

Letter: Fever all through the year

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Devin Rokyta's March 25 Our View was on the mark. The "decades of data" he cites represent a consilience of evidence from myriad scientific fields, all pointing in one direction: global warming drives a changing climate.

When human body temperature, normally 37 degrees Celsius, rises to 38, we have a "fever," an increase of 2.7 percent. Earth's average surface temperature has historically been about 14 degrees Celsius. Two degrees more represents an increase of 14.3 percent above "normal."

Does Earth have a fever? With 2015's increase of 0.87 degrees, the hottest year on record, we are on our way.

We can speculate, but we simply don't know what effects such an increase will have because Earth's interlinked physical, chemical, geological and biological systems constitute a single "system of systems."

Atmosphere and oceans don't recognize national boundaries; they know few restrictions.

The solution to what may be the worst catastrophe humankind has faced will require working together across political, religious, national, racial and ethnic boundaries.

In Paris last December, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate agreement limiting global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius.

Last May, Pope Francis issued an encyclical, "On Care for our Common Home." In August, Islamic leaders issued a "clarion call" to 1.5 billion Muslims to phase out greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and develop 100 percent renewable energy.

In 2008, the Baha'i International Community called for solutions beyond the limits of technological and policy approaches to address questions of justice, equity, responsibility and obligation.

From aboriginal cultures to the many agencies and nongovernmental organizations associated with the United Nations, people worldwide strive to understand relationships between humankind's activities and the natural world.

Locally, we have the Palouse chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby.

There is hope. "The Earth is but one country, and mankind its citizens."

Peter Haug

Colfax