

Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan

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OTHER VIEWS

Driver's License Fees Are Justifiable Inconvenience

Sioux Falls Argus Leader: The public's adjustment to the new federal documentation requirements for driver's licenses has been difficult, to say the least.

State officials estimate that about one-third of folks who have attempted to get or renew a license since the new rules began Jan. 1 don't have proper documents.

So many folks have run into the problem that county and state offices in South Dakota are on pace to gain \$600,000 more this year than last on certified copies of birth and marriage certificates.

Those already irritated by the new rules might be even more peeved that state and counties are gaining money off certified copies of public records.

But given that the fees are one-time expenses for individuals, they're appropriate.

The fact is that a driver's license isn't just a driver's license anymore. The new documentation requirements are the result of the federal Real ID act, which is a response to concerns about immigration and identity theft. The practical effect of that legislation is that driver's licenses now are quasi-national ID cards.

That means it's appropriate for license carriers to face a one-time fee, if necessary, in order to gain the proper documentation to get the licenses.

What's unfortunate, though, is that married women potentially could be more saddled with fees than men since the rules require license-seekers to document every name change.

But given that state and county officials aren't using the Real ID act to gouge residents who need copies of required documents, the fees simply are a potential part of processing the new generation of driver's licenses.

The Last Call For Parks Alcohol

North Platte Telegraph: Gov. Dave Heineman has a sobering decision to make. And, as he is very much accustomed to, it isn't an easy one.

In May, the State Game and Parks Commission authorized allowing alcohol to return to Nebraska's state parks, lifting a 15-year-old ban. Even though the commission voted 8-1, the governor is receiving some substantial pressure to overturn the ruling and is considering it.

The governor has until Jan. 1 to make his decision and he plans to visit Lake McConaughy, the area of tremendous impact, to hear the pros and the cons. And there are plenty of both.

The ban was inspired by a culture that had degenerated into an out-of-control party, with alcohol-fueled behavior leading to arrests, injuries and even death.

On the other hand, there is the valid point of view that responsible people, drinking responsibly, cannot enjoy what is normally considered a lawful indulgence.

There is also the money. It would be expected that alcohol sales, and their accompanying taxes, would increase dramatically. And for a state heading for a soul-searching deficit (June revenues were off projections by more than \$30 million) any new revenue would be welcome. For those retailers, the same could be argued.

But the fact remains the responsible people are often overrun by those who aren't, and in the case of alcohol that is all too familiar.

Family vacations can be ruined by rowdy drinkers, bent on exercising their "right" to enjoy themselves, even if it means driving up and down a beach with a gaggle of cohorts tuned to the gills.

According to a story in the Omaha World Herald, the governor has received several hundred e-mails and comments on the topic. The overwhelming majority has been in favor of maintaining the ban. In addition, the Central Public Power and Irrigation District, which owns Lake McConaughy, has also asked to retain the ban.

History clearly indicates that having alcohol is akin to opening a Pandora's box of unruly, dangerous and rude behavior. What evidence is there that it won't simply return if the ban is lifted?

There doesn't appear to be any. We have managed to live for 15 years with the ban in place. No one can argue that it isn't safer and more pleasant.

The governor should think about that and make that tough decision. Reinstating the ban.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, July 26, the 207th day of 2010. There are 158 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 26, 1990, President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

On this date: In 1775, Benjamin Franklin became America's first Postmaster-General.

In 1788, New York became the 11th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1908, U.S. Attorney General Charles J. Bonaparte ordered creation of a force of special agents that was a forerunner of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In 1945, Winston Churchill resigned as Britain's prime minister after his Conservatives were soundly defeated by the Labor Party. (Clement Attlee became the new prime minister.)

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act, which established the National Military Establishment (later renamed the Department of Defense).

In 1952, Argentina's first lady, Eva Peron, died in Buenos Aires at age 33.

In 1956, the Italian liner Andrea Doria sank off New England, some 11 hours after colliding with the Swedish liner Stockholm; at least 51 people died. Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalized the Suez Canal.

In 1971, Apollo 15 was launched from Cape Kennedy on America's fourth manned mission to the moon.

In 1986, kidnapers in Lebanon released the Rev. Lawrence Martin Jenco, an American hostage held for nearly 19 months.

In 1989, Mark Wellman, a 29-year-old paraplegic, reached the summit of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park after hauling himself up the granite cliff six inches at a time over nine days.

Ten years ago: George W. Bush and his just-chosen running mate, Dick Cheney, set out on their first campaign excursion together as they visited Cheney's former hometown of Casper, Wyo. A federal judge in New York approved a \$1.25 billion settlement between Swiss banks and more than a-half million plaintiffs who alleged the banks had hoarded money deposited by Holocaust victims.

Five years ago: America's manned

space program roared back to life with the launch of Discovery, 2 1/2 years after the Columbia disaster. Six nations resumed nuclear disarmament talks that North Korea had boycotted for 13 months, but little progress was made. Cubs pitcher Greg Maddux recorded his 3,000th career strikeout against San Francisco in the third inning of a 3-2, 11-inning victory for the Giants.

One year ago: Sarah Palin stepped down as governor of Alaska to write a book and build a right-of-center coalition, but left her long-term political plans unclear. A 36-year-old woman, driving the wrong way on the Taconic Parkway in Westchester County, N.Y., crashed into an SUV, killing eight people, including herself; toxicology tests showed Diane Schuler was drunk and had used marijuana. Alberto Contador won the Tour de France for the second time in three years. Lance Armstrong placed third. Rickey Henderson and Jim Rice were inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame along with the late Joe Gordon. Choreographer and dancer Merce Cunningham died in New York at age 90.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Marjorie Lord is 92. Movie director Blake Edwards is 88. Actor James Best is 84. Rhythm-and-blues singer-songwriter Bobby Hebb is 72. Singer Dottie Gray is 70. Actress-singer Darlene Love is 69. Singer Brenton Wood is 69. Rock star Mick Jagger is 67. Movie director Peter Hyams is 67. Actress Helen Mirren is 65. Rock musician Roger Taylor (Queen) is 61. Actress Susan George is 60. Olympic gold medal figure skater Dorothy Hamill is 54. Actor Kevin Spacey is 51. Rock singer Gary Cherone is 49. Actress Sandra Bullock is 46. Rock singer Jim Lindberg (Pennywise) is 45. Actor Jeremy Piven is 45. Rapper-reggae singer Wayne Wonder is 44. Actor Jason Statham is 41. Baseball pitcher Willie Hobb is 40. TV host Chris Harrison ("The Bachelor") is 39. Actress Kate Beckinsale is 37. Rock musician Dan Konopka (OK Go) is 36. Gospel/Contemporary Christian singer Rebecca St. James is 33. Christian rock musician Jamie Sharpe (Rush of Kings) is 21.

Thought for Today: "A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing." — George Bernard Shaw (born this date in 1856, died 1950).

FROM THE BIBLE

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. 2 Corinthians 13:14. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis



Fairness For Shirley Sherrod

BY BILL O'REILLY
Creators Syndicate

This time last week, few Americans had ever heard of Department of Agriculture official Shirley Sherrod. Now she is a household name in households that actually follow the news. A few days ago, Sherrod was fired by the Obama administration for admitting that more than 20 years ago — as an administrator in Georgia — she did not treat a white farmer as fairly as she would have treated a black farmer. Her admission came as part of a speech she made before the NAACP in March. Sherrod is black.

The problem was Sherrod was relating the story as part of an epiphany she said she'd had. After mulling things over, she came to the conclusion that what she had done was wrong. Unfortunately, that message was overlooked in the initial reporting, and I was one of the culprits.

Regrettably, I did not examine the full transcript of Sherrod's remarks closely enough, and after hearing that the white farmer had been hosed, I said she should resign. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack made the same mistake; so did the NAACP. Like all Americans, Sherrod deserves to be treated fairly, and she should be reinstated at the Department of Agriculture. However, the situation deserves a top-to-bottom examination by the feds.

Shirley Sherrod is a longtime liberal activist who peppered her NAACP speech with racial references, such as this: "So I figured if I'd take (the farmer) to (a white lawyer), that his own kind would take care of him."

Own kind?
Now, we all make mistakes, and that just might be



BILL O'REILLY

stuff these Republicans are doing because you have a black president."

The Hatch Act prohibits federal employees from endorsing political parties while on the job. Sherrod was invited to speak at the NAACP meeting because she was in the administration. So you make the call.

There are two main points here: First, Shirley Sherrod was not initially treated fairly by me, some other journalists, the NAACP or the Obama administration. She deserved better.

And secondly, Sherrod may not be a great fit for the USDA. She is obviously a very political person with a strong point of view. Public servants are supposed to look out for all the folks; it is tough for polarizing people to do that.

So this is a fascinating story on many levels. We have not heard the last of it.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out For You?"

The Thoughts That Count

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

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WASHINGTON — The current Journalist controversy that has the blogosphere heaving sparks, and Washington even more self-absorbed than usual, is weak tea — a tempest in Barbie's teacup.

At least as concerns the so-called conspiracy itself. As a larger lesson about the way we search and destroy each other in the political/media world, there may be something darker brewing.

For the millions who have no idea what I'm talking about, a brief history: Journalist was a listserv (Internetspeak for watering hole) where liberal-leaning journalists gathered to kvetch.

Started by prodigal blogger Ezra Klein for a few friends, it grew in numbers and popularity, attracting a few mainstream luminaries (Joe Klein of Time magazine) along the way. But mostly it was a consortium of far lesser-known folks (academics, mid- to low-level producers, etc.) who enjoyed the camaraderie of the like-minded.

In the conservative world, we call such people Fox News. (Just kidding, guys, but really.)

Today, Ezra Klein is a ripened 26-year-old Washington Post blogger — hired as a known liberal — who makes trenchant observations about health care and other complicated policy issues. Klein is young, in other words, and could be seen as relatively inexperienced in the world of which he has precipitously become a pretty high-level moving part. Today he is best known — in certain quarters — for his role in creating the listserv, which is being characterized as the locus of left-wing conspiracy.

The story, such as it is, was broken by conservative Tucker Carlson's Daily Caller, a newish website where a number of my friends happen to write. And a former was on the benighted Journalist.

It is no fun writing about friends and colleagues, but I think perspective is needed here.

Carlson has been making the news rounds with his fact-driving story, appearing on Fox News, where he is a contributor, and criticizing journalists who posted comments suggesting that they were teaming up to advance a policy agenda and, more specifically, to get Barack Obama elected president.

It should come as no surprise that self-identifying liberals have liberal thoughts and friends, so no foul there, as Carlson has said. And, indeed, some of the comments are, on their face, condemnable, not to mention banal. But some also have been presented out of context and,

besides, were offered as part of an ongoing argument among colleagues who believed they were acting in good faith that theirs was a private conversation.

Were they naive to think so? In this world, yes. Was Carlson right to "out" the private comments of people, who, for the most part have no significant power? That, to me, is the more compelling issue.

On the question of context, I have room only for one example, but more can be found on Klein's Washington Post blog (<http://bit.ly/at3U06>).

One of the most widely circulated is that these letters were conspiring to get the government to shut down Fox News. Well, one member — a UCLA law professor no one ever heard of (Jonathan Zasloff, sorry) — did write something to that effect. But it was a query about whether the FCC could pull the network's broadcasting permit once it expires for, in liberals' view, espousing a political agenda.

Whereupon, Michael Scherer of Time responded: "You really want political parties/white houses picking and choosing which news organizations to favor?"

Even so, the headline was that liberals want to shut down Fox News, which is not precisely an accurate rendering of a non-conversation. There was no further discussion on the subject at Journalist.

Scandalous? Sure, if you want it to be. If you pull a few remarks from tens of thousands posted by 400 people over a few years, you can frame a debate any way you wish. If you pull a mean quote about Rush Limbaugh, you've got Limbaugh time. Throw in Karl Rove, Fox News and Sarah Palin, and you're golden — for a little while.

But then the news cycle moves on, and maybe next week you'll be the one being hunted. In the meantime, we have to ask ourselves: Are we better off never having the ability to speak off-handedly among friends, to say in private what we could never say in public, to think aloud and uncensored?

Or do we resign ourselves to the new reality — that no one is ever to be trusted — and keep our thoughts to ourselves? The answer implied by the events here described suggests a country in which few of us would want to live.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fundraiser A Success

Laddie and Joan Novak, Yankton
Bev's Believers Team Members

Thank you to all who supported our Relay for Life team's poker tournament fundraiser, whether playing in the tournament, donating prizes or helping us work! It was a great success for a small family team throwing it together last minute! It just goes to show what can be done when working hard toward a goal and bonding together!

A special thanks to the Moose Lodge for the use of their facility, Harry Lane and Tyler Kaika for the use of their poker equipment, friends who made donations and purchased raffle tickets, and all of the sponsors of prizes: Aune Trucking, Days Inn, Conkling Distributing, the University of South Dakota, The Campground, Mexico Viejo, VFW, Well Construction, Jim and Mary DeLozier, Wal-Mart, Jodeans, Minerva's, Western Office

Plus, Summit Activities Center, TSC, Dakota Archery, All Season Power Sports, Broadway Chrysler, Yankton Mall Cinemas, The Laser Barn, Boomers, Wilson Trailer Company, Fullerton Lumber Company, Ace Hardware, The Walnut Tavern, The Roadrunner, Triple Time Rudy's, Pizza Hut and The Ice House.

Thank you also to those donating silent-auction items: Joe and DaNel Tucker, Troy and Denise Telthoester, Joan Novak with Iia sophia jewelry, Joni Branaugh, Bill and Deb Schaefer, Jerry Huntley, Darrik and Theresa DeLozier, and Koletzky Implement. Without them, this would not have been possible!

All of this is in loving memory of wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, Bev DeLozier. Last year she was there to walk with us as we worked hard to fight this terrible disease...this year we remembered her with heavy hearts as we made the walk without her. We do believe that with ours and the American Cancer Society's help, a cure can be found!

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