

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, July 4, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 336 ♦ 1 of 15



Smoke from the Canadian fires descended to ground level as Groton was under a haze for most of the day on Friday.

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Saturday, July 4

Independence Day

Birthdays: Seth Erickson, Michael Felkey, Joan Johnson, Alex May

10:00 a.m.: Firecracker Golf Tourney at Olive Grove, 18 holes

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, July 5

Anniversary: Allen & Joyce Walter

Birthdays: Jasmine Schinkel, Karen Mettler, Paula Krueger, Trenton Duncan, Stephen Simon.

9:00 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with communion

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

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

3:30 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran fellowship at Golden Living Center (MM Bible Study serves)

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

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Despite Recent Moisture, Be Safe with Fire this Independence Day Weekend

RAPID CITY S.D. — South Dakota Wildland Fire Division wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable Independence Day weekend.

"Despite the recent precipitation, remember to use caution when enjoying our beautiful state," said Assistant Chief Robert Lehmann. "One small spark has the potential to start a fire. For those camping over the 4th of July, please extinguish campfires properly with water and dirt until they are completely cool."

The public should be aware that fireworks are prohibited within in the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District, which is located in west central South Dakota. A map with boundary locations can be found at <https://sdda.sd.gov>.

In the Black Hills area, local, state, and federal agencies have combined fire restriction information on one website at: <http://www.blackhillsfirerestrictions.com>. Contact information and website links can be found for each agency if questions arise.

Also, we encourage you to follow these recommendations:

- Properly dispose of cigarettes.
- Make sure campfires are "dead" out.
- Remember that fireworks are prohibited within the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District.
- Travel and camp with a shovel and ample water.
- Avoid parking vehicles in tall or dry grass.

Anyone who causes a wildland fire intentionally or through negligence will be held accountable for damage and suppression costs.

Follow South Dakota Wildland Fire on Twitter @SDWildlandFire and on Facebook by searching SD Wildland Fire.

-30-



HEAD START Education-Purchasing Coordinator

The Northeast South Dakota Head Start Program in Aberdeen is seeking a candidate who is highly motivated and will be responsible for supervising/mentoring teaching staff, developmental screening of children ages 3 to 5, monitoring federal regulations, and purchasing consumable and classroom items for entire program. Must be able to lift 30 lbs. and occasionally heavier items. Extensive driving is required, company vehicle is provided.

Qualifications: A minimum of a BS/BA Degree in Early Childhood Education or a Degree in a related field with a minor in Early Childhood Development. Applicant must possess good leadership/mentoring skills, have a working knowledge of the developmental and educational needs of children; and be able to work closely as a team with Head Start staff, parents and volunteers; must have adequate computer knowledge and skills.

Starting date is July 27, 2015.

Annual salary is \$29,215 DOQ. Excellent benefits. For a complete job description and an application form, visit: www.nesdhs.org/careers/

Smoke thickens in region as Canada's fires continue to burn

By Anne Millerbernd on Jul 3, 2015 at 12:36 p.m.

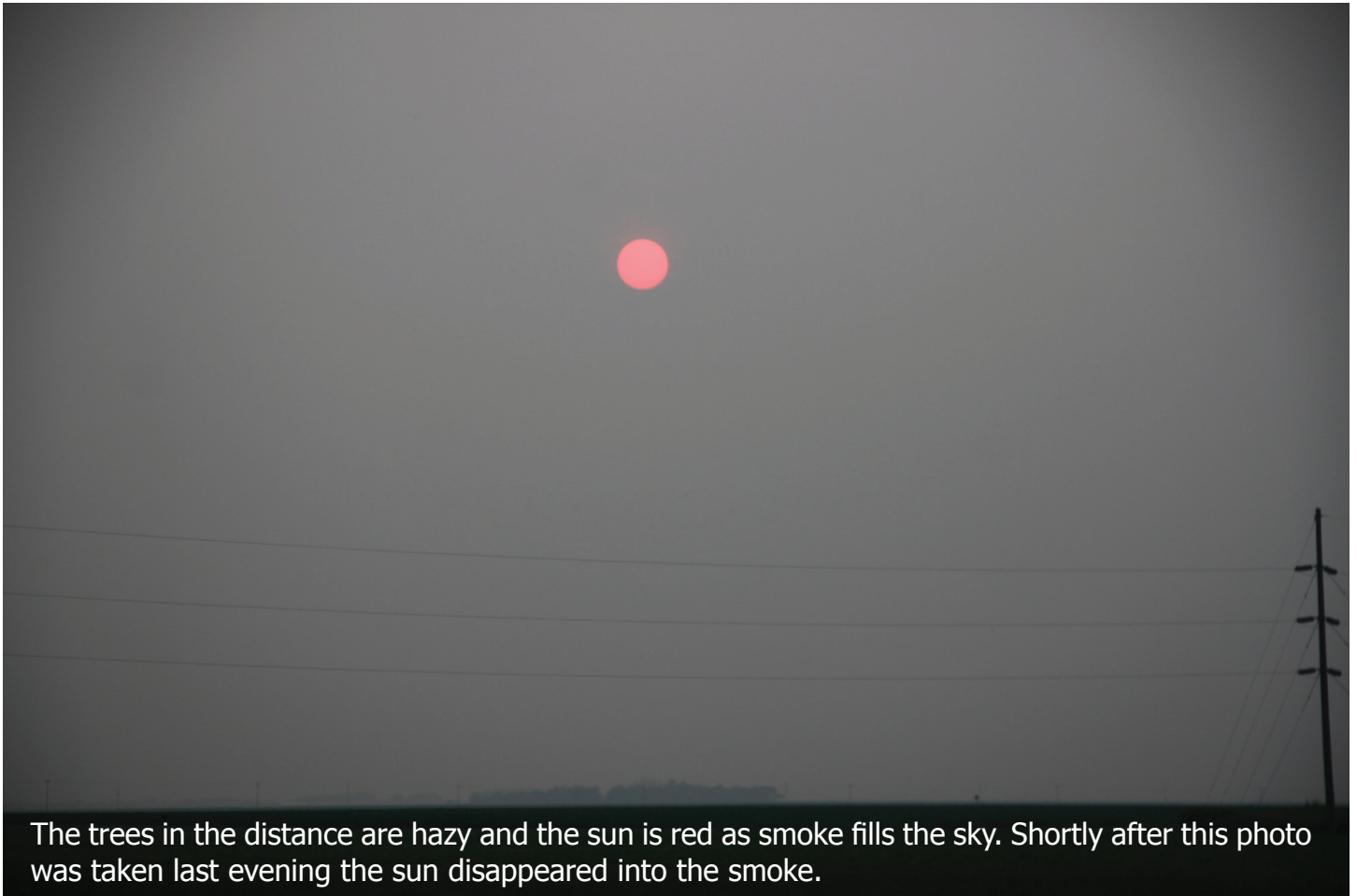
Groton experienced a hazy Friday as the wind continues to carry smoke from fires in northern Saskatchewan toward eastern North Dakota and Western Minnesota, and even down to northeastern South Dakota.

Wind has carried the smoke through the upper levels of the atmosphere for much of the week, creating a thick shield of smoke over the area, said Brad Hopkins, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Grand Forks.

But on Friday, high pressure has pushed the smoke down to ground-level, reducing visibility slightly.

That combined with extra moisture in the area makes for a thicker smoke screen.

Expected rain on Sunday will likely scrub the air clean temporarily, Hopkins said, but barring a drastic wind change or an end to the fires in Canada, the haze will return.



The trees in the distance are hazy and the sun is red as smoke fills the sky. Shortly after this photo was taken last evening the sun disappeared into the smoke.

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Supporting Science in South Dakota By Senator Mike Rounds

While working as governor of South Dakota, securing the underground laboratory at the Homestake mine in Lead was one of our proudest accomplishments. Without the strong support of people across the entire state none of this would have happened. At that time, it was called the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory, or DUSEL, and managed by the National Science Foundation. During a competitive process and with a generous gift from philanthropist T. Denny Sanford, the facility was awarded to South Dakota. The Department of Energy is now the primary sponsor of the re-named Sanford Underground Research Facility.

Though the name has changed over time, the quality of the work at the lab remains first-rate. Researchers and scientists continue to explore modern physics by developing groundbreaking experiments that can only be done in this unique laboratory space deep underground that protects the experiments from cosmic radiation. In fact, physicist Ray Davis, Jr., earned a Nobel Prize for Physics in 2002 for his solar neutrino experiment at the mine.

I was honored to attend the recent grand opening of the Sanford Visitor and Learning Center on June 30, which is the result of years of hard work and planning. Many different people and groups have come together to make the Sanford Lab a world-class research facility, and I'm pleased that it will now be open to visitors from around the globe who are interested in the important work researchers are doing at the lab.

While working as governor, I worked with the South Dakota State Legislature to appropriate more than \$39 million for underground science at the Sanford Lab. The new visitor center offers scientists of all ages from every state and around the world a first-hand look at the lab's experiments. It also offers the town of Lead an opportunity to showcase its historic past as a mining town to tour groups and visitors from around the world.

We've also been preparing future leaders to work in science. Students are our state's greatest asset, and just since 2003, 6,000 new scholarships have been awarded to make sure young people have the opportunity to receive a top-notch education and make their careers in South Dakota. Encouraging more students to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) has long been one of our priorities. The Sanford Science Education Center is a collaboration between Black Hills State University and the Sanford Lab to prepare students for future STEM-based careers. They offer internships, professional development courses, summer programs and more to inspire young people to pursue science-based jobs.

I look forward to seeing the Sanford Lab continue to expand and thrive. Future plans for the lab include a partnership with Fermilab in Illinois on the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE), which could lead to new discoveries about neutrinos, proton decay and the elements necessary for life. Scientists throughout the ages have questioned the origins of the universe, and with today's technology, we may be able to

discover more about what makes up the universe. This is South Dakota's opportunity to be involved in exciting new discoveries which, not too long ago, seemed only to be part of science fiction. You will hear more about matter, dark matter, energy, dark energy, and of course, more about neutrinos! It is all happening in the Black Hills of South Dakota.



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Today in Weather History

July 4, 1936: Several record highs were seen on this day, including; 113 degrees 4NW of Gann Valley; 111 in Murdo; 107 in Castlewood; 106 in Clark and Highmore; 105 near Onida; 104 in Faulkton and Miller; 103 degrees 6SE of McIntosh; 101 in Pollock.

July 4, 1988: Several record highs were set on this day, including; 103 degrees in Ipswich and Britton; 102 in Webster; 101 in Summit and Artichoke Lake, MN; 99 in Leola; 98 degrees in Clear Lake and Waubay.

1776: Thomas Jefferson paid for his first thermometer and signed the Declaration of Independence. According to his weather memorandum book, at 2 PM it was cloudy and 76 degrees.

1911: Record temperatures are set in the northeastern United States as a deadly heat wave hits the area that would go on to kill 380 people. In Nashua, New Hampshire, the mercury peaked at 106 degrees. Other high-temperature records were set all over New England during an 11-day period.

1969: During the afternoon of Friday, July 4, 1969, thunderstorms formed over southeast Lower Michigan (MI), several of which produced tornadoes, large hail, and high winds west and south of Detroit. As these storms moved southeastward during the early evening, they evolved into a strong derecho over extreme southeastern Michigan (MI) and Lake Erie (LE). The derecho then roared southeast across northern and eastern Ohio (OH) and western Pennsylvania (PA) during the next few hours. The hourly positions of the gust front (associated with multiple bow echoes) are shown in Figure 1 (above). Winds gusted to 104 mph in Toledo ("T"), and reached 100 mph in the Cleveland ("C") area. In towns and cities near Lake Erie, many people were outside, preparing to watch Independence Day fireworks. Also for the occasion, many small boat owners had anchored their craft just off the Lake Erie shore to watch the displays. As the derecho passed, untold thousands of trees were blown down, including 5000 in Toledo alone. Along the south shore of Lake Erie, eight people were killed by falling trees and over 100 boats were overturned, drowning at least three persons. A total of eighteen people were killed as a result of the derecho winds in Ohio. Some of the worst damage occurred in Lakewood, a suburb of Cleveland. The storm system continued to uproot trees, damage roofs, and produce power outages as it moved into Pennsylvania, where five people were injured by high winds in Meadville ("M").

1776 - Thomas Jefferson paid for his first thermometer, and signed the Declaration of Independence. According to his weather memorandum book, at 2 PM it was cloudy and 76 degrees. (David Ludlum)

1911 - The northeastern U.S. experienced sweltering 100 degree heat. The temperature soared to 105 degrees at Vernon, VT, and North Bridgton ME, and to 106 degrees at Nashua NH, to establish all-time records for those three states. Afternoon highs of 104 at Boston, MA, 104 at Albany, NY, and 103 at Portland, ME, were all-time records for those three cities. (The Weather Channel)

1956 - A world record for the most rain in one minute was set at Unionville, MD, with a downpour of 1.23 inches. (The Weather Channel) (The National Severe Storms Forecast Center)

1987 - Thunderstorms around the country provided extra fireworks for Independence Day. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 82 mph at Clearwater, KS, eight inches of rain in four hours at Menno SD, and three inches of rain in just fifteen minutes at Austin, KY. Morning thunderstorms drenched Oneonta AL with 8.6 inches of rain, their greatest 24 hour total in thirty years of records. The heavy rain caused mudslides and serious flooding, claiming two lives. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced heavy rain over the Central Gulf Coast Region for the second day in a row. Monroe, LA, was deluged with 3.75 inches in two hours. Aberdeen and Rapid City, SD, reported record high temperatures for the date, with readings of 105 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Independence Day was hot as a firecracker across parts of the country. Nineteen cities, mostly in the north central U.S., reported record high temperatures for the date, including Williston ND with a reading of 107 degrees. In the southwestern U.S., highs of 93 at Alamosa, CO, 114 at Tucson, AZ, and 118 at Phoenix, AZ, equalled all-time records for those locations. (The National Weather Summary)

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Independence Day



Slight Chc Thunderstorms

High: 88 °F

Tonight



Chance Thunderstorms

Low: 68 °F

Sunday



Thunderstorms Likely

High: 87 °F

Sunday Night



Thunderstorms Likely

Low: 60 °F

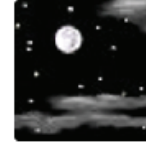
Monday



Slight Chc Thunderstorms

High: 74 °F

Monday Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 53 °F

Tuesday



Sunny

High: 75 °F



Hot and Muggy This Weekend

Follow us on Social Media

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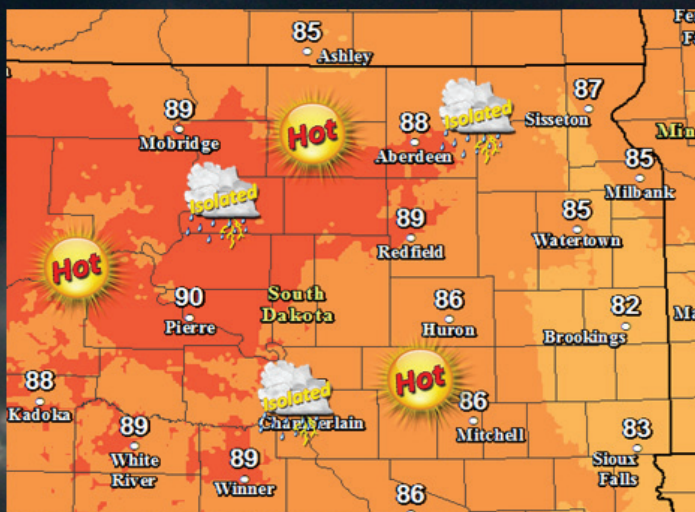


National Weather Service Aberdeen

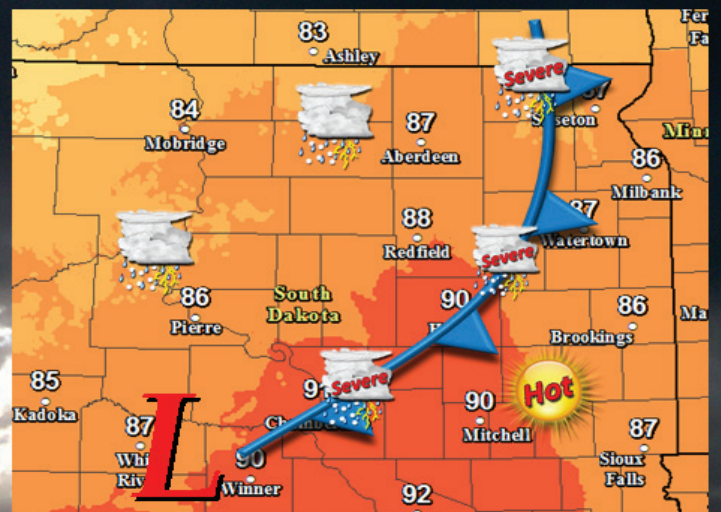


@NWSAberdeen

Isolated Severe Storms This Afternoon



Severe Storms Possible Sunday Aftn/Eve



Published on: 07/04/2015 at 4:40AM

The heat and humidity will return this weekend. Isolated severe storms may form this afternoon and evening. More storms, potentially severe, are expected to form ahead of an advancing cold front on Sunday. Monday will bring a cool down, along with lower humidity.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 84.0 at 5:06 PM

Low: 56.9 at 4:27 AM

High Gust: 10 at 2:22 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1988

Record Low: 40° in 1967

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July: 0.42

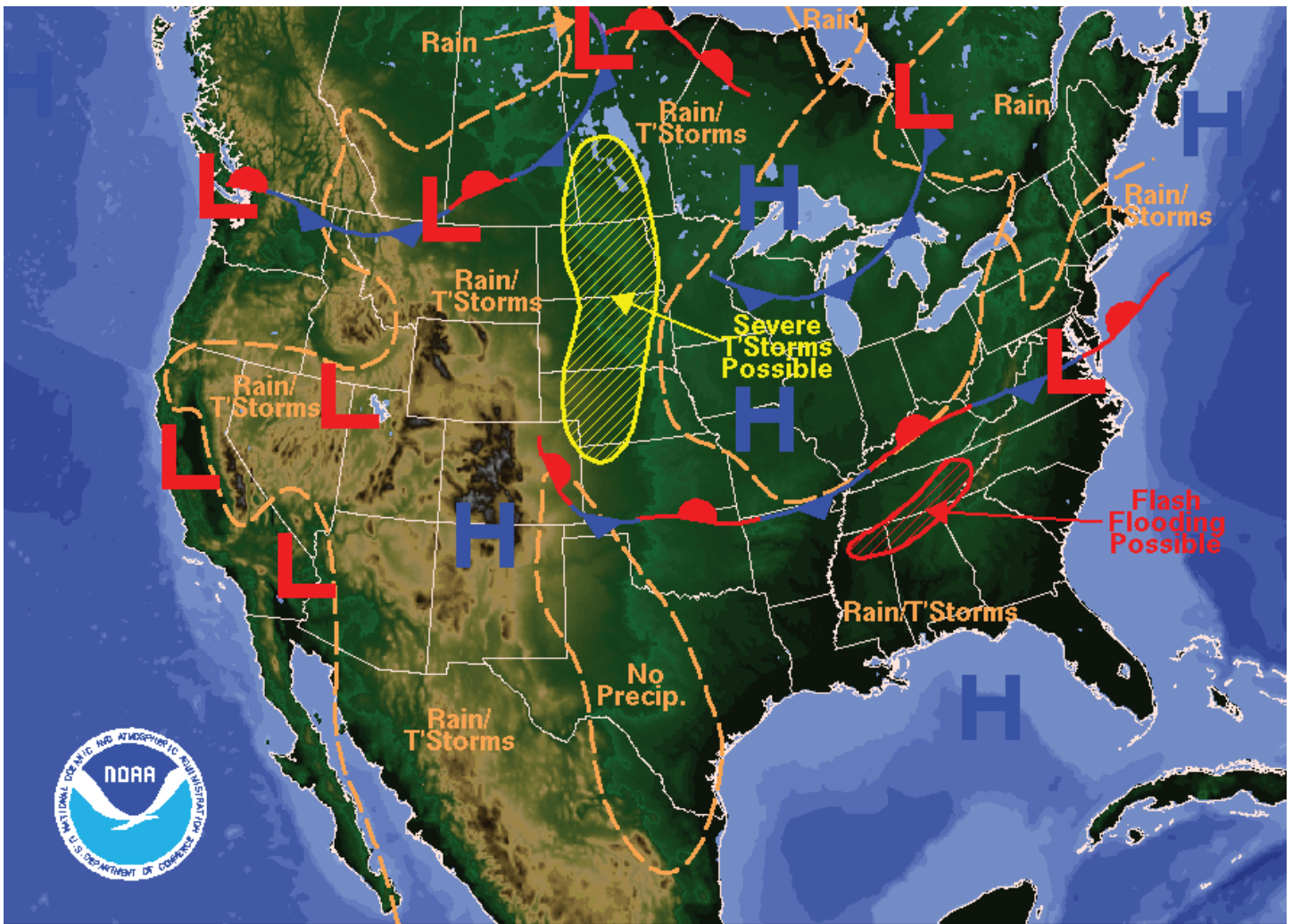
Precip to date in July: 0.15

Average Precip to date: 11.26

Precip Year to Date: 7.45

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Jul 04, 2015, issued 4:17 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kong based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



BREAKTHROUGH

It was the first time she, JoAnn, had ever competed in the Special Olympics. She had trained hard but had no expectations of winning her race. But she did win.

After the medal was placed around her neck she ran to her parents and said, "Look mom and dad – I won! I won my race!" Tears fell from their eyes and splashed on their chests.

Noticing their tears, the judge approached them and asked, "Aren't you happy that your daughter won the race? Why are you crying?"

Wiping the tears from her eyes, JoAnn's mother said, "Of course we are happy she won her race. But what brought tears to our eyes was the joy we had in hearing the first words she ever uttered."

It is easy for Christians to do good works and kind deeds in the name of the Lord without mentioning His name. And that is good. But we must also willingly and without hesitation boldly tell others of His redeeming grace and salvation.

Prayer: Give us courage, Father, to share Your message of love, hope and salvation with the lost. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 107:2 Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, Whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy,

News from the Associated Press

Hammon to become 1st female head coach of NBA summer league

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Becky Hammon is about to become the first woman to serve as the head coach of an NBA summer league team.

San Antonio announced Friday that Hammon will lead the Spurs during summer league play in Las Vegas. She is entering her second season as an assistant coach for the Spurs.

Spurs video coordinator Will Hardy handle the head-coaching duties for a summer-league entry in Utah.

The Spurs will play at least five games in Las Vegas, starting on July 11. The Utah summer league starts Monday.

Hammon became the first full-time paid female NBA assistant coach last season. An All-Star in the WNBA, she played eight seasons each with the New York Liberty and San Antonio Stars.

Jackley, other AGs send religious liberty letter to Congress

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — As same-sex couples begin to marry in South Dakota, Attorney General Marty Jackley wants to make sure the religious liberties of citizens who object to gay marriages are protected, the state's top law enforcement official said.

Jackley this week joined 14 of his fellow chief legal officers in sending a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and House Speaker John Boehner, petitioning them to continue tax exemptions for religious organizations that oppose same-sex marriage.

The attorney general said the letter aims to ensure that the religious liberties of people and organizations who oppose same-sex marriages are protected.

"The Supreme Court's decision and analysis on equal protection and due process must coexist with the constitutional right to freedom of religion," Jackley said in an interview. "And in South Dakota, we will work to respect both in compliance with the court's directive."

On Thursday, Jackley said county employees with religious objections to same-sex marriages could ask someone else to issue marriage licenses to a gay couple. He said a "commonsense solution" like that will ensure no one's rights are infringed upon.

The letter to congressional leaders focused on the concerns of officials who worry that the Internal Revenue Service may deny tax-exempt status to religious organizations in light of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling.

Jackley said South Dakota will work through any issues that arise in the state to make sure that the rights of gay people and the rights of those with religious objections are protected.

Lawyer to seek legal fees in North Dakota gay marriage case

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The attorney who led seven same-sex couples to challenge North Dakota's ban on gay marriage plans to seek legal fees from the state now that the lawsuit he brought has been settled, he said this week.

Minneapolis attorney Josh Newville said now that U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson ruled in favor of him and his plaintiffs, he can start to pursue attorney's fees. Erickson issued a ruling on Monday, saying the state's ban on gay marriage is unconstitutional and invalid.

Erickson's ruling comes in the wake of a U.S. Supreme Court decision that declared same-sex couples

have the right to marry nationwide.

Under federal law, attorneys in federal civil rights cases can petition a court to award them legal fees if a court finds in their favor.

The attorney said he first plans to talk with Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem to see if a deal can be struck.

"We may be able to come to a settlement without having to make a motion to the court," he said.

Stenehjem's office was closed Friday. He could not be reached for comment.

Newville plans to pursue similar action in South Dakota, where he filed a lawsuit challenging the state's ban on behalf of six same-sex couples.

While he speculates that the legal fees in that state, where the case reached the federal 8th Circuit Court of Appeals, could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, he expects to seek considerably less from North Dakota.

Erickson announced in January that he was putting the case on hold until the U.S. Supreme Court ruled.

"Obviously that case didn't get as far, and so the fees are substantially less than they will be in the South Dakota case," he said.

Suspicious package found in Rapid City turns out to be hoax

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in western South Dakota say a suspicious package found Thursday night turned out to be a hoax.

The Pennington County Sheriff's Office received a report around 8:30 p.m. from someone who said they had discovered a suspicious package while walking along Norris Peak Road in Rapid City.

The sheriff's office says the package was described as a box with several sticks of dynamite sticking out and a timing device. Deputies found the package with the word "bomb" written on it and multiple wires connected to a timing device.

Authorities eventually concluded that the package was a hoax and removed it from the area.

A nearby road was closed off and a 1,000-foot perimeter was established around the device while authorities investigated.

Police searching for boys who ran away from youth academy

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in Custer are searching for two teenagers who ran away from a youth rehabilitation facility Thursday night.

Department of Corrections staff members and law enforcement agencies are looking for the 16-year-old and 17-year-old boys who ran away from the State Treatment and Rehabilitation Academy (STAR) near Custer.

Three boys in all left the Brady Academy campus shortly before 10:30 p.m. One of them was apprehended south of the academy campus just after 2:00 a.m.

One of the missing boys is 16 years old and Native American. He is 6 feet 1 inches tall, weighs 215 pounds and has black hair and brown eyes.

The other missing teenager is also Native American. He is 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighs 150 pounds and has black hair and brown eyes.

AP News in Brief

Analysts say Greek government's hold on power uncertain, regardless of referendum outcome

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Whether Greeks decide in Sunday's referendum to accept their lenders' bail-out deal or reject it, the government's hold on power may be shakier than its brash prime minister has calculated, analysts say.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is banking on fellow Greeks to deliver a resounding "no" in the popular vote that he believes will give him strong leverage in his negotiations with creditors to swing a softer bailout deal for a country ravaged by years of harsh austerity, deep recession and crushing poverty.

A win for the No campaign, the reasoning goes, could also furnish Tsipras with an endorsement for his five-month rule and allow his government to consolidate — and extend — its grip on power.

That may not be the case, analysts say, since a "no" vote could still plunge Tsipras' position into uncertainty if negotiations drag on with lenders who see such the outcome as a Greek snub of the euro. Without a quick deal, banks could stay shuttered to keep their reserves from running dry.

"A deteriorating import-dependent economy will provoke a rapid decline in public support for the government and fresh elections may become inevitable, but this will take time," said Dimitri Sotiropoulos, political science professor at the University of Athens.

Up-front losses would be large for Greece, long-term consequences uncertain for Europe

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — With aid negotiations off and ATMs running out of money, it's not speculation any more. Greece could leave the euro. And soon.

What would that mean for the Greek people and for the European Union's 16-year-old shared currency — the crown jewel of a six-decade-old project in binding Europe's countries closer together?

For Greece, the short-term pain and turmoil could be extreme whereas the currency union would likely survive the initial shock.

The longer-term costs — and any possible benefits — could take years to become apparent.

Ironically, a few experts think one of the most devastating outcomes for the euro would be if Greece leaves and, against all expectation, thrives. That would undermine claims for the euro being a key to prosperity.

Government faces burden in proving leading airlines worked together on pricing, other business

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the Justice Department launches an investigation into possible collusion in the airline industry, experts say the government faces the burden of proving that carriers were deliberately signaling business decisions to each other.

Airlines routinely increase flights based on demand. A particularly cold winter in the Northeast, for instance, might merit more flights to the Caribbean. And sometimes, routes are cut because there isn't enough demand. Nothing is illegal about that.

Any company can limit the supply of its own products, whether airline tickets, sneakers or smart-phones. But it would be illegal for airlines to work together to limit flights in order to drive up fares.

The government's investigation is just in its initial phases. Letters went out this week to American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines and United Airlines. Together, those four carriers control more

than 80 percent of the domestic seats on planes.

Airlines are quick to say they can't talk about pricing decisions. But in recent years, airline executives and Wall Street analysts have been much more open in discussing how the airlines have kept their passenger capacity — the number of seats they put into given markets — in check. With that capacity kept from growing too fast, airplanes have been fuller and carriers have been able to command higher ticket prices. That's led to record profits.

Pope Francis visit puts pro-extraction politics of Andean leaders under magnifying glass

AGUARAGUE NATIONAL PARK, Bolivia (AP) — In the vine-entangled forests of the Aguarague National Park, crude that seeped for decades out of abandoned wellheads saturates the soil and has stained the bedrock of creeks that provide water to the indigenous Guarani who live nearby.

The petroleum stench is overpowering as David Benitez, who lives in the park and grazes his cattle among the wells, sifts tainted soil between his fingers.

"The odor is much stronger in the summer, when there's no water to wash the oil downstream," says the 47-year-old farmer.

Pope Francis is expected to raise concerns about the environmental costs of development next week when he meets with Bolivian President Evo Morales and his counterpart in Ecuador, Rafael Correa, on the first two stops of a three-country tour. Francis' weeklong trip follows his landmark encyclical demanding dramatic measures to halt climate change and ensure future generations aren't living in "debris, desolation and filth."

The Guarani for years have fought to protect their native lands in and around this narrow 70-mile-long park in the southeastern Chaco region that flanks Bolivia's richest natural gas fields. Francis has called on governments to better engage such indigenous peoples, calling them nature's best caretakers because the land, for them, is sacred.

Murder complaints filed against owner and crew of capsized Philippine ferry that left 59 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Police in a central Philippine city said Saturday that they have filed murder complaints against the owner and the crew of a ferry that capsized shortly after pulling out of port, leaving more than 50 people dead.

The complaints were filed with the local prosecutor late Friday as the 36-ton M/B Kim Nirvana was lifted from the water, said Senior Inspector Rio Tan of the Ormoc City police. The local prosecutor will review the complaints to determine whether there is enough evidence to file charges.

At least 59 people died and 145 survived Thursday's disaster, including all 18 crew members, said regional coast guard commander Capt. Pedro Tinampay.

Tinampay said a maritime casualty investigation that has begun will determine how many people actually were aboard the vessel. The 204 so far known to have been on board are more than the 189 initially reported, Tinampay said, adding that authorities will reconcile different figures for survivors and casualties.

The ferry overturned minutes after pulling out of the port on its voyage to one of the Camotes Islands, about 30 kilometers (19 miles) to the south.

Fatal fire on Japan's bullet train, airtight as a plane, reveals lax security, other lapses

TOKYO (AP) — A fatal fire on Japan's bullet train, started by a man who self-immolated this week, has revealed blind spots in a system renowned for its speed, punctuality and safety record.

Riding the Shinkansen feels like being in an airplane: at 300 kilometers (186 miles) per hour, it goes so fast in and out of tunnels that it must be airtight. Windows cannot be opened, and doors open only when the train fully stops, which takes several minutes.

Yet, in a country with strict gun control and low crime rate, security is lax — no identification or baggage checks required.

On Tuesday, Haruo Hayashizaki, a 71-year-old retiree, poured a flammable liquid over himself and lit it while riding a bullet train heading to Osaka from Tokyo. He died on the spot, and smoke filled the coach, choking a female passenger to death.

It was the first fire in the train's 50-year history. Experts say it was a wake-up call to something more disastrous, potentially a terrorist attack, and it's time to step up risk management ahead of the G-7 summit in Japan next year and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Taiwan stands up to China with military parade to underline its role against Japanese in WWII

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan marched out thousands of troops and displayed its most modern military hardware Saturday to spotlight an old but often forgotten claim that its forces, not the Chinese Communists, led the campaign that routed imperial Japan from China 70 years ago.

The military staged an unusually large two-hour parade of homegrown missiles, Apache attack helicopters and a mountain bike team designed for stealth missions, followed by awards for aged World War II veterans in their attire from the 1940s.

China and Taiwan split during civil war in 1949 and today's China — more militarily and economically powerful than Taiwan — claims that the Chinese Communists had directed the resistance against the Japanese. Mainland officials have argued that the Communists' advice and fighting skills were crucial to the victory.

Taiwan's Nationalist Party ruled all of China when Japan invaded parts of the country from 1931, forming a central stage of the Asian World War II theater. In one attack, the Japanese massacred between 40,000 and 300,000 Chinese in what has become known as the Nanjing Massacre.

Officials in Taiwan say that the Communist forces had a minor role in fighting the Japanese alongside the Republic of China troops, and that during China's eight-year resistance against Japan they were mainly building up their own ranks and fighting a civil war they would eventually win.

Authorities say all 66 riders safely evacuated after 400-foot Ferris wheel in Florida stops

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A technical crew with The Orlando Eye safely evacuated all 66 stranded riders from the largest Ferris wheel on East Coast, an incident that shut down the attraction that towers 400 feet over central Florida, authorities said.

Orange County Fire Rescue spokeswoman Kathleen Kennedy told The Associated Press no one was hurt following the Friday afternoon incident and all were taken off in an operation lasting about three hours with help from several firefighters.

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She said the attraction, which is billed by operators as the largest observation wheel on the East Coast, had initially stopped for more than 45 minutes.

Power was restored via a backup generator and a technical team at the attraction, backed by the firefighters, carried out the task of removing riders from the enclosed capsules after each was brought down to the platform, officials said.

"All guests are safely evacuated," Kennedy told AP by phone Friday evening shortly after the last rider was removed about 7 p.m. She said firefighters on ladders helped the ride technical team that manually opened the doors.

Happening at the World Cup: How to defend against Japan

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Perhaps, Australia coach Alen Stajcic was on to something when he said, "We're not the Netherlands," in responding to question regarding how the Matildas might defend against Japan in the quarterfinals.

Familiar with their Asian rivals, Stajcic said the key was pressuring Japan's ball carriers and clogging up the middle so they couldn't generate chances off their crisp-passing attack. That was unlike the Netherlands, which allowed Japan to create in the offensive zone in a 2-1 loss in the Round of 16.

Australia was effective, but eventually wore down before giving up a goal in the 87th minute in a 1-0 loss last weekend.

England, however, was much better at containing Japan in a 2-1 semifinal loss decided on Laura Bassett directing a shot into her own net in stoppage time.

The Lionesses directed 15 shots on net, while limiting Japan to just seven. And England carried much of the play in the second half, particularly during a four-minute stretch in which they generated three scoring chances. They included Toni Duggan's shot off the crossbar.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, July 4, the 185th day of 2015. There are 180 days left in the year. This is Independence Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by delegates to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia.

On this date:

In 1802, the United States Military Academy officially opened at West Point, New York.

In 1815, the cornerstone was laid for a monument in Baltimore honoring George Washington (the monument was completed in 1829).

In 1831, the fifth president of the United States, James Monroe, died in New York City at age 73.

In 1845, Henry David Thoreau began his two-year experiment in simpler living at Walden Pond, near Concord, Massachusetts.

In 1872, the 30th president of the United States, Calvin Coolidge, was born in Plymouth, Vermont.

In 1912, the 48-star American flag, recognizing New Mexico statehood, was adopted. A train wreck near Corning, New York, claimed 39 lives.

In 1939, Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees delivered his famous farewell speech in which he called himself "the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

Groton Daily Independent

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In 1959, America's 49-star flag, recognizing Alaskan statehood, was officially unfurled.

In 1960, America's 50-star flag, recognizing Hawaiian statehood, was officially unfurled.

In 1976, Israeli commandos raided Entebbe (en-TEH'-bee) airport in Uganda (yoo-GAHN'-dah), rescuing almost all of the passengers and crew of an Air France jetliner seized by pro-Palestinian hijackers.

In 1982, the space shuttle Columbia concluded its fourth and final test flight with a smooth landing at Edwards Air Force Base in California. Heavy metal rocker Ozzy Osbourne married his manager, Sharon Arden, in Maui, Hawaii.

In 1995, the space shuttle Atlantis and the Russian space station Mir parted after spending five days in orbit docked together.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, during an Independence Day visit to Morgantown, West Virginia, urged resolve in the war in Iraq and said that "the proper response is not retreat. It is courage." Hall of Fame football coach Hank Stram died in Covington, Louisiana, at age 82. Movie musical actress June Haver died at age 79.

Five years ago: Gen. David Petraeus formally assumed command of the 130,000-strong international force in Afghanistan, declaring "we are in this to win." Interim Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski held off a last-minute election surge from Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the identical twin brother of the late president, Lech Kaczynski, who'd died in an April plane crash. Dr. Robert Butler, 83, a Pulitzer Prize-winning expert on aging who coined the phrase "ageism," died in New York. Rafael Nadal swept Tomas Berdych in straight sets, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4, to win his second Wimbledon title and eighth Grand Slam championship.

One year ago: Germany summoned the U.S. ambassador in Berlin after the arrest of a man reported to have spied for the United States, heightening friction between the two countries over alleged U.S. eavesdropping in Germany. Richard Mellon Scaife, 82, the billionaire heir to the Mellon banking and oil fortunes and a newspaper publisher who funded libertarian and conservative causes and various projects aimed at discrediting President Bill Clinton, died in Pittsburgh.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Eva Marie Saint is 91. Actress Gina Lollobrigida is 88. Playwright Neil Simon is 88. Country singer Ray Pillow is 78. Singer Bill Withers is 77. Actor Ed Bernard is 76. Actress Karolyn Grimes is 75. Broadcast journalist Geraldo Rivera is 72. Vietnam War veteran and peace activist Ron Kovic is 69. Rhythm-and-blues musician Ralph Johnson (Earth, Wind and Fire) is 64. Rock musician Domingo Ortiz (Widespread Panic) is 63. Singer John Waite is 60. Rock musician Kirk Pengilly (INXS) is 57. Country musician Teddy Carr is 55. Rock DJ Zonka is 53. Tennis Hall of Famer Pam Shriver is 53. Rock musician Matt Malley is 52. Christian rock singer Michael Sweet is 52. Actor-playwright-screenwriter Tracy Letts is 50. Actor Al Madrigal is 44. Actress Jenica Bergere is 41. Actor-singer John Lloyd Young is 40. Singer Stephen "Ste" McNally (BBMak) is 37. Actress Becki Newton is 37. TV personality Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino is 33. Rhythm-and-blues singer Melanie Fiona is 32. Malia Obama is 17.

Thought for Today: "All progress has resulted from people who took unpopular positions." - Adlai E. Stevenson, American diplomat and politician (1900-1965).