



THE PRESS & DAKOTAN

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OPINION | OUR VIEW

Climate Change And A New Momentum

A declaration Monday by a group of Iowa scientists that the current drought is likely attributable to climate change is important not because of what it says but because of where it may lead us next. The report, called the Iowa Climate Statement, said that the current conditions are consistent with predictions of climate change — namely, stark unstable weather patterns producing meteorological extremes, not only when it's dry but also when it's not dry. (The latter is a point most everyone in this area can appreciate. A year ago, we were saddled with historic flooding that caused millions of dollars of damage along the Missouri River alone. This year, we're wondering where on earth all that water went.)

The Iowa declaration, signed by 138 scientists and researchers from 27 different universities and colleges in the state, becomes the latest salvo in a war over climate change — a topic that has lately entered a new and dramatic chapter.

There has been a long-running battle between the believers and deniers of what was once known as global warming. You know the routine: While a vast majority of scientists are convinced that climate change is happening and is being created, or at least expedited, by man, others either deny it's happening or admit change is taking place but has very little to do with human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels.

Meanwhile, we continue to witness extreme and destructive weather behaviors. In the Yankton area alone, we've seen the massive Christmas blizzard of 2009, the record-breaking floods of 2011 and now the drought of 2012. Taken individually, we've seen these things happen before. But taken as a connected cycle, well, it becomes a dizzying merry-go-round.

Now, the climate change issue has become a more pressing matter, thanks to Superstorm Sandy that so devastatingly pounded the East Coast just a month ago. That storm, striking at probably the mostly heavily populated (and highest profile) area of this nation, has already created changes in the course of this debate.

The most conspicuous turn occurred when New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, an independent who endorsed no one for president in 2008 and was expected to remain neutral again this year, surprisingly endorsed Barack Obama in the wake of the superstorm. Despite strongly criticizing the president, as well as Republican challenger Mitt Romney, on numerous issues, Bloomberg turned to the topic of climate change and said: "One (candidate) sees climate change as an urgent problem that threatens our planet; one does not. I want our president to place scientific evidence and risk management above electoral politics."

Bloomberg's words ring from a disaster that will never be forgotten — and may well be repeated, if climate change predictions are correct.

That storm has the potential to put this issue on a different track, more so than the drought that has touched more than half this nation. But when the drought becomes a supporting talking point coupled with the superstorm, it could change the debate dramatically.

We shall see. Denial has been a formidable player on this issue, and it won't likely back down so easily.

However, the evidence is building up and it's becoming increasingly more difficult to dismiss it or to ridicule it away — especially when you're living in the middle of it.

The Iowa report may not shed new light on what has happened or is taking place, but it may add more impetus on the direction in which the issue will head. At least it seems to stoke the fire of urgency.

kmh

Thanksgiving 2012

Thanks And Giving

Throughout our republic's history, the spirit of Thanksgiving has changed with the times and the circumstances. Once, our public officials set aside a day of thanksgiving to either thank God for our blessings in times of hardship or to commemorate a momentous event such as a bountiful harvest or a victorious battle.

As America matured into a powerful, prosperous colossus, our leaders called upon us to not only give thanks for our wealth and good fortune but to also share with those who may not have so many blessings to count, or who simply may need a helping hand.

This spirit has shown up through the years in the presidential proclamations issued each autumn in declaring a day of Thanksgiving. (Curiously, this ritual still survives, even though few people probably pay attention to the decrees and everyone would observe the holiday anyway.) Many proclamations now call upon a generosity that rings across this nation and into each heart.

This spirit can be seen in the 1981 proclamation by Ronald Reagan. His first such decree, Reagan asked Americans to "extend a helping hand to the less fortunate." The words embody the modern spirit of a nation that has much for which to be thankful and has much to share.

As is our tradition, we devote this Thanksgiving eve to publish a past presidential publication, courtesy of the Pilgrim Hall Museum (PilgrimHall.org) in Plymouth, Mass. Reagan's 1981 statement is a fitting message to share in a time of sharing.



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one must give in order to receive. This should be a day of giving as well as a day of thanks.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving in 1981, we should reflect on the full meaning of this day as we enjoy the fellowship that is so much a part of the holiday festivities. Searching our hearts, we should ask what we can do as individuals to demonstrate our gratitude to God for all He has done. Such reflection can only add to the significance of this precious day of remembrance.

Let us recommit ourselves to that devotion to God and family that has played such an important role in making this a great Nation, and which will be needed as a source of strength if we are to remain a great people.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RONALD REAGAN, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 26, 1981, as Thanksgiving Day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and eighty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and sixth.
RONALD REAGAN

November 12, 1981 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, A PROCLAMATION

America has much for which to be thankful. The unequalled freedom enjoyed by our citizens has provided a harvest of plenty to this nation throughout its history. In keeping with America's heritage, one day each year is set aside for giving thanks to God for all of His blessings.

On this day of thanksgiving, it is appropriate that we recall the first thanksgiving, celebrated in the autumn of 1621. After surviving a bitter winter, the Pilgrims planted and harvested a bountiful crop. After the harvest they gathered their families together and joined in celebration and prayer with the native Americans who had taught them so much. Clearly our forefathers were thankful not only for the material well-being of their harvest but for this abundance of goodwill as well.

In this spirit, Thanksgiving has become a day when Americans extend a helping hand to the less fortunate. Long before there was a government welfare program, this spirit of voluntary giving was ingrained in the American character. Americans have always understood that, truly,

The Rez of the Story

What Makes A Person An 'Elder'?

BY VINCE TWO EAGLES

Hau Mitakuepi (Greetings My Relatives),
The German writer Jean Paul Richter who lived between 1763 and 1825 once wrote, "Like a morning dream, life becomes more and more bright the longer we live, and the reason of everything appears more clear. What has puzzled us before seems less mysterious, and the crooked paths look straighter as we approach the end."

This week I was asked by a good friend to say a few words about what it means to be an elder. As my friend and I discussed this vast subject and all its possibilities, I was reminded about my own "coming to terms" with eldership as I quickly approach my 60th birthday in a couple of months. My thoughts drifted in and out of my consciousness as my memories were steadily unfolding about my experiences with many elders and old folks over the course of my life.

Don L. Coyhis, who hails from the Mohican Nation, tells us in his book entitled "Meditations with Native American Elders" that: "Along time ago our elders had sacred knowledge and beliefs that they passed down to the children. The children grew up to become Elders and so the cycle continued. This knowledge and belief was aligned with the Red Road. Something has happened to the people because our beliefs are confusing now. But the beautiful thing about human beings is that we can change our beliefs any time we want. To find the Red Road again and to live in harmony with all things, we must listen to the Elders and let them teach us."

So who are the "Elders" and what do they have to "teach us," as Don L. Coyhis puts it? Does merely getting older qualify one as an Elder? And for that matter is it even necessary to be older to be considered an elder? Clearly there are people who have attained some degree of longevity who would qualify while it is equally true that there are young people who have demonstrated profound wisdom in their words and actions.

I know that for the most part young people have a hard time living in harmony with anyone other than themselves. Many young people are seen by elders as selfish and self-centered but every once in awhile we here stories on the nightly news or read in the paper about young people who

have stepped up to be counted in the annals of altruism. It is truly astounding to witness what young people can do when they put their minds to it. In doing so they remind all of us all of the deep good we can and ought to be and it shows that they must have had excellent caretakers, teachers and role models.

Elders carry with in their minds and hearts knowledge about what "has been" — what has proven to be tried and true, what there is to avoid. Elders carry stories about our individual and collective origins and thus inform the next generation about the journey ahead. Elders have credibility. Elders are responsible. Elders have honor. Elders tell the truth. Elders are fair minded and justice orientated. Elders are humanistic and have great compassion which gives them understanding and mercy. Elders have acquired patience over the years and as a result make excellent members of any advisory team. Elders have experience and genuine know-how because of it. Elders are consistent which contributes to a more secure family and a more secure society in general. Elders are self-sacrificing. Elders have an honest and spontaneous sense of humor.

Elders help us move forward with our eyes open rather than blindly accepting that which we perceive as inevitable — how to think critically. As my mother often says, "Been there, done that." As the saying goes, "To know is to do." Wisdom comes from doing rather than just saying. More than anything else I think that wisdom is the best criterion to determine who is an Elder as opposed to someone who is merely aging. If a person has been practicing what they preach all their lives to the best of their ability, that person is an Elder. An Elder knows when to duck and when to stand still — when to hold them and when to fold them.

Ultimately, an Elder knows that we are all fallible and being human makes us prone to making mistakes; learning from those mistakes and with lessons learned, move into the future more competent and with forgiveness in our hearts. My grandfather used to say, "Watch what a man does and not what he says."

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



Vince TWO EAGLES

YOUR LETTERS

Inspiring Program

J.L. and Betty Reynolds, Yankton

On Nov. 9, we attended the Veteran's Day program at Yankton Middle School honoring USA servicemen and veterans. The whole program was excellent, including fine speakers, narrators, beautiful music, video pictures, photo and name tributes to servicemen, etc.

As the Veterans of Foreign Wars Color Guard presented the USA colors, all of the students stood at attention, honoring our flag and all that it means to us. During the entire program, they were respectful, quiet and courteous. Our community can be very proud of our Middle

School students. These young people are fine examples of those who will one day be leaders in our community and our nation.

So much work and planning must have gone into this program, the 10th by YMS. Please attend next year's program, if possible. You will be inspired!

Thank you to the Yankton Middle School faculty and students, VFW Color Guard, VFW Women's Auxiliary, program committee, speakers, narrators, greeters, ushers, musicians, cookie and coffee servers and all others who contributed in making this exceptional program possible. We appreciate you!

THE VIEWS PAGE

The PRESS & DAKOTAN Views page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the PRESS & DAKOTAN. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press
Today is Wednesday, Nov. 21, the 326th day of 2012. There are 40 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 21, 1942, the Alaska Highway, also known as the Alcan Highway, was formally opened at Soldier's Summit in the Yukon Territory.

On this date: In 1789, North Carolina became the 12th state to ratify the U.S. Constitution.

In 1861, Judah Benjamin, who had been acting Confederate Secretary of War, was formally named to the post.

In 1912, actress and dancer Eleanor Powell was born in Springfield, Mass.

In 1920, the Irish Republican Army killed 12 British intelligence officers and two auxiliary policemen in the Dublin area; British forces responded by raiding a soccer match, killing 14 civilians.

In 1922, Rebecca L. Felton of Georgia was sworn in as the first woman to serve in the U.S. Senate.

In 1931, the Universal horror film "Frankenstein," starring Boris Karloff as the monster and Colin Clive as his creator, was first released.

In 1934, the Cole Porter musical "Anything Goes," starring Ethel Merman as Reno Sweeney, opened on Broadway.

In 1969, the Senate voted down the Supreme Court nomination of Clement F. Haynsworth, 55-45, the first such rejection since 1930.

In 1973, President Richard Nixon's attorney, J. Fred Buzhardt, revealed the existence of an 18 1/2-minute gap in one of the White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1974, bombs exploded at a pair of pubs in Birmingham, England, killing 21 people. (Six suspects were convicted of the attack, but the convictions of the so-called "Birmingham Six" were overturned in 1991.)

In 1980, 87 people died in a fire at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev.

In 1991, the U.N. Security Council chose Boutros Boutros-Ghali of Egypt to be Secretary-General.

Ten years ago: In a historic eastward shift, NATO expanded its membership into the borders of the former Soviet Union as it invited seven former communist countries (Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia) under its security umbrella. In northern Nigeria, deadly rioting erupted after a newspaper suggested Islam's founding prophet Muhammad would have approved of the Miss World beauty pageant, scheduled to be held in the Nigerian capital, Abuja (the

event was moved to London). Eleven bus passengers were killed in a suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

Five years ago: New Hampshire set its earliest-ever presidential primary, deciding on Jan. 8, 2008. Officials announced the recall of more than a half-million pieces of Chinese-made children's jewelry contaminated with lead. Engineer Herbert Saffir, who created the five-category system used to describe hurricane strength, died in Miami at age 90.

One year ago: Congress' bipartisan deficit reduction "supercommittee," tasked with finding \$1.2 trillion in cuts over a decade, failed; under the law that established the committee, inability to reach a compromise would trigger about \$1 trillion in automatic spending cuts in military and domestic government programs beginning in 2013. Detroit's Justin Verlander became the first starting pitcher in a quarter-century to be voted Most Valuable Player. Author Ann McCaffrey, 85, whose vision of an interstellar alliance between humans and dragons spawned the science fiction "Dragonriders of Pern" novels, died south of Dublin.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Stan Musial is 92. Actor Joseph Campanella is 85. Country singer Jean Shepard is 79. Actor Laurence Luckinbill is 78. Actress Marlo Thomas is 75. Actor Rick Lenz is 73. Singer Dr. John is 72. Actress Juliet Mills is 71. Basketball Hall of Famer Earl Monroe is 68. Comedian-director Harold Ramis is 68. Television producer Marcy Carmy is 68. Actress Goldie Hawn is 67. Movie director Andrew Davis is 66. Rock musician Lonnie Jordan (War) is 64. Singer Livingston Taylor is 62. Actress-singer Lorna Luft is 60. Actress Cherry Jones is 56. Rock musician Brian Ritchie (The Violent Femmes) is 52. Gospel singer Steven Curtis Chapman is 50. Actress Nicolette Sheridan is 49. Singer-actress Bjork is 47. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Troy Aikman is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chaucney Hannibal (BLACKstreet) is 44. Rock musician Alex James (Blur) is 44. MLB All-Star player Ken Griffey Jr. is 43. TV personality Rib Hillis is 42. Rapper Pretty Lou (Lost Boyz) is 41. Football player-turned-talk show host Michael Strahan is 41. Country singer Kelsi Osborn (SHeDAISY) is 38. Singer-actress Lindsey Haun is 28. Actress Jena Malone is 28. Pop singer Carly Rae Jepsen is 27. Actor-singer Sam Palladio (TV: "Nashville") is 25.

Thought for Today: "A concept is stronger than a fact." — Charlotte P. Gilman, American lecturer and author (1860-1935).

FROM THE BIBLE

Bring the tribe of Levi near, and set them before Aaron the priest, that they may minister to him. Numbers 3:6. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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