

Uganda: Life Sentences For Gay Acts

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni plans to sign a bill into law that prescribes life imprisonment for some homosexual acts, officials said Friday, alarming rights activists who have condemned the bill as draconian in a country where homosexuality already has been criminalized.

Museveni announced his decision to governing party lawmakers, said government spokesman Ofonto Opondo. In Twitter posts on Friday, Opondo said the legislators, who are holding a retreat chaired by Museveni, "welcomed the development as a measure to protect Ugandans from social deviants."

Museveni's decision was based on a report by "medical experts" presented at the retreat, saying that "homosexuality is not genetic but a social behavior," said Opondo.

Evelyn Anite, a spokeswoman for the governing party, said the report, which had been requested by the president, was prepared by more than a dozen scientists from Uganda's Health Ministry.

Opondo and Anite both said the president did not indicate when he will sign the legislation into law.

Princes Help With Flood Relief

LONDON (AP) — Prince William and Prince Harry helped flood-hit British villagers protect their homes Friday, unloading sandbags alongside soldiers in a River Thames village.

The princes, who have both served in the armed forces, joined a work crew in Datchet, west of London, from about 6 a.m. on what aides said was a private visit.

The princes were not the only royals helping out. Their grandmother, Queen Elizabeth II, has sent feed and bedding from the royal farms at Windsor to farmers whose land has been inundated.

England, which has been lashed by wind and rain since December, had its wettest January since records began in 1766, and the rain has continued this month. Storms this week have brought wind gusts of more than 100 mph (160 kph).

Floods have drenched the southwestern coast of England, the low-lying Somerset Levels and the Thames Valley west of London, where hundreds of properties have been swamped after the river burst its banks.

Car Bomb Explodes Near Mosque

BEIRUT (AP) — A car bomb blew up outside a mosque in a rebel-held village in southern Syria as worshippers were leaving after Friday prayers, killing dozens of people and filling clinics and hospitals with the wounded, anti-government activists said.

The explosion in Yadouda charred vehicles parked nearby and damaged the mosque, which has a white dome, according to video images posted by activists who are fighting to oust President Bashar Assad.

Yadouda is in the southern province of Daraa, the birthplace of the uprising against Assad that began with peaceful protests in March 2011 and morphed into a civil war that has killed more than 130,000 people.

The motive for Friday's blast could not immediately be determined and activists provided varying death tolls ranging from 29 to 43. State-run TV confirmed the bombing but said only 3 people were killed.

Car bombs have frequently been used by Islamic extremists both against the government and against moderate rivals in the Sunni-led opposition movement. Government forces also have been known to use explosive-packed vehicles and the two sides frequently trade blame in attacks targeting mosques.

Obama: Entire US Concerned About Drought

BY DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

FIREBAUGH, Calif. — Conveying the concern of the entire nation, President Barack Obama said Friday the U.S. will have to make difficult choices about how it uses and conserves water as he paid a visit to drought-stricken California.

No longer can the U.S. afford to think about water as a competition between the nation's agricultural and urban areas, Obama said. With overall water resources expected to diminish significantly in the future, he said, the country must find better ways to cooperate.

"The truth of the matter is that this is going to be a very challenging situation this year, and frankly, the trend lines are such where it's going to be a challenging situation for some time to come," Obama said while meeting with community leaders in Firebaugh, a rural area not far from Fresno.

California is in the midst of its worst drought in more than 100 years. After arriving here Friday afternoon, Obama was to meet with area farmers and announce more than \$160 million in federal financial aid, including \$100 million in the farm bill he signed into law last week for programs that

cover the loss of livestock. The overall package includes smaller amounts to aid in the most extreme drought areas and to help food banks that serve families affected by the water shortage. Obama also will call on federal facilities in California to immediately limit water consumption.

The president also was announcing that the budget he'll send to Congress next month will include \$1 billion for a proposed "climate resilience fund" to invest in research and pay for new technologies to help communities deal with the impact of climate change. The proposal is likely to face stiff resistance from lawmakers wary of new spending and divided on the subject of global warming.

Obama drew a connection between the water issues California is facing and the broader impact he said climate change is having around the country, pointing to hurricanes along the Atlantic and coastal erosion. He said the entire nation is concerned about the drought because of California's enormous economic output.

"We are going to stay on top of this because it has national implications," Obama said.

Later Friday, Obama was meeting Jordan's King Abdullah II at Sunnylands for talks

covering the Mideast peace process, Syria and other issues. It's unusual for Obama to host world leaders outside of the White House, though he did hold a two-day summit at Sunnylands last year with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Obama's meetings with Abdullah will be much shorter — just a brief meeting Friday night, followed by a working dinner. The White House wouldn't say why the meeting was taking place in California, particularly given that Abdullah spent much of the past week in Washington and met with Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and others.

"The king is also going out to California. The president and the king can meet there and will meet there as part of this trip," said White House press secretary Jay Carney. Obama was expected to spend Presidents Day weekend on the golf course at Sunnylands. He's traveling without first lady Michelle Obama.

The White House has been closely watching the California drought, which follows a year of the lowest rainfall on record. The drought has also brought to a head political warfare over the state's water resources that feed major cities, the country's richest

agricultural region and waterways that provide habitat for endangered species of fish.

Gov. Jerry Brown declared a drought emergency on Jan. 17. Obama telephoned him several days later for an update on the situation.

Farmers recently learned they will not be receiving irrigation water from the State Water Project, a system of rivers, canals and reservoirs. They anticipate a similar announcement later this month from federal authorities who operate a similar system called the Central Valley Project.

Federal officials, including Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, earlier this month pledged \$34 million to help farmers and ranchers conserve scarce water supplies, improve irrigation methods, head off erosion of unplanted fields and create better ways to water livestock.

The Republican-controlled House recently voted to address the drought by rolling back environmental protections and temporarily halting the restoration of a dried-up stretch of the San Joaquin River, work that is designed to restore historic salmon runs. Farmers would prefer to have the water diverted to their crops instead.

Gov't Lets Banks, Pot Sellers Do Business

BY PETE YOST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration on Friday gave banks a road map for conducting transactions with legal marijuana sellers so these new businesses can stash away savings, make payroll and pay taxes like any other enterprise. It's not clear banks will get on board.

Guidance issued by the Justice and Treasury departments is the latest step by the federal government toward enabling a legalized marijuana industry to operate in states that approve it. The intent is to make banks feel more comfortable working with marijuana businesses that are licensed and regulated.

Others have a keen interest, too, in a regulated financial pipeline for an industry that is just emerging from the underground. Marijuana businesses that can't use banks may have too much cash they can't safely put away, leaving them vulnerable to criminals. And governments that allow marijuana sales want a channel to receive taxes.

But a leading financial services trade group immediately expressed misgivings and others, too, said the guidelines don't go far enough in protecting banks.

"After a series of red lights, we expected this guidance to be a yellow one," said Don Childers, president and CEO of the Colorado Bankers

Association. "This isn't close to that. At best, this amounts to 'serve these customers at your own risk' and it emphasizes all of the risks. This light is red."

Washington and Colorado in 2012 became the first states to approve recreational use of marijuana. A group is hoping to make Alaska the third state in the nation to do so.

Currently, processing money from marijuana sales puts federally insured banks at risk of drug racketeering charges, so they've refused to open accounts for marijuana-related businesses.

Friday's move was designed to let financial institutions serve such businesses while ensuring that they

know their customers' legitimacy and remain obligated to report possible criminal activity, said the Treasury Department's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, or FinCEN.

But in response, the American Bankers Association said "guidance or regulation doesn't alter the underlying challenge for banks. As it stands, possession or distribution of marijuana violates federal law, and banks that provide support for those activities face the risk of prosecution and assorted sanctions."

The group says banks will only be comfortable serving marijuana businesses if federal prohibitions on the drug are changed in law.

OBITUARIES

Jerome Osness

Jerome Earl Osness, age 73, of Yankton, SD passed away early Thursday, February 13, 2014 at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton, SD.

Memorial services will be 5:00 p.m. Sunday, February 16, 2014 at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Chapel, Yankton, with Rev. Molly Carlson officiating. Burial of his cremated remains will be in the Hillside Cemetery, Langford, SD, at a later date.



Osness

Visitations will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Jerome was born November 4, 1940 in Britton, SD to Arnold and Velma (Sherrard) Osness. He was baptized and confirmed at the Langford Evangelical Lutheran Church where he was a long standing member.

He farmed on the family farm until 1990 when he and his wife, Vera moved to Groton, SD. He also worked as a sales representative for Dakota Electronics of Aberdeen until his illness in 2002. He was a member of the Tinta Masonic Lodge of Langford. He taught Sunday school and was involved in various community activities. Jerome loved to make people laugh whether it was with his "tricks" or his many Norwegian jokes. He entertained people at nursing homes, farm and home

shows, and being an emcee at many events. The things that brought him the most joy were his family (especially his grandkids), fishing (no fish in South Dakota were safe) music (dancing barbershop gospel), Garrison Keillor (Lake Wobegon) and his faith in God.

He is survived by his wife, Vera of Yankton, SD; children: Carla (Joe) Tappainer of Apple Valley, MN, Kathleen Osness of Colorado Springs, CO, Tamara Darling of Platte, SD, Alan (Laurie) Darling of

Langford, SD, Charles (Tamara) Darling of Bismarck, ND, James Darling of Pierpont, SD, James Darling of Pierpont, SD, Sherry Darling of Britton, SD, and Michelle (Nathan) Franzen of Yankton, SD; 13 grandchildren; and 9 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Velma Osness and brother, Alan.

The family requests memorials to be directed to the American Cancer Society, 411 2nd Street NW, Rochester,

MN, 55901. Please indicate Hope Lodge in the memo of the check. Condolences can be sent to Vera Osness at 214 Benedictine Lane, Yankton, SD 57078.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 15, 2014

PSAHL-KOSTEL
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY INC.
Online condolences at:
www.opsahl-kostelfuneralhome.com

Steven Wilcox

Memorial services for Steve C. Wilcox, age 60 of Yankton, South Dakota, formerly of Norfolk, Nebraska, will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 18, 2014, at Westridge United Methodist Church in Norfolk.



Wilcox

Reverend Cynthia Stewart will officiate, with burial in the Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery in Norfolk.

Visitation will be Monday, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Brockhaus-Howser-Fillmer Funeral Home in Norfolk.

Steve died Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at his home in Yankton.

Steven Craig Wilcox, son of Joyce (Austin) and Arlan Wilcox, was born August 20, 1953, in Tilden, Nebraska. Steve was raised by his mother, Joyce, and her husband, William Greenough, Sr. He attended and graduated from Norfolk High School in Norfolk, Nebraska with the Class of 1973, and upon completing his education, continued to reside in Norfolk. Steve was employed by Gerhold Concrete Company, the City of Norfolk, Jerry's Trailers and Campers, as well as Nucor Steel. In 1974, he was married to Brenda (Leiding) Hendren. Together, Steve and Brenda had two children: Sonya and

Stacy. The couple later divorced, and Steve moved to Yankton, South Dakota in 1986. He later married Linda Thranum of Yankton in August of 1987, and became the father of Tess Thranum and Della O'Conner. During his early years of living Yankton, Steve worked for the South Dakota Department of Transportation and for Yaggy Mills. In May of 1988, he was the first local employee hired by the Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Prisons, as a Landscape Foreman. After 18 years of work, Steve retired in 2006, the Senior Officer, due to poor health.

Steve had a love for country music. Some of his greatest joys in the world were his wife, children, and his seven grandchildren, as well as his orange El Camino, his 1970 El Camino, his 77 Oliver Row Crop tractor, bow hunting, his home and yard, his two special horses, Ruby and Paco, and his cat, Tilly.

Steve passed away Tuesday, February 11, 2014, at the age of 60, at his home in Yankton, surrounded by his family.

Steve is survived by his wife, Linda Wilcox of Yankton, South Dakota; his mother and husband, Joyce and William Greenough; his four daughters, Sonya Peyton, Stacy Mach, Tess Thranum, and Della O'Conner; brothers, Kevin Wilcox, Faron Greenough, William Greenough, Jr., and Jed Greenough; and sisters, Tami Klein, Marlea Wilcox, Anita Clyde, and Mary Kringle.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Harold and Leola (Halsey) Austin.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
February 15, 2014

Bruce Swenson

Bruce "Bruno" Swenson, 52, died January 30, 2014 at Sanford Hospital in Sioux Falls.

A memorial service was held on February 7, 2014 at Evergreen Assisted Living in Viborg.



Swenson

Bruce "Bruno" Wayne Swenson was born September 13, 1961 in Sleepy Eye, MN to Walter Enoch and Lilas Cora (Hartsworn) Swenson. The youngest of 6 children, his siblings were Shirley Ann Swenson (Gary Nelson), Dwain, Darold, Dean and Danny Lee Swenson. Bruno spent his growing up years in Windom, MN. As a welder, he worked in Windom, Aurora, CO, on the Alaskan pipeline and in Yankton. He enjoyed ice fishing, motorcycles, detective movies and walking outdoors. He spent his last several years at Evergreen Assisted Living in Viborg, where he had many friends. He was a vibrant part of the family life at Evergreen, always searching for a job to do, cheerfully lending a helping hand. Whether it was

going to the store for a friend, vacuuming the floor, breaking down boxes, helping the neighbor lady or doing odd jobs for Mick at the gas station, he was ever energetic and ready to go. He had a heart of gold. Everybody was his friend. Never rude or cranky, ever optimistic, his friendship was valued by the staff also. He will be sorely missed by his whole Evergreen family and especially by his "Special Lady."

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Darold, Dean and Danny.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
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Linda Blank

Funeral services for Linda K. Blank, 67, of Bloomfield, Neb., are at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, 2014, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield, with the Rev. Tim Koester officiating.

Graveside services are at 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Pleasant View Cemetery near Plainview, Neb.

Visitation is 5-7 p.m. Monday at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Bloomfield.

Brockhaus Funeral Home of Bloomfield is in charge of arrangements.

Linda died Wednesday, Feb. 12, at her home in Bloomfield.

Shirley Arens

Shirley Arens, 86, of Hartington, Neb., died Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, at the Golden Living Center in Hartington.

Her services are pending at the Wintz Funeral Home in Hartington.

Jeanette Anderson

Jeanette Anderson, 88, died Feb. 12, 2014, at Avera Sister James Care Center, Yankton.

A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. March 1, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Yankton, with the Rev. John Ruten officiating. Burial of her cremated remains will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Visitation begins at 6 p.m. Feb. 28, at the Opsahl-Kostel Funeral Home & Crematory, Yankton, with a rosary at 7 p.m. followed by a Scripture

service at 7:30 p.m. Visitations will resume one hour prior to the service at the church.

Merrit Ulmer

Merrit E. Ulmer, 92, of Menno died Friday, Feb. 14, 2014, at his residence.

Funeral services are pending with the Aisenbrey-Opsahl-Kostel Memorial Chapel, Menno.

Amanda Ruff

ARMOUR — Amanda R. Ruff, 98, died at Golden Living Center in Armour on Friday, Feb. 7, 2014.

Funeral services are at 10 a.m. today (Saturday) at St. Peter Lutheran Church near Armour, with burial following in St. Peter Lutheran Cemetery near Armour.

Koehn Bros. Funeral Home in Armour is handling arrangements.

IN REMEMBRANCE

Helen L. Thompson
2:00 PM, Saturday
Trinity Lutheran Church
Yankton

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The Bag Lady

Michele Gustad, 661-8405

Stop in at Happy Hour

311 Douglas, Yankton
Saturday, Feb 15th, 3 - 5 p.m.
Polar Plunge Fund Raiser

Bring friends & join us for a relaxed day of shopping

Trendy Handbags, Jewelry & accessories
Cash & Carry - Checks Accepted

20% of proceeds will be donated to
SD Special Olympics

YHS BAND
& COLORGUARD
fundraiser

SPAGHETTI FEED

includes spaghetti, garlic bread, lettuce salad, & drink

Adults/Students - \$5
Under 3 - free

Thursday, Feb 20th
5:00-7:00P.M.
YANKTON HIGH SCHOOL COMMONS