

Groton Daily Independent

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Strong wind toppled this camper in Aberdeen from Sunday's storms. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

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Monday, July 6

Anniversaries: Ed & Connie Stauch, Darrel & Deanna Hendrickson.

Birthdays: Ward Sperry, Kamryn Janae Flihs, Carol Kutter, Shawn Millim, Jarrett Adler, Rich Flihs, Bryan Sombke, Bryce Sombke.

Senior Menu: Goulash, green and gold beans, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.

6:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

6:00pm: Legion at Sisseton (DH)

6:00pm: U8 Softball at Warner

7:00pm: U10 Softball at Warner

7:00pm: City Council meeting at Groton Community Center

Tuesday, July 7

Anniversary: Brad & Brenda Waage

Birthday: Forrest Cutler.

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, Jello-O with fruit, whole wheat bread.

8:00am: Elementary Library open (Mrs. Krause reading at 10 am)

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible

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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GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

July 6, 2015 – 7pm
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
 - 2) Financial Report
 - 3) Midget Baseball Umpires Fees (Girls/PeeWee)
 - 4) Bills
 - 5) Dept Reports – Public Works- Terry, Dwight, & Shawn
 - 6) Open Newspaper Quotes
 - 7) Appoint Official Newspaper
Groton Independent or Dakota Press or Both
 - 8) Appoint Official Banks-
1st State Bank
Wells Fargo Bank
Dacotah Bank
 - SD Public Funds Investment
Trust
 - 9) Swimming Pool Storage
Building
 - 10) Swimming Pool Basketball
Hoop moving
 - 11) House/Business Numbering
Compliance
 - 12) Budget Compliance 2015
- AND any other business that
may come before the Council



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.

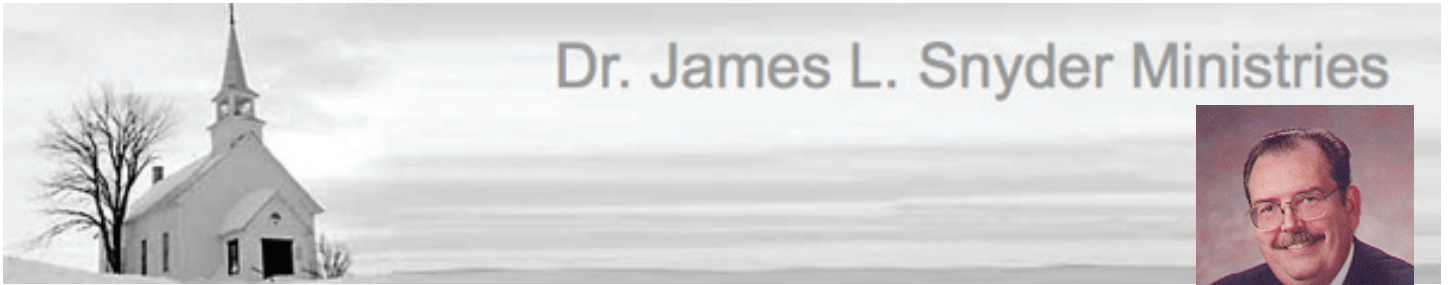
Qualifications: A minimum of a BS/BA Degree in Early Childhood Education or a Degree in a related field with a minor in Early Childhood Development. Applicant must possess good leadership/mentoring skills, have a working knowledge of the developmental and educational needs of children; and be able to 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/

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Why not just be an American

As we celebrate another birthday of this great country, I cannot help but think back to our history. What a grand history we have had. I know some people are ashamed of our history and so we have revisionists rewriting American history. Nevertheless, I certainly want to celebrate the real America.

My wife and I were relaxing after a scrumptious supper and were watching a little bit of TV. I was half dozing, as is usually my condition after such a supper, when my wife startled me with a question.

It was a news program on television updating us with the latest political scratch-talk. If it were not for politics, the airwaves would be silent. Oh, for those wonderful sounds of silence. Personally, I would be glad to double my tax rate if in doing so we could put to silence all this political-scratch-talk. I call it "scratch-talk" because whoever is talking is trying to scratch somebody's back even if it is just their own. I guess we have a lot of itchy backs in this country. Thankfully, we have an endless supply of backscratching politicians.

It does not matter which way the wind is blowing each political party says it is blowing in their direction. I guess you have to go to eight years to Harvard and have a student loan debt of \$120,000 to understand how that works. If you do not mind, I just do not want to know how it works.

With the politicians unable to create work in our country for common Americans, the real Americans, they sure know how to work a situation, usually to their advantage. If they could put all of this to work for the good of the ordinary American, I would feel happier about paying my taxes. As it is, I pay my taxes but not happily.

Back to my wife's question. "Who are," she said very carefully, "the real Americans in this country?" Then she paused for a moment and followed it with this question, "Who does America really belong to?"

Well, those two questions got me thinking.

Who are the real Americans? Are they Republicans, Democrats or Independents? I know there is a bunch of other miscellaneous political parties, but I cannot think of them right now. Which one is the American Party?

If I do not like any political party, where does that leave me? I am all for parties, but the whole idea of a party is for people to have fun. I do not see any political party where I could have fun. The strange thing today is, if I do not "belong" to some political party I am not able to vote in this country. Moreover, if I do vote, who in the world do I vote for?

My wife and I got to talking about this and I, for once in my life, posed a question. How would you describe the average American?

Is the average American black, white, yellow, red or a mixture of colors? Do you define an American by the color of his or her skin? What about gender? Is the average American male or female? Then there is age. How old is the average American?

We bounced these questions around for a long time and did not come up with any good answers. Then there was silence.

I come back to one thought; why can't we just be Americans. Why do we have to have all the emphasis on variations, colors, temperaments and the people we elect to office who cannot tie their own shoes without conducting some poll? Why can't we send ordinary, common sense Americans to Washington, DC who understands the American life?

Most of the politicians, if not all, live in a bubble and cannot relate to the average American in this country.

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I challenge these politicians to act like, live like common, everyday, normal Americans.

We normal Americans have to live on a budget. If I do not have enough money, I have come to the end of my buying spree. I think this concept ought to be copyrighted and sent to Washington, DC. It is a new concept. It will need somebody to interpret it to those who are living in that venomous circle that we call the capital of the United States. I would recommend a first grader.

It would be refreshing to have somebody in Congress or the Senate who had common sense. I guess Will Rogers was right when he said the problem with common sense is it is no longer common.

A real American is one who is committed to the concept of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. A real American is one who embraces the red, white and blue. A real American is the one who can clutch his five-dollar bill and say, "in God we trust." If it is good for our money, it is good for our life.

If only the American people, the real people of America, would wake up and see what our politicians are doing, perhaps they would do what our early founders did.

In celebrating another Fourth of July, my thought is simply, why not just be an American.

A real American also embraces what Jesus said, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's" (Luke 20:25).

Is that the sound of a drumbeat I hear off in the distance?

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. His web site is www.jamesnyderministries.com



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Today in Weather History

July 6, 1963: A farmer was fatally injured near Waubay, in Day County, when the barn was destroyed while he was inside. Winds of 110 mph were recorded at FAA in Watertown before the roof and wind instruments were blown away.

July 6, 1982: A severe thunderstorm produced a series of five microbursts over Sioux Falls. The microbursts caused extensive damage. Winds were estimated to have reached 125 mph, and a peak gust of 82 mph was recorded by the airport. Damage, which was heaviest in the south central and northeast sections of the city, included thousands of trees uprooted or damaged. Several semi-trailers were blown over, critically injuring one man and slightly injuring two others. Several other minor injuries occurred mainly from flying glass. Five cars were rolled over by the high winds and several others damaged flying debris. Damage at the airport included a portion of a hangar roof blown off and three light aircraft flipped over.

July 6, 1994: Widespread rainfall of over 6 inches fell in Dewey, Potter, and Faulk Counties, causing damage to roads and flooded basements and fields. A teenage girl escaped injury when her car was washed away by the waters of a swollen creek about 5 miles east of Gettysburg. Some storm total amounts include; 6.80 inches in Orient; 6.70 at Faulkton; 5.80 in Milbank; 5.48 in Big Stone City; 5.02 in Ipswich; 4.50 in Gettysburg; 4.17 in Webster; 4.12 near Onaka; 4.02 in Leola; and 3.97 in Britton.

1893 - A violent tornado killed 71 persons on its forty-mile track across northwestern Iowa. Forty-nine persons were killed around Pomeroy, where eighty percent of the buildings were destroyed, with most leveled to the ground. Photos showed most of the town without a wall or tree left standing. (The Weather Channel)

1928 - A hailstorm at Potter, NE, produced a stone which was 5.5 inches in diameter, and seventeen inches in circumference, weighing a pound and a half. (David Ludlum)

1985 - Lightning struck a large transformer in Salt Lake County sending a 200 foot fireball into the air and blacking out almost the entire state for up to five hours. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorm rains during the mid morning hours, and again during the evening, produced major flash-flooding at Leavenworth, KS. The official rainfall total was 10.37 inches, but unofficial totals exceeded twelve inches. At nearby Kansas City, the rainfall total of 5.08 inches was a daily record for July. (Storm Data)








1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in twenty-one states east of the Rockies, with severe weather reported in Kentucky and Indiana for the second day in a row. A thunderstorm produced more than five inches of rain in one hour near Reynolds, IL. Rochester, NY, was soaked with 3.25 inches, a record 24 hour total for the month of July. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-six cities in the north central and northeastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 98 degrees at International Falls, MN, and 101 degrees at Flint, MI, equalled all-time records. Highs of 96 degrees at Muskegon, MI, and 97 degrees at Buffalo, NY, were records for July. (The National Weather Summary)

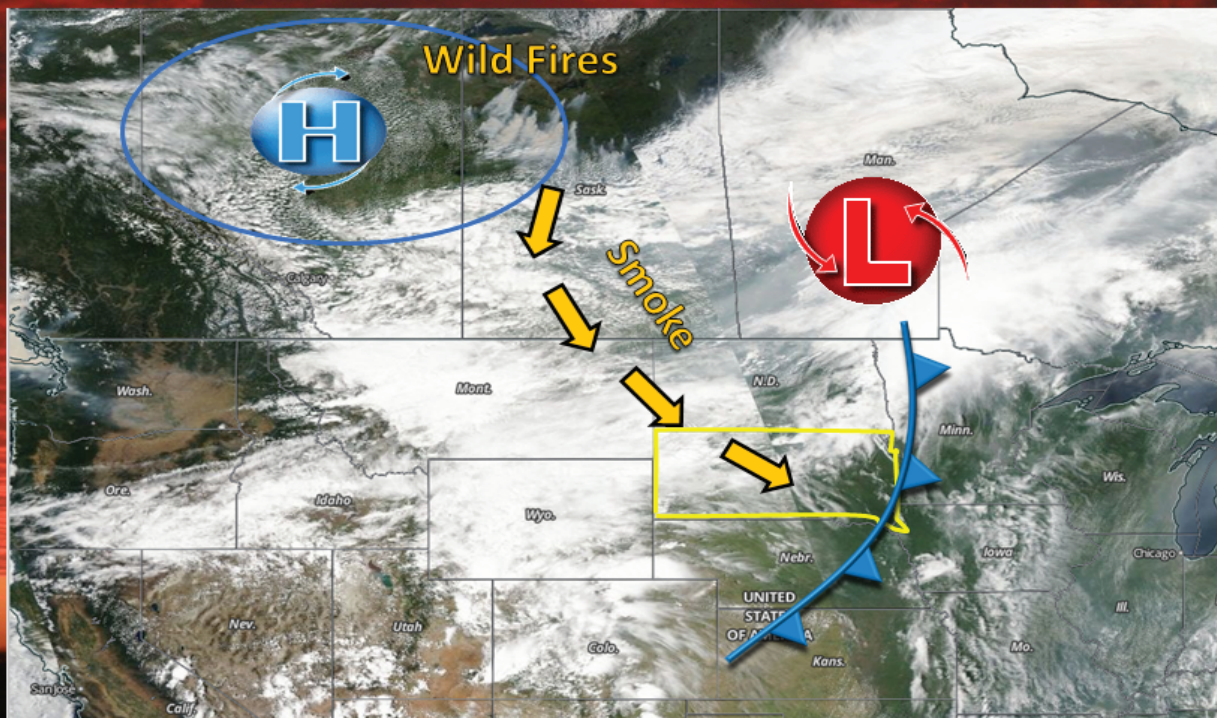
1989 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. Ten cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Las Vegas, NV, with a reading of 115 degrees. Hanksville, UT, reached 112 degrees, Bullhead City, AZ, hit 120 degrees, and Death Valley, CA, soared to 126 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)




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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Slight Chc Showers 20%	Areas Smoke	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chc Thunderstorms 20%	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 73 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 76 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 80 °F

More Smoke Headed This Way



 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen | Updated: 7/6/2015 4:50 AM Central

Published on: 07/06/2015 at 4:54AM

Low pressure will continue to move away from the Dakotas, replaced with Canadian high pressure. While usually associated with cool - clean air; the fires in Canada and Alaska, clearly visible in the satellite image from July 5th, will end up moving into the Dakotas today. Temperatures will top out in the 70s today across the forecast area.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 87.6 at 4:12 PM

Low: 68.1 at 6:20 AM

High Gust: 34 at 4:47 PM

Precip: 0.12

Today's Info

Record High: 115° in 1936

Record Low: 42° in 1942

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 58°F

Average Precip in July: 0.64

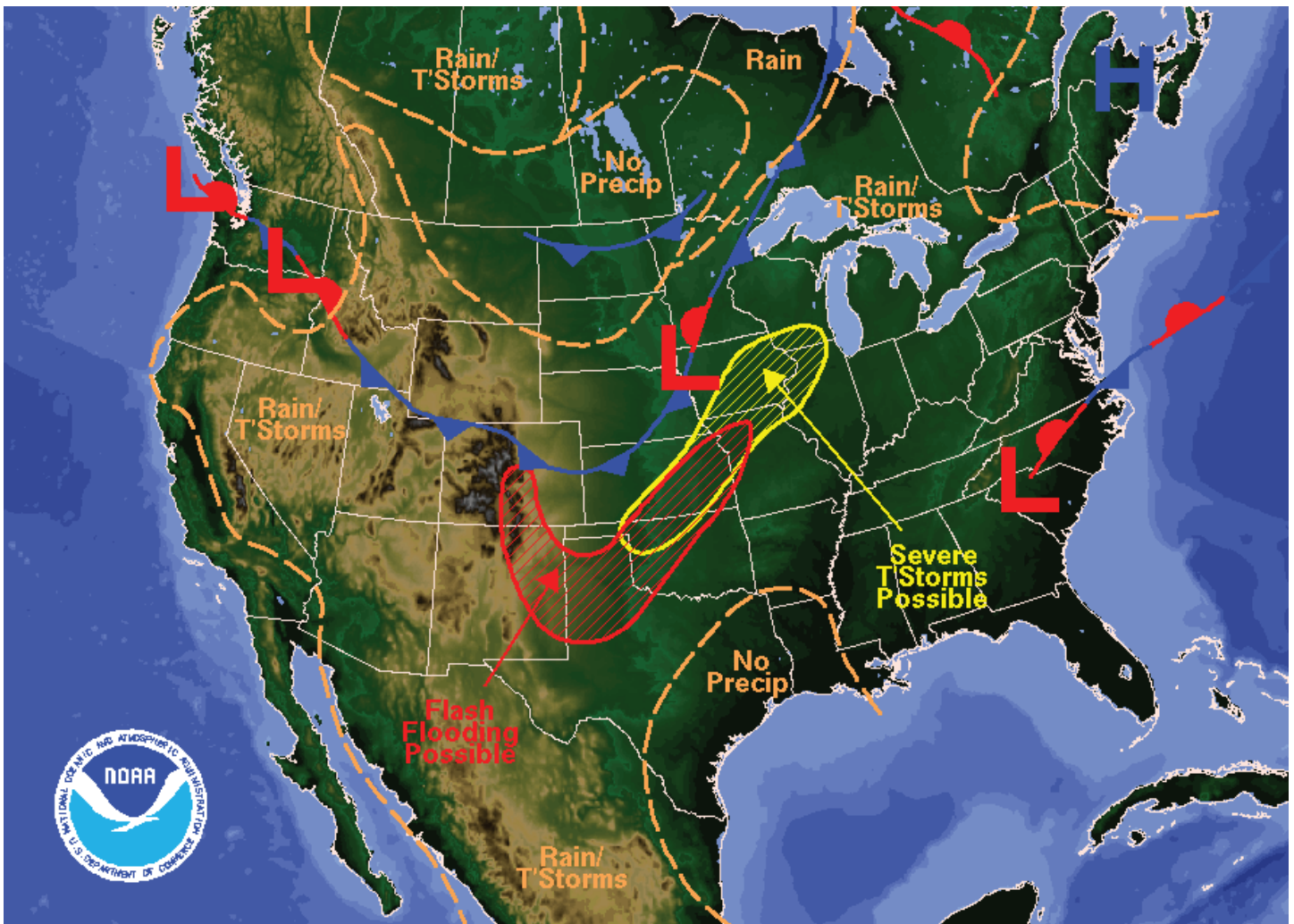
Precip to date in July: 1.77

Average Precip to date: 11.48

Precip Year to Date: 9.17

Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:52 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Jul 06, 2015, issued 3:32 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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CONQUERED OR CONQUEROR

George Mallory, a famous mountaineer and explorer from England, led two expeditions to conquer Mount Everest. Both times he failed to conquer the mountain. He was so committed to conquer the mountain that he recruited another team to accompany him on another expedition.

He studied his past efforts thoroughly and made extensive preparations, carefully planning every detail. However, before he reached the top this time, an avalanche struck, killing him and most of his men.

One of the survivors was determined to honor Mallory. Looking at a picture of Mount Everest, he cried with tears in his eyes, "We shall defeat you some day because you can't get any bigger and we can."

When we feel defeated or destroyed by the tragedies of life, the most important thing we can ever do is to take God at His word. With Paul we can proclaim, "I can do all things through Christ!"

Prayer: Lord, may we seek strength from You, to meet and overcome every challenge we face. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

News from the Associated Press

Driver dies in rollover crash in southeast South Dakota

LENNOX, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a 62-year-old man has died in a one-vehicle rollover crash in southeastern South Dakota that also seriously injured a passenger.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says Roger Almond of Lennox was pronounced dead at the scene in Lincoln County. The Highway Patrol says the passenger in the pickup, 67-year-old Peggy Almond, had serious injuries that were not life-threatening and was taken to a hospital.

According to the Highway Patrol, Roger Almond was driving the pickup on South Dakota Highway 17 when it traveled across the roadway and began to go into a ditch, hitting a delineator pole. The Highway Patrol says he overcorrected the pickup, and it went into the ditch on the other side and rolled.

Police say Roger and Peggy Almond were wearing seatbelts, and alcohol was not a factor.

Authorities ID Brookings man killed in Interstate 29 crash

BALTIC, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Brookings man who died after he was rear-ended on Interstate 29 near Baltic.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says 60-year-old John Lu was driving a 1990 Geo Prism and was rear-ended by a 2013 Chevy Suburban just before 5 p.m. Friday. He died at the scene.

There were five people in the Suburban. Four people were injured; three of them had serious but non-life threatening injuries.

The Department of Public Safety says an investigation is ongoing.

Charges pending in rollover that killed Spearfish woman

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say charges are pending in a rollover crash that killed a Spearfish woman.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says 29-year-old Megan Kellogg was a passenger in a Jeep that rolled over on a gravel road five miles northwest of Spearfish just before 3 p.m. Saturday.

The Jeep left the road, entered the ditch and returned to the road. The Patrol says the 32-year-old driver from Spearfish overcorrected and the SUV rolled.

The patrol says neither occupant was wearing a seatbelt. Both were pinned under the vehicle

The driver was taken to a Rapid City hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

The Patrol says alcohol is believed to be a factor in the crash.

10 Things to Know for Today The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. GREEK FINANCE MINISTER RESIGNS AFTER 'NO' BAILOUT VOTE

"I shall wear the creditors' loathing with pride," Yanis Varoufakis says in his announcement as Greeks awake to shuttered banks and ATMs with little cash.

2. MORE THAN 1 MILLION EXPECTED AT POPE'S MASS IN SOUTH AMERICA

Latin America's first pontiff tours his home continent with a message of compassion for the weak and respect for an ailing planet.

3. CONFEDERATE FLAG DEBATE RESUMES

While it appears there is support in the South Carolina Legislature to bring down this symbol, the depth of that support will be tested as lawmakers return to Columbia.

4. WHERE LOCALS ARE STILL TRYING TO RECOVER FROM HORRIFIC LOSSES

AP talks to a Palestinian man in Gaza Strip who lost his family when Israeli mortar shells hit his home in last summer's Israel-Hamas war.

5. BOMBS AT MOSQUE, RESTAURANT IN NIGERIAN CITY KILL 44

Sixty-seven other people are wounded in the attacks blamed on the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram.

6. TOUCHED BY TRAGEDY

Ten years after the suicide bombings that killed 52 people on the London transport network, survivors are still angry but share a resolve to move forward.

7. WHO BECOMES CAPTAIN AMERICA FOR U.S. WOMEN

Carli Lloyd scores three goals to lead the American team to a 5-2 victory over Japan for the record third World Cup title — and first since 1999.

8. WHY S. KOREAN VIOLINIST WANTS BORDER CONCERT WITH NORTH KOREA

Won Hyung Joon is trying to help the divided peninsula by bringing North and South Korean musicians together to perform on each side of the world's most heavily armed crossing.

9. NO MORE 'ROAR' AS FAMED TRADING PITS COME TO AN END

As the computer — faster and not nearly as noisy — takes over, a culture of brazen bets and flashy jackets will vanish.

10. THE BURT BEHIND BURT'S BEES DIES

The beekeeper who co-founded the company, and whose face and wild beard appeared on labels for the natural cosmetics, was 80.

AP News in Brief

Greek finance minister resigns after decisive referendum against bailout

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis resigned Monday, saying he was told shortly after Greece's decisive referendum result that some other eurozone finance ministers and the country's other creditors would appreciate his not attending the ministers' meetings.

Varoufakis said Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras had judged that his resignation "might help achieve a deal" and that he was leaving the finance ministry for that reason.

"I shall wear the creditors' loathing with pride," Varoufakis said in his announcement.

Greeks voted overwhelmingly to reject creditors' proposal of more austerity measures in return for rescue loans, in the country's first referendum in 41 years Sunday.

The referendum "will stay in history as a unique moment when a small European nation rose up against debt-bondage," Varoufakis said.

The Latest: Germany says no basis for talks with Greece yet but door remains open

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The latest on the bailout referendum in Greece (all times local):

12:45 p.m.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman says Germany sees no basis at present for entering negotiations on a new bailout program for Greece, but that the door remains open.

Steffen Seibert said Monday that Germany respects the "clear 'no' vote" by Greeks against austerity measures demanded by creditors and that "the door for talks always remains open."

More than 1 million expected at pope's first public Mass in Ecuador at Guayaquil

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Pope Francis travels to the Ecuadorean port of Guayaquil on Monday for a Mass expected to draw more than a million people, as Latin America's first pontiff tours his home continent with a message of compassion for the weak and respect for an ailing planet.

Francis is taking it relatively easy on his first full day in Ecuador, making the quick flight to Guayaquil for the Mass at the Shrine of the Divine Mercy and then a lunch with a group of fellow Jesuits.

The highlight of the encounter will likely be his reunion with the Rev. Francisco Cortes, a Jesuit affectionately known as "Padre Paquito," to whom the Argentina-born pope, then the Rev. Jorge Mario Bergoglio, entrusted his seminarians on study trips to Ecuador years ago.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Cortes couldn't fathom that Bergoglio remembered him, much less made a point of coming to have lunch.

"I don't know what to ask him," the soon-to-be 91-year-old Cortes said. "He said he wanted to see me and I'm amazed that he's coming. For the first time, I have known a pope."

Details may be tripping points as South Carolina lawmakers return for Confederate flag debate

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — While it appears there is broad support in the South Carolina Legislature to bring down the Confederate flag, the depth of that support will get its first test this week as lawmakers return to Columbia to come up with a specific plan.

The General Assembly returns Monday to discuss Gov. Nikki Haley's budget vetoes and what to do with the rebel flag that has flown over some part of the Statehouse for more than 50 years.

Several bills have been filed, but details like when to bring down the flag that currently flies on a pole by a monument to Confederate soldiers in front of the state Capitol, whether to put another flag in its place and what kind of ceremony should mark the removal aren't specified.

And if South Carolina takes any lesson from the 2000 debate that brought the Confederate flag off the Statehouse dome and to its current location, it is that minor details can trip things up.

Haley, business leaders, the Legislative Black Caucus and civil rights leaders are against flying any flag that flew over the Confederacy on the pole.

Participants in gay marriage fight recall victories, setbacks on the way to landmark decision

WASHINGTON (AP) — In 2004, when Massachusetts became the first state to allow same-sex couples to marry, President George W. Bush declared support for a constitutional amendment "to protect the institution of marriage." Voters in 13 states changed their constitutions to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman. In most of those states, the vote wasn't even close.

Eleven years later, the Supreme Court has now ruled that all those gay marriage bans must fall and same-sex couples have the same right to marry under the Constitution as everyone else. "No longer

may this liberty be denied to them," Justice Anthony Kennedy said in his June 26 opinion for the court.

The opinion builds on the three earlier Kennedy opinions in favor of gay rights dating to 1996, but also on the legal fights that same-sex couples undertook over more than 40 years. There were key victories and losses, starting with a case from Minnesota in 1972.

Recollections from some participants in the fight:

A year after devastating war, hard-hit Gaza neighborhood struggles to overcome horrific losses

SHIJAIYAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — After weeks of sharing cramped quarters with relatives during last year's war between Hamas and Israel, 39-year-old Mohammed al-Selek thought nothing of it when he heard the incoming roar of two mortar shells. But once a suffocating cloud of acrid smoke filled the stairwell, his heart sank — the family's home had been struck by Israeli fire.

Moments before, he had been enjoying a rare break, relaxing with a cup of tea and cookies as he marked the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The house was filled with his children, nieces and nephews, and al-Selek's father had taken the restless kids to play up on the rooftop, where the family kept rabbits and chickens.

After the explosion, al-Selek and his wife ran up the five flights of stairs to the roof and found a sight he still struggles to comprehend.

"We found an unbelievable scene — my children along with my father lying on the ground," said al-Selek, recounting the horror to an Associated Press crew that revisited the neighborhood recently.

Caught in a living nightmare, he saw the bloodied, mangled bodies of all three of his children, his 71-year-old father, Abdul-Kareem, and six other relatives lying next to the chicken coup and rabbit cages. Feathers and fur from the animals the children had begged their grandfather to see shortly before were strewn everywhere.

Carli Lloyd's hat trick brings the World Cup trophy back to America

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — For a brief time Sunday night, Carli Lloyd's Wikipedia page listed her position as "President of the United States."

More like Captain America.

Lloyd scored three goals to lead the United States to a 5-2 victory over Japan for the team's record third World Cup title — and first since 1999.

Lloyd's hat trick came in the match's first 16 minutes. When it was over, the captain of the U.S. team collapsed to her knees and pumped her fists.

"I'm so proud and so zapped at the same time. It's a surreal moment," the 32-year-old midfielder said. "It's been amazing. We just wrote history and brought this World Cup trophy home."

South Korean violinist pushes for emotional border concert with rival North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Violinist Won Hyung Joon wants to bring North and South Korean musicians together next month to perform on each side of the world's most heavily armed border. Standing in the way is the rivals' long, frustrating inability to move past their painful shared history.

Won says North Korean diplomats in Berlin have tentatively signed off on a plan for a renowned German conductor to lead a 70-member South Korean orchestra through Beethoven's Ninth Symphony

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and the Korean folk tune "Arirang" while accompanied by a choir of 70 North Koreans just across the border on Aug. 15, the 70th anniversary of the 1945 liberation of a single Korea from Japan's 35-year colonial rule.

Wary South Korean officials, however, want a more formal endorsement from Pyongyang before they give their agreement to a concert at the border village of Panmunjom, where an armistice ended the three-year Korean War in 1953. Won and his German partners are pushing for that formal go-ahead from Pyongyang.

Dozens of Korean musicians joining their instruments and voices in harmony across the border, Won says, could dramatically illustrate the continuing tragedy of the Korean Peninsula, which, after liberation from Japan, was divided into a pro-U.S. South and Soviet-backed North and remains in a technical state of war because a peace treaty formally ending the eventual Korean War has never been settled.

"We won't be able to talk to each other or hug each other. We'll just stand face to face and commune through music," Won said. "We want to do something meaningful at a meaningful place on a meaningful day."

As trading pits give way to computers, a culture of brazen bets and flashy jackets will vanish

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Meegan had every intention of going back to college, but then he got a summer job in the Chicago trading pits and fell in love with the "roar" of the floor, the excitement of "4,000 people yelling, 'Buy! Buy! Buy!'" and decided no more classroom for him.

That roar will soon go silent. On Monday, most futures pits in Chicago and New York, where frenzied buying and selling once helped set prices on cattle and corn, palladium and gold, and dozens of other commodities, are expected to close for good. Traders yelled and shoved and flashed hand signals, just as they did in the movie "Trading Places." But now the computer — faster, cheaper and not nearly as noisy — has taken over.

It will be a sad day for Meegan, still in the pits 34 years after dropping out of college, donning a trading jacket and mustering the courage to tell his dad.

"I thought he was gonna kill me, but he was like, 'I don't care if you pick up garbage or you're a dog groomer. If you are happy doing what you are doing, you're ahead of 99 percent of the people in the world,'" recalls Meegan, now 54.

The few dozen jobs that will be lost when the pits shut down is just part of it, veterans say. What's also disappearing is a rich culture of brazen bets, flashy trading jackets and kids just out of high school getting a shot at making it big. The pits were a ruthless place, but they were also a proving ground where education and connections counted for nothing next to drive and, occasionally, muscle.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 6, the 187th day of 2015. There are 178 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On July 6, 1945, President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order establishing the Medal of Freedom. Nicaragua became the first nation to ratify the United Nations Charter.

On this date:

In 1415, Czech church reformer Jan Hus (yahn hoos), condemned for heresy, was burned at the stake in Konstanz in present-day Germany.

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In 1535, Sir Thomas More was executed in England for high treason.

In 1777, during the American Revolution, British forces captured Fort Ticonderoga.

In 1865, the weekly publication "The Nation," the self-described "flagship of the left," made its debut.

In 1917, during World War I, Arab forces led by T.E. Lawrence and Auda Abu Tayi captured the port of Aqaba (AH'-kah-buh) from the Turks.

In 1933, the first All-Star baseball game was played at Chicago's Comiskey Park; the American League defeated the National League, 4-2.

In 1944, an estimated 168 people died in a fire that broke out during a performance in the main tent of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1957, Althea Gibson became the first black tennis player to win a Wimbledon singles title as she defeated fellow American Darlene Hard 6-3, 6-2.

In 1964, the movie "A Hard Day's Night," starring The Beatles, had its world premiere in London. The British colony Nyasaland became the independent country of Malawi.

In 1971, jazz trumpeter and singer Louis Armstrong died in New York at age 69.

In 1988, 167 North Sea oil workers were killed when explosions and fires destroyed a drilling platform. Medical waste and other debris began washing up on New York City-area seashores, forcing the closing of several popular beaches.

In 1994, 14 firefighters were killed while battling a several-days-old blaze on Storm King Mountain in Colorado.

Ten years ago: New York Times reporter Judith Miller was jailed after refusing to testify before a grand jury investigating the leak of undercover CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity (Miller was jailed for 85 days before agreeing to testify). London was selected to host the 2012 Olympics. The Group of Eight summit opened in Gleneagles, Scotland. L. Patrick Gray, the acting FBI director during Watergate, died in Atlantic Beach, Florida, at age 88. Author Evan Hunter (aka Ed McBain) died in Weston, Connecticut, at age 78.

Five years ago: Queen Elizabeth II addressed the United Nations for the first time since 1957 during her first New York visit in over 30 years; she then laid a wreath at ground zero. President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu dismissed talk of a rift at a White House meeting. The Obama administration filed suit in Phoenix to block Arizona's toughest-in-the-nation immigration law. (In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out major parts of the law, but upheld the power of police to check the immigration status of those they stop for other reasons.) Lindsay Lohan was sentenced to 90 days in jail and 90 days in a residential substance-abuse program after a judge found the actress had violated her probation in a 2007 drug case by failing to attend alcohol education classes. (Lohan ended up serving 14 days behind bars and was released on Aug. 2.)

One year ago: Israel arrested six Jewish suspects in the slaying of a Palestinian teenager who was abducted and burned alive, apparently in retaliation for the killings of three Israeli teenagers. Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich) won his second Wimbledon title and denied Roger Federer his record eighth by holding off the Swiss star in five sets, 6-7 (7), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 5-7, 6-4.

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Nancy Reagan is 94. Actor William Schallert is 93. Singer-actress Della Reese is 84. The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is 80. Actor Ned Beatty is 78. Singer Gene Chandler is 75. Country singer Jeannie Seely is 75. Actor Burt Ward is 70. Former President George W. Bush is 69. Actor-director Sylvester Stallone is 69. Actor Fred Dryer is 69. Actress Shelley Hack is 68. Actress Nathalie Baye is 67. Actor Geoffrey Rush is 64. Actress Allyce Beasley is 64. Rock musician John Bazz (The Blasters) is 63. Actor Grant Goodeve is 63. Country singer Nanci Griffith is 62. Retired MLB All-Star Willie Randolph is 61. Jazz musician Rick Braun is 60. Actor Casey Sander is 60. Country musi-

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cian John Jorgenson is 59. Former first daughter Susan Ford Bales is 58. Hockey player and coach Ron Duguay (doo-GAY') is 58. Actress-writer Jennifer Saunders is 57. Rock musician John Keeble (Spandau Ballet) is 56. Actor Brian Posehn is 49. Political reporter/moderator John Dickerson (TV: "Face the Nation") is 47. Actor Brian Van Holt is 46. Rapper Inspectah Deck (Wu-Tang Clan) is 45. TV host Josh Elliott is 44. Rapper 50 Cent is 40. Actress Tia Mowry is 37. Actress Tamera Mowry is 37. Comedian-actor Kevin Hart is 36. Actress Eva (EH'-vuh) Green is 35. Actor Gregory Smith is 32. Rock musician Chris "Woody" Wood (Bastille) is 30. Rock singer Kate Nash is 28. Actor Jeremy Suarez is 25.

Thought for Today: "Freedom is always and exclusively freedom for the one who thinks differently."
- Rosa Luxemburg, Polish-German revolutionary (1871-1919).