

# Local, Nation & World



Jerome Domine / Abaca Press-TNS

Smoke and flames rise during a fire at the landmark Notre Dame Cathedral in central Paris, France on Monday, potentially involving renovation works being carried out at the site, the fire service said.

## Inside the rush to save Notre Dame's treasures

By Lori Hinnant  
Associated Press

PARIS — Fueled by a lattice of centuries-old timbers, the fire moved hungrily across Notre Dame's rooftop toward the cathedral's iconic spire. It belched yellow smoke, spitting out gritty particles of wood, stone, lead and iron and wanted more. Far below, their vision obscured by fumes and tears, firefighters, priests and municipal workers passed treasures hand-to-hand, hoping the speed of desperation could outrun the flames.

They had 66 minutes. The first alarm sounded at 6:20 p.m., silencing the priest and a few hundred worshippers and tourists inside.

"Everyone was immobilized by shock for maybe a minute," said Johann Vexo, who was in the organ loft for Monday Mass. Shock, but no panic. The rear doors opened and within a few minutes, the cathedral was empty, he told Ouest-France newspaper.

For 23 minutes, it seemed like a false alarm. Then at 6:43 p.m. a second smoke detector went off and the fire showed its face, flickering in the wooden timbers and visible to anyone looking north from Paris' Left Bank.

The first fire trucks lumbered through rush-hour traffic, blasting their two-tone sirens at full volume to reach the island that is the historic and geographic heart of Paris. For that first half-hour, it looked like the fire couldn't possibly leave more than a small age mark on the nearly 900-year-old building — more akin to the inevitable wear on stone's rough edges than the fury of the French Revolution that left it in ruins for decades.

### CATHEDRAL

Continued from Page 1A

Their destinations included London, Normandy, Paris, Denmark and Berlin.

This was the second time Hurliman visited Notre Dame. The first was on an EF trip in 2015.

"It's a huge landmark," she said. Construction of Notre Dame was started in 1163 during the reign of King Louis VII. It was completed in 1345.

Although imposing, Hurliman said the exterior doesn't fully reflect the beauty within. "Once you're inside, it's crazy," she said. "I couldn't wrap my head around how old that building is. Think of how many wars it's been through."

According to a history website, Henry VI was crowned inside the cathedral in 1431. Later it fell into disrepair, but was saved by Napoleon, who was crowned Emperor in 1804 inside the Cathedral.

During their visit in March, Hurliman's group was able to tour the main interior. It was undergoing renovation at the time.

"When we were there, the entire back was in scaffolding," she said.

Across the Seine in City Hall, Mayor Anne Hidalgo glanced out the window during an evening meeting to see a yellow cloud blotting out the sky. She rushed to the island.

"I came here and felt powerless as the flames overtook the cathedral," she said Tuesday.

Bridge after bridge along the Seine filled with somber onlookers, all facing the cathedral built for the ages. They dotted the stone walkways that line the river. They wept as flames overtook the rooftop spire.

Below it, nestled deep in the cathedral, was the treasure chest, keeper of Notre Dame's most sacred relics.

Firefighters cracked the chest open, pulling out the Crown of Thorns revered as the one worn by Jesus Christ

at his crucifixion. Made of rushes wrapped into a wreath and tied with gold filament, it had been kept under glass since 1896. The tunic of St. Louis, believed to have belonged to King Louis IX, came out of the chest along with fragments of the cross and a nail, said Patrick Chauvet, rector of Notre Dame Cathedral.

The relics were safe. Then came the artwork. "We had to get them, in the smoke, as debris was falling to protect them," Gen. Jean-Claude Gallet of the fire brigade told BFM television.

At 7:49 p.m., the 19th-century spire that was the architectural masterpiece of Eugène Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc and his post-Revolutionary restoration broke apart and fell through the nave.

The bronze weathercock tumbled, taking with it three relics sealed inside in 1935.

It had been 66 minutes since the first flames were spotted.

The sky above the cathedral flamed orange, and the fire lurched toward Notre Dame's iconic towers, then slipped inside.

As darkness fell, 20 firefighters climbed inside the two towers "at great risk to their lives, to attack the fire from the inside and save the building," said Laurent Nunez, deputy interior minister.

The spire was lost. Could Notre Dame itself be saved? From inside and out, firefighters fought the battle of their lives — a battle for the ages.

At 9:49 p.m. Nunez voiced the fear that haunted Paris and beyond. The smell of smoke had long since reached beyond the city center, permeating homes and apartments miles (kilometers) away. Sirens wailed ceaselessly.

Hundreds of firefighters were doing their utmost. And, Nunez said, no one knew whether it would be enough.

The 20 firefighters struggled on in the towers. Red-hot embers floated down from the glowing hole where the spire once stood, settling on the blackened marble floor and the pile of debris that was all that was left of the spire. It had been "a masterwork of Viollet-le-Duc" and a tribute to what restoration could achieve, said Kevin Murphy, an expert on historical restoration from Vanderbilt University. It was gone, as were the roof's irreplaceable ancient wooden beams, cut from trees that were alive a millennium ago.

## Baker School Board to talk about budget, maintenance

The Baker School Board will hear updates on the Baker Valley Education Foundation, Measure 98 budget priorities, maintenance work and brownfield projects when it meets Thursday.

The Board will meet in executive (closed to the public) session at 5 p.m. at Baker City Hall, 1655 First St., to discuss negotiations and property transactions. The regular meeting will begin at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.

Baker Middle School Principal Skye Flanagan, Baker High School Principal Greg Mitchell and Doug Dalton, president of the Baker Technical Institute, will speak about Measure 98 priorities. The measure, approved by Oregon voters, created the High School Success fund aimed at dropout prevention, career and technical education and college level education opportunities.

It authorized the Oregon Department of Education to spend \$170 million during the 2017-19 biennium in all Oregon school districts that serve students in Grade 9-12 to accomplish those goals.

- Other items on the agenda include:
- Adopting the 2019-2020 school calendar.
  - Adopting Baker Technical Institute bylaws.
  - Approving retirements of Hali Fleming and Debbie Watson, speech/language pathologists.
  - Reviewing classified personnel reports: Janet Baker is retiring as a paraprofessional at Brooklyn Primary School; Alan Glover has been hired in a Maintenance II position.
  - Reviewing extra-duty new hires: Alan McCauley has been hired as varsity assistant baseball coach.

### THE WEST

#### Congressman says critics undermine validity of dam removal study

KENNEWICK, Wash. (AP) — Republican Congressman Dan Newhouse contends that criticism of speeding up a study looking at removing four lower Snake River dams smells like an attempt to undermine the study's validity.

President Trump last October required the new study on the hydro system be completed a year sooner than previously planned.

The Tri-City Herald says the study now is scheduled to be completed in September 2020.

In 2016, a federal judge in Portland overturned a management plan for the dams that he said did too little to protect salmon runs.

Ten Democratic lawmakers representing Washington state and Oregon sent a letter last month to the Council on Environmental Quality outlining their concerns with the shortened schedule.

The letter said the new deadline has significantly shortened the time frame for public comment.

#### Orcas could get more help

SEATTLE (AP) — The federal government says that by October it will propose expanded habitat protections off Washington, Oregon and California for Pacific Northwest orcas.

The announcement comes in response to a lawsuit filed by the Arizona-based Center for Biological Diversity, which sued in 2018 to make officials move more quickly to protect the endangered orcas.

The whales spend their summers in the waters between Washington state and Canada, but about two-thirds of the year they migrate and forage for salmon off the West Coast. The conservation group said the National Marine Fisheries Service had been dragging its feet in designating "critical habitat" for the whales in those areas.

**Spring is here for ranchers... Please watch for animals!**

**Joe Scott's Premier Auto Body, Inc.**  
2390 Broadway, Baker City  
541-523-5223

**SERIOUS ILLNESS?**  
You May Qualify for a Living Benefit Loan

Have you been diagnosed with cancer or another serious medical condition? Do you have at least \$75,000 of life insurance?

Through our program you can borrow money from your life insurance and receive up to 50% of your policy's death benefit today.

Call today to see if you qualify.  
**1-855-284-5304**

life credit company

AW18-1023

**Western Exterminator Company**  
A Rentokil Steritech Company

**SAVE \$100** off new termite protection\*  
**SAVE \$50** off initial pest service with annual contract

\*Offer expires 06/30/2019. Offer available to residential customers who purchase a new pestfree365 plan on or after 02/15/2019. This offer does not apply to commercial pest plans. The \$50 discount will be deducted from the initial service. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Offer details subject to change.

**CALL TODAY! 877-234-2178**

**Frontier AUTHORIZED SALES AGENT**

Serious speed! Bundle and save today. Simply. Broadband. Max.

Save with Frontier Internet Bundles. Pay one price for two great services: high-speed internet and full-featured home phone.

**19.99** per month (with 3-year lock)  
**67.97** per month (with 3-year lock)

Call to day and pay less  
**855-972-6641**

Frontier COMMUNICATIONS You can't get 65 from anywhere.

Imagine The Difference You Can Make

**DONATE YOUR CAR**  
**1-844-533-9173**

FREE TOWING TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Help Prevent Blindness  
Get A Vision Screening Annually

**Heritage for the Blind**

Ask About A FREE 3 Day Vacation Voucher To Over 20 Destinations!!

**LES SCHWAB**

**PASSENGER TIRES**

Starting at **\$39.99**

155/80R-13

**All Season Tire Economically Priced 50,000 Miles Warranty**

We gladly make appointments

**LEW BROS**  
210 Bridge  
541-523-3679  
AFTER HOURS:  
541-518-7100