

views

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Sturgis Rally Worth Any Headaches

RAPID CITY JOURNAL (July 23): Did you hear that roar down the street? Did you hear it again? If so, you know that it has begun for all practical purposes.

The 75th annual Sturgis rally — the mother of all motorcycle events — won't "officially" start until Aug. 3, but it is quite evident that the parade of bikers are making their presence felt from one corner of the Black Hills to another.

But while this annual event has showcased this area to millions of visitors and poured millions of dollars into the local economy in the past 74 years, the rally also is source of angst for many local residents.

Some literally are heading out of the Hills, while others are adapting a bit of a bunker mentality as our streets swell with countless motorcycles in a biker's version of Hog Heaven.

The reality, however, is that any inconveniences imposed upon local residents by perhaps more than one million bikers this year is far outweighed by the benefits, which are enormous.

The most immediate impact of the rally is the millions of dollars that will be injected into the local and state economy as bikers drive across the state to make their pilgrimage to Sturgis. Even Yankton in the far southeast corner in the state is hosting a special event for bikers as it seeks ways to cash in on an event that could attract more people than live in South Dakota.

Vendors in Hot Springs, Spearfish and Sturgis, meanwhile, already are selling goods to visitors who have traveled here early to enjoy the ambiance and culture of western South Dakota while making the trek to Sturgis

In addition, hundreds of residents have rented their homes to rally-goers; hotels are filled; area businesses are busy stocking their shelves and filling their storage areas in anticipation of meeting a tremendous demand for goods and services; and restaurants and bars are hiring extra help to meet the expected surge in business

The overall economic footprint of this year's rally will be deep and much appreciated.

The rally also will generate an incalculable amount of publicity for the Black Hills. Reality TV shows, national and global media coverage, and a social media frenzy will all bring more attention to the event and the Black Hills than any multi-million dollar public relations campaign and we will reap the benefits for months and years to come.

And why not? When you look at what this area has to offer, the number of exciting events planned for the rally, and the tremendous line-up of live music at the big campgrounds, you have to admit it's

going to be a rally for the ages. And it will all be over in about three weeks. So enjoy the spectacle that literally shows the world how special life is in the Black Hills.

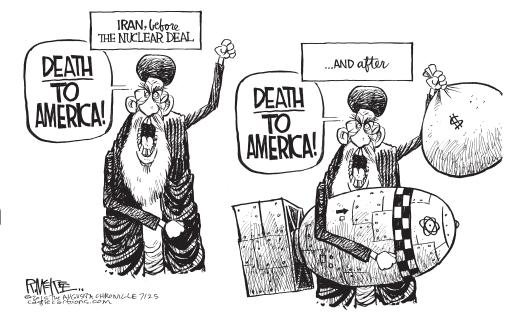
ABOUT THIS PAGE

The View page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the PRESS & DAKOTAN. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

in history

By The Associated Press Today is Monday, July 27, the 208th day of 2015. There are 157 days left in the

year. Today's Highlights in History: On July 27, 1940, Bugs Bunny made his "ofliftoff, prompting the space agency to ground future shuttle flights until the prob-lem could be fixed. Al-Qaida in Iraq said it had killed two kidnapped Algerian diplomats. Ahmed Ressam, an Algerian who'd plotted to bomb Los Angeles International



Capitol Notebook Party Lines Don't Show Too Brightly On Ag Taxes

BY BOB MERCER State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — The next big topics for the Legislature's task force on agricultural property assessments will be native grasslands, small acreages and timberlands. These might sound dull, but many millions of dollars in property taxes potentially are at stake.

The new chairman selected by the task force's members is the first Democrat in that role, Sen. Jim Peterson of Revillo, who farms in Deuel and Grant counties.

The Legislature in 2008 approved a giant change that based agricultural land values on productivity. Counties are coming into line at different paces. Nearly all of the 66 counties are on the mark for non-cropland.

But on cropland, only 15 are within 10 percent of where they should be. Another 20 are within 20 percent.

That means nearly half of the counties face some big jumps when the system takes full effect for taxes payable in 2020.

Peterson won election the first time to the Legislature in 2000. He was among a group of new lawmakers, from different parts of South Dakota, who understood the old system wasn't working.

County assessors couldn't find enough comparable sales of land to make accurate assessments. Jim Lintz, R-Hermosa, won election in 1998 at

the front of this wave. Peterson and Larry Rhoden, R-Union Center, arrived next. Then came Dave Knudson, R-Sioux Falls, in 2002.

Rhoden won the House Republican leader's post for the 2005 session. Lintz, a senator, chaired an interim committee on classification of real property in 2005.

For the 2007 session Knudson, a lawyer, won the

Senate Republican leader's post. During the 2007 interim, Knudson and Rhoden led a committee that studied property tax assessments.

The productivity system won approval in the 2008 session, with Rhoden as prime sponsor in the House and Knudson as lead sponsor in the Senate.

The system uses soil types and crop prices for setting values of cropland and a cash-rent approach for valuing non-cropland such as pasture. Peterson's long-running goal is reducing the taxable value for natural grass growing in croprated soils.

The 2008 legislation created the task force to oversee and implement the new system. During a one-term break that Peterson took, he continued on the task

Knudson was the first chairman, followed by Rhoden. Sen. Gary Cammack, R-Union Center, nominated Peterson at the July 20 meeting.

"I guess I can't pass, so I'll say no."

Peterson said when the roll call came to him. Rhoden said he couldn't recall a minority-party legislator chairing a committee "such as this." He said it was appropriate when the focus is agriculture

"It's a lot more about the reality of life and the situations we're in, than it ever was partisan politics," Rhoden said.

Peterson, now 70, said partisan politics never entered the task force's deliberations. Rhoden, now 56, ran for the U.S. Senate in 2014 rather than reelection. He is the task force's vice chairman.

"Come on up here." Peterson said. "I got to rely on that old boy to help this old guy out once in a while.

Rhoden changed seats. "I think they keep moving this table back," Rhoden said.

"It can't be that we're growing," Peterson said.



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ficial" debut in the Warner Bros. animated cartoon "A Wild Hare." Billboard magazine published its first "music popularity chart" listing best-selling retail records (in first place was "I'll Never Smile Again" record-ed by Tommy Dorsey and His Orchestra, with featured vocalist Frank Sinatra).

On this date: In 1789, President George Washington signed a measure establishing the Department of Foreign Affairs, forerunner of the Department of State.

In 1861, Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan took command of the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War. In 1921, Canadian researcher Fred-

erick Banting and his assistant, Charles Best, succeeded in isolating the hormone insulin at the University of Toronto. In 1953, the Korean War armistice

was signed at Panmunjom, ending three years of fighting. In 1960, Vice President Richard M. Nixon was nominated for president on the

first ballot at the Republican national convention in Chicago.

In 1965, Shirley Ann Lawson of Auck-land gave birth to four girls and a boy, the first quintuplets born in New Zealand. In 1967, President Lyndon B. John-

son appointed the Kerner Commission to assess the causes of urban rioting, the same day black militant H. Rap Brown said in Washington that violence was "as American as cherry pie." In 1974, the House Judiciary Commit-

tee voted 27-11 to adopt the first of three articles of impeachment against President Richard Nixon.

In 1980, on day 267 of the Iranian hostage crisis, the deposed Shah of Iran died at a military hospital outside Cairo,

Egypt, at age 60. In 1995, the Korean War Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington by President Bill Clinton and South Korean President Kim Young-sam. In 1996, terror struck the Atlanta

Olympics as a pipe bomb exploded at Centennial Olympic Park, directly killing one person and injuring 111. (Anti-govern-ment extremist Eric Rudolph later pleaded guilty to the bombing.) In 2003, comedian Bob Hope died in

Toluca Lake, California, at age 100. Ten years ago: NASA said a sizable

chunk of foam insulation came flying off the shuttle Discovery's fuel bank during

FROM THE BIBLE

I will tell of Your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise You. Psalm 22:22. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

Airport on the eve of the millennium, was sentenced to 22 years in prison by a federal judge in Seattle. (However, a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled in February 2010 that the 22-year sentence was too lenient; Ressam was later resentenced to 37 years.)

Five years ago: BP announced that its much-criticized chief executive, Tony Hayward, would be replaced by Robert Dudley as the company reported a record quarterly loss and set aside \$32.2 billion to cover the costs of the massive Gulf of Mexico oil spill. Canadian character actor Maury Chaykin died in Toronto on his 61st birthday.

One year ago: Italy's Vincenzo Nibali won the Tour de France, becoming the first Italian to win cycling's greatest race in 16 years. Bernhard Langer ran away with the Senior British Open for his fourth senior major title, finishing a Champions Tour-record 13 strokes ahead of Scot-land's Colin Montgomerie. Frank Thomas, Tom Glavine and Greg Maddux, and man-agers Bobby Cox, Joe Torre and Tony La Russa, were inducted into baseball's Hall of Fame

Today's Birthdays: TV producer Norman Lear is 93. Actor Jerry Van Dyke is 84. Sportscaster Irv Cross is 76. Actor John Pleshette is 73. Singer Bobbie Gentry is 71. Actress-director Betty Thomas is 68. Olympic gold medal figure skater Peggy Fleming is 67. Singer Maureen McGovern is 66. Actress Janet Eilber is 64. Rock musician Tris Imboden (Chi-cago) is 64. Actress Roxanne Hart is 61. Country musician Duncan Cameron is 59. Comedian-actress-writer Carol Leifer is 59. Comedian Bill Engvall is 58. Jazz singer Karrin Allyson is 53. Country singer Stacy Dean Campbell is 48. Rock singer Juliana Hatfield is 48. Actor Julian McMahon is 47. Actor Nikolaj Coster-Waldau is 45. Comedian Maya Rudolph is 43. Rock musician Abe Cunningham is 42. Singer-songwriter Pete Yorn is 41. MLB All-Star Alex Rodriguez is 40. Actor Seamus Dever is 39. Actor Jonathan Rhys Meyers is 38. Actor Blair Redford is 32. Actress Taylor Schilling is 31. Singer Cheyenne Kimball is 25

Thought for Today: "The test of courage comes when we are in the minority. The test of tolerance comes when we are in the majority." — Ralph W. Sockman, American clergyman (1889-1970).

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WASHINGTON — Current quibbling over what Jeb Bush meant when he said it's time to phase out and replace Medicare - as opposed to "attacking the seniors." as one woman at a recent event bellowed out — will soon seem quaint against the realities of our future.

Never mind projections that the program will only be able to finance 86 percent of its obligations by 2030. Or that by 2050, the number declines to 80 percent, according to a recently released Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees report.

These are relatively comforting numbers compared to new projections from the Alzheimer's Association. By 2050, the group says, 16 million Americans will have Alzheimer's at a cost of \$1.1 trillion per year, mostly to Medicare and Medicaid.

Today, by comparison, 5.3 million have the disease.

"Basically, it will bankrupt Medicare," said Rob Egge, the Alzheimer's Association's chief public policy officer. I met with Egge and chief science officer Maria Carrillo during the association's recent international conference in Washington.

The 2015 cost of care for Alzheimer's and all other dementias is estimated at \$226 billion, with 68 percent being paid by Medicare and Medicaid, said Egge.

This total includes only direct costs for the care of Alzheimer's sufferers — there currently is no treatment - and doesn't take into consideration unpaid care by families. Within the next 10 years, 19 states will see at least a 40 percent increase in the number of people affected.

Lest you feel overwhelmed by numbers - and demoralized by the reduction of human suffering to numerical values — suffice it to say that we are in a state of emergency. Yet, even with this obvious urgency, relatively few resources have been dedicated to research for prevention and treatment compared to other chronic diseases. This, despite the fact that Alzheimer's is the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Current federal funding is less than \$600 million annually, while top scientists say they'll need \$2 billion a year to meet the association's 2025 goal of prevention and effective treatment. There's cause for some hope. Last month, bipartisan House and Senate subcommittees approved increasing funding to the National Institutes of

If this funding becomes law — and the association's goals are met — costs could be reduced by \$220 billion over the first five years and \$367 billion in 2050 alone, according to an association report. Sixty percent of those savings would accrue to Medicare and Medicaid.

Among other scientific developments reported this week, researchers have isolated a "common ancestor" among all forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Lewy body.

"All are caused by misfolding proteins," Carrillo explained to me. Two different "misfolded" proteins - amyloid beta and tau - are toxic to brain cells.

I am sad to report these proteins cannot be corrected with daily doses of a sturdy zinfandel. There is, however, a new drug that delivers a molecule scientists have created to "chaperone" these naughty proteins so that they fold correctly.

Carrillo doesn't want to overstate the value of this one-target-one-molecule approach, though it is promising. She suggests that eventually we'll treat Alzheimer's with a "cocktail" that will be created based on an individual's genetic makeup and other factors.

Other hope-inspiring developments include six diagnostic tools that, in combination, can be useful in predicting Alzheimer's. They include memory and thinking tests, as well as MRI scans that can measure the thickness of the brain's right entorhinal cortex and the volume of the hippocampus, both of which are important to memory.

It is reassuring that both policymakers and scientists are committed to tackling these diseases before we're all trying to remember what we were trying to remember. But women especially should be interested in the progress of dementia research. For reasons unknown, women suffer Alzheimer's at a higher rate — two-thirds of today's sufferers are women. And women's function declines twice as fast as men's. This fall, the association will issue an international call for research on why this is so.

In the meantime, Congress should waste no time in correcting the travesty of too-little funding for a devastating disease that demands our urgent attention. Otherwise, what to do about Medicare will be rendered irrelevant.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Reunion With History

Ethel Goeden, Yankton

Widow of Joe Goeden Where were you during World War II and at war's end?

Patriotism drew thousands of men and women to the U.S. military during World War II. Today the remaining ones go about their lives without references to war service.

During the week of July 29-Aug. 2, you will see some of the brave men in your community celebrating their 58th reunion of the 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion

World War II Veterans and their descendants.

This same group of men and their families meet every year in a different state. This year they are meeting in Yankton. They are a very close group who fought in the Battle of Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace and Central Europe. They lost several of their buddies and good friends so they stick together through thick and thin.

Orders came and these men left the states for the European theater on Oct. 21, 1943, just five days before Joe Goeden's first child was born. Joe was

on the deck of the ship out on the ocean when he received a telegram from the late drafts telling him he was the father of a baby girl. Joe did not see her until she was two-years-old.

World War II was a time of rationing, a time of hardship and heartache and finally a time of peace. This group of men trained under General Patton in Northern Ireland and this group was with Gen. Patton through their entire time oversees. The news of the wars end burned itself into memories of Americans who remember where they were and what they were doing on VE Day.

On May 8, 1945 you may have heard President Truman's announcement on the radio that the European war was over. The world was celebrating the war's end and my daughter Diana Goeden was finally going to meet her father for the first time.

Please welcome these Veterans and their families to your community. This group of men and families will be hosted by Ray and Barb Goeden, Diana Goeden Shepherd, Kent and Ruby Goeden children of Joseph F. Goeden (deceased).