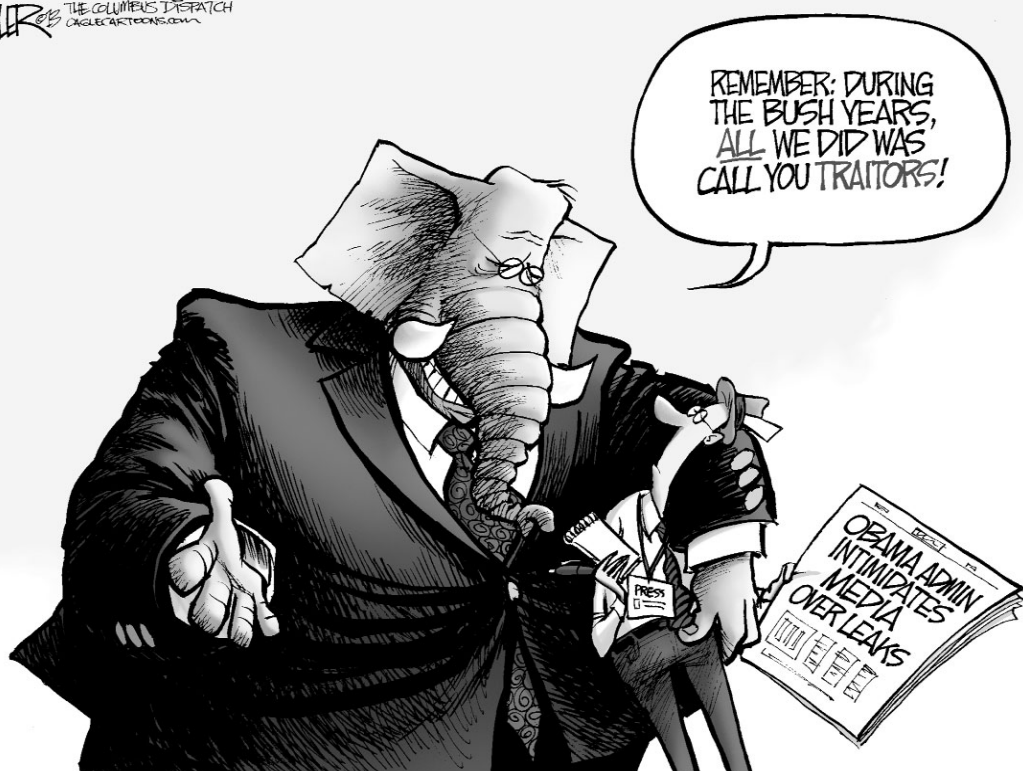


THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH
 PUBLISHED WEEKLY



Pierre Report

Rules Board Hears Proposals

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

The Interim Rules Committee met on May 20. There were a total of nine rule packages to review.

- The South Dakota Animal Industry Board proposed amendments to the meat inspection program to include reference materials to the 2013 Federal references. The reason for the rules changes is to be consistent with national animal health programs. The other amended rules would allow for the use of a blood test to detect bovine tuberculosis in elk, red deer, white-tailed deer, fallow deer and reindeer. The reason for the amended rules is to reflect current diagnostic technology. Rules process was declared complete.

- The state Weed and Pest Control Commission amended a rule to add white horehound to the Custer county noxious weed and pest list. There are seven state weeds and counties can designate up to five. Rules process was declared complete.

- GFP amended a rule to put a group user fee on the facility at Sheps Canyon State Recreation Area. The state purchased a ranch home on this property and converted it to a facility for a group to rent. The fee structure is the same as at other state parks for this type of facility

An Elk population study was done in the Black Hills this last winter. Model adjustments for populations were made on the sites studied. Populations were determined to be 5,000 elk outside of the two parks and 1,000 elk in the park. Custer and Wind Cave are the parks considered for the population study. The management plan is to reduce the number of elk in Windcave and increase the elk numbers in Custer. There are three different season types for elk: Black Hills Archery, archery and prairie elk. The intent of herd size is to have greater density of population in Black Hills and in prairie units, which are mostly private lands, goal is to reduce deprivation in those areas. The only increase in elk tags available is in unit 2. There will be a formal planning process this summer for a detailed plan for elk management.

A new unit will be established in Bennet County. The management objective is to minimize deprivation on the ranch lands.

One other change is in the past there were shared licenses between South Dakota and Nebraska residents in Gregory County. In Gregory County last year, 15 licensee holders were able to cross over to Nebraska for Elk and those on the Nebraska border could come into Gregory County. The harvest rate was 98 percent in both states. This year Nebraska elk license holders can only hunt in Nebraska and South Dakota elk license holders in Gregory County can only hunt in South Dakota. The cost for a trophy buffalo license is \$5,000 and \$2,500 non trophy. Preference points put in place for buffalo licenses. There are a high number of young calves in the elk population. The survival of calves went up 4 fold this year. Department will be reviewing harvest number of mountain lions in relation to increase in calf population. Calf loss can be any where from 7 percent to 27 percent there needs to be a survival calf rate of 35 percent, with preference up to 50 percent to maintain a healthy elk population.

There still are divergent opinions on mountain lion management in relation to elk populations.

Camping fees are currently reduced by \$2 in the off-season. The operational expenses as utilities and camp site reservation service continue year round. Data from last year indicated that during November through March, 665



J. Hunhoff

Dakota insurance rules for insurance company's participation in the exchanges. These include compliance with health insurance rules, employee mandates for employers and establishment within the exchanges. The rules preserve state based regulations of health insurance. They adopt minimum standards for health insurances and continue to regulate the health insurance industry in South Dakota.

Health status rating by insurance companies can no longer be restricted by the four geographic areas, variations based on families versus individuals and tobacco use. There are not as many rating factors based upon variations in age.

The open enrollment for the exchanges which are now referred to as marketplaces is Oct. 1, 2013. Individuals can apply through March 2014. There will be two different processes inside the exchange. The outside exchange market will allow companies to sell outside the open enroll period. There is thought that some companies will voluntarily participate in the outside exchange market. The intent is not to lock the consumers into one open enrollment market.

Small employers also in and out of exchange have special enrollment periods. The insurances must offer him minimum 10 essential health benefits. This is what is required under law. A pediatric dental plan does not have to be offered in the minimum benefit if the insurance company has an insurer providing the pediatric dental coverage. There were no opponents to the proposed rules and the rules process was found to be complete.

- Bureau of Administration amended the rules for public notice requirements of DOT when they want to dispose of real property obtained by the department. The requirement to publish in three daily newspapers in South Dakota was proposed to be in compliance with the rest of state government for publications. The other revisions pertained to the state's Records Management Program. The revisions include updates to standards for the use of microfilm for long term records storage and new language to make it clear that the Records Destruction Board has the authority to authorize the destruction of an original if it has been reproduced in a manner that creates a durable medium and not only after being microfilmed. The rules process was found to be complete.

- The South Dakota Retirement System proposed two rules. The first is to adopt rules for the implementation and administration of the designated Roth contribution program within the deferred compensation. The second purpose is to tie all references to the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to one location — in this case to one rule so all the rules and statutes referencing the IRC can be updated with one change. There were no opponents to the rules. The rule process was found to be complete.

The next Interim Rules Committee is June 4. The agenda is posted on the Legislative Research Council Site.

Why Mark Carson Matters

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.
 Tribune Media Services

Mark Carson was shot in the face because he's gay. His alleged killer, 33-year-old Elliot Morales, is said to have confronted Carson, 32, and a companion, in New York's Greenwich Village last Friday night, yelling antigay slurs. When Carson walked away, Morales reportedly followed and shot him. Morales was arrested by police after a foot chase.

In pondering this tragedy, it is worthwhile to consider a couple things: where it happened, and when.

The "where" is just a few blocks from the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar where a 1969 police raid ("act of ongoing police harassment," would probably be the more accurate description) led to a violent uprising. It is regarded as the birthplace of the modern gay rights movement.

The "when" is now, in the post-Jason Collins era.

He is, you will recall, the 34-year-old NBA journeyman who made history a few weeks ago when he became the first active player in one of the big four professional sports to come out as gay. While most of us were applauding, a few of us affected to treat the event with a collective shrug, sought to minimize it by pretending it was unimportant.

"Who cares?" wrote conservative blogger Crystal Wright.

"It means less than nothing to me," said Mike Francesca, a New York radio host.

"I do not care about Mr. Collins' sexuality," wrote columnist Armstrong Williams.

Methinks they doth protest too much. Why does this matter?

Yours truly attempted to answer that question in this space when Collins came out. Sadly, Mark Carson provides a more viscerally convincing answer in the fact and manner of his dying.

Here's the thing: as gay rights have become more approved and inevitable, it becomes less socially acceptable to oppose them as loudly and brazenly as some of us once did. As recently as 2001, for example, Williams was arguing

that gay couples were unfit to adopt.

Such arguments largely lost, he and others like him turn now to this new pose of ostentatious indifference that says in effect, "Fine." Be gay if you must, but why do you feel you have to announce your sexuality to the world?

It is an argument with the unfortunate advantage of seeming to make sense, even as it paints gay people as overly provocative and needlessly demonstrative. Don't put your sexual orientation in my face, it says, and I won't put mine in yours. Keep your sex life private. Don't ask, don't tell.

But the flaw in the argument is obvious: straight people announce their sexuality all day every day. It happens when they canoodle in the park, walk hand in hand through the mall, place loved ones' pictures on the desk. These are small joys and we don't think of them as announcements of sexuality, but they are.

If you are gay, you don't do such things. Or, you do them strategically, thoughtfully, picking and choosing where and when it is safe to canoodle, hold hands, set out the pictures ... be. Because you realize the reaction may not just be derision, but violence. Even death.

So the decision to seize these small joys demands courage. This is what is provided when a Jason Collins announces himself. Or when an Ellen DeGeneres, a Zachary Quinto, a Neil Patrick Harris, a Jenna Wolfe, an Anderson Cooper, a Ricky Martin or a Wanda Sykes does the same.

Sometimes, when you step out on the ice, it helps to know someone else has already tested it. If you are going to demand the right to be, if you are going to accept the risk that doing so entails, it's good to know that at least you're not alone.

Why does this matter, they ask?

Well, in 2013, in America's biggest city, within steps of a gay rights landmark, it seems you can still be shot in the face for no other reason than that you are gay.

That's why.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for *The Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

The IRS Scandal: The Conditions

THE ANNISTON (Ala.) STAR (May 20): The controversy over the IRS applying extra scrutiny to tea party groups seeking nonprofit status is a teachable moment.

What precisely should be taught is a matter of perspective. Tea Party members, already concerned about what they see as Big Brother government, are saying their fears are justified by the news that the IRS targeted them and other conservatives.

Republicans are doing their best to tie the scandal to President Barack Obama, suggesting that a president they frequently deride as incompetent has suddenly been revealed as an uber-competent Nixonian schemer who is pulling all the strings.

Conservatives are making it an opportunity to bash a favorite target, the Internal Revenue Service.

Members of Congress at a hearing on the matter late last week did what they do best — striking a disingenuous posture of outrage. They are shocked — shocked, mind you! — that the IRS would stoop to such a tactic and in response must play to the TV cameras.

Such is the state of our politics, and in this case things are likely to get worse before they get better. ...

ProPublica goes on to set up how government streamlining set in motion 15 years ago is a major contributor in how one ideology was singled out for close inspection. ...

Sloppiness and corner-cutting might be the best explanation at this stage. Thus far, no investigation has yielded evidence of partisanship or a political order from higher up in the government. Republicans in Congress vow to look closer to see if political motivations are at the heart of the policy at the Cincinnati office.

Perhaps Congress and the president should examine the conditions that led to the most recent incident and seek out solutions to fix it ...

Wiretapping And The Internet

LOS ANGELES TIMES (May 22): Pushed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Obama administration may ask Congress for the power to snoop on more types of communication online. The timing couldn't be worse, given the outcry over the Justice Department secretly grabbing journalists' phone records and emails in its pursuit of government leakers. The bigger issue with what the FBI is seeking, though, is that it applies 20th century assumptions about surveillance to 21st century technologies.

Congress passed the Wiretap Act in 1968 to give federal investigators the power to listen in on suspects' phone calls if they obtained a federal court's permission. The advent of wireless phones and digital networks led the feds to worry about their ability to monitor suspects who used new technologies, so lawmakers amended the law to require telecommunications companies to build wiretap capabilities into their networks.

That requirement, however, applies only to service providers that use or connect to the traditional phone grid. These days, there's a growing number of ways to communicate through data networks that don't use any part of the phone grid, including online teleconferencing and virtual telephones built into instant-message programs. ...

The irony is that the Internet is actually making it easier for the feds to gather information about suspects without warrants. As the Center for Democracy and Technology pointed out, the widespread use of GPS-equipped mobile phones has effectively put a tracking device in the pocket of virtually every suspect. Combine that with the information collected online about the websites people visit, the material they download, the friends they keep and the people with whom they communicate, and it hardly seems as if the FBI is being left in the dark.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2013. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 23, 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, La.

On this date: In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void.

In 1701, William Kidd was hanged in London after he was convicted of piracy and murder.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1873, Canada's Parliament voted to establish the North West Mounted Police force.

In 1911, the newly completed New York Public Library was dedicated by President William Howard Taft, Gov. John Alden Dix and Mayor William Jay Gaynor.

In 1937, industrialist and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, founder of the Standard Oil Co. and the Rockefeller Foundation, died in Ormond Beach, Fla., at age 97.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide while imprisoned in Lüneburg, Germany.

In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) was established.

In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli ships, an action which precipitated war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers.

In 1993, a jury in Baton Rouge, La., acquitted Rodney Peairs of manslaughter in the shooting death of Yoshi Hattori, a Japanese exchange student he'd mistaken for an intruder. (Peairs was later found liable in a civil suit brought by Hattori's parents.)

Ten years ago: By the narrowest of margins, Congress sent President George W. Bush the third tax cut of his presidency — a \$330 billion package of rebates and lower rates for families and new breaks for businesses and investors. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon agreed to submit the U.S.-backed "road map" for peace to the Is-

raeli Cabinet. Annika Sorenstam ended her historic appearance on the PGA tour in the Colonial with a 15-foot par putt, missing the cut by four strokes.

Five years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton quickly apologized after citing the 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy as a reason to remain in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination despite increasingly long odds. Televangelist John Hagee parted ways with John McCain following a storm over his endorsement of the Republican presidential candidate. (McCain rejected Hagee's endorsement after an audio recording from the late 1990s surfaced in which the preacher suggested that God had sent Adolf Hitler to help Jews reach the promised land.) Myanmar's rulers lifted a ban on foreign aid workers and commercial ships, but refused cyclone aid from U.S., French and British military ships.

One year ago: Egypt held the Arab world's first competitive presidential vote (Islamist Mohammed Morsi was ultimately named the winner following a runoff). A Pakistani doctor who'd helped the CIA hunt down Osama bin Laden was convicted of conspiring against the state and was sentenced to 33 years in prison; U.S. officials had urged Pakistan to release Dr. Shakil Afridi. Phillip Phillips, a bluesy Georgia guitar man, was crowned the new "American Idol" after defeating teenager Jessica Sanchez.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman is 88. Actor Nigel Davenport is 85. Actress Barbara Barrie is 82. Actress Joan Collins is 80. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 77. Actress Lauren Chapin is 68. Country singer Misty Morgan is 68. Country singer Judy Rodman is 62. Singer Luka Bloom is 58. Actor-comedian Drew Carey is 55. Country singer Shelly West is 55. Actor Linden Ashby is 53. Country-model Karen Duffy is 52. Actress Melissa McBride is 48. Rock musician Phil Selway (Radiohead) is 46. Actress Laurel Holloman is 45. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 43. Singer Lorenzo is 41. Country singer Brian McComas is 41. Singer Maxwell is 40. Singer Jewel is 39. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 39. Actor Lane Garrison is 33. Actor Adam Wylie is 29.

Thought for Today: "He who cannot rest, cannot work; he who cannot let go, cannot hold on; he who cannot find footing, cannot go forward." — Henry Emerson Fosdick, American clergyman (1878-1969).

FROM THE BIBLE

There is one mediator between God and men. 1 Timothy 2:5. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

Amazing Talent

Nancy Watkins, Yankton
 I never truly realize what talented artistic children we have in Yankton until I go to the art show at YMS. This year was amazing, I left feeling I had been to a professional art gallery. I was able to look at the

work and "feel" the emotion put into each project. Excellent job students! I am so looking forward to next year's show.

Thank you to the Art teachers who help to bring out the hidden talent in a lot of these children. It is something they will take with them for the rest of their lives.

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