

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Decision America Tour 2016 with Franklin Graham

Free bus ride to the prayer rally, Tuesday May 24, 2016 in Pierre. The bus will leave from First Presbyterian Church in Groton at 7:30 am with a pick up in Aberdeen at the Lakewood Mall at 8:00. This is a time of prayer for our great nation. Please call Pastor Kenny @ 397-8344 to reserve your seat.

**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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### 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

### Tuesday, May 24

**Senior Menu:** Oven fried chicken, mashed potatoes, vegetables, buttermilk biscuits, banana pudding with bananas.

**Birthdays:** Noah Tullis • Blake Merkel • Katie Anderson

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

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

### Wednesday, May 25

**Senior Menu:** Scalloped potatoes with ham, peas, sunset salad, oatmeal raisin cookie, whole wheat bread.

**Anniversary:** Troy and Rhonda Carda

**Birthdays:** Jon Voss • JR Johnson • Kayla Fordham • Joni Groeblichhoff • Peggy DeHoet • Chris Kassube, Jaela Fliehs • Sandy Knudson

## Camille Sippel of Groton elected to UNL student government

LINCOLN, NE - Camille Sippel of Groton has been elected to the Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's student government body.

Sippel, a junior economics major, was elected senator. She will represent the College of Business Administration through April 2017.

Sippel is the daughter of Marc and Franne Sippel of Groton.



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## Paving Her Way

Kassidy, our oldest daughter, graduated from SDSU a few weeks ago, officially making Bryon and I the parents of a bona fide college graduate. She finished in four years with her Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business, something she earned while also being heavily involved in athletics, clubs, and intramural sports and working on the side. Kassidy is largely paying her own way, but she's busy becoming a licensed appraiser now to start making a dent in those student loans.

I guess that pretty much sums up her last four years. Still, it doesn't quite encapsulate the person she's become in this time. To say that Bryon and I are proud of her would be an understatement. Kassidy is a hard worker. She's incredibly responsible. She's kind and adventurous – and perhaps most importantly, she has a deep love for the Lord.

As she walked across the platform in Frost Arena, my mind went back to the day she was born. It was several weeks after my dad had been killed in an accident at our family farm. We were struggling as a family to imagine a future without him. The days were filled with trying to make decisions, calve out the cows, and get the crop planted. The nights were filled with tears and wondering how God could have thought he needed a 49-year-old farmer in heaven when he still had so much to do here with us. I'll be honest with you: I was mad and I felt devastated. The only thing that seemed to bring me any kind of peace was keeping busy with the cattle, so having a baby was not something I spent much time getting ready for.

Then came April 21 and everything changed. When Kassidy was born, she reminded our family how to be happy again. We started being optimistic about the future; I actually began to look forward to the next sunrise.

Kassidy, who we quickly nicknamed "Hop-a-long," spent hours in tractors and combines and with Grandma Corinne. Even at three years old, she could sense when I was tired (and yes, maybe a little cranky). She'd look at me with these scolding eyes and remind me to fix my attitude, saying: "somebody's crabby...!" She had a special love for animals. Almost everything was "pretty neat, huh?" And we always told her wonderful stories about her Grandpa Ron and how much he would have loved to meet her.

As Kassidy grew, more cousins were born and there was a lot for her to do. She kept them in line, made sure they behaved, and handed out chores like a boss. On my side of the family, she was the first cousin to play sports, go to school, drive, rodeo, and run equipment.

Today, Kassidy loves traveling, the outdoors, hunting and spending time with her family. She is often the one who volunteers to take long road trips with me when I need to attend meetings across the state. Time and again, she's filled in for me if I have to be in DC as well.

Our second oldest, Kennedy, and I were discussing a trait of Kassidy's the other day. Kennedy said, "I think Kass just has really high standards for other people." I hadn't really thought about it like that before, but Kennedy was right. Kassidy expects people to try to be their best, to be responsible, to serve the Lord, and to work hard, because she does. It may seem bossy to a little brother or type A to a friend, but it's not a bad thing as long as it's done with love.

Many families across South Dakota are celebrating graduations this time of year. It is a wonderful time to reflect on childhood memories and dream about the future. For our family, I'm excited to see what God has in store for Kassidy. While so much is unknown, I am confident that Grandpa Ron would have been proud.

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South Dakota Governor  
Dennis Daugaard



## Memories Of The 2011 Flood

It is hard to believe that it has been almost five years since the Missouri River flood.

I first received word of the escalating water releases from the Oahe Dam on a Tuesday as I was on my way back from Chicago. We had been visiting with Bel Brands about doing business in South Dakota, and in a matter of moments our focus shifted from business recruitment to how we would manage the rising waters.

At the time I had no idea that flood response would be our primary focus for the next several weeks. The Army Corps of Engineers told us the releases would be at record-high levels and it was uncertain how long they would continue.

My kids had planned to come to Pierre that Memorial Day weekend to relax. After hearing the news I called them to cancel our plans. They came to Pierre anyway and spent the weekend filling sandbags with my wife Linda.

The following days were a flurry of activity.

In short order we opened up the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), blocked one lane of Interstate 29 for use as a haul road, and asked the citizens in some areas of Dakota Dunes and Fort Pierre to evacuate.

We watched as Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters placed one-ton helibags of sand in and around places like McCook Lake, Wynstone and Yankton.

I recall flying over Lake Oahe and seeing the big whirlpool that formed where the water was draining through the dam.

I spent hours in the EOC, assisting in the Pierre/Fort Pierre area response, while Lt. Gov. Matt Michels coordinated efforts in the southeast.

We walked the levees, to ensure the berms of earth and rock were solid; we rode in dump trucks to monitor traffic so it flowed as efficiently as possible; and we helped our neighbors carry their possessions to higher ground.

I remember the frustration we felt as the water-flow peak estimates changed from 85,000 cubic feet per second, to 110,000 cfs and ultimately to 160,000 cfs. The previous peak release from the 50-year-old Oahe Dam was 59,000 cfs. Things looked grim but there was no time for doubt.

There was a noticeable feeling of relief when the National Guard arrived. They worked for 96 consecutive days on 12- to 15-hour shifts. It was the largest in-state deployment since the 1972 Rapid City Flood. Prison inmates also pitched in. At one point, the National Guard members and the inmates started a competition to see which group could fill the most sandbags.

I can still see the faces of the state and local emergency response officials, mayors, county commissioners, and the individuals from the Red Cross and Salvation Army who worked so tirelessly. I remain grateful for the long hours they labored.

I will never forget the crews who worked so hard to construct the levees. In just a few days, they did a job that would normally take months or years. They constructed earthen berms that held back the Mighty Missouri for several miles. As crews were building the levees, there were times they could see the water rising and did not know if they could finish in time; but they kept on going.

Most of all, I remember the volunteers. People from all over the state came to help. They came by the



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busload. They filled thousands and thousands of sandbags to protect homes, businesses and loved ones. They brought food, drink, comfort, encouragement and hope to the crews.

At one point, I met a retired woman living in Pierre who didn't know if she'd get her house sandbagged in time. She lived on her own and was struggling. Before the water arrived a group of young volunteers showed up just in time and got the job done. There are many similar examples up and down the river.

South Dakota had had disasters before – tornadoes, blizzards, fires and floods. We always have joined together to help our neighbors recover and move forward. But this flood was different. We had never been given so much advance warning. Thousands of South Dakotans joined together to avoid a disaster.

Many homes were damaged, and some were destroyed. Still, we did all we could, and thanks to our efforts, a great deal of property damage and human suffering was avoided. As high as the floodwaters rose, South Dakota rose higher. I am just as proud today as I was five years ago.



**One of the umbrellas at the Groton Swimming Pool lost its top. The strong wind on Sunday was too much for the aging umbrella and it tore across the top and slid down the pipes. The pool is about eight years old, which is also the age of the canvas umbrellas. We were hoping to get one more year out of them, but it does not look to be the case!**

**There will be lifeguard training today and tomorrow at the Groton Pool with the pool scheduled to open on May 30th.**



## Overtime Rule Will Hurt South Dakota's Workforce and Employers

The Obama administration recently issued a new regulation—one of the 195 new regulations issued so far in 2016—to more than double the salary

threshold under which employees can qualify for overtime pay of time and a half. Like so many of the administration's regulations, the new overtime rule is a one-size-fits-all mandate that doesn't take into account individual needs and regional differences. In fact, it will actually end up hurting the citizens it is meant to help: employees and the job creators who hire them.

Currently, employees making \$23,660 or less per year automatically qualify for overtime after 40 hours per week. The new rule issued by the Department of Labor (DOL) would raise that threshold to \$47,476, effective Dec. 1, 2016. Labor costs will go up, and many hard-working, mid-and-entry-level employees will feel the squeeze. Employers will be forced to either pay these new labor costs or reclassify salaried employees as hourly workers and limit their hours. Additionally, employees who will be converted from salaried to hourly will lose the flexibility they have today. Not only is this bad for business, it also makes it more difficult for new and mid-level workers, many of whom live paycheck-to-paycheck, to support their families and advance their career.

By forcing small businesses, restaurants, retailers, colleges and universities to comply with yet another costly new mandate, the administration is hindering economic growth and stifling innovation. The best way to strengthen the middle class is to boost our economy by lowering the tax burden, removing costly regulatory mandates and increasing workplace flexibility. Unfortunately, this new overtime rule will have the opposite effect.

Earlier this year, I cosponsored the Protecting Workplace Advancement and Opportunity Act, which would require DOL to pursue a balanced and responsible approach when updating federal overtime rules. Under this legislation, DOL would be required to perform a deeper analysis of the impact changes to overtime regulations will have on businesses, nonprofits, local economies, healthcare providers and colleges. Senator Lamar Alexander, Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, has pledged to file a Resolution of Disapproval to stop this new rule, which I wholeheartedly support.

Since the rule was first proposed in 2014, DOL received nearly 300,000 comments, many of which came from employees, business owners and local government officials, who tried to explain that the rule would stifle growth. Still, the DOL pushed forward with the rule, disregarding the input from those it says it is trying to help. Additionally, the administration failed to take into account regional differences when finalizing this new mandate. What's good for South Dakota may differ greatly from what's good for California and New York. This is especially true when you're talking about cost of living and family budgets.

Employees deserve fair pay for an honest day's work, but forcing employers to comply with this rule is irresponsible. It threatens businesses, employees, state and local governments and the economy as a whole. If the president wants to truly help the middle class – he should start by withdrawing this misguided rule.

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## Today in Weather History

1882 - An unusual late season snow blanketed eastern Iowa, with four to six inches reported around Washington. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953 - The temperature at Hollis OK soared from a morning low of 70 degrees to an afternoon high of 110 degrees to establish a state record for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - It was a busy day for thunderstorms in the central U.S. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Shreveport LA and golf ball size hail at Marfa, TX. Hobart, OK, received 3.55 inches of rain in the morning, and another 4.03 inches of rain that evening. Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced 8.5 inches of rain in two hours north of Potter, and 7.5 inches of rain in ninety minutes north of Minatare. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced five inches of hail at Greeley. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather across much of the eastern U.S. Golf ball size hail was reported in Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Ohio. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Severe thunderstorms developing along a cold front resulted in 98 reports of large hail and damaging winds in the Northern Plains and Upper Mississippi Valley. Golf ball size hail caused a million dollars damage around Buffalo City, WI, baseball size hail was reported at Northfield and Randolph, MN, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 95 mph at Dunkerton, IA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in the south central U.S. Pueblo, CO, equalled their May record with a high of 98 degrees, and the high of 106 degrees at Midland, TX, marked a record six straight days of 100 degree heat. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - A cold front crossing the western U.S. produced snow over parts of Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho and Utah, with five inches reported at Austin NV, and four inches at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. Strong winds behind the cold front sharply reduced visibilities in blowing dust over central California, and two multi-vehicle accidents resulted in one death and eighteen injuries. In northern Idaho, a cloud-burst washed tons of topsoil, and rocks as large as footballs, into the valley town of Culdesac. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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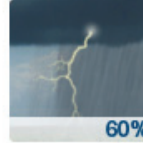




  
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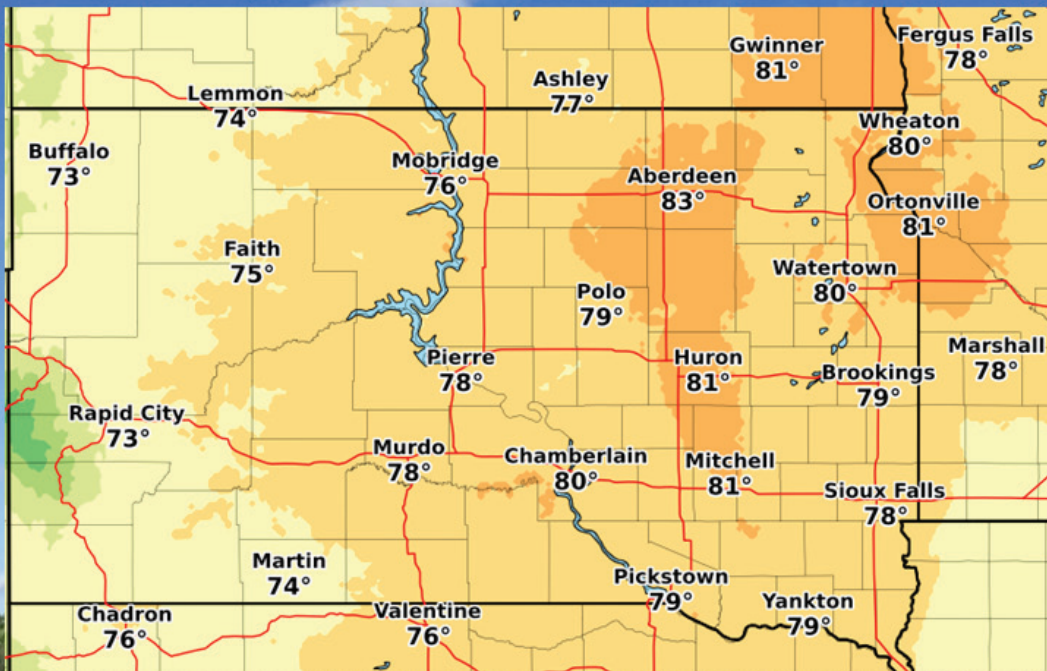
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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
20%			40%	60%	40%	20%
Slight Chance T-storms then Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Chance T-storms	T-storms Likely	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms
High: 82 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 77 °F



## Drying Out – Mild Today



### National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



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



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Published on: 05/23/2016 at 4:23AM

Dry air and mild temperatures will dominate conditions today. We will remain under an inclement weather pattern for the upcoming work week - with several additional opportunities for moisture. Temperatures for the week will also be a few degrees above average.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High:** 84.0 at 4:59 PM

**Low:** 56.4 at 10:19 AM

**High Gust:** 40 at 11:50 AM

Precip: 0.28

## Today's Info

**Record High:** 94° in 1950

**Record Low:** 26 in 1897

**Average High:** 71°F

**Average Low:** 47°F

**Average Precip in May:** 2.34

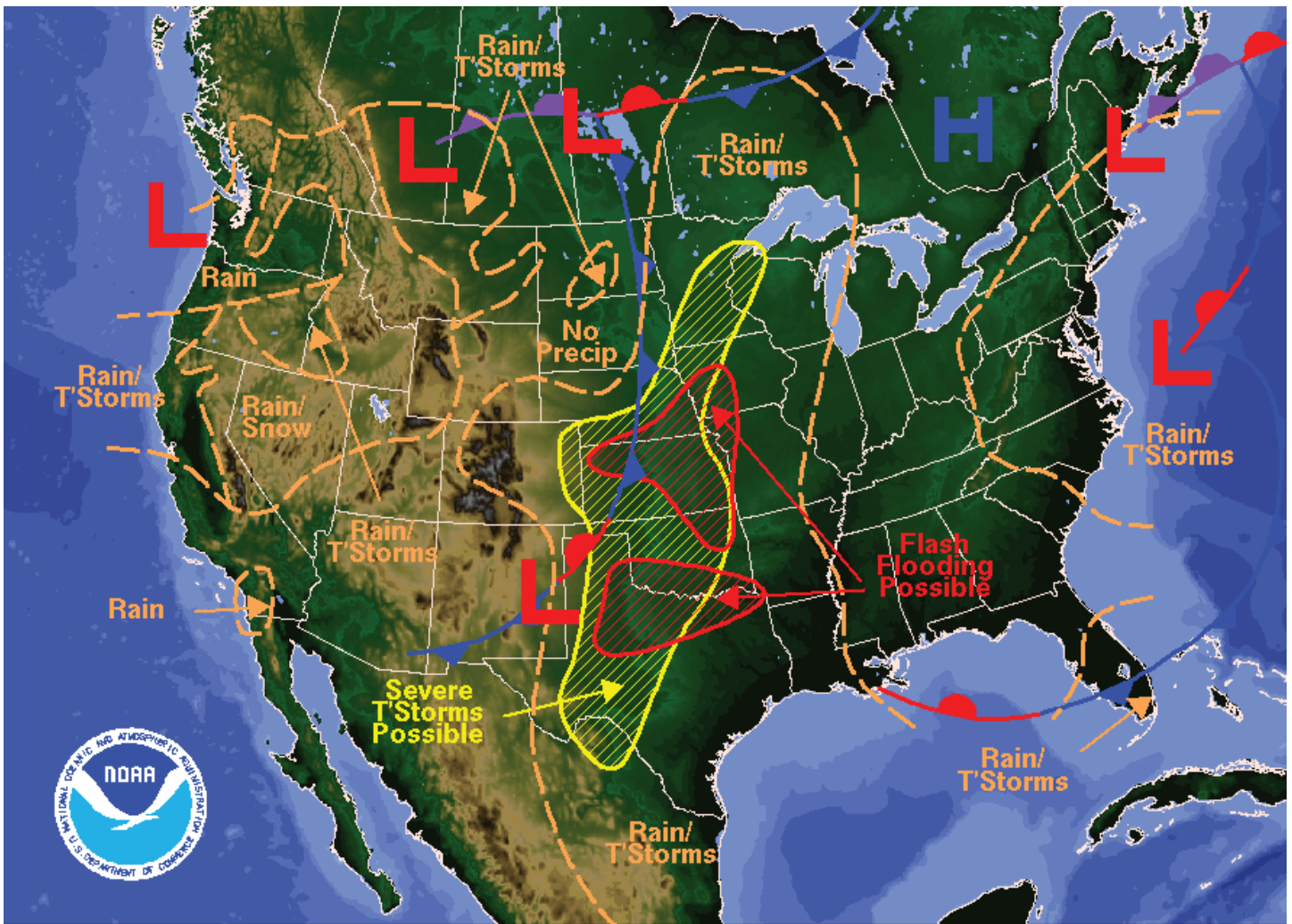
**Precip to date in May:** 0.39

**Average Precip to date:** 6.37

**Precip Year to Date:** 3.78

**Sunset Tonight:** 9:06 p.m.

**Sunrise Tomorrow:** 5:53 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, May 23, 2016, issued 4:44 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



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## MAKING OUR MEMORIES

It was the first day of the new school year and Albert was boarding the bus. As he was walking to his seat, he brushed up against a book bag and cut his cheek. When he got to school, the nurse cleaned it carefully and placed a bandage on it.

Later, during recess, he collided with a classmate and loosened two of his front teeth. Then, at noon, as he was walking to the cafeteria, he tripped and fell and broke his wrist.

His father came to the school and finally "rescued" him and took him to the hospital. While waiting for the doctor, his dad noticed that his little fist was clenched as tightly as possible, holding a crumpled up dollar bill. His dad asked him where he got it and he replied, "I found it when I fell and broke my wrist. This is my lucky day!"

"Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise," said Paul. What we put into our minds determines what comes out in words and deeds. If we have problems with thoughts that are harmful and impure, unwholesome and unkind, we need to take an inventory of what we are reading, watching on television and viewing on the internet.

Minds are like bank accounts: What goes in comes out but nothing more.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to take Paul's advice and fill our minds with thoughts that come from reading Your Word and meditating on it constantly. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

## News from the Associated Press

### **Victim in Sioux Falls crash might have had medical problem**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say a man pronounced dead at the scene of a crash Sunday night might have suffered a medical problem.

Authorities say the vehicle the 56-year-old man was driving left the road and hit a traffic light control box about 8 p.m.

Police did not immediately release the man's name.

Man pleads guilty to role in armed robbery of Fargo eatery

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — One of five men accused in an armed robbery of a Fargo restaurant that left one employee injured from a gunshot wound has pleaded guilty.

Kadeem Muhammad, also known as New York, is charged with interference of commerce and use of a firearm during a violent crime.

Investigators say Carl Smith and Muhammad entered a Taco John's restaurant and when employees did not hand over money, Smith shot one of them in the leg. Smith pleaded guilty in April.

The September 2015 incident was one of a rash of armed robberies that month that convinced federal prosecutors to take on some of the cases.

The Hobbs Act allows for federal prosecution if the crime involves interstate commerce. Taco John's gets food from Minnesota and uses payroll services from South Dakota.

### **Tornado reported near South Dakota-Nebraska border**

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Severe storms are bringing heavy rain, hail and high winds to parts of the Great Plains, and at least one tornado was reported in South Dakota near the Nebraska border.

Meteorologist Greg Richards of the Rapid City National Weather Service office says a tornado was reported in South Dakota's Todd County. He says there were no immediate reports of damage.

The Storm Prediction Center warns severe thunderstorms are expected to continue Sunday night across a broad portion of the Plains. Parts of western and central South Dakota and Nebraska are under a tornado watch until 10 p.m. Central time.

### **Food education center getting built at South Dakota State**

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — A food education center is being built at South Dakota State University.

The Brookings Register reports the Local Foods Education Center will have learning space, small fields and a high tunnel building, with an estimated \$800,000 cost for the project. Work started in the fall of 2015.

The center will have various species of plants, and members of the public will be allowed to access the facility.

There will also be instruction for students and the public in techniques in crop production, emphasizing sustainability.

David Wright, is head of the university's Department of Plant Science. He says the center's main building will have a "big cooler" and a kitchen food preparation area, in addition to a place where people can eat.

### **GF&P receives \$50K to help Pactola Reservoir water quality**

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department has received a \$50,000 grant from a nonprofit group to improve water quality and fish habitat in the Black Hills.

The donation from Black Hills Fly Fishers for Pactola Basin Improvements will help GF&P complete a project immediately below Pactola Reservoir.

Ten engineered structures of trees, root wads and boulder placement are helping to restore and improve habitat conditions in Rapid Creek. The structures are designed to withstand flows up to 500 cubic feet per

second and continue working during low-flow periods to provide protection and holding areas for trout. Black Hills Fly Fishers has also committed \$35,000 to assist with Phase 2 of the Pactola Basin project and another \$35,000 to assist with a project in Spearfish Creek.

## North Dakota oil expo comes amid trouble times for industry

**JAMES MacPHERSON, Associated Press**

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's oil expo and conference kicks off at a troubled time for the industry, with depressed prices and a drop in drilling activity that has hurt both oil companies and oil-producing states like this one. The three-day Williston Basin Petroleum Conference and Expo starts Tuesday in Bismarck with a theme of "Bakken Forward," featuring seminars and talks aimed at making it through the rough patch. The event closes with an address by Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump.

A rundown on what's on tap:

### SWING OF FORTUNE

North Dakota Petroleum Council President Ron Ness said some 2,800 people are expected to attend the conference, down from a record 4,300 two years ago. At that time, oil was about \$90 a barrel and nearly 190 drill rigs were active in western North Dakota's oil patch. North Dakota oil is now fetching less than half of that, and the number of drill rigs has slipped to 25, the lowest in about a decade.

But expo-goers are still bullish on the industry, said Ness, whose group represents about 500 companies working in the state's oil patch. Engineers, geologists, investors, CEOs and government officials from almost 40 states and a few countries will take part in seminars and networking.

"We have the best speaker lineup in history, with about a dozen CEOs focusing on key issues facing the industry and how we move forward," Ness said.

### HISTORY OF THE EXPO, OIL

Started in 1993 with just a handful of attendees, the expo is sponsored by the Ness' group, the state Department of Mineral Resources and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Energy and Resources. The event grew alongside with the explosion of activity in North Dakota's oil patch, which lies within the Williston Basin, a 134,000 square-mile-area that includes the Dakotas, Montana and the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba.

The gem of the basin is the Bakken formation that encompasses some 25,000 square miles within the Williston Basin, about two-thirds of which is in western North Dakota. The oil is trapped in a thin layer of dense rock nearly two miles beneath the surface. The U.S. Geological Survey has called the Bakken formation it the largest continuous oil accumulation it has ever assessed.

### ECOMONIC IMPACT

The event has alternated in recent years between locations in North Dakota and Canada. Two years ago, the conference in Bismarck injected more than \$2 million into the city and neighboring Manda, said Sheri Grossman, chief executive officer of the Bismarck-Mandan Convention and Visitors Bureau.

This year's estimated impact is about \$900,000, Grossman said.

Still, she said, the conference still will be the biggest draw to North Dakota's capital city this year. Bismarck airport manager Greg Haug said the airport will be busy with largely booked flights in and after the conference. However, hotel rooms were still available in town late last week, due to a drop in attendance and an increased number of rooms that have been added.

### TRUMP

The address from Trump is included in the expo's \$400 registration fee, but a ticket for his address alone is \$30. The speech will be preceded by an address by former Notre Dame football coach Lou Holtz, who is a Trump supporter.

The expo has drawn some star power in recent years, including conservative radio and television host



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Sean Hannity, who drew standing ovations for his pro-oil address two years ago. Among the attendees in 2012 was Tony La Russa, the former St. Louis Cardinals manager who guided the team to the World Series title the year before. La Russa was invited by billionaire oilman Harold Hamm, the chairman of Oklahoma City-based Continental Resources Inc., the largest leaseholder of oil-drilling rights in North Dakota.

## 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. OBAMA LIFTS ARMS BAN IN FIRST VISIT TO VIETNAM

The move aims to bolster a communist government seen as a crucial, though flawed partner, especially in the context of China's regional aspirations.

#### 2. BLOODSHED ACROSS THE MIDDLE EAST

Syria and Yemen are hit with deadly bombings and the Iraqi government begins an offensive to retake the city of Fallujah from the Islamic State group.

#### 3. WHAT ARE DEADLY TARGETS IN MIDEAST CONFLICTS

Attacks on medical facilities change the perception of the universally recognized symbol of the Red Cross, which is supposed to offer protection and safety.

#### 4. WHO ARE TRANSFIXED BY US PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Post-nuclear pact, Iranians are mindful that the next White House occupant could have direct impact on their lives.

#### 5. SANDERS BREAKS WITH WHITE HOUSE ON PUERTO RICO RESCUE PLAN

The Democratic presidential candidate says legislation to restructure the U.S. territory's \$70 billion in debt "would make a terrible situation even worse."

#### 6. HISTORIC HIROSHIMA TRIP BY OBAMA STIRS DIFFERING VIEWS

Two very different visions of war are seared into the minds of World War II survivors on opposite sides of the Pacific.

#### 7. A SON OF NEW ORLEANS IS COMING HOME

More than seven decades after being killed during World War II, the remains of Pvt. Earl Joseph Keating are being returned from New Guinea.

#### 8. BIG MERGER IN THE OFFING

German drug and chemicals company Bayer AG makes a \$62 billion offer to buy U.S.-based crops and seeds specialist Monsanto Company.

#### 9. MADONNA HONORS PRINCE, CELINE DION INSPIRES

This year's Billboard Music Awards delivers on heartfelt emotion during its biggest performances by iconic artists.

#### 10. INDY 500 CHAMPS CHOOSE GREATEST RACE

Al Unser Jr.'s victory over Scott Goodyear in 1992 is the greatest race in Indianapolis 500 history, according to an exclusive AP survey.

## US ex-POW in Japan to travel with Obama to Hiroshima

TOKYO (AP) — An American held by Japan as a prisoner of war during World War II and forced to work in a copper mine has been invited to accompany President Barack Obama on his historic visit to Hiroshima this week, a U.S. veterans group said.

Jan Thompson, head of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society, said Sunday by email that the group has chosen 94-year-old Daniel Crowley of Simsbury, Connecticut, and submitted his name to the White House.

Obama, who is in Vietnam, is coming to Japan later in the week for the annual Group of Seven summit, after which he will visit Hiroshima on Friday. He will become the first serving U.S. president to visit the city hit by the first of two atomic bombs the U.S. dropped on Japan near the end of World War II.

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Crowley was among 10 former POWs who sent a letter to Obama dated last Thursday urging the president to focus his remarks at Hiroshima "on the events leading to the decision to use the bomb and recognize the effects it has had on the people of both countries." They asked him "to acknowledge who was responsible for starting World War II in the Pacific and why it was fought."

Crowley was in the U.S. Army Air Corps when his unit surrendered on the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines in 1942. He was shipped to Japan in March 1944 on what the veterans call a "hell ship," and put to work as a slave laborer at a copper mine operated by Furukawa Co. in Hitachi, northeast of Tokyo, until the end of the war.

Crowley visited Japan in October 2014 as part of the friendship program sponsored by the Japanese government with several other members of the veterans' group. He has said that he never forgets the years stolen from him by the Japanese.

"It's a living thing with me," he was quoted as saying in a biography provided by the group. "It's not ancient history at all."

Obama, in an interview aired Sunday evening in Japan, confirmed that he would not apologize in Hiroshima for the American atomic bombings.

"I think that it's important to recognize that in the midst of war, leaders make all kinds of decisions," he told public broadcaster NHK. "It's a job of historians to ask questions and examine them, but I know as somebody who has now sat in this position for the last seven and a half years, that every leader makes very difficult decisions, particularly during war time."

In a weekend poll by another broadcaster, Nippon TV, about 50 percent of respondents said they don't think an apology is necessary, while about 30 percent said they do.

## Obama lifts decades-old arms ban in his 1st visit to Vietnam

**FOSTER KLUG, Associated Press**

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — U.S. President Barack Obama on Monday lifted a half-century-old ban on selling arms to Vietnam, looking to bolster a government seen as a crucial, though flawed partner in a region that he has tried to place at the center of his foreign policy legacy.

Obama announced the full removal of the embargo at a news conference where he vowed to leave behind the troubled history between the former war enemies and embrace a new era with a young, increasingly prosperous nation. Obama steered clear of harsh condemnation of what critics see as Vietnam's abysmal treatment of dissidents, describing instead modest progress on rights in the one-party state. Activists said his decision to lift the embargo destroyed the best U.S. leverage for pushing Vietnam on abuse.

"At this stage, both sides have established a level of trust and cooperation, including between our militaries, that is reflective of common interests and mutual respect," Obama said. "This change will ensure that Vietnam has access to the equipment it needs to defend itself and removes a lingering vestige of the Cold War."

Obama also had more current motivations. His move was the latest step in a yearslong and uneven effort to counter China's influence in Asia. Obama's push to deepen defense ties with a neighbor was certain to be eyed with suspicion in Beijing, which has bristled at U.S. engagement in the region and warned officials not to take sides in the heated territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

Obama claimed the move had nothing to do with China, but made clear the U.S. was aligned with the smaller nations like Vietnam.

The United States and Vietnam had mutual concerns about maritime issues and the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, he said. While the Washington doesn't take sides, he said, it does support a diplomatic resolution based on "international norms" and "not based on who's the bigger party and can throw around their weight a little bit more," a reference to China.

China outwardly lauded the lifting of a U.S. arms embargo, saying it hoped "normal and friendly" relations between the U.S. and Vietnam are conducive to regional stability. A spokeswoman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said bans are a product of the Cold War and shouldn't have existed.

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China itself remains under a weapons embargo imposed by the U.S. and European Union following 1989's bloody military crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

For Vietnam, lifting the arms embargo was a psychological boost for Vietnam's leaders. The United States partially lifted the ban in 2014, but Vietnam pushed for full access as it tries to deal with China's land reclamation and military construction in nearby seas.

It was unclear whether striking the ban would quickly result in a boost in arms sales. Obama said that each deal would be reviewed case by case, evaluated based on the equipment's potential use. But he said he no longer believe a ban based on "ideological division" was necessary.

"There's been modest progress on some of the areas that we've identified as a concern," Obama said, adding that the U.S. "will continue to speak out on behalf of human rights we believe are universal."

Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang embraced the chance to enter a new era in U.S.-Vietnamese relations. He praised the expansion in security and trade ties between "former enemies turned friends" and, standing next to Obama before reporters, called for more U.S. investment.

Ahead of the visit, in what was seen as a goodwill gesture, Vietnam granted early release from prison to a prominent dissident Catholic priest.

Some U.S. lawmakers and activists had urged the president to press the communist leadership for greater freedoms before lifting the arms sale embargo. Vietnam holds about 100 political prisoners and there have been more detentions this year. In March, seven bloggers and activists were sentenced for "abusing democratic freedoms" and "spreading anti-state propaganda." Hanoi says that only lawbreakers are punished.

"In one fell swoop, President Obama has jettisoned what remained of U.S. leverage to improve human rights in Vietnam — and (has) basically gotten nothing for it," Phil Robertson, with Human Rights Watch, said.

Obama's arrival in Hanoi late Sunday made him the third sitting president to visit the country since the end of the war. The trip comes four decades after the fall of Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City, and two decades after President Bill Clinton restored relations with the nation.

Obama also made the case stronger commercial and economic ties, including approval of the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement that is stalled in Congress and facing strong opposition from the 2016 presidential candidates. The deal, which includes Vietnam, would tear down trade barriers and encourage investment between the countries that signed it.

Critics worry it would cost jobs by exposing American workers to low-wage competition from countries such as Vietnam.

Obama and Quang earlier attended a signing ceremony celebrating a series of new commercial deals between U.S. and Vietnamese companies valued at more than \$16 billion. The deals included U.S. engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney's plans to sell 135 advanced engines to Vietnamese air carrier Vietjet, and Boeing's plans to sell 100 aircraft to the airline.

## Obama's Hiroshima visit stirs differing views across Pacific

**MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press**

**JULIE WATSON, Associated Press**

TOKYO (AP) — Two very different visions of the hell that is war are seared into the minds of World War II survivors on opposite sides of the Pacific.

Michiko Kodama saw a flash in the sky from her elementary school classroom on Aug. 6, 1945, before the ceiling fell and shards of glass from blown-out windows slashed her. Now 78, she has never forgotten the living hell she saw from the back of her father, who dug her out after a U.S. military plane dropped an atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan.

People were walking like zombies, with their flesh scraped and severely burned, asking for help, for water. A little girl looked up, straight into Michiko's eyes, and collapsed.

Lester Tenney saw Japanese soldiers killing fellow American captives on the infamous Bataan Death March



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in the Philippines in 1942. "If you didn't walk fast enough, you were killed. If you didn't say the right words you were killed, and if you were killed, you were either shot to death, bayoneted, or decapitated," the 95-year-old veteran said. He still has the bamboo stick Japanese soldiers used to beat him across the face.

Different experiences, different memories are handed down, spread by the media and taught in school. Collectively, they shape the differing reactions in the United States and Japan to Barack Obama's decision to become the first sitting American president to visit the memorial to atomic bomb victims in Hiroshima later this week.

The U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki three days after Hiroshima, and Japan surrendered six days later, bringing to an end a bloody conflict that the U.S. was drawn into after Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941.

Japan identifies mostly as "a victim rather than a victimizer," Stephen Nagy, an international relations professor at the International Christian University in Tokyo, said. "I think that represents Japan's regional role and its regional identity, whereas the United States has a global identity, a global agenda and global presence. So when it views the bombing of Hiroshima, Nagasaki, it's in the terms of a global narrative, a global conflict the United States was fighting for freedom or to liberate countries from fascism or imperialism. To make these ends meet is very difficult."

A poll last year by the Pew Research Center found that 56 percent of Americans believe the use of nuclear weapons was justified, while 34 percent do not. In Japan, 79 percent said the bombs were unjustified, and only 14 percent said they were.

Terumi Tanaka, an 84-year-old survivor of the Nagasaki bombing, said of Obama: "I hope he will give an apology to the atomic bomb survivors, not necessarily to the general public. There are many who are still suffering. I would like him to meet them and tell them that he is sorry about the past action, and that he will do the best for them."

The White House has clearly ruled out an apology, which would inflame many U.S. veterans and others, and said that Obama would not revisit the decision to drop the bombs.

"A lot of these people are telling us we shouldn't have dropped the bomb — hey, what they talking about?" said Arthur Ishimoto, a veteran of the Military Intelligence Service, a U.S. Army unit made up of mostly Japanese-Americans who interrogated prisoners, translated intercepted messages and went behind enemy lines to gather intelligence.

Now 93, he said it's good for Obama to visit Hiroshima to "bury the hatchet," but there's nothing to apologize for. Ishimoto, who was born in Honolulu and rose to be an Army major general and commander of the Hawaii National Guard, believes he would have been killed in an invasion of Japan if Japan had not surrendered.

"It would have been terrible," he said. "There is going to be controversy about apologizing. I don't think there should be any apology. ... We helped that country. We helped them out of the pits all the way back to one of the most economically advanced. There's no apology required."

Beyond the deaths — the atomic bombs killed 140,000 people in Hiroshima and 73,000 in Nagasaki by the end of 1945 — the effects of radiation have lingered with survivors, both physically and mentally.

Kodama, the Hiroshima schoolgirl, faced discrimination in employment and marriage. After her first love failed because her boyfriend's family said they didn't want "radiated people's blood in their family," she married into a more understanding one.

The younger of her two daughters died of cancer in 2011. Some say she shouldn't have given birth, even though multi-generational radiation effects have not been proven.

Obama doesn't have to apologize, Kodama said, but he should take concrete actions to keep his promise to seek a nuclear-free world.

"For me, the war is not over until the day I see a world without nuclear weapons," she said. "Mr. Obama's Hiroshima visit is only a step in the process."

Nagasaki survivor Tanaka views the atomic bombings as a crime against humanity. A promise by Obama to survivors to do all he can for nuclear disarmament "would mean an apology to us," he said.

He added that his own government also should take some of the blame for the suffering of atomic bomb

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victims. "It was the Japanese government that started the war to begin with, and delayed the surrender," he said, adding that Japan has not fully faced up to its role in the war.

Japan did issue apologies in various forms in the 1980s and 1990s, but some conservative politicians in recent years have raised questions about them, said Sven Saaler, a historian at Sophia University in Tokyo.

"In particular right now when Japan has a government that is ... backpedaling in terms of apologizing for the war, if now the U.S. apologized, that also would be, I think, a weird signal in this current situation," Saaler said.

Tenney, one of only three remaining POWs from the Bataan Death March, wants Obama in Hiroshima to remember all those who suffered in the war, not just the atomic bomb victims.

"From my point of view, the fact that the war ended when it did and the way it did, it saved my life and it saved the life of those Americans and other allied POWs that were in Japan at the time," he said at his home in Carlsbad, California. "I was in Japan, shoveling coal in a coal mine. No one ever apologized for that. ... I end up with black lung disease because they didn't take care of me in the coal mine, and yet there is no apology, no words of wisdom, no nothing."

Obama's visit is firmly supported by Earl Wineck, who scanned the skies over Alaska for Japanese warplanes during World War II.

"He's not going there like some of them might, and keep reminding them of all their transgressions," the 88-year-old veteran of the Alaska Territorial Guard said. "That should have ended after the war, and I think a lot of it did, but of course, there's always people who feel resentment."

Japan occupied two Alaskan islands during the war. The battle to retake one of them, Attu Island, cost about 3,000 lives on both sides.

"We hated them," Wineck said "But things change, people change, and I think people in the world should be closer together."

How so?

One Tokyo high school student has a suggestion. Mayu Uchida, who said she cried when she heard survivors recount their memories on a school trip to Hiroshima, wants Obama to bring home what he learns and tell any supporters of nuclear weapons how horrifying they are.

"He could also suggest, promoting opportunities for more Americans to visit Hiroshima, or to hear the story of Hiroshima," the 18-year-old said. "It will be even better if those opportunities are available for younger generations like us."

## Markets Right Now: European markets start week on flat note

LONDON (AP) — The Latest on developments in global financial markets (all times local):

10:30 a.m.

European stock markets are largely trading in narrow ranges as further evidence emerged of an economic slowdown across the 19-country eurozone.

Financial information company Markit said Monday that its initial reading of the composite purchasing managers' index — a broad gauge of business activity across the services and manufacturing sectors — fell to a 16-month low of 52.9 points in May from April's 53.0. Anything above 50 indicates expansion.

Stephen Brown, European economist at Capital Economics, says the small monthly fall adds to the evidence that second-quarter growth is "unlikely to repeat" the first-quarter's strong 0.5 percent gain.

That kept a lid on Europe's main markets, with Germany's DAX up 0.4 percent at 9,959 while France's CAC-40 fell 0.1 percent to 4,350. Britain's FTSE 100 index was flat at 6,156.

## Obama: Taliban leader's death a 'milestone' for Afghan peace

NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — President Barack Obama said Monday that the violent death of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansour by a U.S. airstrike should send a "clear signal" to anti-American ex-

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tremists that "we're going to protect our people."

Obama also said Mansour's death was an "important milestone" in the yearslong effort to bring peace to Afghanistan.

"It has been confirmed that he is dead," Obama said Monday during his first visit to Vietnam. "He is an individual who, as head of the Taliban, was specifically targeting U.S. personnel and troops inside of Afghanistan" who Obama sent there to help counter terrorism and help train Afghan troops.

Mansour was killed when a U.S. drone fired on his vehicle in the southwestern Pakistan province of Baluchistan, though it was unclear whether the airstrike took place on Friday or Saturday. He had emerged as the successor to Taliban founder Mullah Mohammad Omar, whose 2013 death was only revealed last year.

Obama authorized the attack and was briefed before and after it was carried out, aides said.

Speaking at a news conference following his meeting with Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang, Obama said the fatal attack on Mansour did not represent a change in U.S. military strategy in Afghanistan, which is to help train Afghan forces. Obama ended the U.S. combat mission in Afghanistan in 2014.

"We are not re-entering the day-to-day combat operations that are currently being conducted by Afghan security forces," Obama said. "Our job is to help Afghanistan secure its own country, not to have our men and women in uniform engage in that fight for them."

"On the other hand, where we have a high-profile leader who has been consistently part of plans and operations to potentially harm U.S. personnel and who has been resistant to the kinds of peace talks and reconciliation that ultimately could bring an end to decades of war in Afghanistan, then it is my responsibility as commander in chief not to stand by, but to make sure that we send a clear signal to the Taliban and others that we're going to protect our people.

"And that's exactly the message that has been sent," Obama said.

Mansour was chosen to head the Afghan Taliban last summer after the revelation of Omar's death in 2013. The Taliban is the most powerful insurgent group in the war-ravaged country, where an estimated 11,000 civilians were killed or wounded and 5,500 government troops and police officers died last year alone.

The Taliban seized power in 1996 and ruled Afghanistan according to a harsh interpretation of Islamic law until the group was toppled by a U.S.-led invasion following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on New York and Washington.

Almost 15 years later, about 13,000 troops are in the country from a U.S.-NATO coalition, including around 9,800 Americans. While they are mostly focused on training and helping Afghan government forces battle the insurgency, about 3,000 troops are conducting counterterrorism operations against the Taliban and the extremist groups al-Qaida and the Islamic State.

In a written statement issued before the news conference, Obama said Mansour's death marked an "important milestone in our longstanding effort to bring peace and prosperity to Afghanistan." Obama said Mansour had rejected Afghan government efforts to engage in peace talks with the Taliban with the goal of ending violence that has killed thousands. He called on the organization to choose the path toward peace.

"The Taliban should seize the opportunity to pursue the only real path for ending this long conflict - joining the Afghan government in a reconciliation process that leads to lasting peace and stability," Obama said.

## Global stocks lower after G7 meet, weak Japanese trade

**JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Major stock markets were mixed Monday after a global finance meeting failed to yield fresh ideas for spurring economic growth and Japanese exports weakened.

KEEPING SCORE: In early trading, France's CAC-40 index edged 0.1 percent higher to 4,356.61 and Germany's DAX rose 0.5 percent to 9,966.99. London's FTSE 100 retreated 0.3 percent to 6,136.32. On Friday, the FTSE 100 and CAC-40 both gained 1.7 percent and the DAX rose 1.2 percent. On Wall Street, futures for the Dow Jones industrial average and Standard & Poor's 500 index both rose 0.1 percent. On Friday, the S&P gained 0.6 percent, the Dow added 0.4 percent and the Nasdaq composite climbed 1.2 percent.

GLOBAL GROWTH: Finance ministers of the Group of Seven major economies ended a weekend meeting



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without agreement on a plan to revive global growth. Most of the G-7 governments favor official action to stimulate demand but Germany is more conservative. Instead, finance ministers stressed the importance of varying action for each country. The U.S. treasury secretary, Jacob Lew, urged his Japanese counterpart, Taro Aso, to refrain from devaluing the yen to boost exports.

**ANALYST'S TAKE:** Lew's message to Aso, the second time Washington has warned Tokyo against trying to intervene in currency markets to support trade, "may affect the Japanese central bank's ambitions to push monetary stimulus further," Margaret Yang Yan of CMC Markets said in a report.

**JAPANESE TRADE:** Japanese exports measured by value fell 10.1 percent in April from a year earlier, a deterioration from March's 6.8 percent decline. The slump in export values is likely to endure, "undermining corporate profits and business sentiment," said Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics. He said it shows the Japanese central bank "still has more work to do to reach its 2 percent inflation target."

**ASIA'S DAY:** Tokyo's Nikkei 225 shed 0.5 percent to 16,654.60 and Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 retreated 0.6 percent to 5,318.90. Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 0.2 percent to 19,809.03. Benchmarks in Thailand and New Zealand also fell. The Shanghai Composite Index gained 0.6 percent to 2,843.65 and Seoul's Kospi added 0.4 percent to 1,955.25. Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia also advanced.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude shed 48 cents to \$47.90 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract declined 26 cents the previous session to close at \$48.41. Brent crude, used to price international oils, lost 43 cents to \$48.29 per barrel in London. The contract lost 9 cents the previous session to close at \$48.72

**CURRENCY:** The dollar weakened to 109.62 yen from Friday's 110.10 yen. The euro fell to \$1.1205 from \$1.1224.

## **Syria TV: More than 20 killed in explosions in coastal city**

**ALBERT AJI, Associated Press**

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — Syrian state TV says more than 20 people have been killed in multiple attacks in the coastal cities of Tartus and Jableh, strongholds of President Bashar Assad.

The TV report Monday said at least one suicide bomber on foot followed by a car bomber attacked a packed bus station in Tartus. An Interior Ministry official says more than 20 were killed and many injured.

Separately, Syria news agency SANA said three rockets were launched into Jableh, which lies 25 kilometers (15 miles) south of Latakia city, landing in a bus station, near the town's entrance.

The rare attacks occurred in the normally quiet pro-government coastal areas where Russia keeps a naval base in Tartus and an air base in Latakia province. Insurgents maintain a presence in rural Latakia.

## **Wild US election fascinates, worries Iran after nuclear deal**

**NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press**

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — After decades of officially-imposed detachment from the "Great Satan," Iranians are this time transfixed by the wild U.S. presidential campaign, mindful that the next White House occupant could have direct impact on their lives.

At the heart of the matter is last year's deal with world powers, which eased the country's isolation and removed many economic sanctions in exchange for a curtailment of the Iran's nuclear program. Presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump has bitterly criticized the accord, which is rather popular here, and says he would rework it.

Iran and America have not restored the official diplomatic ties that were cut after the 1979 Islamic Revolution and U.S. Embassy takeover. But the high stakes — combined with Iranian state media's renewed attention to news from the West — have made the election the talk of barbershops, living rooms and street corners.

"It reminds me of fighting between heavyweight boxers for a championship — with a lot of boasting," said Reza Piltan, an electrical engineer who has been following the campaign.

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Although there are no polls about Iranians' views on the U.S. presidential campaign, there is a sense of apprehension regarding Trump, even though some consider his criticism mostly bluster. There are also concerns about Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton, who many consider to have struck a relatively hard line on Iran during her time as Secretary of State.

State television, which paid scant attention to previous U.S. presidential campaigns before last year's nuclear accord, has closely followed the race. Its main focus is also the potential impact on the nuclear deal.

The station makes a point of airing comments by Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders, the senator from Vermont, focusing on racial injustice and social inequality. That taps into a narrative often advanced by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who in 2011 predicted the Occupy Wall Street protests would "thrive to the extent that the capitalist system of America and the West will be completely razed to the ground," according to his website.

Trimming a customer's hair, barber Hossein Pourebrahim said he wanted Trump to win — but out of enmity to the United States. "He's destroying America while not listening to anybody that could change his mind," Pourebrahim cheerily calculated.

In Tehran's Revolution Square, popular with book-lovers, a book co-authored by Trump has been available for years. Merchants blame declining sales on Trump's criticism of the nuclear deal. Copies of Clinton's book "Hard Choices" also sit on display.

Fayyaz Zahed, a Tehran-based political analyst, warns that a Trump victory would be "disastrous" and would embolden nationalists in both countries.

Iranians "may turn to a military, extremist and hard-line figure" in their own 2017 presidential elections, Fayyaz told Arya, a conservative news website. It would work against Iran's current President Hassan Rouhani, a relative moderate whose administration championed the nuclear deal.

Ali Khorram, a former Iranian envoy to the United Nations, wrote in the pro-reform daily newspaper Etemad that Trump would "not have the same positive and good will that President Barack Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry have toward Iran and the deal."

But others see more complex dynamics at play. Nasser Hadian, a professor of international relations at Tehran University, argued that Trump would actually be more amenable than Clinton.

"Trump will remain loyal to the deal since he is a businessman and businessmen do not violate contracts unilaterally," Hadian said in an interview with pro-reform newspaper Shargh. Also, he argued, Trump "lacks the international legitimacy to impose sanctions on Iran or to violate the deal."

Morteza Amani, strolling the streets of Tehran with two teenage children, expected that a President Trump would "continue to surprise" and actually make relations with Iran "better than ever ... He is criticizing Iran only for collecting votes."

Iranian officials have refrained from comment on the race and are sticking to the position that opponents of the nuclear deal are influenced by longtime foe Israel.

Meanwhile, Iran has conducted ballistic missile tests criticized by the U.S., briefly captured 10 American sailors and carried out other naval maneuvers criticized by the U.S. in the Persian Gulf in recent months.

A key factor is the persistent suspicion among official circles here that Washington has never truly accepted Iran's clerical system and is constantly seeking to replace it with a more Western-style democracy.

"The U.S. paved the ground for the collapse of the Soviet Union, step by step," noted cleric Ali Saeedi, a leading hard-liner, according to a report on the official Revolutionary Guard website. Although it is not the official U.S. position at present, Saeedi maintained that U.S. policy is still "aimed at toppling the Islamic Republic."

## Germany's Bayer makes \$62 billion offer for Monsanto

BERLIN (AP) — German drug and chemicals company Bayer AG announced Monday that it has made a \$62 billion offer to buy U.S.-based crops and seeds specialist Monsanto.

The proposed combination would create a giant seed and farm chemical company with a strong presence in the U.S., Europe and Asia.

Bayer said the all-cash offer values shares of Monsanto at \$122 each. That compares with a closing

price Friday of \$101.52 and is 37 percent higher than the closing price of \$89.03 on May 9, the day before Bayer made a written proposal to Monsanto.

Bayer had said on Thursday that its executives met recently with their Monsanto counterparts "to privately discuss a negotiated acquisition" of the specialist in genetically modified crop seeds, which is headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri. Monsanto said then that it was reviewing Bayer's proposal.

Bayer said it plans to finance the acquisition with a combination of debt and equity, the latter to be raised largely by issuing new shares. Bayer's shares, which tumbled after the initial announcement last week, dropped 3.1 percent in early Frankfurt trading Monday to 86.78 euros (\$97.37). Monsanto shares jumped 11.3 percent to \$112.98 in pre-market trading.

The German company said that it "is prepared to proceed immediately to due diligence and negotiations and to quickly agree to a transaction."

"Monsanto is a perfect match to our agricultural business," Bayer CEO Werner Baumann said in a video message posted on his company's website. "We would combine complementary skills with minimal geographic overlap."

"The acquisition of Monsanto checks all the boxes in terms of strategic fit and value creation potential," he added. "At the same time, ongoing consolidation activities in the industry make this combination by far the most attractive one."

Baumann said Bayer expects the transaction to "create significant synergies" and bolster earnings in the first full year after it is completed.

Both companies are familiar brands on farms around the globe. Bayer's farm business produces seeds as well as compounds to kill weeds, bugs and fungus.

Monsanto has some 20,000 employees and produces seeds for fruits, vegetables and other crops including corn, soybeans and cotton, as well as the popular weed-killer Roundup.

Bayer, headquartered in Leverkusen, Germany, employs some 117,000 people worldwide.

## Trying to get jump on Zika preparations with money in limbo

**LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Beg, borrow and steal: Zika preparation involves a bit of all three as federal, state and local health officials try to get a jump on the mosquito-borne virus while Congress haggles over how much money they really need.

With that financing in limbo, health officials are shifting resources and setting priorities — and not just in states where mosquitoes are starting to buzz. All but six states so far have seen travel-associated cases of Zika.

"Stealing money from myself" is how Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health describes raiding his agency's malaria, tuberculosis and influenza programs to fund a Zika vaccine.

He needs more cash by the end of June to keep the vaccine on schedule. And there's no guarantee those other critical diseases will recoup about \$20 million.

"If we don't get something soon, then we're going to have a real problem," Fauci said.

Adding to the stress: What if another health emergency comes along at the same time?

"It's Zika now, but three months from now, who knows what it might be?" said Dr. Tim Jones, state epidemiologist in Tennessee, where few counties have mosquito eradication efforts.

Yet with funding pleas unanswered, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shifted \$44 million to Zika from emergency preparedness grants that help state and local health departments with crises from flu outbreaks to hurricanes.

"You have to be careful when you take cuts from core infrastructure for the disease of the day," Tennessee's Jones said. "That's a risky way to do things."

Zika can cause devastating birth defects and fetal death if pregnant women become infected. Mosquitoes aren't yet spreading Zika in the continental U.S., but the epidemic in Latin America and the Caribbean has experts predicting small outbreaks here as mosquito season heats up. The more than 540 U.S. cases



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diagnosed so far involve travel to outbreak areas or sex with infected travelers. The CDC is tracking the outcomes of 157 Zika-infected pregnant women in the U.S., plus another 122 in U.S. territories.

Three months ago, President Barack Obama requested \$1.9 billion in emergency funding to fend off Zika. The House and Senate are arguing over how much to grant — and whether the money should come from cuts to other programs — with no final agreement in sight. House Republicans say the administration has padded its Zika request.

The Obama administration already shifted nearly \$600 million from funds for Ebola flare-ups in West Africa and other accounts. On Friday, the president said lifetime care for a child born with Zika-caused brain damage may cost up to \$10 million.

"Add that up. It doesn't take a lot of cases for you to get to \$1.9 billion. Why wouldn't we want to make that investment now?" Obama said.

Many state and local health departments aren't waiting, but efforts vary widely:

—Florida is no stranger to mosquito-borne outbreaks — it has handled small outbreaks of dengue, carried by the same mosquito as Zika — and is squeezing money out of its usual budget to step up training and traps for areas that need extra help. Officials opened a Zika information hotline that has fielded more than 1,700 calls since February. Miami-Dade County is stepping up enforcement of standing water violations and statewide, residents are being told to screen windows and rid their property of containers that trap rainwater.

Gov. Rick Scott has said the threat of a Zika outbreak should trigger the same response as an approaching hurricane and last week lobbied in Washington for more resources. While Scott hasn't named a dollar figure, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., has supported Obama's request. "It's a mistake for Congress to try and deal with Zika on the cheap," he said on Friday.

—New Orleans' health department has begun sending staffers into neighborhoods to educate residents about Zika and advise them on making their yards less mosquito-friendly — workers also preparing for hurricane season.

"Whether we get money or not, we're going to do what we got to do," said health director Charlotte Parent. "But it sure would help to have those extra bodies to get that work done."

—Virginia took about \$700,000 remaining from a federal Ebola grant to hire two mosquito biologists, pay for some testing of mosquitoes and travelers, and educate the public, including plans to hang information on 450,000 doors.

This marks Virginia's first mosquito surveillance program since 2007.

—Texas can perform dozens of blood tests a week for Zika, but that capacity could easily be overwhelmed if there's an outbreak, Health Commissioner John Hellerstedt said.

The state is spending \$2 million in federal emergency preparedness money on public awareness but can't estimate how much more it needs, in part because mosquito control, like in many states, is funded almost entirely at the county and local level.

—Savannah and surrounding Chatham County has Georgia's best-funded mosquito-control department at \$3.8 million and will send some mosquitoes for Zika testing at the University of Georgia.

"A lot of these counties wouldn't be able to afford to do that," said Savannah mosquito control director Jeff Heusel.

## In swing state suburbs, white women are skeptical of Trump

**BILL BARROW, Associated Press**

**JULIE PACE, Associated Press**

WESTERVILLE, Ohio (AP) — For Donald Trump to win the White House in November, he'll need the votes of women like Elizabeth Andrus.

Yet Andrus, a registered Republican from Delaware, Ohio, sees "buffoonery" in the presumptive Republican nominee and says "I am not on the Trump train." With all the trouble in the world, she went on, "you just don't want Donald Trump as president."

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Her negative impression of Trump was shared by most of the dozens of white, suburban women from politically important states who were interviewed by The Associated Press this spring. Their views are reflected in opinion polls, such as a recent AP-GfK survey that found 70 percent of women have unfavorable opinions of Trump.

Democrat Hillary Clinton's campaign sees that staggering figure as a tantalizing general election opening.

While white voters continue to abandon the Democratic Party, small gains with white women could help put likely nominee Clinton over the top if the November election is close. Democrats believe these women could open up opportunities for Clinton in North Carolina, where President Barack Obama struggled with white voters in his narrow loss in the state 2012, and even in Georgia, a Republican stronghold that Democrats hope to make competitive.

Patty Funderburg of Charlotte, North Carolina, voted for Republican Mitt Romney in 2012, but says she's already convinced that Trump won't get her vote.

"He's not who I'd want to represent our country," said Funderburg, a 54-year-old mother of three.

Trump insists he's "going to do great with women." He's accused Clinton of playing the "woman's card" in her bid to become the first female commander in chief. He's said he will link her aggressively to past indiscretions with women by her husband, former President Bill Clinton.

The businessman also has previewed an argument focused on national security, with echoes of the pitch that President George W. Bush successfully made to white suburban women during his 2004 re-election.

"Women want, above all else, they want security," Trump told The Associated Press recently. "They want to have a strong military, they want to have strong borders. They don't want crime." He said "Hillary is viewed poorly on that."

Not so in the AP-GfK poll. About 40 percent of women surveyed said Clinton would be best at protecting the country and handling the threat posed by the Islamic State group, and about 30 percent said Trump.

Throughout the primary, Clinton has talked about policies meant to appeal to women: equal pay, expanded child care, paid family and medical leave and more.

And Trump has his own complicated past regarding women and has faced criticism for his actions both in his personal life and at his businesses toward them. He's vigorously defended his treatment of women, as has his daughter Ivanka Trump, who said her father "has total respect for women."

A super political action committee backing Clinton has released its first television advertisements featuring Trump's contentious statements about women.

"Does Donald Trump really speak for you?" the super PAC ad asks.

For many of the women interviewed, the answer appears to be no.

Andrus, a Republican who nevertheless voted twice for Obama, praised Trump's political skills and argued his business career indicates an intellect and ability that could benefit the nation.

But his temperament, she said, is somewhere between "buffoonery" and "complete narcissism."

"It would be like having Putin for president," she added, referring to Russia's sometimes belligerent president, Vladimir Putin.

Erin Freedman, a 38-year-old from Reston, Virginia, said Trump scares her. While she's an enthusiastic backer of Clinton's primary rival, Bernie Sanders, she said she'd have no problem backing the former secretary of state against Trump in a general election.

Even some reluctant Trump supporters say they want him to dial back the braggadocio and caustic insults, and engage people more seriously.

"He's the nominee, so I'll vote for him," said Renee Herman, a 45-year-old from Sunbury, Ohio, who preferred retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and her home-state governor, John Kasich, in the GOP primary field. "But it's time we get past all this showmanship and hear from him what he actually wants to do and his plans for how to do it."

Trump's best opening is that Clinton, who is on the cusp of clinching her party's nomination, would enter the November race with a majority of Americans taking a dim view of her candidacy. Fifty-five percent have a negative view of Clinton, including 53 percent of women, in the AP-GfK poll.

"Anybody but Hillary," said Carolyn Owen, a 64-year-old educator from Clayton, North Carolina, near

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Raleigh. She said Trump wasn't her first choice, "but it's better than the alternative."

While Obama won the support of women overall in his two White House campaigns, white women have increasingly been shifting toward the Republican Party in recent elections. Obama only won 42 percent of white women in 2012. Romney won 56 percent of white women, more than Bush and the party's 2008 nominee, Sen. John McCain.

Clinton's hopes will largely hinge on replicating Obama's coalition of blacks, Hispanics and young people. In both of his elections, Obama earned near-unanimous support from black women, while drawing the votes of roughly 7 in 10 Hispanic women. But she would have more room for error with those groups if she can increase Democrats' share of white women.

Another potentially favorable scenario for Clinton involves Republican and independent women who can't stomach a vote for Trump but also don't want to vote for a Democrat. Maybe they simply stay home, keeping the GOP nominee's vote totals down.

For Angee Stephens of Indianola, Iowa, that seems to be the only option at this point. She's wary of Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state, which is the subject of an FBI investigation, and her past political decisions. But "Trump sort of scares me," Stephens said.

In Georgia, Trump supporter Sue Everhart said she talks regularly with suburban Republican women struggling with whether to vote for Trump, and said some cite his boorishness. The former state party chairwoman said she tries to bring the conversation back to Clinton and remind Republicans "who we are running against."

As for Trump's penchant for controversial statements about women, Everhart said, "I learned a long time ago that most any man over 50 in this party, they like you as long as you're making the cookies."

"I should probably be offended," she added. "But I'm not."

## **Sanders breaks with White House on Puerto Rican rescue plan**

**KEN THOMAS, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders is breaking with the Obama administration and House lawmakers over a plan to restructure Puerto Rico's \$70 billion in debt, saying the legislation would make "a terrible situation even worse."

The Vermont senator writes in a letter released Monday that the deal reached last week between the White House and House Republicans and Democrats would empower an "unelected and undemocratic oversight board" and allow the governor of Puerto Rico to slash the minimum wage to \$4.25 an hour for up to five years.

"We must stop treating Puerto Rico like a colony and start treating the American citizens of Puerto Rico with the respect and dignity that they deserve," Sanders wrote in a letter to Senate colleagues.

"At a time when the people of Puerto Rico are suffering, the legislation introduced in the House would make a terrible situation even worse," he wrote.

Sanders trails Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the presidential primaries and both are competing in the upcoming June 5 Puerto Rican caucuses. Clinton has outperformed Sanders among Latino voters during the primaries.

Sanders has been virtually absent from Senate proceedings during his lengthy primary campaign but his opposition could complicate the measure's future after careful negotiations between the White House and House Speaker Paul Ryan.

Ryan, R-Wis., has said the bill would avoid an eventual taxpayer bailout and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew has called it a "tough bipartisan compromise." House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi also supports the agreement.

Puerto Rico, which has struggled to overcome a lengthy recession, has missed several payments to creditors and faces a \$2 billion installment, the largest yet, on July 1. The island has been under a state of emergency and many businesses have closed, schools have lacked sufficient resources like electricity and some hospitals are limiting treatment.



Sanders warned that the control board would have the power to cut the budget, slash pensions and take other measures. He notes that most of the control board would be chosen by Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Puerto Rican officials have argued for a less powerful board that could not control the island's finances. Republicans say the legislation would force the control board to both consider creditors and also find a way to fund pensions. The Puerto Rican government has underfunded pensions by more than \$40 billion.

Sanders said the legislation "looks out for the needs of Wall Street vulture funds first and foremost. That is unacceptable."

## Decades after death in WWII, a son of New Orleans comes home

**REBECCA SANTANA, Associated Press**

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — More than seven decades after being killed during World War II, Pvt. Earl Joseph Keating is finally coming home to his native New Orleans after his remains were discovered on the Pacific island where he died in 1942.

It's a journey long in the making.

Keating's nephew, Nadau "du Treil" Michael Keating Jr., was only 6 months old when his 28-year-old uncle was killed Dec. 5, 1942. The private died at a place that came to be known as the Huggins Roadblock on the island of New Guinea just north of Australia — part of the bloody campaign to defeat the Japanese in the Pacific theater.

But the nephew remembers his grandmother's message to him when he was just 12 years old and she was on her deathbed.

"She said 'I want you to remember to please find Earl with your Dad. Help your dad find Earl,'" he said.

Pvt. Keating was part of a group manning the roadblock when it came under withering attacks by the Japanese. The group repelled the onslaughts but suffered heavy casualties, including Keating and fellow Pvt. John H. Klopp, 25, also of New Orleans. Fellow soldiers buried them together.

But for Keating's mother back home, the loss of one of her three sons never left. She wrote the military repeatedly, beseeching them to find her son's remains, and the family frequently remembered him in prayers.

It wasn't until decades later that the younger Keating Jr., who lives in Lafayette, Louisiana, was able to answer that death bed request with the help of villagers in Papua New Guinea. A villager out hunting came across the remains of the two men and some personal effects.

"He dug around and found a helmet and some artifacts such as the dog tags," said Tyler Lege, Michael Keating's young nephew. Word that some remains and effects had been found was eventually passed along to the U.S. military, which sent a team to investigate.

The U.S. military runs an extensive effort to recover the remains of missing troops from conflicts around the world. The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency investigates reports of service members missing in action from Vietnam, World War II, the Korean War and other conflicts. There are 82,729 people unaccounted for from all conflicts, according to the organization's website. Yet troops from World War II make up the vast majority — 73,159.

To help identify Keating's remains, the U.S. military needed more DNA, said Keating, a search that eventually led him about a year and a half ago to Tulane University where he tracked down a cousin, Sue duTreil. Both she and her brothers also provided DNA samples and eventually the military was able to positively identify the remains.

"I'm so glad that he's getting the attention that he deserves. He went through a lot from what we've learned," said Sue duTreil. "I wasn't born yet when Earl died and du Treil was only 6 months old but somehow we have become the ones to help bring him home."

Pvt. Keating will actually be buried in two places. Some of his remains were so intertwined with that of his friend, Pvt. Klopp, that they were buried side by side with Klopp's remains at Arlington National Cemetery in March. The remains that were positively identified as Keating's are arriving Monday.

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The family has planned an extensive ceremony to honor their long-lost relative.

The remains will be met at the airport by family and a U.S. military honor guard and transported to the funeral home where an opera singer will sing "Amazing Grace."

During the May 28 funeral services, Keating plans to read a letter written by his father to Pvt. Keating; it was never read by the young soldier because he died before it arrived. Instead the letter was stamped "Deceased" and returned to sender. After the funeral service, the soldier's remains will be driven by the city's World War II museum where the American flag will be lowered to half-staff and taps sounded before the procession continues to the cemetery.

"It's a lifelong promise of my parents and my grandparents and it's being completed and it's a great, great honor for me to be able to do this," said Keating.

## Bangladesh avoids high death toll with cyclone evacuation

**JULHAS ALAM, Associated Press**

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Tens of thousands of Bangladeshis returned Monday to wind-battered villages and rain-soaked fields after a strong storm pummeled the coast and killed at least 26 people over the weekend.

Authorities had ordered about 2 million people to be evacuated from coastal areas before Cyclone Roanu hit the port city of Chittagong on Saturday, but many ignored the call after deciding the storm's winds, blowing at up to 88 kilometers (55 miles) per hour, were not such a threat. The low-lying delta nation has been regularly hit by much stronger storms.

Still, tens of thousands spent the weekend in cyclone shelters. Moheshkhali island council chief Mohammed Ullah says some 100,000 islanders returned to damaged and flooded homes Monday, and many who lost their stored food supplies were struggling to find enough to eat.

"They have to start anew," Ullah said. "Many are surviving on just dry food, as their homes were submerged."

Local media reported at least 26 deaths caused by drowning or homes collapsing during the storm, though officials have yet to give a death toll.

Ullah said islanders on Moheshkhali were now in constant fear that a 28-kilometer (17-mile) stretch of mud embankment badly damaged in the storm will collapse and allow seawater to swamp their homes and fields.

Another 5,000 people in the village of Tajimuddin in Bhola district were also struggling to find enough to eat after the storm damaged their homes, according to the English-language Daily Star newspaper.

With millions living along the vulnerable coast, Bangladesh has worked to improve storm preparedness and to issue evacuation orders early to avoid high death tolls, such as the 300,000 killed in a single cyclone in 1970. When Cyclone Sidr hit in 2007, about 3,000 were reported killed.

The country has built thousands of raised concrete buildings to serve as cyclone shelters across the vast region.

Still, experts say Bangladesh will be increasingly vulnerable as climate change brings stronger storms and rising sea levels that will directly threaten low-lying coastal regions that are home to 160 million people densely packed into an area the size of the U.S. state of Wisconsin.

## Hospitals a deadly target in Middle East conflicts

**SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press**

**MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press**

BEIRUT (AP) — As one of the few pediatricians remaining in the Syrian city of Aleppo, Dr. Mohammed Wassim Maaz offered hope to tens of thousands of children and their parents trapped in the horror and misery of the five-year civil war. But last month, an airstrike widely believed to have been carried out by the Syrian government destroyed the al Quds hospital where he worked, killing Maaz and dozens of colleagues, patients and other civilians.

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The April 27 strike was the latest of thousands of attacks in recent years on medical facilities in conflicts in the Middle East and elsewhere that have killed hundreds in brazen violation of humanitarian norms. Facilities have been struck in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen and South Sudan.

The attacks have turned the universally recognized symbol of the red cross, which is supposed to offer protection and safety, into a deadly target and have exposed the failure of the international community to prevent and punish such crimes.

The U.N. Security Council has denounced the attacks and demanded that all parties in conflicts protect medical facilities, staff and patients. But some of the council's most powerful members, who backed the resolution, aren't blameless.

U.S. forces struck a clinic in Afghanistan last year, killing 42 people. The Pentagon found the attack was a mistake caused by human error and 16 military personnel, including a two-star general, were disciplined. The medical charity Doctors Without Borders, which operated the hospital, has called for an independent investigation.

Medical facilities have also been hit by the U.S.-backed Saudi-led coalition in Yemen.

Russia, too, has been tied to attacks. Its forces backing Syrian President Bashar Assad have been accused of intentionally striking hospitals. Assad's military has been charged with deliberately striking civilian targets to crush the will of the population and render rebel-held areas unlivable.

Physicians for Human Rights calls the attacks in Syria the most widespread and systematic assault on health care documented in the world to date.

"Health facilities, which are meant to be places where people can go for relief of suffering, for survival and safety, have become instead places of brutality and death," said Susannah Sirkin, a director at the New York-based group.

The Geneva Conventions state that hospitals, doctors and patients are off-limits in conflicts. Attacking them constitutes a war crime. Violations have happened before, but aid groups say the cruelty and frequency in recent years has been unprecedented.

Nearly 740 doctors and staff have been killed in more than 360 attacks on hospitals in Syria since the start of the civil war in 2011, according to Physicians for Human Rights. A study by the International Committee of the Red Cross documented some 2,400 attacks against patients, health personnel and medical facilities in 2012-2014.

Doctors Without Borders, known by its French acronym, MSF, says that least 100 staff members, patients and caretakers were killed, and at least 130 were injured, in aerial bombing and shelling attacks on more than 80 MSF-supported and run health structures in 2015 and early 2016.

Hospitals and physicians in the Middle East and elsewhere have been attacked simply for treating people on both sides of the conflict or because the facilities were located near what was perceived to be a military target.

Treating patients in war zones has become so dangerous that some hospitals have gone undercover and residents in a number of communities in Syria have protested against efforts to reopen bombed hospitals to avoid being hit again, according to MSF.

On Monday, 80 governments and dozens of world leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, inaugurated the first-of-its-kind World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. The summit, called by the U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in response to pressing humanitarian challenges, was set to be attended by 6,000 people including heads of aid groups and private sector leaders. But MSF, in a strongly worded statement, said it was pulling out, calling the summit "a fig-leaf of good intentions."

According to the international organization, the two-day World Humanitarian Summit will "put states on the same level as non-governmental organizations and UN agencies, which have no such powers or obligations," further minimizing the responsibility of the states.

Assad's government denies targeting hospitals or other civilian areas and accuses the rebels of striking government clinics. But Syria's top diplomat to the U.N., Bashar Ja'afari, has accused MSF of being French spies and said they should be blamed for attacks on their facilities because they are operating in an area



not controlled by the government.

The attack on the al Quds hospital brought attention to the dangers faced by medical care workers. Closed-circuit footage of the last moments of Maaz's life was seen worldwide. They show him clad in green scrubs and slippers, moving busily around the ward and tending to his small patients.

Maaz, 36, was the senior pediatrician in Aleppo, a northern city besieged by government, Kurdish and Islamic State fighters. He was a soft-spoken bearded man with balding hair, so devoted to his patients that he turned down a scholarship to study in France and opportunities to work in safer areas. He slept in the hospital to look after his patients during the night, colleagues said.

"By killing a doctor, the regime and its allies are killing hundreds of children that he was treating," said Dr. Osama Abo Elezz, a general surgeon in Aleppo.

The al Quds hospital recently reopened. Another doctor has volunteered to take over Maaz's duties. When he spoke to The Associated Press, he asked that only his first name, Hatem, be used because he fears being targeted.

"If he (Assad) keeps hitting hospitals, we will set up hospitals underground," Hatem said. "We are staying here."

## Poised for stardom in Rio, Ledecy shies away from spotlight

**PAUL NEWBERRY, AP National Writer**

NORTH BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — When an athlete is poised to become a huge Olympic star, it's only natural to wonder what might come next.

Hosting "Saturday Night Live," perhaps? Maybe a reality show?

Not so with Katie Ledecy.

She might be one of the world's greatest swimmers, but everything else about her seems downright ordinary.

There is zero interest in the spotlight, just an insatiable desire to keep going faster in the pool.

The 19-year-old doesn't have a driver's license yet, perfectly content to ride to practices and meets with her parents. She enjoys playing board games; no video games for her. She's worked with a charity that collects bicycles and ships them to developing countries. She's a big fan of Bruce Springsteen, despite the generation gap.

Talk about a parent's dream.

When someone brings up the idea of becoming a big star away from the pool — anyone up for show called "Kickin' It With the Ledecys?" — Katie and her father erupt in laughter.

"Yeah, that'll happen," the swimmer said, rolling her eyes.

"You've got to get to know us a little better," David Ledecy interjected.

"They can come watch us play a game of Scrabble," Katie added. "That's about it."

There's nothing ordinary about Ledecy when she dives into the pool. Four years ago, not long after arriving on the international scene, she stunningly captured her first Olympic gold medal with a dominating victory in the 800-meter freestyle at London.

Since then, she's basically been unbeatable in a growing repertoire of freestyle events. She captured four golds at the 2013 world championships in Barcelona, five at the 2014 Pan Pacific Championships, five more at last year's worlds in Kazan. She holds the world record in the 400, 800 and 1,500 free (the latter a non-Olympic event), and will be among the favorites in the 200 free at Rio.

Her growing prowess in the 100 free gives her, at the very least, a shot at competing on two relay teams in Brazil, which could set her up for a haul of five gold medals. Only 10 athletes in the history of the Olympics have captured that much gold in a single games, a list that includes such towering figures as Michael Phelps, Eric Heiden and Paavo Nurmi.

More impressive to those she competes against is her ability to pull off historic times pretty much any time she's in the water.

Back in 2014, she eclipsed her own world records in both the 800 and 1,500 free at a low-level meet in

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suburban Houston. This past January, she set another mark in the 800 at a grand prix meet in Austin, Texas.

In a sport where swimmers normally taper their training to be at their best only for the biggest competitions, Ledecky has hit a reset button on the way things are done.

"It's been incredibly inspiring watching her," said fellow American star Missy Franklin, who won four gold medals in London. "I feel like she's really re-writing the rules of the sport."

In suburban Washington, D.C., Ledecky trains each day with coach Bruce Gemmell and the Nation's Capital Swim Club, a collection of mostly younger swimmers who can only dream of reaching her heights one day.

Over the course of a 2½-hour practice at the Georgetown Preparatory School, an elite boys academy that has turned out famous alumni ranging from actor John Barrymore to former U.S. Sen. Christopher Dodd, she might swim close to 9,500 yards in the 25-yard pool, a monotonous, back-and-forth grind that separates the true champions from those who only think they're willing to pay the price.

Because there's no one in her class on the female side, she does most of her head-to-head training against the coach's son, Andrew Gemmell, who competed in the 1,500 free at London and is hoping to qualify for his second Olympics.

Like Franklin, the younger Gemmell realizes he's in the presence of an otherworldly talent.

"It's fun being part of that," he said. "It could be 40 years before we see someone like her again."

In practice, Gemmell is usually the faster swimmer.

But not always.

"Any guy who thinks that they are going to be faster than Katie all the time is lying to himself," Gemmell said. "It definitely keeps me honest. There is a little pride sometimes to not want to get beat by a girl. I hope I help her, too. ... I don't know if she would admit it, but I think, yeah, beating the boys is something fun for her. I think she realizes it's pretty unique, it's a little extra edge. And the fact of the matter is, not many girls can train with her, so she's got to be racing with the guys."

So, what makes Ledecky so special?

It's not some unique physical characteristics, like Franklin's huge feet or Phelps' long torso and imposing wingspan. At around 6 feet tall, Ledecky wouldn't be called diminutive, like American distance queen Janet Evans, but there's nothing that really stands out.

"She's relatively short on a world-class scale," Bruce Gemmell said during a recent meet in Atlanta. "She's got small hands. She's got small feet. She doesn't have an excessive wingspan. That's not it."

David Ledecky points to a family work ethic that was passed down by Katie's grandparents. Her paternal grandfather was a Czech immigrant who came to the United States in 1947 to build a better life. Her maternal grandfather won a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars for his valiant service in the Pacific during World War II; afterward, he returned home to become a doctor in his hometown for some 40 years.

"I don't know if I would call it a competitive streak in her, but I think there's a lot of determination," David Ledecky said. "I always like to give credit to her grandparents. I think all four of her grandparents are pretty special people."

Katie comes from a family where high achievement is expected. Her father is an attorney. Her mother, Mary Gen Ledecky, was a top college swimmer. Her older brother, Michael, will be graduating from Harvard next month. In the fall, Katie will head off to Stanford to begin her college life, a transition she delayed a year to prepare for the Olympics, though she did take a couple of classes this past fall at Georgetown — History of China and Comparative Political Systems — just to stay in somewhat of an academic frame of mind. She is still pondering what her major might be, mentioning history and psychology as possibilities.

"Not surprisingly, I get asked to do a lot of talks on her," her coach said. "When I'm preparing to do the talk, I always say to my wife, half-kiddingly, that I want to say, 'She works her ass off and she's tough as nails. Does anybody have any questions?' My wife is like, 'They probably won't pay you for an hour's talk to say that.'"

Turning serious, Gemmell struggles to find the words to explain Ledecky's success.

"She has a real desire to get better," he finally said. "In some ways, I think it's as simple as that."

Nothing too flashy, that's for sure.

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Which seems just right for Leducky. It's just not her style.  
Well, except in the pool.

## Indy 500 champions choose 1992 finish as greatest race

**DAVE SKRETTA, AP Sports Writer**

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Ryan Hunter-Reay admits to being biased when asked about the greatest race in Indianapolis 500 history. He also makes it clear that picking his own victory in 2014 is based more on merit than ego.

There was a red flag with seven laps to go. The lead changed just about every lap. Marco Andretti came oh-so-close to ending his family's Indy 500 curse. And ultimately, Hunter-Reay held off Helio Castroneves — trying to join the club of four-time winners — in the second-closest finish in history.

"There's no way 2014 isn't in the top three," Hunter-Reay said.

It wasn't even in the top five — at least, not in a survey of past winners conducted by The Associated Press. They chose Al Unser Jr.'s victory over Scott Goodyear in 1992 as the greatest race.

"That," said 1963 winner Parnelli Jones, "was kind of outstanding."

In the lead-up to the 100th running of the "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing," The Associated Press interviewed the 27 living race winners on topics ranging from the greatest driver to most memorable moment, and their answers to the greatest race in history produced five that received multiple votes:

Along with Little Al's victory in 1992, his duel and defeat to Emerson Fittipaldi in the 1989 race; the 2006 race when Sam Hornish Jr. passed Andretti within sight of the finish; the 1982 battle between Rick Mears and Gordon Johncock; and the 2011 race won by the late Dan Wheldon.

Perhaps it was Unser's close call three years earlier, when he touched tires with Fittipaldi and crashed with a lap to go, that made the first of Little Al's two victories such a popular one.

The crash-filled '92 race came down to the final 12 laps, when Michael Andretti appeared on his way to a long-awaited win. But after leading 160 laps, and building a 28-second lead, the fuel pump in his car shut down and Andretti rolled to a stop in the short chute to bring out the caution.

The race restarted with seven laps to go, and Unser and Goodyear went toe-to-toe. Unser wobbled just a bit in the final corner, Goodyear weaved behind him down the straightaway, then dove inside as the two cars crossed the finish line in a blur — the margin of Unser's victory officially 0.043 seconds.

"Seeing him take the checkered flag was one of the greatest moments of my life," said his father, Al Unser Sr., one of three drivers to have won four Indy 500s.

Not surprisingly, it was his son's choice for best. It might have been Goodyear's pick, too.

"The finish between Hornish and Andretti, it took me until then to finally get it," said Goodyear, who helped broadcast that 2006 race for ABC. "I was taken in by it. Oh man, it was close. And it was like, 'Now I understand how cool the end of our race was.'"

The other fantastic finishes, according to the AP survey:

1989

Fittipaldi called the first of his two wins "without a doubt" the greatest race in history. He nearly ended up in the wall with Unser Jr. after the two touched tires, but Fittipaldi made a dramatic save and then completed the final lap under caution to win.

2006

Michael Andretti and Marco Andretti both led in the final laps, but father faltered and son was passed by Hornish a mere 450 feet from the line in the third-closest finish in race history.

"The way he went through traffic was just incredible and that allowed him to close the gap enough," said four-time champion Rick Mears. "That was one of the most exciting ones I've seen."

1982

Johncock and Mears spent the final 40 laps engaged in a two-man race, putting an entire lap between them and the rest of the field. Johncock wound up winning by 0.16 seconds.

"Mears was coming like a freight train and Johncock was just trying to hang on," recalled 1969 winner Mario Andretti, who had crashed out of the race. "That was a nail-biter."

2011

J.R. Hildebrand hit the wall while trying to avoid slower traffic in the final turn, allowing Wheldon to sneak by for his second victory — and a stunning one for his small Panther Racing team. It was also Wheldon's final race win. He would die in an October crash at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

"It was crazy," recalled 2008 winner Scott Dixon, "but the most deserving won it."

## US veteran seeks asylum for Iraqi man who saved his life

**JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After three military combat tours in war-torn Iraq, Chase Millsap returned home to get on with a civilian life, but there was one thing he couldn't do: leave a comrade behind, certainly not one who had saved his life.

Especially not the former Iraqi military officer who, because he had worked with the Americans, was now living a precarious existence as a refugee dodging Islamic State militants seeking to kill him.

So for the past two years Millsap has been fighting a different kind of battle, one to gain asylum for the brother in arms he simply calls The Captain.

"The Captain is the epitome of my personal commitment to take care of people," said Millsap, 33, who served in the Marine Corps and upon reenlistment joined the Army and became a Green Beret.

For the time being, The Captain lives in southern Turkey, struggling to obtain refugee status in what he hopes will be the first step toward seeking permanent asylum in the United States.

"If I go back, I'm sure I die," the 37-old Muslim and married father of two said recently during an interview over Skype. He agreed to speak, but, fearing for his safety, only wanted to be identified by his former rank.

As he spoke his 3-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son played in the family's living room.

Millsap visited his friend last year at his cramped apartment, hoping he might help him expedite his refugee application.

After running into one obstacle after another — The Captain couldn't get an interview at one government office because his papers were in English, not Turkish — Millsap returned to the United States and, with a handful of other military veterans, formed the nonprofit Ronin Refugee Project.

It's dedicated to helping those who fought alongside Americans find safe harbor here or in other Western countries. After helping The Captain, they hope to turn their attention to others.

"He's one of millions that's stuck in a system that is broken and he's just gonna continue to wait," Millsap said. "And so we decided to step up, me and a few other veterans."

On Tuesday, he will be in Washington to meet with members of Congress and others to discuss just how the U.S. might go about doing that.

"That's really become my mission," said the newlywed who after obtaining his master's degree from the University of Southern California went to work this month as a community liaison helping U.S. veterans reintegrate into civilian life.

Friendly and outgoing, Mills was a fresh-faced 2nd lieutenant when he arrived in Iraq in 2006 to lead a contingent of U.S. Marines and Iraqi soldiers. The Captain, a lieutenant himself then, was among the latter group.

"When I met The Captain I was unimpressed at first," Millsap said, chuckling now. He was a Marine, after all, he is quick to add, and no decent Marine thinks anyone can do the job better than he can. Never mind that they were in the middle of nowhere, surrounded by danger in a foreign country where they didn't know the culture.

His attitude began to change as The Captain patiently explained why he and his troops weren't getting buy-in from the locals or the Iraqi soldiers. It changed dramatically, however, after a sniper tried to take Millsap's head off during a routine patrol.

"He quickly pushed me down and ran towards the gunfire and because of that saved my life," Millsap recalled. The sniper, seeing an angry Iraqi soldier charging at him, chose to run rather than shoot again.

"And that," Millsap added with a laugh, "is when I truly realized that this guy's OK."



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It was coincidence the two crossed paths a year later during Millsap's second tour. He was again in charge of a Marine contingent and The Captain was now his Iraqi counterpart. The bearded soldier stared at him, incredulous that he'd returned to that hell.

Millsap left the Marines after that tour to join the Army's Green Berets, rising to the rank of captain himself. The two didn't cross paths but kept in touch by phone and email until one day the communications stopped.

The Captain, Millsap would learn a year later, had nearly been killed when an IED blew up his Jeep. He recovered and soldiered on until ISIS began moving in and the death threats began. When calls to his home began identifying his children by name he gathered up his family and fled to Turkey.

Now a typical day begins with physical therapy on his right arm, still damaged by the IED. That's followed by tasks like teaching his children the English alphabet, then studying English grammar himself so he can fine-tune his United Nations application for refugee status.

The last time he met with a UN official, he said, he was told a decision might come within three months. That was four months ago. Now he's heard maybe in a month or two. Or maybe a year.

He and Millsap check in by Skype once a week. During a recent call he praised Ronin Refugee Project for not forgetting him.

"I feel like you are my family. You are my brother. You and the other group of Marines are really gentlemen," he said before his voice began to break.

## Murder trial for 'Shield' actor set to begin in Los Angeles

**ANTHONY McCARTNEY, AP Entertainment Writer**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Two years after Michael Jace shot and killed his wife in their Los Angeles home, the actor is scheduled to go on trial in a case that will explore several unanswered questions about what led to the killing.

Jace, who played a police officer on the FX series "The Shield," turned himself in to police immediately after the shooting and has been behind bars ever since. Few details about the slaying have been released, although a prosecutor has said the actor shot April Jace in the back and then shot her again while their young children looked on.

The actor's attorneys have said his state of mind on the day of the killing will be a key element of his defense in the murder case.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Robert Perry has said jurors will be told April Jace was having an affair, but that limited details would be discussed during the weeklong trial.

April Jace, 40, was a financial aid counselor at Biola University and had two sons with her actor husband. The boys were both under the age of 10 when she was killed. Jace called his father-in-law to pick up the children after the shooting, according to a 911 call released by fire officials.

Her family called her death "senseless act of domestic violence" in a statement.

Neighbors described the actor as a doting father after his arrest. They said they never saw or heard signs of trouble coming from the Jaces' home in Los Angeles' Hyde Park neighborhood. A prosecutor has said there was no evidence of previous domestic violence by Jace toward his wife.

Michael Jace, 53, worked steadily in small roles in films such as "Planet of the Apes," "Boogie Nights," "Forrest Gump" and the television series "Southland."

The actor had been experiencing financial difficulties and filed for bankruptcy in 2011 and had fallen behind on payments just months before the shooting.

If convicted, he faces 50 years to life in prison.

## Madonna honors Prince, Dion inspires at Billboard Awards

**KRISTIN M. HALL, Associated Press**

This year's Billboard Music Awards promised to be heavy on emotion during its biggest performances

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by iconic artists such as Celine Dion and Madonna. And they certainly delivered on Sunday night at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas with a political statement about transgender rights, a tender Prince tribute and Dion's return after personal losses. These are the most memorable moments of the night.

## CELINE'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN

Celine Dion's first television appearance since her husband, René Angélil, and her brother, Daniel Dion, died in January was among the most anticipated moments of the night.

The international star turned her tragedy into a triumphant display of strength and resiliency as she performed Queen's "The Show Must Go On." Backed by an orchestra and talented violinist Lindsey Stirling, Dion raised her hands to the sky and even did a little hip shake to make for the uplifting moment of the night.

After accepting the Billboard Icon Award, Dion was surprised by her son and apologized for crying, which no one would fault her for. She thanked her legions of fans for being with her through good times and bad and dedicated the award to her late husband, who she said will "continue to watch over me from up above."

## MADONNA, WONDER HONOR PRINCE

Billboard took some criticism when Madonna was chosen to pay tribute to the late great Prince, but together with Stevie Wonder, her heartfelt performance to the musical icon who died April 21 at age 57 was touching.

After being introduced by Roots drummer Questlove who skillfully articulated the impact of the musical genius, the tribute started with a recording of Prince's "Let's Go Crazy," as all the lights in the venue turned purple.

Madonna appeared seated on a purple velvet throne in a lacy glittery suit with a cane and sang a tender version of "Nothing Compares 2 U," as images of Prince played on a screen behind her.

Stevie Wonder joined her on a rousing "Purple Rain" duet. It became a crowd singalong with artists like Rihanna singing and dancing as the arena lit up with thousands of purple wristbands.

But BET responded on Twitter with a video promoting their own upcoming Prince tribute at the BET Awards next Sunday. The response said, "Yeah, we saw that. Don't worry. We Got You."

## KESHA SLAYS

For all the questions over Kesha's appearance, she delivered a standout performance of Bob Dylan's "It Ain't Me, Babe" with pianist Ben Folds that was beautiful in its simplicity.

She didn't need to address an ongoing legal dispute with producer Dr. Luke, whose record label pulled the plug on the performance then reversed itself amid fears she would reference her allegations of sexual abuse against him.

She reminded everyone that she was still a very talented vocalist and paid a tribute the legendary songwriter, who turns 75 this year.

## DEMI'S TRANSGENDER STATEMENT

Earlier this year, Demi Lovato and Nick Jonas joined a growing list of musicians boycotting North Carolina over a law that blocks local anti-discrimination protections and determines which bathrooms transgender people can use.

During her performance of "Cool For the Summer," Lovato wore a shirt featuring an inclusive bathroom symbol in one of the only overtly political statements of the awards show.

LGBT rights organization GLAAD said in a release following the performance that copies of the shirt will be sold on Lovato and Jonas' national tour with proceeds going to LGBT organizations in North Carolina.

## BRITNEY'S BIGGEST HITS

Britney Spears' opening medley of her nearly two decades of hits started off stiff, but by the end of the performance, she finally warmed up.

The singer, who received the Billboard Millennium Award, came out of the smoke joined by more than a dozen dancers and quickly disrobed into a red bikini.

But her robotic dancing and lip-syncing made the performance feel like an unemotional overview of her Las Vegas show.

However, after straddling a giant guitar for a cover of "I Love Rock n' Roll" she finally loosened up. She

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danced and gyrated across multiple stages to the soundtrack of her greatest hits, such as "Slave for U," and "Toxic."

## Australian leader's poll numbers sag 2 weeks into campaign

**ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press**

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's popularity dipped slightly in a poll published Monday two weeks into what appears to be a tight campaign ahead of July 2 general elections.

Some 46 percent said they preferred Turnbull over opposition leader Bill Shorten, down 3 percentage points from the last poll two weeks ago, according to the survey by Sydney-based market researcher Galaxy.

Shorten's popularity, meanwhile, climbed 4 percentage points to 31 percent, with 23 percent of respondents uncommitted.

The latest poll showed a close race, with 51 percent of the respondents intending to vote for the opposition Labor Party and 49 percent for the government. That result was within the survey's 2.4 percentage point margin of error. It is the fourth consecutive poll in the so-called Newspoll series conducted at two-week intervals to record the identical Labor lead.

Asked about the poll, Turnbull told reporters his Liberal Party-led government had "a clear economic plan for jobs and growth — that's the key to our future." He said Shorten has "a plan for spending and spending and spending. He doesn't know how to pay for it."

If Labor wins the election, Shorten would become Australia's fifth prime minister in just over three years.

Shorten, meanwhile, said his party would struggle to increase its 55 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives to the majority required to form government.

"Labor's clearly the underdog in this election. It's a steep climb to win north of 20 seats," Shorten told reporters.

The poll was based on a weekend nationwide survey of 1,709 voters.

## Songs for the dying: Hospice choirs provide peace, comfort

**PHILIP MARCELO, Associated Press**

NEWTON, Mass. (AP) — The singers enter single file, taking slow, deliberate steps as they intone a soft melody.

Norman Doelling, an 85-year-old who recently suffered a stroke, is there waiting, an audience of one, eased into a recliner in the home where he's lived for decades in the Boston suburbs.

"I guess I lived too long," he jokes in a halting voice after the group finishes serenading him. "It was very charming. I have a great deal of appreciation. It was very nice of them to come and sing to an old man."

The eight mostly older women are members of Journey Songs, one of hundreds of hospice choirs across the country and world.

The all-volunteer a cappella groups sing, when invited, at the bedsides of the elderly and terminally ill in hospitals, nursing homes and private residences. They offer calming melodies meant to bring comfort to relatives, caregivers and their loved ones.

"We're all about doing peaceful, quiet and uplifting songs," says Kate Mason, the coordinator for Journey Songs. "It's almost as good as a touch. We touch people with love through our music."

Jean Doelling says she invited the choir as a way to brighten the day for her mostly bedridden husband, who had worked for decades at MIT.

"It just described what we're experiencing," says the 83-year-old Doelling after the group quietly files out of the house. "Norman is a very happy, content person. We're experiencing the autumn of our life, and we're doing it together."

Singing to the dying has been done for centuries worldwide, mostly in the privacy of people's homes, says Kate Munger, founder of Threshold Choir, a Santa Rosa, California, group that's credited with helping launch the modern hospice choir movement.

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But as end-of-life care moved to hospitals and nursing facilities, those traditions eroded, she says. Hospice choirs are, in some ways, trying to fill that void.

"It's difficult and challenging work, but it's also deeply satisfying," Munger says. "People don't sign up for this unless they're sure this is something they're called to do."

Munger formed her group in 2000 after singing to a dying friend with AIDS. The nonprofit organization now has more than 100 chapters across the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia.

On a recent weekday night, dozens of volunteers gathered at a music school in Littleton, Massachusetts, about 40 miles north of Boston, for the twice-monthly rehearsal of the Threshold Singers at Indian Hill Music, a group affiliated with Munger's organization.

Seated in a circle, the members took turns lying in a reclining chair in the center as small groups of singers performed at their side, much as they would to a patient.

"It's the least ego of any singing that I've done," says Charlotte Russell, the group's music director and a voice instructor. "It's not about standing out as a soloist. It's about comforting the person who is dying and also giving their family a little respite. It sort of takes that weight off them because you're sharing that vigil with them."

Singing experience generally isn't a requirement, and volunteers aren't trained as hospice care workers. Choirs affiliated with the Threshold Choir sing spare melodies that are often just a simple phrase — "You are not alone. I am here beside you" is a commonly used one — repeated in different vocal styles by small groups of two to four singers.

Journey Songs, the group that visits Norman Doelling, takes a slightly different approach.

The members perform wide range of songs from different faith and world traditions, as well as some popular music. They also opt for larger groups of about a dozen or so singers.

But most choirs, regardless of their approach, will ask a few questions in advance to get a sense of the person's personality and what songs might be appropriate.

On this particular day, the Journey Songs singers know that Norman was a competitive sailor and that the couple sailed frequently from New England's waters to the Bahamas.

They do a rendition of "Crossing the Bar," a sea-themed Alfred Lord Tennyson poem often interpreted as a metaphor for a person's final journey in life.

Jean Doelling's face lights up. "That was always a favorite of Norman's," she says. "There's a version of it in our kitchen, hanging on the wall. Isn't that right, Norman?"

Her husband nods. "That was very nice."

## Durant, Westbrook lead Thunder in blowout win over Warriors

CLIFF BRUNT, AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook and the Thunder gave the Warriors as complete a beating as they experienced during their record-setting season.

Suddenly, a second straight title seems to be anything but a given for Golden State. Now the Warriors are just trying to survive.

Durant scored 33 points, Westbrook had 30 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds, and Oklahoma City rolled to a 133-105 victory on Sunday night to take a 2-1 lead in the Western Conference finals.

The Warriors, who set an NBA record with 73 victories in the regular season, trailed by 41 points, their largest deficit this season.

"We got what we deserved," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said.

Durant made 10 of 15 shots and Westbrook was 10 of 19. It was the first time this postseason both players shot better than 50 percent from the field.

"We're not going to win that way," Golden State guard Klay Thompson said. "One of those guys got to have an off night."

Serge Ibaka added 14 points and eight rebounds for the Thunder, who matched a franchise record for most points scored in a playoff game.



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Oklahoma City outrebounded the Warriors in its Game 1 victory, but the Warriors won the battle of the boards in Game 2 and beat the Thunder 118-91. Oklahoma City reasserted its dominance on the glass on Sunday, outrebounding Golden State 52-38.

Westbrook said the Thunder also needed to make the hustle plays that add to the rebounding totals.

"That's one thing we slipped up on in Game 2, and I think tonight, we did a good job of getting loose balls and finding ways to get 50/50 basketballs and give ourselves extra possessions," he said.

Golden State will be in an uncomfortable position heading into Game 4 on Tuesday in Oklahoma City, but the Warriors remain confident. Golden State trailed Memphis and Cleveland 2-1 in playoff series last year and won both on its way to claiming the NBA title.

"Both times, we got blown out in Game 3, and we responded well, so we have that memory," Kerr said. "I'm confident we're going to come out and play a really good game in Game 4, and we'll see what happens."

The last time Golden State's Stephen Curry had played in Oklahoma City, he scored 46 points, tied an NBA record with 12 3-pointers and hit a game-winning, 37-footer. This time, the league MVP finished with 24 points on 7-for-17 shooting. Klay Thompson added 18 points on 8-for-19 shooting.

Golden State's Draymond Green, who kicked Oklahoma City's Steven Adams in the groin and has become Thunder fans' No. 1 target because of some questionable tactics, struggled on both ends of the floor and finished with six points on 1-for-9 shooting. The Warriors were outscored by 43 points when he was in the game.

With 5:57 left in the second quarter, Green kicked Adams after a foul. It was the second time in the series Green hit Adams there — he hit him with a knee in Game 2. The crowd chanted "Kick him out! Kick him out!" but Green was issued a flagrant 1 foul and remained in the game.

Green said he wasn't trying to hurt Adams.

"I thought it would probably get rescinded," he said. "I followed through on a shot. I'm not trying to kick somebody in the midsection. Somebody wants to have kids someday. I'm not trying to end that on the basketball court."

Seemingly energized after Green's foul, the Thunder outscored the Warriors 24-7 the rest of the half, with many of the baskets coming against Green. In a play that summarized the second quarter perfectly, Green went in for a layup and got it blocked by Durant, then Durant made a 3-pointer on the other end to give the Thunder a 64-47 lead.

Green fouled Westbrook on a long 3-pointer with 1.3 seconds left in the first half. Westbrook made all three free throws to put the Thunder up 72-47 at the break. Durant had 23 points on 6-for-10 shooting and 10 of 10 free throws in the first half, and Westbrook had 16 points, seven assists and six rebounds at the break. It was the most points scored against the Warriors in any half this season.

Curry shot 4 for 13 in the first half, Thompson went 5 for 14 and Green 1 for 8.

The Thunder continued the onslaught by making 17 of 22 shots in the third quarter to take a 117-80 lead into the fourth.

## STAT LINES

The Warriors have left Thunder guard Andre Roberson open to focus on other players, and Roberson finally made the Warriors pay by scoring 13 points. He made 5 of 9 shots, including 3 of 5 pointers.

## COURTSIDE

The Rev. Jesse Jackson attended the game and sat next to Durant's mother, Wanda Pratt.

## TIP-INS

Warriors: Had just one offensive rebound in the first quarter and 10 in the game. ... Made just 6 of 23 3-pointers in the first half and 10 of 33 overall. ... Never led by more than two points. ... It was the first time since 1991 that multiple players scored at least 30 points against the Warriors in a playoff game.

Thunder: Outrebounded the Warriors 33-19 in the first half. ... Shot 52.3 percent in the first half and 50 percent overall. ... Outscored the Warriors 33-19 at the free-throw line. ... Dion Waiters scored 13 points and Enes Kanter added 10 points and 12 rebounds.

## Manhunt in police officer's slaying comes to violent end

AUBURN, Mass. (AP) — The man accused of killing a Massachusetts police officer during an early morning traffic stop was later shot to death after exchanging gunfire with police and wounding a state trooper, officials said.

The suspect, identified as 35-year-old Jorge Zambrano, burst out of a bedroom closet and opened fire on officers Sunday evening as they approached him inside a duplex apartment in Oxford, investigators said at a news conference. Oxford is about 7 miles south of Auburn, where the police officer was fatally shot hours earlier.

"The suspect appeared from inside a closet and fired on the troopers, striking one of them," said State Police Colonel Richard McKeon. "The STOP (State Police Special Tactical Operations) team returned fire and struck the suspect."

Zambrano, who authorities said had a criminal history, was taken to a hospital, where he died.

The injured trooper suffered a gunshot wound to his left shoulder and was scheduled to undergo surgery late Sunday night. He is an 18-year veteran and former U.S. Navy Seal. His name wasn't released.

"I'm extremely proud of the work done by every trooper and officer involved in today's investigation and tactical operation," said Massachusetts State Police Colonel Richard McKeon. "My pride is outweighed only by my sorrow for the Tarentino family and the Auburn police, and my concern over our injured trooper."

The violent end to the manhunt came nearly 18 hours after Officer Ronald Tarentino was shot dead by Zambrano during a traffic stop at about 12:30 a.m. Sunday in Auburn, authorities said.

The 42-year-old Tarentino was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He had been with the Auburn police force for two years, and before that worked with the Leicester Police Department in his hometown. He leaves behind a wife and three children.

Officials said Zambrano fled the scene after the shooting. They later learned that he was at the Oxford duplex and spotted what they believed was his vehicle parked behind the building. It remained unclear why Zambrano may have shot Tarentino or why he went to the duplex.

After the manhunt, officials assured Massachusetts residents that they were safe.

"The threat he (Zambrano) posed to our community is now over," Auburn Police Chief Andrew Sluckis said. "We now continue the process of speaking for Officer Tarentino by continuing to investigate all the facts and circumstances of his homicide. We owe his family a thorough accounting of everything that occurred."

State and local police officers lined up outside of the hospital Sunday as a police vehicle, escorted by a procession, took Tarentino's body to the state medical examiner's office in Boston, where the vehicle was met by another large contingent of officers.

Tarentino was the second police officer to die in the line of duty in Massachusetts this year. State police Trooper Thomas Clardy was killed March 16 when his cruiser was struck by another vehicle.

Outside the Auburn police station, the American flag was lowered to half-staff. The town's residents left bouquets of flowers and miniature American flags piled at the bottom of a stone monument dedicated to law enforcement officers who've been killed in the line of duty.

## Obama looks to boost economic, security ties in Asia

**NANCY BENAC, Associated Press**

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — President Barack Obama's mission in Vietnam and Japan is to build stronger economic and security ties with Asian-Pacific allies anxious about the rise of an increasingly muscular China. That forward-looking message will be delivered even as he confronts the legacies of two wars long past — Vietnam and World War II — that still are fraught with emotion.

Obama's first stop on his weeklong Asia trip was Vietnam, where he is the third sitting president to visit since the end of the war. Four decades after the fall of Saigon, and two decades after President Bill Clinton restored relations with the nation, Obama is eager to upgrade relations with an emerging power whose rapidly expanding middle class beckons as a promising market for U.S. goods and an offset to China's growing strength in the region.

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Obama arrived in Hanoi late Sunday. He went to the Presidential Palace and complimented the Vietnamese on making "extraordinary progress." Obama referred to strengthened ties between the two countries and took a photo with Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang. Obama and Quang will also hold a press conference after their meeting.

During his three-day stay in Vietnam, he'll make the case for stronger commercial and security ties, including approval of the 12-nation trans-Pacific trade agreement that is stalled in Congress and facing strong opposition from the 2016 presidential candidates. Vietnam also is hoping that Obama will use the visit to erase an irksome vestige of the war by lifting the U.S. partial embargo on selling arms to the country. The idea is under consideration, but concern about Vietnam's human rights record could weigh against it.

In Japan, Obama will attend a summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations, where the uncertain global economy will be a top concern of the G-7 leaders. They'll also grapple with a full array of world challenges, including the fight against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, the refugee crisis in Europe and Russian aggression. Also on the agenda will be Beijing's assertive claims in the South China Sea that are causing tensions with other countries in the region.

While the summit isn't expected to produce any breakthroughs, it gives leaders a rare opportunity to talk through the intractable difficulties they confront.

"Remember that leaders are lonely people," says Michael Green, senior vice president for Asia at the private Center for Strategic and International Studies. "These people don't have much time to sit down with their peers to talk about common challenges."

For all of that, the culminating moment of Obama's trip will be a solemn visit to Hiroshima, where the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb that killed 140,000 people, ushering in the nuclear age seven decades ago. Another bomb killed 70,000 in Nagasaki three days later.

It will be a moment to reflect on the devastating costs of war and to try to give new impetus to the call for a nuclear-free world that Obama issued seven years ago in his first year as president.

Deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes said the Vietnam and Japan visits both reflect Obama's world view "that we can move beyond difficult and complicated histories" to find areas of common interest.

"You could not have had a more violent conflict than we had with the Japanese in World War II, as a visit to Hiroshima will certainly mark, but now they are among our closest friends in the world," Rhodes said. "You could not have a more contested, controversial, costly, tragic war than the Vietnam War, and now (Vietnam) is becoming a partner of the United States, an important partner."

Still, concerns about human and political rights shadow the president's stay in Vietnam. The country did free a Catholic priest who had been one of its longest-serving political prisoners in the lead-up to the president's visit. But the U.S. remains concerned about severe government restrictions on citizens' political rights and limits on civil liberties and free expression.

On Sunday, the country held parliamentary elections controlled by the Communist Party, which chooses who can stand for election.

The government's heavy-handed response to recent unrest over mass fish deaths off the coast of Ha Tinh province prompted the advocacy group Human Rights Watch to call on Vietnamese leaders to put a stop to "harassment, intimidation and persecution" of environmental activists. In an unprecedented show of defiance for the communist country, thousands of people have protested publicly in at least seven cities on recent Sundays to demand a transparent government investigation. The protests were forcibly put down by security forces.

In advance of the president's visit, the White House invited representatives of Vietnam veterans' organizations to trace progress in the U.S.-Vietnamese relationship. And it brought in Vietnamese civic to underscore its commitment to promoting human and political rights in the country.

Rick Weidman, executive director for policy at the Vietnam Veterans of America, who participated in one of the meetings, said there still are wounds from Vietnam that need healing. He said the U.S. needs to do more to account for those still missing from the war and to help deal with ill effects from U.S. use of Agent Orange during the war. The administration is expected to announce more steps during Obama's visit to help with cleanup of the chemical herbicide.

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## Peace Corps coming to Vietnam for first time

**NANCY BENAC, Associated Press**

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — The Peace Corps is at last coming to Vietnam.

President Barack Obama is expected to announce Monday during his visit to Vietnam that the Peace Corps will be invited to establish operations in that country, the volunteer organization said.

The volunteers will focus on teaching English to students, and training Vietnamese colleagues to teach English.

It's a striking turnaround from the years when some young men joined the Peace Corps in an effort to avoid serving in the military during the Vietnam conflict.

The Peace Corps has been working on gaining entry to Vietnam for years. In 2012, then-Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams made a three-day visit to the country to explore the possibility of an invitation to establish a program there.

The Peace Corps was established in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy to promote world peace and friendship. Since then, more than 220,000 Americans have served in 141 host countries. Currently, volunteers work in 63 countries.

Peace Corps volunteers live in host communities overseas for 27 months and work in areas such education, environment, health, agriculture, youth and community development.

## Today in History

**The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, May 23, the 144th day of 2016. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 23, 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

On this date:

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1814, a third version of Beethoven's only opera, "Fidelio," had its world premiere in Vienna.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary during World War I.

In 1939, the Navy submarine USS Squalus sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and recommissioned the USS Sailfish.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.

In 1949, the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) was established.

In 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli ships, an action which precipitated war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeals of former Nixon White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell in connection with their Watergate convictions.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers. "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," starring Harrison Ford, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1991, talk show host Johnny Carson stunned an NBC affiliates' meeting in New York by announcing his retirement from "The Tonight Show" effective in one year.

Ten years ago: In a recording posted on the Internet, a voice purported to be that of Osama bin Laden said Zacarias Moussaoui (zak-uh-REE'-uhs moo-SOW'-ee) — the only person convicted in the U.S for the 9/11 attacks — had nothing to do with the al-Qaida operation. ABC appointed Charles Gibson to replace



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Elizabeth Vargas as anchor of "World News Tonight." (Gibson stepped down as anchor in Dec. 2009; he was succeeded by Diane Sawyer.) Former U.S. senator, vice-presidential candidate and Treasury secretary Lloyd Bentsen died in Houston at age 85.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama opened a six-day European tour in Ireland, where he paid tribute to his Irish ancestors before heading to Britain. The European Union imposed sanctions on Syrian President Bashar Assad over the continuing crackdown on anti-government protesters. Pakistani commandos recaptured a major naval base from Taliban attackers after a bloody 18-hour standoff.

One year ago: Cleveland patrolman Michael Brelo (BREE'-loh), who fired down through the windshield of a suspect's car at the end of a 137-shot barrage that left the two unarmed black occupants dead, was acquitted of criminal charges by a judge who said he could not determine the officer alone fired the fatal shots. Salvadorans rejoiced as slain Roman Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero, slain by an assassin in 1980, was declared a martyr for the faith. John Forbes Nash Jr., 86, a mathematical genius whose struggle with schizophrenia was chronicled in the 2001 movie "A Beautiful Mind," and his wife, Alicia Nash, 82, were killed in a car crash on the New Jersey Turnpike. Actress-comedian Anne Meara, 85, whose comic work with husband Jerry Stiller helped launch a 60-year career in film and TV, died in New York. Jazz trumpeter Marcus Belgrave, 78, died in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman is 91. Actress Barbara Barrie is 85. Actress Joan Collins is 83. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 80. International Tennis Hall of Famer John Newcombe is 72. Actress Lauren Chapin is 71. Country singer Misty Morgan is 71. Country singer Judy Rodman is 65. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 65. Boxing Hall of Famer Marvelous Marvin Hagler is 62. Singer Luka Bloom is 61. Actor-comedian-game show host Drew Carey is 58. Actress Lea DeLaria is 58. Country singer Shelly West is 58. Actor Linden Ashby is 56. Actress-model Karen Duffy is 55. Actress Melissa McBride is 51. Rock musician Phil Selway (Radiohead) is 49. Actress Laurel Holloman is 48. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 46. Singer Lorenzo is 44. Country singer Brian McComas is 44. Actor John Pollono is 44. Singer Maxwell is 43. Singer Jewel is 42. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 42. Actress Kelly Monaco is 40. Actor D.J. Cotrona is 36. Actor Lane Garrison is 36. Actor-comedian Tim Robinson is 35. Actor Adam Wylie is 32. Movie writer-director Ryan Coogler is 30. Folk/pop singer/songwriter Sarah Jarosz (juh-ROHZ') is 25.

Thought for Today: "Sometimes you have to be silent in order to be heard." — Swiss proverb.