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CLOSED: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Swimming Pool Hours

Open Swim Daily: 1 p.m. to 4:50 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Fun Night is every Friday from 6:30 p.m. to 8:50 p.m.

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday through Thursday: 8 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday through Friday: 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.; Monday through Thursday: 5:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.; Friday-Sunday: 4:50 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Swimming Lessons: First Session: June 17-27

June 15-16

U12 Midgets at Mitchell Have Johnston Tournament
U10 Pee Wees at Mitchell Tourney

Sunday, June 16

3:00 p.m.: Groton 2 Amateurs at Northville
4:00 p.m.: Locke Electric Amateurs host Redfield

Monday, June 17

5:30 p.m.: T-Ball at Doland (Black)
6:00 p.m.: Junior Teeners host Frederick, (DH)
6:30 p.m.: U8 Pee Wees at Doland (B)
7:30 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees at Doland (R,W)
Softball hosts Britton (U8 at 6 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)
Softball at Ellendale, (DH)s both start at 6 p.m. (U12, U14)

Tuesday, June 18

6:00 p.m.: Legion at Milbank, (DH)
6:00 p.m.: U10 Pee Wees host Milbank on Nelson Field (R,B)
6:00 p.m.: T-Ball Practice at Falk Field (both)
Softball at Britton (U8 at 6 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m.)
Olive Grove Golf Course: Bridge at Noon, Ladies League at 6 p.m.
7:00 p.m.: City Council Meeting at Groton Community Center

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The sun is about to disappear under the clouds of the incoming rain event early Saturday evening. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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This beautiful shot of the rainbow was posted on Ann Thorson's facebook page.

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SOUTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR **KRISTI NOEM**



Husband, Father, Servant

Moms tend to notice things that don't get done. I'll admit it. I'm guilty. I can drive in the driveway and see that the yard needs to be mowed. I'll walk in the house and see the pile of shoes by the door or the laundry that needs to be folded. We women tend to be multi-taskers, only able to relax when everything is put away, kids are clean, and animals fed. And if we are tired or overwhelmed, you will hear us say "Honey will you???"

At our house, Bryon completes many of our chores. I am gone a lot, and he is left to handle all things related to kids, ranch, and house. I know that I am blessed to have a husband who recognizes how wonderful it is for me to come back to a clean house and tended family, and he tries to make that happen. But over the years, what has made me love him more each day is the way he loves our kids.

You see, I married Bryon because I loved him and wanted to build a life with him, but at the time I really had no idea what kind of a father he would be. I had a sneaking suspicion he would be a great dad because he has a wonderful father who is a great role model. Bryon loves the Lord and understands the responsibility that God gives to men to lead their families. As the years went by and the kids were born, his actions revealed to me how he viewed fatherhood. He served.

He gave Kassidy her first bath. In fact, my mom came to stay with us a few days after she was born and after a few hours she came to me and said, "I might as well go home. Bryon won't let me do anything."

When Kennedy was a baby, she had reflux so bad, everyone was reluctant to hold her because of the spit up bath she was sure to give them. But her dad held her constantly and thought it was "cute."

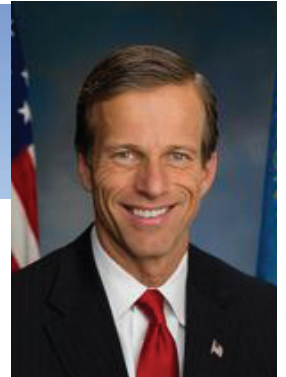
Booker was such a sick little boy with so many breathing problems he needed multiple inhalers, medications, and constant trips to the hospital. Bryon prayed over him every night, asking God to heal our little boy.

When you look at our family home videos, you will find they were all taken by Bryon. I'm not sure it ever occurred to me to document those busy years. Yet there are hours and hours of video of the kids playing, talking, and sometimes just watching TV! It is almost as if he knew how special those moments were and wanted to save them for me to enjoy when I decided to slow down enough to appreciate them.

Earlier this month, Bryon walked Kassidy down the aisle and prayed over her as she began her new life with our new son-in-law, Kyle. We're so proud of the strong, smart, and kind woman Kassidy has become, and I'm so glad she picked someone to marry who has a heart of service like her dad.

Father's Day is the perfect opportunity for me to stop for a moment and express to him how grateful I am that our children have such an incredible father. It's a reminder to me of how blessed I am. I know I've said these things before, but they're worth saying again. Bryon is a partner in all I do and a helpmate through peaceful and busy times. He's not perfect, but he's perfect for me. I thank God for the father he gave to Kassidy, Kennedy and Booker.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



E15 Decision a Win-Win-Win-Win

Many people outside of the Corn Belt likely don't realize it, but South Dakota farmers don't just help feed the United States, they help fuel it too. Farmers play a critical role in our nation's energy supply and security, and their effort was recently boosted by the administration's announcement that it would allow the sale of E15 fuel (15 percent ethanol-blended fuel) year-round. That might not sound like a big deal, but its importance can't be overstated.

Year-round E15 sales is a win for consumers and our economy (more options and lower costs). It's a win for the environment (cleaner fuel). It's a win for our nation's energy security (reduces dependence on foreign countries). And it's a huge win for our nation's agriculture industry (stronger commodity market).

To break this win-win-win-win down even further, the ability to sell E15 year-round means more ethanol can be sold each year. That's obvious, I know, but more ethanol being sold means there will be a greater demand for it to be produced. A greater demand means a stronger, more vibrant ethanol industry, which already supports hundreds of thousands of American jobs and contributes tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy. And ethanol producers couldn't do what they do without the farmers who grow the corn in the first place.

For farmers, year-round E15 means a shot in the arm when the agriculture economy continues to lag behind the broader economy – and I'm focused like a laser on fixing that – but in the near term, producers who are sitting on surplus corn from last year, or are looking to this year and beyond, the demand for and value of their product has been strengthened.

I've been following this issue for more than a decade. It was in 2007 when I first started actively and relentlessly advocating for a waiver process that would allow for higher blends of ethanol in the United States. I spent the entirety of the Obama administration pushing the EPA to make these adjustments, and while I wish this had been approved sooner, it's definitely better late than never and something for which the current administration should be applauded.

For consumers, the most immediate effect of this decision will be more options at the pump – oftentimes cheaper options too. It will help keep fuel costs down, which, especially during the summer traveling season, means less money is being taken out of the family budget. For station owners, it provides greater incentive to sell E15 since they no longer have to waste time or money changing pump labels in the fall.

There's no doubt this is a big victory for folks throughout the country, but it doesn't mean all of the hurdles have been overcome. The year-round sale of E15 is great, but I will continue to keep pressure on the administration, as I've done in the past, to halt its practice of granting small refiners an exemption to the Renewable Fuel Standard, which requires a certain level of fuel to contain renewables like ethanol. These exemptions reduce the demand for ethanol, and I believe they should only be used in rare and clearly defined cases, which isn't what's happening today.

In South Dakota alone, nearly one out of every two rows of corn is used to produce ethanol – half of the state's entire crop. Agriculture is already the state's top industry, and with pro-growth policies that create more choices and greater demand in the field and at the pump, it's only going to get stronger.



CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



Soggy Saga

When I sat down with a group of farmers and ranchers a few weeks back in Parker, they all told me the same thing: forage stocks are running low because of our wet spring. South Dakotans are well-aware our planting season has been delayed because of continuous flooding and rain. This has gotten national attention. What's not talked about quite as frequently is how this adverse weather affects what goes in our livestock's bellies down the road.

Our thriving beef and dairy herds require a substantial amount of forage in the form of hay or silage as the basis of their diet. Much of that forage that we feed locally was hurt by the tough winter and wet spring. Wet conditions for crop farmers complicate this process further. During a wet season, farmers can't plant on time and must claim a prevent plant insurance policy on whatever they couldn't get in the ground. If a farmer claims this insurance coverage, the rules say they can't harvest their cover crop until November 1st. This date is too late to hay, graze or chop the feed needed for our cattle's food supply.

Our state's livestock economy is so important, which is why I introduced the Feed Emergency Enhancement During Disasters Act or the FEEDD Act to move this November 1st date up. The FEEDD Act would create an emergency waiver authority for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to allow producers to graze, hay or chop a cover crop before November 1st in the event of a feed shortage due to excessive moisture, flood or drought. My legislation would help farmers while not putting at risk their prevent plant insurance.

Farmers need high quality feed, and if they have extra, they should have the flexibility to give it to other farmers – my bill would make this a reality. Producers want to see this legislation get across the finish line. Todd Wilkinson, De Smet native and Vice Chairman of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, expressed the FEEDD Act will help producers manage the worst impacts following the aftermath of this

year's natural disasters. I'm grateful fourteen national agriculture groups support this legislation. Every day since I introduced this bill we've had Republicans and Democrats sign on in support.

Producers are already facing five years of declining net farm incomes and this wet spring has thrown another challenge their way. This simple fix will help ease our feed shortage, enhance the farm safety net, and improve soil health by promoting cover crops. Government can't control the weather, but we must do what we can to provide certainty to our farmers and ranchers.



(Rep. Dusty Johnson assesses wet conditions in Parker)



Federal Disaster Aid Available to South Dakota Families, Communities Following Storms

Many families, businesses, tribes and communities in South Dakota have experienced serious destruction of property and infrastructure following a series of late-winter storms. Heavy rain and snow led to flooding that caused widespread damage in nearly all parts of the state.

As governors do when disaster strikes a state, Governor Noem requested a major disaster declaration from the federal government, which opens up federal tools to help folks get back on their feet after a series of bad storms. On June 8, President Trump approved the disaster declaration so federal funds are now available for communities and individuals to begin rebuilding critical infrastructure, homes and businesses that were severely damaged.

Assistance is currently available from three Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) programs. The Public Assistance Program provides financial assistance to state, local and tribal jurisdictions so they can repair and rebuild damaged facilities, roads, bridges and other infrastructure. The Individual Assistance Program provides funds for household needs. This could include emergency supplies, shelter, food, support for individuals with disabilities and support for household pets and service animals. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program helps communities implement hazard mitigation measures to help reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters.

Assistance has also been requested from the Small Business Administration to make low-interest disaster loans available to those who need them. Additionally, snow removal assistance from FEMA has been requested for certain counties.

Farm and ranch land made up a large part of the state that was impacted by storms. Between wet fields, trade uncertainty, low commodity prices and market instability, our ag producers have had a rough time. I continue working to find long-term solutions to help them recover as quickly as possible. In the meantime, disaster assistance is available to them through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Assistance is available to eligible farmers and ranchers through a number of USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) programs because of the disaster relief appropriations bill signed by President Trump on June 6. The Emergency Loan Program provides loans to help producers recover from production and physical losses due to flooding and other disasters. There are programs to extend FSA loans if producers are unable to make their scheduled payments, programs to provide assistance for crop losses when federal crop insurance is not available and programs to help livestock producers suffering from grazing losses due to disasters. Additionally, we await further details on the president's second 'trade aid' package to assist farmers disproportionately impacted by ongoing trade disputes. We continue to work with USDA and have urged them to take steps to assist farmers who filed under the prevent plant program.

Local FSA offices can help with specific questions, or to determine if farmers and ranchers are eligible for assistance. To find your local FSA office location and phone number, as well as for a full list of disaster assistance available, please visit my website, www.rounds.senate.gov. We've included all the FEMA and USDA programs on one simple webpage so South Dakotans can easily access all the information they may need as they seek to rebuild their lives and businesses. And as always, my team and I are here to help with any questions you may have.

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Trinity Sunday

by Paul Irvin Kosel

Heaven Bound Ministries - Pierpont ~ Buffalo Lake Lutheran Church, rural Eden

Trinity Sunday - Oh boy - how do we talk about the Triune God - Jesus is God. Father is God. Holy Spirit is God. But Jesus is not the Father. The Father is not the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is not the Son.

So where do we start in talking about the Triune God. I just happened to type in "History of Trinity Sunday" in Google and it said there were About 51,700,000 results.

In short, Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost to honor the Holy Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Although the word "trinity" does not appear in Scripture, it is taught in Matthew 28:18-20 (Matthew 28:18-20 New International Version (NIV))

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.") and 2 Corinthians 13:14 (2 Corinthians 13:14 New International Version (NIV))

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.)

Today, Trinity Sunday is to explain, to the best of man's ability, the clues written in Scripture to guide us to a fuller understanding of our triune God. The Father is God from the beginning (John 1:1: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.); Jesus revealed Himself as equal to the Father in John 10 when the Jewish leaders were questioning Jesus, (22 Then came the Festival of Dedication at Jerusalem. It was winter, 23 and Jesus was in the temple courts walking in Solomon's Colonnade. 24 The Jews who were there gathered around him, saying, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[c]; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one.")

Together, they sent the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

Feast of the Holy Trinity, also called Trinity Sunday, feast in honour of the Trinity. It is celebrated in the Christian churches on the Sunday following Pentecost (the 50th day after Easter). It is known that the feast was celebrated on this day from as early as the 10th century. Celebration of the feast gradually spread in the churches of northern Europe, and in 1334 Pope John XXII approved it for the entire church. In the liturgical Church Year, Anglican and Lutheran churches date the Sundays that follow Trinity "after Trinity"; the Roman liturgy dates these Sundays "after Pentecost."

Although this mystery can never be fully understand by man, we must believe as the fundamental doctrine of our faith that there is only one God in Whom there are three divine Persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. All three Persons is true God; there is only one God, not three gods, He is eternal, almighty, omniscient and incomprehensible.

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The one paragraph in the Nicene Creed reads: "And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father [and the Son]; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets."

NOW - it gets touchy here. You see, in the original version of the Nicene (or, more accurately, the "Niceo-Constantinopolitan") Creed stated that the Holy Spirit is, "the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son, is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets." God the Father was understood to be the sole source of the Holy Spirit. In the Latin Church, the phrase "and the Son" came to be added to the Nicene Creed when referring to the procession of the Holy Spirit and was admitted into the liturgy of the western Church between the 8th and 11th centuries. The addition of this new clause into the Creed did not go over very well with the Churches in the East, who maintained the more ancient understanding. So in certain versions of the Nicene Creed, you may see AND THE SON added in brackets, reflecting to the addition of those words between the 8th and 11 centuries.

Martin Luther once wrote: " Today we celebrate the festival of the Holy Trinity, to which we must briefly allude, so that we may not celebrate it in vain. It is indeed true that the name "Trinity" is nowhere to be found in the Holy Scriptures, but has been conceived and invented by man. For this reason it sounds somewhat cold and we had better speak of "God" than of the "Trinity." "Therefore, we cling to the Scriptures, those passages which testify of the Trinity of God, and we say: I know very well that in God there are the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; but how they can be one I do not know, neither should I know it."

In a way, I wish he would have stopped right there, but this was a sermon he gave and if I were to give it as he did, we'd be here for quite a while. But I really like his words that I just said: we had better speak of "God" than of the "Trinity."

Somehow, of all the great Feast Days of the Church, Trinity Sunday one has always been for me the hardest to enter into and know that it has somehow changed my life. Perhaps it's because all of the other Feast Days are biographical, if you will, celebrations related to the life of Christ, while Trinity Sunday alone is a celebration related to the establishment of a doctrine. Yet, it is an occasion of profound significance to the Church, and therefore, inevitably, significant to you and to me as the people of the Church.

So I ask the question: what does it mean for us and for our lives? In one sense, I think we could say that even the dynamic of the Trinity is itself an expression of the genius of God. (Do you ever think about the genius of God? It's really quite extraordinary!) We know the sequence: God came to earth in the human form of the man called Jesus, in whose life we could see God's unconditional love made manifest. Yet although this Jesus was crucified, the presence and power of God among us was not to be ended. Jesus rose from death and ascended into eternity, set free, as it were, from the limitation of a single human life. God's love for us wasn't to be ended either, but continued through the Holy Spirit, given to be present for us and within us always - without boundaries - embracing and including even us in that dynamic of love which continually flows so powerfully within the heart of God as Father, Son and Spirit.

All of this is what has been summed up and expressed in what we know as the doctrine of the Trinity. Yet don't forget that it's a living doctrine, one that brings the history of God right into the heart of Christian life today. It affects our lives even now, because it includes us in its continuing dynamic. So once again, let us stand in awe of what God is doing - even here, even now - still reaching out and enfolding each one of us in that vital blessing of unending love.

Through the Father's creating love—the Son's redeeming love — and the Holy Spirit's sanctifying love, we are one with God, as our Lord Jesus Christ prayed that we might be, even as the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost are one.

THUS - We worship ONE TRUE GOD!!!!

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THE ATHANASIAN CREED

(This is the creed most commonly used on Trinity Sunday)

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold the true Christian faith. Whoever does not keep it whole and undefiled will without doubt perish for eternity.

This is the true Christian faith, that we worship one God in three Persons and three Persons in one God without confusing the Persons or dividing the divine substance.

For the Father is one Person, the Son is another, and the Holy Spirit is still another, but there is one Godhead of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, equal in glory and coequal in majesty.

What the Father is, that is the Son and that is the Holy Spirit: the Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated, the Holy Spirit is uncreated; the Father is unlimited, the Son is unlimited, the Holy Spirit is unlimited; the Father is eternal, the Son is eternal, the Holy Spirit is eternal; and yet They are not three Eternals but one Eternal, just as there are not Three Who are uncreated and Who are unlimited, but there is One who is uncreated and unlimited.

Likewise the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God, and yet there are not three Gods but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord, and yet they are not three Lords but one Lord.

For just as we are compelled by Christian truth to acknowledge each Person by Himself to be God and Lord, so we are forbidden by the Christian religion to say that there are three Gods or three Lords.

The Father was neither made nor created nor begotten by anybody.

The Son was not made or created, but was begotten by the Father.

The Holy Spirit was not made or created or begotten, but proceeds from the Father and the Son. Accordingly there is one Father and not three Fathers, one Son and not three Sons, one Holy Spirit and not three Holy Spirits.

And among these three Persons none is before or after another, none is greater or less than another, but all three Persons are coequal and coeternal, and accordingly, as has been stated above, three Persons are to be worshiped in one Godhead and one God is to be worshiped in three Persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must think thus about the Trinity.

It is also necessary for eternal salvation that one faithfully believe that our Lord Jesus Christ became man, for this is the right faith, that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is at once God and man:

He is God, begotten before the ages of the substance of the Father, and He is man, born in the world of the substance of His mother, perfect God and perfect man, with reasonable soul and human flesh, equal to the Father with respect to his Godhead and inferior to the Father with respect to His manhood.

Although he is God and man, He is not two Christs but one Christ: one, that is to say, not by changing the Godhead into flesh, but by taking on the humanity into God, one, indeed, not by confusion of substance but by unity in one Person.

For just as the reasonable soul and the flesh are one man, so God and man are one Christ, Who suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, is seated on the right hand of the Father, whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

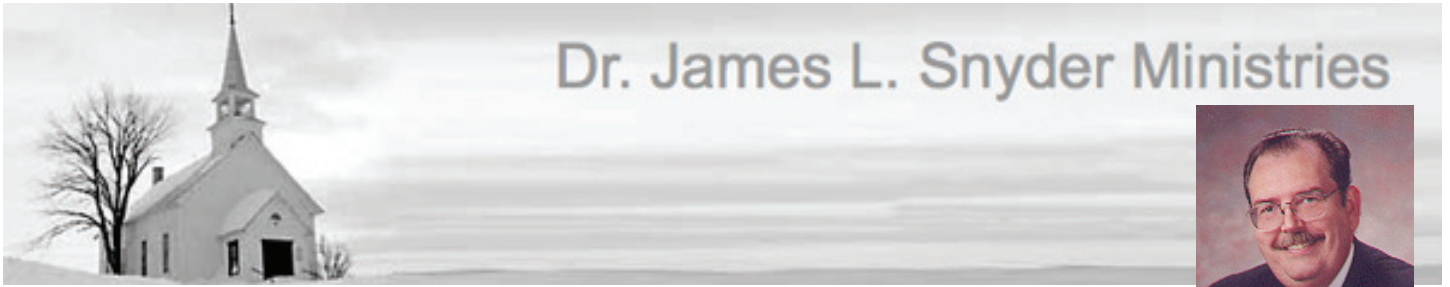
At His coming all men shall rise with their bodies and give an account of their own deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life, and those who have done evil will go into everlasting fire.

This is the true Christian faith. Unless a man believe this firmly and faithfully, he cannot be saved.

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One Man's Joke Is Another Man's Discount

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I were dining out at a very nice restaurant. We had been on the road for two days and were weary of travel. At least, I was.

Nothing I hate more on a vacation than travel. But this time it was not so bad because my wife was doing all the driving. She's an excellent driver because she had the world's best teacher. I admit that I was her teacher.

We were seated and began looking at the menu. Then my wife said, "You don't take very many things seriously, do you?"

We both laughed, but I knew she was right. Life is too short to be serious about everything. I do not want to come to the last of my days and find I have 100 giggles left over. I want to giggle all the way to the end.

The waitress came, graciously took our order and then brought back the bread for us to begin our lunch. I picked up the knife to cut some of the bread and I dropped it on my right forefinger. There was a little cut there and so I squeezed it to get as much blood out as I possibly could.

My wife looked at me shaking her head and said, "What in the world are you doing?"

At the time I had no idea what I was doing, I was just doing.

Then I saw the waitress heading for our table. Every once in a while I have a thought rattling around in my head. And so when she got to the table I said, "I cut myself and it hurts so much."

She shook her head and said, "Your finger's okay, I saw you using it as I was coming to your table."

"But look at the blood," I complained, "can I get a discount?"

Still shaking her head, she walked away from the table.

I think my wife thought I was just going to let it go, but when you have a good thing going, why not keep it going. I was going to play this to the very end. My philosophy is when a bad thing happens, try to find something good out of it.

I got my handkerchief out of my back pocket, made a little sling for my finger and attached it to my shirt. There I was with my finger in that little sling as though I had hurt it very badly.

As the waitress came to our table again she stopped, looked at my finger in the sling and burst out laughing. I said in such a dreary voice, "Does this qualify for a discount?"

I sat there with my bleeding finger in the little sling and the customers around me were laughing as they watched. Their laughter was worth what I was doing.

Was there any pain in my finger? Not at all. But I did have a drop of blood. That alone should count for something.

My wife looked at me, shook her head and said, "I can't take you anywhere."

I would not give up on my pursuit of a discount. After all, life is full of discounts if only you can find them. Believe me, I look for them.

"Don't you know people are watching you?" My wife said as quietly as possible.

I snickered a smile in her direction and continued my "woe is me" attitude.

She knew I was not taking this seriously and she knew that I was going to milk this for everything I could get.

Eventually the waitress came back with our ticket and said, "When my manager heard your story he broke down laughing. Nobody has ever tried this in this restaurant before."

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I smiled; I like to hear things like that. Then she said something that really surprised me.

"The manager said that I could give you a 10% discount for your pain and suffering in our restaurant."

She handed me the ticket and there it was in black-and-white. "10% discount for pain and suffering."

Several of the customers around me clapped and laughed at my success. Nothing is more important to me than making people laugh. Too much gloom and doom in our world today. Somebody needs to step up and turn on the laughter machine.

I took a picture of that ticket to make sure I would not forget that sometimes one person's joke can equal a good discount.

As we began driving after lunch, both of us chuckled for quite a while.

I said to my wife, "Who in the world would have thought that would work?"

You never know what's going to work until you try it. If it does not work, okay, move on to the next joke.

People take things so seriously these days. Then there are those people who laugh at the wrong things. I need a balance in my life and I know that laughter is like medicine to the soul. It just depends what I am laughing at or who.

One of my favorite Bible passages is found in the book of Proverbs. Solomon wrote the Proverbs and is known as the wisest man that ever lived. He wrote, "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken" (Proverbs 15:13).

I have a responsibility to help stir up and give people a merry heart.

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Today in Weather History

June 16, 1915: A tornado swept over a narrow path in Hughes, Hyde, and Hand counties during the afternoon hours. This tornado caused several thousands of dollars in property damage and seriously injured many people. Luckily there were no fatalities reported.

June 16, 1992: An F3 tornado caused significant destruction as it moved northeast across the north-western side of Ft. Thompson. The tornado virtually destroyed the Lake Sharpe Visitor Center. In Ft. Thompson, the tornado destroyed at least four homes and 15 mobile homes were damaged, leaving about 55 persons homeless. Eight people were injured, two of them seriously. The storm also destroyed other buildings, six 50,000 bushel grain bins, and four high voltage towers from Big Bend Dam. At the Shady Bend Campground, 19 campers and several boats were destroyed.

Also, heavy rains fell over a three-day period beginning on the 15th. The hardest hit area was in Clear Lake where the three-day total was 11.53 inches. As a result, a wall of water up to 15 feet high swept down creeks in the Clear Lake area. The resultant flash flooding went through first floors of many houses and even filled basements of houses on hills. The wave of water hit a car that was occupied by a woman and her son. The water spun them around as they floated about 200 yards. The car finally grounded without any reported injuries. All roads into Clear Lake were cut off as the town became surrounded by water. Officials in Deuel County estimated at least 37 bridges and culverts were destroyed. Other three-day rainfall totals include; 6.35 inches in Conde; 5.99 in Castlewood; 4.91 inches 2NW of Big Stone City; 4.90 in Redfield; and 4.65 inches at Artichoke Lake.

June 16, 2009: An upper low-pressure area brought several supercell thunderstorms which produced severe weather across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail up to 2 inches in diameter, several tornadoes, along with flash flooding occurred with these storms. Slow moving thunderstorms brought very heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches in and around Aberdeen causing extensive road flooding throughout the city. Dozens of basements were flooded and damaged along with some sewer backups. Many vehicles became stalled with the police sent out to direct traffic. There were also some power outages. A tornado touched down briefly northwest of Lebanon in Potter County with no damage occurring. A tornado touched down southeast of Polo in Hand County, in an open field. No damage occurred. Heavy rains of 3 to over 5 inches caused flash flooding of several roads and crops in north-central and north-east Spink County. Torrential rains from 3 to 6 inches fell across southeast Brown County bringing flash flooding. Many roads were flooded and damaged along with many acres of cropland. A tornado touched down in southeastern Hand County and remained on the ground for nearly 15 minutes before lifting. No damage occurred with this tornado as it stayed in the open country.

June 16, 2010: Very strong winds were observed during the evening hours in Dewey County, South Dakota. Three weather stations near Lantry observed winds from 101 to 142 mph. One station had recorded a 101 mph wind before it was destroyed. The other two stations recorded 131 mph and 142 mph winds. The winds destroyed an airplane hangar and severely damaged another one. Several semi-trailers were also tipped over and damaged by the very high winds.

1806: Great American total solar eclipse occurred from California to Massachusetts with nearly five-minute in duration.

1896: A tsunami ravages the coast of Japan killing between 22,000 and 27,000 people.






1917 - The temperature soared to 124 degrees at Mecca climaxing the most destructive heat wave of record in California history. (David Ludlum)

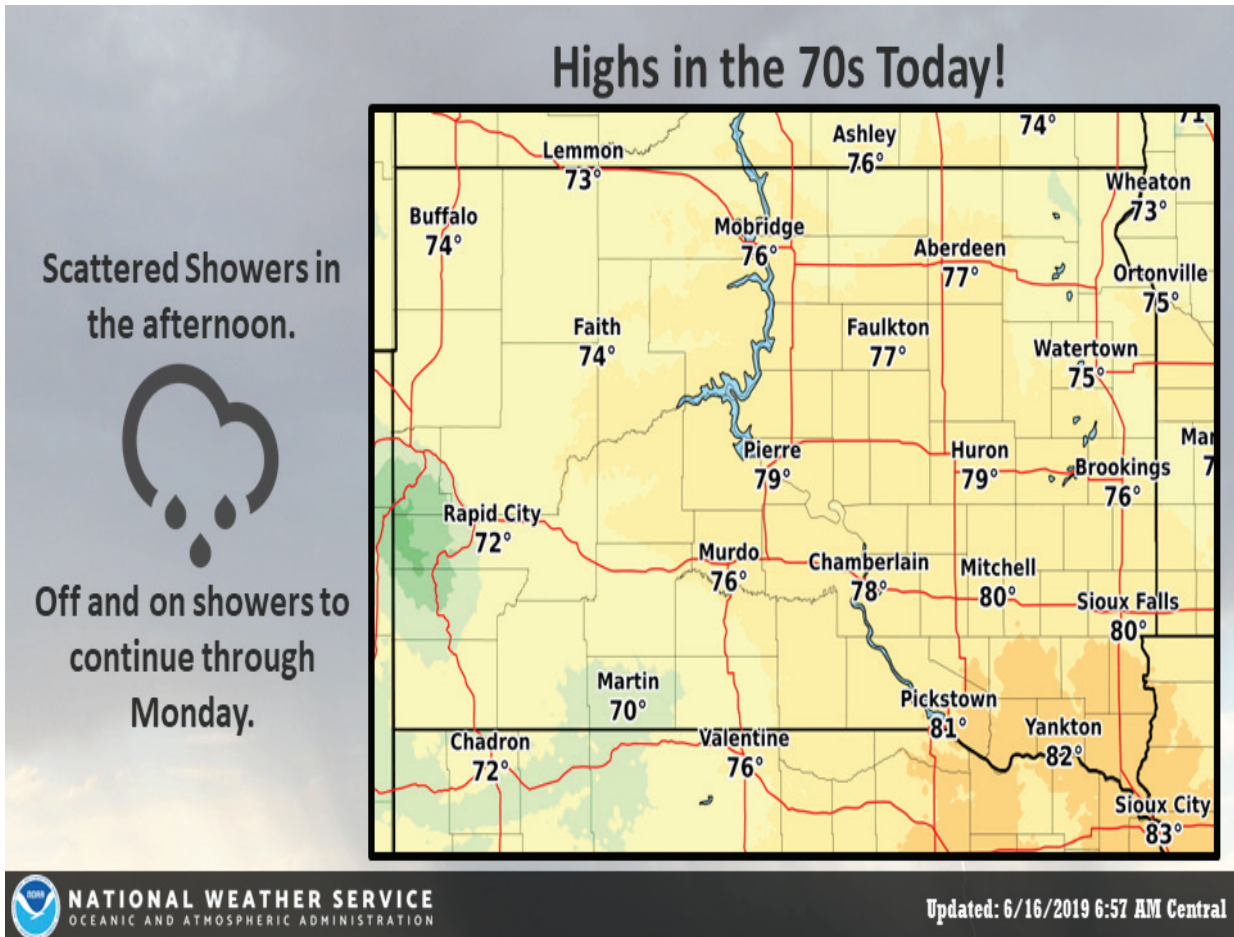
1944 - A tornado in Sioux City, IA, traveled an odd course. It spun in one place for about twenty minutes, made a U-turn, traveled southeast for about three miles, then traveled south, east, north, and finally east again. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Temperatures soared above 100 degrees in the Upper Midwest, reaching 104 degrees at Lincoln, NE. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 96 mph at Valley City, ND, and baseball size hail near Red Oak, IA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Patchy Fog then Mostly Sunny	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny
High: 77 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 76 °F



Published on: 06/16/2019 at 7:57AM

Highs will be in the 70s today, with scattered showers in the afternoon. A few thunderstorms will also be possible. Off and on showers will continue through Monday.

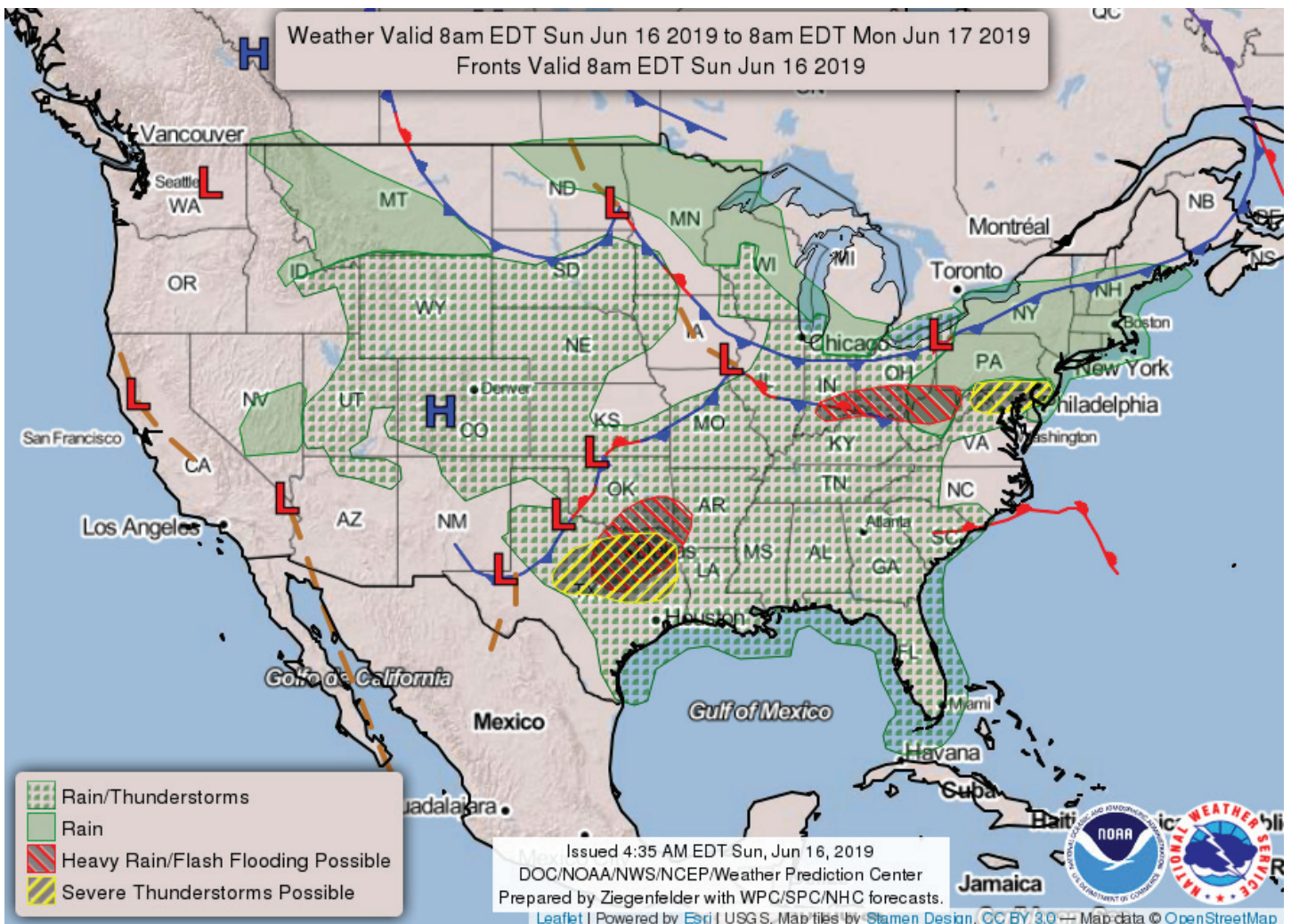
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 78 °F at 1:59 PM
Low Temp: 61 °F at 5:06 AM
Wind: 25 mph at 2:58 PM
Day Rain: 0.47

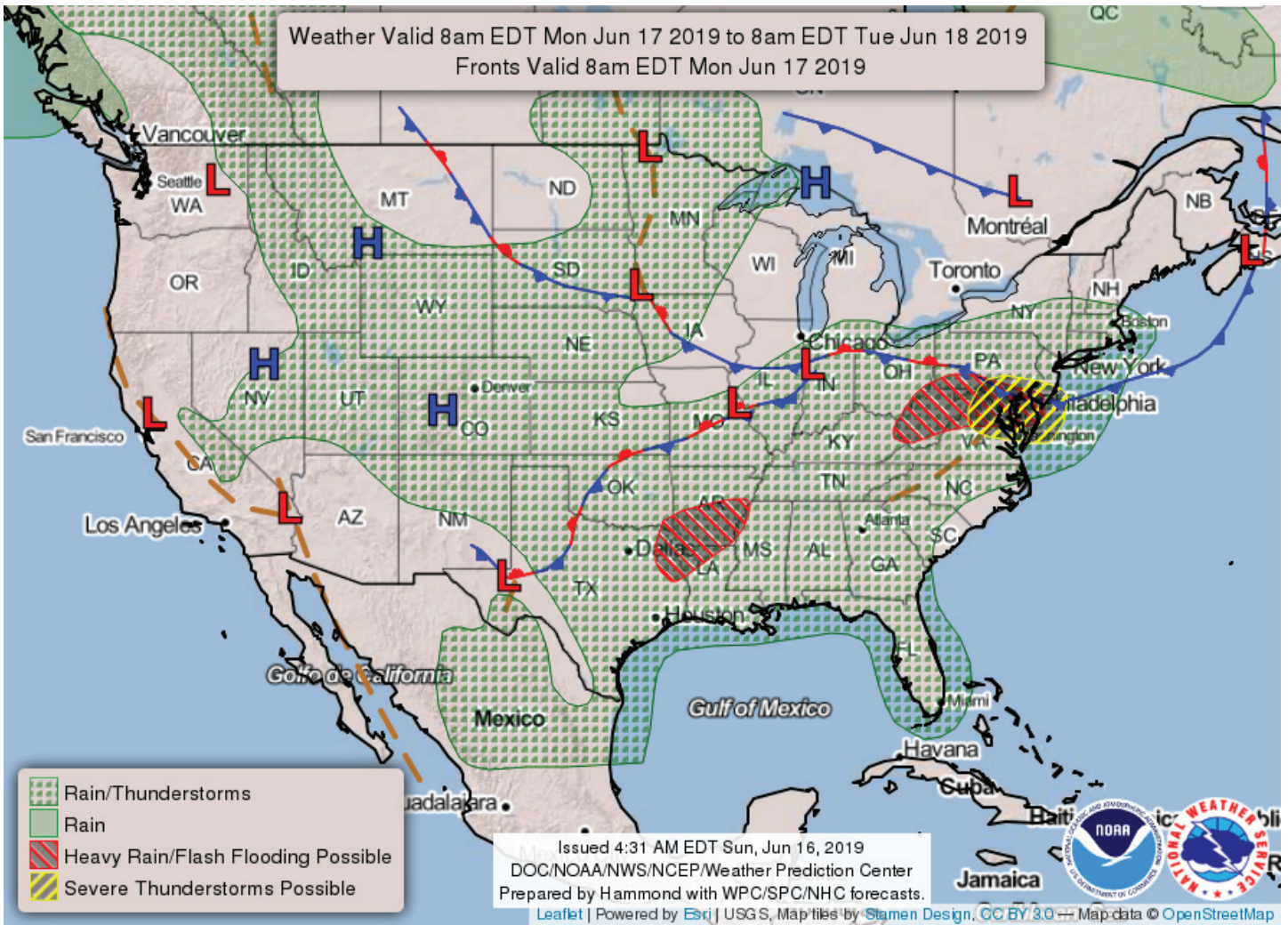
Record High: 105° in 1933
Record Low: 36° in 1968
Average High: 77°F
Average Low: 54°F
Average Precip in June.: 1.68
Precip to date in June.: 0.87
Average Precip to date: 8.82
Precip Year to Date: 8.65
Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



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Tomorrow's Weather Map



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WANTED: GODLY WISDOM

Many years ago I had a friend who wrote a book on decision making. He carefully researched the decision-making process of world leaders throughout history as much as was possible. He concluded that a leader could be known and understood by the people he went to for counsel and information before making a decision. He looked at character traits, religious beliefs, education, and friends. From his extensive research, he concluded that those whom we look to for advice before making a decision reveals who we are and what to expect of us.

But advice is not wisdom. Advice that comes from most individuals, is only an opinion about what could or should be done about a situation or problem. One can purchase advice or seek advice from friends or associates, but it is not actually wisdom. Heed the words of Solomon: Of what use is money in the hands of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom.

It is foolish, according to Solomon, to think that anyone can buy wisdom since it is a gift of God. Wisdom can only be acquired by studying Gods Word and depending on Him for insight and foresight through prayer and the counsel of wise Christians. Even if someone could buy wisdom, they would be a fool for they would lack the sense to know what to do with it.

Gods wisdom is not for sale. It is available to those who have a desire to get to know Him by spending time with Him and seeking wisdom from Him as revealed in His Word. God makes Himself known to those who willingly seek Him with all their heart. The only requirement for those who want Gods wisdom is to seek it as He has revealed it in His Word.

Prayer: Father, help us to understand the importance of true, Godly wisdom. May we seek it with all our heart, and when we find it, follow it faithfully and fervently. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Proverbs 17:16 Of what use is money in the hands of a fool, since he has no desire to get wisdom.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/17/2019 Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
- 04/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/27/2019 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/27/2019 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program (Memorial Day)
- 06/13/2019 Transit Fundraiser (Thursday Mid-June)
- 06/14/2019 SDSU Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 06/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 06/21/2019 Best Ball Golf Tourney
- 06/22-23/2019 Groton Junior Legion Tournament
- 06/29/2019 Groton U10/U12 Round Robin Tournament
- 07/04/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 07/14/2019 Summer Fest/Car Show (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/18/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Pro Am Tournament
- 07/21/2019 Granary Ice Cream Social & Family Music Fest
- 08/02/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Wine on Nine
- 08/09-11/2019 State Junior Legion Tournament in Groton
- 08/22/2019 First Day of School
- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/08/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 4/4/2020 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 4/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 5/2/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash

01-02-14-22-35

(one, two, fourteen, twenty-two, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$532,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$50 million

Powerball

08-11-14-16-49, Powerball: 14, Power Play: 3

(eight, eleven, fourteen, sixteen, forty-nine; Powerball: fourteen; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$79 million

Haakon County crash kills 1, leaves 3 seriously injured

PHILIP, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say one woman was killed and three people were injured in a two-vehicle crash east of Philip, in Haakon County.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol says a woman driving an SUV and pulling a boat on a trailer was westbound on U.S. Highway 14 Friday afternoon when she slowed down to pull into a driveway. A man driving a pickup truck behind her collided with the SUV while attempting to pass.

A 36-year-old woman who was a passenger in the pickup was pronounced dead at the scene. The 32-year-old driver and two passengers, ages 12 and 9, received serious non-life threatening injuries. They were taken to a Philip hospital.

The patrol says all of the people involved in the crash were wearing seatbelts. Their names have not been released.

Business center expanding from campus to downtown Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A business development center that was launched more than a decade ago on the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology campus in Rapid City is coming out of the shadows.

Ascent Innovation Center, which opened in a remote corner of the campus in 2006, has outgrown its space and is poised to expand to a more visible location in the city's downtown, the Rapid City Journal reports .

"This (building) has been successful," Ascent Innovation executive director Terri Haverly said of the campus center. "But people need to see us."

Construction on the \$12 million business incubator could begin this summer, once plans for the 40,000-square-foot center are approved the U.S. Department of Commerce as part of the Economic Development Administration grant process. A recent \$3 million federal grant has put the new center in range of being fully funded.

The architect of the project is Madison, Wisconsin-based Strang, Inc., which specializes in design of innovation centers and research parks. Haverly said officials are sensitive about using locally based companies for the project and about 60 percent of contractors and subcontractors will come from the Rapid City and Black Hills area.

"Not that the people here couldn't do it, but this is their niche," Haverly said of the Madison company.

The current center on campus is at capacity with 21 companies renting space and others on a waiting list. It houses 120 employees along with Ascent staff and about 50 paid interns from the School of Mines and other colleges and technical colleges who work during the school year.

Companies on the waiting list will be given priority for space in the new building, slated for completion in late 2020.

"When people see this building, it's going to be like, OK, there's something going on in there," Haverly said.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Huge crowds march in Hong Kong, piling pressure on leader

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN and ELAINE KURTENBACH Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Tens of thousands of Hong Kong residents, mostly clad in black despite the sweltering weather, jammed the city's streets Sunday in a vehement show of opposition to proposed legislation that has stoked fears of expanding control from Beijing in this former British colony.

The marchers are demanding that Hong Kong's leader first scrap an extradition bill that would allow some suspects to be sent for trial in mainland China and then resign. The conflict, which slipped into unusually violent clashes with police last week, is one of the toughest tests of the territory's special status since China took control in a 1997 handover.

The demonstrators carried banners demanding that Chief Executive Carrie Lam step down and repeatedly broke into chants. Walking slowly and shouting "withdraw" and "resign," the crowd filled a wide thoroughfare and side streets paralleling the waterfront of Victoria Harbor as tourists and shoppers who drive much of the Asian financial hub's economy looked on.

Lam's announcement Saturday that she was suspending the legislation failed to mollify critics of the measure who see it as one of many steps chipping away at Hong Kong's freedoms and legal autonomy. Opponents worry the law could be used to send criminal suspects to China to potentially face vague political charges, possible torture and unfair trials.

"Our demands are simple. Carrie Lam must leave office, the extradition law must be withdrawn and the police must apologize for using extreme violence against their own people," bank worker John Chow said as he marched with a group of his friends. "And we will continue."

Sunday's march looked likely to match in scale one a week earlier that brought as many as 1 million people out to express their concern over Hong Kong's relations with mainland China. Protesters focused their anger on Lam, even while acknowledging that she had little choice but to carry through dictates issued by Beijing, where President Xi Jinping has enforced increasingly authoritarian rule.

Many here believe Hong Kong's legal autonomy has been significantly diminished despite Beijing's insis-



Tens of thousands of protesters carry posters and banners march through the streets as they continue to protest an extradition bill, Sunday, June 16, 2019, in Hong Kong. Hong Kong residents Sunday continued their massive protest over an unpopular extradition bill that has highlighted the territory's apprehension about relations with mainland China, a week after the crisis brought as many as 1 million into the streets. The yellow banner reads "Extradition law, funeral to Hong Kong". (Apple Daily via AP)

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tence that it is still honoring its promise, dubbed "one country, two systems," that the territory can retain its own social, legal and political system for 50 years after the handover.

The rally drew marchers both young and old, some pushing strollers or carrying slumbering infants. Few wore face masks or seemed to be trying to hide their identities, in contrast with demonstrations Wednesday, when participants expressed worries over possible retribution from the authorities.

Protesters also are unhappy with the way police handled that situation, with officers using tear gas, rubber bullets and other forceful measures when demonstrators broke through barricades outside the city government's headquarters.

The police presence Sunday was considerably more relaxed, with officers deployed mainly to direct traffic as the protesters wound their way through Hong Kong's commercial center from a sprawling downtown park to government headquarters.

Farther down the parade route, mourners lined up to lay flowers and pay respects at a makeshift memorial for a man who fell to his death Saturday after hanging a protest banner that read in part, "Make Love, No Shoot" and "No Extradition to China."

The man slipped from the grasp of rescuers after clinging for a time to scaffolding outside a shopping mall. He missed a large cushion set up to capture him, and was declared dead at a nearby hospital.

As of 7:30 p.m. local time, thousands of protesters were still gathered outside government headquarters, although there were no signs of a replay of the violence that broke out at the same spot last week.

Many protesters wore ribbons on their shirts and carried placards showing protesters who had been beaten bloody there Wednesday.

"I'm really sad. I'm grieving," one visitor, Peron Kwong, said after tying a white ribbon to a street rail. "As a person born and raised in Hong Kong, I'm heartbroken when I see Hong Kong become like this."

Pro-democracy activists were calling for a general strike on Monday despite Lam's decision to suspend work on the legislation. Some labor unions, teachers associations and other groups were planning boycotts of work and classes, demanding the Lam administration retire the proposed amendments and not bring them up again for passage at a later stage.

"We encourage all the public to carry on the campaign," said Bonnie Leung, a leader of the pro-democracy group Civil Human Rights Front. "If any new violence takes place, it will be the responsibility of the police."

The Communist Party-ruled mainland took control in 1997 with a promise not to interfere with the city's civil liberties and courts. Many in Hong Kong fear the extradition bill would undermine freedoms enjoyed here but not elsewhere in China.

"China just wants to turn Hong Kong into another Chinese city," said Alex To, 54, who runs a small business. "Carrie Lam is just a figurehead. Everything depends on the attitudes of the leaders in Beijing."

After Lam announced she was suspending the legislation to avoid more violence and allow additional debate, Chinese government officials issued multiple statements backing that decision. Lam, however, made clear she was not withdrawing it.

She has sidestepped questions over whether she should quit and also defended how the police dealt with last week's clashes with demonstrators.

Lam maintains that the extradition legislation is needed if Hong Kong to uphold justice, meet its international obligations and not become a magnet for fugitives. The proposed bill would expand the scope of criminal suspect transfers to include Taiwan, Macau and mainland China.

So far, China has been excluded from Hong Kong's extradition agreements because of concerns over its judicial independence and human rights record.

Prosecutions of activists, detentions without trial of five Hong Kong book publishers and the illegal seizure in Hong Kong by mainland agents of at least one mainland businessman are among moves in recent years that have unnerved many in the city of 7 million.

Many protesters showed deep sympathy for Taiwan, the self-governing island republic that has steadfastly resisted coercion and pressure by China to bring it under its control using the same formula as applied to Hong Kong.

"Today Hong Kong, tomorrow Taiwan," read one sign carried by a demonstrator in an apparent warning about the consequences of giving way to Beijing's demands.

Associated Press journalist Tassanee Vejpongsa contributed to this report.

Police: Off-duty officer shot man who hit him in Costco

CORONA, Calif. (AP) — An off-duty police officer opened fire inside a Costco Wholesale warehouse store, killing a man who had attacked him and wounding two others, the Corona Police Department said.

Kenneth French, 32, of Riverside assaulted the Los Angeles Police Department officer Friday night while he was holding his young child, the department said in a statement Saturday. The officer fired his gun, hitting French and two of French's relatives, the department said.

French was killed, the department said. The relatives are in critical conditions at hospitals.

The officer, whose identity is being withheld, was treated and released at a nearby hospital, and the officer's child was not injured, the department said.

The officer was the only person who fired shots in the store, the department said.

The shooting prompted a stampede of frightened shoppers to flee the store east of Los Angeles and seek cover inside.

Witnesses said they saw a man with a Mohawk haircut arguing with someone near a freezer section when shots rang out at least six times. The man involved in the argument was killed, Corona police Lt. Jeff Edwards said.

Witnesses said there was an altercation. Shoppers and employees described terror and chaos when shots rang out shortly before 8 p.m. Friday and police swarmed the store.

Shrieks from inside the store were heard on video recorded by shopper Nikki Tate, who had stopped by with her daughter to pick up steaks and lobsters for Father's Day.

Tate said Saturday she was by the meat section when she heard "about six or seven shots." She dropped to the ground and crawled toward her daughter who was at the other end. They huddled until they were able to escape through a side door.

"I saw people and heard shots and my first thought was 'Jesus, is this another mass shooting?'" she said. "I didn't know if this was a random thing or a domestic thing or if this was a mass shooting. Everything was happening so fast, I just wanted to get me and my kid to safety."

In the video, her daughter says, "Mommy, we need to go."

The Los Angeles Police Department said in a statement Saturday afternoon that it has launched its own



Heavily armed police officers exit the Costco following a shooting inside the wholesale warehouse in Corona, Calif., Friday, June 14, 2019. A gunman opened fire inside the store during an argument, killing a man, wounding two other people and sparking a stampede of terrified shoppers before he was taken into custody, police said. The man involved in the argument was killed and two other people were wounded, Corona police Lt. Jeff Edwards said. (Will

Lester/Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG via AP)

investigation of the incident.

Christina Colis told the Riverside Press-Enterprise that she was in the produce area when she heard six to seven shots and hid with other shoppers in a refrigerated produce room. She said her mother saw people injured on the floor.

"I thought maybe someone dropped a bottle of wine, but then I kept hearing shots," shopper Will Lungo told the Press-Enterprise newspaper. "An employee came in and helped us out through the emergency exit."

Witnesses told KCAL-TV that shoppers and employees rushed to the exits. The station reported that more than 100 people were outside the store at one point. Left behind inside the store were purses, cellphones and backpacks from panicked shoppers, Corona police said.

OJ Simpson on Twitter: 'I got a little gettin' even to do'

By LINDA DEUTSCH Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson launched a Twitter account with a video post in which the former football star said he's got a "little gettin' even to do."

Simpson confirmed the new account to The Associated Press on Saturday, saying in a phone interview while on a Las Vegas golf course that it "will be a lot of fun."

"I've got some things to straighten out," he said.

He did not elaborate before he said he had to go and ended the call.

Simpson has generally kept a low profile since his release from prison in October 2017 for robbery and kidnapping over an attempt to steal back some of his sports memorabilia from a Las Vegas hotel room.

In the Twitter video, Simpson said his followers would get to read all his thoughts and opinions on "just about everything."

"Now, there's a lot of fake O.J. accounts out there," he said, adding that this one would be official. He appeared to record the message himself and ended it with a grin.

The 71-year-old recently told the AP he was happy and healthy living in Las Vegas 25 years after the killings of his ex-wife and her friend. Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman were stabbed to death on the night of June 12, 1994.

Simpson was ultimately acquitted of the crime after a televised trial that riveted the nation and raised thorny issues of racism, police misconduct, celebrity and domestic violence.

Relatives of the two victims have expressed disgust that Simpson is able to live the way he does. Simpson was ordered to pay \$33.5 million for the wrongful deaths of the two victims, but most of the judgment has not been paid.

Simpson has continued to declare his innocence in the two slayings. The murder case is officially listed as unsolved.



This Monday, June 3, 2019 photo provided by Didier J. Fabien shows O.J. Simpson in the garden of his Las Vegas area home. Simpson has launched a Twitter account with a video post in which the former football star says he's got a "little gettin' even to do." Simpson confirmed the new account to The Associated Press on Saturday, June 15, 2019. He said in a phone interview it will be a lot of fun and that he had some things to straighten out. (Didier J. Fabien via AP, File)

In his recent interview, Simpson told the AP that neither he nor his children want to talk about the killings ever again.

"My family and I have moved on to what we call the 'no negative zone.' We focus on the positives," he said.

Linda Deutsch is a retired special correspondent for The Associated Press. She covered all of Simpson's legal cases during her 48-year career as a Los Angeles-based trial reporter.

Former student who reported rape says college betrayed her

By ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — The warnings came in text messages from her friends: He's outside the dorm. He's at the student center. He's at Starbucks.

But for Alicia Gonzales, sometimes it didn't matter where he was. She would often hide away in her room on the campus of Marshall University, overcome with fear that she'd run into him — or be subjected to his ridicule — even after reporting that he raped her on school grounds, and even after he was convicted of battery. Months later, she left the school altogether.

"Every time I saw him, it was horrible for me," she told The Associated Press on Friday. "It was almost like I was in that same state of mind, reliving the assault itself and how fearful I was. I just felt like I was helpless."

The Associated Press does not typically identify sexual assault victims, but Gonzales has chosen to be identified.

Marshall has expelled 22-year-old Joseph Chase Hardin amid new rape accusations involving two additional women and renewed scrutiny of the West Virginia school's handling of Gonzales' February 2016 case. The expulsion caps a lengthy disciplinary process during which Hardin was allowed to be on campus, according to Gonzales' ongoing federal lawsuit against the university.

A spokeswoman for the college said it followed state law and federal regulations in its handling of Gonzales' case, adding that it "took every legal measure available to it to protect the rights of all parties throughout the process."

In announcing Hardin's expulsion, University President Jerome A. Gilbert released a statement saying, "The safety of our students is our first obligation."

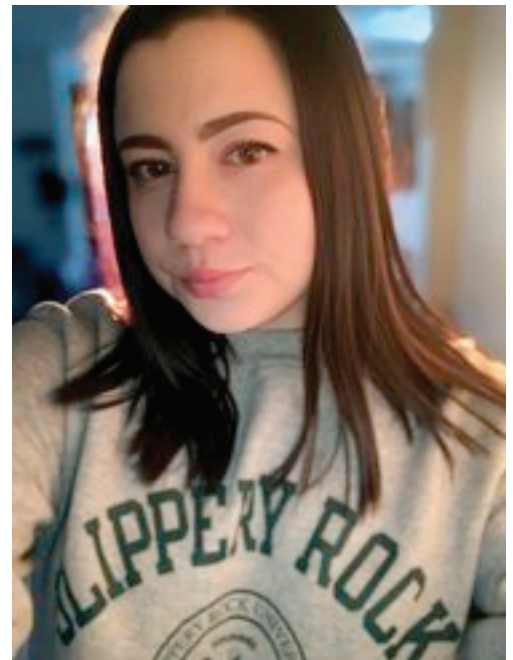
Hardin was indicted and jailed last week on second-degree sexual assault charges related to two alleged rapes in 2018. A judge ordered Hardin to remain jailed Wednesday at a court hearing for violating probation from the earlier case. He was led into the courtroom in an orange jumpsuit and turned his face away from TV news cameras trained on him from the gallery.

His lawyer, Kerry A. Nessel, said his client maintains his innocence.

"He denies everything," Nessel said. "To me, it's just a he said/she said situation."

Gonzales described a pattern of harassment by Hardin and his friends after the alleged rape. She said they mocked her on social media and once waited for her outside her on-campus job and sneered as she emerged. Hardin even wore one of her headbands at a basketball game to taunt her, she said.

"I felt completely betrayed by the university and I felt like I had absolutely no protection throughout it,"



In this Feb. 9, 2019 photo provided by Alicia Gonzales, Gonzales poses for a selfie, in Pittsburgh. Gonzales says she was forced to leave her dream college in West Virginia because the school allowed her accused rapist to remain on campus. (Alicia

Gonzales via AP)

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she said.

Gonzales said the attack occurred in the middle of a school day in a dormitory room on campus. When she first reported the attack, the college expelled Hardin, but he was able to remain on campus during an appeal process, according to Gonzales' suit. The school didn't implement restrictions to prevent her from encountering Hardin, it added.

Marshall then assembled a student conduct panel, before which she was aggressively cross-examined by Hardin's private attorneys, the suit says. She had no lawyer present. After the panel cleared Hardin, he winked at her and threw his fist into the air in celebration, Gonzales said.

College administrators then reviewed the hearing process and suspended Hardin from campus grounds until his criminal case was resolved. He unsuccessfully appealed that decision but was allowed to return after he entered what's called a Kennedy plea to a battery charge and was given three years' probation after having originally been charged with sexual assault.

In a Kennedy plea, which is similar to what's called an Alford plea in other states, a defendant maintains his or her innocence but acknowledges there's evidence that might lead a judge or jury to reach a guilty verdict. Court paperwork says that upon entering the plea, he was judged guilty.

The whole process took about a year.

The newer charges of sexual assault against Hardin involve alleged rapes of two women last year in the county where Marshall University is located, according to an indictment. Marshall spokeswoman Leah Payne said the more recent charges didn't occur on campus and didn't involve the school's police department.

Gonzales, 22, now attends a college in Pennsylvania, where she studies psychology. She said she hopes to become a victims advocate after graduation. She was relieved to hear Hardin was expelled.

"That makes me feel like at least some part of the community is now protected," she said.

Saudi crown prince accuses rival Iran of tanker attacks

By AYA BATRAWY Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said in remarks published Sunday that the kingdom will not hesitate to confront threats to its security and joined the U.S. in accusing its bitter rival Iran of being behind the attacks on two vessels traveling near the Strait of Hormuz, a vital trade route for Arabian energy exports in Asia.

The U.S. has blamed Iran for the suspected attacks on two oil tankers, denouncing what it called a campaign of "escalating tensions". The U.S. alleges Iran used limpet mines to target the tankers, pointing to black-and-white footage it captured that American officials describe as Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops removing an unexploded mine from the Japanese-operated tanker Kokuka Courageous.

The Japanese tanker's crewmembers described "flying objects" as having targeted the vessel, seemingly contradicting the assertion that limpet mines were used.

In an interview with the Arabic-language newspaper Asharq al-Awsat, Prince Mohammed said Iran disrespected the visit to Tehran by the Japanese prime minister last week and responded to his diplomatic efforts to reduce regional tensions by attacking the two tankers.

The crown prince, however, offered no evidence to back up his allegation.

"The problem is in Tehran and not anywhere else," Prince Mohammed said. "Iran is always the party that's escalating in the region, carrying out terrorist attacks and criminal attacks either directly or through its militias."

Iran rejects accusations it was responsible for Thursday's attacks, saying it stands ready to play an active and constructive role in ensuring the security of maritime passages. It said the massive U.S. military presence in the region and U.S. sanctions are the main sources of insecurity and instability in the Persian Gulf.

In recent weeks, the U.S. has sent an aircraft carrier strike group and other military assets to the region in what the military says is defensive posturing aimed at Iranian deterrence.

Tensions have escalated since the Trump Administration re-imposed punishing economic sanctions on Tehran and its oil exports after unilaterally pulling the U.S. out of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and

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world powers, which America's European allies are struggling to salvage.

Similar to the recent attacks, four oil tankers off the coast of the United Arab Emirates were apparently targeted in acts of sabotage, which U.S. officials have blamed on Iran. Two of those vessels belonged to Saudi Arabia. Days later, Iranian-allied Yemeni rebels claimed they were behind a drone attack on a Saudi oil pipeline.

In his first public comments since the start of these incidents, the powerful Saudi prince, who is also defense minister and oversees all major levers of power in the country, said the attacks "confirm the importance of our demands of the international community to take a decisive stance" against Iran's behavior.

"The kingdom does not seek war in the region, but we will not hesitate to deal with any threat to our people, sovereignty and vital interests," he said.

He also touted U.S.-Saudi relations as "essential to achieving regional security and stability."

Last month, an English-language Saudi newspaper close to the palace had called for the U.S. to launch "surgical" strikes against Iran in retaliation for the earlier vessel and pipeline attacks.

Saudi Arabia accuses Iran of arming Yemeni rebels known as Houthis, who claimed responsibility for the pipeline attack and a subsequent missile strike on a Saudi airport that wounded 26 passengers. Saudi Arabia has been at war against the Houthis in Yemen since early 2015.

"The choice before Iran is clear. Do you want to be a normal state with a constructive role in the international community or do you want to be a rogue state?" the crown prince was quoted as saying.

His comments mirrored those made by his father, King Salman, at emergency summits held in Mecca last month that drew heads of state from Arab and Muslim countries to address the sharp rise in tensions with Iran.

Thursday's apparent attacks in the Strait of Hormuz forced the evacuation of all 44 sailors aboard the two vessels. On Saturday, Associated Press journalists saw the crew members of the Norwegian-owned oil tanker MT Front Altair arrive at Dubai International Airport, after spending two days in Iran.

The Front Altair, which caught fire after the apparent attack, limped into anchorage Sunday off the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates, near the port city of Khorfakkan.



A fishing boat speeds past an oil tanker in the distance in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates, Saturday, June 15, 2019. The Kokuka Courageous, one of two oil tankers targeted in an apparent attack in the Gulf of Oman, was brought to the United Arab Emirates' eastern coast Saturday. (AP Photo/

Jon Gambrell)

Washington state waterfront owners asked to take dead whales

PORT HADLOCK, Wash. (AP) — At least one Washington state waterfront landowner has said yes to a request to allow dead gray whales to decompose on their property.

So many gray whale carcasses have washed up this year that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries says it has run out of places to take them.

In response, the agency has asked landowners to volunteer property as a disposal site for the carcasses. By doing so, landowners can support the natural process of the marine environment, and skeletons left behind can be used for educational purposes, officials said.

But the carcasses can be up to 40 feet (12 meters) long. That's a lot to decay, and it could take months. Landowner Mario Rivera of Port Hadlock, Washington, told KING5-TV that the smell is intermittent and "isn't that bad."

"It is really a unique opportunity to have this here on the beach and monitor it and see how fast it goes," said his wife, Stefanie Worwag.

The federal agency said that about 30 whales have stranded on Washington's coast this year, the most in two decades.

On the U.S. West coast, about 70 whales have been found dead this year along California, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, the most since 2000. About five were found on British Columbia beaches. Still, that's a small fraction of the total number because most sink or wash up in remote areas and are unrecorded.

NOAA Fisheries late last month declared the die-off an "unusual mortality event," and provided additional resources to respond to the deaths.

"With the unusual mortality event of these gray whales, we know more whales will be coming in, or there is a high likelihood that more whales will die within Puget Sound and out on the coast," said Port Townsend Marine Science Center Citizen Science Coordinator Betsy Carlson.

Officials say the gray whale population remains strong at about 27,000.

Lime is being used to help break down the whale carcass on the beach near where Rivera and Worwag live.

"The lime appears to be working," Rivera said. "It is decomposing nicely. I think."



FILE - In this May 6, 2019 file photo, Duat Mai stands atop a dead whale at Ocean Beach in San Francisco. Federal officials are asking waterfront landowners in western Washington to volunteer their properties to be the final resting place for dead gray whales. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries says so many gray whale carcasses have washed up this year they've run out of locations where they can be left to decompose.

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu, File)

Crew members of targeted Norwegian-owned tanker now in Dubai

By JON GAMBRELL and FAY ABUELGASIM Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Crew members from a Norwegian-owned oil tanker apparently attacked in the Gulf of Oman landed Saturday in Dubai after two days in Iran as the other tanker targeted in the assault limped into anchorage off the eastern coast of the United Arab Emirates.

Both the mariners' recollection and the physical evidence remaining on the MT Front Altair and the Kokuka Courageous, now off the coast of Fujairah, will play an important role in determining who the international community blames for Thursday's explosions on board the oil tankers.

Already, the U.S. has blamed Iran for what it described as an attack with limpet mines on the two tankers, pointing to black-and-white footage it captured that American officials describe as Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops removing an unexploded mine from the Kokuka Courageous.

Tehran rejects the allegation, instead accusing the U.S. under President Donald Trump of pursuing an "Iranophobic" campaign against it. However, Iran previously used mines against oil tankers in 1987 and 1988 in the "Tanker War," which saw the U.S. Navy escort ships through the region — something American officials may consider doing again.

In a new allegation Saturday, the U.S. military accused Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops of trying but failing to shoot down a U.S. drone to disrupt surveillance of the tankers during the attacks.

All this comes after four other oil tankers off Fujairah suffered similar attacks in recent weeks, and Iranian-allied rebels from Yemen have struck U.S. ally Saudi Arabia with drones and missiles.

Late Saturday, Yemen's Iranian-backed Houthi rebels claimed a new drone attack targeting Saudi Arabia, the latest in their recent campaign that has stepped up amid the Mideast tensions. Yahia al-Sarie, a Houthi spokesman, said their drones targeted airports in Jizan and Abha in Saudi Arabia. Early Sunday, the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen said it shot down a drone near the Abha regional airport, but did not acknowledge the Jizan claim.

The Houthis say they launched a cruise missile that struck the Abha airport Wednesday, an attack Saudi Arabia says wounded 26 people.

Trump withdrew America last year from the 2015 nuclear deal that Iran reached with world powers and recently imposed a series of sanctions now squeezing its beleaguered economy and cutting deeply into its oil exports. While Iran maintains it has nothing to do with the recent attacks, its leaders repeatedly have threatened to close the vital Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 percent of the world's oil flows.

On Saturday, Associated Press journalists saw the crew members of Front Altair after their Iran Air flight



Mariners from the MT Front Altair arrive at Dubai International Airport in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on Saturday, June 15, 2019, after spending two days in Iran. Associated Press journalists saw the crew members of the MT Front Altair on Saturday night after their Iran Air flight from Bandar Abbas, Iran, landed in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. The Norwegian-owned oil tanker was attacked Thursday, June 13 in the Gulf of Oman. The U.S. has accused Iran of attacking the Front Altair and another oil tanker with limpet mines. Iran has denied the allegations. (AP Photo/Jon Gambrell)

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from Bandar Abbas, Iran, landed at Dubai International Airport. Ten of its 23 mariners walked out to be greeted by officials who earlier could be heard saying the others would be catching connecting flights.

The officials repeatedly refused to identify themselves to journalists. They and the mariners declined to take questions.

The Front Altair caught fire after the attack Thursday, sending a thick cloud of black smoke visible even by satellite from space. A passing ship rescued the mariners, who later were turned over to Iranian officials. Iran took the mariners to Jask, then later Bandar Abbas before putting them on the flight Saturday night. Its crew was comprised of 11 Russians, 11 Filipinos and one Georgian.

Meanwhile on Saturday, the Kokuka Courageous arrived off the coast of Fujairah. Journalists in the city could not reach the vessel, as boat captains said authorities instructed them not to go near the stricken vessel.

The Kokuka Courageous is the vessel where Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops were filmed Thursday removing something from the ship's hull. The U.S. military says they removed an unexploded limpet mine, which can be magnetically attached to a vessel. The implication is that Iran wanted to remove any evidence that could link them to the attack. Weapons experts can examine a mine for clues about its manufacturer.

The black-and-white video shared Friday by the U.S. military's Central Command came from an MH-60 Seahawk helicopter, said Cmdr. Joshua Frey, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet. Such helicopters carry FLIR cameras. FLIR, or "forward-looking infrared" cameras, which record heat signatures in black and white.

In a statement released Saturday, a spokesman for U.S. Central Command said a U.S. drone had been observing the Front Altair as it was on fire. Several minutes later, Iranian Revolutionary Guard troops fired a modified Iranian SA-7 surface-to-air missile to try to bring down the drone in a likely attempt to disrupt the drone's surveillance of the Kokuka Courageous, Lt . Col. Earl Brown said. Iran did not immediately acknowledge the incident.

Tensions in the Persian Gulf have risen as Iran appears poised to break the nuclear deal, which Trump withdrew America from last year. In the deal, Tehran agreed to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of crippling sanctions. Now, Iran is threatening to resume enriching uranium closer to weapons-grade levels if European nations don't offer it new terms to the deal by July 7.

Already, Iran says it quadrupled its production of low-enriched uranium. Meanwhile, U.S. sanctions have cut off opportunities for Iran to trade its excess uranium and heavy water abroad, putting Tehran on course to violate terms of the nuclear deal regardless.

In May, the U.S. rushed an aircraft carrier strike group and other military assets to the region in response to what it said were threats from Iran.

Regardless of who is responsible, the price of a barrel of benchmark Brent crude spiked as much as 4% immediately after the attack Thursday, showing how critical the region remains to the global economy. The Saudi Energy Ministry quoted Minister Khalid al-Falih on Saturday as saying "a rapid and decisive response" was needed to the recent attacks.

Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE's Foreign Minister, also called the May attacks against the four oil tankers off Fujairah as "state-sponsored." He declined to name who the UAE suspected of carrying out the attacks.

Associated Press writer Menelaos Hadjicostis in Nicosia, Cyprus, contributed to this report.

AP Source: Lakers, Pelicans, agree on Anthony Davis trade

By BRETT MARTEL AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Anthony Davis will wind up with LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers after all.

The New Orleans Pelicans have agreed to trade the disgruntled Davis to the Lakers for point guard Lonzo Ball, forward Brandon Ingram, shooting guard Josh Hart and three first-round draft choices, several people familiar with the situation said Saturday.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade cannot become official until the new league year begins July 6. ESPN first reported the trade.

The deal ends a nearly five-month saga that became an awkward NBA sideshow, arguably derailed the Lakers' push to make the playoffs and even cost people jobs after Davis requested a trade in late January through his agent, Rich Paul, who also represents James.

Now the 26-year-old Davis, a six-time All-Star, will bring his dynamic, up-tempo, above-the-rim play to Hollywood alongside the 34-year-old James, a three-time NBA champion and Finals regular.

In return, the Pelicans receive the promise of a young core the Lakers are blowing up in order to make the deal, as well as the opportunity to add more; New Orleans already had the first pick overall in Thursday's draft and will have the Lakers' fourth overall choice, giving new basketball operations chief David Griffin the chance to add another top-tier prospect to his presumed first pick of Duke star Zion Williamson.

It remains to be seen, however, how well Ingram will recover from a blood clot that sidelined him for part of last season. He was diagnosed with deep vein thrombosis in March.

The Lakers and Pelicans missed the playoffs last season and Davis' trade demand caused a palpable degree of acrimony between the clubs as the Lakers publicly pursued a deal and the Pelicans asked the NBA to look into the possibility of a tampering violation.

After the trade deadline passed with no deal, Davis finished out the season as a lame-duck All-Star who at times heard boos and insults during home games and the Pelicans fired then-general manager Dell Demps. Several Lakers players acknowledged they had been shaken by thoughts of their possibly imminent departure, and resulting losses slid them out of playoff position at midseason.

Getting the deal done became a near-imperative for general manager Rob Pelinka and owner Jeanie Buss after the Lakers' latest round of front-office drama. On the final day of their franchise-record sixth straight non-playoff season, president of basketball operations Magic Johnson abruptly quit his job and criticized Pelinka for talking behind his back.



FILE - In this March 16, 2019, file photo, New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis brings the ball up during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Phoenix Suns in New Orleans. Two people familiar with the situation say the Pelicans have agreed to trade Davis to the Los Angeles Lakers for point guard Lonzo Ball, forward Brandon Ingram, shooting guard Josh Hart and three first-round draft choices. The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the trade cannot become official until the new league year begins July 6. ESPN first reported the trade. (AP Photo/Tyler Kaufman, File)

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Johnson couldn't resist another backhanded shot at Pelinka on Saturday with a telling series of tweets that began: "Great job by Owner Jeanie Buss bringing Anthony Davis to the Lakers!"

With the Pelicans' front office now run by Griffin, whose relationship with James dates to the championship they won together in Cleveland in 2016, relations between the two franchises warmed enough to complete a trade that will ripple throughout the NBA. It will affect the offseason plans of a number of other teams — namely, the Boston Celtics, who actively sought to acquire Davis and had an arsenal of young talent and draft picks to potentially include in a deal.

Davis is a dynamic 6-foot-10 forward who also plays center, shoots with range, runs the floor, blocks shots and can handle the ball. He has averaged 23.7 points, 10.5 rebounds and 2.4 blocks during his career. But in seven seasons in New Orleans, his Pelicans teams made the playoffs just twice and won one series against Portland two seasons ago.

The Lakers might not be done shopping for big names, either.

Kyrie Irving, Kemba Walker, Jimmy Butler and Southern California native Kawhi Leonard are among free agents who could be pursued by the Lakers, who've made no secret of their plan to build a super team through free agency.

Davis has just one year remaining on his contract before he becomes eligible for free agency, but that was less of an issue for the Lakers than any other trade partner, given Davis' and James' shared representation.

The trade also helps launch a new era for the Pelicans under Griffin as New Orleans bids adieu to the "Unibrow" and welcomes young talent the Lakers had patiently assembled with a series of high first-round picks and later choices that brought high value.

The Pelicans' biggest prize in the deal should be Ingram, if healthy.

The 21-year-old, 2016 No. 2 overall pick showed signs of becoming an elite scorer alongside James, and he is expected to recover fully from his blood clot problem and the resulting procedures.

The deal ends a tumultuous tenure with the Lakers for Ball, whose dream of playing for his hometown team lasted just two years.

The 2017 No. 2 pick from UCLA grew up considerably with the Lakers while breaking free from the influence of his famous father. He exhibited effective playmaking skills and strong defense for the Lakers when healthy. However, he struggled to score and appeared in just 99 of 164 games over his two seasons due to numerous injuries.

Hart played two solid seasons as a member of the Lakers' rotation, averaging 7.9 points and 3.9 rebounds after arriving from Villanova.

AP Sports Writer Greg Beacham contributed to this report.

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Activists push Sunday protest despite Hong Kong bill delay

By **ELAINE KURTENBACH** and **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN** Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong are planning a mass protest Sunday even after the territory's embattled leader Carrie Lam sought to quell public anger by shelving an unpopular extradition bill that has highlighted apprehension about relations with mainland China.

Activists said Lam's announcement on Saturday is not enough. Over the past week, hundreds of thousands marched to demand Lam drop the legislation, which many fear would undermine freedoms enjoyed by this former British colony but not elsewhere in China.

The battle over the proposal to amend the Fugitive Offenders Ordinance to allow some suspects to face trial in mainland Chinese courts has evolved into Hong Kong's most severe political test since the Communist Party-ruled mainland took control in 1997 with a promise not to interfere with the city's civil liberties and courts.

Critics said Lam should withdraw the plan for good, resign and apologize for police use of potentially

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lethal force during clashes with protesters on Wednesday.

"Democrats in Hong Kong simply cannot accept this suspension decision," said lawmaker Claudia Mo. "Because the suspension is temporary. The pain is still there."

The decision was "too little, too late," she said.

"Hong Kong people have been lied to so many times," said Bonny Leung, a leader of the Civil Human Rights Front, one of the groups that has helped organize the demonstrations.

Lam has said the legislation is needed if Hong Kong to uphold justice, meet its international obligations and not become a magnet for fugitives. The proposed bill would expand the scope of criminal suspect transfers to include Taiwan, Macau and mainland China.

China has been excluded from Hong Kong's extradition agreements because of concerns over its judicial independence and human rights record.

Speaking to reporters after announcing her decision Saturday, Lam sidestepped questions over whether she should quit. She insisted she was not withdrawing the proposed amendment and defended the police.

But she said she was suspending the bill indefinitely. It was time, she said, "for responsible government to restore as quickly as possible this calmness in society."

"I want to stress that the government is adopting an open mind," she said. "We have no intention to set a deadline for this work."

She emphasized that a chief concern was to avoid further injuries both for the public and for police. About 80 people were hurt in the clashes earlier in the week, more than 20 of them police.

"It's possible there might be even worse confrontations that might be replaced by very serious injuries to my police colleagues and the public," she said. "I don't want any of those injuries to happen."

Lam apologized for what she said were failures in her government's work to win public support for the bill, which is opposed by a wide range of sectors in Hong Kong, including many teachers, students, lawyers and trade unions.

But she insisted the bill was still needed.

"Give us another chance," she said.

Beijing-appointed Lam said she had the central government's backing for her decision to yield to the protests. A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said in a statement Saturday that the Chinese government "expresses support, respect and understanding" for Lam's decision.

Many analysts believe that given deep public frustration over expanding control from Beijing under President Xi Jinping, China's strongest leader in decades, Lam might eventually have to abandon the plan altogether.

"If there's more mass action this week that doesn't degenerate into smashing, they will have to," said Ken Curtis, an investment banker who has worked in Hong Kong off and on for many years.

The anger seen in the streets has been directed squarely at Lam and the Hong Kong government, not



Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam takes questions at a press conference, Saturday, June 15, 2019, in Hong Kong. Lam said she will suspend a proposed extradition bill indefinitely in response to widespread public unhappiness over the measure, which would enable authorities to send some suspects to stand trial in mainland courts.

(AP Photo/Kin Cheung)

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Beijing, he notes.

"Young people continue to be very dissatisfied," said Curtis, chairman of Starfort Investment Holdings. "The economy's not growing like people thought it would grow."

Lam acknowledged that the government needed to tackle other issues, especially a dire lack of affordable housing. She also cited the economy as a concern.

The extradition bill has drawn criticism from U.S. and British lawmakers and human rights groups, prompting Beijing to lash back with warnings against "interference" in its internal affairs.

But analysts say China also has to weigh the risk of seeing Hong Kong, a vital port and financial center of 7 million people, possibly losing its special economic status.

Under the 1992 U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act, Beijing needs to abide by its "one country, two systems" promises to respect the territory's legal autonomy for 50 years as promised under the agreement signed with Britain for the 1997 handover.

Already, many here believe the territory's legal autonomy has been significantly diminished despite Beijing's insistence that it is still honoring those promises.

Prosecutions of activists, detentions without trial of five Hong Kong book publishers and the illegal seizure in Hong Kong by mainland agents of at least one mainland businessman are among the moves in recent years that have undermined that

In may well be in China's interest to help Hong Kong's role as a financial center to grow in importance given the current extreme trade tensions with the U.S.

Much hinges on whether protests persist or again turn violent, Curtis said.

"That is a limit, a brake of common sense of how far Beijing would push these things," he said. "The last thing Beijing wants, with all this trouble with Washington, is that Hong Kong boils over."

"Romeo and Juliet" director Franco Zeffirelli dies at 96

By COLLEEN BARRY Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian director Franco Zeffirelli, who delighted audiences around the world with his romantic vision and extravagant productions, most famously captured in his cinematic "Romeo and Juliet" and the miniseries "Jesus of Nazareth," died Saturday at 96.

While Zeffirelli was most popularly known for his films, his name was also inextricably linked to the theater and opera. He produced classics for the world's most famous opera houses, from Milan's venerable La Scala to the Metropolitan Opera in New York, and plays for London and Italian stages.

Zeffirelli's son Luciano said his father died at home in Rome.

"He had suffered for a while, but he left in a peaceful way," he said.

Zeffirelli made it his mission to make culture accessible to the masses, often seeking inspiration in Shakespeare and other literary greats for his films, and producing operas aimed at TV audiences. Claiming no favorites, Zeffirelli once likened himself to a sultan with a harem of three: film, theater and opera.

"I am not a film director. I am a director who uses different instruments to express his dreams and his stories — to make people dream," Zeffirelli told The Associated Press in a 2006 interview.

From his out-of-wedlock birth on the outskirts of Florence on Feb. 12, 1923, Zeffirelli rose to be one of Italy's most prolific directors, working with such opera greats as Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo and Maria Callas, as well as Hollywood stars including Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton, Mel Gibson, Cher and Judi Dench.

Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte said he was "profoundly moved by the death of Zeffirelli, who was an Italian ambassador of cinema, art and beauty."

Throughout his career, Zeffirelli took risks — and his audacity paid off at the box office. His screen success in America was a rarity among Italian filmmakers.

He was one of the few Italian directors close to the Vatican, and the church turned to Zeffirelli's theatrical touch for live telecasts of the 1978 papal installation and the 1983 Holy Year opening ceremonies in St. Peter's Basilica. Former Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi also tapped him to direct a few high-profile events.

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But Zeffirelli was best known outside Italy for his colorful, softly-focused romantic films. His 1968 "Romeo and Juliet" brought Shakespeare's famous story to a new and appreciative generation, and his 1973 "Brother Sun, Sister Moon," told the life of St. Francis in parables.

"Romeo and Juliet" set box-office records in the United States, though it was made with two unknown actors, Leonard Whiting and Olivia Hussey. The film, which cost \$1.5 million, grossed \$52 million and became one of the most successful Shakespearian movies ever.

A year earlier, he directed Taylor and Burton in Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew," leaving his distinctive mark on world cinema.

In the 1970s, Zeffirelli's focus shifted from the romantic to the spiritual. His 1977 made-for-television "Life of Jesus" became an instant classic with its portrayal of a Christ who seemed authentic and relevant. Shown around the world, the film earned more than \$300 million.

Where Zeffirelli worked, controversy was never far away. In 1978, he threatened to leave Italy for good because of harsh attacks against him and his art by Italian leftists, who saw Zeffirelli as an exponent of Hollywood.

On the other hand, piqued by American criticism of his 1981 movie "Endless Love," starring Brooke Shields, Zeffirelli said he might never make another film in the U.S. The movie, as he predicted, was a box office success.

In his 2006 autobiography, Zeffirelli recounted how his mother attended her husband's funeral pregnant with another man's child. Unable to give the baby either her name or his father's, she tried to name him Zeffiretti, after an aria in Mozart's "Idomeneo." But a typographical error made it Zeffirelli, making him "the only person in the world with Zeffirelli as a name, thanks to my mother's folly."

His mother died of tuberculosis when he was 6, and Zeffirelli went to live with his father's cousin, whom he affectionately called Zia (Aunt) Lide.

Living in Zia Lide's house and getting weekly visits from his father, Zeffirelli developed the passions that would shape his life. The first was for opera, after seeing Wagner's "Walkuere" at age 8 or 9 in Florence. The second was a love of English culture and literature, after his father started him on thrice-weekly English lessons.

His experiences with the British expatriate community under fascism, and their staunch disbelief that they would be victimized by Benito Mussolini's regime, were at the heart of the semi-autobiographical 1991 film "Tea with Mussolini."

He remained ever an Anglophile, and was particularly proud when Britain gave him an honorary knighthood in 2004.

As a youth, Zeffirelli served with the partisans during World War II. He later acted as an interpreter for British troops. Then the lifelong bachelor turned to acting at 20 when he joined an experimental troupe



FILE - Franco Zeffirelli, seen in New York, in this Oct. 31, 1974 file photo. Italian film director Franco Zeffirelli has died in Rome at the age of 96. Zeffirelli's son Luciano said his father died at home on Saturday at noon. (AP Photo/

Jerry Mosey, File)

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in Florence.

Zeffirelli reportedly said in his autobiography that he considered himself a homosexual instead of using the term gay, a word he detested.

After a short-lived acting career, Zeffirelli worked with Luchino Visconti's theatrical company in Rome, where he showed a flair for dramatic staging techniques in "A Streetcar Named Desire" and "Troilus and Cressida." He later served as assistant director under Italian film masters Michelangelo Antonioni and Vittorio De Sica.

In 1950, he began a long and fruitful association with lyric theater, working as a director, set designer and costumer, and bringing new life to works by his personal favorites: Mozart, Rossini, Donizetti and Verdi. Over the next decade, he staged dozens of operas, romantic melodramas and contemporary works in Italian and other European theaters, eventually earning a reputation as one of the world's best directors of musical theater.

Both La Scala and New York's Metropolitan Opera later hosted Zeffirelli's classic staging of "La Boheme," which was shown on American television in 1982.

His first film effort in 1958, a comedy he wrote called "Camping," had limited success.

Zeffirelli returned to prose theater in 1961 with an innovative interpretation of "Romeo and Juliet" at London's Old Vic. British critics termed it "revolutionary," and the director used it as the basis of frequent later productions and the 1968 film.

When Zeffirelli decided to do "La Traviata" on film, he had already worked his stage version of the opera into a classic, performed at La Scala with soprano Maria Callas. He had been planning the film since 1950, he said.

"In the last 30 years, I've done everything a lyric theater artist can do," Zeffirelli wrote as the film was released in 1983. "This work is the one that crowns all my hopes and gratifies all my ambitions."

The film, with Teresa Stratas and Placido Domingo in the lead roles, found near-unanimous critical acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic and received Oscar nominations for costuming, scenography and artistic direction.

Zeffirelli worked on a new staging of La Traviata as his last project, which will open the 2019 Opera Festival on June 21 at the Verona Arena.

"We'll pay him a final tribute with one of his most loved operas," said artistic director Cecilia Gasdia. "He'll be with us."

Zeffirelli often turned his talents toward his native city. In 1983, he wrote a historical portrait of Florence during the 15th and 16th centuries. During the disastrous 1966 Florence floods, Zeffirelli produced a well-received documentary on the damage done to the city and its art.

"I feel more like a Florentine than an Italian," Zeffirelli once said. "A citizen of a Florence that was once the capital of Western civilization."

Accused by some of heavy-handedness in his staging techniques, Zeffirelli fought frequent verbal battles with others in Italian theater.

"Zeffirelli doesn't realize that an empty stage can be more dramatic than a stage full of junk," Carmelo Bene, an avant-garde Italian director and actor, once said.

It was a criticism that some reserved for his lavish production of "Aida" to open La Scala's 2006-7 season — his first return to the Milan opera house in a dozen years and the fifth "Aida" of his career. The production was a popular success, but may be remembered more for the turbulent exit of the lead tenor, Roberto Alagna, after being booed.

"I'm 83 and I've really been working like mad since I was a kid. I've done everything, but I never really feel that I have said everything I have to say," Zeffirelli told The Associated Press shortly before the opening of "Aida."

Zeffirelli had trouble with his balance after contracting an infection during hip surgery in 1999, but didn't let that slow him down.

"I always have to cling on this or that to walk ... but the mind is absolutely intact," he said in the AP interview.

Giada Zampano contributed from Rome.

Notre Dame celebrates 1st Mass since devastating April fire

PARIS (AP) — The archbishop wore a hard-hat helmet, burnt wood debris was still visible and only about 30 people were let inside, but Notre Dame Cathedral on Saturday held its first Mass since the devastating April 15th fire that ravaged its roof and toppled its masterpiece spire.

Exactly two months after the blaze engulfed the landmark Gothic building in the French capital, the service was celebrated by Paris Archbishop Michel Aupetit in a chapel behind the choir, a place confirmed by construction experts as safe.

French Culture Minister Franck Riester said this week the cathedral remains in a “fragile” state, especially its vaulted ceiling, which is still at risk of collapsing.

For security reasons, only about 30 people — mainly priests, canons and church employees — were admitted inside the cathedral for the service, while Aupetit and others wore construction worker’s helmets. Some of the workers rebuilding the church were also invited.

Other worshippers could watch the Mass live on a Catholic TV station. The video showed some burnt wood still in the church but a famous statue of the Virgin and Child appeared intact behind wooden construction planks.

The annual Dedication Mass commemorated the cathedral’s consecration as a place of worship.

“This cathedral is a place of worship, it is its very own and unique purpose,” Aupetit said.

One French priest called the service “a true happiness, full of hope.”

“We will rebuild this cathedral. It will take time of course — a lot of money, lot of time, lot of work — but we will succeed,” Father Pierre Vivares told The Associated Press outside the cathedral. “Today it’s a small but a true victory against the disaster we have had.”

It is still unclear when the cathedral will reopen to the public.

French President Emmanuel Macron has set a goal of rebuilding it in just five years, which many experts consider unrealistic. In the meantime, the French parliament is debating amendments to a new law that would create a public body to expedite the restoration of the cathedral and circumvent some of France’s complex labor laws.



The Archbishop of Paris Michel Aupetit, second left, leads the first mass in a side chapel, two months after a devastating fire engulfed the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral, Saturday June 15, 2019, in Paris. (Karine Perret, Pool via AP)

Diplomats: Europeans weigh sanctions on Venezuela's Maduro

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and ARITZ PARRA Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Major European nations are considering imposing sanctions on Venezuela's Nicolás Maduro and several top officials for their recent crackdown on political opponents, although divisions remain over the timing of any action for fear of derailing a negotiated exit to the country's crisis, The Associated Press has learned.

The financial and travel restrictions are being mulled by a core group of five nations — U.K., France, Germany, Spain and the Netherlands — before being proposed to the European Council, said diplomats and members of the Venezuelan opposition with knowledge of the plan.

A total of five sources spoke on the condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the deliberations publicly.

While Maduro is among a dozen officials who could be hit with sanctions, no final decision has been made, two people said. The group still needs to breach internal divisions before making a formal proposal to the EU's executive branch.

Greater consensus exists for punishing top members of the armed forces and judiciary who have been instrumental in the arrest of allies of opposition leader Juan Guaidó, including Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino, whose family is believed to live in Spain. Also on the list is Communications Minister Jorge Rodríguez, a top Maduro aide and envoy to talks with the opposition sponsored by Norway, and Jorge Márquez, who is head of the powerful communications regulator which was responsible for pulling the plug on Spanish broadcaster Antena 3 and Britain's BBC earlier this year.

Steady progress is being made on building a solid legal case for the restrictions, but the main obstacle is the uncertain impact it could have on a mediation effort by Norway between representatives of Maduro and opposition leader Juan Guaidó, the sources added.

"Our priority is not to impose new sanctions. But neither is it to relax pressure on members of the Venezuelan government," said a Spanish foreign ministry official. "The primary focus at the moment is the dialogue in Norway."

After two rounds of meetings in Norway, the opposition had not agreed by Saturday to a third round scheduled to begin next week in Barbados, three diplomats told AP. Guaidó, who has been recognized as Venezuela's interim president by more than 50 countries, including most EU members, has pledged not to return to the negotiating table until Maduro is ready to call early presidential elections.

The Swedish government also confirmed Friday that it hosted talks this week between major powers with interests in Venezuela. The talks in Stockholm were not attended by either side in the Venezuelan power struggle but did include diplomats from Russia — Maduro's main financial and military backer — as



FILE - In this April 6, 2019 file photo, Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro raises his fist to supporters rallying at the presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela. The Associated Press has learned on Saturday, June 15, 2019, that major European nations are considering imposing sanctions on Maduro and several top officials for their recent crackdown on political opponents. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos, File)

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well as Enrique Iglesias, the new EU envoy for Venezuela.

Almost two years ago, the Trump administration added Maduro to its sanctions list of now more than 100 Venezuelan officials and insiders whose U.S. assets are frozen and who are barred from doing business with Americans.

But the EU has been slower than the U.S. and Canada to confront Maduro, fearing it could wreck the possibility of a negotiated solution to the political stalemate that has exacerbated misery in a country where more than 4 million people — almost 15% of the population — has migrated in search of work and food abroad. The EU's cautious approach has drawn criticism from members of Venezuela's opposition, which believe it gives oxygen to Maduro's government.

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza has repeatedly denounced sanctions by the U.S. and EU as an illegal violation of the country's sovereignty. But under the logic of such actions, he said such tools should be used against Guaidó because he had promoted violence.

One factor now influencing the EU's consideration of sanctions is the Venezuelan government's recent political crackdown — in which the deputy head of the opposition-controlled congress was arrested. Another 18 lawmakers have been stripped of their parliamentary immunity from prosecution.

Maduro has argued that the crackdown was focused on lawmakers who backed a failed April 30 military uprising which Guaidó says was an attempt to restore Venezuela's democracy.

The EU, which is trying to pave the way for free and fair elections while guaranteeing the delivery of humanitarian aid into the country through the International Contact Group, has not ruled out sanctions in its public statements. Any EU sanctions would require the support of all 28 of the bloc's members, four of whom — Italy, Greece, Slovakia and Cyprus — don't recognize Guaidó as Venezuela's rightful leader. Britain has been the strongest advocate for sanctions.

"The political timing of the sanctions is important and that's what makes any consensus difficult at the moment," a top European Union diplomat said. "But that could change very quickly if the Oslo talks fail or if new arrests take place in Venezuela."

In addition to an arms embargo and export ban on police riot gear since 2017, the European Council has already frozen the assets of 18 people and banned them from traveling to the bloc's territory. Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez and socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello are among those who have previously been sanctioned, but until now the EU has refrained from targeting Maduro himself.

The opposition is trying to persuade the EU to adopt the new sanctions to pressure Maduro to agree to a fair and transparent presidential election overseen by international observers. It argues that U.S. sanctions were instrumental in forcing several insiders to switch loyalties and support the military uprising.

Underscoring that strategy, Lilian Tintori, the wife of prominent Venezuelan opposition activist Leopoldo López, on Friday met with Spain's foreign minister and called on the country and the EU to tighten restrictions and increase "pressure on the cruel dictatorship of Nicolás Maduro."

Parra reported from Madrid.

Census says more than 60% of US men are fathers

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Fathers in the U.S. tend to be better educated than men without children, and relatively few men have children over age 40.

These are some of the conclusions in a report released this week by the U.S. Census Bureau, just in time for Father's Day.

The data in the report come from 2014 when the bureau for the first time asked both men and women about their fertility histories. The goal of the report was to shed greater light on men's fertility, a topic less known than that of women's fertility, according to the Census Bureau.

"In recent decades, there has been growing public and academic interest in fathers and fatherhood given

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the importance of fathers in children's lives," the report said.

It found more than 60% of the 121 million adult men in the U.S. were fathers.

About three-quarters of fathers were married. Almost 13% of dads were divorced and 8% had never been married.

Just under a quarter of U.S. men between ages 40 and 50 were childless, and about 17% had never been married by the time they were in their 40s. Both figures were noticeably higher than for women who had reached middle age. Just under 16% of women between ages 40 and 50 were childless, and 14% had never been married, according to the report.

There were also noticeable differences in workforce participation between fathers and mothers with young children. Nearly 90% of fathers whose youngest child was under age 6 were employed, while that figure was only around 60% for mothers, according to the report. There was no difference between the sexes for childless men and women.

Men with children tended to be more educated than those without kids, although the report noted that may be the result of age since the chances of becoming fathers and reaching higher-education levels increases with age.

Fatherhood also varied by race, ethnic background and age.

Almost 30% of Hispanics in their 20s were fathers. That was true for about a quarter of black men, more than a fifth of white men and an eighth of Asian men.

By the time men were in their 40s, those disparities had narrowed. More than 83% of Hispanics were fathers, around 80% of black and Asian men were dads and around three-quarters of white men were fathers.



FILE - In this June 21, 2009 file photo, fans tour in front of the scoreboard in Fenway Park in Boston in celebration of Father's Day following a baseball game between the Atlanta Braves and the Boston Red Sox. The U.S. Census Bureau has released a new report showing more than 60% of the 121 million men in the U.S. are fathers. The data in the report released this week of June 15, 2019, comes from 2014 when the bureau for the first time asked both men and women about their fertility histories. The report says just under three-quarters of fathers are married. Almost 13% of dads are divorced and 8% have never been married. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

Ugandan medics now tackling Ebola say they lack supplies

By **RODNEY MUHUMUZA** Associated Press

BWERA, Uganda (AP) — The isolation ward for Ebola patients is a tent erected in the garden of the local hospital. Gloves are given out sparingly to health workers. And when the second person in this Uganda border town died after the virus outbreak spread from neighboring Congo, the hospital for several hours couldn't find a vehicle to take away the body.

"We don't really have an isolation ward," the Bwera Hospital's administrator, Pedson Buthalha, told The Associated Press. "It's just a tent. To be honest, we can't accommodate more than five people."

Medical workers leading Uganda's effort against Ebola lament what they call limited support in the days since infected members of a Congolese-Ugandan family showed up, one vomiting blood. Three have

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since died.

While Ugandan authorities praise the health workers as "heroes" and say they are prepared to contain the virus, some workers disagree, wondering where the millions of dollars spent on preparing for Ebola have gone if a hospital on the front line lacks basic supplies.

"Even the gloves are not enough," the hospital administrator said Thursday. "I give them out small small." A nurse nodded in agreement.

The World Health Organization on Friday said the Ebola outbreak is an "extraordinary event" of deep concern but does not yet merit being declared a global emergency. Such a declaration typically triggers more funding, resources and political attention. WHO said \$54 million is needed to stop the outbreak.

And yet both Congo and Uganda appeared to lobby against a declaration, with Congo counting the Uganda-related Ebola cases as its own, saying Congo was where the family members began developing symptoms. Ugandan authorities on Friday said they had only one suspected Ebola case remaining in the country.

More than 1,400 people have died since this outbreak was declared in August in eastern Congo, one of the world's most turbulent regions, where rebel attacks and community resistance have hurt Ebola response work. The virus can spread quickly via close contact with bodily fluids of those infected and can be fatal in up to 90% of cases, and identifying people who might have been exposed is crucial.

While Ugandan health workers aren't facing the violent attacks that have killed several Ebola responders in Congo, they remain at risk as they seek to isolate, test and treat for the virus. Basic equipment such as gloves is essential.

At least two nurses at Bwera Hospital might have been exposed as they offered first aid to the infected family. They and some other contacts have since been quarantined in their homes. WHO says at least 112 such contacts have been identified in Uganda since the outbreak crossed the nearby border.

A nurse, who spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid possible retribution, questioned why some people who might have been exposed to Ebola are allowed to stay at home.

"I wish we could coordinate," the hospital administrator said of the apparent confusion over how to manage the outbreak.

Ugandan Health Minister Jane Aceng told the AP on Saturday that district officials in Kasese were to blame for limited medical supplies after delaying in submitting their budget.

"It is clearly the responsibility of the district to order supplies," she said. "If they haven't done the orders we can't supply because we don't know how much they need." As for upgrading the makeshift isolation ward in the hospital garden, she said "it is not economical. It is not cost-effective" to build permanent structures.

Uganda has faced multiple Ebola outbreaks and is a regional leader in battling Ebola, even if this part of the country has never experienced an outbreak. Some Ugandan physicians were deployed to the West



A health worker puts on her protective clothing before vaccinating people against Ebola at the hospital in the village of Kagando, near the border with Congo, in western Uganda Saturday, June 15, 2019. The World Health Organization (WHO) in Uganda said Saturday that it has started ring vaccination of all contacts of the confirmed Ebola cases including health workers. (AP Photo/Ronald Kabuubi)

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African outbreak of 2013-2016, the deadliest in history.

Health workers in this outbreak now have the benefit of an experimental but effective Ebola vaccine that is being widely used, with more than 130,000 doses distributed. Uganda has vaccinated nearly 4,700 health workers, with more vaccinations beginning on Saturday.

Still, corruption is rampant, and many local people are scornful of government officials seen as out of touch.

As Bwera Hospital tried to arrange a safe burial on Thursday for one of Uganda's first Ebola victims, officials quickly realized there was no vehicle. The burial took place hours later and in darkness, which some residents called a sign of the government's shortcomings.

"This should have been done by the health office, the district health office," said Moses Mugisa, clerk of the border town of Mpondwe-Lhubirha, who eventually found transport for the corpse.

In addition, he said, voluntary health teams screening for Ebola on the border have gone unpaid for about four months. He criticized the decision of government officials from Kampala, the capital, to visit only briefly after Uganda's first Ebola case was announced.

"We have a lot of work to do," he said.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 16, the 167th day of 2019. There are 198 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 16, 1858, accepting the Illinois Republican Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate, Abraham Lincoln said the slavery issue had to be resolved, declaring, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

On this date:

In 1567, Mary, Queen of Scots, was imprisoned in Lochleven Castle in Scotland. (She escaped almost a year later but ended up imprisoned again.)

In 1883, baseball's first "Ladies' Day" took place as the New York Gothams offered women free admission to a game against the Cleveland Spiders. (New York won, 5-2.)

In 1903, Ford Motor Co. was incorporated.

In 1911, IBM had its beginnings as the Computing-Tabulating-Recording Co. which was incorporated in New York State.

In 1932, President Herbert Hoover and Vice President Charles Curtis were renominated at the Republican National Convention in Chicago.

In 1933, the National Industrial Recovery Act became law with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signature. (The Act was later struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. was founded as President Roosevelt signed the Banking Act of 1933.

In 1944, George Stinney, a 14-year-old black youth, was electrocuted by the state of South Carolina for the murders of two white girls, Betty June Binnicker, 11, and Mary Emma Thames, 7.

In 1963, the world's first female space traveler, Valentina Tereshkova 26, was launched into orbit by the Soviet Union aboard Vostok 6; Tereshkova spent 71 hours in flight, circling the Earth 48 times before returning safely.

In 1978, President Jimmy Carter and Panamanian leader Omar Torrijos signed the instruments of ratification for the Panama Canal treaties during a ceremony in Panama City.

In 1996, Russian voters went to the polls in their first independent presidential election; the result was a runoff between President Boris Yeltsin (the eventual winner) and Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov. Sportscaster Mel Allen died in Greenwich, Connecticut, at age 83.

In 2015, real estate mogul Donald Trump launched his successful campaign to become president of the

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United States with a speech at Trump Tower in Manhattan.

In 2017, President Donald Trump acknowledged for the first time that he was under federal investigation as part of the expanding probe into Russia's election meddling as he lashed out at a top Justice Department official overseeing the inquiry.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama met with South Korean President Lee Myung-bak at the White House; afterward, Obama declared North Korea a "grave threat" to the world and pledged the U.S. and its allies would aggressively enforce fresh penalties against the nuclear-armed nation. Sen. John Ensign of Nevada, a leading Republican mentioned as a potential presidential candidate, admitted he'd had an extramarital affair with a campaign staff member. Federal health regulators warned consumers to stop using Zicam Cold Remedy nasal gel and related products because they could permanently damage the sense of smell.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama notified Congress that up to 275 troops could be sent to Iraq to provide support and security for U.S. personnel and the American Embassy in Baghdad. A divided Supreme Court sided with gun control groups and the Obama administration, ruling that the federal government can strictly enforce laws that ban a "straw" purchaser from buying a gun for someone else.

One year ago: China announced 25 percent tariffs on \$34 billion in U.S. imports, including soybeans and beef, in response to President Donald Trump's tariff hike on a similar amount of Chinese goods; China also scrapped agreements to narrow its trade surplus with the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Eileen Atkins is 85. Actor Bill Cobbs is 85. Author Joyce Carol Oates is 81. Country singer Billy "Crash" Craddock is 81. Songwriter Lamont Dozier is 78. Rhythm and blues singer Eddie Levert is 77. Actress Joan Van Ark is 76. Actor Geoff Pierson is 70. Rhythm and blues singer James Smith (The Stylistics) is 69. Boxing Hall of Famer Roberto Duran is 68. Pop singer Gino Vannelli is 67. Actress Laurie Metcalf is 64. Actor Arnold Vosloo is 57. Actor Danny Burstein is 55. Model-actress Jenny Shimizu is 52. Actor James Patrick Stuart is 51. Rapper MC Ren is 50. Actor Clifton Collins Jr. is 49. Golfer Phil Mickelson is 49. Actor John Cho is 47. Actor Eddie Cibrian is 46. Actor Fred Koehler is 44. Actress China Shavers is 42. Actor Daniel Bruhl is 41. Bluegrass musician Caleb Smith (Balsam Range) is 41. Actress Sibel Kekilli is 39. Actress Missy Peregrin is 37. Actress Olivia Hack is 36. Singer Diana DeGarmo (TV: "American Idol") is 32. Pop-rock musician Ian Keaggy (Hot Chelle Rae) is 32.

Thought for Today: "I have never in my life learned anything from any man who agreed with me." — Dudley Field Malone, American attorney (1882-1950).