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Worship Resumes at Historic Church

Worship service will resume at the Trinity Historic Church in Groton at Third Ave. and Third Street. Service will be held at 5 p.m. Sunday. The service usually lasts about half an hour. You are invited to the service in the historic setting. Offering will be used to help maintain the church and to pay for insurance.

Sunday, July 20

Legion Region at Redfield

Birthday: Joel Guthmiller

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion

9:00am: Presbyterian Bible Study

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:00am: Presbyterian Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship @ Nursing Home (India Circle Serves)

5:00pm: Worship at Historic Church in Groton

Monday, July 21

Senior Menu: Chicken Rice Casserole, Green Beans, Spinach Salad, Chocolate Pudding w/Bananas.

Birthday: Carson Bunn

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible study

5:30 pm: Groton Garden Club Meeting at Janice Fliehs' home.

7:00 pm: City Council meeting

Tuesday, July 22

Senior Menu: Roast Beef, Potatoes/Carrots/Onions, Gravy, Honey Dew Melon or Peaches, Dinner Roll.

Birthday: Bill Podoll • Jean Lowary • Allison Weber • Charles Knudsen • Sara Menzia

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

12:00pm: Olive Grove Bridge

6:00pm: 10U Softball host Warner

6:00pm: Teeners at Warner

6:15pm: Olive Grove Ladies Golf Night

7:00pm: 12U Softball host Warner

Sombke honored for 30 years of service



Kathy Rowen, right, presents Groton Postmaster Mel Sombke with a certificate recognizing her for 30 years of service to the United States Postal Service. (Courtesy Photo)

Mel Sombke was honored last week for her 30 years of service to the United States Postal Service. Kathy Rowen, manager of Post Office Operations Area 4 domiciled in Huron. Rowen is the supervisor over the Groton office.

Sombke started in the United States Postal Service in Groton, being a sales and service associate in 1994. She worked in Groton until 2000 when she became the postmaster of the Bristol office. She returned in 2010 to as Groton's postmaster and has been serving since then.

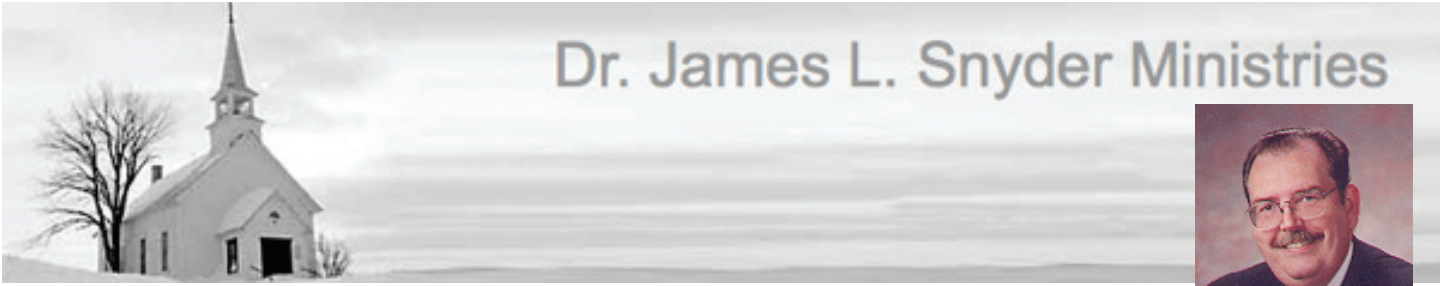
The biggest change that Sombke has seen over the past 30 years is computer technology. "There is an application to track and record everything we do now," she said. "Online parcel tracking gives visibility to our customers."

Mel is married to Doug.

Their children are Nikki Kotzer and daughter, Adeline Kotzer; Brett and Steph Sombke, Bryce Sombke and Amber Wolken; and Bryan and Whitney Sombke.

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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Swallowing pride or eating crow are both bitter pills to swallow

I have noticed lately that I have been getting in trouble with the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, at least more than normal. I am at the stage of life where this kind of thing needs to be brought to a bare minimum.

At the end of each month my wife will quiz me as to if I have paid all of the bills. In my rhetorical answer is always, "I sure did, my lady." Then I will bow before her. For some reason she does not get the humor of that.

My job is to pay the bills and her job is to make sure the end of the month I have paid the bills. This has been our relationship for longer than I can recall.

Every once in a while I get in a little tickle mode and dramatically declare that I forgot to pay the bills for the month. "Oh my, what will we do?"

The first time I did that, she threw a smile in my direction. I dramatically would catch it and put it in my pocket.

I notice she has not been throwing smiles at me lately. Honestly, who can blame her?

It was towards the middle of the month when the cable went dead. We had no telephone, TV or Internet service. The first thing my wife said was, "You did pay the Comcast bill, didn't you?"

I put on my regular show and assured her that I did.

We had to call the Comcast Company, but as it stood, we had no telephone service. Fortunately, my wife had her cell phone and called the Comcast Company to see what the problem was, maybe the service had gone out in our neighborhood.

One thing about my wife getting on the telephone for such a thing as finding out why we had no service is that she does not have patience. She hates being put on hold. I hate her being put on hold because she usually takes out her frustration on me.

Now, what do I have to do with that? After all, I did pay the bill. In fact, I went to the checkbook and showed her the number of the check and the amount of the check. "There," I said most adamantly, "I paid the bill."

After about 45 minutes of waiting rather impatiently, my wife finally connected with the service representative who was able to help her. I did not hear the conversation, but I knew it must have been quite serious because I could see in her face that she was getting angrier by the minute.

"We paid our bill on time," she protested in a very stern manner. "My husband has the check number to prove that he wrote the check out."

I was sitting in my easy chair going through my briefcase enjoying the drama that was unfolding before me. I love it when somebody is in trouble and that somebody is not me. I must confess it does not happen that often, but when it does happen, I take full advantage of it. I was gloating just a little bit and feeling pretty good about myself.

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I had my briefcase and was sorting out some papers and getting ready for the next day when I ran across a bunch of envelopes. I looked at them, then looked over at my wife, and then looked back at the pile of envelopes and all of the color drained from my face. I could not believe what I found in my briefcase.

There in a neat bundle where all of the bills I had written out for the previous month. The checks had been written, signed and placed in the proper envelope with a postage stamp on it. All of the bills for the month were there staring at me with such vicious eyes as I have never seen before.

What will I do now?

I knew I had to face the music and it was not a song I enjoyed. I picked up the envelope with the Comcast bill address on the front, took it over to my wife as she was on the phone to the Comcast representatives, laid it on her lap and then walked away.

"I know my husband paid the bill because he pays this bill every month."

Then she noticed the envelope I had placed in her lap, she turned around and stared at me a stare I have not had from her in a very long time.

"Just a minute," I heard her say to the other person on the phone, and then she looked at me. Then it came. "Is this the bill you were supposed to send out last month?"

Lying at this moment would not have been productive in any fashion.

She opened the envelope and there was the check dutifully written out to the Comcast Company. She was able to pay the bill over the phone and then it would be my turn to pay.

David who got in a lot of trouble understood this when he wrote, "I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah" (Psalms 32:5).

Swallowing pride or eating crow is not my idea of a delightful repast but it can be the beginning of something good.

Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, PO Box 831313, Ocala, FL 34483. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 1-866-552-2543 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net or website www.jamesnyderministries.com.

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KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Reconstructing the Highway Trust Fund

Our state has more than 80,000 miles of highways, roads, and streets. Maintaining them is an expensive and colossal project to undertake every year that requires funding from the federal, state, county, and city governments.

Much of the federal funding comes through the Highway Trust Fund, which is an account that was set up in the 1950s to support a number of the country's transportation projects. Over the last decade, the Trust Fund has slowly run out of money and experts believe it could drop below a key threshold in August. The good news is that Congress and the White House are working together on a solution.

More specifically, the House passed legislation on July 15 to maintain the Trust Fund through May 2015. While the Senate hasn't taken the bill up yet, the President has already said he supports the House proposal, meaning there's a pretty good chance our bill - or something very close to it - will become law in the next few weeks and South Dakota road repairs can continue uninterrupted.

While this legislation solves the short-term problem, it still doesn't make the Highway Trust Fund self-sustaining over the long-run.

It's important to know that the Highway Trust Fund is currently funded through an 18.4 cent-per-gallon tax on gas and a 24.4 cent-per-gallon tax on diesel. Over the last few years, cars have become much more fuel efficient, people are buying smaller vehicles, and Americans have begun to drive less because of increased gas prices. This has decreased the number of gallons sold by about 4 percent since 2007. With a new mandate in place that requires 54.5 miles-per-gallon cars and light-duty trucks by 2025, demand will likely continue to fall.

As a result, the Highway Trust Fund has lost a portion of its revenue stream, forcing Congress to find different ways to fund hundreds of construction projects that support about 700,000 jobs.

For more than a half-century, the U.S. has believed we should prioritize infrastructure investments. After all, farmers and manufacturers use our transit system to bring products to market while workers, tourists, and families use it to get to work, the grocery store, or Mount Rushmore. I too would agree that making these projects a priority is important.

Band-Aid fixes aren't the most effective or efficient way forward, but I supported the recent agreement because we need to start somewhere. We need to give states and the construction industry the certainty to know that if a contract is signed, payments will be made. And everyone else deserves to know that our bridges and roads will be safe.

If legislation is enacted that keeps the Highway Trust Fund viable through May, I believe Congress has a responsibility to use this time to confront the problem and find a way forward. For now, I'm confident South Dakota will finish this road-construction season strong before the snow flies a few months from now.



Colestock, O'Neill talk about YBA at Kiwanis

Maddie Colestock (left) and Kaitlyn O'Neill (right) talked about their Youth Business Adventure camp they recently attended at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion. They were guests of Lee Schinkel (seated) at a recent Groton Kiwanis meeting. At this adventure, they learned how to improve their entrepreneurial skills.

Jim White, Huron and a former Grotonite and past Groton Kiwanis president; was a guest that day of Tom Mahan.

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Groton Legion advances to region title game

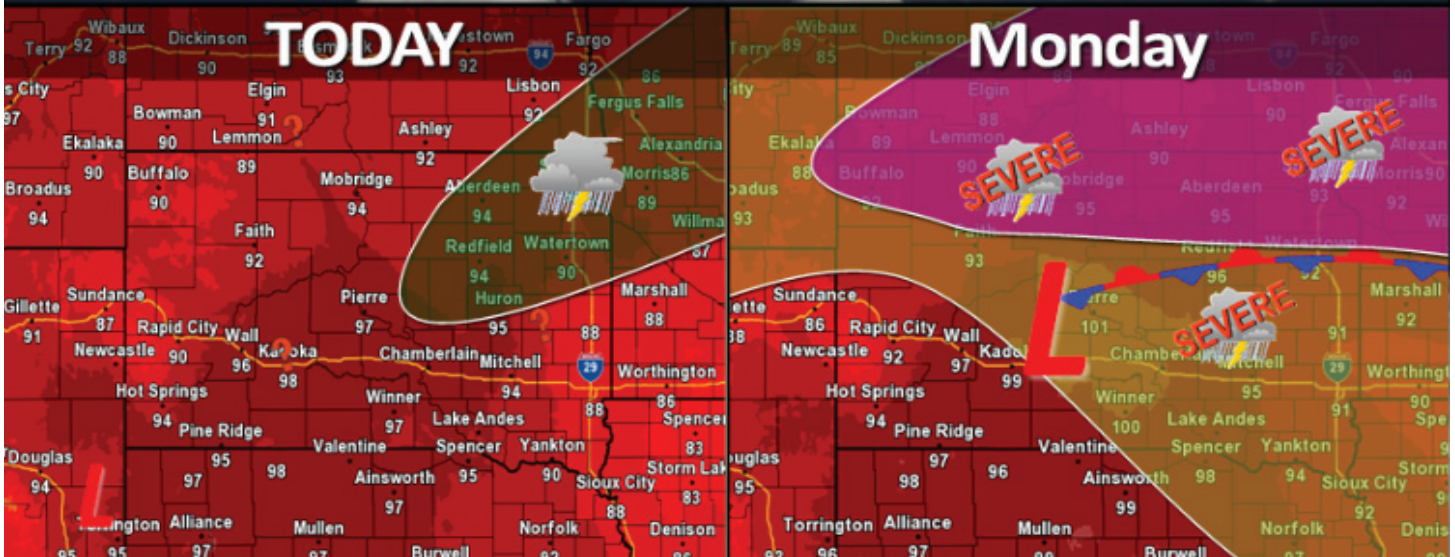
The Groton American Legion baseball team defeated Warner-Ipswich-Northville, 10-3, yesterday to advance to the region title game today. Dane Campbell and Spencer Knecht were the pitchers and Kasey Kurtz was the catcher. Groton plays Clark at 4 p.m. at Redfield. If a second game is needed, it will be played at 7 p.m. Groton is undefeated in region play.




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TODAY	TONIGHT	MONDAY	MONDAY NIGHT	TUESDAY	TUESDAY NIGHT	WEDNESDAY
						
Hot	Slight Chc Thunderstorms 20%	Hot	Severe Thunderstorms 60%	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 92 °F	Low: 68 °F	High: 92 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 81 °F

Dangerous Heat Storms Possible Today, Likely Monday



-  Thunder Possible, Little To No Threat of Severe Storms
-  Risk Of Severe Storms, Hail & Wind Main Threat
-  Risk Of Severe Storms, Hail, Wind & Tornadoes Possible



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

A weak front will move across the region today. Isolated thunderstorms may develop along the front during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Otherwise, heat and humidity will be on the rise, but the most dangerous combination of heat and humidity is expected Monday. While actual temperatures will range from 90 to 100 degrees, the heat index, or "feels-like" temperatures will be 100 to 105 degrees. Additionally Monday, a developing low pressure system will create conditions conducive for rapid thunderstorm development, especially across northern SD and west central MN. Storms will develop quickly and will likely become severe. Stay tuned to the latest forecasts.

The Twin Banners of the Twin States

SOUTH DAKOTA



HISTORY & HERITAGE

Banners have been rallying points throughout history.

Those attending a statehood convention in Huron in 1888 rallied around banners that symbolized Dakota Territory being divided and admitted to the Union as sister states.

The division question was a key issue in the struggle to achieve statehood during the 1880s. Dividing Dakota Territory into two states pitted those whose fortunes depended on political influence in the territorial system centered in Washington, D.C., against those who saw a greater potential benefit coming from state and local control. The division question had to be resolved before admittance to the Union.

On July 10, 1888, a statehood convention was called to order in Huron. By the convention's conclusion, delegates supported division and had devised a plan to make division and admission the greatest issue in the upcoming territorial election.

A large crowd filled the 1,200 seat Grand Opera House for a public meeting the evening of July 11 to witness the presentation of banners.

Each swallow-tail banner of white silk was 26 inches wide by 40 inches long, sewn by a group of women from Huron. One banner bore an oil painting of a dark-haired young woman holding a sheaf of wheat within a blue border and the words "State of North Dakota." The other banner featured a fair-haired young woman holding a stalk of corn within a crimson border and the words "State of South Dakota." The paper labels fastened to each banner's border read, "painted by Mrs. Huron" and "presented by Mrs. Mellette."

Mrs. J.T. Ohlwine, wife of local insurance agent James T. Ohlwine, presented the South Dakota banner to Territorial Secretary George Hand of Yankton. Hand told how it was customary during the Civil War for women to present companies and regiments with flags which were carried into battle.

He presented the banner to the crowd with these words: "Men of South Dakota, behold your banner. And beholding swear in your hearts before God that you will never cease your lawful efforts until victory is gained. If in the days to come discouragements shall appear, think of the fair hands that wrought this banner ... Swear that it shall never be trailed in the dust of defeat and dishonor."

Flora Gans, listed in the 1885-86 Huron city directory as clerk for the Dakota Mutual Insurance Company, presented the North Dakota banner to Waldo Potter. Potter was a Fargo businessman and early supporter of dividing Dakota Territory.



South Dakota State Historical Society Photos

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In accepting the banner, Potter said: "It is a gem in workmanship, this emblem of young statehood, as is that of its twin banner presented to South Dakota. Together they aptly represent the sister Dakotas, soon, as we believe, to belong to the sisterhood of states, and as twin stars to shine forever on the gorgeous field of the flag of the republic."

An article about the division convention from the Minneapolis Evening Press that appeared in the July 14, 1888, Daily Huronite, stated, "The great convention has made 'Home Rule for Dakota' a rallying cry."

The banners were displayed on the stage at a territorial convention at Watertown in August 1888, according to an article by Jeanne Brako, conservator at the Rocky Mountain Regional Conservation Center.

Photographs show that both banners graced the Watertown home of South Dakota's first governor, Arthur C. Mellette. Margaret Wylie Mellette, the governor's wife, donated the banners to the South Dakota State Historical Society in 1906. Both banners are displayed in the museum of the South Dakota State Historical Society at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The momentum which began on July 10, 1888, resulted in a victory for division supporters. Two states, North Dakota and South Dakota, were admitted into the Union on Nov. 2, 1889. President Benjamin Harrison shuffled the proclamations when he signed them so he could not tell which was joining the Union first.

U.S. Secretary of State James G. Blaine telegraphed the governors of the newly admitted states, "This is the first instance in the history of the National Government of Twin States. North and South Dakota entered the Union at the same moment."

This moment in South Dakota history is provided by the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation, the nonprofit fundraising partner of the South Dakota State Historical Society. Find us on the web at www.sdhsf.org. Contact us at info@sdhsf.org to submit a story idea.

For Rent

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Kendra at 605/215-4000.

Townhouse for Sale

Beautiful and spacious townhouse for sale by owners. Three bedrooms, three baths, finished basement with a custom wet bar. Heated 2 car attached garage. Low monthly rural utilities and low rural taxes. Priced to sell. If interested, please call Lisa @ 605 290 2404 or Dennis @ 605 880 4821.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is back and is open!

Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back in Groton at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.

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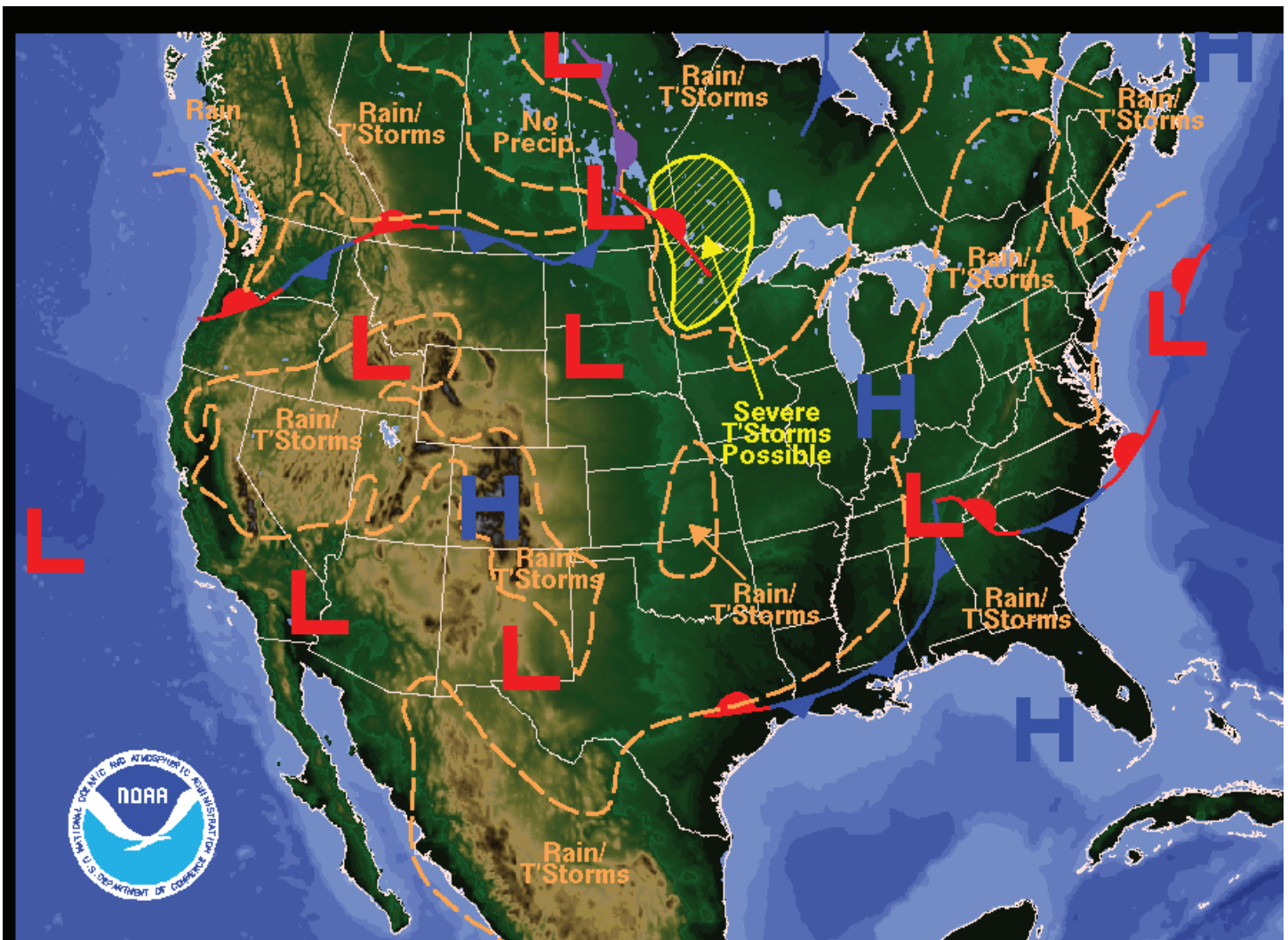
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Yesterday's Weather

High: 82.7°F at 5:39 PM
Heat Index: 85.0°F at 3:10 PM
Low: 60.0°F at 6:44 AM
High Gust: 18 mph at 12:07 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 111° in 1934
Record Low: 43° in 1970
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 60°F
Average Precip in July.: 1.97
Precip to date in July.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 12.81
Precip Year to Date: 9.13
Sunset Tonight: 9:15 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:06 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, Jul 20, 2014, issued 4:41 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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Today in Weather History

July 20, 1901: The temperature soared to 115 degrees in Ipswich, making it the hottest location in the state.

July 20, 1951: From the southeast residential section of Watertown, an estimated F2 tornado moved east, passing near Kranzburg and Goodwin. One small home and several barns were destroyed. Damage was estimated at \$30,000.

July 20, 2002: An extremely strong severe thunderstorm moved over Rapid City and across the adjacent plains east of town. Downburst winds and the associated gust front caused damage along a nearly 30 mile long path. Extensive tree damage occurred throughout the eastern half of the city with countless trees and branches in excess of 24 inch diameter felled. Two roofs were torn off by the winds. Flying debris damaged numerous cars and buildings. The NWS office in downtown Rapid City measured an 80 mph wind gust, with meteorologists noting winds were sustained at 60 to 70 mph for 5 minutes. Ellsworth AFB wind equipment measured a 106 mph wind gust from the thunderstorm as it passed. Costs associated only with tree damage and cleaning up debris were conservatively estimated at \$500,000.

20 July 1934: The highest temperature ever recorded in Iowa was measured at Keokuk. The mercury reached 118 degrees.

20 July 1951: An F3 tornado tore across the southwest portion of Minneapolis from Lake Minnetonka to the international airport. At the airport 100 planes were damaged or destroyed. The anemometer at the NWS office measured a 100mph wind gust. The tornado was accompanied by powerful downbursts that caused widespread damage.

20 July 2002: Heavy rain and winds buffeted the leaders of the British Open in Muirfield, Scotland causing scores to soar and washing away Tiger Woods's dream of a golfing Grand Slam.



THE STORY IN HANDS

Hanging above my office chair is a drawing entitled, "Hands." It was drawn by an artist in Rochester, MI. The "hands" in the drawing are of many different sizes and shapes; some little representing small children; some big representing adults; some scared representing hard work or accidents; some appear as though they have never been soiled. The hands in the drawing tell the story about how all hands are different, how important they are and what they are used for.

The hands of Jesus tell a very important story. He used His hands to hold the tools of a carpenter and turn pieces of wood into useful objects. He used His hands to offer hungry people a piece of bread and fish. He used His hands to hold small children. He used His hands to touch the eyes of the blind and restore their sight. He used His hands to open the ears of the deaf. He used His hands to quiet the raging seas. He used His hands to point people in the direction of the Kingdom of His Father.

He never used His hands to make a fist. He never used His hands to grasp things from others. He never used His hands to point people in the wrong direction. He never used His hands to do anything that was evil. He never used His hands to strike others. He never used His hands to push people away from Him.

One fateful day those hands were pierced and nailed to a cross. Pierced but not closed. They were on the end of arms that were reaching out to a lost and dying world. The Psalmist wrote, "They pierce my hands."

Prayer: Thank You, Father, for loving us, for reaching out to us with hands that were pierced because of our sins. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 22:16c They pierced My hands and My feet;

A colorful advertisement for a taco bar and soup night. The background features a red, white, and green zigzag pattern. On the left, there is a large illustration of a taco. On the right, there is another illustration of a taco. The text is as follows:

Come 'n' Get It!
Friday is Taco Bar and Soup Night
Andover Bar & Grill Serving 5-9 p.m.
120 S Main St. • 298-5252

News from the Associated Press

Freeman arts/earth center gets \$150,000 grant

FREEMAN, S.D. (AP) — The southeast South Dakota town of Freeman has received a \$150,000 federal grant for toward a proposed arts/earth center.

The National Endowment for the Arts awarded the money this week.

Senior project coordinator John Koch told the Press & Dakotan the project could cost up to \$15 million. It would include a 400-seat theater, 120-seat recital hall, large commercial greenhouse and renewable energy to meet the site's needs.

The goal of the arts/earth center is to promote the arts, tourism, agricultural research, locally produced products and studies on sustainability and stewardship.

Some SD Native Americans wary about health reform

NORA HERTEL, Associated Press

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Denise Mesteth signed up for new health insurance through the federal Affordable Care Act, despite concerns that it may not be worth the money for her and other Native Americans who otherwise rely on free government coverage.

Mesteth, who has a heart murmur and requires medication and regular blood work, said she's cautiously optimistic that the federal insurance will be superior to what she has now. Many other American Indians have been more reluctant to enroll, choosing instead to continue relying on the Indian Health Service for their coverage and taking advantage of a clause in the federal health reform law that allows them to be exempt from the insurance mandate if they meet certain requirements.

"If it's better services, then I'm OK," Masteth said of ACA. "But it better be better."

Mesteth and other American Indians in South Dakota account for 2.5 percent of the people in the state who have signed up for insurance under the federal health care law, according to the latest signup numbers. The state, with nearly 9 percent of its overall population Native American, ranks third for the percentage of enrollees who are American Indian among U.S. states using the federal marketplace.

The Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board, which provides support and health care advocacy to tribes, received \$264,000 to help Native Americans in South Dakota navigate the new insurance marketplace.

Tinka Duran, program coordinator for the board, said people are primarily concerned about the costs of enrolling. Insurance is a new concept to most because health care has always been free, she said.

"There's a learning curve for figuring out co-pays and deductibles," she said.

During a U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee hearing in May, tribal leaders chastised IHS as a bloated bureaucracy unable to fulfill its core duty of providing health care for more than 2 million Native Americans and Alaska Natives. IHS acting director Yvette Roubideaux said changes were underway but that more money will be needed than the \$4.4 billion the agency receives each year.

She noted that federal health care spending on Native Americans lags far behind spending on other groups such as federal employees, who receive almost twice as much on a per-capita basis. Meanwhile, American Indians suffer from higher rates of substance abuse, assault, diabetes and a slew of other ailments compared to most of the population.

Native Americans and Alaska Natives are exempt from the health insurance mandate if they meet certain requirements. ACA also permanently reauthorized the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and

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authorized new programs for IHS, which also is starting to get funds from the Veterans Affairs Department to help native veterans.

When American Indians do obtain insurance, it means fewer people are tapping the IHS budget, said Raho Ortiz, director of the IHS Division of Business Office Enhancement.

"If more of our patients have health insurance or are enrolled in Medicaid, this means that more resources are available locally for all of our patients," Ortiz said in an emailed statement. "This, in turn, allows scarce resources to be stretched further."

Those who sign up for federal health care can still use IHS facilities but have the option of seeking health care elsewhere, Ortiz said.

State Democratic Sen. Jim Bradford is among the skeptics. The Oglala Sioux member lives on the Pine Ridge reservation, home to two of the poorest counties in the nation.

The U.S. government provides health care to Native Americans as part of its trust responsibility to tribes that gave up their land when the country was being formed. Bradford and others object to the shift in health care providers on the principle that IHS is obligated by treaty to supply that care.

Harriett Jenesse, a member of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe who lives in Rapid City, said she already has seen the benefits of the new health insurance and doesn't mind paying a little out of pocket.

Jenesse said she put off treatment for a painful bone chip in her elbow after IHS denied a doctor's referral to a specialist on grounds that it wasn't an urgent enough need. She's now seeing a specialist for dislocation in her other elbow and will also try to get the bone chip fixed when the other arm heals.

SD inmates could see early release next year

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. District Attorney Brendan Johnson says a federal ruling Friday that will make tens of thousands of inmates serving time for drug crimes eligible for early release could have significant impact on South Dakota.

Johnson tells the Argus Leader that he estimates between 300 and 400 inmates could see early release as soon as 2015. The exact number South Dakota drug offenders could be affected by Friday's vote is unclear.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission voted unanimously Friday to make sentencing guideline changes approved earlier this year retroactive to apply to many inmates who are currently in prison.

The commission says more than 46,000 inmates could benefit, with an average sentence of reduction of 25 months. The change would cover defendants sentenced for all drug types, including cocaine and methamphetamine.

Sioux Falls hosting international tour operators

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls will host a regional gathering of tour operators next spring that come from several countries.

The Rocky Mountain International Roundup will be held next April 12-16.

Tour operators and suppliers from around the U.S. and overseas markets are expected.

Judge says Box Elder man should stay committed

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A judge has ruled that a Box Elder man who torched his mobile home while two others were inside in 2012 must stay committed at a state mental hospital for now.

Seventh Circuit Judge Janine Kern on Friday ruled that while 30-year-old Joseph Hodges has made progress since being committed, his attorney didn't prove he should be released yet.

A staff psychiatrist at the Human Services Center in Yankton recommended Hodges be released in his uncle's custody.

Authorities say Hodges dripped gasoline down a hallway October 25, 2012 before lighting a fire while his girlfriend and her ex-husband were still in the mobile home. There were no injuries.

Hodges' uncle and staff from Behavior Management Systems in Rapid City will testify next month on behalf of Hodges' release.

AP News in Brief

Ukraine says rebels have taken all Malaysian plane crash bodies away to an unknown location

HRABOVE, Ukraine (AP) — Separatist rebels have spirited away all 196 bodies that workers recovered from the Malaysia Airlines crash site to an unknown location, Ukraine's emergency services said Sunday.

Associated Press journalists saw the pro-Russia rebels putting bagged bodies onto trucks at the crash site Saturday in rebel-held eastern Ukraine and driving them away. On Sunday morning, AP journalists saw no bodies and no armed rebels at the crash site and emergency workers were searching the sprawling fields only for body parts.

Ukraine and the separatists accuse each other of firing a surface-to-air missile Thursday at Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 as it flew from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur some 33,000 feet (10,000 meters) above the battlefields of eastern Ukraine. Both deny shooting down the plane. All those onboard the flight — 283 passengers and 15 crew — were killed.

Ukraine says Russia has been sending sophisticated arms to the rebels, which Moscow denies. The crash site is close to the Russian border.

Ukrainian Emergency Ministry spokeswoman Nataliya Bystro said recovery workers in the rebel-held territory had been laboring under duress and were forced to give the bodies to the armed gunmen.

Dutch pray for victims, families of Ukraine air disaster as anger grows at pro-Russia rebels

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Worshipers at church services across the Netherlands are praying for the victims of the Ukraine air disaster and their next of kin, as anger builds over the separatist rebels' hindering of the investigation into the downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17.

The chairman of the Dutch Bishops Conference, Cardinal Wim Eijk, has called on church-goers to "pray for strength and courage for the relatives" at services Sunday.

Amid the grieving, Prime Minister Mark Rutte is pushing for Russian President Vladimir Putin to use his influence over the rebels in eastern Ukraine to ensure a full investigation into the tragedy that killed 298 passengers and crew, including 193 Dutch citizens.

Q&A: How Malaysia Airlines can restore employee and customer confidence after 2 disasters

Malaysia Airlines is in uncharted territory after the disappearance of Flight 370 in March with 239 people aboard was followed this week by the downing of another of its jets, carrying 298 people, over Ukraine.

Before the disasters the carrier had among the worst financial performance of any airline. An even bigger question mark now hangs over the future of Malaysia Airlines, with its brand tied to two almost unfathomable tragedies.

Some analysts say the state-owned airline won't survive a year without a substantial cash injection from the Malaysian government.

A bailout would address the airline's immediate financial problems but without far-reaching changes it could remain a burden on taxpayers and shrivel into regional obscurity.

Panicked residents flee Gaza City neighborhood hit by tank fire as Israel widens offensive

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A Gaza City neighborhood came under heavy tank fire Sunday as Israel widened its ground offensive against Hamas, causing hundreds of panicked residents to flee, including a woman in a wheelchair waving a white flag.

At least 30 people were killed in Gaza's Shijaiyah neighborhood, and five more bodies were believed buried under the rubble of homes, health officials said. They are the latest casualties in a nearly two-week conflict that has killed some 380 Palestinians and seven Israelis.

After daybreak, dozens of wounded from Shijaiyah were rushed to Gaza City's central Shifa Hospital. Frantic parents carried children bloodied by shrapnel, and the emergency room quickly overflowed, forcing doctors to treat some patients on mattresses in a hallway.

"The gate of hell has opened, and shrapnel came through the windows," said Shijaiyah resident Jawad Hassanain, speaking by phone. "The house shook, so I took my mother, my children, my brother as well, and we started seeking refuge in a nearby building."

"From 12:30 a.m. until 4 a.m., all you could hear is heavy bombardment, the smell of fire and the smell of death. By 4:30, and after the call for the prayer, we were able to get in an ambulance," which took them to his sister's neighborhood, he said.

Indonesian democracy faces test as 2 presidential candidates claim victory

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — After an ugly presidential election campaign, Indonesia is set to declare the winner on Tuesday — but that may not settle a simmering dispute between the two candidates, both of whom claim victory.

Unofficial counts by eight polling agencies of the July 9 election have given Joko Widodo, the popular and sneaker-wearing former governor of Jakarta known as "Jokowi," a slim lead.

But Prabowo Subianto, a former general with a checkered human rights record who has drawn voters with his thundering nationalistic rhetoric, insists he has polling data showing he has won, raising speculation that he might may not accept the results if he loses.

The tension could threaten Indonesia's fragile transition to democracy 16 years after it emerged from the long and brutal Suharto dictatorship. The country of 240 million is experiencing a slowing economy — the largest in Southeast Asia — and needs leadership to tackle a rapidly crumbling infrastructure.

Once the Election Commission announces the winner, it is highly likely the losing candidate will appeal to the Constitutional Court, the country's highest. Judges there will have two weeks to rule on any complaints before deciding who won.

Gusty winds fuel destructive Washington wildfire as it blackens scenic hillsides
WINTHROP, Wash. (AP) — A massive wildfire that has forced the evacuation of towns, destroyed numerous homes and blackened scenic hillsides in north-central Washington has been burning into new areas, fueled by dry conditions and gusty winds.

The lightning-caused fire by Saturday had scorched nearly 340 square miles in the scenic Methow Valley. The fire was measured at 260 square miles Friday.

Road closures and evacuations were changing regularly, as hot weather and winds with gusts up to 30 mph were pushing the fire over ridge tops and toward a cluster of small towns northeast of Seattle.

"This is a very active and fluid situation," fire spokesman Chuck Turey said.

People living between Carlton and Pateros have been told to leave their homes. The fire has downed power lines and many towns were without electrical power or phone service Saturday.

Tobacco company RJ Reynolds vows to fight \$23.6B in punitive damages in widow's lawsuit

MIAMI (AP) — The nation's No. 2 cigarette maker is vowing to fight a jury verdict of \$23.6 billion in punitive damages in a lawsuit filed by the widow of a longtime smoker who died of lung cancer.

R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. executive J. Jeffery Raborn has called the damages awarded by a Pensacola jury "grossly excessive and impermissible under state and constitutional law."

"This verdict goes far beyond the realm of reasonableness and fairness, and is completely inconsistent with the evidence presented," Raborn, a company vice president and assistant general counsel, said in a statement. "We plan to file post-trial motions with the trial court promptly, and are confident that the court will follow the law and not allow this runaway verdict to stand."

One of the widow's attorneys said the verdict Friday night sends a powerful message to tobacco companies.

"The jury wanted to send a statement that tobacco cannot continue to lie to the American people and the American government about the addictiveness of and the deadly chemicals in their cigarettes," said Christopher Chestnut, one of the attorneys representing Cynthia Robinson.

New York officer stripped of gun, badge after apparent chokehold is used in fatal arrest

NEW YORK (AP) — A New York City police officer involved in the arrest of a man who died in custody after being placed in an apparent chokehold has been stripped of his gun and badge and placed on desk duty, police said Saturday.

Officer Daniel Pantaleo, an eight-year NYPD veteran, and an officer who has been with the force for four years were both taken off the street after the death Thursday of 43-year-old Eric Garner on Staten Island, police said.

The department would not identify the second officer but said he would retain his gun and badge while on desk duty. The reassignment is effective immediately and will remain in effect while Garner's death is being investigated, police said.

The president of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association, the city's largest police union, called Pantaleo's reassignment a "completely unwarranted, knee-jerk reaction."

The decision, Patrick Lynch said in a statement, "effectively pre-judges" the case and denies Pantaleo the "very benefit of a doubt that has long been part of the social contract that allows police officers to

face the risks of this difficult and complex job.”

Ahead of climate talks, Peru passes law weakening environmental protections

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Dozens of international groups, the United Nations, and even Peru’s own citizen ombudsman are objecting to a new law that weakens environmental protections in the Andean nation even as it prepares to host international climate-control talks this year.

The law, aimed at increasing investment, strips Peru’s six-year-old environment ministry of jurisdiction over air, soil and water quality standards, as well as its ability to set limits for harmful substances. It also eliminates the ministry’s power to establish nature reserves exempt from mining and oil-drilling.

The nation pocked by more than 300 major mines already offers the industry incentives unmatched in the Americas, even by mining-friendly Chile and Mexico.

Enacted July 11 by President Ollanta Humala after limited debate in Congress, the new law also further streamlines environmental reviews for new projects, and, for the next three years, lowers by half the maximum fines for all but the most serious of environmental violations.

At the same time, it re-establishes tax breaks for big mining multinationals, which already enjoy such benefits as simultaneous, indefinite concessions for both exploration and exploitation as long as they make nominal payments. In some Peruvian states, more than half the territory is under concession.

Mexico’s elite backs woman who ran child shelter for 6 decades despite charges of abuse, filth

ZAMORA, Mexico (AP) — For more than six decades, poor parents struggling to support their children or raise troubled youths sent them to a group home in western Mexico run by a woman who gained a reputation as a secular saint.

Rosa del Carmen Verduzco raised thousands of children in The Great Family home. She cultivated patrons among Mexico’s political and intellectual elites, and was visited by presidents and renowned writers.

Then, last year, parents began complaining to authorities that they couldn’t visit their children at the home. Residents told investigators of Dickensian horrors — rapes, beatings and children held against their will for years in trash-strewn rooms with filthy toilets.

On Tuesday, heavily armed federal police and soldiers raided the home and arrested nine caretakers, including the 79-year-old woman known as Mama Rosa.

The revelations spawned disgust and horror, but also a rush to Mama Rosa’s defense by supporters who include some of Mexico’s most respected intellectuals and some of the very children who say they were mistreated at her facility.

Police: Movie, TV legend James Garner dies

LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Actor James Garner, whose whimsical style in the 1950s TV Western “Maverick” led to a stellar career in TV and films such as “The Rockford Files” and his Oscar-nominated “Murphy’s Romance,” has died, police said. He was 86.

He was found dead of natural causes at his home in the Brentwood area of Los Angeles Saturday

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evening, Los Angeles police officer Alonzo Iniguez said early Sunday.

Police responded to a call around 8 p.m. PDT and confirmed Garner's identity from family members, Iniguez told The Associated Press.

There was no immediate word on a more specific cause of death. Garner had suffered a stroke in May 2008, just weeks after his 80th birthday.

Although he was adept at drama and action, Garner was best known for his low-key, wisecracking style, especially with his hit TV series, "Maverick" and "The Rockford Files."

His quick-witted avoidance of conflict provided a refreshingly new take on the American hero, contrasting with the steely heroics of John Wayne and the fast trigger of Clint Eastwood.

Well into his 70s, the handsome Oklahoman remained active in both TV and film. In 2002, he was Sandra Bullock's father in the film "Divine Secrets of the Ya-Ya Sisterhood." The following year, he joined the cast of "8 Simple Rules ... For Dating My Teenage Daughter," playing the grandfather on the sitcom after star John Ritter, who played the father, died during the show's second season.

When he received the Screen Actors Guild's lifetime achievement award in 2005, he quipped, "I'm not at all sure how I got here."

But in his 2011 memoir, "The Garner Files," he provided some amusing and enlightening clues, including his penchant for bluntly expressed opinions and a practice for decking people who said something nasty to his face — including an obnoxious fan and an abusive stepmother. They all deserved it, Garner declared in his book.

It was in 1957 when the ABC network, desperate to compete on ratings-rich Sunday night, scheduled "Maverick" against CBS's powerhouse "The Ed Sullivan Show" and NBC's "The Steve Allen Show." "Maverick" soon outpolled them both.

At a time when the networks were crowded with hard-eyed, traditional Western heroes, Bret Maverick provided a fresh breath of air. With his sardonic tone and his eagerness to talk his way out of a squabble rather than pull out his six-shooter, the con-artist Westerner seemed to scoff at the genre's values.

After a couple of years, Garner felt the series was losing its creative edge, and he found a legal loophole to escape his contract in 1960.

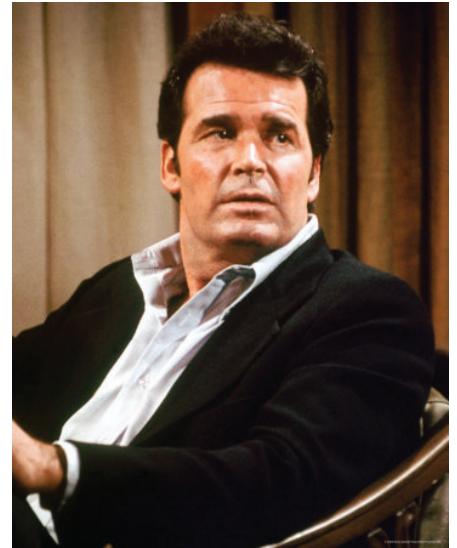
His first film after "Maverick" established him as a movie actor. It was "The Children's Hour," William Wyler's remake of Lillian Hellman's lesbian drama that co-starred Audrey Hepburn and Shirley MaLaine.

He followed in a successful comedy with Kim Novak, "Boys Night Out," and then fully established his box-office appeal with the 1963 blockbuster war drama "The Great Escape" and two smash comedies with Doris Day — "The Thrill of It All" and "Move Over Darling."

Throughout his long film career, Garner demonstrated his versatility in comedies ("The Art of Love," "A Man Could Get Killed," "Skin Game"), suspense ("36 Hours," "They Only Kill Their Masters," "Marlowe"), Westerns ("Duel at Diablo," "Hour of the Gun," "Support Your Local Gunfighter").

In the 1980s and 1990s, when most stars his age were considered over the hill, Garner's career remained strong.

He played a supporting role as a marshal in the 1994 "Maverick," a big-screen return to the TV series with Mel Gibson in Garner's old title role. His only Oscar nomination came for the 1985 "Murphy's Romance," a comedy about a small-town love relationship in which he co-starred with Sally Field.



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His favorite film, though, was the cynical 1964 war drama "The Americanization of Emily," which co-starred Julie Andrews.

Unlike most film stars, Garner made repeated returns to television. "Nichols" (1971-72) and "Bret Maverick" (1981-82) were short-lived, but "The Rockford Files" (1974-80) proved a solid hit, bringing him an Emmy.

Among his notable TV movies: "Barbarians at the Gate" (as tycoon F. Ross Johnson), "Breathing Lessons," "The Promise," "My Name Is Bill W.," "The Streets of Laredo" and "One Special Night."

He said he learned about acting while playing a non-speaking role as a Navy juror in the 1954 Broadway hit play "The Caine Mutiny Court Martial," starring Henry Fonda and Lloyd Nolan.

"I had no lines, and I had trouble staying awake," Garner recalled.

After "Caine Mutiny," Garner found work in Hollywood as a bit player in the "Cheyenne" TV series. Warner Bros. gave him a screen test and signed him to a seven-year contract starting at \$200 a week.

The studio cast him in supporting roles in three minor films, followed by the important break as Marlon Brando's sidekick in "Sayonara." When Charlton Heston declined a war movie, "Darby's Rangers," because of a money dispute, Garner assumed the role.

"Maverick," which co-starred Jack Kelly as brother Bart Maverick, made its debut on Sept. 22, 1957.

Garner was born James Scott Bumgarner (some references say Baumgarner) in Norman, Okla. His mother died when he was 5, and friends and relatives cared for him and his two brothers for a time while his father was to California.

In 1957, Garner married TV actress Lois Clarke, and the union prevailed despite some stormy patches. She had a daughter Kimberly from a previous marriage, and the Garners had another daughter, Gretta Scott. In the late 1990s, the Garners built a 12,000-square-foot house on a 400-acre ranch north of Santa Barbara.

"My wife and I felt ... we'd just watch the sunset from the front porch," Garner said in 2000. "But then the phone started ringing with all these wonderful offers, and we decided, 'Heck, let's stay in the business for a while.'"

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Sunday, July 20, the 201st day of 2014. There are 164 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 20, 1944, an attempt by a group of German officials to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb failed as the explosion only wounded the Nazi leader. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was nominated for a fourth term of office at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

On this date:

In 1861, the Congress of the Confederate States convened in Richmond, Virginia.

In 1871, British Columbia entered Confederation as a Canadian province.

In 1917, the World War I draft lottery went into operation.

In 1923, Mexican revolutionary leader Pancho Villa was assassinated.

In 1954, the Geneva Accords divided Vietnam into northern and southern entities.

In 1968, the first International Special Olympics Summer Games, organized by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, were held at Soldier Field in Chicago.

In 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first men to walk on the moon after reaching the surface in their Apollo 11 lunar module.

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In 1974, Turkish forces invaded Cyprus after a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

In 1976, America's Viking 1 robot spacecraft made a successful, first-ever landing on Mars.

In 1989, Burmese activist Aung San Suu Kyi (soo chee) was placed under house arrest by the military government of Myanmar.

In 1999, after 38 years at the bottom of the Atlantic, astronaut Gus Grissom's Liberty Bell 7 Mercury capsule was lifted to the surface.

In 2012, a gunman opened fire inside a crowded movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, during a midnight showing of "The Dark Knight Rises," killing 12 people. (Suspect James Eagen Holmes has pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to more than 160 counts of murder and attempted murder.)

Ten years ago: Former national security adviser Sandy Berger quit as an informal adviser to Democrat John Kerry's presidential campaign after disclosure of a criminal investigation into whether he'd mishandled classified terrorism documents. Iraqi militants freed a Filipino truck driver after the Philippines government gave in to their demands to withdraw troops from Iraq. The head of slain American hostage Paul M. Johnson Jr. was found in a raid in Saudi Arabia. The U.N. General Assembly demanded that Israel tear down the barrier it was building to seal off the West Bank; Israel vowed to continue construction.

Five years ago: A roadside bomb killed four American troops in eastern Afghanistan. The astronauts aboard the shuttle-station complex celebrated the 40th anniversary of man's first moon landing with their own spacewalk.

One year ago: People rallied in dozens of U.S. cities, urging authorities to press federal civil rights charges against George Zimmerman, the former neighborhood watch leader found not guilty in the shooting death of unarmed teen Trayvon Martin. Five employees of an Italian cruise company were convicted of manslaughter in the Costa Concordia shipwreck that killed 32 people, receiving sentences of less than three years. Longtime White House correspondent Helen Thomas, 92, died in Washington.

Today's Birthdays: Actress-singer Sally Ann Howes is 84. Author Cormac McCarthy is 81. Rockabilly singer Sleepy LaBeef is 79. Senator Barbara A. Mikulski, D-Md., is 78. Actress Diana Rigg is 76. Artist Judy Chicago is 75. Rock musician John Lodge (The Moody Blues) is 71. Country singer T.G. Sheppard is 70. Singer Kim Carnes is 69. Rock musician Carlos Santana is 67. Rock musician Paul Cook (The Sex Pistols, Man Raze) is 58. Actress Donna Dixon is 57. Rock musician Mick McNeil (Simple Minds) is 56. Country singer Radney Foster is 55. Actor Frank Whaley is 51. Rock singer Chris Cornell is 50. Rock musician Stone Gossard (Pearl Jam) is 48. Actor Reed Diamond is 47. Actor Josh Holloway is 45. Singer Vitamin C is 45. Actor Omar Epps is 41. Actor Simon Rex is 40. Actress Judy Greer is 39. Actor Charlie Korsmo is 36. Singer Elliott Yamin (yah-MEEN') (American Idol) is 36. Supermodel Gisele Bundchen is 34. Rock musician Mike Kennerty (The All-American Rejects) is 34. Actor Percy Daggs III is 32. Actor John Francis Daley is 29. Country singer Hannah Blaylock (Edens Edge) is 28. Country singer-ballroom dancer Julianne Hough is 26. Actress Billi Bruno is 18.

Thought for Today: "Courage without conscience is a wild beast." - Robert G. Ingersoll, American lawyer and politician (1833-1899).

Drag racing comes to a screeching halt



A broken steering rod led to the Mud Puppy leaving the track and hitting the front end of Greg Belden's pickup, which was sitting along the sidelines. The pickup sustained damage to the front bumper. No one was injured in the accident. (Photo #8295 by Char Telkamp)



Jay Howard and Russ Larson of Larson Racing, discuss the incident and damage to Greg Belden's pickup that resulted from a mud drag racer leaving the track and hitting the vehicle. (Photo #8298 by Char Telkamp)

Things came to a screeching halt during the mud races at Howard's field east of Groton, putting an end to the races. While racing, the steering let loose on the pink Mud Puppy driven by Albert Cox, Groton, and veered off course to hit a spectator's vehicle.

No one was injured in the accident; however the Groton Police Department was called. As the incident happened on private property, no citations were issued.

Following the incident, the drivers held a meeting and agreed to stop the event for the day. As the races had not proceeded far enough to determine classification winners, there are no results.

The Northeastern South Dakota Mud Drag Racing Association (NESDRA) has been racing in Groton for several years, as part of the Party in the Pasture Saturday entertainment. The racers compete in several at several area events each summer for end of the year points and awards.

Groton is scheduled to remain on the event list for next year. The racing tour will move to Langford on July 27.

-Char Telkamp



The pink color of Albert Cox's Mud Puppy is an eye catcher as he races on Saturday. (Photo #8284 by Char Telkamp)

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Ron Worlie, Conde, drives the Mudslinger in the super stock competition during Saturday's mud drags. (Photo #8220 by Char Telkamp)



A shower of mud. Bryce Dargatz, Groton, is caught in a mud shower thrown up by his opponent in the mud drags on Saturday. (Photo #8226 by Char Telkamp)



Wanna Bet? driven by Travis Larson of Larson Racing, kicks up mud at the starting line.

(Photo #8225 by Char Telkamp)



Tyler Stiegelmeier, Britton, competed in the modified division of the mud drags on Saturday. (Photo #8242 by Char Telkamp)



Mud drag racing is not only for the boys, as proven by Ally Peterson, Britton, as she drives the Muddigger in Saturday's mud drags. (Photo

#8264 by Char Telkamp)