

The Press & Dakotan

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OPINION OTHER VIEWS

Is Washington Teaming With Syria?

THE DAILY STAR, Beirut (Nov. 17): President Barack Obama spent some of his weekend tour of Asia discussing his country's policy on confronting the extremist group ISIS, and he had significant things to say about President Bashar Assad.

Observers have been watching the American president closely of late as accusations mount that the White House is coordinating its airstrikes against jihadi groups with the Syrian authorities, who can only benefit from the actions of the U.S.-led coalition.

Obama made it clear that Washington had no intention of joining forces with Assad to defeat ISIS, calling such a move counterproductive. But when asked whether his team was busy discussing ways to remove Assad from power, Obama answered flatly, "No."

While eradicating ISIS is necessary to deal with the Syria crisis, it's not enough. Obama and his team have become adept at saying what they oppose — and acting on it — when it comes to the jihadis, but they're not good at spelling out what they support — or acting on it — when it comes to Syria.

Granted, there is talk of a desired "political solution," but U.S. rhetoric and actions remain muddled on how such a process can be accelerated to save more lives.

The words and deeds are carefully calibrated to play to the supposed American public's preferences, namely fight terror, and don't send U.S. troops.

However, the words have nothing to offer to the majority of Syrians who are anxiously wondering how and when the war will end, with all sides benefiting from stability, justice and better government.

When it comes to deeds, the Obama team's casual indifference to Assad's future translates into indifference to millions of Syrians as they prepare for another miserable winter.

Washington has been prompted to act because of ISIS' gains in Iraq, and it has a policy there, but its Syria policy simply can't be placed on autopilot.

Assisted Suicide's Progress

COLUMBIA (Missouri) DAILY TRIBUNE (Nov. 17): We are hearing more these days about "death with dignity," which is a dignified way of saying it makes sense to breathe our last in the most painless and pleasant way possible under terms we control.

Techniques range from withholding life-sustaining medical intervention to more controversial but increasingly acceptable assisted suicide.

The latter got a lot of publicity recently when 29-year-old Brittany Maynard took her own life rather than suffer the ravages of brain cancer. She had moved to Oregon, one of five states where a doctor can legally prescribe drugs to end life. She did it consciously and with full support of loved ones, whose last memories of Brittany are of a person most comfortable and in most control who simply went to sleep. Brittany wanted to say goodbye on her own terms.

Society continues to struggle with this concept. Only in recent generations have we had the real option. Life in years past ended earlier and with less warning. Medical science lacked the means for preserving life as it can now, a new ability that brings great benefits but new challenges as well.

Too often today sick people and loved ones — and society in general — insist physicians do everything possible to keep an ailing patient alive even when hanging on is bad for all concerned. We all know of people in comas, in vegetative states, who are maintained indefinitely at great expense and trauma to loved ones. More common are people so old and mentally deficient their lives are a burden.

We all can imagine similar scenarios.

In such cases, everyone hangs on — for what? Would it not be better if, with everyone's consensus, an earlier decision would be made to peacefully end life at an appropriate moment? With a physician's instruction, a simple dose could be taken at bedtime, like a sleeping pill. This sort of goodbye could be much more pleasant for everyone.

We're getting there. States are beginning to consider life-ending legislation that will allow individuals and designated legal decision helpers to make a much better issue of the final moment. ...

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press
Today is Thursday, Nov. 20, the 324th day of 2014. There are 41 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Nov. 20, 1789, New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

On this date: In 1620, Peregrine White was born aboard the Mayflower in Massachusetts Bay; he was the first child born of English parents in present-day New England.

In 1910, the Mexican Revolution of 1910 had its beginnings under the Plan of San Luis Potosi issued by Francisco I. Madero.

In 1929, the radio program "The Rise of the Goldbergs" debuted on the NBC Blue Network.

In 1947, Britain's future queen, Princess Elizabeth, married Philip Mountbatten, Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey.

In 1959, the United Nations issued its Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy held a news conference in which he announced the end of the naval quarantine of Cuba imposed during the missile crisis, and the signing of an executive order prohibiting discrimination in federal housing facilities.

In 1967, the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Clock at the Commerce Department ticked past 200 million.

In 1969, the Nixon administration announced a halt to residential use of the pesticide DDT as part of a total phaseout. A group of American Indian activists began a 19-month occupation of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

In 1975, after nearly four decades of absolute rule, Spain's General Francisco Franco died, two weeks before his 83rd birthday.

In 1984, pop star Michael Jackson was inducted into the Hollywood Walk of Fame with the unveiling of his star in front of a horde of screaming fans.

In 1992, fire seriously damaged Windsor Castle.

In 2003, Michael Jackson was booked on suspicion of child molestation in Santa Barbara, California. (Jackson was later acquitted at trial.) Record producer Phil Spector was charged with murder in the shooting death of actress Lana Clarkson at his home in Alhambra, California, in Feb. 2003. (Spector's first trial ended with a hung jury in 2007; he was convicted of second-degree murder in 2009 and sentenced to 19 years to life in prison.)

Ten years ago: Republicans whisked

a \$388 billion spending bill through the House by a bipartisan 344-51 margin. Palestinians formally opened the campaign for a successor to Yasser Arafat. Scientist Ancel Keys, who invented the K rations eaten by soldiers in World War II and who linked high cholesterol and fatty diets to heart disease, died in Minneapolis at age 100.

Five years ago: Scientists in Geneva restarted the Large Hadron Collider, the world's largest atom smasher, after a year of repairs. A Chinese national killed four people and wounded nine in a shooting rampage on the Pacific island of Saipan before taking his own life. Holding back tears, Oprah Winfrey told her studio audience that she would end her talk show in 2011 after a quarter-century on the air.

One year ago: Secretary of State John Kerry said the U.S. and Afghanistan had agreed on the language of a bilateral security pact that would clear the way for thousands of U.S. troops to train and assist Afghan forces after the NATO combat mission ended in 2014. Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn signed legislation allowing same-sex weddings in his state.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-comedian Kaye Ballard is 89. Actress Estelle Parsons is 87. Comedian Dick Smothers is 76. Singer Norman Greenbaum is 72. Vice President Joe Biden is 72. Actress Veronica Hamel is 71. Broadcast journalist Judy Woodruff is 68. Actor Samuel E. Wright is 68. Singer Joe Walsh is 67. Actor Richard Masur is 66. Opera singer Barbara Hendricks is 66. Actress Bo Derek is 58. Former NFL player Mark Gastineau is 58. Reggae musician Jim Brown (UB40) is 57. Actress Sean Young is 55. Pianist Jim Brickman is 53. Rock musician Todd Nance (Widespread Panic) is 52. Actress Ming-Na is 51. Actor Ned Vaughn is 50. Rapper Mike D (The Beastie Boys) is 49. Rapper Sen Dog (Cypress Hill) is 49. Actress Callie Thorne is 45. Actress Sabrina Lloyd is 44. Actor Joel McHale is 43. Actress Marisa Ryan is 40. Country singer Dierks Bentley is 39. Actor Joshua Gomez is 39. Actress Laura Harris is 38. Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Dawes is 38. Country singer Josh Turner is 37. Actress Nadine Velazquez is 36. Actress Andrea Riseborough is 33. Actor Dan Byrd is 29. Actress Ashley Fink (TV: "Glee") is 28. Rock musician Jared Followill (Kings of Leon) is 28. Actor Cody Linley is 25. Pop musician Michael Clifford (5 Seconds of Summer) is 19.

Thought for Today: "There is no greatness where there is not simplicity." — Leo Tolstoy, Russian author (1828-1910).

FROM THE BIBLE

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on ... that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! Revelation 14:13. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis.



Kindle's Korner

A Crane-Youngworth Report (Chapter 1)

BY DR. WAYNE KINDLE
Yankton School District

**CONNECT 5 MESSAGING:
HAVE YOU SIGNED UP?**

As many folks know, Crane-Youngworth Field, along with the concrete stadium, has a remarkable history. Prior to the concrete stadium a wooden stadium had been built, but was demolished during a storm in 1924. On Oct. 23, 1926, the current concrete stadium was dedicated and at the time was the first concrete stadium in the South Dakota Conference.

Dr. Alice Kingsbury who was a Yankton College teacher for more than 40 years gave the dedication address. During her dedication she praised and acknowledged students of bygone days, students of today, students of the days to come, faculty, and the citizens of Yankton. Dr. Kingsbury went on to say, "To all of these, I do now dedicate this stadium in the interest of good sportsmanship, fair play, friendly rivalry, youthful happiness, and right living."

The concrete stadium at Crane-Youngworth Field celebrated its 88th birthday on October 23, 2014. Over the past 88 years there have been some remarkable memories made and remembered by the Yankton College Greyhounds and the Yankton Bucks. Both educational institutions are known for their strong academics, exceptional fine arts, and athletic successes.

I was once told that you are guaranteed two things with concrete: it will get hard and it will crack. Well, both have occurred with our beloved concrete stadium. There is noticeable cracking and surface crumbling, which has also exposed rebar/mesh throughout different areas of the stadium.

Last spring an engineering firm was hired to provide a report to the school board regarding the safety and durability of the concrete stadium. Below are the recommendations from the firm:

"While the grandstand does not appear to be at a critical juncture at this time, in the absence of repairs the structure will continue to deteriorate. The deterioration could possibly accelerate rendering the structure unsafe in as few as 3-5 years.

As the initial investigation was limited to a visual observation only a more in-depth investigation involving a materials testing company is recommended. This study would determine the extent of deterioration beyond what can currently be observed and lay-out an action plan for required repair work. The alternative to repair is to plan for the abandonment and replacement of the grandstand."

Our main concern with an aging structure is for the health, safety, and well-being of our students and fans. We are also cognitive of the history and fond memories the current stadium has provided folks for nearly 90 years.

The school district has chosen to do a more in-depth investigation involving a materials testing company as recommended. This will involve taking core samples within the raker beams and performing multiple tests with a rebound hammer to determine an estimated compressive strength of the concrete.

Once the results are known, we can have discussions about possible repairs or replacement. As noted in the title of this article, you have just completed reading Chapter I. I will continue to keep our community informed about this very important and historic stadium.

I will also include discussions pertaining to Crane-Youngworth Field in a future article.



Dr. Wayne
KINDLE

In order to improve communication, the Yankton School District implemented a computer messaging system called Blackboard Connect 5. This service allows the school district to reach thousands of people within minutes with a personalized voice message, email and/or text message.

If you are not receiving these messages, and wish to do so, please check with the secretary of your child's school to make sure we have your home phone, cell phone and email address. We will add you to the system.

Anyone in the Yankton community — parents, alumni, friends and community members — can receive these messages. Just be sure we have your contact information in our system. Anyone can also subscribe to selectively receive district-wide communications as well as information about a specific school building at www.https://ysd633.bbcportal.com/

We have used personalized voice message, email and/or text messaging as ways to communicate with parents regarding school closures, a particular school event, upcoming book fairs, etc. However, there are some limits to the system. For instance, a text message written with Connect 5 is limited to 160 characters.

Since some complicated information cannot be easily explained in 160 characters, you may only receive an email notice. We are looking at new ways to use the text-messaging component more since we know that parents use that mode of communication regularly.

When you register your child for school, the contact information you give us is automatically included in our student management computer software called PowerSchool. You are then automatically signed up to receive communications from your child's school and district-wide announcements, alerts and reminders.

At times you may receive a text message, an email and a phone call for the same event. If families have not provided an email address or do not receive text messages, we may send the messages out in all modes available so as to reach as many families as possible. If you do not want to receive text messages from the school district, reply STOP to the next text message you receive. That will stop all text messages to that phone number.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Celebrating Statehood

**Paul Struck, Yankton
Principal, Lincoln Elementary School**
On behalf of the students and staff of Lincoln Elementary School, I would like to thank everyone who attended our Open House Monday, Nov. 10, to celebrate our state's 125th birthday.

I would also like to thank members of the Tri State Old Iron Association who brought their tractors to our school so that our students could learn about the agricultural

history of our state.

A special thanks to members of the National Park Service and the Missouri River National Recreation Association for bringing their van to our school so that our students could study the history of the Mighty Missouri. Our students and staff have put a tremendous amount of effort into our special celebration.

Because of the support of our parents and the community, all the effort was worth it. Your support is greatly appreciated.

WRITE US

Make your feelings known! Write to the **PRESS & DAKOTAN** on a topic of the day, in response to an editorial or story. Write us at: Letters, 319 Walnut, Yankton, SD 57078, drop off at 319 Walnut in Yankton, fax to (605) 665-1721 or email to kelly.hertz@yankton.net.