

Groton Daily Independent

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Fr. Kelly celebrates 40 years

Celebrating 40 years of priesthood in honor of Fr. Mike Kelly at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church, 803 North 1st Street, Groton. Please join us for an Open House on June 12th from 2-4 pm with a short program at 3pm. Hors d' oeuvres and cupcakes will be served.

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 Flihs • Sandy Knudson

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Vacation Bible School with program at 6 pm: 12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

Thursday, May 26

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, fruit.

Birthdays: • Heather McDonald • Stephanie Vedvei • Beth Gustafson • Drake Peterson

10:00am: Girls Golf at Sisseton

Friday, May 27

Senior Menu: Lemon baked fish, rice pilaf, California blend veggies, peach crisp, whole wheat bread.

State Track Meet at Madison

Birthdays: • Dean Kramer • Susan Knudsen • Shirley Meister

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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Groton Pool Summer 2016

★ **Pool opens for the season: May 30** ★

Season Passes: Family Pass (must be immediate family only - max 10) = \$100.00 (Immediate Family = Mother, Father, Biological Children, Adopted Children, and Step Children living in one household)

Special Vacation Family Pass (up to 5 persons for 1 week) = \$30.00

Senior Pass (62 & Over) = \$30.00

Adult Pass (18-61yrs) = \$60.00

Youth Pass (6-17 yrs) = \$40.00

Youth Pass (0-5yrs) = \$20.00

Lap Swim Pass - \$4.00 per session or \$30.00 per summer

Aerobics Pass - \$4.00 per session or \$30.00 per summer

Lap AND Aerobic Pass - \$50.00 per summer

*Any child under 6yrs must have an adult (at least 18yrs of age) with them when they are in attendance. See Managers for more information.

***ALL PATRONS HAVE TO PAY TO GO INSIDE THE POOL AREA. THIS IS NO DIFFERENT THAN GOING TO ANY OTHER FACILITY OR EVENT TO WATCH THE ACTIVITY/EVENT.**

Daily Admission Per Session: Seniors (62 and Over) = \$3.00 Adults (18-61) = \$5.00

Youth (6-17 yrs) = \$3.00 Youth (0-5yrs) = \$1.00

HOURS

Open Swim Daily: 1:00 - 4:50pm & 6:40 - 8:50pm

Family Swim is every Saturday and Sunday from 5:45 - 6:30 (each child must have a family member/parent with them who is 18 yrs or older - This is a great family time!

FUN Night is every Friday from 6:40-8:50pm - ALL pool toys are allowed at this time!

Adult Water Aerobics: Monday thru Thursday - 8:00am - 8:45am AND 5:45pm - 6:30pm

Adult Lap Swim: Monday thru Thursday - 7am - 8am & 5pm - 5:45pm - Friday 7am-8am & 5pm-6:30pm Saturday and Sunday - 5pm - 5:45pm

*Hours are subject to change

Pool Rental for Private Parties: - \$150.00 - 2 hours which includes 2 lifeguards

Swimming Lessons: \$20.00 per two-week session - due on first day or prior to first day of lessons, payable at the pool

Mon - Thurs with Friday being a rain/make-up day

Session 1- June 6 - 16

Session 2 - June 20 - June 30

Session 3 - July 11 - July 21

Private Lessons - \$10.00 per 30 minutes with a minimum of 5 lessons and a maximum of 10 consecutive lessons during non-open swim times.

*All parents must provide an accurate phone number to call in case of inclement weather for possible cancellations



Teach Money Skills to Your Middle Schooler This Summer

By Nathaniel Sillin

According to a 2014 University of Michigan Study, the average high school senior – who may already be juggling a part-time job in addition to their schoolwork– knows little about saving or proper money management.

In fact, they spend most of what they earn on entertainment and clothing – a pretty bad precedent for young adults heading off to college and the working world. At that age, the money young teens earn in the summer usually comes from parents for household chores like mowing the lawn. Most parents never have a discussion with their kids about how to spend or save that money. Young teens generally don't think about whether something is a "want" or a "need" — it is typically a want, which would be spent on a game, candy or comics.

If you're the parent of a 12-14-year-old, that might give you pause – or provide a great opportunity to make a difference. Consider using this summer to stop your child's bad money habits before they kick in. After all, even though most middle schoolers are shy of legal working age, many begin to work at odd jobs that are starting to put money in their pockets you don't see.

Consider these steps for an informal summer money curriculum:

Introduce – or reinforce – the "Needs vs. Wants" talk. Maybe your child has a spending goal for the summer – new clothes, maybe a smartphone. It's all about intelligent money management, even if the goal is somewhat short-term. The "needs vs. wants" talk is all about delayed gratification, the foundational behavior of healthy money management. Link it to smart shopping, encouraging the teen to price-compare purchases, gather coupons and come up with other ways to save in print and online. It's also not a bad idea to let your child start suggesting thoughtful purchases when grocery shopping for your family. Before he or she can drive, you'll have a chance to discuss choices and spending while you're both in the store.

If they're not working, give them an opportunity to earn. If your middle schooler isn't picking up a few dollars babysitting or doing chores, come up with an earning opportunity for the summer. It could mean cleaning out the basement or garage or a project around the house that they can handle. It will provide you both with an opportunity to talk about what he or she will do with that extra income. If your child has an entrepreneurial spirit, encourage converting a hobby into a summer business. If they show empathy to help others, suggest they donate their time to help elderly neighbors with simple yard work.

Introduce the "bucket" system. It's hard to know what to save, spend, give or invest without a system. That's as true for adults as it is for kids. The "50-25-25" rule refers to setting aside 50 percent for everyday, non-discretionary expenses like school lunches or transportation, another 25 percent for savings and the remainder for discretionary purchases, better known as the latest smartphone your young teen says she or he can't live without. If your middle schooler still doesn't have a banking relationship, it's a good time to get started. A custodial checking account will allow you to see how your child is handling money and debit cards are a reliable means of tracking every cent. Also, for savings, you'll have the opportunity to introduce him or her to price-comparing accounts for features, savings rates and usage fees. Banking relationships should be treated like any smart purchase.

Discuss making a budget. Remind your children that if they want to maximize any part of the 50-25-25 system, they need to learn how to find value and stick to a budget. Most importantly, they need to know how to track their spending so they can stay within a budget. The number of mobile apps that allow people young and old to track their spending grows each year. Whether it's pen and paper or technology, let the teen find a budgeting solution they like. They'll be more inclined to use it and stick to a budget.

Consider being more transparent about your finances. There's no single right answer to the question of how much you should tell your children about your own finances, but keep in mind that they learn by both good and bad examples. It's important for young teens to know that anyone – even the most important adults in their lives – can make a great financial decision or a mistake. Speak openly about money, with the appropriate safeguards for personal and family privacy. Find a way to make your personal experiences part of the summer money conversation.

Bottom line: Middle schoolers may grumble they don't have access to the car keys or the cool clothes and technology that the older kids do. But they do have something more valuable – time to learn critical lessons about money. Use this summer to build their financial knowledge for a lifetime.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

The Life of Gladys Dirks

Services for Gladys Dirks, 100, of Groton will be 2 p.m., Thursday, May 26 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Groton. Rev. Craig Grams will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garress Funeral Chapel on Wednesday from 5-8 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Gladys fell asleep Monday, May 23, 2016 at Golden Living Center, Groton.

Gladys was born on October 17, 1915 at her home near Watertown, SD to Bessie Martin. She attended school in Florence, SD. At the age of 14, she moved to Groton and lived with relatives. As a young woman on the farm, she was very involved in the farming operation. Working in the fields and handling teams of horses. She loved sharing stories of 'the old days'.

Gladys was united in marriage with Martin J. Dirks on October 16, 1949 in rural Groton. They were blessed with two children, Charles and Mary Ann. Gladys worked at home taking care of her family. She tended an extensive garden, growing produce & canning much of her crop.

To supplement the family income, Gladys did ironing, garment alterations & mending for many local families. She was also leader of the Hummingbird 4-H Club throughout the 1960's & 1970's. Gladys loved to bake, and will be fondly remembered for her apple pie and jelly rolls. She enjoyed flowers and was an active member in the Andover and Groton Garden Clubs.

After Martin fell asleep on October 23, 1999, Gladys moved to Hecla for several years. In 2004, she became a resident of Golden Living Center. She was a well known resident who enjoyed visiting with residents & staff. She had a kind word for all & made the most of her time with various activities. Gladys never missed bingo, it was one of her favorite games & she was pretty good at it! She enjoyed scrapbooking, making cards and many different types of arts and crafts. She was skilled at crochet, embroidery and quilting.

Celebrating her life are her children, Charlie (Jennifer) Dirks of Groton, and Mary Ann (Gene) Freudenthal of Hecla, her grandchildren, Kari and Korey (Wanda) Freudenthal and great-grandchildren, Kristofer, Faith and William.

Preceding her in death was her husband of 50 years and her mother.

Casketbearers will be Korey Freudenthal, Dale Ringgenberg, Tim Flihs, Dale Boyton, Tom Paepke, RJ Jouannet and Dale Nelson.



Honey Beehive Losses Up in South Dakota

BROOKINGS, S.D. - Honey beehive losses are up in the state according to a 2015-2016 survey conducted by the Bee Informed Partnership who recently released the preliminary results of their annual honey bee management survey. This is a national survey of beekeepers.

Overall, the total reported annual honey beehive losses for 2015-2016 was 44.1 percent, which is higher than the 40.6 percent losses reported in 2014-2015 (Figure 1).

Summer hive losses were equal to winter hive losses with both at 28.1 percent.

"Hive losses continue to be attributed to factors including high loss of queen bees, extreme weather, hive parasites, pathogens, pesticide use, and poor bee nutrition caused by changing land use patterns," said Amanda Bachmann, SDSU Extension Pesticide Education & Urban Entomology Field Specialist.

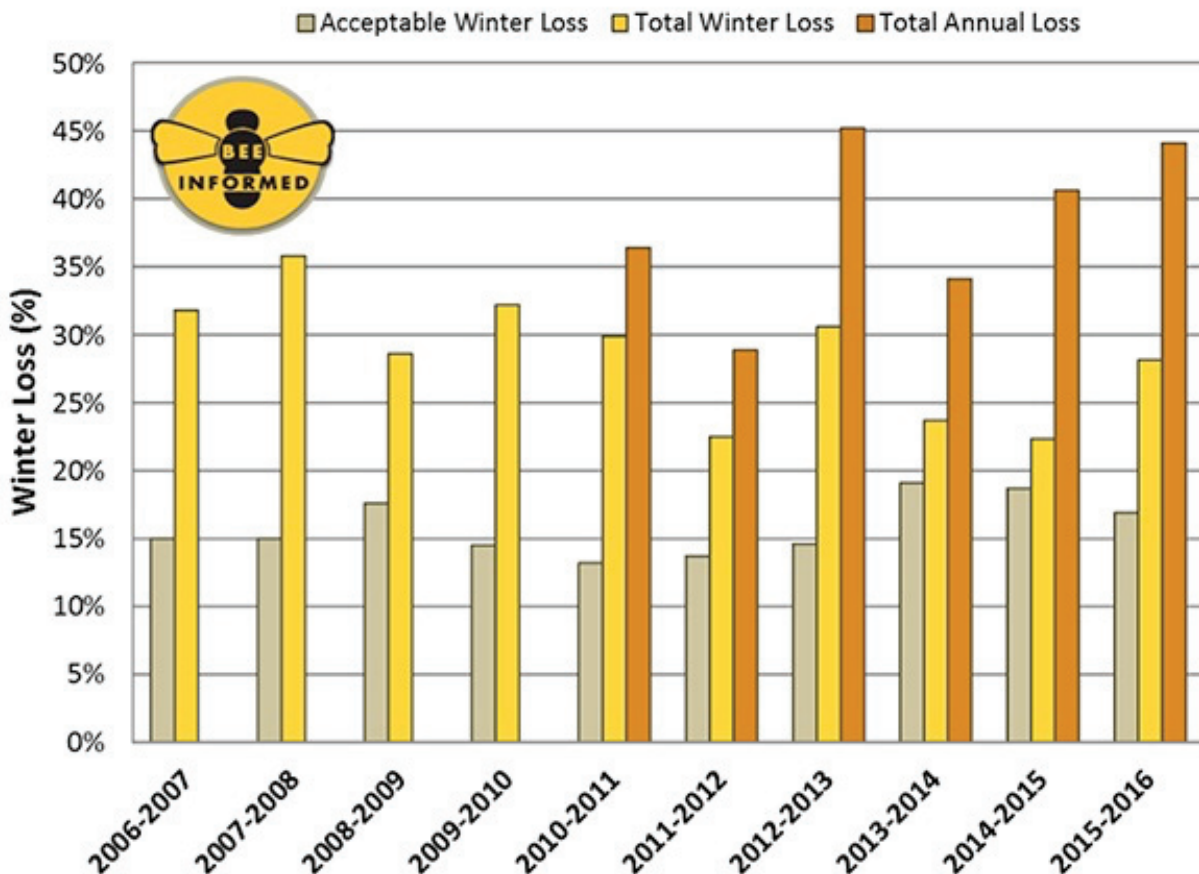
Bachmann explained that the varroa mite, a honey bee parasite, is of particular concern. "In addition to weakening adult bees by feeding directly on them, varroa mites also vector viruses including Chronic Bee Paralysis Virus which can kill an infected bee in days," Bachmann said.

What this means to South Dakota

In 2015, South Dakota was second in the nation in honey production, behind only North Dakota. South Dakota honey producers reported collecting over 19 million pounds of honey (valued at more than \$34 million) from over 290,000 colonies.

"Assuming the total summer loss for 2015, South Dakota honey producers lost approximately \$8-10 million due to the decreased honey bee populations and associated honey production," Bachmann said.

Total US managed honey bee colonies Loss Estimates



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Today in Weather History

1917 - A tornado ripped through southeast Kansas, traveling 65 mph. The average speed was a record for any tornado. (The Weather Channel)

1955 - Two tornadoes struck the town of Blackwell, OK, within a few minutes time during the late evening. The tornadoes killed 18 persons and injured more than 500 others. Early the next morning a tornado virtually obliterated the small community of Udall KS killing 80 persons and injuring 270 persons. More than half the persons in the community were killed or injured by the tornado. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms spawned fifteen tornadoes in West Texas. One thunderstorm spawned a powerful tornado near Gruver, TX, along with golf ball size hail and 75 mph winds. A man on a boat on Lake Bistineau in northwest Louisiana was struck and killed by lightning, while the other three persons in the boat were unharmed. The man reportedly stood up in the boat and asked to be struck by lightning. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed in the Upper Midwest. Marquette, MI, reported a record low of 26 degrees. Thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced wind gusts to 62 mph at Idaho Falls, ID, and produced 4 inches of rain in less than four hours in northern Buffalo County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a strong cold front produced severe weather from Oklahoma to Ohio through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned nine tornadoes, and there were 155 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Hail three and a half inches in diameter was reported at Dittmer, MO, and thunderstorm winds gusting to 90 MPH caused twenty million dollars damage at Rockville IN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Evening thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes in Kansas and Missouri, and there were three dozen reports of large hail or damaging winds. Thunderstorms produced hail two inches in diameter at Cole Camp, and wind gusts to 72 mph at Rosebud. Heavy thunderstorm rains produced flash flooding in central Missouri. Flood waters swept through Washington State Park southwest of Saint Louis, and nearly one hundred persons had to be rescued from water as much as twenty feet deep. The flood waters swept away a number of vehicles, some were carried as much as four miles away. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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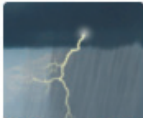





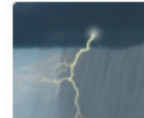
Avera 
Health Plans

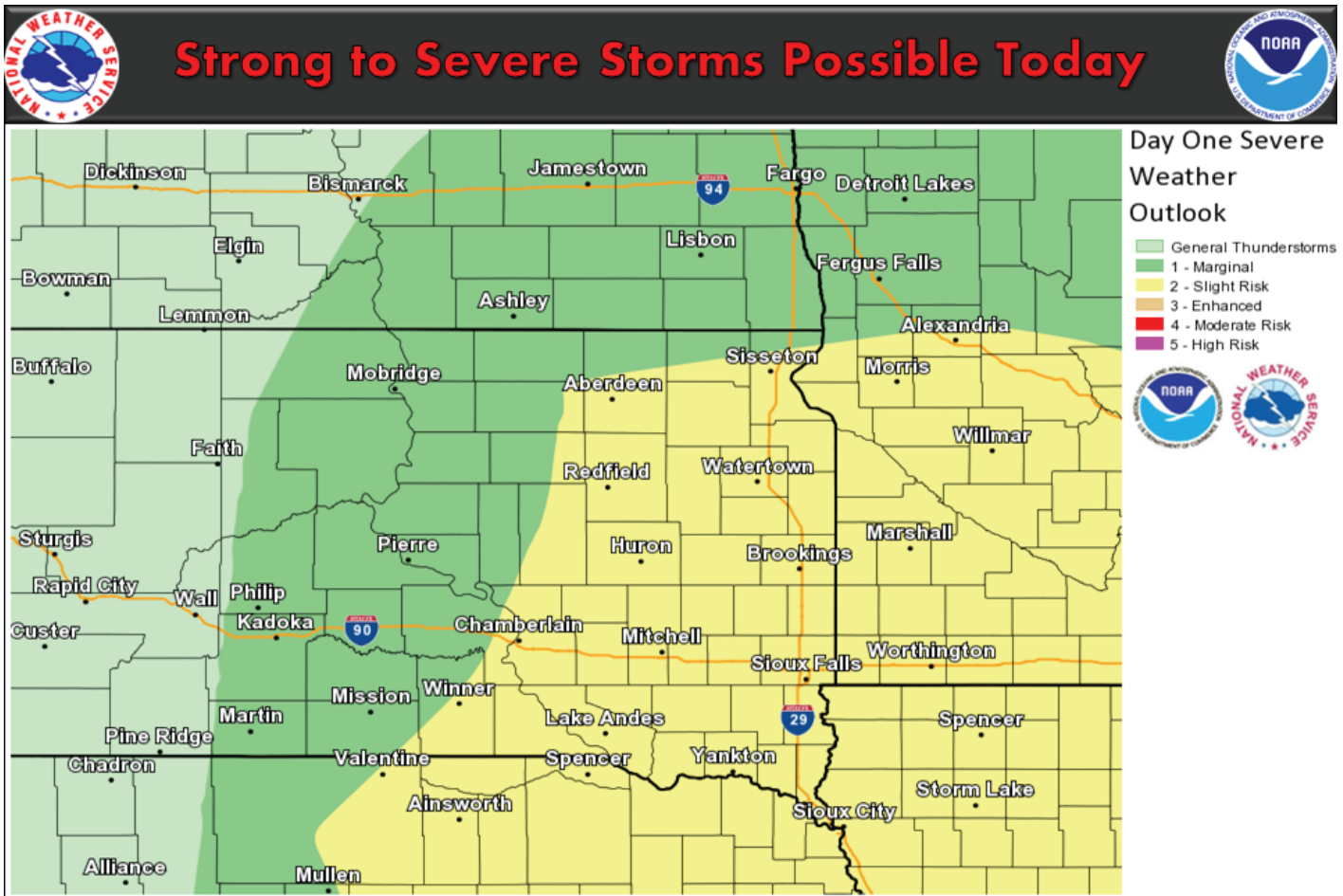
for out patient therapy.

1106 N 2nd St., Groton
605/397-2365

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
80% → 40%	50%		20%	30%	50%	50%
T-storms then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 79 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 74 °F



Created Wednesday May 25th, 2016 at 5:24 AM CDT

weather.gov/Aberdeen National Weather Service Aberdeen @NWSAberdeen Updated: 5/25/2016 5:38 AM Central

Published on: 05/25/2016 at 5:41AM

One round of showers and storms will move across northeast South Dakota this morning, with a small threat for a few strong storms containing gusty winds. Later this afternoon, redevelopment of scattered thunderstorms are expected, with the potential for some of those storms to become strong or severe. Large hail and strong winds will be the main threats, mainly across eastern South Dakota into west central and southwest Minnesota.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 85.0 at 5:44 PM

Low: 54.5 at 6:04 AM

High Gust: 18 at 4:33 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 1941

Record Low: 29 in 1924

Average High: 71°F

Average Low: 47°F

Average Precip in May: 2.53

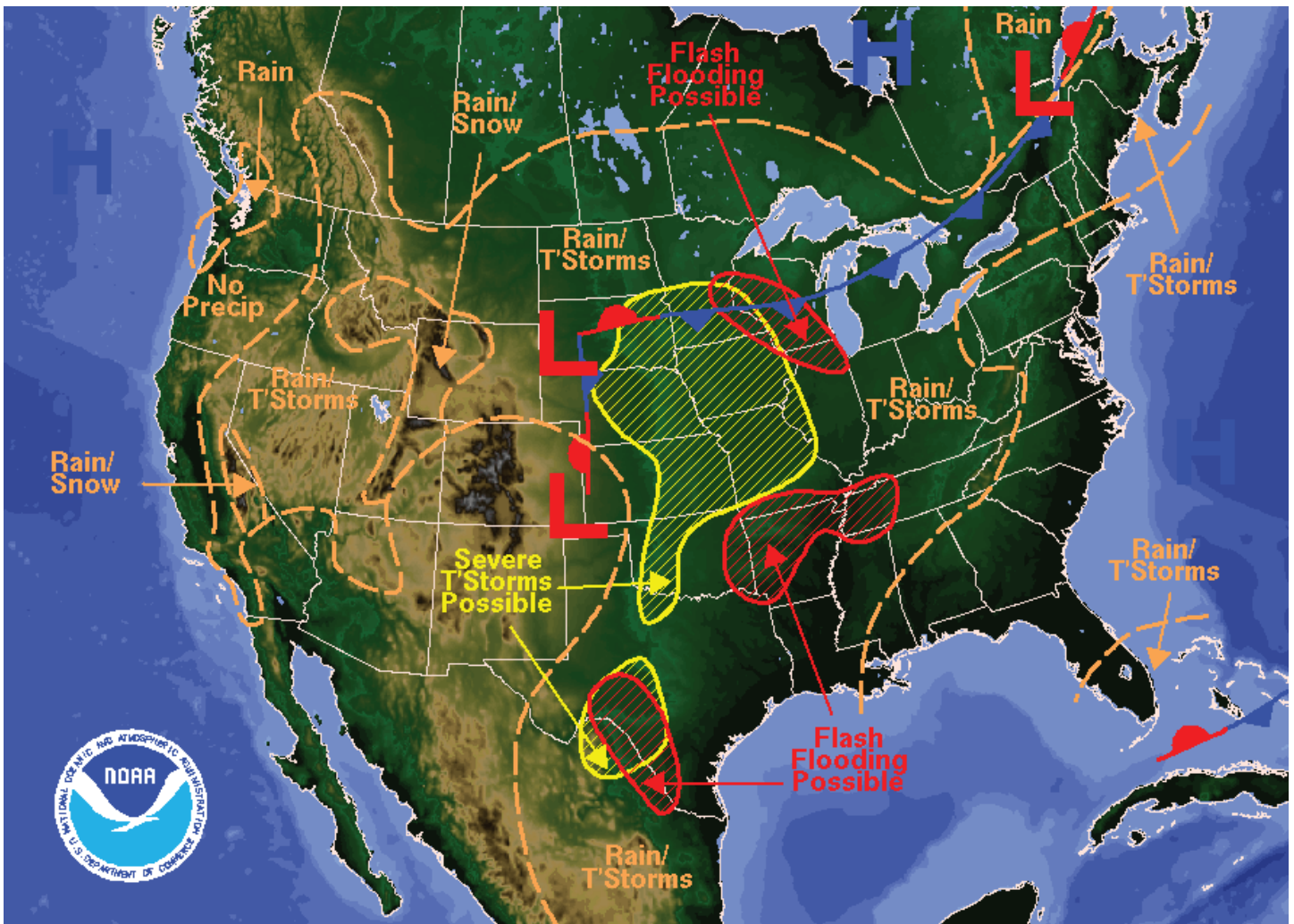
Precip to date in May: 0.39

Average Precip to date: 6.56

Precip Year to Date: 3.78

Sunset Tonight: 9:08 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:52 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, May 25, 2016, issued 4:48 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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SAVED BY A HUG

Jackie Robinson was the first African-American baseball player to break into the major leagues. It was a very difficult struggle for him.

But before his first game, Branch Rickey, the owner of the Brooklyn Dodgers, had a frank conversation with him about what he would face. "You're going to take abuse that you never dreamed of," he said. "But if you are willing to take the abuse, I'm willing to back you all the way."

It was a difficult time of transition for Robinson. There was one game that was particularly painful for him as the crowd constantly taunted him. But in view of everyone, Pee Wee Reese walked over to him and hugged him.

Later Robinson admitted, "That may have saved my career. Pee Wee made me feel that I belonged."

All around us are people who are trying to "belong to the team." They are different by design – God's design and they want to feel accepted in our churches. And no matter who they are or how they look, educated or illiterate, rich or poor, God's Word says that "we must love one another just as He commanded us" and welcome them to His team.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to live the love that Your Son lived and be accepting of others just as You are accepting of each of us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 John 3:23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us a commandment.

3 of 4 suspects plead guilty in beating of Highway Patrolman

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Three of four Washington state residents accused in the beating of a South Dakota Highway Patrol trooper have pleaded guilty.

Twenty-six-year-old Desiree Sukert, 24-year-old Chase Sukert and 22-year-old Jonathan Melendez pleaded guilty Tuesday to a drug charge and to being accessories to the October 2015 assault of Trooper Zachary Bader during an Interstate 90 traffic stop east of Rapid City. They each face up to 20 years in prison.

The most serious charges are against 33-year-old Donald Willingham, who has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder and other charges.

Authorities say the traffic stop led to the recovery of more than 50 pounds of marijuana, \$33,000 in cash and a handgun. Bader spent two weeks at a Rapid City hospital being treated for injuries that included skull and facial fractures.

Governor's Agricultural Summit coming to Brookings next week

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — The state Department of Agriculture has scheduled the 2016 South Dakota Governor's Agricultural Summit for next week in Brookings.

The gathering on June 2 will feature panel discussions on agricultural policy, the weather's impact on agriculture, water quality and how some producers implement stewardship and conservation practices on their operations.

Representatives from the business, finance, education, government and production agriculture sectors are expected to attend the event.

The agriculture industry in South Dakota employs more than 115,000 people and generates \$25.7 billion in economic activity annually.

The event will be hosted at the Swiftel Center in Brookings. It is free and open to the public but pre-registration is required. Registration will be accepted through Tuesday at www.sdagsummit.com.

The event will also be live-streamed.

3 men missing on South Dakota reservation found dead

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Three men who went missing more than two weeks ago on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation have been found dead, a tribal official said Tuesday.

Oglala Sioux Tribal President John Yellow Bird Steele confirmed the men died in a single-car crash on the reservation, a sprawling expanse of badlands on the South Dakota-Nebraska border. The men were found Monday evening in a steep ravine that borders the White River.

The victims have been identified as 24-year-old Juan Lamont, 21-year-old Tevin Tyon and 23-year-old Tyrell Wilson.

"The search is over and we now have some answers, but I am deeply saddened with the outcome," Steele said in a statement. "The loss of these young lives is distressing."

The men were last seen May 7 in the community of Pine Ridge. The tribe declared a state of emergency four days later.

Searches for the men included all-terrain vehicles, horses, aircraft and SUVs, along with hundreds of volunteers.

Steele said the volunteers "cannot be thanked enough."

About 35,000 members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe live on the reservation, which at over 2 million acres is among the nation's largest.

Challenge to ballot measure capping interest rates fails

JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota residents may face a confusing scenario at the polls in November: a ballot with two proposals about payday loan interest rates that could have divergent consequences for borrowers and businesses across the state.

Secretary of State Shantel Krebs said Tuesday that a challenge to one ballot measure limiting interest rates to 36 percent annually was unsuccessful, paving its way to voters in the 2016 election unless a court challenge is filed. She said last week that a challenge to an industry-backed constitutional amendment had also failed, meaning it's likely to appear on the ballot.

The efforts didn't identify enough invalid signatures to disqualify the proposals from appearing before voters. A challenger of the 36 percent rate cap didn't immediately return a telephone message requesting comment.

Payday lending opponents view the constitutional amendment as an attempt to insert a loophole allowing unlimited interest rates into the state constitution. The measure would cap interest rates at 18 percent annually unless the borrower agreed to a higher rate in writing.

The amendment is intended to sow confusion among voters and to provide protections for short-term lenders, said Steve Hildebrand, who is helping lead the push for the 36 percent proposal, which he believes the payday lending industry will challenge in court.

"We anticipate them to challenge everything we do," he said. "They've got unlimited amounts of money because they steal it from poor people, and at that point, they're going to do everything they can to protect their profits."

There's already been a legal tussle in the campaign. A title loan company official unsuccessfully argued in court that Attorney General Marty Jackley's explanation of the 36 percent ballot measure doesn't adequately inform voters of the proposal's consequences.

Attorneys for Erin Ageton, an opponent of the initiative and an employee of a Georgia-based car title lender that has pumped more than \$1.7 million into the constitutional amendment campaign, argued that the explanation doesn't make clear that the proposal would drive the industry from South Dakota because the cap would prevent lenders from recouping the costs of providing loans.

Constitutional amendment sponsor Lisa Furlong, who has largely avoided speaking publicly about the campaign, said in a statement last week that it's "great news" Krebs upheld the will of South Dakotans who support the measure.

"The support for our cause of ending high-interest rate loans, while defending free market principles continues to grow and we are glad that South Dakotans will have the opportunity to voice their support once more when they go to the polls this November," she said.

Gov. Daugaard proclaims week for emerald ash borer awareness

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard says it's Emerald Ash Borer Awareness Week.

Though it hasn't been discovered in South Dakota, there's apprehension about the potential introduction of the insect because native ash species don't have a natural defense against it.

Experts say the movement of firewood from an infested area is the most likely way for the borer to come to South Dakota.

South Dakota residents traveling in other states shouldn't return home with firewood. The emerald ash borer is found in 25 states, including Iowa and Minnesota.

Hospital on Nebraska reservation gets new clinical director

WINNEBAGO, Neb. (AP) — A government-run hospital on a Native American reservation in Nebraska is getting a new clinical director and other staff in an effort to improve the quality of care provided to patients.

The Indian Health Service administers the hospital on the Winnebago Reservation. The federal agency

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on Tuesday said eight new full-time staff members, including the clinical director and a medical records administration specialist, have joined the hospital's team.

The facility is one of four in the Great Plains that has been under the scrutiny over the past year after inspectors from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services uncovered serious quality-of-care deficiencies.

Last May, inspectors determined that substandard conditions at the hospital in Winnebago put patients in an "immediate jeopardy," including a man who died of kidney failure.

Franklin Graham holds prayer rally at Capitol in Pierre

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The son of the Rev. Billy Graham is urging Christians in South Dakota to run for public office and to vote for candidates who stand for biblical truth and principles.

Franklin Graham spoke to a crowd Tuesday from the state Capitol's steps in Pierre. He says America is being stripped of its biblical heritage.

South Dakota was the 25th stop on the Decision America Tour, a series of prayer rallies scheduled in all 50 states.

Franklin Graham also reminded listeners of the importance of local offices such as county commissions and school boards in calling for Christians to become political candidates.

He told attendees that gay and lesbian people can force their "wicked agenda" on Christians because Christians sit back on the sidelines.

Judge orders rancher to repay USDA \$65K for loan he misused

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge in South Dakota has ordered a rancher to pay back the U.S. Department of Agriculture \$65,000 for a loan he misused.

The order against 36-year-old Pierre resident Timothy Sherwood came after he pleaded guilty to conversion of mortgaged property. He was also ordered to spend five years on unsupervised probation.

Sherwood was charged for an incident that authorities say happened between December 2011 and September 2012.

Authorities say Sherwood received a \$76,000 USDA loan administered by the Farm Service Agency to buy sheep and cover expenses for their care. But Sherwood sold the sheep without the FSA approval and deposited the proceeds of the sale into his personal bank account instead of an FSA account.

Authorities accuse Sherwood of spending large sums on personal, non-ranch expenses.

Thune presents bill to overhaul hospitals on reservations

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen. John Thune has presented a measure to overhaul the network of government-run hospitals that provides care to Native Americans on and off reservations.

The Republican from South Dakota on Tuesday highlighted portions of the bill in the Senate. Thune and Republican U.S. Sen. John Barrasso, of Wyoming, have introduced a bill that aims at increasing transparency and accountability at the Indian Health Service, as well as improving the agency's recruiting and retention practices.

The proposed measure comes after serious quality-of-care deficiencies were found in recent months at three of the government-run hospitals in South Dakota. The emergency rooms of the facilities in Rosebud, Pine Ridge and Rapid City have been under particular scrutiny after federal inspectors found staffing shortages and substandard medical screenings provided to patients.

GOP governors ask FCC to address illegal prison cellphones

MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Ten Republican governors want the Federal Communications Commission to give states more autonomy to apply technology that can stop prison inmates from using smuggled cellphones.

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Gov. Nikki Haley and her counterparts encouraged FCC Chairman Thomas Wheeler in a letter Monday to give them “flexibility and authority” to render such communication impossible.

While the letter doesn’t explicitly say so, what the governors want is permission to jam cellphone signals behind bars.

A 1934 law says the FCC can grant permission to jam public airwaves only to federal agencies, not state or local ones. The cellphone industry has strongly opposed the use of localized jamming technology out of concern that it could set a precedent leading to much wider gaps in their networks.

The governors say the technology would be strictly limited to prisons, and that society outside would not suffer.

“The FCC should act to streamline regulatory review processes and allow states to implement cost-efficient technology in prisons, where the installation of such technology will not sacrifice the safety of the general public,” reads the letter, which was proposed by Haley and also signed by governors from Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah.

Haley has long spoken of the dangers of illegal cellphones behind bars. Smuggled by the thousands inside hollowed out footballs, whisked in by corrupt employees or sometimes even dropped by drone, these phones can give inmates an unmonitored, unfettered means of continuing their crimes and even perpetrating violence.

“This is something that has a solution to it,” Haley testified last month at an FCC field hearing in Columbia. She said the state has tried other methods, none as effective as signal blocking. “Allow us to jam our prisons. ... Something has to change.”

Robert Johnson, a former anti-contraband officer at one of South Carolina’s most violent prisons, was shot six times outside his Sumter home in 2010, after police said an inmate used an illegal cellphone to order the hit. He survived, enduring more than a dozen surgeries, and has become an advocate for using jamming technology in prisons.

South Carolina Corrections Director Bryan Stirling and his predecessor, Jon Ozmint, also have sought this permission, to no avail.

In 2008, South Carolina got FCC permission for a one-time test at Lieber Correctional Institution, home to the state’s death row. Officials flipped a switch on a briefcase-sized device that emitted a frequency that immediately shut down cellphones inside an auditorium. Outside in the hallway, cell service was uninterrupted.

Commissioner Ajit Pai, who oversaw April’s field hearing, called the status quo “not acceptable” and said he would renew a discussion about next steps.

In a statement provided to The Associated Press, Wheeler said he agreed contraband cellphones are “a serious problem” and would work with Pai on the issue.

Asked Tuesday about Haley’s letter, Pai said it’s time for the agency to act.

“The FCC needs to take a leadership role in helping corrections officials combat this problem,” Pai told AP. “We must take action, and now.”

South Dakota farmers make progress with corn and soybeans

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota farmers have made considerable progress over the past week planting corn and soybeans.

The Agriculture Department says in its weekly crop report that 84 percent of the corn crop is in the ground, equal to the average pace. About 42 percent of the crop has emerged.

Seeding of soybeans is 56 percent complete, ahead of 47 percent on average. About 13 percent of the crop has emerged.

The state’s winter wheat crop is rated 77 percent good to excellent. Nearly one-fourth of the crop has headed.

The first cutting of alfalfa hay is 11 percent done.

Pasture and range conditions are rated 80 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies are rated 92 percent adequate to surplus.

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New book planned about prairie author Laura Ingalls Wilder

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota State Historical Society is planning a new book about prairie author Laura Ingalls Wilder, celebrating the 150th anniversary of her birthday and building on the success of a recent memoir.

Wilder penned the popular children's series of "Little House on the Prairie" books. The memoir, "Pioneer Girl: The Annotated Autobiography," edited by Pamela Smith Hill and published by the society in 2014, became a national best-seller. It is now in its ninth printing, with 165,000 copies in print, and the society is working on a contract with another publishing company to translate it into Japanese.

The next Pioneer Girl Project book will be released in 2017, the 150th anniversary of Wilder's birthday. It will be titled "Pioneer Girl Perspectives: Exploring Laura Ingalls Wilder" and will be a collection of essays by Wilder scholars and historians. Historical Society Press Director Nancy Tystad Koupal will edit the book.

"Readers want to know more about Wilder and her creative process," Koupal said. "This book will gather important voices on topics like Wilder's collaboration with her daughter Rose Wilder Lane, the influence of Wilder's personal politics in her personal voice and her lasting place in children's literature."

Preorders will open in November. The book will be available in spring 2017.

Two more volumes dedicated to sharing Wilder's publishing journey also are being planned. One slated for publication in 2018 will examine the edited typescripts that came after Wilder's original, handwritten manuscript and will study Rose Wilder Lane as editor. The second volume will utilize manuscript material leading readers directly from Wilder's "Pioneer Girl" texts to her rough draft of "Little House in the Woods."

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. PROTESTS TURN VIOLENT OUTSIDE TRUMP RALLY IN NEW MEXICO

Demonstrators throw burning T-shirts, plastic bottles and other items at officers, overturn trash cans and knock down barricades; police fire pepper spray and smoke grenades.

2. AFGHAN TALIBAN NAME HAWKISH SUCCESSOR TO SLAIN LEADER

Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, one of Mullah Akhtar Mansour's chief deputies, will assume the top spot. Mansour was killed Saturday when his vehicle was struck by a U.S. drone.

3. WHAT DEFENSE BILL COSBY'S LAWYERS SUGGEST THEY'LL MOUNT

Before a judge orders the entertainer to stand trial on sex assault charges, the attorneys argue that Cosby's accuser never said no to his advances.

4. NETANYAHU LURCHES FURTHER TO THE RIGHT

As part of a deal to expand the coalition government, Avigdor Lieberman, one of Israel's most polarizing politicians, will take over as defense minister.

5. OBAMA TAKES PARTING SHOT BEFORE LEAVING COMMUNIST VIETNAM

The president uses a light moment with a rapper to espouse free speech: "You've got to let people express themselves."

6. US SEEKING DEATH FOR DYLANN ROOF

Though federal executions are exceedingly rare, the Justice Department wants the death penalty for the suspect in last year's deadly church shootings in Charleston, South Carolina.

7. CEO PAY CLIMBS AGAIN, EVEN AS COMPANY STOCK PRICES DON'T

The 4.5 percent raise is almost double the typical American workers' and a lot more than investors earned from owning their stocks.

8. HOW TIES CAN BE BOUND BETWEEN JAILED WOMEN, CHILDREN

The AP looks inside the Bedford Hills (N.Y.) Correctional Facility, one of the very few prisons in the U.S. that allow inmates and their babies to live together.

9. TRENDING ON TWITTER: #GIVECAPTAINAMERICAABOYFRIEND

An online campaign emerges calling for significant LGBT characters in superhero movies. But dissenters

weigh in, too.

10. THUNDER PUSH WARRIORS TO BRINK OF ELIMINATION

Oklahoma City takes a 3-1 lead in the Western Conference Finals as Golden State loses consecutive games for the first time this season.

Italy's Renzi: NATO summit must consider new defense models

Italian Premier Matteo Renzi says that NATO should use the upcoming summit in Warsaw to consider new security models given the threat of home-grown terrorism

ROME (AP) — Italian Premier Matteo Renzi says that NATO should use the upcoming summit in Warsaw to consider new security models given the threat of home-grown terrorism.

Renzi told reporters after meeting NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday that “today the terror threat comes from within, not just from outside.”

Renzi said that the threats coming from within require innovative defense solutions and NATO’s focus should not only be on the eastern border with Russia.

Turning attention to the Mediterranean rim, Stoltenberg said that the alliance was prepared to help Libya build its own defense institutions, if requested.

Libyan experts are to visit NATO to help assess how the alliance can help the new Libyan government.

CEO pay climbs again, even as their stock prices don't

STAN CHOE, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — CEOs at the biggest companies got a 4.5 percent pay raise last year. That’s almost double the typical American worker’s, and a lot more than investors earned from owning their stocks — a big fat zero.

The typical chief executive in the Standard & Poor’s 500 index made \$10.8 million, including bonuses, stock awards and other compensation, according to a study by executive data firm Equilar for The Associated Press. That’s up from the median of \$10.3 million the same group of CEOs made a year earlier.

The raise alone for median CEO pay last year, \$468,449, is more than 10 times what the typical U.S. worker makes in a year. The median full-time worker earned \$809 weekly in 2015, up from \$791 in 2014.

“With inflation running at less than 2 percent, why?” asks Charles Elson, director of the John L. Weinberg Center for Corporate Governance at the University of Delaware.

The answer is complicated. CEO pay packages now hinge on multiple layers of sometimes esoteric measurements of performance. That’s a result of corporate boards attempting to respond to years of criticism about excessiveness from Main Street America, regulators and even candidates on the presidential trail this year.

One bright spot, experts say, is the rise in the number of companies that tie CEO pay to how well their stocks perform. “There’s progress generally in aligning compensation with shareholder returns,” says Stu Dalheim, vice president of governance and advocacy at Calvert Investments, whose mutual funds look for socially and environmentally responsible companies. “But I don’t think this compensation is sustainable long term, because the U.S. population is increasingly focused and aware of the disparity.”

PAY BREAKDOWN

More than half the median compensation of CEO pay is coming from stock and options, rather than cash. And companies are increasingly meting out those stock and option awards based on performance.

About a quarter of CEO incentive awards in the S&P 500 use total shareholder return as one of their measurements of performance. That’s more than double the percentage from three years earlier. Companies also use familiar measurements like revenue and wonkier ones like return on invested capital.

The tie to shareholder return is one reason the rise in median CEO pay last year was the second-slowest in the past five years. Of the 341 executives in this year’s pay survey, the median stock returned zero in the latest fiscal year. Last year’s 4.5 percent raise for CEOs was faster than the prior year’s 0.8 percent, but well below the 8.8 percent gain of 2013.

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Even though CEO pay was up last year when stock returns were flat, big investors don't see it as a necessarily bad thing. Many say they take a longer view, similar to how they hope to hold onto their stock investments for many years.

Capital Group, whose American Funds family of mutual funds rank among the country's biggest, goes back at least three years when considering CEO pay versus performance, says Anne Chapman, vice president of investment operations.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index returned a total of 53 percent in the three years through 2015.

NO. 1 ON THE CHART

The top-paid CEO in this past year's survey, Expedia's Dara Khosrowshahi, made \$94.6 million last year. Most of that came from stock options, which came as part of a new five-and-a-half-year employment agreement and which vest over several years. He'll get a chunk of those options, currently valued at \$30.4 million, only if he's able to push the stock up to an average of \$170 in the run up to his contract's end in September 2020. Expedia stock closed Tuesday at \$113.17.

"This is a great example of a pay-for-performance CEO compensation plan," says Sarah Gavin, spokeswoman for Expedia. "He's really led the company in a turnaround, and this is about him continuing to perform and return real value customers, partners and shareholders over the next five years."

Expedia's stock returned 47 percent last year.

At Viacom, shareholders lost 42 percent in its latest fiscal year, which ended in September. That's even though CEO Philippe Dauman made \$54.1 million, a 22 percent raise from the prior year.

Much of Dauman's compensation was due to a contract renewal, which included stock and options that vest over several years. Without the contract renewal, his pay would have dropped 16 percent.

Viacom declined to comment.

THE WIDENING GAP

Scrutiny has been increasing on CEO pay, and many Americans say they feel left behind in the economy even though the Great Recession technically ended nearly seven years ago. This recovery has meant big gains for stocks - and for CEOs - but not so much for the typical household.

Anger is high. Nearly three quarters of Americans believe CEOs are paid an incorrect amount, relative to the average worker, according to Stanford University's Rock Center for Corporate Governance. And that's even though most Americans severely underestimate how much CEOs make. The typical American believes big-company CEOs average \$1 million in pay.

Starting next year, companies will have to begin showing how much more their CEOs make than their typical worker. That's when the Securities and Exchange Commission has told public companies to start disclosing the ratio of its CEO's compensation versus its median employee. It's the latest move by the government to shed more light on executive pay.

GIVING THE OK ON PAY

While many Americans say they're angry about how much CEOs are making, the boards of directors who set their pay aren't. They say they're setting pay for performance, and in line with their competitors. That culture of benchmarking compensation against peers is one reason why pay keeps escalating, says the University of Delaware's Elson.

"Everyone is being compared to everyone else, and everyone wants to be higher," he says. "We have to get out of this Lake Wobegon and change channels and get back to a pay scheme that's rationally based."

Most shareholders, though, seem to agree with the boards of directors. Stock holders, whether by themselves or through the mutual funds they own, get the opportunity to vote on whether they think CEO compensation is fair at companies' annual meetings. It's called the "say-on-pay" vote, and companies routinely get more than 70 percent of shares voting in favor of pay packages.

Oftentimes, mutual-fund companies say they'd prefer to talk directly with board directors about changing CEO pay, rather than lodge "No" votes at the annual meeting. Many say they get better results.

UNANTICIPATED CONSEQUENCES

Regardless of whether it's fair for CEOs to earn such large checks, a big payday can also be a warn-

ing sign for investors. In corner offices, big pay and stock returns are strong reassurances for CEOs that they're doing a good job. And that can lead to danger.

After looking at CEOs' pay and performance from 1994 to 2011, researchers found that the highest-paid CEOs in an industry tend to lead their companies to weaker stock returns in ensuing years.

Michael Cooper, a finance professor at the University of Utah and one of the paper's authors, is quick to say that he can't be sure whether the high pay caused the weaker returns, or whether they're just correlated. But he says a likely explanation is that big paychecks can make CEOs overconfident, particularly when they have little oversight from outside board directors.

"It looks like what the overconfident CEOs with weaker governance do is make more acquisitions, wasteful spending and things like that," Cooper says.

He's in the midst of updating the data now, to run through 2015, but the trend seems to have held up. "We're building the tables right now," he says. "It's still very strong."

The AP's CEO compensation study includes pay data for 341 executives, including some co-CEOs, at S&P 500 companies who have served two full consecutive fiscal years at their respective companies, who filed proxy statements between January 1 and April 30.

The survey's data is available at equilar.com/ap-2016.

Protests turn violent outside Trump rally in New Mexico

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — In one of the presidential campaign year's more grisly spectacles, demonstrators at a Donald Trump rally in New Mexico threw burning T-shirts, plastic bottles and other items at police officers, injuring several, and toppled trash cans and barricades. Authorities labeled it a "riot."

Police responded by firing pepper spray and smoke grenades into the crowd outside the Albuquerque Convention Center.

During the rally, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee was interrupted repeatedly by protesters, who shouted, held up banners and resisted removal by security officers.

The banners included the messages "Trump is Fascist" and "We've heard enough."

At one point, a female protester was physically dragged from the stands by security. Other protesters scuffled with security as they resisted removal from the convention center, which was packed with thousands of loud and cheering Trump supporters.

Trump responded with his usual bluster, instructing security to remove the protesters and mocking their actions by telling them to "Go home to mommy."

He responded to one demonstrator by asking, "How old is this kid?" Then he provided his own answer: "Still wearing diapers."

Trump's supporters responded with chants of "Build that wall!"

Trump later tweeted "Great rally in New Mexico, amazing crowd!"

The altercations left glass at the entrance of the convention center smashed.

Albuquerque attorney Doug Antoon said rocks were flying through the convention center windows as he was leaving Tuesday night. Glass was breaking and landing near his feet.

"This was not a protest, this was a riot. These are hate groups," he said of the demonstrators.

Albuquerque police said several officers were treated for injuries after getting hit by rocks thrown by protesters. At least one person was arrested from the riot, police said.

During the rally, protesters outside overran barricades and clashed with police in riot gear. They also burned T-shirts and other items labeled with Trump's catchphrase, "Make America Great Again."

Tuesday marked Trump's first stop in New Mexico, the nation's most Hispanic state. Gov. Susana Martinez, head of the Republican Governors Association and the nation's only Latina governor, has harshly criticized his remarks on immigrants and has attacked his proposal to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The governor did not attend the rally and has yet to make an endorsement.

Trump read off a series of negative statistics about the state, including an increase in the number of people on food stamps.

"We have to get your governor to get going. She's got to do a better job, OK?" he said, adding: "Hey, maybe I'll run for governor of New Mexico. I'll get this place going."

The governor's office fired back, saying Martinez has fought for welfare reform.

"The potshots weren't about policy, they were about politics," said spokesman Michael Lonergan. "And the Governor will not be bullied into supporting a candidate until she is convinced that candidate will fight for New Mexicans, and she did not hear that today."

Trump supporters at the rally said they appreciated his stance on boosting border security and stemming the flow of people crossing the border illegally, but some said they were frightened by the violent protests outside.

Karla Molinar, a University of New Mexico student, said she participated in disrupting Trump's speech because she felt he was attacking members of her family who are living in the country illegally. She said she believes Trump is using them as scapegoats for the nation's problems.

Group of 7 seeks way forward for aging, faltering economies

ELAINE KURTENBACH, Associated Press

PAUL WISEMAN, Associated Press

ISE, Japan (AP) — Leaders of the Group of Seven rich nations plan to voice unity over fighting terrorism, pandemics and tax evasion at their summit in Japan this week. Finding a consensus on how to breathe life into their sluggish economies is proving more elusive.

Aging workforces, sagging productivity and lingering damage from the 2008 financial crisis are complicating efforts to spur growth while the effects of the slowdown in China and the other big developing economies ripple across the globe.

Ahead of the summit meetings that begin Thursday, finance ministers and central bank governors of the G-7 meeting in northern Japan failed to concur on a coordinated approach to fighting what Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz calls the "Great Malaise."

They did agree the world's growth engine is running on fumes: "We as the G-7 believe the biggest economic problem is demand. Demand — there is no demand — and that is the biggest problem around the world," said Japan's finance minister, Taro Aso.

The reluctance of consumers to buy and businesses to invest, despite rock-bottom interest rates, has caught economists by surprise and policymakers flatfooted, as the IMF, World Bank and governments repeatedly have had to downgrade overly rosy forecasts.

That stagnation is evident in the run-down business districts of Ise and many other places in Japan.

Last month, the IMF lowered the economic growth projection for 2016 and 2017 for the world's advanced economies, including Europe, the United States and Japan, where collectively growth has remained below 2 percent since 2010.

"It's a difficult environment indeed," PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi said last month. "Most of the developed world outside the United States is grappling with slow growth."

When G-7 meetings began in the 1970s, Japan was in the midst of its post-World War II industrial boom. Growth peaked in the late 1980s, and has mostly stagnated since a massive stock market and lending bubble imploded in the early 1990s. It has continued to limp and languish despite massive public works spending and, more recently, a barrage of monetary stimulus.

In Sendai, U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew and other officials said coordinating growth strategies was difficult given the varied challenges and resource constraints of each country.

"It's not a one-size-fits-all," Lew said. Nonetheless, he made a point of urging Japan not to derail its faltering recovery with a sales tax hike planned for next year and cautioned Tokyo against intervening to drive the yen weaker for the sake of its exporters.

The IMF says advanced economies could get a healthy economic payoff by investing in research and

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development, roads, bridges and other infrastructure, and to rewrite tax codes that discourage people from working.

Instead, governments have tended to rely on central banks to keep interest rates low, or — in Japan and Europe — even negative.

Meanwhile, some economists, notably Robert Gordon at Northwestern University, worry the world lacks the kinds of technological advances needed to drive up productivity and growth.

Japan's population is shrinking and aging the fastest among G-7 countries, and its predicament is deepened by productivity that lags behind its G-7 peers.

The country appeared poised for a revival, emerging from recession as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe took office in late 2012, promising to "bring Japan back" with share price-plumping plans to fire up growth through government spending and a flood of stimulus from the central bank.

The "Abenomics" three-pronged combination of monetary easing, government spending and structural reforms was supposed to end deflation and get households and businesses to spend more in the sort of "virtuous" cycle all major economies have been striving for ever since the global financial crisis.

The Bank of Japan's "big bazooka" of monetary easing pumped trillions of dollars into the economy, helping to weaken the yen against the U.S. dollar as profits of big exporters like Toyota Motor Corp. soared.

But Japan is still dipping in and out of recession, and a 2 percent inflation target remains far beyond reach. Recent data show the outlook deteriorating, despite a 1.6 percent uptick in annual growth in January-March.

After more than three years, Abenomics is viewed mainly as a "marketing slogan," said Kenneth S. Curtis, chairman of Starfort Holdings and a former Asia vice chairman at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Japan needs to "take a blowtorch" to regulations and red tape that discourage competition, he says.

"There's a much more critical view of the Abe regime today than in the past," he said.

Most Japanese companies simply are not investing in their shrinking domestic market, even after the Bank of Japan pushed interest rates on some bank deposits it is holding below zero.

The G-7 summit venue of Ise once was a center for silk and cotton processing and shipbuilding. Today, its main industries are pearls, "Matsuzaka" fat-marbled beef and tourism.

The region is picturesque but sparsely populated: Villages have been emptying out for decades as businesses, mines and entire communities were abandoned.

Some were casualties of earlier shifts in the global market, as factories migrated to China and other developing countries.

Stalling growth is not unique to rural Japan: Long-term economic growth in each of the G-7 countries is the worst it has been since the annual summits began 42 years ago, says Howard Rosen, an independent economist based in Washington.

In the advanced economies, automation and online commerce have meant the disappearance of many skilled, high-wage jobs. To a growing extent, the meager or unpredictable pay of service-sector and contract or part-time work is sapping consumers' purchasing power.

As the usual policy tools fail, for the G-7 as a whole what prevails is uncertainty, said Dave Tilstone, president of the National Tooling and Machining Association.

His group's members are showing "a lot more hesitation, more than before, to make long-term commitments. Their customers just aren't getting those long-term contracts either," he said.

Looming unknowns include the ups and downs of oil prices; whether the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates again, possibly slowing the U.S. economy; whether Britain will opt to leave the European Union in a June 23 vote; and the outcome of the U.S. presidential election, which could put Donald Trump in the White House.

Europe is struggling with floods of refugees, as its banks, still holding bad debts left over from the financial crisis, remain wary of lending.

"There are deep holes in the banking system, and there is no appetite to deal with it," said Ashoka Mody, visiting professor at Princeton University. "Someone has to bear the losses and no one wants to deal with the losses."

Though Germany alone has kept its conservative stance toward spending, the other G-7 members

have been constrained in varying degrees by law, politics and financial limitations from pursuing needed spending increases.

"Years ago, they came out with a coordinated growth plan and everyone kicked into gear," said Courtis. "Now there are very different views and that's what's paralyzed the G-7."

Israel expands government, Lieberman to be defense minister

ARON HELLER, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reached a deal to expand his coalition government on Wednesday by bringing in the ultranationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party and appointing its leader Avigdor Lieberman as his new defense minister.

The development caps a tumultuous political week that began with Netanyahu negotiating with the moderate Labor Party against a backdrop of international pressure to relaunch peace efforts with the Palestinians, before choosing Lieberman's hawkish party instead.

Lieberman is one of Israel's most polarizing politicians and has a reputation for making inflammatory statements.

In a joint signing ceremony in Jerusalem, Netanyahu and Lieberman insisted they have put their past differences behind them and sought to soothe fears over their new alliance by making calming statements in both Hebrew and, with an eye toward the world, in English as well.

"I am committed to promoting the peace process. I am committed to make every effort to reach an agreement," Netanyahu said, noting that developments in the region have created new opportunities for peace.

"I intend to seize those opportunities. A broader government, a more stable government will make it easier to do so," he added.

With the deal, Netanyahu expands his coalition to 66 of parliament's 120 members. He previously only had 61, the slimmest of majorities, which made it difficult to govern and legislate and opened him to potential extortion of any single lawmaker.

Netanyahu also made another feeble plea for Labor to join his government as well. But it will almost certainly be rejected by a party that is deeply distrustful of Netanyahu's motives and currently engaged in bitter infighting over even negotiating with him in the first place.

Lieberman will take over as defense chief in place for former military chief Moshe Yaalon, who resigned earlier this week following the political shakeup.

Yaalon, like Netanyahu, is a security hawk who was deeply skeptical of peace prospects with the Palestinians and led the military through a 50-day war against Islamic militants in the Gaza Strip in 2014. At times, he angered the U.S. by criticizing American peace initiatives in the region as naive or messianic. But he was protective of the military when it came under fire from ideologically-driven hardliners.

His departure leaves the Cabinet dominated by religious and ultranationalist ministers who oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state and have close ties to the West Bank settler movement. Lieberman himself is a West Bank settler.

In a three-decade political career, Lieberman has at times been Netanyahu's closest ally and at other times a fierce rival. While he is an experienced politician who has been foreign minister and held other top jobs, his security experience is limited.

Over the years, Lieberman has made headlines for a series of incendiary comments. At one point, he called for bombing Egypt's Aswan Dam and suggested toppling the internationally-backed Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. Just a few weeks ago, he threatened to kill a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip. He has repeatedly voiced skepticism about pursuing peace with the Palestinians.

Those close to Lieberman, though, say he is far more pragmatic and level-headed in person than he appears in public and he seemed to be trying to convey that Wednesday.

"My commitment first of all is to responsible, reasonable policy," Lieberman said in English. "All of us have commitments to peace, to the final status agreement, to understanding between us and our neighbors."

Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for Gaza's Islamic Hamas rulers, said all Israelis leaders are "criminals and killers" and that appointing Lieberman signaled "the increasing extremism and racism in the Israeli occupation."

Hamas, which is sworn to Israel's destruction, encouraged all other Palestinian faction to reject any "illusion" of normalization with Israel.

Afghan Taliban appoint new leader after Mansour's death

LYNNE O'DONNELL, Associated Press

MIRWAIS KHAN, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The Afghan Taliban confirmed on Wednesday that their leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed in a U.S. drone strike last week and that they have appointed a successor — a scholar known for extremist views who is unlikely to back a peace process with Kabul.

The announcement came as a suicide bomber struck a minibus carrying court employees in the Afghan capital, killing at least 11 people, an official said. The Taliban promptly claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a statement sent to the media, the Taliban said their new leader is Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, one of Mansour's two deputies. The insurgent group said he was chosen at a meeting of Taliban leaders, which is believed to have taken place in Pakistan, but offered no other details.

Mansour was killed in Pakistan on Saturday when his vehicle was struck by a U.S. drone plane, an attack believed to be the first time a Taliban leader was killed in such a way inside Pakistani territory.

Pakistani authorities have been accused both by Kabul and the West of giving shelter and support to some Taliban leaders — an accusation that Islamabad denies. The insurgents have been fighting to overthrow the Kabul government since 2001, when their own Islamist regime was overthrown by the U.S. invasion.

The United States and the Afghan government have said that Mansour had been an obstacle to a peace process, which ground to a halt when he refused to participate in talks with the Afghan government earlier this year. Instead, he intensified the war in Afghanistan, now in its 15th year.

Mansour had officially led the Taliban since last summer, when the death of the movement's founder, the one-eyed Mullah Mohammad Omar became public. But he is believed to have run the movement in Mullah Omar's name for more than two years. The revelation of Mullah Omar's death and Mansour's deception led to widespread mistrust, with some senior Taliban leaders leaving the group to set up their own factions.

Some of these rivals fought Mansour's men for land, mostly in the opium poppy-growing southern Taliban heartland.

Senior Taliban figures have said Mansour's death could strengthen and unify the movement, as he was in some ways a divisive figure. The identity of his successor was expected to be an indication of the direction the insurgency would take, either toward peace or continued war.

Akhundzada is a religious scholar who served as the Taliban's chief justice before his appointment as a deputy to Mansour. He is known for issuing public statements justifying the existence of the extremist Taliban, their war against the Afghan government and the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan. His views are regarded as hawkish, and he could be expected to continue in the aggressive footsteps of Mansour, at least in the early days of his leadership.

He was close to Mullah Omar, who consulted with him on religious matters. A convincing orator, Akhundzada was born in Kandahar — the capital during the Taliban's 1996-2001 regime.

A member of the Noorzai tribe, he is said to be aged around 50 years, and comes from a line of religious scholars. He leads a string of madrassas, or religious schools — figures in the Taliban say up to 10 — across Pakistan's southwestern Baluchistan province.

A former foreign minister under the Taliban, Mullah Mohammad Ghous, told The Associated Press that the choice of Akhundzada was "a very wise decision." Akhundzada was well respected among Taliban of all ranks, and could be a unifying force for the fractured movement, Ghous said.

Wednesday's statement said two new deputies had also been appointed — both of whom had earlier been thought to be the main contenders for the top job.

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One of them is Sirajuddin Haqqani, who was also one of Mansour's deputies and who leads the notorious Haqqani network — the faction behind some of the most ferocious attacks in Afghanistan since the war began in 2001. The other is the son of Mullah Omar, Mullah Yaqoub, who controls the Taliban military commissions for 15 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

Akhundzada's appointment came as a surprise to some, including Ghous, who said that despite not being a top contender but a "third candidate," the new leader would rise above any personal animosity or conflict that might have arisen should either Haqqani or Yaqoub have been chosen.

The Taliban statement called on all Muslims to mourn Mansour for three days, starting from Wednesday. It also attempted to calm any qualms among the rank and file by calling for unity and obedience to the new leader.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who took office in 2014, assiduously courted Pakistan in an effort to bring the Taliban into a dialogue that would lead to peace talks. Mansour, however, refused, choosing instead to intensify the war once the international combat mission drew down to a training and support role in 2015.

In an unusual move, exiled Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar who heads the militant Hezb-i-Islami group, offered condolences to Mansour's family, according to Mullah Hameedullah, a member of the Taliban's religious council.

"Hekmatyar said he will offer prayers for Mullah Akhtar Mansour's soul," Hameedullah said.

Hekmatyar — who is on U.S. and United Nations blacklists, as was Mansour — has agreed to a tentative peace deal with the Afghan government that could see him return to Kabul in the coming months. Officials and Hekmatyar's representatives have said that the truce, which is yet to be signed by the two parties, could serve as a template for a future deal with the Taliban to end the war.

Mount Vernon exhibit looks at Washington as slaveholder

MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press

MOUNT VERNON, Va. (AP) — It is the unavoidable Achilles' heel in the reputation of George Washington and so many other Founding Fathers: that men who risked their lives to protect their nation's liberty were also slaveholders.

That dichotomy will be explored in a new exhibit at Washington's Mount Vernon estate, in a museum space previously dedicated to exhibitions featuring Washington's furniture, fineries and his penchant for dining on syrupy hoecakes.

The \$750,000 exhibition, *Lives Bound Together*, will explore hard truths about Washington's life as a slaveholder, including an acknowledgement that Washington's adopted son likely fathered a child with one of the family's slaves.

Mount Vernon has not shied away from explorations of slavery: In 2007, the estate reconstructed a slave cabin on the grounds about a mile from the iconic mansion. And Mount Vernon has worked to maintain good relations with the descendants of Mount Vernon slaves, many of whom still live in the area.

Still, Mount Vernon director Curtis Viebranz said he occasionally hears criticism — both from people who believe there is too much discussion of slavery, to those who say they won't visit Mount Vernon because they are offended at supporting what was, at bottom, a plantation fueled by slave labor.

He expects the new exhibit will inevitably draw criticism in one form or another.

"There might be some people of my generation who would prefer to leave him on his pedestal," Viebranz said. "Our challenge as an institution is to make the story of this man topical to the next generation of Americans. ... If we try to control the story, or direct it to an outcome, it will hurt us."

A centerpiece of the new exhibit, which will launch in October, is a display of Washington's handwritten list of slaves on the estate from 1799, likely written in preparation for his will. Washington freed his slaves in his will, upon the death of his wife, Martha. She ended up freeing the slaves before she died. Other slaves belonged to Martha Washington's family, and neither George nor Martha had any legal right to emancipate them.

The list, in Washington's bold, instantly recognizable handwriting, is a powerful connection to the man

himself and the men and women who were registered as his property. The list also includes some commentary on the slaves. Washington describes 28-year-old Tom as "a good mower and an excellent ploughman but unfortunately from some tumour in his head, it is feared that blindness, partial if not entire, will ensue."

Throughout the exhibit, Mount Vernon endeavors to tell the story of 19 slaves who lived on the estate. Washington's meticulous record-keeping helped in some of the reconstruction, but curator Susan Schoelwer acknowledged limitations: The slaves were largely illiterate, so any written records about them come from the whites who oversaw them.

"We try to explore their stories," Schoelwer said. "I would not presume to tell them."

Still, Mount Vernon is not totally reliant on whites' perspective to tell the story. Oral histories passed down by slaves' descendants fill some of the gaps.

For ZSun-nee Matema of Hagerstown, Maryland, the family history was whispered and talked around, but always present.

"My father's people told me that if everything were known about our family's history, it would topple the first family of Virginia," Matema recalled.

She didn't really know what to make of the cryptic comments. Matema always knew that she was a descendant of Caroline Branham, a slave who served as a house servant and was the person who found Washington ill in his bed the morning of his death in December 1799.

As she became more interested in her family's genealogy, she did her own research, which seemed to mesh with her family's oral history.

The scholarship is at the point where Mount Vernon, in the materials it is preparing for the exhibit, concludes that Caroline Branham's daughter Lucy was "likely fathered by George Washington Parke Custis."

That means Matema, in addition to being a descendant of Branham, is also a direct descendant of Martha Washington, since Parke Custis was also the grandson of Martha in addition to being the adopted son of George Washington.

Matema, for her part, said she credits Mount Vernon for its effort to tell the story of Mount Vernon's slaves as fully as it can, in the face of the limitations of researching an era when people were considered property.

"There will probably never be a full story told of the enslaved community," she said.

Suspect in Charleston church shooting faces highest penalty

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

MEG KINNARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly a year after the brutal shooting deaths of nine black parishioners at a Charleston, South Carolina, church, the U.S. Justice Department announced Tuesday its intent to seek the death penalty against the man facing federal hate crime charges in the killings.

The decision means that both state and federal prosecutors are seeking the maximum penalty against Dylann Roof, 22, in the June 17 Emanuel AME Church shooting, which contributed to a national conversation about race relations and ultimately led to the removal of a Confederate battle flag from the grounds of the South Carolina Statehouse.

Roof faces nine counts of murder in state court, and Solicitor Scarlett Wilson has said she wants to try her case first. That trial, originally slated to begin this summer, has now been pushed to early next year.

Wilson announced her decision to pursue the death penalty in September. But the possibility of a federal death penalty case has loomed over the case even longer, ever since the government announced a month after Roof's arrest that he would face hate crime charges. Prosecutors said he was motivated by racial hatred and a desire to commit a "notorious attack" when he opened fire inside the church, "to carry out these twin goals of fanning racial flames and exacting revenge."

Roof was arrested a day after the shootings in North Carolina when a motorist spotted his Confederate license plate. Roof, who is white, appeared in photos waving Confederate flags and burning or desecrating U.S. flags, and purportedly wrote of fomenting racial violence. Survivors of the shooting told police

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that he hurled racial insults during the attack. One said Roof told her that he was "letting her live so she could tell what happened."

There's no timeframe for Roof's federal trial, and an attorney meeting is scheduled for next month.

Though the Justice Department says it's committed to seeking the death penalty, federal executions are exceedingly rare. The last time a federal defendant was put to death was in 2003. And President Barack Obama has said he's "deeply concerned" about the death penalty's implementation.

"The nature of the alleged crime and the resulting harm compelled this decision," Lynch said in a brief statement that said the department had considered "all relevant factual and legal issues," Attorney General Loretta Lynch said Tuesday.

Roof's attorneys in the federal case have said their client would be willing to plead guilty if the death penalty were not on the table. Defense lawyer David Bruck said he had no comment on the federal decision to seek the death penalty.

The only other person charged in connection with the case has already pleaded guilty. Joey Meek, a friend with whom Roof spent time in the days before the shootings, last month admitted to lying to federal authorities. He has agreed to help with the prosecution against Roof.

Both state and federal prosecutors have spent time consulting with relatives of the shooting victims over the pursuit of the death penalty. At his initial appearance before a judge after his arrest, some family members said they forgave the alleged shooter and that they would pray for him.

On Tuesday, Malcolm Graham, brother of shooting victim Cynthia Hurd, said federal prosecutors had talked to family members before announcing the decision and that he felt it was "an appropriate punishment."

"What he did that night was kill innocent individuals at a Bible study," Graham said. "Not only was it an attack on those who were there, it was an attack on a race of people."

China's Wanda prepares for battle with 'old brand'

LOUISE WATT, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Mickey Mouse has a new and deep-pocketed challenger: China's shopping mall king.

The developer that bought Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment is preparing to fight Disney to lead China's - and possibly the world's— theme park industry.

Wanda Group and its billionaire founder, Wang Jianlin, are inaugurating a sprawling entertainment complex Saturday in China's southeast three weeks before the June 16 opening of Disney's first mainland Chinese park in Shanghai.

Wanda's 20 billion yuan (\$3 billion) site in the city of Nanchang has an outdoor theme park and teacup-shaped buildings that house a shopping mall, cinemas, restaurants, a film park and the world's largest ocean park. It has 10 hotels.

Wanda has lots of cash and a huge home market but lacks Disney's brand power and decades of theme park experience.

Still, Wanda exudes confidence it can win.

Publicly laying down a challenge, Wang told Chinese state TV in comments broadcast Sunday he plans to "overtake Disney" as the biggest global tourism company by 2020.

"The frenzy of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck and the era of blindly following them have passed," said Wang. Disney is "entirely cloning previous intellectual properties, cloning previous products, with no more innovation."

Disney said in an emailed reply to The Associated Press that Wang's comments were "not worthy of a response."

Wang's boldness is a sign of China's growing cultural confidence after three decades of explosive economic growth.

The ruling Communist Party is eager to see China create pop culture to rival Hollywood. There was much angst when DreamWorks' first "Kung Fu Panda" movie came out. Commentators demanded to know why China couldn't make a hit film about its own national animal.

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The battle of the theme parks also demonstrates the growing importance of China's public, who have evolved quickly from a nation of farmers and factory workers to one of the most important consumer markets.

The government is in the midst of a marathon effort to nurture self-sustaining economic growth by encouraging consumer spending to reduce reliance on trade and investment. Tourism plays a key role in that.

The outlook for theme parks in China is rosy. Annual visitor numbers are forecast to more than double from 133 million in 2014 to 282 million in 2019, according to Euromonitor International, a research company.

Wanda already has three theme park resorts in China that also include other facilities such as shopping malls, theaters and a ski resort. Nanchang is the first of a planned series of "Wanda City" sites meant to mix culture and tourism.

Wanda boasts its "multiple-business model" of rides, film, culture and shopping is an advance over Disney's more narrowly focused entertainment.

"Disney is an old brand, while Wanda is a new one," said Wanda spokesman Liu Mingsheng.

Wanda plans to build 15 to 20 Wanda Cities by 2020, according to Liu.

The company's competitive spirit isn't confined to its home turf. Wanda also has ambitions to beat Disney globally.

Wanda signed a deal in February with French retailer Auchan Group to develop a 3 billion euro (\$3.4 billion) project called EuropaCity adjacent to Charles de Gaulle Airport in Paris. That will mean competition for Disneyland Paris.

Both EuropaCity and Shanghai Disneyland have attracted attention from national leaders in France and China, reflecting the huge scale of their investment and hopes for tourism to drive economic growth.

Wang met with French President Francois Hollande to discuss the 80-hectare (200-acre) project in Paris, which is due to have a theme park, hotels and a conference center.

For its part, Disney's chairman and CEO, Robert A. Iger, was granted a meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing last month. Xi, who rarely meets foreign business leaders, expressed his congratulations for the planned Shanghai opening.

Wanda, founded in 1988, started out building apartments and shopping malls. Operating cinemas led it into film and then sports promotion.

Wang has said that path follows the transformation of China's economy from one reliant on investment in factories and housing to a consumer market fueled by sales of clothes, entertainment and other goods.

This year, the company acquired Legendary Entertainment, maker of the "Batman" trilogy, for \$3.5 billion, becoming the first Chinese company to control a major U.S. film studio.

In 2012, Wanda bought U.S. cinema chain AMC Entertainment Holdings, becoming the biggest global movie theater operator.

At home, the company is creating an \$8 billion movie studio complex in Qingdao on China's east coast.

Last year, Wanda bought Swiss sports marketing company Infront Sports & Media, which produces World Cup broadcasts for FIFA, and took a 20 percent stake in Spanish football team Atletico Madrid.

Disney can draw on a brand built up over 90 years through classic movies and instantly recognizable characters. But Wanda is counting on a wider array of malls, cinemas and other leisure activities to attract more people to its theme parks - and keep them dry year-round.

"I personally feel that the climate isn't advantageous to open an entirely outdoor theme park in Shanghai, with heavy summer rainfall, the rainy season lasting dozens of days, and the winters also quite cold," Wang said, referring to Shanghai Disneyland.

He said Disneyland's high prices would also drive away customers.

The Disney resort, a joint venture between The Walt Disney Co. and Chinese state-owned consortium Shanghai Shendi Group, is one of the largest foreign investments in China. It encompasses Shanghai Disneyland, two hotels, gardens and a shopping, dining and entertainment district. Disney says most attractions are indoors.

The site of Wanda's first park, Nanchang, is the capital of Jiangxi province, a largely agricultural province and one of China's poorest.

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It is designed on a Chinese theme, with buildings shaped like blue and white porcelain tea cups. Wanda City "is the new global culture and tourism brand that Wanda is striving to build," spokesman Liu said.

The company has already broken ground on 10 more locations.

Wanda's model could attract more visitors, especially older ones, "who may be more interested in traditional culture, rather than theme parks," said Fangting Sun of Euromonitor International.

The mix of indoor and outdoor attractions can offer "better experiences regardless of weather and time," while shopping and cinemas might encourage visitors to stay longer and spend more, Sun said.

Eric Trump, helping his father, balances company, campaign

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The windows of Eric Trump's office in the Trump Tower offer breathtaking views of some of Manhattan's most expensive real estate. It's there the youngest of Donald Trump's adult sons is reflecting on eye-opening moments from a world far away.

"Having to speak at a Pizza Ranch in Iowa, you hear things you never would," he says from the 25th floor office in Trump Tower, steps from the offices of siblings Ivanka and Don Jr. and one floor down from their father. "For us, the learning curve was exponential."

As his father's seemingly quixotic campaign caught fire, Eric Trump, 32, an admitted political neophyte, found himself thrust into the heart of it all. He barnstormed across small towns in Iowa and New Hampshire, gamely doing interviews on local radio stations and Fox News, all while balancing growing responsibilities to the company.

"The process makes you go out there and see this country," he says. "I knew nothing about the nuts and bolts of politics before this."

When Donald Trump announced his underdog candidacy for president last June, he empowered his three grown children to take the lead running the billion-dollar business that made him a worldwide celebrity.

Eric Trump says he and his siblings would relish the opportunity to prove themselves by taking over the empire completely if their father becomes president. If so, he says: "We'd always be one phone call away if he needs it. We'd do anything for the man. But our focus is this company. He's had to make politics his focus and he's shown confidence in us that we'll do a great job with the company."

Eric Trump estimated that at the start of his father's campaign, he spent just 10 percent of his time on the campaign and the rest on the business, overseeing projects like new hotels in Vancouver and Rio de Janeiro and a golf course in Scotland.

Now he's heavily invested in the campaign and that's expected to grow further. Those around the campaign say Eric, though at times overshadowed by his brother Don's seniority and his sister Ivanka's celebrity, has been tireless in providing advice and appearing on behalf of his father.

And all three children — whose mother is Ivana, Trump's first wife — are expected to do even more in the general election campaign, including pitching in to soften the rough edges of his public image.

Their love for their father — and apparent level-headedness, despite growing up among fabulous riches and bold-faced names — was prominently on display during a good-humored and affectionate appearance on CNN last month. Eric Trump said he is happy to act as a walking, talking testament to his dad in the likely showdown against Hillary Clinton, which would feature a pair of prominent and complicated families. "If I can be a character witness for him, and tell people about the man that he is, I want to do that," Eric said.

There have been some bumps in the road.

Eric and Ivanka Trump were the subject of some embarrassing headlines when it was revealed that they were not registered to vote in time for their father in last month's New York primary. An African big-game safari Eric and Don Jr. took drew criticism from animal rights activists. And an envelope filled with white powder was sent to Eric Trump's Manhattan home in March, though tests later revealed the substance was harmless.

And there have been moments when their father's divisive policies have conflicted with the family busi-

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ness. The furor over Trump's rhetoric about illegal immigrants and plans to build a Mexican border wall caused a celebrity restaurateur to back out of a hotel project in Washington, and a charity golf tournament was canceled after organizers feared it had become too political.

It remains to be seen how the Trump Organization would be run with Trump in the White House. His would be the largest business empire to belong to a sitting president, and that means a nest of ethical questions.

On the most basic level, federal ethics rules would not bar Trump from personally running his business interests from the White House, or — perhaps more likely — from having influence over decisions made by his children.

Eric — whose wife, Lara, works at the tabloid TV show "Inside Edition" and sports a Trump sticker on her smartphone case — insists that, if elected, his father would completely walk away from the family business, ensuring a "distinct separation" between the enterprise and public office.

"I think we're going to win this crazy thing," he said.

For now, Eric Trump's life is a juggling act. The day after the interview, he caught a flight to Ireland to open a Trump-branded golf course.

Babies behind bars: Moms do time with their newborns

COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press

BEDFORD HILLS, N.Y. (AP) — Jennifer Dumas sits on a sofa, her smiling 6-month-old girl on her lap. The room is full of bright toys and children's books. A rainbow-colored activity mat is on the floor, and Winnie the Pooh is painted on the walls.

It looks like any other nursery, except that there are bars on the windows and barbed-wire fences outside the austere brick building.

New York's maximum-security Bedford Hills Correctional Facility is one of the very few prisons in the U.S. that allow inmates and their babies to live together, a century-old approach that not all corrections experts agree is the best way to deal with women who are locked up while pregnant.

Mothers who get such a chance say it's better than the alternative: In most prisons, babies born behind bars must be given up within a day to a relative or foster care.

"Before I came here, I thought it was a terrible idea. A baby in prison? No, thank you," the 24-year-old Dumas said as her daughter, Codylynn, gleefully rocked in a bouncy seat. "But it's actually wonderful to be able to spend this much time with my little girl. ... I'm blessed to be able to go through this."

Nobody thinks raising babies behind bars is ideal, and some worry that the children could be scarred by the experience. But some advocates say that the practice allows mother and child to develop a vital psychological attachment, and that the parenting classes and other practical instruction help the moms stay out of trouble when they get out.

About 112,000 women are in state and federal prisons, mostly for drug or property crimes. And an estimated 1 in 25 are pregnant when they enter, according to the nonprofit Sentencing Project. But there are no national statistics on the number of babies born to inmates.

Of the more than 100 women's prisons in the U.S., there are only eight nurseries. While nearly 100 countries, including South Sudan and France, have national laws that allow for incarcerated mothers to stay with their babies, the U.S. is not among them.

Dumas was three weeks pregnant when she was arrested last year, along with her boyfriend, on charges they tried to steal a safe packed with \$32,000 in cash and jewelry. Her baby was born just days after she took a plea bargain on attempted burglary charges that sent her to Bedford Hills, north of New York City in Westchester County, for up to two years.

She is now among 15 carefully screened new mothers allowed to serve up to 18 months of their sentences in a nursery unit that includes a communal playroom stocked with toys and mother-and-child rooms equipped with a single bed and a crib. The walls are painted with rainbows, fluffy clouds and jungle and barnyard scenes. The nursery currently has 16 babies, including a set of twins.

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During workday hours, the babies are taken across the street to a day care center, where they are watched by staff and other inmates while the moms go to school or vocational programs.

But there are constant reminders it is a prison. Armed officers patrol the unit. And the moms know their babies can be taken away for such infractions as fighting or even leaving a toy in a crib while the baby sleeps.

"It's still scary," Dumas said. "At any given point if you do what you're not supposed to your baby could get sent home."

Some women have been dropped from the program from time to time for breaking the rules, but corrections officials and advocates said they could not recall any instances in recent years in which a baby was harmed.

Still, some argue that prison should be reserved for punishment and that women should instead consider putting their children up for adoption.

"The focus should be on what's best for the baby," said James Dwyer, a law professor at the College of William & Mary who has written a paper on the topic. "There is skepticism about these women being adequate parents."

Columbia University researcher Mary Byrne, who spent years studying mothers and children who started life in Bedford Hills, said that the youngsters formed critical attachments to their mothers and that a second study after they were released found they were no different from children raised entirely on the outside.

"Many people would assume any exposure to prison would cause problems ... they'll be exposed to violence and horrible people, it will scar them," she said. "But that's not what we found."

Sister Teresa Fitzgerald, the Roman Catholic nun who runs Hour Children, the nonprofit organization that operates Bedford Hills' nursery, put it more bluntly: "Babies belong with their mother. In a palace or a prison, they don't know and don't care as long as they feel loved and supported."

The nursery is operated under an annual contract with the state of about \$170,000, the correction department said. It would cost \$480,000 a year to put 16 babies in foster care, according to state figures.

Bedford Hills' recidivism rate for women in the nursery program is fairly typical of such programs, at 13 percent versus 26 percent for all female inmates at the prison, according to a report by the Women's Prison Association, an advocacy group.

Bedford Hills, situated on a wooded hill an hour north of New York City, houses the oldest continuously operating prison nursery in the country, opened in 1901.

There were many nurseries years ago, according to Elaine Lord, the former superintendent. But they fell out of favor amid a huge influx of prisoners in the 1980s and a shift in thinking that said the privilege of living with your baby was inconsistent with the concept of punishment.

Most of the nation's prison nurseries have cropped up in the past 20 years.

The nursery at the Indiana Women's Prison houses up to 10 mother-infant pairs for up to 18 months. In South Dakota, a child can stay only 30 days. In Washington state, it's three years. The Decatur Correctional Center in Illinois opened a nursery in 2007, and 73 moms and 69 babies have participated.

In Decatur, Kalee Ford, who is about 26 weeks' pregnant and in prison on a drug-related conviction, already has been accepted into the program and is taking prenatal courses. She said she wasn't the mother she could have been to her two other children because of methamphetamine. The program is giving her hope that she can clean up for good.

"I believe that everybody deserves at least one chance to fix mistakes that they've made," she said. "My children didn't do this, and they deserve to have me back."

At Decatur, Bedford Hills and other programs, mothers-to-be are selected based on their crimes and whether there is any history of child abuse.

Many advocates question why such women need to be incarcerated at all. Typically, women accepted into these programs are nonviolent offenders serving fairly short sentences — ideal candidates for less-expensive, halfway house-like programs that allow mother and child to stay together.

After their sentences are up, almost all of the mothers at Bedford go to a live-in halfway house in New

York City run by Fitzgerald's organization that also helps with day care and jobs. Mothers say it's a golden ticket.

Dumas, who has a son on the outside, hopes to go there, too.

"It's a way to get on my feet, try being a parent again on the outside but with a safety net," she said. "I don't know anyone who gets that."

Warriors facing long odds down 3-1, but it has been done

TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Here's good news for Golden State: It's not over.

Close, but not over.

There are nine teams in NBA history who have successfully overcome 3-1 deficits to win a series, which is the task the defending champion Warriors now face in their Western Conference finals matchup with Oklahoma City.

Otherwise, the greatest season in NBA regular-season history — 73-9 — will end without even a trip to the Finals.

Here are the nine who overcame the odds:

Boston vs. Philadelphia, 1968

East Finals

Game 5: Celtics 122, at 76ers 104

Game 6: at Celtics 114, 76ers 106

Game 7: Celtics 100, at 76ers 96

The Celtics did it the super-hard way, winning two of the final three games on the road. Boston trailed 57-56 at the half of Game 5 but went on a 38-23 fourth-quarter run to extend the series, then survived 40 points from Hal Greer to win Game 6 and got double-digit scoring from six players to take Game 7. That sent Boston to the NBA Finals, where it topped the Los Angeles Lakers 4-2.

L.A. Lakers vs. Phoenix, 1970

West Semifinals

Game 5: at Lakers 138, Suns 121

Game 6: Lakers 104, at Suns 93

Game 7: at Lakers 129, Suns 94

Wilt Chamberlain and Jerry West each scored 36 points in Game 5 as the Lakers pulled away late. Game 6 was tied going into the fourth quarter and the Lakers found separation again, and then Game 7 was a rout. The Lakers swept the next round against Atlanta to extend their winning streak to seven, but fell in the NBA Finals to the New York Knicks 4-3.

Washington vs. San Antonio, 1979

East Finals

Game 5: at Bullets 107, Spurs 103

Game 6: Bullets 108, at Spurs 100

Game 7: at Bullets 107, Spurs 105

George Gervin led a huge Spurs comeback try in Game 5 that fell just short, and the Bullets broke a tie with a 21-10 run late in Game 6. And in Game 7, Bobby Dandridge scored 37 points — the last of those a 12-footer from the baseline in the final seconds — as the Bullets moved on to the NBA Finals. There, they lost to the Seattle SuperSonics 4-1.

Boston vs. Philadelphia, 1981

East Finals

Game 5: at Celtics 111, 76ers 109

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Game 6: Celtics 100, at 76ers 98

Game 7: at Celtics 91, 76ers 90

This was a series for the ages. Boston erased a six-point deficit in the final 1:51 of Game 5 to stay alive, scoring the final eight points. In Game 6, Boston was down by 17 in the second quarter and 15 in the third before rallying again. And one more comeback awaited in Game 7, the Celtics finding a way back from a seven-point hole midway through the fourth quarter. Boston then beat Houston 4-2 for the title.

Houston vs. Phoenix, 1995

West Semifinals

Game 5: Rockets 103, at Suns 97, OT

Game 6: at Rockets 116, Suns 103

Game 7: Rockets 115, at Suns 114

Hakeem Olajuwon scored late to send Game 5 to overtime, where Houston escaped. In Game 6, Olajuwon scored 30 and the Rockets pulled away in the fourth quarter. And then in Game 7, Mario Elie's corner 3-pointer in the final seconds was the decider as Houston went to the West finals. There, the Rockets ousted San Antonio 4-2, then swept Orlando in the NBA Finals.

Miami vs. New York, 1997

East Semifinals

Game 5: at Heat 96, Knicks 81

Game 6: Heat 95, at Knicks 90

Game 7: at Heat 101, Knicks 90

Some probably remember this series for "The Fight." The Knicks and Heat battled in Game 5 and the penalties were fierce — New York played without Patrick Ewing, Allan Houston and Charlie Ward for Game 6, then were without Larry Johnson and John Starks for Game 7. Tim Hardaway scored 38 points for Miami in the deciding game to oust the Knicks, but the Heat would lose to Chicago 4-1 in the East finals.

Detroit vs. Orlando, 2003

East Quarterfinals

Game 5: at Pistons 98, Magic 67

Game 6: Pistons 103, at Magic 88

Game 7: at Pistons 108, Magic 93

The top-seeded Pistons lost homecourt because they couldn't contain Orlando's Tracy McGrady in Game 1, but they figured out a solution in time to advance. A 14-0 run in the third quarter sparked a blowout, Chauncey Billups scored 40 points in Game 6 and followed that with 37 more in Game 7. The Pistons beat Philadelphia 4-2 in the East semis, then got swept by New Jersey in the East finals.

Phoenix vs. L.A. Lakers, 2006

West Quarterfinals

Game 5: at Suns 114, Lakers 97

Game 6: Suns 126, at Lakers 118, OT

Game 7: at Suns 121, Lakers 90

Kobe Bryant's layup at the buzzer of Game 4 gave the Lakers a 3-1 series lead, but the second-seeded Suns fended off the upset bid. Boris Diaw scored 25 points in Game 5 for Phoenix, Tim Thomas hit a long 3 late in regulation of Game 6 to force overtime and Game 7 was decided quickly. Phoenix went seven games again in the West semifinals to beat the Los Angeles Clippers, then lost 4-2 in the West finals to Dallas.

Houston vs. L.A. Clippers, 2015

West Semifinals

Game 5: at Rockets 124, Clippers 103

Game 6: Rockets 119, at Clippers 107

Game 7: at Rockets 113, Clippers 100

The Clippers won Game 3 by 25, then won Game 4 by 33 for a 3-1 series lead. James Harden had 26 points in Game 5 to lead Houston's win, and then the Rockets outscored the Clippers 40-15 in the fourth quarter on the road in Game 6 to make a 13-point deficit with 12 minutes left more than disappear. Harden added 31 more points in Game 7, and the Rockets moved to the West finals, where they lost 4-1 to Golden State.

GLAAD responds to #GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend

LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Captain America snags a kiss from Sharon Carter in the latest Marvel pic, "Captain America: Civil War," but many fans are wishing it was from someone else — specifically, a man.

On Tuesday, the hashtag #GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend became a top trending topic on Twitter, which advocacy group GLAAD says is a sign that audiences are eager for significant LGBT characters in their superhero movies. This comes less than a month after GLAAD issued its annual studio responsibility index, which found that Walt Disney Studios, which owns Marvel, included zero LGBT characters in its films last year.

"It's getting increasingly difficult to ignore that LGBT people remain almost completely shut out of Hollywood's big budget comic films that have dominated the box office over the past couple of years," said Megan Townsend, GLAAD's entertainment media strategist, who noted there are LGBT characters in both the source comics and in television adaptations, but not on the big screen.

Tuesday's trending was powered by both advocates and dissenters. Scores of Twitter users suggested that Steve Rogers/Captain America (Chris Evans) be paired up with his old friend Bucky Barnes/The Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan), who has been a significant player in all three "Captain America" films. But other tweets decried the rallying call, stressing that the character has never been gay in the comic book source material.

Townsend disagrees. In fictional worlds, she said, there's "room for established characters to have backstories built out that we weren't aware of."

Beyond Captain America, too, Townsend noted that there are LGBT characters in Marvel comics, like a pair of lesbians in "Guardians of the Galaxy," who she hopes audiences might meet in "Guardians'" next film version out next year.

"Captain America: Civil War" is poised to become the highest grossing film of the year in a matter of days, and has already earned over \$1 billion worldwide. That sort of worldwide visibility is invaluable in fostering greater acceptance, GLAAD says.

"We've met with several activists who have (noted) the power of U.S. media in their country and how the conversations have changed there," Townsend said. "They really do have an opportunity."

The #GiveCaptainAmericaABoyfriend movement follows another social media ruckus earlier in the month with the hashtag #GiveElsaAGirlfriend, referring to the character from Disney's "Frozen."

"Frozen" was also a smash success at the worldwide box office, but the inclusion of an LGBT character in the sequel could have even a bigger impact because it's an animated film. Townsend said that LGBT representation in all-ages media is especially important.

Idina Menzel, who voices the character of Elsa, told Entertainment Tonight recently that she thinks the viral movement is "great," but that it's also something that the studio needs to "contend with" and "figure out."

It remains to be seen whether or not Hollywood will make any adjustments based on fan campaigns like these. Neither Disney nor Marvel responded to requests for comment. But for GLAAD, it's another sign that the public is also not satisfied with the status quo, and a case to "let it go."

Virginia governor: I followed the law in accepting donations

MATTHEW BARAKAT, Associated Press

ALAN SUDERMAN, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe said Tuesday he is confident he followed the law in accepting donations that now appear to be part of a federal criminal investigation.

McAuliffe defended his actions to reporters, a day after a law-enforcement official told The Associated Press that McAuliffe is the subject of a federal investigation looking at donations to his 2013 gubernatorial campaign.

McAuliffe said he believes the investigation centers around a donation connected to a Chinese businessman, Wang Wenliang. Federal law forbids foreigners from contributing to U.S. political campaigns, but McAuliffe said Wang has held a green card for nearly a decade and is a legitimate donor.

"He was vetted by the campaign, and this gentleman is certainly entitled to give money to the campaign," McAuliffe told reporters, after speaking at a preplanned event at a parole and probation office in Alexandria.

He described Wang as "a very substantial individual" who's made major donations to Harvard University and is on the board at New York University.

The 62-year-old Wang is a member of China's ruling Communist Party and a delegate from the northeastern province of Liaoning to the country's ceremonial legislature, the National People's Congress, according to his profile on the body's website.

Membership in the congress, which meets only once a year, is often awarded based on contributions to China's economy and society. Proposals raised by Wang at the two-week annual session focused on economic development in the northeast and improving China's foreign trade links, according to a website run by the Chinese Cabinet's information office.

In 2012, Wang was awarded an honorary doctorate of business administration from the University of South Carolina, the school said in an online news release.

It described him as a "major benefactor engaged in U.S.-China relations, Southeast Asia relations and relations on the Korean peninsula," and said he had supported scholarly and exchange programs at NYU and USC's Darla Moore School of Business, where he established the Hodges Scholars Program to fund research and scholarships for students and faculty in China.

McAuliffe said he doesn't think he's even met Wang, though he believes he's met people from Wang's company.

He said he's "100 percent" confident that he did not take any illegal donations. "I rely on the people who did the vetting. They have unequivocally said he was entitled to write a check," McAuliffe said.

A spokeswoman for Wang declined to comment.

The FBI and Justice Department have declined to comment on the long-running investigation.

One of Wang's companies, New Jersey-based West Legend, gave \$70,000 to McAuliffe's gubernatorial campaign and \$50,000 to his inaugural committee in 2013, according to Virginia campaign finance records.

Wang's campaign giving appears limited to McAuliffe. Neither West Legend nor Wang has given to any other state-level campaign, according to the National Institute on Money in State Politics, a nonprofit money-in-politics tracker. Nor has Wang personally given to federal candidates, according to the Federal Elections Commission's database.

McAuliffe said he is not particularly worried about an investigation, and that he was totally unaware of it before Monday.

"No one's alleged any wrongdoing on my part," he said. "If you haven't done anything wrong, what should you be worried about?"

McAuliffe, a Democrat and longtime friend of Bill and Hillary Clinton, said he's also confident the investigation won't harm Hillary Clinton's presidential bid.

"I don't think this has anything to do with Hillary Clinton," McAuliffe said.

McAuliffe is a former board member of the Clinton Global Initiative, a program of the Clinton Foundation. The foundation reports that it received \$1 million to \$5 million from one of Wang's companies, Rilin

Enterprises, but does not say when the money was given.

Rilin, one of China's biggest architecture and design companies, has taken on multiple international projects, including construction work on China's consulate in New York City and its United Nations representative office, according to Chinese media reports.

One of Wang's companies, Dandong Port Group, has a trade deal to ship Virginia soybeans to China. Virginia Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry Todd Haymore said Dandong has purchased "hundreds of millions" worth of Virginia soybeans in recent years.

Wang is chairman of the group, based in the Chinese city of the same name along the North Korean border.

Wang is also an active environmentalist. Democratic Leader Harry Reid last year thanked Wang for his "commitment and dedication" to restoring the Dandong Yalu River Estuary Wetland in China, according to a statement published in the congressional record.

Obama urges Vietnam youth to tackle climate change

NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

HO CHI MINH CITY, Vietnam (AP) — Wrapping up a historic visit to Vietnam, U.S. President Barack Obama on Wednesday praised the next generation of leaders for being more conscious about the effects of climate change than previous generations and urged them to "do something about it."

During his final public event here, Obama basked in the admiration of hundreds of young leaders who participated in a town hall-style event with the American president and prefaced their questions to him with praise about the quality of his leadership and his speeches.

Obama used a question about preserving a Vietnamese cave from development to pivot to climate change, one of his top issues as president.

He said Vietnam will be one of the countries most affected by warming temperatures and rising seas.

"That could have a huge impact on Vietnam's ability to feed its people, on fishermen, on farmers, and it could be a really big problem if we don't do something about it, so it's going to be up to you to start," said Obama, who routinely includes question-and-answer sessions with young leaders on his foreign trips.

"One of the great things about your generation is that you're already much more conscious about the environment than my generation was or previous generations were," said Obama. He told an earlier questioner that he "fooled around a lot" when he was younger and wasn't serious about school.

"I was more into basketball and girls. I wasn't always that serious," Obama said, "You're already way ahead of me. That's good."

The town-hall event capped Obama's historic and well-received visit to Vietnam. He spent three days in the capital of Hanoi, in the north, and in Ho Chi Minh City, in the south, meeting with government leaders and addressing the Vietnamese people, scores of whom lined the streets in both cities to welcome him.

In a move symbolizing how relations between the former wartime enemies had thawed, Obama announced that he was ending a five-decades-old ban on the sale of arms to Vietnam. He also announced that the Peace Corps would begin operating in the country for the first time.

Obama touched briefly on the issue of freedom of expression when asked by a young Vietnamese woman about the importance of governments promoting the arts and culture.

"You've got to let people express themselves. That's part of what a modern 21st century culture is all about," Obama said.

Before the event, Obama met privately at the U.S. consulate with staff and family members. The meeting also included seven Foreign Service nationals who served at the U.S. Embassy during the evacuation of Saigon — the former name for Ho Chi Minh City — in 1975, the White House said.

Japan was the next and final stop on Obama's wing through Asia, a region he says helped shape him growing up in his native Hawaii and later in Indonesia. Obama was attending a summit of the Group of Seven industrialized nations starting Thursday. He also planned a historic visit to Hiroshima, seven decades after the U.S. dropped the atomic bomb there that ushered in the nuclear age and ended World War II.

Obama will be the first sitting U.S. president to visit Hiroshima.

He planned to meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe after arriving late Wednesday.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Abe would raise the recent arrest of a former U.S. Marine in connection with the murder of a Japanese woman on the southern island of Okinawa.

"The government of Japan takes the case on Okinawa very seriously, and Prime Minister Abe will convey the grave concerns shared among the Japanese people and urge President Obama to take firm steps," Suga said.

Gunmen kill 3 paramilitary forces in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A senior police officer says gunmen riding on motorcycles have ambushed a vehicle carrying paramilitary forces in northwest Pakistan, killing three of them before fleeing.

The officer Abbas Majeed Marwat says the attackers targeted the vehicle of the Frontier Constabulary on Wednesday morning near Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that borders Afghanistan. No one claimed responsibility but authorities have blamed local Taliban and other militants for previous such attacks.

The Pakistani Taliban have carried out scores of attacks targeting police, security forces and government officials for supporting the United States. The Pakistani Taliban also views the government as un-Islamic.

Pakistan's military has carried out several operations against militants across the country, but militancy has continued.

Cosby lawyers outline defense as case heads to trial

MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press

MICHAEL R. SISA, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby's lawyers gave a blistering preview of the questions the actor's accuser will face at trial, as a judge refused to dismiss the sex-assault case at a preliminary hearing.

The defense Tuesday attacked the consistency of Andrea Constand's police statements; offered context to her friendship with Cosby; and insisted she gave consent to the sex acts that occurred at his home near Philadelphia in early 2004.

Constand did not testify, a decision meant to spare her from being cross-examined before trial. Under a recent state law, prosecutors can instead have witness statements read into the record.

The defense objected to Constand's absence during the half-day hearing, which marked the first time that police statements from either Constand or Cosby, 78, have been aired in public. Defense lawyer Brian McMonagle complained that he could not challenge her account.

"They chose not to present a witness to make an accusation against Mr. Cosby. So you're left with what's on that paper," McMonagle argued referring to the statement.

No trial date has been set, and lawyers are expected to spend months arguing over what evidence can be used — most notably, whether other accusers can testify and whether Cosby's deposition from Constand's civil lawsuit can be used.

McMonagle on Tuesday suggested that Constand was having a relationship with a married man and that the pair had engaged in "petting" during a few earlier visits to his home. Constand, in her statement, said she had brushed off his advances.

On the night in question, she said that Cosby urged her to take three blue pills "to take the edge off" her stress and to wash them down with wine he had poured. Twenty minutes later, her legs turned to "jelly."

"Everything was blurry and dizzy," Constand told police. "I told him, 'I can't even talk, Mr. Cosby.' I started to panic."

McMonagle argued that Constand "voluntarily" took the pills and perhaps had a bad reaction. He said she was "incapacitated by her own hand, by her own drinking." And he questioned her continued contact with Cosby in the year between their encounter and her first call to police.

"After this incident, Ms. Constand stayed in touch with the defendant, met with the defendant, ... accepted a dinner invitation, spoke to him on the phone, ... and visited him in Canada at a concert," McMonagle said in asking the judge to dismiss the case. "I know this is a preliminary hearing, but you have to look at it all."

His arguments largely mirror those raised by former District Attorney Bruce L. Castor Jr. when he declined to press charges when Constand came forward in 2005. Castor has since become a defense witness of sorts, testifying that he had a binding agreement with Cosby's lawyers that the case would never be prosecuted.

"It should have been stopped. It was stopped," McMonagle argued Tuesday.

The defense also seized on discrepancies in the three police statements that Constand gave, including her shifting memory of precisely when the encounter occurred. As for the alleged crime, she said the comedian penetrated her with his fingers and fondled her after giving her what he said was herbal medication. She said she later awoke with her bra askew and did not remember undoing it.

District Attorney Kevin Steele described Constand as "paralyzed, incapable of consent." He believes that makes one part of Cosby's police statement especially odd.

Asked if he had sexual intercourse with Constand, Cosby said he had not — "neither asleep nor awake."

Dozens of other women have come forward since 2005 to accuse Cosby of molesting them over the past 50 years. Some said they passed out after drinking something he gave them.

In his police statement, Cosby said that Constand never said "no" as he put his hand down her pants. He told police the pills were over-the-counter Benadryl that he takes to help him sleep.

Cosby settled with Constand for an undisclosed sum in 2006 after testifying behind closed doors about his extramarital affairs, his use of quaaludes to seduce women and his efforts to hide payments to former lovers from his wife.

But prosecutors reopened the criminal case last year after dozens of women leveled similar allegations and after Cosby's sealed testimony in Constand's lawsuit was made public.

Cosby is also fighting defamation lawsuits across the country for allegedly branding his accusers liars and is trying to get his homeowner insurance to pay his legal bills.

The Associated Press does not normally identify people who say they were victims of sex crimes unless they agree to be named publicly, which Constand has done.

Crosby helps Penguins beat Lightning to force Game 7

FRED GOODALL, AP Sports Writer

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins made good on Evgeni Malkin's pledge to force Game 7 in the Eastern Conference final.

Sidney Crosby had a goal and an assist, and Phil Kessel, Kris Letang, Bryan Rust and Nick Bonino also scored Tuesday night in a 5-2 victory that evened the best-of-seven series with the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-3.

Game 7 is Thursday night, with the Penguins hoping to reach the Stanley Cup Final for the first time since 2009 and the Lightning looking to advance to the Cup Final for the second straight year.

"I just told them to embrace the moment. It's a great opportunity for us. These are the type of circumstances to where you have an opportunity to write your own story," Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan.

"They had a certain mindset going into this tonight: 'We're going to leave it all out there and do everything we can to bring this back to Pittsburgh,'" Sullivan added. "And, certainly that's what they did."

Malkin was the most demonstrative of the players expressing confidence the Penguins could take the series back to Pittsburgh, saying he believed in himself, his teammates and that they could return home for a seventh game "for sure."

Crosby stepped up with his third game-winning goal of the series. The Penguins captain assisted on Kessel's 5-on-3 power-play goal in the opening period and later skated around Tampa Bay defenseman Anton Stralman into the clear before sending a wrist shot between goalie Andrei Vasilevskiy's legs for a 3-0 lead in the final minute of the second period.

"We know the circumstances. It makes you go out there with a mindset of playing desperate," Crosby

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said. "I think we had confidence in the whole group. I think everyone played great.

"Everyone contributed in their own way. In a big game like this you, don't do anything special, just do your job. I think that's gotten us this far."

Rookie goaltender Matt Murray returned to the lineup after being replaced as the starter for Game 5 by Marc-Andre Fleury, but his 10th playoff victory did not come without a bit of suspense.

Brian Boyle scored twice in the third period for Tampa Bay, with one of the goals bouncing off Kessel before getting past Murray, who finished with 28 saves. The second score drew the Lightning within one goal with 7:17 remaining.

Instead of flinching, the young goalie who turns 22 on Wednesday retained his composure down the stretch to help the Penguins avoid relinquishing a third-period lead for the second straight game.

"I just think it's part of his DNA. He has a calming influence. He doesn't get rattled if he lets a goal in. He continues to compete," Sullivan said.

"That's usually an attribute that takes years to acquire. And to have it at such a young age is impressive. I think one of his biggest strengths is just his ability to stay in the moment."

Rust's breakaway goal at 17:52 of the third gave Pittsburgh breathing room, and Bonino added an empty-netter to finish it off.

"We had a great chance tonight and just tip-toed around a little bit," Boyle said. "We were tentative and weren't aggressive."

Kessel's goal was his team-leading ninth of the playoffs. Crosby had the primary assist, his first point since delivering game-winners in Games 2 and 3, and Malkin also had an assist to extend his point streak to four games after a slow start in the series.

The Lightning had an apparent goal by Jonathan Drouin waived off a little more than five minutes into the game, when Sullivan successfully challenged that the young Tampa Bay winger was offside on the play before tapping in a rebound off Ondrej Palat's shot that bounced off Murray's pads.

Sullivan announced the decision to go back to Murray following Tuesday's morning skate.

Murray started the first four games of the series. Fleury replaced him during the third period of Game 4, then made his first start in nearly two months in Game 5, which Tampa Bay won 4-3 in overtime.

Before Game 5, Fleury had not started a game since March 31, when he suffered a concussion.

Tampa Bay entered the game determined to not come out flat in Game 6 of the conference final for the second straight year.

The Lightning beat the New York Rangers on the road to go up 3-2 in that series, but were badly outplayed at home the next game and had to return to Madison Square Garden to finish the series.

Now, they'll have to win on the road again to make the third Stanley Cup appearance in franchise history.

"I know we can. I've got confidence in this group. We believe we can do that," Tampa Bay's Ryan Callahan said. "We've had success on the road in the playoffs. We've had success in their building already. It's going to be a good one."

NOTES: The Penguins were 1 for 3 on the power play and are 4 for 19 in the series. The Lightning were 0 for 1, dropping to 2 for 12. ... Malkin was penalized in the first period for slashing Tampa Bay's Ryan Callahan in what appeared to be retaliation for the Lightning forward whacking him across the wrist with his stick. ... Murray improved to 4-0 following a loss. He's 10-4 overall in the playoffs.

Depp's dog fight with Australian deputy leader continues

ROD MCGUIRK, Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia's deputy prime minister boasted on Wednesday that he had got into Johnny Depp's head like fictional serial killer Hannibal Lecter after the Hollywood actor quipped that the ruddy-faced lawmaker appeared to be "inbred with a tomato."

The exchange spanning half the globe is the latest in a war of words that started a year ago when Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce threatened to have Depp's pet dogs, Boo and Pistol, put down. Joyce bluntly said it was time the Yorkshire terriers that had been illegally smuggled into Australia "buggered off back

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to the United States.”

The 52-year-old actor’s wife Amber Heard pleaded guilty in a court last month to falsifying documents to conceal the pets when she arrived by private jet to join her husband on the set of the fifth movie in the “Pirates of the Caribbean” series.

The couple videoed an apology as part of a deal with prosecutors that allowed Heard to avoid a conviction. Depp referred to Joyce as Barnaby Jones, the television detective played by Buddy Ebsen, while discussing the case this week on the U.S. talk show Jimmy Kimmel Live!

“He looks somehow inbred with a tomato,” Depp told Kimmel. “It’s not a criticism. No, I was a little worried. He might explode.”

Joyce replied by thanking Depp for the publicity he gave Australia’s tough biosecurity laws through the case that was widely lampooned as a “war on terrier.”

Joyce, who is campaigning ahead of July 2 elections, said he had moved on from his dispute with Depp. “I’m inside his head, I’m pulling little strings and pulling little levers. Long after I’ve forgotten about Mr. Depp, he’s remembering me,” Joyce told reporters in his home town of Tamworth.

“I’m turning into his Hannibal Lecter,” Joyce added, referring to the brilliant but dangerously manipulative character best known from the Academy Award-winning movie “Silence of the Lambs.”

Depp said he didn’t watch the widely-derided apology video — that has been likened to a hostage video with wooden deliveries from the couple — before it was released.

“No, because I didn’t want to kill myself,” Depp explained to Kimmel.

Asian stock markets rally on US recovery hopes

YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets rallied Wednesday as solid U.S. housing sales data and overnight gains on Wall Street raised expectations for a strong recovery in the world’s largest economy.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan’s Nikkei 225 rose 1.7 percent to 16,778.97 and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng index jumped 2.3 percent to 20,283.56. South Korea’s Kospi gained 1.1 percent to 1,957.87 while Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 advanced 1.7 percent to 5,383.70. Stocks in Taiwan, Singapore and Southeast Asia also gained.

US RECOVERY: The U.S. Commerce Department said Tuesday that new home sales leaped 16.6 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted rate of 619,000, the highest level since January 2008. Steady job gains and low mortgage rates have encouraged more Americans to buy new homes in a sign that the housing market and the broader economy are in good shape.

ANALYST’S TAKE: “Such upbeat data have dissipated doubts concerning the recovery in the housing sector,” Mizuho Bank said in a daily commentary. “While this strengthens expectations that the Fed may be more comfortable to raise policy rate in summer, markets do not appear to be unsettled.”

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks on Tuesday notched their biggest gain since March. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 1.2 percent to 17,706.05 and the Standard & Poor’s 500 index gained 1.4 percent to 2,076.06. The Nasdaq composite index surged 2 percent to 4,861.06.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude gained 62 cents to \$49.24 per barrel in New York. The contract finished 54 cents higher at \$48.62 on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 56 cents to \$49.17 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 110.13 yen from 110.06 yen. The euro strengthened to \$1.1147 from \$1.1143.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 25, the 146th day of 2016. There are 220 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On May 25, 1916, the Chicago Tribune published an interview with Henry Ford in which the automobile

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industrialist was quoted as saying, "History is more or less bunk. It's tradition. We don't want tradition. We want to live in the present and the only history that is worth a tinker's dam is the history we make today."

On this date:

In 1787, the Constitutional Convention began at the Pennsylvania State House (Independence Hall) in Philadelphia after enough delegates had shown up for a quorum.

In 1810, Argentina began its revolt against Spanish rule with the forming of the Primera Junta in Buenos Aires.

In 1935, Babe Ruth hit his last three career home runs — nos. 712, 713 and 714 — for the Boston Braves in a game against the Pittsburgh Pirates. (The Pirates won, 11-7.)

In 1946, Transjordan (now Jordan) became a kingdom as it proclaimed its new monarch, Abdullah I.

In 1959, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *State Athletic Commission v. Dorsey*, struck down a Louisiana law prohibiting interracial boxing matches. (The case had been brought by Joseph Dorsey Jr., a black professional boxer.)

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy told Congress: "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth."

In 1968, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis was dedicated by Vice President Hubert Humphrey and Interior Secretary Stewart Udall.

In 1977, the first "Star Wars" film (retroactively designated "Episode IV: A New Hope") was released by Twentieth Century Fox Film Corp.

In 1979, 273 people died when an American Airlines DC-10 crashed just after takeoff from Chicago's O'Hare Airport. Six-year-old Etan Patz disappeared while on his way to a school bus stop in lower Manhattan.

In 1981, daredevil Dan Goodwin, wearing a Spiderman costume, scaled the outside of Chicago's Sears Tower in 7 1/2 hours.

In 1986, an estimated 7 million Americans participated in "Hands Across America" to raise money for the nation's hungry and homeless.

In 1992, Jay Leno made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show," succeeding Johnny Carson.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair held a White House news conference in which they acknowledged making costly mistakes in Iraq, but vowed to keep troops there until the fragile new government took hold. Former Enron Corp. chiefs Kenneth Lay and Jeffrey Skilling were convicted in Houston of conspiracy and fraud for the company's downfall. (Lay died in July 2006 from heart disease and his convictions were vacated; Skilling was resentenced to 14 years in prison after his original 24-year sentence was overturned.) Pope Benedict XVI began a four-day pilgrimage to Poland, the homeland of his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron confronted complex security debates over Afghanistan, Libya and economic growth during Obama's state visit to London. A judge in Salt Lake City sentenced street preacher Brian David Mitchell to life in prison for kidnapping and raping Elizabeth Smart, who was 14 at the time of her abduction in 2002. A judge in Tucson, Arizona, ruled that Jared Lee Loughner, the man accused of wounding U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and killing six in a shooting rampage, was mentally incompetent to stand trial. Scotty McCreery, a 17-year-old high school student from Garner, North Carolina, won "American Idol" on Fox. After a 25-year run, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" aired its final broadcast, which had been taped the day before.

One year ago: On Memorial Day, President Barack Obama saluted Americans who had died in battle, telling listeners at Arlington National Cemetery the country must "never stop trying to fully repay them" for their sacrifices. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was sentenced to eight months in prison for unlawfully accepting money from a U.S. supporter.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Ann Robinson is 87. Former White House news secretary Ron Nessen is 82. Author W.P. Kinsella is 81. Country singer-songwriter Tom T. Hall is 80. Actor Sir Ian McKellen is 77. Country singer Jessi Colter is 73. Actress-singer Leslie Uggams is 73. Movie director and Muppeteer Frank Oz

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is 72. Actress Karen Valentine is 69. Actress Jacki Weaver is 69. Rock singer Klaus Meine (The Scorpions) is 68. Actress Patti D'Arbanville is 65. Playwright Eve Ensler is 63. Actress Connie Sellecca is 61. Rock singer-musician Paul Weller is 58. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., is 56. Actor-comedian Mike Myers is 53. Actor Matt Borlenghi is 49. Actor Joseph Reitman is 48. Rock musician Glen Drover is 47. Actress Anne Heche (haych) is 47. Actresses Sidney and Lindsay Greenbush (TV: "Little House on the Prairie") are 46. Actor-comedian Jamie Kennedy is 46. Actress Octavia Spencer is 46. Actor Justin Henry is 45. Rapper Daz Dillinger is 43. Actress Molly Sims is 43. Singer Lauryn Hill is 41. Actress Erinn Hayes is 40. Actor Cil-lian Murphy is 40. Actor Ethan Suplee (soo-PLLEE') is 40. Rock musician Todd Whitener is 38. Actor Corbin Allred is 37. Actress-singer Lauren Frost is 31. Musician Guy Lawrence (Disclosure) is 25. Olympic gold medal gymnast Aly Raisman is 22.

Thought for Today: "History is something that never happened, written by someone who wasn't there."
— Author unknown.