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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: GIRLS golf meet in Groton at 10 a.m., 7th/8th grade track at Aberdeen Central HS at 4 p.m., School Board Meeting at 7 p.m.

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

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

Tuesday, May 9

Senior Menu: New England ham dinner, fruit cocktail cake, ice cream, whole wheat bread.

School Lunch: Submarines, sweet tots, fruit.

School Breakfast: Boscus stick, fruit, juice,

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Midwest Masonry & Concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

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Obamacare Has Failed; Time to Replace it is Now

By Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.)

In 2009, as part of a delegation from the National Governor's Association, I had the privilege of meeting the President and the Vice President on their proposed health care plan, what later became known as Obamacare. Although I disagreed with his plan, it was a friendly conversation. I wish the president would have considered some of our suggestions.

The most egregious and unsustainable portions of Obamacare were delayed. But, they are impacting us now. It was a smart political move by President Obama to delay the problems, and as I told him would happen back in 2009, those problems are hitting us square in the nose today.

I remember thinking that if all of the planned Obamacare provisions were in place, people like my dad, who is now 89, would be subject to more limitations on their health care delivery than the rest of us. I also remember thinking that in South Dakota, we already had a plan to guarantee the renewal of insurance policies regardless of health, to assure that coverage was portable from one plan to another in the group market, and that there were limitations placed on the marketing of insurance plans so that there was a strict ratio of the most expensive premiums to the least expensive premiums. In South Dakota, this actually worked. We also allowed children to remain on their parents insurance policies until age 29, if they were a student. Once you were in the insurance system and kept your coverage in force, you never had to worry about pre-existing conditions.

Today, we also empathize with those who are concerned about running out of coverage if they or their family encounter a serious illness. This is fixable, we know this because we did it in South Dakota. You buy insurance assuming that when you really need it, it will be there.

Obamacare will collapse under its own weight, regardless of whether or not the Congress takes action. We need a new plan that prioritizes patients and the free market. The government has never been good at running health care. You need only look at the VA or Indian Health Service to know that.

I think the American Health Care Act, which recently passed the House of Representatives, is a step in the right direction. Removing the mandates, eliminating the taxes, providing more flexibility for states and clearing a path for the free market to work again are all good steps toward reducing premiums for families and employers.

But, it's not perfect and I would like to see improvements, including a transition plan for folks closing in on retirement, clear assurances on how we'll handle pre-existing conditions and stronger promotion of group insurance plans because that is the most effective delivery system we have.

Should the House bill be improved? Absolutely. Is it still better than Obamacare? Without a doubt.

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Great State, Great Staff

A column by Gov. Dennis Daugaard:

The State of South Dakota impacts the lives of its citizens daily. We drive on roads maintained by the Department of Transportation. We enjoy parks and recreational areas operated by the Department of Game, Fish and Parks. Many in need receive help from the Department of Social Services.

When people think about state government, though, I would bet most think about my role as governor or about the work of our legislators. It's the elected officials who make headlines. On May 10, 2017, State Employee Recognition Day, I want the headlines to be about the real pride of the State of South Dakota: our state employees.

More than 7,000 South Dakotans are public servants under my direction in the Executive Branch, and I am surrounded by some of the hardest working and most dedicated employees to be found in any organization. Their jobs range from administrative assistant to attorney and receptionist to registered nurse.

Some of these positions are dangerous. Our Highway Patrol officers face unknown circumstances and unpredictable people every time they make a stop or are called to action. Correctional officers and child protective services representatives may face harrowing circumstances as well.

A team in the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications plays defense in a world war against hackers who attack our computer network daily. Just one infiltration could gain personal information of our citizens and lead to millions of dollars of expense.

Every day I notice the pride with which the custodial staff in the Capitol Building clean, polish and maintain our hallmark state government building for citizens and visitors. During 'Christmas at the Capitol,' these dedicated people alter their schedules to water almost 100 trees throughout the building and to ensure the Capitol looks its best seven days a week.

These are just a few examples of more than 500 different kinds of jobs held in state government. This week, in honor of State Employee Recognition Day, take a moment to recognize our state employees and thank them for their service throughout the year.

No one is more invested in the future of South Dakota than the people who power it day-to-day. I hope you will share your appreciation with a state employee today.

Mother's Day Takes on a New Meaning This Year

By Sen. John Thune

Families across South Dakota will soon celebrate Mother's Day. It's a chance for all of us to honor the moms who changed us, fed us, clothed us, cleaned up after us, did our laundry, and sacrificed their own comforts and happiness to give us a better life. Honoring them one day a year hardly seems sufficient.

Growing up in Murdo, Mother's Day was one of the few occasions when we got to eat out. My dad would treat my mom and our family to dinner after church at the Star Family Restaurant, the place where I would end up spending seven summers working to pay for college. Mother's Day represented one of the few times a year that my mom got out of the kitchen, and true to her character, she enjoyed the moment to the fullest. Always sweet and kind, my mom had learned how to appreciate the simple things in life, a trait I'm grateful that she passed on to me and my siblings.

When Kimberley and I became parents, I had a whole new reason to celebrate Mother's Day. Year after year, I watched as she selflessly nurtured our two daughters, and when the girls came of age, we were able on Mother's Day to express our appreciation to Kimberley for being the super mom in our lives. She was, and is, deserving of every good thing that has come her way.

Which brings me to today. This year will be the first Mother's Day for both of our daughters. Larissa had a little girl last September, and Brittany gave birth to a baby boy less than a month ago. Kimberley and I were proud to be there to see our two little girls embrace the intergenerational gift of motherhood and take on the daunting task of being a mom. And I got to watch Kimberley gently impart the wisdom of the lessons she learned from her days in the trenches as a young mom. They were special moments for us, and we won't ever forget them.

This year will be a Mother's Day like no other for our family. For Brittany and Luke and John Mark, and for Larissa and Scott and Henley, Mother's Day just became real. And because of that, we are all truly blessed. Our family wishes all the moms out there across South Dakota a very happy Mother's Day.

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Today in Weather History

May 6, 1988: High winds produced blowing dust which reduced visibilities to less than one half mile in northeastern South Dakota. Wind gusts of 62 mph were reported at Aberdeen. A small building was destroyed in Gettysburg and a building was damaged near Timber Lake. Winds also blew over a tractor-trailer injuring a man in Okaton.

May 6, 1999: High winds of 35 to 50 mph, gusting to over 60 mph blew across central and north central South Dakota from the early morning to the late evening hours causing some damage. In Pierre, the high winds blew a large tree down and tore loose a piece of the sheet metal cornice atop a downtown building. At the Legion Memorial Park in Mobridge, the high winds knocked the centerfield lights to the ground. In Jones County, a semi-tractor trailer was blown over and damaged. A fishing tournament at Lake Oahe had to be postponed as a result of the high winds.

1876: A tornado, estimated at F3 intensity, tracked four miles across Chicago, Illinois. The damaged buildings included a candy factory, a hospital, a freight depot, and a church. The tornado moved out over Lake Michigan and was observed to have multiple vortices by a reporter. Further south in Illinois, a tornado blew a moving passenger train off the tracks near Neoga, injuring all 19 people aboard.

1937: The German passenger airship LZ 129 Hindenburg caught fire and was destroyed during its attempt to dock with its mooring mast at Naval Air Station Lakehurst in Manchester Township, New Jersey, United States. Of the 97 people on board (36 passengers and 61 crewmen), there were 35 fatalities (13 passengers and 22 crewmen). One worker on the ground was also killed, making a total of 36 deaths. The Hindenburg was delayed two hours from docking due to thunderstorms in the area.

1975: A massive tornado hit Omaha, Nebraska killing three persons, injuring 133 others, and causing over 250 million dollars damage. The tornado struck during the late afternoon moving northeastward through the industrial and residential areas of west central Omaha and lifting over the northern section of the city. The twister, which cut a swath ten miles long and as much as a quarter of a mile wide. It was the most costly in U.S. history up till that time.

1933 - Charleston, SC, was deluged with 10.57 inches of rain, an all-time 24 hour record for that location. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - A massive tornado hit Omaha, NE, killing three persons, injuring 133 others, and causing 150 million dollars damage. The tornado struck during the late afternoon moving northeastward through the industrial and residential areas of west central Omaha, and lifting over the northern section of the city. The twister, which cut a swath ten miles long and as much as a quarter of a mile wide, was the mostly costly in U.S. history up til that time. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Eighteen cities in California and Oregon reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 91 degrees at Portland OR, 101 degrees at Medford OR, and 104 degrees at Sacramento CA, were the warmest of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - A major storm brought high winds to the western half of the country. A wind gust of 74 mph at Pueblo CO broke their May record established just four days earlier, and winds in the Arapahoe Ski Basin area of Colorado reached 85 mph. In North Dakota, the high winds reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust closing many roads. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Sixteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date. Morning lows of 17 at Bismarck ND and 26 at Minneapolis MN were the coldest of record for so late in the season. A reading of 43 degrees at the start of the Kentucky Derby was the coldest in 115 years of records. Light snow was reported in the Upper Midwest, with an inch reported at Chicago IL. (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Snow and high winds prevailed behind a Pacific cold front crossing the northwestern U.S. Wind gusts above 50 mph were reported in southeastern Idaho, and heavy snow blanketed the Cascade Mountains of Washington State, with twelve inches reported at Stampede Pass. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Slight Chance T-storms then Chance Showers	Slight Chance Showers	Partly Sunny
High: 78 °F	Low: 47 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 71 °F

WARM & DRY WEEKEND

 **Today**
75 to 85°
breezy northcentral SD



 **Sunday**
72 to 87°
breezy

 **Monday**
70s



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

Updated: 5/6/2017 4:40 AM Central



Published on: 05/06/2017 at 4:41AM

The warm and dry weekend continues! Expect winds to slowly increase through Sunday, as high pressure exits across Minnesota and Wisconsin, and low pressure nears from Montana. Winds out of the southeast will become breezy today across north central South Dakota. These breezy conditions will expand across the entire area Sunday. The next chance of a shower or thunderstorms returns Monday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 82.3 F at 1:56 PM

Low Outside Temp: 42.0 F at 6:17 AM

High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 3:53 PM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93° in 1916

Record Low: 23° in 1931

Average High: 66°F

Average Low: 40°F

Average Precip in May: 0.61

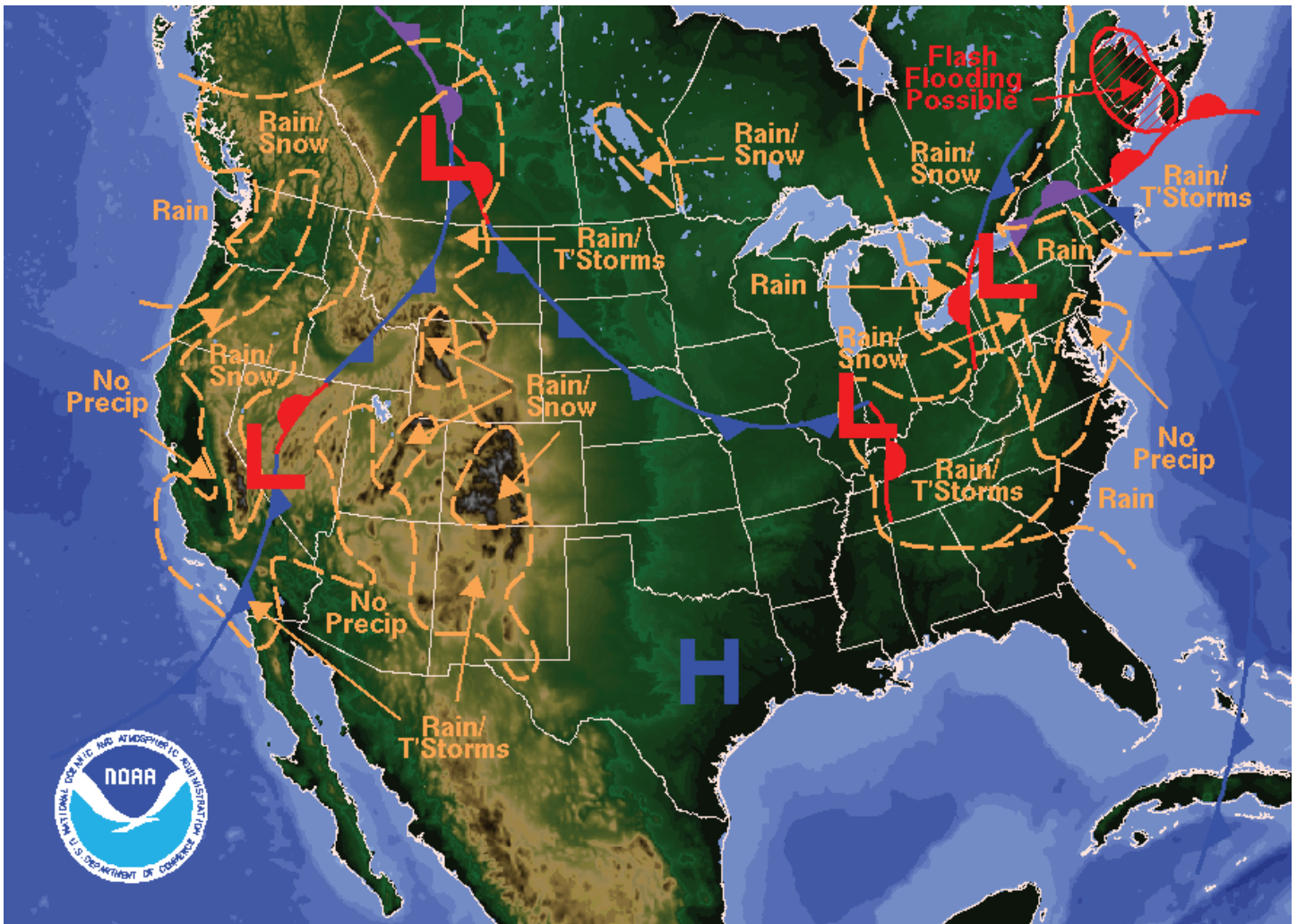
Precip to date in May: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 4.64

Precip Year to Date: 1.98

Sunset Tonight: 8:47 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:12 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, May 06, 2017, issued 4:37 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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OPEN FOR IMPROVEMENT

James had been working at his new job of delivering prescriptions for the local pharmacy. Feeling insecure, he called the pharmacist and asked, "I understand that you have a new delivery boy. How's he doing?"

After a brief pause, the pharmacist responded, "Oh, yes. James. He's doing great." After another pause the pharmacist asked, "You know, you sound just like him." He thought for moment and then asked, "James...is that you?"

"Yes, sir, it is. I was just wondering how I was doing," came the answer.

David did the same thing. "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts."

David went to the Lord in a state of boldness and with a desire to honor God. Whatever may have forced him to go to God with a desire to make things right with God does not matter. The fact that he did, however, does.

When I was twelve years old, my mother gave me a Christian Worker's New Testament. Underneath my name she wrote one of her favorite quotes: "God's Word will keep you from sin or sin will keep you from God's Word."

Over the years I have proven that statement to be true on more than one occasion. God gave us His Word to guard us, guide us and guarantee us safe passage through life's journey to our home with Him in heaven.

If, when we read His Word, we compare our deeds and thoughts to His laws and standards and allow them to "search, know and test us," His Word will do its work!

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the "directions" in Your Word that instruct us on how we are to live to please You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 139:23 Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

04-23-33-47-53, Mega Ball: 7, Megaplier: 4

(four, twenty-three, thirty-three, forty-seven, fifty-three; Mega Ball: seven; Megaplier: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$147 million

Leo Thorsness, decorated POW in Vietnam with McCain, dies

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Retired Air Force Col. Leo K. Thorsness, a highly decorated Vietnam War pilot who was shot down and held for six years at the notorious “Hanoi Hilton” prisoner camp, where he shared a cell with U.S. Sen. John McCain, has died. He was 85.

The Medal of Honor recipient, who also ran for Congress in South Dakota and served as a legislator in Washington state, died on Tuesday, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. His cause of death wasn’t disclosed.

McCain, also a downed pilot during the war, released a statement calling Thorsness a dear friend.

“One of the greatest honors of my life was serving with Leo, a man whose service exemplified selfless duty and devotion to others,” the Arizona senator said.

In April 1967, Thorsness was piloting an F-105 fighter-bomber and attacking surface-to-air missile sites over North Vietnam when a plane in his group was shot down. Thorsness circled the descending parachutes to relay the two downed crew members’ positions to search teams.

He attacked an enemy plane before leaving the area in search of fuel. But when he heard enemy planes were threatening search helicopters, Thorsness — despite his low fuel — returned and attacked, driving enemy planes from the rescue scene. When he was about to refuel from an airborne tanker, he learned another F-105 in his group was lower on fuel, and he allowed the other plane to refuel first, according to the society.

Thorsness was awarded the Medal of Honor — the military’s highest award for valor — for the mission years later.

Less than two weeks after that mission, Thorsness was shot down and taken prisoner in North Vietnam. He was held at the notorious POW camp where captives were routinely beaten and tortured. McCain, also a downed pilot, was held at the same prison.

“Leo would spend the next six years imprisoned, including a full year in solitary confinement, and endure unspeakable pain and suffering because of his steadfast adherence to our code of conduct,” McCain said. “But Leo never let this experience break his spirit, and inspired the rest of us with his patriotism, perseverance, and hope that we would someday be free.”

The Minnesota native enrolled at South Dakota State University, where he met his wife, Gaylee, in 1950, and he enlisted in the military the following year. He eventually returned to South Dakota, where

he was the 1974 Republican nominee for U.S. Senate.

He lost to incumbent Sen. George McGovern, the Democratic presidential nominee two years earlier. Thorsness narrowly lost another race four years later, for the U.S. House, against Democrat Tom Daschle, who later became a U.S. senator for South Dakota.

Thorsness later moved to the Seattle area, where he was elected in 1988 as a legislator in Washington state. Thorsness also spent time in California and other states, and eventually moved to Florida.

"I considered him a patriot," friend and former campaign volunteer Carol Twedt told the Argus Leader newspaper in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. "His passion for politics was that he wanted to make the world a better place to live."

Along with his wife, Thorsness's survivors include a daughter, Dawn Thorsness; a sister, Donna Martinson; and two grandchildren.

Man found guilty in killing of 13-year-old Pine Ridge girl

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A man has been found guilty in the July shooting death of a 13-year-old girl on the Pine Ridge reservation.

A federal jury returned the verdict against 27-year-old James Robert Dowty of Pine Ridge on Friday. Jurors found he was guilty of second-degree murder and a firearms count in the killing of Te'Ca Clifford.

The girl and three friends were walking in the town of Pine Ridge early July 20 when she was shot.

The jury got the case Thursday afternoon after a three-day trial.

Dowty faces anywhere from 10 years to life in prison at his sentencing. A sentencing date hasn't been scheduled.

South Dakota backers push physician-assisted dying measure

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Activists pushing for South Dakota to join several states with physician-assisted dying laws are gathering signatures to put an initiative before voters in 2018 that would allow terminally ill people to receive prescriptions for drugs to end their own lives.

Backers of the plan would have to submit nearly 14,000 valid signatures to the secretary of state by November 2017 to get on the ballot in 2018. At least five states and the District of Columbia have "Death with Dignity" statutes, while a 2009 Montana Supreme Court ruling found that nothing in state law expressly prohibits physician-assisted dying.

It should be an option for South Dakota residents, initiative sponsor Angela Albonico said. She said terminally ill people should have the right to make their own highly personal choices about death.

"These people are already at the end of their life, and who are we to tell them that they can't take a prescription, fall asleep and end their suffering?" said Albonico, who lives in Spearfish. "I don't think that we have the right to do that."

Under the plan, state-licensed physicians would be able to prescribe life-ending drugs to South Dakota patients with diseases expected to kill them within six months.

A state resident who wants to die would have to make an oral request and a written request, and reiterate the oral request at least 15 days after the initial one was made. The written request would have to be witnessed by two people. An attending physician would have to determine a patient is mentally competent and is making a voluntary and informed decision before prescribing the drugs, among other provisions in the proposal.

Kerie Jones wishes that her 82-year-old grandmother was given the option to end her life as she suc-

cumbed to pancreatic cancer last year — in pain, unable to move or eat. Near the end, Jones said the suffering woman asked why there wasn't medication she could take to let her die.

Jones has been gathering signatures for the initiative in hopes others could be spared the same anguish.

"That's exactly how I feel," said Jones, a 35-year-old Tea resident. "I wish we could have given her this opportunity so she wouldn't have suffered so much, and what I'm hoping is that other people, if they choose, they won't have to."

The petitions Jones and other volunteers are filling will help toward Albonico's goal of about 25,000 signatures when the drive is done. Death With Dignity South Dakota has volunteers in larger cities such as Rapid City and Sioux Falls but also has plans to send people to smaller rural communities, she said.

Critics of the proposed ballot measure were to gather Friday evening in Sioux Falls for an early stage organizational meeting, said former Republican state Rep. Fred Deutsch, who plans to head the opposition group.

Deutsch said that doctors are often wrong predicting end of life and criticized the proposal for not requiring next of kin to be notified and lacking oversight after the medication is prescribed. He said that there are "other ways to address end-of-life concerns besides suicide."

But Deutsch said he expects the measure to qualify for the ballot, so opponents are starting to prepare.

"The ball is in their court," he said. "We'll see what happens."

Economic summit to promote tribal community development

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Finding innovative ways to promote development in economically depressed Native American communities is the goal of next week's inaugural Great Plains Tribal Leaders' Economic Development Summit in Rapid City.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2pHDdO1>) reported that Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regional tribal leaders have been invited to the three-day summit to learn about leadership and business strategies, and resources to help spur economic development.

"It's a forum to see what other models are out there in regard to economic development, the importance of thinking outside the box," said Oglala Sioux Tribal Council member Valentina Merdanian.

Merdanian said tribal leaders need to work together to improve business opportunities, overcome financing challenges and encourage investment in reservation country.

"Oglala Lakota County is one of the third poorest counties within this nation," she said. "Instead of just accepting that fact, it's: 'How do we change it?'"

The event is a joint effort of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Association, Rocky Mountain Tribal Leadership Council, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Center for Indian Country Development and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

Tribal representatives from South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Washington, Nebraska and western Minnesota have been invited. Federal and state government representatives, and private sector partners from the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain regions are also expected to attend.

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>

Q&A: Trump's new travel ban faces key test in appeals court

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — President Donald Trump's revised travel ban targeting six Muslim-majority countries is about to be scrutinized by a federal appeals court for the first time.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments Monday in the case that has thwarted the president's attempt to bar certain people from entering the country in the name of national security.

The Richmond, Virginia-based court will examine a federal judge in Maryland's ruling that blocks the administration from temporarily barring new visas for people from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

A federal judge in Hawaii has also halted that provision as well as the freeze on the U.S. refugee program. Trump's administration is fighting that decision in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Trump rewrote the travel ban after the first version was stymied by the courts. Opponents say the new executive order has the same problems and cannot stand. The issue is likely destined for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Here's what you need to know about the 4th Circuit hearing:

CAN I LISTEN IN?

Yes. For the first time, the court will provide a live audio broadcast of a hearing due to intense public interest. The 2:30 p.m. EDT hearing will be broadcast by C-SPAN and the court will provide a link to the live feed on its website.

HOW COMMON IS A FULL-COURT HEARING?

A three-judge panel is typically the first and last stop for most cases in the 4th Circuit. The full court will sometimes re-examine a case that a three-judge panel has heard. That usually happens a few times a year.

In an extraordinary move, the 4th Circuit has chosen in this case to go straight to the "en banc" or full-court hearing. Some of the 15 judges could be recused, so the list of those who will hear the case will be released Monday.

The judges' decision signifies the importance of the case and their desire to settle the issue more quickly.

The court hasn't skipped the three-judge panel and gone directly to the full-court hearing since 1998, when it considered a challenge to a Virginia law requiring minors to notify their parents before they get an abortion, according to court records.

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IS THE 4TH CIRCUIT A LIBERAL OR CONSERVATIVE COURT?

The 4th Circuit was long known as the nation's most conservative appeals court. But President Barack Obama dramatically changed its makeup, pulling the 4th Circuit to the center.

Now, nine judges are Democratic appointees — including six from Obama — and five judges are Republican appointees. Chief Judge Roger Gregory was given a recess appointment to the court by President Bill Clinton and was reappointed by President George W. Bush.

Carl Tobias, a University of Richmond law school professor, said while the 4th Circuit has become moderate, it still tends to rule in favor of the government when it's convinced there's a compelling case of national security.

"I think a lot depends on how the judges view the case," Tobias said. "Is this a national security case or is this an immigration case? Or is this a religious freedom case?"

WHAT SHOULD I LISTEN FOR?

A key question for the judges is whether Trump's own words about a "Muslim ban" can be used against him.

U.S. District Court Judge Theodore Chuang, who ruled against Trump in Maryland, said the Republican's comments are evidence that religion — rather than national security — was the primary motivation for the policy.

Trump's administration says the court should focus on the text of the executive order, which doesn't mention religion. His lawyers say it's inappropriate for the court to rely on statements Trump made as a candidate "before he swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution." The countries were chosen because they present terrorism risks and the ban applies to everyone in those countries regardless of religion, the administration says.

The National Immigration Law Center and American Civil Liberties Union, which brought the case, say accepting that argument would mean that Trump could repeatedly declare that the ban's "sole purpose is to harm Muslims" as long as it didn't say so in the text of the executive order.

WHEN WILL THE JUDGES RULE?

While the Trump administration wants the court to act quickly, it will likely be weeks before the judges issue their written decision.

The judges could rule sooner on the administration's request to let the travel ban go into effect while it considers the merits of its appeal. But even if the court does that, the executive order will remain blocked by the decision in Hawaii.

WHAT ABOUT THE 9TH CIRCUIT CASE?

A three-judge panel of the San Francisco, California-based 9th Circuit will meet May 15 in Seattle to hear Trump's appeal of the decision blocking the travel ban by a federal judge in Hawaii.

The 9th Circuit, which Trump and Republicans say is too liberal, previously refused to let Trump's first travel ban go into effect, prompting the administration to withdraw the order and issue a new one.

Follow Alanna Durkin Richer at <http://twitter.com/aedurkinricher>. Read more of her work at <http://apne.ws/2hIhzDb>

French watchdog: large amount of Macron data leaked

By ANGELA CHARLTON and RAPHAEL SATTER, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France's election campaign commission says "a significant amount of data" has been leaked on social networks following a hacking attack allegedly suffered by centrist presidential candidate Emmanuel Macron, 36 hours before the nation votes Sunday in the crucial runoff against Marine Le Pen.

The commission said Saturday that leaked data apparently came from Macron's "information systems and mail accounts from some of his campaign managers." In a statement released after a morning meeting, the watchdog said the leaked data had been "fraudulently" obtained and that fake news has probably been mingled with it.

The commission urged French media and citizens "not to relay" the leaked documents "in order not to alter the sincerity of the vote." French electoral laws impose a blackout Saturday and most of Sunday on any campaigning and media coverage seen as swaying the election.

Meanwhile voting for France's next president started in some overseas territories Saturday.

The first French territory to vote was Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon, an archipelago located near Newfoundland, where polling stations opened in the morning. Early voting in other French overseas territories and French embassies abroad would begin later.

The 44-hour legal blackout on campaigning began Friday at midnight and is due to last until Sunday at 8.00 p.m. when the last polling stations close on the mainland and the first pollsters' projections and official partial results are expected.

Fears of hacking and campaign interference have simmered throughout France's high-stakes, closely watched campaign — and boiled over Friday night as Macron's team said it had been the victim of a "massive and coordinated" hack.

His political movement said the unidentified hackers accessed staffers' personal and professional emails and leaked campaign finance material and contracts — as well as fake decoy documents — online.

The perpetrators remain unknown. While the hack is shaking up the already head-spinning campaign, it's unclear whether the document dump would dent Macron's large poll lead over Le Pen going into the vote.

After ditching France's traditional left-right parties in a first-round election, voters are now choosing between Macron's business-friendly, pro-European vision and Le Pen's protectionist, closed-borders view that resonates with workers left behind by globalization. The future of the European Union may hinge on the vote, also seen as a test for global populism.

The leak, which began just before the blackout descended at midnight, in theatrical timing befitting the dramatic campaign.

Florian Philippot, the No. 2 in Le Pen's anti-immigration National Front party, asked in a tweet: "Will the #Macronleaks teach us something that investigative journalism deliberately buried?"

Someone on 4chan — a site known, among other things, for cruel hoaxes and political extremism — posted links to a large set of data which was said to have come from Macron's campaign. Macron's campaign swiftly confirmed it had been hacked some weeks ago, and that at least some of the documents were genuine.

Slamming the hack as an effort to "seed doubt and disinformation" and destabilize the vote, Macron's movement En Marche said it would "take all measures" to shed light on what happened. It recalled similar leaks from Hillary Clinton's U.S. presidential campaign.

The voting watchdog called on the Interior Ministry late Friday to look into claims by the Le Pen cam-

paign of tampering with ballot papers which it claimed was to benefit Macron. The Le Pen campaign said electoral administrators in several regions who receive ballot papers for both candidates have found the Le Pen ballot "systematically torn up."

The presidential campaign has been unusually bitter, with voters hurling eggs and flour, protesters clashing with police and the candidates insulting each other on national television — a reflection of the deep divisions and public disaffection with politics.

Le Pen, 48, has brought her far-right National Front party, once a pariah for its racism and anti-Semitism, closer than ever to the French presidency, seizing on working-class voters' growing frustration with globalization and immigration. Even if she loses, she is likely to be a powerful opposition figure in the upcoming parliamentary election campaign.

"We changed everything," win or lose, Le Pen said in an interview with The Associated Press on Friday. She claimed an "ideological victory" and said she could still win on Sunday.

The 39-year-old Macron, who has never held elected office, also helped upend France's traditional political structure with his wild-card campaign outside standard parties.

Many voters, however, don't like either Le Pen or Macron. They fear her party's racist past, while worrying that his platform would demolish job protections for workers or be too much like his mentor, the deeply unpopular outgoing President Francois Hollande.

Hamas says Ismail Haniyeh chosen as Islamic group's leader

By FARES AKRAM, Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — The Hamas Islamic militant movement that controls the Gaza Strip announced Saturday it had chosen its former Gaza prime minister Ismail Haniyeh as the group's new political chief.

Haniyeh succeeds Hamas' longtime exiled leader Khaled Mashaal, and the move comes shortly after Gaza's rulers unveiled a new, seemingly more pragmatic political program aimed at ending the group's international isolation.

Hamas is trying to rebrand itself as an Islamic national liberation movement, rather than a branch of the pan-Arab Muslim Brotherhood, which has been outlawed by Egypt. It has also dropped explicit language calling for Israel's destruction, though it retains the goal of eventually "liberating" all of historic Palestine, which includes what is now Israel.

Hamas has ruled Gaza since 2007, after securing an overwhelming victory in legislative elections the previous year and ending 40 years of political domination by its rival party Fatah. Hamas violently overthrew forces loyal to the Fatah movement — led by Western-backed Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas — to capture the Gaza Strip.

Israel, along with Egypt, has been enforcing a crippling border blockade against them since then. Though it has softened some of its rhetoric, Hamas' new platform clung to the hard-line positions that led to its isolation. The group reaffirmed it will not recognize Israel, renounce violence or recognize previous interim Israeli-Palestinian peace deals — the West's long-standing conditions for dealing with Hamas.

In its founding charter, Hamas called for setting up an Islamic state in historic Palestine, or the territory between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River, which also includes Israel.

Over the years, Hamas has carried out shootings, suicide bombings and rocket attacks against Israel. Since 2008, Israel and Hamas militants in Gaza have fought three cross-border wars. Abbas has been an outspoken opponent of violence, saying it undercuts Palestinian interests. Repeated reconciliation

efforts between the Palestinian factions have failed.

Haniyeh's selection marks the final phase of the secretive Hamas elections.

In February, the group chose militant commander Yehiya Sinwar, one of its most hard-line figures, as its new Gaza chief in charge of the group's core power base.

Haniyeh, 54, was born in the al-Shati refugee camp in Gaza. He was the private secretary of Hamas' founder and spiritual leader Ahmed Yassin.

In 2006, after Hamas won the legislative elections, Haniyeh was chosen by the movement to form its first government. He resigned as prime minister after Hamas and Fatah agreed to form a unity government in 2014 — a government has never taken hold.

For the past four years he has served as Mashaal's deputy.

Haniyeh's first task will be to cope with escalating tensions between Hamas and Fatah. In recent weeks, Abbas has threatened to exert financial pressure, including cutting wage payments and aid to Gaza, as a way of forcing Hamas to cede ground.

In the past, Hamas has sharply criticized Abbas' political program, which rests on setting up a Palestinian state in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast War.

North Korea accuses US, South Korea of assassination attempt

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

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 biochemical 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 responsible 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 was working in Russia to carry out the alleged assassination on Kim after returning home.

It said South Korean agents gave money and satellite communication equipment to the North Korean to attack Kim during a public event using a biochemical weapon such as a delayed-action radioactive or "nano poisonous" substance.

The ministry said after a series of contacts and payments, the agents told the North Korean last month that the type of biochemical substance had been decided and would be supplied by the CIA.

The statement, carried by North Korea's official news agency and read on state TV, didn't describe how the alleged plot was broken up or give the full name of the North Korean suspect, identifying him only by his surname, Kim, and didn't say whether anyone else was in custody.

In Washington, the CIA declined to comment, and officials at South Korea's National Intelligence Service did not answer repeated phone calls.

The alleged plan to use a biochemical agent on a member of North Korea's ruling family resembles the assassination earlier this year of Kim Jong Un's exiled half brother at a Malaysian airport. That attack, using the chemical war agent VX, was widely blamed on North Korea and led to calls in the United States to relist the North as a state sponsor of terrorism. North Korea denied involvement.

In the statement Friday, the ministry said in response to the alleged plot on Kim Jong Un, a "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," referring to South Korea.

The ministry demanded that the United States and South Korea apologize and execute the intelligence agents involved in the "heinous" plot.

The North Korean statement comes during a period of tension on the Korean Peninsula over concerns that the North is preparing another nuclear test or missile launch, including a possible test of an intercontinental ballistic missile. Such moves would be a step toward the country's goal of developing nuclear-armed missiles capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

Associated Press writer Deb Riechmann in Washington contributed to this report.

Trump's remarks often set off White House 'scramble drill'

By NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Washington policymakers have a time-tested method for rolling out new ideas: float a trial balloon. Spread rumors of a policy change or selectively leak it to the press, then see how it plays and proceed only if it looks doable.

President Donald Trump has flipped that script.

Big and startling ideas fly out of his mouth or from his Twitter feed. Then the rest of his administration scrambles to catch up — and to figure out when his statements signal new presidential policies and when they're offhand remarks that mean little.

In the past week alone, Trump has suggested he's open to higher gas taxes, tweeted that a government shutdown could be a good thing and called North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un a "smart cookie" whom he'd be honored to meet under the right conditions. Trump also invited Philippine leader Rodrigo Duterte, with a troubling human rights record, to visit the White House and insisted the GOP health plan would provide coverage for people with pre-existing medical conditions, even though an ironclad guarantee is not reflected in the latest version of the legislation.

Such pronouncements sometimes force Trump's top policy advisers to try to adjust administration policy to sync with the president's remarks. His communications aides contort themselves to explain away inconsistencies in administration messages. And blindsided GOP congressional leaders have to decide when to realign their positions and when to stay the course.

"It's a scramble drill in the White House every day, and certainly a scramble drill in Trump's mind every day," says Calvin Jillson, a presidential scholar at Southern Methodist University.

The frustration of Republican legislators was clear when Trump tweeted Tuesday that the government "needs a good shutdown" in September to fix the "mess," after Democrats prevailed on a number of spending issues in a bipartisan budget bill designed to keep the government open.

"I do wish somebody would take his iPhone away from him," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn.

"I wish he'd think twice before tweeting," seconded Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

House Speaker Paul Ryan wondered aloud: "How many times have I had this, 'Do you agree with the tweet this morning?'"

Ryan said he shared the president's aggravation with Democrats over the spending negotiations. But he also defended the budget deal, telling reporters it was an "important first step in the right direction."

On North Korea, Trump seemed to recognize the startling nature of his conciliatory comments about Kim in which he told CBS on Sunday that he would be "honored" to meet the leader if circumstances were right. The president labeled his own comments "breaking news."

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer quickly stressed that Trump wouldn't meet with the North Korean leader unless he changed course and showed "signs of good faith."

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Asked how Trump could be honored to meet with someone who's threatened to destroy the U.S., Spicer said that because Kim was a head of state, "there's a diplomatic piece to this."

Likewise, it fell to Spicer to tamp down expectations after Trump told Bloomberg in an interview that he would "certainly consider" generating more money for his big infrastructure plan by raising gasoline and diesel fuel taxes. The idea of raising taxes is a no-go zone for most Republican legislators.

Spicer said Trump was merely showing "respect" for an idea that had been raised by industry groups and "there was no endorsement of it or no support of it."

Trump's interviews sometimes make news to his own team.

When Trump promised an AP interviewer last month that he'd roll out his tax plan the following week, officials at the White House and Treasury Department, as well as Republicans on Capitol Hill, were caught off guard. The announcement sent aides scrambling to put together a one-sheet outline of a tax plan by the president's surprise deadline.

Trump's Twitter feed is an ongoing source of surprise, perhaps most notably his March accusation that President Barack Obama had him wiretapped during the presidential campaign. That triggered an all-out effort by aides to find ways to justify the claim.

Jillson allowed that sometimes Trump may appear to be winging it when his statements are planned, such as the president's phone conversation during the transition with the president of Taiwan. The call generated speculation that Trump had unthinkingly broken longstanding U.S. policy but appears to have been part of a calculated effort to throw China off-balance, Jillson said.

Trump's White House invitation to Duterte, whose record includes extrajudicial killings of suspected drug dealers and users, caught key players at the State Department unaware and left White House officials trying to explain why it would be a good idea.

White House chief of staff Reince Priebus framed the president's invitation as part of an effort to counter the military threat of North Korea, adding that "it doesn't mean that human rights don't matter."

Jillson said that while administration officials may feel compelled to align the policies they're developing with Trump's latest statements, GOP members of Congress are becoming more discriminating about when they need to sync up with the president's pronouncements, and when they can disregard them.

On the bipartisan budget deal, he said, congressional Republicans and Democrats "forgot about Trump for enough time to craft a deal, almost without reference to him, and got a win."

"They're learning to let this stuff wash off their backs and continue to try to think systematically," Jillson said.

Associated Press writers Julie Pace and Josh Lederman contributed to this report.

Follow Nancy Benac on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/nbenac>

AP FACT CHECK: Rose-colored glasses in the Rose Garden

By CALVIN WOODWARD and JIM DRINKARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — They promised you a rose garden, from the Rose Garden.

This past week, President Donald Trump and Republican legislators celebrated passage of a House bill seeking to replace the Affordable Care Act. At a White House event, they heaped praise on their effort and brushed off worries that health coverage could be imperiled for many people if the Senate is persuaded to go along with the legislation.

There were other bold claims coming from the Rose Garden, too, about the budget deal that keeps the government running through September, as well as questionable statements by Trump on other fronts.

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A sampling:

KEVIN McCARTHY, House majority leader: "We're going to unshackle, build an economy, let people have greater choice in their health care and protect pre-existing conditions." — Rose Garden celebration Thursday, marking passage of the House bill

STEVE SCALISE, House majority whip: "There are so many things, multiple, multiple layers in our bill that we passed today that not only protect people with pre-existing conditions, but actually focus real targeted money on lowering premiums for families with pre-existing conditions." — Rose Garden event

TRUMP, on pre-existing conditions: "We cover it beautifully.... And I mandate it. I said, 'Has to be.'" — CBS interview April 30

THE FACTS: The history of high-risk pools and broad expert opinion call all of this optimism into doubt. In certain circumstances, people with an existing illness would face the prospect of dramatically higher premiums than other people pay, despite protections in the bill and the addition of \$8 billion over five years to help states cover those with high medical costs.

People with medical conditions may need this help if they have a lapse in coverage. Under the Republican bill, states could get waivers that allow insurers to charge higher premiums to those customers, but only if they have a gap in coverage and if the state has a mechanism such as a high-risk pool to support them. Robert Graboyes, a senior research fellow at the conservative Mercatus Center, called the \$8 billion "a pittance."

Lapses in coverage could become more common if the Republican bill delivers less financial support than President Barack Obama's law does for people buying individual insurance coverage.

"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.

In the more than 30 states that had high-risk pools before Obama's health care law took full effect in 2011, net losses piled up to more than \$1.2 billion, with losses averaging \$5,500 per person enrolled.

McCARTHY: "If you simply look at the facts, more people took the penalty or the exemption than actually signed up for Obamacare." — Rose Garden event with legislators

THE FACTS: That's a fair comparison, if not the full picture. It leaves out Medicaid expansion.

The law expanded coverage primarily by giving millions more people Medicaid, setting up the subsidized markets for individual coverage and letting adult children stay on their parents' plans until they turn 26. Altogether, those measures cover more people than the number who claimed exemptions from the mandate to obtain health insurance or who paid a penalty for lacking insurance.

But McCarthy, R-Calif., is right when comparing the roughly 12 million enrollees in the individual market with the 19.5 million who did not sign up for the coverage because they couldn't afford it or didn't want it.

Last year, nearly 13 million people claimed exemptions from the mandate to obtain health insurance, citing financial hardship or other reasons, and 6.5 million paid the penalty for lacking insurance (averaging \$470) rather than choose a market place.

Counting both the subsidized market and the Medicaid expansion, Obama's law provides coverage for some 20 million people.

The Republican bill that passed the House would end the extra federal payments 31 states are accepting to expand Medicaid to more people. It would also replace Obama's federal subsidies for lower-income insurance buyers with age-based tax credits.

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TRUMP, accusing the Obama administration on Thursday of having banned patients at a military hospital from receiving religious items from visitors: "The abuses were all over. As just one example, people were forbidden from giving or receiving religious items at a military hospital where our brave service members were being treated, and when they wanted those religious items." — Rose Garden event with religious leaders Thursday

THE FACTS: That's not quite what happened at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, the hospital in question. A poorly worded policy in 2011 indeed appeared to ban Bibles and other religious items from being handed out or used during visits, but hospital officials say that was not the intent and it was never enforced. The aim was to stop visiting benevolent groups from proselytizing to patients, after complaints arose that wounded service members were being harassed by some of them.

The policy was clarified after about four months. Then and now, Walter Reed has chaplains, worship services and in-house religious texts from multiple faiths for patients, who can also accept religious material from their visitors.

TRUMP, claiming the budget deal with Congress gives him money for his promised Mexico border wall: "We're putting up a lot of new walls in certain areas. We're putting up a tremendous amount of money to fix the existing structures that we have, some of which we can keep into the future. They're in good shape, but we have to bring them back to the highest level. We'll be doing that with this payment." — Rose Garden football-trophy celebration with U.S. Air Force Academy, Tuesday

THE FACTS: The deal to keep the government running through September doesn't have money to build any new fencing or walls along the roughly 2,000-mile (3,218-kilometer) border with Mexico. The deal does provide \$772 million for border security, money that can be used for repairs to existing fencing or vehicle barriers that spread across just over 650 miles (1,046 kilometers) in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California.

Most of the existing fencing and barriers were built under the Bush administration as part of the 2006 Secure Fence Act, though some of the construction was completed by the Obama administration.

BUDGET DIRECTOR MICK MULVANEY, gesturing to photos that show new steel fencing replacing a chain-link fence along a stretch of border in New Mexico just outside El Paso, Texas: "There is money in this deal to build several hundreds of millions of dollars of this, to replace this. ... "That's what we got in this deal and that's what the Democrats don't want you to know. This stuff is going up now." — briefing Tuesday

THE FACTS: Steel fencing is going up in the Border Patrol's El Paso sector. But that project was approved and started by the Obama administration. In fact, it's replacing fencing that predates the 2006 law that mandated the construction of hundreds of miles of new fencing along the border.

MULVANEY: "You can talk to the DHS (Department of Homeland Security) about the details, but there's been a dramatic reduction in attacks on our Border Patrol agents where they can see through the wall, because nobody's throwing anything over the top at them." — briefing Tuesday

THE FACTS: Attacks on border agents are up, not down. Most of the fencing already at the border — more than 650 miles worth — is see-through and it hasn't stopped assaults on agents. Last month then-Border Patrol Chief Ron Vitiello told a security conference that such assaults were up nearly 200 percent.

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TRUMP, on letting China off the hook from his campaign promise to label it a currency manipulator: "As soon as I got elected, they stopped. ... It's not going down anymore, their currency." — CBS interview, April 30

THE FACTS: Wrong on both counts. China stopped artificially devaluing the yuan in mid-2014, a year before Trump began his presidential run, not because it buckled to his threatened trade penalties. And the yuan has dropped in value since Trump took office, not gone up as he claimed.

A weak yuan helps Chinese exports because it makes them cheaper to buy. It disadvantages goods from the U.S. and other countries because they are more expensive to get in China.

Until 2005, China pegged the yuan to the dollar at a specific level. When it loosened the peg, the yuan began to rise steadily against the dollar. Worried that a strong currency would hurt their exporters, Chinese officials bought dollars to prevent the yuan from rising even faster.

The value of the yuan peaked in early 2014, as the Chinese economy slowed after years of torrid growth. The yuan then began to fall relative to the dollar, but not because Chinese officials were once again intervening to push it down. China was actually doing the opposite: selling dollars and buying yuan to prevent its currency from going into a free fall.

TRUMP: "FBI Director Comey was the best thing that ever happened to Hillary Clinton in that he gave her a free pass for many bad deeds!" — tweet Tuesday

THE FACTS: That's one way to look at it. Comey has a different view of why the FBI did not charge Clinton for her email practices: "There was not a prosecutable case there."

Trump's assertion also discounts the harm done to Clinton's campaign by Comey's pre-election disclosure that she was under investigation. Whether that disclosure essentially sank her presidential bid, as she and her allies suggest, or was irrelevant in her defeat, it is difficult to label that development a "free pass."

A criminal charge while she was running for president surely would have been a heavier weight on her campaign, but Comey asserts the FBI's "competent, honest and independent investigation," while finding fault with her email practices, did not provide the grounds to charge her.

Some Democrats say it's Trump who got a free pass from the FBI chief because he did not disclose during the campaign that Trump associates were under investigation for possible collusion with Russia. Comey told lawmakers Wednesday that he felt compelled to make his extraordinary statement on the continuing Clinton investigation in October because he had testified to Congress earlier that the probe was complete.

Associated Press writers Paul Wiseman, Josh Boak, Alicia A. Caldwell and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington and Tom Murphy in Indianapolis contributed to this report.

Kentucky Derby lacks dominant runner, chance of early rain

By BETH HARRIS, AP Racing Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Todd Pletcher will saddle three horses in the Kentucky Derby, a race that features no clear favorite and a chance of early rain.

The 20-horse field for Saturday's Kentucky Derby lacks a dominant runner. Classic Empire is the 4-1 pre-race choice. Two horses, Always Dreaming and McCraken, are the co-second choices at 5-1.

Toss in the threat of rain early in the day, which could soak well-dressed racegoers wearing fancy hats, and it all makes for a most unpredictable Derby. Post time is about 6:50 p.m. ET.

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Pletcher will run 5-1 shot Always Dreaming, 20-1 Tapwrit and 30-1 Patch, the one-eyed horse. Pletcher is 1 for 45 in the Derby.

With no left eye, Patch will only see the crowd as he breaks from the far outside spot in the gate. Jockey Tyler Gaffalione figures to hustle him over to the rail to save ground as the field makes its way to the traffic-choked first turn.

Steve Asmussen also has three runners, and they're all longshots: 15-1 Hence, 20-1 Lookin at Lee, and 30-1 Untrapped. He is winless in 15 tries, the only hole in his Hall of Fame resume.

"The Kentucky Derby would look really good to add to the list," he said.

Don't look for four-time winner Bob Baffert. The white-haired trainer doesn't have a horse this year, but like everyone else, he has an opinion.

"There's a lot of parity. There are some nice, solid horses," he said. "I think Classic Empire is probably the best horse in the race. Todd's horse has brilliance, Always Dreaming. If they can get him figured out, he could steal it. The rest are bombers."

The rain is predicted to end hours before the race goes off in the early evening. The last Derby run on an off-track was 2013 when Orb splashed home in front.

Favorites have won the Derby the past four years, the longest such streak since the 1970s.

Sonneteer will try to overcome that bit of history. He's 0 for 10 in his career. He would be just the fourth maiden and the first since Brokers Tip in 1933 to wear the roses.

Classic Empire sure looked like the early Derby favorite last year when he won the Breeders' Cup Juvenile and was named 2-year-old champion. He made his 3-year-old debut with a third-place finish in the Holy Bull Stakes in February. Then came two more months off caused by hoof and back injuries. Twice, the bay colt didn't want to train.

"We're happy to be where we are today given the last couple of months," trainer Mark Casse said. "I love being the favorite. Let's just enjoy the ride."

Always Dreaming had been fractious in morning workouts leading up to the Derby. In an effort to harness the colt's energy, Pletcher switched to longer reins, and Always Dreaming resisted. He has since calmed down and John Velazquez will be in the saddle Saturday to lend an experienced hand.

Girvin has battled a quarter crack in his right front hoof that limited his workouts. Trainer Joe Sharp and his assistant-wife, former jockey Rosie Napravnik, had the colt swimming and using a hyperbaric chamber to make the race.

Gunnevera's trainer, Antonio Sano, was kidnapped twice in his native Venezuela before relocating his family to Miami. Jockey Javier Castellano, also from the violence-wracked nation, is trying to snap an 0 for 10 skid in the Derby. Gunnevera is the cheapest horse in the field. He was bought for \$16,000 at auction.

"Every day, I stop to think, 'My horse can win the Kentucky Derby,'" Sano said. "It would be a big gift for the people of Venezuela at this moment. In Venezuela, people are killing people. People have no food. Very sad."

Thunder Snow carries the hopes of Godolphin Racing, which is owned by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum. He's the ruler of Dubai. The stable is winless in nine previous Derby attempts.

"There's plenty of speed lined up for this race and nobody's going to get an easy lead," said Jerry Hollendorfer, who trains Battle of Midway.

Horses coming from off the pace often get dirt kicked in their faces for the first time.

"Some horses don't like that and they lose their concentration," said Ian Wilkes, who trains McCracken. "Other horses thrive on the challenge and my horse likes a challenge."

Post time is about 6:50 p.m. ET.

Country legend Loretta Lynn hospitalized after having stroke

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Country music legend Loretta Lynn has been hospitalized after having a stroke, her publicist said Friday.

Maria Malta, a publicist for Sony Music, confirmed that the 85-year-old singer and songwriter was admitted into a Nashville hospital Thursday night after suffering the stroke at her home in Hurricane Mills, Tennessee.

Lynn's website says she is responsive and expected to make a full recovery.

It says Lynn has been advised by doctors to stay off the road while she recuperates, and upcoming scheduled shows will be postponed.

Lynn's sister, the Grammy-winning singer Crystal Gayle, said in a statement emailed by her publicist, "Many of you have heard that my sister, Loretta Lynn, had a stroke. She's a strong woman and I know she'll come out of this. Our family appreciates your prayers, love and support. We pray for a speedy recovery."

Born a Kentucky coal miner's daughter, Lynn had a string of hits starting in the 1960s with the biographical "Coal Miner's Daughter," "You Ain't Woman Enough," "The Pill," and "One's on the Way." Her songs reflect pride in her humble background and speak frankly of her experiences as a young wife and mother from poor Appalachia.

Her 1977 autobiography was made into a popular movie that brought an Oscar for Sissy Spacek's portrayal of the singer. More recently, Lynn won two Grammy Awards in 2005 for her album "Van Lear Rose."

She continues to tour and record regularly, but had to postpone shows last year after suffering injuries in a fall that required surgery. She is set to release a new album this August, called "Wouldn't It Be Great," and she will be the subject of a new exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum also in August.

One of the icons of country music, Lynn blazed a trail as a strong-willed singer and songwriter who wrote honest, and at times frank, songs about sex, divorce, cheating and even birth control.

She had six children with her husband of 48 years, O.V. "Moonie" Lynn, who died in 1996

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, May 6, the 126th day of 2017. There are 239 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 6, 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg burned and crashed in Lakehurst, New Jersey, killing 35 of the 97 people on board and a Navy crewman on the ground.

On this date:

In 1889, the Paris Exposition formally opened, featuring the just-completed Eiffel Tower.

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1941, Josef Stalin assumed the Soviet premiership, replacing Vyacheslav M. Molotov. Comedian Bob Hope did his first USO show before an audience of servicemen as he broadcast his radio program

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from March Field in Riverside, California.

In 1942, during World War II, some 15,000 American and Filipino troops on Corregidor surrendered to Japanese forces.

In 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

In 1957, Eugene O'Neill's play "Long Day's Journey into Night" won the Pulitzer Prize for drama; John F. Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage" won the Pulitzer for biography or autobiography.

In 1960, Britain's Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, at Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1978.)

In 1974, West German Chancellor Willy Brandt resigned after one of his aides was exposed as an East German spy.

In 1987, Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart held a news conference in Hanover, New Hampshire, in which he denied ever having an affair with Miami model Donna Rice, but declined to say whether he'd ever committed adultery. CIA Director William J. Casey died at age 74, leaving questions unanswered about his knowledge of the Iran-Contra affair.

In 1992, former Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev delivered a speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Missouri, where Winston Churchill had spoken of the "Iron Curtain"; Gorbachev said the world was still divided, between North and South, rich and poor. Actress Marlene Dietrich died at her Paris home at age 90.

In 2002, Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn (pim fohr-TOWN') was shot and killed in Hilversum, Netherlands. (Volkert van der Graaf was later convicted of killing Fortuyn and was sentenced to 18 years in prison — he was released in May 2014.)

Ten years ago: Conservative Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE') won the French presidency by a comfortable margin over socialist opponent Segolene Royal (seh-goh-LEHN' roy-AL').

Five years ago: Vice President Joe Biden told NBC's "Meet the Press" he was "absolutely comfortable" with gay couples who marry getting the same civil rights and liberties as heterosexual couples. Socialist Francois Hollande (frahn-SWAH' oh-LAWND') defeated conservative incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy (sahr-koh-ZEE') to become France's next president. Greek voters turned against mainline parties that had backed the tough terms of the country's massive international bailout. Actor George Lindsey, "Goober" on "The Andy Griffith Show," died in Nashville at age 83.

One year ago: In his first remarks about Donald Trump's status as the GOP's presumptive nominee, President Barack Obama urged the media to undertake tougher scrutiny of presidential candidates, saying from the White House, "This is not entertainment; this is not a reality show." For the second month in a row, the aerospace upstart SpaceX landed a rocket on an ocean platform just off the Florida coast, this time following the successful launch of a Japanese communications satellite. Police in Montgomery County, Maryland, arrested a suspect in a two-day shooting rampage that claimed the lives of three people, including the suspect's estranged wife.

Today's Birthdays: Baseball Hall-of-Famer Willie Mays is 86. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 83. Rock singer Bob Seger is 72. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 72. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 71. Actor Alan Dale is 70. Actor Ben Masters is 70. Actor Richard Cox is 69. Actor Gregg Henry is 65. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 64. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 62. Actress Roma Downey is 57. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 57. Actress Julianne Phillips is 57. Actor-director George Clooney is 56. Actor Clay O'Brien is 56. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 53. Actress Leslie Hope is 52. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 50. Rock musician Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 46. Actress Stacey Oristano is 38. Model/TV personality Tiffany Coyne is 35. Actress Adrienne Palicki is 34. Actress Gabourey Sidibe (GA'-bah-ray SIH'-duh-bay) is 34. Actress-

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comedian Sasheer Zamata is 31. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 24. Actor Noah Galvin (TV: "The Real O'Neals") is 23.

Thought for Today: "No man chooses evil because it is evil; he only mistakes it for happiness, the good he seeks." — Mary Wollstonecraft, British writer and philosopher (1759-1797).