

Groton Daily Independent

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Monday, April 10

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.

United Methodist: Evening Bible Study at 7 p.m.

7th/8th grade track at Milbank, 3:45 p.m.

School Board Meeting at 7 p.m.

School Lunch: Chicken sandwich, smile potatoes, fruit, romaine salad.

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, apricots, whole wheat bread.

Tuesday, April 11

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council at 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m., NO Ad Council

Groton hosts track meet starting at 11:30 a.m.

School Lunch: Mini corn dogs, baked beans, fruit, carrots, dip.

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken breast, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, chocolate cake, whole wheat bread.

Wednesday, April 12

School Lunch: Soft shell tacos, tri taters, fruit.

School Breakfast: Bosco sticks, fruit, juice, milk.

Senior Menu: Vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, Mandarin oranges, oatmeal raisin cookie.



Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

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Thane Henschel and Erin Smith were the Masters of Ceremony for the POPS Concert held Sunday.

Groton Area High School music department put on the 2017 Groton POPS Concert. The events were held Sunday. The directors are Austin Fordham, Cody Swanson and Desiree Yeigh, assisted by Emily Cruse, Sanessa Lindemann and Ron Parker.

The Jazz Band is made up of Samantha Pappas on alto sax, Hattie Weismantel on tenor sax, Whitney Voss on bari sax; trumpets are AnneMarie Smith, Micah Poor, Ashley Garduno and Noah Poor; trombones are Korbin Blackmun and Nathan Fjelstad; Erin Smith is on the piano and percussion is Tylan Glover and Emily Thompson.

Show Choir members are Insen Deden, Emma Donley, Jenifer Fjelstad, Ashley Garduno, Ashley Flihs, Gabrielle Kramer, Jasmine Schinkel, Madeline Schuelke, AnneMarie Smith, Erin Smith, Hattie Weismantel, Aleaya Worlie, Madilyn Wright, Korbin Blackmun, Tylan Glover, Thane Henschel, Austin Jones, Alex Kern, Mitchell Koens, Marshall Lane, Micah Poor and Anthony Schinkel. Pit and tech crew is Ron Parker, Austin Fordham, Desiree Yeigh, Jake Palmer, Megan Flihs, Indigo Roges, Madison Sippel, Kaitlyn Anderson, Hannah Lewandowski, Maggie Crosby and Shannon Wiedrick.



Thane Henschel, AnneMarie Smith and Madeline Schuelke did, "Turning Tables."



The Chamber Choir sang, "Hallelujah."

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Tylan Glover sang, "Some-where Over the Rainbow."



Audrey Wanner sang, "Stone Cold."



Macy Knecht sang, "In My Daughter's Eyes."



Dillon Freeman performed, "Air and Bourree" on the Tuba.

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The Show Choir performed a number of selections and at the end, held up the State Third Place Trophy from the Show Choir Competition held Saturday in Aberdeen.



The Jazz Band opened up both the first and the second half with several selections.

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting April 10, 2017 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of March 13, 2017 school board meeting and March 28, 2017 school board meeting.

2. Approval of North Central Special Education Co-Op (NCSEC) agenda items...as fiscal agent.

3. Approval of March District bills for payment.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.

2. Approval of March 2017 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.

3. Approval of March 2017 School Transportation Report.

4. Approval of March 2017 School Lunch Report

5. School Board Committee Reports:

a. Building, Grounds, & Transportation: Clint Fjelstad, Merle Harder, Marty Weismantel

b. Personnel, Policy, & Curriculum: Deb Gengerke, Grant Rix

c. Negotiations: Kelly Kjelden, Steve Smith

6. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Adopt resolution authorizing membership in the South Dakota High School Activities Association for the 2017-2018 school year.

2. Acknowledge receipt of public school exemption application #17-09.

3. Issue temporary promissory note from capital outlay to special education retroactive to March 31.

4. Executive session pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2(1) for personnel.

ADJOURN

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Today in Weather History

April 10, 1965: Severe Thunderstorms in the afternoon and early evening resulted in severe hail reports throughout much of Clark County. Hail up to 2.00 inches in diameter was recorded 30 miles northeast of Huron around 2:40 PM. About 6:30 PM, hail 0.75 inches in diameter fell near Garden City on a flock of wild geese in flight, killing 25 of them.

April 10, 1969: The Elm River in Westport was the highest of all time at 22.11 feet, which is 8.11 feet above flood stage.

April 10, 2005: Thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage in Menno, in Hutchinson County. Numerous trees including several large trees were uprooted. Numerous homes were damaged, some directly by the wind and others by trees and other debris. Garages were especially hard hit, including at least one garage which was destroyed. A grain elevator was damaged, with a catwalk and conveyor being blown over. A historical post office addition to a log building was destroyed, doors and part of the roof of a flour mill were blown down, and doors were blown off several other buildings. Many homes and other buildings had windows broken and siding damaged. A few small storage buildings were destroyed, and others were damaged or blown over. Several farms were heavily damaged, with machine sheds, at least, one hog barn, and several other small structures destroyed. Several vehicles were damaged, including one pickup which was pushed partly onto the porch of a house. Power lines and poles were blown down, resulting in a power outage in Menno.








April 10, 2013: A large slow moving upper-level low-pressure area moving across the region brought several rounds of heavy snow to much of central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts from 6 to as much as 22 inches occurred over the several day period. Travel became difficult if not impossible with some roads closed for a time. Interstate-90 closed on the evening of the 9th. Many schools were also closed across the region. Additionally, a 66-year-old suffered a heart attack and passed away while shoveling the snow in front of his house in Aberdeen.

1935: Severe dust storms across Iowa and Kansas closed schools and highways. Dodge City, Kansas experienced its worst dust storm of record, with dense dust reported from the morning of the 9th until after sunset on the 11th. The sky was almost as dark as night at times during the daylight hours. The thick dust suspended traffic on highways and railroads and also suspended most business in town.

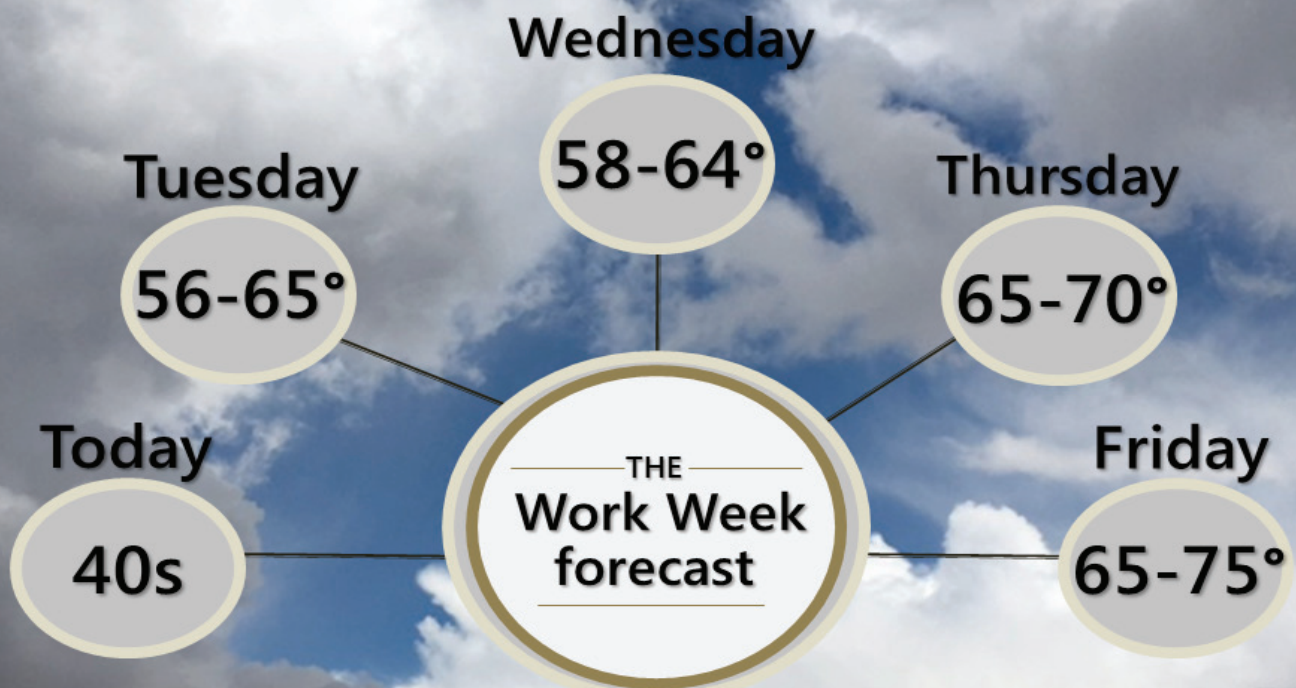
1979: This day was known as "Terrible Tuesday" to the residents of Wichita Falls, Texas as a tornado rated F4 on the Fujita scale ripped through the city. A massive F4 tornado smashed into Wichita Falls killing 43 persons and causing 300 million dollars in damage. Another tornado struck Vernon, Texas killing eleven persons.

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Chance Showers	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 45 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 36 °F	High: 60 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 67 °F

Cold Today, then a Slow Warm Up



High Temperatures warmest across central South Dakota

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD
weather.gov/Aberdeen



Updated: 4/10/2017 4 AM Central



Published on: 04/10/2017 at 3:55AM

Don't forget the jacket this morning! Lingering rain and snow showers will slowly exit southern and eastern South Dakota this morning and early this afternoon. Today will be the only day of below normal temperatures this week, as cold Canadian air settles overhead. Warmer air will then slowly be working in through the rest of the week.

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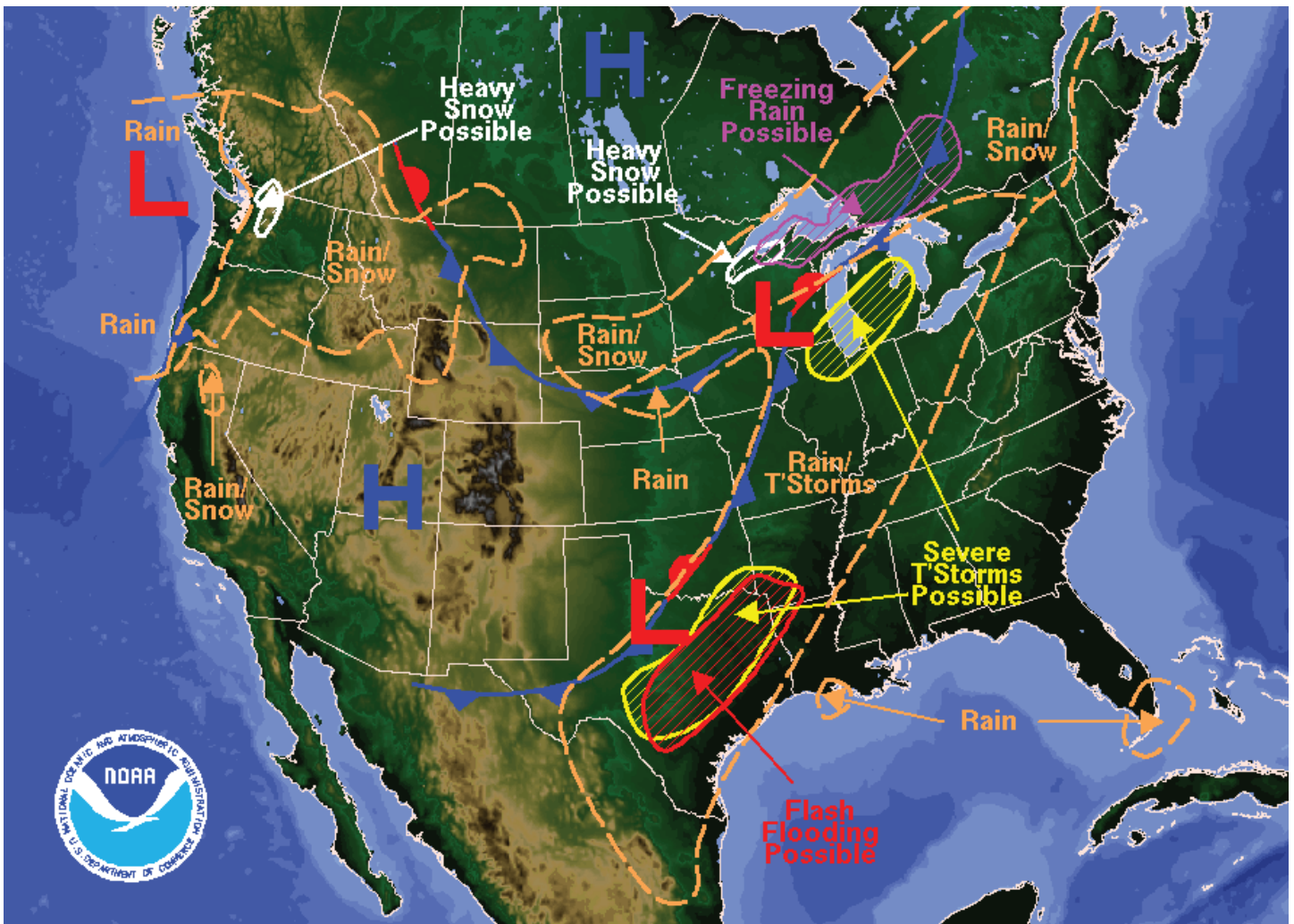
Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 59.2 F at 1:36 PM
Low Outside Temp: 30.0 F at 11:57 PM
High Gust: 30.0 Mph at 10:46 PM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 88° in 1977
Record Low: 16° in 1997
Average High: 54°F
Average Low: 30°F
Average Precip in April.: 0.47
Precip to date in April.: 0.13
Average Precip to date: 2.65
Precip Year to Date: 0.72
Sunset Tonight: 8:13 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:54 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Apr 10, 2017, issued 4:41 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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HIDING "WHAT IS"

In ancient Greece the theaters had no scenery and the actors wore no costumes. To portray a character, however, they carried hand-held masks which they would place in front of their faces. It was designed to portray the character of the person in the role they were playing. They would walk onto the stage, mask in hand, and when speaking, hold it before their face.

The word hypocrisy, as we know it today, had its roots in the Greek word hupokrisis. It meant "acting a part in a play or feigning to be what one is not." In other words, a hypocrite is one who wears a "mask" to hide their real identity.

John addressed hypocrisy when he wrote, "If someone says I belong to God, but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and does not live in the truth." Strong words that leave no "wiggle room."

True Christian faith results in consistent Christian living. John the apostle confronted all of us because Christian faith results in Christian living and Christian service.

If we profess to be "Christian" but do not demonstrate Christ like behavior in "word and deed," we are wearing a mask to present ourselves as someone other than who we truly are. We are "feigning" to be who we are not.

John encourages us to look at our behavior in the light of God's Word. He says candidly that "the way we act gives us the assurance that we belong to Christ!"

Prayer: Father, we are all capable of hiding who we truly are from others. But we cannot hide ourselves from You. May we come out of hiding and be truly Christians. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 John 2:4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

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News from the Associated Press

Storms with winds, hail, possible tornadoes in US midsection

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Strong thunderstorms with high winds, large hail and a slight possibility of tornadoes is forecast for much of the nation's midsection.

The Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, says the storms are expected from late Sunday afternoon through the evening hours from southern Oklahoma to a portion of Michigan and could impact 13.3 million people. The chance for hail is highest in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Other areas in the affected region include eastern Kansas, eastern Nebraska, southeastern South Dakota, northwest Missouri, much of Iowa, southern Minnesota and central Wisconsin.

The SPC says the primary threat is severe hail with damaging winds, but that a tornado can't be ruled out.

Fisherman drowns trying to catch boat near Fort Pierre

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A fisherman has drowned trying to catch his drifting boat near Fort Pierre. Pierre Fire and Rescue Chief Ian Paul says a dive team was sent to the Chantier Creek area north of Fort Pierre late Saturday morning. Crews recovered the man's body.

KCCR-AM (<http://bit.ly/2oWbaaN>) reports an investigation found the man was fishing from shore when his boat drifted away, and he drowned trying to catch it.

The Stanley County coroner identifies the victim as 50-year-old Karl Palmer of Fort Pierre.

Information from: KCCR-AM, <http://www.todaykccr.com/>

Longtime Delmont baseball program dissolves

A 70-year-old baseball program in Delmont has dissolved. The Daily Republic reports the Delmont Baseball Association is turning over the baseball field and other assets to the Delmont Development Corporation after a decade-long downturn in participation. Jeff Friman and Darren Fechner from the Development Corporation said at a meeting last month that the organization is interested in turning the field into a smaller, softball and Little League field or small park.

DELMONT, S.D. (AP) — A 70-year-old baseball program in Delmont has dissolved.

The Delmont Baseball Association is turning over the baseball field and other assets to the Delmont Development Corporation after a decade-long downturn in participation, The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2oFBVTR>) reported.

Jeff Friman and Darren Fechner from the Development Corporation said at a meeting last month that the organization is interested in turning the field into a smaller, softball and Little League field or small park. The property encompasses about nine acres, and will be handed over to the development group pending legal counsel.

"We'll see if we can keep it going ... but it might not be a long-lived thing either," Fechner said. "It might only be for four or five more years, but we'll see how it goes and go from there."

A project on the baseball diamond could cost over \$20,000 to complete, which has previously scared other organizations from taking on a development project.

The Tripp-Delmont Indee Jacks has been unable to form a team for the past two seasons. Longtime Baseball Association member Ervin Bietz said the town's Little League program has been absent for many years.

"It's time to let it go," he said. "Once you don't have a team it hurts, that was always a pretty good drawing card for Sunday afternoons and evenings — that used to have pretty nice crowds."

Bietz is hopeful for the baseball diamond's future, believing the new development ideas could positively impact the town of 200 people.

"It's just another phase a little town goes through," he said. "It's something everybody expected, but who knows what's next?"

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

Access limited to 20 South Dakota lakes following ruling

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's Game, Fish and Parks Department is limiting access to infrastructure on more than 20 lakes in the state following a recent state Supreme Court decision.

In 2015, several Day County landowners filed a lawsuit against most of South Dakota's hunters and anglers, the state and the state Game, Fish and Parks Department. Landowners sought to secure injunctions against hunters and anglers and the department that would prevent public use of their lakes that have become fish-filled over the last 25 to 30 years.

The March decision that neither outdoors enthusiasts nor private landowners have the right to the water has reintroduced uncertainty into an already complex problem of how South Dakota's non-meandered lakes should be used, the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2oJ1JP3>) reported.

"We've spoken with several attorneys and the GF&P and everyone has a different opinion of what it means," said Rich Widman, president of the South Dakota Wildlife Federation, the state's largest public hunting and fishing advocacy organization.

On April 6, the department decided to limit access to infrastructure placed at non-meandered lakes, saying it "cannot facilitate access to non-meandered waters for recreational purposes."

"My advice to people is to find someplace to go fishing where you aren't going to get into trouble until we can get this sorted out," said Bill Antonides, a past president of the SD Wildlife Federation.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

Egypt's Christians bury dead after church bombings

By BRIAN ROHAN, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Egyptian Christians were burying their dead on Monday, a day after Islamic State suicide bombers killed at least 45 people in coordinated attacks targeting Palm Sunday services in two cities.

Women wailed as caskets marked with the word "martyr" were brought into the Mar Amina church in the coastal city of Alexandria, the footage broadcast on several Egyptian channels.

Coptic priests, boy scouts, and mourners carrying flowers joined a procession into the church, the pace set by a beat of snare drums.

At least 17 people were killed at St. Mark's Cathedral in Alexandria, the historic seat of Christendom in Egypt. Another suicide attack killed at least 28 people inside St. George's Church in the Nile Delta city of Tanta, the Health Ministry said, updating an earlier toll. IS claimed both bombings.

Father Danial Maher, of the Tanta church, lost his 23-year-old son, Beshoy, who was among six deacons killed in the attack. He recalled watching his son wearing white robes and singing at the service before the bomb went off. "He was like an angel," he said.

Pictures of Maher, sitting helplessly in blood-stained robes after the attack, were widely circulated online. He buried his son late Sunday.

The attacks led President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi to declare a state of emergency, amid fears that IS militants, who have been battling security forces in the Sinai Peninsula for years, are shifting their focus to Egypt's Coptic minority, one of the oldest Christian communities in the Middle East. In December, a massive church bombing killed 30 people in Cairo, and a series of killings in the Sinai have caused hundreds to flee to safer areas.

The state of emergency awaited approval by parliament, a foregone conclusion since the legislature is packed with el-Sissi's supporters, and the Cabinet declared that it had gone into effect at 1 p.m. (1100 GMT).

It will likely allow for arrests without warrants, swifter prosecution of suspects, and special, fast-track

courts. Authorities have been waging a sweeping crackdown on dissent for years, however, so it was unclear if anything would change on the ground.

The Palm Sunday attacks, the single deadliest day for Christians in decades, rattled the community and prompted messages of support from abroad, including from Pope Francis, who is set to visit Egypt in the coming weeks, and President Donald Trump.

Israel meanwhile closed its Taba border crossing to Egypt after its anti-terrorism office warned of an "imminent" militant attack there, underlining fears of more violence. The closure comes hours before the start of the Passover holiday.

Southern Sinai, which has seen little of the violence plaguing the northern part of the peninsula, is a popular tourist destination.

Associated Press writer Maggie Michael contributed to this report.

After Syria attack, Tillerson vows to defend innocents

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

SANT'ANNA DI STAZZEMA, Italy (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, visiting a memorial to victims of Nazi atrocities in World War II, declared Monday the United States will stand up to aggressors who harm civilians, wherever they are.

Tillerson traveled to Italy as Washington seeks to rally world leaders behind a strategy to resolve the protracted civil war in Syria.

The secretary of state commenced his visit to Italy by traveling up a winding mountain road to Sant'Anna di Stazzema, the Tuscan village where the Nazis massacred more than 500 civilians during World War II. As he laid a wreath at the site, Tillerson alluded to the chemical attack in Syria last week that triggered retaliatory U.S. airstrikes.

"We rededicate ourselves to holding to account any and all who commit crimes against the innocents anywhere in the world," Tillerson said. "This place will serve as an inspiration to us all."

Tillerson's visit to Europe has been overshadowed from the start by President Donald Trump's decision to punish Syrian President Bashar Assad for using chemical weapons by launching cruise missiles at a Syrian air base. The U.S. military action has renewed the world's focus on Assad's fate and on Syria's civil war, now in its seventh year.

The top American diplomat plans to use his meetings with foreign ministers from the Group of 7 industrialized economies — normally a venue for wonky economic discussions — to try to persuade leading countries to support the U.S. plan. The centerpiece of that diplomacy will come Tuesday morning when Tillerson takes part in a meeting of "likeminded" nations on Syria, including several Arab nations invited to attend.

The Trump administration is hoping that after defeating the Islamic State group in Syria, it can restore stability by securing local cease-fires between Assad's government and opposition groups that allow local leaders who have fled to return and by restoring basic services. The next step would be to use U.N. talks to negotiate a political transition that could include Assad leaving power.

From Italy, Tillerson will travel to Moscow, becoming the first Trump administration official to visit Russia. That trip, too, is fraught with tension over Syria: Tillerson has blamed Russia, Assad's strongest ally, of either complicity or incompetence for allowing Assad to possess and use chemical weapons.

During his first day in Italy, Tillerson plans to meet Monday with foreign ministers from the U.K. and France before the G-7 summit formally opens.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

Gorsuch takes Supreme Court seat after divisive confirmation

By SAM HANANEL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With a divisive confirmation process behind him, Judge Neil Gorsuch is about to take his place as the newest Supreme Court justice.

The 49-year-old appeals court judge from Colorado is to be sworn in Monday after a bruising fight that saw Republicans change the rules for approving Supreme Court picks — over the fierce objection of Democrats.

First up is a private ceremony in the high court's Justices' Conference Room, with Chief Justice John Roberts administering the oath prescribed by the Constitution. That will be followed by a public ceremony at the White House, where Justice Anthony Kennedy is to administer the oath.

Gorsuch, who once clerked for Kennedy, will be the first member of the court to serve alongside his former boss.

He replaces the late Justice Antonin Scalia, part of the court's conservative wing for nearly three decades before he died unexpectedly in February 2016. In nominating Gorsuch, President Donald Trump said he fulfilled a campaign pledge to pick someone in the mold of Scalia.

During 11 years on the federal appeals court in Denver, Gorsuch mirrored Scalia's originalist approach to the law, interpreting the Constitution according to the meaning understood by those who drafted it. Like Scalia, he is a gifted writer with a flair for turning legal jargon into plain language people can understand.

Gorsuch will be seated just in time to hear one of the biggest cases of the term: a religious rights dispute over a Missouri law that bars churches from receiving public funds for general aid programs.

His 66-day confirmation process was swift, but bitterly divisive. It saw Senate Republicans trigger the "nuclear option" to eliminate the 60-vote filibuster threshold for all future high court nominees. The change allowed the Senate to hold a final vote with a simple majority.

Most Democrats refused to support Gorsuch because they were still seething over the Republican blockade last year of President Barack Obama's pick for the same seat, Merrick Garland. Senate Republicans refused to even hold a hearing for Garland, saying a high court replacement should be up to the next president.

The White House swearing-in ceremony is a departure from recent history. Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan were both sworn in publicly at the Supreme Court. Former Justice John Paul Stevens has argued that holding the public ceremony at the court helps drive home the justice's independence from the White House.

Some interesting facts about Gorsuch and the court:

—He is the youngest nominee since Clarence Thomas, who was 43 when confirmed in 1991.

—The Colorado native went to high school in Washington while his mother served as EPA administrator in the Reagan administration.

—He's the sixth member of the court who attended Harvard Law School; the other three got their law degrees from Yale.

—Gorsuch credits a nun with teaching him how to write. He and his family attend an Episcopal church in Boulder, though he was raised Catholic and attended Catholic schools as a child. He joins a court that has five Catholics and three Jews.

—As an associate justice, Gorsuch will earn \$251,800 a year — more than 15 percent higher than his \$217,600 salary as an appellate judge.

—Gorsuch joins the ranks of justices who are millionaires. He reported financial assets in 2015 worth at least \$3.2 million, according to his latest financial disclosure report.

Associated Press writer Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. WHAT TRUMP SECURITY ADVISER IS URGING RUSSIA TO DO

H.R. McMaster is calling on the Kremlin to re-evaluate its support for Assad, leaving open the possibility of additional U.S. military action against Syria.

2. GORSUCH TO BE SWORN IN AS SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

The 49-year-old appellate judge from Colorado replaces the late Antonin Scalia, part of the court's conservative wing for nearly three decades.

3. EGYPT TAKES ACTION AFTER BOMBINGS

The Cabinet approves a three-month state of emergency and El-Sissi is expected to launch a campaign against the Egyptian affiliate of IS in the wake of twin attacks on Coptic churches.

4. IRAQIS IN MOSUL OVERWHELM MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES

Irbil Psychiatric Hospital has only seven psychiatrists, who receive only a quarter of their salary, and little medication because of the financial crisis affecting the Kurdish regional government.

5. ONLINE HATE SPEECH FUELS ISLAMOPHOBIA IN CHINA

A dispute over a planned mosque in the central Chinese city of Hefei shows how a surge in anti-Muslim online sentiment is spreading into the offline world.

6. TRUMP TO SELL WARPLANES TO NIGERIA FOR BOKO HARAM FIGHT

The sale of high-tech aircraft comes despite concerns over abuses committed by the African nation's security forces.

7. SKIES ARE GETTING FRIENDLIER

Government figures show U.S. airlines improving at flying on time, handling baggage, and not bumping as many passengers.

8. MISSION NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE: FINDING A HOME TO BUY

Despite a more robust economy, the U.S. supply of homes for sale hasn't been this thin in nearly 20 years.

9. POLITICAL TALK HELPING 'THE VIEW' TO COMEBACK

The unquenchable thirst for chatter about Trump changes the dynamics of daytime TV competition in much the same way as it has for late-night TV.

10. WHO WON AN ELUSIVE MAJOR

Sergio Garcia finally won one of golf's four crown jewels — the coveted green jacket for being the Masters champion — in his 71st try as a professional.

G-7 ministers aim to press Russia to stop backing Assad

LUCCA, Italy (AP) — Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations are gathering Monday for a meeting given urgency by the chemical attack in Syria and the U.S. military response, with participants aiming to pressure Russia to end its support for President Bashar Assad.

Last week's nerve gas attack in the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun, which killed more than 80 people, stirred President Donald Trump to strike for the first time at Assad's forces. U.S. warships fired 59 cruise missiles at the Syrian air base from which the U.S. believes the attack was launched.

Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano, who is hosting the meeting, said Europe's broad support for the U.S. military strikes had contributed to a "renewed harmony" between the United States and its partners ahead of the first meeting of G-7 foreign ministers since Donald Trump took office in January.

"We need to remember that not 10 years ago, but 100 or 120 days ago, the concern in Europe was that the United States and the EU were moving apart," Alfano told Sky TG24 Sunday. "I welcome this renewed harmony."

Officials are hoping that this can be leveraged to bring a new diplomatic push to end the 6-year-old civil war in Syria.

The meeting in the Tuscan walled city of Lucca brings together U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, along with other G-7

foreign ministers, at a moment when the United States is sending a Navy carrier strike group toward the Korean Peninsula to provide a physical presence following North Korea's persistent ballistic missile tests.

The meeting also comes amid an ongoing terror threat that was underscored by the deadly Palm Sunday bombing of Coptic churches in Egypt claimed by the Islamic State terror group, and another truck attack on European soil, this time in Stockholm, on Friday.

The United States is fighting Islamic State group militants in Syria but had previously avoided striking government forces, largely out of concern about being pulled into a military conflict with Russia.

The chemical attack has sent a new chill through relations between the West and Moscow, which denies Syrian forces used chemical weapons.

Alfano was cautious on the question of whether to push Assad out, saying that decision should be up to the Syrians.

"I have to say, the Libya experiment did not go well. We are still paying the price," Alfano said, referring to the lawlessness that has ensued since the killing of longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi and the subsequent flow of migrants to Europe via Italy.

Russia was kicked out of the club of industrialized nations, formerly the G-8, after its 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and assistance for pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Britain's Johnson, who had been due to visit Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow ahead of Monday's G-7 meeting, canceled the trip at the last minute, saying the chemical attack had "changed the situation fundamentally."

He said that instead he would work with the United States and other G-7 nations "to build coordinated international support for a cease-fire on the ground and an intensified political process."

Tillerson is due to travel to Russia after the G-7 gathering, and Johnson said he will deliver a "clear and coordinated message to the Russians."

But Washington has sent mixed signals about whether it shares its allies' determination that Assad must be removed from power.

After the chemical attack, Trump said his attitude toward Assad "has changed very much" and Tillerson said "steps are underway" to organize a coalition to remove him from power.

In a round of television interviews that aired Sunday, though, Tillerson said the top U.S. priority in the region remains the defeat of Islamic State militants.

Trump security adviser urges Russia to rethink Syria support

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's national security adviser is calling on Russia to re-evaluate its support for Syrian President Bashar Assad, leaving open the possibility of additional U.S. military action against Syria.

In his first televised interview, H.R. McMaster pointed to dual U.S. goals of defeating the Islamic State group and removing Assad from power. As Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was making the Trump administration's first official trip this week to Russia, McMaster said Russia will have to decide whether it wanted to continue backing a "murderous regime." Trump is weighing next steps after ordering airstrikes last week.

"It's very difficult to understand how a political solution could result from the continuation of the Assad regime," McMaster said on "Fox News Sunday."

"Now, we are not saying that we are the ones who are going to effect that change. What we are saying is, other countries have to ask themselves some hard questions. Russia should ask themselves ... Why are we supporting this murderous regime that is committing mass murder of its own population?"

He said Russia should also be asked how it didn't know that Syria was planning a chemical attack since it had advisers at the Syrian airfield.

"Right now, I think everyone in the world sees Russia as part of the problem," McMaster said.

After last Tuesday's chemical attack in Syria, Trump said his attitude toward Assad "has changed very much" and Tillerson said "steps are underway" to organize a coalition to remove him from power.

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But as lawmakers called on Trump to consult with Congress, Trump administration officials sent mixed signals on the scope of future U.S. involvement. While Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, described regime change in Syria as a U.S. priority and inevitable, Tillerson suggested that last week's American airstrikes in retaliation for the chemical attack hadn't really changed U.S. priorities toward ousting Assad.

Pressed to clarify, McMaster said the goals of fighting IS and ousting Syria's president were somewhat "simultaneous" and that the objective of the missile strike was to send a "strong political message to Assad" to stop using chemical weapons. He did not rule out additional strikes if Assad continued to engage in atrocities against rebel forces with either chemical or conventional weapons.

"We are prepared to do more," he said. "The president will make whatever decision he thinks is in the best interest of the American people."

Reluctant to put significant troops on the ground in Syria, the U.S. for years has struggled to prevent Assad from strengthening his hold on power.

U.S.-backed rebels groups have long pleaded for more U.S. intervention and complained that Washington has only fought the Islamic State group. So Trump's decision to launch the strikes — an action President Barack Obama declined to take after a 2013 chemical attack — has raised optimism among rebels that Trump will more directly confront Assad.

Several lawmakers said Sunday that decision shouldn't entirely be up to Trump.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, praised Trump's initial missile strike for sending a message to Assad, Russia, Iran and North Korea that "there's a new administration in charge." But he said Trump now needed to work with Congress to set a future course.

"Congress needs to work with the president to try and deal with this long-term strategy, lack of strategy, really, in Syria," he said. "We haven't had one for six years during the Obama administration, and 400,000 civilians have died and millions of people have been displaced internally and externally in Europe and elsewhere."

Sen. Ben Cardin of Maryland, the top Democrat on the Foreign Relations Committee, agreed. "What we saw was a reaction to the use of chemical weapons, something I think many of us supported," he said. "But what we did not see is a coherent policy on how we're going to deal with the civil war and also deal with ISIS."

Still, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he believed that Trump didn't need to consult with Congress.

"I think the president has authorization to use force," he said. "Assad signed the chemical weapons treaty ban. There's an agreement with him not to use chemical weapons."

Their comments came as Tillerson planned to meet with Russian officials. Russia had its own military personnel at the Syrian military airport that the U.S. struck with cruise missiles. But in interviews broadcast Sunday, Tillerson said he sees no reason for retaliation from Moscow because Russia wasn't targeted.

"We do not have any information that suggests that Russia was part of the military attack undertaken using the chemical weapons," Tillerson said. Earlier, U.S. military officials had said they were looking into whether Russia participated, possibly by using a drone to help eliminate evidence afterward.

Tillerson said defeating the Islamic State group remains the top focus. Once that threat "has been reduced or eliminated, I think we can turn our attention directly to stabilizing the situation in Syria," he said.

"We're hopeful that we can prevent a continuation of the civil war and that we can bring the parties to the table to begin the process of political discussions" between the Assad government and various rebel groups, he said.

Haley said "getting Assad out is not the only priority" and that countering Iran's influence in Syria was another. Still, Haley said the U.S. didn't see a peaceful future for Syria with Assad in power.

McMaster, Cornyn and Cardin spoke on "Fox News Sunday," Tillerson appeared on ABC's "This Week" and CBS' "Face the Nation," Haley and Graham were on NBC's "Meet the Press" and Haley also appeared on CNN's "State of the Union."

Associated Press writer Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

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Instead of folding up, Garcia fights back to win Masters

By JIM LITKE, AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — No one had played more majors with less to show for it.

Sergio Garcia had plenty of reasons to believe it would go on that way forever.

He was already two shots behind Justin Rose with just six holes left when his hooked tee shot at No. 13 crossed the creek and settled beneath an azalea bush. Suddenly, this Masters took on a sad, if familiar cast.

Another bad break. Another alibi for losing. Like the 70 previous times he'd come to a major with high hopes, another one of golf's biggest events appeared destined to slip from his grip. Instead of folding up this time, Garcia decided to fight back.

"I knew I was playing well," he said, the green jacket draped across the Spaniard's slim shoulders. "I was very calm, much calmer than yesterday, much calmer than I've felt probably in any major championship on Sunday."

An improbable par at the 13th provided the impetus for an unexpected charge. Garcia and Rose had been butting heads since they were teenage stars in Europe some 20 years ago, and after the Spaniard pulled even with an eagle two holes later, this duel was extended to a playoff.

Both missed short birdie putts to win in regulation and returned to the 18th tee for the first extra hole. This time, the Englishman blinked first.

"Any time one of those guys gets that huge monkey off their back, I think it makes it a poignant major championship," Rose said afterward.

He could afford to be gracious, of course, having won a major at the U.S. Open in 2013. But there were questions about the mutual respect between the long-time rivals. Not since 1998 have the last two players on the course gone to the 18th tied for the lead. When they embraced at the last hole, Rose patted Garcia's chest, calling attention to the heart some doubted would ever be stout enough to win the big one.

"It's always a nice to be a part of history," Rose added a moment later. "I would have liked to be the right part of it, but nevertheless I hope it's a good one."

Garcia became the third Spaniard to earn a green jacket, winning on what would have been the 60th birthday of the late Seve Ballesteros. And it was Jose Maria Olazabal, who won the Masters in 1994 and 1999, who sent him a text on the eve of the Masters telling Garcia to believe and "to not let things get to me like I've done in the past."

He didn't.

"Obviously this is something I wanted to do for a long time but, you know, it never felt like a horror movie," Garcia said. "It felt like a little bit of a drama maybe, but obviously with a happy ending."

Other things we learned at this Masters:

— Rory McIlroy arrived with a chance to complete the career Grand Slam — accomplished only by Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Gene Sarazen — and he finished in the top 10 here for a fourth straight year. But other than 2011, when he took a lead into the back nine, McIlroy hasn't really been a big threat to win. The last four years, he's finished a combined 26 shots out of the top spot.

— Jordan Spieth's mastery of Augusta National — he finished second, first and second in his three previous appearances — never materialized this time around. The 23-year-old Texan struggled throughout. He was 10 shots behind after the first round, largely due to a quadruple bogey that echoed his final-round collapse in 2016. Spieth moved back into contention with a 68 Saturday, but he promised to play aggressively and promptly tumbled back down the leaderboard and finished tied for 11th with a final-round 75.

— Rickie Fowler, who played alongside Spieth in the next-to-last group, has been a marked man in the majors after posting top 5-or-better finishes in all four majors three years ago. He finished tied for 11th here, which hardly seemed like progress. By the same token, it also marked his best finish in one of golf's four big events since the 2014 season.

— Like Garcia, long-hitting countryman Jon Rahm arrived at the Masters with plenty of buzz. No less an authority than three-time champion Phil Mickelson called the Spaniard a top 10 player even before he turned pro last summer. Mickelson had inside information, since his brother, Tim, coached Rahm at his

alma mater, Arizona State. Rahm climbed as high as No. 12 in the world rankings, but a rookie mistake at his final hole of the tournament — a triple bogey — dropped him 16 places on the leaderboard and into a tie for 27th.

Ford says hybrid police car catches bad guys, saves gas too

By TOM KRISHER and MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — The next time the cops chase you down for speeding, they could be driving a fuel-efficient gas-electric hybrid.

Ford Motor Co., which sells more police cars in the U.S. than any other automaker, says it will offer a police pursuit version of the hybrid Fusion midsize sedan, in response to requests from cities nationwide. The new car, with its 2-Liter four-cylinder engine and 1.4 kilowatt lithium-ion battery, is expected to get 38 miles per gallon of gas in combined city-highway driving. That's 20 mpg more than Ford's current police car, the Taurus police interceptor.

The hybrids won't be as fast as the Taurus with a 3.7-Liter turbocharged V6, but Ford expects it to be quick enough to earn a pursuit rating when tested later this year by the Michigan State Police and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the first hybrid to earn that honor. To get a pursuit rating, cars have to perform well in acceleration, handling, braking, top speed and ergonomics and make the list of cars that the Michigan and Los Angeles agencies would buy.

When the throttle is held down for five seconds, the car will go into pursuit mode, using both the electric motor and the gas engine for maximum performance, Ford said. The company also says the car will be durable for tough police duties.

Police cars spend much of their days idling by the side of a road, and that's where the hybrid has a true advantage, Ford said. The gas engine will shut off at idle with the battery handling the electrical load for flashers, radios and other items. It will restart to recharge the battery.

Ford said at \$2.50 per gallon for gas, the hybrid would save a police department \$3,877 per year in fuel costs per vehicle. The price of the hybrid, available in the fall of 2018, isn't being released just yet.

Ford was to unveil the police car Monday with press conferences in New York and Los Angeles. One already has been outfitted to look like a Los Angeles police cruiser.

While big-city departments might be most interested in the fuel savings, the cars might also be appealing to small departments.

Thomas Korabik, chief of the 10-officer North Muskegon, Michigan, Police Department, said his city spends about \$22,000 per year on gasoline for four cruisers and would be interested in cutting that in half.

But he wonders if the Fusion is big enough inside to carry computers, radios and other equipment. Many departments have switched to SUVs to handle the equipment, said Korabik, who also is president of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police.

"Anytime you can save money it is good," he said. "I'd want to see the car first and see how it would hold up."

Todd Soderquist, Ford's chief engineer for the Fusion Police Responder, conceded the car is smaller than other cruisers on the outside. "Internally, you'll be surprised at how comparable they are," he said.

New report gives US airlines better grades across the board

By DAVID KOENIG, AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — The airlines are getting better at sticking to their schedules and are losing fewer bags. Their customers seem to be complaining less often.

Those are the findings of an annual report on airline quality being released Monday by researchers at Wichita State University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

The researchers use information compiled by the U.S. Department of Transportation to rate the airlines for on-time performance, baggage handling, bumping passengers off oversold flights, and complaints filed

with the government.

They planned to release their list of the best airlines later Monday.

The report's general observations:

— ON TIME PERFORMANCE: The percentage of flights that arrived on time or close enough rose to 81.4 percent in 2016 from 79.9 percent in 2015. Of 12 leading U.S. carriers, only American, JetBlue and Virgin America got worse.

— LOST BAGS: The rate of bags being lost, stolen or delayed fell 17 percent.

— BUMPING PASSENGERS: Your chances of getting bumped by the airline dropped 18 percent, which doesn't include people who voluntarily gave up their seat for money or a travel voucher.

— FEWER COMPLAINTS: The rate of complaints filed with the government dropped about one-fifth, with complaints rising only for Hawaiian and Virgin America.

The official complaint rates don't include the larger number of complaints that passengers file directly with the airline. The airlines are not required to report those figures.

Clearly, however, airlines still have a perception problem. It's not hard to find passengers who complain about a miserable flight, a missed connection, or shabby treatment by airline employees. Comments like that abound on Twitter.

"People don't look at the numbers," said Dean Headley, a marketing professor at Wichita State and co-author of Monday's report. "They just know what happened to them, or they hear what happened to other people."

The Wichita State and Embry-Riddle researchers have been doing their report for more than 25 years, making it useful for comparing airlines. But some observers of the airline industry dismiss their number-crunching approach, and there are many other surveys that purport to rank the airlines.

The Transportation Department counts a flight as being on time even if it arrives up to 14 minutes late. "Airlines are happy with that (grace period) because it makes them look better and misleads the passenger," said aviation consultant Michael Baiada. He said airlines can do better, and besides, travelers pay to be on time — not 14 minutes late.

More broadly, a statistical analysis of government data "really doesn't take into consideration how the customer is treated," said Bryan Saltzburg, an executive with travel site TripAdvisor LLC. "How comfortable are they on the plane? How helpful is the staff? What's the value for what the customer paid?"

TripAdvisor released its own airline rankings Monday, which it said were based on analysis of "hundreds of thousands" of reviews posted by users. It placed JetBlue and Alaska Airlines among the top 10 in the world, and it rated Delta ahead of American and United among the largest U.S. carriers.

Other outfits including J.D. Power and Skytrax also put out ratings. Airlines boast when they win. Recently, American Airlines started putting stickers on all 968 of its planes to note that a trade publication, Air Transport World, named it airline of the year.

David Koenig can be reached at <http://twitter.com/airlinewriter>

Thousands march for immigrant rights in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — Thousands of people marched and rallied in downtown Dallas on Sunday to call for an overhaul of the nation's immigration system and end to what organizers said is an aggressive deportation policy.

Organizers who called Sunday's event the "Dallas Mega March" said President Donald Trump's executive orders restricting travel from predominantly Muslim countries in the Middle East are discriminatory. They also want an end to hate crimes and hate speech they contend have proliferated since the November presidential election.

The march began at the Dallas Catholic cathedral and was ending nearly 1½ miles (2.41 kilometers) later with a rally at Dallas City Hall where speakers were to include Martin Luther King III.

The event also has drawn some entertainers and several predominantly Democratic local officials and state lawmakers.

Dallas teacher Esseiny Alanis, a Mexican immigrant, stood with two fourth-grade students during the rally. "Every child deserves a right to go to school without fear of losing a parent," Alanis told the Dallas Morning News (<http://bit.ly/2nRQLBS>), referring to the threat of deportation.

A small number of Trump supporters gathered nearby. Police said there were no arrests.

Canada commemorates centenary of pivotal Vimy WWI battle

By SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — More than 20,000 people, most of them Canadians, attended a solemn ceremony Sunday to commemorate a World War I battle in northern France that remains indelibly etched on Canada's national identity 100 years after it happened.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and members of the British royal family were among the dignitaries who gathered at Vimy Ridge for the centenary of the day that outnumbered Canadian troops succeeded in taking the strategic position from the Germans.

"They were, most of them, young men in their late teens, in their early 20s," Trudeau said at the ceremony. "Going as far as sacrificing their lives, these men both ordinary and extraordinary of the British dominion fought for the first time as citizens of a single and same country ... side by side here in Vimy."

Canada lost 3,600 soldiers and had over 7,000 injured during the three-day battle. Largely because of its military achievement in northern France, the North American country was a separate signatory to the treaty that ended World War I.

"In this sense, Canada was born there," Trudeau said.

It was first action in which all four divisions of the Canadian Corps — representing every region of the country — fought together side-by-side on the same battlefield. The troops prepared carefully, learning from the mistakes made by British and French troops that had tried and failed to reclaim the ridge.

To protect soldiers from shelling, they built miles of tunnels, one of the war's great engineering feats allowing troops to pop up quickly into their positions. The Germans would never regain the ridge.

The battle and victory have become an important part of Canada's identity, symbolizing the shift from a former British colony to an independent nation. The site, which in 1922 became a piece of Canadian territory on French soil, is a revered national symbol, one featured on the back of Canada's \$20 bill to this day.

Britain's Prince Charles attended the commemoration with his sons, Princes William and Harry, who dropped boots symbolizing the dead soldiers and ceramic poppies at the grand war memorial that marks the site of the battle.

"Their sacrifice must inspire us to do everything to avoid that senseless losses happen again," Charles said of the long-ago Canadians who lost their lives in France. "Let's renew our commitment to remember their heroism in the face of suffering and fear."

French President Francois Hollande said Vimy's soldiers "are still speaking to us."

"They are telling us peace is the most precious gift and it's the greatest merit of Europe to have realized that dream ... Yes, Vimy's soldiers are telling us nationalism only leads to war and fundamentalism to destruction. They are telling us the future of our countries is to be united."

Sunday's ceremony, hosted by the Canadian government, included official speeches, recitations of stories from soldiers and eyewitnesses to the battle, and performances by Canadian artists such as singer Loreena McKennitt.

Earlier Sunday, Trudeau and Hollande unveiled a separate "Poppy of Peace" monument in the town of Arras, a few kilometers (miles) from Vimy. The monument consists of a red metallic base with sculptures of soldiers' feet.

Canada's victory at Vimy became a nation-building moment for English Canada at a time when the young country, a former colony of Great Britain, was still very much attached to Britain. It emboldened Canada and its soldiers, who became significant contributors to ending the war in subsequent battles.

On Monday, Trudeau will visit World War II sites in the Normandy region. He will go to Juno Beach, where

the Normandy landings took place, and then visit the Canadian War Cemetery in Beny-sur-Mer.

Associated Press Reporter Rob Gillies contributed from Toronto.

Trump advisers: US seeks to fight IS and oust Syria's Assad

By HOPE YEN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's national security adviser on Sunday left open the possibility of additional U.S. military action against Syria following last week's missile strike but indicated that the United States was not seeking to act unilaterally to oust Syrian President Bashar Assad.

In his first televised interview, H.R. McMaster pointed to dual U.S. goals of defeating the Islamic State group and removing Assad. But he suggested that Trump was seeking a global political response for regime change from U.S. allies as well as Russia, which he said needed to re-evaluate its support of Syria.

"It's very difficult to understand how a political solution could result from the continuation of the Assad regime," McMaster said. "Now, we are not saying that we are the ones who are going to effect that change. What we are saying is, other countries have to ask themselves some hard questions. Russia should ask themselves ...Why are we supporting this murderous regime that is committing mass murder of its own population?"

After last Tuesday's chemical attack in Syria, Trump said his attitude toward Assad "has changed very much" and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said "steps are underway" to organize a coalition to remove him from power.

But as lawmakers called on Trump to consult with Congress on any future military strikes and a longer-term strategy on Syria, Trump administration officials sent mixed signals on the scope of U.S. involvement. While Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, described regime change in Syria as a U.S. priority and inevitable, Tillerson suggested that last week's American airstrikes in retaliation for the chemical attack hadn't really changed U.S. priorities toward ousting Assad.

Pressed to clarify, McMaster said the goals of fighting IS and ousting Syria's president were somewhat "simultaneous" and that the objective of the missile strike was to send a "strong political message to Assad." He did not rule out additional strikes if Assad continued to engage in atrocities against rebel forces with either chemical or conventional weapons.

"We are prepared to do more," he said. "The president will make whatever decision he thinks is in the best interest of the American people."

Reluctant to put significant troops on the ground in Syria, the U.S. for years has struggled to prevent Assad from strengthening his hold on power.

U.S.-backed rebels groups have long pleaded for more U.S. intervention and complained that Washington has only fought the Islamic State group. So Trump's decision to launch the strikes — which President Barack Obama declined to do after a 2013 chemical attack — has raised optimism among rebels that Trump will more directly confront Assad.

Several lawmakers said Sunday that decision shouldn't entirely be up to Trump.

Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the no. 2 Republican in the Senate, praised Trump's initial missile strike for sending a message to Assad, Russia, Iran and North Korea that "there's a new administration in charge." But he said Trump now needed to work with Congress to set a future course.

"Congress needs to work with the president to try and deal with this long-term strategy, lack of strategy, really, in Syria," he said. "We haven't had one for six years during the Obama administration, and 400,000 civilians have died and millions of people have been displaced internally and externally in Europe and elsewhere."

Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin, the top Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, agreed. "What we saw was a reaction to the use of chemical weapons, something I think many of us supported," he said. "But what we did not see is a coherent policy on how we're going to deal with the civil war and

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also deal with ISIS.”

Still, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said he believed that Trump didn’t need to consult with Congress. “I think the president has authorization to use force,” he said. “Assad signed the chemical weapons treaty ban. There’s an agreement with him not to use chemical weapons.”

Their comments came as Tillerson was making the Trump administration’s first official trip this week to Russia, a staunch Assad ally. In interviews broadcast Sunday, Tillerson said defeating the Islamic State group remains the top focus. Once that threat “has been reduced or eliminated, I think we can turn our attention directly to stabilizing the situation in Syria,” he said.

“We’re hopeful that we can prevent a continuation of the civil war and that we can bring the parties to the table to begin the process of political discussions” between the Assad government and various rebel groups.

The hope, he said, is that “we can navigate a political outcome in which the Syrian people, in fact, will determine Bashar al-Assad’s fate and his legitimacy.”

Haley said “getting Assad out is not the only priority” and that countering Iran’s influence in Syria was another. Still, Haley said the U.S. didn’t see a peaceful future Syria with Assad in power.

McMaster, Cornyn and Cardin spoke on “Fox News Sunday,” Tillerson appeared on ABC’s “This Week” and CBS’ “Face the Nation,” Haley and Graham were on NBC’s “Meet the Press” and Haley also appeared on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

Associated Press writer Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

Music legend Chuck Berry remembered in rock ‘n’ roll style

By JEFF ROBERSON, Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Family, friends and fans paid their final respects to the rock ‘n’ roll legend Chuck Berry on Sunday, celebrating the life and career of a man who inspired countless guitarists and bands.

The celebration began with a public viewing at The Pageant, a music club in Berry’s hometown of St. Louis where he often played. Hundreds of fans filed past Berry, whose beloved cherry-red Gibson guitar was bolted to the inside of his coffin’s lid.

“I am here because Chuck Berry meant a lot to anybody who grew up on rock n’ roll,” said Wendy Mason, who drove in from Kansas City, Kansas, for the visitation. “The music will live on forever.”

Another fan, Nick Hair, brought his guitar with him from Nashville, Tennessee, so he could play Berry’s “Johnny B. Goode” while waiting in line outside.

After the public viewing, family and friends packed the club for a private funeral service and celebration of Berry, who inspired generations of musicians, from humble garage bands up to The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. The service was expected to include live music, and the Rev. Alex I. Peterson told the gathering they would be celebrating Berry’s life in rock ‘n’ roll style.

Former President Bill Clinton sent a letter that was read at the funeral by U.S. Rep. Lacy Clay because Berry played at both of Clinton’s presidential inaugurations. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that Clinton called Berry “one of America’s greatest rock and roll pioneers.”

“He captivated audiences around the world,” Bill Clinton wrote. “His music spoke to the hopes and dreams we all had in common. Me and Hillary grew up listening to him.”

Gene Simmons of the rock band Kiss wasn’t scheduled to speak but someone urged him to take the podium. Simmons said Berry had a tremendous influence on him as a musician, and he worked to break down racial barriers through his music.

Paul McCartney and Little Richard both sent notes of condolences. At the end of the funeral, a brass band played “St. Louis Blues” while Berry’s casket was carried out.

When Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards spoke about Berry at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame’s 1986 induction ceremony — Berry was the first person inducted from that inaugural class — he said Berry was the one who started it all.

That sentiment was echoed Sunday by David Letterman's former band leader, Paul Shaffer, who spoke to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch outside the club.

"Anyone who plays rock 'n' roll was inspired by him," Shaffer said.

Berry's standard repertoire included about three-dozen songs, including "Johnny B. Goode," "Sweet Little Sixteen" and "Roll Over Beethoven." His songs have been covered by country, pop and rock artists such as AC/DC and Buck Owens, and his riffs live on in countless songs.

The head of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Greg Harris, said "anybody who's picked up a guitar has been influenced by him."

Well before the rise of Bob Dylan, Berry wedded social commentary to the beat and rush of popular music.

"He was singing good lyrics, and intelligent lyrics, in the '50s when people were singing, "Oh, baby, I love you so,"" John Lennon once observed.

"Everything I wrote about wasn't about me, but about the people listening," Berry once said.

Video journalist George Wise in St. Louis and Associated Press writer Jim Suhr in Kansas City, Mo., contributed to this report.

Suspect's status as failed asylum-seeker saddens Stockholm

By **MATTI HUUHTANEN** and **JAN M. OLSEN**, Associated Press

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedes questioned their country's welcoming immigration policies with pride and pain on Sunday after learning that an asylum-seeker from Uzbekistan was allegedly behind the truck rampage that killed four people, Stockholm's deadliest extremist attack in years.

The Swedish capital was slowly, but resolutely, regaining its normal rhythm as details about the 39-year-old suspect in the attack emerged. Police said he had been ordered to leave Sweden in December because his request for a residence permit was rejected six months earlier.

Instead, he allegedly went underground, eluding authorities' attempts to track down and deport him until a hijacked beer truck raced down a pedestrian street and rammed into an upscale department store on Friday.

"It makes me frustrated," Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven told Swedish news agency TT on Sunday.

The suspect, who has been detained on suspicion of terrorist offenses, was known known for having "been sympathetic to extremist organizations," Jonas Hysing of Sweden's national police said.

A second person was arrested on the same potential charge Sunday, and four others were being held by police. None of them have been identified.

Security officials in neighboring Norway, where a 17-year-old asylum-seeker from Russia was detained early Sunday in connection with an explosive device found near a busy subway station, spoke of the alarming potential for a copycat effect.

Norwegian's security agency said it wasn't clear if the teen planned to carry out an attack with the primitive homemade device police defused without any injuries. Agency head Benedicte Bjornland said it was likely the youth had been inspired by recent attacks in Stockholm, France, Germany, Britain and Russia.

"The attacks demonstrate how easy such attacks can be carried out, and prove to others that it is possible to make something similar," Bjornland said.

Sweden has long been known for its open-door policy toward migrants and refugees. But after the Scandinavian country of 10 million took in a record 163,000 refugees in 2015 — the highest per-capita rate in Europe — the government has tried to be more selective about which newcomers it allows to stay.

Swedish police said Sunday they had received roughly 12,500 referrals from the Swedish Migration Board of people who, like the suspect in the truck attack, had overstayed their welcome.

The suspect eluded authorities by giving police a wrong address after his residency request was rejected in June 2016, said Hysing, the operative head of the attack investigation.

"The efforts to locate (these people) is both time-consuming and resource-intensive," he said.

National Coordinator Against Violent Extremism Anna Carlstedt, who used to lead the Red Cross in Swe-

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den, said Friday's attack and the background of the suspect posed "difficult questions."

"Do we somehow need a more repressive policy?" Carlstedt said. "I think it is very important now not to rush into something, to see how we can safeguard this open society and still be able to protect ourselves."

The range of mixed emotions — fear and fraternity, anger and openness, — also surfaced at memorial services and rallies held in Stockholm on Sunday to honor the attack victims.

Lars Holm, a 73-year-old Stockholm resident was visibly upset, after attending a service at Stockholm Cathedral.

"If people who are here seeking asylum and treat us like this, it is not good," Holm said. "So now we have to have more security in our society, but still we don't like to live in bunkers."

Addressing tens of thousands of people rallying in bright sunshine on the downtown Sergelstorg square, organizer Rickard Sjoberg noted that many in the crowd probably were from out of town.

"But today, were all Stockholmers," he said to huge applause.

The four victims killed included a British man, a Belgian woman and two Swedes, authorities in those countries said. Their identities were not released by Swedish officials.

The British government named the Briton as Chris Bevington, an executive at Swedish music-streaming service Spotify. In Brussels, the Belga news agency said the Belgian woman had been reported missing before she was identified by her identity papers and later by DNA testing.

As of Sunday, 10 of the 15 people wounded remained hospitalized, including one child.

Stockholm county spokesman Patrik Soderberg said four of the 10 were considered "seriously" injured and the remaining six, including the child, were slightly injured.

One of the wounded, an 83-year-old Romanian woman who was begging on the city's pedestrian Drottninggatan shopping street when the attack took place, said she was "surprised" that passers-by helped her.

"I thought everyone would run past me and save themselves," Papusa Ciuraru, whose foot was crushed by a boulder displaced by the speeding truck, told the Expressen daily.

The lion-shaped boulders on Drottninggatan are meant as roadblocks and have been put up in several European capitals after a truck attack last year killed 12 people at a Christmas market in Berlin.

Police and Sweden's intelligence have questioned some 500 people as part of the investigation, a senior police officer said. Sweden's SAPO security police said it was working to find "any abettor or network involved in the attack."

The department store that was rammed by the truck apologized Sunday for an announcement that it would reopen two days after the deadly attack to sell damaged goods at a "reduced price."

The Ahlens store described it as "a bad decision" on its Facebook page, saying its motivation "was born out of the idea of standing up for transparency and not allowing evil forces take control of our lives."

The store said it would reopen Monday "without any damaged goods."

Olsen reported from Copenhagen. Hakan Kaplan and Pietro DeCristofaro in Stockholm also contributed to this report.

Move over 'Obamacare,' Trump plan is now the focus

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Something new is happening in a health care debate dominated for seven years by the twists and turns of Barack Obama's signature law. The focus has shifted to ideas from President Donald Trump and GOP lawmakers in Congress, and most people don't like what they see.

With Republicans in command, their health care proposals as currently formulated have generated far more concern than enthusiasm.

Even among rank-and-file Republicans, there's opposition to changes that would let insurers charge higher premiums to older adults, and many disapprove of cuts to Medicaid for low-income people, according to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. It also found more than

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half of Republicans at least somewhat worried about leaving more people uninsured, as the House plan is projected to do.

March polls by Fox News and Quinnipiac University showed overall margins of opposition to the GOP proposal nearing or even exceeding those of Obama's Affordable Care Act, or ACA, at its lowest points — such as when the HealthCare.gov website opened for business in 2013 and promptly crashed.

"Republicans are taking ownership of the health care issue, and all the pleasure and pain of health reform," said Drew Altman, president of the nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation, a clearinghouse for information about the health care system. "There has been a shift in focus from the ACA itself to the Republican plans, and who might lose benefits as a result."

Highlighting the stakes, the uninsured rate among U.S. adults rose slightly in the first three months of this year, according to an update Monday of a major ongoing survey. The Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index found that 11.3 percent of adults were uninsured, an increase from 10.9 percent in the last two calendar quarters of 2016.

"Only time will tell" if the uptick means the U.S. is again losing ground on health insurance, said survey director Dan Witters. "A lot of uncertainty has been introduced into the marketplace through efforts to repeal," he said. "Plus premiums are now realizing a big jump for the first time in the ACA era."

Trump came into office with big, bold health care promises. In a Washington Post interview shortly before his inauguration he declared his goal was "insurance for everybody," hand-in-hand with affordable coverage, "lower numbers, much lower deductibles." Although Trump said he'd soon release a plan, none appeared.

Instead, after weeks of laboring behind closed doors, House Republican leaders rolled out a proposal March 6 that the president enthusiastically embraced. But all the efforts of the White House and congressional leadership haven't convinced GOP lawmakers to pass it. Congress is on a two-week break with the health bill in limbo.

Frustrated, Trump is seeing his promise slip away to quickly repeal "Obamacare" and replace it with something better. Instead he could get left as the caretaker of the ACA, a law he's repeatedly called a "disaster" on account of rising premiums and insurer exits that diminish consumer choice in many communities.

Trump's personal image has taken a blow, with the AP-NORC poll finding that he gets his worst rating on health care. About 6 in 10 people disapprove of how the president has handled the issue.

"It is a major failure that a high priority of President Trump and the congressional Republican leadership leads to no bill, and the bill as proposed becomes unpopular even among their own voters," said Robert Blendon, a professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, who follows opinion trends on health care. "It's a real leadership crisis issue."

Amid disapproval of the House GOP plan, some polls have shown improved ratings for the ACA. Gallup, for example, found "Obamacare" gained majority approval for the first time. But that does not change the fact that Republican voters remain overwhelmingly opposed to Obama's law and want it repealed.

Nonetheless, there's recent evidence that Republicans differ among themselves about what "repeal" may mean.

A Quinnipiac poll last month found that 55 percent of Republicans said Trump and the Republican-led Congress should repeal "parts" of Obama's law, while 42 percent said "all" of it should go. Only 2 percent of Republicans said the ACA should not be repealed.

Republican views compare with 50 percent of the general public who say parts of the ACA should be repealed, 20 percent who say all of it should be repealed, and 27 percent who say it should remain.

The divisions among rank-and-file Republicans appear to mirror what's going on in the House, where disagreements among hardliners and moderates are keeping Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., from putting together enough votes to take the bill to the floor.

Tim Malloy, assistant director of the Quinnipiac poll, said, "You have to figure a lot of people who voted for Trump are on Obamacare."

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, April 10, the 100th day of 2017. There are 265 days left in the year. The Jewish holiday Passover begins at sunset.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 10, 1912, the British liner RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, on its ill-fated maiden voyage.

On this date:

In 1790, President George Washington signed the first United States Patent Act.

In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was incorporated.

In 1925, the F. Scott Fitzgerald novel "The Great Gatsby" was first published by Scribner's of New York.

In 1932, German President Paul Von Hindenburg was re-elected in a runoff, with Adolf Hitler coming in second.

In 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers President Branch Rickey purchased the contract of Jackie Robinson from the Montreal Royals.

In 1957, Egypt reopened the Suez Canal to all shipping traffic. (The canal had been closed due to wreckage resulting from the Suez Crisis.) The jury-deliberation film drama "12 Angry Men," starring Henry Fonda, premiered in Los Angeles. John Osborne's play "The Entertainer," starring Laurence Olivier, opened in London.

In 1967, at the Academy Awards, "A Man for All Seasons" won best picture of 1966; its star, Paul Scofield, was named best actor; Elizabeth Taylor received best actress for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

In 1974, Golda Meir told party leaders she was resigning as prime minister of Israel.

In 1981, imprisoned IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands was declared the winner of a by-election to the British Parliament.

In 1992, comedian Sam Kinison was killed in a car crash outside Needles, California, at age 38.

In 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators reached a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

In 2010, Polish President Lech Kaczynski (lehk kah-CHIN'-skee), 60, was killed in a plane crash in western Russia that also claimed the lives of his wife and top Polish political, military and church officials.

Ten years ago: A woman wearing an explosives vest blew herself up in the midst of 200 Iraqi police recruits in Muqdadiah, killing 16. Two Russian cosmonauts and U.S. billionaire Charles Simonyi arrived at the international space station. DNA tests showed that former boyfriend Larry Birkhead was the father of the late Anna Nicole Smith's baby.

Five years ago: Rick Santorum quit the presidential race, clearing the way for Mitt Romney to claim the Republican nomination. Syrian troops defied a U.N.-brokered cease-fire plan, launching fresh attacks on rebellious areas. French Resistance figure Raymond Aubrac, 97, died in Paris. The University of Arkansas fired Bobby Petrino as its football coach, citing a "pattern of misleading" behavior that included hiring his mistress.

One year ago: A massive fire erupted in a Hindu temple in southern India packed with thousands for a religious festival, killing 111 people; an unauthorized pyrotechnic display was blamed for the disaster. The Boston Globe published a satirical front page lampooning a potential Donald Trump candidacy; the Republican candidate responded by calling the newspaper "stupid" and "worthless." Danny Willett won the Masters, shooting a closing 67 for a 5-under 283 total, after a stunning collapse by Jordan Spieth.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Max von Sydow is 88. Actress Liz Sheridan is 88. Sportscaster John Madden is 81. Reggae artist Bunny Wailer is 70. Actor Steven Seagal is 66. Folk-pop singer Terre Roche (The Roches) is 64. Actor Peter MacNicol is 63. Actress Olivia Brown is 60. Rock musician Steven Gustafson (10,000 Maniacs) is 60. Singer-producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is 59. Rock singer-musician Brian Setzer is 58. Rock singer Katrina Leskanich (les-KAH'-nich) is 57. Actor Jeb Adams is 56. Olympic gold medal speed-skater Cathy Turner is 55. Rock musician Tim "Herb" Alexander is 52. Actor-comedian Orlando Jones is

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49. Rock musician Mike Mushok (Staind) is 48. Singer Kenny Lattimore is 47. Rapper Q-Tip (AKA Kamaal) is 47. Actor David Harbour is 42. Blues singer Shemekia Copeland is 38. Actress Laura Bell Bundy is 36. Actor Harry Hadden-Paton (TV: "The Crown"; "Downton Abbey") is 36. Actress Chyler Leigh is 35. Pop musician Andrew Dost (fun.) is 34. Actor Ryan Merriman is 34. Singer Mandy Moore is 33. Actor Barkhad Abdi (BAHRK'-hahd AHB'-dee) is 32. Actress Shay Mitchell is 30. Actor Haley Joel Osment is 29. Country singer Maren Morris is 27. Actor Alex Pettyfer is 27. Actress-singer AJ (AKA Amanda) Michalka (mish-AL'-kah) is 26. Actress Daisy Ridley is 25. Singer-actress Sofia Carson (TV: "Descendants") is 24. Actress Audrey Whitby is 21. Actress Ruby Jerins is 19.

Thought for Today: "All fantasy should have a solid base in reality." — Max Beerbohm, English critic and essayist (1872-1956).