

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Friday, May 20

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Elementary out at noon, High School at 12:10

**School Breakfast:** Cook's Choice

**School Lunch:** Sack Lunch

**Senior Menu:** Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, mandarin oranges, chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread.

**Birthdays:** Janice Flihs • Alvina Hiepler • Charles Meister • Michelle Pullan

## Saturday, May 21

**Birthdays:** Alex Brandt • Cody Hanson • Joey Harry • Alex Bretsch • Matthew Richards

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

## Sunday, May 22

**Birthdays:** Logan Larsen • Jamie Osborne • Gavin Krueger • Duane Kavanaugh • Christopher Scott Larsen

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

## Monday, May 23

**Senior Menu:** Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli or carrots, garlic toast, orange sherbet.

**Birthdays:** Evan Sperry • Jessica Claussen • Robert Gibbs

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Vacation Bible School

**Open:** Recycling Trailer in Groton  
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

## The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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**DAKOTA TREE COMPANY**

## Eight boys and seven girls qualify for state

The regional track meet was held Thursday in Groton with eight boys qualifying for the state track meet in eight events. Seven girls have qualified for the state meet in seven events.

Adam Herman qualified in both the 100m dash and the long jump; Lucas Hinman qualified in the 100m dash, Bennett Shabazz qualified in the high jump and 300m hurdles, Steven Fey qualified for both the discus and shot put, and the 3200m relay team of Treyton Diegel, Brandon Keith, Sean Schuring and Mitchell Koens qualified for the state meet. The seniors on the team are Herman and Fey.

In the girl's division, Audrey Wanner qualified for state in the long jump and the triple jump, Harleigh Stange qualified in the 100m dash, Jessica Bjerke and Carly Wheeting both qualified in the discus and shot put, the girls 800m relay team of Audrey Wanner, Payton Maine, Eliza Wanner and Harleigh Stange and the girls 400m relay team of Audrey Wanner, Katie Koehler, Eliza Wanner and Harleigh Stange. Wheeting is a senior on the girls' track team.

The state track meet will be held May 27th in Madison and May 28th in Sioux Falls.

## Today's NOAA Climate Outlook Calls for Cooler Than Average June

BROOKINGS, S.D. - South Dakota's weather this summer could be a bit of a climate roller coaster according to outlooks issued by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center May 19, 2016.

The outlook shows the early summer months to be wetter and possibly cooler in the southwest part of the state.

"These conditions usually fit together in the warm season," explained Dennis Todey, State Climatologist/Associate Professor. "If conditions are wetter, South Dakota is rarely warmer than average for any length of time in the summer."

Laura Edwards, SDSU Extension Climate Field Specialist added that the current, fairly wet soil conditions in areas of South Dakota and the Plains are likely to help maintain temperatures cooler into the early summer. "In South Dakota, cooler and wetter conditions are more likely to impact the early summer with warmer and drier than average conditions later," she said.

In the Black Hills and the northeast corner of South Dakota, these wetter conditions are good news. Both areas are reflected on the U.S. Drought Monitor map as being abnormally dry (D0) in the most recent map.

"For producers in the northeast, the conditions should line up well as the current dryness will allow for quicker progress on planting into the slightly dry soils," Edwards said. "The rain after planting should help early crop progress."

Although rain in the Black Hills will have little agricultural impact, Edwards said the additional rainfall will help limit potential wildland fire issues for the short-term.

Today's climate outlooks from NOAA is fairly consistent in showing warmer than average conditions to cover the region by late summer, as well as some drier than average conditions in parts of the state.

"The current El Niño continues to weaken and fade and a La Niña is likely to take hold," she said.

This transition, Edwards explained, is expected to be fairly quick, but the atmospheric patterns do not change overnight. "They take many weeks to transition between the different phases. How late in the growing season this occurs will determine what impacts we experience and where those impacts occur," she said.

Depending on transition timing, the impacts could vary.

A late transition (mid-late August) would have limited impact except for soybean areas, unless conditions turn severely dry and warm quickly.

However, Edwards said a late transition looks to be the most likely case at this point.

"The additional heat during the growing season may not be a major issue and possibly help with some crops that were planted late," Edwards said. "Some dry conditions seem likely to have some impact towards the end of the growing season."

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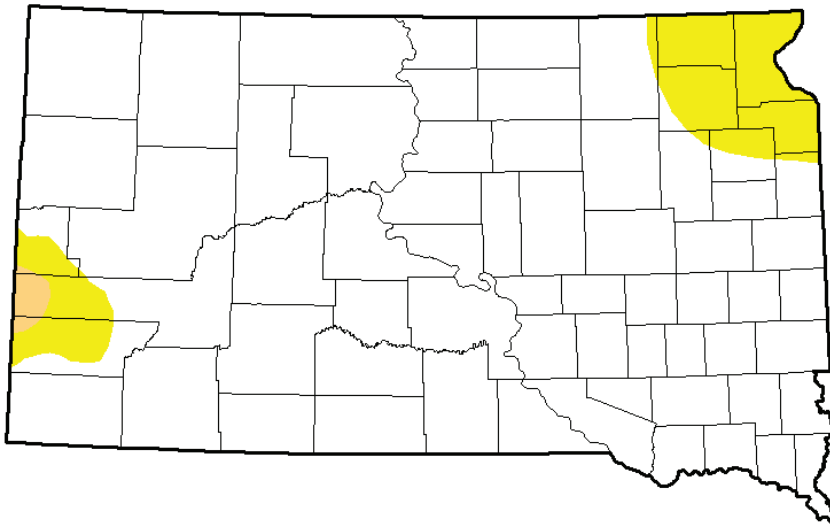
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If dry conditions set up late in the growing season, Edwards said this could be a benefit to corn and soybean growers.

"It could mean grain could dry down in the field before harvest, reducing their costs of mechanical grain drying in the fall," she said. "While not reducing yield too much."

The fall outlook currently maintains the warmer than average conditions into harvest.

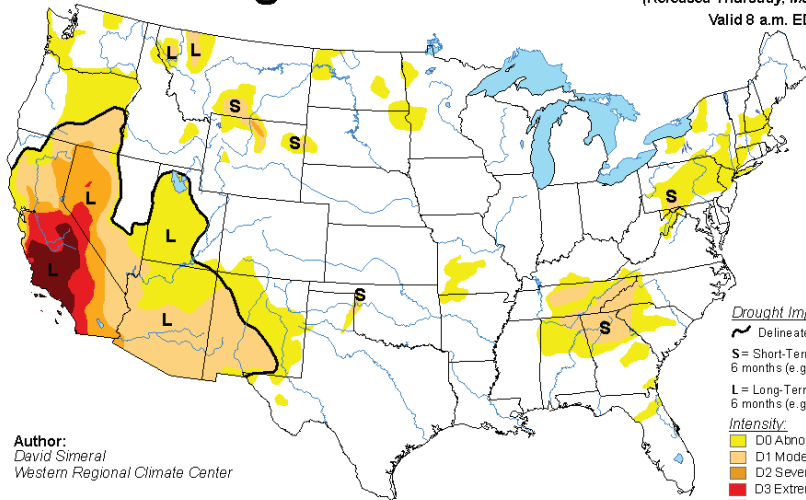
## U.S. Drought Monitor



Across the Plains, improvements were made on the map in areas of Abnormally Dry (D0) in southeastern Kansas and north-central Oklahoma where recent rainfall improved area conditions. In southwestern South Dakota, short-term precipitation deficits in the Black Hills led to the introduction of an area of Moderate Drought (D1) that extended across the border into northeastern Wyoming. Temperatures were well below-normal across the entire region during the past week, especially in the Central and Northern Plains where temperatures were six-to-fifteen degrees below-normal. Precipitation across the region was heaviest in eastern portions of Kansas and Oklahoma where one-to-three inch accumulations occurred during the past week while northern portions were dry.

## U.S. Drought Monitor

May 17, 2016  
(Released Thursday, May 19, 2016)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### Drought Impact Types:

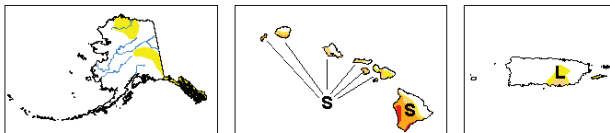
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

### Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:  
David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



USDA  
National Drought Mitigation Center  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

## **AAA Predicts Memorial Day Travel will be Heaviest since 2005 More than 38 million expected to travel, second-highest number on record.**

May 19, 2016 – AAA projects more than 38 million Americans will travel this Memorial Day weekend, the second-highest Memorial Day travel volume on record and the most since 2005. Spurred by the lowest gas prices in more than a decade, 2.1 percent more people will be hitting the highway this year compared to last year. AAA says 89 percent of all travel will be done by car, pickup or RV.

“Americans are ready to travel in numbers not seen in more than a decade,” said Marilyn Buskohl, spokeswoman for AAA South Dakota. “The great American road trip is officially back thanks to the lowest Memorial Day gas prices in 11 years.”

AAA South Dakota expects 119,000 South Dakotans will travel over Memorial Day, an increase of 1.6 percent from Memorial Day, 2015. Auto travel is projected to be up 1.6 percent and air travel up 0.2 percent.

Nationwide, air travel is expected to increase 1.6 percent over last year. With a chronic shortage of TSA security screeners at U.S. airports, AAA recommends those flying to arrive at the airport at least two hours before their flight is due to depart.

South Dakota’s price average today of \$2.22 for a gallon of gasoline is 36 cents less than on May 19, 2015. According to a recent AAA survey, 55 percent of Americans say they are more likely to take a road trip this year due to lower gas prices. The national pump price average is \$2.26, a decline of 45 cents from the price one year ago.

### **Airfares q (a lot), car rental rates q, hotel room rates steady**

According to AAA’s Leisure Travel Index, average airfares for the top 40 domestic flight routes will be 26 percent cheaper this Memorial Day, with an average roundtrip ticket costing \$165. Hotel costs are in line with last Memorial Day. AAA Three Diamond-rated hotels will average \$183, while a AAA Two Diamond-rated hotel will average \$151 nightly. Daily car rental rates will average \$62, three percent less than last year.

### **AAA to rescue more than 350,000 motorists this Memorial Day**

AAA expects to rescue more than 350,000 motorists across the U.S. during the Memorial Day holiday travel period, with the primary reasons being dead batteries, lockouts and flat tires.

AAA suggests motorists check the condition of car batteries and tires before heading out on road trips. Vehicles should be inspected by technicians at a trusted repair shop, such as one of the nearly 7,000 AAA Approved Auto Repair facilities across North America. Members can request roadside assistance by using the AAA Mobile app, by visiting AAA.com or by calling 1-800-AAA-HELP.



## Ehresmann wins region poster contest

Jon Livermore of Watertown came to Groton and talked to the third graders about trees and the different tree parts he had with him. Jon went to college in Iowa for four years and he works for the Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry out of Watertown. Livermore and the Groton Garden Club presented Christian Ershmann with a certificate for winning 1st place in the Rocky Mountain Region Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl contest for the 3rd grade.

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## Today in Weather History

1894 - A record late snow of two to eight inches whitened parts of central and eastern Kentucky. Lexington KY received six inches of snow. (The Weather Channel)

1916 - A tornado struck the town of Codell, KS. A tornado struck the town on the same day the following year (1917), and a third tornado hit Cordell on May 20th in 1918. (The Weather Channel)

1957 - A tornado touched down to the southwest of Kansas City and traveled a distance of seventy-one miles cutting a swath of near total destruction through the southeastern suburbs of Ruskin Heights and Hickman Mills. The tornado claimed the lives of forty-five persons, and left hundreds homeless. It was the worst weather disaster of record for Kansas City. About all that remained of one house was a small table and a fish bowl atop, with the fish still swimming about inside the bowl, rather unconcerned. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1987 - Thunderstorms in southern Texas produced grapefruit size hail, near the town of Dilley ("by dilly"), and produced wind gusts to 73 mph at Lake Amistad. The large hail broke windows, killed small animals, and damaged watermelon. Thunderstorms developing along a warm front produced severe weather from Indiana to the Dakotas. Thunderstorms produced baseball size hail at Denver IA, and wind gusts to 80 mph in southern Henry County IL. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms in the south central U.S. produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Omaha, NE, and wind gusts to 80 mph at Midland and Dallas, TX. Temperatures in California soared into the 90s and above 100 degrees. San Jose CA reported a record high of 97 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Pre-dawn thunderstorms produced large hail in eastern Oklahoma and northwestern Arkansas. Later in the morning thunderstorms in North Carolina produced dime size hail at Hanging Dog. Thunderstorms also produced severe weather from the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Central Plains Region later that day and night, with baseball size hail reported around Lawn, Novice and Eola TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather across the southeastern quarter of the nation through the day and night. Severe thunderstorms spawned six tornadoes, including one which injured two persons at Algoma, MS, and another which injured nine persons at Rogersville, MO. There were 119 reports of large hail or damaging winds. Thunderstorms produced baseball size hail at Houston MO and damaging winds which killed one person at Toccoa GA. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)










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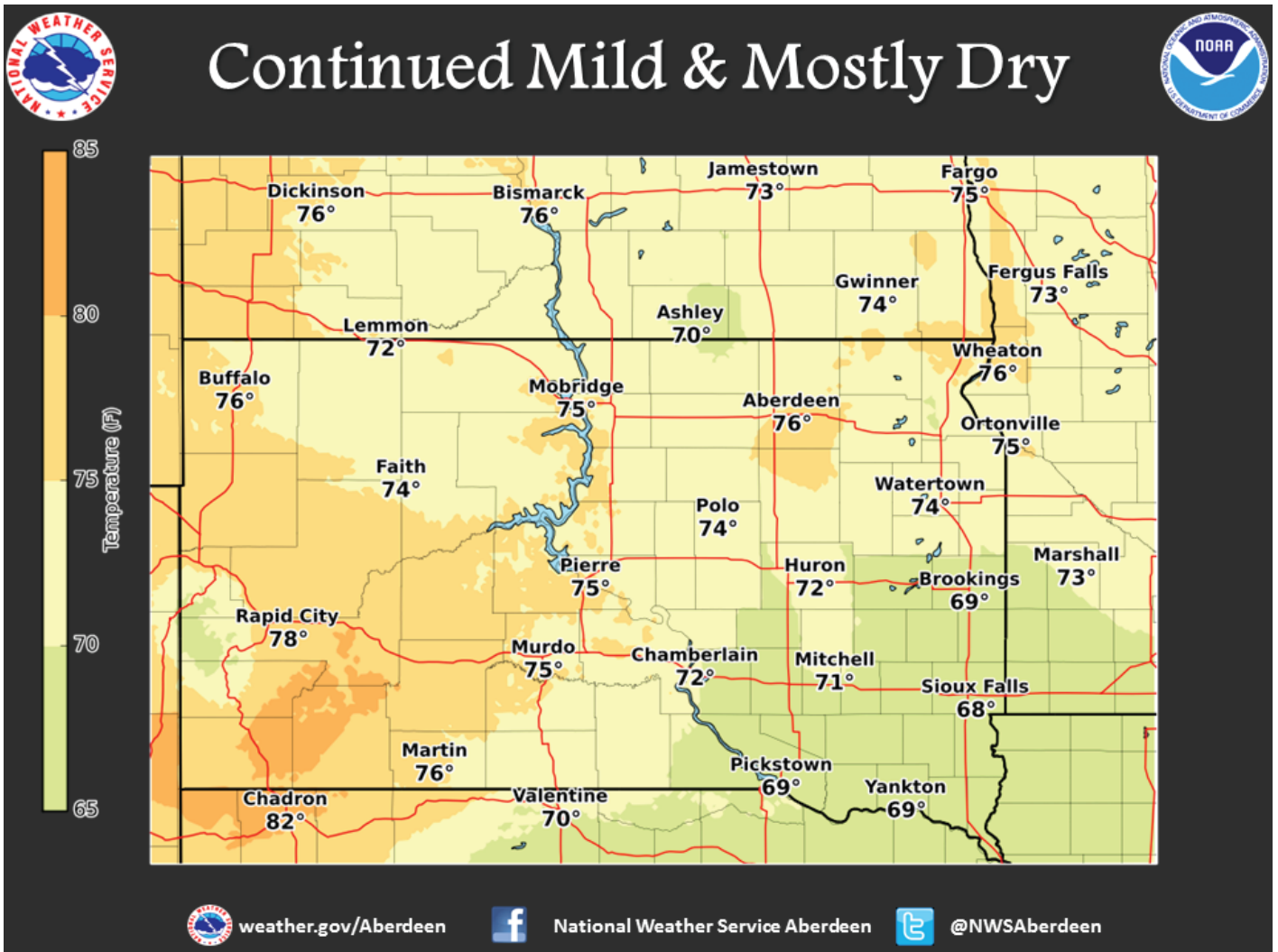


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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Isolated Sprinkles	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Breezy. Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	T-storms Likely and Breezy	Slight Chance T-storms
High: 76 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 78 °F



 [weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)

 National Weather Service Aberdeen

 @NWSAberdeen

Published on: 05/20/2016 at 5:08AM

We continue to get more summer-like with warmer temperatures and increasing humidity. Through the weekend there will be a few opportunities for some light moisture. Sunday brings the best chance - along with the potential for a few strong to severe storms.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 74.0 at 12:08 PM

**Low:** 52.4 at 1:34 AM

**High Gust:** 35 at 11:29 AM

Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 96° in 1934

**Record Low:** 23 in 1907

**Average High:** 70°F

**Average Low:** 46°F

**Average Precip in May:** 2.06

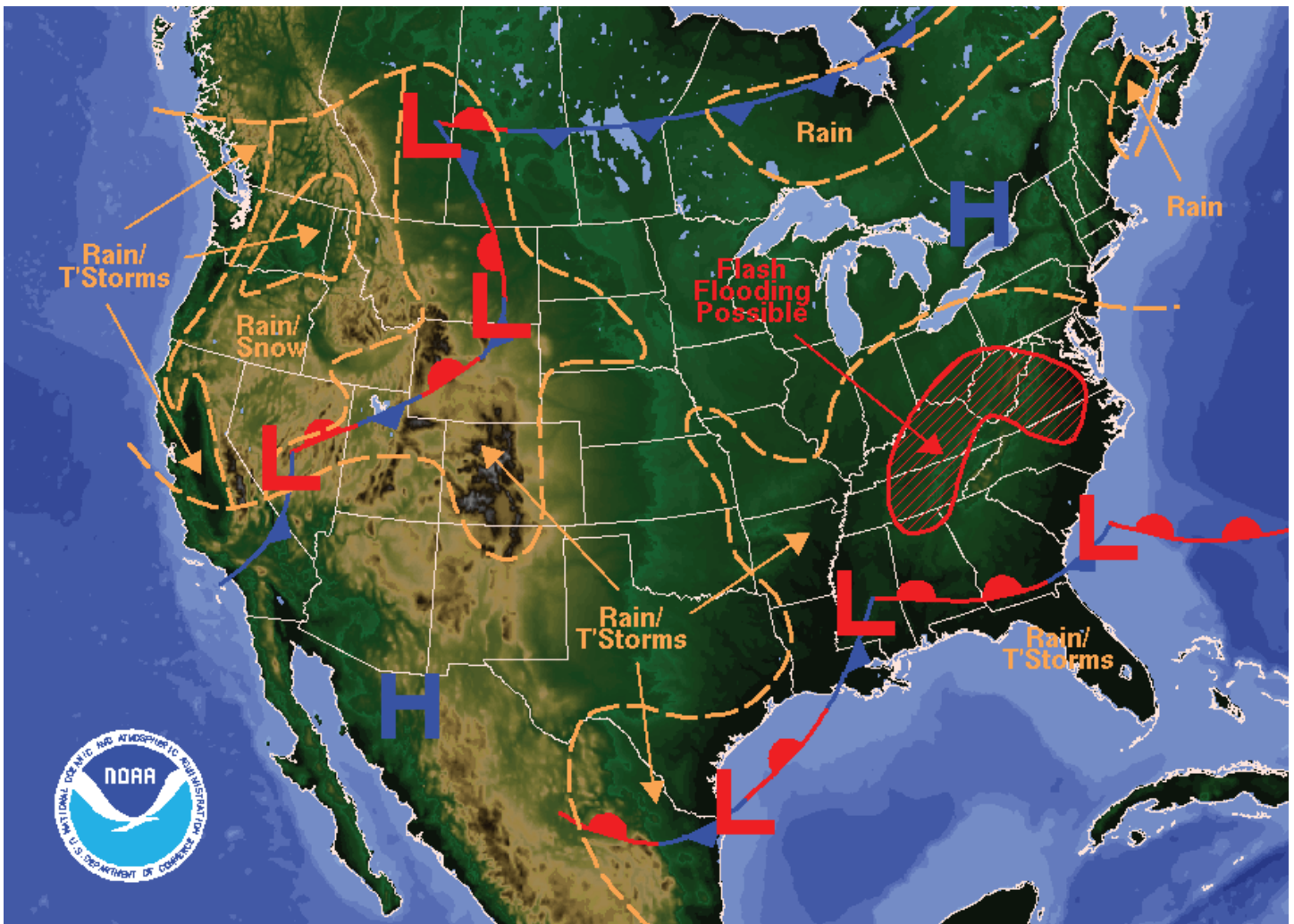
**Precip to date in May:** 0.11

**Average Precip to date:** 6.09

**Precip Year to Date:** 3.50

**Sunset Tonight:** 9:03 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 5:56 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Fri, May 20, 2016, issued 4:43 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



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## HELP WHEN WE NEED IT

There is an interesting carving over a door in a hotel at the bottom of a well-climbed mountain in the Alps. It reads: "If you get into trouble, ask God to help you; when you are not in trouble, cultivate His acquaintance; after He has helped you, don't fail to thank Him."

Often when difficulties arise and we find ourselves in life-threatening situations we are quick to shout, "God help me!" It is the normal, natural thing to do. When tempted and troubled, when there is no time to plan and prepare, it comes automatically. We rejoice when He responds and most times express our gratitude for His being willing to rescue us. We are quick to follow His advice and often follow it without question. We must also express our gratitude to Him for being with us and protecting us.

It is the statement in the middle of the advice, however, that we must also practice: "when not in trouble, cultivate His acquaintance." The act and art of cultivation takes time and patience and must follow certain rules if the "seed" is to grow and bear fruit. This cultivation involves reading God's Word, taking time to pray, meditate and worship Him each day and being alert to opportunities to serve Him.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for Your availability in our times of need. But trouble us deeply until we take the time to cultivate a relationship with You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Police: Knife shown, money taken at Sioux Falls casino**

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police say somebody in a black wig and a baseball cap went into a Sioux Falls casino, displayed a knife, took money and left.

Sioux Falls police said in a news release that authorities responded Thursday to a robbery at Connexions II Casino. According to police, a female went inside, displayed a knife and demanded money. The release says she took an undetermined amount of money and left.

According to police, she was wearing a black wig, a black and white baseball cap, sunglasses, a long-sleeve denim shirt and black nylon pants.

Police say no one was hurt, and that the investigation is ongoing.

### **2 charged with stealing identities to get student loans**

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Federal prosecutors say two Louisiana residents have been indicted for stealing identities of four people, including a soldier recovering in a military hospital from injuries suffered in Afghanistan, to fraudulently obtain \$67,000 in federal student loans.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Alexandria, Virginia, said in a news release that 31-year-old Ernest Taylor Jr. and 34-year-old Tracie Mixon, both of Hammond, Louisiana, were indicted Thursday. They are charged with conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud, financial aid fraud, and aggravated identity theft.

Prosecutors say Taylor and Mixon used stolen information from the soldier and three people who were in prison, to apply for student loans from colleges in Virginia, Colorado, Oregon and South Dakota.

### **Black Hills National Forest campgrounds open Friday**

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Campgrounds in the Black Hills National Forest are scheduled to open Friday.

The forest features 30 campgrounds with more than 682 individual sites. Many of the campgrounds are operated by a Forest Service recreation service partner, Hill City-based Forest Recreation Management Inc.

Most campgrounds have potable water and either flush or vault toilets, though electric, sewer and water hook-ups and showers are not available. About half of the campgrounds have on-site hosts.

Fees in Forest Service campgrounds range from \$14 to \$26 per night.

### **Supreme Court: Schwan sons get hearing in foundation dispute**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two sons of the late frozen food magnate Marvin Schwan will get an opportunity to argue for court oversight of his charitable foundation after about \$600 million in investment losses, South Dakota's Supreme Court said in an opinion released Thursday.

The high court ruled that a circuit court must consider Mark and Paul Schwan's request for supervision. The two sit on a committee that reviews the administration of the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation.

The foundation lost about \$600 million in offshore ventures, and Mark and Paul Schwan want more details. They said in court documents that other committee members, including some who also serve as foundation trustees, have blocked their efforts.

The lower court ruled in favor of the foundation's trustees, saying Mark and Paul Schwan didn't meet the criteria to request supervision. But the Supreme Court disagreed and sent the case back to the circuit court for a hearing.

Blake Shepard, an attorney for the Schwan brothers, said they are grateful for the opportunity to have a hearing on the merits of their petition. An attorney for the foundation's trustees didn't immediately respond to a telephone message requesting comment.

The dispute over the foundation also involves the state attorney general's office, which has the authority to enforce the conditions of a charitable trust. Attorney General Marty Jackley said his office will discuss

matters with private counsel.

Marvin Schwan created Schwan's Sales Enterprises as a milk processing facility in Marshall, Minnesota, in 1948. The business grew to become a leading retail and food delivery business. Schwan, who lived in Sioux Falls, died in 1993 at age 64. At that time of his death, Forbes magazine ranked him as the country's 70th richest man, worth more than \$1 billion.

## Secretary of state: Payday loan amendment challenge fails

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A constitutional amendment that would cap money lenders' interest rates unless a borrower agreed to a higher one is on its way to voters in the 2016 election.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said Thursday that a challenge to the ballot measure was unsuccessful. The effort didn't identify enough invalid signatures to disqualify the measure.

Krebs says the validity of petitions turned in to get the amendment on the ballot could still be challenged in court.

The amendment would cap interest rates at 18 percent annually unless the borrower agreed to a higher rate in writing. It also says no law capping interest is valid unless the borrower can agree to a different rate.

Amendment sponsor Lisa Furlong says it's "great news" Krebs upheld the will of South Dakotans who support the measure.

## Lawyer accuses auto insurer of misleading him about policy

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The former lawyer for a car crash victim is accusing an auto insurance company of hiding a \$1 million policy that could have paid for his client's medical bills.

But, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/1XDg60U>) reports, the defense team for Charter Oak Fire Insurance is accusing attorney Jeff Cole of waiting more than two years to ask whether the victim qualified for coverage under the policy.

The arguments came Thursday in federal court. The victim, Laura Dziadek, was injured when she was a passenger in the car involved in the September 2008 crash.

The car was insured with Charter Oak, owned by Travelers Insurance Co. The policy covered uninsured and under-insured motorists.

Cole says an insurance adjuster sent him a letter indicating the policy would not cover Dziadek. The insurance company, however, says the letter only referred to liability insurance and not the underinsured policy.

## 2 men indicted in Rapid City homicide after 8-month probe

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two Rapid City men have been charged in the death of a 56-year-old man in the city, after an eight-month investigation.

Authorities say 19-year-olds Ranon Bissonette and Hunter Highpipe have been indicted on murder, conspiracy and robbery charges. It's unclear if they have attorneys.

Police say both men have been in custody for some time on unrelated charges and remain jailed.

Officers responded to a parking lot shortly before 3 a.m. on Sept. 17, 2015, and found the body of Edward Lowry in a pool of blood.

Lowry's relatives in a statement say they are "heartened" to know the suspects will face trial.

Police Capt. James Johns says it was a tough case to crack. He did not discuss a possible motive.

Authorities say 19-year-old Gabe Heikkinen is named as a co-conspirator in the case. He killed himself Tuesday.

## South Dakota April milk production up 11 percent over 2015

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says South Dakota increased its milk production in April.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service says milk production in the state totaled 210 million pounds last month, an 11 percent increase over April 2015.

The average number of milk cows last month was 114,000, up 11,000 during the same period last year. Milk production per cow averaged 1,840 pounds.

## Man pleads not guilty to making false claim for grazing land

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — An Athol man accused of submitting a false claim for the loss of grazing land under the Livestock Forage Disaster Program has pleaded not guilty.

Authorities say 42-year-old Jason Sparling submitted the claim even though he knew he didn't meet the requirements to qualify for a disaster payment.

Sparling is also accused of falsely saying in a document that he had entered into an oral contract with someone else to co-share cattle grazing on land in Fall River County in 2012.

If convicted, Sparling faces a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine and three years of supervised release, plus \$100 to the Federal Crime Victims Fund. Restitution could also be ordered.

An attorney for Sparling didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment.

## Watertown police arrest burglary suspect thwarted by dogs

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Watertown police have arrested a man who allegedly broke into a pawn shop but left with nothing after punching two dogs that confronted him.

Authorities say 20-year-old Christopher Bain was arrested Wednesday. He's charged with intentional damage to property and burglary.

The would-be thief broke a window at Lester's Gun and Pawn to gain entry early Tuesday, only to be confronted by the dogs.

Police say he punched the dogs to get away, and fled the business empty-handed.

## Rushmore, National Park Service milestones may drive tourism

**JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota officials hope a pair of high-profile milestones and stable gas prices bring vacationers to the state during the 2016 tourism season, which will be well underway by the end of May.

The 75th anniversary of the completion of Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the National Park Service's centennial celebration are expected to help fuel interest and bring in visitors, state Tourism Secretary Jim Hagen said. Tourism is one of South Dakota's most important industries.

About 13.7 million visitors to South Dakota spent nearly \$3.8 billion in 2015, a strong year for tourism buoyed by the 75th Sturgis Motorcycle Rally and the 50th Custer State Park Buffalo Roundup. The Sturgis rally brought in a record 739,000 visitors, while the buffalo roundup drew more than 40,000 people.

"Sometimes you have those really special years," Hagen said. "All in all, I feel good about 2016 as well."

Mount Rushmore is hosting events to celebrate the anniversary of the carving's completion, said Maureen McGee-Ballinger, chief of interpretation and education at the memorial. In 2015, roughly 3.3 million people visited the faces of four former presidents carved in towering granite, and so far this year visitation is up about 13 percent over the same period last year, she said.

Long tied to Mount Rushmore trips, the famous roadside stop Wall Drug Store is seeing sales growth of more than 7 percent over the same time last year, store Chairman Rick Husted said. The tourist destination on the route to the Black Hills is bringing in extra help to prepare for more travelers, and Husted noted that gas prices are "hanging in there."

Mary and Bob Kauffman enjoyed their first two-week trip to Custer State Park a few years ago so much that they're returning Saturday to stay for about a month.

The couple drove from Florida to South Dakota and are set to stay into June, said Mary Kauffman, a 69-year-old retired nurse. They want to take in the wildlife, visit Mount Rushmore and check out Deadwood.

"Florida is great, but it's flat," Kauffman said. "You go someplace like Custer and, I don't know, the scen-

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ery is just amazing, and to see Mount Rushmore — it just makes you stop and stare and wonder, 'How in the world could they do that?'"

Memorial Day seems to "open the floodgates" for visitors to the National Music Museum in Vermillion, said Patricia Bornhofen, museum manager of communications. With about 1,200 instruments on its floor and roughly 15,000 in its holdings, the museum has some of the finest string instruments in the world, she said.

"We definitely have a different attitude toward summer," Bornhofen said. "It's the season that everything comes alive, of course."

## Survey suggests rural economy remains weak in 10 states

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The economy remains sluggish in rural areas of 10 Western and Plains states. The monthly survey of rural bankers released Thursday shows the overall remains in negative territory even though it increased slightly. The index increased to 40.9 in May from April's 38.2.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who oversees the survey, says weak grain prices and farm values continue to weigh on the economy in rural areas.

On the survey indexes any score below 50 suggests that factor will decline.

The farm equipment sales index remained exceptionally weak at 10.7 in May, just below April's 11.1. Farmers are delaying major purchases because of the environment.

Bankers from Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming were surveyed.

## Whiteclay hosting conference on fetal alcohol syndrome

WHITECLAY, Neb. (AP) — Advocates are hosting a conference on fetal alcohol syndrome in Whiteclay, a tiny Nebraska village known for selling large quantities of beer near a South Dakota Indian reservation that bans alcohol.

The conference on Thursday and Friday is part of a broader effort to address alcoholism on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Speakers include experts on fetal alcohol syndrome, sexual and domestic violence and a teacher who has worked on the reservation. Native American Activist Frank LaMere of South Sioux City is also scheduled to speak, as is Whiteclay documentary filmmaker and former Oklahoma assistant attorney general John Maisch.

Whiteclay's four beer stores sold the equivalent of 3.5 million cans of beer last year in a town with about a dozen full-time residents.

## \$140 million ethanol plant planned near Onida delayed

ONIDA, S.D. (AP) — A \$140 million ethanol plant planned just outside of Onida is having trouble getting off the ground due to legal, financial and regulatory hurdles.

Ringneck Energy had hoped to start construction this spring and have the plant operating in a year, but the company is about \$20 million short of the \$75 million in startup money it needs, despite dozens of investor meetings late last year, according to its president and CEO, Walt Wendland.

"We gave local farmers and businessmen and the people of South Dakota a chance and we wished we would have gotten more involvement," Wendland said. "But since December we have worked hard to find large investors to finish the project."

The company also is still awaiting a state air quality permit that it had expected to have by February. The state Department of Energy and Natural Resources has had to respond to comments from plant opponents, the Capital Journal reported (<http://bit.ly/25c6xM7> ).

Some opponents also have sued over Sully County's zoning approval for the plant, saying officials improperly rezoned the site for commercial agriculture processing to make way for the plant. The county

said the argument was technical and lacked substance, and a state district judge late last year affirmed the zoning decision. Opponents have appealed to the state Supreme Court.

"We are looking for a hearing date for that to be set as soon as possible, and even that will probably be August or September," Wendland said.

Dirt work began at the plant site last fall, but any construction isn't likely until this fall, with the plant not operating until late 2018, according to Wendland.

The plant is to produce 70 million gallons of ethanol fuel annually from about 25 million bushels of corn grown in the region. It will employ about 40 people.

## Refugees tell of being pushed back into Greece from Balkans

**COSTAS KANTOURIS, Associated Press**

IDOMENI, Greece (AP) — Anwar Ismail Murad passed almost effortlessly along what has become known as the Balkan route, heading north from Greece to Macedonia, through Serbia, Croatia and on to Slovenia. He reached there on Feb. 14, when the border was still open, but that's where his dream abruptly died.

Slovenia denied the 19-year-old Yazidi from Sinjar in Iraq entry, citing a lack of documents even though four countries before had allowed him passage. Murad says authorities took him and others to a hotel near the border where they spent two days, before putting them onto a bus and sending them back to Croatia.

From then on, against all expectations — and against official policy — Murad found himself kicked back across nearly all the borders he had passed through.

"Just think that my friends passed a few hours earlier than me and now they're in Germany," he says wistfully, sitting in the sprawling refugee camp of Idomeni, on the Greek-Macedonian border, where thousands of refugees and other migrants have been stranded for at least two months since the borders definitively closed in early March.

As Balkan countries stopped accepting migrants crossing through their land borders, those who were on the route say they were the victims of countries desperate to get rid of those trapped by the new rules.

Balkan countries along the route say they do not force potential asylum-seekers back across the border they just came from. But Murad's case is by no means the only one.

About 54,000 people are currently stranded in Greece, after the European Union and Turkey reached a deal designed to stem the flow of refugees into Europe's prosperous heartland. Under the deal, new arrivals on Greek islands after March 20 face being returned to Turkey unless they successfully apply for asylum in Greece.

The vast majority of those in Idomeni and elsewhere in Greece never made it any further. But some say they were forced back, mainly through holes in the border fence with Macedonia but also from further north — and show documents to back up their stories. Others even say they were sent to Greece despite bypassing it originally, having passed from Turkey through Bulgaria to Serbia.

Mohamad al-Baghdady, 33, from Syria's contested town of Deir el-Zour, said he crossed the Greek-Macedonian border with his wife and daughters, 3-year-old Line and 10-month old Bailsane, on March 3, just before the borders shut. They stayed in a Macedonian refugee camp for just over a month, he said, before Macedonian authorities destroyed their registration documents and pushed them back into Greece, through the fence Macedonia erected along parts of its southern border.

"We didn't want to go back, but the police put us on a truck and drove us to the border with Greece. They opened a hole in the fence and pushed us through. It was 2:30 in the morning," al-Baghdady said.

To prove they were there, his wife, Kamar Darwish, 29, pulls out a handful of food coupons from the Macedonian camp, notes with the names and telephone numbers of doctors there for their children, and Macedonian currency.

"If there was just one square meter that was safe in Syria, just one square meter, we would have stayed there, we wouldn't have come here and gone through this hardship," al-Baghdady said.

About another 30 Syrians who had been with the family that night were also in Idomeni, pitching their tents nearby.

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Darwish said the family told Macedonian authorities they wanted to apply for asylum. "But they told us 'there is no asylum in Macedonia. This is not Europe.'" She still doesn't understand why they were returned to Greece. "Everything was OK, our papers and everything."

Macedonian authorities denied claims that migrants have been forced back into Greece.

"We categorically reject allegations that migrants have been pushed through the fence back to Greece," Macedonian police spokesman Toni Angelovski told the AP. "We also reject claims that migrants have not been allowed to apply for asylum."

Further south, in the Petra refugee camp at the foot of Mount Olympus, a group of about 30 Yazidis say they had chosen an alternative route, using smugglers to get to Serbia through Bulgaria. They reached the Serbo-Croatian border in February, they say, but were denied entry. Then, inexplicably to them, Serb authorities sent them south to Macedonia, from where they were pushed into Greece.

Serbia denies any organized attempts to send people back to Macedonia. But officials speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak on the record, said some individual cases could have happened.

Dakhwas Al Hasan, 25, and Sarrad Shakir, 19, both from Mosul in Iraq, undertook the journey along with 14 others. Al Hasan said they crossed the Iraqi-Turkish border on January 23, staying in Turkey for about 25 days before crossing into Bulgaria. They walked for three days before reaching the capital, Sofia, and then heading into Serbia.

Once in Serbia, they received registration documents and were put on a train to the Croatian border. But Al Hasan said Croatian authorities wouldn't let them through without registration documents from Greece.

They spent five days in a camp near the border, where they were beaten by Afghans and Iranians because they were Yazidi. "Then the Serb police put us onto buses and drove us to the Serbian-Macedonian border," he said.

After two days stuck in no-man's land between Serbia and Macedonia, Macedonian authorities put them into a camp and a few days later "they led us to the fence near Idomeni, and pushed us through a hole into Greece."

Dilshad Omer, an 18-year-old from Dohuk, Iraq, now lives in the Petra camp with his mother, three sisters and four brothers. They also went through Bulgaria, he said, although his group of 23 people spent 11 days in jail there before reaching Serbia.

He displays a photograph on his mobile phone of his Serbian registration document, which he says Serb authorities took off him and ripped up while sending the family back to Macedonian border, putting them on buses at 3 a.m. Eventually they too were taken to the border fence with Greece, Omer said.

Al-Hasan still dreams of reaching Germany, where his sister and her family now live. While others have given up on the legal process and are seeking out smugglers to complete their journey, he still has hope.

"We want to go to Germany legally," he says. "And so, we wait."

## **Pakistani police kill 14 alleged al-Qaida militants**

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani police acting on intelligence killed 14 al-Qaida members and other militants in two separate shootouts in central Pakistan, authorities said Friday.

Eight al-Qaida operatives and other militants were killed near the city of Multan, in Punjab province, on Wednesday, according to a statement issued by the province's counter terrorism department. It said several of the accomplices managed to flee but were traced to the district of Dera Ghazi Khan, where six were killed in a firefight with security forces the following day.

Among those killed was a man linked to a 2010 militant attack on two mosques of the Ahmadi minority sect in the eastern city of Lahore that killed 97 people.

Other were involved in attacks against the security forces, the counter terrorism department said.

Also Friday, three suspected suicide bombers were killed when one of the insurgents accidentally detonated his suicide jacket while approaching the northwestern city of Peshawar on a motorcycle from the Khyber tribal region bordering Afghanistan, police official Shakir Ullah said.

He said officers were still trying to identify bodies of the men.

## **Egypt army says plane wreckage found near Alexandria**

**MAGGIE MICHAEL, Associated Press**

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian air and naval forces have found some of the passengers' "personal belongings" and debris of EgyptAir flight 804, which crashed while carrying 66 passengers and crew from Paris to Cairo, the army said Friday.

The debris was found around 180 miles (290 kilometers) north of the port city of Alexandria, Egyptian army spokesman Brig. Gen. Mohammed Samir said in a statement posted on his Facebook page. Egyptian jets and naval vessels continued to search for further debris from the downed Airbus 320, he said.

A team of Egyptian investigators led by Ayman el-Mokadam — along with French and British investigators and an expert from Airbus — will inspect what the army has found, Egyptian officials said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

The plane fell off the radar at 2.45 a.m. local time on Thursday morning while it was crossing the Mediterranean sea.

The office of Egypt's president, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, issued a statement expressing its condolences to the relatives of the 66 killed. It said the presidency "expressed its deep regret and sadness for the victims" of EgyptAir flight 804. "God give great mercy and host them in his heaven," it added.

The statement marked the first official recognition by Egypt's government that the missing plane has crashed.

France, Greece, Italy, Cyprus and the UK had all joined the Egyptian search effort, Egypt's defense ministry said. Authorities had been scouring a wide area south of the Greek island of Crete.

It is not yet known what caused the crash.

The Greek Defense Minister Panos Kammenos said that the plane swerved wildly before plummeting into the sea.

The Egyptian military said that no distress call was received from the pilot. The country's aviation minister Sherif Fathi said the likelihood the plane was brought down by a terror attack is "higher than the possibility of a technical failure."

Yet France's foreign minister Jean-Marc Ayrault asserted Friday on France-2 television that there is "absolutely no indication" of what caused the crash.

The junior minister for transport, Alain Vidalies, said on France-Info radio that "no theory is favored" at this stage and urged "the greatest caution."

Amid fears the plane was downed by an extremist attack, Vidalies defended security at Paris's Charles de Gaulle Airport, saying staff badges are revoked if there is the slightest security doubt.

Families of the victims spent the night in a hotel in Cairo while they awaited the news of their loved ones. Egyptian officials said some arrived from Paris late Thursday, among them eight relatives of the 15 French passengers on board the missing jet.

## **Japan officials express heartbreak at death, US man's arrest**

**MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's prime minister expressed his "strong indignation" Friday after an American working on a U.S. military base in Okinawa was arrested on suspicion of abandoning the body of a woman who disappeared last month.

"I have no words to express, considering how the family feels," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters. "We urge the U.S. side to take thorough measures to prevent the recurrence of such events."

The arrest sparked outrage on Okinawa, where anti-U.S. military sentiment is high because of a heavy American troop presence. It could fuel further opposition to the relocation of a U.S. Marine Corps air station on the southern Japanese island, a long-delayed project that Abe has been trying to push forward



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in the face of large protests.

Police said Kenneth Shinzato, 32, was arrested Thursday after he was questioned and investigators found the body at a location he provided, a forest in central Okinawa.

Investigators determined that the body is that of a 20-year-old woman missing since April 28, when she messaged her boyfriend that she was going for a walk.

Police said they suspect Shinzato was also responsible for her death. He has not been charged.

In Washington, Defense Department spokesman Peter Cook said the man arrested was a U.S. military contractor. "This is an appalling tragedy," he said. The U.S. military extends its "deepest sympathies to the people of Japan, and express our gratitude for the trust that they place in our bilateral alliance and the American people."

Kyodo News service said Shinzato used to be a Marine.

State Department spokesman John Kirby said the U.S. military was cooperating fully with local authorities in their investigation. "This is a terrible tragedy and it's obviously an outrage," he told reporters in Washington.

Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga said he was "outraged" and that the death of the woman broke his heart. "As I look back at all the developments to date, I'm simply speechless," he said.

Onaga has spearheaded opposition to the relocation of U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from a densely populated neighborhood in central Okinawa to another site on the island, saying the facility should be moved away from Okinawa instead.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida summoned U.S. Ambassador Caroline Kennedy to convey his "regret" over the crime.

Kennedy said: "Nothing that I can do or say will make up the loss or to bring her back, but I want to express to you my determination and that of my military colleagues to cooperate fully with Okinawan police and the Japanese government, and we will double our efforts to make sure this will never happen again."

Okinawa is home to more than half of about 50,000 American troops based in Japan. Many Okinawans complain about crime and noise connected to the bases.

## **Preakness 2016: Everyone loves Nyquist, even his rivals**

**RICHARD ROSENBLATT, AP Racing Writer**

BALTIMORE (AP) — Everyone loves Nyquist.

From Kentucky Derby winning trainers, to Preakness rivals, to millions of racing fans wondering whether another Triple Crown awaits, it tough to find anything wrong with a horse who has been nothing but perfect.

Eight races, eight victories. Kentucky Derby. Florida Derby. Breeders' Cup Juvenile. Del Mar Futurity. And a 2-year-old championship.

"I haven't seen any reason to doubt that he can go ahead and do the Triple Crown," says Barclay Tagg, who trained 2003 Derby and Preakness winner Funny Cide. "He hasn't done anything wrong, and he's had a lot of tries. He's taken on all comers on both sides of the continent. How can you say he won't go all the way?"

A year after American Pharoah ended a 37-year drought by sweeping the Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes, along comes Nyquist, the 3-5 favorite for Saturday's second leg of the Triple Crown. Trained by Doug O'Neill, Nyquist drew the No. 3 post and will be ridden by Mario Gutierrez. Four years ago the two teamed up along with owner J. Paul Reddam and won the Derby and Preakness with I'll Have Another.

Hall of Fame jockey John Velazquez had a close-up view of Nyquist in the Derby. He was aboard Outwork, who ran alongside the 3-year-old son of Uncle Mo for much of the race before dropping back and finishing 14th.

"I know where he was and what he did, and how he did it," Velazquez said. "It was very impressive. He is fast enough that he is going to be forwardly placed anyway. He (Mario) was very patient with him. He waited until the quarter-pole to give him his head, and then it was impressive. He did it very nicely."

This time, Velazquez will try to upset Nyquist aboard Stradavari, a promising colt who won his last two

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races by nearly 26 lengths combined but is making his stakes debut.

Bob Baffert knows a great horse, and the Hall of Fame trainer of American Pharoah believes Nyquist just might fit the bill.

"He's a really good horse. When you win eight in a row coming out of California, it's like California Chrome," said Baffert, who sends out 10-1 shot Collected in the Preakness. "Everybody was lukewarm. Then he won the Derby. Then it's, 'oh, he's for real.'"

Baffert doesn't expect his colt to give him what would be a record-tying seventh Preakness win.

"We're here to be competitive," he said, but "I can't really try to talk myself into it that I'm going to blow Nyquist away and the rest of the field. He's going to be tough to beat."

Shug McGaughey, who trained 2013 Derby winner Orb, had his doubts about Nyquist before the Derby.

"I thought he was the best going into the race, but I had my wonders whether he could go a mile-and-a-quarter," he said of the Derby distance. "He answered that. They got him in perfect position behind a scalding pace and that jock knew he wasn't going to stop."

Nyquist has won on a rain-soaked track in Florida, even though he drifted out in the stretch of the 1 1/8-mile race. He's won at 1 1/4 miles. Every time a question pops up about his ability, or breeding, the speedy colt answers with a resounding victory.

"He's fast, really fast and he stays out of trouble," Baffert said. "He has a winning attitude. Horses like that are tough. It's pass me to win. I'd probably be surprised if he didn't win (the Preakness)."

Team Nyquist is confident, but only because the horse is showing them he's feeling great and ready for another winning effort. O'Neill says Nyquist is the best horse he's ever had, and that includes I'll Have Another.

"Nyquist is just a tad more special, the way he carries himself, the way he acts around the barn," he said. "Just his whole presence is very unique and we're all feeding off that. ... It's a really good vibe and we realize this could be the last time we have a horse like this so we're enjoying every moment of it."

Hall of Fame jockey Kent Desormeaux will be aboard Derby runner-up Exaggerator, the 3-1 second choice but a four-time loser to Nyquist. He thought he had him in the San Vicente, but Nyquist came out on top.

"When I tackled him in the San Vicente coming to him twice the speed that he was going, he just jumped into the forward speed with me," Desormeaux said. "I was like, whoa, who is this guy? So, he's just very talented."

Former jockey Richard Migliore believes Nyquist's style resembles 1978 Triple Crown winner Affirmed.

"He's workmanlike," Migliore said. "I see how he does things and he always finds more. Every time there's a challenge he meets it and that's what Affirmed did. Affirmed wasn't that classy, he just did what needed to be done all the time. He looks like a dream horse for a jockey."

While Tagg thinks winning the Preakness will be easier than the Derby for Nyquist, he brought up a test that has yet to develop — a head-to-head stretch duel.

"He hasn't been in a dogfight," Tagg said.

## Frozen food recall covers hundreds of items from many stores

**DAVID PITT, Associated Press**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Amid a massive frozen foods recall involving millions of packages of fruits and vegetables that were shipped to all 50 U.S. states, Canada and Mexico, authorities who want to stem the listeria-linked illnesses and deaths worry it'll be difficult to get consumers to dig through their freezers and check for products they may have bought as far back as 2014.

It's one of the largest food recalls in recent memory, with well over 400 products from CRF Frozen Foods in Pasco, Washington, sold under more than 40 different brand names at major retailers like Costco, Target, Trader Joe's and Safeway. So far, eight people have been sickened by listeria that's genetically similar to that found in CRF vegetables, and two have died, though listeria was not the primary cause of death.

"Unquestionably, this is a lot of product. ... It reflects the severity of listeria as an illness, the long duration of illnesses and the outbreak and the long shelf life of the products," said Matthew Wise, who leads the outbreak response team at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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The initial recall started April 22, covering 11 frozen vegetable products. On May 2, CRF expanded it to include all of its frozen organic and traditional fruit and vegetable products manufactured or processed at its Washington plant since May 1, 2014. Thanks to recently developed whole-genome sequencing of food-contaminating bacteria, the Food and Drug Administration and CDC found that the listeria bacteria found in the blood of a person sickened in 2013 is genetically similar to the listeria tied to the recall.

"The idea is that it's possible that it could be linked to this plant as far back as that because of the match. As a result the company, working with the FDA, decided to do the recall that far back," CRF spokesman Gene Grabowski said.

The CRF plant closed two weeks ago and Grabowski said the company is still trying to pinpoint the source of the contamination.

Wise said his concern is that consumers check the online recall lists discard the products from of their freezers. "Listeriosis always makes us worry because it's such a serious infection," he said. The CDC says listeria is most harmful to adults over 65 with weakened immune systems and pregnant women.

Products were both packaged for sale as individual products and repackaged by places like Piggly Wiggly, Kroger and ConAgra foods as ingredients in a host of other store-brand and private-label products for stores like Trader Joe's and Costco.

Also, retailers including Target and regional distributors such as Midwest grocery chain Hy-Vee Foods have recently recalled products made by Tokyo-based Ajinomoto Windsor due to the company recalling 70 of its Asian variety products that contain CRF vegetables — about 47 million pounds worth — some of which were also sold in Canada and Mexico.

The FDA and CDC have developed a system to track the genetic makeup of salmonella, listeria and E.coli. Once a food-related illness outbreak is identified, scientists can match the DNA from contaminated food with the bacteria making people sick and potentially trace it to the originating food processing plant.

In this outbreak, of those eight who were sick, six were in California. The two people who died were from Maryland and Washington.

Authorities say it's unclear why there are not more illnesses from listeria. Wise said that the levels of listeria contamination might not be high or may be uneven in the packaged vegetables. Also, the vegetables in the recall are typically cooked before they're eaten, which would kill the bacteria.

The CDC continues to monitor state illness reports for any sign of additional cases, Wise said.

Listeria causes an estimated 1,600 cases illnesses each year in the U.S., but just half are reported. About 18 percent of listeriosis patients die.

FDA spokeswoman Lauren Sucher said it's important to follow label directions for cooking frozen foods and to check freezers thoroughly for the products listed on the FDA website.

## 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. WRECKAGE OF FLIGHT 804 FOUND, EGYPTIAN MILITARY SAYS

Beyond debris, passengers' belongings are discovered from the EgyptAir jetliner that crashed into the Mediterranean while carrying 66 passengers and crew from Paris to Cairo, an army spokesman says.

#### 2. TAIWAN INAUGURATES FIRST WOMAN CHIEF EXEC

In her inaugural address, new President Tsai Ing-wen omits mentioning the one-China policy, a move likely to anger Beijing.

#### 3. AUTHORITIES SCRAMBLE TO STEM LISTERIA-LINKED ILLNESSES, DEATHS

A massive frozen foods recall involves millions of packages of fruits and vegetables shipped to the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

#### 4. ISRAEL'S DEFENSE MINISTER RESIGNS

In stepping down, Moshe Yaalon cites a lack of trust in Netanyahu, as reports swirl that the prime minister intends to appoint ex-foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman to the post and take the government further to the hard right.

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## 5. WHERE STAR POWER COMES AT A PRICE

Celebrity speakers at college commencement ceremonies can bring excitement, publicity — and steep costs, the AP determines.

## 6. TRUMP PROVES PERSISTENT IN FLORIDA DISPUTE

The GOP presidential front-runner has been trying for two decades to stop planes from Palm Beach International Airport from flying over his prized Mar-a-Lago Club nearby.

## 7. WHAT BENEFIT PEOPLE SAY THEY'D LIKE TO HAVE

An overwhelming majority of Americans 40 and older say time off from work to care for a relative should be paid, an AP-NORC poll finds.

## 8. THAILAND NEARS TWO YEARS UNDER MILITARY RULE

Outwardly, not much changed after the coup. But under the surface, the country is undergoing a sea change.

## 9. HOW CHINA TRIES TO BUILD GOODWILL

U.S. researchers estimate that the government fabricates and posts about 488 million social media items a year to influence public opinion about the country.

## 10. PERFECT 10: CLEVELAND STAYS UNBEATEN IN POSTSEASON

LeBron James and the Cavs become the fourth team in NBA history to start the playoffs 10-0 with a win in Game 2 of the playoffs against Toronto.

## Relief and anger in Puerto Rico as Congress acts on debt

**DANICA COTO, Associated Press**

**MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press**

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — After months of pleading from Puerto Rico's government, the U.S. Congress has agreed to help the territory restructure its massive public debt. But it comes at a steep cost: a degree of lost sovereignty with the imposition of a fiscal control board as well as a potential lower minimum wage for young workers on the island.

Those provisions in the bipartisan measure are aimed at staving off a chaotic wave of defaults on the island's \$70 billion public debt. But they stoked some anger Thursday in Puerto Rico, where people have endured a decade of a steadily worsening economy and many resent the uneven relationship with the U.S. mainland.

Yet the deal brought relief to others, who feel it could help Puerto Ricans rebuild the economy while providing sorely needed control over their government.

"This should have been done a long time ago," said Jose Jaudo, a restaurant manager. "It's been proven for many years that Puerto Rico does not know how to run itself. Any time the government takes control over something, it doesn't work or it goes broke."

The bill calls for the creation of a seven-member control board appointed by Congress and the president that would oversee some court-ordered debt restructurings. It would also require Puerto Rico's government to submit budgets and create a plan to achieve fiscal responsibility and eventual access to financial markets. The board also would be responsible for maintaining the legal rights of creditors and shoring up pension shortfalls for an island whose public pension obligations are underfunded by more than \$40 billion.

U.S. law blocks Puerto Rico's public agencies and municipalities from declaring bankruptcy and restructuring debt under a judge's supervision.

"The situation is desperate," said Valerie Franklin, a souvenir store owner. "Right now, we're just working to pay taxes. We're just surviving."

Supporters say the bill would help strengthen Puerto Rico's sputtering economy, which has stagnated in part since the end of U.S. tax breaks for manufacturers that set off a vicious downward economic spiral that in turn prompted hundreds of thousands of Puerto Ricans to move to the mainland.

The House Natural Resources Committee could vote on the bill as early as next week. If approved, it would go to the full House and then move to the Senate. Some of the House's most conservative Repub-

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icans appear willing to support the deal, but senators have not said yet whether they will pass the House bill or write their own version.

The goal is to pass the bill before Puerto Rico defaults on a \$2 billion debt payment due July 1, the largest yet. The island already has missed three previous payments, including a \$367 million one due earlier this month.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla said that if the bill is approved without any changes, it will protect Puerto Rico from any lawsuits following the anticipated July 1 default. But he intends to fight some of the bill's provisions, including the one that would set up a fiscal control board whose members, he noted, would not be elected by the public.

"The board's powers are excessive," he said. "We have to keep fighting."

Garcia envisions a board with a supervisory role that would allow Puerto Rico's government to have final say over its finances. He said the measure's current provisions "are not consistent with our country's basic democratic principles."

Other government officials echoed Garcia's concerns, including Eduardo Bhatia, president of Puerto Rico's Senate. He asked Puerto Ricans to rise up and reject the bill, calling it disproportionate and anti-democratic.

"To those who think they can sacrifice democracy to obtain economic stability, know that in the end you'll have neither," he said.

Another big concern for some government officials and young adults in Puerto Rico is a provision that would allow the local government to temporarily lower the minimum wage, authorizing businesses to pay \$4.25 an hour to first-time employees under age 20. The bill states that the age can be automatically extended to 25 and that the lower wage can be paid for up to four years if requested. The island's current minimum wage varies from \$5.08 to \$7.25 an hour.

Critics say workers can barely survive on the current minimum wage, given the rising cost of living in Puerto Rico.

"I think it's terrible," said Jaileen Trinidad, a 23-year-old restaurant hostess. "We're educated. I have my bachelor's degree. ... It would affect me greatly because my baby depends on me."

Puerto Ricans fear that lowering the minimum wage would further fuel an exodus to the U.S. mainland instead of helping create more jobs locally.

Gabriel Hernandez, a 19-year-old food delivery worker, said the measure would prevent young people from building a secure future.

"They wouldn't be able to get ahead, to make money to buy a car, to buy school supplies, to buy a house," he said.

But it's unlikely the minimum wage provision will change. The bill was revised during weeks of negotiations and it now has the support of U.S. House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew.

Disagreements over how the board would be appointed had held up negotiations. The bill would allow the president to select all but one of the board's seven members from lists provided by congressional leaders. Anyone that the president picked from outside the list would have to be confirmed by the Senate.

As U.S. legislators prepare for another round of debates, Puerto Ricans like artist Richard Daal are eager to see the bill approved.

"The government here has demonstrated that it doesn't have the capability or the dexterity to manage the island," he said. "It's like a business. If you don't manage it well, someone else should take over."

## India records its hottest temperature ever amid heat wave

**MUNEEZA NAQVI, Associated Press**

NEW DELHI (AP) — A city in western India has suffered through the country's highest temperature in history — a scorching 51 degrees Celsius (123.8 Fahrenheit).

The record was set Thursday in the city of Phalodi, in the western state of Rajasthan. India's meteorological department said the previous high was 50.6 Celsius (123 F), reached in 1956 in the city of Alwar,

also in Rajasthan.

Authorities have issued a severe heat wave alert for the next two days in the western states of Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of the central state of Madhya Pradesh. That means the areas can expect temperatures as high as 47 degrees Celsius (116.6 Fahrenheit) or more.

The main summer months — April, May and June — are always excruciatingly hot across most parts of India before monsoon rains and cool temperatures arrive.

The monsoon hits southern India in the first week of June and covers the rest of the country within a month.

This year — as temperatures hit new highs — the monsoon is especially eagerly awaited as several parts of the country are reeling under a drought brought on by two years of weak rains.

The prolonged heat wave this year has already killed hundreds and destroyed crops in more than 13 states, impacting hundreds of millions of Indians.

Hundreds of farmers are reported to have killed themselves across the country and tens of thousands of small farmers have been forced to abandon their farmland and live in squalor in urban slums in order to earn a living.

Rivers, lakes and dams have dried up in many parts of the western states of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Gujarat, and overall officials say that groundwater reservoirs are severely depleted.

In some areas, the situation is so bad the government has sent in water by train for emergency relief.

## **New Taiwan president omits one-China principle in speech**

**JOHNSON LAI, Associated Press**

**RALPH JENNINGS, Associated Press**

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's new independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen tread carefully around the thorny issue of relations with China in her inaugural address Friday, emphasizing the importance of two decades of growing exchanges without mentioning the one-China principle fundamental to Beijing.

Tsai said in her speech that she respected the "joint acknowledgements and understandings" reached between the sides at a landmark 1992 meeting seen by China as underpinning all subsequent contacts and agreements.

However, Tsai made no explicit mention of the concept that Taiwan is a part of China. Beijing claims the self-governing island as its own territory and says failing to endorse the one-China principle would destabilize relations.

In Beijing, the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office issued a statement noting Tsai's reference to the 1992 meeting, but saying she had taken an "ambiguous stance" over the nature of the relationship between the sides.

Her failure to explicitly endorse what China calls the "92 consensus" embodying the principle of one-China, or to offer a "specific proposal to ensure the peaceful and stable development of relations between the sides" had left the question unanswered, the office said.

The statement, issued about five hours after Tsai's speech, also reaffirmed China's rigid opposition to Taiwan's formal independence, stating that: "Today, our determination to protect national sovereignty and territorial integrity is unshaken, our capability is strengthened and we will resolutely contain any 'Taiwan independence' separatist acts or plots in whatever form they take."

In her address, Tsai called for Taipei and Beijing to "set aside the baggage of history, and engage in positive dialogue, for the benefit of the people on both sides."

She said her administration would "work to maintain peace and stability" in relations between the sides. However, she added that Taiwan's democratic system and the will of its 23 million people must be respected in the course of cross-strait dialogue.

The Nationalist Party government of Tsai's predecessor Ma Ying-jeou had repeatedly endorsed the one-China principle and the "92 consensus" and reached a series of economic and civil agreements between the sides.

China maintains that Taiwan must unify with the mainland eventually, by force if necessary. However,

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Taiwanese public opinion is strongly against any sort of political union, instead favoring the status of de facto independence and robust social and economic interactions.

While the Nationalists favor unification, Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party advocates formally establishing Taiwan as an independent nation.

Chinese President Xi Jinping has said the issue of unification cannot be put off indefinitely and China's military has conducted saber-rattling war games in recent days along the coastline facing Taiwan.

Tsai is Taiwan's first female president and the first woman elected as head of state in Asia not related to a prominent male politician.

Much of her speech focused on reviving Taiwan's high-tech, export-oriented economy, which is now in recession, and increasing opportunities for young people who largely blame Chinese competition for shrinking the pool of well-paying jobs.

The inauguration was festive, with bands and cheerleaders, and included presentations on Taiwan's history. One segment took on a politically charged event, the 1947 massacre of Taiwanese intellectuals by Nationalist troops from mainland China. Actors portraying executed political prisoners fell to the ground in the plaza in front of the Presidential Office Building.

While Tsai faces challenges on several fronts, she will be aided by the DPP's commanding majority in Taiwan's parliament. The party's landslide victory in the January polls was seen as a keen expression of concern that the island's economy is under threat from the mainland's economic juggernaut.

While leaving Beijing unsatisfied, Tsai avoided provoking Beijing by referring to Taiwan as an independent sovereign nation, said Li Fei, deputy director of the Taiwan Research Institute at China's Xiamen University.

"This is a speech that can be accepted by the international community and endured by the mainland," Li said, adding that Beijing will be watching what Tsai does in coming days as she forms her administration.

China has multiple ways of registering its dissatisfaction, including cutting exchanges and regular contacts, tightening the island's diplomat isolation and barring Chinese tourists from visiting the island.

China may also block Taiwanese observers from attending the U.N. World Health Organization's annual World Health Assembly in Geneva next week.

Asked about Taiwan's future participation in international organizations, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying offered few clues, saying only that the matter could be discussed between the two sides "on the premise that it will not result in "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan"

Taiwanese political scientist Shane Lee said he expected China to react, although not too strongly.

China will continue to "have a bit of this and that around the world to make sure the new government gets the message China is not that happy," said Lee, who teaches at Chang Jung Christian University in the southern city of Tainan.

Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., said Beijing will see Tsai's remarks as "continuing to be ambiguous."

"You could read into it whatever you want to read into it," Glaser said. "My guess is that the Chinese will choose to see this as insufficient."

## San Francisco police chief out after yet another shooting

**PAUL ELIAS, Associated Press**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The death of a young black woman in a stolen car proved to be the last in a series of shootings and racially tinged scandals that finally led to the resignation of San Francisco's police Chief Greg Suhr.

A new acting chief is now tasked with mending the department's strained relations with the black community.

Deputy Chief Toney Chaplin, a 26-year department veteran who is black, was appointed acting chief by Mayor Ed Lee after Suhr's resignation Thursday.

Chaplin had the confidence of at least one key supporter.

"Toney Chaplin has the charisma, chemistry and courage to lead this department," said Rev. Amos Brown,

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the president of the San Francisco chapter of the NAACP.

Brown had also supported Suhr through the department's difficulties, and said the police's problems "are bigger than one man."

Pressure had been mounting for the resignation of Suhr since December, when five officers fatally shot a young black man carrying a knife. Since then, there have been protests, moves to reform the police department and a federal review of its protocol.

Mayor Ed Lee supported the chief in December and again in April after it was disclosed that three officers had exchanged racist text messages.

But hours after Thursday's shooting, Lee asked for Suhr's resignation and received it.

The texting scandal was the second to rock the department after it was also disclosed that several officers had exchanged racist messages dating back to before Suhr was chief. But Suhr was criticized for moving too slowly to fire the offending officers, all of whom have retained their jobs because of the chief's failure to start disciplinary action when he first found out about the inappropriate.

Suhr could not be reached for comment Thursday.

Protesters demanding Suhr's resignation drowned out the mayor's second inaugural speech in January, and demonstrators forced the mayor to abandon a planned speech on Martin Luther King Jr. Day later that month.

Nonetheless, the mayor stood behind the chief, and the two announced a series of reforms aimed at reducing police shootings. The two also called in the U.S. Department of Justice to review the department's policy and procedures.

Suhr renewed his call for reform April 8 after an officer shot and killed a Latino homeless man who police said refused orders to drop a large knife.

But Suhr lost Lee's backing Thursday, after a patrol car prowling an industrial neighborhood for stolen vehicles came across a 27-year-old black woman sitting behind the wheel of a parked car.

Police said the car had been reported stolen.

Officers turned on the patrol car's lights and sounded its siren, and the woman to sped off in the stolen car. A few second later and about 100 feet away, the stolen car slammed into a parked utility truck.

The officers jumped out of the patrol car and raced to the wreckage, where the woman was revving the car in an effort to disengage the auto from the truck. Suhr said a witness reported that the officers opened the driver's door and began grabbing the woman in attempt to arrest her.

At that point, a sergeant fired one fatal round.

"This is exactly the kind of thing with all the reforms we are trying to prevent," Suhr said Thursday, less than two hours after the shooting and before he resigned.

"The progress we've made has been meaningful, but it hasn't been fast enough," Lee said in a brief statement at City Hall. "Not for me, not for Greg."

The identity of the dead woman has not been released. She was shot in the same neighborhood where the five officers shot and killed Mario Woods, the 26-year-old black man carrying a knife.

Video of Woods' shooting circulated widely online and led to protests and calls for Suhr's resignation.

But at the time, the chief still enjoyed the backing of the mayor and other community leaders, who said they wanted to give Suhr time to implement the reforms he promised.

"Some of the reforms underway might have prevented or clarified today's incident," the mayor said Thursday. "We need to turn these plans into actions."

Lee appointed Suhr chief in 2011. He was a 34-year veteran of the department who rose through the ranks despite several professional missteps.

He was demoted from deputy chief to captain in 2009 after failing to file a police report after a female friend told him she had been assaulted by her boyfriend.

The city last year paid \$725,000 to settle a wrongful termination lawsuit filed by a former department lawyer who recommended Suhr be fired for failing to report his friend's assault. When Suhr became chief, he fired the lawyer.

Suhr was also re-assigned from head of patrol in 2005 to guarding the city's water supply, which was



widely viewed as a demotion.

Two years earlier, he was one of several officers indicted in the city's so-called "Fajitagate" for allegedly trying to cover up an investigation of three off-duty officers who had beaten up a waiter and took his bag of Mexican food. The indictment was tossed out.

## New poll shows strong support for paid family leave programs

**ALEJANDRA CANCINO, For The Associated Press**

CHICAGO (AP) — Time off from work to care for a child or relative is codified in federal law. Now, an overwhelming majority of Americans 40 and older want that time away from the job to be paid.

An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll released Friday said 72 percent support paid family leave. Democrats were more likely to back it, but Republicans also expressed strong support. Overall, support was stronger among people age 40-64 and among women.

At least 19 states are considering paid family leave laws, but only three have active programs. New York, the latest to approve it, will launch its program in 2018.

"There is a lot of interest and a lot of momentum," said Ellen Bravo, executive director of Family Values @ Work, an advocacy group. "We hope that over the next five years a critical mass of states will win these policies."

Bravo said the state wins are paving the way for a federal law.

The federal Family and Medical Leave Act provides for up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave for most workers to care for a newborn or adopted child or a spouse, child or parent who is seriously ill.

A bill to make that leave paid was introduced in the Senate last year but has gone nowhere in Congress. Among the presidential candidates, both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders have voiced support for paid family leave. Donald Trump hasn't offered a clear opinion.

"I support (paid family leave) because I feel that in the U.S., we need to realize that employees, or the workers, can't really do the best job possible if you are worrying about a family member," said Mary Jo Morelli, of the Detroit area.

Morelli, 52, said she expects that someday she'll need time off to care for her aging mother and in-laws who are now in their 80s.

Paid family leave works like insurance and is funded via mandatory contributions from workers' paychecks.

In New York, about \$1 a week will be deducted. Workers could receive a portion of their pay for up to eight weeks in the program's first year. That will increase to 12 weeks, double what other states offer.

Most workers use the benefit to care for a newborn or adopted child, according to data from the California, New Jersey and Rhode Island programs. Workers also can use it to care for an aging parent, spouse or other relative.

About a quarter of older workers who support paid family leave said they would be hesitant to ask for time off. Of those, nearly half worried it would negatively affect their future salary or promotion opportunities. About 4 in 10 said they felt pressured by employers not to take time off.

"Workers are, and for good reason, nervous about retaliation from their employer," said Ruth Milkman a sociology professor at the CUNY Graduate Center who has studied paid family leave.

Some people also cited the need for their full salary.

Farmworker Adan Lopez said he supports the law but it would be impossible to live on just 55 percent of his wages, the benefit in California. He makes about \$500 per week and the rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Salinas, California, is about \$1,800 a month. During lean times, he said, his family is forced to share an apartment with others.

California will raise its weekly benefit in 2018 to 60 percent or 70 percent of wages, depending on earnings. The state also is pushing to increase awareness of the decade-old program.

The AP-NORC poll found that about 44 percent in California had not heard of the law.

In New York, advocates are working with state officials to educate people, especially low-income residents and minorities, about paid family leave. "Passing the law was step one," said Dina Bakst, co-founder of A

Better Balance: The Work and Family Legal Center.

The poll also found overwhelming support for policies to help caregivers with long-term care costs. Eighty-three percent support tax breaks for caregivers and 73 percent favor a credit toward Social Security benefits for caregivers who take time off work.

As the only unmarried sibling in his family, Tim Mitchell, 51, of Portales, New Mexico, cared on-and-off for his grandmother and, later, his mother. He said he'd support any help for caregivers, who, like him, struggle financially later in life. "What I did was a heck of a sacrifice," he said.

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey was conducted Feb. 18 through April 9, with funding from the SCAN Foundation. The nationally representative poll involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,698 Americans age 40 or older. It has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.

## **A President Trump could trump his club's fight over planes**

**TERRY SPENCER, Associated Press**

**JACK GILLUM, Associated Press**

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — There are many questions about what Donald Trump would do if elected president, so let's add another: Would he ban planes leaving Palm Beach International Airport from flying over his prized Mar-a-Lago Club?

Trump has tried for two decades through the Federal Aviation Administration and the courts to force departing airliners to turn before reaching the historic and exclusive 17-acre estate, which is 2.5 miles east of the airport's primary runway.

An Associated Press analysis of airport data between late April and early May found the majority of planes flew directly over or near Mar-a-Lago, some taking off or landing at an altitude between 500 and 2,000 feet. On a typical day, for example, the AP tracked scores of planes flying over Trump's resort before heading north or continuing east.

The presumptive Republican nominee charges in his current lawsuit that the jetliners' roar disturbs his members, who pay \$100,000 initiation fees and \$14,000 annual dues. He also says the vibrations and jet exhaust damage the fragile Dorian stone, antique Spanish tiles and Cuban roof tiles used by cereal tycoon Marjorie Merriweather Post and her husband, financier E.F. Hutton, to build the 126-room, 10,000-square-foot mansion in the mid-1920s, a decade before the airport opened and three decades before passenger jets took flight.

While the legal games are being played, if elected, Trump could play the ultimate trump card. As president, he could order the FAA to shift Palm Beach International's takeoff and landing patterns to avoid Mar-a-Lago. But would he? It is a possibility airport manager and Trump nemesis Bruce Pelly raised in a 2011 interview with The Palm Beach Post during an earlier noise fight where the airport refused to bend.

"The solution for him is to get elected president," Pelly said. Through a spokeswoman, Pelly recently declined to comment.

Trump, in a recent interview with the AP, said he wouldn't use the presidency to settle the issue.

"I would stay out of it," he said. But he said the airport should fan out departing planes, having some turn north or south almost immediately instead of having them head straight east. That, he said, would allow planes to take off with less time in between and turn one runway into the equivalent of three.

Trump has long held particular scorn for Pelly, singling him out in his latest lawsuit and calling him "the worst airport manager in the U.S." in a signed 2011 letter to the FAA obtained by the AP through a public records request. He even criticizes him for infrastructure projects unrelated to the noise.

"Frankly, Bruce Pelly has done a horrible job," Trump told the AP. "He built a road system that has made it harder for people get into the airport. It cost the taxpayers \$500 million and is extremely impractical."

Sid McGuirk, a lawyer and an associate professor of air traffic management at Florida's Embry-Riddle University, said Trump as president could order the FAA to direct planes to avoid Mar-a-Lago, "but, boy,

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the backlash." Changes to takeoff and landing patterns require safety and noise studies and allow time for public comment, he said. Circumventing the process by executive order would lead to congressional investigations and lawsuits by those now underneath the departing planes, he said.

"Would it be worth it? It would be on the front page of The New York Times and Washington Post for weeks," McGuirk said. Of course, he added, anytime President Trump visited Mar-a-Lago, the airspace would become a no-fly zone as is anywhere a president visits, but those are usually temporary.

Trump purchased Mar-a-Lago — "The Greatest Mansion Ever Built," according to its website — from Post's foundation in 1985 for \$10 million and renovated it. After using the estate as a residence for 10 years, he opened it as a club in 1995. The property now boasts 58 bedrooms, 33 bathrooms, a 20,000-square-foot ballroom, tennis and croquet courts and three bomb shelters.

With buildings totaling 77,000 square feet, it has an appraised market value of \$20.3 million, according to county tax records. That number is artificially low primarily because Trump signed away its development rights to the National Trust, lowering his property taxes. Otherwise, Mar-a-Lago's value would easily be \$60 million to \$80 million, said county property appraiser Gary Nikolits.

Trump filed his first noise lawsuit against Palm Beach County, which owns the airport, in 1995. It was settled a year later with the county agreeing to lease him the land where he built Trump International Golf Club. But the truce did not hold.

Trump filed a lawsuit against the county in 2010 to block preliminary plans to add a second east-west runway, telling the FAA in a letter that the proposal was "a deeply embarrassing performance, which has already wasted millions of dollars of public funds. The consultant who did it should be fired."

Responding to Trump's letter, airport attorney Peter Kirsch told an FAA administrator in a 2011 email he would call him, adding, "You might not be surprised to learn that most of what Mr. Trump states in the letter is not accurate." The lawsuit was withdrawn that year.

Trump sued the county again last year, alleging that Pelly pressures FAA controllers to direct jetliners over his property in retaliation for his earlier lawsuits.

"Pelly is seeking revenge by attacking Mar-a-Lago from the air," the lawsuit said.

That lawsuit, which seeks \$100 million in damages, is unlikely to be resolved before next year. Between the legalese, it sometimes reads like a travel brochure.

"Whether dining on the patio, using the outdoor pool, using the beach facilities, playing tennis, or hosting an outdoor wedding by the waters of the Atlantic Ocean or Lake Worth, the only property to front on both, the once serene and tranquil ambience of Mar-a-Lago is essential to the Estate, just as it was in Ms. Post's era."

## Trump, Clinton speeches to highlight US divisions on guns

**RYAN J. FOLEY, Associated Press**

**LISA MARIE PANE, Associated Press**

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton will court voters on opposite sides of the gun debate over the next two days in events that will highlight the nation's deep divide on the topic.

Trump and other top Republicans will speak at the National Rifle Association convention Friday in Louisville, where organizers are trying to unite gun-rights voters by painting Clinton as a foe of their causes who must be stopped.

Clinton will appear Saturday in Florida with the mother of Trayvon Martin and other parents who have lost children to gun violence. She's become a forceful advocate for restrictions meant to reduce the nation's 33,000 annual gun deaths.

The dual appearances highlight the opposing positions the candidates have staked out on gun rights and safety, the prominent role the issue might play in the campaign and the national policy implications for the next president.

"If you cherish Second Amendment rights, the stakes have never been higher than they are in this election," NRA spokeswoman Jennifer Baker said.

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The NRA — which Clinton listed as an enemy in a debate last year — is warning its 5 million members that Clinton would appoint anti-Second Amendment justices and “implement a radical gun-control agenda,” Baker said.

Clinton has said she supports the Second Amendment but that commonsense safety measures are needed to keep firearms out of the wrong hands. She has called for expanding background checks to sales at gun shows and online purchases, and for reinstating a ban on assault weapons.

She has often campaigned with families of gun violence victims and will rejoin many on Saturday as the keynote speaker at an event sponsored by the Trayvon Martin Foundation. The fatal shooting of the unarmed black teenager in 2012 continues to be a flashpoint in the debate. Former neighborhood watchman George Zimmerman recently said he planned to auction off the gun he used in the slaying.

Trump, who often notes that he has a concealed-carry permit, has called for making it easier for law-abiding citizens to carry guns for self-protection, saying they could help prevent terrorist attacks and mass shootings. He argues the existing background check system should be fixed, not expanded, and that assault-weapons bans do not work.

The latter view marks a change from 2000, when Trump wrote in a book that he supported the ban on assault weapons as well as a slightly longer waiting period for gun purchases.

Supporters of gun control have been energized by Clinton’s campaign and fear a Trump presidency would maintain a national policy that favors easy access to guns.

Clinton “is in tune with what’s happening on the streets,” said Tanya Keith, 44, a mother of three in Des Moines, Iowa, who got involved in gun-safety advocacy after attending a Clinton event last summer. “I’m not trying to take away anyone’s gun. I’m just trying to make it less likely for my daughter to get shot on her way home from school or my son to get accidentally shot on a play date.”

Gun sales have boomed during Barack Obama’s presidency despite, and perhaps in part because of, several mass shootings and persistent gun violence in cities. His calls to expand background checks have been stymied by the GOP-controlled Congress. He has taken modest steps through executive orders, and Clinton vows to build on that work.

States are moving in vastly different policy directions: Gun-friendly lawmakers keep making it easier to buy and carry guns. Gun-control supporters keep adding restrictions.

California, already among the nation’s toughest states on guns, will vote in November on a ballot initiative that would require buyers of ammunition to pass background checks and outlaw high-capacity magazines. Meanwhile, other states are moving to allow people to carry concealed weapons in more places, including on college campuses, and to do so without having to obtain a permit.

The divide can be exasperating for those who seek a middle ground that would protect gun rights and improve public safety.

“All the political rhetoric right now, and Twitter and Facebook ... is polarizing us, telling us we’re in one camp or another,” said Jonathan Metzl, a professor at Vanderbilt University who studies guns and mental health. “Maybe after the election we can come to terms with this.”

Nathan Gibson of Johnston, Iowa, has seen the polarization firsthand. For three years, Gibson and his daughters, 12 and 10, have lobbied to repeal an Iowa law that requires handgun users to be at least 14 years old. The law prevents his girls from competing in some shooting sports, requiring them to drive to neighboring states.

The Republican-controlled Iowa House approved a change in February that would allow children to use handguns under parental supervision. Critics called it the “toddler militia” bill, and Clinton accused the NRA of trying to get more guns in the hands of children. Leaders of the Democratic-controlled Senate killed the bill.

Gibson said he saw Clinton’s position as hypocritical, noting that she has talked about hunting as a young girl.

“I’m not a very big fan of Donald Trump, but I also think he won’t mess with the Second Amendment,” Gibson said. “When it comes down to it, I’ll vote for Trump to make sure Hillary does not get into office.”

## Voices from Thailand: Reflections on 2-year coup anniversary

JOCELYN GECKER, Associated Press

NATNICA CHUWIRUCH, Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — In the early evening of May 22, 2014, all TV screens in Thailand turned blue and up flashed an army emblem. That was the first sign of change. Suddenly, the country's army commander appeared to say he was now in charge.

Without firing a shot or spilling any blood, the military had staged its second coup in eight years — and its 12th since the end of absolute monarchy in 1932.

A stern-faced Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha said at the time he had acted to restore stability after six months of political deadlock, protests and deadly violence. He said his goal was to heal Thailand's intractable political divide and "quickly bring the situation back to normal."

Two years later, Thailand is still firmly under military control, although Prayuth has changed his title from general to prime minister.

Outwardly, the country has returned to normal. Bangkok is clogged with traffic, protesters have stayed off the streets, resorts and beaches are full of tourists. But under the surface, Thai society, politics and freedoms are in a state of flux. What do Thais think about the coup, and how has Thailand changed in the two years under military control? The AP presents the views of ordinary people and well-known figures in Thai society to answer those questions in their own voice.

### THE PROFESSOR

Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a leading expert on Thai politics from Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University:

"Thailand has changed, but in a way that goes back to the past rather than into the future."

"A lot of people had some relief when the coup took place after six months of mayhem and protests. On a daily basis, Thailand became unworkable, ungovernable."

"Initially, there was relief that we had some law and order. Safety in the streets, no demonstrations. But at the expense of pent-up frustrations. And also at the expense of popular rule that people have come to expect."

"But two years is a long time in Thai politics. Now people are saying, yes, we had some law and order, to the extreme in fact, too much of it. People have been detained. There has been a lot of coercion, violations of basic civil liberties, at the expense of longer term stability."

"The way ahead is murky. Most worryingly, the coup makers do not have an exit strategy. And it looks the generals aren't taking over for the future of Thailand and the Thai people, but for the generals themselves. So I think more people are seeing that and more people are showing dissatisfaction that is going to mount."

### THE JOURNALIST

Pravit Rojanaphruk, a Thai journalist who is one of the junta's prominent critics:

"It's pretty bleak."

"As a journalist, there's been a lot of self-censorship as well as the arbitrary detention of those who refuse to stop calling this regime illegitimate. I have been detained without charges twice. Most recently they have banned my travel to Finland to attend the World Press Freedom Day celebration, which is co-organized with UNESCO."

"These are very concrete examples and prove that there exists repression against the media here in Thailand."

"Thailand needs able journalists to continue to do their jobs properly despite the fact that they are facing the threat of arbitrary detention and charges as well as possibly the threat of being put on a military tribunal."

"The future is pretty uncertain as we speak. What is certain is that the younger generation of Thais have been made to realize that freedom and democracy cannot be taken for granted. That we are now seeing a small but a very active group of university students playing a pivotal role in protesting and resisting the

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militarization of Thai society.”

## THE STUDENT

Kornkanok Khamta, 22, a political science student at Bangkok’s Thammasat University who has become an anti-coup activist:

“In the first year after the coup, I was really just an ordinary student. But after that year, I started becoming more involved in student and youth movements with my friends. I realized that I’ve been abused by the government. When I speak out or try to express normal things in public, I’ve been stifled by the government. And this is not right.

“But it’s not just being stifled or blocked, they have ‘attitude adjustment’ camps. They have physically invaded human rights. After I came out to speak against (government) corruption, I was put in military court, jailed and detained.”

“Some groups have become less vocal. Some closed down their Facebook pages after the army apprehended the administrators of an (anti-government) Facebook page. But the only reason we’re still fighting is because the more we get threatened or punished, the more we feel we need to act. If no one does or says anything, they will win.”

## THE BUSINESSMAN

Bill Heinecke, U.S.-born billionaire whose company Minor International owns 147 hotels, including the St. Regis, Marriott and Four Seasons in Thailand. Among his 1,800 fast food and retail businesses are the Thai franchises for Burger King, Swensen’s, the Gap, Esprit and Brooks Brothers. Heinecke is now a Thai citizen:

“There certainly has been change. Bangkok if we remember correctly was almost at a standstill. No one could vote, an election couldn’t take place, traffic was blocked, protests were ongoing. So we’ve seen a return to stability. And that’s always good for business.”

“When you see instability on the streets, and in the mass media worldwide, it effects our business in every possible way. There’s a lack of confidence, there’s a lack of tourists, the economy was being strangled.”

“I think we’ve seen a return to normalized business. I think there has been significant improvement. To me, I know of no one that’s concerned about the protection of their rights — in terms of living peacefully, going about their business. Yes, if you say, ‘Do I have the right to rally in the streets?’ you may not, but to me that’s less critical than it is to make sure we can all continue with business and to make sure we can provide education for our kids.”

“Is it perfect? I’m sure it’s not. Is it better than it was? I think it is.”

## BANGKOK RESIDENT

Punthit Unhasut, 45, software developer in Bangkok.

“In my opinion, the country has changed for the better. Before, during the political turmoil, the country was at a standstill because the two political sides didn’t like each other. Because of that country was not able to move forward in business or politics.

“Since the coup, even though the two political sides still don’t agree with each other, it’s like there’s a mediator who forces things along.”

“But in the long term having a junta might not be good because so many international countries have failed under military rule. Coups are not a good thing, in general. But at this point right now, it’s a good thing because the country was not moving forward for so long. It’s what we needed at the time.

## THE MOTHER

Payao Akkhahad, the mother of 25-year-old volunteer medic Kamolkate Akkhahad who was shot dead while treating political protesters sheltering at a Bangkok temple in 2010 after the army swept in.

“The coup was not the right thing to do, considering we’re supposed to be a democracy.”

“You can’t trust this government. They keep promising things like reforms, changes, and this and that.

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They promised us elections and that hasn't happened yet. Things have just gotten worse and worse, and if we go out and try to voice our opinions, we get silenced and put in jail. They say that we have to follow the law and the rules that they made but they haven't even followed it themselves. Instead, they abuse their power."

"It feels like our breath doesn't belong to us anymore, it belongs to the army. If we breathe too loud, we get in trouble. I'm one of the few people who are publicly against the government."

## THE POLITICIAN

Kasit Piromya, former Thai foreign minister from 2008-2011 under ex-Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

"The military establishment is doing things that should not be done. And not doing things that should be done. They have not been answering to the cries of the people on the street. They say they should be in power because they are the stabilizing factor — their presence in the political process provides stability to the country. So Thailand now has less democratic practices, less freedom of expression and human rights."

"The political divide hasn't disappeared. It's just been silenced. But the military is still in power. They love power. They are going to be embedded for a long, long time. There will be an election, we don't know when. Then we will be a mini-Myanmar, a mini-China with one party — the military party or military backed sets of smaller parties."

"I think they're bringing Thailand into further brinkmanship."

## Asian markets restore calm after Fed signals spark sell-offs

**YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets drifted slightly higher on Friday as investors restored calm a day after worries about the Fed's rate hike signals prompted sell-offs.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 added 0.3 percent to 16,693.39 while South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.1 percent to 1,948.60. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 1.2 percent to 19,931.54. China's Shanghai Composite Index added 0.1 percent to 2,809.72. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 gained 0.6 percent to 5,358.30.

FED WATCH: At the Fed's meeting in April, policymakers indicated an increase in rates was likely in June, assuming the economy and labor market continued to strengthen. Asian stocks finished lower on Thursday at the unexpected rate hike signal. Higher rates diminish the appeal of high-dividend companies to investors seeking income.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "It's rare that the Fed speakers put on a unified front to warn about potential policy changes. We are usually accustomed to their mantra for data-driven policy decisions," said Bernard Aw, a market strategist at IG. "Investors are worried that if there is a rate hike in June, the economy may not be able to support it."

WALL STREET: U.S. stock markets finished lower on Thursday on expectations that the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates next month. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.5 percent to 17,435.40. The S&P 500 lost 0.4 percent to 2,040.04. The Nasdaq composite gave up 0.6 percent to 4,712.53.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude oil added 54 cents to \$49.22 in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 11 cents to close \$48.67 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 44 cents to \$49.25 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar strengthened to 110.10 yen from 109.94 yen and the euro rose to \$1.1204 from \$1.1203.

## Clinton grapples with Trump's ability to stay in spotlight

**JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump kept himself planted firmly in the political spotlight this week with one headline-grabbing move after another — launching a social media defense of his treatment of women, listing possible Supreme Court nominees, and rapidly declaring an Egyptian plane crash an act of terrorism.

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His likely general election opponent, Hillary Clinton, seemed content to hang in the background.

But Clinton's stay-above-the-fray attitude masks unresolved questions that have gnawed at her campaign since Trump virtually locked up the Republican nomination. How can the wonkish Clinton counteract Trump's finely tuned ability to command attention? Can she win the White House by letting Trump run on his terms, hoping his unorthodox candidacy wears thin with voters by November?

Or does she need to make a positive case for her own candidacy, something she has struggled to articulate during the Democratic primary?

"She's going to have to do things to keep her side motivated, to keep people excited, keep it aspirational," said Steve Schale, a Florida Democratic strategist who advised President Barack Obama's White House campaigns.

Clinton's unexpectedly tough battle with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders highlights her struggle to make that case thus far.

Sanders' supporters can repeat whole sections of his campaign speech verbatim. Trump's backers chime in on cue when he asks who will pay for his proposed border wall with Mexico.

The former secretary of state, by contrast, throws a policy-filled kitchen sink at voters. She pledges to break down barriers to progress, build on Obama's priorities and implement lessons learned from her husband's economic stewardship in the 1990s.

And her ability to define the race on her own terms could only get harder in a face-off with Trump, the dominant force in this presidential contest and a master of defining his opponents before they can define themselves.

"He's good at dominating the news cycle and changing the news cycle to fit his purposes," said Rick Tyler, former communications director for Texas Sen. Ted Cruz's failed presidential campaign. "He has this ability to just change the trajectory of where the news is going by using amazing distractions that are just too delicious to pass up."

To be sure, Clinton has overcome her messaging struggles in the primary and is close to clinching the Democratic nomination. But facing Trump will be another matter, with his capacity to set the tone for the day in the morning through frequent tweets and calls into news shows, catching his rivals off guard and leaving them scrambling to catch up.

The last days underscored Trump's grip on the spotlight, and his willingness to stay there even when attention turns negative.

After a newspaper article detailing his behavior with women, Trump kept the story alive by repeatedly bashing the reporters and defending his actions. He shifted the conversation to his possible presidency by announcing a list of judges he might nominate to the high court. He then said on Twitter the roll out went so well that he might add more names.

In between, Trump said he could negotiate with North Korea's leader. He called Ferguson, Missouri, and Oakland, California, more dangerous than Iraq. And he used the word "rape" in speaking about Bill Clinton's past indiscretions.

While Clinton's campaign released paper statements responding to some of Trump's statements, the candidate herself stayed largely quiet. In an interview with CNN Thursday, she said Trump is "not qualified" to be president.

Clinton's advisers and outside backers say they're not making the same mistake as Trump's Republican primary rivals. The GOP contenders spent months predicting the businessman's collapse under the weight of a controversial comment — or collection of them — and tried to avoid alienating his supporters while they waited.

Clinton has made clear she won't respond to Trump's every move. "I'm going to let him run his campaign however he chooses," she told reporters recently. Still, Priorities USA Action, a pro-Clinton super PAC is already running its first anti-Trump ads in battleground states as part of a \$130 million general election advertising buy.

"Republican anti-Trump efforts were too little, too late," said Justin Barasky, the group's spokesman.



Clinton has another significant advantage compared to Trump's previous opponents, many of whom were unknown to most Americans. Clinton can match Trump's high profile, having spent nearly three decades in national politics, and is unlikely to be totally drowned out by the real estate mogul.

"She's the only other candidate in this race who has the ability to break through," said Mo Elleithee, director of the Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service and a Clinton campaign adviser in 2008. That will require more than just responding to perceived offenses, however.

"The road to the White House in 2016 is littered with the carcasses of candidacies that were equally as offended," Elleithee added. "Being upset about him, being angry about him isn't enough."

## Taiwan's leader faces thornier ties with China, growth woes

**GILLIAN WONG, Associated Press**

BEIJING (AP) — Taiwan's newly inaugurated President Tsai Ing-wen, the first female leader of the self-ruled island, must confront major challenges including navigating increasingly fractious relations with Beijing and rejuvenating the flagging economy.

Beijing has responded to the January election of Tsai and her pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party by intensifying pressure on Taiwan with military exercises, diplomatic moves and cross-border deportations and prosecutions. At home, Tsai faces an economy that has fallen into a recession as exports have dropped due to sluggish demand from China and elsewhere.

"The challenges are enormous and I think that she does not underestimate them," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. With declining economic growth and exports, "it is a difficult time, and China is not making it any easier, of course," Glaser said.

Tsai's election served as a resounding rejection by voters of the China-friendly party that has led Taiwan for eight years. The polls, which also gave the DPP its first parliamentary majority, were also seen as an expression of concern that the island's economy is under threat from the Chinese mainland's economic juggernaut.

Beijing has warned that delicate relations between the sides would be destabilized unless Tsai explicitly endorses Beijing's stance that the island and the mainland are part of a single Chinese nation, which it calls the "92 Consensus." Tsai has avoided doing so, but has promised not to pursue changes to the current status of de facto independence.

In her inauguration address Friday, Tsai made no explicit mention of the concept that Taiwan is a part of China, a move unlikely to satisfy Beijing. She did say she respected the "joint acknowledgements and understandings" reached between the sides at a landmark 1992 meeting that China sees as underpinning all subsequent contacts and agreements. She also said she wants all current contacts to continue and will work to maintain peace and stability.

Analysts said earlier that her speech could have quick repercussions.

"China's got a wide range of retaliatory measures waiting for Taiwan," said Alexander Huang, a strategic studies expert at Tamkang University in Taiwan. "I believe Dr. Tsai understands that and she will not step on the tripwire and cause trouble."

Regardless, experts say, Beijing will continue asserting its demand that Tsai's administration endorse its "one-China" principle and may take further action if the demand remains unmet.

"Since she won't say exactly what Beijing wants to hear about the 1992 consensus, a testy admonition from the Chinese leadership is sure to follow," said Professor John Ciorciari, a University of Michigan professor who follows Taiwan politics.

Zhu Weidong, deputy director of the Institute of Taiwan Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, depicts the stakes for Tsai more starkly: "It is impossible for the mainland to get along with a party or a leader that doesn't recognize the one-China policy or seeks to split the country."

Zhu and some other analysts predict that Beijing could cut existing exchanges and regular contacts between the sides if it is dissatisfied with the new administration's policies toward cross-strait relations. That

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could send relations back to the tense situation that existed under the last DPP president, Chen Shui-bian, who was the target of relentless rhetorical attacks by Beijing.

"There will be no so-called cold peace, but will definitely be a fresh confrontation," Zhu said. "In that case, the domestic and international situation for Taiwan will only get more and more difficult."

Since Tsai's election in January, China has made moves seen by analysts as cranking up the pressure. In March, China established formal diplomatic ties with the small African nation of Gambia, which had severed ties with Taiwan in 2013, ending the undeclared diplomatic truce between the sides that had endured for almost eight years.

The sides split amid civil war in 1949 and China has long sought to isolate Taiwan diplomatically by preventing it from maintaining formal ties with most countries or membership in international organizations such as the United Nations. The timing of China's diplomatic move with Gambia sparked speculation that it was possible retaliation over the election.

In the past several weeks, China has pressured Kenya and Malaysia to deport Taiwanese fraud suspects to the mainland for prosecution, moves that Taiwan's government has protested. Some saw the deportations as China's move to assert its claim to sovereignty over the island, but Beijing says they're necessary in order to deal with criminal suspects targeting its own citizens.

In the same vein, China has sought to marginalize Taiwan's participation in international arenas. In April, a meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's steel committee ejected a Taiwanese delegation after China complained.

The most immediate indication of China's approach to the Tsai administration will come days after her inauguration, when Taiwanese observers are due to attend the U.N. World Health Organization's annual World Health Assembly in Geneva. China has said Taiwan's participation is dependent on its recognition of the '92 consensus.

"If Tsai fails to recognize the '92 consensus and one-China principle, there will be no room left for Taiwan's diplomacy," said Li Fei, deputy director of the Taiwan Research Institute of China's Xiamen University.

Relations with China also play into Tsai's challenges in revitalizing the Taiwanese economy, which is heavily dependent on trade with the mainland.

Tsai is going to try to "maintain a modicum of normal relations with the other side and hope that she can convince the Chinese to limit the harm that they may inflict on Taiwan's economy," Glaser said.

By taking a hard line, the Chinese government risks further alienating the Taiwanese public, who already feel bullied by China and deprived of their due place in international society.

Sean King, senior vice president with consulting firm Park Strategies in New York and Taipei, said, "In some ways, Beijing's hard line only reaffirms for many Taiwanese their choice to have voted for Tsai.

"Taiwanese want to peacefully coexist with mainland China, travel and do business there, but don't see themselves as part of it," King said.

## Perfect 10: Cavs stay unbeaten in postseason, down Raptors

**TOM WITHERS, AP Sports Writer**

CLEVELAND (AP) — Overshadowed as Golden State shot down history during the regular season, the Cavaliers are making this postseason their own.

Perfectly.

LeBron James recorded a triple-double and Cleveland improved to 10-0 in the playoffs with a 108-89 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Thursday night in Game 2 of the Eastern Conference finals.

James had 23 points, 11 rebounds and 11 assists as the Cavs became the fourth team to start the post-season with 10 straight wins, joining the Los Angeles Lakers (1989, 2001) and San Antonio Spurs (2012). Playing at a different level than the rest of the field, the Cavs are now two wins from appearing in their second straight NBA Finals and trying to end Cleveland's 52-year sports championship drought.

Kyrie Irving scored 26 and Kevin Love 19 for Cleveland, which swept Detroit and Atlanta and has beaten Toronto by a combined 50 points in two games.

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The Raptors managed to hang around longer than in Game 1, when they were blown out by 31. But Toronto lacks the necessary firepower to stay with a Cleveland team playing its best basketball this season, one that James likened to a football team.

"We play offense, we play defense and we're great at special teams as well," he said.

Game 3 is Saturday in Toronto, where Raptors All-Star guard Kyle Lowry can only hope the rims at Air Canada Centre are kinder than the ones in Quicken Loans Arena.

Lowry scored 10 points and is shooting 8 of 28 from the field, including 1 of 15 on 3-pointers. DeMar DeRozan scored 22 for the Raptors, who have had a disastrous debut in the conference finals to this point.

"We're not quitting," said coach Dwane Casey. "Everybody can bury us, but we're not quitting. I refuse to believe that."

James moved past Shaquille O'Neal into fourth place on the career postseason scoring list and posted his 15th playoff triple-double, securing it by running down rebound No. 10 with 8:01 left. He scored on Cleveland's next possession, and while sitting on the bench during a subsequent timeout, he saluted applauding Cavs fans by pressing his fingers to his lips and touching his heart.

By then, the Cavs were up 20 and coasting to another easy win in their so-far-spotless spring.

Earlier in the day, James was asked if the Cavs might need a loss to get them ready for the finals.

"We don't want to lose," he said.

And the Cavs are playing like it under coach Tyronn Lue, also a perfect 10 in the playoffs.

Missing center Jonas Valanciunas because of a sprained right ankle, Casey tweaked his lineup by starting forward Luis Scola over Patrick Patterson. The move helped Toronto's second unit, as Patterson and Terrance Ross gave the Raptors an early lift and had them tied with the Cavs at 46-all.

But Cleveland closed the first half with a 16-2 burst, capped by a three-point play from James, who was already flirting with a triple-double when he headed to the locker room.

Casey felt the need to speak with his players after their Game 7 win over Miami about not being satisfied in what's already been the deepest postseason run in franchise history.

He felt they weren't nearly as aggressive as they needed to be in the opener. His Game 2 message was simple: "You've got to outwork them. You've got to out-scrap them."

The Raptors came out with a different mindset and were much more physical than in Game 1.

But it didn't last long before the Cavs pushed back and kept their postseason pristine.

## LOCKED OUT

Casey and his coaching staff wanted to meet across the hallway from Toronto's locker room following the game, but couldn't get access because the door was locked.

## INJURY UPDATE

Cavs G Matthew Dellavedova tweaked his ankle in the second half, but Lue said he should be OK.

## TIP-INS

Raptors: Scola's start was a surprise considering he played just five minutes in the entire Miami series. ... Valanciunas' status remains unknown for the remainder of the conference finals. Casey said he was on the practice floor Thursday. ... Lowry and Lue have been close for years, and their friendship is being tested these days. Lowry texted Lue on Wednesday night and said he wanted to get together and watch the Golden State-Oklahoma City game. "He knew he couldn't," Lue said. "He knew it wouldn't look right."

Cavaliers: Now that James has passed O'Neal, next on the career postseason scoring list are Kobe Bryant (5,640), Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (5,762) and Michael Jordan (5,987). ... Abdul-Jabbar attended Game 2 and flashed the peace sign when he was shown on the arena's giant scoreboard. ... James played with O'Neal for one season in Cleveland and has long revered him. "Probably the most dominant basketball player I've ever seen," James said. "I admired what he was able to do out on the floor by pure force and dominance, his ability to play at that speed, to have that size and to carry that type of force."

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## Search resumes in rain for missing in Sri Lankan landslide

**KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press**

ELANGAPITIYA VILLAGE, Sri Lanka (AP) — Hundreds of soldiers resumed the slow and difficult search Friday for hundreds of people missing after landslides swallowed three hillside villages in central Sri Lanka, a dangerous effort as continuing rain kept the ground unstable and the risk of more mudslides a constant threat.

By Friday morning, rescuers had recovered 30 bodies, out of hundreds believed buried on Tuesday when torrents of thick, red mud buried the villages of Siripura, Pallegage and Elangapitya. The Sri Lankan Red Cross has said at least 220 families were unaccounted for.

"It's a very difficult task, but troops will carry out their work in the hope of finding more" in the remote, disaster site in Kegalle district, about 72 kilometers (45 miles) north of Colombo, said military spokesman Brig. Jayanath Jayaweera.

Rescuers held out little hope of finding survivors. Pointing to an expanse of mud covering the 66 houses that once stood in Elangapitiya, Maj. Gen. Sudantha Ranasinghe said, "All gone with that landslide."

On the chance of someone being found alive, he said, "I have my doubts."

More than 1,550 displaced villagers sheltered in crowded schools and a Buddhist temple near the hill, waiting for news about the fate of missing loved ones. White flags decorated the doorways — a symbol of mourning.

"The destruction is so bad," tea farmer A. Dharmasena said as he huddled in the Viyaneliya Buddhist Temple with hundreds of other evacuees. "You can't bring the village back to what it was before."

Rains triggered new, thunderous landslides on Thursday, sending frightened villagers running from shelters to higher ground.

Most of the bodies recovered were in Elangapitiya, the village furthest down the hill, as conditions prevented search efforts higher up.

Like much of Sri Lanka, the area around the villages had been cleared for agriculture and tea plantations, leaving the countryside exposed and raising the threat of landslides during seasonal monsoon rains.

The downpours that started Sunday continued to lash all of Sri Lanka, causing severe flooding in cities including Colombo and unleashing smaller mudslides elsewhere in the country.

Since Monday, 58 people have died from lightning strikes, floods, falling trees and landslides nationwide, including the 30 confirmed deaths in the Kegalle district, according to the Disaster Management Center.

Tens of thousands have been evacuated from homes across the island to some 594 shelters.

The government ordered all schools to close Friday, and more rain was predicted. Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera said there was an urgent need for water purification tablets, water pumps and drinking water.

Many parts of Colombo and its suburbs were inundated, with floodwaters reaching rooftops in some areas.

"Everything is gone," said Mohamed Sabri, who was able to grab his children's birth certificates and his passport before his home in the Kolonnawa suburb of Colombo disappeared under 3 meters (9 feet) of water.

"This ... is unbelievable," he said. "All my savings, my valuables, have gone with the water."

## Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Friday, May 20, the 141st day of 2016. There are 225 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 20, 1916, the Saturday Evening Post published its first Norman Rockwell cover; the illustration shows a scowling boy dressed in his Sunday best, dutifully pushing a baby carriage past a couple of young baseball players, one of whom mockingly doffs his cap.

On this date:

In 1712, the original version of Alexander Pope's satirical mock-heroic poem "The Rape of the Lock" was published anonymously in Lintot's Miscellany.

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In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act, which was intended to encourage settlements west of the Mississippi River by making federal land available for farming.

In 1902, the United States ended a three-year military presence in Cuba as the Republic of Cuba was established under its first elected president, Tomas Estrada Palma.

In 1925, the newly built headquarters of the United States Chamber of Commerce was formally dedicated in Washington, D.C.

In 1927, Charles Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field in Long Island, New York, aboard the Spirit of St. Louis on his historic solo flight to France.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart took off from Newfoundland to become the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic. (Because of weather and equipment problems, Earhart set down in Northern Ireland instead of her intended destination, France.)

In 1942, during World War II, the Office of Civilian Defense was established.

In 1956, the United States exploded the first airborne hydrogen bomb over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1961, a white mob attacked a busload of Freedom Riders in Montgomery, Alabama, prompting the federal government to send in U.S. marshals to restore order.

In 1970, some 100,000 people demonstrated in New York's Wall Street district in support of U.S. policy in Vietnam and Cambodia.

In 1988, Laurie Dann, 30, walked into a Winnetka, Illinois, elementary school classroom, where she shot to death 8-year-old Nicholas Corwin and wounded several other children. After wounding a young man at his home, Dann took her own life.

In 1996, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Romer v. Evans*, struck down, 6-3, a Colorado measure banning laws that protected homosexuals from discrimination.

Ten years ago: Iraq's new unity government took office, five months after elections. Federal agents searched the Capitol Hill office of U.S. Rep. William Jefferson, D-La., as part of a bribery investigation. (Jefferson was convicted in 2009 of taking bribes; he received a 13-year federal prison sentence.) New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin was re-elected. An explosion killed five miners in an eastern Kentucky coal mine. Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro broke three bones in his right hind leg at the start of the Preakness; Bernardini won the race. Barry Bonds tied Babe Ruth for second place on the career list with his 714th home run.

Five years ago: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the idea of using his country's 1967 boundaries as the basis for a neighboring Palestinian state, declaring his objections during a face-to-face meeting with President Barack Obama, who had raised the idea in an effort to revive stalled Mideast peace talks. The former head of the International Monetary Fund, Dominique Strauss-Kahn, was released from a New York City jail after spending nearly a week incarcerated on charges of trying to rape a hotel chambermaid. (The charges were later dropped.) Randy "Macho Man" Savage, 58, a larger-than-life personality from professional wrestling's 1980s heyday, died in Pinellas County, Florida.

One year ago: Four of the world's biggest banks — JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup's banking unit Citicorp, Barclays and the Royal Bank of Scotland — agreed to pay more than \$5 billion in penalties and plead guilty to rigging the currency markets. Islamic State extremists captured the ancient desert city of Palmyra in central Syria, a stunning triumph for the group only days after it had captured the strategic city of Ramadi in Iraq. Mary Ellen Trainor, 62, a character actress and philanthropist who'd appeared in "The Goonies" and "Lethal Weapon" films, died in Montecito, California.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-author James McEachin is 86. Actor Anthony Zerbe is 80. Actor David Proval is 74. Singer-actress Cher is 70. Actor-comedian Dave Thomas is 68. Sen. Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, is 65. Rock musician Warren Cann is 64. Former New York Gov. David Paterson is 62. Actor Dean Butler is 60. TV-radio personality Ron Reagan is 58. Rock musician Jane Wiedlin (The Go-Go's) is 58. Actor Bronson Pinchot is 57. Singer Susan Cowsill is 57. Actor John Billingsley is 56. Actor Tony Goldwyn is 56. Singer Nick Heyward is 55. TV personality Ted Allen is 51. Actress Mindy Cohn is 50. Rock musician Tom Gorman (Belly) is 50. Actress Gina Ravera is 50. Actor Timothy Olyphant is 48. Race car driver Tony Stewart is 45. Rapper Busta Rhymes is 44. Actress Daya Vaidya is 43. Rock musician Ryan Martinie is 41. Actor Matt Czuchy is 39. Actress Angela Goethals is 39. Actress-singer Naturi Naughton is 32.

Thought for Today: "A flow of words is a sure sign of duplicity." — Honore de Balzac, French author (born this date in 1799, died in 1850).