



THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

THE DAKOTAS' OLDEST NEWSPAPER | FOUNDED 1861
Yankton Media, Inc., 319 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078

OPINION | OUR VIEW

Dry Times And The Need For Caution

It may shock some people to consider that, one year after the Yankton area endured what has been dubbed the Missouri River Flood of 2011, we now find ourselves coping with a drought. But it really isn't so shocking. After all, this isn't the first time in which the whims of Mother Nature seem to have turned on a dime, going from one extreme to the next practically overnight and literally without notice. Nevertheless, here we sit. The immediate Yankton area appears to be on the northern edge of a drought encroaching from the south, according to last week's U.S. Drought Monitor report. Approximately 47 percent of South Dakota is now considered in a moderate drought, with about 3 percent in a severe drought. Overall, about 96 percent of the state is in some form of drought or dry condition, according to SDSU Extension.

In fact, this wasn't an "overnight" change. The dry pattern began creeping into the region last summer with long dry stretches broken up by sporadic rains. It was really a stroke of good fortune. More heavy rains at that point would have exacerbated the flooding not only on the Missouri, but also on the James, which endured prolonged flooding in this area last year. A mild, dry winter followed, trailed by a decent spring but a parched June. From the year between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012, Yankton unofficially received 19.86 inches of moisture, which was almost 4 inches below the normal pace. Much of that shortfall occurred last month when Yankton's rainfall was almost 3 inches below normal.

The dry conditions can vary greatly in short areas. Some areas in northern Hutchinson County reportedly received heavy rain from storms in late June, but the county just enacted a burn ban all the same. And last week, a storm that brought a quarter-inch of rain to Yankton reportedly dumped about 2 inches of rain in the Irene and Viborg areas, while missing other spots completely. And word is that to the north of this immediate area, the crops look good, although last week's heatwave may have had some impact.

But for now, we have to cope with the dry facts of dry times, and we must act accordingly. It means — in fact, it demands — using common sense when working or recreating in dry areas. It means making sure campfires are smothered completely; a gust of wind could carry a stray ember away and ignite trouble. It means using care when operating machinery in dry areas, for even a small spark from, say, metal hitting a rock could cause problems. It means NOT tossing smoldering cigarette butts out of vehicles. In short, it means thinking before you act, and backtracking to be sure that something small won't turn into something big.

Yet conditions can compel us to dispense with such cautious behaviors, for obvious reasons. But when the reverse comes, practically everything we took for granted before demands scrutiny. Until it rains again in good, consistent amounts, we need to think about our actions and the consequences. The brown, withering world many of us confront now is like a fuse, and we must be careful where our sparks fly.

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Words Versus Deeds

BY KATHLEEN PARKER
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CAMDEN, S.C. — South Carolina politics never fails to amuse — and bemuse.

A recent ethics imbroglio between Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and GOP activist John Rainey is a case in point.

The squabble would be of passing provincial interest if Haley weren't a rising star often mentioned on lists of potential vice presidential candidates.

And had she not called Rainey, a nationally recognized philanthropist and community bridge-builder, a "racist, sexist bigot."

Such charges deserve clarification and context.

Haley made the remarks during a state House Ethics Committee hearing that was prompted by a complaint Rainey filed alleging that Haley had lobbied illegally while she was a legislator. Haley has been cleared of any wrongdoing and there's no need to re-litigate here, though Rainey promises that the issue is not dead.

Meanwhile, her invectives toward Rainey, though perhaps understandable given an exchange between them (about which more anon), are contradicted by his record. Rainey is anything but racist, sexist or bigoted.

Haley's feelings apparently had been hurt during her one meeting with Rainey while she was a gubernatorial candidate. She had sought the meeting, doubtless hoping for financial and political support, but Rainey was skeptical. He knew nothing about her at the time, he told me, and couldn't find anyone who did. Everyone he spoke to said the same thing in so many words: "I don't know anything about her, but I know she's the party's candidate and I support her."

"That," Rainey told me, "is the kind of thing that makes me want to throw up." Party loyalty over all other considerations is what ails American politics, he said.

In questioning Haley at the meeting, Rainey indicated that all cards needed to be on the table, that he didn't want to find out at some point that her family had ties to terrorists. Haley, who is of Sikh Indian descent, clearly took offense.

Nevertheless, she wrote a nice note to him, Rainey said, remarking that she never showed any indication of offense during their meeting until he raised questions about her lobbying activities. "That was the end of the meeting," Rainey said, but his curiosity was further piqued. He began probing her past and raised questions about what he viewed as ethical transgressions. Rainey doesn't recall making the specific "terrorist"

remark, but takes the word of others present that he did. Any such comment, he insists, would have been in a "jocular, expansive fashion," rather than mean-spirited.

Rainey is known to be outspoken and irreverent, but also as a scrapper for fairness and reconciliation. Comments offered in jest or off-handedly nonetheless can be wounding, which Rainey acknowledges and now has experienced.

Inarguably, the governor's charges, made publicly and aimed at a citizen, albeit a powerful one, are far more damaging than whatever Rainey said during a private meeting. Judge as you may, but consider the following facts before accepting Haley's indictment of Rainey.

For no personal gain, Rainey frequently has raised money and organized groups in common cause across party lines. He and wife, Anne, marched in 2000 with 46,000 others to protest the Confederate flag, which then flew atop the South Carolina Capitol dome. He personally hosted several private meetings with NAACP and legislative leaders to find a compromise for the flag's removal.

He served as executive producer and raised funds to finance Bud Ferillo's documentary "Corridor of Shame" about the dismal condition of public schools along the I-95 corridor through South Carolina. Candidate Barack Obama visited one of those schools and cited the corridor in campaign speeches.

In 1999, Rainey chaired the fundraising committee for the African-American History Monument on Statehouse grounds. In 2002, while chairman of Brookgreen Gardens, he raised funds to erect a World War I doughboy statue in Columbia's Memorial Park and sponsored a bust of a 54th Massachusetts Infantry African-American soldier. He received the sixth annual I. DeQuincey Newman Humanitarian Award in 2004, named for the United Methodist minister and first African-American elected to the South Carolina Senate following Reconstruction.

Latest to the roster is a sculpture Rainey has commissioned honoring two Camden natives, financier Bernard Baruch and baseball great Larry Doby. Baruch was a philanthropist, statesman and consultant to presidents (Woodrow Wilson and Franklin D. Roosevelt). Doby was the first African-American in the American League and was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998.

The sculpture, which will be unveiled next April, is a monument not only to two local heroes, but also to the sort of reconciliation Rainey represents. His record speaks louder than words.

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Kathleen PARKER

The Rez Of The Story

Health Care In Indian Country

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives), The Affordable Care Act just recently held to be "constitutional" by the U.S. Supreme Court has been the source of much debate and it seems chronic political divisiveness of late. The political pundits and commentators have much fodder for discussion and the "Beat Goes On," like the Sonny and Cher song says.

And so while the rest of America sorts all of this out, I thought it would be a good time to let those of you who don't know and those of you who do (a reminder) to take note of how health care for Native people who live on or near Indian reservations is provided. (However, Native people who live outside the reservation must obtain health care like everyone else in America, including health insurance.)

In Indian country, it is generally known that the Indian Health Service (IHS) is the primary and preventive health care provider for Native people. The IHS developed out of humble beginnings in 1954 now with an annual budget of about \$2.2 billion. Its mission statement reads: "Our mission, in partnership with American Indian and Alaska Native people, is to raise their physical, mental, social, and spiritual health to the highest level."

Here, taken from Jack Utter's "American Indians-Answers to Today's Questions," are some interesting facts for your and my edification.

"In the opening years of the 2000s, the IHS [had] a service population of around 1.5 million. This number has increased from 1.2 million in 1990. The average increase is about 2 percent per year. The IHS has about 15,800 employees, of whom 62 percent are American Indians. This relatively high percentage of Native employees is attributable to an Indian hiring preference comparable to that of the BIA. In recent years, the IHS has employed a medical staff of approximately 840 physicians, 100 physician assistants, 2,580 nurses, 350 pharmacists, 380 dentists, 60 optometrists, 45 physical therapists, 7 nutritionists, 80 dietitians, and 285 medical technologists."

Indians who are eligible for health care service through the IHS "... include 'Indians' (which incorporates Alaska Natives) who (a) are bona fide members of federally recognized tribes, bands, nations, villages, communities, organized groups, or Alaska Native Corporations and (b) reside in a geographically designated Health Service Delivery Area. Beneficiaries also include minor children who are not directly eligible but who have at least one parent who is.

"Non-Indian women who are pregnant with an eligible Indian's child are also eligible, but only during the pregnancy and for about six weeks after birth. Non-Indian members of an eligible Indian's household may be eligible for service if it is necessary to control an acute infectious disease or other immediate public health hazard. Public Health Service and other federal beneficiaries may also be eligible under certain circumstances. "Ineligible non-Indians may receive emergency treatment on a fee-for-service basis. Also, on reservations or remote settings where tribes will approve it, non-Indians living in an IHS area may receive medical services if (a) they pay for them and (b) providing the service does not interfere with delivery of services to Indian beneficiaries.

"The Indian Health Service and the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center Library have collaborated in the development of the 'Native Health Research Database.' According to the IHS, this database includes various Indian health documents and other materials that have been published since 1970. Additionally, the IHS has developed the 'Native Health History Database,' which is a computerized resource that contains bibliographic information and abstracts on historical Indian medical and health research reports and covers the remarkable period from 1652 to 1970. These two databases can be accessed through the IHS's website at www.ihs.gov/MedicalPrograms/Health-Care/info.asp (March 18, 2000). (For more on the Indian Health Service and its history, policy, and performance, see Boyum 1989 and Pfefferbaum et al. 1996.)

And now you know the rez of the story. Doksha (later) ...



Vince TWO EAGLES

YOUR LETTERS

Why The Difference?

David DeWitt, Yankton

A Facebook friend posted a picture of her filling up with \$3.03 a gallon gasoline along the interstate in Omaha (June 28). Can someone please tell me why

there is a 30 cents-per-gallon increase in gas price from there to Yankton? It certainly isn't freight charges. Is the extra secretly going to the schools for an opt-out? Is the money going toward turning a bridge into a sidewalk (I certainly don't see \$6.5 million there)? Please can someone tell me?

ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the *Press & Dakotan's* Web site are as follows:

LATEST RESULTS:

Who do you support in the South Dakota U.S. House race between Kristi Noem and Matt Varilek?

Varilek	57%
Noem	37%
Not sure/neither	6%
TOTAL VOTES CAST	712

The *Press & Dakotan* Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Do you believe the Yankton area is in a drought?

To vote in the *Press & Dakotan's* Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, July 10, the 192nd day of 2012. There are 174 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On July 10, 1962, AT&T's Telstar 1 communications satellite, capable of relaying television signals and telephone calls, was launched by NASA from Cape Canaveral. President John F. Kennedy signed the All-Channel Receiver Act, which required that new TV sets be capable of receiving UHF (ultra-high frequency) channels 14 through 83 in addition to VHF (very high frequency) channels 2 through 13.

On this date: In 1509, theologian John Calvin, a key figure of the Protestant Reformation, was born in Noyon, Picardy, France.

In 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles (vohr-SY) to the Senate, and urged its ratification. (However, the Senate rejected it.)

In 1929, American paper currency was reduced in size as the government began issuing bills that were approximately 25 percent smaller.

In 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as Nazi forces began attacking southern England by air. (The Royal Air Force was ultimately victorious.)

In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean War began at Kaesong.

In 1961, Mildred E. Gillars, also known as "Axis Sally," was paroled from a federal prison in West Virginia after serving 11 years for treason for her propaganda broadcasts from Nazi Germany during World War II.

In 1973, the Bahamas became fully independent after three centuries of British colonial rule.

In 1982, Pope John Paul II named Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin (BUR-nahr-deen) of Cincinnati to succeed the late Cardinal John Cody as head of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

In 1985, the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior was sunk with explosives in Auckland, New Zealand by French intelligence agents; one activist was killed. Bowing to pressure from irate customers, the Coca-Cola Co. said it would resume selling old-formula Coke, while continuing to sell New Coke.

In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic. President George H.W. Bush lifted economic sanctions against South Africa.

In 1992, a New York jury found Pan Am guilty of willful misconduct and responsible for allowing a terrorist bomb to destroy Flight 103 in 1988, killing 270 people, opening the way for civil lawsuits.

Ten years ago:

The House approved, 310-113, a measure to allow airline pilots to carry guns in the cockpit to defend their planes against terrorists (President George W. Bush later signed the measure into law). A unified Senate approved harsh new penalties for corporate fraud and document-shredding (however, the legislation was never enacted).

Five years ago: China executed the former head of its food and drug agency for approving untested medicine in exchange for cash. A judge in Los Angeles sentenced pizza deliveryman Chester Turner to death for murdering 10 women and a fetus during the 1980s and '90s. The American League defeated the National League 5-4 in the All-Star game. Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Doug Marlette, 57, died in an auto accident near Holly Springs, Miss.

One year ago: The space shuttle Atlantis docked with the International Space Station, the final such hookup in orbit. An overloaded cruise vessel sank in Russia's Volga River, killing 122 people. Some 70 people were killed when a train derailed in northern India. Britain's best-selling Sunday tabloid the News of the World, brought down by a phone-hacking scandal, signed off with a simple front page message: "THANK YOU & GOODBYE." Acclaimed French choreographer Roland Petit, 87, died in Geneva.

Today's Birthdays: Former boxer Jake LaMotta is 91. Writer-producer Earl Hamner Jr. is 89. Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins is 85. Actor William Smithers is 85. Broadway composer Jerry Herman is 81. Director Ivan Passer is 79. Actor Lawrence Pressman is 73. Singer Mavis Staples is 73. Actor Mills Watson is 72. Actor Robert Pine is 71. Rock musician Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) is 69. International Tennis Hall of Famer Virginia Wade is 67. Actor Ron Glass is 67. Actress Sue Lyon is 66. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie is 65. Rock musician Dave Smalley is 63. Country-folk singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler is 61. Rock singer Neil Tennant (Pet Shop Boys) is 58. Banjo player Bela Fleck is 54. Country musician Shaw Wilson (BR549) is 52. Country singer-songwriter Ken Mellons is 47. Rock musician Peter DiStefano (Porno for Pyros) is 47. Actor Gale Harold is 43. Country singer Gary LeVox (Rascal Flatts) is 42. Actor Aaron D. Spears is 41. Actress Sofia Vergara is 40. Rockabilly singer Imelda May is 38. Actor Adrian Grenier is 36. Actress Gwendoline Yeo is 35. Actor Thomas Ian Nicholas is 32. Singer-actress Jessica Simpson is 32. Rock musician John Spiker is 31. Actress Heather Hemmens is 28.

Thought for Today: "One must choose in life between boredom and suffering." — Germaine de Staël, French author (1766-1817).

FROM THE BIBLE

The people of Ninevah believed God. They called for a fast and put a sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. Jonah 3:5. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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Published Daily Monday-Saturday

Periodicals postage paid at Yankton, South Dakota, under the act of March 3, 1979.

Weekly Dakotian established June 6, 1861. Yankton Daily Press and Dakotian established April 26, 1875.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078.

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The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan is a member of the Associated Press, the Inland Daily Press Association and the South Dakota Newspaper Association. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to use of all the local news printed in this newspaper.

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