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OPINION | OUR VIEW

Some Good News In The Obesity Fight

omething genuinely extraordinary was announced last week, and it would be wise for all of us to figure out just what it means

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta reported that, for the first time in many years, the obesity rate among poor preschool-aged children showed a modest decline. The levels have dropped in 19 states and territories since 2008. (South Dakota had among the biggest drops in the nation; Nebraska's rate stayed steady.)

This is finally a move in the right direction amid the obesity epidemic that has been hounding (or, if you will, encasing) this nation the last 40 years. We are seeing the needle move in the right direction

in a young age group and in a particularly prone social classification. Why is it happening? Officials at the CDC say they haven't pinpointed an exact cause, which probably means it's likely due to more

than one reason. While public awareness via various anti-obesity and pro-exercise campaigns no doubt contributed to this long-overdue piece of good news, a big factor may also have been a shift in the nutritional re-

quirements of a federal assistance program four years ago. Back in 2009, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced major revisions in the kinds of foods eligible for purchase under the Supplemental Nutritional Program for Women, Infants and Children, generally known as WIC. The changes called for the inclusion of more healthy items such as whole-grain foods, low-fat milk, and various fruits and vegetables, and excluded more items such as sweetened juices, and bread and cereal items that were not made of whole grains. This was significant, the New Yorker noted last week, because 50 percent of infants and 25 percent of children under age 5 in this na-tion are enrolled in the WIC program. Thus, the new guidelines affected a very important target audience.

What's more, research from Yale noted that, once the USDA rules were implemented, many businesses found ways to make the healthier food items available to the target clientele.

Some nutrition advocates are now recommending the same changes be made for the federal food stamp program, but this is already meeting resistance from groups ranging from food industry representatives to anti-hunger organizations, who all argue that, at some point, it must be acknowledged that people have "the smarts" to purchase the food they want without having their diet dictated to them, the New Yorker reported.

On one hand, that's a very good argument that recognizes self-em-powerment and self-destiny in the simple matter of putting together a menu. People do have the right to make their own choices.

But then again, look at where obesity rates have been heading for decades. Look at the junk food that is peddled to kids and adults on TV. In other words, just look around and tell us about how well our "smarts" have served us. Despite last week's good news, 1 in 8 preschoolers in the United States are still considered obese. We believe it's better to arm people with the information they need to make informed choices than to dictate their choices to them, but that's another debate for another time.

For now, what we have in hand is some encouraging evidence that the trend can be reversed, and having that change show up in a young, vulnerable age group bodes well. It's an overdue step back from an unhealthy abyss, and a good step toward a better future. Let's vow to build on it.

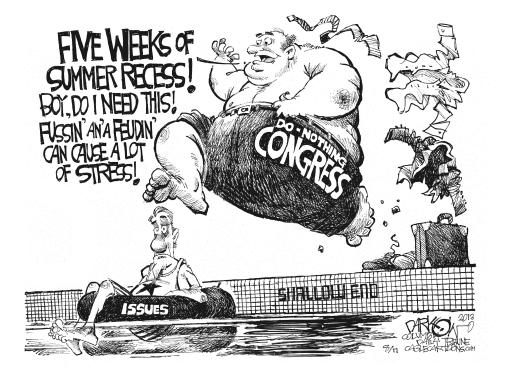
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ONLINE OPINION

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

LATEST RESULTS: Should the full implementation of Obamacare be scrapped?

Yes 66% No. .369 opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.



The Baby Games

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON - The media-created mommy wars haven't just jumped the shark and entered the realm of "Sharknado." Where women once debated ways to balance family-and-career - a hyphenated oxymoron if ever there was one — they're now clashing over whether having babies is really all that.

To bear children or not — that is the only question left to those with first-world problems.

The scene: A tidy beach where a young couple is basking, carefree. How lovely. No little ones to intrude upon the perfect union of two selves entwined in rapturous indulgence. This was the cover of a recent

Time magazine featuring a story titled, "The Childfree Life: When having it all means not having children." The story explored a startling statistic: One in five American women ends her childbear-

ing years without maternity. Some of that low fertility apparently is voluntary. Note that the title is childfree, not childless. Increasingly, couples - and women, specifically are deciding against childbearing for a variety of reasons, including the unwelcome prospect that scenes such as that depicted on the magazine cover might become less frequent. The pleasure principle seems to be gaining on the

procreative impulse. Fast on the heels of Time's article came a story from the Guardian of Britain reporting research from the London School of Economics suggesting that smart women don't have children. According to the author of the book "The Intelligence Paradox," maternal urges drop by 25 percent with every extra 15 IQ points. Although he opines that such women are too smart for their own good, one could also infer that you're dumb if you have kids.

Yet another story, this one from the BBC News Magazine, plumbed the stretch marks and "breasts ... like Zeppelins" — as one reader put it - that frequently follow pregnancy and child-birth. The story featured a photographer who wanted to show women's bodies as they really regnancy. Most do not i ulously as celebrity spreads would have us believe. As if we didn't know.

Where to begin.

To the childless, as opposed to the voluntarily childfree, the debate about whether to have a child is no doubt painful. But even among those who can — and do or don't — the conversation is rife with emotion. Everyone feels slightly in-

sulted. Childless women feel that they're viewed critically for not being mothers. Women who are mothers, whether working or stay-at-home, feel inadequate or mocked by iconic images of career women with babies in their briefcases. Really, isn't it time to retire this fauxma?

Another scene: I am in the delivery room with my niece moments after she brought her baby girl into the world. She is sobbing. "I feel so sorry for men," she says. "They can't have babies."

She was drowning in hormones, obviously, but never mind. Mothers know of what she spoke. So do fathers, though perhaps in a less immediately physical way. It is the joy that passeth

all understanding. And, as with love, you can't explain it to those who haven't experienced it. That's the unspoken truth.

Here's another: Whatever else we choose to do, creation is what we were meant to do.

Sometimes creation takes other forms than parenthood. Would we have a Sistine Chapel if Michelangelo had been distracted by a halfdozen hungry mouths? On the other hand, would we have had Michelangelo if abortion had been available to his mother?

Knowledge of my niece's joy (there is no other word) is the secret code of all parents, including adoptive. Mysteriously, the inevitable pain, suffering and sacrifice of parenthood are also part of that joy. What is a rose without thorns? Life without death is imponderably meaningless. I would argue that without death, there would be no love.

Indeed, what makes parenthood so relentlessly amazing — both the beauty and the beast of it — is the possibility of losing the thing you love more than your own heartbeat. Putting someone else's interests above one's own is the alpha and omega of parenthood.

Every person will find his or her own way in this conversation. Parenting surely isn't for everyone and those who choose to be childfr probably have made the right decision. Then again, it's hard to know for certain that one doesn't want children. Many don't, until they do.



Cathy Sudbeck Sally Whiting Brenda Willcuts Jackie Williams

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CURRENT QUESTION:

Should the National League adopt the designated-hitter rule next year? To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

that resisted corrosion.

In 1792, French revolutionaries im-

prisoned the royal family. In 1846, the American flag was

raised for the first time in Los Angeles. In 1910, Florence Nightingale, the

founder of modern nursing, died in Lon-

In 1923, Mustafa Kemal Ataturk was again elected Speaker of Turkey's Grand

Assembly. In 1934, the satirical comic strip "Li'l

Abner," created by Al Capp, made its

In 1942, Walt Disney's animated fea-ture "Bambi" had its U.S. premiere at Radio City Music Hall in New York, five

days after its world premiere in London.

In 1960, the first two-way telephone conversation by satellite took place with

the help of Echo 1. The Central African Republic became totally independent of

French rule. In 1961, East Germany sealed off

the border between Berlin's eastern and

western sectors and began building a

wall that would stand for the next 28

In 1981, in a ceremony at his Cali-fornia ranch, President Ronald Reagan

signed a historic package of tax and

the wreckage of a plane which had dis-

appeared almost a week earlier while carrying Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas,

Ten years ago: Iraq began pumping crude oil from its northern oil fields for

the first time since the start of the war. Libya agreed to set up a \$2.7 billion fund

Ín 1989, searchers in Ethiopia found

from the Aztecs.

don at age 90.

debut.

years.

survivors.

budget reductions.

and 14 other people

for families of the 270 people killed in the 1988 Pan Am bombing. Five years ago: A man barged into

By The Associated Press Today is Tuesday, Aug. 13, the 225th day of 2013. There are 140 days left in the year. Today's Highlight in History: On August 13, 1913, British metallurgist the Arkansas Democratic headquarters in Little Rock and opened fire, killing state party chairman Bill Gwatney before speeding off in a pickup. (Police later shot and killed the gunman, Timothy Dale Johnson.) Michael Phelps swam into history as the winningest Olympic Harry Brearley developed an alloy that came to be known as "stainless steel. (Although Brearley is often credited as the "inventor" of stainless steel, he was athlete ever with his 10th and 11th ca-reer gold medals. Phelps won the 200hardly alone in working to create steel On this date: In 1521, Spanish con-queror Hernando Cortez captured meter butterfly, then swam the leadoff of a runaway victory by the U.S. 800 freestyle relay team. Sandy Allen, who was recognized as the world's tallest fe-Tenochtitlan, present-day Mexico City, In 1624, King Louis XIII of France appointed Cardinal Richelieu his first

male at 7 feet, 7 inches tall, died in Shel-byville, Ind., at age 53. One year ago: A routine serving of an eviction notice to a man living near the Texas A&M University campus turned deadly when the resident opened fire, leading to the death of a law en-forcement officer and another man before the gunman was killed. The Mayo Clinic announced that U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., a Chicago Democrat who'd taken a hushed medical leave, was being treated for bipolar disorder. Helen Gurley Brown, 90, the longtime editor of Cosmopolitan magazine, died in New York. The Boston Red Sox's unofficial goodwill ambassador, Johnny Pesky, died at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Former Cuban President Fidel Castro is 87. Actor Pat Harrington is 84. Former U.S. Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders is 80. Actor Kevin Tighe is 69. Actress Gretchen Cor-bett is 66. Opera singer Kathleen Battle is 65. High wire aerialist Philippe Petit is 64. Hockey Hall of Famer Bobby Clarke is 64. Golf Hall of Famer Betsy King is 58. Movie director Paul Greengrass is 58. Actor Danny Bonaduce is 54. TV host/weatherman Sam Champion (TV: "Good Morning America") is 52. Actress Dawnn Lewis is 52. Actor John Slattery Dawn Lewis is 52. Actor John Stattery is 51. Actress Debi Mazar is 49. Actress Quinn Cummings is 46. Actress Seana Kofoed is 43. Country singer Andy Griggs is 40. Country musician Mike Melancon (Emerson Drive) is 35. Actress Kathryn Fiore is 34. Pop-rock singer Lamoe Merricon is 20. Actress Lamoer James Morrison is 29. Actress Lennon Stella (TV: "Nashville") is 14.

Thought for Today: "It is always too late, or too little, or both. And that is the road to disaster." — David Lloyd George, English statesman (1863-1945).

FROM THE BIBLE

- there were no

May His name endure forever, His fame continue as long as the sun! May people be blessed in Him, all nations call Him blessed! Psalm 72:17. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

But a young woman considering motherhood might also conclude that trading a young, fit body for that isn't worth it. Combined, the three stories seem aimed at discouraging, or at least demystifying, motherhood.

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

Native Americans And Patriotism

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), The late American lawyer Clarence Darrow once wrote, "True patriotism hates injustice in its own land more than anywhere else."

I, like many Native people, have struggled with the idea of being patriotic in the sense that Mr. Darrow has alluded to. Once again listening to the president's press conference the other day I had to take pause to consider the implications of his administration's initiatives and his seemingly never ending conflict with house and senate republicans.

Feeling like an outsider looking in sometimes, I thought it might be a good time to put forth some important ideas about the nature of patriotism coming from a Native perspective.

The author David E. Wilkins tells us: "Because of the inherent tension between the doctrine of tribal sovereignty and the federal government's historical effort to assimilate native peoples, Indians have developed a complicated set of values about their relationships to their nations and to the United States that affects their involvement or lack of involvement in tribal. state. and federal elections.

"Diane Duffy, political scientists, in some preliminary research on the subject of Indian patriotism based on interview data, arrived at the following diverse categories of patriotism:

1. Indigenous (traditional) patriotism: Native Americans' sole allegiance is to the tribal nation. This allegiance is expressed in positive Indian, not anti-white, language.

2. Measured-separation patriotism: primary allegiance is to the tribe, but also there is some (measured) support for the United States and willingness to "serve" as "allies" with the United Stages in the armed services in battles with foreign nations.

3. Anti-American patriotism: against the United States (rather than for their tribe). Adher-

YOUR LETTERS

Quality Teachers!

Dave Holzwarth, Yankton

The new school year is about to begin. There will be some new students and new teachers, as well.

Last year, I learned a little more about the quality teachers we have in Yankton. Sandi Pierce was one of the second-grade teachers at Beadle Elementary. She would wash T-

ents would under no circumstances "serve" in the U.S. military, because they would consider it treasonous.

4. Environmental patriotism: similar to the first category, but allegiance is explicitly tied to all of the creation and not simply human society.

5. Assimilative patriotism: the United States is perceived as the superior power and the tribal nation is subordinate.

6. Cooperative or colonized patriotism: adherents refuse to conceive of a separate tribal political consciousness that has merit and is deserving of allegiance.

7. Apatriotic: belief that patriotism is an irrelevant concept for Native Americans."

It is thus not any more possible for one succinct "Native" point of view as there is a possibility of one laconic "American" point of view. Not only do

folks who are of the same nationality (in the political sense) find reason to disagree but members of the same family in both Native

and non-Native communities will have diametrically opposed opinions about patriotism as well. Loyalties are divided along patriotic, religious, social and nationalistic lines as well.

Diversity (which can be voluntarily perceived as an asset in both Native and non-Native communities) is here to stay. Whatever misplaced or misguided notions we have about all people thinking alike is not going to happen any time soon (in my opinion). The wise choice I think would be to let go of this notion of an "homogenized" human society and embrace the difference and instead take advantage of the opportunity to develop the dynamic pool of creativity offered.

We are all in this together; we cannot escape that reality so we might as well accept the challenge that "true patriotism hates injustice in its own land more than anywhere else.

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

shirts, hair and other hygiene chores for her students who needed it. That was in addition to teaching the ABC's.

Other teachers at Beadle (and I could name a few) and the other Elementary Schools in Yankton have done the same. They go the extra mile and I for one I'm impressed. Keep up the good work. Our future depends on you all.



TWO EAGLES

Vince