THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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**OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS** 

## **Printing Notices** Is Still Important

ARGUS LEADER, Sioux Falls (Oct. 11): October is full of impor-

Some of them you can't miss — everything turns pink to bring attention to the disease that will affect 1 in 8 women for Breast

Cancer Awareness month. Others you might realize only when you need it — such as helping neighbors rake their leaves this year for Make a Difference

And one makes South Dakota unique in the nation — celebrating Native American Day instead of Columbus Day.

Just keeping the special days in October straight is a challenge — particularly when you throw in your own personal calendar of doctor appointments, soccer games and work lunches.

Thankfully, October also is Public Notices Month here in South Dakota — which highlights how every municipality, county and school district in the state must publish records of their meetings. requests for bids, ordinances, etc. in an official newspaper. In a state that largely limits access to public information, the publishing of public notices via a third party are one of the few open government pillars we can count on.

And while lesser known, this is just one way to hold government bodies accountable to the citizenry and to provide transparency to their processes. Public notices are not sexy. They're not entertaining. And, quite frankly, they're often boring.

So maybe you don't spend a lot of time thinking about the public notices. But because of them, and the requirement to post notices, the next time you want to address your city council, understand what your school board is doing or contact a county board, you'll know what was discussed. You'll have a level playing field because of third-party publishing that ensures protection from any vested interest.

This is a strong tool in holding government accountable to the citizenry, and it provides transparency to their processes. In years past, some have suggested public notices could be published and maintained on government websites. And while *Argus Leader* Media has been an aggressive advocate of moving to, and producing content in, the digital world, the printed newspaper still is the right and most effective space for public notices.

And with your own personal stack of notices and paperwork and reminders to pick up milk at the grocery store, aren't you glad someone else is helping keep your government accountable?

### ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press Today is Monday, Oct. 20, the 293rd day of 2014. There are 72 days

Today's Highlights in History: On Oct. 20, 1944, during World War II, Gen. Douglas MacĂrthur stepped ashore at Leyte in the Philippines, 2 1/2 years after saying, "I shall return." The cities of Belgrade and Dubrovnik were liberated by Russian and Yugoslav troops. The Guatemala Revoution took place as student and military leaders overthrew the military dictatorship. A series of gas storage ank explosions and fires in Cleveland

killed 130 people.

On this date: In 1714, the coronation of Britain's King George I took place in Westminster Abbev. In 1803, the U.S. Senate ratified

In 1914, "Stay Down Here Where You Belong," an antiwar song by Irving Berlin, was published by Waterson,

Berlin & Snyder Co. in New York. In 1936, Helen Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy, died in Forest

Hills, New York, at age 70.
In 1947, the House Un-American Activities Committee opened hearings into alleged Communist influence and infiltration in the U.S. motion picture in-

In 1964, the 31st president of the United States, Herbert C. Hoover, died in New York at age 90.

In 1967, seven men were convicted in Meridian, Mississippi, of violating the civil rights of three slain civil rights workers

In 1968, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy married Greek shipping

magnate Aristotle Onassis In 1973, in the so-called "Saturday Night Massacre," special Watergate prosecutor Archibald Cox was dismissed and Attorney General Elliot L. Richardson and Deputy Attorney General William B. Ruckelshaus re-

In 1981, a bungled armored truck robbery carried out by members of radical groups in Nanuet, New York, left a guard and two police officers dead.

In 1994, actor Burt Lancaster died

in Los Angeles at age 80. In 2011, Moammar Gadhafi, 69, Libya's dictator for 42 years, was killed as revolutionary fighters overwhelmed his hometown of Sirte and captured the last major bastion of resistance

two months after his regime fell.

Ten years ago: A U.S. Army staff sergeant, Ivan "Chip" Frederick,

pleaded guilty to abusing Iraqi detainees at Abu Ghraib prison. (Frederick was sentenced to eight years in prison; he was paroled in 2007.) After being just three outs from getting swept in the AL championship series three nights earlier, the Boston Red Sox finally beat the New York Yankees winning Game 7 in a 10-3 shocker to become the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 postseason series

Five years ago: Ignoring appeals by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and even rock star Sting, Iran demic, Kian Tajbakhsh, to 12 years in prison for his alleged role in anti-government protests. Afghanistan's election commission ordered a runoff in the disputed presidential poll. (The runoff was later canceled, and President Hamid Karzai proclaimed the

Oné year ago: A suicide bomber a busy cafe in Baghdad, killing some three dozen people. In Egypt, masked gunmen fired on a Coptic church holding a wedding in the Cairo district of

Today's Birthdays: Actor William Christopher is 82. Japan's Empress Michiko is 80. Rockabilly singer Wanda Jackson is 77. Former actress Rev. Mother Dolores Hart is 76. Singer Tom Petty is 64. Actor William "Rusty Russ is 64. Actress Melanie Mayron is 62. Retired MLB All-Star Keith Hernandez is 61. Sen. Sheldon White-house, D-R.I., is 59. Movie director Danny Boyle is 58. Former Labor Secretary Hilda Solis is 57. Actor Viggo Mortensen is 56. Rock musician Jim Sonefeld (Hootie & The Blowfish) is 50. Rock musician David Ryan is 50. Rock musician Doug Eldridge (Oleander) is 47. Political commentator and blogger Michelle Malkin is 44. Actor Kenneth Choi is 43. Rapper Snoop Lion (formerly Snoop Dogg) is 43. Singer Dannii Minogue is 43. Singer Jimi Westbrook (country goup Little Big Town) is 43. Country musician Jeff Loberg is 38. Actor Sam Witwer is 37 Actor John Krasinski is 35. Rock musician Daniel Tichenor (Cage the Elephant) is 35. Actress Katie Featherston is 32. Actress Jennifer Nicole Freeman is 29.

Thought for Today: "Being a politician is a poor profession. Being a public servant is a noble one." — President Herbert C. Hoover (1874-

### FROM THE BIBLE

"Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" But they remained silent. Then [Jesus] took him and healed him and sent him away. Luke 14:3-4. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St.

### YOUR LETTERS

#### Slow Down! **Phyllis Schwandt, Yankton**

I would like to remind mo-

torists that South Dakota has a 'Move Over" law. On Friday night Oct. 10, I was

helping a motorist on the side of Highway 50, three miles west of Walmart. During that time, not one single vehicle slowed down or moved over! Both our cars had their hazards flashing. It was after sunset, which makes it even more dangerous. I hope that just one of those drivers sees this and reads it realizing they were one of those people.

My comment to you is SHAME ON YOU! I witnessed an accident more than 20 years ago on Interstate 29 north of Beresford with just such a scenario. A

person died that day, and I witnessed it. I hope you never experience vehicles whizzing by at 65 mph with no respect or regard for human life.

I live on Highway 50 west of Walmart and I daily see these things happening. The intersection by my house is a busy turning corner and cars constantly pass on the shoulder, which is illegal, too. It is only a matter of time before there is a serious or fatal accident.

Also, I have witnessed many cars and trucks blowing through red lights and stops signs in and around Yankton. Come on, people! Let's slow down and respect the law and the other motorist on the road. Remember, the life you save may be your own.



**Capitol Notebook** 

# **Does The Governor Look Like A Gambler?**

Bob

**MERCER** 

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Every time someone talks about expanding legal gambling in South Dakota, part of me asks, why not?

Another part of me cringes and asks, why?

The answers are the same to both questions. Their losses mean free money for the state treasury. Gov. Dennis Daugaard hardly

seems like a gambler. Yet South Dakota has more gambling than before he was elected four years ago.

One change is at tribal casinos. Daugaard is agreeing to more slot machines as various tribal governments' gambling compacts come up

for negotiation. The latest is the Oglala Sioux Tribe. The current limit is 250 slots. The proposal would double the limit to 500.

In two years, the tribe could add 100 more for a total of 600. And in four years, the tribe could another 150 for a total of 750.

The Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate compact reached in 2012 tripled the tribe's slots to 750. The Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe saw its slots double to 500 under its 2011 compact.

The South Dakota Lottery Commission, whose members are appointed by the governor, wants to generate more revenue for state

We've seen the arrival of penny denominations on video lottery machines and the new line-up style of machines that use symbols.

They resemble slots more than the traditional video versions of poker, blackjack and keno games.

This weekend the lottery starts a new lotto game called Monopoly Millionaires' Club. And South Dakota probably will get more mhling in the Nov 4

support is strong for a proposed amendment to the state constitution that is on the ballot. It would allow Deadwood casinos to offer

roulette, keno and craps. It also would apply at tribal casinos in South Dakota. The Legislature put the Deadwood expansion on the ballot. The vote was

somewhat tight in the House of Representatives, where it needed 36 ayes and passed 37-30. The Senate tally was 25-10. I asked the governor's

spokesman, Tony Venhuizen, about the expansion of gambling under way in South Dakota. Here's his email response:

"The governor believes that in the sectors where the voters have allowed gaming — Deadwood and video lottery — the state should allow it to operate like a business.

"That's why he has supported Deadwood on proposals such as Amendment Q and video lottery on upgrades to line games and penny games.

"Likewise, the governor believes he should negotiate Indian gaming compacts with tribal leaders in good faith and has been open to considering more machines in those negotia-

"I wouldn't say the governor has an explicit goal to expand gaming — for example, I don't think gaming has been expanded to any new locations. But I do agree that his attitude toward gaming has generally led him to support gaming industry initiatives over the past four

Twenty years ago South Dakota voters approved resumption of video lottery, after the state Supreme Court had found it unconstitu-

The vote was 165,185 yes and 147,680 no. South Dakota voters have supported the pro-gambling side of every ballot measure

# Who's Afraid Of 'Rocky Mountain Heist'?

Michelle

**MALKIN** 

BY MICHELLE MALKIN

Creators.com

Free at last! I'm silent no more. Now, the story can be told.

Democrats here in my adopted state of Colorado did not want the new political documentary I hosted to see the light of day. They lost. This week, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals issued an emergency injunction declaring that our movie deserved the same freespeech rights as a "traditional" (translation: old-guard liberal) news organization.

'Rocky Mountain Heist," produced by David Bossie's Citizens United and directed by Jason Killian Meath, tells the story of how a wealthy quartet of liberal millionaires and billionaires in Colorado — known as the "Gang of Four" — took over the once-red state of Colorado in the course of a decade.

As a conservative journalist in both "old" and "new" media for more than two decades, I've used my First Amendment rights to follow the radical left's money and connect the dots for readers and viewers. The media marketplace has been too long dominated by liberal corporate statists allied with Big Government, cloaked in the pretense of institutional objec-

The 10th circuit panel of three judges unanimously rejected speech-stifling arguments that our expose was somehow an "electioneering communication" subject to onerous disclosure requirements — from which the likes of the Denver Post or Colorado public radio are arbitrarily exempt. It's "government putting its thumb on the scale," Citizens United superlawyer Ted Olson argued in court — treacherously elastic and prone to abuse.

A six-year resident of Colorado, you can imagine my amusement, sitting in court last week in Denver, listening to government officials capriciously attack our film (which they hadn't seen) as a "drop-in attack ad" from nefarious, out-of-state interests.

Reality check: The nearly-hour-long film illustrates how the Gang of Four coordinated their campaign targets and spending behind closed doors. We report on how they drafted up elitist plans to "educate the idiots." With commentary from journalists, local and state Republican lawmakers, and even one political science professor (who ironically testified against Citizens United's right to equal media

treatment!), "Rocky Mountain Heist" traces how the liberal scions and their "Colorado Democracy Alliance" captured the governor's mansion, the state legislature, and two Senate

As I've reported previously, CODA spawned the national Democracy Alliance.

"Over the past nine years," the organization brags to potential contributors, DA has "aligned leaders in the progressive movement and political infrastructure" to "achieve victories at the ballot box and in policy fights." Their agenda spans "social justice," "climate change," "voting rights," gun control, illegal alien amnesty, campaign finance and sustained "strategic investment" to turn

red states blue. Colorado activists in our movie inform voters how Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper pandered to his

wealthy patrons and out-of-state special interests. Interviewees enlighten viewers on how Hickenlooper imposed radical laws and regulations restricting economic and personal freedoms on energy businesses, gun owners and entrepreneurs. The deep-pocketed progressive donors funneled gobs of undisclosed money to astroturf groups and a network of liberal non-profits — all while screaming about the need for "transparency" and the "people's right to know." "Rocky Mountain Heist" shows how the "Colorado model" is migrating to Texas and Virginia, and highlights how liberty-loving Coloradans have been fighting back.

Our documentary, as Ted Olson argued, expresses core "political speech that is at the heart of the First Amendment's protected activity." Here's what's so rich: So-called "progressive" champions of transparency (with names like "Colorado Ethics Watch") intervened to try and stop Citizens United and me from educating my fellow Coloradans — and the rest of the country — just weeks before a critical midterm election.

What are the opponents of "Rocky Mountain Heist" so afraid of? An informed citizenry, an independent media and conservatives willing to go to the mat for their constitutional rights.

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.