

GF&P causing problems, not fixing them

Once again, the Guns, Fees & Politics (GF&P) Commission has proclaimed another successful mountain lion hunting season. Not hard to do when you have no clue what you are doing other than economically exploiting a natural resource!

They ignored the recommendations of an already intimidated "professional" group of biologists and increased the hunting quota, claiming they wanted to "slightly" reduce the Hills population by killing (or the politically correct term: harvesting) as many as 25 females, while ignoring what was to happen to the kittens too young to fend for themselves. Some were left to die a slow, torturous death, while others turned to easier prey (domestic animals), since they were not yet proficient enough to subsist on natural prey.

The Commission is actually causing the problem, not fixing it! The other part they continue to ignore is the directed killing of the 20 or more lions throughout the year by GF&P officials for wandering in their natural habitat now claimed by people who can't tolerate nature. So the kill levels are easily double what is claimed.

The first rule of wildlife biology is balance of nature. Instead, we get politics as usual, placing licenses and trophies ahead of sustainment.

DEAN FLAGE
Sturgis

Bless peacemakers, not the warmongers

Are we in Afghanistan to take on the Taliban (Journal, Feb. 24)? I thought, perhaps wrongly, that our "enemy" there was al-Qaida.

How the Taliban treats "their" women has not been a serious political issue, and we don't treat "our" women as equals. Why did the South Dakota House kill legislation that would require insurance companies to cover birth control prescriptions, etc., for women? They cover vasectomies and Viagra for men. That's *not* equality.

As for "Telling Ellsworth's story better" as reported by "Ours," yes, we want our troops "safe from surprise attacks and explosive devices," but the article explained, "War is a messy thing" (!) and "can kill innocent people." In fact, recently 33 civilians just died "messily."

So much for "winning the hearts and minds of the Afghan people" or converting them to Christianity!

Jesus never mentioned abortion or birth control, homosexuality or the unborn. He said to give away your riches if you want to follow him.

He said Blessed are the Peacemakers, *not* the Warmongers. No wonder the world's people see us as terrorists.

MARGARET A. MINKEL
Rapid City

We are captive to roguish city council

Nationally, the Tea Party movement adamant in a concept the government is broken. This sorcery exists here, a fractured City Council aided by an inordinate CEO. The expenditure of tax dollars unwarranted/relentless. A \$17,000 largess to an interloper, nonrefundable, unearned income.

In the Council's guise to admonish Doyle Estes, \$50,000 trashed. Should the city prevail, will a money stipend ensue?

Apparently, the maladroit city stewards have disquieting concern with the in-house Oliver Wendell Holmes, thus tax dollars pillaged to outsourcing.

There are those in the city administration with sudden malady of memory lapse. This entanglement more than a one person involvement; circumspect affixed blinders to rightful city funds, presently dubiety. The pseudo truth, sporadic with the elected assembly. A proven fact, hastened recollection when cross-examined. This identified council, suspect of fiddling with the First Amendment, a no-no by those adroit with the USA Constitution, inherent rights therein.

We are presently a captive and public to roguishness, elected and appointed officials in the city administration. The voters should and must be alarmed and cautioned.

DORRANCE A. DUSEK
Rapid City

You have left kittens to die a slow, painful death

You little people with a big deadly gun make me sick. The killing of 40 mountain lions that have as much right to live as you

THE DRAWING BOARD



do has left a sickening smell in the state of South Dakota.

You have left the confused kittens to die a slow, painful, cold death as they innocently wait for mom to return and the older kittens try to survive on someone's pet.

When Game & Fish did send someone out to find these unfortunate little kits, they should have been made to stay out until they were found.

However, man had the option to run for the warmth, food, comfort and protection that they denied a kitten facing certain death.

I hope you all do not sleep well at night, because you are going to get yours in the end.

DORIS ANN TIBKE
Piedmont

diligence by Sam proved Mr. Ellis was not truthful in his answer to the City Council.

The mayor and City Council did an injustice to Sam, Sam's supporters and the citizens of Rapid City by holding the hearing at the end instead of the beginning of the council meeting. When one is going through the charade of an impartial hearing, when in reality you are stacking the deck for a kangaroo court, you want as few witnesses as possible.

The citizens of Rapid City would be better served if six members on the city council and those in the mayor's office showed the same respect for the taxpayer that Sam Kooiker exhibits.

JERRY APA
Lead

Responsible thing to do is to apologize to Sam

By now, it must be apparent to the six Rapid City Council members who voted to censure Alderman Sam Kooiker that their action was terribly misguided. They were drawn into a legal and procedural travesty.

The responsible thing to do now is to rescind the censure resolution and publicly apologize to Sam.

This will be hard to do, and it won't completely assuage the hurt and harm to Sam. But it will be a major step toward reconciliation.

JOHN D. WAGNER
Rapid City

We go extra mile to care for our livestock

RE: 2/24/10 Letter to the editor by Ruben Meyers.

Mr. Meyers, during Lent, observation of all the commandments would be very appropriate, including "do not give false testimony about your neighbor."

As a life-long caregiver of animals and producer, I can assure you that I and many producers go the extra mile to ensure that our livestock is properly cared for. When animals are harvested in this country, I assure you, they are not dismembered while still conscious.

Meat and milk are some of the most nutritionally complete, safe and economical foods available to the American consumer. Maybe your concern should be what country that product comes from?

M.E. CAMMACK
Sturgis

Lawmakers should pass birth center bill

I hope HB1183, which passed 67-1 in the House, is successful in the Senate, as well. I have read about birth centers in medical

journals and in recent news articles, as Minnesota is opening three brand-new ones this year.

I think one of the most far-reaching potential benefits of birth centers in our state would be the effect of the competition on hospitals. So far, hospital maternity wards compete with each other by installing prettier floors and curtains and bigger NICU units.

Birth centers, by contrast, sell their statistical outcomes: safely reducing Caesarean surgeries and increasing breastfeeding success. The practice guidelines of the American Association of Birth Centers (AABC) "promote" — rather than merely "allow" — natural birth.

There is a measurable difference between "promoting" natural birth via emotional support and education on medical benefits, vs. "allowing" it.

The difference, seen in the close to 200 American birth centers, is measured in safety outcomes: far fewer emergency Caesarean, NICU transfers, and postpartum hospital-admissions.

Any competing hospital inspired to research the AABC practice guidelines will discover how to improve childbirth outcomes while simultaneously dropping facility costs, a win/win for everyone: hospitals, patients, insurance companies and everyone who pays premiums.

ANGIE JOHNSON
Sioux Falls

Statements on B.H. Playhouse are ignorant

Secretary of GF&P Jeff Vonk's contention that the nonprofit Black Hills Playhouse should be held to a different standard than other arts organizations and become self-sufficient would be laughable if it weren't so ignorant. The arts have been subsidized by the communities and countries which benefit from them since Greek and Roman times.

Vonk cites the "neglected" physical plant as proof that the Playhouse is somehow unworthy to lease the location it has occupied for over 60 years.

Rep. David Lust, R-Rapid City, is even more misinformed, referring to the condition of the campus as "no way to treat a jewel or treasure." Someone needs to tell him that these terms refer to the intangible assets of the Playhouse, and not bricks and mortar.

Has it occurred to either Secretary Vonk or Rep. Lust that the neglect might be due to a lack of funds and not to a lack of interest?

The fact that our Legislature has rallied to the cause is heartening, but statements such as these

make a sentient person scratch his head in astonishment.

SHEBBY LEE
Black Hills Playhouse alumni
Rapid City

Proper values come from the home

In Possum Walk Creek, Mo., the Great Depression lingered into the early 1940s. At Payne School there, our food fights were a little different than the one recently staged at Dakota Middle School. If our one rich kid happened to throw away a partly eaten orange, likely there would be a fight to see who would get to finish eating it.

I think our young "scholars" are spoiled. They need discipline and responsibility. Our teachers no longer have the authority to instill such values.

But proper values start from the home. Many years ago when I was teaching at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology, I had a student who was called out of class. When he returned, I said, "I hope it was nothing serious." "Yes, it was," he said. His mother had just been killed in a tractor accident, and he had to leave.

Two days later, he was back. "Take more time," I said. "No, my mother would not want me to!"

In the rest of my career, I tried to live up to the standard set by that student. I never succeeded. We need more families like that.

JAMES D. PATTERSON
Rapid City

People blocking stairwell at Rush hockey games

Last night, I went to a Rush game. Just before the first break, I went to go down to the vendor area. As I tried to leave, the stairway was blocked by three people wearing yellow jackets. One of them asked if I wanted to get by, I said yes, and he moved a little so I could get by, but I still had to brush against him to do so.

Just as the second period was starting, I tried, along with about six other fans, to go back to my paid seat. We were told we would have to wait until the play was over before we could go.

Now, these same three people were watching the game and were jumping up and down with excitement, because they were watching the game. In to watch the game like we, who were stuck on the stairwell did.

Since when did the civic center start making their own laws?

This is not right, and others who feel the same way should write to the civic center.

DAVE KELLY
Rapid City