

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Friday, May 5

**School Lunch:** Hamburgers, French fries, carrots and dip, fruit.

**School Breakfast:** Cheese omelette, muffin, fruit, milk, juice.

**Senior Menu:** Taco salad, Mexican rice, seasonal fresh fruit, breadstick.

**Groton School:** Track at Sisseton at 4 p.m.

**United Methodist:** MOMS Group at 9:30 a.m.

## Saturday, May 6

MS Band Contest at Webster

## Sunday, May 7

**United Methodist Church:** Conde worship with communion, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Confirmation Sunday, 10 a.m.; Groton worship with communion at 11 a.m.; NO Sunday School.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship, 9 a.m. (Milestones, FF Scholarship awards); Sunday School, 10 a.m.

**St. John's Lutheran:** Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

**Catholic Parish:** Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

**First Presbyterian:** Bible Study at 9:30 a.m., Worship at 11 a.m.

**Heaven Bound Ministries:** Worship in Pierpont at 10 a.m. with Communion.

## Monday, May 8

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

**School Lunch:** Chicken nuggets, tri tater, romaine salad, fruit, bread sticks.

**School Breakfast:** Mini pancake, fruit, juice, milk.

**Groton Schools:** G!rls golf meet in Groton at

**Closed:** 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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## Midwest Masonry & Concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



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## GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting May 8, 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 April 10, 2017 school board meeting and April 24, 2017 school board meeting.

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

3. Approval of April 2017 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.

4. Approval of April 2017 School Transportation Report.

5. Approval of April 2017 School Lunch Report

6. Approval of April District bills for payment.

7. Approve Open Enrollment Applications

a. #18-01 (grade K) from Langford School District

b. #18-02 (grade K) from Warner School District

c. #18-03 (grade K) from Aberdeen School District

d. #18-04 (grade K) from Aberdeen School District

e. #18-05 (grade K) from Northwestern Area School District

f. #18-06 (grade K) from Doland School District

### OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

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

2. 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

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

### NEW BUSINESS:

1. Preliminary FY18 Budget Review

2. Review list of unwanted inventory items. Make motion to declare items as surplus for sale or disposal.

3. Approve North Central Special Education Cooperative Agreement for 2017-2018 school year.

4. Adoption of Renewal Motion for Associated School Boards Protective Trust (Health Fund)

5. Adoption of Renewal Motion for Associated School Boards Protective Trust (Worker's Compensation Fund)

6. Cast ballot for SDHSAA Division II Representative.

7. Cast ballot for SDHSAA Constitutional Amendment #1.

8. Approve hiring Alexa Schuring, JK/K Teacher, for 2017-2018 school year with salary to be published at a later date.

9. Approve hiring Todd Peterson, MS SPED Teacher, for 2017-2018 school year with salary to be published at a later date.

10. Issue certified staff contracts for 17-18 School Year with return date of May 19, 2017.

11. Issue non-certified staff work agreements with return date of May 19, 2017.

12. Issue off-staff coaching agreements for 17-18 school year with return date of May 19, 2017.

13. Approve Driver Education instructor agreements for 2017 for Shaun Wanner and Joel Guthmiller.

14. Approve work agreements for summer custodial employees.

a. Lois Krueger b. Kayde Wiedrick c. Mason Madsen

15. Approve summer school and ESY agreements.

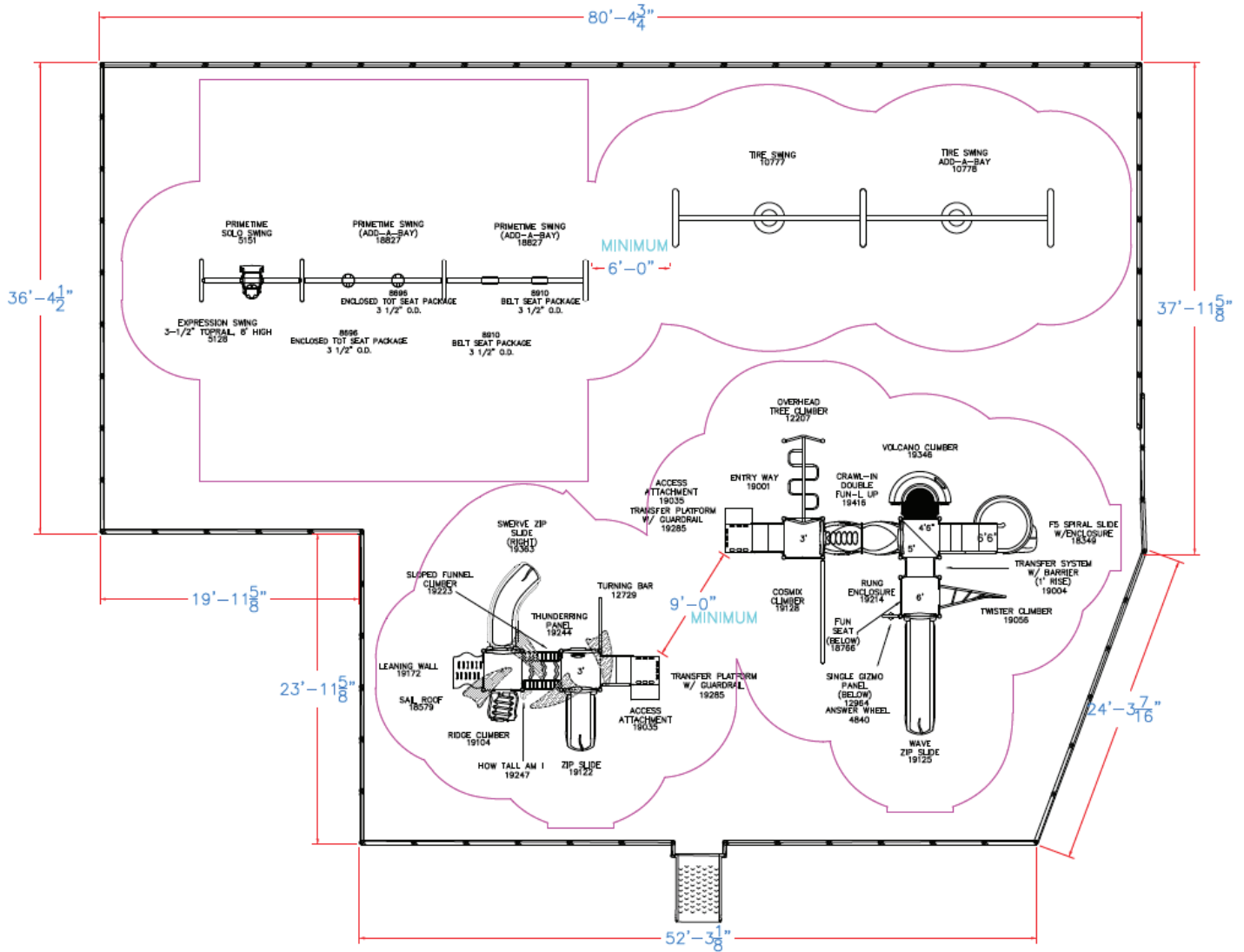
a. Julie Milbrandt b. Joni Groeblichhoff c. Jill Krueger

ADJOURN

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## New playground equipment at the ball park



Thanks to a grant and a lot of local fundraising and donations, there will be new playground equipment being installed at the Groton Baseball Complex. The old Rainbow equipment will be sold and has already been removed. Clark Engineering is doing the GPS work of setting pins for where the poles will be installed.

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## Blood drive a success in Groton

The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women have sponsored a successful blood drive. The blood drive was held in Groton on April 17th. According to Fern Elofson, Donor Recruitment Representative at United Blood Services, "Groton had a good turnout. There were 49 people who volunteered to donate and 41 were able to give. Five people gave blood on the automated 2RBC machine that collects two units of red blood cells which resulted in 46 total products.

Jane Ackman and Eunice Alberts co-coordinated the drive. The Emmanuel Lutheran Church Women sponsored the drive and assisted with recruiting donors, publicity, providing refreshments, and registering donors. Space to hold the drive was provided at the American Legion.

The availability of blood is dependent on the success of blood drive held in many communities. The citizens of the Groton area can be assured that their community is a good example of a well-run blood program.

On behalf of the patients who benefited, United Blood Services appreciates all the thoughtful people who volunteered to help others by giving of themselves.

Blood is for sharing; you have truly given the "Gift of Life".

## GROTON KIWANIS CLUB

Roger Rix reported on the successful annual GHS athletic banquet, Monday evening. Roger thanked all the Kiwanis members who helped sit up, serve, and clean up afterwards. President Tom Paepke gave the welcome address.

Lee Schinkel reported that he has the scholarship applications from GHS, and that committee will be meeting very soon

Lori Giedt was program chairman, and introduces Keri Pappas, GHS senior, who was just featured in the Aberdeen American News, as a scholarship star. She and Landon Marzahn, were both chosen for the GOLD TEAM.

Keri also told of some of her many volunteering experiences, such as teaching Sunday School at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, and being a counselor at NESDAK bible camp. Keri was a Girls Stater last year also, and plans to attend SDSU next year

## Rounds Accepting Fall 2017 Internship Applications

WASHINGTON— U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) today announced that he is currently accepting internship applications for fall 2017. The deadline to apply for internships in his Washington, D.C., Pierre, Rapid City and Sioux Falls offices is May 26, 2017. College credit is available.

Duties in the Washington, D.C., office may include tracking legislation, researching bills, attending committee hearings and briefings, leading tours of the U.S. Capitol, handling constituent phone calls, sorting mail and providing legislative support. Duties in the South Dakota offices include researching constituent inquiries and requests, participation in outreach activities, assisting staff on special projects, handling phone calls and constituent requests and sorting mail. In all offices, students will work closely with constituents and staff, polish their research and writing skills and gain an in-depth understanding of a Senate office.

Interested college students should complete the online internship application and submit a resume no later than May 26, 2017. Resumes should be submitted to intern coordinator Erin Budmayr at [erin\\_budmayr@rounds.senate.gov](mailto:erin_budmayr@rounds.senate.gov). Information about the internship program, along with the application, can be found online at [www.rounds.senate.gov/internships](http://www.rounds.senate.gov/internships).

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## Today in Weather History

May 5, 1964: A two state, F3 tornado moved northeast from 4 miles WNW of Herreid to the south of Streeter, North Dakota, a distance of about 55 miles. Blacktop was ripped for 400 yards on Highway 10, five miles north of Herreid, South Dakota. Two barns were destroyed northeast of Hague, North Dakota, with a dozen cattle killed on one farm. The F3 damage occurred at one farm about midway between Wishek and Hogue. Other barns were destroyed south of Burnstad.

May 5, 1986: A tight pressure gradient produced winds over 60 mph in west central Minnesota. City officials in Browns Valley estimated a quarter of the city suffered damage. The roof of a grandstand was blown off and landed a quarter of a block away. Seventy-five homes and six businesses sustained roof damage. In nearby Dumont, Minnesota, the wind ripped a large grain bin off its foundation and tore open the top of another.

May 5, 2007: A large upper low-pressure area over the southwestern United States spun off a strong upper-level trough into the northern plains. This trough lifting over the region along with north to south frontal boundary, powerful low-level winds, and abundant gulf moisture resulted in training thunderstorms across parts of central and northeast South Dakota. The training thunderstorms produced torrential rains from 3 to over 10 inches resulting in widespread flash flooding across Brown, Buffalo, Hand, Spink, Clark, Day, Marshall, and Roberts Counties. The counties of Brown, Buffalo, Clark, Day, Marshall, and Spink were declared disaster areas by President Bush. The Governor also declared a state of emergency for the flooded counties with Senator John Thune and Representative Stephanie Herseth surveying the flood damage. Eight damage assessment teams from local, state, and FEMA came to Brown and other counties.

Dozens of cities were affected by the flooding with several hundred homes, businesses, and countless roads affected and damaged or destroyed by the flooding. Aberdeen received the most extensive damage, especially the north side of Aberdeen. Seventy-five percent of the homes in Aberdeen received some water in their basements. Basement water levels ranged from a few inches to very deep water all the way up to the first floor of homes. Many homes had the basement walls collapse. The overwhelming load on the drainage systems caused sewage to back up into many homes across the region. Also, many vehicles stalled on the roads with many others damaged by the flooding. Power outages also occurred across the area. Many families were displaced from their homes with many living in emergency shelters. Countless homes were condemned across the region with many considered unlivable. Thousands of acres of crops were also flooded and damaged with many seeds, and large quantities of fertilizer washed away.

Rainfall amounts from this historic event included 3.65 inches in Miller, 3.82 inches in Britton, 4 inches in Eden, 4.47 inches in Andover, 4.90 inches in Webster, 5.68 inches west of Britton, 5.7 inches in Garden City, and 5.82 inches in Conde. Locations with 6 or more inches of rain included, 6 inches in Langford, 6.33 inches in Gann Valley, 6.72 inches in Clark, 7.41 inches in Ashton, 7.49 inches in Stratford, 7.55 inches near Mellette, 7.97 inches in Aberdeen, 8.02 inches in Redfield, 8.73 inches in Columbia, and 8.74 inches in Groton. The 8.74 inches of rainfall in Groton set a new 24-hour state rainfall record. Adding in the rainfall for the previous day, Aberdeen received a total of 9.00 inches; Columbia received a total of 10.19 inches; Groton received an astonishing two-day total rainfall of 10.74 inches.








1933: An estimated F4 tornado cut a 35-mile path from near Brent into Shelby County, Alabama. The town of Helena, AL was especially hard hit, as 14 people died. The tornado roared through Helena at 2:30 am.

1987: Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the western U.S. A dozen cities in California reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 93 degrees at San Francisco, 98 degrees at San Jose, 100 degrees at Sacramento, and 101 degrees at Redding were the warmest on record for so early in the season. The high of 94 degrees at Medford, Oregon was also the warmest on record for so early in the season.

1995: A supercell thunderstorms brought torrential rains and large hail up to four inches in diameter to Fort Worth, Texas. This storm also struck a local outdoor festival known as the Fort Worth Mayfest. At the time the storm was the costliest hailstorm in the history of the US, causing more than \$2 billion in damage.

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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday
						
Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Chance T-storms
High: 82 °F	Low: 42 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 73 °F



Highs in the 70s and 80s

Get out and enjoy the comfortable weather!



National Weather Service - Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 5/5/2017 4:16 AM Central



Published on: 05/05/2017 at 4:28AM

Comfortable through the weekend - with temperatures topping out in the 70s and 80s! Some of the warmest air of the season so far will be overhead this afternoon, with most locations topping out near 80 degrees. In fact, Aberdeen hasn't seen 80 degrees since early October. Rain-free conditions will linger through Sunday.

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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 72.4 F at 5:30 PM**

**Low Outside Temp: 33.1 F at 6:39 AM**

**High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 4:25 PM**

**Snow: Precip: 0.00**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 92° in 2000**

**Record Low: 24° in 1924**

**Average High: 66°F**

**Average Low: 40°F**

**Average Precip in May: 0.51**

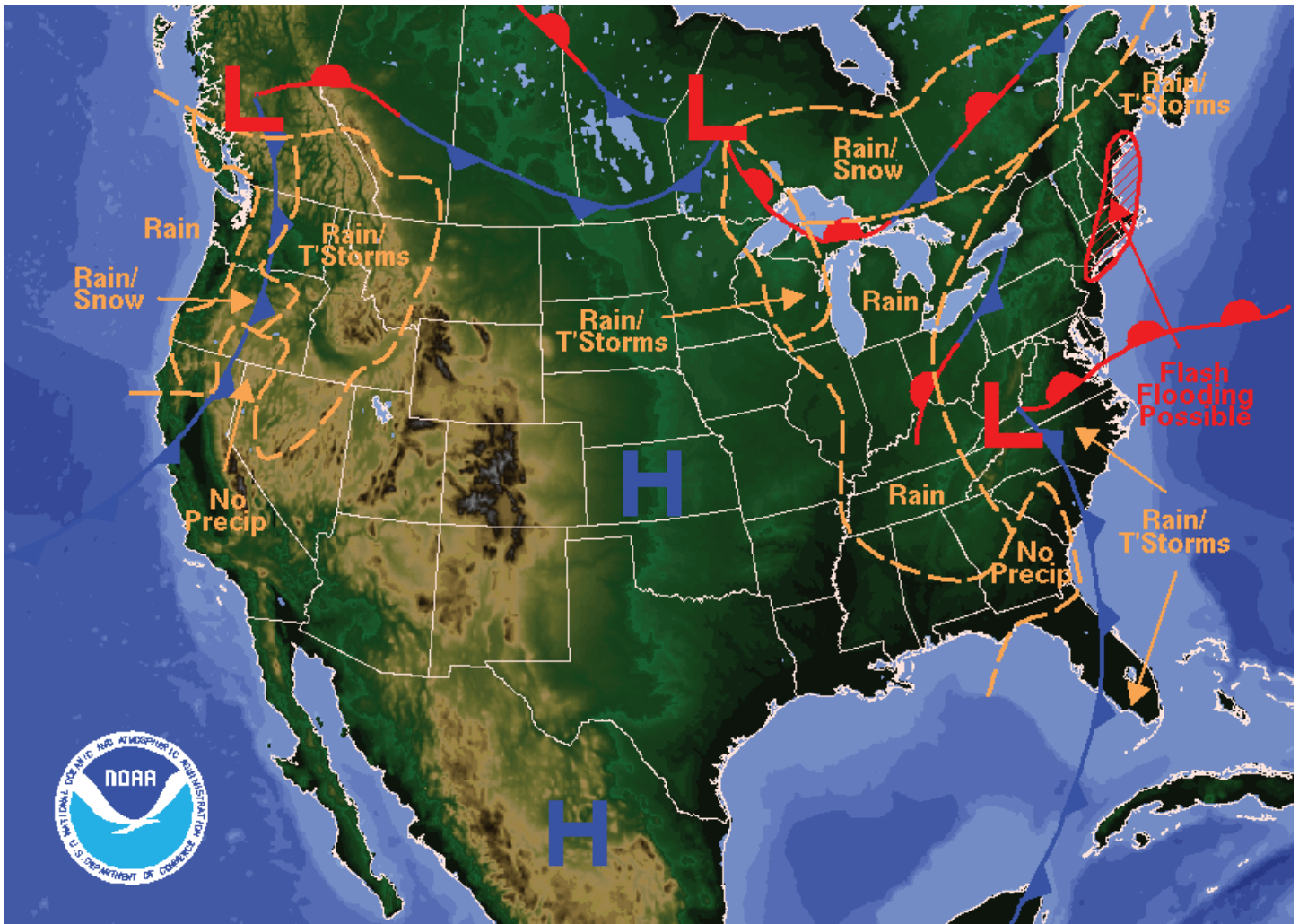
**Precip to date in May: 0.00**

**Average Precip to date: 4.54**

**Precip Year to Date: 1.98**

**Sunset Tonight: 8:45 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:14 a.m.**



Weather Forecast for Fri, May 05, 2017, issued 4:24 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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## ASKING GOD FOR A FAVOR

Some time ago a clergyman shouted with all of his might, "God, damn America!" Standing behind his pulpit with his colorful clerical robe and embroidered stole, his rant and rage shocked many who saw him on television.

The longer I watched and wondered, the more his words confused and disturbed me. I could not help but think about the impact this would have on those who were in his congregation or watching him on television or read his words in newspapers and magazines. Surely some would be as disturbed as I was. But, there would be others who would agree with him and cheer for him.

Most often when we and others call on God it is for a favor or something we cannot do. It could be for healing, a financial need, a loved one who has wandered from God, or insight or wisdom. Then there are others who call on God because they want Him to use His power to do things that are destructive - like "God, I hate America so much that I want You to use Your power to hurt people I can't."

David spoke of them: "They speak of You with evil intent; Your adversaries misuse Your name." We need to remind ourselves that God will only answer our prayers if our requests are consistent with His name or in keeping with His character. He is not available to hurt or harm His children or His creation or to satisfy our anger or do our "dirty work" or evil intentions.

God is always there, willing to hear our requests and answer them in the way that will bring honor and glory to Him. If we call on Him "with evil intent," He will not hear us.

Prayer: Lord, grant us purity of heart and mind when we approach You in prayer. May our requests honor You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 139:20 They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name.



## News from the Associated Press

### **Life sentence for conspiracy to distribute meth**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man has been sentenced to life in prison for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

The U.S. Attorney's Office says 55-year-old Shawn Sorensen was given the life sentence because he has two prior felony drug convictions. Authorities say the latest case involves 10 pounds of meth and a half-pound of cocaine which was discovered by the postal service.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2qzIqbi>) reports Sorensen was also sentenced to 10 concurrent years for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

### **Court upholds South Dakota use of Common Core testing group**

By **JAMES NORD, Associated Press**

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Supreme Court this week upheld the state's participation in a group that developed Common Core-aligned testing for students and ruled that the assessments don't violate state law.

The high court in an opinion filed Wednesday affirmed a lower court's decision in favor of the state and South Dakota officials. The Michigan-based Thomas More Law Center had sued on behalf of two South Dakota parents over the state's membership in the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, which developed exams to test students on the Common Core state standards in math and English language arts.

The conservative Christian Thomas More Law Center wrote in a news release announcing the 2015 lawsuit that it was stepping up its attack on Common Core with the litigation. A circuit court judge last year sided with the state, and the two parents and taxpayers, Shelli Grinager and Amber Mauricio, appealed the decision.

The state Supreme Court rejected claims that member states must get congressional approval of the consortium. The court also shot down the parents' argument that administering the consortium's computer-adaptive assessments violates a state law that requires the state to administer the same assessment to all students in each tested grade.

Tony Venhuizen, chief of staff to Gov. Dennis Daugaard, said the state is pleased with the opinion. Grinager didn't immediately reply to a message requesting comment. Mauricio declined to comment.

The Thomas More Law Center's 2015 news release said Grinager is a former school board member who has fought against Common Core and has spoken out against the roll out of the consortium's "high pressure" tests.

"The public school environment has become more about testing our children than teaching them," she said in the release.

The state Board of Education adopted the Common Core standards in math and English language arts in 2010. The standards outline what students ought to know and should be able to do at each grade's end. South Dakota started using the new Smarter Balanced standardized tests during the 2014-2015 schoolyear.

The state Supreme Court decision could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"We are still reviewing the opinion, and we have not made a decision at this time," said Kate Oliveri, an attorney with the Thomas More Law Center.

## South Dakota city begins big soybean plant project

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A northeastern South Dakota city is building a soybean processing plant that is expected to handle 20 percent of the region's beans.

The Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2qICLwh>) reported that the city of Aberdeen held a groundbreaking Wednesday for the Ag Processing Inc. plant. The facility is expected to employ about 50 people and will buy soybeans within a 100-mile radius of the city. It's scheduled to begin operating in 2019.

The cost of the project hasn't been disclosed, but Aberdeen Mayor Mike Levsen said the facility is expected to be the biggest economic development project in city history. Levsen said the project will resonate across the state.

"I think that we could speculate that it won't be very many years where when the majority of people in South Dakota think of Aberdeen, they'll think of the home of AGP. We're going to Soybean City here," he said.

Ag Processing CEO Keith Spackler said the Aberdeen facility will be the company's largest investment.

The company purchased 300 acres of land for the facility in June, for about \$3 million from the Aberdeen Development Corp. But the processing facility will have a small footprint on the land, Spackler said. Features like scales, buffer zones and railroad tracks will take up more room.

"We've left space for additional construction in the future, absolutely," said Steve Hansen, the company's vice president of engineering.

South Dakota farmers planted 5.2 million acres and harvested more than 250 million bushels of soybeans last year, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics.

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Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

### Capital Journal, Pierre, May 3

Fort Pierre taxpayers wronged in secret settlement

The Fort Pierre City Council should not have entered into a secret settlement agreement.

On Monday, in a five-to-one vote, the council agreed to settle a lawsuit filed by Perkins' owner Diane London in 2015. Exactly how much the City of Fort Pierre's citizens could be on the hook for is completely unknown. The city council, as part of the settlement, agreed to keep its details secret.

How can a public entity agree to shell out taxpayers' dollars without telling the very people from whom that money was collected how much of their blood, sweat and tears — because we cannot forget that that is what tax dollars represent — are being used to end a lawsuit originally brought because city leaders may or may not have followed the city's own rules regarding the development of the Teton Island district?

The answer is actually pretty simple. South Dakota's laws are, at best, abysmal when it comes to telling people what their own governments are doing. South Dakota continually ranks in the bottom five of the 50 states when it comes to openness in government. To be clear, South Dakota is not an open-government state.

That fact is surprising given the majority of our political leaders' repeated calls for a more limited gov-

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ernment and their stated commitment to spending the smallest amount of taxpayer dollars possible. The people of this state, too, by and large, tend to believe in a limited, spend-thrift government.

One would be forgiven for assuming that a commitment to limited-government principles would extend to such things as not spending taxpayer dollars without telling the taxpayers how much is being spent. In South Dakota, at least, it doesn't. There have been many attempts to fix loopholes in state law that allow city governments to conceal information such as how much they have to shell out for legal settlements. All of them have failed.

That brings us back to the situation in Fort Pierre. Rob Anderson, the lawyer to whom Fort Pierre Mayor Gloria Hanson said all questions about the settlement should be directed, told a Capital Journal reporter on Tuesday that he cannot even say whether the city had to pay anything at all or if there's an insurance policy that would help defray costs, if there were any.

Confidential settlements on behalf of government entities aren't unique to South Dakota. Local and state governments all over the country have tried repeatedly to conceal details of legal settlements from their citizens. Sometimes, it's done to protect juvenile victims of wrongdoing, and that's understandable.

But other times, it's done to prevent the embarrassment of public officials or to protect the person who filed the lawsuit and has received taxpayer dollars as a result of the settlement. Neither of those situations are acceptable reasons to keep information, especially financial information, from taxpayers.

Out of court settlements serve a good purpose. They can cut the costs of litigation, saving everyone some money in the process. For private businesses, that's a great thing. But when it comes to government, which by definition deals in public monies, secret settlements should be the exception, not the rule.

The state should have clear laws forbidding secret legal settlements for all levels of government. There should be few exceptions to the prohibition of secrecy and every elected, appointed or hired official should know the consequences for circumventing those rules.

South Dakota has none of that right now. What we do have is vague statutory language surrounding contracts and legal settlements as they apply to governments. The Supreme Court even now is deciding whether some of the state laws permitting secret settlements apply to city governments when they're the ones receiving money from such an agreement.

The Fort Pierre City Council may not have violated a state law by entering into a secret settlement agreement. They may have been acting in good faith when they did so, hoping to save a little taxpayer money by ending a costly lawsuit early. But the councilors owe their constituents more than that.

The council owes the people of Fort Pierre good government, and good government can't be conducted in secret. The council also owes their constituents the chance for a full accounting of what may or may not have gone wrong at the Teton Island development. That can't be done now because some of the details are being kept secret.

While a secret settlement may be legal for governments to enter into right, they are almost never the right thing to do. Every citizen of Fort Pierre should demand that the city council make its portion of this settlement public.

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## Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, April 30

Forest Service takes path to success

What started out with the equivalent of drawing a red line across certain trails has led to a process that is creating a true partnership in the Black Hills National Forest.

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It was about a year ago when the Mystic District ranger threatened to prosecute anyone who built or maintained an unauthorized trail in her Black Hills territory.

The dispute intensified in February when Ranger Ruth Esperance denied permits for several mountain-biking and trail-running races in the area, again citing her desire to stamp out the use of unauthorized trails. In denying the permits, she also said the races would interfere with ongoing timber operations.

One of the races, the Black Hills Back 40, was a fundraiser for local organizations, including the Cornerstone Rescue Mission and Pennington County Search and Rescue, which led to even more concerns in the community.

But last week the threats and denials became things of the past as the Forest Service approved the permits for the races that attract visitors and local residents while showcasing the public property known as the Black Hills National Forest.

The announcement was made at a Black Hills Forest Advisory Board meeting by Supervisor Mark Van Emery, who assumed his position in August as our top Forest Service official.

While it has been a bumpy ride to this point, the initial tough stance has served as a catalyst for a new relationship between trail users, others who use the forest and the Forest Service itself. It also has resulted in the creation of the Non-Motorized Trails Working Group that has been appointed to study approved and non-approved trails, plan for the future and develop an evaluation process for new trail ideas.

In addition to the creation of this group and its unified purpose, representatives of the timber industry cooperated with the Forest Service and race organizers to enable this summer's races to happen.

The Mystic Ranger District still has to approve the permit for the Black Hills Back 40, which over the past five years has raised around \$75,000 for local nonprofits, but the race director says he is "99 percent sure" the July 29 race will happen as discussions continue on the best route for the competition.

In too many instances and especially when politicians and special interest groups are involved, cooperation, compromise and a search for common ground are dismissed as capitulation or even a sign of weakness.

In reality, however, it is the route we should all choose to take when we sit down at the table and try to resolve our differences.

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## **The Daily Republic, Mitchell, May 3**

Local board acted valiantly, but tough questions remain

A special site to see was on full display at the Davison County North Offices on Tuesday night.

Without any vitriol or nastiness as seen in recent politically-charged discussions nationwide, Davison County residents and county Planning Commission members calmly discussed a 1,000-foot wind tower setback, and commissioners took their neighbors' views to heart.

A proposal to recommend a 1,000-foot setback was tabled on Tuesday, allowing the Planning Commission to gather facts about wind energy systems before making its final call. It was a wonderful display of direct democracy from the 25 or so residents in attendance, and we commend the Planning Commission for listening to the views of the public.

Now comes the hard part.

As Planning and Zoning Administrator Jeff Bathke has long noted, the proposed 1,000-foot setback would establish a greater setback than currently set by state law — which calls for a setback of 500 feet or 1.1 times the height of a tower. Credit is first and foremost due to Bathke and Planning and Zoning Deputy Administrator Mark Jenniges for the hours they put in to find a starting point for the Planning Commission to work off.

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But the final answer probably isn't a 1,000-foot setback, nor is it a one-mile setback.

Planning Commissioner Lewis Bainbridge brought up an interesting thought on Tuesday night, saying "I don't want to shoot ourselves in the foot for some future thing that may come along."

What if wind power — a renewable energy source — becomes more efficient and profitable? Davison County would find itself on the outside looking in.

And what about Mitchell Technical Institute's wind turbine technology students? A new system in the area could create learning opportunities and a handful of jobs in the area for graduates.

Perhaps more important than those questions is what would happen if a wind energy system were proposed in Davison County tomorrow. The county would have little on the books to argue against a project.

We're glad the Planning Commission put the recommendation on hold, especially considering the public opposition to wind towers lining the Davison County prairie, but we also don't want to see revenue streams for farmland owners disappear at a time when crop prices are dropping and input costs are rising.

We have faith the commission will make the right choice, but we're hoping it will be the right choice for both wind energy opponents and supporters.

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## South Dakota men's basketball team to play Duke in December

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — The University of South Dakota's men's basketball team will play perennial power Duke later this year.

The school has announced a Dec. 2 matchup with the Blue Devils in Durham, North Carolina. It will be the first game between the two programs.

Coyotes coach Craig Smith says his team is "pumped" to play "one of the premier programs in the history of NCAA college basketball."

Duke has won five national championships and competed in 16 Final Fours.

South Dakota is coming off its first Summit League regular season championship.

## Oil pipeline vandalism reported in Minnehaha County

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Law enforcement officers have stepped up patrols around an oil pipeline site in Minnehaha County after vandalism was discovered.

Sheriff's Capt. Jason Gearman says vandals broke through a chain link fence recently that surrounds an above-ground section of the Dakota Access pipeline near Highway 19, north of Humboldt. KELO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2pBz8ug>) reports a valve inspector has since repaired a hole, but Gearman says it's still a safety issue because any tampering can cause extreme situations, such as an explosion.

Gearman says they have notified the FBI. The sheriff's department is encouraging any citizen that sees something suspicious to report it.

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Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

## North Korea accuses US, South Korea of assassination attempt

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Friday accused the U.S. and South Korean spy agencies of an unsuccessful assassination attempt on leader Kim Jong Un involving bio-chemical weapons.

In a statement carried on state media, North Korea's Ministry of State Security said it will "ferret out

and mercilessly destroy" the "terrorists" in the CIA and South Korean intelligence agency for targeting its supreme leadership.

North Korea frequently lambasts the United States and South Korea, but its accusation Friday was unusual in its detail.

The ministry said the spy agencies in June 2014 "ideologically corrupted and bribed" a North Korean citizen who had been working in Russia to carry out the alleged assassination on Kim after returning home.

It said South Korean agents gave \$20,000 and satellite communication equipment to the North Korean to attack Kim during a public event with a bio-chemical weapon, such as a "radioactive" and "nano poisonous" substance.

The ministry threatened that a counterattack would begin immediately. "Korean-style anti-terrorist attack will be commenced from this moment to sweep away the intelligence and plot-breeding organizations of the U.S. imperialists and the puppet clique," it said, referring to South Korea.

Officials at South Korea's National Intelligence Service were not immediately reachable for comment.

## **AP Explains: Why the sick will face coverage problems**

**By TOM MURPHY, AP Health Writer**

The Republican push to replace the Affordable Care Act was revived this week in Congress by a small change to their plan designed to combat concerns over coverage for those with pre-existing health problems.

The change helped get the bill through the House of Representatives in a tight vote Thursday, but experts say it may make little difference in the hunt for affordable coverage for these patients.

The bill proposes setting aside an additional \$8 billion over five years to help states cover those who may be subject to higher insurance rates because they've had a lapse in coverage. That's on top of about \$100 billion over a decade for states to help people afford coverage and stabilize insurance markets.

The problem, experts say, is that the money is unlikely to guarantee an affordable alternative for those who get coverage under a popular provision of the Affordable Care Act that prevents insurers from rejecting people or charging higher rates based on their health.

"Many people with pre-existing conditions will have a hard time maintaining coverage because it just won't be affordable," said Larry Levitt, a health insurance expert with the Kaiser Family Foundation, which studies health care issues.

The ultimate impact on those with pre-existing conditions remains unknown. The bill now heads for the Senate, where it is expected to change, and the plan leaves many important coverage decisions up to the states. Still, it is making some who are now covered by the Affordable Care Act nervous.

John S. Williams, an attorney in New Orleans whose multiple sclerosis medication costs \$70,000 a year, buys insurance through the Affordable Care Act's marketplace. Without protections for pre-existing conditions he fears he would have to close his law practice and find a job that offers a group insurance plan.

"We always hear about job growth and business creation — being able to have affordable health care drives that," Williams said. "I have tremendous satisfaction with owning a business, but I know that if I can't get coverage, I would be forced to get a different job. I can't not have coverage for my multiple sclerosis."

Here's how coverage may change for those with pre-existing conditions under the plan:

**WHAT CHANGES?**

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States will be able to get federal waivers allowing insurers to charge higher premiums to people with pre-existing illnesses who have let their coverage lapse. States can then use federal money to fund government-operated insurance programs for expensive patients called "high-risk pools."

## HOW DO THESE POOLS OPERATE?

Patients who couldn't get or afford insurance could apply for coverage through these high risk pools, which existed before the Affordable Care Act was passed. Even though they were charged far higher rates, up to double the amount paid by consumers with no serious ailments, care for these patients is so expensive that government money was needed to fund the programs.

## DO THEY WORK?

In the more than 30 states that had high-risk pools, net losses piled up to more than \$1.2 billion in 2011, the high point of the pools before the Affordable Care Act took full effect. Medical expenses outpaced premiums collected, and losses averaged \$5,500 per person enrolled. States used fees and taxes to make up the difference, and states sometimes made it more difficult to some to qualify for care.

## IS THE FEDERAL MONEY ENOUGH?

An analysis by the health care consulting firm Avalere found that the money would only be enough to fund high-risk pools in a few small states. High-risk pools could fill up fast with patients who have a lapse in coverage.

People with pre-existing conditions could lose their insurance if they can no longer work due to their health. The Republican health plan also is expected to raise premiums for older people, who are more likely to have a pre-existing condition.

"This gets complicated fast," Avalere President Dan Mendelson said.

About 2.2 million people in the individual insurance market have some sort of pre-existing chronic condition, according to Avalere.

## WHAT MIGHT THIS MEAN FOR PATIENTS?

Because the bill is expected to change, and because it leaves big decisions up to the states, it's hard to say now what it would mean. Also, federal auditors have not had time to analyze the plan.

Proponents of the bill note that people in poor health would still be protected as long as they maintain coverage. If they don't, the higher premiums they are charged would revert back to standard rates after 12 months, assuming the customer could afford to keep paying.

In the past, risk pools have not guaranteed coverage. States have established waiting lists to get into their risk pools or restricted admission to the pools, since they ultimately have to balance their budget and they have no way to predict how high costs will climb.

"There is no guarantee in the law that people with pre-existing conditions would get access to affordable coverage," said Kaiser's Levitt.

Adrienne Standley, the operations director at a start-up apparel business in Philadelphia, is not waiting to find out. Her plan through the Affordable Care Act covers treatment for her asthma and attention deficit disorder, but she's afraid the Republican plan will mean she can no longer afford doctor's visits and medication.

"I'm looking at stockpiling, making sure I have an inhaler," she said. "I'm pretty scared to lose coverage."

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AP writers Kristen de Groot in Philadelphia and R.J. Rico in Baton Rouge contributed to this story.

## 4 years on, scars of Syria's war still line girl's face

By SARAH EL DEEB, Associated Press

BIBNINE, Lebanon (AP) — Alaa plays the horrifying video she kept on her phone that shows her moments after she was riddled with bullets, her jaw shredded, hand punctured, and chest bleeding. "Did you not see the video?" the Syrian teenager asks visitors, in defiance of its cruelty, to show how far she has come.

It has been a long road. And a missed childhood.

From Alan Kurdi lying dead face down on a Turkish shore, to a dust-covered Omran Daqneesh awaiting help in an Aleppo ambulance, images of Syrian children suffering some of the conflict's worst horrors have become iconic. Countless others still relentlessly flood the media: children pulled from under bombed buildings, or convulsing after inhaling chemical gas or drowning after boats of fleeing families capsize in choppy seas.

Alaa is one of the many victims of Syria's six-year civil war, which the U.N. children's agency UNICEF says is getting worse for children.

Four years and 12 surgeries later, Alaa is still rebuilding her face and jaw. There is also the depression. For a long time she avoided looking in the mirror or walking past glass windows. She even avoided looking people in the eye, fearing she would catch the reflection of her maimed face.

Just days before the second anniversary of Syria's uprising in March 2013, Alaa, at the time 15, was heading by car with her younger sister and toddler brother to their grandmother's house in the central Homs province. She had a doctor's appointment, and was preparing for end-of-year exams. Before their mother even stepped into the car, an hours-long gunfight broke out between Syria's opposition and government forces. They were caught in the middle.

"I saw the person who fired at us with my own eyes. But I didn't feel it or get it until something went straight for my mouth," Alaa recalled.

Alaa's full name was withheld for security concerns over relatives back home.

Her sister Hamida, now 17, was also badly wounded. Their 2-year-old brother was saved because Alaa took three bullets to the hand shielding his head and shoving him out of the car, apparently to safety. For hours, the mother tried, unsuccessfully, to stop the battle.

"No matter how hard I screamed, no one heard me because the shooting was so heavy," said Tahani, their mother.

The girls were carried from the scene, at first presumed dead.

Alaa and her family traveled to Lebanon a month after the incident.

"For a month, I refrained from looking at myself in the mirror. Impossible. Impossible," Alaa said, passionately, speaking at her home in the northern town where she settled with her mother, three siblings and step-father.

At first, doctors struggled to heal her wounds, shattering what little spirit she had remaining. One doctor said she would die any day, she recalled.

With her mouth and tongue stitched up, Alaa couldn't speak for a month. She could only eat baby food. When briefly separated from her mother, she suffered anxiety fits. Seeing her killer in every approaching stranger, she was terrified of men.

To add to the family's pain, Hamida, Alaa's younger sister, also suffered complications from her multiple wounds. Bullets had riddled her body, puncturing her back and stomach, and costing her a kidney, half her liver and 12 centimeters of her intestine.

Hamida said she lost years of her childhood in hospitals, undergoing treatment and following strict diets. Now she aspires to be a child care worker.



"I want to return to those years and always be a child," said Hamida.

The past year was the worst yet for children in the Syrian conflict, said Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF regional director for the Middle East and North Africa.

In 2016, a child was killed or severely wounded in Syria every six hours, he said. An estimated 3 million children live in areas with high exposure to explosive weapons, according to Save the Children. More than 2.3 million children, nearly 10 percent of Syria's total pre-war population, live as refugees in neighboring countries.

"Children have been facing true atrocities. The scars of six years of war upon children are multiple and are very, very deep scars," Cappelaera told The Associated Press.

In late 2014, a doctor and a local organization finally raised enough money for Alaa's reconstructive surgery. After a 17-hour operation, she was once again able to look at herself in the mirror.

Last year, she stepped out of isolation, returning to school to study architecture.

But the blows kept coming. Alaa's sweetheart back home was killed, also in the fighting.

Alaa's repeated viewing of the incident reflects a deeper struggle with the scars of war. She keeps a small notebook in which she wrote to her mother when her tongue was stitched up. "Here I tell her, 'Mom, I can't sleep from the saliva. ... I am suffocating,'" she read from the book, choking on her words.

Her mother refuses to revisit the notebook.

Alaa's eyes light up when she remembers the nurse who introduced her to the doctor that raised the money for her major surgery.

Tight resources for over 1 million Syrian refugees registered in Lebanon have complicated even the simplest form of treatment.

"There are also lots of children who don't have documents and their families are too scared to get them to Beirut to have medical assessments. That is a huge problem as well," said Sam Gough of INARA, the organization that sponsored Alaa's dental implants and other treatments.

Even curable diseases are a challenge to prevent among the refugee community, Gough said.

Alaa is still completing treatment to fix her dental implants. Shrapnel remains lodged in her chest. She watches a weekly plastic surgery TV program and dreams of the day the scar line framing her lips disappears.

"I want to finish my treatment. I am tired. It has been years," she said. "The pain in my heart and what I lived through will not go away.

"In Syria, a girl grows up fast," she said.

## Is France angry? Its candidates (unsurprisingly) disagree

By LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French far-right leader Marine Le Pen acknowledged Friday that she was angry during this week's presidential debate against her centrist rival, but said she was merely channeling the anger she sees throughout the country.

Emmanuel Macron countered that she was exploiting anger and insecurity — not reflecting it.

In the last day of campaigning before Sunday's presidential vote, the two candidates offered a starkly different future for France.

Le Pen wants to pull France out of the European Union and abandon the euro currency, although she has softened that view somewhat in recent days.

Macron, a former banker and economy minister who advocates for the entrepreneurial spirit, usually appears with both French and EU flags in the background.

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During the only debate between the two, Macron mostly kept his calm during testy exchanges while Le Pen was more aggressive from the outset. Le Pen's father, Jean-Marie Le Pen, who founded the National Front party his daughter now leads but frequently criticizes her, has said he thought she was "not up to the task."

But Marine Le Pen said her strong emotions were well-founded.

"My words were nothing but the reflection of the anger that will explode in this country," she told RTL radio.

She criticized Macron as the candidate of the elite and said the French have had enough of their political and economic situation.

Macron acknowledged that the French are exasperated by the government's ineffectiveness, but dismissed her vision of an infuriated country.

"Madame Le Pen speaks for no one. Madame Le Pen exploits anger and hatred," he told RTL.

A concern — particularly for Macron who founded his own political movement just a year ago — is that left-wing and mainstream voters will simply stay home on Sunday. The two candidates were whittled down from a field of 11 in the first round vote two weeks ago.

On Friday, students protesting both candidates blocked 10 high schools in Paris.

About 100 students pulled garbage bins in front of the entrance to the Lycee Colbert in northeastern Paris, with cardboard signs saying "Neither Le Pen nor Macron, neither the fatherland nor the boss," in a reference to Le Pen's nationalist views and Macron's pro-business ties.

But students at Lycee Buffon wrote an open letter calling on people to exercise their vote and recalled the fate of five students shot in 1943 for fighting the Nazis.

"I'm 15, 16, 17 or 18, I'm a student. Even if I'm not old enough to vote, I'm concerned," the letter said. "Dear reader, you should know that Marine Le Pen's France is not the France we love. Our France is beautiful, tolerant and cosmopolite. So go and vote on Sunday, for this France, this democracy."

Macron echoed their call, saying anyone who accepts modern French democracy must accept the choice in front of them.

"I'm not going to lament our democracy," he said. "In the second round, you choose the candidate who perhaps was not your first choice."

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Samuel Petrequin contributed.

## Hacking arrest, fake news in tense French presidential race

By SYLVIE CORBET and ELAINE GANLEY, Associated Press

ALBI, France (AP) — Allegations of fake news and hacking attempts dominated France's tense presidential campaign Thursday, with just two days left for independent Emmanuel Macron and his far-right rival Marine Le Pen to win over voters before Sunday's high-stakes runoff.

Paris prosecutors launched a preliminary investigation Thursday into whether fake news is being used to influence the voting, as front-runner Macron and populist Le Pen rallied thousands at their last big campaign events — in opposite parts of the divided country.

There has been intense anxiety in France over the possibility that viral misinformation or hackers could influence the presidential vote, as in the U.S. election last year. Those fears have largely failed to materialize.

Then Thursday, Macron's campaign filed suit against an unknown source "X" after Le Pen suggested during their only one-on-one debate Wednesday night that the former banker could have an offshore account.

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"I hope we won't find out you have an offshore account in the Bahamas," Le Pen said.

She appeared to be referring to two sets of apparent forgeries, published just hours before the televised showdown, that purported to show Macron was somehow involved with a Caribbean bank and a firm based on the island of Nevis.

Macron's camp said the former investment banker was victim of a "cyber-misinformation campaign." Speaking on France Inter radio, Macron blamed Le Pen for spreading "fake news" and said he never held a bank account "in any tax haven whatsoever."

"All this is factually inaccurate," Macron said.

In a subsequent twist, Le Pen's campaign said a far-left hacker was arrested this week and confessed to repeatedly targeting its website. In a statement Thursday, the campaign gave few details about the seriousness of the interference, which could range from attempts at defacing the website to flooding it with bogus traffic.

Police referred questions to prosecutors, who wouldn't comment.

Le Pen herself gave a fiery speech in a field in northern France Thursday, with an emotional appeal to desperate farmers, the jobless and the disillusioned.

Painting herself as the "voice of the people," she said her rival would continue the painful status quo.

Thousands of supporters from far and wide climbed on hay bales and packed onto a field in the northern village of Ennemain to hear her speak, chanting "We love you Marine" and "Marine President!"

Le Pen said she represents "the widow of the farmer who killed himself because he couldn't stand it anymore ... the company chief" who sees a public bid go to a foreign competitor, and the taxi driver who lost his job to "uberisation."

In each instance she targeted the suffering she wants to heal.

"Don't let them steal the election," she warned, summoning voters to join Sunday's "rendez-vous with history." The crowd went wild.

Gaelle Vincent, 35, wore a French flag in her hair to hear Le Pen speak.

"People think little villages like us vote National Front because we don't like Arabs and are racist," Vincent told The Associated Press. "We're not racist. We have to preserve our land and our values."

Macron, meanwhile, was on France's southern edge in the Pyrenees town of Albi, visiting disgruntled workers Thursday at a glass factory before holding his last campaign rally in which he called on voters from the left and the right to choose his reformist, pro-European platform.

Macron arrived to booing and slogan-shouting from dozens of protesting workers. But after 15 minutes of talking, the 39-year-old front-runner managed to calm some of their anger.

Union leader Michel Parraud called Macron "very kind and very polite," although he said he didn't think the pro-business centrist would do much for factory workers.

Macron pledged to "give strength back to the country" and "build a more efficient and fair society," speaking from an open-air stage in Albi's central square.

Le Pen's suggestion that Macron might have an offshore account cuts to the heart of her portrayal of him as an elitist former banker far removed from the people's worries. She later backed away from the suggestion of an offshore account, but prosecutors launched a probe into suspicions of forgery and the spreading of false news in order to divert votes.

In the alleged documents spread online, the "M" in Macron's purported signature didn't match his genuine sign-off, and whoever wrote the documents appeared confused as to whether the firm was a limited company or a limited liability corporation.

Metadata embedded in the document suggest it was created just before being posted online — un-

dermining the anonymous poster's claim to have circulated the documents to "hundreds of French journalists" who had "all sat on this."

There are hints tying the faked documents to far-right circles in California. One document purports to have been drawn up under the laws of Nevis but actually draws some of its language from a guide to forming limited liability companies in California. The documents first appeared on Mixtape, a relatively new northern California-based file sharing service.

The Macron campaign identified the first tweet referring to the documents as coming from the Twitter account of Nathan Damigo, a far-right activist and convicted felon based in northern California. Damigo is known on social media for punching a female anti-fascist in the face at a Berkeley protest.

In an exchange on Twitter, Damigo said he had nothing to do with the apparent forgery, saying he "just stumbled upon it and figured it would be interesting to share."

He added: "I am glad it is now being talked about."

Macron, meanwhile, got support from across the ocean.

In a message posted Thursday on Macron's Twitter account, former U.S. President Barack Obama said he was endorsing the centrist candidate "because of how important this election is."

"I have admired the campaign that Emmanuel Macron has run. He has stood up for liberal values. He put forward the vision for the important role that France plays in Europe and around the world. And he has committed to a better future for French people."

Obama ended his message with the words "En Marche" — which is the name of Macron's political movement — and "Vive La France."

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Ganley reported from Ennemain, France. Raphael Satter, Samuel Petrequin and Thomas Adamson in Paris contributed.

## **N. Korea issues direct criticism of China amid nuke dispute**

**By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea has issued a rare direct criticism of China through a commentary saying its "reckless remarks" on the North's nuclear program are testing its patience and could trigger unspecified "grave" consequences.

China, North Korea's largest trading partner and main benefactor, suspended imports of North Korean coal in line with U.N. sanctions earlier this year and has recently been urging its traditional ally to stop nuclear and missile activities amid U.S. pressure to use its leverage to resolve the nuclear standoff. Chinese state media have also unleashed regular and harsh criticisms on North Korea.

The commentary released Wednesday by the state-run Korean Central News Agency said that "a string of absurd and reckless remarks are now heard from China every day only to render the present bad situation tenser."

Asked about the KCNA commentary during a regular briefing Thursday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Beijing's position on "developing good neighborly and friendly cooperation with North Korea is also consistent and clear."

The North Korean article cited recent commentaries by Chinese state media that it said shifted the blame for deteriorating bilateral relations onto the North and raised "lame excuses for the base acts of dancing to the tune of the U.S."

"China should no longer try to test the limits of the DPRK's patience," the North Korean commentary said, using the acronym for its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. "China had

better ponder over the grave consequences to be entailed by its reckless act of chopping down the pillar of the DPRK-China relations.”

The article was not attributed to any government agency or official; the writer was identified only as Kim Chol. Still, it's unusual for the North to directly criticize China. Previously it has couched such criticism by referring to China only as “a neighboring country.”

Analyst Cheong Seong-chang at South Korea's private Sejong Institute said the North's discontent at China appears to be on the “verge of exploding.” He said North Korea will likely ignore China from now on while trying to strengthen ties with Russia and improve relations with a new South Korean government to be inaugurated next week.

The Global Times, an outspoken nationalist tabloid published by China's ruling Communist Party's flagship People's Daily, warned in a Thursday editorial that the North's actions threatened a 1961 treaty of non-aggression between the two countries. It called on the North to end its nuclear tests.

“China will not allow its northeastern region to be contaminated by North Korea's nuclear activities,” the Global Times declared.

In recent days, the paper also warned that China was able to strike back “at any side that crosses the red line” and would impose an oil embargo against the North in response to any more tests. The North Korean commentary said it's China that crossed “the red line.”

The People's Daily declared Sunday — and again on Tuesday — that the North's nuclear ambitions “put itself and the whole region into dire peril.”

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Associated Press writer Matthew Brown and news assistant Liu Zheng contributed to this report from Beijing.

## **Anger grows in South Korea over US anti-missile system**

**By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEONGJU, South Korea (AP) — The anger is palpable on a narrow road that cuts through a South Korean village where about 170 people live between green hills dotted with cottages and melon fields. It's an unlikely trouble spot in the world's last Cold War standoff.

Aging farmers in this corner of Seongju county, more than 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of the capital Seoul, spend the day sitting by the asphalt in tents or on plastic stools, watching vehicles coming and going from a former golf course where military workers are setting up an advanced U.S. missile-defense system.

“Just suddenly one day, Seongju has become the frontline,” said a tearful Park Soo-gyu, a 54-year-old strawberry farmer. “Wars today aren't just fought with guns. Missiles will be flying and where would they aim first? Right here, where the THAAD radar is.”

THAAD is shorthand for Terminal High Altitude Defense, which the South Korean and U.S. governments say is critical to cope with a growing missile threat from North Korea. When completed, the battery will consist of six truck-mounted launchers that can fire up to 48 interceptors at incoming missiles detected by the system's x-band radar.

Anger has boiled over in Seosongri village since last week when U.S. and South Korean military workers used the early-morning hours to rush key parts of THAAD into place. The system had been scheduled to enter operation by the end of the year, but South Korea's Defense Ministry said Tuesday that it is already capable of defending against North Korean missiles. The ministry didn't say when the deployment would be completed.

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Hundreds of banners hang on trees and fences along a kilometer (half-mile) stretch of the road up to where police have cut off access. They say "Withdraw the illegal THAAD immediately" and "Stop US militarism," slogans that would feel familiar in a leftist rally but are unusual in the country's traditionally conservative southeast.

"Yankee, go home!" a man yelled as he banged his fist on a car apparently carrying American soldiers, before dozens of police officers peeled him and other protesters away from the vehicle.

The local anger highlights what has arguably become the most explosive issue ahead of a presidential election next week. The May 9 vote will likely end a decadelong conservative rule that maintained a hard line against North Korea and agreed to the THAAD installation.

Front-runner Moon Jae-in, who calls for engagement with the North, has said the deployment of THAAD should be reconsidered. Some media have questioned whether the United States and a caretaker government that took over for ousted former President Park Geun-hye are rushing to complete THAAD before the election.

Earlier polls had showed overwhelming public support for THAAD following North Korean nuclear tests and a long-range rocket launch last year. But public opinion has become more divided amid the corruption scandal that led to Park's downfall and criticism that the government was pushing ahead without seeking the consent of Seongju residents.

Opposition was further inflamed after President Donald Trump said he would make South Korea pay \$1 billion for THAAD.

Seongju residents say comments by Trump show the United States may be preparing for a pre-emptive strike against North Korea. They worry that if the North retaliates, THAAD would make their county a main target.

There's also frustration about an increasingly heavy police and military presence in an area where outsiders had been mostly limited to small groups of weekend golfers. Residents are also concerned about the rumored harmful effects the electromagnetic waves from THAAD's radar might have on them and their crops. Seoul's Defense Ministry calls such worries groundless.

"We have been living very peacefully as farmers, but our daily lives have been shattered after the arrival of this weapon; we can't rest comfortably for a day and can't work without worrying," said Kim Yoon--seong, a 60-year-old melon farmer. He says many younger residents with children are considering leaving Seongju.

Residents say at least 13 people were treated at hospitals for injuries including broken bones and teeth after a violent clash last week between dozens of villagers and supporters and some 8,000 police officers who were mobilized to remove them from the road.

Three days later, more than a hundred police officers ended an hourslong standoff by swarming a handful of people who had been blocking a mountain path with a tractor to prevent construction equipment from entering the THAAD site. Police detained a man and drove away the tractor as villagers showered them with insults, including "dogs" and "Americans' slaves."

"We won't allow any U.S. military and construction vehicles to pass through the two roads," said Rev. Kang Hyun-wook, a minister of Won Buddhism, an indigenous form of the religion. The grounds include a site Won Buddhists consider as sacred and are no longer allowed to visit. "If they fly in (the THAAD parts) with helicopters, then fine, it's their money to spend and we can't do anything about that."

Several people were hurt in another clash on Sunday as police tried to remove protesters blocking two U.S. military oil trucks from entering the THAAD site. Residents said the trucks turned away because cars protesters had parked to block the road couldn't be towed.

Moon, the presidential front-runner, says THAAD's security benefits would be offset by deteriorating

relations with China, which sees THAAD's powerful radar as a threat to its own defense. South Korea's largest trade partner, China has taken several recent actions such as limiting tour group visits to South Korea that are seen as retaliation.

Other major presidential candidates have supported THAAD, but their stances grew complicated after Trump said he would make South Korea pay for it. Ahn Cheol-soo, the No. 2 candidate in polls, says he would seek parliamentary ratification over the THAAD deployment if the United States demands such payment.

The Trump administration has backed off the demand, but not before it frayed nerves.

"How can he smack an ally in the back of the head when he very well knows the difficulties South Korea is going through over the THAAD deployment," the Maeil Business newspaper said in an editorial Saturday. "The reason South Korea decided to deploy THAAD despite strong opposition from China is because it considered the importance of the U.S.-South Korea alliance in addition to realistic needs to defend North Korean missile attacks ... What does Trump think the U.S.-South Korea alliance is about, anyway?"

## Renovations are making the Kentucky Derby even more posh

By **BRUCE SCHREINER** and **GARY B. GRAVES**, Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Toni Goodman was close enough to see the horses kicking up dirt as they raced past, having spent a mere \$5 for her trackside seat to an event just days before the Kentucky Derby.

But the 56-year-old Kentucky native won't be anywhere near Churchill Downs on Saturday to watch the Run for the Roses.

"I think the Derby's great," Goodman said before the start of a claiming race featuring also-rans. "It lets people come in to see how beautiful our state is. It's just not doable for me."

One of the great sporting events has long been a world of contrasting styles, with a massive gulf separating the wealthy and famous preening on Millionaires Row from the T-shirt and jeans crowd in the infield. Major renovations completed in recent years, most of them geared toward well-heeled fans, seem to have put more distance between those worlds.

This year's average ticket price to attend the Derby — a 2-minute horse race highlighting a full day of racing, partying and people watching — is \$432, according to VividSeats.com. The Derby typically generates a brisk secondary ticket market as well.

The trend to offer high-end packages at sports venues reaches far beyond the Kentucky Derby. Any venue hosting a Super Bowl, World Series or even an All-Star Game creates an experience to cater to high rollers. New stadium construction often involves luxury suites, technology upgrades and other perks that cater to a high-income spectator. But such projects often face criticism that they squeeze out middle and lower-income fans.

Churchill Downs seems to burst at the seams on Derby Day, when more than 160,000 people pack into the venerable track and infield. Churchill's parent company has pumped about \$250 million into renovations since the early 2000s. The investment is meant to maximize revenue from the Derby and Kentucky Oaks, a race for 3-year-old fillies the day before the Derby.

This year's \$16 million upgrade modernized the second-floor clubhouse. The update includes a fresh Twin Spires Club Elite Gold Room exclusive to VIP bettors. It's adjacent to an enlarged Champions Bar that includes covered balconies with table seating offering prime views of the paddock.

Such upgrades are geared toward fans willing to shell out big money for panoramic views, sumptu-

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ous buffets and access to betting windows and restrooms without lines. Options for premium seating seem almost as numerous as the field of Derby horses. Demand outpaces available seating, which has Churchill preparing for another expansion.

Work has started on the Starting Gate Suites, scheduled to open in time for the 2018 Derby.

The suites — being built above the third-floor grandstand — will feature private dining tables and a balcony overlooking the starting gate at the top of the homestretch.

Track officials said pricing is expected soon for the suites, the key part of the \$37 million project that will boost Derby Day capacity by more than 1,800 seats.

"They'll have a bird's eye view," said track General Manager Ryan Jordan.

Other upscale spots to watch the Derby include the Finish Line Suites, Turf Club, Jockey Club Suites and the most exclusive of all — The Mansion, a tony enclave perched on the sixth floor of the clubhouse.

Paul Amburgey and his wife, Linda, spend Derby Day like many other Louisvillians — at an off-track party. They come to Churchill a few times each race meet, but don't even try to get Derby tickets. The reason: "The crowds, the cost," Linda Amburgey said.

"They cater more to the big money," her husband said. "Everything they're building is for people who have the money to pay for all this new stuff they've got."

Churchill officials point out that renovations have improved the Derby experience at all price points. People thronging to the infield pay less than \$100 apiece for access to the daylong Derby party. People ordering 2017 infield tickets late last year paid \$60 each. The price escalates to \$80 at the gate. T-shirts, jeans or shorts are common infield attire, which distinguishes race-goers from the flowery hats and dapper attire across the track in the suites.

"There are people from all walks of life all over the track," said track President Kevin Flanery. "Whatever party you want, we can throw it. And we can throw all of them on the same day."

For more than a decade, infield ticket prices stayed the same at \$40 apiece through 2012. Incremental increases have occurred since. Ticket prices have escalated elsewhere around the track in recent years, track officials said.

Track officials point to improvements in recent years to the grandstand and infield that added more restrooms, concession stands and betting windows.

The gigantic video board installed three years ago offers a living-room view for tens of thousands crammed into the infield, and many of them never glimpse at a horse during the day.

"We have improved the experience for pretty much every category of ticket customer," Jordan said.

But the infield's party-like atmosphere doesn't appeal to Goodman, and the money she'd spend on Derby tickets elsewhere at the track would help pay her bills, she said.

A few sections away, track regular Mike Lee, 61, will be at a family party on Derby Day, as usual. He's never attended the Derby but didn't seem to mind. He was happy drinking a couple of beers and betting the horses on a day when the crowd was much smaller. The improvements catering to deep-pocketed fans didn't bother him a bit.

"I don't even worry about that stuff," he said. "You don't have to have a lot of money to enjoy yourself."

## Notre Dame relaunch: Confident Kelly unfazed by hot seat

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — The "new" version of Brian Kelly is fitter, more connected to his team, less connected to his offense, not as likely to unload on a player at practice and — for the first time in his



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career — entering a season in real danger of losing his job.

Notre Dame football broke in 2016, a dysfunctional 4-8 meltdown . Kelly knows as well as anybody that another season like that in 2017 could very well be his last as head coach of the Fighting Irish.

Faced with that reality, Kelly has essentially relaunched his program, overhauling his staff, redefining his role and implementing a new culture that almost makes it feel as if there was already a head coaching change in South Bend.

It can be argued that no seat in college football gets hotter than the one on which the head coach of Notre Dame sits. But no one believes in Kelly's ability fix the Fighting Irish and deal with the weekly referendum that will be this football season more than ... Brian Kelly.

"I use the analogy, if you're a really good hitter and you're in the major leagues and you have one year when you fall below, you make a couple of adjustments, you take some BP, you have a good offseason and you start hitting again," Kelly said in an interview with The Associated Press the day before spring practice ended for the Fighting Irish last month. "I'm going to hit again. I know how to coach."

Kelly has reason to feel good about betting on himself. Last season was just the second in 27 years as a head coach in which he had a losing record. The other came in his first season rebuilding Central Michigan. In his previous six seasons at Notre Dame, Kelly was 55-23 with an appearance in the national championship game — a season that has now been vacated by the NCAA for rules violations . That's a long way from Knute Rockne and Frank Leahy, but there is no denying Kelly has been the most successful Notre Dame head coach since Lou Holtz left after the 1996 season.

After winning 10 games in 2015, Kelly was rewarded with a six-year contract extension. The Fighting Irish started the 2016 season ranked No. 10 with one of the best quarterback prospects in the country.

Then everything went wrong.

Kelly performed a post-season autopsy that included meeting for the first time in his career with every one of his players. Their message to him: "We (the coaches) weren't hard enough on them. We weren't demanding enough," Kelly said. A lack of consistent leadership that started at the top left Notre Dame with a team that wilted when facing adversity and lost seven games decided in the fourth quarter.

In remaking his staff — a process that started last September when defensive coordinator Brian VanGorder was fired four games into the season — Kelly parted ways with some coaches who had worked with him going back to his first head coaching job at Division II Grand Valley.

Between on-field coaches, strength and conditioning coaches and support staff, Kelly made 14 off-season hires.

"How many times will (the administration) allow you to have three and a half million dollars in contracts after a 4-8 season?" Kelly said. "I think that was a pretty good referendum on how they feel I'm the right guy for the job."

Kelly hired Mike Elko away from Wake Forest to be defensive coordinator and 33-year-old Chip Long from Memphis to coordinate the offense and call the plays, a job that Kelly has been reluctant to relinquish during his tenure at Notre Dame.

It is a new approach for Kelly that allows him to satisfy another of his players' requests. They wanted him around more and involved in all aspects of the team. This winter, for the first time, Kelly attended the players' 6 a.m. strength and conditioning workouts, and made a point to eat more meals at the training table.

"When you change your own role you have different relationship with the players," Kelly said. "Whereas I was maybe more of the hammer, if you will, when it came to our players, I have set that up within our program where the level of accountability is being shared by everybody. And so I don't have to be that guy that is the heavy on every single player."

"So it allows the guys to feel that they can come to me and I'm approachable and they can play for Brian Kelly on Saturdays. 'I want to play for Coach. Coach really cares about me.'"

Kelly, who also has lost about 20 pounds since the end of the season, is not claiming a personal transformation. It's not so much a new Kelly as it is a new role for Kelly.

"Coach Kelly certainly hasn't changed who he is," team captain and star offensive tackle Mike McGlinchey. "We've all known who he is. He's a straight shooter with us and we've been straightforward with him since the season has ended."

Hearing Kelly yell at receiver Equanimeous St. Brown — "Do you want to play!" — from across the field for going to the sideline without explanation during the last open practice of the spring, it was clear that Kelly has not totally given up the hammer. But the players say they are seeing a different side of him.

"He said to us early in the winter, 'You know I love you guys by getting things done for you guys.' That was kind of like a business man approach," said senior safety Drue Tranquill. "I've seen him kind of (taper) off that a little bit and become more of a personal guy. Whereas younger guys were like, you know, 'I haven't really had a conversation with Coach Kelly.' Now guys are starting to feel that. And guys are starting to want to put their necks out on the table and play for him."

Coaches talk all the time about ignoring the noise and eliminating distractions. Kelly's biggest challenge this season could be insulating his team from any speculation about him, especially if early season games against Georgia and Michigan State do not go well. Kelly said he has told his players to stick to the process and no matter the record, the season will be a success.

Kelly knows that same standard will not be applied to him.

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Follow Ralph D. Russo at [www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP](http://www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP)

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More college football: <http://collegefootball.ap.org/>

## **International basketball celebrates vote to allow headgear**

**By DOUG FEINBERG AND BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writers**

Even as basketball's popularity soared around the world, not everyone believed they could get in the game.

A ban on headgear by the sport's governing body meant choosing between play and prayer, a rule that wasn't about religion but felt as if it were to some groups.

That ended Thursday with a unanimous vote to allow headgear, a change that was celebrated by Muslim women, Indian men and others who felt excluded.

"My reaction is it's a victory for inclusion in international basketball," said Big East Commissioner Val Ackermann, a longtime FIBA board member. "I think this will especially work to benefit Muslim female athletes. It's a very positive and very important development."

And one that finally caught basketball up with soccer and other sports that had already relaxed their regulations on headgear. FIBA's lasted two decades before it was finally removed after a two-year testing phase for head coverings.

"FIBA showed its commitment to inclusion by unanimously passing this rule regarding players' headgear," said NBA Deputy Commissioner and FIBA board member Mark Tatum. "FIBA displayed a progressive attitude toward the situation to come up with a resolution that works for all and will continue to grow the game of basketball around the world."

The vote at FIBA's midterm congress in Hong Kong, attended by representatives of 139 national fed-

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erations, allows female players to wear hijabs and male players to wear turbans and yarmulkes following a ban initially imposed for safety reasons 20 years ago.

Iranian national basketball team player Shadi Abdolvand said basketball will change in Iran because younger players will be encouraged to "pursue their goals."

"The end of this month there is a Western Asian tournament and we were looking forward to hearing the news that we can take part," she said. The team's dream is to compete with the world's top players and "see if we can get much better than what we are now," she said.

The rule, which goes into effect Oct. 1, requires headgear to be black, white or the same dominant color as the uniform for all players. It cannot cover any part of the face, have no opening or closing elements around the face and/or neck, and have no parts that extrude from its surface.

The effort to push the governing body to change its regulations dates back several years. Athlete Ally — an organization dedicated to end homophobia and transphobia in sports and to educate athletic communities to stand up against discrimination — joined with Shirzanan, a media and advocacy organization for Muslim female athletes, to send a letter to FIBA on Jan. 25, urging leaders to "immediately lift the ban on religious headgear." The letter was signed by many WNBA players, including rookie of the year Breanna Stewart.

That letter came a few years after American-Muslim basketball player Indira Kajlo helped campaign to have FIBA loosen its restrictions on headgear. She started an online petition that drew around 70,000 signatures. She also worked with members of the Sikh community in India, as well as hearing from women in Turkey, Sweden and the UK who expressed their support.

Kajlo, who has played professionally in Ireland and Bosnia, said she had to choose between her faith and the sport she loved when she decided to wear the hijab a few years ago.

"It's a horrible feeling. There's nothing in the world like having to choose between your faith and something you love," she said.

FIBA wasn't thinking about that when it enacted the ban.

"I think initially people thought that this was about religion and as FIBA studied it more, they wanted to make sure it was safe," USA Basketball CEO Jim Tooley said. "Now some people have scoffed (at that), how could a hijab be unsafe? It wasn't just about that. There were some head dressings that were like scarves that were loose and hung off. It was more to it than just hijabs."

Muslim female athletes have long fought to have the right to play the sport of their choice in modest attire and in hijab.

For the 2012 London Olympics, the International Olympic Committee and the International Judo Federation agreed to allow Saudi judo player Wojdan Shahrkhani to compete while wearing a headscarf. She made history that year as one of the first Saudi women to ever compete in the Olympics.

American fencer Ibtihaj Muhammad became the first athlete to wear a hijab while competing for the United States in the Rio Olympics, earning a bronze medal as part of Team USA.

"When other Arab women see a Muslim playing professionally, that encourages them to play as well. There's no reason for them not to play now, nothing is stopping them," said Salim al-Mutawa'a, the head of the United Arab Emirates' Basketball Association.

Muna Mohamed, a 22-year-old Somali-American in Minnesota, took part in a project to design culturally sensitive sportswear for East African girls, most of them Muslim, including one with a tight black headpiece. She welcomed FIBA's decision, saying it would open doors for Muslim girls who wish to wear a headscarf while playing sports.

"It's about time. This happened because sports should be (accessible) to all, regardless of race,

gender, class or where you come from," Mohamed said. "It should not have taken this long for this to happen."

Associated Press writers Aya Batrawy and Malak Harb in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Mahdi Fattahi in Tehran, Iran; Ian Deitch in Jerusalem; and Jeff Baenen in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

## **Jury: Univ. of Iowa discriminated against athletic official**

**By LUKE MEREDITH, AP Sports Writer**

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A jury on Thursday awarded more than \$1.4 million to a former University of Iowa athletic administrator, ruling that the university had discriminated against her because of her gender and sexual orientation.

Jane Meyer alleged she suffered workplace discrimination as a gay woman in a relationship with the school's longtime and highly successful field hockey coach Tracey Griesbaum, that the school retaliated against her for complaining about Griesbaum's firing, and that she was paid less than a male counterpart for similar work.

Judge Michael D. Huppert said the eight-person jury found in favor of Meyer on all five counts.

"This is for everyone who has fought for discrimination," Meyer said. "It's much bigger than Jane Meyer."

The trial lasted nearly three weeks and featured testimony from Iowa football coach Kirk Ferentz and wrestling coach Tom Brands.

The jury began deliberating Wednesday and delivered its sealed verdict on Thursday. Meyer's attorney, Jill Zwagerman, said she expects Iowa to appeal the verdict — partly because of the size of the award.

But Zwagerman also said that the \$374,000 in lost wages the jury awarded to Meyer can be tripled under Iowa law because the jury found Iowa's actions to be willful. Zwagerman also said that they will file a request through the courts to investigate claims of gender discrimination at Iowa.

A lawsuit filed against the university by Griesbaum is set to begin early next month.

Meyer, who was Iowa's top assistant and the top ranking female athletics administrator for a decade, filed the lawsuit after being transferred to another department soon after Griesbaum was fired. Meyer's job was eliminated in 2016.

Meyer's lawyers closed their case by bringing up a memo from Meyer to athletic director Gary Barta that outlined many of the concerns of gender and sexual discrimination that ultimately led her to sue her former employer. A day after Meyer gave the memo to Barta, she was reassigned outside of athletics.

"This is a landmark case....Jane is amazing. She stood up and fought for herself and a lot of other women," Zwagerman said.

Meyer's lawyers also brought up an email from the university acknowledging that it was moving Meyer from the department because Griesbaum had threatened to sue the school and that she had made their relationship public through The Associated Press.

Coaches Ferentz, Brands and Heller criticized Meyer as not being responsive to their requests, especially involving plans to improve athletics facilities. Barta testified some coaches were no longer willing to work with Meyer, prompting him to decide to hire Gene Taylor as his deputy.

Iowa Assistant Attorney General George Carroll told jurors that Meyer ultimately was moved out of the department because she had behaved "intolerably" in the months following Griesbaum's firing. Carroll

also argued that Iowa had no history of discrimination against gay coaches.

Jurors awarded Meyer \$444,000 in past emotional distress and \$612,000 in future emotional distress in addition to lost wages, according to Huppert.

Iowa spokeswoman Jeneane Beck said the "university is disappointed by the jury's decision" but had no further comment.

Still, the ruling was a blow to Barta, who has been with Iowa since 2006 and received a contract extension in early 2016 that guarantees him \$4.6 million in compensation through 2021.

As for Meyer, she said throughout the trial that her career in athletics was likely finished no matter what the jury decided. But after winning on every count, Meyer might reconsider that stance.

"I would love for an institution to hire me. To stand up and say 'You know what? She stood up and wants to do the right thing.'"

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Associated Press Writer Ryan J. Foley contributed to this report.

## **'Veep' stars respond to Australian injured while laughing**

**By ROD McGUIRK, Associated Press**

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — An Australian lawmaker said Friday he was stunned that he had grabbed the attention of stars of the U.S. television series "Veep" by laughing so hard at an episode of the political satire that he choked on his sushi and knocked himself unconscious on a kitchen bench.

Graham Perrett was left with three stitches under a blackened left eye and surgical glue on his split nose after the mishap while relaxing in front of the TV at his home in the east coast city of Brisbane on Sunday evening.

The 51-year-old opposition Labor Party lawmaker said he laughed so hard that he choked on his eel sushi. He sprang from his lounge chair then hit his head on a granite kitchen bench top, breaking his glasses and knocking himself unconscious for a few seconds.

News of his plight reported in The Australian newspaper on Thursday drew an incredulous response from "Veep" star Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who tweeted: "I mean, c'mon, I'm actually having a hard time believing it. But the real question is — what episode?"

Perrett replied that it was the first episode of the new season in which a character, Congressman Jonah Ryan, is caught out faking cancer by shaving his head to milk public sympathy. "Pure gold, your highness!!!" Perrett tweeted Louis-Dreyfus.

Another "Veep" actor Timothy Simons tweeted in response to Perrett's accident: "oh my god. oh my god."

"Veep" showrunner David Mandel told BuzzFeed he apologized to Perrett and to Australia.

"I would like to make an official statement on behalf of 'Veep' and the United States," Mandel said. "We would like to apologize to Australia, our key ally in the Asia-Pacific region, for writing something that would cause bodily harm to your people."

Perrett said after all the entertainment "Veep" had provided him, he was glad to give some amusement back to its makers.

"For a domestic accident, it's just been bizarre, it's been quite surreal," Perrett said of the attention the "Veep" connection had attracted.

"As someone who lives and breathes politics, I appreciate the nuances in 'Veep,' but for the actors to respond was a real buzz," he added.

Perrett has watched two "Veep" episodes since his accident, but he has learnt a lesson.

"I definitely wasn't eating," he said.

## Prince Philip, 95, keeps calm but won't carry on royal duty

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — For decades, he has stood loyally at the side of Queen Elizabeth II and made thousands of solo appearances as well. He calls himself the world's most experienced unveiler of plaques.

He has been eligible for a government pension since June 10, 1986, yet still soldiered on.

Now, at age 95, Prince Philip says he is retiring from royal duties.

The queen's husband said Thursday he will carry out scheduled engagements for the next few months but won't take on new ones starting in the fall.

His retirement announcement followed a night of frenzied speculation caused by news reports about an "emergency" palace meeting Thursday.

Buckingham Palace said Philip, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, made the decision to retire with the full support of the queen.

Tall, craggy-faced and always elegantly dressed, Philip is as famous for his occasional off-color gaffes and one-liners as he is for his devotion to the monarch, and he joked about his retirement at an Order of Merit reception at St. James's Palace.

"I'm sorry to hear you're standing down," said 88-year-old mathematician Michael Atiyah said, using the British expression for retirement.

"Well, I can't stand up much longer," Philip replied. He walked with his head held high, despite his self-deprecating claim.

Harvey Oyer, a Florida attorney who was invited to a Buckingham Palace lunch reception, told The Associated Press that Philip looked remarkably well.

"The big takeaway is there was no indication that this was a farewell," Oyer said. "He did not look unhealthy in any way. He was as spry and humorous and engaging as he has always been."

Philip has made earlier concessions to age, announcing when he turned 90 in 2011 that he was "winding down" his official duties. He said at the time that he felt he had "done my bit."

Since then, he's had some serious health issues, including a blocked heart artery, and has been hospitalized several times.

There were no indications that Philip suffers from any new health problems. The statement indicated Philip will carry out previously scheduled engagements between now and August.

Few would begrudge him a chance to take it easy after more than 22,000 solo royal engagements since Elizabeth ascended to the throne in 1952.

He quickly discovered he had no defined constitutional role and had to carve his own path, making it his top priority to support his wife in her considerable public endeavors.

While few were surprised that Philip is stepping back, tourists outside the imposing gates of Buckingham Palace expressed unhappiness about the news.

"He's been an icon for so long, and I've really admired him, and it saddens me in a way," said Grace Marie, who nonetheless said she understood his decision.

She said it was time for the younger royals to step into the spotlight.

There was praise for Philip from other parts of the Commonwealth. In Australia, where the queen is recognized as head of state, officials praised Philip's tenacity.

"It says something about an individual that they get to the age of 95 before they decide to officially retire," Australian Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce told reporters. "It's something to aim for."

Philip, a member of the Greek royal family in exile, sacrificed a successful naval career to support Elizabeth when she became queen.

He became the longest-serving consort in British history in 2009 — much as Elizabeth has become the

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country's longest reigning monarch.

Philip is known for having a sometimes-offensive sense of humor — and for gaffes that accompanied his many travels. Among his most infamous was in 1986, while visiting Beijing, where he told a group of British students: "If you stay here much longer you'll all be slitty-eyed."

Officials said the queen, who turned 91 last month, will carry on her royal engagements with the support of the royal family. She has indicated that she does not plan to retire, saying it her duty to serve for life.

Elizabeth has, however, reduced her workload considerably in recent years as her children and grandchildren have moved to the fore. She has stopped making long-haul air flights to other Commonwealth countries and cut back on travel to continental Europe.

Attention has been increasingly focused on her son Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, and on her grandson Prince William and his wife, Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge.

Prince Harry has also commanded considerable attention, most recently by talking openly about emotional problems he dealt with for 20 years after his mother, Princess Diana, died in a car crash in Paris.

Philip may feel the monarchy is in good hands, with the line of succession extending to William and Kate's children, Prince George, 3, and Princess Charlotte, who just turned 2.

The palace said Philip will continue his role with more than 780 charitable organizations but will not regularly attend engagements.

He is not expected to disappear completely from the public stage; the palace said he may still take part in some events from time to time.

The queen is normally quite reserved about her private life, but she broke with tradition in a 1997 speech marking their 50 years of marriage.

"He is someone who doesn't take easily to compliments," she said. "He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim or we shall ever know."

Earlier Thursday, a report by Britain's Daily Mail about an unusual meeting of royal household staff prior to the retirement announcement sparked a worldwide wave of internet speculation about the health of Elizabeth and Philip, including incorrect reports that the flag atop Buckingham Palace had been lowered to half-staff.

Britain's Sun tabloid briefly reported on its website that Philip had died. The incorrect report was quickly dropped.

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Associated Press writers Danica Kirka and Kevin Scott in London, Kristen Gelineau in Sydney and Adriana Gomez Licon in Miami contributed.

## Anti-Trump late night jokes coming at a blistering pace

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stephen Colbert, whose crude reference to Donald Trump angered some of the president's supporters this week, has lobbed zingers at him at the blistering pace of 3.37 a day during the chief executive's first 100 days in office.

Trump is on pace to be the most joked-about president in late-night television in at least 25 years, the Center for Media and Public Affairs at George Mason University said Thursday.

Colbert, on his show Wednesday, discussed the fallout from a Trump joke two days earlier that prompted calls to fire him and boycott the CBS "Late Show" advertisers. He said he didn't regret insult-

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ing the president, but that "I would change a few words that were cruder than they needed to be." He made a reference to the male anatomy when he said of Trump Monday: "The only thing your mouth is good for is being Vladimir Putin's c--- holster."

Colbert said he was upset at Trump for insulting CBS "Face the Nation" host John Dickerson.

It was one of 337 Trump jokes that Colbert has made since the president's inauguration in January, the study said. Trevor Noah of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" made 315 Trump jokes in the same period of time, NBC's Jimmy Fallon unleashed 231 and ABC's Jimmy Kimmel 177.

The Trump-battering has paid off handsomely for Colbert and CBS. The "Late Show" eclipsed Fallon's "Tonight" show in the ratings shortly after Trump's inauguration and has now won 13 weeks straight. Last week CBS averaged 2.74 million viewers to Fallon's 2.68 million, the Nielsen company said.

Nielsen's preliminary ratings from the nation's top markets indicates that Colbert's show Wednesday night slightly exceeded the previous Wednesday — indicating no immediate fallout from the Putin joke.

"The polarization of politics has migrated into the polarization of late-night humor," said Robert Lichter, the George Mason professor who directs the comedy content research. "People want to hear jokes about the politicians they don't like."

That in itself turns some conventional wisdom on its head: for years many late-night comics made it a point to be equal opportunity abusers for fear of turning off one side or another, he said.

Trump has been the target of some 1,060 late-night jokes since taking office, the study said. That puts him on pace to beat President Bill Clinton's record of 1,717 jokes in 1998, the year his affair with Monica Lewinsky was in the news, Lichter said.

Colbert, for his part, isn't taking any pity on the president.

"He, I believe, can take care of himself," Colbert said Wednesday. "I have jokes; he has the launch codes. So, it's a fair fight."

## AP NewsBreak: Ringling's final show coming to Facebook Live

By TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus first wowed audiences in the 19th century. For the iconic American spectacle's final act, it will broadcast the final performance on a 21st century medium: Facebook Live.

The company told The Associated Press this week that the final circus show on the evening of May 21 will be streamed live on the social media network and on the circus's website. The final performance will be in Uniondale, New York.

Earlier this year, Feld Entertainment, the company that owns the iconic circus, announced that the show would end in May.

The circus's decline happened due to a variety of factors. Declining attendance, combined with high operating costs, changing public tastes and prolonged battles with animal rights groups all contributed to its demise.

Sam Gomez, the circus's vice president of digital and relationship marketing, said Ringling did something similar, although on a smaller scale, during the final elephant act performance in 2016. During that broadcast on Facebook, Ringling showed a pre-recorded intro, then cut to the live act. For the May 21 show, the entire performance will be broadcast live from start to finish and will be hosted by Kristen Michelle Wilson, Ringling's first female ringmaster.

Organizers have taken into consideration that most people will probably tune in on phones or tablets.

"It's basically a TV shoot and we're certainly thinking about lighting and sound," said Gomez. "How will



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this look when you're looking at it on your phone or your tablet? We've had lots of conversations about tight shots so you can see the performer's skill and expressions and their artistry."

Gomez said Ringling will leave the video up for a short while — it's unclear how long — but not forever. The live show allows people to "witness the end of an era."

"We wanted to give families around the world one last chance to experience 'the greatest show on earth' together," he said.

Ringling Bros. has two touring circuses; one will perform for four nights in Providence, Rhode Island, starting Thursday and ending for good in that city on Sunday. The other touring show will end at the Nassau Coliseum in New York on May 21.

The circus, with its exotic animals, flashy costumes and death-defying acrobats, has been a staple of entertainment in the United States since the mid-1800s. Phineas Taylor Barnum made a traveling spectacle of animals and human oddities popular, while the five Ringling brothers performed juggling acts and skits from their home base in Wisconsin. Eventually, they merged and the modern circus was born.

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Online: [www.facebook.com/ringlingbros](http://www.facebook.com/ringlingbros) . [www.ringling.com](http://www.ringling.com) .

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Follow Tamara Lush on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/tamaralush> .

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This story has been corrected to reflect that the name of the venue is Nassau Coliseum, not Nassau County Coliseum.

## Oil prices stabilize in Asian trading; stock indexes slide

By **KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer**

HONG KONG (AP) — Oil prices stabilized in Asian trading Friday after hitting a five-month low while regional stock benchmarks headed lower in holiday-thinned trading.

KEEPING SCORE: Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng index lost 0.8 percent to 24,500.70 while the Shanghai Composite index in mainland China shed 0.6 percent to 3,107.25. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.5 percent to 5,846.80. Markets in Japan and South Korea were closed for holidays.

CRUDE CONCERNS: Oil prices found their footing after tumbling during U.S. trading on uncertainty over whether OPEC will extend an agreement to cut production to shore up prices. Member nations of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries are due to discuss the deal later this month. U.S. benchmark crude futures rose 20 cents to \$45.61 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract slumped to its lowest level since late November, losing \$2.30, or nearly 5 percent, to settle at \$45.52 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, the standard for international oils, rose 19 cents to \$48.47 in London after a similar decline.

QUOTE WORTHY: "The collapse in oil prices saw (benchmark West Texas Intermediate) plunge as the market continues to probe for a bottom amid oversupply concerns," said Stephen Innes, senior trader at OANDA. Oil is now near the psychological \$45 level "which, if broken could send the oil pits into complete disarray and will likely have far-reaching consequences for both equity and currency markets near term," he added.

ENERGY SHARES: Oil company stocks led declines. PetroChina, China's biggest oil producer, lost 2.6 percent and Sinopec, the country's largest refiner, fell 1.5 percent. Australia's Woodside Petroleum slid 2 percent.

JOB REPORT: Investors' attention now turns to U.S. jobs data due after Asian markets close, when the Labor Department releases nonfarm payrolls for April. Economists forecast that job-creating bounced

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back last month after a disappointing March, in the latest sign of U.S. economic strength supporting the Fed's plans for more interest rate increases this year.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks were little changed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.1 percent to close at 2,389.52. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 6.43 points to 20,951.47. The Nasdaq composite added 2.79 points to 6,075.34.

CURRENCIES: The dollar strengthened to 112.59 yen from 112.46 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.0975 from \$1.0984.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, May 5, the 125th day of 2017. There are 240 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 5, 1862, Mexican troops defeated French occupying forces in the Battle of Puebla.

On this date:

In 1494, during his second voyage to the Western Hemisphere, Christopher Columbus landed in Jamaica.

In 1821, Napoleon Bonaparte, 51, died in exile on the island of St. Helena.

In 1892, Congress passed the Geary Act, which required Chinese in the United States to carry a certificate of residence at all times, or face deportation.

In 1927, "To the Lighthouse," Virginia Woolf's fifth novel, was published in London.

In 1942, wartime sugar rationing began in the United States.

In 1945, in the only fatal attack of its kind during World War II, a Japanese balloon bomb exploded on Gearhart Mountain in Oregon, killing the pregnant wife of a minister and five children. Denmark and the Netherlands were liberated as a German surrender went into effect.

In 1955, West Germany became a fully sovereign state. The baseball musical "Damn Yankees" opened on Broadway.

In 1961, astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. became America's first space traveler as he made a 15-minute suborbital flight aboard Mercury capsule Freedom 7.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Kentucky Derby, the first of his Triple Crown victories.

In 1981, Irish Republican Army hunger-striker Bobby Sands died at the Maze Prison in Northern Ireland in his 66th day without food.

In 1987, the congressional Iran-Contra hearings opened with former Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord (SEE'-kohrd) the lead-off witness.

In 1994, Singapore caned American teenager Michael Fay for vandalism, a day after the sentence was reduced from six lashes to four in response to an appeal by President Bill Clinton.

Ten years ago: A Kenya Airways jet crashed in southern Cameroon, killing all 114 people on board. Street Sense roared from next-to-last in a 20-horse field to win the Kentucky Derby. Floyd Mayweather Jr. beat Oscar De La Hoya to win the WBC 154-pound title at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas.

Five years ago: Five Guantanamo Bay prisoners, including Khalid Sheikh Mohammed (HAH'-leed shayk moh-HAH'-mehd), the self-proclaimed mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, were arraigned in a proceeding that dragged on for 13 hours due to stalling tactics by the defendants. In what his aides described as his first full-fledged political rally of the election year, President Barack Obama, in Columbus, Ohio, tore into Mitt Romney as a willing and eager "rubber stamp" for failed policies. Thousands

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of Japanese marched to celebrate the switching off of the last of their nation's 50 nuclear reactors. I'll Have Another caught Bodemeister down the stretch and pulled away in the final furlong to win the Kentucky Derby.

One year ago: Former Los Angeles trash collector Lonnie Franklin Jr. was convicted of 10 counts of murder in the "Grim Sleeper" serial killings that targeted poor, young black women over two decades. President Barack Obama commuted the prison sentences of 58 federal convicts, part of a broader push to ease punishments for nonviolent drug offenders. Londoners cast votes in an election that gave the city its first Muslim mayor, Labour lawmaker Sadiq Khan, who succeeded outgoing Conservative Boris Johnson.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Pat Carroll is 90. Former AFL-CIO president John J. Sweeney is 83. Saxophonist Ace Cannon is 83. Country singer-musician Roni Stoneman is 79. Actor Michael Murphy is 79. Actor Lance Henriksen is 77. Comedian-actor Michael Palin is 74. Actor John Rhys-Davies is 73. Rock correspondent Kurt Loder is 72. Rock musician Bill Ward (Black Sabbath) is 69. Actress Melinda Culea is 62. Actress Lisa Eilbacher is 60. Actor Richard E. Grant is 60. Former broadcast journalist John Miller is 59. Rock singer Ian McCulloch (Echo and the Bunnymen) is 58. NBC newsman Brian Williams is 58. Rock musician Shawn Drover (Megadeth) is 51. TV personality Kyan (KY'-ihn) Douglas is 47. Actress Tina Yothers is 44. Rhythm and blues singer Raheem DeVaughn is 42. Actor Santiago Cabrera is 39. Actor Vincent Kartheiser is 38. Singer Craig David is 36. Actress Danielle Fishel is 36. Actor Henry Cavill is 34. Actor Clark Duke is 32. Soul singer Adele is 29. Rock singer Skye Sweetnam is 29. Rhythm-and-blues singer Chris Brown is 28.

Thought for Today: "It is quite true what philosophers say: that Life must be understood backwards. But that makes one forget the other assumption: that it must be lived forwards." — Soren Kierkegaard, Danish philosopher (born this date in 1813, died 1855).