

# THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION | OUR VIEW

# A Wise Move For Economic Growth

The cause of economic development in Yankton took one very promising step forward Monday. The key to that sentence is its singular aspect: one step, suggesting a unified movement in a direction. That's what could be inferred when it was tentatively announced at Monday's quarterly meeting of Yankton Area Progressive Growth (YAPG) that the community's economic development structure will be streamlined, with the Economic Development Council being incorporated into the YAPG board of directors. It was also announced that the composition of the board will be modified, with new positions — serving one-year terms instead of the traditional three-year terms — being added, with some members hailing from the City Commission and the County Commission. The city manager will also serve on the board as a vice president.

With this move, the machinery of economic development in Yankton would become a lot simpler and, hopefully, even more productive. The timing of this change is important. It comes with the community's economic development director position open. With a search under way, it's the perfect moment to get Yankton's developmental interests re-shuffled and in order. The change was needed and overdue. Based on several accounts that we've heard, Yankton's economic development apparatus had become clumsy and frustrating. We do know that former Economic Development Director Mike Dellinger often faced the task of answering to many masters, which sometimes meant there numerous (and occasionally conflicting) levels of bureaucracy with which to contend in order to get a deal moving or wrapped up. We've also noticed that there have been some competing visions in regards to Yankton's economic future. Lately, some people wanted to focus on industrial development while others wanted to turn their attentions to retail development. (This often seemed to be presented as an either/or choice of mission statements; we usually wondered why we couldn't simply do both.)

Hopefully, this restructuring of Yankton's economic development interests will create a commonality of vision, goals and purpose, and will make the process of pursuing various projects a much simpler and more efficient endeavor. And that fact alone can't be anything but good news for the people of this community.

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## SPEAK UP!

■ Share your thoughts with us. Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day or in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to [views@yankton.net](mailto:views@yankton.net).

## ON THIS DATE

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Wednesday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 2013. There are 111 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Sept. 11, 2001, America faced its worst day of terrorism. Nearly 3,000 people were killed as 19 al-Qaida members hijacked four passenger jetliners. Two planes smashed into New York's World Trade Center, causing the twin towers to fall; one plowed into the Pentagon; and the fourth was crashed into a field in western Pennsylvania.

**On this date:** In 1777, during the American Revolution, forces under Gen. George Washington were defeated by the British in the Battle of Brandywine.

In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1857, the Mountain Meadows Massacre took place in present-day southern Utah as a 120-member Arkansas immigrant party was slaughtered by Mormon militiamen aided by Paiute Indians.

In 1922, the British Mandate for Palestine went into effect.

In 1936, Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydro-electric generator.

In 1941, groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon. In a speech that drew accusations of anti-Semitism, Charles A. Lindbergh told an America First rally in Des Moines, Iowa, that "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were pushing the United States toward war.

In 1954, the Miss America pageant made its network TV debut on ABC; Miss California, Lee Meriwether, was crowned the winner.

In 1962, The Beatles completed their first single for EMI, "Love Me Do" and "P.S. I Love You," at EMI studios in London.

In 1971, former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev died at age 77.

In 1972, the troubled Munich Summer Olympics ended. Northern California's Bay Area Rapid Transit system began operations.

In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende died during a violent military coup.

In 1989, the exodus of East German refugees from Hungary to West Germany began.

**Ten years ago:** Israel issued an ominous threat to "remove" Yasser Arafat for failing to halt suicide bombings. Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh died from stab wounds inflicted when she was attacked in a Stockholm department store a day earlier.

Actor John Ritter died six days before his 55th birthday at Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, Calif. — the same hospital where he was born in 1948.

**Five years ago:** Presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama put aside politics as they visited ground zero together on the anniversary of 9/11 to honor its victims. ABC News broadcast an interview with John McCain's running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, who said she was ready to be president if called upon, but sidestepped questions on whether she had the national security credentials needed to be commander in chief.

**One year ago:** A mob armed with guns and grenades launched a fiery nightlong attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. President Barack Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney toned down the campaign rhetoric and pulled negative ads amid commemorations of the 9/11 attacks, saying it was not a day for politics.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actress Betsy Drake is 90. Sen. Daniel Akaka, D-Hawaii, is 89. Actor Earl Holliman is 85. Comedian Tom Dreesen is 74. Movie director Brian De Palma is 73. Rock singer-musician Jack Ely (The Kingsmen) is 70. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Dead) is 70. Singer-musician Leo Kottke is 68. Actor Philip Alford is 65. Actress Amy Madigan is 63. Rock singer-musician Tommy Shaw (Slyx) is 60. Sports reporter Lesley Visser is 60. Actor Reed Birney is 59. Singer-songwriter Diane Warren is 57. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 56. Actor Scott Patterson is 55. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 55. Actress Roxann Dawson is 55. Actor John Hawkes is 54. Actress Anne Ramsay is 53. Actress Virginia Madsen is 52. Actress Kristy McNichol is 51. Musician-composer Moby is 48. Business reporter Maria Bartiromo is 46. Singer Harry Connick Jr. is 46. Rock musician Bart Van Der Zeeuw is 45. Actress Taraji P. Henson is 43. Actress Laura Wright is 43. Rock musician Jeremy Popoff (Lit) is 42. Blogger Markos Moulitsas is 42. Singer Brad Fischetti (LFO) is 38. Rapper Mr. Black is 36. Rock musician Jon Buckland (Coldplay) is 36. Rapper Ludacris is 36. Rock singer Ben Lee is 35. Actor Ryan Slattery is 35. Actress Elizabeth Henstridge is 26. Actor Tyler Hoechlin is 26. Country singer Charles Kelley (Lady Antebellum) is 32. Actress Mackenzie Aladjem is 12.

**Thought for Today:** "I have seen gross intolerance shown in support of tolerance." — Samuel Taylor Coleridge, English poet and author (1772-1834).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" Daniel 6:20.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

## YOUR LETTERS

### A New Amendment

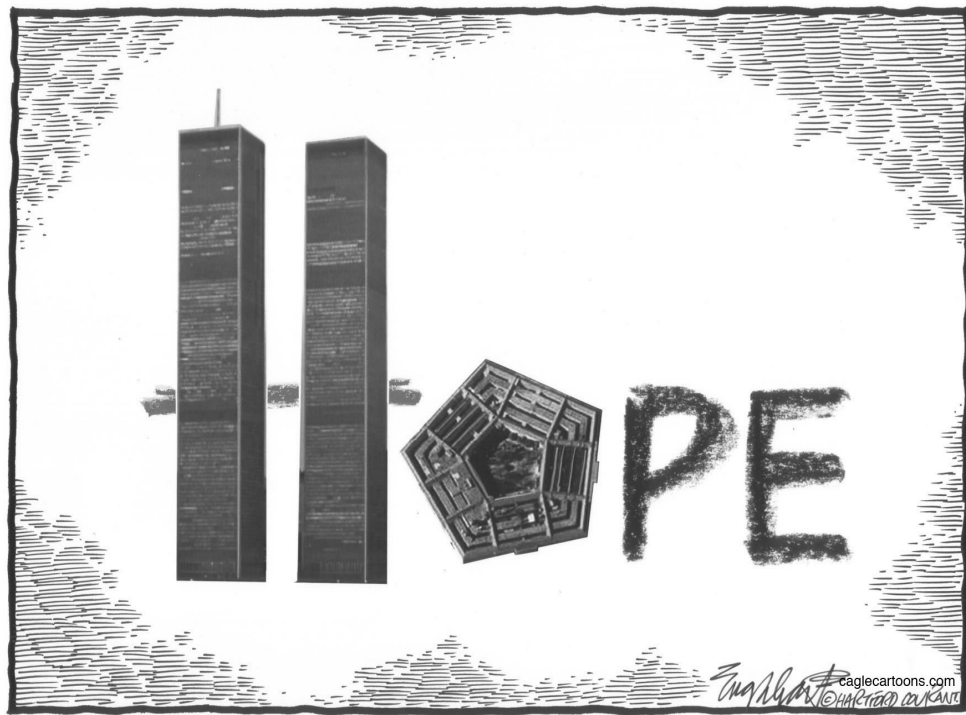
#### Lars Aanning, Yankton

The Second Amendment protects our citizens' right to bear arms. As South Dakotans, we take that for granted.

We also take for granted being able to register and vote without any fuss. But we hear of other states' infringement on the privilege to vote.

So how about another amendment to our Constitution to protect every American citizen's right to vote?

*"A well informed electorate, being necessary to the governing of a free state, the right of the people to vote and elect their local, state, and national representatives, shall not be infringed."*



# The Crisis At Home

BY ROBERT B. REICH

Tribune Content Agency

While all eyes are on Syria and on America's response, the real economy in which most Americans live is sputtering.

More than four years after the recession officially ended, 11.5 million Americans are unemployed, many of them for years. Nearly 4 million have given up looking for work altogether. If they were actively looking, today's unemployment rate would be 9.5 percent instead of 7.3 percent.

The share of the population working or seeking a job is the lowest in 35 years. The unemployment rate among high-school dropouts is 11 percent; for blacks, 13 percent. More than one in five American children face hunger, according to new data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

And the median wage keeps dropping, adjusted for inflation. Incomes for all but the top 1 percent are below where they were at the start of the economic recovery in 2009.

A decent society would put people to work — even if this required more government spending on roads, bridges, ports, pipelines, parks and schools.

A decent society would lift the minimum wage, expand the Earned Income Tax Credit (a wage subsidy), and provide food stamps and housing assistance, so that no family with a full-time worker has to live in poverty.

We can afford this minimal level of decency.

Deficit hawks in both parties don't want you to know this, but the federal deficit as a proportion of the total economy is shrinking fast: It's on track to be only 4 percent by the end of September, when the fiscal year ends. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicts it will be only 3.4 percent in the fiscal year starting October 1.

To put this into perspective, consider that the average ratio of the deficit to the GDP over the past 30 years has been 3.3 percent. So the deficit is barely a problem at all. (We're still projected to have large deficits starting 10 years from now because of all the aging boomers needing health care.)

Yet while attention is focused on Syria, food stamps for the nation's poor are being cut. House Republicans would eliminate food stamps for more than 800,000 Americans who now receive them but still do not get enough to eat or have only a barely adequate diet.

Even if the Democrats prevent these dra-

conian cuts, food stamp benefits will still be reduced in November, when a provision in the 2009 stimulus bill expires.

While attention is focused on Syria, funds for the nation's poorest schools are being slashed. Teachers are still being let go. Classrooms are more crowded than ever. The sequester will drain even more funds after Oct. 1.

While attention is focused on Syria, low-income housing is disappearing. Funding for housing vouchers has already been cut by \$854 million this year, with the result that half of all public housing authorities have stopped issuing new vouchers — even though the percentage of households most in need of assistance has grown by 19 percent since 2009. The cuts scheduled to begin Oct. 1 will be even more severe.

While attention is focused on Syria, America's rich are growing even richer. A single year's income of one of the 10 richest Americans could buy housing for every homeless person in America for an entire year. (This calculation is based on a typical day last winter, when more than 633,000 people were homeless, and the typical monthly rental cost of a unit with single-room occupancy of \$558 per month.)

But we are not talking about any of this. We are not debating what's happening to our nation. We are not creating jobs for the long-term unemployed. We are not raising the minimum wage, expanding the EITC, or providing enough food stamps to feed America's poor children or keep working Americans out of poverty. We are not improving the nation's poorest schools or providing enough low-income housing to keep destitute families off the nation's streets.

We are not reforming our tax code or making college more affordable or reforming our brutal immigration system. We are not addressing the widening gap between a few at the top who are doing better than ever and a larger number below who are sinking. We are not getting big money out of politics.

We are paralyzed at home — as we turn our attention to a potential quagmire abroad. This is the great tragedy of our time.

*Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, is professor of public policy at the University of California at Berkeley and the author of "Beyond Outrage," now available in paperback. His new film, "Inequality for All," will be out Sept. 27. He blogs at [www.robertreich.org](http://www.robertreich.org).*

# After The Crime, A Blunt Truth

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.

Tribune Content Agency

Matthew Cordle does not want your admiration.

He knows some people are finding inspiration in his courage. We are told this upsets him. He thinks they're missing the point.

The point is, he killed someone. Vincent Canzani was a 61-year-old photographer, Navy veteran and father of two daughters. In the pre-dawn hours of June 22, he was traveling on I-670 in Columbus, Ohio, when his Jeep was struck head-on by a Toyota Tundra speeding east in the westbound lanes. Canzani died at the scene.

Cordle, 22, was critically injured in the crash. As of last week, he had not been arrested. Then, without his attorney's knowledge, he recorded a video, a wrenching, professionally produced clip that makes his guilt clear as mountain air.

"I killed a man," he says. The screen is black. Sombre music rises, a heavily pixilated face appears, and in an electronically altered voice, it tells the story. How he was out bar-hopping with friends. How "sometimes I drink because I have depression that I struggle with every day." How drinking made him someone "people don't like being around." How he drank to excess then got behind the wheel. How Canzani paid with his life.

"Immediately following that, I consulted some high-powered attorneys who told me stories about similar cases where the drivers got off. They were convinced that they could get my blood test thrown out and all I would have to do for that was lie. Well, I won't go down that path."

Here, he faces the camera without pixilation, speaking in his natural voice. "My name is Matthew Cordle," he says. Yes, he says, he knows this video will likely help convict him. The point is moot; he intends to plead guilty. He closes with a plea: "I beg you — and I say the word beg specifically — I'm begging you, please don't drink and drive."

Cordle's video wound up on Because I Said I Would (becauseisaidiwould.com), a website dedicated to the power of promises. He wants

people to promise not to do what he did. Monday, he was arrested and indicted on charges that could put him away for up to eight-and-a-half years. And yes, that penalty would be well-deserved.

It's emblematic of our cynical times that people online have suggested the video is part of some Machiavellian plot to get a lighter sentence. It's also emblematic that you can't dismiss the speculation out of hand.

But Alex Sheen, founder of Because I Said I Would, told CNN Cordle seems sincere in his desire to accept responsibility for what he did. That opinion is persuasive. Cordle, says Sheen, is "upset that people are calling his act of confession 'courageous.'"

You can hardly blame them, though. We see such forthright behavior so seldom. In this era, people who get in trouble parse the meaning of "is" or say "mistakes were made." They speak non-apology apologies filled with uncontrite contrition. This has become the norm.

So there is a rare, courageous integrity in seeing this very young man step up and say, I take responsibility. To acknowledge that is not to minimize the crime, nor to lionize the criminal.

He did what he did and you can never erase that or reduce it.

But there is more to the story — and to Cordle. Though we sometimes pretend you can encapsulate a given individual in a single blunt word of judgment, the truth is, humanity is more complex than that, each woman or man a vessel of traits that contradict and deny one another. It is impossible to say which one of them defines the whole person in every situation. It is also unnecessary to say. We are not limited to a single blunt word of judgment.

So we can say of Matthew Cordle, yes, we're saddened by the terrible thing he did. But we are also braced by what he did after that.

*Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at [lpitts@miamiherald.com](mailto:lpitts@miamiherald.com).*

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