Pipeline

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didn't broach that topic in his remarks, and State Department officials said they'd determined Keystone wouldn't significantly affect carbon pollution levels.

Instead, the administration cited the "broad perception" that Keystone would carry "dirty" oil, and suggested approval would raise questions abroad about whether the U.S. was serious about climate

"Frankly, approving this project would have undercut that global leadership," the president said.

Obama will travel to Paris at the end of the month for talks on a global climate agreement, which the president hopes will be the crowning jewel for his environmental legacy. Killing the pipeline allows Obama to claim aggressive action, strengthening his hand as world leaders gather in France.

Though environmental groups hailed Friday as a "day of celebration," Obama's decision was unlikely to be the last word for Keystone XL

TransCanada, the company behind the proposal, said it remained "absolutely committed" to building the project and was considering filing a new application for permits. The company has previously raised the possibility of suing the U.S. to recoup the more than \$2 billion it says it has already spent on development.

"Today, misplaced symbolism was chosen over merit and science. Rhetoric won out over reason," said TransCanada CEO Russ Girling. His criticism was echoed by Republicans including House Speaker Paul Ryan, who said Obama had rejected tens of thousands of jobs while railroading

This decision isn't surprising, but it is sickening," Ryan said.

On the other side, climate activists noted the widespread assumption early in Obama's presidency that he'd eventually approve Keystone, and said his apparent about-face proved how effective a no-holds-barred advocacy campaign could be.

"Now every fossil fuel project around the world is under siege," said Bill McKibben of the environmental group 350.org.

Already, the issue has spilled over into the presidential race. The Republican field is unanimous in support of Keystone, while the Democratic candidates

are all opposed — including Hillary Rodham Clinton, who oversaw the early part of the federal review as Obama's first-term secre-

tary of state. TransCanada first applied for Keystone permits 2,604 days ago in September 2008 — shortly before Obama was elected. As envisioned, Keystone would snake from Canada's tar sands through Montana, South Dakota and Nebraska, then connect with existing pipelines to carry more than 800,000 barrels of crude oil a day to specialized refineries along the

Texas Gulf Coast. But Democrats and environmental groups latched onto Keystone as just the type of project that must be phased out if the world is to seriously combat climate change. Meanwhile, Republicans, Canadian politicians and the energy industry argued the pipeline would create thousands of jobs and inject billions into the economy. They accused Obama of hypocrisy for complaining about a lack of U.S. infrastructure invest-

\$8 billion project. Amid vote after vote in Congress to try to force Obama's hand, the president seemed content to delay further and further. Most pipelines wait roughly a year and a half for permits to cross the U.S. border, but Keystone's review dragged on more than 5 times as long as average, according to a recent Associated Press analysis.

ment while obstructing an

The first major delay came in 2011, when Obama postponed a decision until after his re-election, citing uncertainty about the proposed route through Nebraska. When Congress passed legislation requiring a decision within 60 days, he rejected the application but allowed TransCanada to re-apply. He delayed again in 2014 — this time indefinitely — in a move that delayed the decision until after the 2014 midterm

Obama's decision on Friday risks creating a fresh point of tension in his relationship with Canada's new government. After speaking by phone with Obama on Friday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was "disappointed by the decision" but pledged to pursue a "fresh start" with Obama nevertheless.

For TransCanada, the financial imperative to build Keystone may have fallen off recently amid a sharp drop in oil prices that could make extracting and transporting the product much less lucrative. TransCanada has insisted that wasn't the case.

Suicide

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Participants were led in discussion by medical professionals, Dr. Frank Main and Dr. JC Chambers, therapists at Stronghold Counseling, as well as members of the local clergy, the Rev. Ken Lulf, pastor at St. Benedict Church and Adam Ansel, youth minister for Calvary Baptist Church.

There were approximately 70 people who attended the open forum. Event organizer Krystal Paulson feels good about the amount of

people that reached out. Considering we are 3 1/2 weeks out from the incident, I would say that is incredibly good," she said. "If I had better access to resources and the ability to pull this together more quickly, our numbers would have been double that."

The media was asked not to attend this forum in respect to participants to allow for freer expression. The Press & Dakotan respected that wish.

The discussion began with both parents and students coming together while group leaders read questions and concerns submitted by community members anonymously.

'Many of those kids were unfamiliar with the loss of a life and what they could expect by way of the emotional reactions following that,' Main said. "We covered it in response to an event as help and support for those folks that are friends or family members of those who have committed suicide.'

After the group session, members broke up into separate groups – one for parents and one for students. Both were designed to allow concerns to be met at each of the different levels.

The basis of how I organized this is that people's needs would be met and it (the event) facilitated what each individual person needed to hear," Paulson said. "We wanted to create a more intimate atmosphere, and I think it generated a greater discussion."

Main and Lulf lead the parent group while Chambers and Ansel talked with the youth group.

Main told the *Press* & Dakotan that the two main concerns from parents were prevention issues:...what the community might be able to do in ways of prevention and needs following an incident. What are the initial things that could and should be done within a community?

Main had insight on details of prevention from a book he wrote several years ago called "Perfect Parenting and Other Myths." The book illustrates how parents can tune into their children's lives, understand what is going on and act as models for them.

"Our kids sometimes view things as somewhat catastrophic," Main said. "If they sense it is a function of their own failure and they don't see mom and dad recovering from their own failure and mistakes, they don't know how to do it. So they get quite overwhelmed.'

Main emphasizes how impressionable a parent's reactions are to kids - not only the good instances but also how adult figures handle the bad stuff without influencing despair upon the child.

The youth group's members focused more on their feelings about the recent incident.

'The confusion related to them was, 'Is it OK to grieve and be sad, or are they just supposed to hurry up and get over this?" Chambers

The group also heard presentations on the stages of grief and the unexpected things that people might find themselves experiencing as a result of it. YHS football coach Arlin Likness, along with the support of other member of Yankton's School District present, spoke about school communities like Col-

umbine and Sandy Hook. "We talked about how important it is that the community, the school and the families allow these young people to have their reactions: not get stuck in it, but go ahead and grieve this loss," Chambers said.

Chambers expressed the importance of covering the grieving process and keeping the conversations rolling. Each death is different in how kids will interpret it and he wanted them to understand that it is OK to have questions and be angry.

"If someone is dying of cancer, you know why, Chambers said. "But in this particular case, you have no answers to your questions, which makes things extremely difficult.

Chambers felt that the separate groups were important because parents and students were affected differently.

"This is their experience in a unique way," he said. "Adults are impacted because it's a kid and because they know the parents. But the kids were rubbing shoulders with this kid. There were some who were talking to this kid four hours before things went down. Kids were battling with him and trying to support him to the last

couple of hours." According to the Center For Disease Control, suicide among males is higher than females, with males accounting for 79 percent of all U.S. suicides. But females express depression at roughly two times the rate of men and attempt suicide three times as often.

'They need to understand that they can't handle this thing alone," Chambers said. "Some will be tempted to say, 'I'm alright,' and they really might be. Some kids will move through it OK, but other kids won't."

The purpose of this forum was to address a community's reaction. Now more than ever, the community must continue to raise the bar in support for each other, Chambers said.

"This becomes a community support issue," Chambers said. "It is more important as a Yankton community that we support one another through this, support the family and support

"These are very difficult issues," Main said. "I thought the people that were there were open and courageous. We tried to be as much help as we could. Some of these folks had a need that hadn't been met and we tried to respond as best we could, three weeks after the fact.'

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Change

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being part of Climate Assessment Task Force and eventually worked on the staff of the Center for Rural Affairs for 17 years.

The panel included both men and women of all ages in a variety of fields with issues like Kleinschmit and soil carbons, chemicals affecting Mississippi and the Gulf, to a woman who called herself an urban agriculturalist, operating a two-acre farm in a mega-tropolis which trucked foods of good quality to lower income neighborhoods for a reasonable cost.

"Being climate-smart is a new catch word in production agriculture and the White House is very interested in smart farming," said

Kleinschmit. His interest in solar energy was also a topic of discussion at the round table as each individual explained what their niche in sustainable agriculture was. The opportunity to speak on the panel gave the participants credit for the work they have done in sustainable agriculture and carbon

sequestration. After the panel discussion, the Natural Resources Conservation Service representatives asked if any of the members had concerns about present practices or any suggestions for future programs. Kleinschmit talked to the group about his concern for the Conservation Reserve Program.

"Each year the acres in the CRP lay fallow and owners are given instructions for periodic controlled burns to remove trash," said Kleinschmit. "If they hay or graze it, they lose their payment. I

pointed out instead of burning the old grasses, why not graze the acres? These are great grazing opportunities and how valuable it would be for restoring soil carbons if the livestock were allowed to graze and stomp the debris into the soil. To me, it's a waste.

He added sustainable agriculturalists have learned what a great thing it is to return carbon to the soil with this practice and livestock are the tools. The burns themselves put carbons back in the air whereas the feed stuff on CRP acres is some of the best feed loaded with protein.

Kleinschmit is a strong believer in solar energy and has had a solar panel system on his farm for several years. The proof is in the pudding when Kleinschmit pays his utility bill.

"Šome months the use of solar energy reduces our utility bill to a mere ten dollars," said Kleinschmit.

His 36-panel setup is connected to the Cedar-Knox Public Power grid and the power from the panels is credited to his account reducing the monthly bill. He has three steel frames which hold 12 panels each and each panel collects 250 watts for a total of 9,000 watts.

The couple is moving to Hartington and are installing a solar panel setup there which will not be intrusive to the neighbor's sight line. He has started a solar energy business and can be contacted for purchase and set up of solar arrays.

"Really, transitioning a beginning farmer to sustainable farming is very rewarding," said Kleinschmit. "Improving the practices and see the successes is much more important than the recognition. And the trip was fun.'



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