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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

It's Time To Scrap The SDHSAA

ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (April 26): It is time to make radical changes to the organization that manages high school sports and student activities in South Dakota.

The current South Dakota High School Activities Association, guided by a largely ineffective, often self-serving board of directors, just does not work.

We prefer the South Dakota Legislature — not a civil court judge — take the lead in this effort. But however it unfolds, change is overdue.

Much attention has been given to the SDHSAA's recent discussions on maintaining a seven-class football playoff structure and on limiting the number of Sioux Falls students who can play in state tournaments. As outlandish as those efforts are, there is a more serious problem here.

The SDHSAA governing board is structured in a way that defies fairness. In effect, the students who attend school in Sioux Falls — estimated to be about 20 percent of the state's public school enrollment — have had no voice on the board since 2000. The structure and constitutional requirements to change that are ineffective, in large part because they allow the smaller schools to control the outcome of any proposed change.

That's why lawmakers must step in and force changes for the good of all the state's high school students.

The SDHSAA derives its power from the state Legislature, which instituted it years ago. Lawmakers clearly are unhappy with the organization. This past winter, a legislative move to demand greater transparency from the SDHSAA board of directors — requiring that it meet the standards of the state's open meetings statutes — passed overwhelmingly.

It's important to note that the SDHSAA vigorously opposed greater openness. That probably tells you much about the leadership of this organization, which was formed, in theory, to promote and regulate student activities and to provide the best possible experience for student athletes, actors, musicians and others.

Too often the governing body of the SDHSAA has acted more to attempt to boost the economies of midsized South Dakota cities than to achieve a better competitive experience for the state's young people.

Since various attempts to make representation on the board fairer have failed, the courtroom is the most likely next field of debate. And that's not a good route for anyone.

It's time for a change. The Legislature should abolish the current structure, organization and duties of the SDHSAA. In its place, a task force of educators, legislators and parents should recommend a route to a truly representative, forward-thinking organization, tasked with keeping the best experiences of students at the forefront at all times.

In the end, the board might include some appointed members as is done in Minnesota and Iowa. And representation in proportion to population is important.

There are many possible scenarios to consider. Other states have managed to make it work, so blueprints are out there.

It's unfortunate that in the arena of South Dakota high school activities, too much power has been concentrated for too long in too few hands.

A clean start is needed to end this embarrassment — and the sooner the better.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, May 5, the 125th day of 2014. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On May 5, 1862, Mexican troops defeated French occupying forces in the Battle of Puebla. (The Cinco de Mayo holiday commemorates Mexico's victory.)

On this date: In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1891, New York's Carnegie Hall (then named "Music Hall") had its official opening night.

In 1914, actor Tyrone Power was born in Cincinnati.

In 1925, schoolteacher John T. Scopes was charged in Tennessee with violating a state law that prohibited teaching the theory of evolution. (Scopes was found guilty, but his conviction was later set aside.)

In 1934, the first Three Stooges short for Columbia Pictures, "Woman Haters," was released.

In 1942, wartime sugar rationing began in the United States.

In 1955, West Germany became a fully sovereign state. The baseball musical "Damn Yankees" opened on Broadway.

In 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

In 1964, the Granada TV documentary "Seven Up!," which profiled a group of 7-year-old British children, first aired on Britain's ITV network. (The subjects were revisited every seven years in sequences called "7 Plus Seven," "21 Up," "28 Up," etc., the latest one to date being "56 Up.")

In 1973, Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby, the first of its Triple Crown victories.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in his 66th day without food.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton, who considered the punishment too harsh.

Ten years ago: Seeking to calm international outrage, President George W. Bush acknowledged mistakes but stopped short of an apology as he condemned the abuse and deaths of Iraqi

prisoners at the hands of U.S. soldiers during appearances on two Arabic-language TV networks. (Bush did offer an apology the following day.) Picasso's 1905 painting "Boy with a Pipe" sold for \$104 million at Sotheby's in New York, breaking the record at that time for an auctioned painting.

Five years ago: Connie Culp, America's first face transplant recipient, appeared before reporters at the Cleveland Clinic. (Culp underwent the procedure after being shot by her husband in a failed murder-suicide attempt.) Texas health officials confirmed the first death of a U.S. resident with swine flu.

One year ago: In Afghanistan, seven Americans and one German soldier were killed in three separate attacks. Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, seriously wounded in a 2011 shooting at a Tucson, Ariz., shopping mall, received the 2013 Profile in Courage award at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. LeBron James of the Miami Heat was the overwhelming choice as the NBA's Most Valuable Player. Brett Rumford won the China Open by four strokes to become the first Australian in 41 years to win consecutive European Tour titles.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Pat Carroll is 87. Former AFL-CIO president John J. Sweeney is 80. Saxophonist Ace Cannon is 80. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 76. Actor Michael Murphy is 76. Actor Lance Henriksen is 74. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 71. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 70. Actor Roger Rees is 70. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 69. Rock musician Bill Ward (Black Sabbath) is 66. Actor Richard E. Grant is 57. Former CBS News correspondent John Miller is 56. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 55. NBC News anchor Brian Williams is 55. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 48. TV personality Kyan Douglas is 44. Actress Tina Yothers is 41. Rhythm and blues singer Raheem DeVaughn is 39. Singer Craig David is 33. Actress Danielle Fishel is 33. Actor Henry Cavill is 31. Soul singer Adele is 26. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 26. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chris Brown 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).

FROM THE BIBLE

Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

Philippians 2:9-10. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

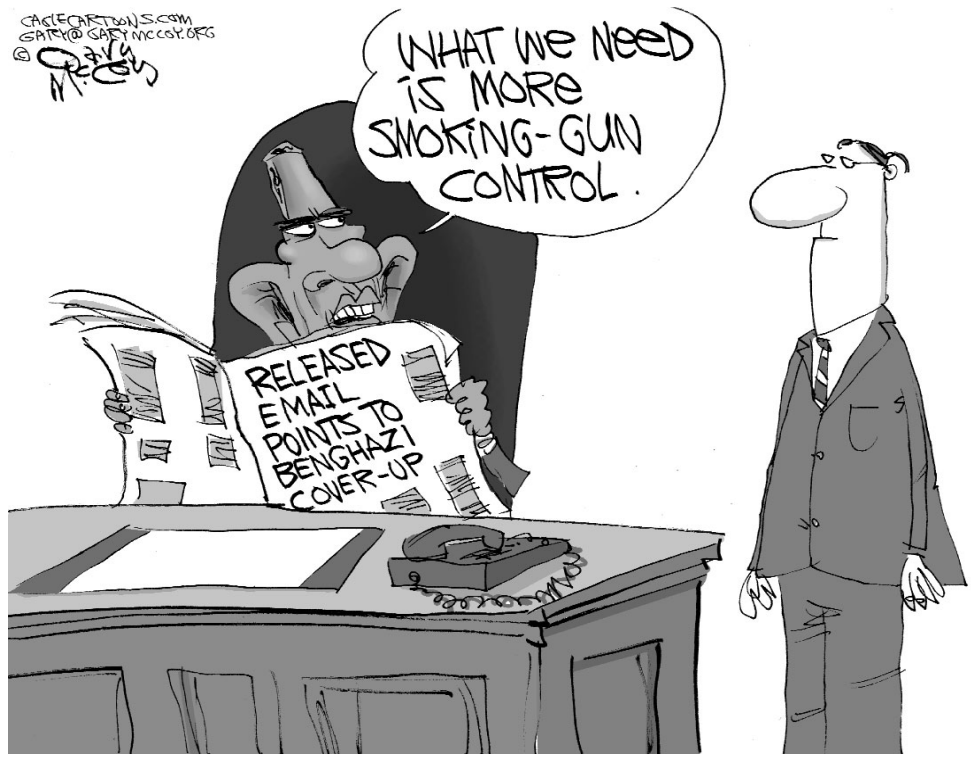
Count On It

Randy Gleich, Yankton
I've submitted two letters in the past concerning the Meridian Plaza Project. I would like to address the "traffic count" of this project.

I proposed an amphitheater that could possibly draw thousands to the downtown area on summer weekends — June through September. Let's say it would draw 12,000 people. How many people would visit the existing plaza proposal?

We should be given some pro-

jected tourist/visitor projections before such an expenditure is made. Compare it to the "use" of Memorial Park, Westside Park and Riverside Park. What is the traffic count of people actually walking the bridge — 2,000 in a year? If the numbers come in low, I would think we should come up with some other plan that would generate more traffic to this area before we sink a million dollars in a project that will not draw people. After all, isn't this what this project is all about — to attract many people to the downtown area?



Capitol Notebook

A Second Of Goofing Goes Digital, Forever

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — South Dakota doesn't have a politician so avid at promoting himself as U.S. Rep. Aaron Schock of Illinois.

But we have now heard of him. He injected himself into South Dakota politics when he posted a photo showing himself with Kristi Noem.

The expression on her face isn't what you expect to see from South Dakota's only member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Not from someone who's 42.

In an instant, she became a caricature, mugging for the photo like someone who's 12, or maybe 22, on a vacation.

Not on an official trade trip by a congressional delegation visiting the Great Wall of China.

Now she has to live with this image, forever, because of Schock.

He's 32, single and obviously proud of how young he is and how good he looks. Just read his biography on his U.S. House website.

Here are the first two sentences:

"At the age of 23, Aaron Schock was simultaneously the youngest school board president in history and the youngest Illinois State Representative. He is the first Member of Congress to be born in the 1980's."

Read a little further and you find he has a seat on the "highly coveted" House Ways and Means Committee. A little further, and you learn that in his first term in 2009-2010 he was appointed to the "coveted" Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

That's a lot of coveting for a doctor's son who grew up in Peoria, Ill. He took courses at Illinois Central College while in high school and completed a bachelor degree in business



Bob MERCER

at Bradley University there in two years.

He bought property at Peoria at 18. He was elected to the Peoria school board at 19. He was 23 when elected to the Illinois Legislature and was its youngest member through 2008.

He turns 33 on May 28. He's

clearly in sync with modern social media such as the Instagram photo website. One picture he placed on Instagram shows him poised, posed and shirtless atop a surfboard during the delegation's stop in Hawaii.

There isn't a cornstalk in sight.

Instagram is where Aaron Schock put the photo with Kristi Noem.

People who post words and photos on Facebook and Instagram and Twitter and other Internet sites want them to be seen.

And when those words and photos can be used against a person,

they often are. We have tried and tried to drive that lesson home to our children and friends and relatives and co-workers and job prospects during the rise of these Internet sites in the past decade.

Put the wrong thing on the Internet and bam — you've shot your reputation or, in this instance, someone else's.

This was a mugging far beyond Noem's expression.

Consider the photos and words in the current issue of Sioux Falls Woman magazine about Stephanie Hersheth Sandlin, the Democratic congresswoman whom Noem defeated in 2010.

Everyone should be so fortunate to have a profile piece as Hersheth Sandlin is portrayed. The photos are modeling-agency quality, not goofy selfies.

They show her at her best. She's not mugging in any of them.

The Film Hollywood Won't Make

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

Hannibal Lecter. Freddy Kreuger. Jason Voorhees. Charles Manson. Jeffrey Dahmer. Ted Bundy. Hollywood loves a homicidal monster. But what happens when an evil being exposes the monstrosities of malign government neglect and deadly ideology? Crickets.

Tinseltown couldn't conjure a bigger nightmare than true-life Philadelphia serial killer Kermit Gosnell. He preyed on hundreds of poor minority women. He systematically executed hundreds of healthy, living, breathing, squirming, viable babies by stabbing them in their necks and severing spinal cords with scissors and knives. This twisted murderer kept baby feet in specimen jars, which he crammed into the grisly refrigerators of his filthy "clinic." For "research."

A year ago this month, the monster Gosnell was convicted of murdering three babies born alive in his death factory. He also was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the death of one of his "patients," 41-year-old Bhutanese refugee Karnamaya Mongar, who died of a barbarically administered drug overdose at Gosnell's "Women's Medical Society."

Let me remind you that for 15 bloody years, public officials stood by and did nothing.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health knew of clinic violations dating back decades, but did nothing.

The Pennsylvania Department of State was "repeatedly confronted with evidence about Gosnell," investigators found — including the clinic's unclean, unsterile conditions, unlicensed workers, unsupervised sedation, underage abortion patients and over-prescribing of pain pills with high resale value on the street — "and repeatedly chose to do nothing."

The Philadelphia Department of Public Health officials who regularly visited Gosnell's human waste-clogged offices did nothing.

Nearly hospital officials, who treated some of the pregnant mothers who suffered grave complications from Gosnell's butchery, did nothing.

"Women's health" advocates at the National Abortion Federation, the leading association of abortion providers that is supposed to uphold strict health and legal standards, determined that Gosnell's chamber of horrors was "the worst abortion clinic she had ever inspected." But they did nothing.

Hollywood bigwigs have not lifted a finger or raised a voice for the innocent victims of these criminal enterprises. But you can. Inde-



Michelle MALKIN

pendent filmmakers Phelim McAleer and Ann McElhinney and their crew are producing a made-for-TV movie on Gosnell, whom they rightly dub "America's Most Prolific Serial Killer." These trailblazers have circumvented the information and entertainment gatekeepers before with their crowd-funded smash hit, "FrackNation." They're poised to upend the mainstream entertainment culture again. But they need your help.

For the past month, McAleer and McElhinney have conducted the largest-ever crowd-funding campaign in American history. Forced off of crowd-funding site Kickstarter by extreme pro-abortion censors, they are raising money on Indiegogo. Nearly 17,000 donors have contributed more than \$1.6 million. The Gosnell moviemakers now have a little more than a week to reach their \$2.1-million goal.

Why make a made-for-TV movie about Gosnell?

Because the Philadelphia Horror is a chilling tale of how mass murder, masquerading as "choice," got a pass — and all Americans need to know about it.

Because there are vital lessons here for every daughter, mother and grandmother about the dangers of apathetic bureaucrats and the duplicity of "reproductive services" providers.

Because Gosnell may be behind bars now, but he is not alone.

California's Dr. Andrew Rutland, Maryland's Dr. Steven Brigham and Texas' Dr. Douglas Karpen are just three of the Dr. Deaths who reportedly endangered women or killed babies born alive. Like Gosnell, Rutland killed an Asian woman after administering a drug overdose during a late-term abortion procedure. Like Gosnell, Brigham stored the bodies of late-term fetuses in freezers. Medical boards and health departments downplayed or whitewashed their murderous malpractice just like they did in Pennsylvania.

Thanks to McAleer and McElhinney's vision, courage and tenacity, you can help end the cover-up once and for all. You can make a difference by donating at gosnellmovie.com. I can't think of a better way to honor Mother's Day: Show your reverence for life, help expose the truth, seize this cultural moment and make history.

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.