

Groton Daily Independent

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Thursday, May 7

Birthdays: Carter Schinkel • Reese Schuneman
School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, fruit, yogurt, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Italian dunker, tots, fruit, romaine salad.

Senior Menu: Lasagna rotini, tossed salad with dressing, Ambrosia fruit salad, oatmeal spice cookie, whole wheat bread.

9:30 a.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran India Circle

10:00 a.m.: NEC Girls Golf at Aberdeen Roncalli

2:00 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

3:45 p.m.: Junior High Track at Milbank

Friday, May 8

Birthdays: Austin Jones • Dale Kramer • John Lowary • Shonna Harry • Jodie Harry

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hot dog/brat, potato chips, baked beans, brownie.

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Elementary Health Fair and Track and Field Day

10:00 a.m.: Girls golf at Britton

Saturday, May 9

Birthdays: April Abeln

11:00 a.m.: NEC Track meet in Milbank

Sunday, May 10

Mother's Day

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is back at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.



Sperry Stump Removal Tyler: 605/216-8431
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TJ: 605/380-7915 **TreeLine Tree Service**

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Classifieds

BRIDAL SHOWER

Open House Bridal Shower for Jessica Hoscheid, future wife of Zachary Harry and daughter of Pete and Janet Hoscheid, will be held Saturday, May 9, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, Groton. Help us celebrate Jessica's upcoming wedding. The couple is registered at Target, Menards & Inspire

FOR RENT

ONE AND TWO bedroom apartment for rent. HDS subsidized. Rent includes utilities and heat. No smoking. Pets okay. Contact Darlene Daly at 605/380-0571 or Arlys Kluess at 605-216-8399.



Kiwanis Servers

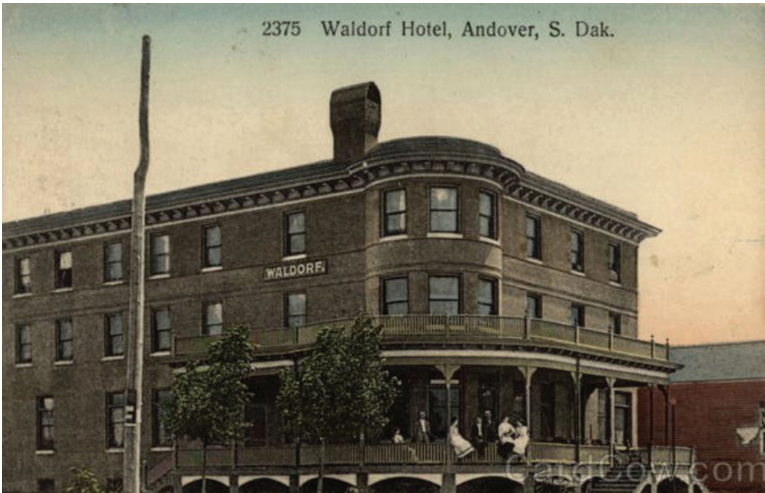
Groton Kiwanis members (and helpers) serving the athletic banquet last Monday evening, were L-R - Larry Wheeting, Jim Ackman, Lee Schinkel, Chuck Padfield (GHS chef), Steve Simon, Roger Rix, hidden - Lori Westby, volunteer), and Mike Ehresmann. Ruby Larson is pictured to the left, being served.

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Andover Landmark collapses

The Waldorf Hotel in Andover started to collapse yesterday. The building is expected to be demolished today. These are some various pictures of the history landmark gathered by Betty Breck.





Candidates for Girls State selected

The following girls have been selected to attend Girls State in June at USD.

Left to Right: **Kaitlyn Ringgenberg** (representing Columbia Legion Auxiliary), **Allison Weber**, **Katie Miller**, **Lily Cutler**, and **Emily Raap** (all representing Groton Legion Auxiliary), and **Kiernan McCranie** (representing Claremont Legion Auxiliary)



Elementary Poem and Essay Winners

Back Row: Cara Dennert Columbia Legion Auxiliary, Dylan Anderson (1st place essay winner/Columbia), Aeydon Johnson (2nd place poem winner/Groton), Andrew Marzahn (1st place poem winner/Groton), Tate Larson (2nd place essay winner/Columbia), Kamryn Flihs (1st place poem winner/Columbia), Shallyn Foertsch (2nd place poem winner/Columbia), Meri Erickson Groton Legion Auxiliary

Front Row: Faith Flihs (1st place essay winner/Columbia), Lane Tietz (1st place poem winner/Columbia), Ryan Groeblichhoff (2nd place poem winner/Groton), Anna Fjeldheim (2nd place poem winner/Columbia), Holden Sippel (1st place poem winner/Groton)

Today in Weather History

May 7, 1896: A strong, estimated F3 tornado moved northeast from 12 miles SSW of Clark, to 3 miles west of Watertown, to beyond Lake Kampeska. It was estimated to be on the ground for a distance of 30 miles. Near the start of the path, a woman was killed and 10 people were injured in one home. Parts of a home were found up to two miles away. Barns were leveled near Watertown.

1840: A powerful tornado wrecked many boats at the Natchez Landing in Mississippi then plowed through the city on the bluff. The tornado killed 317 persons and caused a million dollars damage. The force of the storm caused houses to burst open. The tornado was one of the most deadly and destructive in early American history.

1993: Serious flooding occurred in central Oklahoma following torrential rain and hail on this date through the 8th. Rainfall amounts on this date were generally around one inch. Oklahoma City, OK then recorded 6.64 inches of rain on the 8th, the third greatest daily rainfall amount ever observed in the city. Extensive flooding resulted, which killed four people, and the fire department had to rescue 183 others. More than 2,000 homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed, and damages were estimated at \$8 million.

1989: Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, and 24 hour snowfall totals of 7.2 inches at Buffalo and 10.7 inches at Rochester New York were records for the month of May.



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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
60%	40%				40%	70%
Showers Likely	Chance Showers	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Chance Showers	Showers Likely
High: 66 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 41 °F	High: 52 °F



Drought Relief For Some – Additional Light Showers Today

Follow us on *Social Media*

Issued: May 7, 2015

weather.gov/Aberdeen

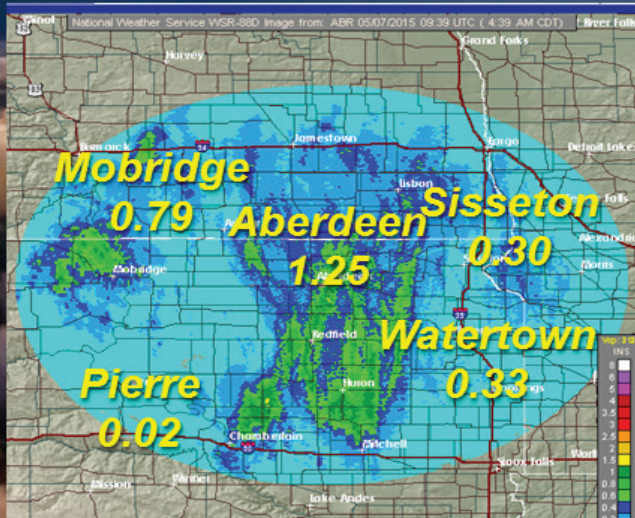


National Weather Service Aberdeen

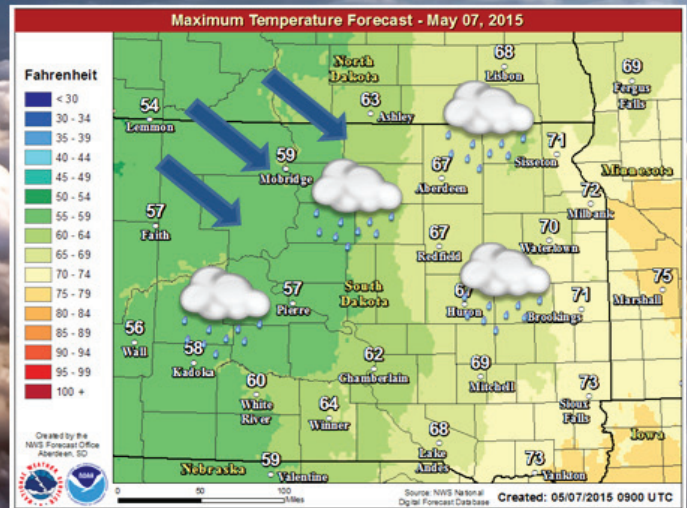


@NWSAberdeen

Storm Total Precipitation (as of 5am) & Regional Radar Estimates



Cooler Air & Scattered Showers



Published on: 05/07/2015 at 5:34AM

Slow moving low pressure will continue to drift across the area, however most of the heavy rainfall has shifted north and east. Expect light precipitation off and on through the day with little additional accumulation, and dry conditions tonight and into Friday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 69.2 at 5:10 PM

Low: 58.4 at 7:03 AM

High Gust: 30 at 5:00 PM

Snow: 0.00

Precip: 0.70

Today's Info

Record High: 94° in 1916, 1928

Record Low: 24° in 1982

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 41°F

Average Precip in May: 0.61

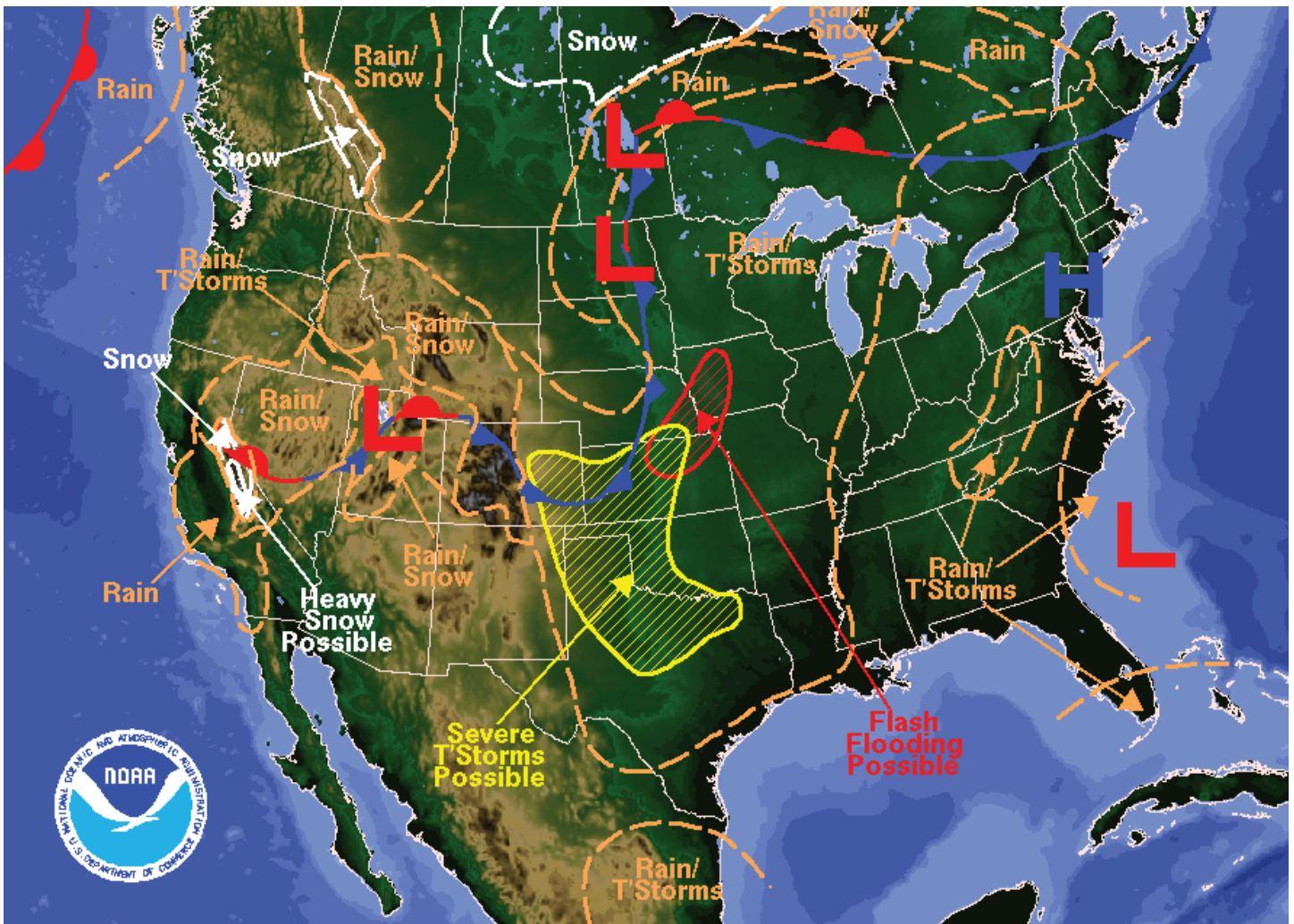
Precip to date in May: 0.70

Average Precip to date: 4.64

Precip Year to Date: 1.65

Sunset Tonight: 8:48 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, May 07, 2015, issued 4:54 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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CONSCIOUS OF OUR CONSCIENCE

While managing the Washington Senators, Gil Hodges learned that four of his players had violated the team curfew. Calling the team together he said, "I know that four of you have violated the team curfew, and I know who you are. No, I don't want to make this an issue, but you know the penalty for doing that. So I am going to leave a box on my desk and you guilty ones put your hundred dollars in the box and we'll drop the matter. I want to see \$400 in that box in the morning!" The next morning there were eight one-hundred dollar bills in the box.

Our conscience is one of God's greatest gifts. If we live according to His Word, it enables us to distinguish right from wrong, good from bad, the sacred from the secular.

Paul said that he took "pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man." He lived his life in constant awareness that one day there would be a resurrection followed by a judgment of both the just and the unjust. He refused to be found doing anything that would dishonor His Lord and Savior.

There are many instances in the writings of Paul where he talked about his final accounting before God. He lived his life continually reminding himself and others of that fact. Perhaps we would do well to do the same.

Prayer: Father, may we live life in light of eternity, always realizing that You will judge us all on that day. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Acts 24:16 This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

News from the Associated Press

Eagle Butte woman gets 20 years for murder of child

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Eagle Butte woman convicted of killing a toddler by kicking him in the head has been sentenced to 20 years in federal prison.

Twenty-one-year-old Jordyn Blue Coat was accused of angrily kicking a 20-month-old child in her care last October, when the boy got ahold of a dirty diaper and made a mess.

Authorities say the kick pushed the child's head into a TV stand. The child lost consciousness and died in a Rapid City hospital the next day.

Blue Coat pleaded guilty in February to second-degree murder of a child.

Acting U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says Blue Coat will be on supervised release for three years after her prison term. She also goes by the name Jordyn Swan.

Residents decide if Buffalo Chip Campground becomes town

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A few dozen voters who claim home addresses on the Buffalo Chip Campground near Sturgis will decide Thursday whether the private enterprise becomes a town.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/1FQ2Huh>) that if it passes, there could be a mad dash to get liquor licenses in time for the 75th motorcycle rally in August.

The city of Sturgis has unsuccessfully tried several ways to block the election, including an appeal to the South Dakota Supreme Court.

Sturgis City Manager Daniel Ainslie says he and adjacent landowners are concerned about a newly incorporated town's ability to annex areas around it.

Buffalo Chip owner Rod Woodruff says he wants to turn the campground into a city that could attract businesses that are friendly to the motorcycle industry.

Daugaard declares Milbank state capital for a day in June

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard might make Pierre a little jealous in mid-June.

Daugaard announced Wednesday that Milbank will be South Dakota's "Capital for a Day" on June 11. The governor says he's excited for the event in Milbank. Daugaard will hold a community discussion, walk down the main street and tour businesses.

He also plans to have a coffee social hour and says the visit is an opportunity to learn more about community issues.

Mayor Pat Raffety says the citizens of Milbank are excited to welcome the governor and the first lady to town.

Students from 19 tribes graduating from UTTC in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Eighty-nine students from 19 tribal nations are eligible to graduate from United Tribes Technical College in North Dakota.

The Bismarck school run by North Dakota tribes is holding its spring commencement on Friday in its outdoor powwow arena.

The guest speaker is A. Gay Kingman, executive director of the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association. Kingman is a member of the Cheyenne River Tribe in South Dakota.

SDSU Extension offers farm management classes for women

EAGLE BUTTE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State University Extension is offering a series of courses aimed at helping women in agriculture.

Topics include farm record-keeping, marketing, communication skills, insurance, and retirement and estate planning. The series of six classes begins June 15 at the Tribal Wellness Center in Eagle Butte.

The courses are part of Annie's Project, a program that started in Illinois in 2003 and has since spread to other states. The program is named for an Illinois woman who ran a farm and raised six children in the 1950s.

The deadline to register is June 10. The cost is \$150 per person and could be reduced based on the local sponsorship received.

2 Sioux Falls students charged with vandalizing high school

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in Sioux Falls say two students vandalized a local high school early Wednesday morning, leading officials to delay classes and postpone an Advanced Placement exam.

Addison Park and Alex Engel have both been charged with third-degree burglary and first-degree intentional damage to property. They are both 18 years old.

Officials say the two broke into Lincoln High School around midnight. They allegedly damaged a lunch room table, a copy machine and a cash register.

Superintendent Pam Homan says she learned early Wednesday that two people had entered the building and spread oils and spices through the cafeteria area and hallways.

Surveillance cameras caught the vandals on camera and Lincoln High School staff members say they recognized the teenagers.

Park is also charged with petty theft for stealing some backpacks.

Governor fills open Senate seats, GOP to choose leaders

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Senate is back at full strength, and Republicans are gathering over the weekend to fill two top leadership spots.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard appointed Dell Rapids Mayor Scott Fiegen on Wednesday to serve the remainder of former Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave's term. Daugaard last week tapped Dakota Dunes businessman William Shorma to fill in for former Sen. Dan Lederman, who served as assistant majority leader.

Rave and Lederman stepped down after the 2015 session, creating a leadership void among Senate Republicans, who control the chamber.

Fiegen's first stint as mayor of Dell Rapids was 2001 to 2007, and he stepped back into the role in 2009. He has also served as a city alderman and currently works as director of software engineering for a Sioux Falls firm.

Fiegen said his main legislative priorities are keeping tax increases at bay and ensuring South Dakota has a balanced budget through fiscal restraint.

"I'm pretty excited about it," he said of the appointment. "It's a lot more formal than a small town city council, but I'm looking forward to it."

Shorma grew up farming and ranching and working in his family's businesses in Wahpeton, North Dakota. He has worked at family businesses in Yankton and currently is CEO of one in Springfield, South Dakota. Shorma also is a former director of the Board of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, and

has served as chairman of the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The two Republicans will serve through the remainder of the terms, which expire after the 2016 general election.

Senate President Pro Tempore Corey Brown said the Senate GOP plans to meet Saturday to fill the leadership spots. The two new lawmakers will also be officially sworn in at the state Capitol in Pierre that day. Other leadership positions could open up depending on which lawmakers attempt to secure a new position.

Brown is running for the majority leader position.

VP at South Dakota State named president at Nebraska college

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — The longtime vice president for student affairs at South Dakota State University has been named as the next president of Wayne State College in Nebraska.

Marysz Rames (MAUD-ish RAY-miss) will start at Wayne State on July 13 and be formally appointed as the college's 13th president its June 18 meeting.

Rames has served in a dual role this academic year, stepping in as the interim president at Dakota State University while still overseeing student affairs at SDSU.

She's been SDSU's vice president for student affairs and an assistant professor of education since 2000. She previously worked at Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado, and the University of Wyoming in Laramie.

Wayne State is part of the state college system in Nebraska and has a campus of about 3,600 students.

Pharmaceutical firm wants lethal injection drugs returned

ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS, AP Legal Affairs Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A drugmaker has asked states to return supplies of the company's products that could be used for lethal injection in a broad request that included states that don't use the drugs in question.

Lake Forest, Illinois-based Akorn sent the letter in March to attorney general's offices in states including Alabama, Florida, Ohio, Oregon and Texas.

Akorn strongly objects to the use of its products in capital punishment, and using the drugs for lethal injection violates federal drug regulations and may also violate federal drug laws, the company said in the March 4 letter referring to midazolam, a sedative, and hydromorphone, a painkiller.

"Additionally, such use is contrary to Akorn's commitment to promote the health and wellness of human patients," according to the letter from general counsel Joseph Bonaccorsi.

Neither the company nor its distributors will sell the drugs directly to prisons and distributors will use their best efforts to keep drugs from getting to prisons in other ways, the letter said.

Bonaccorsi did not return messages left by The Associated Press. Several states that confirmed receiving the letter to the AP didn't plan a response to Akorn.

It's unclear what triggered Akorn's letter, which appeared to go only to states with the death penalty, or even if any of the states obtained those drugs from Akorn for use in executions. The only two states that have used the two-drug combo in executions, Arizona and Ohio, had previously dropped the drugs after problematic executions.

Ohio says it didn't get either drug from Akorn. The state adopted a new lethal injection policy earlier this year calling for single doses of drugs it has had difficulty obtaining in the past. Executions are on hold until next year while Ohio tries to find those drugs.

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In Oregon, capital punishment has been on hold since 2011, and its previous rules called for a single dose of pentobarbital. Court challenges have halted executions in Pennsylvania, where the state's lethal injection drugs don't include those named by Akorn.

Texas, which also received the letter and doesn't plan to respond, uses compounded pentobarbital whose source the state won't identify.

Alabama's system calls for midazolam as the first of a three-drug protocol, as does Florida's. In Oklahoma, the prisons agency says it had obtained drugs to carry out three executions that have been delayed while the U.S. Supreme Court considers whether the use of midazolam is appropriate for capital punishment.

States have been scrambling to find new drug supplies or adopt new execution methods as drugmakers clamp down on their products' use in capital punishment.

Oklahoma enacted a law allowing nitrogen gas as an alternative, Utah reinstated the firing squad and Tennessee brought back the electric chair as a backup.

Other drugmakers including Hospira, also based in Lake Forest, Illinois, have stopped selling drugs for use in executions.

States that confirmed they received the Akorn letter: Alabama, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, Utah and Washington.

About 250 SD National Guard airmen deploying to South Korea

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — About 250 airmen from the South Dakota Air National Guard are deploying to South Korea.

The airmen from the 114th Fighter Wing gathered on Sunday for a mobilization ceremony at Joss Foss Field in Sioux Falls. They will deploy sometime in the next week.

They're headed to the country in support of a rotational Theater Security Package to the region, which allows the U.S. Air Force to maintain a presence in the Pacific Theater.

While in South Korea, the airmen will integrate with U.S. and the Republic of Korea Air Force members to fly daily training missions.

U.S. Sen. John Thune met with airmen on Sunday at the mobilization ceremony.

Thune says freedom has a cost and Americans have to support those who are willing to pay it.

Daugaard taps Dell Rapids mayor for vacant SD Senate seat

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard is appointing Dell Rapids Mayor Scott Fiegen to the seat vacated by former Senate Majority Leader Tim Rave.

The governor announced Wednesday that he chose Fiegen to fill the seat until Rave's term expires next year.

Daugaard says voters have shown their support for Fiegen many times. His first stint as mayor of Dell Rapids was 2001 to 2007, and he stepped back into the role in 2009.

He has also served as a city alderman and currently works as director of software engineering for a Sioux Falls firm.

Fiegen says he's excited to serve the people of South Dakota as a state senator for District 25, which includes parts of Minnehaha county.

Rave left the Legislature after the 2015 session for work.

Obama visits Watertown as 1st SD tech scholarships awarded

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — President Barack Obama is slated to speak this week at the commencement ceremony of a South Dakota technical school just months after he unveiled a proposal to make two years of community or technical college education “as free and universal as high school.”

While the president’s \$60 billion initiative has not gained traction in Washington, South Dakota has begun its own effort, in partnership with a wealthy state businessman, to funnel more students into schools that can teach them the technical skills employers increasingly demand.

Through the Build Dakota Scholarship Program, the state’s four public technical schools began taking applications for free college rides in February. So far, at least 260 of the more than 900 applicants have been awarded a financial aid package that includes free tuition, books and any materials required by their degree.

“Helping students with their financial costs and financial burdens to get back to school is a key piece,” said Mike Cartney, president of Lake Area Technical Institute in Watertown, where Obama will speak Friday. “Probably one of the biggest obstacles to getting a higher education it’s the cost”

Philanthropist T. Denny Sanford kicked in a \$25 million donation to help fund the program, and the amount is being matched by the state. Students interested in pursuing a degree in eight “high-need” areas — including automotive, building trades and construction, medical lab technicians and welding — are eligible to apply for a scholarship. In return, students agree to work in their chosen field for three years in South Dakota upon graduation.

Of the nearly 320 scholarship applications Lake Area has received, about 70 people received one and at least 38 have committed to starting school in the fall. One of those people is 40-year-old Teresa Peterson, who will pursue a licensed practical nurse degree.

The scholarship will allow the mother of three from Garrison, North Dakota, to take classes at Lake Area at the same time that her teenage daughter will start college in Bismarck. The scholarships are open to incoming out-of-state college students.

“As I get older and my kids are going off to school, I just got this nagging feeling that I never went to school,” Peterson said. “I started a family first and started working and I never got the opportunity to go to school and have a degree. My daughter has received \$24,000 in scholarships herself but that only pays for one year, so it will be very nice only having to worry about one of us in school.”

The program won’t be a workforce panacea, though: Only 300 scholarships will be granted in the first five years — exhausting half of the \$50 million investment — and in 2020, an endowment would shift to fund about 50 scholarships annually.

The state is also encouraging high schools to coordinate their curricula with the four technical schools to allow students to earn dual credit.

The White House in January estimated that 9 million students could eventually participate in the president’s plan and save an average of \$3,800 in tuition per year if they attend full-time and meet certain academic requirements. But the idea — and its \$60 billion federal price tag — received a cold reception from a Republican Congress that is showing little appetite for big new spending programs.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard, who will also be in Watertown Friday, said Obama’s decision to address Lake Area’s graduates underscores the school’s exceptional work. Lake Area has been a top 10 national finalist for the prestigious Aspen Institute Community College Excellence Award three consecutive times and has one of the highest graduation and placement rates in the nation.

“(Obama) wanted to come to South Dakota, of course, because he hadn’t been here since he’s been elected and what better place to come than an outstanding school,” Daugaard said.

Former US Senate candidate indicted on election law violations to stand trial in July

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A jury trial for a former U.S. Senate candidate who's been indicted on election law violations has been scheduled.

Former independent candidate Clayton Walker is facing nine felony charges, including perjury and filing false election documents. He was indicted in June of last year on the election law violations.

Walker, of Black Hawk, was taken off the ballot after his nominating petitions were successfully challenged on grounds they included unregistered voters and had other discrepancies.

KCCR-AM reports (<http://bit.ly/1DS7Xrd>) Presiding Judge John Brown scheduled Walker's trial date for July 20 at a status hearing Tuesday.

Prior to the hearing, competency test was also performed on Walker. Officials determined he is fit to stand trial.

What's next for Brady, Patriots after 'Deflategate' report

JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady smiled away the Tuck Rule on the way to his first Super Bowl victory, flashing that dimple-chinned grin that said, "I had it all the time."

The New England Patriots' illegal videotaping. His name popping up in baseball's steroid investigation. Shenanigans with the NFL injury list. An out-of-wedlock child with the actress he jilted before marrying the world's richest supermodel.

Nothing stuck to Teflon Tom.

But the league investigation into the deflated footballs used in this year's AFC championship game might do what none of the other controversies and near-misses could: tarnish the legacy of Tom Brady, a four-time Super Bowl champion and the title game's reigning MVP.

"What I see is that he goes from being 'Tom Perfect' to 'Tom Not-So-Perfect' in some people's eyes," Marc Ganis, president of sports business consulting firm SportsCorp, said Wednesday after the release of the NFL's report on the scandal that came to be known as "Deflategate."

In a 243-page report, NFL investigator Ted Wells found that Patriots employees violated the league rules covering game balls, and that Brady was "at least generally aware" of the plans to doctor the footballs to his liking. The report found some of Brady's claims were "implausible," adding: "It is unlikely that an equipment assistant and a locker room attendant would deflate game balls without Brady's knowledge and approval."

The findings were forwarded to the league's disciplinary chief for potential punishment. Brady could be fined or face a suspension that would keep him out of Week 1 — the marquee league opener at which the Super Bowl banner would traditionally be raised.

The Patriots did not respond to a request for a comment from Brady or coach Bill Belichick, who was exonerated in the report. The team canceled a previously scheduled availability for Thursday.

Owner Bob Kraft issued a spirited statement in defense of his team and questioned Wells' conclusions. "To say we are disappointed in its findings, which do not include any incontrovertible or hard evidence of deliberate deflation of footballs at the AFC Championship Game, would be a gross understatement," he said.

But Wells concluded there was no plausible explanation for the deflated footballs except deliberate tampering. And text messages to and about Brady led the investigator to conclude that he was aware,

if not more actively involved, in the scheme.

Regardless of his punishment, Brady's legacy is now tied to the scandal. But the main effect of that, Ganis said, could be to solidify opinions that are already largely entrenched: Opposing fans will continue to doubt him, and fans in New England, where he was once seen as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, will rally to his defense.

"As far as his marketability goes, he is still arguably the most marketable player in the NFL," said Ganis, who grew up a New York Jets fan and is now based in Chicago.

"Tom Brady has been the face of the NFL, with Peyton Manning, for a number of years. He has been an extraordinary ambassador, with cross-over popularity," he said. "If this is all there is, it will be something that is talked about him when he is elected to the Hall of Fame."

Tornadoes in southern Plains destroy homes, flip cars

KEN MILLER, Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Tornadoes raked the southern Plains Wednesday, overturning cars on an Oklahoma City interstate and destroying dozens of homes.

No deaths were immediately reported from the twisters that hit Oklahoma and rural parts of Kansas and Nebraska.

The worst damage seemed to be in the Oklahoma City area. A twister destroyed homes at Bridge Creek, Amber and Blanchard, southwest of the city, and it appeared another tornado touched down later Wednesday evening when a second storm came through the area.

"We have damage reports, so we do strongly think there was a tornado on the south side of Oklahoma City," meteorologist Michael Scotten with the National Weather Service in Norman said after the second storm that hit around 8:40 p.m.

That storm flipped vehicles on Interstate 35 and left power lines strewn across the roadway, Scotten said.

Lara O'Leary, a spokeswoman for Emergency Medical Services Authority said late Wednesday that the company transported 12 patients from a trailer park in south Oklahoma City to local hospitals. She did not have further details about the extent of the patients' injuries.

In Grady County, all animals were accounted for after a zoo about 25 miles southwest of Oklahoma City was hit by a tornado, Alisa Voegeli, a dispatcher at the sheriff's office, said.

The storms dumped up to 6 inches in the southern part of Oklahoma City, prompting the city to issue a flash flood emergency for the first time in its history, said city spokeswoman Kristy Yager. Road crews were waiting for the storms to abate to set up barricades and evaluate trouble spots.

"They'll dispatch as soon as the storms end and the weather clears," Yager said.

O'Leary said the ambulance service responded to water rescues "all over" the Oklahoma City metro area. Two ambulance crews required also assistance after getting stuck in high water, she said.

The Storm Prediction Center had warned that bad weather would come to Tornado Alley, and more storms were possible later in the week, with flooding a major concern.

"People just really need to stay weather aware, have a plan and understand that severe storms are possible across portions of the southern Plains almost daily through Saturday," National Weather Service meteorologist Jonathan Kurtz said.

In Oklahoma, Grady County Emergency Management Director Dale Thompson said about 10 homes were destroyed in Amber and 25 were destroyed in Bridge Creek. As the storm moved to the east, forecasters declared a tornado emergency for Moore, where seven schoolchildren were among 24 people

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killed in a storm two years ago. When the first of the storms moved through Wednesday, school districts held their pupils in safe places.

At Will Rogers World Airport in Oklahoma City, people were twice evacuated into a tunnel outside the security zone.

In Nebraska, 10 to 15 homes were damaged near Grand Island, and between Hardy and Ruskin, near the Kansas line.

At least nine tornadoes were reported in Kansas, the strongest of them in the sparsely populated north-central part of the state. That included a large tornado near the tiny town of Republic just south of the Nebraska state line, where some homes were damaged. In Harvey County, a tornado destroyed a hog barn and damaged trees, according to the National Weather Service.

10 Things to Know for Today The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. TIGHTEST BRITISH ELECTION IN DECADES UNDERWAY

Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives and Ed Miliband's Labour Party are running neck-and-neck, and neither looks able to win a majority of Parliament's 650 seats.

2. TORNADOES RAKE SOUTHERN PLAINS

At least 12 people have been injured by twisters that hit Oklahoma and rural parts of Texas, Kansas and Nebraska and damaged homes in the Oklahoma City area.

3. LAWMAKERS TO DETERMINE FATE OF FUTURE DEAL WITH IRAN

Legislation giving Congress a chance to review and possibly reject any final nuclear deal with Tehran is facing a test vote in the Senate.

4. WHAT NEPALESE ARE DOING TO MARK END OF MOURNING

Thousands dressed in white offer prayers, flowers and lit incense at home and in temples as part of a Hindu ritual to remember those killed in the earthquake.

5. HOW CLINTON DIFFERS WITH PRESIDENT

Obama says his executive actions blocking the deportation of millions living illegally in the U.S. go as far as the law allows — but Hillary Rodham Clinton says she would go even further.

6. REPUBLICANS OPEN TO SOFTER IMMIGRATION POLICY

A majority of GOP voters can see themselves backing someone who would protect millions of immigrants from deportation, a new AP poll finds.

7. IN SEATTLE, 'KAYAKTIVISTS' TAKE ON OIL EXPLORATION

Royal Dutch Shell wants to park two massive Arctic oil drilling rigs in Seattle's waterfront — but environmentalists are ready to put up a fight.

8. WHY VICTORY DAY TAKES ON MORE MEANING

With evermore pomp on the 70th anniversary, the Kremlin seeks reassert Russia's global standing and justify its aggressive foreign policy.

9. WHERE THE LAST PRIVACY FRONTIER MAY BE

As our lives increasingly unfold on social media, many mourners find themselves asking friends and relatives not to provide updates at a loved one's funeral.

10. 'DEFLATEGATE' MAY TARNISH BRADY'S LEGACY

An NFL investigation found probable cause that the Super Bowl MVP-winning quarterback likely knew that equipment staff had underinflated footballs to his liking.

AP News in Brief

Tornadoes destroy homes, injure at least 12 in Oklahoma; flooding threat remains

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Authorities are set to survey the damage left behind after tornadoes swept across the southern Plains, overturning cars and destroying dozens of homes near Oklahoma City.

At least 12 people were injured, but no deaths were immediately reported from the twisters that also hit rural parts of Texas, Kansas and Nebraska on Wednesday night.

"We'll have much better picture of how widespread the damage is when the sun comes up tomorrow," meteorologist Forrest Mitchell with the National Weather Service in Norman said.

The Oklahoma City area seemed to be the hardest hit. A twister destroyed homes in Grady County, southwest of the city, and it appeared another tornado touched down in the area later Wednesday evening when a second storm came through.

"We do strongly think there was a tornado on the south side of Oklahoma City," meteorologist Michael Scotten said after the second storm that hit around 8:40 p.m.

Voters look set to punish big parties, reward upstarts, as Britain goes to the polls

LONDON (AP) — Voters headed for the polls across Britain Thursday, in a contest that is expected to produce an ambiguous result, a period of frantic political horse-trading and a bout of national soul-searching.

Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives and Ed Miliband's Labour Party are running neck and neck, and neither looks able to win a majority of Parliament's 650 seats.

Many voters are turning elsewhere — chiefly to the separatist Scottish National Party, which will dominate north of the border, and the anti-immigrant U.K. Independence Party. UKIP is third in opinion polls but Britain's electoral system means it can win at most a handful of seats.

If no party wins outright, it may take days or weeks of negotiation to forge a workable government.

Labour leader Ed Miliband cast his vote early alongside his wife, Justine, in northern England. Early voters were bemused to find photographers, reporters and television crews waiting in the middle of the briefly closed-off road in Miliband's Doncaster North constituency.

Haggling, compromise and uncertainty likely to follow Britain's indecisive election

LONDON (AP) — Counting the votes in Britain's election will take a matter of hours. Assembling a government could take days — or weeks.

By Friday, the country will know how many seats each party has won in the House of Commons. If either the Conservatives or Labour has more than half the 650 seats, they can quickly form a government.

But almost no one thinks that will happen. Polls predict a "hung Parliament," in which no party has a majority, triggering an intense period of wrangling and uncertainty.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Texas incident fuels concern about lone-wolf terror attacks inspired by Islamic State

NEW YORK (AP) — The attempted attack on a provocative cartoon contest in Texas appears to reflect a scenario that has long troubled national security officials: a do-it-yourself terror plot, inspired by the Islamic State extremist group and facilitated through the ease of social media.

Trying to gauge which individuals in the United States pose such threats — and how vigorously they should be monitored — is a daunting challenge for counterterrorism agencies. Some experts caution that a limited number of small-scale attacks are likely to continue.

Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said federal authorities are aware of “thousands” of potential extremists living in the U.S., only a small portion of whom are under active surveillance.

Concerns have been intensifying since the rise of the Islamic State group and were heightened this week after two gunmen were shot dead while trying to attack the event in Garland, Texas, that featured cartoon images of the Prophet Muhammad. One of the men, Elton Simpson of Phoenix, was charged in 2010 after being the focus of a terror investigation; investigators are trying to determine the extent of any terror-related ties involving him or his accomplice, Nadir Soofi.

At the White House, Press Secretary Josh Earnest said intelligence officials would be investigating Islamic State’s claim of responsibility.

First leg in cocaine’s journey: Peru backpackers face outsized risks for little pay

HUANTA, Peru (AP) — The lung-searing ascents into the Andean highlands aren’t what worry the untold hundreds of young men who hump backpacks loaded with drugs out of the remote, lawless valley that produces about 60 percent of Peru’s cocaine.

Armed gangs, crooked police and rival backpacker groups regularly rob cocaine’s beasts of burden on their three- to five-day journeys over mountain paths carved by their pre-Incan ancestors.

In this country that overtook Colombia in 2012 as the world’s No. 1 cocaine-producing nation, Mardonio Borda regularly hikes within a few hours of the Machu Picchu tourist mecca, bound for Cuzco with drugs.

The 19-year-old Quechua native has a sixth-grade education and speaks broken Spanish. But the 11 pounds of coca paste he carries will fetch up to \$250,000 on New York streets as powder cocaine sold by the gram.

Hauling cocaine is about the only way to earn decent cash — \$150 to \$400 per trip depending on the load — in a region where a farmhand earns less than \$10 a day and the poverty rate is triple the national average.

2 Portuguese backpackers turn into unlikely aid providers in earthquake-ravaged Nepal

ICHANGU NARAYAN, Nepal (AP) — They arrived in Nepal as backpackers a day before a deadly earthquake that flattened large swaths of this impoverished Himalayan nation. In the days since the disaster, they’ve transformed themselves into a two-man amateur aid agency.

Using funds pledged through a Facebook appeal, Pedro Queiros and Lourenco Macedo Santos are taking food and bedding to needy Nepalis made homeless by the magnitude-7.8 earthquake that struck

outside Kathmandu shortly before noon on Apr. 25.

In a country where dozens of the world's biggest aid agencies are now active, the two Portuguese men, both in their mid-30s, say their work shows there is room for ordinary people to make a difference. So far they estimate they've helped around 15,000 people.

Earlier this week, they arrived at the devastated village of Ichangu Narayan near Kathmandu, where anxious residents lined up to receive supply bundles, including rice, oil and other staples, designed to feed a family for about 15 days.

Amid the wrecked buildings of the tiny farming village, the atmosphere was almost festive as sacks of food were distributed to representatives of the village's 130 families.

After 2 years in opposition, Israel's ultra-Orthodox poised for political comeback

JERUSALEM (AP) — The formation of Benjamin Netanyahu's new coalition government has cleared the way for the country's ultra-Orthodox parties to return to power after two years in the opposition.

This religious resurgence could have deep implications as they seek to reinstate a system of subsidies and preferential treatment that have long angered the country's secular majority, potentially setting the stage for a new round of culture wars that recently have plagued Israel.

Under Israel's system of proportional representation, the ultra-Orthodox long have enjoyed power and influence far beyond their numbers by providing a string of prime ministers the needed votes to guarantee a majority in parliament.

As a result, they have won automatic exemptions from compulsory military service and large budgets for a separate school system focusing heavily on religious studies while largely not teaching math, English and computer literacy. This system has bred resentment among secular Israelis, who accuse the ultra-Orthodox of shirking their national responsibilities and posing a burden on the economy.

Led by Yair Lapid's centrist Yesh Atid party, the outgoing government passed landmark legislation that aimed to gradually incorporate the ultra-Orthodox into the military and boosted their employment figures. Now, with Lapid in the opposition, the Shas and United Torah Judaism parties return to government determined to roll back on those measures.

Senate to hold test vote on bill to give Congress a say about a final Iranian nuclear deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Legislation giving Congress a chance to review and possibly reject any final nuclear deal with Iran is facing a test vote in the Senate.

The vote, scheduled for Thursday, comes after months of wrangling over the legislation while the U.S. and five other nations engage in delicate negotiations with Tehran. Negotiators have been hurrying to reach final agreement by June 30 on a pact to curb Iran's nuclear program in exchange for relief from sanctions stalling the Iranian economy. The talks resume next week in Vienna.

The bipartisan legislation would block President Barack Obama from waiving congressional sanctions for at least 30 days while lawmakers weigh in on any final deal with Iran. It also would stipulate that if senators disapprove the deal, Obama would lose the current authority he holds to waive certain economic penalties Congress has imposed on Iran.

The bill stalled last week after Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., and Marco Rubio, R-Fla., proposed changes that drew the objections of Democrats as well as some Republicans who want the bill kept free of con-

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roversial provisions that could prompt the White House to withdraw its support.

A 60-vote majority on Thursday's test vote would likely jettison both senators' proposals, and greatly improve the bill's chances of passage.

Social media and mourning: Are funerals the last privacy frontier?

NEW YORK (AP) — Taya Dunn Johnson has been living large online for years, embracing Facebook, Twitter and other social streams to frequently share her most mundane and intimate moments.

Her husband — her high school sweetheart and an IT specialist — was an offline kind of guy, though he was surrounded by post-happy loved ones, colleagues and friends and had no problem with that.

Then he died suddenly of a heart attack at age 37 and his wife found herself entrenched in what just might be the last frontier for privacy, his funeral.

"I held two services and had to ask several people not to take photos of his casket," said Johnson, a 38-year-old administrative assistant who lives in Baltimore with her 6-year-old son. "The idea of it disturbed me. Days later, I noticed several people had 'checked-in' from the funeral home on a couple of platforms."

Actively using social media as she did when tragedy struck in 2012, and as she still does, Johnson understands why Facebook exec Sheryl Sandberg asked mourners, tech powerhouses included, to stay off social media from her husband David Goldberg's memorial service Tuesday.

Doubts about Brady raised in NFL 'Deflategate' investigation too serious to smile away

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady smiled away the Tuck Rule on the way to his first Super Bowl victory, flashing that dimple-chinned grin that said, "I had it all the time."

The New England Patriots' illegal videotaping. His name popping up in baseball's steroid investigation. Shenanigans with the NFL injury list. An out-of-wedlock child with the actress he jilted before marrying the world's richest supermodel.

Nothing stuck to Teflon Tom.

But the league investigation into the deflated footballs used in this year's AFC championship game might do what none of the other controversies and near-misses could: tarnish the legacy of Tom Brady, a four-time Super Bowl champion and the title game's reigning MVP.

"What I see is that he goes from being 'Tom Perfect' to 'Tom Not-So-Perfect' in some people's eyes," Marc Ganis, president of sports business consulting firm SportsCorp, said Wednesday after the release of the NFL's report on the scandal that came to be known as "Deflategate."

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 7, the 127th day of 2015. There are 238 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 7, 1915, in an incident that sparked international outrage, a German U-boat torpedoed and sank the British liner RMS Lusitania off the southern coast of Ireland, killing 1,198 people, including 128 Americans, out of the nearly 2,000 on board.

On this date:

In 1789, America's first inaugural ball was held in New York in honor of President George Washington,

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who'd taken the oath of office a week earlier.

In 1824, Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, had its premiere in Vienna.

In 1928, the minimum voting age for British women was lowered from 30 to 21 - the same age as men.

In 1939, Germany and Italy announced a military and political alliance known as the Rome-Berlin Axis.

In 1942, U.S. Army Gen. Jonathan Wainwright went on a Manila radio station to announce the Allied surrender of the Philippines to Japanese forces during World War II.

In 1945, Germany signed an unconditional surrender at Allied headquarters in Rheims (rams), France, ending its role in World War II. The 1944 Pulitzer Prizes were awarded; winners included John Hersey for his novel "A Bell for Adano," Mary Chase for her play "Harvey," and Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal for his picture of the Iwo Jima flag-raising.

In 1954, the 55-day Battle of Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam ended with Vietnamese insurgents overrunning French forces.

In 1963, the United States launched the Telstar 2 communications satellite.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford formally declared an end to the "Vietnam era." In Ho Chi Minh City - formerly Saigon - the Viet Cong celebrated its takeover.

In 1984, a \$180 million out-of-court settlement was announced in the Agent Orange class-action suit brought by Vietnam veterans who charged they'd suffered injury from exposure to the defoliant.

In 1992, the latest addition to America's space shuttle fleet, Endeavour, went on its first flight. A 203-year-old proposed constitutional amendment barring Congress from giving itself a midterm pay raise received enough votes for ratification as Michigan became the 38th state to approve it.

In 1995, Jacques Chirac, the conservative mayor of Paris, won France's presidency in his third attempt, defeating Lionel Jospin in a runoff to end 14 years of Socialist rule.

Ten years ago: During a visit to Riga, Latvia, President George W. Bush said the United States had played a role in Europe's painful division after World War II - a decision that Bush said helped cause "one of the greatest wrongs of history" when the Soviet Union imposed its harsh rule across Central and Eastern Europe. Giacomo, a 50-1 long shot, won the Kentucky Derby. Former congressman Peter W. Rodino Jr., who'd led the House impeachment investigation of President Richard Nixon, died in West Orange, New Jersey, at age 95.

Five years ago: A BP-chartered vessel lowered a 100-ton concrete-and-steel vault onto the ruptured Deepwater Horizon well in an unprecedented, and ultimately unsuccessful, attempt to stop most of the gushing crude fouling the sea. Before a record hockey crowd of 77,803, the United States lost to host Germany 2-1 in the opening game of the world ice hockey championships. Dave Fisher, lead singer of the 1960s folk group the Highwaymen, died in Rye, New York, at age 69.

One year ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin softened his tone in a confrontation with the West, declaring that he had pulled his troops away from the Ukrainian border. The Nation's Report Card said America's high school seniors lacked critical math and reading skills for an increasingly competitive global economy. The International Olympic Committee awarded the exclusive U.S. broadcast rights to NBC for an additional six games in a record \$7.75 billion deal.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., is 83. Rhythm-and-blues singer Thelma Houston is 72. Actress Robin Strasser is 70. Singer-songwriter Bill Danoff is 69. Rock musician Bill Kreutzmann (Grateful Dead) is 69. Rock musician Prairie Prince is 65. Movie writer-director Amy Heckler is 63. Actor Michael E. Knight is 56. Rock musician Phil Campbell (Motorhead) is 54. Country musician Rick Schell is 52. Rock singer-musician Chris O'Connor (Primitive Radio Gods) is 50. Actress

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Traci Lords is 47. Singer Eagle-Eye Cherry is 44. Actor Breckin Meyer is 41. Rock musician Matt Helders (Arctic Monkeys) is 29. Actress-comedian Aidy Bryant is 28. Actor Taylor Abrahamse is 24. Actor Alexander Ludwig is 23. Actress Dylan Gelula is 21.

Thought for Today: "Be a philosopher but, amid all your philosophy be still a man." - David Hume, Scottish philosopher (1711-1776).