

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Mixed News With SD Pheasant Numbers

THE DAILY REPUBLIC, Mitchell (June 22): Maybe we're being overly hopeful, but it sure seems there are more pheasants running around this year. The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department says early reports are starting to come in, and it appears there will be an increase in the state's pheasant population this year. That's partially because of a mild winter and a spring that has been uneventful, meaning temperatures were not too hot or too cold and there was not an abundance or complete lack of rainfall.

More pheasants on the ground is obviously great news for hunters, both residents and nonresidents. To hear there should be more opportunities come the October pheasant opener is exciting. A few years back, our state saw a significant decline in pheasant numbers, and we had what could be considered tougher hunting. During those years, small game license sales dipped and fewer nonresidents trekked to our state to chase birds.

This presumably will be the second straight year of an increase in the statewide pheasant population after last year saw an increase of 76 percent. So we foresee word getting out and more people visiting South Dakota to hunt.

And that's good news for the economy. Many of the small-town cafes, motels and gas stations thrive from October until the end of pheasant season. That allows for more jobs locally, and keeps our communities strong.

But while there's plenty of positives for South Dakota that go along with an increase in the pheasant population, a concern is people may start to believe the count is based solely on Mother Nature rather than considering habitat's influence on the birds.

We simply cannot control Mother Nature, but what we can control is the amount of habitat on the ground for the birds so they can better manage extreme weather conditions.

We must remember that these short-term swings in pheasant numbers are largely influenced by weather patterns, but the long-term statistics say that bird numbers will drop as more and more habitat is removed.

It's wonderful to hear the pheasant population will likely be on the rise this year, but that's a snapshot in time. For South Dakotans to enjoy the rich tradition of pheasant hunting for decades in the future, we're going to have to keep thinking about the big picture, and continue to find ways to fund habitat.

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, June 29, the 180th day of 2015. There are 185 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On June 29, 1767, Britain approved the Townshend Revenue Act, which imposed import duties on glass, paint, oil, lead, paper and tea shipped to the American colonies. (Colonists bitterly protested, prompting Parliament to repeal the duties — except for tea.)

On this date: In 1613, London's original Globe Theatre, where many of Shakespeare's plays were performed, was destroyed by a fire sparked by a cannon shot during a performance of "Henry VIII."

In 1880, France annexed Tahiti, which became a French colony on December 30, 1880.

In 1913, the Second Balkan War broke out as Bulgaria attacked Serbia and Greece, its former allies from the First Balkan War.

In 1927, the first trans-Pacific airplane flight was completed as Lt. Lester J. Maitland and Lt. Albert F. Hegenberger arrived at Wheeler Field in Hawaii aboard the Bird of Paradise, an Atlantic-Fokker C-2, after flying 2,400 miles from Oakland, California, in 25 hours, 50 minutes.

In 1941, Polish statesman, pianist and composer Ignacy Jan Paderewski (een-YAHS' yahn pah-day-EEF-skee) died in New York at age 80.

In 1954, the Atomic Energy Commission voted against reinstating Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer's access to classified information.

In 1967, Jerusalem was re-united as Israel removed barricades separating the Old City from the Israeli sector.

In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a trio of death sentences, saying the way they had been imposed constituted cruel and unusual punishment. (The ruling prompted states to effectively impose a moratorium on executions until their capital punishment laws could be revised.)

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Morrison v. Olson, upheld the independent counsel law in a 7-1 decision (the sole dissenter was Justice Antonin Scalia).

In 1992, the remains of Polish statesman Ignacy Jan Paderewski, interred for five decades in the United States, were returned to his homeland in keeping with his wish to be buried only in a free Poland.

In 1995, the space shuttle Atlantis and the Russian Mir space station linked in orbit, beginning a historic five-day voyage as a single ship. A department store in Seoul, South Korea, collapsed, killing at least 500 people. Actress Lana Turner

died in Century City, California, at age 74. In 2003, actress Katharine Hepburn died in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, at age 96.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, embracing nearly all the recommendations of a White House commission, said he was creating a national security service at the FBI to specialize in intelligence as part of a shake-up of the disparate U.S. spy agencies. Mexico released a series of postage stamps depicting an exaggerated black cartoon character known as "Memín Pinguin," prompting protests from U.S. activists (despite the objections, Mexico refused to withdraw the stamps).

Five years ago: China and Taiwan signed a tariff-slashing trade pact that boosted economic ties and further eased political tensions six decades after the rivals split amid civil war. Talk show host Larry King announced he would step down from his CNN show in the autumn after 25 years on the air.

One year ago: The al-Qaida breakaway group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, which had seized much of north-east Syria and huge tracts in neighboring Iraq, formally declared the establishment of a new Islamic state and demanded allegiance from Muslims worldwide. Grammy-winning jazz flutist and New Age music pioneer Paul Horn, 84, died in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Robert Evans is 85. Songwriter L. Russell Brown is 75. Singer-songwriter Garland Jeffreys is 72. Actor Gary Busey is 71. Comedian Richard Lewis is 68. Actor-turned-politican-turned-radio personality Fred Grandy is 67. Rock musician Ian Paice (Deep Purple) is 67. Singer Don Dokken (Dokken) is 62. Rock singer Colin Hay (Men At Work) is 62. Actress Maria Conchita Alonso is 58. Actress Sharon Lawrence is 54. Actress Amanda Donohoe is 53. Actress Judith Hoag is 52. Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter is 52. Rhythm-and-blues singer Stedman Pearson (Five Star) is 51. Actress Kathleen Wilhoite is 51. Producer-writer Matthew Weiner is 50. Musician Dale Baker is 49. Actress Melora Hardin is 48. Rap DJ Shadow is 43. Actress Zuleikha Robinson is 38. Country musician Todd Sansom (Marshall Dyllon) is 37. Singer Nicole Scherzinger is 37. Comedian-writer Colin Jost is 33. Actress Lily Rabe is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Aundrea Fimbres is 32.

Thought for Today: "Begin somewhere; you cannot build a reputation on what you intend to do." — James Russell Lowell, American essayist (1819-1891).

FROM THE BIBLE

In you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples. John 8:31.
Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Immigrant Heritage

Leona Wieland, Sioux Falls
As June concludes with Immigrant Heritage Month, I recall past summers when I taught in the Red River Valley. Immigrant parents worked in the sugar beet fields while children attended classes. It was a time of faith, families, fiesta and fun. As each summer's schedule concluded there were meal preparations, church services, then music and celebration before they moved on to pick fruits and vegetables in other states.

I wonder if this pattern continues today. The Interfaith Immigration Coalition reports that 85 percent of the fruits and vegetables in our country are produced by hand by immigrant farm

workers. Yet, it's a shame more positive words and actions aren't happening toward them. Why do we put immigrants down with statements of power as if that's what keeps our country free and progressive? Why must immigrant farm workers be permanent underclass in society, "a social group that creates and prepares the food we eat but can never sit at the table." (IIC)

The dignity of work calls us to act justly toward all who strive to make a decent living for themselves and their families. Let's acknowledge that we're a better community, state and country when we do what we can to recognize the faces and facts, the truth and importance of inclusiveness.

Stomping into 2016



Capitol Notebook

Harney Peak And The Veterans Issue

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — This Monday, June 29, is the deadline for two completely separate and yet allied decisions affecting South Dakota. Each is a statement about how, and how much, South Dakota values its military veterans.

The state Board of Geographic Names meets on Monday afternoon to decide whether to strip the name of a territorial-era U.S. general, William S. Harney, from one of South Dakota's highest peaks.

Later in the afternoon we will know whether the South Dakota Veterans for Veterans organization gathered sufficient signatures by the 5 p.m. deadline to force a statewide vote on the definition of a veteran.

Each is a dilemma. The simple solution might be renaming Harney Peak as Veterans Mountain.

The Veterans for Veterans group strongly and deeply opposes the new law that broadens the definition of a veteran. At its core, the law strips the requirement of having served in combat.

In the minds and hearts of many who fought in combat and their families, the new law disrespects the dangers they faced and, for many, have endured in their daily lives since then.

Never before in my 30-plus years as a newspaperman had I seen such emotion in the letters and emails I received on this topic.

How could the Legislature go forward with the change sought by Rep. Mathew Wollmann, R-Madison?

Yet legislators proceeded to approve his measure 65-2 in the House of Representatives and 32-2 in the Senate, and Gov. Dennis Daugaard — whose administration supported the

changes — signed HB 1179 into law March 13. The Veterans for Veterans, led by Theodore Fowler and Terry Bacon of Aberdeen, submitted their referral petition on April 27 to the South Dakota Secretary of State office.

A successful referral does two things: The law would be suspended from taking effect July 1, until a statewide vote could be held in the November 2016 election.

The referral requires the petitioners to submit the valid signatures of 13,871 registered South Dakota voters within 90 days after the Legislature's adjournment. This year, that date is June 29.

So by 5 p.m. Monday, we will have an initial indication.

Based on what can be observed, the veterans' referral attempt hasn't been at the same level of political involvement that we've seen for referring the youth minimum wage and the election-law changes. The deadline is 5 p.m. Monday for those signatures as well.

We'll also know by suppertime Monday what the Board of Geographic Names plans.

For a lot of people, the mountain's name is South Dakota's equivalent of the Confederate flag. Harney led U.S. troops on the Plains protecting white settlers moving into Indian lands and prosecuting war against Indian people who didn't comply.

The state board is considering Hinhan Kaga as the replacement. Lakota wasn't a written language until modern times. Hinhan Kaga reportedly was the Lakota term. Its English equivalent is "making of owls."

The Daugaard administration opposes Hinhan Kaga.

We have Mount Rushmore national memorial, not far from Harney Peak. Designating Veterans Mountain — for all peoples of our nation, for all times — would fit well.

The Obamacare Ruling Is A Conservative Win

BY TINA DUPUY

CagleCartoons.com

The dream of Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Bob Dole, Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney has now been realized. Their solution — their idea for universal health care has been passed by both houses, signed by the president and upheld twice now by the Supreme Court. Yes, they call it Obamacare. Yes, they strangely call it socialism. But yes, it was their idea.

And now it's here to stay.

Market-based mavens, you've got your way. Time for celebration! Also time to stop calling Obamacare a bill. It's a law now. It's been the law for four years. And it was always your law.

Passionately opposed to socialized medicine, President Reagan called for a mandatory health insurance program while governor of California. It was legislation that sounded, well, sound, but was never going to be law. It was the "abolish the Fed" position of its day.

But Reagan did supply socialized medicine to the poor. Prior to Reagan's presidency and his signing of the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA), people with no means to pay could be turned away at hospitals. EMTALA was an unfunded mandate that led to astronomical health care costs over the next few decades. People who couldn't afford insurance got health care in the ER and those who could afford insurance footed the bill. Which is, you know, socialism. The solution was to have an individual mandate to purchase private health insurance. But again, that was never going to pass.

In fact for over 40 years spanning seven presidents, American health care got worse and more expensive. At this same time other industrialized nations improved upon single payer models and hybrids of private and public models. Americans' health care system devolved into a have and have not parable: Best in the world if you have money, worse than you could imagine if you don't.

Politicians assured us we had the best health care system in the world. With a major asterisk. In 2000, the World Health Organization ranked us as 37th in the world (Colombia

was 22nd). We paid more for less. An illness could cause bankruptcy. Our health system was very unhealthy.

But then came "change." In the original proposal by Obama, the Affordable Care Act included a public option, referred to as "Medicare you can buy into." This public option was wildly popular with doctors and supported generally by a majority of voters. It was a perfect way of creating competition in the market place, setting a bar for private insurance companies. It was also, as noted by its opponents, an easy transition into a single payer system, putting American health care on par with the rest of the industrialized world (and most emerging countries, too). But the public option died in the Senate, never making it into the final law.

The public option was dead. Now in this wake of this second Supreme Court decision upholding the existing compromised ACA law, the public option is cremated, buried and gone. There's no political will for Medicare for all. The allegedly super-liberal-commie plan is the twice-upheld-by-SCOTUS law of the land.

President Ulysses S. Grant recalled the moment he received the surrender letter from General Robert E. Lee and wrote in his memoir: "I felt like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and valiantly, and had suffered so much for a cause, though that cause was, I believe, one of the worst for which a people ever fought, and one for which there was the least excuse."

Grant refers to slavery as the worst cause for which people have fought. Conservatives vehemently fighting against their own idea — with no actual plan for its replacement other than the exact same plan with a different name — has to be the lamest cause for which people have fought. It's time to stop that now.

The battle is over. The public option will never happen. Take a victory lap, Republicans.

Tina Dupuy is a nationally syndicated op-ed columnist, investigative journalist, award-winning writer, stand-up comic, on-air commentator and wedge issue fan. Tina can be reached at tinadupuy@yahoo.com.

DESTINY: "Our republic and its press will rise or fall together."

— Joseph Pulitzer

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS: It's Your Right To Know!