

OPINIONS

It's your right to be in the know

by John Suhr
suhrs@reporterandfarmer.com

The importance of public newspapers is vital to you. Once a legal notice is published in the paper it cannot disappear, be altered or changed in any way.

Put that same legal on the internet and that can all change, literally. Things can not only be hard to find in the vast World Wide Web, but things can be deleted and altered with a few quick key strokes.

Last week the town of Grenville published minutes of their regular meeting that included information about a special review. That audit found an alleged misappropriation of funds through their town and bar.

In this week's paper there is a story about such misconduct and alleged misappropriation of funds. Without that legal notice, residents and taxpayers of Grenville may have only heard rumors or nothing at all.

It is vital for public boards to be forthcoming with the people they represent and let them know what their elected officials are doing. Not everything that happens in government may be rosy – this is such a case – but it is those times that are even more important for the board to be as open as possible to the constituents they serve.

The smaller the board and fewer people they represent, the harder staying open becomes as they know many, if not all, the people they represent.

While discussions of what to do about an individual may fall under the executive session rule, the action they take – such as firing or deciding to pursue legal action – needs to be out in the public and recorded.

No newspaper, no matter how big, can make it to every public meeting in its coverage area. It is because of their public notices, however, that we are able to see their actions and follow up to help explain to the taxpayers what their board is doing.

So if you think those small type public notices don't interest you, they should. It is your tax dollars at work, the records of the boards' actions. It may not always be about the dollars; it could be an action that affects you even more directly.

Read the public notices and be informed.

Hustled by the great state of South Dakota

by Emre K. Erku
sports@reporterandfarmer.com

This state is a ragtag journalist's gold mine.

For our humble and degenerate writers like yours truly, thick, beer-skinned typists with nothing left to lose except their fear of death, are gifted field days with Mt. Rushmore State corruption every single week. Scandals of public manipulation, embezzlement, blatant racism and sexism, lies and belligerent solicitation blossom and perpetuate from the dirty fingers of Pierre.

Accordingly – and it's easy to gripe using hindsight – it has taken quite some time for Yankton's U.S. Senate hopeful Jay Williams (D) to call for an independent audit of all federal programs administered through the tentacles of this state's noble incumbents, boards and agencies. Oh, how we're now saved.

But how many people have to die first before we finally decide to kill corruption second?

You pick up any newspaper – especially Native American – from the front page to the obituaries, many times you'll read about teenage suicides, stillbirth, high levels of methamphetamine use, rape and murder. Then the GEAR UP program rolls along in an attempt to financially encourage Native teens to pursue an education rather than a stereotypical life of headaches. This, however, as we unfortunately know, turned into a cesspool of politically back-



ed corruption, theft and more death. It is an institutionalized slap to the face.

But, hey, this is South Dakota. This is a land where high percent interest rate payday lenders sit on every street corner, where politicians publicly say that transgenders need to get their heads examined, where it's actually legal for campaigners to use their campaign funds for personal use well after an election has ended, where the poor are taxed and corporations are exempt.

But that's alright, we suppose. At least we can drink a bottle of cheap whiskey, throw hundreds of dollars in a lotto machine, then rationalize with our losses because they told us the funds would go towards education.

Or so we thought. Despite his tardiness, Mr. Williams should be knighted for encouraging an independent audit, especially when this state sometimes feels like a dreamland for the Chicago Outfit.

Let's keep trying, folks. "Ray"

OLE & LENA

Little Jonny, Ole and Lena's son, was talking to his teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal, its throat was very small.

Little Jonny stated posi-

tively that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human it was physically impossible.

"The little boy said, 'When I get tew heaven, I will ask Jonah.'"

"The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?'"

Little Jonny replied tartly, "Den yew ask him."



English, the back alley gangster of language

by Amanda Fanger
reporter@reporterandfarmer.com

I'm a word nerd; I love studying syntactic structure and the learning of lexicon.

But while I enjoy dissecting a good piece of writing, I fully comprehend that not everyone shares the same level of fascination.

There is, however, hardly any room to argue that the written word is a powerful thing.

When writing in English, there are some hard rules you have to stick by. But then again, there are the examples like, "i before e except after c," which get thrown out the window when you conduct a sentence such as "a weird foreign neighbor went on a feisty heist at their leisure."

Here are some other spelling observations:

■A minute minute is a brief moment in time.

■Do you object to that object?



■Maybe you should read what you read again.

■Excuse me, but there's no excuse for that.

■Let's wind this topic up and throw it to the wind.

■Are you content with this content?

Or how about this one: You can place the word "only" anywhere in the following sentence and come up with eight different meanings: "She told him that she

loved him."

Or how about this one: "I never said he stole my money." That sentence can take on seven different meanings, depending on which word you stress.

Or how about the fact that there's a "d" in fridge but not in refrigerator.

One of the things I love most about the study of the English language is the way it grows and changes over time. I've heard English described as a back alley gangster who beats up other languages and then collects the odds and ends from their pockets and it's true. Most English words are derived from other languages.

I think I'd be remiss if I didn't include the story of the student who asked his teacher, "Can I go to the bathroom?"

"I don't know, can you?" the teacher asked.

To which the student

replied, "Yes. I might add that colloquial irregularities occur frequently in any language. Since you and the rest of our present company understood perfectly my intended meaning, being particular about the distinctions between 'can' and 'may' is purely pedantic and arguably pretentious."

As a writer, I try to remember not to use a big word when a singularly unloquacious and diminutive linguistic expression will satisfactorily accomplish the contemporary necessity.

Need something more to twist your brain? Just remember that read and lead rhyme, as does read and lead; but note that read and lead do not rhyme and neither does read and lead.

In conclusion, yes. English can be strange. It can be understood through tough thorough thought, though.

~af~

Eighteen ninety-one

Board of Trade organizational meeting held

HISTORIC EVENTS

15 years ago
March 26, 2001

Roslyn Viking cagers capped off another great year with a repeat trip to the State B tournament in Aberdeen and placed fourth.

Roslyn Vikings boys' basketball cheerleaders were chosen for the Spirit of Six Award at the State B basketball tourney in Aberdeen. Members of the squad are Rosanne Rougemont, Jennifer Pleinis, Tonya Sattler, Ashley Schmidt and Kayla Wagner.

Day County Arts Center board members received a preliminary sketch illustrating a Minnesota artist's idea of what the organization's Webster mural should look like on Main Street.

25 years ago
March 25, 1991

Marcia Kempton is surprised and gratified at the hero's welcome she has been shown since arriving home. Kempton, a captain in the Army Reserve Corp, arrived home after spending nearly three months in the Persian Gulf in the United Arab Emirates.

Webster High School quiz bowl team received second place at the USD quiz bowl. Team member Aaron Maag won the most valuable player award for answering the most questions in the tournament.

Susan Butcher placed

third in the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Butcher, married to David Monson, Roslyn was seeking her fifth win in the 1,163-mile Alaska race. She had led mushers out of the White Mountain checkpoint on the last leg but turned back with several others when they ran into a blinding blizzard. The race took almost 13 days.

50 years ago
March 23, 1966

Call them Coach Bob Swanhorst's cagers, a 14 man team, a good bunch of kids or the most recent title, "Hagen's Heroes" and you may come close to what area basketball fans think of the Webster Bearcats as the new State A champions. Clyde Hagen was voted most valuable player of the state tournament.

A total of \$860.21 has been contributed to the Heart Fund drive.

How good or bad is Day County's safety record compared to other communities? The subject comes to the fore because the government has stepped into the picture, especially with respect to auto accidents, which are taking nearly 1,000 lives per week. The President asked Congress to pass legislation that would establish federal safety standards for automobiles, tires and roads.

75 years ago
March 27, 1941

Rusk Community Club was awarded first place in the one-act play contest. Playing to a full house, the well-balanced Rusk cast pre-

sented a humorous play *Rats* under the direction of Mrs. August Lutz, supported in the cast by Mrs. Walter Reetz, George Schmitt and Mrs. E.H. Hommel.

Sponsored by the American Red Cross, sewing and knitting for war relief will start at once in Day County. One hundred pounds of yarn has arrived to be made into sweaters.

In line with a movement throughout the nation, a midnight picture for the benefit of the Greek War relief fund will be in Webster at the Lyric Theatre. The valiant defense of the cause of freedom by the Greek nation has aroused the admiration of the world.

100 years ago
March 23, 1916

Last week saw the windup of the local boys basketball season with a game between the local and Ortonville high school teams, the locals winning by a score of 36 to 21.

A contract was closed by the officers of Webster Company A of the South Dakota National Guard whereby the company secured possession of the old courthouse building west of the present courthouse and will transform it into a model armory.

Bert Knapp returned from Arlington and brought

with him three of the finest Belgian horses ever shown in Day County.

125 years ago
March 26, 1891

The oldest inhabitants, the signal service officers, scientists and people generally, predict an abundance of rainfall this season. This prediction comes up every spring with the regularity of spring poetry but really, the signs seem to indicate that the tide is turning in our favor.

Some 25 business and professional men of Webster met at E.W. Smail's for the purpose of organizing a Board of Trade for the city. A preamble was offered setting forth the object of the organization to encourage manufacturing and employment, to develop the interests of the city, to encourage the sheep industry of the county, to encourage investment in real estate, to sink artesian wells, create a fire department and a waterworks system, to encourage the uniform planting of trees, to widen and deepen the channels of trade, let the rich productivity of our farmlands be known abroad to the end that new settlers and capital may be induced to seek location and investment here.

Attention Hunters - Plat Books For Sale

Clark • Day • Grant • Codington • Brown • Marshall • Roberts

\$28⁵⁰
plus tax

Reporter & Farmer
516 Main, Webster, SD • 345-3356