

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 1 of 20



The Jeremy and Samantha Weber home on State Street was chosen as this week's Yard of the Week by the Groton Garden Club

- 1- Blocker Construction
- 1- Recycling Trailers in Groton
- 1- Today's Information
- 2- Welke Letter to the Editor
- 2- Head Start Help Wanted
- 3- School Board Agenda
- 4- Treeline Tree Service ad
- 5- Today in Weather History
- 6- Local Weather Forecast
- 7- National Weather Map
- 7- Local Weather
- 8- Daily Devotional
- 9- News from the Associated Press

Friday, July 10

Legion at Dell Rapids

Senior Menu: Swiss steak with mushroom gravy, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, rice and raisins, whole wheat bread.

Birthday: Loren Osterman

Saturday, July 11

3-Rivers PeeWee Tourney in Andover

Game 1: Andover vs. Claremont at 9 a.m.

Game 2: Westport/Frederick vs. Langford at 10:30 a.m.

Game 3: Columbia vs. Leola at noon

Game 4: Losers of Game 1 and 2 play at 2 p.m.

Legion at Augustana Field

Anniversaries: Roger & Marjorie Overacker • Anniv: Rick & Sherry Koehler

Birthdays: Rebecca Clocksene • Rhonda Fliehs • Richard Nehls

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court

3:00pm: Amateurs at Mobridge (DH)

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

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**



Letter to the Editor by Welke

I read with great interest how some of our local legislators responded to the recent Supreme Court's decision about marriage equality. They expressed disappointment that the decision was not made by the democratic process. I found it very interesting how they defended democracy especially when they worked around the democratic votes of the people and changed the minimum wage law as approved by the SD voters. It reminded me of what one of them told me in Pierre once about local control. Privately he told me, "We are for local control except for when we are not." Sounds like they are also for democracy except for when they are not for democracy.

I attended the Blue Ribbon Education Task Force meeting that was recently held in Aberdeen. It was a good session but there was not one new idea introduced. We have had these meetings over and over and we all know what the issues are and that to solve the problem we are going to have to fund education at a higher level. If we fund at an adequate level our local education leaders will find solutions. Our school districts have not been able to count on the state government. They are asking for a commitment that they can rely on so they can plan for the future. They need to plan five and ten years ahead. We need to make the commitment to do an annual increase of 3% or the cost of living increase whichever is greater. By doing so we can give our education leaders the ability to move our schools forward into the future.

Chuck Welke
Warner, SD



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/

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 3 of 20

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6 School Board Meeting July 13, 2015 – 7:30 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of June 29, 2015 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as school of record.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Approval of June 2015 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
3. Approval of June 2015 School Lunch Report.
4. Approval of June 2015 School Transportation Report.
5. 8:00 PM – DISTRICT BUDGET HEARING – Revenue & Expenditures – Line Items.
6. School Board Committee Reports:
 - a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Lars Hanson, Marty Weismantel, Merle Harder
 - b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Dorene Nelson, Grant Rix
 - c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith
7. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

ADJOURN

ANNUAL REORGANIZATION BUSINESS:

1. Call to Order with members present.
2. Installation of incumbent board members, Kelly Kjelden and Marty Weismantel, followed by election of president and vice president as well as appointments to the various "ad hoc" committees.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve July 2015 District bills for payment.
2. Designate legal counsel/school attorney...presently Rodney Freeman of Churchill, Manolis, and Freeman of Huron.
3. Designate Groton Independent as official legal newspaper for FY16.
4. Designate Business Manager as custodian of all district accounts.
5. Adopt Groton Area School District Policy Manual with such revisions as previously approved.
6. Adopt Special Education Comprehensive Plan.
7. Authorize business manager to continue existing funds and establish new accounts and to invest and reinvest funds in local institutions which serve the greatest advantage to the District.
8. Authorize office personnel to administer Agency Funds & NSLP (school lunch) funds, with oversight by business office management.
9. Authorize superintendent to administer or direct federal programs, with Consolidated Application (Title programs) and related NCLB compliance issues assigned to building principals.
10. Appoint superintendent to act as Asbestos Compliance Officer.
11. Authorize superintendent or designee to close school in emergency situations or inclement weather.
12. Authorize superintendent or designee to institute NSLP & School Breakfast Agreement.
13. Authorize superintendent or designee to institute ASBSD school bus mutual assistance pact.
14. Authorize business manager to transfer petty cash and incident payment funds (SDCL 13-18-16/17).
15. Approve peripheral sports and other volunteer school workers such as chain gang, line judges, Booster Club/PAC workers, assistant coaches, volunteer coaches, volunteer drivers, school board members etc. to be included in the school's worker's compensation insurance coverage.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set date and time for regular school board meetings...presently 2nd & 4th Monday for months of September through November and January through April; 2nd Monday only for months of December, May, July, & August, and 2nd Monday and last Monday of the month in June, to be held in the GHS Conference Room at 7:30 PM for the months of April through October and 7:00 PM for the months of November

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 4 of 20

through March, with consideration to reschedule the meeting dates, times, and places when deemed necessary or appropriate.

2. Designate official bank depository...presently Wells Fargo.
 3. Set salaries for board members...presently at \$0 [2010-2011 board member salaries were \$50/meeting, president +\$150/year]
 4. Set rate for substitute teachers for 15-16 school year...recommend \$100/day [Currently \$88/day].
 5. Set rate for substitute bus drivers for 15-16 school year...recommend \$60/day [Currently \$55/day].
 6. Establish activity admission & school lunch prices for 2015-2016. Recommendations
Admission: Adult - \$5; Doubleheader - \$6 No Change
Adult 10-punch ticket - \$45 No Change
1st-12th grade - \$4 No Change
1st-5th grade activity ticket - \$25 No Change
6th-12th grade activity ticket - \$30 No Change
Breakfast JrK-5 - \$2.00; 6-12 - \$2.50; Adult - \$2.75 No Change Lunch JrK-5 - \$2.75; 6-12 - \$3.25; Adult \$4.00 No Change
O-Juice JrK-5 - \$7.00/month or \$28/sem or \$56/year No Change
Milk JrK-5 - \$5.90/month or \$23.60/sem or \$47.20/year No Change
 7. Approve SDCL 13-29-4 request from Webster Area School District to pick up students in Bristol for 15-16 school year.
 8. Approve hiring Amanda Bisbee as special education paraprofessional for 15-16 school year at \$10.50/hour.
 9. Approve resignation of Joel McNeely, Assistant Boys Basketball Coach for 15-16 school year.
 10. Other items, as may be appropriate or as deemed necessary.
- ADJOURN

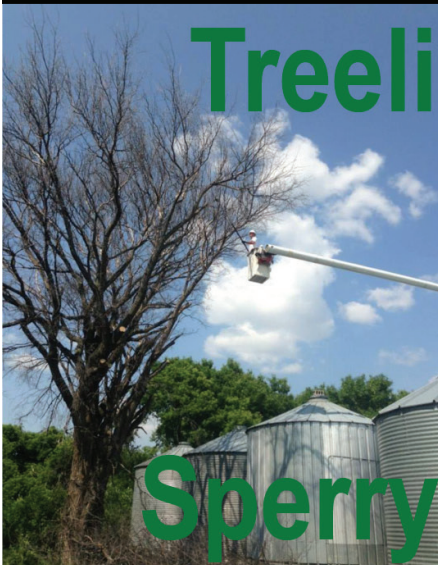
Treeline Tree Service

**Over 30 Years
of Combined
Experience!**

**TJ Sperry:
380-7915**

**Tyler Sperry:
216-8431**

Sperry Stump Removal



Today in Weather History

July 10, 1998: Flash flooding occurred from Keldron, in Corson County, and areas south, during the late afternoon and evening as result of up seven inches of rain that had fallen from slow moving thunderstorms. Willow creek and several small tributaries went out of their banks causing the inundation of low areas and county roads. Many county roads were damaged with one farmer losing several pigs and cows as a result of the flooding.

1887: A dam breaks in Zug, Switzerland, killing 70 people in their homes and destroying a large section of the town.

1911: The mercury hit 105 degrees at North Bridgton, Maine the hottest reading of record for Maine. North Bridgton also reached 105 degrees on the 4th of July in 1911.

1913 - The mercury hit 134 degrees at Greenland Ranch in Death Valley, CA, the hottest reading of record for the North American continent. Sandstorm conditions accompanied the heat. The high the previous day was 129 degrees, following a morning low of 93 degrees. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1926 - A lightning bolt struck an ammunition magazine in northern New Jersey, and a big red ball of fire leaped into the air triggering a series of explosions. All buildings within a half mile radius were destroyed, and debris fell as far as twenty-two miles away. Sixteen persons were killed, and property damage was seventy million dollars. (David Ludlum)

1936 - Afternoon highs of 112 degrees at Martinsburg, WV, 109 degrees at Cumberland, MD, and Frederick, MD, 110 degrees at Runyon, NJ, and 111 degrees at Phoenixville, PA, established all-time record highs for those four states. It was the hottest day of record for the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. (The Weather Channel)

1979 - The temperature at El Paso, TX, hit 112 degrees, an all-time record for that location. The next day was 110 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - The temperature in downtown Kansas City, MO, hit 109 degrees, following a sultry overnight low of 89 degrees. The daily low of 89 degrees was the warmest of record for Kansas City, and overall it was the hottest July day of record. It was the seventh of a record seventeen consecutive days of 100 degree heat, and the mean temperature for the month of 90.2 degrees was also an all-time record for Kansas City.

1987 - An early morning thunderstorm in Minnesota produced wind gusts to 91 mph at Waseca. Later that day, thunderstorms in South Dakota produced wind gusts to 81 mph at Ipswitch, and baseball size hail near Hayes and Capa. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


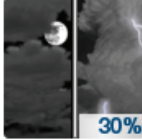

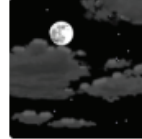



1988 - Thunderstorms brought welcome rains to parts of the central U.S., but produced severe weather along the New England coast, in the Great Lakes Region, in North Carolina, and in the Southern Plateau Region. Strong thunderstorm winds gusting to 80 mph at Bullfrog, UT, sank three boats on Lake Powell. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Severe thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes in the northeastern U.S. A powerful (F-4) tornado struck Hamden CT and New Haven, CT, causing 100 million dollars damage at Hamden, and another 20 million dollars damage around New Haven. Forty persons were injured in the tornado. Seventy persons were injured in a tornado which traveled from Watertown, CT, to Waterbury, CT, and another powerful (F-4) tornado touched down near Ames NY injuring twenty persons along its 43.5 mile track. It was the strongest tornado of record for eastern New York State. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2005 - Hurricane Dennis landed near Pensacola, Florida as a category 3 storm. Maximum sustained winds at the time of landfall were near 120 mph. There were nine hurricane-related fatalities in the U.S. and preliminary estimates of insured losses ranged from \$1 to \$1.5 billion.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 6 of 20

| Today | Tonight | Saturday | Saturday Night | Sunday | Sunday Night | Monday |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sunny | Mostly Cloudy then Chance T-storms | Slight Chance T-storms | Partly Cloudy | Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms | Partly Cloudy | Slight Chance T-storms |
| High: 86 °F | Low: 67 °F | High: 87 °F | Low: 67 °F | High: 95 °F | Low: 67 °F | High: 92 °F |



Highs in the 90s This Weekend

Chance for Thunderstorms Tonight

weather.gov/Aberdeen



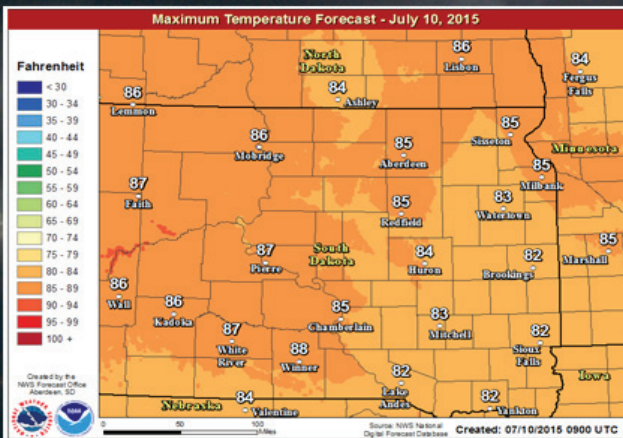
National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Some 90
Degree
Climate Facts
For July
*Normal 1980 -
2010

| | Aberdeen | Watertown | Pierre | Mobridge | Sisseton |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Normal* | 7 | 6 | 16 | 9 | 6 |
| Most / Year | 30 / 1936 | 25 / 1936 | 29 / 1935 | 29 / 1936 | 24 / 1936 |
| Least / Year | 0 / 2009 | 0 / 2013 | 1 / 1992 | 0 / 1996 | 0 / 2014 |



This Day in Weather History...In 1913, the temperature reached 134°F at Greenland Ranch in Death Valley CA. This is the warmest reading in the world.



Photograph of old Greenland Ranch Station, California, USA

Published on: 07/10/2015 at 5:37AM

A warming trend is expected through the weekend with highs climbing into the upper 80s to the upper 90s by Sunday. There will be off and on chances for showers and thunderstorms, mainly tonight through Saturday.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 7 of 20

Yesterday's Weather

High: 81.5 at 5:55 PM

Low: 50.0 at 6:17 AM

High Gust: 10 at 1:14 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 114° in 1936

Record Low: 42° in 1945

Average High: 83°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 1.07

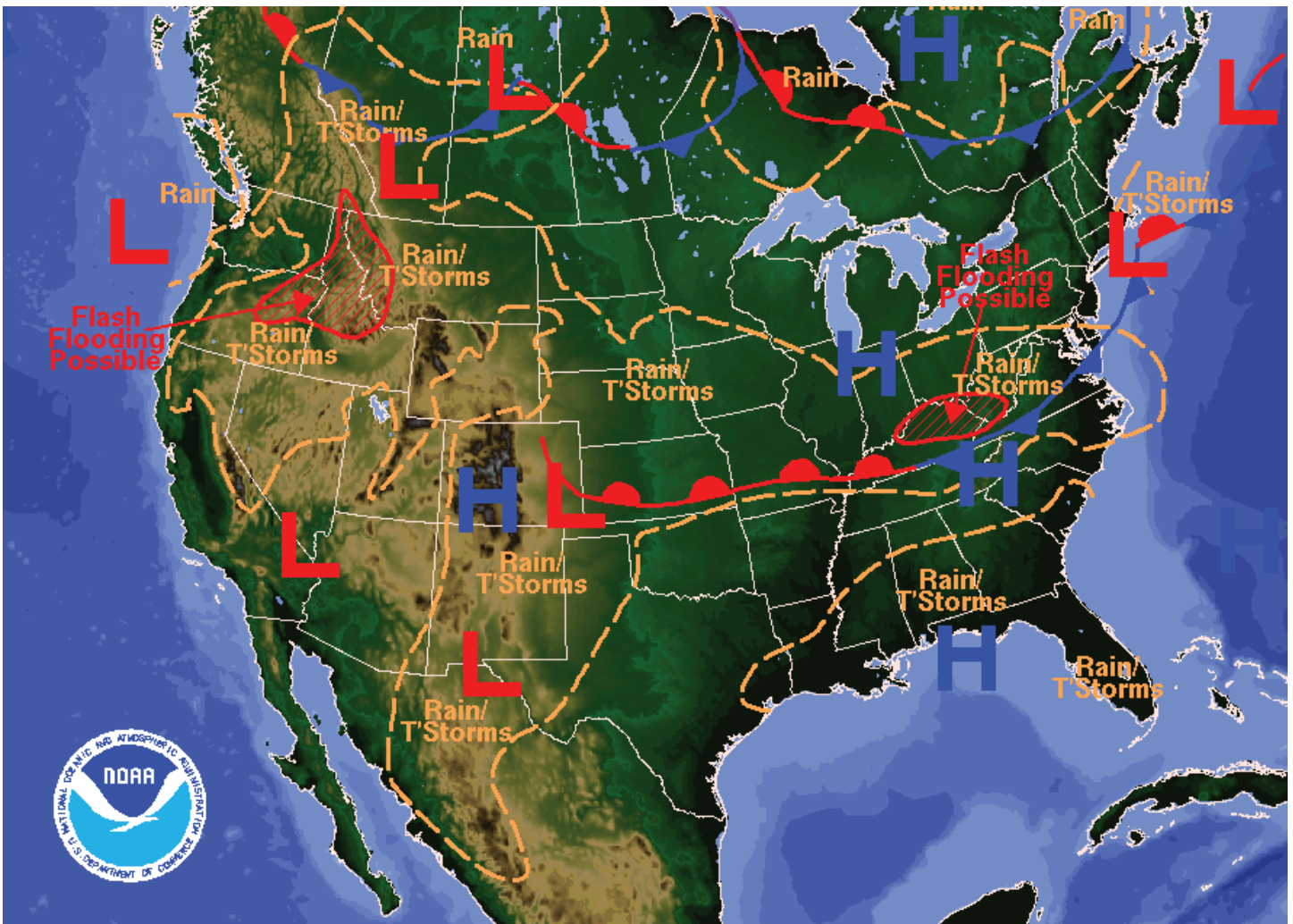
Precip to date in July: 1.77

Average Precip to date: 11.91

Precip Year to Date: 9.17

Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:55 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, Jul 10, 2015, issued 4:21 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Kocin based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



GO ON OR GIVE UP?

During the Olympics in Mexico City some years ago, a runner received a standing ovation – not for winning – but, of all things, for finishing last.

In the heat of the race, he tripped, fell and severely damaged one of his knees. He was in great pain and bleeding profusely when he stumbled across the finish line.

"Why didn't you quit?" asked a reporter.

"My country did not send me 7,000 miles to start the race," he answered. "They sent me 7,000 miles to finish the race!"

What courage he displayed. Had he quit, everyone would have understood his problem and pain. Everyone except the runner. He had a quality of character and a state of mind that enabled him to endure great suffering for the joy that would be his by completing the race.

When we face trying times, if we turn to and trust in the Lord, we can complete the race He has set before us. "Be courageous. Be strong," said Paul. In other words – "Never give up."

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to keep our eyes on You, our faith in You and find courage through You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Corinthians 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.

News from the Associated Press

Standing Rock among 7 tribes getting federal education grant

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Standing Rock Sioux is among seven tribes nationwide awarded a federal grant of nearly \$1.5 million to improve education and school governance.

The announcement of the Bureau of Indian Education grant coincided with a first-of-its-kind Native American youth summit called by the White House this week. The gathering stemmed from a visit last year by President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama to the Standing Rock Reservation, which straddles North Dakota-South Dakota border.

Standing Rock Education Director Emma Jean Blue Earth tells The Bismarck Tribune that the tribe will use its portion of the grant money to implement a student data collection system for the 10 schools on the reservation and a new education code. The code includes teacher qualification rules and standards for various academic subjects.

Kimball as 'Capital For A Day' will include community social

KIMBALL, S.D. (AP) — Kimball's chance to be the honorary state Capital for a Day this month is approaching quickly.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's office said Thursday that activities for the July 15 celebration will include a community social beginning in the morning

They also include a Main Street walk and business tours around town. The governor will also hold a roundtable lunch for community leaders to meet and discuss the needs of the city.

The governor will join officials from Kimball for a ribbon cutting ceremony for the town's new Health and Dental Clinic. The town used a Community Block Grant to help build the clinic.

Haze from Canadian wildfires spreads across many US states

NICHOLAS K. GERANIOS, Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP) — Large wildfires raging across Canada have contributed to a smoky haze lingering above the Western U.S., blazes fueled by the familiar hot, dry conditions that have turned much of the region into a tinderbox.

The smoke has caused spectacular red sunsets in places including Seattle and prompted air quality warnings in many states.

FIERY CANADA

Blazes are burning in parts of British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

In Saskatchewan, more than 10,000 people have been forced from their homes, and the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, which coordinates firefighting services for the provinces and territories, said more help from the U.S. and abroad could be necessary.

Alberta said Wednesday it was bringing in 62 firefighters from Mexico to help battle 92 wildfires burning in the province, including 33 listed as out of control.

British Columbia, with more than 180 fires, was bringing in crews from Australia.

SMOKE SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Haze that lingered over parts of eastern Colorado for three days was rapidly dissipating Thursday.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 10 of 20

The smoky conditions had prompted a health warning for the Denver area Wednesday and combined with clouds to cast unusually gloomy skies that blocked mountain views.

The tiny particles of wildfire debris in the air pose a health risk for people with lung disease, older adults and children and anyone who exerts themselves outdoors, said Christopher Dann of Colorado's air pollution control division.

He said Colorado — which remains free of large wildfires after a wet spring — could be again dealing with smoke from the Canadian fires over the coming days and weeks depending on weather and the progress of firefighters.

Joanne Todd of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency said smoke from wildfires in British Columbia has crossed into Washington state, but is sitting high in the atmosphere and has little impact on the health of residents. "It's not affecting us at ground level," Todd said.

She said, however, that could change in the future.

Air quality advisories have also been issued in North and South Dakota.

Canadians, obviously, have been affected as well. Environment Canada continued to issue special air quality advisories for parts of British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and northwest Ontario due to wildfire smoke.

HOT AND DRY

Western Canada has seen very hot, dry and windy conditions.

Kerry Anderson, a research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service, said the weather pattern known as El Nino, which is caused by the warming of the Pacific Ocean off the coast of South America, is responsible.

He expects weather conditions will settle down in Saskatchewan in the coming weeks, but warmer than normal temperatures will likely persist for a while in B.C. and Alberta.

Anderson said even if crews bring the Saskatchewan fires under control, they may not actually be put out until the fall.

Similar conditions across the American West have helped fuel for large, destructive blazes, including one in Wenatchee, Washington, that began in late June that destroyed nearly 30 homes.

South Dakota tells polygamists to bring details for water

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A secretive polygamist group will have to provide South Dakota regulators with more information before they will decide whether to allow the sect to draw water more quickly at a compound in the Black Hills.

The South Dakota Water Management Board voted Thursday that the group needs to come back with more details after Seth Jeffs, the brother of imprisoned sect leader Warren Jeffs, didn't provide clear answers to questions about the group and its compound.

Seth Jeffs and members of the United Order of South Dakota, a religious trust run by the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, or FLDS, has asked to double the rate of water it can draw on the compound.

The group says the water is for houses, gardens and orchards at its 140-acre property, but nearby landowners are concerned the request means an influx of members is looming.

The FLDS is headquartered in a community along the Arizona-Utah border. Members believe polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. Warren Jeffs, considered by the group to be a prophet who speaks for God,

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 11 of 20

is serving a life sentence for assaulting two of his child brides, and other leaders have been convicted of similar crimes.

A lawyer for the sect had asked that evidence about its faith, information about the trust and personal details of members be barred from the water hearing, saying those issues weren't relevant to the water application.

Although the board disagreed, Seth Jeffs seemed reluctant to answer questions, drawing the board's ire and skepticism.

Jeffs repeatedly said he doesn't know how many people live at the compound, though he spends almost all of his time there. He said he would need the authorization of the trust's leaders to conduct a census at the compound and that he doesn't "walk into people's houses and intrude on their privacy."

Board member Rodney Freeman, who supported the water application, told him, "I don't want anybody to think for a minute that I believe your testimony that you don't know how many people are up there, or at least a good ballpark estimate."

Jeffs' attorney Jeffrey Connolly argued that municipalities or rural water organizations wouldn't have to disclose the exact number of people using their water.

"We'll just take it as it comes," Jeffs said, shaking his head when a reporter asked if he knew who would come with him to answer the board's remaining questions.

The group's fenced-in compound, complete with a guard tower, sits on hilly, rugged land it bought about a decade ago. Several buildings dot the complex, including seven large residences, a chapel and school, greenhouse, and farm buildings.

A state Department of Environment and Natural Resources staff recommendation said the water application should be approved.

Jeffs said in a document filed ahead of Thursday's hearing that the number of people at the compound is within the limits of wastewater permits. The system has a 126-person capacity.

Sam Brower, a private investigator who has researched the FLDS, has said Jeffs is considered royalty among devout members.

But Jeffs said he doesn't know much about the leadership, or even where his brother Isaac Jeffs, a trustee, lives.

Michael Hickey, an attorney for nearby landowner Linda Van Dyke Kilcoin, who opposes the water application, said Jeffs is a felon and that granting the request wasn't in the public interest. Jeffs pleaded guilty in 2006 to harboring Warren Jeffs as a fugitive.

"You've got a convicted felon over there who takes orders from the prophet, and if you think that if the prophet says something and tells you to do something different than South Dakota law, that he's going to follow South Dakota law? He's not," Hickey said.

Mobridge man's prison sentence reinstated by appeals court

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A federal appeals court has reinstated a prison sentence for a Mobridge man convicted of raping two of his friends' young daughters.

Forty-five-year-old Richard Litschewski was convicted in 1997 of first-degree rape, third-degree rape and sexual contact with a minor. He was ordered to serve three consecutive terms for a total of 27 ½ years.

In 2011, the state Supreme Court reversed the order of Litschewski's sentences because they were not in the chronological order they occurred.

Litschewski filed a petition in 2013 claiming his rearranged sentence violated the double jeopardy

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 12 of 20

clause. A federal district court agreed, lessening his sentence by 7 ½ years.

The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals on Thursday reinstated Litschewski's 27 ½-year sentence, saying the state court's rearrangement did not exceed the punishment authorized by law.

Group of legislators calling for special legislative session

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A group of South Dakota legislators are calling for a special legislative session to address the state's teacher shortage.

State Rep. Elizabeth May joined five fellow legislators Thursday in Rapid City to officially call for a session on August 17. May tells KCCR-AM the teacher shortage is a "crisis" that needs to be addressed.

The Rapid City policymaker says they're sending letters to all state legislators asking if they support a special session.

May says they will allow 15 days for the letters to be returned. If they're not returned in that time, she says they'll be counted as a "no" vote.

The governor can order a special session but May says if two-thirds of legislators agree they can approve one themselves.

ND generals ask Congress to promote act that fights obesity

DAVE KOLPACK, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Senior military leaders from North Dakota said Thursday that federal nutrition standards for schools should not be watered down or eliminated because they are helping to curb an obesity epidemic that is hurting the recruitment of new soldiers.

Retired Gens. Michael Haugen, Keith Bjerke, Jerald Engelman and Robert Schulte said during a news conference at the Fargo Air Museum that the 2010 Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act may not be perfect, but it should be reauthorized without attempts to weaken or roll back guidelines.

"Unfortunately, there are a few misguided efforts that are trying to eliminate these good standards," Bjerke said. "We think that's not correct."

The generals cite a 2014 Department of Defense study on the number Americans ages 17-24 that are not eligible for the military, with the three leading causes being obesity, poor education and crime or drug use. It shows that 73 percent of residents in North Dakota and South Dakota would not make the grade. Only eight states have a higher percentage.

The nutrition guidelines, which are part of the farm bill, prompted dramatic changes in school cafeteria food. Cookies, fruit-flavored candies, doughnuts, chocolate bars and soda pop have been replaced by peanuts, low-fat tortilla chips, granola bars, fruit cups and zero-calorie flavored water. Fargo public schools have knocked out French fries in favor of sweet potato sticks.

Some smaller districts in the state have complained they can't afford to buy kitchen equipment to meet the standards and some students don't like the food and are throwing it out.

North Dakota Sen. Heidi Heitkamp said she has introduced a measure that would provide money for schools to buy equipment, and Sen. John Hoeven said he has introduced a provision that would give districts flexibility to meet the standards.

The generals would accept any measures that don't kill the program.

"We should continue to support any school that is having a tougher time," Bjerke said. "But like the armed forces, we should not stop when the going gets tough."

Republican Rep. Kevin Cramer said it's fine to advocate for good nutrition, but he doesn't think it's appropriate to have public policy that limits choices for parents and school districts.

"There are other countries that raise some soldiers from birth. We don't," Cramer said. "I applaud the generals for their effort but I don't think school nutrition is the problem for military recruitment. I think it's much broader than that."

Daugaard asks FEMA to join state in assessing storm damage

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is asking federal officials to join state and local teams as they assess the extent of the damaged caused by severe storms last month.

Daugaard has requested that the Federal Emergency Management Agency join in the state's Preliminary Damage Assessment of storm damage in 14 affected. Officials are looking at damage caused by storms from June 17 and June 24.

The governor says the assessment will give the state a more accurate picture of the extent of the damage. He says with more information, they can better determine whether to request federal assistance.

The assessments will begin Monday and are expected to continue throughout the week.

State, county and local governments can apply to be assessed in addition to other entities like private non-profit organization.

Groups submit opposition against oil pipeline across Iowa

BARBARA RODRIGUEZ, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Groups opposing plans to build an oil pipeline across Iowa submitted written statements against the project Thursday and criticized Gov. Terry Branstad for what they say is his selective neutrality.

About 40 people from Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement and the Bakken Pipeline Resistance Coalition gathered outside the offices of the Iowa Utilities Board in Des Moines to submit more than 2,600 written statements.

"This huge hazardous liquid pipeline is threatening our land, our water and our very livelihoods, if not lives," said Brenda Brink, a CCI member.

The pipeline would transport up to 570,000 barrels of crude oil daily from North Dakota through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution center in Illinois, and is projected to be operational by late 2016 if approved by state regulators.

The Iowa Utilities Board, a three-member board appointed by the governor, has authority to approve critical parts of the project over land use. The board requested the statements as part of its process for deciding whether to allow Dakota Access, LLC, a unit of Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners, to use the land if it secures enough approval from landowners. The company must also secure permits from other agencies.

Among the opposing groups' concerns are the environmental effects of a potential oil spill and the legal process for seeking easements to use private land for the pipeline.

"There's not enough money in the world that they can give us to cross our land, they'll never do it," said Dick Lamb, a landowner in central Iowa who would be affected.

Dakota Access spokeswoman Vicki Granado said the company looks forward to continuing to work with Iowa landowners. She said the company to date has purchased easements from nearly 60 percent of landowners, though critics have been skeptical of the number.

Legislation that would have offered more protections to landowners who oppose the pipeline failed to garner enough support this session.

A decision is expected by the end of the year, though the groups argue the board needs to take more

time to listen to the public.

The groups also argued Thursday that Branstad should publically oppose the pipeline. They noted the governor made comments in June to a panel of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials where he supported more renewable fuels in the county's gasoline supply. CCI spokesman Nathan Malachowski said the comments showed Branstad should speak up about the pipeline.

Branstad spokesman Jimmy Centers said the governor supports Iowa residents voicing their opinion on the pipeline and it's ultimately up to the board.

First lady addresses inaugural Native American youth summit

DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michelle Obama on Thursday told hundreds of Native American youths that they are all precious and sacred and that "each of you was put on this earth for a reason."

"Each of you has something that you're destined to do, whether that's raising a beautiful family, whether that's succeeding in a profession or leading your community into a better future," the first lady said in a sometimes emotional address at a first-time summit called by the White House. "You all have a role to play and we need you."

The event was part of Generation Indigenous, or Gen-I, a White House initiative that grew from President Barack Obama and Mrs. Obama's visit last year to the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, which straddles the border between North Dakota and South Dakota. Meetings followed, Cabinet members held listening tours, tribal youth were chosen as ambassadors and a national network was formed.

The goal is to remove barriers that keep young people from reaching their potential.

Teenagers at the summit represented 230 tribes and 42 states. Discussions focused on economic opportunity, education and cultural and other issues.

From New Mexico's pueblos to Midwest reservations, nearly one-third of American Indian youths live in poverty, according to federal statistics. They have the highest suicide rates of any ethnicity in the U.S., as well as the lowest high school graduation rates.

Mrs. Obama recalled hearing "heart-wrenching stories" of substance abuse and other crises during last year's visit but said the storytellers were looking to the future, not giving up.

She urged the young people to "draw strength" from knowing that their customs, values and discoveries are "at the heart of the American story" and have shaped U.S. history for centuries.

"Everyone in this room has your back," she said. "Everyone who is speaking at this summit, all those Cabinet secretaries, all those powerful people who have come here for you, they have your back," Mrs. Obama said. "And you definitely have a president and first lady who have your back."

She also counseled the young people to connect with and "be inspired by each other," and to find out what issues others are working on and to take ideas home with them.

"Run for office. Local office, state office, even president of the United States," Mrs. Obama said. "I know you all have it in you."

Participants came up with ideas to address problems in their communities. Miguel Wambli, 16, of Rapid City, South Dakota, and a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, created a newspaper to feature writing by Native American students.

Seven suicides by teenagers in recent months have shaken the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, and close to 1,000 suicide attempts were recorded on the reservation over nearly 10 years. Some students have projects aimed at raising awareness, while Wambli believes a newspaper would give teenagers an outlet.

"I want to try just to help them find their voice and be able to express themselves and be knowledgeable about what's going on in their community," he said.

Impoverished tribe struggles to stop surge in teen suicides

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — The people of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation are no strangers to hardship or to the risk of lives being cut short. But a recent string of seven suicides by teenagers has shaken this impoverished community and sent tribal leaders on an urgent mission to stop the deaths.

The deaths begin in December, when a 14-year-old boy hanged himself. The most recent were in March, when two students took their lives. The youngest to die was 12.

Parents and officials say the reasons for the suicides include the reservation's poverty, bullying at school and the overall decimation of the Native American culture. Volunteer federal mental health counselors have begun two-week rotations at the reservation to counsel young people. Teachers are asking students to come forward with information about suicide pacts.

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. U.S. PERSONNEL CHIEF RESISTS CALLS TO RESIGN

Katherine Archuleta is rebuffing bipartisan calls for her to quit following revelations that hackers stole the personal information of more than 21 million people on her watch.

2. TSIPRAS TO SELL LAST-DITCH DEAL TO RELUCTANT PARTY

Greece's prime minister will seek backing from lawmakers for a harsh new bailout package to keep his country in the euro less than a week after a resounding "no" vote to austerity.

3. WHAT'S COMING DOWN FROM SOUTH CAROLINA STATEHOUSE

With emotional debates and protests behind them, officials are preparing to quietly remove the Confederate flag from the Capitol where it has flown for more than a half-century.

4. WHERE PONTIFF IS OFF TO NEXT

Pope Francis will have a chance to enhance his reputation as the spiritual and political leader of the world's oppressed when he visits Bolivia's notorious Palmasola prison.

5. HOW LOOSENING OF SANCTIONS IS HELPING ACADEMIA

AP's Collin Binkley reports that U.S. colleges are looking to Cuba as an area of academic exploration and with an interest in attracting Cuban students.

6. IS SHOWS TWO FACES DURING RAMADAN

The Islamic State group is handing out food and alms to the poor in Iraq and Syria to tout their adherence to the month's spirit of compassion while meting out brutality and bloodshed in areas under its control.

7. STAMPEDE KILLS TENS IN BANGLADESH

At least 23 people are trampled to death in the central part of the country when hundreds storm the home of a businessman for a charity handout during Ramadan.

8. NEW HARPER LEE NOVEL PREVIEWED

The first chapter of "Go Set a Watchman" begins with a grown up Scout returning by train to Alabama where she is greeted by a young man who wants to marry her.

9. THIS 'SNAKE' WAS A STAR OF THE GRIDIRON

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 16 of 20

Ken Stabler, who led the Oakland Raiders to a Super Bowl victory and was the NFL's MVP in 1974, dies at 69 of complications from colon cancer.

10. WHO IS BEING FETED IN LOWER MANHATTAN

The Canyon of Heroes will be swirling with confetti as the U.S. women's soccer team's World Cup win is celebrated with a parade.

AP News in Brief

Greek leader Tsipras to sell last-ditch austerity deal proposal to reluctant party

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Left-wing Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras was seeking backing for a harsh new austerity package from his party Friday to keep his country in the euro — less than a week after urging Greeks to reject milder cuts in a referendum.

Government ministers signed off on the sweeping new measures — likely to extend the recession after six years of painful decline — that include pension cuts and tax hikes.

The proposals were sent to rescue creditors for approval at emergency meetings of European Union leaders and finance ministers over the weekend. The proposed new bailout worth nearly \$60 billion would be Greece's third since it lost market access in 2010.

But in an unusual procedure, Tsipras is first seeking authorization from parliament to negotiate with the creditors based on the proposal in a vote Friday. He is essentially asking his Syriza party to sign off on the U-turn despite more than 60 percent of voters opposing more austerity in the July 5 referendum.

Tsipras was convening his party's lawmakers for discussions Friday morning before the parliamentary debate.

South Carolina's Confederate flag to come down from Statehouse grounds after 54 years

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — With protracted emotional debates and raucous protests behind them, South Carolina officials were preparing Friday to quietly and quickly remove the Confederate flag from the Statehouse where it has flown for more than a half-century.

The state planned a simple, short ceremony at 10 a.m. to remove the rebel banner, which was surrounded in its final hours by ropes and barricades.

"We will bring it down with dignity and we will make sure it is stored in its rightful place," South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley said.

A special armored van will take the flag to the Confederate relic room, where it eventually will be housed in a multimillion-dollar shrine lawmakers promised to build as part of a compromise to get the bill ordering the flag's removal through the House.

South Carolina's leaders first flew the battle flag over the Statehouse dome in 1961 to mark the 100th anniversary of the Civil War. It remained there to represent official opposition to the civil rights movement.

US personnel chief resists calls to resign after more than 21 million had data stolen in hack

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the U.S. government's personnel office is rejecting bipartisan calls for her resignation following revelations that hackers stole the personal information of more than 21 million people on her watch.

Katherine Archuleta, director of the federal Office of Personnel Management, said she has no plans to step down and is committed to continuing her work. The White House, which had previously said President Barack Obama was confident in Archuleta's leadership, said there was no change in its position.

The escalating calls for Archuleta to be replaced came as the Obama administration disclosed on Thursday that the number of people affected by the federal breach — believed to be the biggest in U.S. history — was far higher than previously reported.

Hackers downloaded Social Security numbers, health histories or other highly sensitive data from OPM's databases, affecting more than five times the 4.2 million people the government first disclosed this year. Since then, the administration acknowledged a second, related breach of systems housing private data that individuals submit during background investigations to obtain security clearances.

Although the government declined to name the hackers, officials said the same party was responsible for both hacks. Numerous U.S. lawmakers who have been briefed on the federal investigation have pointed the finger at China.

Pope begs forgiveness for sins, offenses and crimes of church against indigenous of Americas

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (AP) — Pope Francis has cast himself as the spiritual and political leader of the world's oppressed with his remarkable mea culpa for the sins and crimes of the Catholic Church against the indigenous peoples during the colonial conquest of the Americas.

He'll have a chance to enhance that reputation Friday when he visits Bolivia's notorious Palmasola prison.

Francis "humbly" begged forgiveness Thursday at a gathering of indigenous leaders in Bolivia in the presence of Bolivia's first-ever indigenous president, Evo Morales, the climactic high of Francis' week-long South American tour.

In the speech, Francis noted that Latin American church leaders in the past had acknowledged that "grave sins were committed against the native peoples of America in the name of God." St. John Paul II, for his part, apologized to the continent's indigenous for the "pain and suffering" caused during the 500 years of the church's presence in the Americas during a 1992 visit to the Dominican Republic.

But Francis went further, and said he was doing so with "regret."

Civil rights group leader presses for more Trump fallout; 'We're not going to take it anymore'

UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif. (AP) — The head of a Latino civil rights group called on more organizations to follow NBC's example and cut business ties with Donald Trump.

Alex Nogales, president of the National Hispanic Media Coalition, said Thursday that the PGA of America's decision this week to move a golf tournament from a Trump-owned course was a step in the right direction.

The PGA and other major golf organizations should agree to keep tournaments off Trump properties

in response to his comments about Mexican immigrants, Nogales said.

Trump's representative didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The PGA said it relocated its Grand Slam of Golf in agreement with Trump.

IS offers residents of the 'caliphate' a mix of brutality and charity during holy Ramadan

BEIRUT (AP) — During the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, the Islamic State group is showing two faces to the millions who live under its rule in Iraq and Syria — handing out food and alms to the poor to tout their adherence to the month's spirit of compassion while meting out sharp punishment to anyone caught breaking the daily fast.

The double approach reflects the policy that the extremist group has followed ever since it overran large parts of the two countries and declared a "caliphate" in its territory last year. It has sought to build public support by providing services and acting as a functioning government, even as it imposes its strict version of Islamic law through violence.

In the Iraqi city of Mosul, the biggest city under IS rule, those who break the fast can be punished by being put in a cage in a public square for hours or for several days, said one resident, speaking on condition he be identified only by his first name, Omar, for his own security. In parts of Syria, violators are tied to a wooden cross in public, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the situation in the country. Other residents and activists reported fast-violators being flogged.

Ramadan, which began in mid-June and ends next week, is a time when Muslims around the world seek to be closer to God, refraining from food, water, smoking and sex from dawn to sunset, offering extra prayers, reading the Quran, showing charity for the poor and cementing friendships and family ties. Usually, it's festive after sunset, with families out visiting each other or gathering at street cafes, playing backgammon, cards or smoking waterpipes.

In the IS-ruled city of Fallujah in western Iraq, residents have been told by the group's authorities not to gather at coffee shops — and anyway, smoking and games are banned. IS has also ordered men to observe a modest dress code during Ramadan, meaning no sleeveless shirts or shorts, common attire for Iraqi men to cope with the unforgiving summer heat.

Colleges in Cuba, US build academic ties as countries resume diplomatic relationship

BOSTON (AP) — As the U.S. and Cuba mend ties, colleges in both countries are forming partnerships that once were heavily restricted.

Only months after the U.S. eased travel restrictions, several colleges have struck agreements with Cuban schools to create exchange programs for students and faculty. More American colleges are planning study trips to Cuba, and both sides are exploring research projects.

"I think there's going to be an explosion in all of those kinds of collaborations," said Mauro Guillen, director of the Lauder Institute for Management and International Studies at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School.

At Auburn University in Alabama, the college of agriculture agreed to partner with the Agrarian University of Havana under a new five-year exchange agreement. The University of the District of Columbia and the University of California at Fullerton also signed deals with Cuban schools.

Leaders at Florida International University are making long-term plans to open at least one campus in Cuba.

A spate of shark bites in North Carolina captures our attention, keeps folks out of the water

AVON, N.C. (AP) — It's the golden hour, right before sunset, when the light is soft and pretty. The landscape looks like a postcard. Tourists stroll, kids run.

No one is in the water. No one wants to be a feast for a shark.

"This is a very sharky place," mused 56-year-old John Kane as he stood on the Avon Pier and stared into the crashing surf.

They're out there, somewhere, in the murky, antifreeze-green water. There are sharpnose and black tips, bulls and tigers. Maybe even a great white or two, if Twitter is to be believed. Always lurking, always swimming, always eating.

And too often, of late, their prey has been human: In a 28-day span, eight people have been bitten by sharks in North Carolina, a new high for the 80 years in which records have been kept.

Former Oakland Raiders, Alabama Crimson Tide QB Stabler dead at 69

A Snake wouldn't seem to offer much help on a football field.

Unless that snake was named Stabler.

Ken Stabler, who led the Oakland Raiders to a Super Bowl victory and was the NFL's Most Valuable Player in 1974, has died as a result of complications from colon cancer. He was 69.

His family announced his death on Stabler's Facebook page Thursday. The statement said Stabler "passed peacefully" on Wednesday while surrounded by family, including his three daughters and long-time partner, who wasn't named. Raiders owner Mark Davis said the team, which was informed by the family, was "deeply saddened by the passing of the great Ken Stabler."

"He was a cherished member of the Raider family and personified what it means to be a Raider," Davis said in a statement. "He wore the silver and black with pride and poise and will continue to live in the hearts of Raider fans everywhere. Our sincerest thoughts and prayers go out to Kenny's family."

Today in History **The Associated Press**

Today is Friday, July 10, the 191st day of 2015. There are 174 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 10, 1940, during World War II, the Battle of Britain began as the Luftwaffe started attacking southern England. (The Royal Air Force was ultimately victorious.)

On this date:

In 1509, theologian John Calvin, a key figure of the Protestant Reformation, was born in Noyon, Picardy, France.

In 1890, Wyoming became the 44th state.

In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson personally delivered the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') to the Senate and urged its ratification. (However, the Senate rejected it.)

In 1925, jury selection took place in Dayton, Tennessee, in the trial of John T. Scopes, charged with violating the law by teaching Darwin's Theory of Evolution. (Scopes was convicted and fined, but the verdict was overturned on a technicality.)

In 1929, American paper currency was reduced in size as the government began issuing bills that were approximately 25 percent smaller.

Groton Daily Independent

Friday, July 10, 2015 ♦ Vol. 18 - No. 342 ♦ 20 of 20

In 1943, during World War II, U.S. and British forces invaded Sicily.

In 1951, armistice talks aimed at ending the Korean War began at Kaesong.

In 1962, AT&T's Telstar 1 communications satellite, capable of relaying television signals and telephone calls, was launched by NASA from Cape Canaveral.

In 1973, the Bahamas became fully independent after three centuries of British colonial rule. John Paul Getty III, the teenage grandson of the oil tycoon, was abducted in Rome by kidnappers who cut off his ear when his family was slow to meet their ransom demands; young Getty was released in December 1973 for nearly \$3 million.

In 1985, the Greenpeace protest ship Rainbow Warrior was sunk with explosives in Auckland, New Zealand, by French intelligence agents; one activist was killed. Bowing to pressure from irate customers, the Coca-Cola Co. said it would resume selling old-formula Coke, while continuing to sell New Coke.

In 1991, Boris N. Yeltsin took the oath of office as the first elected president of the Russian republic. President George H.W. Bush lifted economic sanctions against South Africa.

In 1999, the United States women's soccer team won the World Cup, beating China 5-4 on penalty kicks after 120 minutes of scoreless play at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California.

Ten years ago: A search-and-rescue team found the body of a missing U.S. commando in eastern Afghanistan, bringing an end to the desperate search for the last member of an ill-fated, four-man special forces unit that had disappeared the previous month. Nineteen-month-old Suzie Marie Pena (PAYN'-yah) was struck and killed by a SWAT team bullet during a shootout between Los Angeles police and her father, who was using the toddler as a shield; Jose Raul Pena also died. Hurricane Dennis roared quickly through the Florida Panhandle and Alabama coast with blinding squalls and crashing waves.

Five years ago: Robotic submarines removed a leaking cap from a gushing oil well in the Gulf of Mexico, sending crude flowing freely into the sea until BP installed a new seal that stopped the oil days later. Australia's Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde headed a class of seven inductees into the International Tennis Hall of Fame. Grammy-winning country singer Carrie Underwood married NHL player Mike Fisher at a resort in Greensboro, Georgia.

One year ago: Germany demanded that the CIA station chief in Berlin leave the country as a new round of allegations of U.S. espionage worsened friction between the two allies.

Today's Birthdays: Former boxer Jake LaMotta is 94. Writer-producer Earl Hamner Jr. is 92. Former New York City Mayor David N. Dinkins is 88. Actor William Smithers is 88. Broadway composer Jerry Herman is 84. Director Ivan Passer is 82. Actor Lawrence Pressman is 76. Singer Mavis Staples is 76. Actor Mills Watson is 75. Actor Robert Pine is 74. Rock musician Jerry Miller (Moby Grape) is 72. International Tennis Hall of Famer Virginia Wade is 70. Actor Ron Glass is 70. Actress Sue Lyon is 69. Folk singer Arlo Guthrie is 68. Rock musician Dave Smalley is 66. Country-folk singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler is 64. Rock singer Neil Tennant (Pet Shop Boys) is 61. Banjo player Bela Fleck is 57. Country musician Shaw Wilson (BR549) is 55. Actor Alec Mapa is 50. Country singer-songwriter Ken Mellons is 50. Rock musician Peter DiStefano (Porno for Pyros) is 50. Actor Gale Harold is 46. Country singer Gary LeVox (leh-VOH') (Rascal Flatts) is 45. Actor Aaron D. Spears is 44. Actress Sofia Vergara is 43. Rockabilly singer Imelda May is 41. Actor Adrian Grenier (grehn-YAY') is 39. Actor Chiwetel Ejiofor (CHOO'-ih-tehl EHJ'-ee-oh-for) is 38. Actress Gwendoline Yeo is 38. Actor Thomas Ian Nicholas is 35. Singer-actress Jessica Simpson is 35. Rock musician John Spiker is 34. Actress Heather Hemmens is 31. Rapper/singer Angel Haze is 24. Pop singer Perrie Edwards (Little Mix) is 22.

Thought for Today: "The people I distrust most are those who want to improve our lives but have only one course of action in mind." - Frank Herbert, American author (1920-1986).