killing 43 of the 61 people on board, as well as two people on the ground; among the dead were Dorothy Hunt, wife of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt, U.S. Rep. George W. Collins, D-Ill., and CBS News correspondent Michele Clark.

In 1980, rock star John Lennon was shot to death outside his New York City apartment building by an apparently deranged fan.

In 1982, a man demanding an end to nuclear weapons held the Washington Monument hostage, threatening to blow it up with explosives he claimed were inside a van. (After a 10-hour standoff, Norman D. Mayer was shot dead by police; it turned out there were no explosives.)

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev signed a treaty at the White House calling for destruction of intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In 1992, Americans got to see live television coverage of U.S. troops landing on the beaches of Somalia as Operation Restore Hope began (because of the time dif-

ference, it was early Dec. 9 in Somalia).

Ten years ago: A Southwest Airlines jet landing at Chicago Midway International Airport during a snowstorm slid off the runway and onto a busy street, killing a boy in a car. In Iraq, a suicide bomber set off explosives inside a packed bus bound for a southern Shiite city, killing 32 people.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama rejected claims that he had betrayed Democrats by cutting a deal with Republicans on Bush-era tax cuts and implored his party to back the compromise, arguing it could jump-start the economy. Hackers rushed to the defense of WikiLeaks, launching attacks on MasterCard, Visa, Swedish prosecutors, a Swiss bank and others who had acted against the site and its founder, Julian Assange. A fire that started during an inmate brawl swept through an overcrowded prison in Chile, killing at least 81 people.

One year ago: The U.S. and NATO ceremonially ended their combat mission in Afghanistan, 13 years after the Sept. 11 terror attacks sparked their invasion of the country to topple the Taliban-led government. Britain's Prince William sat down with President Barack Obama in Washington while his wife, Kate, made an impression of a down-to-earth duchess on preschoolers and prominent British expats in New York.

Today's Birthdays: Flutist James Galway is 76. Singer Jerry Butler is 76. Pop musician Bobby Elliott (The Hollies) is 74. Actress Mary Woronov is 72. Actor John Rubinstein is 69. Rock singer-musician Gregg Allman is 68. Reggae singer Toots Hibbert (Toots and the Maytals) is 67. Actress Kim Basinger is 62. Rock musician Warren Cuccurullo is 59. Rock musician Phil Collen (Def Leppard) is 58. Country singer Marty Raybon is 56. World Bank President Jim Yong Kim is 56. Political commentator Ann Coulter is 54. Rock musician Marty Friedman is 53. Actor Wendell Pierce is 52. Actress Teri Hatcher is 51. Actor David Harewood is 50. Rapper Bushwick Bill (The Geto Boys) is 49. Singer Sinead O'Connor is 49. Actor Matthew Laborteaux is 49. Rock musician Ryan Newell (Sister Hazel) is 43. Actor Dominic Monaghan is 39. Actor Ian Somerhalder is 37. Rock singer Ingrid Michaelson is 36. R&B singer Christette Michele is 33. Actress Hannah Ware is 33. Country singer Sam Hunt is 31. Rock singer-actress Kate Voegelge is 29. Christian rock musician Jen Ledger (Skillet) is 26. Actress Wallis Currie-Wood (TV: "Madam Secretary") is 24. Actress AnnaSophia Robb is 22.

Thought for Today: "War does not determine who is right — only who is left." — Author unknown (although this sentiment is sometimes attributed to Bertrand Russell).

FROM THE BIBLE

Barnabas took [Paul] and brought him to the apostles and declared to them how on the road [Paul] had seen the Lord, who spoke to him and how at Damascus he had preached boldly in the name of Jesus. Acts 9:27. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



The Rez of the Story

More On Boarding Schools

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), Here is part two of The Boarding School Experience begun last week with Mr. Kevin Gover's (Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs Department of the Interior) comments at the 175th Anniversary of the establishment of the Bureau of Indian Affairs gathering.

Gayle Ross (Cherokee), Historian and Story Teller: "The most formidable challenge in our past was the Indian boarding school experience. The lives and spirits of the indigenous peoples were under attack from the first moment of contact in 1492 ("Our Spirits Don't Speak English").

This story is also about those (like myself) who were placed in parochial boarding schools as well. These having the same intent as did the BIA boarding schools — to wipe out our "Nativeness."

Dr. Henrietta Mann (Cheyenne/ Arapaho); Professor Emerita Montana State University: "The first 300 years of the education of American Indians was dominated by the church. So that you could certainly see that the thrust was to make American Indians into Christians.

"And of course when you get to how a people pray and their spirituality, it gets to the core of who they are as a people."

Cliff Trafzer, Ph.D., University of California, Riverside: "Columbus, and those who came in his wake, expected Indian people to become more European like. That has been the educational system of Europeans and Americans from the start — to try to destroy that which was Indian.

"Traditionally, American Indian communities throughout the Americas had their own education systems. Native children were taught were taught to listen.

... formal education with the Europeans meant taking young people and placing them in a location where they would be expected to learn a new language, new ways, especially learning how to read and mixed with that education would be religion and the idea that the religion of Indian people and the ways of Indian people were somehow backward, un-Christian, uncivilized.

"We as Europeans would want to change that which was Native. It was a major difference in



Vince TWO EAGLES

trying to take children away from their communities and their families."

Many Indian people see their experiences in boarding school as something they should be ashamed of. They are afraid to talk about these experiences as if naming what they went through would somehow cause ridicule from their community.

Imagine being told every day of your young life that you are the wrong skin color, you speak the wrong language — your beliefs are wrong too. Your community is wrong, your parents are wrong, even your grandparents are wrong for teaching you about the Native history or to be telling you stories and fables about your origins as a people. The most disturbing aspect of this is that you begin to actually believe that you're wrong and you begin to mistrust your own parents and your own history and that your family is bad but for the simple fact that they are Indian.

Add to this being physically battered, sexually molested and emotionally abused by your so called, caretakers it is no wonder Indian people have the highest rate of suicide per capita in this country. Higher than normal rates of clinical depression have been reported.

Many Indian people think that the stress from these experiences is at the core of a whole host of physical ailments our ancestors never even heard of.

Alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence and communities unsafe from vandalism, youth crime such as gang activity and other evidence of social disorder are also linked back to our treatment in boarding schools as eluded to in Mr. Gover's statements at the outset of this piece.

Our ideas about parenting, mentoring and getting along and respecting each other as relatives and neighbors were also stolen from us.

Our sacred sites, where we prayed in our way, have been desecrated thereby rendering our intimate relationship with these sites contaminated.

Our ideas about religion and spirituality were also stolen from us and some of our ceremonies such as the Sundance were outlawed and forbidden.

More on all of this next week.
Doksha ...

Pearl Harbor

Recalling A Day Of 'Infamy'

At the worst possible moment in 20th century American history, Franklin Roosevelt delivered exactly the speech Americans needed to here.

Seventy-four years ago today, the country was reeling from the news of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. It was a brutal strike that left more than 2,000 dead and America's naval presence in the Pacific grimly crippled. It signaled our entry into World War II.

This was also a transformative moment. This nation had been bitterly divided about getting entangled in another global conflict, which had already been raging for more than two years by this point. The U.S. had taken small measures to aid its British allies while trying to maintain some semblance of detachment.

That all changed on Dec. 7, 1941, which will be known forever as a "day of infamy." It aroused and galvanized the great American beast — which at that point was a tremendous industrial machine but would eventually also become a military superpower. America's entry into World War II changed the war and the world.

On Dec. 8, 1941, President Roosevelt spoke to a joint session of Congress to declare war, which Japan had really already done for us. He not only laid out the case for war, but he defined the nation's moral objectives with a sobering but stirring call to arms.

Here is the text of that speech:
Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was

deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday, the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night, Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night, Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night, Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night, the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning, the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.

I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost, but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph — so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vibrant Yankton Receives Boost

Gene Baker, Yankton

To have a vibrant Yankton, a major criterion is a vibrant downtown. To have a vibrant downtown, you must have successful businesses and, of course, shoppers. These shop-

pers must come downtown or live downtown.

Now Yankton will have a downtown grocery store making it easier for apartment dwellers to live downtown. Hopefully this will result in downtown apartments filling up and the "brass ring" — new apartments — being built, and I know the perfect place.