

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

The Iran Letter: A Shameful Act

PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE (March 11): The letter sent Monday by 47 Republican senators to Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, warning him not to sign an agreement with major nations limiting his country's nuclear program, was damaging to America's role in the world.

This was the second venture in six days into foreign affairs by Republicans in Congress, which is distinguishing itself as the most dysfunctional branch of the U.S. government. The previous play was the March 3 address to Congress by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose Likud party will be a contestant in Israeli elections on March 17. Mr. Netanyahu's appearance was set up by an invitation from House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

The letter to the ayatollah, which cautioned that the next president could revoke the agreement and that Congress could modify it, was crafted by Tom Cotton, a freshman senator from Arkansas. It was signed by all but seven of the Republicans' Senate majority and no Democrats. Pennsylvania Sen. Pat Toomey was one of the signers.

It is hard to understand the senators' motivation as anything but a partisan attempt to embarrass President Barack Obama. They, and perhaps some Israelis, may have been seeking to draw on the furor surrounding the Netanyahu speech.

The impact on America's standing as a negotiator in determining the Iran accord has to be negative. The Iranians say they see the letter as just propaganda. If there is an agreement, Mr. Obama can move forward on it and remove U.S. economic sanctions on Iran, at least temporarily, without Senate approval.

America's partners in the talks are among the world's most important nations — China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom. They can only be appalled at seeing Secretary of State John Kerry and the president, who are charged with making the nation's foreign policy, hit from behind by one house of the federal legislature. The senators who signed the letter should be ashamed.

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. Bynlined 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/.

P&D LETTER POLICY

The PRESS & DAKOTAN invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask that a few simple guidelines be followed:

- Please limit letters to 300 words or less. 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 us at kelly.hertz@yankton.net/.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, March 12, the 71st day of 2015. There are 294 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 12, 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt delivered the first of his 30 radio addresses that came to be known as "fireside chats," telling Americans what was being done to deal with the nation's economic crisis.

On this date: In 1664, England's King Charles II granted an area of land on the East Coast of present-day North America known as New Netherland to his brother James, the Duke of York.

In 1857, the original version of "Simon Boccanegra," an opera by Giuseppe Verdi, was poorly received at its premiere in Venice, Italy. (Verdi offered a revised version in 1881.)

In 1912, the Girl Scouts of the USA had its beginnings as Juliette Gordon Low of Savannah, Georgia, founded the first American troop of the Girl Guides.

In 1925, Chinese revolutionary leader Sun Yat-sen died.

In 1938, the Anschluss merging Austria with Nazi Germany took place as German forces crossed the border between the two countries.

In 1940, Finland and the Soviet Union concluded an armistice during World War II. (Fighting between the two countries flared again the following year.)

In 1955, legendary jazz musician Charlie "Bird" Parker died in New York at age 34.

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson won the New Hampshire Democratic primary, but Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota placed a strong second.

In 1971, Hafez Assad was confirmed as president of Syria in a referendum.

In 1985, conductor Eugene Ormandy, director of the Philadelphia Orchestra for more than four decades, died at age 85.

In 1994, the Church of England ordained its first women priests.

In 2003, Elizabeth Smart, the 15-year-old girl who'd vanished from her bedroom nine months earlier, was found alive in a Salt Lake City suburb with two drifters, Brian David Mitchell and Wanda Barzee, who are serving prison terms for kidnapping her.

Ten years ago: Brian Nichols, who had slain a judge and three other people, surrendered to authorities in suburban

Atlanta after holding Ashley Smith hostage in her apartment. (Nichols was later sentenced to life in prison.) A gunman opened fire at a church meeting being held at a suburban Milwaukee hotel, killing seven people before taking his own life. Bode Miller became the first American in 22 years to win skiing's overall World Cup title, in Lenzerheide, Switzerland.

Five years ago: Two suicide bombers killed 55 people in near simultaneous blasts in Lahore, Pakistan, the fourth attack in a week. Lindsey Vonn capped a historic season with her third straight overall World Cup title in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany.

One year ago: With Ukraine's interim prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, at his side, President Barack Obama said the United States would "completely reject" a referendum in Crimea opening the door for the Ukrainian peninsula to join Russia. In New York City, a gas explosion destroyed two five-story East Harlem apartment buildings, killing eight people and injuring more than 60.

Today's Birthdays: Playwright Edward Albee is 87. Politician, diplomat and civil rights activist Andrew Young is 83. Actress Barbara Feldon is 82. Broadcast journalist Lloyd Dobyns is 79. Singer Al Jarreau is 75. Actress-singer Liza Minnelli is 69. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is 68. Singer-songwriter James Taylor is 67. Former Sen. Kent Conrad, D-N.D., is 67. Rock singer-musician Bill Payne (Little Feat) is 66. Actor Jon Probst (TV: "Lassie") is 65. Author Carl Hiaasen is 62. Rock musician Steve Harris (Iron Maiden) is 59. Actor Jerry Levine is 58. Singer Marlon Jackson (The Jackson Five) is 58. Actor Jason Beghe is 55. Actor Courtney B. Vance is 55. Actor Titus Welliver is 54. Former MLB All-Star Darryl Strawberry is 53. Actress Julia Campbell is 52. Actor Aaron Eckhart is 47. CNN reporter Jake Tapper is 46. Rock musician Graham Coxon is 46. Rock musician Tommy Bales (Flynnville Train) is 42. Actor Rhys Coiro is 36. Country singer Holly Williams is 34. Actor Samm Levine is 33. Actor Jamie Alexander is 31. Actor Tyler Patrick Jones is 21. Actress Kendall Applegate is 16.

Thought for Today: "If power corrupts, being out of power corrupts absolutely." — Douglas Cater, American author and educator (1923-1995).

FROM THE BIBLE

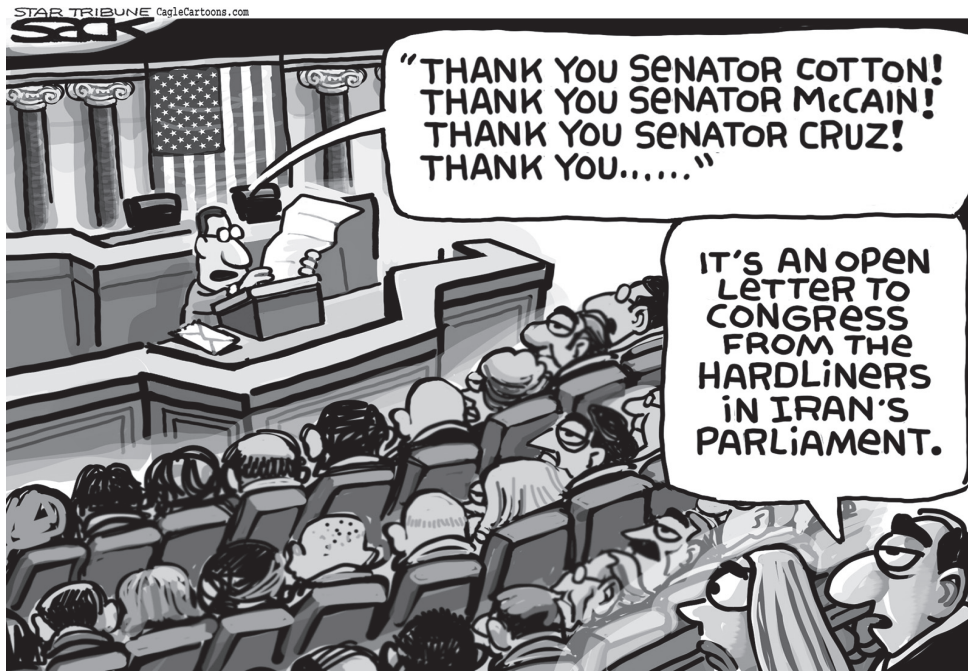
With His wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Banquet Business

Laverta Mauch, Crofton, Neb.
Our new Banquet board members are Steve Huff and Dave Hansen and we welcome them. Our officers for 2015 are President Kara Payer, Vice President Laverta Mauch, Treasurer Arlene Stoeber and Secretary S. Marietta Kerkvliet. Meals are served each Thurs-

day and the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the basement of UCC 218 W. 5th St., Yankton. It is a great time for food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome. The Banquet will be canceled if Yankton schools dismiss because of bad weather. We also thank volunteers who give of their time, talent and treasure to make this all possible.



All Things Archery

Yankton Prepares To Host The World

BY NANCY WENANDE
World Archery Youth Championships

This is the first in a series of columns that will educate you on archery activities at NEYAC (National Field Archery Association (NFAA) Easton Yankton Archery Center) located on East Highway 50. I should forewarn you that archery does have an abundance of acronyms!

You may have heard the buzz around Yankton regarding the upcoming World Archery Youth Championships (WAYC) that are being held at NEYAC June 6-14, 2015. To give you a bit of background information, the NFAA Foundation under the direction of Bruce Cull, was awarded the bid for the 2015 tournament. You may be wondering why this is such a big deal for Yankton, since they host several tournaments each year. For starters, this international tournament only comes to North America once every 6 years. Yes, Yankton was awarded a tournament to represent all of North America! Another reason is that it is comprised of all youth athletes ranging in age from 15-20.

The archers will compete with either a compound or recurve bow. How do you tell the difference in the bows? A compound bow has the wheels that rotate when you pull the string back. A recurve bow is a more traditional style that you may have seen in Hunger Games.

The competition will take place on the Center's outdoor fields, Easton Field and First Dakota Field, located directly behind the main building. Easton Field has been completed for several years and construction on First Dakota Field is in progress.

Another reason this tournament is unique is that the LOC (Local Organizing Committee) is in charge of all transportation (to/from airport and daily travel around town), housing, all meals, and local activities the entire time the archers and officials (coaches and support staff) are in Yankton. Essentially, once the archers get off of the airplane, they are ours to take care of until they depart. This is a great opportunity for Yankton and all of South Dakota to showcase our Midwestern hospitality. We will roll out the red carpet and give them a world-class experience with a touch of South Dakota flair.

Michelle Malkin

Obamacare's 1095-A Nightmare

BY MICHELLE MALKIN
Creators.com

Tax season is stressful enough. But if you are like countless miserable Americans trapped in the Obamacare 1095-A abyss, it's hell on stilts on a Segway teetering over the South Rim of the Grand Canyon.

The screw-ups, incompetence and bureaucratic blame avoidance over the health insurance exchange tax forms make the healthcare.gov website fiasco look like a flawless product launch. How do I know? My family inexplicably got ensnared in the 1095-A paperwork pit. It's a government roach motel. Taxpayers check in, but they can never check out.

In 2013, our private high-deductible PPO from Anthem Blue Cross got canceled because of "changes from health care reform (also called the Affordable Care Act or ACA)." Millions of others like us in the individual market for health insurance — including self-employed people, small-business owners, writers, artists and home-based entrepreneurs — suffered the same fate.

My husband reluctantly contacted Colorado's state health insurance exchange, "Connect for Health Colorado," just to see what our options were. Months later, we settled on purchasing a new non-Obamacare plan directly from a different private insurer, Rocky Mountain Health. The provider network is much narrower than the Anthem plan we had before the feds intervened. Our two kids' dental care is no longer covered, and we've had our insurance turned down at an urgent care clinic — something that had never happened before.

Better off? Bullcrap. But wait, it gets worse. Somewhere along the way, the worker bees at Connect for Health Colorado dragged us into an Obamacare exchange plan offered by Rocky Mountain Health without our knowledge or consent. (How else has the White House inflated Obamacare enrollment figures? Things that make you go "hmm.") Last month, we received an IRS 1095-A form, which, much to our shock and chagrin, indicated that we had paid Obamacare premiums every month during 2014.

It took hours of time on the phone and Internet to receive an explanation from Connect for Health Colorado on how exactly this happened. Here was the government's response, word for incomprehensible word:

"We apologize for the delay in responding to your email. After checking your account we are showing you might have had coverage from October 2014 to June 2014. Please call the number below to speak with a Customer Service Representative if this information is incorrect."
"Might" have had coverage? From "October 2014 to June 2014"?

The saga continues. We were finally able to un-enroll after being auto-enrolled in the Obamacare plan. Then, after being bounced around by



HELPING HANDS

Events of this magnitude cannot happen without the support of the entire community. Community-minded partners must come together for a common cause to make this happen. Mount Marty College, Yankton School District, City of Yankton, Yankton County, Yankton Area Progressive Growth, Yankton Chamber of Commerce, Yankton Convention and Visitors Bureau and the State of South Dakota have been working together to plan this world-class event.

Now is the time for individuals and businesses to get involved. There are over 40 different jobs that need to be filled during the week, which equates to almost 1,000 shifts. The important thing to remember is that 90% of these jobs involve no archery knowledge. There is a job for everyone! You could volunteer to greet archers at a local hotel, change linens on tables after the meals, serve food in the concession stand or check credentials at one of the secured locations.

The easiest way to check out the volunteer opportunities is at www.yankton2014wayc.org. Under the Registration tab is Volunteer Registration where you will find the link that will show the shifts available. If you have a group that would like to volunteer together, please contact us and we can set aside some shifts for your group.

We are excited about sharing more details in the weeks to come. A great way to get regular updates is to follow #WAYC2015 or YanktonArchery on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram. As always, please contact me with any questions at nwenande@neyac.org or 605-660-0438. Thank you for your interest in this innovative community event.

Wenande is tournament manager of the 2015 World Archery Youth Championships in Yankton.

the state government health exchange to various voicemail dead ends and back, with hours of migraine-inducing, on-hold music in between, we were told there's absolutely nothing wrong with the 1095-A form — which shows payment of premiums we didn't pay to an Obamacare plan we never enrolled in and didn't want in the first place!

This is just one little horror story. In Minnesota, thousands are still waiting for 1095-A forms that were supposed to arrive on Jan. 31. In California, at least 800,000 taxpayers received screwed-up 1095-As. As a result, some 50,000 people filed the wrong form. Another 750,000 are being told they'll get corrected forms this month. Hah. Good luck with that.

The costs in time, money and anxiety to hardworking families dealing with this paperwork perdition are enormous. Unknown numbers of people are still waiting for their forms as the April 15 tax-filing deadline looms. More face the added expense and aggravation of filing amended returns through no fault of their own.

Where's the rest of the media — most of whom have been insulated from these problems because they get their health insurance through their employers?

At least one other journalist smacked head first into reality. Laura Krantz, a former NPR staffer, is now a Scripps Fellow in environmental journalism at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Earlier this month, she found out that Connect for Health Colorado had mysteriously canceled her health and dental insurance. After four days and eight hours in Obamacare Phone Hell (OPH), she learned she had lost her insurance coverage and her tax credit — and had to redo all of her paperwork.

Poor Krantz still believes the ultimate solution is "single payer." But another liberal who encountered 1095-A hell has seen the light. San Francisco resident and former Obama supporter Melissa Klein exposed her ordeal with Covered California last week. The state exchange botched her 1095-A and then insisted she had never enrolled despite invoices she showed them documenting her premium payments. After hours in OPH, her case remains unresolved, and she can't file her taxes. How is it, she wondered, that "Amazon can ship something to NYC in an hour," but the White House and Covered California "can't create a health care system that functions"?

Klein concluded, better late than never: "I no longer believe that the government should mandate health care. ... A great idea is just an idea if you can't execute. And the government has proved time and time again, it can't execute. Feelin' your pain, sister. Is D.C. listening?"

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.