

ICELAND VOLCANO

Ash Cloud Casts Pall Over Interwoven World

PARIS (AP) — A cloud of ash hovered over Europe on Friday, casting a pall over the interwoven world.

Made up of microscopic particles as hard as a knife's blade, the dust cloud coughed up by an Icelandic volcano crept across the industrial powerhouses of Europe, into the steppes of Russia and as far south as Hungary.

It left behind stranded travelers, grounded cargo flights, political confusion and even fears the cloud of grit settling on Earth will endanger the lungs of children, asthmatics and others with respiratory ailments.

How long it lasts and how far it spreads depends entirely on two unpredictable events: Whether the volcano beneath Iceland's Eyjafjallajökull glacier keeps pumping tons of dust into the air and what wind patterns do.

The invisible cloud could split, reaching down into northern Italy, and perhaps break apart over the Alps. Scientists say the volcano could continue erupting for months, with more chaos ensuing with each big belch of basalt powder and gas.

"It's going to be a mess," said volcanologist Michael Rampino of New York University. "It's a menace to air traffic, just sitting there, waiting to go off."

Henry Margusity, senior meteorologist for AccuWeather.com, predicted the jet stream winds will continue picking up dust over Iceland and carry it to Britain and Europe "like a spray can of ash" through next Wednesday.

Is it a first? The devastating 19th-century eruption of Indonesia's Krakatau island was bigger. In ancient times, Mount Vesuvius buried an entire city and

in the 17th century, a series of eruptions from Peru to the South Pacific blocked the sun's energy and sent the Earth's temperatures plunging.

But in this era of global trade crisscrossing the planet by air, the Icelandic eruption has implications that underscore the particular vulnerabilities of the modern world. The airline industry said it was losing \$200 million a day in cancellations — not counting additional costs for rerouting or taking care of grumpy passengers.

Almost two-thirds of Europe's usual 28,000 flights were grounded Friday — twice as many as a day earlier, according to the air traffic agency Eurocontrol. Air space remained closed in Britain and across large chunks of north and central Europe.

Restrictions were imposed or lifted as the cloud moved: Flights were suspended at Frankfurt air-

port, Europe's third-busiest, and elsewhere in Germany, while Ireland reopened airports in Dublin and Cork.

Even powerful politicians were left far from home. German Chancellor Angela Merkel, was forced to govern Europe's biggest economy from Portugal after her flight from the United States was diverted.

A new iPad helped Norway's Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg keep in touch with his government while he was stuck in Switzerland, where he ended up after trying to fly home from the U.S.

With German air space closed, a flight carrying five German soldiers wounded in Afghanistan was diverted to Turkey; U.S. medical evacuations from Iraq and Afghanistan went directly to Washington.

Airline cancellations also

brought personal anguish.

Anissa Isker arrived at Charles de Gaulle airport early Friday in hopes of taking her 8-year-old son Ryan, who has a rare genetic disease and uses a wheelchair, to Miami for treatment that could help him walk.

The hard-to-schedule treatment costs \$3,000, a sum she is afraid she will lose if they can't leave this weekend.

Potentially lifesaving organs, too, were stuck in transit. All organs that usually get flown out to patients were instead being distributed to those within driving distance.

"Hearts, lungs and livers, which are normally transported by air, are now delivered regionally and by ground travel," said Nadine Koerner, a spokeswoman for the German Foundation for Organ Transplant.

Feds: Militia Told Members To Be Ready To Kill

DETROIT (AP) — The leader of a Christian militia planned an elaborate, two-part training session for this month and told members it was OK to kill "anyone who might stumble upon the operation," federal prosecutors wrote in a court filing Friday.

Details about the Hutaree's planned training session — to be held during the second and fourth Saturdays in April — were revealed in a 17-page document prosecutors filed in response to a defense motion to free Hutaree leader David Stone while he awaits trial.

Stone and eight other suspected Hutaree members were arrested after a series of raids across the Midwest late last month and charged with seditious conspiracy, or plotting to levy war against the U.S.

HUETHER

From Page 1A

Sioux Falls. It's exciting to people in Yankton, too.

In that respect, Huether feels a duty to represent his boyhood home well in the highly publicized mayoral race.

"I feel as if I am carrying the weight of a lot of people who are wishing me well and praying for me," he said. "I don't want to let them down. I am working at a level that I have never done before."

A TOUGH ROAD

Huether said he has known hard work since he was a young boy.

"My mom would drop us off, and my brother, Greg, and I would pick up beer cans, pop cans and bottles from the Ice House every morning before school," Huether said. "Mr. Anderson, the owner of the Ice House, let us store the bags of cans and bottles behind (the building), and then we used the recycling money to pay for our necessities."

Huether recalled cost-cutting measures undertaken by his family while growing up.

"My mom used to cut my hair with a contraption with a razor blade on it. People called me 'helmet head' because of it," he said. "At our house, we ate a bunch of puffed wheat and powdered milk and chicken pot pies. And we ate these Totino pizzas that we loaded with Velveeta cheese and wieners."

Huether was also reminded of his family's income at school. "The color of our school lunch tickets was always different than the lunch tickets that weren't free or reduced (price)," he said. "That was something, as a young person, you just remember. I was poor, and those different-colored tickets reinforced that fact."

Even though times were tough, Huether said it laid a foundation for the person he has become today.

"If there was one thing I knew, it was that there is one way to get ahead in life and that is to work harder than everybody else," he said.

Huether said his childhood struggles also led him to look at others with compassion.

"One thing my mom really taught us was to treat others with just incredible kindness and respect, no matter their income, no matter their skin color, no matter their handicap or ailment," he said. "That was, I think more than anything, what ultimately made me successful."

Huether's mother worked as head nurse at the Human Services Center. Because of his mother's work, Huether said he gained an insight into the challenges of mental illness.

"We were exposed at an early age to people different than us and who definitely had more challenges than we ever faced," he said. "My mom taught us to love and care for those people in the same way you would anybody else."

Huether said he has made that sense of compassion as the theme for his mayoral campaign.

"I just want to reach out to everybody and treat them with respect. Ultimately, I want to give them a voice and a place at the table," he said. "You look inside (someone) and realize the need to maximize the potential of these individuals. Then, let's go make things happen."

While he believes every person has value, Huether said he still feels some of the rejection from others during his childhood.

"One of the hardest things I still try to deal with is realizing there was a point in time in my life that I wasn't accepted for things that were beyond my control," he said.

A RISING STAR

Huether said his current political career actually began in sixth grade, when he won a speech contest at Yankton Middle School.

"I still have that trophy that I won in 1974. It was for a civic oration contest on public service and government, presented by the Modern Woodmen of America," he

said. "I used the line 'Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country' from President John F. Kennedy."

Huether's political star kept rising, as he became president of both his junior and senior classes at Yankton High School. He kept his eye on a political future, with aspirations of becoming Yankton city manager.

Besides student government, Huether worked on the school newspaper, the Woksape. The paper's advisor, Dick Anderson, remains a good friend, he said.

Huether credited the impact of YHS teacher Fred Mehrman on his love for history. "Mr. Mehrman cried in his classes because he was so energized about U.S. history," he said.

Huether also honed his competitive drive in four sports — cross country, wrestling, track and baseball. Huether admitted he was on the small side at 126 pounds.

In fact, long-time football coach Max Hawk encouraged Huether to give up the gridiron because of his small size.

"After my sophomore year, Coach Hawk said, 'Huey, I know how much you want to play football, but I'm urging you to go out for cross country,'" Huether said with a laugh.

Huether continued to receive support from his YHS teachers even after graduation.

Springboarding off his YHS political success, Huether was elected the student association's vice president at South Dakota State University in Brookings.

"Tony Cacek was my (YHS) government teacher," he said. "When I became vice president of the student association at SDSU, Mr. Cacek wrote in the next day's P&D that he 'always knew Mike could do it.'"

FAMILY FIRST

Mike and Cindy Huether talked about his possible political career as far back as when they were dating. However, Mike put his family ahead of politics.

"The reason we waited until 2010 (for a mayor's run), we wanted to wait for our daughter, Kylie, to leave the nest before pursuing a personal goal of mine," Mike said. "My dad wasn't around much when I was growing up, and I didn't want to do the same thing to Kylie."

Mynard Huether gave up drinking, but he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Mike Huether learned of the diagnosis on Kylie's birthday.

"Ten days later, we were in the doctor's office, and he said, 'Mynard, you have at least a year to live. So enjoy every day with your family,'" Mike said.

Mynard died the next day —



Yankton native Mike Huether, wife Cindy (left) — also a Yankton native — and their daughter, Kylie, live in Sioux Falls and are working for Mike's election as mayor.

COURTESY PHOTO

Feb. 1, 2003 — at age 62.

At the time, Mike was preparing to run a marathon for his 40th birthday and did so in his father's honor.

"I loved my dad to the nth degree," Mike said. "He caused me some pain and struggles over the years, but I would do anything to have him back. Whenever people look at my left hand, they will see the ring that my dad wore."

With his political aspirations on hold, Huether pursued a finance career.

Huether graduated from SDSU in 1984 with a commercial economics major. He began work in management for Citibank South Dakota, spending five years in this state. He then spent five years in upstate New York and five years in San Antonio before working in seven different European countries.

After that, Citibank allowed him to choose any country to live. "Cindy and I decided South Dakota was the place we wanted to be," he said.

The choice stunned Citibank officials, Huether said. "I explained that my grandma was still alive, my folks were around, and we wanted Kylie to grow up back home," he said. "That's why we wanted to go back."

At the last minute, Huether accepted a counter offer from Sioux Falls financier T. Denny Sanford and First Premier.

In the following years, Kylie graduated from high school and now attends the College of St. Benedict in Collegeville, Minn. Now a junior, she is an honor student and member of the tennis team.

MAKING HIS MOVE

The time had now come to launch a run for the Sioux Falls mayor's race, Huether said. He left his First Premier job last June to devote himself full-time to the campaign.

"I have been planning this for a long time," he said. "Cindy, Kylie and I have talked about this at the supper table for well over 20 years. Kylie needed to leave the nest, and now is the time to run."

Ironically, Huether found he wasn't the only Yankton native making a 2010 run for office. Sioux Falls attorney Dave Knudson has launched a bid for the Republican nomination for governor.

"Dave Knudson is a good man who has also been taught well," Huether said. "He will bring that same sense of work and pride and common sense into the things that he has done."

Huether found an unexpected source of support during a campaign appearance.

"I was speaking to a group of 18 people. Afterwards, a very attractive older woman came up to me and said, 'Mike, I understand you talking about your dreams since sixth grade,'" Huether said. "I said, 'OK, why do you say that?' She

said, 'My boy is Dave Knudson, and he has had the same dreams since high school.' To hear her say that was overwhelming."

Once he entered the mayor's race, Huether found he hadn't lost any of his burning desire.

"One of the things I always remember about being from Yankton was the competitive fire that I built when I was there. Losing was not an option," he said.

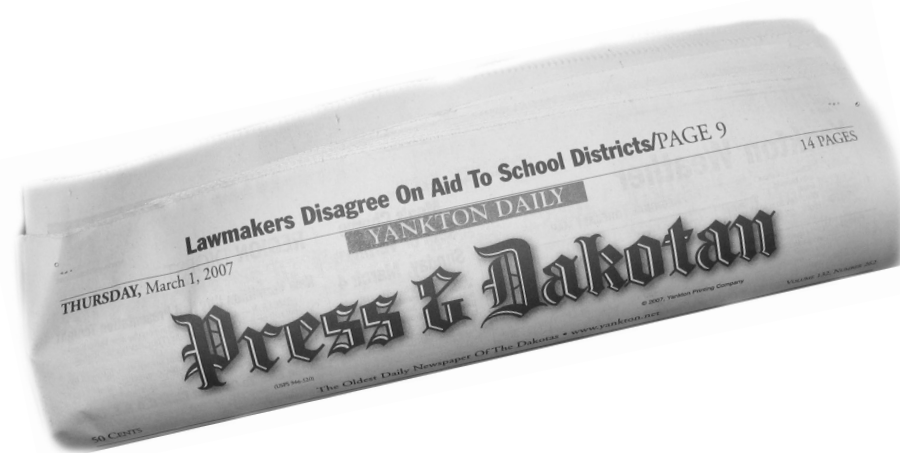
"That is probably one of my weaknesses. I am incredibly competitive. When I run a road race, I always pick out the folks ahead of me and get past as many of them as I can before the finish line."

Huether tries to exceed his own expectations.

"Once I set goals, I do everything I can to reach them," he said. "When I ran that marathon at 40, I didn't just want to run it. I wanted to run it in less than 4 hours, and I ran it in 3:55. Now I want to run marathons when I am 50 and 60."

Huether attacks the mayoral race with the same drive, running a 24-hour campaign cycle. He has logged about 10 hours of sleep the last three days, often responding to e-mails at 3 or 4 a.m.

1 down | 8 thousand to go.



Every day nearly 8000 newspapers are delivered in the Yankton and surrounding area through rain, ice, freezing wind chills and drifting snow. This miracle of efficiency is possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of your newspaper carrier. So please show your appreciation to the person who delivers your news to you every day.

Your locally owned hometown newspaper...

Press & Dakotan

319 Walnut, Yankton, SD • 605-665-7811