

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

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#### **Published Daily** Monday-Saturday

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Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3,

Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861 Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26,

Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

### **MEMBERSHIPS**

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Associa-Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

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(Payable in advance)

CARRIER DELIVERY 1-month . . . . . \$12.09 3 months ....\$36.27 6 months ....\$72.53

1-year .....\$133.09 MOTOR ROUTE

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**OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS** 

# The Real Question: Who Do You Trust?

**NORTH PLATTE TELEGRAPH (Aug. 10):** Pardon our skepticism, but reassurances this week that two Ebola virus patients can be treated safely at Emory University in Atlanta bring to mind two news stories from earlier this year.

In June, the Centers for Disease Control admitted that two active samples of anthrax were mistakenly sent to researchers at labs which are not capable of handling the deadly bacteria. Then in July, the CDC reported that two vials of the deadly smallpox virus were found in a lab in Bethesda, Maryland. The vials had been there since 1972.

Those reports were from June and July. And yet, here we are in August, and we are being told — as some suggest that those two Ebola patients should not have been brought to the United States from Africa that the virus can be safely treated here.

We are not scientists, and we suspect that under the harsh glare of the global spotlight, the Ebola patients can be safely treated here. But the anthrax and smallpox revelations demonstrate the limitations over time of huge government bureaucracies.

Furthermore, this is but one example of the credibility crisis that grips this country. The question of who we can believe has never, in our memory, been so at issue.

Last month, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid told reporters that our southern border with Mexico "is secure." Meanwhile, the leader of Reid's own party, President Barack Obama, was asking Congress to approve a \$4 billion appropriation to address the emergency situation on the border, as thousands of young people streamed into our country. Is that Reid's definition of "secure?"

Who on earth are we to believe?

Meanwhile, the debate rages over global warming or climate change - take your pick — and the president's efforts to kill the coal industry in this country. Believers say the "case is closed" on the issue of climate change and brand skeptics as "deniers." Skeptics are equally adamant that man is not the cause of the vicissitudes of the climate.

Who on earth to believe? Who can blame Americans for not trusting the words of our leaders when they recall promises that under the new health care law, they could "keep their insurance policies" and "keep their doctors?

In the movie "Cool Hand Luke," the famous line was, "What we have here is a failure to communicate.

Today, we have a vast oversupply of communication — it's like trying to take a sip out of a fire hose—but a very real crisis of credibility. For every argument, there is a counter argument. For every expert, there is an expert with the opposite opinion. For every opinion poll, there is an opposing poll. Who, in the final analysis, can we trust to give us the truth?

Not, apparently, these guys. And we fear that some day in the future — perhaps now, with this Ebola crisis brewing or maybe regarding terrorism — the question of who to believe could become a matter of life and death.

When we can't believe what we hear from the likes of the CDC, the Senate Majority Leader, the scientific community and the President of the United States, that, fellow Americans, is a real problem. A credibility crisis.

#### ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Monday, August 18, the 230th day of 2014. There are 135 days

Today's Highlight in History: On August 18, 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I, saying, "The United States must be neutral in fact as well as in name during these days that

On this date: In 1587 Dare became the first child of English parents to be born in present-day America, on what is now Roanoke Island in North Carolina. (However, the Roanoke colony ended up mysteri-

ously disappearing.) In 1838, the first marine expedition sponsored by the U.S. government set sail from Hampton Roads, Virginia; the crews traveled the southern Pacific

Ocean, gathering scientific information. In 1846, U.S. forces led by General Stephen W. Kearny captured Santa Fe, New Mexico.
In 1862, Dakota Indians began an

uprising in Minnesota (the revolt was crushed by U.S. forces some six weeks In 1920, the 19th Amendment to

the Constitution, guaranteeing all American women's right to vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it. In 1938, President Franklin D. Roo-

sevelt and Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King dedicated the Thousand Islands Bridge connecting the United States and

In 1954, during the Eisenhower administration, Assistant Secretary of Labor James Ernest Wilkins became the first black official to attend a meeting of the president's Cabinet as he sat for Labor Secretary James P.

Mitchell. In 1963, James Meredith became the first black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, wound to a close after three nights with a midmorning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1976, two U.S. Army officers were killed in Korea's demilitarized zone as a group of North Korean sol-

diers wielding axes and metal pikes attacked U.S. and South Korean soldiers. In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage. The Kansas City Royals\_defeated the New York Yankees. 5-4. in the completion of the

"pine-tar" game in just 12 minutes. In 1988, Vice President George H.W. Bush accepted the presidential nomination of his party at the Republican National Convention in New Or-

Ten years ago: In Athens, Paul Hamm won the men's gymnastics all-around Olympic gold medal by the

closest margin ever in the event; controversy followed after it was discovered a scoring error cost Yang Tae-young of South Korea the title. Film composer Elmer Bernstein died in Ojai, California, at age 82. Hawaii's first U.S. senator, Hiram L. Fong, died at age 97.

Five years ago: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, during his first visit to Washington in five years, offered lavish praise for President Barack Obama; for his part, Obama spoke of an "extraordinary opportunity" ing peace in the Middle East. Ohio executed Jason Getsy, a murder-for-hire triggerman, for killing the mother of his intended target, who survived the attack. Robert Novak, the combative TV and newspaper pundit, died in Washington, D.C., at 78. Former South Korean President and Nobel Peace laureate Kim Dae-jung died in Seoul.

One year ago: David Miranda, partner of Guardian reporter Glenn Greenwald, who'd received leaks from former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden, was de-tained for nearly nine hours at London's Heathrow airport, triggering claims authorities were trying to interfere with reporting on the issue. Usain Bolt won his third gold medal of the world championships held in Moscow anchoring Jamaica to victory in the 4 x

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Rosalynn Carter is 87. Movie director Roman Polanski is 81. Attorney and author Vincent Bugliosi is 80. Olympic gold medal decathlete Rafer Johnson is 79. Actor-director Robert Redford is 78. Actor Henry G. Sanders is 72. Rhythm-and-blues singer Sarah Dash (LaBelle) is 71. Actor-comedian Martin Mull is 71. Rock musician Dennis Elliott is 64. Comedian Elayne Boosler is 62. Country singer Steve Wilkinson (The Wilkinsons) is 59. Actor Denis Leary is 57. Actress Madeleine Stowe is 56. Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner is 53. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 53. The former president of Mexico, Felipe Calderon, is 52. Bluegrass musician Jimmy Mattingly is 52. Actor Adam Storke is 52. Actor Craig Bierko is 50. Rock singer-musician Zac Maloy (The Nixons) is 46. Rock singer and hip-hop artist Everlast is 45. Rapper Masta Killa (Wu-Tang Clan) is 45. Actor Christian Slater is 45. Actor Edward Norton is 45. Actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner is 44. Actress Kaitlin Olson is 39. Actor-writer-director Hadjii is 38. Rock musician Dirk Lance is 38. Actor-comedian Andy Samberg (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 36. Actress Mika Boorem is 27. Actress Maia Mitchell (TV: "The Fosters" "Teen Beach Movie") is 21. Actress Parker McKenna Posey is 19.

Thought for Today: "The self-hatred that destroys is the waste of unful-filled promise." — Moss Hart, American playwright and director (1904-1961).

## FROM THE BIBLE

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. Mark 12:30. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

### YOUR LETTERS

### **Lemonade Windfall**

Linda Storgaard, Yankton My granddaughter was overwhelmed recently when she was selling lemonade and a young man left a bag of coins (\$44). We're using this as an opportunity to teach the importance of "paying it forward." Many thanks to the young man.



"ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAY BE IT WAS A MISTAKE TO CALL THE FERGUSON, MISSOURI BLICE TO GET THE CAT OUT OF A TREE ... "

#### **Pierre Report**

# **A Look At Rules Changes**

BY SEN. JEAN HUNHOFF

R-District 18 (Yankton)

Interim rules met on Tuesday, Aug. 12, with a quick action to business. Due to the absence of two committee members at national legislative meetings any action taken by the remaining four committee members required unanimous

• The Department of Education brought forth rules that resulted from passage of HB 1031. The law updated the terminology, criteria and other requirements regarding the definition and evaluation of autism spectrum disorder.

A stakeholder group reviewed the differences between the previous edition and the new edition of the "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" that was released and adopted by the department. One interesting note during the discussion was that the autism disorder in the Division of Behavioral Health in the Department of Social services has a different definition and criteria. There was question at the public hearing if the two definitions were in conflict with each other. The answer was that each department has their own definition based on the national recognized definitions and is independent of each other for services available to these individuals. Rules process was approved.

• The Plumbing Commission requested an increase in license fees, exam fees and residential inspection fees, creating a fee for apprentice plumber and establishing licensing criteria for apprentice plumbers. The increase was requested as it was projected in FY 2015 to be in the red by approximately \$17,000. The last increase was 13 years ago. Fee increases would generate \$47,280 and resident plumbing permits would generate \$42,000. There was no opposition to the fee increases, only a written comment regarding the time frame for an apprentice to pass his journeyman license. The board believed that the time fame was flexible to allow for retesting timely. Rules process was

• The Animal Industry Board proposed to repeal the baby calf quarantine requirements. The rationale was that requirements are not necessary as monitoring of calf status for disease is already occurring prior to them entering the state. Discussion focused on scours in calves but the Department staff said precautions for spread of the disease are managed effectively by early detection by producers. Rules process was approved.

• Game Fish & Parks came with licensing rules and changes from 2014 legislation.

Cross bows were added for use in certain areas. These were added to the existing restriction, exceptions for uncased firearms and bows.

The section addressing replacement of lost or destroyed license permit or game tax was revised to allow for the replacement with proper documentation and a fee of \$20.

A rule was added for the process of abandonment of game, except a migratory bird, left at a wildlife processing facility. Basically a processor and the person who deposits lawfully taken game at the facility decide on a time



frame for the pickup of the processed game. If the game is not picked up and is determined to be abandoned, the facility may distribute the abandoned game to any nonprofit organization or any charitable organization that distributes food or other services to the needy. At no time many any abandoned game be

considered the property of the wildlife processing facility. Rule was approved. Antelope licenses were decreased by 520 licenses. Nonresident any antelope (59 licenses) and nonresident doe/kid antelope licenses (2) were proposed for 2014, which is a change from

2013. There were no nonresident licenses in

The 2014 Fall Turkey licenses for resident any turkey one-tag ER was increased by 205 tags from 2013. Resident any turkey two-tag ER was reduced by 50 licenses from 2013, resident turkey one-tag BH1 was reduced by 750 licenses from 2013 and nonresident any turkey one-tag BH1 was reduced by 60 licenses from 2013. Season opening for Turkey was moved to Nov 1.

For the waterfowl season, one canvas back is allowed daily and a special blue wing teal harvest is two bonus teal for the first 16 days of the season. Light geese limit in the special Canada goose hunting unit and in Units 1, 2 and 3 increased from 20 to 50 for daily bag limit. Rules process was approved.

• The State Board of Finance proposed rules to increase the allowable in-state lodging reimbursement amount for State employees traveling on official in-state business effective January 2015. The recommendation was moving from \$50 per day to \$55 a day from Sept. 1 to June 1 and \$70 from June 1 to Sept. 1.

The hotels/innkeepers in the state had met with the board with concerns that current reimbursement did not cover the expenses and hotels were limiting taking state employees stays in favor of customers that were paying the regular charges. As part of the discussion, the parties negotiated to charge two different rates just as they do for seasonal rates. The state employees have no choice for alternative housing so depend upon the hotel retailers to have rooms for them. This did not surface during the legislative session and is outside of the budget that would include travel expenses. The total estimate was approximately \$190,000 for the first year impact. It is sort of a catch-22 situation. Rules process was approved.

I will be asking GOAC to review the process for requests for increases of this nature that are not included in the budget.

If you have questions/concerns, please contact me. You can learn about rules proposed by departments and the schedule for hearings by going to the South Dakota Legislative Research Council website http://legis.sd.gov and at the top of the bar click onto "Administrative" and then click on to "Current Register." The register comes out every Monday and contains proposed rules and public hearing dates.

### Capitol Notebook

# An Old Friend Leaves Town

BY BOB MERCER State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — About a week ago, I paid \$50 to Tom Magedanz for his lawnmower. From my perspective, it wasn't enough.

He asked what he thought was fair. In the 25-some years I knew Tom, that's how he always was - and likely always will be

Tom and Lita were our backyard neighbors. A few days ago, they left for Dubuque, Iowa, and a new start.

They hadn't planned to move so soon after Tom's retirement in June. The house across the street sold in about a year. Always prudent, Tom figured, why wait

to list their house? It sold in two days. Dubuque? Tom said the area always interested him. They will be closer to their children. Charlie and his family are in Des Moines.

Steph is in Duluth. Tom lived quite a life. He worked for the public and loved his family and played or managed (or both) a lot of baseball.

We played softball together for a few years. Players on younger teams sometimes laughed about Tom out there at shortstop or second That is, until they saw "that old guy" make

hard plays easy. He took away a big slice of the infield. At bat he didn't swing for the fence. He

went up looking to get on, so other hitters could drive him in. For many years Tom played for and man-

aged the Pierre Rattlers amateur baseball

It's questionable whether Pierre would still have the Rattlers but for Tom. His effort also

meant other cities had a team to face in Pierre.

Tom was a student at South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 1967 and '68 when the nation called. He became a U.S. Marine and went to Vietnam in 1969 and 1970. He was a rifleman and squad leader in the 1st Marine

He didn't talk about it to us. The first I knew was seeing his picture, among the rows of similar portraits, on the wall showing the commanders at American Legion Post 8 in Pierre.

I think he can still fit in his uniform. When he came home from war he enrolled at the University of South Dakota and earned a bachelor degree in history and political science. From there he taught U.S. history and government for a few years at LeMars Gehlen High School in Iowa. Then he returned to USD for a master degree in public administration.

The next step was joining the Peace Corps as a volunteer. He went to Philippines from 1979 through 1982.

South Dakota called again. He moved to Pierre in 1982 to work as a policy analyst for the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

In 1988 he took a job with the state Legislative Research Council, the non-partisan professional staff for the Legislature. Ouiet, efficient, smart, he wrote many

dozens of laws and many hundreds of pieces of legislation at LRC, and many research pa-Somehow, there wasn't a legislative resolu-

tion or executive proclamation recognizing

Tom Magedanz before he and Lita left. He wasn't the kind of guy who needed one.

But he deserves thanks.