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Sunday, May 29

Birthdays: Clare Brotherton • DeLoris Knoll • Howard Gengerke • Jerry Ray Johnson • Jeff Ringgenberg • Michelle Osterman
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship
9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass
9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship
10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Monday, May 30

Memorial Day
Birthdays: Hazel McKittrick • Kami Lipp • Kellie Townsend • Teresa Krueger

Tuesday, May 31

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, mixed vegetables, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Steve & Tami Herron
Birthdays: Joyce Schaller • Linda Anderson • Carol Osterman • Josephine Doeden
10:00am: Region Girls Golf at Madison
10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

Fr. Kelly celebrates 40 years

Celebrating 40 years of priesthood in honor of Fr. Mike Kelly at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 803 North 1st Street, Groton. Please join us for an Open House on June 12th from 2-4 pm with a short program at 3pm. Hors d'oeuvres and cupcakes will be served.

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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Mark Malmberg, DDS
19 North 6th St.

Oakes, N.D.
701-742-3401



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Groton Pool Summer 2016

★ **Pool opens for the season: May 30** ★

Season Passes: Family Pass (must be immediate family only - max 10) = \$100.00 (Immediate Family = Mother, Father, Biological Children, Adopted Children, and Step Children living in one household)

Special Vacation Family Pass (up to 5 persons for 1 week) = \$30.00

Senior Pass (62 & Over) = \$30.00

Adult Pass (18-61yrs) = \$60.00

Youth Pass (6-17 yrs) = \$40.00

Youth Pass (0-5yrs) = \$20.00

Lap Swim Pass - \$4.00 per session or \$30.00 per summer

Aerobics Pass - \$4.00 per session or \$30.00 per summer

Lap AND Aerobic Pass - \$50.00 per summer

*Any child under 6yrs must have an adult (at least 18yrs of age) with them when they are in attendance. See Managers for more information.

***ALL PATRONS HAVE TO PAY TO GO INSIDE THE POOL AREA. THIS IS NO DIFFERENT THAN GOING TO ANY OTHER FACILITY OR EVENT TO WATCH THE ACTIVITY/EVENT.**

Daily Admission Per Session: Seniors (62 and Over) = \$3.00 Adults (18-61) = \$5.00

Youth (6-17 yrs) = \$3.00 Youth (0-5yrs) = \$1.00

HOURS

Open Swim Daily: 1:00 - 4:50pm & 6:40 - 8:50pm

Family Swim is every Saturday and Sunday from 5:45 - 6:30 (each child must have a family member/parent with them who is 18 yrs or older - This is a great family time!

FUN Night is every Friday from 6:40-8:50pm - ALL pool toys are allowed at this time!

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday thru Thursday - 8:00am - 8:45am AND 5:45pm - 6:30pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday thru Thursday - 7am - 8am & 5pm - 5:45pm - Friday 7am-8am & 5pm-6:30pm Saturday and Sunday - 5pm - 5:45pm

*Hours are subject to change

Pool Rental for Private Parties: - \$150.00 - 2 hours which includes 2 lifeguards

Swimming Lessons: \$20.00 per two-week session - due on first day or prior to first day of lessons, payable at the pool

Mon - Thurs with Friday being a rain/make-up day

Session 1- June 6 - 16

Session 2 - June 20 - June 30

Session 3 - July 11 - July 21

Private Lessons - \$10.00 per 30 minutes with a minimum of 5 lessons and a maximum of 10 consecutive lessons during non-open swim times.

*All parents must provide an accurate phone number to call in case of inclement weather for possible cancellations



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Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries



Ready, Set, Now Go for It

As far as I'm concerned, summer is the best time of the year. I look forward to it while the chilly shivers of wintertime and the erratic damp weather of spring. Summer is my time of year!

I guess the reason it takes so long for summer to get here is that it takes an awful long time to get ready for this wonderful thing called summer time.

Why is it we work so hard during the wintertime and then when summer comes the plague of laziness seems to spread abroad? Actually, I think I have earned that lazy spell so associated with summer.

This is where the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I cross swords.

For some reason she believes summer is the time to catch up on all the work around the house. There is yard work to be done. The garage needs to be cleaned out and reorganized. That is only the start. Thinking about all that stuff makes me tired.

I will not say she is a "workaholic," at least out loud. Her saying is, "Early to bed and early to rise gives you plenty of time to work."

And boy, does she work. I am exhausted and wore out just thinking about all the work she does. If anybody gets things done, she does. In fact, she gets some things done that don't have to be done. At least from my calculation.

My philosophy along this line is, "The harder you work the quicker old age catches up with you." If that is true, and I am hoping it is, old age will never catch me.

The difference between my wife and I is simple, I believe summer is the time to catch up on all the loafing missed during the wintertime. It is important, at least from my perspective, that we do not get behind on our loafing. You can never engage in too much loafing, from my experience.

Yard work will always be there. A dirty garage will always be dirty no matter how many times you clean it. Loafing is a very different thing. It is a very religious aspect of life. By that I mean, loafing is a way to respect your body. I have a lot of respect for my body.

As we begin the first stage of summer, I want to get ready to exercise as much loafing as I possibly can. Loafing has several stages to it.

The first stage is just doing nothing. I have graduated with high honors at this stage. It took me a lot of hard work to get to this point of mastering the art of doing nothing. And I must say I have mastered it quite well.

My wife will ask me on a lazy summer afternoon, "What in the world are you doing?"

My reply is simple, "I'm doing nothing."

Then she says rather sarcastically, "You're doing a wonderful job."

I thank her and go on doing nothing.

Another stage of loafing is doing things you enjoy doing.

My wife wants to convince me that doing yard work is something we can enjoy doing together. I certainly do not enjoy I certainly do not enjoy working hard, sweating and getting tired. Those three things do not go very well with my idea of enjoying myself.

She enjoys working, slaving away and sweating. She gets up early, works so hard, and needs a shower before breakfast while I am just getting my peepers to unpeep. As long as she has a smile and is enjoying herself, I will never interfere.

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What I do object to is her assuming that what she enjoys doing is what I enjoy doing.

"Come on and help me in the yard," she says so cheerfully, "you will enjoy it. It's a beautiful afternoon."

Obviously, we have been married for so long and she still doesn't know what I enjoy. One of the things I do not enjoy is working out in the yard, sweating and approaching the cliffs of exhaustion.

My idea of loafing has nothing at all to do with "enjoying work."

Of course, if you include in this category the idea of enjoying loafing for sheer loafing sake, then you got my attention. If I enjoy loafing, I should be allowed to enjoy it as often and as long as I can. That is what summer is all about.

Another stage in this area of loafing is practicing the art of horizontal extension. Here is an area where I excel. Nothing is more enjoyable than sitting on the back porch with my feet stretched out as far as possible, my head and shoulders reclined back and a glass of iced tea in my right hand. That is what loafing is all about.

Between my wife's working and my loafing this summer is going to be a wonderful time. Both of us are doing what we enjoy doing and hopefully, not getting in each other's way. I make it a rule not to interfere with her working and I am working on getting her to make a rule not to interfere with my loafing. We are halfway there.

I think David understood my position exactly. "And I said, Oh that I had wings like a dove! for then would I fly away, and be at rest" (Psalm 55:6).

I am poised, and ready to face the summer with all the loafing I can experience.

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

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Obama Administration's Illegal Implementation of Water Rule

Since the misguided Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule was first proposed by the Obama administration in 2014, farmers, ranchers and local units of government in South Dakota and across the country have been rightly concerned about the rule's impact on their operations. They were able to breathe a sigh of relief last October when a judge issued a nationwide stay halting the rule, but reports have recently surfaced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been moving forward with implementing the rule anyway – illegally. This is deeply troubling not only because it is another example of this administration blatantly ignoring the rule of law, but because the rights of landowners are being stripped away and they can no longer utilize their land due to burdensome permitting requirements that are being illegally imposed on them.

The WOTUS rule is one of the largest federal land grabs in the history of our country, giving the Army Corps and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) control of nearly all water, including man-made water management systems, farm ponds, drainage ditches and any other water that the EPA decides has a "significant nexus" to downstream water. Under WOTUS, farmers, ranchers and landowners would be forced – and allegedly are already being forced – to spend hours filling out burdensome paperwork to get permits from the EPA and Army Corps just to conduct normal agricultural activities or spray for weeds along our county roads.

The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee recently held a subcommittee hearing regarding the allegations that the Army Corps is expanding federal control over land and water via WOTUS despite the court-ordered stay. During the hearing, a representative of the American Farm Bureau testified that the Army Corps is regulating farmland based on light-sensing radar and aerial photographs, and then refusing to share these documents with the landowner, claiming that they are classified. This is unacceptable. Farmers are losing the ability to manage their land and utilize it in the best way possible.

As I said during the hearing, when land is subject to burdensome and unreasonable permitting requirements based on incomplete information or the illegal implementation of a regulation, business owners and ag producers alike lose the ability to develop and properly manage their land, which essentially prohibits them from using the land that they rightfully own. Our farmers and ranchers should be focused on growing crops and caring for livestock, not wasting time filling out paperwork or waiting around to get a permit to spray weeds in their ditches.

Implementing the WOTUS rule despite the nationwide stay may not only be an illegal taking from landowners, it runs against the will of a majority of Members of Congress, states who have sued the administration and countless ag groups across the country. I will continue to do everything I can to expose these abuses and protect South Dakota landowners from this unacceptable federal overreach.

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Today in Weather History

1951 - A massive hailstorm, from Wallace to Kearney County in Kansas, caused six million dollars damage to crops. (David Ludlum)

1953 - A tornado, 600 yards wide at times, killed two persons on its 20 mile path from southwest of Fort Rice ND into Emmons County. Nearly every building in Fort Rice was damaged. The Catholic church was leveled, with some pews jammed four feet into the ground. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in West Texas produced softball size hail at Lamesa, and hail up to twelve inches deep east of Dimmitt. Thunderstorms also spawned seven tornadoes in West Texas, including one which injured three persons at Wolfforth. Thunderstorms deluged the Texas Hill Country with up to eleven inches of rain. Severe flooding along the Medino, Hondo, Seco, Sabinal and Frio rivers caused more than fifty million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A powerful cold front brought snow and high winds to parts of the western U.S. Austin, NV, was blanketed with ten inches of snow, and winds gusted to 75 mph at the Mojave Airport in California. Strong southerly winds and unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Glasgow, MT, equalled their record for the month of May with a high of 102 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Wintry weather gripped parts of the northwestern U.S. for the second day in a row. Great Falls, MT, was blanketed with 12 inches of snow, which pushed their total for the winter season to a record 117.4 inches. Six inches of snow whitened the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from north central Colorado to the northern half of Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail or damaging winds. Midday thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Hobart, OK, and produced up to three and a half inches of rain in eastern Colorado in four hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Memorial Day	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Patchy Fog then Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms	T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance Showers
High: 79 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 64 °F



Today...Mostly Sunny. Highs around 80.



Tonight...Partly Cloudy with Scattered Thunderstorms developing West.



Monday...Storms Likely (Possibly Severe) Afternoon & Evening...Highs Around 80.



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Published on: 05/29/2016 at 5:12AM

High pressure will bring mostly sunny skies today with highs around 80 degrees. A warm front lifting north tonight will bring scattered thunderstorms out west. Better chances of storms will come on Memorial Day as an upper level trough moves in along with a surface cold front. Some of the storms could be severe in the afternoon and evening.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 62.5

Low: 58.6

High Gust: 16

Precip: 0.08

Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1934

Record Low: 23 in 1947

Average High: 72°F

Average Low: 49°F

Average Precip in May: 2.91

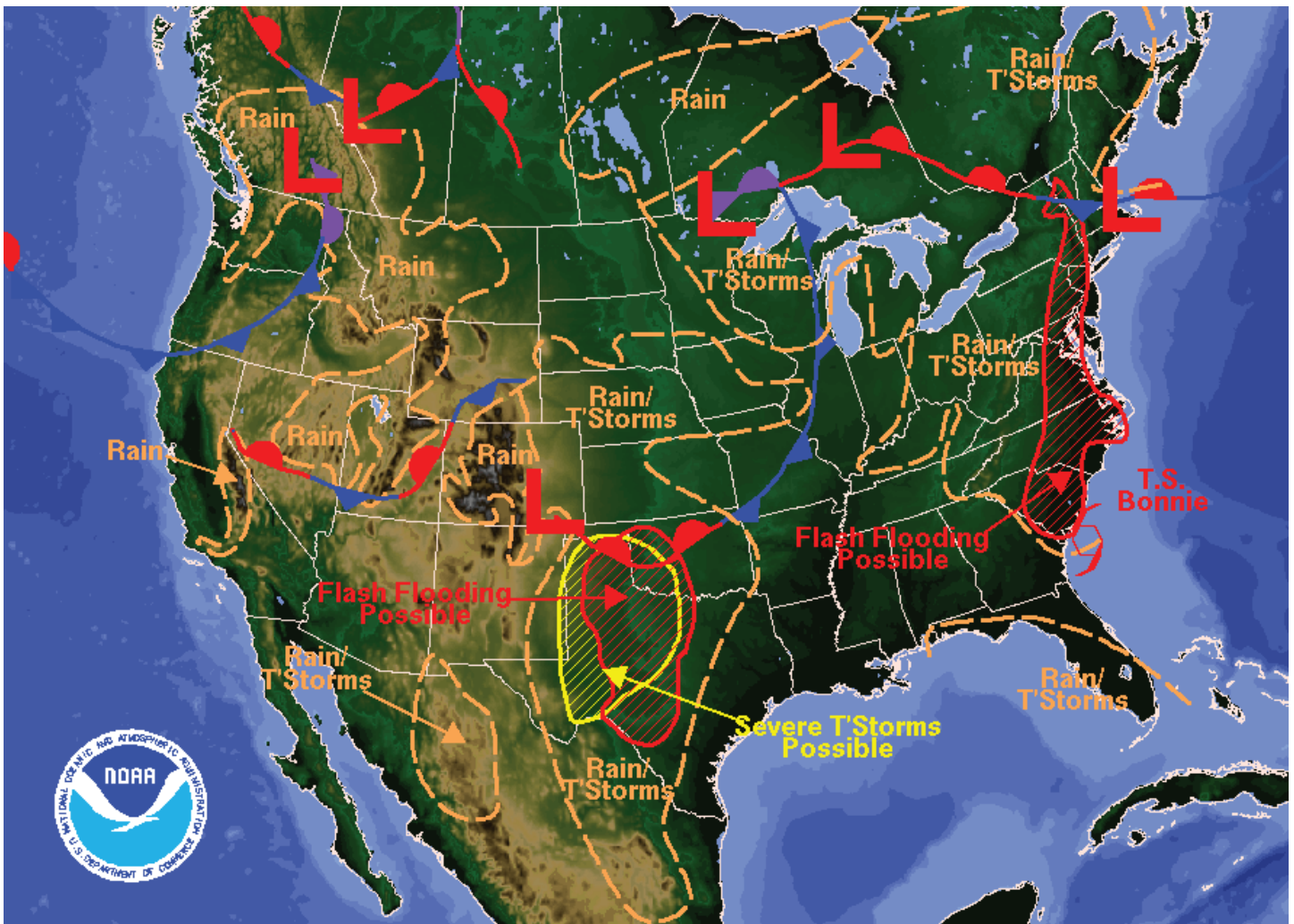
Precip to date in May: 1.42

Average Precip to date: 6.94

Precip Year to Date: 4.51

Sunset Tonight: 9:12 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:49 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sun, May 29, 2016, issued 4:48 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Fanning based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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THREE BONES FOR HEALTHY LIVING

Pat was about to leave Ireland for the United States. As he was about to board the ship, his father said to him, "Son, remember three bones and you'll come out alright."

"Bones," said Pat. "What do you mean 'remember three bones'? Which three?"

"First, remember the wishbone. It keeps you focused on the things you want to accomplish in life. Then there's the jawbone. Use your jawbone for asking questions when there is something you don't know or understand. And finally, my son, there's the backbone. It keeps you doing whatever you are doing until you get it done!"

Often we wish for things and have a vision of how things could be in our lives. But then we do nothing to accomplish them. Perhaps the "wish" or "vision" is God's Spirit speaking to us to do something for Him that He has brought to our minds and hearts. If He gives us a vision of what He wants to do and where He wants us to go, we need to stop before we ever get started and ask God for His help and support, direction and guidance. We need Him involved!

That's when we need to use our jawbone – to go to the Lord in prayer and ask Him if the vision is in keeping with His will for our lives. When He gives us a peace and calmness about "next steps," then we will know that He wants us to proceed.

And when we begin to work on His will for our lives, we need to use our backbone to "keep on keeping on" when the way becomes difficult and the road long. His strength will be available to us to accomplish the most trying tasks when we are doing what He has called us to do. We must stay focused, pray and work.

Prayer: Father, give us a vision of what You want us to do, a persistence in prayer until we receive Your blessing to do it and then the courage and determination to see things through. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Luke 18:1 Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,

News from the Associated Press

AG: Body found in Grant County is missing Wisconsin woman

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley says a body discovered in Grant County on May 17 has been identified as a missing Wisconsin woman.

Jackley says the woman is 25-year-old Tess Morgan Monae White, of West Allis, Wisconsin. She was last seen on May 5, 2016.

An investigation being conducted by the Grant County Sheriff's Office and the state Division of Criminal Investigation is ongoing.

Leave baby wild animals alone, new campaign stresses

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota wildlife official is trying to combat a scene she sees several times every summer: A mom and her children show up carrying a box with holes poked in the top and a baby wild animal inside.

The family thinks they've rescued it from apparent abandonment, but that's far from the truth, Thea Miller Ryan says, because the rescue can be harmful, even deadly. So, with the backdrop of the bison calf in Yellowstone that had to be euthanized this month after tourists put it in their car, Ryan is taking to social media to teach people to let nature take its course.

"I know that it's not going to have a happy ending," Miller said of any rescued animal's future. "... Really, the minute humans intervene with wildlife in most cases, not all, it's a death sentence."

Miller and the Outdoor Campus in Sioux Falls, which she directs, have been teaching adults and children for years to avoid this type of rescues. But the number of calls the facility receives every year — upward of 300 — has not decreased. Now, for every call her office answers about a potential rescue, she posts on Facebook and Twitter a photo of a ceramic sparrow that has a sugar skull as its head. The accompanying message mentions the creature that the call was about and the phrase, "If you care, leave it there."

Her campaign comes at an appropriate time after the failed "rescue" at Yellowstone National Park, where a man told park rangers that he loaded a bison calf into his sport utility vehicle May 9 because he thought it was cold. Rangers took the animal back to where it was picked up, but they could not reunite it with the herd. The calf had to be euthanized as it was causing a dangerous situation by constantly approaching people and cars.

"You wouldn't pick up your neighbor's kid and try to raise it just on your own. So, why would you assume that you want no better than mother nature?" said Kenneth Wilson, who leads the fish, wildlife and conservation biology department at Colorado State University. "... How do we know they are abandoned? They have no sign on them."

Wildlife officials across the country almost always encourage people who have attempted a rescue to return the animals exactly where they found them, because mothers are likely to return to their offspring after searching for food or hiding from predators. People are also told to put the animals in a nearby area if they are at risk of being attacked by a pet. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, for example, has a website that helps people determine whether a wild animal is orphaned and provides detailed descriptions for at least 13 species.

People are also encouraged to use gloves while handling the animals and avoid hugging them to pre-

vent their "human scent" from transferring, which could be a giveaway to predators.

"Nature can be pretty darn harsh," Wilson said. "Often sometimes people will grab a youngster, 'Oh, we are worried about it getting attacked by something,' Well, that's the natural cycle."

Tropical Storm Bonnie weakens to tropical depression

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Tropical Storm Bonnie weakened to a tropical depression Sunday morning as it continued to spin north toward the coast, soaking eastern Georgia and portions of the Carolinas while ruining the start of Memorial Day.

Top sustained winds of the season's second-named tropical storm decreased to 35 mph (55 kph) Sunday morning, four days before the official start of hurricane season in the Atlantic Ocean, according to the National Hurricane Center.

The center of Bonnie was about 25 miles (40 kilometers) east-southeast of Charleston, South Carolina, and 80 miles (130 kilometers) south-southwest of Myrtle Beach as of 8 a.m. EDT, the Miami-based center said in an advisory. Bonnie was moving north at 9 mph (15 kph). All tropical storm warnings were discontinued and no coastal watches or warnings remained in effect Sunday.

Bonnie was expected to move onshore near the south-central coast of South Carolina Sunday morning, according to the Hurricane Center, followed by a slow, northeastward motion near the coast of northeastern South Carolina by Sunday night and Monday.

Bonnie is expected to produce total rainfall accumulations of 2 to 4 inches with isolated maximum amounts of 6 inches from central and eastern South Carolina to the Georgia border, and 1 to 3 inches farther north across southeastern North Carolina. Heavy rain is expected to develop well north, to parts of the Mid-Atlantic region and the Northeast with total accumulations of 1 to 2 inches through Monday and isolated maximum amounts of 4 inches.

Heavy rain and dangerous surf kept people off the Georgia, South Carolina and southern North Carolina beaches on Saturday. No evacuations had been ordered, with forecasters saying the biggest danger will likely be from locally heavy rain.

Officials in Charleston were monitoring the winds. The area has 15 bridges over water than are at least 65-feet tall that are closed when winds get 40 mph or above.

A Tropical Storm Warning is in effect for the South Carolina coast and forecasters said an isolated tornado or two will be possible early Sunday over the immediate coastal region from central South Carolina through southern North Carolina. The storm is expected to bring 2 to 4 inches of rain across much of the area this weekend, with 6 inches possible in some spots.

Near Myrtle Beach, authorities said they were worried mostly about heavy rain causing dangerous driving conditions as thousands of bikers and their motorcycles make their annual trip to the area.

The first Atlantic storm of 2016 was Hurricane Alex, which made an unseasonable debut in January over the far eastern Atlantic. The storm was the first hurricane to form in the Atlantic in January since 1938 and made landfall in the Azores on Jan. 15.

UN 700 migrants feared dead in Mediterranean shipwrecks

SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

POZZALLO, Sicily (AP) — Over 700 migrants are feared dead in three Mediterranean Sea shipwrecks south of Italy in the last few days as they tried desperately to reach Europe in unseaworthy smuggling boats, the U.N. refugee agency said Sunday.

The shipwrecks over three days appear to account for the largest loss of life reported in the Mediter-

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ranean since April 2015, when a single ship sank with an estimated 800 people trapped inside.

Carlotta Sami, spokeswoman for UNHCR, told The Associated Press by phone that an estimated 100 people are missing from a smugglers' boat that capsized Wednesday off the coast of Libya. The Italian navy took horrific pictures of that capsizing even as it rushed to rescue as many people as possible from the sea.

Sami said about 550 other migrants and refugees are missing from a smuggling boat that capsized Thursday morning after leaving the western Libyan port of Sabratha a day earlier.

Refugees who saw that boat sink told her agency it was carrying about 670 people, didn't have an engine and was being towed by another packed smuggling boat before it capsized. She said about 25 people from the capsized boat managed to reach the first boat and survive, 79 others were rescued by international patrol boats and 15 bodies were recovered.

Italian police said survivors identified the commander of the boat with the working engine as a 28-year-old Sudanese man, who has been arrested.

In a third shipwreck on Friday, Sami said 135 people were rescued, 45 bodies were recovered and an unknown numbers of migrants were still missing.

Because the bodies went missing in the open sea, it is impossible to verify the numbers who died. Humanitarian organizations and rescue authorities typically rely on survivors' accounts to piece together what happened.

Italian police corroborated the UNHCR description of Thursday's sinking in their own interviews with survivors, but came up with different numbers of possible missing.

They say, according to survivors, the boat being towed was carrying about 500 migrants when it starting taking on water after about eight hours at sea. Efforts to empty the water — with a line of migrants passing a few 5-liter bailing cans — were insufficient and the boat was completely under water after an hour and a half, police said. At that point, the commander of the first smuggling boat doing the towing ordered the tow rope to be cut.

The migrants on the top deck of the sinking boat jumped into the sea, while those below deck, estimated at 300, sank with the ship, police said. Of those who jumped into the water, just 90 were rescued.

Survivors were taken to the Italian ports of Taranto on the mainland and Pozzallo on the island of Sicily. Sami says the U.N. agency is trying to gather information with sensitivity considering that most of the new arrivals are either shipwreck survivors or traumatized by what they saw.

Italy's southern islands are the main destinations for countless numbers of smuggling boats launched from the shores of lawless Libya each week packed with people seeking jobs and safety in Europe. Hundreds of migrants drown each year attempting the dangerous Mediterranean Sea crossing.

Warmer waters and calmer weather of late have only increased the migrants' attempts to reach Europe. Last week, over 4,000 migrants were rescued at sea in one day alone by an Italian-led naval operation.

Syria's cease-fire strengthens al-Qaida branch

SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BASSEM MROUE, Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Al-Qaida's branch in Syria has recruited thousands of fighters, including teenagers, and taken territory from government forces in a successful offensive in the north, illustrating how the cease-fire put in place by Russia and the United States to weaken the militants has in many ways backfired.

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The branch, known as the Nusra Front, has churned out a flood of videos — slickly produced in the style of its rival, the Islamic State group — that show off its recruitment drive. In one, young men line up for combat training. In another, a bearded al-Qaida fighter in a mosque urges a crowd of men to join jihad. A third shows an al-Qaida-linked cleric leading a graduation ceremony, handing out weapons to young men.

Since March, the group recruited 3,000 new fighters, including teenagers, in comparison to an average of 200 to 300 a month before, according to Rami Abdurrahman, head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an activist group monitoring the conflict. He cited contacts within the Nusra Front. Other activists said hundreds living in camps for displaced people in the north have joined the al-Qaida branch.

But battlefield success and the push for new recruits have brought to the surface tensions within the Nusra Front over the group's future path, observers say.

A hard-line faction within the group wants to emulate al-Qaida's chief rival, the Islamic State group, and declare an Islamic caliphate in the areas under its control, a step al-Qaida has long rejected because it does not want to alienate its allies in the Syrian opposition. On the other end of the spectrum, a Syria-minded camp within the Nusra Front wants to focus entirely on the campaign to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad and to break ties with al-Qaida.

"There are leaders in Nusra who are saying we are strongest, why are we not ruling and why don't we declare a caliphate?" said Radwan Mortada, an expert on jihadi groups who writes for Lebanon's Al-Akhbar newspaper. "There are others who say the world will not leave us alone so long as we are related to al-Qaida. So the least we can do ... is declare our dissociation with al-Qaida."

The Nusra Front has long been one of the strongest factions in Syria's opposition. It and other Syrian rebels, including some allied to it, hold most of the northwestern province of Idlib and parts of neighboring Aleppo province. When Russia and the United States brokered a cease-fire between Assad and opposition forces in February, the Nusra Front and IS were excluded, allowing Assad's troops and Russian and American airstrikes to continue to hit them. The hope in Washington and Moscow was that other rebel factions would shun both extremist groups.

Instead, the cease-fire faltered within weeks as Assad's forces fought rebels around the opposition-held part of Aleppo, and peace talks in Geneva stalemated. That boosted the Nusra Front's credibility as the force that kept up the fight against Assad and stood against any compromise leaving him in power.

Far from being shunned by other factions, the Nusra Front instead has attracted a coalition. Their alliance, known as the Jaish al-Fatah, or Army of Conquest, has recently waged a counter-offensive around Aleppo, retaking ground from Assad's military and its allies and inflicting heavy casualties, including killing more than a dozen members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard and some 30 Lebanese Hezbollah fighters, allied to Assad.

The alliance revives one that had successfully fought against government forces and seized control of Idlib but broke up last year. One faction, Jund al-Aqsa, has reportedly refused to join, and is suspected of having sided with IS. The alliance also is battling the Islamic State group, which has shown it can still make gains despite heavy losses under U.S. and Russian airstrikes. On Friday, IS militants succeeded in taking a string of villages from rebels, including some in Nusra's alliance, near the Turkish border north of Aleppo.

Maj. Jamil Saleh, commander of Tajammu el-Ezzah, a U.S.-backed rebel group, said the Nusra Front is gaining recruits in part because the international community has not pressed for Assad's removal at the peace talks, discrediting moderate factions that agreed to the negotiations.

"It is impossible for the rebel factions to enter into this battle (against the Nusra Front) so long as

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Bashar (Assad) remains in office," Saleh said.

Because of the Nusra Front, Syria has become a critical hub for al-Qaida. Al-Qaida's central leadership, believed based in the Afghan-Pakistan border region, has been sending prominent figures to aid the fight in Syria.

"Syria is right now the central front for al-Qaida's jihad," said Thomas Joscelyn, senior editor of the Long War Journal and an al-Qaida watcher for The Foundation for the Defense of Democracies, a U.S.-based think tank. "I don't think a lot of people realize how many resources al-Qaida has invested in Syria."

The Pentagon's \$500 million effort to train and equip a force of Syrian rebels to take on extremists in Syria — mainly IS — has all but collapsed.

And the alliances that al-Qaida has built with other Syrian rebel factions have been key to its success. That's in contrast to IS, which declared a caliphate in the territory it controls in Syria and Iraq, and considers as infidels anyone who does not accept its rule. As a result, IS has battled Syrian rebel factions — and the Nusra Front — more than it has battled Assad's forces.

Though hard-liners within the group are pressing for it, the Nusra Front is unlikely to declare a caliphate in areas it controls because that could bring even more airstrikes and alienate its allies, who might then unify against it, said Ali Soufan, a former FBI agent who now heads the Soufan group, a private risk-assessment firm.

Instead, with the backing of al-Qaida's leadership, Nusra Front leader Abu Muhammad al-Golani appears to be working to keep the group's factions behind a more pragmatic policy focused on keeping allies by the group's side, rather than pressing an ideological agenda. Al-Qaida's traditional stance has always been that while an Islamic state is the ultimate goal, it must wait until regional leaders are overthrown and other Muslims rally around the cause.

The Nusra Front and al-Qaida's leader Ayman al-Zawahri "are really fearful ... that they will be stabbed in the back by people like Ahrar Sham or Islamic Army," Soufan said, referring to some of the Nusra Front's Islamic allies.

Al-Zawahri weighed in with an audio message this month calling for unity among fighters in Syria, followed a day later by a similar call for unity from the son of al-Qaida founder Osama bin Laden, Hamza — a message Soufan said likely reflected their fears of a fallout with Syrian allies.

The stream of al-Qaida veterans joining the Nusra Front helps al-Golani — though it also exposes them to the dangers of the Syria conflict. Rifai Ahmad Taha, an Egyptian militant with decades of experience with the terror network, died in a U.S. strike in April.

But others still hold senior posts. Ahmed Salama Mabrouk, an Egyptian and longtime associate of al-Zawahri, appeared in a Nusra Front video from Syria in March and is believed to now be part of its central leadership. There have been suggestions from militant messages online that one of al-Qaida's most significant and shadowy leaders, Saif al-Adel, has also relocated to Syria, according to the Long War Journal, a website that tracks militant groups.

Pragmatists among the Nusra Front's leadership have been consolidating in the north, said a Syrian activist who reports from the front line and deals closely with most rebel groups, including the al-Qaida affiliate. A prominent hard-liner, known by the nom de guerre of Abu Julaybib, was recently sidelined from the Nusra Front's leadership, he said.

But in some areas, the hard-liners have more sway, the activist said. He pointed to recent fighting in the northern opposition stronghold of Maaret al-Numan, where Nusra Front fighters drove out a U.S.-backed rebel faction called Division 13 and took its weapons. The activist spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of alienating his contacts.

Rain washes out attempt to set record Greek sirtaki dance

OLIMPIU GHEORGHIU, Associated Press

CONSTANTA, Romania (AP) — Torrential rain has dashed hopes in Romania of setting a Guinness Book world record for Greece's famous sirtaki dance.

Romanians were attempting to break the world record for the dance made famous in the 1964 movie "Zorba the Greek" before a storm struck this Black Sea port on Saturday.

Organizers declared the attempt a washout, then had a change of heart and called people back to the beach in the port, 250 kilometers (156 miles) east of Bucharest.

The current world sirtaki record was set in Volos, Greece, in 2012 when 5,614 people danced.

Organizers in Romania claim more than 6,000 people took part in Saturday's record-breaking attempt. Guinness representative Seyda Sibasi Gemici declared the attempt invalid, however, saying it had become too dark to do an accurate count.

Israel arrests Palestinian suspects in Jerusalem bus attack

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's internal security service says it has arrested six Palestinians from the West Bank suspected of preparing explosives and planning the bomb attack on a bus in Jerusalem that wounded 21 Israelis last month.

The Shin Bet said Sunday that the suspected militant cell from the Bethlehem area was planning other car bombings and shooting attacks.

It says one of the detained suspects, Mohammad Sami Abed al-Hamid al-Azza, from the Aida refugee camp in Bethlehem, learned how to build explosives from online videos.

It says he procured the explosives from others affiliated with the Islamic militant group Hamas and that they recruited and trained the bomber, Abed al-Hamid Abu Sarour, who died from his wounds in the April 18 explosion.

Veterans sites in California, Kentucky, Virginia damaged

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Memorials to veterans in a Los Angeles neighborhood and a town in Kentucky, as well as a Civil War veterans cemetery in Virginia, were damaged as the nation prepares to mark Memorial Day, officials said.

A Vietnam War memorial in the Venice area of Los Angeles has been extensively defaced by graffiti. The vandalism occurred sometime during the past week, KCAL/KCBS-TV (<http://cbsloc.al/1RAa3mg>) reported. The homespun memorial painted on a block-long wall on Pacific Avenue lists the names of American service members missing in action or otherwise unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

News of the vandalism came as another veterans-related memorial was reported damaged in Henderson, Kentucky. Police say a Memorial Day cross display there that honors the names of 5,000 veterans of conflicts dating back to the Revolutionary War has been damaged by a driver who plowed through the crosses early Saturday.

In Virginia, the Petersburg National Battlefield has apparently has been looted, the National Park Service said. Numerous excavations were found at the Civil War battlefield last week, Jeffrey Olson, and agency spokesman, said in a news release Friday. Petersburg National Battlefield is a 2,700-acre park marks where more than 1,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died fighting during the Siege of Petersburg 151 years ago.

In Los Angeles' Venice neighborhood, the wall for missing veterans has been tagged previously, but the latest vandalism covers the bottom half of the memorial for much of its length.

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To George Francisco, vice president of the Venice Chamber of Commerce, it's not just graffiti. "It's a desecration. I mean it's very simple. There's no sort of other way around it, said Francisco, who also runs a nonprofit called Veterans Foundation Inc.

"I've known the sacrifices these people made in an incredibly unpopular war. So to continue the mistreatment of Vietnam veterans is somewhat shocking, somewhat shocking and quite sad," Francisco said.

Painted by a Vietnam veteran and dedicated in 1992, it declares, "You are not forgotten" and states the number of missing as 2,273.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the number of unaccounted-for Americans was listed at 2,646 in 1973. About half were those missing in action, and the others were those killed in action but the body was not recovered. Since then, the remains of more than 1,000 American have been identified and returned and about 1,600 have still not been accounted for, although efforts continue.

In Henderson, Kentucky, Jennifer Richmond, a spokesman for the Henderson Police Department, said the community is devastated and working frantically to repair and replace the crosses that were put on display for a Memorial Day ceremony in Central Park.

She said a 27-year-old local man drove straight through the cross display in the Henderson park, about 130 miles west of Louisville, just before 6 a.m. Saturday, but investigators don't know if it was deliberate.

Anthony Burrus has been charged with criminal mischief in the first degree and leaving the scene of an accident. Online jail records do not list an attorney for Burrus.

In Asia Pacific, a tense game of political brinksmanship

LOLITA C. BALDOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — American ships and fighter jets maneuvering across the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan represent the "new normal" in U.S.-Pacific relations despite rising tensions with China and Moscow.

U.S. moves in recent months have led to angry protests from China and Russia, which contend the Obama administration is fueling unrest in the Asia Pacific and conducting illegal and unsafe transit in the region. U.S. military leaders defend the operations and say they will continue to exercise freedom of navigation, and may do so more frequently as time goes on.

The escalating rhetoric reflects efforts by China and Russia to show military superiority in an increasingly crowded and competitive part of the world. And it sets up a tense game of political brinksmanship as leaders from the two countries and the U.S. thrust and parry across the military and diplomatic fields of play.

The military maneuvers have shadowed President Barack Obama's "pivot to Asia," a decision early in his tenure to try to focus the relationship with Pacific partners on economics and trade.

"We're at a moment when China, Iran and Russia are all testing us, engaging in reckless behavior and forcing policy makers with the question of how far we push and when," said Derek Chollet, a former assistant defense secretary for international affairs and now a senior adviser at the German Marshall Fund. "We're for freedom of navigation and following the rules, and to an extent we are pushing back against changing the rules."

Adm. John Richardson, chief of naval operations, said that for the first time in 25 years, the U.S. is facing competition for maritime superiority as China and Russia build up their navies.

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China's island development in the South China Sea has inflamed regional tensions, including with nations that have competing claims to the land formations. Most fear that Beijing, which has built airfields and placed weapons systems on the man-made islands, will use the construction to extend its military reach and perhaps try to restrict navigation.

Three times in the past seven months, U.S. warships deliberately have sailed close to one of those islands to exercise freedom of navigation and challenge the claims.

In response, China has deployed fighter jets and ships to track and warn off the American ships, and accused the U.S. of provocative action.

Twice this year, Defense Secretary Ash Carter has flown to U.S. aircraft carriers in the South China Sea with reporters, sending a message that the U.S. will not cede navigational rights. He plans to return to the area next week for an annual Asian national security conference.

"China has taken some expansive and unprecedented actions in the South China Sea, pressing excessive maritime claims contrary to international law," Carter said Friday during a speech to graduates at the U.S. Naval Academy. "The result is that China's actions could erect a Great Wall of self-isolation, as countries across the region - allies, partners, and the unaligned - are voicing concerns publicly and privately, at the highest levels."

Similarly, Russian attack planes buzzed a U.S. Navy warship in international waters in the Baltic Sea last month, and last week Moscow lodged a formal protest about a U.S. reconnaissance flight over the Sea of Japan.

The U.S. says its missions are meant to underscore the rights of the U.S. and others to traverse the region freely and to block efforts by any nation to unlawfully extend their boundaries or territorial rights.

"To the degree that we could advocate more strongly, we need to do enough of these things so that advocacy is well understood," Richardson said in an Associated Press interview. "Certainly if you wanted to dial those up in frequency, well I think that we can support that." The U.S. is establishing "a new normal level of activity or interaction" that comes with Russia's and China's "return to great power competition."

Richardson noted that freedom of navigation operations happen hundreds of times a year in the backyards of friends and foes.

"Even though there's a tremendous amount of visibility on the South China Sea right now, it is important to keep those in context," he said. "We do these around the world against a lot of these excessive claims."

Under the Law of the Sea, a country can claim up to 12 nautical miles beyond its coastline. In some cases countries try to claim more than that.

In other cases, countries try to restrict what others can do within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone that's allowed under international law. For example, they may require advance notice of a flight or ship passage within that zone or prohibit certain military activities there.

The Pentagon releases an annual report that lists the countries where the U.S. has conducted freedom of navigation operations, but includes no details.

U.S. military officials said that at least 80 percent are done by ships, but U.S. aircraft also conduct flights to challenge excessive airspace claims.

The most frequent U.S. operations are in the narrow Strait of Hormuz, where hundreds of times a year ships pass through territorial waters claimed by Iran and Oman. Both countries try to restrict movement through the strait, but international law allows innocent passage.

The Iranian military often hails U.S. ships and tells them to leave. The two sides essentially follow a script, as the U.S. ship continues on its way.

In other places around the globe, including portions of India or large swaths of the South American coast, U.S. ships routinely sail within claimed territorial waters or refuse to provide advance requests for transit. Often the operations go unnoticed or trigger no reaction or protest.

In some cases, U.S. officials said, countries are only aware of the operation after the Pentagon releases the annual report.

According to the 2015 report, the U.S. formally conducted freedom of navigation operations as a way of challenging excessive claims made by 13 countries during the budget year ending Sept. 30.

Finally allowed 2nd child, older Chinese parents turn to IVF

LOUISE WATT, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — China's decision to allow all married couples to have two children is driving a surge in demand for fertility treatment among older women, putting heavy pressure on clinics and breaking down past sensitivities, and even shame, about the issue.

The rise in in vitro fertilization points to the deferred dreams of many parents who long wanted a second child, but were prevented by a strict population control policy in place for more than 30 years.

That, in turn, is shifting prevailing attitudes in China regarding fertility treatments — formerly a matter of such sensitivity that couples were reluctant to tell even their parents or other family members that they were having trouble conceiving.

"More and more women are coming to ask to have their second child," said Dr. Liu Jiaen, who runs a private hospital in Beijing treating infertility through IVF, in which an egg and sperm are combined in a laboratory dish and the resulting embryo transferred to a woman's uterus.

Liu estimated that the numbers of women coming to him for IVF had risen by 20 percent since the relaxation of the policy, which came into effect at the start of the year. Before, the average age of his patients was about 35. Now most of them are older than 40 and some of the women are fast approaching 50, he said.

"They have a very low chance to get pregnant so they are in a hurry. They really want to have a child as soon as possible," he said.

Chen Yun is 39 and was in the hospital waiting to have the procedure for the first time. She and her husband already have a 7-year-old son and their families are encouraging them to have a second child.

"We are coming to the end of our childbearing years. It may be difficult for me to get pregnant naturally because my husband's sperm may have a problem, so we want to resolve this problem through IVF," she said.

Chen said she hoped having a brother or sister would make their son happier, more responsible and less self-absorbed.

"We had siblings when we were children. I had a younger sister and we felt very happy when playing together," she said. "Now that every couple has one child, two generations — parents and grandparents — take care of the child. They give the only child too much attention." If her son has a younger brother or sister to look out for, he may not "think too much about himself like a little emperor," Chen said.

Over the past two decades, IVF technology has developed rapidly in China, where about 10 percent of couples are estimated to need the procedure to conceive. In 2014, 700,000 women had IVF treatments, according to the health commission's Women's and Children's Department, which said in a statement that demand for all types of fertility treatment had risen following the policy relaxation, including the use of traditional Chinese medicine.

"Currently, fertility centers at renowned medical organizations in Beijing and Shanghai and others are

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under increased pressure for treatments," the department said.

Previously, China limited most urban couples to one child and rural couples to two if their first was a girl. There were exceptions for ethnic minorities, and city dwellers could break the policy if they were willing to pay a fee calculated at several times a household's annual income.

While authorities credit the policy introduced in 1979 with preventing 400 million extra births, many demographers argue the fertility rate would have fallen anyway as China's economy developed and education levels rose.

Intended to curb a surging population, the policy has been blamed for skewing China's demographics by reducing the size of the future workforce at a time when children and society face increasing demands from the growing ranks of the elderly. It also inflated the ratio of boys to girls as female fetuses were selectively aborted, while compelling many women to have forced abortions or give up their second children for adoption, leaving many families devastated.

The National Health and Family Planning Commission said in November that 90 million women would become eligible to have a second child following the policy change. Authorities expect that will add 30 million people to the country's labor force by 2050.

Those projections could be overly optimistic since many younger Chinese see small families as ideal and would be reluctant to take on the cost of raising a second child. When the policy was changed in 2013 to allow two children for families in which at least one parent was an only child, it spurred fewer births than authorities expected.

Also under pressure are China's sperm banks, which already suffer shortages owing to a reluctance to donate among young Chinese men unwilling to father children they won't know or fearing their offspring may turn up at their door one day despite donor confidentiality.

"The relaxing of the one-child policy certainly gave an impetus to the demand for sperm as more women, usually aged around or above 35, came for assistance," said Zhang Xinzong, director of the Guangdong Sperm Bank in southern China.

Calls have also gone out for a loosening of China's adoption law, which currently states that only couples with no children can adopt, while also allowing couples with one child to adopt a disabled child or an orphan.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs didn't respond to a question on whether the law would be changed, and it couldn't say whether the number of couples seeking adoption had risen since the policy change. It said there were 109,000 children available for adoption in the custody of governmental institutions, 90 percent of whom were disabled and 60 percent severely disabled.

Zhang Mingsuo, a professor at Zhengzhou's University's School of Public Administration, said few Chinese couples were willing to adopt disabled children "because they worry about the possible heavy medical expense."

3 people still missing after floods in Kansas and Texas

JUAN A. LOZANO, Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — At least three people were still missing on Sunday after torrential rain in Texas and Kansas flooded rivers, washed out roads and left four people dead.

In Kansas, the search for a missing 11-year-old boy was suspended late Saturday because of darkness and fatigue of first responders, according to Wichita Fire Department battalion chief Scott Brown. The boy was swept away in a swollen creek on Friday night.

"We are more in body recovery mode than rescue," Brown said. Recovery efforts would resume at

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first light on Sunday, he said.

Near Austin in Travis County, Texas, officials planned to resume aerial searches on Sunday for two missing people whose vehicle was swept off a flooded roadway after the area got 9 inches of rain this week, said emergency services spokeswoman Lisa Block.

The threat of severe weather had lessened in Texas over the long Memorial Day holiday weekend and the focus now is on homes that could be flooded by slowly rising waters. Evacuation orders were issued on Saturday for parts of two Texas cities along the Brazos River near Houston.

"The skies are clear and things look good. But we want to make sure people understand that we are not out of the woods yet. We have to keep an eye on water that's coming through our bayou system," said Francisco Sanchez, a spokesman for the Office of Emergency Management in Harris County, where Houston is located.

Other parts of the U.S. got drenched Friday, including Kansas. And on Saturday afternoon, Tropical Storm Bonnie formed in the Atlantic Ocean and brought rain and wind to the coast of South Carolina.

In Washington County, Texas, located between Austin and Houston, County Judge John Brieden said the bodies of two missing motorists were found Saturday in separate parts of the rural county. The body of Pyarali Rajebhi Umatiya, 59, of College Station, was found in a submerged vehicle. The body of Darren Charles Mitchell, 21, a National Guardsman from Navasota, was found downstream from where his overturned truck had been located earlier.

That brings to four the number of people who have died in the county after more than 16.5 inches of rain fell in some places on Thursday and Friday. The downpour washed away mobile homes and flooded other structures. Authorities performed more than 50 water rescues.

The two other deaths in the county were Lela Holland, 64, of Washington, Texas, whose mobile home was swamped by floodwaters, and Jimmy Wayne Schaeffer, 49, of Brenham, who was swept away after driving his truck into high water.

The rising water in several Houston-area rivers and creeks prompted Harris County officials to ask about 750 families in the Northwood Pines subdivision to voluntarily evacuate their homes and apartments on Saturday. Officials also warned residents living near the west fork of the San Jacinto River, north of Houston, that rising waters were likely to flood homes, even those that are elevated, Sanchez said.

In Fort Bend County, southwest of Houston, officials warned residents the Brazos River was likely to rise to the highest level ever recorded in the county, which county Judge Robert Hebert called "a serious incident."

The city of Simonton issued a mandatory evacuation for most of its 800 residents, said Mayor Louis Boudreaux.

Rosenberg, also in Fort Bend County, issued its own mandatory evacuation of some homes near the Brazos River. The evacuation order was to take effect at 2 p.m. Sunday. The city has a population of 34,000.

On the U.S. east coast, Tropical Storm Bonnie formed Saturday afternoon about 125 miles from Charleston, South Carolina, and was moving northwest near 10 mph with top sustained winds of 40 mph, forecasters said.

Bonnie is the season's second-named tropical storm, emerging just four days before the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season, the National Hurricane Center in Miami added. No evacuations have been ordered at this time. The center said a tropical storm warning is in effect from Savannah River to the Little River Inlet in South Carolina and that Bonnie's extended system was dumping rain already in coastal areas.

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Suspect arrested after Georgia deputy shot during in face

ATLANTA (AP) — A suspect was arrested after a sheriff's deputy was shot in the face during a traffic stop south of Atlanta, Georgia authorities said.

Joe Lee Garrett, 24, was arrested just hours after the shooting happened about 7:30 p.m., Russell County Sheriff Heath Taylor told WTVM-TV (<http://bit.ly/1TMuzrK>). Police said Garrett turned himself in and was transported to Russell County Jail. He is being charged with aggravated assault on a police officer, and is currently being held as a fugitive from justice in relation to the shooting.

No other arrests have been made and the case remains under investigation.

Police s previously said three people were inside a 1994 blue Chevrolet Caprice on I-85 southbound, about 80 miles south of downtown Atlanta, when they were stopped by the deputy. It was not immediately known why the sheriff's deputy stopped the car.

The deputy suffered a single shot to the face, above the left eye, while walking up to the vehicle Jolley said.

He was rushed to a hospital and is being treated. The condition of the unidentified deputy was not immediately known Saturday night.

Police were searching for the suspects, whose car was caught on the deputy's dash cam video.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 29, the 150th day of 2016. There are 216 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 29, 1953, Mount Everest was conquered as Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norgay of Nepal became the first climbers to reach the summit.

On this date:

In 1765, Patrick Henry denounced the Stamp Act before Virginia's House of Burgesses.

In 1790, Rhode Island became the 13th original colony to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state of the union.

In 1912, the ballet "L'Après-midi d'un Faune" (The Afternoon of a Faun), with music by Claude Debussy, premiered in Paris with Vaslav Nijinsky dancing the title role.

In 1913, the ballet "Le Sacre du printemps" (The Rite of Spring), with music by Igor Stravinsky and choreography by Vaslav Nijinsky, had its chaotic world premiere in Paris. The D.H. Lawrence novel "Sons and Lovers" was first published by Duckworth & Co. of London, albeit in an expurgated version.

In 1917, the 35th president of the United States, John F. Kennedy, was born in Brookline, Massachusetts.

In 1932, World War I veterans began arriving in Washington to demand cash bonuses they weren't scheduled to receive until 1945.

In 1943, Norman Rockwell's portrait of "Rosie the Riveter" appeared on the cover of The Saturday Evening Post. (The model for Rockwell's Rosie, Mary Doyle Keefe, died in April 2015 at age 92.)

In 1961, a couple in Paynesville, West Virginia, became the first recipients of food stamps under a pilot program created by President John F. Kennedy.

In 1973, Tom Bradley was elected the first black mayor of Los Angeles, defeating incumbent Sam Yorty.

In 1985, 39 people were killed at the European Cup Final in Brussels, Belgium, when rioting broke out and a wall separating British and Italian soccer fans collapsed.

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In 1999, Discovery became the first space shuttle to dock with the International Space Station. Olusegun Obasanjo (ah-LOO'-see-guhn oh-BAH'-suhn-joh) became Nigeria's first civilian president in 15 years, ending a string of military regimes.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, delivering a Memorial Day message at Arlington National Cemetery, said the United States needed to continue fighting the war on terror in the name of those had already given their life in the cause. A car bomb exploded in Baghdad, killing U.S. Army Capt. James Alex Funkhouser Jr., two British members of a CBS News crew, Paul Douglas and James Brolan, plus an Iraqi interpreter, and also seriously injuring CBS correspondent Kimberly Dozier. A U.S. military truck crashed into traffic in Kabul, Afghanistan, killing five people and sparking violent protests across the country that claimed some 20 lives.

Five years ago: A week after Joplin, Missouri, was nearly leveled by the deadliest tornado to strike the U.S in decades, President Barack Obama visited the city to offer hope to survivors and promises of help. JR Hildebrand was one turn away from winning the Indianapolis 500 when he skidded high into the wall on the final turn and Dan Wheldon drove past to claim an improbable second Indy 500 win in his first race of the year.

One year ago: The Obama administration formally removed Cuba from the U.S. terrorism blacklist. Nigeria's new president, Muhammadu Buhari, was sworn in with a pledge to tackle the Islamic extremist group Boko Haram "head on." Veteran character actress Betsy Palmer, 88, died in Danbury, Connecticut.

Today's Birthdays: Former Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent is 78. Motorsports Hall of Famer Al Unser is 77. Actor Kevin Conway is 74. Actor Helmut Berger is 72. Rock singer Gary Brooker (Procol Harum) is 71. Actor Anthony Geary is 69. Actor Cotter Smith is 67. Singer Rebbie (ree-bee) Jackson is 66. Movie composer Danny Elfman is 63. Singer LaToya Jackson is 60. Actor Ted Levine is 59. Actress Annette Bening is 58. Actor Rupert Everett is 57. Actor Adrian Paul is 57. Singer Melissa Etheridge is 55. Actress Lisa Whelchel is 53. Actress Tracey Bregman is 53. Rock musician Noel Gallagher is 49. Singer Jayski McGowan (Quad City DJ's) is 49. Actor Anthony Azizi is 47. Rock musician Chan Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 47. Rock musician Mark Lee (Third Day) is 43. Cartoonist Aaron McGruder ("The Boondocks") is 42. Singer Melanie Brown (Spice Girls) is 41. Rapper Playa Poncho is 41. Latin singer Fonseca is 37. Actor Blake Foster is 31. Actor Brandon Mychal Smith is 27. Actress Kristen Alderson is 25. Actress Lorelei Linklater is 23.

Thought for Today: "What makes us discontented with our condition is the absurdly exaggerated idea we have of the happiness of others." — French saying.