

Good Riddance To 2011

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

Bad year, 2011, even though some bad guys and charlatans got a karma blast. Osama bin Laden got it up close and personal from a Navy SEAL, while his cohort al-Awlaki got drilled from the sky. Gadhafi went down, and al-Assad is tottering.

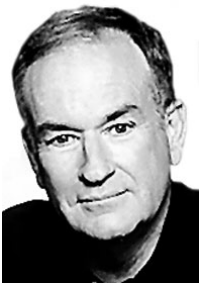
Schwarzenegger, Weiner, Sheen and Cain all got hammered in the court of public opinion. Blagojevich, Bonds and Mubarak were held accountable in actual courts.

Casey Anthony got away with killing her 2-year-old daughter. Amanda Knox finally beat the rap in Italy. And Kim Kardashian continued to be the poster girl for narcissism.

Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, by all accounts a stellar human being, survived a brutal gun attack, but more than 20,000 Japanese did not survive the earthquake and tsunami that hit the country in March.

But things like those listed above happen every year. The primary reason that 2011 is not a year to remember is focused around one thing: The folks continue to get a bad deal.

Most Americans work hard, are honest people and look out for their neighbors. They deserve prosperity and capitalism was set up to provide it. But with technology changing the way we live, the rules of capital engagement are changing, and the U.S. government has not acknowledged that. The unemployment rate is just below 9 percent. But if you have a college degree, the jobless rate is cut in half. If you are educated, you most likely will get a decent paying job. If you have a skill such as plumbing, you'll work as much as you want. But if you can't write a sentence,



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speak like the Jersey Shore crew and/or have a bad attitude in the workplace – you are up against it.

In most situations, the employer is holding all the cards. Competition for jobs is intense and that drives wages down. The boss man can make demands and set a strict workplace regimen. If you are supporting a family, this is not the greatest scenario. So, the Occupy protestors are right about one thing: The American worker is on the defensive.

President Obama wants you to believe that the feds can change all that and can right those private marketplace wrongs. That is bull. They can't, and they are bankrupting the country with false hopes. Right now, only individuals can improve their own circumstances. Pinheads in Washington cannot help us.

The most important thing for a worker to understand is that you have to make yourself indispensable. You have to make your employer money or his life easier.

Preferably both. Also, you have to learn as much as you can about your chosen endeavor. Again, if you can fix things, you will earn good money. If you can sell things, you will prosper. If you're primarily interested in tattoos, you will suffer economically unless you're a member of Green Day.

In prosperous years, the marginal workers get by. In tough times, they get the shaft. Let's all hope 2012 finally brings relief on the economic front. But don't count on it. Make your own way and a happy new year will be far more likely to occur.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."

Pierre Report | Jean Hunhoff

Rules Board Hears Med Proposals

BY SEN. JEAN HUNHOFF
R-District 18 (Yankton)

The day was long and the agenda full on Tuesday, Dec. 20, for the last Interim Rules Committee meeting before the next legislative session.

The governor had asked departments to review their rules for updating and streamlining processes. The result is that the committee was presented with 21 sets of recommended changes covering a broad spectrum of government entities.

The Department of Health had four different sets of rule changes and those agenda items seemed to create the most debate of the day which lasted almost four hours.

The Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners oversee not only physicians but also professional practices including Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy. The issue that created debate and was sent back to a prior step for more review and another hearing was the definition of "unprofessional conduct" for respiratory therapists. The reasoning for not approving was that an action called a declaratory ruling can impact a practice and the notification of such ruling is only by checking the Board's website for the change. Committee members did not support this as the only means of notifying a respiratory therapist of a declaratory ruling.

There also was proposed a section for the provision of respiratory services or treatments which are inappropriate or unnecessary. Debate was that a physician must order the service and so where is the liability for the unnecessary or inappropriate treatments with the therapist or the MD. Further clarification was desired by the committee. Finally that last rule proposed wording about "tending" to endanger the health, welfare or safety of patients. The lobbyist for the Respiratory Therapists had asked for a wording change from "tends" to endanger. The committee was more positive to the wording change which the Department did not support.

The Board of Pharmacy, which is under the Department of Health, is asking to require pharmacy technicians to be nationally certified effective July 1, 2014. The issue that generated debate was the grandfathering clause that the Board is proposing for those currently practicing but not having national certification. Those individuals would be grandfathered in which means they would not be required to show national certification.

Effective July 1, 2014 all pharmacy technicians applying for certification must be nationally certified. The rationale for mandating national certification is public safety.

The committee questioned why grandfathering was



J. Hunhoff

exempting those practicing technicians not currently certified, able to continue practicing after the 2014 date if safety was the issue. The board explained this was a compromise with the existing noncertified technicians. It is the belief of the board that if the grandfathering is not allowed, there would be an exodus of pharmacy technicians and the state would experience a shortage that could impact access to pharmaceutical services in the rural communities.

The first motion to approve the rules died for a lack of second. There was a motion to not approve and that motion did not pass. The debate focused on patient safety being compromised because of the grandfathering would not require passage of the national certification by current employed technicians. Ultimately the committee voted to approve the rules by a vote of 3-2 but with no recommendation.

The department convened a work group of interested parties for a review of the rules for assisted-living centers this past summer. The DOH was proposing to update rules pertaining licensed assisted living centers. The rules would allow for end-of-life care to be provided in assisted-living facilities in collaboration with a Medicare Certified Hospice. The rules also would also allow expansion of assisted facilities to serve residents with varying levels of dementia provided certain services are provided. Assisted living facilities now would have their own set of rules specific to their facility types and services. The committee approved the rule changes.

The department also brought forth rules for birth centers to become licensed as health care facilities and to allow the provision of an appropriate level of care and services associated with normal, uncomplicated pregnancies. The law allowing birthing centers was enacted in the 2011 Legislature.

Discussion among committee members focused on requirements for food services in the centers, posting of amount of liability coverage and types of low risk pregnancies that could be delivered at a birthing center.

Certified nurse midwives were not asked for input during the development of the rules by the department. The certified nurse midwives were in contact with the committee members and testified to their concerns about the rules. In the end, the committee approved the rules with the exception of the above items and referred them back to a prior state.

I'll discuss more on the Interim Rules Committee's business in the next edition. Please contact me with your issues/concerns. Sen.Hunhoff@state.sd.us or call 665-1463.

but will not be a big seller. His weekly "spreads" of hatred, fabrications and devious innuendoes will be read by some readers who still believe that pigs will fly.

No, Mr. Heck, I do not believe that most Americans, born in the USA or naturalized Citizens (as I am), will fall into your "Obama Nightmare" scenarios. It is yours to keep and weep over it ... or ask our Higher Being to forgive you?

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Harrisburg, Sturgis Seem Like Good ESD Foes

THE DAILY REPUBLIC, Mitchell (Dec. 27): A year ago, there was talk of expansion in the Eastern South Dakota Conference. At the time, the general idea included possibly adding the two public schools in Rapid City — Central and Stevens — as well as Sturgis and perhaps Harrisburg.

We didn't like the idea back then, since Stevens and Central have much larger enrollments than the rest of the ESD, which at present includes Mitchell, Yankton, Brandon Valley, Huron, Pierre, Brookings, Watertown and Aberdeen. We also didn't like the additional travel costs and potential for missed school that would come from adding three Black Hills teams to the league.

The Black Hills schools are scrambling because of a new league forming in Sioux Falls called the Metro Conference, which would include the four schools in the city, plus Brandon Valley. School officials said Brandon Valley still plans to be affiliated with the ESD, however. Now, the ESD has extended invitations to Sturgis and Harrisburg to compete in the ESD for football only, and we find ourselves intrigued by the idea.

Sturgis and Harrisburg have student enrollment numbers that are similar to those already found in the ESD. In grades 9-11 — those are the only grades counted when determining athletic classification — Sturgis has 526 students and Harrisburg has 344, although the latter is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years, thanks to its location near Sioux Falls.

Meanwhile, the ESD's Aberdeen has 891 students in grades 9-11, followed by Watertown (876), Brandon Valley (761), Yankton (687), Pierre (610), Mitchell (574), Brookings (563) and Huron (542).

Sturgis is a long drive, but it's a trip that only would be required every other year. Mitchell generally takes one road trip to the Black Hills every other season, so that wouldn't be a change.

Harrisburg is a relatively short drive from Mitchell — only a little more than an hour away.

An unanswered question: What will Brandon Valley do in football? Stay with the ESD or play in the Metro?

If the ESD does become a 10-team conference, we assume traditional nine-game schedules will be automatically set without the need for non-conference match-ups against schools from Sioux Falls or Rapid City, two cities whose schools have as many as three times more students than Mitchell High School and most ESD teams.

Sturgis actually has two possible options. In addition to the ESD invite, Sturgis is being considered as a new member in the Black Hills Conference. That league is made up of Class A schools, while Sturgis is Class AA. Sturgis probably will have to make a decision based upon its own enrollment estimates for the future.

Changes apparently are coming to big-school football. Lately, it's this recent talk about expanding the ESD.

Separately, a discussion scheduled to take place in the coming weeks will debate whether to form another class for the state's largest schools, such as those found in Sioux Falls and Rapid City.

For the sake of fairness, we still prefer that the largest schools play in their own division. And for the sake of league strength and ease of scheduling, we hope Sturgis and Harrisburg soon find their way into the ESD for football.

OUR LETTER POLICY

The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** encourages its readers to write letters to the editor, and it asks that a few simple guidelines be followed.

■ Please limit letters to 300 words or less. (During political campaigns, letters related to the campaign may be limited to 150 words.) Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.

■ In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

■ Specific individuals or entities addressed in letters may be given the opportunity to read the letter prior to publication and be allowed to answer the letter in the same issue.

■ Only signed letters with writer's full name, address and daytime phone number for verification will be accepted. Please mail to: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to 665-1721 or email to views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, Jan. 2, the second day of 2012. There are 364 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Jan. 2, 1942, the Philippine capital of Manila was captured by Japanese forces during World War II.

On this date: In 1788, Georgia became the fourth state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1811, Sen. Timothy Pickering, a Federalist from Massachusetts, became the first member of the U.S. Senate to be censured after he'd improperly revealed the contents of an executive document.

In 1900, Secretary of State John Hay announced the "Open Door Policy" to facilitate trade with China.

In 1921, religious services were broadcast on radio for the first time as KDKA in Pittsburgh aired the regular Sunday service of the city's Calvary Episcopal Church.

In 1935, Bruno Hauptmann went on trial in Flemington, N.J., on charges of kidnapping and murdering the 20-month-old son of Charles and Anne Lindbergh. (Hauptmann was found guilty, and executed.)

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched its space probe Luna 1, the first manmade object to fly past the moon, its apparent intended target.

In 1960, Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts launched his successful bid for the presidency.

In 1971, 66 people were killed in a pileup of spectators leaving a soccer match at Ibrox Stadium in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon signed legislation requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 miles an hour. (Federal speed limits were abolished in 1995).

In 1981, police in Sheffield, England, arrested Peter Sutcliffe, who confessed to being the "Yorkshire Ripper," the serial killer of 13 women.

In 1991, Sharon Pratt (Dixon) was sworn in as mayor of Washington, D.C., becoming the first black woman to head a city of Washington's size and prominence.

In 2006, 12 miners died in a methane gas explosion at the Sago Mine in West Virginia, W.Va., but one miner, Randal McCloy Jr., was eventually rescued.

Ten years ago: The new Afghan government confirmed that American bombs had killed the Taliban's intelligence chief (Qari Ahmadullah). Eduardo Duhalde was sworn in as Argentina's president. The No. 5 Florida Gators crushed No. 6 Maryland

56-23 in the Orange Bowl.

Five years ago: The state funeral for former President Gerald R. Ford began with an elaborate service at Washington National Cathedral, then moved to Grand Rapids, Mich. New York City commuter Wesley Autrey Sr. saved Cameron Hollopeter, a 19-year-old film student who'd fallen onto subway tracks, by leaping down and pulling the teen and himself into the trough between the tracks as a train passed over them. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey opened a school for disadvantaged girls in South Africa. (The school later became embroiled in allegations of abuse; Winfrey apologized and promised an overhaul.) No. 5 Louisville beat No. 15 Wake Forest 24-13 in the Orange Bowl. Former Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kolek died at age 95.

One year ago: The U.S. Navy said it would investigate raunchy videos broadcast to the crew of the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise. (Capt. Owen P. Honors, who'd produced the videos as the ship's executive officer, was removed as the Enterprise's commander but was later allowed to remain in the Navy.) A magnitude 7.1 earthquake shook southern Chile, sending tens of thousands of people fearing a tsunami to higher ground. Maj. Richard "Dick" Winters, who'd fought in several major battles in World War II and whose quiet leadership was chronicled in the book and television miniseries "Band of Brothers," died in Palmyra, Pa., at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Country musician Harold Bradley is 86. Former House Speaker Dennis Hastert is 70. TV host Jack Hanna is 65. Actress Wendy Phillips is 60. Actress Gabrielle Carteris is 51. Movie director Todd Haynes is 51. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher David Cone is 49. Actress Tia Carrere is 45. Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is 44. Model Christy Turlington is 43. Actor Taye Diggs is 41. Rock musician Scott Underwood (Train) is 41. Rock singer Doug Robb (Hoobastank) is 37. Actor Dax Shepard is 37. Actress Paz Vega is 36. Country musician Chris Hartman is 34. Rock musician Jerry DePizzo Jr. (O.A.R.) is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Keltoun Kessee (IMX) is 31. Actress Kate Bosworth is 29. Jazz singer-musician Trombone Shorty is 26.

Thought for Today: "Love doesn't grow on trees like apples in Eden — it's something you have to make. And you must use your imagination too." — Joyce Cary, Anglo-Irish author (1888-1957).

FROM THE BIBLE

Say to the daughter of Zion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." Matthew 21:5. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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YOUR LETTERS

‘Obama Nightmares’?

Fernande Colette Bitsos, Yankton

If you've noticed, Peter Heck's vitriolic columns are getting longer and longer, perhaps in his desperation to write a book. He is very clever — or should I write "cunning"? Why not write weekly columns to "tickle" trash readers and inflate his ego?

I assume his book will emerge some time in 2012,