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Teaming Yankton **And Vermillion**

OPINION

n interesting and long-overdue idea has been getting a good workout lately, as recent town hall meetings in Yankton and Vermillion have been held to promote closer ties between Lathe two communities.

Such an effort makes a great deal of sense for all concerned, so much so that the relationship and its possibilities should seem obvious. And the notion of branding the ties between these two communities to promote the area better is a logical extension of the idea.

The meetings that were held in February in Yankton and in March in Vermillion focused on what the two communities share in common and how it could be promoted to elevate the profile of this

Yankton and Vermillion have a long history together, in no small part because they are two of the oldest communities in what was the territory of Dakota. If you picture the Missouri River as the great roadway that traveled into the heart of this western frontier for white settlers, you can see why Yankton and Vermillion were one of the earliest such settlements in the region.

Indeed, both communities can claim important roles in the Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery expedition. It was near the presentday Vermillion site where a party from the Corps waded through a sea of chest-high prairie grass to a mysterious little promontory now called Spirit Mound. From this vantage point, the explorers first saw the expansive western prairie and the great herds of bison that thundered across these plains. A short time later, it was near what is now Yankton that the Corps had its first encounter with indigenous inhabitants. They met at Calumet Bluff, located near presentday Gavins Point Dam.

So, from these momentous roots, a great bound between modern-day Yankton and Vermillion was established.

They also share a vibrant manufacturing base, and that has led to a "cross-pollination" of labor pools.

Both communities have strong educational ties. Vermillion, of course, is home to the University of South Dakota, while Yankton has Mount Marty College and once also offered Yankton College.

Both towns share recreational resources on several levels. For instance, when Vermillion hosts the state high school football championships in November, it's not uncommon for some fans to stay in Yankton lodgings. Conversely, when Yankton hosts the world youth archery tournament this June, Vermillion will be part of the lodging scenario.

These are just a few examples of what these two communities share. It would not be a stretch to say that Yankton and Vermillion are probably closer than any two neighboring communities of significant size in the state, with the exception of Lead and Deadwood.

Branding would be an intriguing prospect. These communities could jointly market themselves as the "cradle of Dakota," or something along those lines, to promote what we have to offer here. There are probably numerous other possibilities that would work

So, Yankton and Vermillion officials could do worse than to look for ways to market this area as one entity and boast of its offering and its opportunities.

Actually, they really COULD do worse by dismissing these possibilities and not exploit the natural historical, social and geographic ties that bind them together.

This is rich opportunity that should be seen as too good to pass

ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you support increasing the speed I ways to 80 miles per hour?	imit on South Dakota interstate high-
No	58%
Yes	37%
Not sure	3%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	439
The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions	
only of those who choose to participate. The re-	esults should not be construed as an ac-

curate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT OUESTION:

Who do you think will win the NCAA men's basketball championship? To cast your vote in the PRESS & DAKOTAN'S Internet poll, log on to our website

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, March 31, the 90th day of 2015. There are 275 days left in the

Today's Highlight in History: On March 31, 2005, Terri Schiavo, 41, died at a hospice in Pinellas Park, Florida, 13 days after her feeding tube was removed in a wrenching right-to-die dispute.

On this date: In 1814, Paris was occu-

pied by a coalition of Russian, Prussian and Austrian forces; the surrender of the French capital forced the abdication of Emperor Na-

In 1889, French engineer Gustave Eif-fel unfurled the French tricolor from atop the Eiffel Tower, officially marking its completion. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act, which created the Civilian Conservation

Corps.
In 1943, "Oklahoma!," the first musical play by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II, opened on Broadway.

In 1949, Newfoundland (now called

Newfoundland and Labrador) entered confederation as Canada's tenth province.

In 1957, the original version of Rodgers and Hamme stied five in color on CRS

ie Andrews, aired live in color on CBS. In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson stunned the country by announcing he would not seek re-election.
In 1975, "Gunsmoke" closed out 20 sea-

sons on CBS with its final first-run episode, "The Sharecroppers."
In 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court

ruled that Karen Ann Quinlan, who was in a persistent vegetative state, could be disconnected from her respirator. (Quinlan, who re-

mained unconscious, died in 1985.) In 1986, 167 people died when a Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashed in a re-

cana Airlines Boeing 727 crashed in a remote mountainous region of Mexico.

In 1993, actor Brandon Lee, 28, was accidentally shot to death during the filming of a movie in Wilmington, North Carolina, when he was hit by a bullet fragment that had been lodged inside a prop gun. "Star Dust" lyricist Mitchell Parish, 92, died in New York. In 1995, Mexican-American singer Selena Quintanilla-Perez, 23, was shot to death

in Corpus Christi, Texas, by the founder of her fan club, Yolanda Saldivar, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in Ten years ago: A damning report by a presidential commission concluded the

United States knew "disturbingly little" about nuclear and biological threats from danger-

ous adversaries. The World Bank approved Paul Wolfowitz as its new president. South Carolina defeated Saint Joseph's, 60-57, in the NIT championship game. Chicken entre-preneur Frank Perdue died in his hometown

preneur Frank Perdue died in his hometown of Salisbury, Maryland, at age 84.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama threw open a huge swath of East Coast waters and other protected areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska to oil drilling. A Chechen militant claimed responsibility for deadly attacks on the Moscow subway two days earlier that claimed 40 lives; the claim came hours after two more suicide bombers struck in the southern Russian province of Dagestan, killing a dozen people.

One year ago: In a flood of last-minute sign-ups, hundreds of thousands of Americans rushed to apply for health insurance as deadline day for President Barack Obama's overhaul brought long waits and a new spate of website ills. North and South Korea fired hundreds of artillery shells into ago there's hundreds of artillery shells into each other's waters. An umpire's call was overturned for the first time under Major League Baseball's expanded replay system, with Milwaukee Brewers star Ryan Braun ruled out instead of safe in a game against the Atlanta Braves. (The Brewers won, 2-0.) Charles H. Keating Jr., 90, the notorious financier who'd served prison time and was disgraced for his role in the coefficier swings and loan failure in the the costliest savings and loan failure in the

., died in Phoenix.

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Daniels is 88. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Gordie Howe is 87. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 81. Actress Shirley Jones is 81. Country singer-songwriter John D. Loudermilk is 81. Musi-cian Herb Alpert is 80. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 75. Former U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. is 75. Actor Christopher Walken is D-Mass., is 75. Actor Christopher Walken is 72. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 71. Former Vice President Al Gore is 67. Author David Eisenhower is 67. Actress Rhea Perlman is 67. Actor Ed Marinaro is 65. Rock musician Angus Young (AC/DC) is 60. Actor Marc Mo-Clure is 58. Actor William McNamara is 50.

Alt-country musician Bob Crawford (The Avett Brothers) is 44. Actor Ewan McGregor is 44. Rapper Tony Yayo is 37. Actress Kate Micucci is 35. Jazz musician Christian Scott is 32. Pop musician Jack Antonoff (fun.) is 31.

Actress Jascies Szoft is 30.

Actress Jessica Szohr is 30.

Thought for Today: "The reading of all good books is like a conversation with the finest minds of past centuries." — Rene Descartes, French philosopher and mathematician (born this date in 1596, died in

FROM THE BIBLE

Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:20. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

TREADY HERE

A Look At Honesty

Vince

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives). I often quote Karen Casey and Martha Vanceburg's thoughts because their words resonate with me in my thought processes about things; in this case about being honest. These are words of wisdom for all people who are trying to live ethical lives and who recognize that the alternative to honesty is unacceptable.

Karen and Martha write: The important thing in life is to

know what matters for us. Our reality and values are our own; no one else can dictate them to us. They come out of our experiences and observation, and our spiritual health asks that we be true to them.

Similarly, we must be true to what matters for us. We won't try to win anyone over. Nor will we let someone else sway us. We will respect each other's reality, for that's how we will live in peace.

"Further, if we're open and frank with each other, and with everyone else, we can spread integrity, respect and peace. Quakers have a saying, 'let it begin with me.' Integrity will spread outward, in concentric rings, for we are connected with one another.

Strength and growth come from knowing ourselves, knowing what matters for us. If we respect each other, we will find the way to fit any apparent conflict into a broader system that can accommodate us both.

So in this spirit, I share the following with my readers penned by Dr. Kent M. Keith, who is an American writer and lecturer. It is a piece entitled, "The Paradoxical Commandments. "People are illogical, unreasonable and self-

centered. Love then anyway. If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives. Do good anyway. If you are successful, you will win false

friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway. Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds. Think big

People favor underdogs but follow only the

top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway. What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help but attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway. Give the world the best you have

and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway. Please notice that adopting this way of approaching life's paradoxes subsumes an unyielding conviction

TWO EAGLES that an ethical ideology applied, is of value in spite of the negativity abounding around us. I am glad to read that our own Lakota Country Times editor, Mr. Brandon Ecoffey, has chosen to focus on positive stories from time to time.

This is good medicine Mr. Ecoffey is giving his readers — nina washte (very good) mitakuepi, nina washte. Being positive is part of the path forward I hear our people speak of all the If we grow up being exposed to constant grow up bitter and angry about everything

negativity there should be no wonder that we and everyone. Of course, anger and bitterness occupy a part of lives but like fire — it is good but to much and we will get burned. Putting others down as if we so perfect ourselves is indeed a sickness. This does not mean we don't hold people to account for their behavior because we do and must, but where there is effort by our fellow community members to make things better for all, we are duty bound to recognize that effort too.

This is what it means to be honest besides being a truth teller and truth seeker. Honesty is truly the best policy.

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

Kathleen Parker

A Leap Of Faith Into Thin Air

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WASHINGTON — The apparently intentional downing of a Germanwings airliner by the co-pilot has us riveted, as commercial plane

crashes usually do. In each terrible instance, we put ourselves in the cabin, imagining what our last thoughts or actions would be. Would we close our eyes and pray? Would we scream? Would we seize the person next to us, desperately grasping at one last human connection?

What is it like to realize your plane is out of control and there's nothing to be done? Or that, inconceivably, your pilot or, in this case, your co-pilot, is out of control?

Such dark thoughts capture our imaginations briefly before we shove them back into some remote recess of the mind never again, we hope, to be retrieved. This conscious act of self-defense protects us from the horrifying possibility that someday we, too, might find ourselves strapped into a missile on a suicidal mission.

Unthinkable is the word for it.

We remind ourselves that these are, indeed, rare events. And though this is not the first apparent suicide crash, we might hope it's the last. After all, as we've heard countless times, you're more likely to die in a car crash than a plane crash. And the most convincing rationale for flying without fear is the eye-rolling reminder that no one talks about all the safe landings every day.

We do, however, remark when a pilot makes a heroic landing, bringing his mammoth flying machine to a safe halt — in a river, no less. Nearly every American knows about Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and his "Miracle on the Hudson." We love the lifesavers and worship the heroes whose awesome competence reassures us that the end is not yet here.

Sully was John Wayne of the skies — a good man, solid and true, reliable, brave and cool under fire. Contrast him to the Germanwings co-pilot, Andreas Lubitz, who is every bit the monster the terrorist is. Perhaps worse.

The latter-day, knife-wielding infidel-slayer kills an innocent in a brutal, hands-on act of extreme human interaction. The co-pilot bars himself from the people he intends to destroy, methodically resetting the jet's autopilot to an altitude that will ensure death to 149 strangers. Rod Serling's gremlin on the wing, ripping out the guts of one of the plane's engines, is a bedtime story compared to the cool detachment of the co-pilot apparently flipping a switch to lock out all others and begin his self-imposed descent into smithereens.

Did he enjoy the agony of the pilot flailing hopelessly against the locked door? Did the screaming of passengers moments before death bring him satisfaction? According to French investigators, the last

words the pilot uttered to his 27-year-old co-pilot as he stepped out of the cockpit, apparently for a restroom break, were: "You are in control." In fiction, these now-chilling words would be a notso-subtle foreshadowing of doom. For the passengers and crew, they were a death sentence.

Alone in the cockpit for the eight minutes it took to crash, Lubitz's breathing was captured on the voice recorder. Breathing in, out, in, out, in, out. What a vile soundtrack, what evil commentary on the soon-to-be breathless. His poor parents. But not, please, poor Andre-

as Lubitz. He may have been depressed, they tell us. He may have broken up with his girlfriend. Oh, too bad. He seems to have suffered an "illness" on the very day he flew, according to torn up "medical leave" notes found in his home. All. Too. Bad. It wasn't enough that air travel has become

near torturous. Squished in seats too small for the petite, passengers try to retract their fleshy edifices into cocoons of personal space, praying for an uneventful journey and a slender seatmate. To such discomforts, we've now added the possibility that the pilot might have had a bad day.

Most are familiar with the old fatalist saw: Hey, when it's your time, it's your time. May as well have a drink and enjoy the ride, says the jovial frequent flyer, his breath a mix of whiskey and weariness.

In his bravado, we find consolation - and pray for contagion. Yes, of course, bring on the Fates! But we also know the end of the joke: Yeah, but what if it's the pilot's time?

Thanks to Lubitz, travelers will give this question more serious consideration. With a second glance into the cockpit as they board, passengers are bound to wonder: Who, really, is in control?

Kathleen Parker's email address is kathleenparker@washpost.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Indiana Law Chris Svarstad, Yankton

In regards to the Boycott Indiana movement, I have to agree with it if the Republican Governor Mike Pence has to sign a bill into

law that's lined with intolerant DNA. Why discriminate against someone over who they love? That's not only wrong, it's disgraceful.

That same governor runs a party that's a cult worthy of Jonestown.