

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Prison Report Is A Positive Move

OMAHA WORLD-HERALD (Sept. 5): There is cleansing, reassuring power in new Nebraska prisons director Scott Frakes seeking and publicly releasing an outside report on the prison system's strengths and shortcomings.

The report by Dr. Bruce Gage, chief of psychiatry for Washington's prisons, found what many suspected, that much of Nebraska's prison mental health care work is effective, but more is needed.

The report also highlights challenges. Chief among them, the fact that one-quarter of male inmates receive medication for mental health and half of female inmates — staggering numbers.

But the public release of the report reinforces confidence in the important prison leadership places on inmate mental health, a key public safety concern that killer Nikko Jenkins' case has highlighted.

This move is another important sign of Frakes' respect for taxpayers' role in helping lawmakers and Gov. Pete Ricketts address prison shortcomings, including more space for new inmates.

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**. Bylined 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.

IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, September 14, the 257th day of 2015. There are 108 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On September 14, 1814, Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the poem "Defence of Fort M'Henry" after witnessing the American flag flying over the Maryland fort following a night of British bombardment during the War of 1812; the poem later became the words to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

On this date: In 1715, Benedictine monk Dom Pierre Perignon, credited with advances in the production of champagne, died in Hautvillers, France, at age 76.

In 1861, the first naval engagement of the Civil War took place as the USS Colorado attacked and sank the Confederate private schooner Judah off Pensacola, Florida.

In 1901, President William McKinley died in Buffalo, New York, of gunshot wounds inflicted by an assassin; Vice President Theodore Roosevelt succeeded him.

In 1927, modern dance pioneer Isadora Duncan died in Nice (Nees), France, when her scarf became entangled in a wheel of the sports car she was riding in.

In 1944, the Great Atlantic Hurricane passed close to North Carolina and Virginia before heading up the northeastern U.S. coast; nearly 400 people died, most at sea.

In 1954, the Soviet Union detonated a 40-kiloton atomic test weapon.

In 1964, Pope Paul VI opened the third session of the Second Ecumenical Council of the Vatican, also known as "Vatican II" (The session closed two months later).

In 1965, the much-reviled situation comedy "My Mother the Car," starring Jerry Van Dyke as a man who acquires an antique automobile that's the reincarnation of his mother (voiced by Ann Sothern), premiered on NBC-TV.

In 1975, Pope Paul VI declared Mother Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton the first U.S.-born saint.

In 1982, Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly actress Grace Kelly, died at age 52 of injuries from a car crash the day before; Lebanon's president-elect, Bashir Gemayel, was killed by a bomb.

In 1985, Shiite Muslim kidnappers in Lebanon released the Rev. Benjamin Weir after holding him captive for 16 months. The situation comedy "The Golden Girls" premiered on NBC.

In 1994, on the 34th day of a strike by players, Acting Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig announced the 1994 season was over.

Ten years ago: The United Nations opened a three-day summit marking the 60th anniversary of the world body. More than a dozen coordinated bombings killed at least 178 people in Baghdad. Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines each filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

(Both carriers emerged from bankruptcy reorganization in 2007) Movie director Robert Wise ("West Side Story"; "The Sound of Music") died in Los Angeles at age 91.

Five years ago: Sarah Shourd, one of three American hikers detained by Iran, was freed on \$500,000 bail after 410 days in prison. Reggie Bush announced he was forfeiting his 2005 Heisman title, citing a scandal over improper benefits while he was a star running back at Southern California; it was the first time college football's top award had been relinquished by a recipient. Dodge Morgan, who became the first American to sail around the world without stopping in 1986, died in Boston at age 78.

One year ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton, making her return to Iowa for the first time since the 2008 presidential campaign, implored Democrats to choose shared economic opportunity over "the guardians of gridlock." North Korea's Supreme Court sentenced Matthew Miller, a 24-year-old American, to six years with labor for entering the country illegally and trying to commit an act of espionage. (Miller was released in November 2014 along with another detained American, Kenneth Bae.) Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt said he would resign after his center-right coalition lost a parliamentary election to a left-leaning opposition led by Social Democrats. South Korean teenager Hyo-juo Kim beat Australian veteran Karrie Webb by one shot to win the Evian Championship and become the third youngest major winner at 19 years, 2 months. Miss New York Kira Kazantsev won the Miss America pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey. (For her talent performance, Kazantsev sang Pharrell Williams' "Happy" while sitting cross-legged on the stage and banging a red plastic cup on the floor.)

Today's Birthdays: Actress Zoe Caldwell is 82. Feminist author Kate Millet is 81. Actor Walter Koenig is 79. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Larry Brown is 75. Singer-actress Joey Heatherton is 71. Actor Sam Neill is 68. Singer Jon "Bowzer" Bauman (Sha Na Na) is 68. Rock musician Ed King is 66. Actor Robert Wisdom is 62. Rock musician Steve Berlin (Los Lobos) is 60. Country singer-songwriter Beth Nielsen Chapman is 59. Actress Mary Crosby is 56. Singer Morten Harket (a-ha) is 56. Country singer John Berry is 56. Actress Melissa Leo is 55. Actress Faith Ford is 51. Actor Jamie Kaler is 51. Actress Michelle Stafford is 50. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is 50. Rock musician Mike Cooley (Drive-By Truckers) is 49. Actor Dan Cortese is 48. Contemporary Christian singer Mark Hall is 46. Actor-writer-director-producer Tyler Perry is 46. Actor Ben Garant is 45. Rock musician Craig Montoya (Tri Polar) is 45. Actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley is 44. Actor Andrew Lincoln is 42. Rapper Nas is 42. Actor Austin Basis is 39. Country singer Danielle Peck is 37. Pop singer Ayo is 35. Actor Sebastian Sozzi is 33. Actor Adam Lambert is 31. Singer Alex Clare is 30. Actress Jessica Brown Findlay is 28. Actor-singer Logan Henderson is 26.

Thought for Today: "What one has not experienced, one will never understand in print." — Isadora Duncan (1877-1927).

FROM THE BIBLE

Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Corinthians 1:3-4. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was received last week prior to the Press & Dakotan's announcement about letters regarding Yankton County's Sept. 29 referendum.

'Getting By?'

Raymon Epp, Gayville
Yankton County Commissioner
At a recent forum on the road levy, the statement "we have always gotten by" was made. Is that ALL it's about? That is not an appealing measure of standard for me! Maybe that is how we have gotten to where we are at!

Not so long ago in our nation's history, a young man stood behind a podium and stated, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." And they shot him. It is my belief since that time that ours has become a hands-out society.

What will YOU do for me? It's not working.

Caring for the earth is how I make living. I am willing to tax myself. I am willing to carry this burden for a brighter tomorrow. My father carried a few loads so I can experience life as I am; isn't it time to pay it forward? Will it not be seen as encouragement by those to come that we are attempting to make things better, not just "getting" by? Will they not see a sense of community in this effort and wish to be part of it? Is this not what the "future" is all about? Looking out, not in.

There will be those who will "feel it" more than others. But as we move forward and others join with us, the yoke will become lighter.

If we are not seen as doers, we may not be seen at all. I do not just want to "get by." My dreams are bigger than that. I wish things to be made better.



IT'S A MISTAKE, I TELL YOU. A BIG MISTAKE. I'D HATE TO BE THERE WHEN HIS CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST!

Capitol Notebook

What Other Choice Than The Iran Deal?

BY BOB MERCER
State Capitol Bureau

PIERRE — No one seems to recall that the United State of America — our nation — joined with Israel to secretly attack Iran less than 10 years ago.

Congress wasn't asked by President George W. Bush or by President Barack Obama to declare war.

Instead the Republican president covertly initiated and the Democratic president who came next covertly carried forward a national strategy of cyber-attack on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Spies planted a virus in Iran's computers that controlled centrifuges making nuclear material.

The virus known as Stuxnet caused equipment to go haywire.

The secret war worked, for a while.

Then the virus got into general circulation in the world. Technology attracts people with big brains. They figured out Stuxnet.

And then the story got out, largely through *The New York Times* and other U.S. news outlets such as *Wired* magazine and *The Washington Post* and National Public Radio.

In that respect, the nuclear-control agreement negotiated by the Obama administration with Iranian leaders in recent months could be called a peace treaty.

Critics of the deal, including our state's three members of Congress, argue that Iran might find ways to avoid neutral inspections.

President Obama barely avoided rejection of the deal on Thursday by the U.S. Senate.

A majority of 58 senators, including South Dakota's two Republicans and four Democrats, lined up against the deal.

They needed 60 to cut off debate. The 42 who stood with the president were Democrats.



Bob MERCER

That vote came Thursday, Sept. 10 — the eve of the 14th anniversary of the 9/11 hijackings of jets flown into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The fourth airliner presumably targeted the White House before it went down in Pennsylvania.

We have beefed up U.S. security and intelligence gathering since 2001. Iran likely has strengthened its security too since the Stuxnet attacks five years ago.

The United States has been in a four-front war in the Middle East since at least 1979 when Iran took 52 Americans as hostages for 444 days.

We have battled covertly with Iran, we have invaded Iraq and Afghanistan, and we have pressed into Pakistan at times.

We finally caught and killed Osama bin Laden, the architect of the 9/11 attacks and of Al Qaeda's war on the U.S., when President Obama sent two helicopters into Pakistan on May 2, 2011.

Now a new form of barbarism rises with ISIS rolling through much of Syria and parts of northern Iraq. We are offering assistance but not much more.

We have tried the military solution in Iraq and Afghanistan. We have the federal debt to prove our ambition exceeded our ability to pay in money and exceeded our tolerance in lives lost and ruined.

We have tried the cyber-espionage route in Iraq. We have tried diplomacy and money in Pakistan.

Now President Obama wants to try peace, of sorts, with Iran. So do Britain, France, Russia, China, Germany and other European Union nations.

To kill the treaty begs the question: What instead shall we do?

There is no sound sadder than the bugle of Taps at a veteran's funeral. Except when that bugle is blown in vain.

Our Reckless Refuge For Jihad

BY MICHELLE MALKIN
Creators.com

On the anniversary week of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, President Obama is rolling out the welcome mat to tens of thousands of Syrian Muslim refugees. What could go wrong?

There's no need to hypothesize. Our nation remains utterly incapable of screening out legitimate dreamers from destroyers, liberty-seekers from liberty-stiflers. Indiscriminate asylum and refugee policies rob the truly deserving of an opportunity for freedom — and threaten our national security.

It's shameful that our leaders in Washington, sworn to uphold and defend our Constitution and our people, suffer chronic amnesia about the fatal consequences of open borders. I'll keep reprinting my reminders. Maybe someday someone in a position of power will pay heed, throw political correctness out the window, and stop hitting the snooze button.

Have you forgotten? Boston jihadist brothers Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev received dubious asylum status through their parents thanks to lax vetting. After entering on short-term tourist visas, their mother and father (an ethnic Chechen Muslim) won asylum and acquired U.S. citizenship. Next, younger son Dzhokhar obtained U.S. citizenship. Older son Tamerlan, whose naturalization application was pending, traveled freely between the U.S. and the jihad recruitment zone of Dagestan, Russia, a year before executing their Boston Marathon massacre. Though they had convinced the U.S. that they faced deadly persecution, the Tsarnaevs' parents both had returned to their native land and were there when their sons perpetrated their bloody terror rampage.

Have you forgotten? Ramzi Yousef landed at New York City's JFK airport from Pakistan and flashed an Iraqi passport without a visa to inspectors. He was briefly detained for illegal entry and fingerprinted, but was allowed to remain in the country after invoking the magic words "political asylum." Yousef was released for lack of detention space and headed to Jersey City to plot the deadly 1993 World Trade Center bombing.

Have you forgotten? Gazi Ibrahim Abu Mezer, a Palestinian bomb-builder, entered the U.S. illegally through Canada in 1996-97. He claimed political asylum based on phony persecution by Israelis, was released on a reduced \$5,000 bond posted by a man who was himself an illegal alien and then skipped his asylum hearing. In June 1997, a federal immigration judge ordered Mezer to leave on a "voluntary departure order." Mezer ignored him. He joined

the New York City bombing plot before being arrested in July 1997 after a roommate tipped off local police.

Have you forgotten? Mir Aimal Kansi, convicted in 1997 of capital murder and nine other charges stemming from his January 1993 shooting spree outside the CIA headquarters in McLean, Va., also exploited our insane asylum laxity. Despite his history as a known Pakistani militant who had participated in anti-American protests abroad, Kansi received a business visa in 1991. After arrival, he claimed political asylum based on his ethnic minority status in Pakistan. While his asylum application was pending, he obtained a driver's license and an AK-47, murdered two CIA agents and wounded three others.

Have you forgotten? Somali national Nuradin Abdi, the al-Qaida shopping mall bomb plotter convicted in 2007, first entered the U.S. in 1995 using a false passport. He entered again illegally from Canada in 1997 and secured asylum on false grounds. Abdi then was able to fraudulently obtain a refugee travel document, which he used to fly to Ethiopia and, yes, Chechnya for jihad training.

Have you forgotten? Among the convicted Fort Dix (N.J.) jihad plotters were three ethnic Albanian illegal alien brothers, Dritan, Shain and Elvir Duka, who snuck into the country through Mexico with their parents. In 1984, the father applied for asylum, but the feds ignored them for two decades. In the meantime, as America showed the Dukas' refugee community unmatched compassion and generosity, the Muslim trio returned the favor by planning to massacre U.S. soldiers.

Have you forgotten? Are you not paying attention? The Somali refugee population in Minnesota has been a gold mine for jihadist recruiters for ISIS. America has failed miserably to assimilate waves of young Muslims from Africa and the Middle East.

Our asylum and refugee programs are routinely abused by ordinary fraudsters and Islamic terror plotters alike. Our immigration enforcement failures are compounded by deadly illegal alien sanctuary policies, a deportation abyss that allows hundreds of thousands of deportation fugitives to run loose, and the persistent lack of a tracking system to identify and kick out millions of foreign visa overstayers.

When will Washington finally make it a priority to get our own trashed house in order?

Michelle Malkin is author of the new book "Who Built That: Awe-Inspiring Stories of American Tinkerpreneurs." Her email address is malkinblog@gmail.com.



Michelle MALKIN

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