



Rapid City Journal

Grand River Roundup

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We had another week of beautiful fall weather. It's come close to freezing a couple times, but so far my garden hasn't been damaged and we got just over a half inch of rain so I haven't had to water.

West of here, they aren't faring so well. Montana and Wyoming have had snow already, including eight inches in Buffalo, Wyo., so it won't be long before it starts here.

Gov. Daugaard came to Belle Fourche Monday for the Permian Tank & Mfg. groundbreaking ceremony and Grand Opening at the Belle Fourche Industrial and Rail Park.

Speakers at the ceremony were Gov. Daugaard, Belle Fourche Mayor Gary Hendrickson, President of Belle Fourche Development Corporation Scott Peterson, CEO of Permian Tank Jon Cohen, VP of Strategy and Planning for Permian Tank Dan Edling, and City Engineer Ryan Kavan.

Belle Fourche is seeing a lot of industrial development as a result of the hard work by the city fathers and our business-friendly climate in South Dakota.

Reub and Casey gathered cows in our Horse Creek summer pasture Tuesday and started trailing them towards home. I headed to Pierre that afternoon for the Executive Board meeting the next day and I went through Lemmon on my way.

The Perkins County Republicans hosted a "Meet the Candidate" gathering at the Grand River Museum for US Senate candidate Larry Rhoden.

The National Conference of State Legislatures submitted the Management and Performance Audit of the Legislative Research Council to the Executive Board Wednesday. The Board hired them to conduct this audit at one of our first meetings after session and they offered twelve recommendations to correct problems they found. We voted to implement eight of the recommendations, with a possibility of implementing the others at a later date.

The Board also accepted the resignation of LRC Jim Fry, who is retiring. Another long time employee of LRC, Fred Schoenfeld, will step up to fill the vacancy until we can find a suitable replacement. Fred will also be retiring in June and at least two other LRC employees are talking about retiring, so several positions may need to be filled soon.

The guys finished trailing the cows home just before lunch on Thursday, just in time for Reub to get me to the doctor in Hettinger.

For the second time in a week and a half, I woke up so dizzy I could barely stand up and he decided it was time I went to the clinic. The doctor and the physical therapist determined that I wasn't having a stroke, but was suffering from unilateral vestibular hypofunction. That sounds impressive, but all it amounts to is a disconnect between my vision and my balance. The therapist gave me some exercises to do three times a day and I am definitely improving.

I was still dizzy so I missed Harold Dutton's funeral on Friday and the SD Stockgrowers convention in Rapid City on Friday and Saturday.

Harold Dutton, 86, died last Sunday at the David M. Dorsett Healthcare Facility in Spearfish. His funeral services are held Friday at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Zeona and with burial in the Dutton Family Ranch Cemetery. Harold's family has our sympathy.

I hated to miss hearing Tami Gilbert on the Advocacy Panel at the SD Cattle Women meeting at the Stockgrowers convention. I missed some other great speakers and Rep. Liz May told me she got a lot of useful information from Margaret Byfield, executive director of American Stewards for Liberty when Byfield spoke to the Federal Lands and Property Rights Committees.

Donald Krambeer was transferred from the Denver VA hospital back to the VA in Helena, Mont., after doctors found a staph infection in a heart valve. He has to be on IV drugs for the next 5 to 7 weeks so he has since been admitted to the VA in Bozeman for long term treatment. Thankfully, he's feeling better.

The Reva/Sorum Fire Department pancake supper at the Reva Hall Saturday evening was well attended. Thank you to all the friends and neighbors who show up to contribute to keeping up with the expenses of our all volunteer fire department. It is much appreciated!

As I write this on Monday, the president and Congress are deadlocked and it looks like the government will be shutting down for the 17th time since 1995 at midnight. The House has twice passed a Continuing Resolution to fund the government and both were rejected by the Senate, the first because it would have defunded the very unpopular PPACA, otherwise known as ObamaCare. The second CR would have merely delayed implementation of ObamaCare for a year.

Obama refuses to negotiate with the House to try to resolve the crisis, although he has spent days negotiating with our sworn enemy in Iran. Neither Obama nor Harry Reid is willing to give an inch towards lessening the disastrous effects ObamaCare will have on our health care system,

although Obama has given multiple exemptions to big business and major corporations that contributed to his campaign, even exempting Congress and their staff.

The only folks not getting exemptions are the American citizens.

Here's what the media says about ObamaCare: "This is legislation that was 2,500 pages long is now 20,000 pages of legislation," the Cato Institute's Michael Tanner said. That's 17,500 pages of new regulations written by bureaucrats on top of an already complex law passed by Congress.

According to the Wall Street Journal, ObamaCare's regulations and price controls ensure that coverage will be more expensive. Coverage will cost about 20 percent to 30 percent more on average, and often much more for the younger and healthier who are forced to cross-subsidize more expensive patients.

This is far from Mr. Obama's promise of a \$2,500 per-family discount on premiums. Forbes magazine claims Obamacare will increase health spending by \$7,450 a year for a typical family of four.

Let me get this straight. Obama's health care plan was:

- * written by a committee whose head says he doesn't understand it,
- * passed by a Congress that didn't read it,
- * signed by a president who smokes,
- * was funded by a treasury chief who did not pay his taxes,
- * overseen by a surgeon general who is obese, and
- * financed by a country that is not only broke, but is \$17 trillion dollars in debt.

What could possibly go wrong?