

Einstein exhibit dropped off Shanghai museum's calendar

By Louise Watt

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A plan to bring an Albert Einstein exhibition to Shanghai was shelved after the Chinese museum suggested merging it with one on Confucius, a Swiss museum director said Tuesday.

The odd coupling was the idea of the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum, part of a recent revival of interest in the Chinese philosopher, whose teachings were at the center of Chinese civilization for nearly two millennia but were widely denigrated in the 20th century.

It would have brought to Shanghai the Swiss government-financed "Albert Einstein (1879-1955)" exhibition, which is on display at the Hong Kong Science Museum until August and consists of more than 200 objects illustrating Einstein's life and times.

Jakob Messerli, director of the Historical Museum Bern, which owns the exhibition, said the Shanghai museum wanted to add a Confucius exhibition that was "at least as large as ours, which was just not as possible in such a short period of time."

"A traveling exhibition is quite a large endeavor which takes a lot of work. You can't just redo that again in order to have a different exhibition at one point," he said.

The Swiss museum was represented in discussions with Shanghai by Switzerland's Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Presence Switzerland, responsible for promoting Switzerland's image abroad.

A director at the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum said Tuesday there had been discussions about hosting the exhibition, but "we are no longer talking to each other."

The director, who gave only his surname, Zhang, said: "We did have a tentative idea about merging the Albert Einstein exhibition with a Confucius exhibition. Those are two renowned figures from different fields. And we wanted to do something creative."

Confucius and his teachings were widely criticized by the founding father of Communist China, Mao Zedong, who railed against traditional culture and what he called "feudal thinking."

In the last few years, Confucius has made a comeback in books and films, on TV and in classrooms as China's government pushes his message of harmonious social order and deference to authority.

The sage's teachings emphasized duty to family, respect for learning and obedience to the state.

The Einstein exhibition has already been shown in Beijing and in Guangdong in southern China. Messerli said discussions concerning future locations were ongoing.

Nebraska camp draws teens for faith, friendship and service

By Tomi Miller

Colby Free Press
colby.society@nwkansas.com

On Sunday, York College in Nebraska will bring together 550 campers and 150 staff members for the 2011 Soul Quest. Colby, among many other cities across the nation, will send students from their congregations to share their faith and friendship at the six-day camp.

"My first year, I was little bit apprehensive," said Alexa Schindler, a five-year veteran of Soul Quest. "I wasn't sure that I wanted to go. I'm really glad I went now, though."

The camp is for students in sixth through 12th grades. Campers will have busy days filled with worship sessions, classes and activities. They will get to mingle with other students from across the nation share their religious faith.

"I keep in contact with almost all of my Soul Quest friends," Schindler said.

Schindler said the campers are separated into groups where they meet most of their friends.

When the campers aren't enjoying their down time filled with shaving cream wars or other activities, they are participating in the two worship

sessions and three classes they have each day. The classes are centered around a theme that changes from year to year. This year, the theme is "Reveal," based on Mark 4:22: "For whatever is hidden is meant to be disclosed, and whatever is concealed is meant to be brought out into the open."

The campers spread and learn about their faith through these classes, and there is a keynote speaker each year. Patrick Mead, the senior preaching minister at the Rochester Church of Christ in Rochester, Mich., will be the speaker this summer.

Along with its traditional activities, the camp will have a concert featuring Josh Cleveland, a folk rock singer.

Soul Quest isn't all fun and games though. The camp has a service day each year. In past years campers have cleaned up and painted parks. This is a way for students to learn the joy of giving back to others, Schindler said.

"I guess the biggest lesson I've learned at Soul Quest is, don't be scared to share your faith with others," she said. "That one time when you don't, might have been the time when you could of changed someone's life for the better."

Joplin funeral homes scramble to provide services after tornado strike

By Jim Suhr

For The Joplin Globe

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP) — Nearly three weeks since a tornado cut a devastating scar through Joplin, Parker Mortuary's Tom Keckley can't get a breather — from a whirlwind stretch in his line of work unlike anything he's seen.

The most powerful of twisters that laid waste May 22 to a six-mile swath of the city left a body count that would soar to some 150 victims, posing what turned out to be an inescapable, numbing challenge to Joplin's three funeral homes: How possibly can they handle that volume of carnage without sacrificing compassion for the lost souls' survivors?

What has transpired in the interim may be one of Joplin's bigger stories of grace and grit. Parker Mortuary and Mason-Woodard Mortuary, relying on everything from anticipatory planning to volunteerism from embalmers from far-flung areas, scrambled to arrange more than 70 of the tornado-related funerals or memorial services in the tightest of time frames, all of them mingled

in with their usual business. "I would venture to say that no mortuary here had seen this amount of people," said Bruce Woodard of Mason-Woodard, which has handled 40 tornado victims while still tending to families of nine other people who died of other causes.

The tornado "more than doubled our regular service load," Woodard said.

"With help and God's grace, we've been able to stay in front of it," Keckley added regarding the 31 tornado-associated funerals Parker has arranged — nearly matching in a couple of weeks the 40 to 45 calls for arrangements his parlor gets any given month.

"I'm in a fog," he said. It's been that way for Keckley since the moments after the tornado tore through Joplin, taking out the city's biggest hospital, a Wal-Mart and Home Depot along with thousands of homes and businesses.

Parker Mortuary and the more than 80 people attending two wakes there were spared, huddling in an inside corridor from the storm that knocked out the power to the funeral parlor and its

phone lines. Workers managed to rig two of the lines, partly using a battery backup.

Early whispers of perhaps hundreds of dead had Keckley and others at Parker instantly brainstorming, hashing out contingency plans, setting up a temporary in-house morgue "and trying to anticipate a large volume of calls" that eventually started streaming in to volunteers who Parker enlisted to field them.

"They rushed to our rescue to be of assistance," at times from other states, Keckley said.

The enormity of the tragedy actually helped Parker and Mason-Woodard. Though a handful of the bodies were taken to the funeral homes by private vehicles in the tornado's immediate aftermath, it was days before the state slowly began releasing the rest of the twister's dead to the undertakers from a makeshift morgue in refrigerated trucks.

"That time lag allowed us to get geared up," Keckley said. "We just turned our focus to putting processes in place so we could handle the largest amount of volume in the most efficient way and remain compassionate."

Parker workers gently encouraged relatives of the dead to consider graveside services or funerals away from the mortuary so the parlor "would not be completely inundated with one funeral running into another," Keckley said.

Parker was offered help to have some of its bodies embalmed at the state's temporary morgue but declined, convinced that doing the task itself would be the proper gesture to the grieving, Keckley said. A former Parker embalmer helped do some of the embalming one day; the parlor's Pat Irwin did the rest.

At Mason-Woodard, Woodard welcomed any help he ultimately got from outside embalmers and funeral directors who came to pitch in, knowing the onslaught of bodies it began receiving three days after the tornado could overwhelm the parlor's staff.

"Within the first day, we had a list of 25 people that we'd be handling," Woodard said. "Over the next couple of days, that list continued to grow."

Woodard refused to farm out any of the dead to other funeral homes, clinging to the fact that the grieving had called for Mason-Woodard's services.

"Our philosophy from the get-go was that we weren't going to short a family," he said. "Whatever type of service they wanted, they got. If we took 100 people in, we did what it took."

Jenny Smith had no complaints. Having lost her brother, 59-year-old Glenn Holland, and his wife of 15 years, 48-year-old Lorie Holland, to the tornado that buried the couple in the rubble of their home, the Webb City woman credited Parker with aptly overseeing the joint funeral at Ozark Christian College "considering the enormity of what they were dealing with."

"I think, like the rest of us, they kicked into survival mode," she said. "They're probably going to need a much-needed rest when all this gets through."

Smith was especially touched by what she called a beautiful detail she said Parker arranged "in

the midst of all this": the military send-off for her brother, who spent two decades in the Air Force.

"They made sure they did that, and it was wonderful," Smith said. "I know it meant a lot to my mom and dad."

It meant a lot to Keckley, who in the stoic funeral business is accustomed to locking away his emotions well inside his dark suits, figuring the families he serves expect his composure and clear thinking at a time they may not have that capacity.

But Keckley couldn't keep his tears from welling when the flag from Glenn Holland's casket was handed to the man's father.

"That touched me deeply," he said. "I felt so sorry for that father's loss, and at the same time I felt the beauty of that son's devotion to his country" and the sadness of a life claimed in a fickle outburst of nature.

"Sometimes, when you're in the midst of funeral arrangements, something really poignant will wash over you."

Picnic In The Park



Bring your lunch and lawn chair and enjoy the musical talent of...

Bobbi Barton



Wednesday, June 15th
12:00 noon @ Fike Park

SPONSORED BY COLBY/THOMAS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, COLBY CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU AND YOUR COLBY FREE PRESS.

FATHER'S DAY SALE

June 13-18

Tool sale! Check out our line of sockets, wrenches, power tools, etc. 15% off!

Power tools in-stock only!

Men's Boots on sale! Regularly \$119.50-\$129.50

NOW \$99.50!

In-stock only!

14.4V Half-inch Drive Cordless Drill: Reg. \$225...
ON SALE \$191.25!

18V. Half-inch Drive Cordless Drill: Reg. \$315...
ON SALE \$267.75!

1/2" 18V Cordless Impact: Reg. \$344.50...
ON SALE \$292.83!

18V Cordless Combo Kit: Reg. \$465...
ON SALE \$395.25!

Leatherman Multi-tool: Reg. \$66.59
ON SALE \$56.60!

John Deere Quality - Backed By Great Service!!

405 W. Horton • Colby, KS

785-462-3391 • 800-532-6529