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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

**SUBSCRIPTIONS/
CIRCULATION**

Extension 104
CLASSIFIED ADS
Extension 108
tera.schmidt@yankton.net

NEWS DEPT.

Extension 114
news@yankton.net
SPORTS DEPT.
Extension 106
sports@yankton.net

ADVERTISING DEPT.

Extension 122
sales@yankton.net
BUSINESS OFFICE
Extension 119
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NEW MEDIA:

Extension 136
beth.rye@yankton.net
COMPOSING DEPT.
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OPINION

Athletic Fields And Tough Choices

Residents of the Yankton School District face some intriguing options as the district considers how to proceed with the renovation of two athletic facilities, and weighs those choices against (or along side) other needs of the district.

This discussion centers, of course, on Crane Youngworth Field, a staple of Yankton athletic lore (high school and college) for 90 years and the cradle of countless great memories, and Williams Field, the new facility, less than a decade old, located by Yankton High School. The former is the home of YHS football, while the latter offers one of the best outdoor tracks in the region. (The former may also be the home for the soccer program, depending how things go with the city and its field situation.) Plans for upgrades to both facilities must bear in mind the long-term concerns about Crane, which is going to need some major renovation at some point not only to the deteriorating grandstand but also the field, which is wearing down.

Soon the public will have a chance to offer input through open forums as the school district seeks to find the best and most acceptable path forward.

There are a lot of question that need answering, as school officials are quick to admit.

For instance, one is the cost of grass versus the cost of a new synthetic turf for the fields. During Monday night's explanation of the differential, it was pointed out by Chuck Turner, the director of grounds for the school district, that installing turf would be a large undertaking requiring a lot of dirt to be moved, and the cost would be higher than installing grass. However, it was noted by Superintendent Dr. Wayne Kindle that there are much better opportunities for accessing large donors or sponsors to help pay for the installation of turf than there would be for grass. Thus, the initial higher cost could very well be offset.

There is, however, an intriguing question in all this that is best illustrated in the second paragraph of this piece.

The Yankton School District is blessed — for lack of a better word — by the fact that it has two varsity-level facilities at its disposal. But this can also be a curse in that the district must also weigh how to give both facilities the attention they deserve.

Should the district continue to divide its resources between two facilities or concentrate its fiscal energies on just one?

That's a good question, although it is in some ways misleadingly simplistic. If, for instance, the district decided to move its football games to Williams Field, considerable investment would be needed in making the facility ready, including new lights, adding to the seating capacity, moving the Crane scoreboard and so forth. So, in the short term, there would be an extra cost in that.

But the long term may be the real point. And that's where YSD patrons must search their souls and consider their wallets as they ponder the road forward.

This has not been an easy process, and it won't get easier as the matter proceeds. Either way, some tough choices must be made.

kmh

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, June 17, the 168th day of 2015. There are 197 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 17, 1775, the Revolutionary War Battle of Bunker Hill resulted in a costly victory for the British, who suffered heavy losses.

On this date: In 1789, during the French Revolution, the Third Estate declared itself a national assembly and undertook to frame a constitution. (This gathering gave rise to the political terms "left wing" and "right wing," with deputies representing commoners sitting to the left of the assembly president, and nobles sitting to the right.)

In 1885, the Statue of Liberty arrived in New York Harbor aboard the French ship Iserle.

In 1928, Amelia Earhart embarked on a trans-Atlantic flight from Newfoundland to Wales with pilots Wilmer Stultz and Louis Gordon, becoming the first woman to make the trip as a passenger.

In 1930, President Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, which boosted U.S. tariffs to historically high levels, prompting foreign retaliation.

In 1940, France asked Germany for terms of surrender in World War II.

In 1944, the Republic of Iceland was established.

In 1953, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas stayed the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, originally set for the next day, the couple's 14th wedding anniversary. (They were put to death June 19.)

In 1961, Soviet ballet dancer Rudolf Nureyev defected to the West while his troupe was in Paris.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon's eventual downfall began with the arrest of five burglars inside Democratic national headquarters in Washington D.C.'s Watergate complex.

In 1985, Discovery Channel made its cable TV debut.

In 1992, President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed a breakthrough arms-reduction agreement.

In 1994, after leading police on a slow-speed chase on Southern California freeways, O.J. Simpson was arrested and charged with murder in the slayings of his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (Simpson was later acquitted in a criminal trial, but held liable in a civil trial.)

Ten years ago: The nation's Roman Catholic bishops agreed to a five-year extension on their unprecedented policy of permanently barring sexually abusive clergy from church work. Marcus Wesson,

the domineering patriarch of a large clan he'd bred through incest, was convicted in Fresno, California, of murdering nine of his children. (Wesson was later sentenced to death.) Former Tyco CEO Dennis Kozlowski and a second executive, Mark H. Swartz, were convicted of looting their company of more than \$600 million. (Kozlowski was paroled in January 2014; Swartz was released in October 2013.) Iran's presidential election was thrown into a run-off after no candidate won over 50 percent of the vote. (Tehran's conservative mayor, Mahmoud Ahmehinejad emerged the winner.)

Five years ago: BP chief executive Tony Hayward told a congressional hearing he was "deeply sorry" for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, but infuriated lawmakers as he disclaimed knowledge of any of the myriad problems leading up to the disaster. Israel agreed to ease its three-year-old land blockade of the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. The Los Angeles Lakers rallied in Game 7, defeating the Boston Celtics 83-79 to repeat as NBA champions.

One year ago: The Obama administration announced that U.S. special forces had seized Ahmed Abu Khattala, described as a "key leader" in the deadly Benghazi, Libya, attack, and that he was on his way to face a trial in the U.S. for the fiery assault that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. (Abu Khattala has since pleaded not guilty in federal court.) Johann "Hans" Breyer, an 89-year-old retired tool-maker, was arrested in Philadelphia on a German arrest warrant charging him with aiding and abetting the killing of 216,000 Jewish men, women and children while a guard at the Auschwitz death camp. (Breyer died just over a month later before he could be extradited.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor Peter Lupus is 83. Actor William Lucking is 74. Singer Barry Manilow is 72. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich is 72. Comedian Joe Piscopo is 64. Actor Mark Linn-Baker is 61. Actor Jon Gries is 58. Rock singer Jello Biafra is 57. Movie producer-director-writer Bobby Farrelly is 57. Actor Thomas Haden Church is 54. Actor Greg Kinnear is 52. Actress Kami Cotler is 50. Olympic gold-medal speed skater Dan Jansen is 50. Actor Jason Patric is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Kevin Thornton is 46. Actor-comedian Will Forte is 45. Latin pop singer Paulina Rubio is 44. Tennis player Venus Williams is 35. Actor-rapper Herculeez (AKA Jamal Mixon) is 32. Rapper Kendrick Lamar is 28. Actor Damani Roberts is 19.

Thought for Today: "When all men think alike, no one thinks very much." — Walter Lippmann, American journalist (1889-1974).

FROM THE BIBLE

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" Luke 17:5.
Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

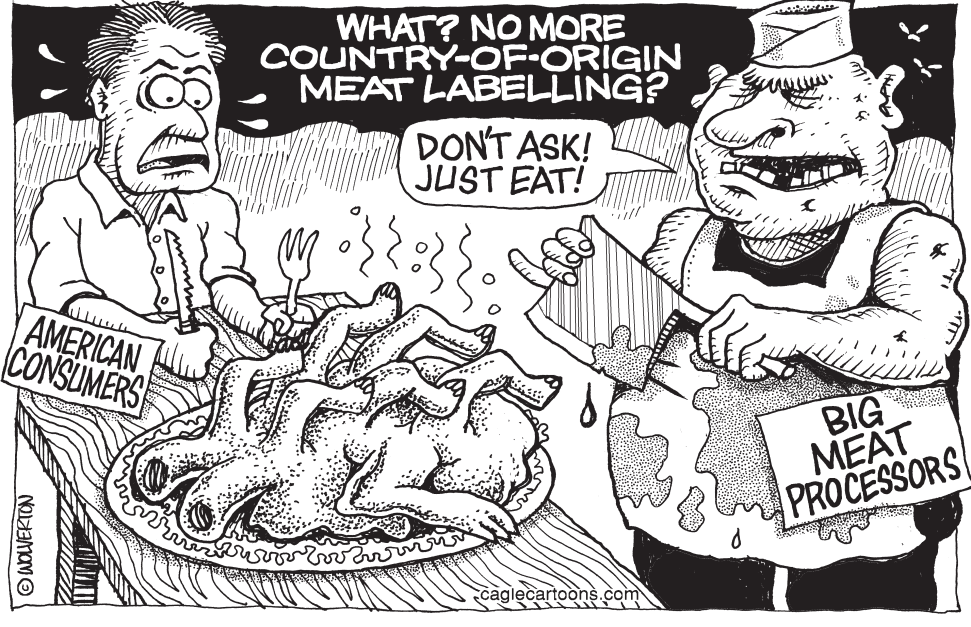
A Super Open House!

Joyce Moore, Yankton Youth Services Librarian, Yankton Community Library

The staff of the Yankton Community Library appreciates all the participants at our Hometown Heroes Open House. This kickoff to our summer reading program was a great opportunity for children and families to meet people who serve our community every day. Thank you to all the individuals who made it possible:

- Tara Bartekoske — United Way
- Jennifer Adamson — Contact Center
- Beth Kaltsulas — Yankton School District's Teacher of the Year

- Dr. Jeffrey Johnson — Lewis and Clark Family Medicine
 - Jane Wuesteward — Women's and Children's Center Shelter
 - Tara Richardson — Yankton Parks & Rec lifeguard
 - Mary Robb and Matt Nighbert — Yankton Recycling
 - Officer Brad Parker — Yankton Police Department
 - Larry Nickles — Deputy Fire Chief, Yankton Fire Department
 - Mark Nickles — Yankton County EMS
 - Cody Jensen — Highway Patrol Officer
 - Mark Boyd — State Trooper
- These community helpers make Yankton a great place to live and we are grateful they took the time to join us for our kickoff.



Why The Trans-Pacific Partnership's Nearly Dead

BY ROBERT B. REICH
Tribune Content Agency

How can it be that the largest pending trade deal in history — a deal backed both by a Democratic president and Republican leaders in Congress — is nearly dead?

The Trans-Pacific Partnership may yet squeak through Congress, but its near-death experience offers an important lesson.

It's not that labor unions have regained political power (union membership continues to dwindle, and large corporations have more clout in Washington than ever), or that the president is especially weak (no president can pull off a major deal like this if the public isn't behind him).

The biggest lesson is that most Americans no longer support free trade.

It used to be an article of faith that trade was good for America.

Economic theory told us so: Trade allows nations to specialize in what they do best, thereby fueling growth. And growth, we were told, is good for everyone.

But such arguments are less persuasive in this era of staggering inequality.

For decades, almost all the gains from growth have been going to a small sliver of Americans at the top — while most peoples' wages have stagnated, adjusted for inflation.

Economists point to overall benefits from expanded trade. All of us gain access to cheaper goods and services.

But in recent years, the biggest gains from trade have gone to investors and executives, while the burdens have fallen disproportionately on those in the middle and below who have lost good-paying jobs.

So even though everyone gains from trade, the biggest winners are at the top. And as the top keeps moving higher compared with most of the rest of us, the vast majority feels relatively worse off.

To illustrate the point, consider a simple game I conduct with my students. I have them split up into pairs and ask them to imagine I'm giving \$1,000 to one member of each pair.

I tell them the recipients can keep some of the money only on condition they reach a deal with their partner on how it's to be divided.

They have to offer their partner a portion of the \$1,000, and their partner must either accept or decline. If the partner declines, neither of them gets a penny.

You might think many recipients of the imaginary \$1,000 would offer their partner one dollar,

which the partner would gladly accept. After all, a dollar is better than nothing. Everyone is better off.

But that's not what happens. Most partners decline any offer under \$250, even though that means neither of them gets anything.

This game, and variations of it, have been played by social scientists thousands of times with different groups and pairings, and with remarkably similar results.

A far bigger version of the game is being played on the national stage, as a relative handful of Americans receive ever-larger slices of the total national income while most Americans, working harder than ever, receive smaller ones.

And just as in the simulations, those receiving the smaller slices are starting to say "no deal."

Some might attribute this response to envy or spite. But when I ask my students why they refused to accept anything less than \$250 and thereby risked getting nothing at all, they say

it's worth the price of avoiding unfairness.

Remember, I gave out the \$1,000 arbitrarily. The initial recipients didn't have to work for it or be outstanding in any way.

When a game seems arbitrary, people are often willing to sacrifice gains for themselves in order to prevent others from walking away with far more — a result that strikes them as inherently wrong.

The American economy looks increasingly arbitrary, as CEOs of big firms now rake in 300 times more than the wages of average workers, while two-thirds of Americans live paycheck to paycheck.

Some of my students who refused anything less than \$250 also say they feared that allowing the initial recipient to keep a disproportionately large share would give him the power to rig the game even more in the future.

Here again, America's real-life distributional game is analogous, as a few at the top gain increasing political power to alter the rules of the game to their advantage.

If the American economy continues to create a few big winners and many who feel like losers by comparison, support for free trade won't be the only casualty.

Losers are likely to find many other ways to say "no deal."

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 film, "Inequality for All," is now out on Netflix, iTunes and Amazon.

Kathleen Parker

Bill's Clintonesque Rebuttal

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
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WASHINGTON — It had a familiar ring:

"I don't ever know what people's motives are," said former President Bill Clinton, prompting one to pause and consider just what the definition of "motives" is.

Indeed, one doesn't ever know. But when a country or a firm gives large sums of money to a charity founded by a former U.S. president, whose wife happens to be secretary of state, and whose department may be considering business related to said donor, then one would not likely infer purely altruistic motives.

The former president's remarks were made during a recent interview with CNN's Jake Tapper, during which he was asked about some of the donations that have come into question since Hillary Clinton announced her presidential run.

Were some donors perhaps trying to curry favor with the then-secretary of state? This was the thesis of the recent book, "Clinton Cash," by Peter Schweizer, which has made conservative rounds in recent weeks. Beyond there's anything shady to the fees — whether the sheer, extravagant greed — remains unclear. It could also be nonexistent, but let's review.

Schweizer found that Bill Clinton's fees increased significantly from his \$100,000-200,000 per engagement shortly after leaving office to several above \$500,000 and at least one at \$750,000. Eleven of the 13 speeches for which he was paid over half a million were during his wife's tenure at the State Department.

Bill Clinton is no silver-tongued devil. His words drip with gold, apparently. Be that as it may, it seems a stretch that a \$550,000 speaking fee to Clinton in China was connected to the Obama administration's Asia pivot, as some conservative outlets have suggested. Even so, Caesar's wife, who must always be above suspicion, was not well served by this and other financial exchanges that have come to light.

Disclaimer: No one denies that the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation has done much good in the world, from fighting AIDS in Africa to rehabilitating Haiti after the devastating 2010 earthquake. There's no requirement that public officials use their status to improve the world, and Bill Clinton found a way both to better the lives of others and enrich himself.

A fine and compassionate capitalist is he. Still, any urchin who ever helped a princess step across a puddle understands that rewards accrue to those who play nice with the powerful.

Some may call this politics, others influence-peddling. The difference doubtless lies in a definition somewhere, but one thing is clear: Making a foundation contribution — or paying the secretary of state's husband to say a few words — is a good investment.

In his response during the CNN interview, Clinton said people donated to the foundation because they wanted to help, citing Haiti as an example. But not all cases are so straightforward. The *New York Times* explored an example that seems at least quid-pro-quo-ish. You'll need a dot-connecting app for this.

Around the same time an interagency committee that included Hillary Clinton's State Department was reviewing the sale of a uranium mining company, Uranium One, to a Russian firm, the Clinton Foundation received millions in donations from people with ties to the mining company's chairman.

Then, "shortly after the Russians announced their intention to acquire a majority stake in Uranium One, Mr. Clinton received \$500,000 for a Moscow speech from a Russian investment bank with links to the Kremlin that was promoting Uranium One stock," according to the *Times*.

This isn't an obvious case of influence mas-saging, but nor does it seem necessary to say, "Follow the money."

Such complex relationships involving Hillary Clinton, her family's charitable foundation, hundreds of millions in fees and donations, a former president, a secretary of state and a possible next-president — all embodied in just two people who happen to be married to each other — are certainly enough to attract a reporter's attention and a voter's skepticism.

Never mind the 30,000 emails Hillary Clinton deleted from the personal server she used while leading the State Department.

With only Bill Clinton responding to questions — and polls showing Clinton's trustworthiness in decline — Democrats have cause for concern. Yet again, it seems that Bill Clinton only makes things worse when he tries to help his wife.

"Has anybody proved that we did anything objectionable?" he asked during a recent Bloomberg News interview.

Well, no, but citing an absence of proof is an odd way of asserting one's ethical purity. It sounds perhaps too defensive — and is legal-speak by someone who knows how to operate just inside the margins of error.

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