

# The Press & Dakotan

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861

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## OPINION OTHER VIEWS

# SDHSAA Problem Didn't Have To Occur

**WATERTOWN PUBLIC OPINION (Aug. 31):** We've been more critical than positive when it comes to discussing the S.D. High School Activities Association board's sometimes head-scratching decisions. But, much to our surprise, we found ourselves actually agreeing with them last week.

It seems that expenses ran more than 30 percent over budget for the four state basketball and wrestling tournaments held in Sioux Falls and Rapid City this year. Think about it — 30 percent. How is that even possible? It's not like it's the first time the SDHSAA has ever held a state tournament or used Sioux Falls or Rapid City as a host site for the first time. Both cities are annual stops on the tournament circuit and have been for years. So, what's the deal?"

That's what directors for the South Dakota High School Activities Association want to know and they've directed the staff to get better control over the contracts for the 2016 events. Executive director Wayne Carney and assistant executive director John Krogstrand told the board Wednesday they are trying.

Trying? Really? Clearly the costs associated with such events should be known well in advance and so should attendance estimates based on past tournaments held in those communities. That's sentiment shared by several directors who said they didn't understand why the costs for the 2015 events weren't better known in advance. Then throw in the fact that no other state athletic events during the 2014-2015 school year ran more than 10 percent over budget and most came in under budget. So what's up with the events held in Sioux Falls and Rapid City? Board chairman Jason Uttermark of Aberdeen Central said he could see the difficulty of predicting revenues from year to year. "But expenses should be relatively obvious up front — and we're missing it by a bunch," Uttermark said.

We agree and want to know why, especially since the SDHSAA has for the past few years been hell-bent to get every state tournament regardless of sport — except football which is locked into Vermillion because of the dome at USD — permanently moved to the state's two largest cities. What sense does that make if you keep going over budget?

The numbers for this past year are jaw dropping. For the Class A boys basketball tournament at the Rapid City civic center, the combined cost for rent, facilities fee and custodial service was \$41,021.86, when \$15,000 was budgeted. For the Class AA boys basketball tournament in Sioux Falls at the Sanford Premier Center, the total cost for rent, facilities fee and custodial service was \$70,215.09, when \$40,000 was budgeted. The Class B wrestling tournament in Rapid City ran \$11,438.89 over budget, with rent, facilities fee, custodial service, set-up and 5 percent gross costing \$22,629.56 and ticket handling \$5,007.97. The Class A wrestling tournament in Sioux Falls went \$16,465.94 over budget, with rent, facilities fee, custodial service and set-up costing \$31,143.66 and ticket handling costing \$12,585.52.

The 2016 boys basketball tournaments will be Class AA in Sioux Falls and Class A in Rapid City. Class B will again be in Aberdeen. Both 2016 wrestling tournaments will be in Rapid City. Does this mean that the Sioux Falls and Rapid City sites will be over budget again? Oh, and using the new Premier Center in Sioux Falls as an excuse doesn't wash because the SDHSAA knew the costs going in. And even if that was an acceptable excuse, how do you explain Rapid City going over budget when the same facilities have been used for several years?

Here's a thought. Why not hold tournaments on a rotating basis among cities such as Watertown, Mitchell, Huron, Aberdeen and others? Why not go back to that? It worked for years when fans traveled to different cities to experience something other than the same two cities every tournament. That worked just fine for years and if you remember the old saying: if it ain't broke, don't fix it. The SDHSAA now has a problem to fix that should have been avoided. It wasn't broke and if the SDHSAA keeps going over budget it just might be.

## IN HISTORY

### By The Associated Press

This is Tuesday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of 2015. There are 114 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Sept. 8, 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, D-La., was shot and mortally wounded inside the Louisiana State Capitol; he died two days later. (The assailant was identified as Dr. Carl Weiss, who was gunned down by Long's bodyguards.)

**On this date:** In 1565, a Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Florida.

In 1761, Britain's King George III married Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg-Strelitz a few hours after meeting her for the first time.

In 1892, an early version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy, appeared in "The Youth's Companion."

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people.

In 1921, Margaret Gorman, 16, of Washington, D.C., was crowned the first "Miss America" in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

In 1934, more than 130 people lost their lives in a fire aboard the liner SS Morro Castle off the New Jersey coast.

In 1945, Bess Myerson of New York was crowned Miss America in Atlantic City, New Jersey, becoming the first Jewish contestant to win the title.

In 1954, the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) was founded in Manila by the United States, France, Britain, New Zealand, Australia, the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan.

In 1966, the science-fiction TV series "Star Trek" premiered on NBC; the situation comedy "That Girl," starring Mario Thomas, premiered on ABC.

In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" to former President Richard Nixon covering his entire term in office.

In 1985, Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds tied Ty Cobb's career record for hits, singling for hit number 4,191 during a game against the Cubs in Chicago.

In 1994, USAir Flight 427, a Boeing 737, crashed into a ravine as it was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport, killing all 132 people on board.

**Ten years ago:** Congress hastened to provide an additional \$51.8 billion for relief and recovery from Hurricane Katrina; President George W. Bush pledged to make it "easy and simple as possible" for uncounted, uprooted storm victims to collect food stamps and other govern-

ment benefits. Tropical Storm Ophelia strengthened into a hurricane as it stalled 70 miles off the northeast Florida coast. (Ophelia ended up brushing the North Carolina Outer Banks.)

Five years ago: BP took some of the blame for the Gulf oil disaster in an internal report, acknowledging among other things that it had misinterpreted a key pressure test of the well, but also assigned responsibility to its partners on the doomed rig. Israel Tal, a decorated war hero and creator of Israel's renowned "Merkava" tank, died at age 86. Allen Dale June, one of the 29 original Navajo code talkers of World War II, died in Prescott, Arizona, at age 91.

One year ago: The European Union shied away from slapping new economic sanctions on Russia right away over its actions in eastern Ukraine, saying the punitive measures would come into force "in the next few days" depending on how well a cease-fire agreement in eastern Ukraine held. Croatia's Marin Cilic (CHI-HL-ihch) won his first Grand Slam title by beating Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-3, 6-3, 6-3 at the U.S. Open. Ray Rice was let go by the Baltimore Ravens and suspended indefinitely by the NFL after a video was released showing the running back striking his then-fiancee, Janay Palmer, in an elevator in February 2014. S. Truett Cathy, the billionaire founder of the Chick-fil-A restaurant chain, died in suburban Atlanta at age 93.

**Today's Birthdays:** Ventriloquist Willie Tyler is 75. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is 74. Actor Alan Feinstein is 74. Pop singer Sal Valentino (The Beau Brummels) is 73. Author Ann Beattie is 68. Cajun singer Zachary Richard is 65. Musician Will Lee is 63. Actress Heather Thomas is 58. Singer Aimee Mann is 55. Pop musician David Steele (Fine Young Cannibals) is 55. Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 53. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gordon (Levert) is 51. Gospel singer Darlene Zschech is 50. Alternative country singer Neko Case is 45. TV personality Brooke Burke-Charvet is 44. Actor Martin Freeman is 44. Actor David Arquette is 44. TV-radio personality Kennedy is 43. Rock musician Richard Hughes (Keane) is 40. Actor Larenz Tate is 40. Actor Nathan Corddry is 38. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pink is 36. Singer-songwriter Eric Hutchinson is 35. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 34. Rapper Wiz Khalifa is 28. Dance music artist AVICII is 26.

**Thought for Today:** "We shall seek the truth and endure the consequences." — Charles Seymour, American educator and historian (1884-1963).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off. Acts 2:39. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A Great Choice

#### Julie Perakslis, Yankton

This letter is in response to Michael McDonald's letter regarding Nancy Wenande being considered to replace Brooke Blaaid on the Yankton City Commission (*Press & Dakotan*, Sept. 2).

If memory serves, Nancy received the fourth most votes during the last election, which makes her the reasonable choice to replace an open seat and save

the City the cost of any special election.

Aside from that, however, I hope to mitigate Mr. McDonald's, his Father's and anybody else's concern regarding Nancy's effectiveness and the possibility of her returning to serve Yankton on the City Commission — which I sincerely hope she does. I have had the opportunity to work with Nancy in a number of areas (all volunteer on her part, by the way) and have seen her give her heart and soul to this community — not to men-

tion her excellent talent for leadership. Her work with the World Archery Youth Tournament was instrumental in making that event a success for Yankton and in showcasing our wonderful community to the world at large. In addition, I have worked with her in her role as board member of the Boys & Girls Club and in her capacity as a volunteer for the Yankton Area Ice Association. She has given her time, her talent and her powerful organizational and leadership skills to

the true benefit and betterment of both of those organizations. I expect anyone else who has worked with her will have a similar story.

I would be very happy to see Nancy return to the commission and I am fully confident that she would continue to use all of her excellent skills, talent and heart to continue to serve and grow our wonderful city.



## Pierre Report

# Big Changes Proposed For Retirement System

BY SEN. BERNIE HUNHOFF

D-District 18 (Yankton)

Nearly 80,000 people belong to the South Dakota Retirement System, and 24,317 are already receiving benefits. Several thousand are our friends and neighbors here in Yankton County, and thousands more live in the greater Yankton area.

The state retirement plan is considered one of the soundest in the nation. It is fully funded at this time, but experts say changes are needed in the future to maintain stability. I'm a member of the Legislature's Retirement Laws committee, which met in Sioux Falls this week with the SDRS Board of Trustees to review a major proposal that would drastically change the program.

The good news is that the current system will remain in place not only for all current retirees but also for anyone who has already begun employment with the state or another public entity. Another quite different program will be established for people who begin their employment after the change is made.

The new plan will have some major changes, including these:

— The normal retirement age will be moved from 65 to 67, mirroring changes for Social Security on the federal level.

— The early retirement age will be adjusted from 55 to 57, and the penalty for retiring earlier will be moved from 3 percent to 5 percent.

— The Special Early Retirement option will be ended.

— Retirement will be based on the employee's final 5 years of earnings rather than the final 3 as it stands today.

— Survivor's Benefits will still be available, but at a cost.

— The minimum Cost of Living increase (COLA) will go from today's 2.1 percent down to 1.0 percent.

Some of the changes — such as the survivor's benefits and early retirement — are considered subsidies that cost the overall system and benefit only certain retirees. Curtailing those subsidies is considered a fairness issue.

The changes are also driven by long-term

## Capitol Notebook

# Krebs Backs Five S. Dakota Counties On Voter Lists

BY BOB MERCER

State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — Last month, courthouse officials for five counties in South Dakota received letters alleging problems with their voter rolls.

Supposedly Hanson, Campbell, Potter, Union and Harding had more registered voters than residents.

No way, replied Shantel Krebs. As South Dakota's secretary of state, her office oversees conduct of elections.

Krebs sent a letter back on Monday (Sept. 1) explaining why the Indiana-based organization, Public Interest Legal Foundation, was wrong.

The group compared 2010 census data with 2014 voter data that had been submitted to the federal Election Assistance Commission.

"We believe that if PILF was interested in an accurate depiction of the situation they would have used the most current voter registration information, including only active registered voters," Krebs wrote in the letter.

Krebs said her office works with county auditors to keep voter registration lists up to date every two years, as required by federal law.

County auditors removed 41,528 voters from their rolls between 2012 and 2014. The reasons were many.

Another 408 came off because of felony convictions. There were 591 who asked to be removed and 58 were removed for other reasons. Two were mentally incompetent. There were 6,857 who died. Another 2,292 moved away.

The big bunch: 31,320 who hadn't voted for four general elections and their registrations consequently expired.

The purge of inactive voters is under way again by the county auditors. Federal law requires the registration file maintenance every odd-numbered year between Jan. 1 and Nov. 15,



B. Hunhoff

concerns over whether our state investments can continue to perform well enough to guarantee the soundness of the system for future generations. Annual returns of 7 percent are needed to keep the system balanced.

But the biggest driver of the changes is good news: people are living longer, and so they draw on the retirement system longer than anticipated.

The proposal for what's being called "a second tier" of the retirement plan will be heard by the 2016 state Legislature, starting in our retirement laws committee. A lot of hard work has already gone into