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Tuesday, May 23

Girls Golf at Sioux Valley

United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m.

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Keri Jo Pappas with Highest Honor



Parents: Kelly and Valerie Pappas

Hometown: Groton

Sisters: Johnna Hepola 35, Shannon Pappas 21, KaSandra Pappas 15, and Samatha Pappas 14

Hobbies: procrastinating, reading, watching Disney movies, spending time with friends and family

School/community activities: debate, oral interp, student congress, band, FCCLA, Destination Imagination, Adopt-a-Grandparent Program, Emmanuel Lutheran Sunday School teacher

Favorite high school memory: state debate my senior year when the debate team convinced Mrs. Gonsoir that we needed to buy goldfish as our debate mascots.

Future plans: attend SDSU and major in Human Biology with the intention to go onto Medical School

Awards: National Honor Society, Daktronics 3rd Team Academic All-State Bronze Award, SD Regents Scholar Diploma, Principal's Student Service Award 2017, HOBY Representative, HOBY Academic All-Star, Girls State Representative, Bronze President's Volunteer Service Award, Aberdeen American News Scholastic Star Gold Award, National Speech and Debate Association Academic All American, Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2017, American Legion Citizenship Award 2017, President's Award in Education 2017, James Valley Bob Peterson Memorial Telecommunications Scholarship, SD Opportunity Scholarship, SDSU Stephen F. Briggs Scholarship, SDSU Norma Christopherson Scholarship, SDSU UC 109 First Year Seminar Stipend, SDSU Housing Waiver, SDSU Campanile Girls State Officer Scholarship, Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship, Emmanuel Lutheran Faith Forever Scholarship, PEO International Star Scholarship, Groton Area Hopps Dow Scholarship, Avera St. Luke's Auxiliary, Groton PEO Scholarship, Groton Lions Club Scholarship, Scottish Rite Book Grant, John Westby Memorial Scholarship, Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Valedictorian Scholarship, Gwendolyn O'Connor Broman Memorial Scholarship

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Thane Edward Henschel with Highest Honor



Parents: Vicki and Patrick Renner and Thomas Henschel.

Hometown: Britton

Brother: Weston, 16.

Hobbies: Reading, Netflix, dance, singing, spending time with family and friends.

School/Community Activities: Show choir, all school play, one act play, Chamber choir, Drama Club, oral interpretation.

Favorite High School Memory: Going to state one act

Future Plans: Attend SDSU to major in human biology with the intention of going on to medical school to become a pediatrician.

Awards: SD Regents Scholar Diploma, President's Award in Education 2017, SDSU Blue and Yellow Scholarship, SD Opportunity Scholarship, Scottish Rite Book Grant, John Westby Memorial Scholarship, Groton Darlene Raap Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations Thane from



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Landon Earl Marzahn with Highest Honor



Parents: Wade and Renee Marzahn

Hometown: Groton

Sisters and brother: Breanna 20, Nicole 15, Andrew 12

Hobbies: Golfing, working on robots, playing video games, hanging out with family and friends

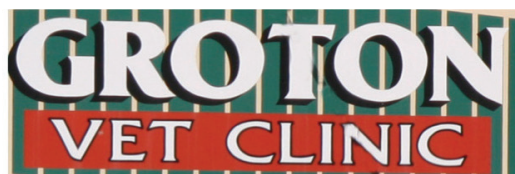
School/community activities: GT Robotics, high school golf team, 4-H, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Favorite high school memory: U.S. Open Robotic tournaments

Future plans: attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology majoring in Mechanical Engineering and minoring in Robotics

Awards: National Honor Society, Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar, Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2017, Aberdeen American News Scholastic Star Gold Award, American Legion Citizenship Award 2017, President's Award in Education 2017, Brown County CFEL Scholarship, SDSM&T Freshman Scholarship, SD Opportunity Scholarship, Groton Lions Club Scholarship, Groton Eastern Star, Catholic United Financial Scholarship, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Knights of Columbus Scholarship, Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Trade/Technical/Science or Math Scholarship

Congratulations Landon from



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Erin Elizabeth Smith with Highest Honor



Parents: Steven and Carol Smith

Siblings: Sam 23, Marah Van Diest 22, Luke 20, AnneMarie 16, Isaac 14.

Hobbies: Reading, singing, Netflix, spending time with family and friends.

School/Community Activities: Cross country, all school play, one act play, oral interpretation, band, jazz band, choir, show choir, Chamber choir.

Favorite High School Memory: Qualifying for state one-act.

Future Plans: Attend SDSU to become a secondary English teacher.

Awards: National Honor Society, SD Regents Scholar Diploma, SD Girls State Representative 2016, HOBY Representative, Principal's Student Service Award 2017, Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2017, President's Award in Education 2017, Susan Clawson Grace Scholarship, Groton PAC Community Service Scholarship, SD Opportunity Scholarship, SDSU Premier Bank Scholarship, SDSU Yellow and Blue Scholarship, SDSU Housing Waiver, SDSU Pre-Freshman Study Abroad Scholarship, Groton Area Hopps Dow Scholarship, Groton Lisa Sippel Memorial Scholarship, John Westby Memorial Scholarship, Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Salutatorian Scholarship.

Congratulations Erin from



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Nathan Clint Fjelstad with Honor



Parents: Clint and Tara Fjelstad

Hometown: Groton

Sister: Jenifer Fjelstad 16

Hobbies: video games, listening to music, spending time with friends

School/community activities: football, Destination Imagination, Vex robotics

Favorite high school memory: winning the state semi final game vs. Roncalli , and advancing to the championship

Future plans: studying computer Science at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology

Awards: SD Regents Scholar Diploma, President's Award in Education 2017, Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2017, James Valley Bob Peterson Memorial Telecommunications Scholarship, SDSM&T Freshman Scholarship, SD Opportunity Scholarship, Dakota Corps Critical Need Scholarship Full Tuition for four years, Groton Class of 1969 Scholarship

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Patrick Gengerke with Honor



Parents: Collin and Deb Gengerke

Hometown: Groton

Brother and sister: Trey is 14 and Brooke is 12

Hobbies: snowmobiling, farming and hanging out with friends

School/community activities: football and FFA

Favorite high school memory: playing with my best friends in the South Dakota 11B state championship game in the Dakota Dome senior year.

Future plans: attend SDSU and major in Ag Systems Technology and hopefully return to the family farm eventually

Awards: Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar, Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2017, President's Award in Education 2017, Tom and Barbara Paepke Career in Agriculture Scholarship, Full Circle Ag Scholarship, Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship, Groton Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Ruden Family Ag Scholarship

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Megan Dianne Malsam with Honor



Parents: Troy and Laura Malsam

Hometown: Aberdeen

Brother and sisters: Brandon Malsam 21 , Grace Malsam 15, and Emily Malsam 10

Hobbies: reading, tubing, horseback riding, hanging out with friends

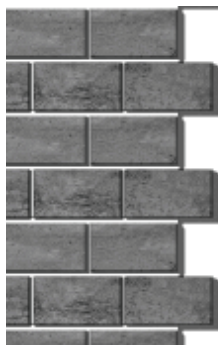
School/community activities: FFA, 4-H

Favorite high school memory: taking part in FFA competitions

Future plans: taking generals at South Dakota State University

Awards: SD Regents Scholar Diploma, Groton Lions Club Scholarship, Groton Edna Bugner Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations from



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Macy Quinn Knecht with Honor



Parents: Carol and Pat Knecht

Hometown: Groton

Brother: Spencer Knecht 20

Hobbies: watching Netflix, hanging with friends

School/community activities: FCCLA, FBLA, dance team, Cheerleading, student council, and choir

Favorite high school memory: when we went to the Dome, and being able to cheerlead in the Dome

Future plans: attending USD for Pre-Dentistry

Awards: National Honor Society, Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar, University of SD Coyote Commitment Scholarship, SD Opportunity Scholarship, Brenda Harms Memorial Scholarship, Groton Lions Club Scholarship, Wilfred N. and Lucille A. Heinz Memorial Scholarship

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Kate Ann Helmer with Honor



Parents: Loren and Alicia Helmer

Hometown: Andover

Brother and sister: Jasey Helmer 23, and Riley Helmer 21

Hobbies: rodeo, listening to music, hanging out with friends

School/community activities: FFA, 4-H

Favorite high school memory: hanging out in the shop

Future plans: attend SDSU to major in Animal Science

Awards: National Honor Society, Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar, Principal's Student Service Award 2017, Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2017. Full Circle Ag Scholarship, Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship, Andover Threshing Association Scholarship, Don Hight Memorial Scholarship, Waldorf 5000 Scholarship, Vicki Strom Memorial Scholarship, Groton Kiwanis Community Service Scholarship, Groton Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Beck Memorial Scholarship, Ruden Family Ag Scholarship

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Paityn Jo Bonn with Honor



Parents: Greg and Stacey Bonn

Hometown: Conde

Brothers: Skyler Bonn 21, and Paxton Bonn 14

Hobbies: camping

School/community activities: volleyball, FFA, FBLA, FCCLA

Favorite high school memory: my favorite high school memory is when our boys made it to the Dome in football because it is the only time any of our sports went to state though out our high school career.
Future plans: I plan to attend SDSU in Brookings and major in Ag Business

Awards: Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar, Principal's 4 year Honor Roll 2017, Brenda Harms Memorial Scholarship, Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship, Groton Eastern Star, Shawn Weismantel Kramer Memorial Scholarship, Groton Irvin and Janice Fliehs Family Scholarship

Congrats Payton!



Setting Higher Standards

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Alexis Lynn Harder with Honor



Parents: Brenda and Cory Harder

Hometown: Groton

Brother and sister: Rayce Harder 20, and Courtney Rountree 25

Hobbies: watching Netflix, going to hockey games with my mom, being with friends and working out

School/community activities: soccer, FCCLA, Luther League, community food drive

Favorite high school memory: going to sporting events or going to Table Talks every Wednesday at lunch to enjoy a nice meal with friends while listening to great speakers talk about the word of God

Future plans: attend SDSU with a major in Psychology to later attend a graduate school for Occupational Therapy

Awards: Groton CTE Curriculum Scholar, President's Award in Education 2017, SDSU Blue and Yellow Scholarship, SD Opportunity Scholarship, Groton FCCLA Service Award, Groton Lions Club Scholarship, Susan Deanne Weismantel Memorial Scholarship, Groton Community Foundation Scholarship.

Congratulations Lexie from

MJ's

105 US-12, Groton

397-2717



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Trey Owen Wright with Honor



Parents: Russell and Janet Wright

Hometown: Houghton

Brother: Cody Wright 24

Hobbies: rodeo, show sheep, participate in 4-H, FFA and DI, build robots in our school's robotics club

School/community activities: Groton robotics, 4-H, FFA, Destination Imagination

Favorite high school memory: hanging out with all of my friends

Future plans: attend School Of Minds to major in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Robotics

Awards: National Honor Society, SD Boys State Representative 2016, President's Award in Education 2017, SDSM&T Freshman Scholarship, SD Opportunity Scholarship, Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship, Groton Masonic Lodge, Groton Cortland and Lois Kuehnert Financial Need Scholarship

Congratulations Trey from



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Tevin Daniel Abeln



Parents: Branden and April Abeln

Hometown: Groton

Brother: Axel-5

Hobbies: being outside, hunting, fishing, and four wheeling

Future plans: attend Mitchell Tech Lineman program

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Jessica Jean Adler



Parents: Lisa Adler and the late Phillip Adler

Hometown: Groton

Brother: Jarrett Adler 22

Hobbies: hanging with friends, watching Netflix, scrapbooking

School/community activities: FCCLA officer-public relations

Favorite high school memory: The night our football team won the playoff game against Roncalli which meant we were going to the Dome. In that moment our whole school was one. It was awesome

Future plans: attend SDSU and major in Human Biology/Pre-med. In hopes of becoming a Pediatrician one day

Awards: Roger Hendrickson Memorial Scholarship, Groton FCCLA Service Award, Groton Lions Club Scholarship, Kay and David Donovan Memorial Scholarship, Columbia American Legion Auxiliary, SDSU Jackrabbit Guarantee, Groton Don Bartz Scholarship

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Principal's 8th Grade Middle School Honor Roll

Twenty-five eighth graders in the Class of 2021 have been selected for the Principal's Middle School 8th Grade Honor Roll at Groton Area High School. To be eligible for this award, the eighth graders had to be on the honor roll at Groton Area High School every quarter for two years.

This year's eighth graders on the Principal's Honor Roll are: Paxton Bonn, Kaden Carda, Tiara DeHoet, Tessa Erdmann, Alyssa Fordham, Braden Freeman, Jasmine Gengerke, Trey Gengerke, Brooklyn Gilbert, Alexis Hanten, Alexa Herr, Chandler Larson, Tanae Lipp, Dragr Monson, Hailey Monson, Alex Morris, Sage Mortenson, Samantha Pappas, Steven Paulson, Kale Pharis, Lucas Simon, Isaac Smith, Erin Unzen, Grace Wambach, Grace Wiedrick

Back: Alyssa Fordham, Tessa Erdmann, Jasmine Gengerke, Grace Wiedrick, Tiara DeHoet, Sage Mortenson, Samantha Pappas, Erin Unzen, Tanae Lipp, Grace Wambach, Alexis Hanten, Hailey Monson, Brooklyn Gilbert, Alexa Herr

Front: Alex Morris, Trey Gengerke, Chandler Larson, Dragr Monson, Lucas Simon, Steven Paulson, Kaden Carda, Braden Freeman, Paxton Bonn, Isaac Smith, Kale Pharis

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Principal's 6th grade Middle School Honor Roll

Nineteen sixth graders in the Class of 2023 have been selected for the Principal's Middle School 6th Grade Honor Roll at Groton Area High School. To be eligible for this award, the sixth graders had to be on the honor roll at Groton Area High School every quarter for one year.

This year's sixth graders on the Principal's Honor Roll are: Kaleb Antonsen, Jackson Bahr, Carter Barse, Cole Bisbee, Ethan Clark, Jackson Dinger, Kamryn Fliehs, Shallyn Foertsch, Brooke Gengerke, Caleb Hanten, Aspen Johnson, Cade Larson, Tate Larson, Jacob Lewandowski, Andrew Marzahn, Cole Simon, Cadance Tullis, Ava Tunheim, Elliana Weismantel

Back: Kaleb Antonsen, Carter Barse, Tate Larson, Cade Larson, Jacob Lewandowski, Ava Tunheim, Shallyn Foertsch, Elliana Weismantel

Front Jackson Dinger, Ethan Clark, Cole Simon, Jackson Bahr, Caleb Hanten, Andrew Marzahn, Cole Bisbee, Brooke Gengerke, Aspen Johnson, Cadance Tullis

Absent: Kamryn Fliehs



American Legion Citizenship Award

Keri Pappas and Landon Marzahn, seniors at Groton Area High School, have been selected to receive the 2016 American Legion Citizenship Award. The basis for the award is honor, courage, scholarship, leadership, and service. Keri and Landon received medals from the Groton American Legion Post #39.

Keri plans to attend South Dakota State University and is the daughter of Kelly and Valerie Pappas of Groton. Landon plans to attend the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and is the son of Wade and Renee Marzahn of Groton.

Left to right: Keri Pappas, American Legion representative Doug Hamilton, Landon Marzahn

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Kate Helmer and Emma Watje received the Andover Threshing Association Scholarship



Alexis Harder received the Groton Community Foundation Scholarship and Jessica Adler received the Don Bartz Scholarship



Hai Ku and Megan Malsam received the Edna Bugner Memorial Scholarships.



Kate Helmer and Amanda Morehouse. Amanda Morehouse presented Kate Helmer with the Beck Memorial Scholarship.

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Whitney Voss received the Jean Conley Brokaw Scholarship and Heather Lone received the Anthony O'Brokaw Scholarship



Dillon Freeman received the SD Build Dakota Scholarship for SD technical schools and Nathan Fjelstad received the SD Dakota Corps Critical Need Scholarship for the SD universities. Both scholarships pay full tuition and fees for all years of attendance.



Cara Dennert presents the Columbia American Legion Auxiliary scholarship to Jessica Adler



Kate Helmer and Patrick Gengerke received the Groton Chamber of Commerce Scholarships



CTE Scholar

Seven Groton Area High School students have qualified for the Groton Area High School CTE scholar designation in 2017. Career and Technical Education scholars are students who have completed approved courses in the technical electives, sciences, and mathematics areas and maintain an overall GPA of 3.0, no final grade below a C (2.0) and must complete four units each of English, mathematics and science, three units of social studies, two units of technical electives, and one-half unit each of fine arts and computer science.

The GHS 2017 award recipients are pictured above. In back, left to right, are Alexis Harder, Macy Knecht, Paityn Bonn, Kate Helmer; and in front, left to right, are Landon Marzahn, Patick Gengerke, Kellyn Fluke

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Richard Donovan presents the Kay and David Donovan Memorial Scholarship to Jessica Adler



Landon Marzahn and Paityn Bonn received the Groton Eastern Star scholarships



Lee Schinkel awards Erin Smith the Susan Clawson Grace Teaching Scholarship



Keri Pappas and Alex Kern received the Emmanuel Lutheran Faith Forever Scholarships

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FCCLA - Kellyn Fluke, Heather Lone, Katie Koehler, Jessica Adler, Halie Yarborough, Alexis Harder received the FCCLA Service Awards



FFA - Paityn Bonn, Patrick Gengerke, Trey Wright, Emma Watje, Kate Helmer received the Groton FFA Alumni Scholarship

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Sarah Harms (middle) presents Macy Knecht (left) and Paityn Bonn (right) the Brenda Harms Memorial Scholarships



Kate Helmer (left) and Patrick Gengerke (right) are awarded Full Circle Ag Scholarships by Lance Frohling (center).

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Hai Ku and Jessica Adler received the Roger Hendrickson Memorial Scholarship



Macy Knecht recipient of the Wilfred N. and Lucille A. Heinz Scholarship and Paityn Bonn recipient of the Irvin and Janice Flihs Family scholarship



Erin Smith and Keri Pappas received the Groton Hopps Dow Scholarship



Lee Schinkel awards Kate Helmer the Groton Kiwanis Community Service Scholarship

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Five Groton seniors were named recipients of the Groton Kuehnert Scholarships:

Keri Pappas - Kuehnert Valedictorian

Landon Marzahn - Kuehnert Trade, Technical, Science, or Math,

Trey Wright - Kuehnert Financial Need

Bennett Shabazz - Kuehnert Athletic

Erin Smith - Kuehnert Salutatorian

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Nathan Fjelstad and Keri Pappas were awarded James Valley Bob Peterson Memorial Telecommunications Scholarships



Whitney Voss received the Tom and Barbara Paepke Fine Arts Scholarship and Patrick Gengerke received the Tom and Barbara Paepke Career in Agriculture Scholarship



Keri Pappas received the Groton PEO Scholarship and the PEO International Star Scholarship.



Thane Henschel and Keri Pappas received Scottish Rite Book Grants

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NSU scholarship recipients: Bennett Shabazz, Alex Kern, Katlyn Idt, Audrey Wanner



Groton students received several scholarships: Tage Taylor (Stratford Community Theatre Scholarship, Landon Marzahn (Brown County CFEL, Cathoic United Financial Scholarships, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Knights of Columbus Scholarship), Keri Pappas (Avera St. Lukes Auxiliary Scholarship, Elks Most Valuable Student Scholarship).

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Ten Groton students received the Lions Club Scholarship

Back: Landon Marzahn, Bennett Shabazz, Jessica Adler, Willow Seurer, Keri Pappas
Front: Megan Malsam, Whitney Voss, Alexis Harder, Hai Ku, Macy Knecht



Four Groton students received scholarships from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. Larry Simonson, SDSMT rep, Gabrielle Kramer, Landon Marzahn, Trey Wright, Nathan Fjelstad



SD Opportunity Scholarship

The South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship was established for Regents Scholar and CTE recipients with an ACT score of 24 or greater. The scholarship provides \$6500 over four years to a qualifying student who attends an eligible higher education institution in South Dakota. While in college, students must maintain certain criteria. This scholarship is non-competitive; all students who meet the requirements and complete the application can receive the scholarship.

Ten members of the Class of 2017 have qualified for the SD Opportunity Scholarship. They are pictured above. In back, left to right, are Alexis Harder, Macy Knecht, Keri Pappas, Gabrielle Kramer, Erin Smith, Kellyn Fluke; and in front, left to right, are Landon Marzahn, Trey Wright, Nathan Fjelstad, Thane Henschel



Principal's Student Service Award

Four seniors at Groton Area High School, have been nominated for the Principal's Student Service Award. To be eligible for this award the students had to document exemplary community service during high school and complete an application and essay. **The award winners in 2017 are pictured above, left to right: Hai Ku, Kate Helmer, Erin Smith and Keri Pappas.**

"These students have made significant contributions to our community," stated School Counselor Jodi Sternhagen. "They have always been willing to volunteer when help is needed. When we've needed someone to help with a project, these students have stepped forward. Community service is extremely important in today's world and they have shown that they can make a difference."

The students' service areas included: peer tutoring, participating in the Food Drive, tutoring, helping youth, organizing events, and helping with youth activities such as coaching and refereeing. Each student received a pin from the National Association of Secondary School Principals for service.

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Whitney Voss, McClain Lone and Heather Lone received the Jerald W. Peterson Memorial Scholarship



Six Groton students received scholarships from SDSU: Alexis Harder, Erin Smith, Thane Henschel, Jessica Adler, Keri Pappas, Kellyn Fluke



Principal's Honor Roll

Seven seniors in the Class of 2017 have been selected for the Principal's Honor Roll at Groton Area High School. To be eligible for this award, the seniors had to be on the honor roll at Groton Area High School every quarter for four years.

"This is a very special award," stated Anna Schwan, Principal at Groton High School. "These students have worked very hard academically and should be commended." The seniors will graduate on May 21, 2017.

This year's seniors on the Principal's Honor Roll are pictured above. In back, left to right, are Patrick Gengerke, Landon Marzahn, Nathan Fjelstad and Kate Helmer; in front, left to right, are Erin Smith, Paityn Bonn and Keri Pappas.



President's Education Awards Program

Eight students in the Class of 2017 have qualified for the President's Education Awards Program. The awards are an effort by the U.S. Department of Education to recognize outstanding educational achievement and effort. The criteria have been developed to reflect changes occurring in the schools and to provide schools with both clear guidelines and flexibility. They are meant to reflect the state, local and national efforts to raise academic standards as embodied in the National Education goals.

"It is really nice to be able to recognize these seniors. They have worked hard for four years, have exceptional grade point averages, and have performed well on standardized testing," stated Jodi Sternhagen, Groton Area High School Counselor. The President's Award for Educational Excellence is signed by the President, Secretary of Education, and the school principal. Criteria include a grade point average of 3.5 or above and standardized test achievement at the 85th percentile or higher in math or reading.

Those qualifying in the Class of 2017 are pictured above. In back, left to right, are Patrick Gengerke, Landon Marzahn, Trey Wright, Nathan Fjelstad and Thane Henschel; in front, left to right, are Alexis Harder, Erin Smith and Keri Pappas.



Regents' Scholar Diploma

Five seniors from Groton Area High School are recipients of a Regents' Scholar Diploma awarded by the South Dakota Department of Education and Cultural Affairs and the South Dakota Board of Regents.

The diplomas recognize students for academic achievement over the course of their high school career. Students earning the award automatically qualify for entry into any of South Dakota's six state-supported universities.

To earn a Regents' Scholar Diploma, students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average, no final grade below a C (2.0) and must complete four units each of English, mathematics and science, three units of social studies, two units of one modern or classical language and one-half unit each of fine arts and computer science.

The diplomas are signed by Governor Dennis Daugaard, the Secretary of State, the Department of Education Secretary, the South Dakota Board of Education President, and the Board of Regents President.

The 2017 GHS recipients are pictured above, left to right: Keri Pappas, Megan Malsam, Nathan Fjelstad, Thane Henschel and Erin Smith.

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Trey Wright received the Groton Masonic Lodge Scholarship and Nick Menzia received the Barry Schuring Memorial Scholarship



Halie Yarborough and Emily Locke received the Groton Sammuli-Rix Scholarships



Patrick Gengerke and Kate Helmer received the Ruden Family Ag Scholarships



Sean Schuring and Thane Henschel received the Groton Darlene Raap Memorial Scholarships

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Hai Ku received the Orval and Bernice Smith Memorial Scholarship



Kate Helmer received the Kiwanis Community Service Scholarship and Erin Smith received the Groton PAC Community Service Scholarship



Sean Schuring received the Rob Luecke Memorial Scholarship and Trevor Pray received the Brian Sundstrom Wrestling Memorial Scholarship



Erin Smith received the Groton Lisa Sippel Memorial Scholarship and McClain Lone received the Richard Duerre Memorial Scholarship

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Katie Koehler, Heather Lone, Kellyn Fluke, and Audrey Wanner received scholarships. Katie, Heather, and Kellyn received Groton Area School Employee Teaching Scholarships and Audrey received the Phyllis J. Jark Memorial Education Major Scholarship

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Kate Helmer received the Vicki Strom Memorial Scholarship and Tage Taylor received the Renee McKiver Memorial Scholarship



Paityn Bonn received the Shawn Weismantel Kramer Memorial Scholarship and Alexis Harder received the Susan Deanne Weismantel Memorial Scholarship



The following students received college scholarships: Macy Knecht (USD), Sean Schuring (Presentation College), Whitney Voss (Minnesota State University Moorhead)



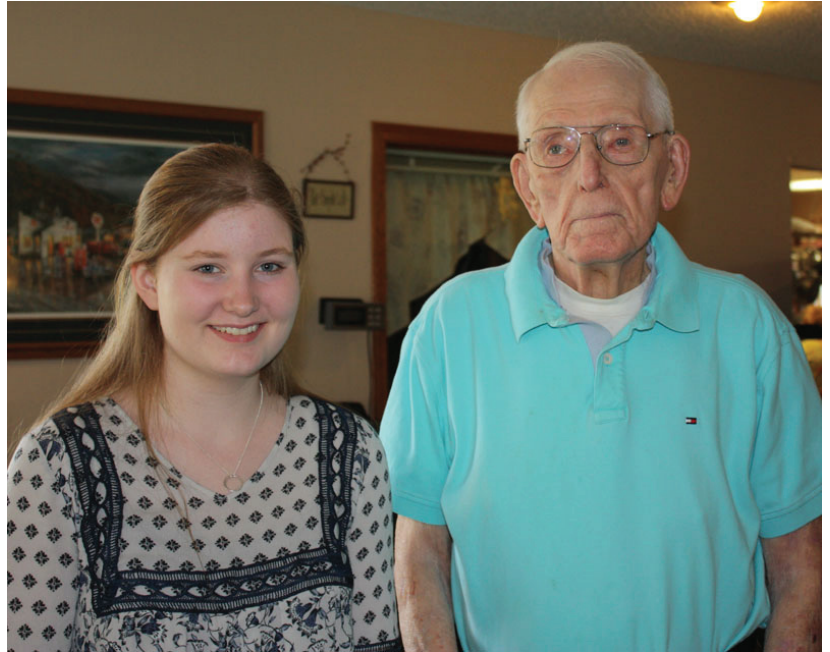
Keri Pappas, Thane Henschel, and Erin Smith received John Westby Memorial Scholarships

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Alex Kern received a Youth Business Adventure Scholarship



Keri Pappas was awarded the Gwendolyn O'Connor Broman Memorial Scholarship by Leonard Broman



Nathan Fjelstad and Whitney Voss received the Class of 69 Scholarships.

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Today in Weather History

May 23, 1989: A complex of thunderstorms moved from southwest Minnesota through Iowa. One small tornado touched down briefly in Lyon County. But the main story with this complex was high winds and hail. Baseball size hail fell just north of George in Lyon, County. Also, two-inch hail occurred in Sac County in Schaller and Odebolt, and golf ball size hail fell in Carroll, Iowa. Needless to say, the hail caused a lot of damage to vehicles, trees, and roofs. Thunderstorm winds of 60 miles an hour were also common across all of northwest Iowa with these storms.

1882 - An unusual late season snow blanketed eastern Iowa, with four to six inches reported around Washington. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1953 - The temperature at Hollis OK soared from a morning low of 70 degrees to an afternoon high of 110 degrees to establish a state record for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1968: One of the costliest hailstorms in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma history pummeled the city on this date. Hail the size of baseballs fell over much of the city, resulting in more than 40,000 insurance claims over the 90,000 square mile path of the storm. The final cost was more than \$20 million dollars. The parent thunderstorm also caused flash flooding that left 2 to 4 feet of water in some underpasses and a lightning strike that started a fire that killed two people.

1960: A massive earthquake in Chile the previous day produced a tsunami that killed 61 people in Hilo, Hawaii. An additional 180 people died on the islands of Honshu and Hokkaido in Japan.

1987 - It was a busy day for thunderstorms in the central U.S. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Shreveport LA and golf ball size hail at Marfa, TX. Hobart, OK, received 3.55 inches of rain in the morning, and another 4.03 inches of rain that evening. Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced 8.5 inches of rain in two hours north of Potter, and 7.5 inches of rain in ninety minutes north of Minatare. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced five inches of hail at Greeley. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather across much of the eastern U.S. Golf ball size hail was reported in Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina and Ohio. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Severe thunderstorms developing along a cold front resulted in 98 reports of large hail and damaging winds in the Northern Plains and Upper Mississippi Valley. Golf ball size hail caused a million dollars damage around Buffalo City, WI, baseball size hail was reported at Northfield and Randolph, MN, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 95 mph at Dunkerton, IA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather continued in the south central U.S. Pueblo, CO, equalled their May record with a high of 98 degrees, and the high of 106 degrees at Midland, TX, marked a record six straight days of 100 degree heat. (The National Weather Summary)

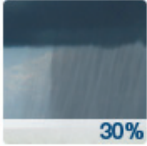






1990 - A cold front crossing the western U.S. produced snow over parts of Oregon, California, Nevada, Idaho and Utah, with five inches reported at Austin NV, and four inches at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon. Strong winds behind the cold front sharply reduced visibilities in blowing dust over central California, and two multi-vehicle accidents resulted in one death and eighteen injuries. In northern Idaho, a cloud-burst washed tons of topsoil, and rocks as large as footballs, into the valley town of Culatesac. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1997: David McWilliams Ludlum was born 1910 in East Orange, NJ - He is responsible for researching and publishing much of the early history of weather at the beginning of America. David died May 23, 1997, in Princeton, New Jersey. He was an American historian, meteorologist, entrepreneur, and author.

2010: A rare tropical cyclone dubbed Bandu brings high winds and heavy rains to Somalia. The storm then moved into the Gulf of Aden where it quickly weakens and dissipates on the 23rd as it passes between Yemen and Somalia.

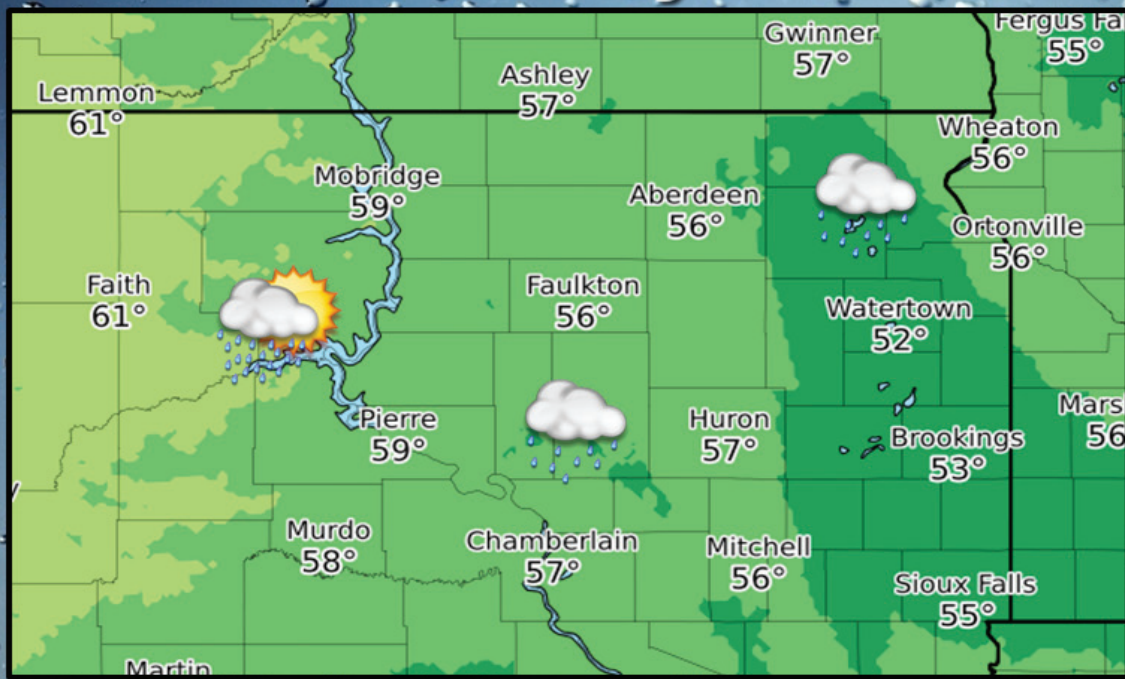
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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
 30% Scattered Showers	 Mostly Cloudy	 Mostly Sunny	 Partly Cloudy	 Partly Sunny	 Partly Cloudy	 Mostly Sunny
High: 56 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 67 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 72 °F

Cool and Breezy Today With Scattered Showers

Breezy



Temperatures Well Below Normal



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 5/23/2017 5:39 AM Central

Published on: 05/23/2017 at 5:43AM

Upper level low pressure over Minnesota this morning will eventually move south into Iowa later today. This system will bring isolated and scattered showers to eastern portions of the region. Rainfall amounts will remain light. Cool temperatures will also come with this system, with highs stuck in the 50s today. These readings are well below normal for this time of year. Warmer temperatures are in store for Wednesday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 62.5 F at 3:19 PM

Low Outside Temp: 38.5 F at 3:53 AM

High Gust: 23.0 Mph at 3:17 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 94° in 1950

Record Low: 26° in 1897

Average High: 71°F

Average Low: 47°F

Average Precip in May: 2.34

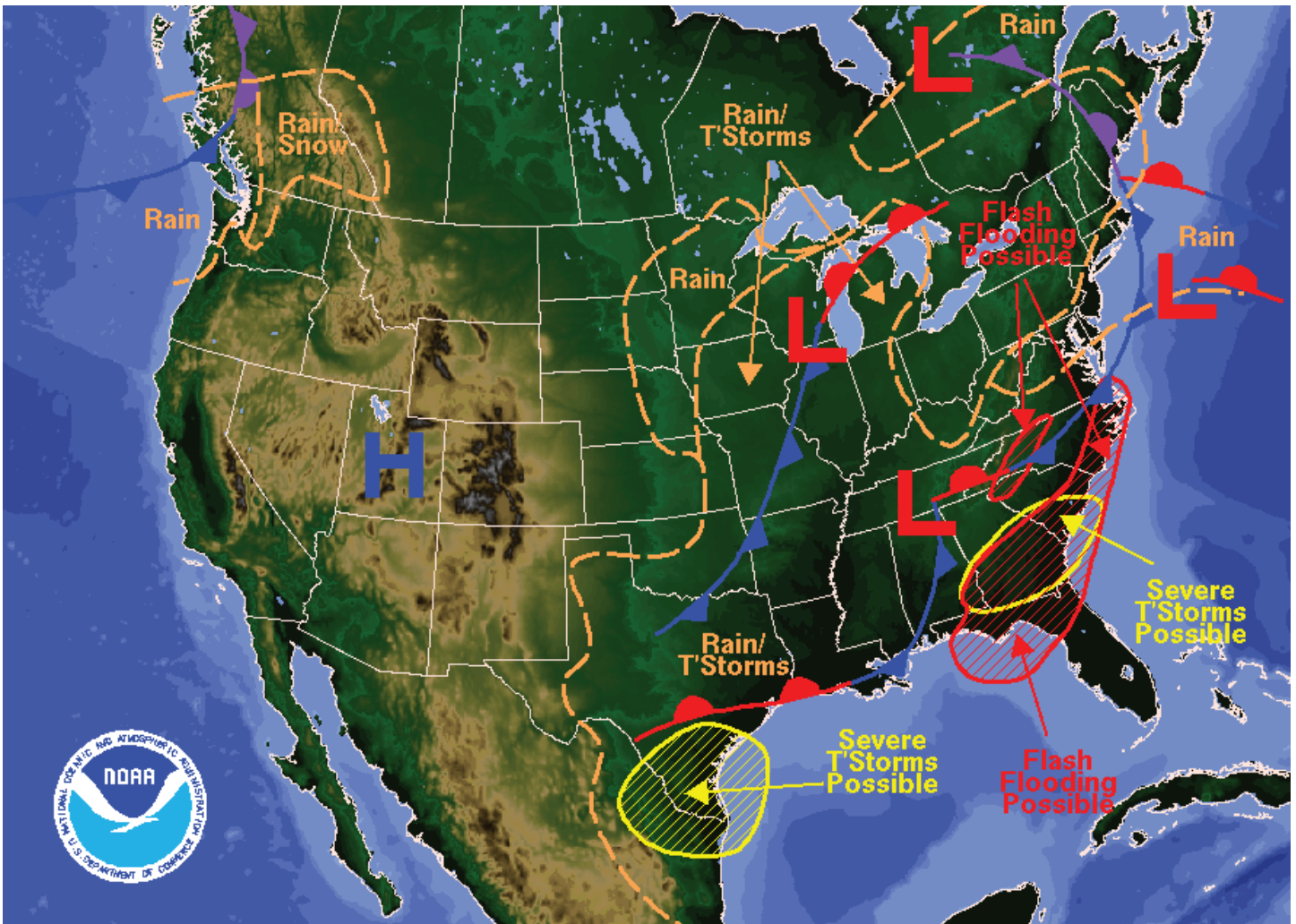
Precip to date in May: 1.21

Average Precip to date: 6.37

Precip Year to Date: 3.19

Sunset Tonight: 9:06 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:53 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Tue, May 23, 2017, issued 4:48 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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UNFATHOMABLE MIGHT

A teacher asked his fifth grade science class a rather probing question: "What's the most powerful combination of words?" "Atomic power," shouted one. Another, raising his hand shouted, "Nuclear power." A third said, "Water power." The class went silent.

Finally, from the back of the room a student held up his hand and said, "Please, Sir, those are powerful words, but I think that the most powerful combination of words is Almighty God."

"Almighty" means just that: "having all might." One who is designated as "almighty" is one who others believe can do anything. Nothing is beyond that one and no one can even challenge the power vested in that one. Only God Who is the Creator of the universe and everything in it can do anything. His ability to do, control, sustain and work out His purposes is far beyond the power of our minds to understand. It is only something we can accept or reject but never challenge with our finite thoughts. In the final analysis, whatever His wisdom may plan, His might and power are able to perform.

But what do these lofty thoughts mean for us? After all, if we accept the fact that God is Almighty, what real difference does it make to anyone?

The answer is simple and profound: This mighty and powerful God loves us and has sent His Son to save us from ourselves and eternal damnation. He gives us the option to call upon Him not only for salvation, but help in times of need, cleansing from guilt and freedom from fear.

Prayer: How wonderful is Your name, O Lord, and how mighty Your thoughts, deeds and love that You care for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 145:3 Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.

News from the Associated Press

Man sentenced in Foltz family burglary case

GREELEY, Neb. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been imprisoned for stealing from a construction site and burglarizing the home of the late Sam Foltz's brother when he was in Lincoln honoring the Nebraska football player.

Online court records say Scott Davis, of Lennox, South Dakota, was given three to five years Monday in Greeley County District Court. He'd pleaded guilty to burglary and theft after prosecutors dropped two charges.

Authorities say Davis broke into the home of Jordan Foltz on Sept. 3 as the Foltz family attended a memorial for Sam Foltz at the Huskers' home opener.

Davis was arrested Sept. 4 on suspicion of driving drunk, and officers say they found items in his car believed to have been stolen from Jordan Foltz's home.

Report: Poor roads on tribal lands lead to school absences

By **CLARICE SILBER, Associated Press**

PHOENIX (AP) — The federal government released a report Monday that casts a critical light on the poor conditions of roads on tribal lands nationwide, highlighting the widespread challenge of getting Native American children to school during bad weather.

The General Accounting Office sent a team to visit 10 different school districts on three reservations in Arizona and South Dakota, where they spent time interviewing school officials and evaluating bus routes by riding with students to school.

They experienced unmaintained roads, bumpy rides, loud rattling windows and lengthy routes. The government team rode buses in May and June when weather conditions were fairly good compared with the winter months.

"We went on pretty typical bus routes and some of those typical bus routes were over an hour long," said Rebecca Shea, director of the agency team.

Earthen or gravel roads become muddy and impassible after being hit with heavy rain, snowfall or strong winds, causing students to be late for school when buses get stuck. Bus routes are sometimes 100 miles one way and require drivers to go 5 mph to navigate large rocks and ruts and steep inclines with no guard rails.

"Our mud can be up a foot deep, which causes our buses to get stuck, buses to slide. It can pose a safety issue for our students and our drivers," Superintendent Lynnette Michalski of Window Rock Unified School District said.

Michalski said bus drivers for her school district drive about 400 miles a day on unimproved roads.

School officials throughout the Navajo Nation cite inclement weather and poor roads as a contributing factor to school absences by students on the reservation, the nation's largest, which spans parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah.

The report notes that the Bureau of Indian Education's schools generally don't collect data on transportation-related causes for absences, but it says bad roads are partly to blame for tribal students missing school.

The chronic absence rate for Native American students is 23 percent, compared with 14 percent for non-Indian students, according to data collected by the Department of Education.

Melvin Graye, lead bus driver for Rough Rock Community School in the Navajo Nation, said a snowstorm last week left a bus stuck in the mud, forcing students to wait for another bus to pick them up. Graye said it usually takes about 45 minutes to an hour to get a stuck bus back on the road.

The report says tribal roads often have overlapping ownership among tribal, county and state entities.

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The federal government funds two programs to improve and maintain roads on tribal lands. Roughly 161,000 miles of roads on tribal lands are eligible for federal funding, but those programs have remained fairly stagnant in funding, which federal and tribal officials say is leading to the roads' deterioration.

Cool, wet weather limits fieldwork in South Dakota

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Cool, wet weather limited fieldwork across parts of South Dakota.

The weekly crop report from the federal Agriculture Department says daytime high temperatures were 15 to 20 degrees below normal for much of the state toward the end of last week.

Rainfall varied statewide, and heavier rain fell in already saturated areas in the southeast, causing ponding and flooding in planted and to-be planted fields.

Spring wheat was rated 44 percent in good to excellent condition and was 95 percent emerged. Winter wheat was 54 percent good to excellent, and 10 percent headed.

Corn planted was at 88 percent, while soybeans were 56 percent planted.

In the ranching community, pasture and range conditions were 44 percent good to excellent. Stock water supplies were rated at 83 percent adequate and surplus.

APNewsBreak: Leaks found on Dakota Access pipeline system

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — The Dakota Access pipeline and a feeder line leaked more than 100 gallons of oil in North Dakota in separate incidents in March as crews prepared the disputed \$3.8 billion pipeline for operation.

Two barrels, or 84 gallons (320 liters), spilled due to a leaky flange at a pipeline terminal in Watford City on March 3, according to the state's Health Department. A flange is the section connecting two sections of pipeline. Oil flow was immediately cut off and the spill was contained on site. Contaminated snow and soil were removed. No people, wildlife or waterways were affected, according to the department's environmental health database.

The leak was on a line operated by a connecting shipper on the Dakota Access pipeline, said Vicki Granada, spokeswoman for Texas-based Dakota Access developer Energy Transfer Partners.

"They are responsible for the operations, maintenance, etc.," she said.

A leak of half a barrel, or 20 gallons (75 liters), occurred March 5 in rural Mercer County, data from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration show. Contaminated soil was removed, and no waterways were affected. There were no reported injuries to people or wildlife. The administration is part of the Department of Transportation.

The online report says an above-ground valve failed due to a manufacturing defect, causing the leak. Upstream and downstream valves were closed to isolate the leak. Later, all other such valves in the Dakota Access system were inspected and found to be OK.

The federal database shows no leaks along the pipeline in Iowa or Illinois.

ETP maintains the pipeline is safe, but several tribes in the Dakotas — including the the Cheyenne River, Standing Rock, Yankton and Oglala Sioux — fear environmental harm and are fighting in federal court, hoping to convince a judge to shut down the line.

The Dakota Access pipeline will move North Dakota oil 1,200 miles (1,930 kilometers) through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution point in Illinois. ETP plans to begin commercial operations June 1.

North Dakota Environmental Health Chief Dave Glatt said the Health Department lists such incidents in its online database, but typically doesn't otherwise notify the public of oil spills smaller than 150 barrels unless the oil contaminates water.

The pipeline leaked 84 gallons of oil in South Dakota on April 4. That spill at a rural pump station also was quickly cleaned up and didn't threaten any waterways. The state's Department of Environment and Natural Resources posted a report in its online database but didn't otherwise notify the public. Its policy is to not issue news releases on spills unless there is a threat to public health or water.

Tribal leaders and attorneys say the leaks bolster their demands for further environmental review of the

pipeline.

"We have always said it is not a matter of if, but when," tribal attorney Jan Hasselman said after the South Dakota leak. "Pipelines spill and leak. It's just a fact."

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Tribes gather for state park opening in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota welcomed Native Americans from around the region for the opening of Good Earth State Park.

Tribal members from around the Plains gathered in Sioux Falls on Friday for the park's dedication ceremony, which was hosted by the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks department, the Daily Republic reported (<http://bit.ly/2rtg9nq>).

Calvin Harlan, cultural preservation officer for the Omaha tribe in Nebraska, said Good Earth is the name of where his people hope to go when they die.

"We go home to that Good Earth, and this is Good Earth today," Harlan said at the ceremony.

Lance Foster, tribal historic preservation officer for the Iowa tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, said visiting the park was like coming home.

"We know Good Earth is a place of peace, and you get the feeling of peace when you come home like that," Foster said.

The park is located about four miles southeast of Sioux Falls and encompasses 800 acres in South Dakota and 200 acres in Iowa.

The area was once inhabited by members of the Omaha, Ponca, Ioway and Otoe tribes, said Jeff Scherschligt of the South Dakota Parks and Wildlife Foundation Board of Directors. The area was a trade center and at one time housed as many as 10,000 tribes.

South Dakota and Iowa officials had more than four decades of discussions before developing a public-private partnership with landowners to create the park, Scherschligt said.

South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard said one of the private ownerships is Spring Creek Golf Course, which will continue operations for eight years before being incorporated into the park.

This story has been corrected to reflect that Good Earth is a state park, not a national park.

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

2 dead in Sisseton house fire

SISSETON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say two people have died in a house fire on the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation in northeastern South Dakota.

Sisseton Fire Chief Jeff Pageler (PAY'-gler) tells KWAT (<http://bit.ly/2rtKXnT>) an adult and a child escaped from the burning home Sunday. And, after the fire was knocked down, two others were found upstairs.

They were taken to Coteau Des Prairies Hospital in Sisseton where they were pronounced dead.

Pageler says the cause of the fire is being investigated by the South Dakota Fire Marshal's Office. Sisseton is a community of about 2,500 in Roberts County.

Information from: KWAT-AM, <http://www.gowatertown.net>

Used clothing store gets surprise donation of marijuana

MAPLEWOOD, Minn. (AP) — Someone apparently inadvertently donated more than 100 grams of marijuana when they dropped off some used children's clothes at a suburban Minneapolis shop.

The Maplewood Police Department posted a photo on Facebook of the surprise donation to the Once

Upon a Child store with an invitation to the owner to come in and claim it.

Not surprisingly, no one has come forward yet.

The drug was divided up into dozens of little plastic bags. Police Chief Paul Schnell says because it was packaged for distribution or sale, its owner, if identified, could face a felony charge that would carry a sentence of more than a year in jail.

Extra police to be at Sioux Falls high school after threat

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Additional law enforcement will be present at a Sioux Falls high school after a threat circulated on social media over the weekend.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2qOAhNZ>) reports that school will start as it normally would on Monday at Washington High School.

DeeAnn Konrad of the Sioux Falls School District says that officials have identified the student who made the threat. She says multiple people called local police and the school about the threat made against it.

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

Pine Ridge man sentenced to 10 years in death of young son

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Pine Ridge man accused in the March 2015 death of his 1-year-old son has been ordered to spend a decade in prison.

Thirty-four-year-old James Shangreaux pleaded guilty in January to a reduced charge of felony child abuse and neglect. He was recently sentenced to 10 years behind bars to be followed by three years of supervised release.

Authorities say Shangreaux's son died after being severely beaten during a fight between the child's mother, Emmy Rouillard, and her boyfriend, Robert Red Shirt. Rouillard was sentenced earlier to more than two years in prison and Red Shirt was sentenced to four years.

Montrose man pleads not guilty in shooting of deputy

MADISON, S.D. (AP) — A Montrose man accused of shooting and wounding a South Dakota sheriff's deputy faces a July trial after pleading not guilty.

Thirty-seven-year-old Matthew Rumbolz faces attempted murder and other felony charges in the shooting of McCook County Deputy Dylan Hillestad. The Daily News reports (<http://bit.ly/2qH8bpL>) that Rumbolz entered his not guilty pleas on Friday.

Hillestad was shot in the arm in an exchange of gunfire south of Madison in the early morning hours of May 3. He was treated at a hospital and released. Rumbolz was arrested after a standoff that lasted more than 12 hours.

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

AP Exclusive: CEOs got biggest raise since 2013

By STAN CHOE, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The typical CEO at the biggest U.S. companies got an 8.5 percent raise last year, raking in \$11.5 million in salary, stock and other compensation last year, according to a study by executive data firm Equilar for The Associated Press. That's the biggest raise in three years.

The bump reflects how well stocks have done under these CEOs' watch. Boards of directors increasingly require that CEOs push their stock price higher to collect their maximum possible payout, and the Standard & Poor's 500 index returned 12 percent last year.

Over the last five years, median CEO pay in the survey has jumped by 19.6 percent, not accounting for inflation. That's nearly double the 10.9 percent rise in the typical weekly paycheck for full-time employees

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across the country.

But CEO pay did fall for one group of companies last year: those where investors complained the loudest about executive pay. Compensation dropped for nine of the 10 companies scoring the lowest on "Say on Pay" votes, where shareholders give thumbs up or down on top executives' earnings.

Other measures that would highlight the income gap between CEOs and typical workers are on the way, but governance watchdogs worry that Congress will kill or dilute their strength.

"It's all out of whack right now," said Heather Slavkin Corzo, director of the AFL-CIO Office of Investment, which says CEOs for major U.S. companies make 347 times more than the average worker.

THE TOP FIVE

The highest-paid executive in the survey was Thomas Rutledge of Charter Communications, which absorbed Time Warner Cable and Bright House Networks last year to become the nation's second-largest cable operator.

His compensation totaled \$98 million, about \$88 million of that from stock and option awards included as part of a new five-year employment agreement. For Rutledge to collect the full amount, Charter's share price will need to rise 155 percent over six years.

CEOs typically got more than half their total compensation from stock and option grants last year.

The lesson from the rest of the top five: How lucrative the entertainment business can be.

No. 2 on the survey was Leslie Moonves at CBS, who made \$68.6 million. That included \$63.9 million in bonus and stock awards the company's board said he received for presiding over a 36.6 percent return for CBS shares in 2016 and for keeping CBS the top-rated network in the 2015-16 season, among other performance measures.

No. 3 was Walt Disney's Robert Iger, at \$41 million. That was 6 percent less than the year before, as slowing growth resulted in a bonus cut.

Fourth-highest at \$37.2 million was David Zaslav of Discovery Communications, whose networks include TLC and Animal Planet. Roughly 70 percent of that was from stock and option awards.

No. 5 was Activision Blizzard's Robert Kotick, whose compensation surged 358 percent to \$33.1 million. That was almost entirely due to \$24.9 million in stock awards he received as part of a new five-year employment agreement. To get them, the company's earnings per share must hit a certain level, among other financial targets.

Kotick may not make the top five this year. His 2017 salary was cut by 26 percent to \$1.8 million after many shareholders said they were upset about how much Activision Blizzard executives were making. The company also eliminated his guarantee for an annual salary increase.

NAY ON PAY

Kotick's salary cut demonstrates how companies will revamp pay structures in response to complaints from shareholders.

When the shareholders of Exelon met in Philadelphia for their annual meeting last spring, the energy company asked what they thought about how much CEO Christopher Crane and other executives made in the prior year. Exelon shares had lost 22 percent in 2015.

Shareholders made their displeasure known. Of shares voted, 62 percent were against the compensation or abstained. That's the highest "Say on Pay" percentage in this year's survey.

After the meeting, Exelon made several changes, including capping how much executives can receive in incentive payments if the stock loses money over the year.

Auto supplier BorgWarner had last year's second-lowest passing rate on "Say on Pay," with 60 percent of voting shares saying no or abstaining. The company made changes to its compensation program and cut a 2016 incentive award by \$2.4 million to \$950,000 for CEO James Verrier. His total compensation dropped 29 percent to \$12.3 million last year.

At Chevron, which had the seventh-lowest "Say on Pay" passing rate, CEO John Watson's compensation fell 2 percent to \$18.8 million. After talking with shareholders, the company said it will cap some bonus awards and make other changes for 2017 compensation.

OUTLOOK

Boards of directors know they have to pay CEOs similar to what their rivals are making, if not more, compensation experts say.

"They're very aware of what their peers are doing," said John Wood, vice chairman of Heidrick & Struggles, a search firm that corporate boards hire to find their next CEO.

When a company gets a poor showing on its "Say on Pay" vote, though, "companies do take it seriously," said Kelly Malafis, a partner at Compensation Advisory Partners, an executive-compensation consulting firm. "Even if it's not failing, but below 70 or 80 percent, companies see that, and they typically respond in the next year."

That's why governance experts are concerned to see proposed legislation in Washington they say could weaken "Say on Pay." Instead of holding the vote at least once every three years, a proposal says it should happen only when executives' compensation packages have changed "materially" from the previous year. It's part of a push to loosen regulations on businesses to boost the economy.

"The Say on Pay vote has been a real game changer," said Amy Borrus, deputy director of the Council of Institutional Investors, which represents pension funds and other big investors that manage \$23 trillion in assets. "We think that's a mistake."

The AP's CEO compensation study includes pay data for 346 executives at S&P 500 companies who have served two full consecutive fiscal years at their respective companies, who filed proxy statements between January 1 and May 1.

Further data is available at www.equilar.com/ap-2017.

AP Business Writers Marcy Gordon and Christopher S. Rugaber contributed to this report from Washington, D.C.

In Jerusalem, Trump solemnly remembers Holocaust victims

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — President Donald Trump on Tuesday solemnly paid tribute to the six million Jews killed during the Holocaust, calling on the world to never forget "history's darkest hour."

On a visit to the Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem, the president and first lady Melania Trump laid a wreath on a stone slab under which ashes from some of those killed in concentration camps are buried. They were joined by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his wife, Sara, as well as daughter Ivanka Trump and son-in-law Jared Kushner, who are both White House senior advisers.

Trump spoke on his fourth and final day in the Middle East. Earlier Tuesday, his motorcade crossed through the barrier surrounding biblical Bethlehem for a meeting with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, where he pressed for progress on the dormant peace process.

If Israel and the Palestinians can forge an agreement, it can "begin a process of peace all throughout the Middle East," Trump said.

Abbas said he was keen to "keep the door open to dialogue with our Israeli neighbors." He reiterated the Palestinians' demands, including establishing a capital in East Jerusalem, territory Israel claims as well, insisting that "our problem is not with the Jewish religion, it's with the occupation and settlements, and with Israel not recognizing the state of Palestine."

Trump also condemned Monday night's deadly explosion at a concert in England, calling those who carried out the attack "evil losers."

"The terrorists and extremists and those who give them aid and comfort must be driven out from our society forever," Trump said. "This wicked ideology must be obliterated."

The White House said Trump was being updated on the attacks in Manchester, England, by his national security team. More than 20 people were killed by an apparent suicide bomber. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

"So many young, beautiful innocent people living and enjoying their lives, murdered by evil losers in life," Trump said, echoing the theme he presented during his meetings with Arab leaders in Riyadh, Saudi

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Arabia. The White House said it was Trump's idea to use the term "evil losers."

Trump declared that he would not call the attackers "monsters," a term he believes they would prefer, instead choosing "losers," a longtime favorite Trump insult and one he has directed at comedian Rosie O'Donnell, Cher and others.

Trump's visit to Jerusalem has been laden with religious symbolism. He toured the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which by Christian tradition is where Jesus was crucified and the location of his tomb. Wearing a black skullcap, he became the first sitting president to visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, the most holy site at which Jews can pray.

Trump was also joined at the wall by his family, who separated by gender to pray. The president and Kushner visited one side, while the first daughter and first lady visited a portion of the site reserved for women. Trump approached alone and placed his hand on the stone.

The visit raised questions about whether the U.S. would indicate the site is Israeli territory. The U.S. has never recognized Israeli sovereignty over parts of the Old City seized in the 1967 war.

The White House struggled to answer the question. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley declared the site part of Israel, while U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Monday dodged the question. Trump himself never commented.

The president also unexpectedly offered a new defense of his disclosure of classified information to Russian diplomats in a recent Oval Office meeting. Standing alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he argued he never mentioned Israel, the source of the classified intelligence, according to various officials — something he has not been accused of doing.

"So you have another story wrong," he told reporters.

Netanyahu played down what has appeared to be a violation of an intelligence-sharing agreement with his country, saying U.S.-Israeli intelligence cooperation is "terrific." But Trump's offhand remark was another stark reminder that his troubles at home, including the investigation of his campaign's ties to Russia and his firing of FBI Director James Comey, have followed him across the ocean.

The moment was an abrupt interruption of an otherwise warm and smooth welcome for Trump to the Holy Land. After years of butting heads with Trump's predecessor, Netanyahu celebrated a new American president's arrival as a moment of hope in the stalled peace talks between Israel and Palestinians.

"I also look forward to working closely with you to advance peace in our region, because you have noted so succinctly that common dangers are turning former enemies into partners," Netanyahu said. "It won't be simple. But for the first time in many years — and, Mr. President, for the first time in my lifetime — I see a real hope for change."

Netanyahu and Abbas were not scheduled to meet during Trump's visit. Both men met separately with Trump at the White House in recent months.

Associated Press writers Josef Federman in Jerusalem, Karin Laub in Bethlehem, West Bank, Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Darlene Superville, Vivian Salama and Ken Thomas in Washington contributed to this report.

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10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. ATTACKER STRIKES POP CONCERT IN ENGLAND

An apparent suicide bomber sets off an improvised explosive device that killed 22 people at the end of an Ariana Grande show in Manchester, police say.

2. TRUMP CONDEMNS 'EVIL LOSERS' IN CONCERT ATTACK

In a visit to the West Bank to meet the Palestinian president, the U.S. president also calls on Mideast

leaders to help root out violence.

3. WHAT TRUMP IS SAYING ABOUT MIDEAST PEACE

The Republican says that if Israel and the Palestinians can forge peace, it will spill over across the region.

4. TRUMP'S YAD VASHEM VISIT HIGHLIGHTS MIXED RECORD

While the Republican touts his Jewish daughter and his strong support for Israel, he has suffered a series of missteps on Jewish issues and appeared cavalier at times about the Holocaust.

5. WHAT'S IN TRUMP'S \$4.1 TRILLION BUDGET BILL

The spending plan relies on faster economic growth and steep cuts in a range of support programs for low-income individuals.

6. FORMER CIA HEAD TO BE QUIZZED ABOUT RUSSIAN MEDDLING

John Brennan testifies publicly about the intelligence underpinning the Obama administration's conclusion that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

7. EX-SOUTH KOREAN LEADER'S TRIAL BEGINS

Park Geun-hye denies corruption charges at the start of a criminal trial that could potentially send the country's first female leader to prison for life.

8. AP: TEARS MIX WITH RUBBLE IN SYRIAN TOWNS

Zabadani, once a popular summer resort, and Madaya, the scene of haunting malnutrition, are two of the many casualties of the civil war.

9. 'BROKEN. ... I AM SO SO SORRY. I DON'T HAVE WORDS'

Ariana Grande, other music stars and celebrities rush to express their prayers and support on social media after the deadly Manchester concert explosion.

10. WARRIORS ADVANCE TO NBA FINALS

Golden State becomes the first team in league history to open the playoffs 12-0, and now await the Boston-Cleveland winner.

Apparent suicide bomber at Ariana Grande concert kills 22

By JILL LAWLESS and GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — An apparent suicide bomber attacked an Ariana Grande concert as it ended Monday night, killing 22 people among a panicked crowd of young concertgoers, some still wearing the star's trademark kitten ears and holding pink balloons as they fled.

Teenage screams filled the arena just after the explosion, which also killed the attacker and injured dozens.

The attack sparked a nightlong search for loved ones — parents for the children they had accompanied or agreed to pick up, and friends for each other after groups were scattered by the blast. Twitter and Facebook were filled with appeals for the missing.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Chief Constable Ian Hopkins said police are treating the blast as an act of terrorism "until we know otherwise."

A police helicopter hummed over the city as somber commuters hurried to work.

Public transport shut down, and taxis offered to give stranded people free rides home, while residents opened their homes to provide lodging.

The concert was attended by thousands of young music fans in northern England. Grande, who was not injured, tweeted hours later: "broken. from the bottom of my heart, i am so so sorry. i don't have words."

Forensic investigations are trying to determine if the attacker had accomplices, Hopkins said. He provided no information about the person who set off the bomb.

He said some of the dead were children but provided no further details.

Hayley Lunt was staying at a hotel nearby and had taken her 10-year-old daughter Abigail to her first concert at Manchester Arena on Monday evening.

She said the explosions rang out as soon as Grande left the stage. "It was almost like they waited for her to go."

"We just ran as fast as we could to get away from that area," Lunt said. "What should have been a su-

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perb evening is now just horrible.”

Campaigning for Britain’s June 8 election was suspended.

The explosion struck near the exit around 10:30 p.m. Monday as Grande was ending the concert, part of her Dangerous Woman Tour. Police cars, bomb-disposal units and 60 ambulances raced to the scene as the scale of the carnage became clear. More than 400 officers were deployed.

“A huge bomb-like bang went off that hugely panicked everyone and we were all trying to flee the arena,” said 22-year-old concertgoer Majid Khan. “It was one bang and essentially everyone from the other side of the arena where the bang was heard from suddenly came running towards us as they were trying to exit.”

Home Secretary Amber Rudd decried “a barbaric attack, deliberately targeting some of the most vulnerable in our society — young people and children out at a pop concert.”

The local ambulance service said 59 people were taken to hospitals.

The city’s regional government and its mayor, Andy Burnham, were among scores of Twitter users who circulated the MissinginManchester hashtag, used by people looking for family members and friends.

Among the names being circulated was Olivia Campbell. Her mother, Charlotte Campbell, said the 15-year-old attended the concert with her best friend from school. He is hospitalized but Olivia is missing, the mother told ITV television’s Good Morning Britain breakfast show.

“I’ve called the hospitals. I’ve called all the places, the hotels where people said that children have been taken and I’ve called the police.”

She said she last heard from her daughter just before the concert.

“If anyone sees Olivia, lend her your phone, she knows my number.”

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Supporters of the extremist Islamic State group, which holds territory in Iraq’s Mosul and around its de facto capital in the Syrian city of Raqqa, celebrated the blast online.

U.S. President Donald Trump, in Bethlehem, said the attack preyed upon children and described those responsible as “evil losers.”

“This wicked ideology must be obliterated. And I mean completely obliterated,” he added.

If the explosion is confirmed as a terrorist attack it would be the deadliest in Britain since four suicide bombers killed 52 London commuters on three subway trains and a bus in July 2005.

Video from inside the arena showed people screaming as they made their way out amid a sea of pink balloons.

British Prime Minister Theresa May is due to chair a meeting of the government’s COBRA emergency committee later Tuesday.

The Dangerous Woman tour is the third concert tour by 23-year-old Grande and supports her third studio album, “Dangerous Woman.”

Grande’s role as Cat Valentine on Nickelodeon’s high school sitcom “Victorious” propelled her to teen idol status, starting in 2010.

After Manchester, Grande was to perform at venues in Europe, including Belgium, Poland, Germany, Switzerland and France, with concerts in Latin America and Asia to follow.

Pop concerts and nightclubs have been a terrorism target before. Most of the 89 dead in the November 2015 attacks in Paris were at the Bataclan concert hall, which gunman struck during a performance by Eagles of Death Metal.

In Turkey, 39 people died when a gunman attacked New Year’s revelers at the Reina nightclub in Istanbul.

Manchester, 160 miles (260 kilometers) northwest of London, was hit by a huge Irish Republican Army bomb in 1996 that leveled a swath of the city center. More than 200 people were injured, though no one was killed.

Katz reported from London. AP writer Leanne Italie in New York; AP Music Writer Mesfin Fekadu in Jersey City, New Jersey, and Lori Hinnant and John Leiceister in Paris contributed.

Trump administration sending Congress \$4.1 trillion budget

By ANDREW TAYLOR and MARTIN CRUTSINGER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump is sending Congress a \$4.1 trillion spending plan that relies on faster economic growth and steep cuts in a range of support programs for low-income individuals to balance the government's books over the next decade.

The proposed budget, for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, was being delivered to Congress Tuesday, setting off an extended debate in which Democrats are already attacking the administration for trying to balance the budget on the backs of the poor. Lawmakers from both parties have said major changes will be needed as the measure moves through Congress.

The proposal projects that this year's deficit will rise to \$603 billion, up from the actual deficit of \$585 billion last year. But the document says if Trump's initiatives are adopted the deficit will start declining and actually reach a small surplus of \$16 billion in 2027. However, that goal depends on growth projections that many private economists view as overly optimistic.

The government hasn't run a surplus since the late 1990s when a budget deal between Democrat Bill Clinton and congressional Republicans combined with the longest U.S. economic recovery in history produced four years of black ink from 1998 to 2001.

During the campaign, Trump attacked the weak economic growth of the Obama years, and pledged that his economic program would boost growth from the lackluster 2 percent rates seen since the recovery began in mid-2009. Trump's new budget is based on sustained growth above 3 percent, sharply higher than the expectations of most private economists.

"The president believes that we must restore the greatness of our nation and reject the failed status quo that has left the American dream out of reach for too many families," the administration said in its budget which was titled, "The New Foundation for American Greatness."

According to budget tables released by the administration, Trump's plan cuts almost \$3.6 trillion from an array of benefit programs, domestic agencies and war spending over the coming decade — an almost 8 percent cut — including repealing and replacing Obama's health law, cutting Medicaid, eliminating student loan subsidies, sharply slashing food stamps, and cutting \$95 billion in highway formula funding for the states. Cuts to a popular crop insurance program have already landed with a thud.

A program designed to move people receiving Social Security disability payments back into enter the workforce is politically toxic as well. Food stamp cuts would drive millions from the program. Administration officials defended these measures as a way to reduce government support they contend is keeping millions of Americans out of the work force and thus reducing economic growth.

"We need people to go to work," White House Budget director Mick Mulvaney told reporters at a briefing Monday. "If you are on food stamps, we need you to go to work. If you are on disability and you should not be, we need you to go back to work."

Trump's plan projects that the boost in economic growth it will engender will result in more than \$2 trillion in unspecified deficit savings over the coming decade from "economic feedback," a major component in achieving the program's pledge of achieving balance by 2027.

The budget does feature one major new domestic initiative — offering paid parental leave at a projected cost of \$25 billion over the next decade. The new program has been championed by Trump's daughter, Ivanka.

Trump would keep campaign pledges to leave core Medicare and Social Security benefits for the elderly alone but that translated into even deeper cuts in programs for the poor such as Medicaid and food stamps.

Medicaid, the government insurance program for the poor and many disabled Americans, would be cut by more than \$600 billion over 10 years by capping payments to states and giving governors more flexibility to manage their rosters of Medicaid recipients. Those cuts go on top of the repeal of Obamacare's expansion of the program to 14 million people and amount to, by decade's end, an almost 25 percent cut from present projections.

Likewise, a 10-year, \$191 billion reduction in food stamps — almost 30 percent — far exceeds prior proposals by Capitol Hill Republicans. The food stamp program serves about 42 million people.

Other cuts in Trump's budget include reductions in pension benefits for federal workers, in part by requiring employees to make higher contributions. In agriculture, the proposed budget would limit subsidies to farmers, including for purchasing crop insurance, a move already attacked by farm state lawmakers.

On taxes, Trump promises an overhaul that would cut tax rates but rely on erasing tax breaks and economic growth to avoid adding to the deficit. It would create three tax brackets — 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent — instead of the current seven, but specific details were left to further negotiations with Congress.

The new budget plan builds on Trump's March proposals, adding details to his goal of boosting defense spending by \$54 billion, a 10 percent increase, for this year, with that boost financed by an equal cut to nondefense programs.

Mulvaney said that part of the savings, listed in the budget as \$1.4 trillion over 10 years, would come from a "two-penny plan" which will cut non-defense discretionary spending by 2 percent each year over the next decade.

Such cuts — which include "zeroing out" programs like community development block grants and heating aid to the poor — were ignored when Congress earlier this month wrapped up a massive spending bill for the current year.

There's little sign lawmakers, who panned the March plan, will have a change of heart now, especially with Trump's administration in turmoil and his poll ratings at historic lows.

Warriors ready for third straight NBA Finals appearance

By RAUL DOMINGUEZ, Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Kevin Durant does not need to be told that Golden State should have a muted celebration after winning the Western Conference Finals.

Durant is fully aware a tough challenge waits for them. It's why Durant signed with the Warriors and why Stephen Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green embraced him at the expense of their own stats.

"We have a bigger goal in mind," Durant said.

Golden State has a chance to earn their second championship in three years after sweeping the San Antonio Spurs with a 129-115 victory Monday night.

The Warriors became the first team in league history to open the playoffs 12-0, which provides them with a week of rest prior to their third straight finals appearance.

Golden State will host Game 1 of the NBA Finals on June 1 against either Cleveland or Boston. The Cavaliers hold a 2-1 lead in the Eastern Conference Finals, but Curry alluded the Warriors are expecting a rematch with LeBron James and company.

"We all know, obviously, who we're going to play," Curry said. "We'll be watching the Eastern Conference Finals to see how that unfolds. But it will be easy to start this new chapter and really just lock in on what's in front of us."

Facing Cleveland will resurrect chatter of Golden State's collapse in last season's finals, which saw the Cavaliers rally from a 3-1 deficit to win the franchise's first championship.

"This year is a totally different year, different group, different journey," Curry said.

The biggest difference is the addition of Durant, who left Oklahoma City in the offseason to sign with Golden State.

His presence has given the Warriors a deep and talented roster headlined by four All-Stars in Durant, Curry, Klay Thompson and Draymond Green. But Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said to credit talent as the sole reason behind Golden State's current run is disrespectful.

"They're really talented, but that's not everything that describes them," Popovich said. "This is maybe the best defensive team in the league on top of everything. So, they don't just play with talent. They execute at the defensive end of the floor. On offense, no team is more unselfish finding the open man and that sort of thing."

The Warriors have shown their strength by blasting through the playoffs in the normally rugged West.

Golden State is shooting 50 percent from the field while averaging 118.3 points in 12 playoff games. As good as the offense has been, it's been the Warriors' defense that has been key to their playoff dominance. Golden State held San Antonio, Utah and Portland to 102 points and averaged 9.2 steals per game.

"I think our defensive intensity has been amazing," Green said. "Overall, I think we've done a great job locking in on the defensive side, scrambling around, trying to take away team's No. 1 option. That doesn't necessarily mean the player, just trying to make them go to a second or third option in the set and also trying to cover that. I think we've been doing a great job of that."

The addition of David West and Matt Barnes has given the Warriors two more defensive-minded players off the bench to go along with Andre Iguodala and JaVale McGee.

Still, Golden State coach Mike Brown knows better execution is critical in the finals.

"We feel like we can play better," said Brown, who is filling in on the sideline for an injured Steve Kerr. "To get to our ultimate goal of winning the whole thing, we've got to be better on both ends of the floor."

As a 23-year-old playing with the Thunder, Durant learned a heightened effort is needed in the Finals. Oklahoma City celebrated advancing to the 2012 Finals only to be steamrolled by Miami in five games.

Experience has taught Durant that winning the West is no reason to relax or celebrate.

"Yea, it's a little different, definitely. I can't lie," Durant said. "I went when I was 23-years-old, and it felt like the Western Conference Finals was almost like the championship. Just getting to that point, you know how hard it is and how much work you put in to start the season. So, it's a little different now, obviously.

"I feel like we could definitely be better."

5 jurors picked for Cosby trial, 2 know a sex assault victim

By **JOE MANDAK, MARYCLAIRE DALE and DAKE KANG, Associated Press**

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The search for 12 jurors and six alternates for Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial is off to a brisk start even though a third of the initial jury pool had an opinion about Cosby's guilt or innocence and an equal number said they or someone close to them had been sexually assaulted.

Three men and two women, all white, were selected Monday. The lawyers studied each person's race, sex, age, occupation and interests to try to guess their inherent sympathies, experts said. Cosby, in an interview last week, said he thinks race "could be" a motivating factor in the accusations against him.

"You're looking for what people already believe," said University of Pittsburgh School of Law professor David Harris. "People don't take in new information and process it. They filter it into what they already know and think."

The actor-comedian once known as America's Dad for his portrayal of Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" is charged with drugging and molesting a Temple University women's basketball team manager at his home near Philadelphia in 2004. He has called the encounter consensual.

Dozens of other women have made similar accusations against Cosby, 79, but Judge Steven T. O'Neill is allowing only one of them to testify at the June 5 trial in suburban Philadelphia. The jury from Pittsburgh will be sequestered nearly 300 miles from home.

The jurors' names, ages and occupations were being kept private. Two of the men selected said they or someone close to them had been sexually assaulted, but they insisted they could judge the case fairly. Sometimes that is not so easy, one law professor said.

"It's one thing to set aside intellectually what you know, but it's another to set it aside emotionally," said Laurie Levenson, a Loyola Law School professor.

The case against Cosby has attracted worldwide publicity that the judge hopes to shield from jurors during the trial.

Cosby came to court on the arm of an aide, carrying a box of tissues, and frequently conferred with his three lawyers at the defense table. Lead defense lawyer Brian McMonagle said his client was eager to get the process started. Cosby has said he does not expect to testify.

The trial will take place in Norristown in Montgomery County, where Cosby had invited Andrea Constand

to his home in 2004. Constand said she went seeking career advice. She said Cosby gave her wine and pills that put her in a stupor before molesting her on his couch.

Constand was 30 and dating a woman at the time, while Cosby was 66 and long married to wife Camille. Cosby in sworn testimony has said he put his hand down Constand's pants, but said she did not protest.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are the victims of sexual assault unless they come forward, as Constand has done.

The first group of 100 potential jurors summoned Monday included 16 people of color. Forty-one of them will return Tuesday for further questioning. The judge will bring in more people as needed.

Cosby was arrested Dec. 30, 2015, days before the 12-year statute of limitations expired. He has pleaded not guilty and remains free on \$1 million bail.

He told a talk show host last week that he hopes to beat back the charges and resume his career.

"I want to get back to the laughter and the enjoyment of things that I've written and things that I perform on stage."

Dale reported from Philadelphia.

Trump's \$4.1T budget relies on deep domestic cuts

By ANDREW TAYLOR and MARTIN CRUTSINGER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's proposed \$4.1 trillion budget slashes safety net programs for the poor, targeting food stamps and Medicaid, while relying on rosy projections about the nation's economic growth to balance the budget within 10 years.

The cuts are part of a budget blueprint for the upcoming fiscal year that amount to a dramatic restructuring of the government, with protection for retirement programs for the elderly, billions of dollars more for the military and the rest of the government bearing the bulk of the reductions.

The plan was outlined in White House summary documents. It will be officially released on Tuesday.

The politically perilous cuts to Medicaid, the federal-state health care for the poor and disabled; college loans, food stamps and federal employee pension benefits guarantee Trump's budget won't go far in Congress, even though Republicans control both the House and Senate. Those cuts follow a partial plan from March that targeted domestic agency operations and foreign aid that were quickly dismissed by lawmakers.

"I just think it's the prerogative of Congress to make those decisions in consultation with the president," Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said as he predicted the Medicaid cuts wouldn't survive the Senate. "But almost every president's budget proposal that I know of is basically dead on arrival."

The plan cuts almost \$3.6 trillion from an array of benefit programs and domestic agencies over the coming decade. It assumes Republicans will repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health care law, known as "Obamacare," while reducing Medicaid, eliminating student loan subsidies, sharply slashing food stamps and cutting \$95 billion in the program for highway funds for the states.

"We need people to go to work," White House budget director Mick Mulvaney told reporters Monday. "If you are on food stamps, we need you to go to work. If you are on disability and you should not be, we need you to go back to work."

The budget plan reflects the small-government views of Mulvaney, a former tea party congressman; Trump has so far displayed little interest in budget issues and the plan is being released while the president is on his first overseas trip.

Trump's plan promises that overhauling the tax code and easing regulations will lift economic growth from the lackluster 2.1 percent average rate of recent years to sustained annual gains of 3 percent or better. Higher growth means lower deficits and Trump's plan folds in more than \$2 trillion in unspecified deficit savings over the coming decade from "economic feedback" to promise balance.

Without the juiced-up growth projections, Trump's plan would be almost \$500 billion in the red instead of sporting a small surplus in 2027, the target year.

Trump would keep campaign pledges to leave core Medicare and Social Security benefits for the elderly

alone. His cuts to domestic agencies budgets approved by lawmakers each year would be redirected to the Pentagon. He promises a new parental leave program championed by his daughter Ivanka, but will fall short on his promises for a massive tax cut.

Among the cuts:

—Medicaid would be reduced by more than \$600 billion over 10 years by capping payments to states and giving governors more flexibility to manage their rosters of Medicaid recipients. Those cuts are paired with the repeal of Obamacare's expansion of the program to 14 million people and amount to, by decade's end, an almost 25 percent cut from present projections.

—A 10-year, \$191 billion reduction in food stamps — almost 30 percent — goes far, far beyond prior proposals by congressional Republicans. The program serves about 42 million people.

The budget lands as Trump's GOP allies in Congress are grappling with repealing and replacing Obama's health care law and looking ahead to a difficult rewrite of the loophole-clogged tax code. Trying to balance the budget isn't in the plan in Congress, but conservative Republicans are pushing for some action this year on spending cuts.

That includes cuts to pensions for federal workers and higher contributions toward those pension benefits, as well as cuts to refundable tax credits paid to the working poor.

On taxes, Trump promises an overhaul that would cut tax rates but rely on erasing tax breaks and economic growth to avoid adding to the deficit. It would create three tax brackets — 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent — instead of the current seven.

The budget adds details to the earlier blueprint, which proposed a \$54 billion, 10 percent increase for the military above an existing cap on Pentagon spending, financed by an equal cut to nondefense programs, which meant slashing medical research and foreign aid. Law enforcement and border security would get increases, however.

At least one Cabinet-level official, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, said Monday he would work with Congress to ensure money for the 17 national laboratories and other projects.

During a tour of Oak Ridge National Lab in Tennessee, Perry said he has "not been in the job long enough to go through the budget line item by line item."

But Perry, who once called for the abolition of the department, has become an outspoken proponent of the department's importance, particularly the national labs.

"Hopefully we will be able make that argument to our friends in Congress that what DOE is involved with plays a vital role, not only in the security of America but the economic well-being of the country as we go forward," Perry said.

Associated Press writers Erik Schelzig in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Matthew Daly in Washington contributed to this report.

North Korea says ready to deploy, mass-produce new missile

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea said Monday it is ready to start mass-producing a new medium-range missile after a weekend test-launch confirmed its combat readiness.

It called the missile, capable of reaching Japan and major U.S. military bases there, an "answer" to U.S. President Donald Trump's policies.

The solid-fuel Pukguksong-2 missile flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles) and reached a height of 560 kilometers (350 miles) on Sunday before plunging into the Pacific Ocean. North Korea's media said more missiles will be launched in the future.

Trump, traveling in Saudi Arabia and Israel, had no immediate public comment.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered the launch and watched from an observation post, state media reported Monday. The Korea Central News Agency said the test verified technical aspects of the weapon system and examined its "adaptability under various battle conditions" before it is deployed to military units.

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Kim reportedly said the launch was a success, "approved the deployment of this weapon system for action" and said that it should "be rapidly mass-produced."

North Korea has significantly speeded up its missile tests over the past year or so and appears to be making tangible progress toward developing an arsenal that poses a threat to South Korea and Japan — which together host about 80,000 U.S. troops — and developing an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the mainland United States.

It's moving ahead with its nuclear weapons program as well.

North Korea conducted two nuclear tests last year. It claims one was a hydrogen bomb and the other device created a more powerful explosion than any it has previously tested. Satellite imagery suggests it could be ready to conduct its next test — which would be its sixth — at virtually any time.

North Korea's often-stated goal is to perfect a nuclear warhead that it can put on a missile capable of hitting Washington or other U.S. cities.

Its state media, meanwhile, have stepped up their calls for even more missile launches because of what the government says is an increasingly hostile policy from President Trump.

"The Trump administration would be well advised to lend an ear to the voices of concern that are heard from the U.S. and the international community," North Korea's Minju Joson newspaper said in a commentary Sunday. "Many more 'Juche weapons' capable of striking the U.S. will be launched from this land. This is the DPRK's answer to the Trump administration."

"Juche," in this usage, refers to domestically produced and DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In an interview with "Fox News Sunday," U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the ongoing testing is "disappointing" and "disturbing."

South Korea held a National Security Council meeting after the launch, which its Foreign Ministry said "throws cold water" on efforts to ease tensions on the peninsula.

At the request of diplomats from the U.S., Japan and South Korea, urgent United Nations' Security Council consultations on the missile test are to take place Tuesday.

The council on Monday strongly condemned North Korea's "flagrant and provocative defiance" of U.N. sanctions banning ballistic missile tests and again vowed to impose new sanctions in response to its latest launch.

All 15 council members, including the North's closest ally China, approved the statement ahead of Tuesday's consultations where France's U.N. Ambassador Francois Delattre said a new sanctions resolution will be discussed.

He told reporters that France hopes the council will move ahead on a strong resolution that demands better implementation of existing sanctions and tougher new sanctions against North Korea.

The council statement said North Korea's "illegal ballistic missile activities are significantly contributing to its development of nuclear weapons delivery systems and are greatly increasing tension in the region and beyond."

North Korea a week earlier successfully tested a new midrange missile — the Hwasong 12 — that it said could carry a heavy nuclear warhead.

Experts said that rocket flew higher and for a longer time than any other missile previously tested by North Korea and represents another big advance toward a viable ICBM.

David Wright, an expert on North Korea's missiles and nuclear program with the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the latest missile could have flown farther but was fired on a "lofted" trajectory, which sends the missile high up so that it will land in the open seas rather than flying over or splashing down near neighboring countries.

He noted the Pukguksong-2's solid fuel is of particular concern.

Solid-fuel missiles have their fuel loaded before being moved into place, allowing them to be launched faster and with more secrecy. Liquid-fuel missiles, on the other hand, are generally fueled at the launch site in a process that can last an hour and requires fueling and other vehicles. That makes them easier

to spot and easier to destroy.

Associated Press writers Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul, South Korea, and Edith M. Lederer in New York contributed to this report. Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/EricTalmadge and Instagram at [erictalmadge](https://www.instagram.com/erictalmadge).

Flynn rejects Trump-Russia probe subpoena; Dems say he lied

By CHAD DAY and STEPHEN BRAUN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, invoked his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination in rebuffing a subpoena Monday in the investigation into Russia's election meddling. Then a top House Democrat cited new evidence he said appeared to show Flynn lied on a security clearance background check.

With Trump himself in the Mideast on his first foreign trip as president, investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 campaign — and allegations of Trump campaign collaboration — showed no sign of slackening in Washington. Flynn's own defensive crouch revealed the high legal stakes he faces as investigations intensify: a U.S. counterintelligence probe of Russia, a federal investigation in Virginia and multiple congressional inquiries.

As well, The Washington Post reported Monday that Trump asked two top intelligence chiefs in March to deny publicly that there had been collusion between the Russians and the Trump campaign.

Citing current and former officials, the Post said the national intelligence director, Daniel Coats, and the director of the National Security Agency, Adm. Michael S. Rogers, both refused Trump's request, judging it inappropriate. Coats could face questions on the report Tuesday when he is scheduled to testify before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Flynn's attorneys told the Senate intelligence committee on Monday that he will not turn over personal documents sought under the congressional subpoena, citing an "escalating public frenzy" against him. They also said the Justice Department's appointment of a special counsel has created a legally dangerous environment for him to cooperate with the Senate panel's investigation.

Hours later, Rep. Elijah Cummings, senior Democrat on the House oversight committee, said government documents he's reviewed showed inconsistencies in Flynn's disclosures to U.S. investigators in early 2016 during his security clearance review.

Cummings said Flynn appeared to have misled authorities about the source of a \$33,000 payment from Russia's state-sponsored television network, failed to identify foreign officials with whom he met — including Russia's President Vladimir Putin — and glossed over his firing as chief of the Defense Intelligence Agency during the Obama administration. Cummings made his points in a letter asking the committee's chairman, Jason Chaffetz of Utah, to subpoena the White House for documents related to Flynn.

It's unclear from Cummings' letter whether Flynn would face legal jeopardy for his answers to security clearance investigators. But in an April statement Cummings warned that falsifying or concealing material facts on security clearance reviews are federal crimes and convictions could lead to fines and up to five years imprisonment.

Flynn attorney, Robert Kelner, declined to comment on Cummings' assertions.

Trump appointed Flynn, a retired U.S. Army lieutenant general and top military intelligence chief, as his top national security aide in January, only to fire him less than a month later. The White House has said that Flynn had misled top U.S. officials, including Vice President Mike Pence, about his contacts with Russian officials, including Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

Cummings and other Democrats have blasted Trump and his team for failing to more carefully check Flynn's background before they brought him to the White House, while the Trump administration has attempted to blame the Obama administration for failing to properly vet Flynn earlier.

Cummings said Monday that Flynn provided inconsistent or misleading statements to U.S. security clearance investigators in early 2016 during the renewal of his credentials.

Cummings cited a government report in March 2016 that he said showed the retired Army general tell-

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ing authorities that payments he received for his 2015 trip to Moscow were paid by "U.S. companies." In fact, the oversight committee released detailed email and payment records months ago showing that the source of Flynn's payment of more than \$33,000 was RT, the Russian state-sponsored television network that has been labeled a propaganda network by U.S. intelligence.

The payments, which were made through Flynn's U.S.-based speakers bureau, stemmed from Flynn's trip to Moscow to appear at an RT gala, where he sat at the head table with Putin.

In his letter, Cummings also cited a standard security clearance question that asks respondents to disclose contacts with foreign governments or their representatives. According to Cummings, Flynn told investigators he had only "insubstantial contact" with foreign nationals over the previous seven years and he did not detail the names of any foreign officials he had met. Among those omitted were Putin, RT officials and Russian military intelligence officials whom Flynn had met in Moscow in 2013 as part of his duties as defense intelligence chief.

Cummings said he found it difficult to understand how Flynn could have characterized his dinner with Putin as "insubstantial contact."

"General Flynn had a duty to be truthful in his security clearance renewal form and during his interview with security clearance investigators," Cummings wrote, noting that he's been in contact with the Justice Department and the newly appointed special counsel about his findings.

Meanwhile, the Senate committee's subpoena to Flynn focused on his interactions with Russian officials. It sought a wide range of information and documents about his and the Trump campaign's contacts with Russians dating back to June 2015.

Flynn's response stressed that his decision to invoke his constitutional protection was not an admission of wrongdoing but rather a response to a political climate in which Democratic members of Congress are calling for his prosecution. The attorneys also said that if Flynn complied with the committee's request, he could be confirming the existence of documents, an act that itself could be used against him.

Trump has defended Flynn since his ouster and called on him to strike an immunity deal because Flynn was facing a "witch hunt." The president's comments were in stark contrast to his harsh words during the 2016 campaign for people who received immunity or invoked the Fifth Amendment in the probe of Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server.

"If you're innocent, why are you taking the Fifth Amendment?" Trump asked in a campaign rally in Iowa in September.

Trump himself walked back into the Russia controversy during his visit to Israel, volunteering that he "never mentioned the word or the name Israel" during his recent Oval Office conversation with top Russian diplomats.

That comment referred to revelations that he divulged classified information about an Islamic State threat in his May 10 meeting in the Oval Office with Russia's foreign minister and ambassador. U.S. officials have said the information originated with Israel. However, it has not been alleged that Trump told the Russians that Israel was the source.

Flynn's decision does not fully close the door on future cooperation with the committee. But if congressional committees move to grant Flynn immunity, they would probably have to enter into discussions with the special counsel, Robert Mueller, to determine whether that could impede the FBI's case.

Read the letter: <http://apne.ws/2q3S9Y9>

Associated Press writers Eileen Sullivan, Vivian Salama and Darlene Superville and Michael Catalini in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

Ford taps former office furniture executive to be new CEO

By DEE-ANN DURBIN and TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writers

DEARBORN, Michigan (AP) — The job of Ford's new CEO won't be easy: He will have to shore up the 114-year-old company's traditional auto business, but also invest in self-driving cars and other projects that could one day make that business obsolete.

Ford thinks Jim Hackett is up to the task. The 62-year-old former chief executive of office furniture maker Steelcase was named to the post Monday, just three days after former CEO Mark Fields told the company he wanted to retire.

Ford Executive Chairman Bill Ford, the great-grandson of company founder Henry Ford, said Hackett is a visionary who can help Ford modernize and become more nimble. He served on Ford's board from 2013 to 2016 and became the head of Ford's mobility unit in March of last year.

Hackett said Ford does many things well but has trouble handling complex strategy questions. He plans to assemble a small executive team that can communicate plans clearly and make decisions quickly. That's a contrast with Fields, who was a product of Ford's bureaucratic culture and had 20 people reporting to him.

"The biggest challenge I had (at Steelcase), and I will have here, is to have everybody see the future. They can see their opportunity in that. And secondly, that it's our right to win, and we don't have to cede that to anybody, Tesla or any of them," Hackett said Monday during a news conference at Ford's world headquarters. "I love that challenge because I know how to do that."

Hackett led Steelcase for 20 years. He is credited with transforming the company, in part, by predicting the shift away from cubicles and into open office plans. In the process, he cut thousands of jobs and moved furniture production from the U.S. to Mexico.

Hackett also served as the interim athletic director at the University of Michigan from 2014 to 2016. In that role, he lured star football coach Jim Harbaugh and negotiated a \$174 million deal with Nike. Bill Ford said those two jobs showed Hackett can be successful in different environments.

"He's really a proven transformational thinker," Ford said. "He's not just a futurist. He's a very good operational leader."

Erik Gordon, a law and business professor at the University of Michigan, questions whether Hackett's past experience will be enough to steer Ford through a volatile global auto market. Steelcase earned \$3 billion in revenue in its latest fiscal year. Ford earned \$152 billion.

"I think he's going to have to prove himself," Gordon said. "The fact that he was probably the most successful CEO in the office furniture business doesn't mean he is automatically going to be a successful CEO in an industry that requires technical knowledge."

But Scott Cook, the founder and executive chairman of Intuit who has known Hackett for a decade, said Hackett's skills transfer to any industry. At Steelcase, he said, Hackett studied how people were using the furniture and designed new products based on his findings. The car industry needs that kind of thinking as it moves toward a world in which self-driving shuttles could replace personal automobiles.

"Lots of people can manufacture well, but manufacturing the same old products will get you the same old results," Cook said. "You hire a Jim if you want to learn to manufacture what people will want next."

Hackett and Bill Ford praised Fields, who was one of the architects of the company's turnaround a decade ago. More recently he led Ford to a string of strong earnings, including a record pretax profit of \$10.8 billion in 2015.

Bill Ford insisted Fields was not fired. Hackett said the two have plans to go to a Michigan football game.

Fields resurrected Ford's luxury Lincoln brand and grew sales in China. His bet on using aluminum for Ford trucks paid off in better fuel economy and strong sales. Fields opened a Silicon Valley office to hire talented young researchers and scout promising startups. Last week, he announced that Ford would cut 1,400 white-collar jobs in the U.S. and Asia by September to trim costs.

But investors worried about Ford's sliding U.S. market share and product decisions. While Fields was focused on a new performance division and the \$450,000 GT supercar, important bread-and-butter products like the Fusion sedan and Escape SUV grew dated. Ford has lagged behind rivals in bringing long-range

electric cars to the market.

And the company cannot pivot quickly. Subcompact SUV sales are booming in the U.S., and Ford sells them overseas, but Ford doesn't plan to bring its subcompact EcoSport here until next year. And the much-anticipated new Bronco SUV won't be out until 2020.

Fields also had trouble articulating the company's vision of the future. Ford has invested \$1 billion in Argo AI, an artificial intelligence startup, and has said it wants to have an autonomous vehicle on the market by 2021. But those moves have been eclipsed by competitors such as Fiat Chrysler, which is making self-driving minivans with Waymo, Google's self-driving car division.

"We had a lot of internal turmoil," said Richard Bazy, who runs a Ford dealership in Pittsburgh's northern suburbs. "People weren't sure what direction we were going."

As a result, Ford's stock price sagged. Electric car maker Tesla Inc. even passed Ford in market value earlier this year. The company's stock price has fallen almost 40 percent since Fields became CEO in July 2014.

Ford's shares jumped 2 percent Monday to \$11.10.

Morgan Stanley analyst Adam Jonas warned investors that the executive move could be a sign that Ford is facing further earnings risk. The company expects to earn a pretax profit of \$9 billion this year, down more than \$1 billion from 2016.

Krisher reported from Detroit.

Questions about Russia chase Trump during first Israel visit

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — President Donald Trump solemnly placed a note in the ancient stones of Jerusalem's Western Wall on Monday, sending a signal of solidarity to an ally he's pushing to work harder toward peace with the Palestinians. But his historic gesture— and his enthusiastic embrace of Israel's leader — were shadowed even here by reminders of Trump's tumult back home

In this second stop on his maiden foreign trip, Trump unexpectedly offered a new defense of his disclosure of classified information to Russian diplomats in a recent Oval Office meeting. Standing alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he argued he never mentioned Israel, the source of the classified intelligence, according to various officials — something he has not been accused of doing.

"I never mentioned the word or the name Israel," he told reporters. "So you have another story wrong."

The moment was abrupt interruption of an otherwise warm and smooth welcome for Trump to the Holy Land. After years of butting heads with Trump's predecessor, Netanyahu celebrated a new American president's arrival as a moment of hope in the stalled peace talks between Israel and Palestinians. Trump, arriving from Saudi Arabia, declared he saw the possibility of new alignment of Muslim nations and Israel against a shared foe — Iran.

"There is a growing realization among your Arab neighbors that they have common cause with you in the threat posed by Iran," he said, at a welcome meeting with President Reuven Rivlin.

The White House has said it doesn't expect any sort of breakthrough on the peace process on this trip. But Trump's unconventional approach to diplomacy has raised hopes that he may be well positioned to jumpstart talks bogged down by entrenched interests and ancient enmity.

Welcoming Trump, Netanyahu said, "I also look forward to working closely with you to advance peace in our region, because you have noted so succinctly that common dangers are turning former enemies into partners."

"It won't be simple," Netanyahu said. "But for the first time in many years — and, Mr. President, for the first time in my lifetime — I see a real hope for change."

Trump is to travel Tuesday to Bethlehem to visit with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank. He'll later lay a wreath at the Yad Vashem, a Holocaust memorial, and deliver a speech at the

Israeli Museum.

Trump's visit was laden with religious symbolism. He toured the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, which by Christian tradition is where Jesus was crucified and the location of his tomb. Wearing black skull cap, he became the first sitting president to visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem's Old City, the most holy site at which Jews can pray.

Trump was joined by first lady Melania Trump, his son-in-law Jared Kushner and daughter Ivanka Trump. The family was separated by gender. The president and Kushner visited one side, while the first daughter and first lady visited a portion of the site reserved for women. Trump approached alone and placed his hand on the stone.

The visit raised questions about whether the U.S. would indicate the site is Israeli territory. The U.S. has never recognized Israeli sovereignty over parts of the Old City seized in the 1967 war.

The White House struggled to answer the question. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley declared the site part of Israel, while Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Monday dodged.

"The wall is part of Jerusalem," he said, declaring only an undeniable fact accepted by all sides.

Trump never commented.

The president did step into another fraught subject: his recent disclosure of classified information to Russian diplomats, seemingly violating an intelligence-sharing agreement with Israel.

Netanyahu played it down, saying that U.S.-Israeli intelligence cooperation is "terrific" while attempting to dismiss concerns that the incident violated a confidentiality agreement. But it was another stark reminder for the president that his troubles at home, including the investigation of his ties to Russia and his firing of FBI Director James Comey, have followed him across the ocean on his multi-nation journey.

Gulf Arab countries long have been suspicious about Iran, and the Obama administration's nuclear negotiations furthered their worries about Iran's regional intentions.

Trump is seeking to ease concerns that his policies won't be as beneficial to Israel as once believed. He has taken a tougher line on settlements than Israeli officials had expected, urging restraint though not calling for a full halt to construction. Trump has also retreated from a campaign pledge to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, bending to the same diplomatic and security concerns as other presidents who have made similar promises.

Associated Press writers Josef Federman in Jerusalem, Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates and Darlene Superville, Vivian Salama and Ken Thomas in Washington contributed to this report.

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Iran's president criticizes US after Trump's sharp words

By ADAM SCHRECK, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's newly re-elected President Hassan Rouhani took barbed swipes at the U.S. and its ally Saudi Arabia on Monday, hitting back at both a day after President Donald Trump used his first foreign trip to the kingdom to call for further isolation of Iran.

The 68-year-old cleric, a political moderate within Iran who secured a resounding victory over a hard-line opponent, called relations with the United States "a curvy road" even as he touted the 2015 nuclear accord Iran secured with the Obama administration and other world powers as a "win-win" agreement.

He was less flattering in his assessment of the Trump administration so far. Rouhani said that Iranians are "waiting for this government to become stable intellectually" and that "hopefully, things will settle down ... so we could pass more accurate judgments."

"The Americans do not know our region, that's what the catch is," Rouhani said in response to a question from The Associated Press. "Unfortunately, Americans have always made mistakes in our region," he continued. "When they attacked Afghanistan (and) Iraq, when they made sanctions against Iran. In Syria,

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they made mistakes, and also in Yemen.”

Rouhani also criticized Saudi Arabia, Tehran’s main regional rival, just hours after Trump departed the country bound for Israel, where he arrived Monday. He said the Sunni-ruled kingdom “has never seen a ballot box,” a pointed dig in the wake of Iran’s presidential election Friday that drew long lines as over 40 million people voted.

Rouhani further criticized the Saudi summit that Trump attended on Sunday, describing it as a “show-off” that “will not have any political and practical values.”

“The issue of terrorism cannot be solved through giving money to superpowers,” Rouhani said, adding that his nation would “uproot terrorism” and bring stability to the region. Iranian-backed forces have been fighting Islamic State militants in Iraq and support the government of President Bashar Assad in its battle against Sunni fighters in Syria. “Who can claim that stability of the region can be restored without Iran?” he said.

Rouhani made a point to stress that Trump’s visit came amid Iran’s presidential election, saying that such elections “are not in their (Saudis’) dictionary.”

“I hope that the day will come that Saudi Arabia will adopt this path,” he said. “They should have polling stations in place for the people and let the rulers not be on a hereditary basis. They should be picked by the people.”

Unlike Saudi Arabia, which occasionally holds elections for municipal councils, Iran regularly holds elections for president, parliament and other posts. The elections remain tightly controlled, however, and many candidates are excluded during a pre-election vetting process.

Ultimate power in Iran rests not with the president but with the supreme leader, who is chosen by a clerical panel and has the final say over all matters of state.

The Sunni kingdom and Shiite power Iran haven’t had diplomatic relations since early 2016. That’s when Saudi Arabia executed a prominent Shiite cleric and protesters in Iran attacked two of the kingdom’s diplomatic posts. Saudi Arabia immediately cut diplomatic ties and other Sunni Arab countries in the Gulf have taken a harder line on Iran since.

Rouhani won another four-year term Friday in a vote that many saw as a referendum on his push for international outreach that led to the nuclear deal, as well as a vote of confidence that his government will be able to help the country’s sputtering economy.

Trump has threatened to try to renegotiate the deal, which saw Iran accept curbs on its contested nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of some international economic sanctions.

Trump repeatedly has criticized Iran in speeches on his first foreign trip. In Israel on Monday, he warned of “the threat posed by Iran” through the possibility of it acquiring nuclear weapons and its support of militant groups.

Also Monday, the foreign ministers of France and Germany said their countries want to work with Iran following Rouhani’s re-election but are pressing Tehran to keep to the nuclear deal and to help de-escalate Mideast conflicts.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said France is convinced that Iran under Rouhani will have “an important role in the pacification” of the region. “We expect Iran to behave responsibly ... not to support terror,” said his German counterpart Sigmar Gabriel.

At the Tehran press conference, Rouhani also defended Iran’s ballistic missile program, something heavily criticized by Trump’s new administration. The Trump administration in February sanctioned more than two dozen people and companies in retaliation for a ballistic missile test, warning it had put the Islamic Republic “on notice.”

“The U.S. leaders should know that whenever we need a missile test because of a technical aspect, we will test,” he said. “We will not wait for them and their permission.”

Rouhani added: “Our missiles are for peace, not for attack.”

Associated Press writers Nasser Karimi and Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran; Geir Moulson in Berlin and Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

Follow Adam Schreck on Twitter at www.twitter.com/adamschreck

Not just 'Sgt. Pepper': Many 1967 musical firsts echo today

By HILLEL ITALIE, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Sgt. Pepper" was only the beginning. Half a century after the Beatles' psychedelic landmark, it stands as one of many musical astonishments of 1967 that shaped what we listen to now.

It was a year of technical, lyrical and rhythmic innovation, of the highest craftsmanship and most inspired anti-craftsmanship. The rock album became an art form, and the tight, two-minute hits of Motown and Stax began to give way to the funk of James Brown and Sly and the Family Stone and the fiery candor of Aretha Franklin and "Respect." It was the dawn of the rock festival, in Monterey, and of the pop soundtrack, Simon & Garfunkel's music for "The Graduate."

And it was the year Bob Dylan and the backing performers who would name themselves the Band quietly gathered in a pink house just outside of Woodstock, New York, and recorded dozens of songs old and new that were the birth of "roots music" and the foundation for rock's most famous bootleg, "The Basement Tapes."

"We were in our own little world, up in the mountains, kind of isolated from everything that was going on," says the Band's Robbie Robertson. "But looking back at that time, you could see that the stars were aligned and there was a magic people have been trying to dissect ever since."

There were endings in 1967 — the deaths of Otis Redding and Woody Guthrie — but many more beginnings. Few years contained so many notable debuts, from artists who would influence punk, heavy metal, glam rock, progressive rock, new wave and other musical trends: The Velvet Underground, the Jimi Hendrix Experience, the Doors, along with first albums by Leonard Cohen, Janis Joplin (with Big Brother and the Holding Company), the Grateful Dead, David Bowie, Pink Floyd and Sly and the Family Stone, who called their record "A Whole New Thing."

The month before Woody Guthrie died, his son, Arlo, debuted with the album "Alice's Restaurant." Side One was the anti-war classic "Alice's Restaurant Massacre," 18 minutes of deadpan absurdity about Thanksgiving and litter that would become a holiday tradition for the emerging "progressive" FM radio format.

In 1967, a 21-year-old Berkeley dropout, Jann Wenner, borrowed \$7,500 and from a San Francisco loft turned out the first issue of Rolling Stone, which helped bring serious attention to music then-dismissed by most establishment newspapers and magazines. During a recent interview, Wenner said 1967 was an ideal time to launch such a publication. Rock was not only maturing, but becoming more interconnected. The Monterey festival in June helped introduce the Who and Hendrix to American audiences and musicians, while also bringing together performers from Los Angeles (the Byrds, the Mamas and the Papas) and San Francisco (the Grateful Dead, Jefferson Airplane).

"There was a lot of energy and recognition of fellow artists coming from around the world and trying to do the same thing," Wenner says.

"All those new, highly visual acts at Monterey expanded greatly the idea of what you can do on stage," says the music critic Robert Hilburn. "After those events alone, anything seemed possible — this rock 'n' roll force was unleashed in all its creative power and glory."

Music scenes thrived throughout the United States and in England, where the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Who, Cream and others were making some of their best music; and a young Reg Dwight renamed himself Elton John and began his songwriting partnership with Bernie Taupin.

Besides "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," the Beatles released the hits "Strawberry Fields" and "Penny Lane" and unveiled their paean to the Summer of Love, "All You Need is Love." The Stones issued the acclaimed "Between the Buttons" album and the classic two-sided single "Ruby Tuesday" and "Let's Spend the Night Together." The Who's "The Who Sell Out" cleverly interspersed mock-radio commercials and jingles between such hits as "I Can See for Miles." Cream's "Disraeli Gears," often listed among rock's greatest albums, includes the band's signature song, and one of rock's signature guitar riffs, "Sunshine

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of Your Love.”

“The classic album era begins around this time and it canonizes music in a very different way than when you hear a single,” says Ann Powers, a music critic for NPR and author of “Good Booty: Love and Sex, Black and White, Body and Soul in American Music,” which comes out in August. “And that’s a powerful reason why the music remains so resonant, because the album is a like a novel set to music. It’s the form we share with our children and the form we teach and the form we collect.”

In the U.S., San Francisco’s Haight-Asbury district was the home of Flower Power and Scott McKenzie’s “San Francisco (Be Sure to Wear Flowers in Your Hair)” the unofficial anthem. It was the year Joplin, the Dead and other San Francisco acts broke through nationally and Jefferson Airplane released its two most famous songs, “Somebody to Love” and “White Rabbit.”

In Los Angeles, a label called Original Sound helped Dyke and the Blazers’ “Funky Broadway” become a minor hit and likely the first one to include the word “funky.” The Byrds warned aspiring musicians with the single “So You Want to Be a Rock ‘n’ Roll Star” while a folk trio called the Stone Poneys hit the top 20 with “Different Drum,” which helped make a star of the 21-year-old lead singer, Linda Ronstadt. Buffalo Springfield, the short-lived quintet featuring Neil Young and Stephen Stills, released its protest classic “For What It’s Worth” and the album “Buffalo Springfield Again,” an innovative blend of pop, folk, rock and country that helped shape L.A. music for years.

In Muscle Shoals, Alabama, Wilson Pickett recorded his version of “Funky Broadway” and reached the top 10. In Memphis, Stax was at its peak, with a triumphant tour of Europe featuring Redding and Booker T. & the M.G.’s, Redding’s dazzling performance at Monterey and classic singles by Sam and Dave (“Soul Man”) and Arthur Conley (“Sweet Soul Music”). Stax never approached such success again; Redding was killed in a plane crash in December, days after adding overdubs to what became his greatest hit, “(Sittin’ On the) Dock of the Bay.”

One of Redding’s greatest heirs would debut the same year. In Grand Rapids, Michigan, the founders of Hot Line Music Journal helped out a high school friend and released the album, “Back Up Train”; Al Greene soon dropped the final “e” from his last name. In Philadelphia, producers Kenneth Gamble and Leon Huff had their first 10 top hit, the Soul Survivors’ “Expressway to Your Heart,” and in the 1970s would supplant Motown as a commercial empire. At King Studios in Cincinnati, James Brown gathered his backing musicians and recorded “Cold Sweat,” widely considered one of the first funk records and a track sampled by Public Enemy, DJ Shadow and other rap and hip-hop artists.

“We like to celebrate debut work, but the best work often happens when mature artists have to confront challenges from outside music. James Brown had been making music for quite a while by 1967. But being part of African-American culture, he’s looking at the rise of Black Power and Afro-centrism and he knows he needs to try different things,” Powers says.

“And this leads to a new phase and a new freedom. And you can still see that impact. Black Power became extremely influential with hip-hip artists. You look at Kendrick Lamar and you can imagine Kendrick Lamar as part of 1967. He has a different sound, but the sentiments and the political stance are not that far off.”

In Detroit, Motown’s golden age would soon end. The songwriting team of Holland-Dozier-Holland had left by 1968 because of a royalties dispute, and the rise of Sly and the Family Stone, in tune with the more militant politics of the late ‘60s, moved commercial tastes from the label’s polished sound.

But in 1967, Berry Gordy’s “Hitsville” studios were as productive as ever, from the Marvin Gaye-Tammi Terrell duet “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough” to Stevie Wonder’s “I Was Made to Love Her” and Smokey Robinson and the Miracles’ “I Second That Emotion.” A rival Detroit company, Revilot Records, helped launch one of the great funk performers of the 1970s and ‘80s, George Clinton, whose “(I Wanna) Testify” was a hit in 1967 for Clinton and his group, the Parliaments.

In New York, Bert Berns signed up 21-year-old Van Morrison for Bang Records and produced one of rock’s catchiest and most enduring songs, “Brown Eyed Girl.” Franklin, producer Jerry Wexler and some top session players completed Franklin’s breakthrough album, one she had begun in Muscle Shoals, “I Never Loved a Man the Way I Love You.” Soon after, Franklin recorded one of Gerry Goffin’s and Carole

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King's final collaborations and one of her most beloved hits, "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman."

High art, social consciousness and psychedelic jams were in fashion in '67, but there was space for care-free, radio-friendly singles, from the Turtles' "Happy Together" to Jackie Wilson's "Higher and Higher" and the Rascals' "Groovin'." The Box Tops' million-selling "The Letter" was a showcase for 16-year-old singer Alex Chilton, who became a formative influence on "alternative rock" in the following decades.

And the hottest act? A quartet that released four No. 1 albums and topped the charts for more than six months despite criticism that it wasn't a real group.

"It was a halcyon time for us," says Michael Nesmith, of the Monkees.

Supreme Court strikes down 2 NC congressional districts

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court struck down two congressional districts in North Carolina Monday because race played too large a role in their creation, a decision voting rights advocates said would boost challenges in other states.

The justices ruled that Republicans who controlled the state legislature and governor's office in 2011 placed too many African-Americans in the two districts. The result was to weaken African-American voting strength elsewhere in North Carolina.

In recent years, the Supreme Court has ruled for civil rights groups and black voters in challenges to political districts in Alabama, North Carolina and Virginia.

A Democratic group led by former Attorney General Eric Holder is focusing on redistricting challenges to counter political gains Republicans have made since the 2010 census and the redrawing of electoral districts that followed. Marc Elias, who argued the North Carolina case and is a senior adviser to Holder's group, said the ruling "will serve as a warning to Republicans not just in North Carolina but throughout the country that their cynical efforts to use race will not go unchallenged."

In North Carolina, both districts have since been redrawn and the state conducted elections under the new congressional map in 2016. Even with the new districts, Republicans maintained their 10-3 edge in congressional seats.

New challenges have been filed to the redrawn districts, this time claiming that politics played too much of a role in their creation. The Supreme Court has never ruled that a partisan gerrymander violates the Constitution.

Justice Elena Kagan, writing for the court, said the state did not offer compelling justifications to justify its reliance on race in either district.

The issue of race and redistricting one is a familiar one at the Supreme Court and Kagan noted that one of the districts was "making its fifth(!) appearance before this court."

States have to take race into account when drawing maps for legislative, congressional and a host of municipal political districts. At the same time, race can't be the predominant factor without very strong reasons, under a line of high court cases stretching back 20 years.

A three-judge federal court had previously struck down the two districts. The justices upheld the lower court ruling on both counts.

The court unanimously affirmed the lower court ruling on District 1 in northeastern North Carolina. Kagan wrote that the court will not "approve a racial gerrymander whose necessity is supported by no evidence."

The justices split 5-3 on the other district, District 12 in the southwestern part of the state. Justice Clarence Thomas joined the four liberal justices to form a majority. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito and Anthony Kennedy dissented. Justice Neil Gorsuch did not take part in the case.

The state insisted that race played no role at all in the creation of one district. Instead, the state argued that Republicans who controlled the redistricting process wanted to leave the district in Democratic hands, so that the surrounding districts would be safer for Republicans.

"The evidence offered at trial...adequately supports the conclusion that race, not politics, accounted for the district's reconfiguration," Kagan wrote.

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Alito said in dissent that the evidence instead shows that the district's borders "are readily explained by political considerations."

Voting rights advocates said the ruling supports their arguments in yet another case pending before the Supreme Court that challenges North Carolina's state legislative districts. A federal court had previously thrown out 28 state House and Senate districts as illegal racial gerrymanders.

But earlier this year the Supreme Court temporarily halted an order to redraw those legislative districts. The justices could act on the challenge to the state districts as early as next week.

The lawyer leading the challenge to the state districts, Anita Earls of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, said Monday's ruling has clear implications for that case.

"It's abundantly clear that what the state of North Carolina did in drawing its legislative districts cannot withstand constitutional muster," Earls said.

The court action comes at a time of intense political division in the state, highlighted by legal battles over moves by the GOP-controlled legislature to pass laws limiting some of the powers of North Carolina's new Democratic governor, Roy Cooper. Democrats have hoped that a redrawing of state districts could help them erode veto-proof majorities in both chambers of the General Assembly.

Robin Hayes, the state Republican chairman, said court rulings on redistricting have put legislative map-makers "in an impossible situation, with their constantly changing standards." Hayes, a former member of Congress, noted that Holder's Justice Department signed off on the two congressional districts under a provision of the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court has since struck down.

Cooper issued a statement applauding Supreme Court for supporting "a level playing field and fair elections" for voters.

"The North Carolina Republican legislature tried to rig Congressional elections by drawing unconstitutional districts that discriminated against African Americans and that's wrong," Cooper said.

The Rev. William Barber, the president of the North Carolina NAACP who has sued separately over voting rights, said the high court's ruling shows that the General Assembly "engaged in systemic racism and cheated to win elections."

Associated Press writer Jonathan Drew contributed to this report from Raleigh, North Carolina.

Trump avoids pointing to Saudis' human rights failings

By JULIE PACE and VIVIAN SALAMA, Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — As President Donald Trump opened his keynote address in Saudi Arabia, he lavished praise on the "magnificent" kingdom and "the grandeur of this remarkable place."

Then he made clear there would be no public lecture from America on Saudi Arabia's abysmal human rights record.

"We are not here to tell other people how to live, what to do, who to be, or how to worship," Trump declared Sunday.

Trump's willingness to set aside human rights as a principal foreign policy has been one constant in his chaotic administration. Yet the absence of any public reference to the kingdom's treatment of women and political opponents during his two-day visit was still jarring, particularly when contrasted with his affectionate embrace of the royal family.

The closest Trump came to acknowledging the human rights situation was a call for the region's leaders to stand together against "the oppression of women." A White House official later said the president did raise women's rights in his private meetings with Saudi officials, and noted that administration officials broached the topic in their talks in the lead-up to the trip. The official insisted on anonymity in order to discuss the private meetings.

To be sure, Trump's predecessors have also forged close ties with Saudi Arabia, an important U.S. partner in the Middle East, and other nations with questionable human rights records. But in their own ways, former Presidents Barack Obama and George W. Bush each vouched for American values in their dealings

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with those nations, including the kingdom.

During a 2014 trip to Riyadh, Obama met with a Saudi woman who spread awareness of domestic violence in her country and presented her with the State Department's International Women of Courage award. His opening address to the Muslim world in 2009 also made numerous references to democracy and human rights.

Human rights were a regular part of the dialogue with the Saudis under the Bush administration. In 2004, the State Department listed the kingdom as "a country of particular concern" in its annual report on International Religious Freedom.

Saudi Arabia adheres to an ultraconservative interpretation of Islamic Shariah law where unrelated men and women are segregated in most public places. Women are banned from driving, although rights advocates have campaigned to lift that ban. Guardianship laws also require a male relative's consent before a woman can obtain a passport, travel or marry. Often that relative is a father or husband, but in the absence of both can be the woman's own son.

Saudi Arabia also routinely carries out executions by beheading, including some in public.

Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter and senior adviser, was more direct during an entrepreneurship roundtable with Saudi women Sunday morning, telling the participants that in every country, "women and girls continue to face unique systematic, institutional, cultural barriers, which hinder us from fully engaging in and achieving true parity of opportunity within our communities."

"Each of you know this to be true," she said.

Kristine Beckerle, a Saudi Arabia researcher for Human Rights Watch, said the first daughter was missing the bigger picture.

"It's not that entrepreneurship isn't important, but you need serious political changes so that the laws that restrict women from functioning in the work place are reversed," Beckerle said. "Without that, any amount of money or investment won't go very far."

Some lawmakers in both parties raised concerns with Trump's reluctance to publicly vouch for U.S. values in places where people are persecuted.

"I think that would be a terrible abdication of our global leadership when it comes to advocating for people who are the subject of persecution, or imprisoned, or journalists that are thrown in jail, or people not allowed to practice their faith," Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said on CNN. "I think it would be a historic mistake for us to walk away from that."

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who challenged Trump for the Republican presidential nomination last year, said he would not have promised to avoid the topic of human rights with the Saudis.

"That would not have been a part of a speech that I would have delivered," Rubio said in his own appearance on CNN. "I think it's in our national security interest to advocate for democracy and freedom and human rights, now, with a recognition that you may not get it overnight."

Human rights didn't go completely unnoticed on Trump's trip. During a press briefing Saturday, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson hammered Iran's newly re-elected president for his government's oppressive policies.

However, when reporters shouted out questions regarding Saudi Arabia's human rights record — namely, one question about when the kingdom intends to allow women to drive — Tillerson ignored it.

Salama reported from Washington.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Vivian Salama at <http://twitter.com/vmsalama>

EU nations set tough negotiating mandate for Brexit talks

By RAF CASERT, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — The 27 European Union nations handling Britain's exit from the bloc set a tough negotiating mandate for the talks, the EU's chief negotiator said Monday, stressing that the discussions would be tension-filled.

The talks will quickly center on the tens of billions in costs London would be expected to pay for the divorce.

EU ministers built on the strong stance which was reached unanimously at an EU summit last month, and further tightened the legal wording in the mandate for Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier.

The 27 ministers said in a statement Britain "must honor its share of all the obligations undertaken while being a member" and also "fully cover the specific costs related to the withdrawal, such as the relocation of EU agencies currently based in the U.K."

The cost estimates for Britain have gone as high as 100 billion euros (\$111.8 billion) for the withdrawal, a sum which British government officials have ridiculed, with British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson going as far as to venture that the EU should pay Britain instead for its departure.

Monday's explicit language on the payments Britain should make even included "a schedule of payments" from London.

"They will be tough. There will be moments of tension," said Barnier of the upcoming negotiations.

Maltese Deputy Prime Minister Louis Grech, who chaired the meeting, said that "we are under no illusion that these negotiations will be complex and far from straightforward. Moreover, there is also a very limited timeframe which adds pressure to an already difficult process."

Unraveling the current relationship which took almost a half century to build faces a two-year deadline expiring in March 2019.

The EU's 27 again insisted they were ready to negotiate as of today, but were facing foot-dragging from Britain, which already voted in a referendum on June 23 to leave, yet will not be ready to enter the talks after the June 8 snap election.

Barnier said the first talks with his British counterpart were expected in the week of June 19, little over a week after Britain's early election which is expected to strengthen conservative British Prime Minister Theresa May's position at home.

"We are ready," Barnier said. "But we need to put things in perspective. It is to settle the accounts, assure and orderly withdrawal that the U.K. requested. It is their choice and responsibility."

The EU nations have agreed to center on the rights of their citizens in Britain, and the British living in the EU as a first issue to settle, along with settling the bill and getting a deal on the EU border in Ireland with the U.K.'s Northern Ireland.

Only if there is "sufficient progress" can a future relationship be looked at, Barnier said. The British government wants a future trade relationship and the divorce proceedings to happen at the same time. There has been talk in London of having a hard Brexit with no deal in place rather than a bad agreement.

"The faster we find a deal on these priority issues, the earlier we will be able to start discussing our future relationship in a constructive way," said Barnier, unwilling and unable to budge on the timing of the talks, considering the instructions he got from the 27 ministers.

Grech said "We are very well prepared for these negotiations and the remarkable thing is that we are unified at 27."

Iran reformists sweep Tehran municipal council election

By AMIR VAHDAT and JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Candidates backing reform of Iran's clerically overseen government swept municipal elections in Tehran, taking all 21 local council seats in the country's capital while moderate President Hassan Rouhani won a second term in office, authorities said on Monday.

Their win in Friday's election marks the first time reformists have gained total control of Tehran's mu-

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municipal council since such votes began in the Islamic Republic in 1999. Iranian media also reported similar big gains for reformists in other major cities.

While their powers are limited to local affairs, the councils represent direct control of governance by Iran's 80 million people. Having reformists take control signals a groundswell of support for slowly changing the way government works in Iran, and reflects growing discontent with the country's hard-liners.

"They are tired from 40 years of conservatives' management style," said Soroush Farhadian, a Tehran-based political analyst who backs reformists. "People voted for reformists to make their lives happier."

Municipal councils govern across Iran's major cities down to its smallest villages, with members serving four-year terms. They choose mayors and decide on budgets and development projects, as well as oversee local cultural and religious activities.

While leaving day-to-day operations to mayors, the councils play an important role in local oversight of municipal activities. In Friday's election, over 265,400 candidates competed for some 127,600 municipal seats.

In Tehran, Iranian state television reported Monday that Mohsen Hashemi Rafsanjani, a son of the influential late former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, won more than 1.7 million votes to come in first among the council candidates. Rafsanjani's vote total surpassed all the votes received in Tehran by hard-line cleric Ebrahim Raisi in his failed presidential bid against Rouhani.

The sweep means reformists can replace Tehran Mayor Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, who had been a presidential candidate before withdrawing to support Raisi. Qalibaf and other Tehran officials had faced criticism in recent weeks over a massive January fire at a historic high-rise that caused the building to collapse, killing 26 people, including 16 firefighters.

In Tehran, the city budget reaches into the billions of dollars, making such municipal council seats very powerful. Meanwhile, others have used Tehran city positions as a means to enter national politics. Hard-liner Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was Tehran's mayor just before becoming president in 2005.

Those upset over losing their Tehran council seats apparently convinced authorities to launch a recount. However, reports on Monday suggested the results would stand.

Rouhani, a cleric whose administration struck the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers, decisively won a second term in Friday's election. His success at the polls likely carried reformist candidates to victory in other municipal elections as well.

The reformist daily newspaper Shargh said reformists were also leading in other major Iranian cities like Isfahan, Kerman, Mashhad, Semnan, Shiraz, Tabriz and Zahedan. Each province's governor announces the final results of the municipal elections and tallying results from those votes always take more time than presidential polls.

Municipal councils have been in Iran's constitution since after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. However, councils weren't implemented until reformist President Mohammad Khatami took power in the 1990s, following a series of riots across small towns and cities in Iran over local control.

The councils have opened up Iran's political system in the time since. While authorities have blocked women from running for president, female councilors are common on municipal councils. In Friday's election, 415 women won seats on councils in Iran's Sistan and Baluchistan province, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency.

"The local council elections symbolized a greater shift towards the belief that ultimate power is derived from the people, and not from divine authority," an academic paper on Iranian municipal councils from 2003 reads. "This very notion undermines the claims and diminishes the power of some conservative elements in the regime."

But hard-liners still wield power in other ways in modern Iran. One of the authors of that 2003 paper, Iranian-American Siamak Namazi, is now imprisoned with his octogenarian father Baquer on 10-year prison sentences for "cooperating with the hostile American government."

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Drake dominates, Cher reflects at Billboard Music Awards

By KRISTIN M. HALL, Associated Press

Drake was a high roller in Las Vegas, beating Adele's record for most wins at the Billboard Music Awards. Cher and Celine Dion each reflected on their own iconic careers and amazing songs on Sunday night's awards show, while a moment of silence was held for rocker Chris Cornell, who died Thursday in Detroit. Miley Cyrus delivered an emotional, but low-key performance and Vanessa Hudgens shined as co-host.

These are the top moments from the awards show.

DRAKE'S LUCKY 13

The rapper broke Adele's record with 13 wins for the night as well as an eye-catching performance in the middle of famous Fountains of Bellagio. With the streams of water and fireworks timed to his song, "Gyalchester," the Canadian rapper danced around a platform in the water.

He already had 10 awards by the time the show began, but made sure to give a shout out during his acceptance speeches to his friends in the audience including Nicki Minaj, co-host Ludacris and Lil Wayne. The Chainsmokers, who tied Drake with 22 nominations, won four awards, while other top winners, Beyonce and twenty one pilots, both won five each, but did not attend.

ICONIC CHER

When Cher got up to accept her Icon Award, she wasn't afraid to do a little bragging. The singer and actress noted that she had been lucky to have a dream career for more than five decades, and at the age of 71, she said she can still hold a plank for five minutes.

She certainly showed off that athletic bod in a revealing outfit with pasties and a blonde wig as she performed her '90s dance hit "Believe," then changed into a teased up curly black mane and leather jacket for her performance of "If I Could Turn Back Time."

She noted she was told early on that she never was the most beautiful or the most talented, but she was special and added that "luck has so much to do with my success with a little bit of something thrown in."

HARD GOODBYE

Rock fans were stunned to learn about the death of rocker Chris Cornell, who was found dead Thursday in his hotel room in Detroit. The lead singer of Soundgarden and Audioslave and leader of the Seattle grunge movement was honored with a moment of silence during the awards show, which was a shorter than expected tribute to the 52-year-old singer and songwriter.

However, Dan Reynolds of Imagine Dragons summed up his career succinctly, noting he was "a true innovator," "a musical architect," "a prolific songwriting" and "a legendary performer."

TITANIC PERFORMANCE

Two decades after a movie and a song captivated the country, Celine Dion revisited her iconic hit "My Heart Will Go On," with the same passion as ever. The Canadian singer returned to celebrate the Oscar-winning song 20 years after it topped the charts as the theme to the blockbuster "Titanic."

Under a glittering chandelier and dressed in a Met-worthy white gown, Dion wowed the audience with her performance and earned one of the biggest cheers of the night.

VANESSA GEEKS OUT

New co-host Vanessa Hudgens was acting more like a fan than an emcee with her enthusiastic intros as well as singing and dancing throughout the night. She impressed early with her rapping skills to show her love for Nicki Minaj, then tried a heartfelt rendition of Dion's "The Power of Love."

Later on she showed up in one of Cher's iconic stage costumes and danced along to Cher's performance from the audience.

Even Drake took notice in his acceptance speech, adding that Hudgens looked "amazing," which drew

envious looks from Nicki Minaj.

NEW MILEY

Even Miley Cyrus' family noted the change in demeanor at this year's award show for the former Disney star when her sister Noah Cyrus introduced her "for the first time in years with pants on." Once known for her shocking performances of twerking and dangling naked from a wrecking ball, the singer performed the slow-burning love song "Malibu," without much of her signature in-your-face sexiness.

She paired the breezy single with a muted performance with acoustic instruments and a simple white crop top and wide brimmed hat.

But the singer, who is engaged to Liam Hemsworth, couldn't hide her emotion by the end when her eyes teared up.

Online:

<https://www.billboardmusicawards.com/>

Huge cuts to food stamps part of Trump's budget proposal

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's budget would drive millions of people off of food stamps, part of a new wave of spending cut proposals that already are getting panned by lawmakers in both parties on Capitol Hill.

Trump's blueprint for the 2018 budget year comes out Tuesday. It includes a wave of cuts to benefit programs such as Medicaid, federal employee pensions, welfare benefits and farm subsidies.

All told, according to people familiar with the plan, Trump's budget includes \$1.7 trillion over 10 years in cuts from such so-called mandatory programs. That includes cuts to pensions for federal workers and higher contributions toward those pension benefits, as well as cuts to refundable tax credits paid to the working poor. People familiar with the plan were not authorized to discuss it by name and requested anonymity.

Cuts include a whopping \$193 billion from food stamps over the coming decade — a cut of more than 25 percent — implemented by cutting back eligibility and imposing additional work requirements, according to talking points circulated by the White House. The program presently serves about 42 million people.

The food stamp cuts are several times larger than those attempted by House Republicans a few years back and comprise the bulk of a 10-year, \$274 billion proposal that's labeled as welfare reform.

The fleshed-out proposal follows up on an unpopular partial release in March that targeted the budgets of domestic agencies and foreign aid for cuts averaging 10 percent — and made lawmakers in both parties recoil.

The new cuts are unpopular as well.

"We think it's wrongheaded," said Rep. Mike Conaway, chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, when asked about looming cuts to farm programs. "Production agriculture is in the worst slump since the depression — 50 percent drop in the net income for producers. They need this safety net," said Conaway, R-Texas.

Trump's budget plan promises to balance the federal ledger by the end of a 10-year window, even while exempting Social Security and Medicare retirement benefits from cuts. To achieve balance, the plan by White House budget director Mick Mulvaney relies on optimistic estimates of economic growth, and the surge in revenues that would result, while abandoning Trump's promise of a "massive tax cut."

Instead, the Trump tax plan promises an overhaul that would cut tax rates but rely on erasing tax breaks and economic growth to end up as "revenue neutral." It would create three tax brackets — 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent — instead of the current seven.

Trump is also targeting the Medicaid health program that provides care to the poor and disabled, and nursing home care to millions of older people who could not otherwise afford it.

The House had a bitter debate on health care before a razor-thin 217-213 passage in early May of a GOP

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health bill that included more than \$800 billion in Medicaid cuts over the coming decade. Key Republicans are not interested in another round of cuts to the program.

"I would think that the health care bill is our best policy statement on Medicaid going forward," said Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the program.

Details on Trump's budget will not be publicly released until Tuesday, but Mulvaney has briefed Republicans about what's coming and his staff has provided targeted leaks to the media.

A full budget submission by the administration to Congress is months overdue and follows the release two months ago of an outline for the discretionary portion of the budget, covering defense, education, foreign aid, housing and environmental programs, among others. Their budgets pass each year through annual appropriations bills.

An earlier blueprint from Trump proposed a \$54 billion, 10 percent increase for the military above an existing cap on Pentagon spending, financed by an equal cut to nondefense programs. Those cuts rang alarm bells for many Republicans, who were particularly upset about proposals to eliminate community development block grants, slash medical research and eviscerate foreign aid.

Trump's GOP allies rejected such cuts when wrapping up long-overdue legislation for the current budget year, which ends Sept. 30. There's little sign they will have a change of heart now, especially with Trump's administration in turmoil and his poll ratings at historic lows.

"The budget's a starting point. We'll go to work from there," said Sen. John Hoeven, R-N.D., a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Republicans controlling Congress have delayed action on their companion budget measure, waiting for Trump to go first. This year's budget debate, Republicans hope, would grease the way for a major overhaul of the loophole-cluttered tax system. But House conservatives also want to embark on a round of cuts to benefit programs and are open to Trump's suggestions for cuts to mandatory programs such as federal employee pensions.

Presidential budgets are mere suggestions, and the White House has discretion to assume higher economic growth rates of up to 3 percent or so under Trump's agenda of tax changes, loosened regulations and infrastructure spending.

Tuesday's budget will also include proposals such as paid leave for parents after the birth or adoption of a child, a \$200 billion infrastructure plan that Trump officials claim could leverage, along with private investment, up to \$1 trillion in construction projects, and funding for Trump's oft-promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The budget contains \$1.6 billion for wall construction, along with \$300 million for additional border patrol and immigration agents as part of a \$2.6 billion hike for border security programs.

Asian shares drift as blast in Manchester rattles investors

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares were mostly higher in early trading Tuesday after police said they were treating an explosion in Manchester, England, that killed at least 19 people as a terror attack. Oil prices fell back after Monday's rally.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 edged 0.2 percent lower to 19,648.09 and the Shanghai Composite Index fell 0.4 percent to 3,062.85. But other markets were mostly higher. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.2 percent to 25,431.47 and the S&P ASX 200 of Australia was flat at 5,771.60. South Korea's Kospi gained 0.3 percent to 2,310.02. Markets in Southeast Asia were higher.

WALL STREET: Stocks rose for the third straight day with technology companies closing in on all-time highs, led by big names like Cisco Systems and Qualcomm. Aerospace and defense companies rose after President Donald Trump presided over a \$110 billion sale of military equipment to Saudi Arabia that could expand to \$350 billion over 10 years. The Standard & Poor's 500 index jumped 0.5 percent to 2,394.02. The Dow Jones industrial average 0.4 percent to 20,894.83 and the Nasdaq composite gained 0.8 percent to 6,133.62.

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MANCHESTER BLAST: The explosion struck an Ariana Grande concert in northern England late Monday, killing at least 19 people and injuring dozens. The singer was not injured. Britain's terrorist threat level has been set at "severe" in recent years, indicating an attack is highly likely. Police said the explosion is being judged a terrorist attack unless new information proves otherwise.

ANALYST'S VIEWPOINT: "The recovery in U.S. markets remains underway while the latest development in Manchester threatens to derail the positive lead for markets in the Asia-Pacific region," Jingyi Pan of IG said in a commentary.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil lost 10 cents to \$51.03 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Monday it added 46 cents to \$51.13 a barrel. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 16 cents to \$53.71 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The dollar declined to 111.07 yen from 111.34 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1252 from \$1.1237.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 23, the 143rd day of 2017. There are 222 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 23, 1967, Egypt closed the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping, an action which helped precipitate war between Israel and its Arab neighbors the following month.

On this date:

In 1430, Joan of Arc was captured by the Burgundians, who sold her to the English.

In 1533, the marriage of England's King Henry VIII to Catherine of Aragon was declared null and void by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer.

In 1788, South Carolina became the eighth state to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1814, a third version of Beethoven's only opera, "Fidelio," had its world premiere in Vienna.

In 1915, Italy declared war on Austria-Hungary during World War I.

In 1934, bank robbers Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker were shot to death in a police ambush in Bienville Parish, Louisiana.

In 1937, industrialist and philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, founder of the Standard Oil Co. and the Rockefeller Foundation, died in Ormond Beach, Florida, at age 97.

In 1939, the Navy submarine USS Squalus sank during a test dive off the New England coast. Thirty-two crew members and one civilian were rescued, but 26 others died; the sub was salvaged and re-commissioned the USS Sailfish.

In 1945, Nazi official Heinrich Himmler committed suicide by biting into a cyanide capsule while in British custody in Luneburg, Germany.

In 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the appeals of former Nixon White House aides H.R. Haldeman and John Ehrlichman and former Attorney General John N. Mitchell in connection with their Watergate convictions. Moluccan extremists seized a train and a primary school in the Netherlands; the hostage drama ended June 11 as Dutch marines stormed the train, resulting in the deaths of six out of nine hijackers and two hostages, while the school siege ended peacefully.

In 1984, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a report saying there was "very solid" evidence linking cigarette smoke to lung disease in non-smokers. "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," starring Harrison Ford, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1992, top anti-Mafia prosecutor Giovanni Falcone was killed in a remote-controlled highway bombing outside Palermo, Sicily, along with his wife and three police escorts. (Salvatore "Totò" Riina, the Mafia's "boss of bosses," was arrested in Jan. 1993 and was later convicted with others of plotting the assassinations of Falcone and another leading anti-Mafia prosecutor, Paolo Borsellino.)

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush, speaking at the U.S. Coast Guard commencement, portrayed the Iraq war as a battle between the U.S. and al-Qaida and said Osama bin Laden was setting up a terrorist cell in Iraq to strike targets in America. Iraqi police dragged from the Euphrates River a body identified as

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that of Pfc. Joseph Anzack Jr., who had disappeared during a May 12 ambush claimed by al-Qaida. Jordyn Sparks was crowned the new "American Idol" on the Fox reality show.

Five years ago: Egypt held the Arab world's first competitive presidential vote (Islamist Mohammed Morsi was ultimately named the winner following a runoff). A Pakistani doctor who helped the CIA hunt down Osama bin Laden was convicted of conspiring against the state and was sentenced to 33 years in prison; U.S. officials had urged Pakistan to release Dr. Shakil Afridi. (The sentence was later overturned; Afridi faces a retrial.) Phillip Phillips, a bluesy Georgia guitar man, was crowned the new "American Idol" after defeating teenager Jessica Sanchez.

One year ago: During his visit to Asia, President Barack Obama, eager to banish lingering shadows of the Vietnam War, lifted the U.S. embargo on selling arms to America's former enemy. Prosecutors failed for the second time in their bid to hold Baltimore police accountable for the arrest and death of Freddie Gray when an officer was acquitted in the racially charged case that triggered riots a year earlier. The Supreme Court upended the conviction and death sentence of a black Georgia man because prosecutors had improperly excluded African-Americans from his all-white jury. Dr. Henry Heimlich, the 96-year-old retired chest surgeon credited with developing the namesake Heimlich maneuver, used it to save a woman choking on food at his senior living center in Cincinnati.

Today's Birthdays: Bluegrass singer Mac Wiseman is 92. Actress Barbara Barrie is 86. Actress Joan Collins is 84. Actor Charles Kimbrough is 81. International Tennis Hall of Famer John Newcombe is 73. Actress Lauren Chapin is 72. Country singer Misty Morgan is 72. Country singer Judy Rodman is 66. Chess grandmaster Anatoly Karpov is 66. Boxing Hall of Famer Marvelous Marvin Hagler is 63. Singer Luka Bloom is 62. Actor-comedian-game show host Drew Carey is 59. Actress Lea DeLaria is 59. Country singer Shelly West is 59. Actor Linden Ashby is 57. Actress-model Karen Duffy is 56. Actress Melissa McBride is 52. Rock musician Phil Selway (Radiohead) is 50. Actress Laurel Holloman is 49. Rock musician Matt Flynn (Maroon 5) is 47. Singer Lorenzo is 45. Country singer Brian McComas is 45. Actor John Pollono is 45. Singer Maxwell is 44. Singer Jewel is 43. Game show contestant Ken Jennings is 43. Actress Kelly Monaco is 41. Actor D.J. Cotrona is 37. Actor Lane Garrison is 37. Actor-comedian Tim Robinson is 36. Country singer Brett Young is 36. Actor Adam Wylie is 33. Movie writer-director Ryan Coogler is 31. Golfer Morgan Pressel is 29. Folk/pop singer/songwriter Sarah Jarosz (juh-ROHZ') is 26.

Thought for Today: "He who cannot rest, cannot work; he who cannot let go, cannot hold on; he who cannot find footing, cannot go forward." — Henry Emerson Fosdick, American clergyman (1878-1969).