

# The Press Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

## Climate Change Pact Just A Start

**STAR TRIBUNE of Minneapolis (Dec. 14):** Given the grave danger posed by unchecked climate change, it's understandable that concerned citizens worldwide would want to hail the historic carbon-emission deal inked in Paris last weekend. And, in fact, getting consensus from 195 nations with varying levels of economic and political development — let alone environmental consciousness — is a remarkable diplomatic accomplishment. But with climate scientists stating that the nonbinding agreement won't fully solve the problem — even if it's fully implemented — it's clear that the Paris pact is just the beginning, not the end, of global efforts to curb emissions.

The accord acknowledges that updates to the plan will be needed. There is a legal requirement that every five years each country will need to present new emission reduction targets. This is essential in order to reach the stated objective of holding the increase in the average global temperature to less than 2 degrees Celsius (about 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). But some scientists suggest that the most devastating climate change impact could be avoided if the increase is at or below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Achieving either of these goals will require advancements in technology and, perhaps more challenging, political will. Transitioning to lower carbon emissions will be difficult and expensive, but it won't be as costly as the economic, political and security upheavals that aggressive global warming would bring.

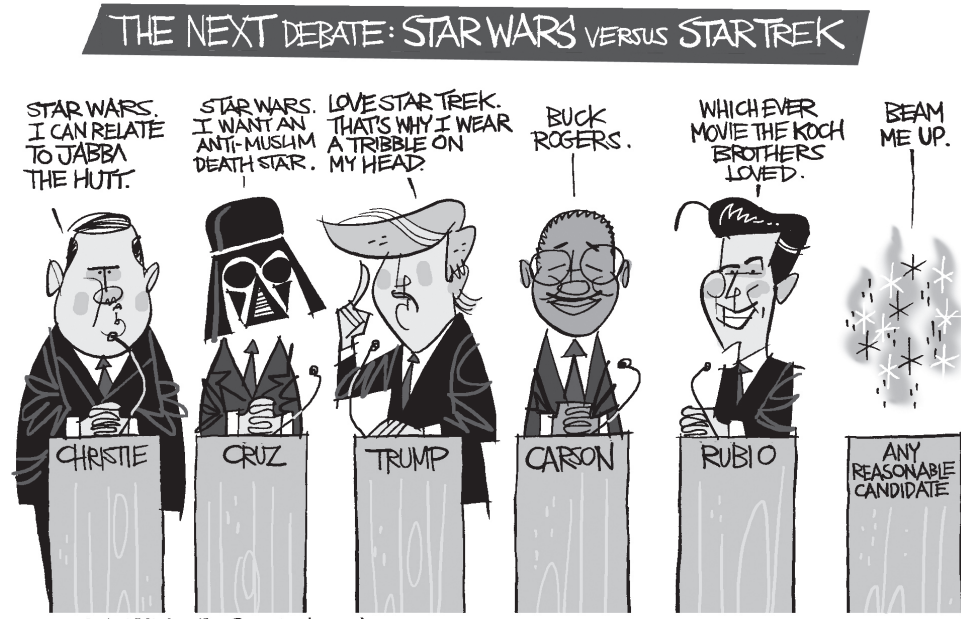
Developing nations are among those that could be most impacted. That's why it's important that while every country is expected to contribute to the solution, there is a suggested mechanism that may provide funding — up to \$100 billion annually, per some suggestions — to help developing nations adapt more renewable sources of energy.

Of course, the top emitters are the U.S. and China, which have the world's top two economies. So it was important that these two nations announced in advance of the conference plans to reduce carbon emissions.

Each nation will have its own unique challenges, however. China is still trying to lift millions out of poverty, and a further economic slowdown from cutting emissions may retard that objective. But the need is apparent, as evidenced by last week's latest first air pollution "red alert" in Beijing, and the central government's rule by fiat will likely mean movement toward its commitment.

U.S. leadership is imperiled, too, since President Barack Obama's incremental progress could be undone by Republicans, especially by 2016 presidential candidates who pledge to undo Obama's executive actions to lower emissions.

That would be a terrible decision in the short-term but especially in the long-term, because the hard work on combating climate change has only just begun.



Kindle's Korner

## School Security And Blue-Ribbon Ideas

DR. WAYNE KINDLE  
Yankton School District

As of Friday, Dec. 4, all front entrances to our school attendance centers have been locked and will remain locked. An on-site inspection of all front entrances to our attendance centers was done on Dec. 4 by our security camera providers from Sioux Falls.

On Monday, Dec. 7, a video camera/buzzer system was installed at Yankton High School and fully operational on Tuesday, Dec. 8. This system allows video and two way communication between the office and any person asking permission to enter the school.

All elementary schools and Yankton Middle School had a temporary door bell system installed and operable on Tuesday, Dec. 8. This allows a person to ring the door bell and a staff member to go to the main entrance. The temporary door bell system will be replaced by the same security system used at YHS. These security systems will be installed at our elementary schools and Yankton Middle School over the Christmas break.

In addition to the front entrance security measures, our elementary schools and YHS were updated with new security camera systems in the past few months. Yankton Middle School was scheduled for a new camera security system next July, but this has been scheduled to be done over Christmas break. There are additional security measures planned and being implemented. These will be discussed in more detail after Christmas break.

A Comprehensive Facilities Study has been under way for several weeks and a primary focus will be school safety. As this study continues, more information will be provided to the public and an opportunity for the public to participate will be provided.

A sincere "thank you" to the students, staff, parents and community members for their concerns, as well as support regarding school safety.

BLUE RIBBON TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

I want to personally thank the members of the Blue Ribbon Task Force and our very own Beth Pietila from Yankton. Beth served as a parent representative on the task force.

It is important to note these are recommendations and some of the recommendations did not represent a consensus of the task force. The report has been provided to the Governor for his review. The South Dakota Legislature will begin their work soon on determining the focus and direction of school funding, as well as the teacher shortage.

There are some key areas in the report, which concern the Yankton School District. I have outlined the concerns we have regarding these areas:

I. Capital Outlay — The YSD would be very concerned with taking a .5 mill out of our Capital Outlay and shifting this revenue to the General Fund. Shifting a .5 mill out of Capital Outlay equates to a \$675,000 cut in revenue to Capital Outlay. This is not new revenue, it is a shift in current funds.

II. Other Revenue — The YSD would be devastated if "Other Revenue" is changed to equally distribute "Other Revenue" among all districts in South Dakota. Shifting "other revenue" is not new revenue; it is shifting current money. Currently, YSD receives approximately \$1,132,162 in "Other Revenue" as follows:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Unexpected Event

**Arda Hoffman, Yankton**  
What a week for Yankton High School following Thanksgiving.  
A big "THANK YOU" to: God, the Administration, the School Staff and Students, Law Enforcement, Fire Department (they were ready), EMTs (they were ready) and the Prayer Warriors.  
You didn't know we have Prayer Warriors

P & D LETTER POLICY

The PRESS & DAKOTAN invites its readers to write letters to the editor. We ask that a few simple guidelines be followed:  
• Please limit letters to 300 words or less. Letters should deal with a single subject, be of general interest and state a specific point of view. Letters are edited with brevity, clarity and newspaper style in mind.  
• In the sense of fairness and professionalism, the PRESS & DAKOTAN will accept no letters attacking private individuals or businesses.

- Utility Taxes (B-Y Electric and other Cooperatives): \$374,308;
- County Apportionment (Weigh Station): \$378,381;
- State Apportionment (School and Public Land): \$214,273;
- Bank Franchise: \$165,200.

III. Pension Fund Levy — The YSD would be very concerned with eliminating the Pension Fund Levy and combining it with the General Fund. The YSD generates \$395,000 in revenue, which is used to pay a portion of the school district's share of the South Dakota Retirement System. The Pension Fund was created several years ago by the S.D. Legislature and it is working as it should.

IV. Student-to-Teacher Ratio — Throughout the Blue Ribbon Task Force work, there were discussions and recommendations made from the task force to maintain the average statewide Student-to-Teacher Ratio at 14:1. Any higher ratio would significantly reduce funding to the YSD.

V. Local Control — The tax payers in the Yankton School District have always appreciated local control. The Capital Outlay and Pension Fund have both provided reliable and adequate funding. Both funds have been used effectively and efficiently by the YSD for many years. These levies and funds need to be left intact, as they currently function allowing local school districts to manage both according to local needs.

KINDLE'S MONTHLY COFFEE, COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PARENTS

We have hosted Kindle's Coffee at Stewart Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School and Beadle Elementary School. The coffee time is open to anybody who wishes to come and visit, whether you have children in school or not, you are welcome to attend.

The superintendent will provide a 10-minute update on the Yankton School District. The building principal will give a 10-minute overview of Q&A, followed by a tour of the build for those interested. Along with coffee, there will be rolls/donuts served.

- The following are dates/times/locations for upcoming Kindle Coffees:
- Dec. 22 — 9-9:45 a.m.: Webster Elementary School
  - Jan. 11 — 9-9:45 a.m.: Yankton Middle School

SUPERINTENDENT PRESENTATIONS

As superintendent, I would be happy to visit with you personally or speak to your group/organization. I am also willing to host your group at our Administration Building or one of our school buildings. I would also come to your facility or meeting place.

Since taking my new position as superintendent, I have spoken to several groups throughout our community and have hosted groups at our Administration Building. Please feel free to contact me at 665-3998 to arrange a time to visit.

Let's continue to have a great year!  
Henry Ford stated, "Coming together is a beginning. Staying together is a process. Working together is a success."

Dr. Wayne Kindle is superintendent of the Yankton School District.

IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Thursday, Dec. 17, the 351st day of 2015. There are 14 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On Dec. 17, 1865, Franz Schubert's Symphony No. 8, known as the "Unfinished" because only two movements had been completed, was first performed publicly in Vienna, 37 years after the composer's death.

**On this date:** In 1777, France recognized American independence.

In 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright of Dayton, Ohio, conducted the first successful manned powered-airplane flights near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, using their experimental craft, the Wright Flyer.

In 1925, Col. William "Billy" Mitchell was convicted at his court-martial in Washington of insubordination for accusing senior military officials of incompetence and criminal negligence; he was suspended from active duty.

In 1939, the German pocket battleship Admiral Graf Spee was scuttled by its crew, ending the World War II Battle of the River Plate off Uruguay.

In 1944, the U.S. War Department announced it was ending its policy of excluding people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast.

In 1957, the United States successfully test-fired the Atlas intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time.

In 1969, the U.S. Air Force closed its Project "Blue Book" by concluding there was no evidence of extraterrestrial spacecrafts behind thousands of UFO sightings. An estimated 50 million TV viewers watched singer Tiny Tim marry his fiancée, Miss Vicki (Budingar), on NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1975, Lynette Fromme was sentenced in Sacramento, California, to life in prison for her attempt on the life of President Gerald R. Ford. (Fromme was paroled in August 2009.)

In 1979, Arthur McDuffie, a black insurance executive, was fatally injured after leading police on a chase with his motorcycle in Miami. (Four white police officers accused of beating McDuffie were later acquitted, sparking riots.)

In 1981, members of the Red Brigades kidnapped Brig. Gen. James L. Dozier, the highest-ranking U.S. Army official in southern Europe, from his home in Verona, Italy. (Dozier was rescued 42 days later.)

In 1944, North Korea shot down a U.S. Army helicopter which had strayed north of the demilitarized zone. The co-pilot, Chief Warrant Officer David Hilemon, was killed; the pilot, Chief Warrant Officer Bobby Hall, was captured and held for nearly two weeks.

In 2011, North Korean leader Kim Jong Il died after more than a decade of iron rule; he was 69, according to official records, but some reports indicated he was 70.

**Ten years ago:** President George W. Bush, in his weekly radio address, acknowledged he'd personally authorized a secret eavesdropping program in the U.S. following 9/11, calling it "crucial to our national security." Protesters in Hong Kong tried to storm a convention center where

World Trade Organization delegates were negotiating a global accord on farming, manufacturing and services. John Ruiz lost the WBA heavyweight title, dropping a disputed majority decision to Nikolay Valuev of Russia in Berlin. Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Jack Anderson died in Bethesda, Maryland, at age 83.

**Five years ago:** President Barack Obama signed into law a huge, holiday-season tax bill extending cuts for all Americans, saluting a new spirit of political compromise as Republicans applauded and liberals seethed. Federal prosecutors reached a settlement with the estate of Florida philanthropist Jeffrey Picower in which his widow, Barbara, agreed to return \$7.2 billion that her husband had reaped from Bernard Madoff's giant Ponzi scheme. Don Van Vliet, a musician and artist who'd performed a complex brand of experimental rock under the name Captain Beefheart, died in Arcata, California, at age 69. New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees was voted the 2010 Male Athlete of the Year by members of The Associated Press.

**One year ago:** The United States and Cuba restored diplomatic relations, sweeping away one of the last vestiges of the Cold War. Sony Pictures canceled the Dec. 25 release of "The Interview," a black comedy about a plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, after hackers threatened terrorist attacks and the largest multiplex chains in North America pulled the film. Veteran broadcast journalist Richard C. Hottel, 97, the last of the original "Murrow's Boys," died in Wilton, Connecticut.

**Today's Birthdays:** Actor Armin Mueller-Stahl is 85. Pope Francis is 79. Singer-actor Tommy Steele is 79. Rock singer-musician Art Neville is 78. Actor Bernard Hill is 71. Actor Ernie Hudson is 70. Political commentator Chris Matthews is 70. Comedian-actor Eugene Levy is 69. Actress Marilyn Hasset is 68. Actor Wes Studi is 68. Pop musician Jim Bonfanti (The Raspberries) is 67. Actor Joel Brooks is 66. Rock singer Paul Rodgers is 66. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanda Hutchinson (The Emotions) is 64. Actor Bill Pullman is 62. Actor Barry Livingston is 62. Country singer Sharon White is 62. Producer-director-writer Peter Farrelly is 59. Rock musician Mike Mills (R.E.M.) is 57. Pop singer Sarah Dallin (Bananarama) is 54. Country musician Tim Chewning is 53. Country singer Tracy Byrd is 49. Country musician Duane Propp is 49. Actress Laurie Holden is 46. DJ Homicide (Sugar Ray) is 45. Actor Sean Patrick Thomas is 45. Actress Claire Forlani is 44. Pop-rock musician Eddie Fisher (OneRepublic) is 42. Actress Sarah Paulson is 41. Actress Marissa Ribisi is 41. Actor Giovanni Ribisi is 41. Actress Milla Jovovich is 40. Singer Bree Sharp is 40. Singer-songwriter Ben Goldwasser (MGMT) is 33. Rock singer Mikky Ekko is 32. Actress Shannon Woodward is 31. Actress Emma Bell is 29. Actress Vanessa Zima is 29. Rock musician Taylor York (Paramore) is 26. Actor Graham Rogers is 25. Actor-singer Nat Wolff is 21.

**Thought for Today:** "A life of leisure and a life of laziness are two things." — "Poor Richard's Almanack."

FROM THE BIBLE

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — if indeed you have a tasted that the Lord is good. 1 Peter 2:2-3. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.