

# Groton Daily Independent

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## SD37 to be closed Monday

Residents along SD 37 and west 5th Ave need to pump their sump pumps into the sanitary sewer and not in the street during construction. SD 37 will be closed on Monday from Railroad Ave to 12th Ave. There was a question about increasing the north-south stop light by 5 seconds. The DOT will look into this. The construction schedule is catching up.

There will be 2 crossings between west and east. From what I understand it will be 2nd and 5th, but that will change as the project moves forward. There will always be 2 crossings available.

RR Ave is the detour all the way east to US 12. The road south of the golf course has been upgraded.

**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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### Sunday, May 14

#### Happy Mother's Day!

**St. John's Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m. with graduation reception at 10 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship with communion at 9 a.m.

**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.; Sunday School starts after children's sermon.

**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 15

**Groton Schools:** NEC Girls Golf at Sisseton, 10 a.m.; 7th/8th NEC track at Sisseton, 10 a.m.

**School Lunch:** Pizza, green beans, romaine salad, fruit.

**Senior Menu:** Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish, mixed vegetables, pears, cookie, whole wheat bread.

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

**United Methodist:** Cub Scouts at 6:30 p.m., Evening Bible Study movie at Val Baker's House at 7 p.m.

### Tuesday, May 16

**School Lunch:** Cook's Choice.

**Senior Menu:** Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, parsley buttered carrots, banana cake with icing, whole wheat bread.





## Supporting Local Law Enforcement

Like many South Dakotans, I'm used to walking around town and seeing our local police officers working hard and keeping us safe. With National Police Week starting on Sunday, I'd like to take this time to say thank you to all of the men and women who serve in our state and across the country. I also want to help provide them with the necessary tools needed to combat the dangerous issues they face on a daily basis.

I recently visited the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, where I toured the jail and participated in a ride-along with deputies in order to see the challenges they face firsthand. Sheriff Mike Milstead and I spoke at length about the issues his deputies face and the ways I can be of assistance.

The rate of violent crime in South Dakota has nearly doubled over the last 10 years. According to Sheriff Milstead, Minnehaha County alone has seen a 17% increase in violent crime this year as opposed to the same time last year. Every week, newspapers across the state report on drug busts, violent crimes, and an influx of gangs. These aren't just stories. According to local law enforcement, a high percentage of violent crime cases involve drugs. In order to better assist our law enforcement at home, I've asked the Department of Justice to step up its efforts to combat drug trafficking in our state.

In South Dakota people are getting addicted to drugs being channeled into our country illegally, such as meth and heroin. Sheriff Milstead informed me that he believes more than 90% of the meth and heroin comes from south of the border. It is critical for the federal government to support the efforts of our local law enforcement by halting the flow of drugs across our border.

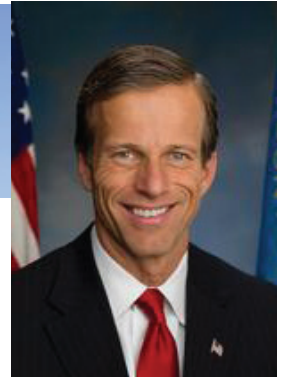
I am proud to cosponsor several pieces of legislation to help address this acute need. The SMART Act authorizes the deployment of up to 10,000 more National Guard personnel and a number of new technologies to secure the border.

Another bill I support helps us catch up with drug traffickers' tactics. Many times, drug traffickers utilize "spotters" while they cross the U.S.-Mexico border. These people help them avoid law enforcement. Under current law, spotting is not actually a criminal offense. The bill, called the "Transnational Criminal Organization Illicit Spotter Prevention and Elimination Act," would change that.

These bills will help us protect our border and in doing so, will provide assistance to our local law enforcement as they fight against drugs and violent crime in South Dakota. We must realize that attacking the problem at the source is the best way to solve it.

Our local law enforcement are an integral part of the fabric of our community. They are our neighbors, our friends, and even our family. We owe them our unwavering support. This week, as we celebrate their service to our communities, state and nation, I hope you'll thank one of your local men or women in uniform for what they do every day.

**John Thune**  
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



## Once a South Dakotan, Always a South Dakotan

By now, most folks across the state probably know that South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSM&T) President Dr. Heather Wilson was recently confirmed by the Senate to serve as the next secretary of the U.S. Air Force. I proudly supported her nomination, as did Republicans and Democrats from all corners of the country. The strong bipartisan support for her nomination is emblematic of her long list of qualifications for the job.

I've known Dr. Wilson for nearly 20 years, and while she wasn't born in South Dakota, she's a South Dakotan through and through. We're all sad to see her leave, but our loss is America's gain, and the airmen who defend us around the world couldn't ask for a better or stronger leader.

Heather is no stranger to the Air Force. Her service began decades ago as a cadet at the Air Force Academy, where she earned the status of Distinguished Graduate. No Air Force Academy graduate has ever served as secretary of the Air Force, so Heather will be making history as she assumes her new leadership role, too.

During the Cold War, Heather served as an Air Force officer in the United Kingdom and in Brussels. After retiring from the Air Force, Heather continued to serve the nation by joining President George H.W. Bush's National Security Council staff, where she focused on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and conventional arms control. In 1998, Heather was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She served on the Armed Services Committee and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence at various points during her 10-plus years in Congress.

Most recently, Heather lived and worked in Rapid City, leading one of the premier science and engineering schools in the country. She played a key role in applying cutting-edge technologies that were developed at SDSM&T to help solve B1-B Bomber maintenance issues at Ellsworth Air Force Base, which is not far from campus. I know I can speak for the men and women at Ellsworth and the SDSM&T community by saying we're excited for Heather and what's to come.

It's pretty easy to see that while she no longer wears the uniform, the Air Force never really left Dr. Wilson. That sense of service has carried her from her early days as a cadet to now becoming the 24th secretary of the Air Force. She'll be a tremendous asset to our national security team because she's seen these issues from every angle – as a cadet, national security aide, policymaker, and educator.

South Dakotans are proud of Dr. Wilson's successful career and are thankful for everything she's done for her community and our state. We wish her the best of luck as she returns to public service in Washington, D.C., and will always remind her, once a South Dakotan, always a South Dakotan.

## SD Reaches Lowest Ever Infant Mortality Rate

A column by First Lady Linda Daugaard:

It has been six-and-a-half years since Dennis was first elected, and since then a number of things have changed in our lives. We have become grandparents, and our five grandkids – all age four or younger – brighten our days and amuse us to no end.

A number of things have changed in South Dakota as well. On May 1, the state released new data which shows more South Dakota babies are celebrating their first birthday.

In 2012, South Dakota had a relatively high infant mortality rate of 8.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. Our rate was higher than the rates in surrounding states of North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Montana and Nebraska.

We've made progress since then, and in 2016, South Dakota reported its lowest ever rate of infant deaths: 4.8 deaths per 1,000 births. That's a drop by nearly half since 2012.

In 2011, Dennis asked me to chair the Governor's Task Force on Infant Mortality. In our research, we found three major contributors to infant mortality: tobacco use, lack of prenatal care in the first trimester and unsafe sleep practices.

Research shows babies in South Dakota are twice as likely to die before their first birthday if their mothers smoke during pregnancy. The new data shows an improvement over the 2011 numbers, with 3.3 percent fewer pregnant women who smoked during pregnancy.

Along with abstaining from tobacco products, it's critically important for expectant mothers to seek the care they need during the first trimester. In South Dakota, 72.7 percent of women received prenatal care in the first trimester last year. That's also an improvement from the 2011 percentage. I found it was easiest to remember the ABCs of safe sleep: ALONE, on their BACKS and in a CRIB.

Also before baby is born, expectant parents should learn about safe sleep practices. Infants need to sleep on a firm surface covered by a fitted sheet. Pillows, blankets, toys and crib bumpers should not be in the crib. Babies need to be placed on their back and it's best for them to sleep in light clothing in a smoke-free environment. Family members and other caregivers also need to know about these important practices.

Since the task force issued its findings, I've been traveling around the state to talk about the avoidable causes of infant mortality and to gain support for the South Dakota Cribs For Kids program. Under this program, private organizations and donors have partnered with the Department of Health to provide Safe Sleep Kits to families without a safe sleep option that show a financial need. The kit includes a portable crib, crib sheet, sleep sack, informational DVD, children's book and pacifier. So far, 7,915 parents and other caregivers have received these cribs.

It's wonderful news that more babies are celebrating their first birthdays. If we continue to promote safe sleep guidelines for infants, help pregnant women stop smoking, and remind expectant mothers about early and ongoing prenatal care, we can support that encouraging trend.

Learn more about healthy pregnancies and safe sleep guidelines at the Department of Health's Website: [ForBabySakeSD.com](http://ForBabySakeSD.com).



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## Today in Weather History

1923: An early morning violent estimated F5 tornado cut a 45-mile path of destruction through Howard and Mitchell counties in Texas. 23 people lost their lives and 250 sustained injuries. The path width of the tornado reached 1.5 miles at one point, and entire farms were "wiped off the face of the earth". The First Baptist Church in Colorado City, Texas became an emergency hospital for tornado victims.

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1896 - The mercury plunged to 10 degrees below zero at Climax, CO. It was the lowest reading of record for the U.S. during the month of May. (David Ludlum)

1898 - A severe thunderstorm, with some hailstones up to 9.5 inches in circumference, pounded a four mile wide path across Kansas City MO. South-facing windows were broken in nearly every house in central and eastern parts of the city, and several persons were injured. An even larger hailstone was thought to have been found, but it turned out to be a chunk of ice tossed out the window of a building by a prankster. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Seven cities across the western U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as unseasonably hot weather made a comeback. The record high of 103 degrees at Sacramento CA was their ninth in eleven days, and also marked a record seven days of 100 degree heat for the month. Their previous record was two days of 100 degree heat in May. (The National Weather Summary)







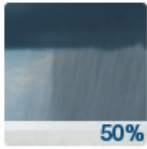
1988 - Sunny and dry weather prevailed across the nation. Temperatures warmed into the 80s and lower 90s in the Great Plains Region and the Mississippi Valley. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced severe weather in south central Texas and the Southern High Plains Region during the afternoon and evening hours. Thunderstorms produced softball size hail at Spearman and Hitchcock, TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990: Thunderstorms developed ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from northwest Texas to western Missouri. Severe thunderstorms spawned seventeen tornadoes including nine in Texas. Four tornadoes in Texas injured a total of nine persons. Thunderstorms in Texas also produced hail four inches in diameter at Shamrock and hail four and a half inches in diameter near Guthrie. Thunderstorms over northeastern Kansas produced more than seven inches of rain in Chautauqua County between 9 PM and midnight.

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance Showers then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Chance Showers
High: 84 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 65 °F

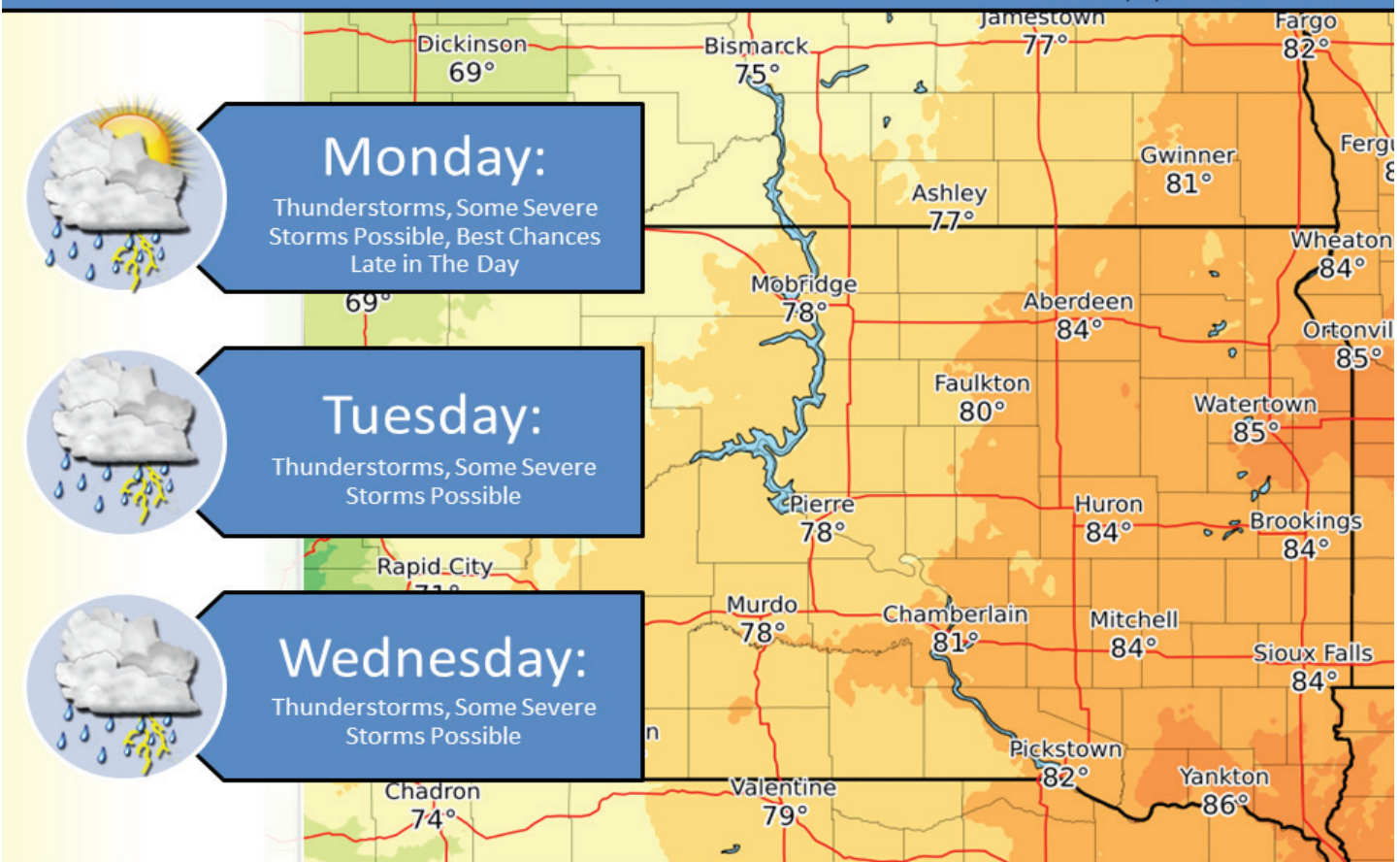
## Mostly Dry Today

Stray Showers Possible, Very Little Rain Expected, More Rain Chances Next Week!

National Weather Service

Aberdeen, SD

Issued: 5/14/2017 5 AM



Published on: 05/14/2017 at 5:40AM

A stray shower may make its way across the region today, however very little rainfall is expected. Otherwise expect dry conditions and temperatures in the upper 70s to upper 80s this afternoon. Additional rain chances are in the forecast for the workweek however! Thunderstorms are forecast Monday with best chances late Monday night into Tuesday morning. There is the possibility that some storms become severe. Additional storm chances are forecast Tuesday and Wednesday and late into the workweek.

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## Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 84.1 F at 5:06 PM

Low Outside Temp: 49.3 F at 3:53 AM

High Gust: 33.0 Mph at 2:18 PM

Snow: Precip: 0.00

## Today's Info

Record High: 94° in 1932

Record Low: 24° in 2004

Average High: 68°F

Average Low: 44°F

Average Precip in May: 1.43

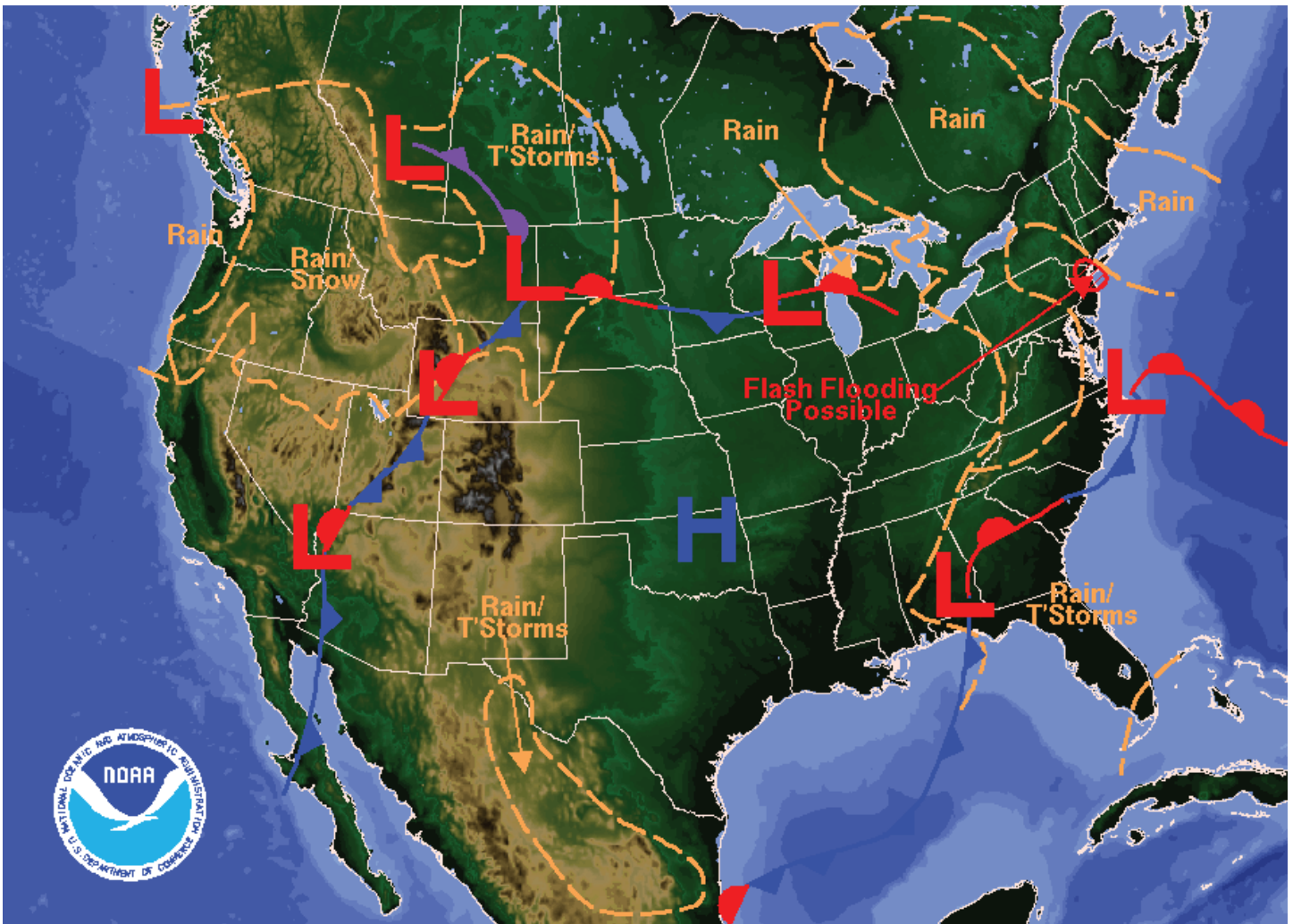
Precip to date in May: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 5.46

Precip Year to Date: 1.98

Sunset Tonight: 8:56 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:02 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, May 13, 2017, issued 4:39 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Reinhart based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



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## GOD'S BRIDGE

Mr. Rushing was a great Sunday school teacher who had a real gift to get his eighth grade boys class involved in the lesson. One Sunday, he decided to ask a question to get them involved in the lesson. "If gold stood for good deeds and grey for bad deeds what color would you be?"

"I'd be streaky," answered Ron. "I've done a bunch of things that are really bad. As a matter of fact, I would probably end up looking kind of blurry."

No doubt all of us end up looking rather "blurry." We all fall short when measured against God's definition of "good."

God is holy and we are unholy - or "sinful." There is a great space between the righteous Creator - God - and guilty sinners - "us." We may try to build a bridge of good works and kind deeds from where we are to where God is. But sooner or later the works and deeds would fall short of the gate into heaven and we would find ourselves "out there" dangling in space. In words that are clear and impossible to misunderstand the Psalmist wrote, "For no one living is righteous before You."

But God built a bridge from where we are to where He is. It is called "the cross of Calvary." It's where His Son hung on a cross one day until He was dead. Then, He was laid in a tomb until His Father brought Him back to life. And it is this "bridge" - this cross of Calvary - that we "cross" by faith alone.

Any person at any time from any place can cross this Bridge of Faith and be cleansed of sin and made righteous.

Prayer: It seems impossible, Father, that all we have to do is to reach out, grasp Your hand and cross that Bridge. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 143:2b for no one living is righteous before you.



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## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Saturday:

Dakota Cash  
02-11-18-26-32  
(two, eleven, eighteen, twenty-six, thirty-two)  
Estimated jackpot: \$148,000

Hot Lotto  
10-11-13-20-38, Hot Ball: 11  
(ten, eleven, thirteen, twenty, thirty-eight; Hot Ball: eleven)  
Estimated jackpot: \$6.4 million

Mega Millions  
Estimated jackpot: \$36 million

Powerball  
17-20-32-63-68, Powerball: 19, Power Play: 5  
(seventeen, twenty, thirty-two, sixty-three, sixty-eight; Powerball: nineteen; Power Play: five)  
Estimated jackpot: \$184 million

### Frozen burritos recalled for possible listeria contamination

LAS CRUCES, N.M. (AP) — More than 252,000 pounds of frozen burritos are being recalled because of possible listeria contamination.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Saturday announced the Green Chile Food Company recall for various frozen burritos containing meat and poultry, after a routine sample of a beef and potato burrito found a problem.

The Las Cruces, New Mexico-based company made and packaged the ready-to-eat foods between March 8 and May 10, and the products have the establishment number listed as EST. 21740.

The burritos were sent to sellers in California, Illinois, Oregon and South Dakota.

Though there aren't any confirmed reports of people getting sick eating the burritos, the USDA cautions that listeria can cause serious illness, particularly among those who are elderly, pregnant, newborn or suffering from weak immune systems.

### Baby girl can't wait as mom gives birth on Interstate 229

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A baby girl who just couldn't wait to get to the hospital was born in the family sport utility vehicle on Interstate 229.

Kate Howell was born May 7 as her parents Ann and Dan Howell were trying to make the hour drive from their home in Volga to Sioux Falls.

Ann Howell realized they wouldn't make it, and Kate was born before paramedics arrived.

The Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/2rdXSYb>) that Dan is a certified EMT and was able to provide medical care until other help arrived.

Now, the family is home from the hospital and looking forward to share the story of Kate's birth with her when she gets older.

Kate is the couple's third child.

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

## 76-year-old man dies in motorcycle crash in Box Elder

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — A 76-year-old man has died after he failed to negotiate a curve while driving a motorcycle and crashed in Box Elder.

The man's name hasn't been released.

Authorities say the crash happened Friday night and the man was thrown from the motorcycle. He was wearing a helmet and was taken to a hospital in Rapid City, where he died.

## South Dakota and Flandreau Santee Sioux tribe clash in court

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Flandreau Santee Sioux tribe is suing South Dakota over the state's interpretation that contractors working on an expansion of the Royal River Casino are required to pay contractor excise taxes to the state.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2ps7nlq>) reported that the lawsuit alleges it's an intrusion into tribal sovereignty and is conflicting with U.S. laws that regulate commerce on reservations.

"The economic burden and the intrusion into tribal sovereignty interfere and are incompatible with the federal and tribal interests in promoting tribal self-government, self-sufficiency and economic development," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit is the latest clash between the tribe and the state. The tribe's casino has often been a flashpoint for disputes.

The Flandreau started expanding the casino after Gov. Dennis Daugaard agreed to allow the tribe to double the number of slots it had there. The tribe agreed to increase payments to Moody County to offset law enforcement expenses.

Daugaard's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen, said the tribe doesn't collect the contractors' excise tax.

"It is collected and remitted by the contractor," he said.

The contractor filed notices of protest with the remitted payments to the state, the lawsuit said.

"In each notice, the contractor requested that the state refund the payment to the tribe, explaining that the tribe had reimbursed the contractor for the taxes paid, and that the contractor authorized the tribe to commence and pursue any refund action which may be necessary on the contractor's behalf," the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit joins another filed by the tribe in 2014, which argues the tribe shouldn't have to collect sales or use tax on non-tribal members at the Royal River Casino and related businesses.

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

## South Dakota plans to raise buffalo hunt fees

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Members of the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks Commission have proposed increasing the amount hunters pay to hunt bison in Custer State Park.

The Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2q5HGZ0>) reported the commissioners proposed increasing the cost to hunt a trophy buffalo by \$1,500, making the new fee \$6,500. The cost to hunt a non-trophy bison bull would increase \$1,000 to \$3,250.

Nationwide, the average hunt price for a trophy bull hunt costs \$6,300 so raising the Custer state Park hunt would fee would be in-line with the industry.

Mark Hendrix, resource program manager for Custer State Park said park officials are recommending the increase because of the increase in the bison market.

"(Buffalo meat) markets have been fairly level to slightly increasing over the last five or six years," Chad

Kremer, bison herd manager for Custer State Park, told commissioners Thursday. "Last year there was a pretty significant increase."

Last season, 414 non-residents and 126 residents applied for the eight trophy bull tags. Eight trophy hunts and 15 non-trophy hunts are available.

The commission also proposed moving the date non-trophy bulls hunting season begins from the second Monday of January to the last Monday in October. Hair on bulls killed in the latter part of the non-trophy season began to slip and ruined the quality of the hides.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

## In Wisconsin, ID law proved insurmountable for many voters

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY and IVAN MORENO, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — State Sen. Mary Lazich was adamant: The bill Republicans were about to push through the Wisconsin state Senate, requiring that voters present identification at the polls, would do no harm.

"Not a single voter in this state will be disenfranchised by the ID law," Lazich promised.

Five years later, in the first presidential election held under the new law, Gladys Harris proved her wrong.

By one estimate, 300,000 eligible voters in the state lacked valid photo IDs heading into the election; it is unknown how many people did not vote because they didn't have proper identification. But it is not hard to find the Navy veteran whose out-of-state driver's license did not suffice, or the dying woman whose license had expired, or the recent graduate whose student ID was deficient — or Harris, who at 66 made her way to her polling place despite chronic lung disease and a torn ligament in her knee.

She had lost her driver's license just before Election Day. Aware of the new law, she brought her Social Security and Medicare cards as well as a county-issued bus pass that displayed her photo.

Not good enough. She had to cast a provisional ballot that ended up not being counted.

In the end, Wisconsin's 10 Electoral College votes went to Republican Donald Trump, who defeated Democrat Hillary Clinton by roughly 22,000 votes. But the battle over voter ID laws continues.

Under the Wisconsin law, voters must present a driver's license, state ID, passport, military ID, naturalization papers or tribal ID to vote. A student ID is acceptable only if it has a signature and a two-year expiration date. Those who do not have their ID can cast a provisional ballot that will be counted only if they return with the proper ID within a few days of the election.

Supporters have long argued such restrictions are needed to prevent voter fraud, while critics have decried the laws as undermining democracy and leading to the disenfranchisement of elderly and minority voters such as Harris.

The debate flared anew this week when President Donald Trump signed an executive order creating a commission to investigate voter fraud. Trump maintains, without evidence, that he would have won the popular vote had it not been for millions of people casting ballots illegally. Democrats and voting rights groups said Trump's commission is merely a front for allowing Republican state officials to enact tough registration and voting requirements that would restrict the ability of minorities and the poor to cast ballots.

Courts also have weighed in on the topic, upholding laws that are generally narrow in scope while striking down others considered too broad. A federal appeals court last year struck down a package of laws passed in North Carolina, including voter ID, saying they targeted black voters "with almost surgical precision."

The politicians and the lawyers may be at loggerheads, but to Harris, the injustice is beyond dispute.

"They prevented us from voting," she said, simply.

When Sean Reynolds went to his polling place at a local ice skating rink on Election Day, he showed his valid driver's license. The problem? It wasn't issued in Wisconsin.

Reynolds, 30, was taken aback. He had moved to Madison in 2015 to find work after leaving the Navy and receiving his associate's degree from a university in neighboring Illinois. After learning he could register to vote on Election Day in Wisconsin, he thought all he needed to show at the polls was a current photo

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ID. After all, his Illinois ID was good enough to board a plane, open a checking account and purchase cold medicine.

"Coming home and being denied the right to vote because I didn't have a specific driver's license is very frustrating," said Reynolds, who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan providing support for special forces. "I was a little incredulous that they wouldn't accept another state's driver's license. I didn't understand why it was not a valid form of ID."

Reynolds said he had been working 50-hour weeks, receiving hourly pay, and could not afford to take time off from his job in security management to visit a local DMV and transfer his license from Illinois.

A survey conducted by the Brennan Center in 2006 estimated that while as many as roughly 21 million voting-age U.S. citizens did not have a valid government-issued, photo identification, an additional 4.5 million had a valid ID but one that did not have their current name or address.

Supporters of voter ID laws say that prohibiting out-of-state driver's licenses reduces the possibility of voter fraud and individuals filling out multiple ballots. Research has shown that such voter fraud can happen, but it's very rare.

After casting a provisional ballot, Reynolds was told to return within three days with a Wisconsin driver's license, but he couldn't take the time off from work on such short notice.

"I only had between Tuesday and Friday to get it done, and I just couldn't accomplish it in that time frame," he said.

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When Alvin Mueller retired from his job as a maintenance worker, his wife Margie, 85, quit driving and let her license expire in 2010. The couple never had trouble voting in Plymouth, a small city about an hour's drive north of Milwaukee where they've lived since they married 65 years ago.

But they hit a snag during early voting in November because Margie Mueller couldn't cast a ballot with her expired license. The staff at the city clerk's office said if she wanted to vote, she would need to get a new ID at a DMV office about 15 miles away in Sheboygan, the county seat, Alvin Mueller recalls.

That's not unusual. The Brennan Center estimated that in the 10 states with voter ID laws in 2012, more than 10 million eligible voters lived more than 10 miles from a state ID-issuing office that is open more than two days a week.

Alvin Mueller said his wife was battling cancer in her lymph nodes and lungs. The prospect of making the trip to Sheboygan was overwhelming. Not only did they not make the drive — Alvin decided if his wife couldn't vote, he wouldn't either.

It's not like they were strangers to the poll workers: "We voted in Plymouth here for years. They know us and everything," he said.

Margie died on March 19.

"I'm going to be 86 pretty soon," he said. "I don't think I'll be voting anymore, as long as she isn't here. We did everything together."

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Catelin Tindall brought these things with her when she went to her precinct on Election Day: Her Ohio ID. Copies of her lease and utility bill. Her student ID from the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

Tindall, 24, had graduated in May, but wasn't sure whether she would stay in Wisconsin so she kept her Ohio ID. Her student ID had her name, photo, a barcode, school logo and the most recent academic year she attended. But her student ID didn't have an expiration date or say when it was issued, so she was forced to cast a provisional ballot.

She doesn't have a car, so she took an Uber to the DMV to get an ID. She was told the ID would arrive by express mail the next day.

By then, she said, her work schedule at a Starbucks prevented her from going to the local clerk's office with the ID so her vote would count.

"At the time I was thinking, 'At least tried, so I can't feel too bad about it,'" she said.

She felt differently when Trump won Wisconsin, her home for now as she looks for freelance work with her degree in communication design and illustration.



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"When I would see people saying, 'What's wrong with you Wisconsin, what are you doing?' I would feel like, 'Oh my God, I'm part of the problem,'" Tindall said.

Overall, nearly 3 million people in Wisconsin voted last November, about 91,000 fewer than in 2012. Milwaukee, a power center for Democrats, reported that 41,000 fewer people voted there than in 2012; lack of enthusiasm for the candidates may have played a role.

Backers of the ID law say it was a success. The number of provisional ballots, issued to voters who are unable to provide the required documentation, represented a fraction of all ballots cast — less than one half of 1 percent, according to a report by the Wisconsin Election Commission. Election officials are currently reviewing 86 reports of possible voter fraud, of which 70 involved felons who may have voted before having their rights restored.

Gov. Scott Walker was a major supporter of voter ID. He said recently that voter education is important to him and all elected officials.

"In a society where just about everyone has some form of voter identification, we just need to make sure going forward that we provide it for free, (that) we provide easy access to documents and other things in that regard," Walker said. "We can be more than capable of making sure that people all across the state have access to voter identification."

A former U.S. senator from the state, Democrat Russ Feingold, called voter ID laws "scams" from Republicans who know "the Democratic Party has the numbers to decisively win every presidential election and a majority of Senate seats."

Feingold was ousted in 2010 by Republican Ron Johnson and was defeated again in a rematch last year. The former senator recently launched LegitAction, a nonprofit advocacy group that advocates for voting rights and abolishing the Electoral College.

"The sole purpose of these laws, including those passed in Wisconsin, is to keep eligible voters from voting, specifically minority and low-income voters who tend to vote Democrat," Feingold said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Gladys Harris believes the state law did precisely what she thinks it was intended to do — prevent blacks like her who don't have a car and rely on public transportation from voting.

For the last two decades, she has lived and voted in Wisconsin. Retired from her job working at an HIV/AIDS community resource center, she no longer drives and relies on public transit and friends to bring her to doctor's appointments, the grocery store — and the voting booth.

"Even though they say your vote doesn't count, I feel like it does," Harris said.

She was distraught when she was told her vote would not be counted unless she went to a local DMV office for a replacement card and then return with it to a local election office.

"There is no understanding this. It was unfair, and I think it was cruel," Harris said.

A few days after the election, Harris found her driver's license. It had fallen between her mattress and headboard.

Associated Press writer Carrie Antfingler in Milwaukee contributed to this report.

Cassidy reported from Atlanta. Follow her on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/AP\\_Christina](http://twitter.com/AP_Christina) and Moreno at <https://twitter.com/Ivanjourno> .

## Word of Trump pick for FBI director could come within days

By **SADIE GURMAN** and **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Less than a week after President Donald Trump fired James Comey, the administration has interviewed at least eight candidates to be FBI director and Trump has said a decision could come within days.

Trump, who is scheduled to leave Friday on his first overseas trip as president, told reporters Saturday

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that it was possible he could announce his selection before then.

"I think the process is going to go quickly. Almost all of them are very well-known," Trump said before taking off for Lynchburg, Virginia, where he gave the commencement address at Liberty University. "They've been vetted over their lifetime essentially, but very well-known, highly respected, really talented people. And that's what we want for the FBI."

Trump abruptly fired Comey on Tuesday and later said Comey was a "showboat" and "grandstander" who was not doing a good job. The firing drew a wave of criticism in large part because the FBI has been investigating whether election meddling by Russia involved people in Trump's presidential campaign. Changing rationales for the firing offered by White House aides added an element of chaos to the president's action.

Comey's replacement requires Senate confirmation. The FBI director serves a 10-year term but can be replaced by the president.

So far 14 people — lawmakers, attorneys and law enforcement officials among them — have emerged as candidates. Eight met at the Justice Department on Saturday with Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his deputy, Rod Rosenstein.

The first candidate to arrive for interviews was Alice Fisher, a high-ranking Justice Department official in the George W. Bush administration.

Also interviewed were:

- Adam Lee, special agent in charge of the FBI's office in Richmond, Virginia.
- acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe.
- Michael J. Garcia, a former prosecutor and associate judge on New York's appeals court
- Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Senate leader and a former Texas attorney general.
- U.S. District Judge Henry E. Hudson, a Bush appointee who struck down the centerpiece of the Obama administration's health care law in 2010.
- Frances Townsend, a former Bush homeland security and counterterrorism adviser.
- Former Rep. Mike Rogers of Michigan, who was chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. An ex-FBI agent, Rogers drew the backing of the FBI Agents Association, which said his diverse background makes him the best choice.

Fisher and Townsend were the only women on the list of candidates. The FBI has never had a female director.

Sessions has faced questions over whether his involvement in Comey's firing violates his pledge to recuse himself from investigations into Russian interference in the election. Some lawmakers have alleged the firing was an effort to stifle that FBI probe.

Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores said Sessions and Rosenstein were involved in the interviews because the FBI director reports to them as attorney general and deputy attorney general.

Superville reported from Lynchburg, Virginia.

## France inaugurates new president: Emmanuel Macron, 39

By SYLVIE CORBET, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Emmanuel Macron was inaugurated Sunday as France's new president at the Elysee Palace in Paris, and immediately launched into his mission to shake up French politics, world economics and the European Union.

The 39-year-old Macron is the youngest president in the country's history and the 8th president of France's Fifth Republic, which was created in 1958. A former economy minister with pro-business, pro-European views, Macron is the first French president who doesn't originate from the country's two mainstream parties.

After Macron was formally declared president, 21 cannon shots were fired from across the Seine River at the Invalides monument, where Napoleon is entombed.

Macron later solemnly paid tribute at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier beneath the Arc de Triomphe, greeting veterans and military officers in formation beneath the imposing arch.

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Macron takes charge of a nation that, when Britain leaves the European Union in 2019, will become the EU's only member with nuclear weapons and a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Before the ceremony, he met for an hour with his predecessor, Francois Hollande, taking a last few minutes to discuss the most sensitive issues facing France, including the country's nuclear codes.

In a visibly moving moment for both, Macron accompanied Hollande to his car, shaking hands and applauding him along with the employees of the French presidency who had gathered in the palace's courtyard.

The two men had known each other well. Macron was Hollande's former adviser, then his economy minister from 2014 to 2016, when Macron quit the Socialist government to launch his own independent presidential bid.

In his inauguration speech Sunday, Macron said he will do everything necessary to fight terrorism and authoritarianism and to resolve the world's migration crisis. He also listed "the excesses of capitalism in the world" and climate change among his future challenges.

"We will take all our responsibilities to provide, every time it's needed, a relevant response to big contemporary crises," He said.

Macron announced his determination to push ahead with reforms to free up France's economy and pledged to press for a "more efficient, more democratic" EU. France is a founding member of the 28-nation bloc and its third-largest economy after Germany and Britain.

About 300 guests, officials and family members gathered in the Elysee reception hall, including Macron's wife, Brigitte, wearing a lavender blue dress by French designer Nicolas Ghesquiere for Louis Vuitton.

Macron himself wore a dark suit from French brand Jonas and Cie, a tailor based in Paris, that cost 450 euros (\$491), according to his team.

The new president arrived on the Champs-Elysees Avenue under a heavy rain — recalling Hollande's inauguration five years ago — but unlike his predecessor, Macron managed to avoid getting wet. The bad weather often associated with the former Socialist president has become a joke for the French.

After his time at the tomb, Macron went to shake hands with supporters along the Champs-Elysees, who were taking selfies and waving French tricolor flags, before coming back to the palace for a lunch with his family.

Earlier, he and France's new first lady briefly posed for photographers at the front porch of the palace after Hollande left. The couple will now live at the Elysee Palace.

Macron will meet with Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo later Sunday and will take his first trip abroad Monday to Germany to visit Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin.

Macron will also have to name his prime minister and form a government in the next few days.

He has promised to reinvigorate French politics by bringing in new faces. His Republic on the Move movement has announced an initial list of 428 candidates for the 577 seats up for grabs in France's lower house of parliament in a vote in June. Macron is seeking to elect a majority of lawmakers so he can pass his programs.

Many of the Republic on the Move candidates are newcomers in politics. Their average age is 46, compared to 60 for the outgoing assembly. Half of them are women. Only 24 are lawmakers running for re-election, all Socialists.

Hollande, meanwhile, went on Twitter to describe the "terrible ordeals" that marked his five-year term, from deadly attacks to Greece's debt crisis. He defended his unpopular presidency in a series of tweets minutes after leaving the Elysee Palace.

Hollande noted his accomplishments in getting the Paris Agreement on climate change, legalizing gay marriage and doing "everything possible to ensure that Greece stays in Europe."

"We lived through crises but we held together. France remained France," he tweeted.

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Angela Charlton contributed to the story from Paris

## **An alert researcher, teamwork helped stem huge cyberattack**

**By SARA BURNETT and SYLVIA HUI, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — The cyberattack that spread malicious software around the world, shutting down networks at hospitals, banks and government agencies, was thwarted by a young British researcher and an inexpensive domain registration, with help from another 20-something security engineer in the U.S.

Britain's National Cyber Security Center and others were hailing the cybersecurity researcher, a 22-year-old identified online only as MalwareTech, who — unintentionally at first — discovered a so-called "kill switch" that halted the unprecedented outbreak.

By then the "ransomware" attack had crippled Britain's hospital network and computer systems in several countries in an effort to extort money from computer users. But the researcher's actions may have saved companies and governments millions of dollars and slowed the outbreak before computers in the U.S. were more widely affected.

MalwareTech is part of a large global cybersecurity community, working independently or for security companies, who are constantly watching for attacks and working together to stop or prevent them, often sharing information via Twitter. It's not uncommon for them to use aliases, either to protect themselves from retaliatory attacks or for privacy.

In a blog post Saturday, MalwareTech explained he returned from lunch with a friend on Friday and learned that networks across Britain's health system had been hit by ransomware, tipping him off that "this was something big."

He began analyzing a sample of the malicious software and noticed its code included a hidden web address that wasn't registered. He said he "promptly" registered the domain, something he regularly does to try to discover ways to track or stop malicious software.

Across an ocean, Darien Huss, a 28-year-old research engineer for the cybersecurity firm Proofpoint, was doing his own analysis. The western Michigan resident said he noticed the authors of the malware had left in a feature known as a kill switch. Huss took a screen shot of his discovery and shared it on Twitter.

Soon he and MalwareTech were communicating about what they'd found: That registering the domain name and redirecting the attacks to MalwareTech's server had activated the kill switch, halting the ransomware's infections.

Huss and others were calling MalwareTech a hero on Saturday, with Huss adding that the global cybersecurity community was working "as a team" to stop the infections from spreading.

"I think the security industry as a whole should be considered heroes," he said.

But he also said he's concerned the authors of the malware could re-release it without a kill switch or with a better one, or that copycats could mimic the attack.

"I think it is concerning that we could definitely see a similar attack occur, maybe in the next 24 to 48 hours or maybe in the next week or two," Huss said. "It could be very possible."

Who perpetrated this wave of attacks remains unknown. Two security firms — Kaspersky Lab and Avast — said they identified the malicious software in more than 70 countries. Both said Russia was hit hardest.

These hackers "have caused enormous amounts of disruption— probably the biggest ransomware cyberattack in history," said Graham Cluley, a veteran of the anti-virus industry in Oxford, England.

This is already believed to be the biggest online extortion attack ever recorded, disrupting services in nations as diverse as the U.S., Russia, Ukraine, Brazil, Spain and India. Europol, the European Union's police agency, said the onslaught was at "an unprecedented level and will require a complex international investigation to identify the culprits."

In Russia, government agencies insisted that all attacks had been resolved. Russian Interior Ministry, which runs the national police, said the problem had been "localized" with no information compromised. Russia's health ministry said its attacks were "effectively repelled."

The ransomware exploits a vulnerability in Microsoft Windows that was purportedly identified by the U.S. National Security Agency for its own intelligence-gathering purposes. Hackers said they stole the tools from the NSA and dumped them on the internet.



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Burnett reported from Chicago.

## **At least 100,000 groups in 150 countries hit by ransomware**

**By SYLVIA HUI, ALLEN G. BREED and SARA BURNETT, Associated Press**

LONDON (AP) — An unprecedented global “ransomware” attack has hit at least 100,000 organizations in 150 countries, Europe’s police agency said Sunday — and predicted that more damage may be seen Monday as people return to work and switch on their computers.

The attack that began Friday is believed to be the biggest online extortion attack ever recorded, spreading chaos by locking computers that run Britain’s hospital network, Germany’s national railway and scores of other companies, factories and government agencies worldwide.

Jan Op Gen Oorth, spokesman for the Netherlands-based Europol, said the number of individuals who have fallen victim to the cyberextortion attack could be much higher.

He said it was too early to say who is behind the onslaught and what their motivation was. The main challenge for investigators was the fast-spreading capabilities of the malware, he said, but added that so far, not many people have paid the ransoms that the virus demands.

The attack held hospitals and other entities hostage by freezing their computers, encrypting their data and demanding money through online bitcoin payment — \$300 at first, rising to \$600 before it destroys files hours later.

The effects were felt across the globe, with Russia’s Interior Ministry and companies including Spain’s Telefonica, FedEx Corp. in the U.S. and French carmaker Renault all reporting disruptions.

On Sunday, Chinese media reported that students at several universities were hit by the virus, which blocked access to their thesis papers and their dissertation presentations.

Had it not been for a young cybersecurity researcher’s accidental discovery of a so-called “kill switch,” the malicious software likely would have spread much farther and faster. Security experts say this attack should wake up every corporate board room and legislative chamber around the globe.

Nonetheless, the experts say such widespread attacks are tough to pull off.

This one worked because of a “perfect storm” of conditions, including a known and highly dangerous security hole in Microsoft Windows, tardy users who didn’t apply Microsoft’s March software fix, and malware designed to spread quickly once inside university, business and government networks.

What’s worse, those responsible were able to borrow a weaponized “exploit,” apparently created by the U.S. National Security Agency, to launch the attack in the first place.

Darien Huss, a 28-year-old research engineer who assisted the anonymous British researcher who has been lauded a hero, said he was “still worried for what’s to come in the next few days, because it really would not be so difficult for the actors behind this to re-release their code without a kill switch or with a better kill switch.

“Or we could potentially see copycats mimic the delivery or exploit method they used,” he said.

Now that this “WannaCry” malware is out there, the world’s computer systems are vulnerable to a degree they haven’t been before, unless people everywhere move quickly to install Microsoft’s security patches.

The worldwide effort to extort cash from computer users is the first widely successful example of ransomware that self-replicates like a virus, and it prompted Microsoft to quickly change its policy, announcing free security patches to fix this vulnerability in the older Windows systems still used by millions of individuals and smaller businesses. Normally, such patches are reserved for organizations willing to pay for extended support.

Security officials in Britain urged organizations to protect themselves by installing the security fixes, running antivirus software and backing up data elsewhere. Experts say this vulnerability has been understood among experts for months, yet too many groups failed to take it seriously.

The ransomware exploited a vulnerability that has been patched in updates of recent versions of Windows since March, but Microsoft until now didn’t make freely available the patch for Windows XP and

other older systems.

"The problem is the larger organizations are still running on old, no longer supported operating systems," said Lawrence Abrams, a New York-based blogger who runs BleepingComputer.com. "So they no longer get the security updates they should be."

Britain's National Cyber Security Center said it could have been much worse if not for a young cybersecurity researcher.

The 22-year-old Britain-based researcher, identified online only as MalwareTech, explained that he spotted a hidden web address in the "WannaCry" code and made it official by registering its domain name. That inexpensive move redirected the attacks to MalwareTech's server, which operates as a "sinkhole" to keep malware from escaping.

His move may have saved governments and companies millions of dollars and slowed the outbreak before U.S.-based computers were more widely infected.

But the kill switch couldn't help those already infected. Short of paying, options for these individuals and companies are usually limited to recovering data files from a backup, if available, or living without them.

The Windows vulnerability in question was purportedly identified by the NSA for its own intelligence-gathering purposes. Intelligence officials wouldn't comment on the authenticity of the claims. The tools appeared stolen by hackers, who dumped them on the internet.

British cybersecurity expert Graham Cluley doesn't want to blame the NSA for the attack.

"There are other criminals who've launched this attack, and they are ultimately responsible for this," he said. "But there's clearly some culpability on the part of the U.S. intelligence services. Because they could have done something ages ago to get this problem fixed, and they didn't do it."

He said most people "are living an online life," and these agencies have a duty to protect their countries' citizens in that realm as well.

"Obviously, they want those tools in order to spy on people of interest, on other countries, to conduct surveillance," Cluley said. "It's a handy thing to have, but it's a dangerous thing to have. Because they can be used against you. And that's what's happening right now."

Breed reported from Raleigh, N.C. and Burnett from Chicago. Jim Heintz in Moscow and AP Technology Writer Anick Jesdanun in New York also contributed to this story.

## **In testing missile, N. Korea challenges South's new leader**

**By FOSTER KLUG and HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea on Sunday test-launched a ballistic missile that flew for half an hour and reached an unusually high altitude before landing in the Sea of Japan, the South Korean, Japanese and U.S. militaries said. The launch, which Tokyo said could be of a new type of missile, is a direct challenge to the new South Korean president and comes as U.S., Japanese and European navies gather for joint war games in the Pacific.

It wasn't immediately clear what type of ballistic missile was launched, the seventh such firing this year, although the U.S. Pacific Command said that "the flight is not consistent with an intercontinental ballistic missile." Japanese officials, however, said the missile flew for about 30 minutes, traveling about 800 kilometers (500 miles) and reaching an altitude of 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) — a flight pattern that could indicate a new type of missile.

David Wright, co-director of the Global Security Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the missile could have a range of 4,500 kilometers (about 2,800 miles) if flown on a standard, instead of a lofted, trajectory — considerably longer than Pyongyang's current missiles. He said Sunday's launch may have been of a new mobile, two-stage liquid-fueled missile North Korea displayed in a huge April 15 military parade.

South Korea, Japan and the U.S. swiftly condemned the launch, which jeopardizes new South Korean leader Moon Jae-in's willingness for dialogue with the rival North.

"The president expressed deep regret over the fact that this reckless provocation ... occurred just days

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after a new government was launched in South Korea," said senior presidential secretary Yoon Young-chan. "The president said we are leaving open the possibility of dialogue with North Korea, but we should sternly deal with a provocation to prevent North Korea from miscalculating."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters that the launch was "absolutely unacceptable" and that Japan will respond resolutely. Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said he and his South Korean counterpart agreed that "dialogue for dialogue's sake with North Korea is meaningless."

The White House took note of the missile landing close to Russia's Pacific coast and said in a statement that North Korea has been "a flagrant menace for far too long."

The statement said Washington maintains its "ironclad commitment" to stand with its allies in the face of the serious threat posed by North Korea. The latest "provocation" should serve as a call for all nations to implement far stronger sanctions against the North, it said.

Outside militaries and experts will closely analyze what the North fired. While Pyongyang regularly tests shorter-range missiles, it is also working to master the technology needed to field nuclear-tipped missiles that can reach the U.S. mainland. Past North Korean missiles have flown farther than Sunday's test, landing closer to Japan, but this launch follows a series of high-profile failures.

Japanese Defense Minister Tomomi Inada said North Korea might have launched a "new type of missile," given the altitude and duration of its flight. But she said more analysis was needed.

Inada's remarks suggest the missile might have been on a "lofted" trajectory, meaning it could have a far longer range than it actually flew. Japan's Kyodo News agency said the missile may be capable of covering a range as far as 4,000 kilometers (2,500 miles) if launched at a normal trajectory, citing unidentified sources.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the missile was fired early Sunday morning from near Kusong, in North Phyongan province.

North Korea's past satellite rocket launches have been called clandestine tests of ICBM technology, but it is not believed to have tested a true intercontinental ballistic missile yet. The Trump administration has called North Korean ballistic and nuclear efforts unacceptable and has swung between threats of military action and offers to talk as it formulates a policy.

The North's state media said Saturday that the nation will bolster its nuclear capability unless the United States abandons its hostile policy.

"The United States should never expect us to give up our nuclear capability," the main Rodong newspaper said in a commentary carried by the Korean Central News Agency. It said President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure and engagement" policy is only aimed at "stifling us" and will compel the North to "strengthen our nuclear deterrent at the maximum speed."

The launch also comes as troops from the U.S., Japan and two European nations gather near Guam for drills that are partly a message to North Korea. The USS Carl Vinson, an aircraft supercarrier, is also engaging with South Korean navy ships in waters off the Korean Peninsula, according to Seoul's Defense Ministry.

Moon, the first liberal leader in Seoul in nearly a decade, said as he took his oath of office that he'd be willing to visit the North if the circumstances were right. Trump has also said he'd be "honored" to talk with leader Kim Jong Un under favorable conditions.

On Saturday, a top North Korean diplomat in charge of U.S. relations, Choe Son Hui, told reporters in Beijing that Pyongyang would be willing to meet with the Trump administration for negotiations "if the conditions are set." She did not elaborate.

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Associated Press writer Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

## China's Xi says Silk Road plan boosts finance, security ties

By JOE McDONALD and CHRISTOPHER BODEEN, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Pledging more than \$100 billion in financing, Chinese President Xi Jinping called Sunday for closer cooperation across Asia and Europe in areas from anti-terrorism to investment as leaders from 29 countries gathered to promote a Chinese initiative that could increase Beijing's global influence.

The "Belt and Road Initiative" calls for building ports, railways and other facilities in a vast arc of 65 countries. Other countries welcome the investment, but governments including the United States, Russia and India have expressed unease that Beijing also might be using the effort to increase its political stature.

Speaking before an audience that included Russian President Vladimir Putin, Xi said his government has "no desire to impose our will on others." But he called for "economic integration" and cooperation on financial regulation, anti-terrorism and security — fields in which China's heft as the world's No. 2 economy would make it a dominant player.

"We should foster a vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security," said Xi. He called for stepped-up action against terrorism and what he called its root causes of poverty and social injustice.

In a reminder of potential security threats, North Korea test-fired a ballistic missile Sunday that flew for a half-hour and reached an unusually high altitude of 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles).

The launch was seen as a challenge to a new South Korean president who was elected last week and came as U.S., Japanese and European naval forces gathered for war games in the Pacific.

The "Belt and Road" is Xi's signature foreign policy initiative. The two-day meeting that started Sunday gives the Chinese president a platform to promote his image as a global leader and free trade advocate in contrast to President Donald Trump, who has called for import restrictions.

China is hardly the first government to promote regional trade links. Japan has given billions of dollars in grants and low-cost loans to Southeast Asian nations to build ports and other facilities, and governments including South Korea have launched trade initiatives. But Beijing's effort is the most ambitious and is backed by China's financial muscle and status as the biggest global trader.

Chinese officials have said previously that "Belt and Road" is purely commercial, though Xi's comments Sunday indicated Beijing sees that as including a broad array of regulatory and other coordination with potentially far-reaching consequences.

Some diplomats and political analysts say Beijing is trying to create a political and economic network centered on China, push the United States out of the region and rewrite rules on trade and security. The United States and Japan, which Beijing sees as rivals for influence in Asia, are not part of "Belt and Road."

China and Russia already are partners, along with Central Asian governments, in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a security group widely seen as an effort to counter U.S. influence in the region.

Putin, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan echoed Xi's theme that economic development would help to nurture political stability and neutralize support for radical groups.

The Russian leader complained about "illegal sanctions" — a possible reference to U.S. trade penalties imposed on Moscow over Ukraine — and warned that trade protectionism is creating a "breeding ground" for terrorism.

Closer economic integration "should change the very political and economic landscape of the continent, bringing Eurasia stability, prosperity," said Putin.

Referring to Beijing's plan, Erdogan said, "This is going to be the kind of initiative that puts an end to terrorism."

Xi called for regional cooperation in finance — a field where China's huge state-owned banking industry and \$3 trillion of foreign currency reserves would make it the dominant player.

"We should establish a sustainable financial system that keeps risk under control," said Xi.

The president also announced additional Chinese financing for "Belt and Road" totaling 780 billion yuan (\$113 billion).



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That includes lending totaling 380 billion yuan (\$55 billion) by two noncommercial state banks, up to 300 billion yuan (\$43 billion) from state-owned commercial lenders and a 100 billion yuan (\$14.5 billion) contribution to the Silk Road Fund, set up in 2014 to finance infrastructure projects.

Xi said his government also would provide aid worth 60 billion yuan (\$8.7 billion) to developing countries and international organizations.

He said Beijing plans to announce dozens of new investment and other agreements during the two-day event.

Pakistan's government announced it had signed memoranda of understanding on Saturday with China on possible projects worth a total of \$500 million. That is on top of railway, power and other projects announced previously in an "economic corridor" linking China's far west with the Indian Ocean that Pakistani officials have said are worth up to \$55 billion.

Other leaders at the gathering included Premier Paolo Gentiloni of Italy and President Michelle Bachelet of Chile. No major Western leaders attended, though Britain, France and Germany were represented by top finance officials.

A U.S. delegation was attending the meeting, led by Matt Pottinger, special assistant to Trump and senior director for East Asia at the National Security Council.

The United States and other governments have said "Belt and Road" is a natural outgrowth of China's status as the biggest global trader, and U.S. officials have said they want to work with Beijing on infrastructure. But they also have expressed concern that Beijing might undermine human rights and international standards for lending or leave poor countries with too much debt.

Pottinger spoke in the afternoon at a side event at the forum, where he stressed the importance of private-sector participation in major infrastructure projects, according to remarks released by the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. He was due to meet Monday with Chinese officials and representatives of U.S. companies looking at potential "Belt and Road" opportunities, said embassy spokeswoman Mary Beth Polley.

Details on which companies were involved and what activities the work group will undertake were not immediately available, Polley said.

Chinese state-owned lenders have put up most of the money for "Belt and Road," but Beijing says it wants projects to attract private investment.

Speaking at Sunday's event, former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Beijing needs to make its initiative more transparent to attract partners.

"I know the United States has been among those countries apparently most skeptical," said Paulson, who was in office in 2006-09. "The more China can demonstrate the 'Belt and Road Initiative' is open to outside participation in this way, the more it will be embraced by global and even American firms and suppliers."

India delivered an implicit criticism Saturday in a statement that said such an initiative should meet international norms and not create unsustainable debt.

India has objected to Chinese state-owned companies working in the Pakistani-held part of Kashmir, the Himalayan region claimed by both sides. New Delhi sees that as an endorsement of Pakistan's control.

"No country can accept a project that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity," the statement said.

"Belt and Road," named for dual trade routes through the Indian Ocean and Central Asia, is the biggest of a series of initiatives launched by Beijing over the past decade to gain a global leadership role to match its economic success.

China led the creation in 2014 of a new regional lender, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, to finance ports, highways and other projects.

Xi promised to avoid forming a "small group" of allies, which he said might harm regional stability.

Instead, he said, Beijing wants "partnerships of friendship" and a "big family of harmonious coexistence."

Also Sunday, Hungary's foreign minister, Peter Szijjarto, said the Chinese government's Export-Import Bank presented a financing proposal for a railway line from Budapest to Belgrade in neighboring Serbia.

The line would be China's first major rail project in the European Union. The ability to supply such financ-

ing has helped Chinese builders land contracts abroad, but the rail project faces hurdles after EU officials said they would look into whether Hungary improperly picked contractors without competitive bidding.

The 20-year Chinese loan at 2.5 percent annual interest would cover 85 percent of the rail line's estimated cost of 550 billion forints (\$1.9 billion), according to a statement by Sziijarto posted on a government website.

Associated Press writers Matthew Brown and Gillian Wong in Beijing, Muneeza Naqvi in New Delhi and Zarar Khan in Islamabad contributed to this report.

## For Palestinians in Lebanon, 69 years of despair

By PHILIP ISSA, Associated Press

SIDON, Lebanon (AP) — Ahmad Dawoud recalls the day 10 years ago when a Lebanese soldier asked to search his taxi. Then 17, the Palestinian didn't wait for the soldier to find the weapons hidden in the trunk.

He jumped from the car and fled into the nearby Palestinian refugee camp, where the Lebanese army has no authority.

But it was not long afterward that Dawoud, who once admired the radical groups that have sprouted in the camps in Lebanon, decided he was tired of running. That same year, in 2007, he surrendered to authorities and spent 14 hard months in jail.

Although he was released without a conviction, he couldn't erase the biggest strike against him: As a Palestinian in Lebanon, he is a stateless, second-class resident in the only country where he's ever lived.

On Monday, Palestinians mark 69 years since hundreds of thousands of them were forced from their homes during the 1948 war that led to the creation of Israel. Many settled in the neighboring West Bank, Gaza, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

As refugees, various U.N. charters entitle them and their descendants to the right to work and a dignified living until they can return to their homes or such settlement is reached.

But Palestinians in Lebanon suffer discrimination in nearly every aspect of daily life, feeding a desperation that is tearing their community apart.

Many live in settlements officially recognized as refugee camps but better described as concrete ghettos ringed by checkpoints and, in some cases, blast walls and barbed wire. The U.N. runs schools and subsidizes health care inside.

In Lebanon, there are 450,000 refugees registered in 12 camps, where Lebanese authorities have no jurisdiction inside.

"Our lot is less than zero," Dawoud said in a recent interview outside Ein el-Hilweh, the crowded camp in Sidon that is one of the most volatile.

On peaceful days, children play in the damp alleys and merchants park their carts of produce along the camp's main streets.

But the place feels hopelessly divided along factional and militant lines, and it frequently breaks down into fighting between Palestinian security forces and militants or gangs that capitalize on the general despair.

Last month, 10 people were killed in a flare-up that drove out thousands of the camp's estimated population of 75,000.

Palestinians are prohibited from working in most professions, from medicine to transportation. Because of restrictions on ownership, what little property they have is bought under Lebanese names, leaving them vulnerable to embezzlement and expropriation.

They pay into Lebanon's social security fund but receive no benefits. Medical costs are crippling. And they have little hope for remediation from the Lebanese courts.

Doctors are prohibited from working in the Lebanese market, so they find work only in the camps or agree to work for Lebanese clinics off the books, and sign prescriptions under Lebanese doctors' names. That leaves them open to employer abuse, a condition normally associated with low-skill work.

"If a young boy gets in trouble because he is Palestinian, the prosecutor writes in his note to the judge, 'He is Palestinian,' meaning: 'Do what you wish to him. Be cruel to him. Forget about his rights,'" said

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Sheikh Mohammad Muwad, a Palestinian imam in Sidon.

The crush of war refugees from Syria has made it even harder for Palestinians here to find work. Nearly six in 10 under age 25 are unemployed, according to the U.N.'s Palestinian relief agency UNRWA, and two-thirds of all Palestinians here live below the poverty line.

UNRWA country director Claudio Cordone said they feel trapped in political limbo and see an "almost total lack of meaningful political prospects of a solution" to their original displacement from Palestine.

Lebanese politicians say that assimilating Palestinians into society would undermine their right to return. But Palestinians say they are not asking for assimilation or nationality, just civil rights.

"They starve us, so we go back to Palestine. They deprive us, so that we go back to Palestine. Well, go ahead, send us back to Palestine! Let us go to the border, and we will march back into Palestine, no matter how many martyrs we must give," Muwad said.

For those in the camps, the line between hustling and criminality is often blurred. Unemployed and feeling abandoned by the authorities, many turn to gangs for work.

Adding to this is a widely shared disaffection with the Palestine Liberation Organization, which many Palestinians now see as having sold out their rights with the failed Oslo Accords of 1994.

This has helped fuel the rise of radical Islam — a shift in the occupied Palestinian territories that is reflected by Hamas' rising popularity, and one outside the territories in the meteoric trajectory of militant groups such as Fatah al-Islam in the volatile and deprived Nahr al-Bared camp.

Growing up in Nahr al-Bared, a camp much like Ein el-Hilweh, Dawoud felt a strong affiliation for Fatah al-Islam, his gateway to radical extremism.

"They were the only ones who seemed honest," he said. "Of course, later I figured out they were just like everyone else, too."

In 2007, the Lebanese army razed most of Nahr al-Bared to crush Fatah al-Islam.

By that time, Dawoud already was in Ein el-Hilweh, and his arrest was the beginning of a slow falling out with the gangs that once sheltered him and treated him like a brother. After his stint in prison, they began to feel they couldn't trust him, and he was chased out of Ein el-Hilweh in 2013. Now, he can only enter the parts of the settlement firmly under PLO control.

With no job, no prospects and little wealth, Dawoud now runs errands for others in his white 1980s-era BMW — all done under the table, of course. Palestinians cannot apply for the red license plates that identify taxis and other commercial vehicles.

"I don't even think about marrying and getting into those situations," he said, waving off starting a family at age 27. His ambition now is to apply for a visa to leave Lebanon. But first he needs a travel document, and for that he needs to be on good terms with the Lebanese authorities.

Not all Palestinians live in camps, but even the most privileged among them endure discrimination.

At a panel on Palestinian labor rights at the American University of Beirut, Muhammad Hussein asked a Lebanese Labor Ministry official why he was denied work even in sectors that are formally open to Palestinian employment.

The 22-year-old graduate showed the official an email he received from a marketing firm in Dubai refusing his job application on the grounds that the Lebanese office had to give priority to Lebanese workers.

"The problem isn't finding vacancies," Hussein said. "It's getting the job."

## Candidates under consideration for FBI director

By JILL COLVIN and KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Candidates under consideration to replace fired FBI Director James Comey:

SEN. JOHN CORNYN

Cornyn is the No. 2 Senate Republican and a former Texas attorney general and state Supreme Court justice. He has been a member of the Senate GOP leadership team for a decade and serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee. In the aftermath of Comey's dismissal, Cornyn said Trump was "within his authority"

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to fire him and said it would not affect the investigation of possible Russian ties to Trump's presidential campaign.

## REP. TREY GOWDY

The South Carolina Republican is best known for leading the congressional inquiry into the deadly attacks on a U.S. facility in Benghazi, Libya, a panel that oversaw a lengthy grilling of Hillary Clinton in 2015. A former federal prosecutor and state attorney, Gowdy was elected to Congress in the 2010 tea party wave and has focused on law enforcement issues. He originally endorsed Florida Sen. Marco Rubio for president before backing Trump in May 2016.

## FORMER REP. MIKE ROGERS

Rogers is the former chairman of the House Intelligence Committee. He served Michigan in Congress for more than a decade before stepping down in 2015. Rogers worked for the FBI as a special agent based in Chicago in the 1990s and briefly advised Trump's transition team on national security issues. His name was floated as a possible replacement for then-FBI Director Robert Mueller in 2013, and he received support from an association of FBI agents before President Barack Obama chose Comey.

## RAY KELLY

Kelly was commissioner of the New York City Police Department for more than a decade, serving two mayors. In the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks, he created the first counterterrorism bureau of any municipal police department and oversaw a drastic reduction in crime. But Kelly also came under fire for his use of aggressive police tactics, including a program that spied on Muslims and a dramatic spike in the use of stop-and-frisk, which disproportionately affected nonwhite New Yorkers.

## J. MICHAEL LUTTIG

Luttig, the general counsel for Boeing Corp., is viewed as a conservative legal powerhouse from his tenure as a judge on the 4th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and his time as a Justice Department lawyer. He was considered for two U.S. Supreme Court vacancies that went to Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito. Luttig clashed with the George W. Bush White House on a prominent terror case, rebuking the administration for its actions in the case involving "enemy combatant" Jose Padilla.

## LARRY THOMPSON

A deputy attorney general under President George W. Bush, Thompson served as the department's No. 2 from 2001 to 2003. Among his most high-profile actions was allowing Syrian-born Canadian citizen Maher Arar to be deported to Syria, where he was tortured, after being falsely named as a terrorist. Thompson also served as U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Georgia and held several high-level positions at PepsiCo.

## PAUL ABBATE

Abbate is a senior official at the FBI, currently responsible for the bureau's criminal and cyber branch. He previously led FBI field offices in Washington, one of the agency's largest, and in Detroit. He's been deeply involved for years in FBI efforts to fight terrorism, serving in supervisory roles in Iraq and Afghanistan and later overseeing FBI international terrorism investigations as a section chief. He's been with the FBI for more than 20 years, and is one of the FBI officials who interviewed this week for the role of interim director.

## ALICE FISHER

Currently a partner at the law firm Latham & Watkins specializing in white-collar criminal and internal investigations, Fisher formerly served as assistant attorney general for the Criminal Division of the Justice Department. Fisher faced resistance from Democrats during her confirmation over her alleged participation in discussions about policies at the detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. She also served as



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deputy special counsel to the Senate special committee that investigated President Bill Clinton's Whitewater scandal. If selected, she would be the bureau's first female director.

## ANDREW MCCABE

A Duke-educated lawyer, McCabe was named last year as the FBI's deputy director, the No. 2 position in the bureau, overseeing significant investigations and operations. Since joining the FBI more than 20 years ago, he's held multiple leadership positions, including overseeing the FBI's national security branch and its Washington field office. McCabe became acting director after Comey was fired, but has shown a repeated willingness to break from White House explanations of the ouster and its characterizations of the Russia investigation.

## MICHAEL GARCIA

A former New York prosecutor, Garcia has served as an associate judge on the New York Court of Appeals — the state's highest court — since early 2016. He served as the U.S. attorney in Manhattan from 2005 to 2008, and previously held high-level positions in the Commerce Department, the Justice Department and the Department of Homeland Security.

## JOHN SUTHERS

A former U.S. attorney and Colorado attorney general, Suthers was elected mayor of Colorado Springs in 2015. He is widely respected among state law enforcement and many Colorado Democrats. Suthers was inspired to become a prosecutor after he spent part of an internship in the Colorado Springs district attorney's office watching the trial of a gang of soldiers convicted of killing various citizens, including actor Kelsey Grammer's sister, during a crime spree in the 1970s.

## ADAM LEE

Lee, a longtime agent, is special agent in charge of the FBI's Richmond office. He worked in a variety of positions within the bureau. Before Comey tapped him to lead the Richmond office in 2014, he was section chief of the Public Corruption and Civil Rights Section, investigating some of the highest profile cases against government officials and civil rights violations in recent years. He also led the FBI's global Foreign Corrupt Practices Act and Antitrust Programs.

## HENRY E. HUDSON

Hudson is a federal judge in Richmond who earned praise from conservatives when he struck down the centerpiece of the Obama administration's health care law in 2010. He is a George W. Bush appointee who earned the nickname "Hang 'Em High Henry" for his tough-on-crime stand as a federal prosecutor and on the bench. He became a hero to animal rights activists when he sentenced NFL star Michael Vick to nearly two years in prison in 2007 for running a dogfighting ring.

## FRANCES TOWNSEND

Townsend was homeland security and counterterrorism adviser to President George W. Bush after a series of high-profile Justice Department jobs.

Among other roles, Townsend is a national security analyst for CBS News. She worked as a federal prosecutor in New York under then-U.S. Attorney Rudy Giuliani, focusing on white-collar and organized crime. At the Justice Department, she worked in a variety of jobs including leading the Office of Intelligence Policy and Review, which helped oversee intelligence-gathering activities related to the nation's top secret surveillance court.

Associated Press writers Sadie Gurman and Eric Tucker in Washington and Nick Riccardi in Denver contributed to this report.

On Twitter follow Colvin at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and Thomas at <https://twitter.com/KThomasDC>

## China's leader offers billions for new Silk Road initiative

By **JOE McDONALD** and **CHRISTOPHER BODEEN**, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Sunday offered tens of billions of dollars for projects that are part of his signature foreign policy initiative linking China to much of Asia, Europe and Africa.

Xi made the announcement in his opening address to a two-day "Belt and Road" conference in Beijing that brought together leaders from 29 countries. It was Xi's latest high-profile appearance that seeks to cast him as a global leader and chief advocate for free trade.

"We should build an open platform of cooperation and uphold and grow an open world economy," Xi said. Despite China's public defense of free trade, Beijing faces mounting complaints that the government is hampering or reducing market access to foreign companies.

Xi said China would contribute 100 billion yuan (\$14.5 billion) to the Silk Road Fund, which was set up in 2014 to finance infrastructure projects and provide aid worth 60 billion yuan (\$8.7 billion) to developing countries and international organizations taking part in the initiative to revive the ancient trade route.

Two Chinese banks will also set up lending schemes valued at 380 billion yuan (\$55 billion) to support the initiative, Xi said.

Presidents Vladimir Putin of Russia and Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey also spoke at the opening ceremony.

Washington is being represented by a junior delegation led by Matt Pottinger, special assistant to the president and senior director for East Asia at the National Security Council.

Governments from Washington to New Delhi worry that Beijing is using the initiative to build its own political influence and erode theirs, or that China might undermine environmental standards or leave poor countries burdened with debt.

India delivered an implicit criticism of China's plan Saturday in a statement from its foreign ministry that said such an initiative should meet international norms and not create unsustainable debt.

India also has objected to Chinese state-owned companies working in the Pakistani-held part of Kashmir, the Himalayan region claimed by both sides, seeing that as an endorsement of Pakistan's control.

"No country can accept a project that ignores its core concerns on sovereignty and territorial integrity," the statement said.

Some diplomats and political analysts say Beijing is trying to create a political and economic network centered on China, push the United States out of the region and rewrite rules on trade and security.

Seeking to portray the initiative as welcoming and inclusive, Xi promised to avoid forming a "small group" of allies, which he said might harm regional stability. Instead, he said, Beijing wants "partnerships of friendship" and a "big family of harmonious coexistence."

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Associated Press writers Matthew Brown and Gillian Wong in Beijing and Muneeza Naqvi in New Delhi contributed to this report.

## Experts: Conditions behind cyberattack may be hard to mimic

By **ANICK JESDANUN**, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The cyberextortion attack hitting dozens of countries spread quickly and widely thanks to an unusual confluence of factors: a known and highly dangerous security hole in Microsoft Windows, tardy users who didn't apply Microsoft's March software fix, and a software design that allowed the malware to spread quickly once inside university, business and government networks.

Not to mention the fact that those responsible were able to borrow weaponized software code apparently created by the U.S. National Security Agency to launch the attack in the first place.

Other criminals may be tempted to mimic the success of Friday's "ransomware" attack, which locks

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up computers and hold people's files for ransom. Experts say it will be difficult for them to replicate the conditions that allowed the so-called WannaCry ransomware to proliferate across the globe.

But we're still likely to be living with less virulent variants of WannaCry for some time. And that's for a simple reason: Individuals and organizations alike are fundamentally terrible about keeping their computers up-to-date with security fixes.

## THE WORM TURNS ... AND TURNS

One of the first "attacks" on the internet came in 1988, when a graduate student named Robert Morris Jr. released a self-replicating and self-propagating program known as a "worm" onto the then-nascent internet. That program spread much more quickly than expected, soon choking and crashing machines across the internet.

The Morris worm wasn't malicious, but other nastier variants followed — at first for annoyance, later for criminal purposes, such as stealing passwords. But these worm attacks became harder to pull off as computer owners and software makers shored up their defenses.

So criminals turned to targeted attacks instead to stay below the radar. With ransomware, criminals typically trick individuals into opening an email attachment containing malicious software. Once installed, the malware just locks up that computer without spreading to other machines.

The hackers behind WannaCry took things a step further by creating a ransomware worm, allowing them to demand ransom payments not just from individual but from entire organizations — maybe even thousands of organizations.

## THE PERFECT STORM

Once inside an organization, WannaCry uses a Windows vulnerability purportedly identified by the NSA and later leaked to the internet. Although Microsoft released fixes in March, the attackers counted on many organizations not getting around to applying those fixes. Sure enough, WannaCry found plenty of targets.

Since security professionals typically focus on building walls to block hackers from entering, security tends to be less rigorous inside the network. WannaCry exploited common techniques employees use to share files via a central server.

"Malware that penetrates the perimeter and then spreads inside the network tends to be quite successful," said Johannes Ullrich, director of the Internet Storm Center at the SANS Institute.

## PERSISTENT INFECTIONS

"When any technique is shown to be effective, there are almost always copycats," said Steve Grobman, chief technology officer of McAfee, a security company in Santa Clara, California. But that's complicated, because hackers need to find security flaws that are unknown, widespread and relatively easy to exploit.

In this case, he said, the NSA apparently handed the WannaCry makers a blueprint — pre-written code for exploiting the flaw, allowing the attackers to essentially cut and paste that code into their own malware.

Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer at the Helsinki-based cybersecurity company F-Secure, said ransomware attacks like WannaCry are "not going to be the norm." But they could still linger as low-grade infections that flare up from time to time.

For instance, the Conficker virus, which first appeared in 2008 and can disable system security features, also spreads through vulnerabilities in internal file sharing. As makers of anti-virus software release updates to block it, hackers deploy new variants to evade detection.

Conficker was more of a pest and didn't do major damage. WannaCry, on the other hand, threatens to permanently lock away user files if the computer owner doesn't pay a ransom, which starts at \$300 but goes up after two hours.

The damage might have been temporarily contained. An unidentified young cybersecurity researcher claimed to help halt WannaCry's spread by activating a so-called "kill switch." Other experts found his claim credible. But attackers can, and probably will, simply develop a variant to bypass this countermeasure.

## FIGHTING BACK

The attack is likely to prompt more organizations to apply the security fixes that would prevent the malware from spreading automatically. "Talk about a wake-up call," Hypponen said.

Companies are often slow to apply these fixes, called patches, because of worries that any software change could break some other program, possibly shutting down critical operations.

"Whenever there is a new patch, there is a risk in applying the patch and a risk in not applying the patch," Grobman said. "Part of what an organization needs to understand and assess is what those two risks are."

Friday's attack might prompt companies to reassess the balance. And while other attackers might use the same flaw, such attacks will be steadily less successful as organizations patch it.

Microsoft took the unusual step late Friday of making free patches available for older Windows systems, such as Windows XP from 2001. Before, Microsoft had made such fixes available only to mostly larger organizations that pay extra for extended support, yet millions of individuals and smaller businesses still had such systems.

But there will be other vulnerabilities to come, and not all of them will have fixes for older systems. And those fixes will do nothing for newer systems if they aren't installed.

## Trump to Liberty U grads: Relish being an 'outsider'

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

LYNCHBURG, Va. (AP) — Donald Trump, the real estate mogul-turned-president, offered simple words of advice to university graduates Saturday as he urged them to follow their convictions, prepare to face criticism and relish the opportunity to be an "outsider."

"It's the outsiders who change the world," Trump declared in his first commencement address to more than 18,000 graduates of Liberty University, a Christian school whose president was one of Trump's earliest and most outspoken supporters during last year's presidential campaign.

Trump kept to a largely upbeat message during the roughly 30-minute speech, never mentioning his stunning decision this past week to remove James Comey as FBI director. Trump said Comey is a "showboat" and "grandstander" who was fired because he wasn't doing a good job.

But the timing of Trump's decision raised questions as he remains frustrated by FBI and congressional investigations into Russia's role in the 2016 presidential campaign that ended with Trump's election, along with possible ties between Trump associates and the Russian government.

Trump said Saturday that he could name a new director by Friday, when he departs on his first foreign trip as president to Saudi Arabia, Israel, Italy and Belgium. Justice Department officials began interviewing candidates in Washington on Saturday.

Drawing parallels to what was widely viewed as a longshot presidential bid by Trump, who had never held elective office before winning the November election, Trump urged the graduates to never stop fighting for what they believe in.

"Remember this: Nothing worth doing ever, ever, ever came easy," he said. Tens of thousands of people packed an on-campus stadium to welcome Trump, the second sitting president to address the university's commencement ceremony, with applause and a standing ovation.

"Following your convictions means you must be willing to face criticism from those who lack the same courage to do what is right, and they know what is right, but they don't have the courage or the guts or the stamina to take it and to do it," said Trump, who did not wear a gown.

Trump advised the graduates to "never quit" and to carry themselves with "dignity and pride."

"Demand the best from yourself and be totally unafraid to challenge entrenched interests and failed power structures," Trump said, in a dig at the Washington political establishment he has vowed to shake up. "Does that sound familiar, by the way?"

Trump also urged graduates to "treat the word 'impossible' as nothing more than motivation" and "relish the opportunity to be an outsider."

"The more that a broken system tells you that you're wrong, the more certain you should be that you must keep pushing ahead," he said. "You must keep pushing forward."

Trump suggested they choose careers they love "or you most likely won't be very successful at it."



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Trump won an overwhelming 80 percent of the white evangelical vote during the election, and a recent Pew Research Center survey marking his first 100 days in office — a milestone reached on April 29 — found three-fourths of white evangelicals approved of his performance as president. Just 39 percent of the general public held the same view.

Christian conservatives have been overjoyed by Trump's appointment of Justice Neil Gorsuch to the Supreme Court, along with Trump's choice of socially conservative Cabinet members and other officials.

But they had a mixed response to an executive order on religious liberty Trump signed last week directing the IRS to ease up on enforcing a rarely enforced limit on partisan political activity by churches. Trump also promised "regulatory relief" for those who object on religious grounds to the birth control coverage requirement in the Affordable Care Act health law.

Yet the order did not address one of the most pressing demands from religious conservatives: broad exemptions from recognizing same-sex marriage.

Jerry Falwell Jr., Liberty University's president who endorsed the thrice-married Trump in January 2016 just before that year's Iowa caucuses and became a key campaign surrogate, praised Trump's actions on issue that concern Christian conservatives.

"I really don't think any other president has done more for evangelicals and the faith community in four months than President Trump has," Falwell told The Associated Press in a telephone interview on Friday.

Trump spoke at Liberty University in January 2016, drawing some laughs when he referred to one of the Bible's books as "Two Corinthians" instead of the more common "Second Corinthians." In that speech, Trump promised to "protect Christianity."

He made the same pledge again Saturday.

"As long as I am your president no one is ever going to stop you from practicing your faith or from preaching what's in your heart," said Trump, an occasional church-goer. "We will always stand up for the right of all Americans to pray to God and to follow his teachings."

Trump is scheduled to address graduates of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, on Wednesday.

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AP Religion Writer Rachel Zoll in New York contributed to this report.

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Follow Darlene Superville on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/dsupervilleap>  
Coast guard academy on Wednesday

## Pope makes 2 Fatima children saints on centenary of visions

By **NICOLE WINFIELD** and **BARRY HATTON**, Associated Press

FATIMA, Portugal (AP) — Pope Francis added two Portuguese shepherd children to the roster of Catholic saints Saturday, honoring young siblings whose reported visions of the Virgin Mary 100 years ago turned the Portuguese farm town of Fatima into one of the world's most important Catholic shrines.

Francis proclaimed Francisco and Jacinta Marto saints at the start of Mass marking the centenary of their visions. A half-million people watched in the vast square in front of the shrine's basilica, the Vatican said, citing Portuguese authorities. Many had spent days at Fatima in prayer, reciting rosaries before a statue of the Madonna. They clapped as soon as Francis read the proclamation aloud.

"It is amazing. It's like an answer to prayer, because I felt that always they would be canonized," said Agnes Walsh from Killarney, Ireland. She said she prayed to Francisco Marto for 20 years, hoping her four daughters would meet "nice boys like Francisco."

"The four of them have met boys that are just beautiful. I couldn't ask for better, so he has answered all my prayers," she said.

The pontiff left Fatima on Saturday afternoon after a stay of less than 24 hours. From his popemobile he saluted thousands of people lining the streets who cheered, waved flags and shouted "Viva o Papa!"

Francisco and Jacinta, aged 9 and 7, and their 10-year-old cousin, Lucia, reported that on March 13,

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1917, the Virgin Mary made the first of a half-dozen appearances to them while they grazed their sheep. They said she confided in them three secrets — foretelling apocalyptic visions of hell, war, communism and the death of a pope — and urged them to pray for peace and a conversion from sin.

At the time, Europe was in the throes of World War I, and the Portuguese church was suffering under anti-clerical laws from the republican government that had forced many bishops and priests into exile.

“Our Lady foretold, and warned us about, a way of life that is godless and indeed profanes God in his creatures,” Francis said in his homily. “Such a life, frequently proposed and imposed, risks leading to hell.”

He urged Catholics today to use the example of the Marto siblings and draw strength from God, even when adversity strikes. The children had been threatened by local civil authorities with death by boiling oil if they didn’t recant their story. But they held fast and eventually the church recognized the apparitions as authentic in 1930.

“We can take as our examples Saint Francisco and Saint Jacinta, whom the Virgin Mary introduced into the immense ocean of God’s light and taught to adore him,” he said. “That was the source of their strength in overcoming opposition and suffering.”

The Martos are now the youngest-ever saints who didn’t die as martyrs.

Before the Mass, Francis prayed at the tombs of each of the Fatima visionaries. The Marto siblings died two years after the visions during Europe’s Spanish flu pandemic. Lucia is on track for possible beatification, but her process couldn’t start until after her 2005 death.

At the end of the Mass, Francis offered a special greeting to the many faithful who flock to Fatima in hopes of healing.

Participating in the offertory procession Saturday were Joao Baptista and his wife, Lucila Yurie, of Brazil. They were with their son, Lucas, whose medically inexplicable healing was the “miracle” needed for the Marto siblings to be declared saints. Lucas and the pope embraced.

The boy, aged 5 at the time, had fallen 6.5 meters (21 feet) from a window in 2013 and suffered severe head trauma. His doctors said he would be severely mentally disabled or in a vegetative state if he even survived. The boy not only survived but has no signs of any after-effects.

“We thank God for Lucas’ cure. We know in all faith from our heart that this miracle was obtained with the help of the little shepherd children Francisco and Jacinta,” Baptista told reporters earlier.

In 2000, Pope John Paul II beatified the Marto siblings during a Mass at Fatima and used the occasion of the new millennium to reveal the third “secret” that the children reported they had received from the Madonna. The text, written by Lucia, had been kept in a sealed envelope inside the Vatican for decades, with no pope daring to reveal it because of its terrifying contents: a “bishop dressed in white” — the pope — on his knees at the foot of a cross, killed in a hail of bullets and arrows, along with other bishops, priests and various lay Catholics.

The message featured an angel crying out “Penance, penance, penance!”

John Paul II, now St. John Paul, credited the Virgin Mary with saving his life in an assassination attempt in St. Peter’s Square on May 13, 1981 — the same date of the first Fatima vision. One of the bullets fired at him rests in the crown of the statue of the Virgin at the Fatima shrine.

The impending canonization of the children had led to speculation that a fourth “secret” remained, but the Vatican says there are no more secrets related to the Fatima revelations.

— Hatton reported from Lisbon, Portugal.

## Records show violent history for Ohio nursing home gunman

KIRKERSVILLE, Ohio (AP) — Court records show the man authorities say gunned down an Ohio village police chief and two nursing home employees had a history of violence, including against the nurse who was among the slain.

The suspect, Thomas Hartless, 43, was found dead inside Pine Kirk Care Center.

Nurse Marlina Medrano, 46, nurse’s aide Cindy Krantz, 48, and Kirkersville Police Chief Steven Eric Disario,

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36, were killed in the Friday attack.

State and local authorities said Saturday the investigation was continuing and they had no new information to release on the deaths in the village of some 500 residents, roughly 25 miles (39 kilometers) east of Columbus.

Spokeswoman Jill Del Greco, of the Ohio attorney general's office, said investigators had more interviews planned and learning more about the connection between Hartless and Medrano is part of their efforts. Authorities have said they had been in a relationship.

Records show Medrano had obtained civil protection orders against Hartless. Hartless was released from jail in April after his latest domestic violence case in March. State prison records show he served eight months in 2010 for the 2009 abduction of another woman.

"I am afraid to be alone with him, that he will hurt me for good," Medrano wrote in her latest petition this month. The Columbus Dispatch reported that court officials said Friday that protection order was still in effect. Records show Medrano had reported injuries including a concussion and cuts requiring stitches.

The Dispatch reported that she had earlier told police he once showed her a hole he had dug and said he would put her in it if she didn't stay with him. She also told police Hartless "doesn't like police."

Hartless' neighbor, Connie Long, told reporters Medrano had taken shelter in Long's home March 6 after he attacked her. Long had posted a Facebook warning to the community that "a violent man" was loose after Hartless was released only weeks later.

Disario headed the Kirkersville Police Department for only about three weeks, Licking County Sheriff Randy Thorp said. He was the father of six children, with a seventh on the way, the sheriff said.

Authorities say the gunman had taken two passers-by as hostages in a wooded area behind the nursing home. Disario, responding to a report of a man with a gun, said in his last radio communication that he had the man in sight. The hostages escaped unharmed, as did all 23 residents of the nursing home.

Ohio Gov. John Kasich ordered that all flags be flown at half-staff at all public buildings and grounds throughout Licking County and at the Ohio Statehouse through sunset May 16 to honor the lives lost in "senseless acts of violence" in Kirkersville.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 14, the 134th day of 2017. There are 231 days left in the year. This is Mother's Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 14, 1787, delegates began gathering at the State House in Philadelphia to draw up the United States Constitution. However, only delegates from Virginia and Pennsylvania had arrived by this time, and the convention did not achieve a quorum of seven states until May 25.

On this date:

In 1643, Louis XIV became King of France at age four upon the death of his father, Louis XIII.

In 1796, English physician Edward Jenner inoculated 8-year-old James Phipps against smallpox by using cowpox matter.

In 1804, the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the Louisiana Territory as well as the Pacific Northwest left camp near present-day Hartford, Illinois.

In 1900, the Olympic games opened in Paris as part of the 1900 World's Fair.

In 1925, the Virginia Woolf novel "Mrs Dalloway" was first published in England and the United States.

In 1942, Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait" was first performed by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

In 1948, according to the current-era calendar, the independent state of Israel was proclaimed in Tel Aviv.

In 1955, representatives from eight Communist bloc countries, including the Soviet Union, signed the Warsaw Pact in Poland. (The Pact was dissolved in 1991.)

In 1961, Freedom Riders were attacked by violent mobs in Anniston and Birmingham, Alabama.

In 1973, the United States launched Skylab 1, its first manned space station. (Skylab 1 remained in

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orbit for six years before burning up during re-entry in 1979.) The National Right to Life Committee was incorporated.

In 1987, actress Rita Hayworth died in New York at age 68.

In 1998, singer-actor Frank Sinatra died at a Los Angeles hospital at age 82. The hit sitcom "Seinfeld" aired its final episode after nine years on NBC.

Ten years ago: DaimlerChrysler said it was selling almost all of Chrysler to private equity firm Cerberus Capital Management for \$7.4 billion, backing out of a troubled 1998 takeover. The trial of suspected al-Qaida operative Jose Padilla (hoh-ZAY' puh-DEE'-uh) opened in Miami. (Padilla and two co-defendants were convicted of terrorism conspiracy and material support after a three-month trial; Padilla was originally sentenced to 17 years in prison, but that sentence was lengthened in 2014 to 21 years.)

Five years ago: President Barack Obama sought to tarnish Republican Mitt Romney as a corporate titan who got rich by cutting rather than creating jobs; Romney's campaign responded that the former Massachusetts governor alone helped spur more public and private jobs than Obama had.

One year ago: A charter bus headed to a casino in rainy conditions crashed north of Laredo, Texas, killing eight people and injuring 44 others. Hundreds of climate activists marched to the site of two refineries in northwest Washington state to call for a break from fossil fuels, while a smaller group continued to block railroad tracks leading to the facilities for a second day.

Today's Birthdays: Photo-realist artist Richard Estes is 85. Actress Sian Phillips is 84. Former Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., is 75. Movie producer George Lucas is 73. Actress Meg Foster is 69. Movie director Robert Zemeckis is 66. Rock singer David Byrne is 65. Actor Tim Roth is 56. Rock singer Ian Astbury (The Cult) is 55. Rock musician C.C. (aka Cecil) DeVille is 55. Actor Danny Huston is 55. Rock musician Mike Inez (Alice In Chains) is 51. Fabrice Morvan (ex-Milli Vanilli) is 51. Rhythm-and-blues singer Raphael Saadiq is 51. Actress Cate Blanchett is 48. Singer Danny Wood (New Kids on the Block) is 48. Movie writer-director Sofia Coppola (KOH'-pah-lah) is 46. Actor Gabriel Mann is 45. Singer Natalie Appleton (All Saints) is 44. Singer Shanice is 44. Actress Carla Jimenez is 43. Rock musician Henry Garza (Los Lonely Boys) is 39. Alt-country musician-singer Ketch Secor is 39. Rock singer-musician Dan Auerbach is 38. Rock musician Mike Retondo (Plain White T's) is 36. Actress Lina Esco is 32. Actress Amber Tamblyn is 34. Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg is 33. Actress Miranda Cosgrove is 24.

Thought for Today: "A mother becomes a true grandmother the day she stops noticing the terrible things her children do because she is so enchanted with the wonderful things her grandchildren do." — Lois Wyse, American advertising executive, author and columnist (1926-2007).