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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Native Languages Should Be Preserved

WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION (Oct. 27): American victories in World War I and World War II were made possible in part by a handful of people who spoke languages most people never heard of let alone could speak or understand. Code talkers used Native American languages to deliver important military information. If the enemy intercepted the message, there was no way he would be able to understand it because he didn't speak the language.

And that is just one of many reasons why it's important to do all we can to preserve languages that are in danger of disappearing.

Illustrating that point is a documentary that chronicles efforts on reservations in North Dakota and South Dakota to save the language of the Lakota people. The program is set to premiere on public television stations nationwide in November.

The film "Rising Voices" highlights how classroom instruction and immersion preschools, dictionaries, voice recordings and animated cartoons are being used to preserve the Lakota language, which is estimated to be spoken by fewer than 6,000 people — less than 14 percent of the Lakota population in North Dakota and South Dakota — with an average age that will soon reach 70.

The film addresses what is now seen as a dark moment in federal education mandates: the assimilation policy that forced Native American children into boarding schools, where students were forced to speak English and were punished when they were caught speaking in their native tongues. The policy inherently limited or erased the Lakota fluency of some Native Americans who later were unable or refused to teach it to their children and the children of their children.

It's hard to imagine that the U.S. government, or any government for that matter, could be so short-sighted as to not see the value of protecting and preserving the diversities of different cultures and languages. Think about what would have happened to American military efforts in both world wars if there had been no code talkers because their languages had been "assimilated" out of society. How many more American lives would have been lost without the benefit an unbreakable code? How would the absence of that code influenced the outcomes of both wars?

Languages are living links between the past and present and preserving them can open unexpected doors to reveal things we never thought possible.

For thousands of years people wondered about the strange picture drawings on ancient Egyptian temples and monuments. It was clear they were part of some written language, but over the centuries people had lost the ability to read them and understand their meaning.

In 1799, soldiers in Napoleon's army discovered the Rosetta Stone while digging the foundations of an addition to a fort near the town of el-Rashid (Rosetta) in Egypt. A valuable key to the decipherment of hieroglyphs is the inscriptions on the Rosetta Stone. The stone contains a decree passed by a council of priests and is one of a series that affirm the royal cult of the 13-year-old Ptolemy V on the first anniversary of his coronation.

The decree is inscribed on the stone three times. Once in hieroglyphics (suitable for a priestly decree), once in demotic (the native script used for daily purposes), and once in Greek (the language of the administration). Translating the Greek helped lead to translating demotic which in turn led to translating hieroglyphics. Once that happened all the strange picture drawings on ancient Egyptian temples and monuments made sense and opened doors to the past that had been closed thousands of years ago.

The Lakota language, like other Native American languages, is part of the history and culture of this country and its people. Rather than discourage the use of those native tongues, we should encourage their preservation so the people who speak them can maintain and strengthen a historical link to their past and those who have gone before them. Besides, you never know when it might come in handy again, just like native languages did in both world wars.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, Nov. 2, the 306th day of 2015. There are 59 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 2, 1865, the 29th president of the United States, Warren Gamaliel Harding, was born near Marion, Ohio.

On this date: In 1795, the 11th president of the United States, James Knox Polk, was born in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

In 1889, North Dakota and South Dakota became the 39th and 40th states with the signing of proclamations by President Benjamin Harrison.

In 1914, during World War I, Russia declared war on the Ottoman Empire.

In 1936, the British Broadcasting Corp. inaugurated "high-definition" television service from Alexandra Palace in London.

In 1947, Howard Hughes piloted his huge wooden flying boat, the Hughes H-4 Hercules (derisively dubbed the "Spruce Goose" by detractors), on its only flight, which lasted about a minute over Long Beach Harbor in California.

In 1948, President Harry S. Truman surprised the experts by winning a narrow upset over Republican challenger Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1950, playwright George Bernard Shaw, 94, died in Ayot St. Lawrence, Hertfordshire, England.

In 1963, South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem was assassinated in a military coup.

In 1979, black militant JoAnne Chesimard escaped from a New Jersey prison, where she'd been serving a life sentence for the 1973 slaying of New Jersey state trooper Werner Forster. (Chesimard, who took the name Assata Shakur, is believed to be living in Cuba.)

In 1984, Velma Barfield, convicted of fatally poisoning boyfriend Stuart Taylor, was put to death by injection in Raleigh, North Carolina, becoming the first woman executed in the United States since 1962.

In 1994, a jury in Pensacola, Florida, convicted Paul Hill of murder for the shotgun slaying of abortion provider Dr. John Britton and Britton's bodyguard; Hill was executed in September 2003.

In 2000, an American astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts became the first residents of the international space station, christening it Alpha.

Ten years ago: The Bush administration released details of its potential flu pandemic strategy, saying a pandemic that hit the United States would force cities to ration scarce drugs and vaccine and house the sick in hotels or schools if hospitals were to overflow. A Detroit church packed

with 4,000 mourners celebrated the life of Rosa Parks in an impassioned, song-filled funeral.

Five years ago: Republicans won control of the House of Representatives, picking up 63 seats in midterm elections, while Democrats retained a majority in the Senate; Republican governors outnumbered Democrats after gaining six states. Californians rejected a ballot measure that would have made their state the first to legalize marijuana for recreational use. Surfing champion Andy Irons, 32, was found dead in a Dallas-area hotel room. (An autopsy found that Irons had died from sudden cardiac arrest due to severe blockage of a main artery.)

One year ago: Islamic State group extremists shot dead at least 50 Iraqi men, women and children from the same Sunni tribe. A Taliban suicide bomber killed 60 in an attack on a paramilitary checkpoint in Pakistan close to the Wagah border crossing with India. Kenya's Wilson Kipsang and Mary Keitany won the New York City Marathon. (Kipsang finished in 2:10:55 — while Keitany won the women's race in 2:25:07.) Daredevil Nik Wallenda wowed Chicago and the world with two hair-raising skyscraper crossings on high wires without a safety net or harness. Jazz clarinetist Acker Bilk, 85, died in Bath, England.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Jay Black (Jay and the Americans) is 77. Political commentator Patrick Buchanan is 77. Actress Stefanie Powers is 73. Author Shere Hite is 73. Rock musician Keith Emerson (Emerson, Lake and Palmer) is 71. Country-rock singer-songwriter J.D. Souther is 70. Actress Kate Linder is 68. Rock musician Carter Beauford (The Dave Matthews Band) is 58. Actor Peter Mullan is 56. Singer-songwriter K.d. lang is 54. Rock musician Bobby Dall (Poison) is 52. Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lynn Nottage is 51. Actress Lauren Velez is 51. Actor Sean Kanan is 49. Actor David Schwimmer is 49. Christian/jazz singer Alvin Chea (Take 6) is 48. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker is 47. Rock singer-musician Neal Casal is 46. Rock musician Fieldy is 46. Actress Meta Golding is 44. Rock singer-musician John Hampson (Nine Days) is 44. Rhythm-and-blues singer Timothy Christian Riley (Tony Toni Tone) is 41. Rapper Nelly is 41. Prodigy (Mobb Deep) is 41. Actor Danny Cooksey is 40. Rock musician Chris Walla is 40. Country singer Erika Jo is 29. Actor-singer Kendall Schmidt is 25.

Thought for Today: "Our most dangerous tendency is to expect too much of government, and at the same time do for it too little." — President Warren G. Harding (1865-1923).

FROM THE BIBLE

Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!
Luke 11:28. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

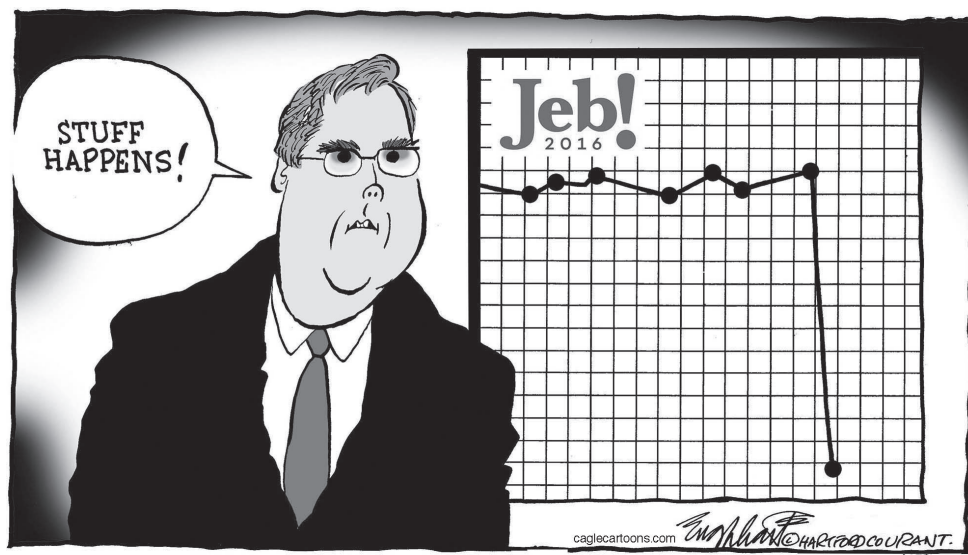
Thoughts On The Future

John Magnuson, Yankton
Thank you, Joe Becvar, for your recent letter (Press & Dakotan, Oct. 14). There has been talk about what Yankton should be in the future and what we can do to make it so. Allow me to offer some thoughts.
If we want our children to stay in the area, wages and benefits must improve. Engineering growth to attract new businesses by public works financed by property taxes is doomed to fail because it is

not sustainable. We can't afford the taxes. We don't need more low-paying jobs and we are not by nature a manufacturing center. We should play to our strengths of being a strong agricultural area and we are doing right by developing rail access to ship grain. We should encourage businesses to process or make products from our grain and other local products so that it can use the rail service. This could even include Asian carp. The Gurney building would make a great carp center. This is where we need entrepreneurs.

We should eliminate unfair property taxes or freeze them at the actual purchase price. Since it is unlikely South Dakota will institute a state income tax, we should consider a city income tax of 1 percent for all living or working in city limits. Senior citizens and low-income peoples should be exempt. Money should be used for necessary projects and could also fund free city-run day cares, assistance programs and more college scholarships. All large products should receive a public vote.

Our city should have a green, healthy future. We should encourage residents to produce wind and solar energies for personal use and for sale to the grid. If grants become available, we should consider a municipal wind farm to lower costs in the future. We should make voter registration automatic and allow on-line voting to promote 100 percent participation.
We can envision a more fair and prosperous Yankton for our children!



Capitol Notebook

More Jobs Needed In The Right Places

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Inviting more stoners to town, as the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe intends to do with its pot lounge, would be tourism.

That is, until the federal government sends in bulldozers, as happened Oct. 23 at the hemp farm of the Menominee Tribe in Wisconsin.

Meanwhile the governor's Blue Ribbon task force on K-12 schools wants the state sales tax increased, so South Dakota can pay teachers more and get out of last place nationally.

At the same time, essential businesses throughout much of South Dakota struggle to find qualified employees to fill vacancies.

Several places where I've eaten many times have recently closed because good help couldn't be hired.

Yet tens of thousands of people live in parts of South Dakota where there aren't jobs for them.

We don't have a public policy — state, federal or tribal — for economic development on and around reservation areas.

More people working would mean more people buying more goods and paying more in sales taxes.

How can the jobs get there?

Start with four-lane highways, technical institutes, distance education degrees, more support for existing colleges and universities serving reservations, prisoner-built housing, more nursing and medical training programs, transit buses, 100-year and 500-year leases, a state development authority, investors and people who want to sell goods and services.

Government assistance funds that flow into reservation areas don't turn over much in the local economies.

Instead much of the money flows off reservations into cities that have the kind of stores where a person can buy much of life's daily basics under one roof.



Bob MERCER

That's largely a one-and-done economy. The salaries paid to store employees in those cities typically don't find their way back to the reservations.

Instead the employees spend much of the money the second time in that city's economy and in paying off loans. There is some further re-spending that follows in the local economy.

But it appears much of the profit often leaves South Dakota.

The same is true regarding many people's retirement-fund investments. The money leaves South Dakota for decades.

Many public employees, for example, give up 12 percent annually (their 6 percent and their employer's 6 percent) and it goes somewhere outside our border to be invested.

Creating a state development authority to focus on reservation-area economies would help fill a giant gap in South Dakota.

With the right personnel, the authority could be an agent for change.

The authority would need sources of funding. One could be EB-5.

During the past decade, partly because it was semi-secret, no one used the immigrant-investment program for projects in S.D. reservation areas.

EB-5 investments are a device for someone from another nation to buy permanent residency in the United States. The residency applies to the investor's immediate family.

EB-5 was used to help turkey processing at Huron, open a Deadwood casino and hotel, finish the beef plant at Aberdeen and build electricity projects in several counties.

Currently the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency wants to kick South Dakota out of the EB-5 program because of past problems.

Run right, EB-5 could have an important second life.

Melissa Harris-Perry Needs A Trip To Hard Work U

BY MICHELLE MALKIN
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MSNBC's Melissa Harris-Perry is the cable TV pioneer who broke the tastelessness barrier for feminists by wearing tampons as earrings on air in 2013. This week, she made ignominious history again — as the race-baiting fool in an ivory tower bubble who believes the words "hard worker" are a slur against black slaves and moms who don't have health care.

Caution: You may need a double dose of Excedrin to protect yourself from her brain-splitting nonsense.

Earlier this week, Harris-Perry chastised a Latino Republican guest on her show to be "super careful" when using the phrase "hard worker" to describe white Republican Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., the newly elected House GOP Speaker. Why? "Because I actually keep an image of folks working in cotton fields on my office wall," she bragged, "because it is a reminder about what hard work looks like."

Say what?
Harris-Perry, an upper-crust Wake Forest University professor whose parents were both college officials, babbled on in the parlance of tortured political correctness that a white male Republican can only be a "hard worker" in the "context of relative privilege."

Only in academia is the color-coding of one's work ethic seen as the apex of progressive enlightenment.

But wait. One's diligence is gender-weighted, too! Harris-Perry bloviated that "hard worker" is doubly offensive because of the imaginary plight of unnamed "moms who don't have health care who are working," but whom unnamed mean white Republican males call "failures."

Because of racism and sexism and patriarchal hegemony. Or something.

Harris-Perry should get off her bigoted high horse and get educated about how real people in the real world value, encourage, and live the principles of hard work. It has nothing to do with color lines and everything to do with character.

This truth was driven home for me during a recent trip to College of the Ozarks, proudly known as Hard Work U. The school, based near Branson,



Michelle MALKIN

Missouri, is located in one of the most historically impoverished regions of the country. According to the college, founder and Presbyterian missionary James Forsyth found inspiration in a young boy named Benji Cummings. Forsyth met the fourth-grader while he hunted squirrels for food. Benji told the missionary that he was forced to drop out of school because his family could not afford to send him to Springfield to get an education.

The private, Christian, four-year College of the Ozarks was established for economically disadvantaged students; 90 percent of enrollees must demonstrate financial need. All students are required to work 15 hours a week for a campus group or institution, ranging from admissions and agriculture, to the feed mill and fruitcake and jelly kitchen, to the health clinic, hotel, weaving department, power plant and water treatment plant.

The work helps offset the entire cost of tuition and graduates leave virtually debt-free. President Jerry Davis, himself a remarkable American success story

who rose from poverty in Appalachia, proudly notes that the college "carries no institutional debt" and codifies debt avoidance into the character education of the student body.

"White privilege?" That's a cynical construct of liberal eghead elites who depend on false narratives to stoke grievances and cable TV controversies.

While I was at College of the Ozarks, I saw American kids doing the jobs that open-borders zealots and left-wing ideologues claim they never do: mowing lawns, making beds, sweeping floors and washing dishes. I heard many stories of students who were the first in their families to attend college and who embraced hard work as a matter of duty, faith and patriotism.

Unlike Ms. Harris Hypphen Perry, it never once occurred to me to rank the industriousness of the hard-working young people around me by their race.

Sweat, after all, is colorblind.

Michelle Malkin is author of the new book "Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs." Her email address is malkin-blog@gmail.com.