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Friday, May 26

Groton School: State Track at Tea
Senior Menu: Oven fried chicken, potato salad, carrots and broccoli medley, muffin, fresh fruit.

Saturday, May 27

Groton School: State Track at Sioux Falls

Sunday, May 28

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.
United Methodist Church: Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.
Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian: Bible Study at 9:30 a.m., Worship at 11 a.m.
Heaven Bound Ministries: Worship in Pierpont at 10 a.m.

Monday, May 29

MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday, May 30

United Methodist: Bible Study at 10 a.m.
Senior Menu: Tater tot hotdish, green beans, orange half, sugar cookie, whole wheat bread.

Wednesday, May 31

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

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

Fresh flowers, silks, home decor

Olde Bank Floral
"N More

Olde Bank @ Floral 

& so much more

 101 N. Main St., Groton ~ 397-8650
www.oldebankfloral.com

"ADVISOR TRIBUTE" SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CHOSEN

BATH (May 25, 2017) - Agriculture education teachers/FFA advisors make a world of difference for the students they teach. This spring students put into words, as part of an FFA Advisor Tribute Scholarship application, how their ag teachers/FFA advisors have impacted their lives. Thirteen outstanding examples of amazing teachers impacting their students have been chosen and winning students will each receive scholarships to attend a SD FFA Leadership Retreat this summer. Molly Dye, Deuel; Madilyn Wright, Groton; Kaitlyn Graff, Madison; Marie Robbins, Brookings; Seth Petersen, Garreston; Emily Malsom, Garreston; Nikki Peters Madison; Elizabeth DeBoer, Deuel; Jessica Colville, Lemmon; Randi Tivis, Sturgis; Shelby Ruland, Wall; Kade Wagner, Rapid City and Ash Grenstiner, Wall earned scholarships.

The students wrote essays about how their FFA advisors have made an impact on their lives. Each of these students thinks their advisor is one of the best, and is happy to say so!

- Kade Wagner, Rapid City junior, comments, "Ms. Genetie Hendrix pushes me to do my best in school, work and life. She encouraged me to be less quiet and not be in the back all the time. She doesn't accept 'I can't' as an answer, as she always believes we are capable of something impressive."

- **Madilyn Wright, Groton FFA junior shares, "My FFA Advisor, Adam Franken, has been one of the most influential people in my life. He always pushes me to try things, even though I do not want to do them at first. He does not push me to do them because he wants me to do them, but because he knows in the end it will make me a better person."**

- Ash Grenstiner, Wall freshman shares, "Ms. Dani Herring's ambition rubs off on others around her. Even on the worst day ever she makes me smile. She goes the extra mile and has taught me and many other students to do the same."

- Shelby Ruland, also from Wall adds, "Ms. Dani Herring always pushes us to try new things. She isn't afraid to be herself and show students they can be whatever they aspire to be. As a freshman, I was shy and scared to try new things. Ms. Herring showed me new things lead to new stories, new friends, and new accomplishments I never thought I could achieve."

- Marie Robbins, Elkton senior says, "The most important thing my advisor, Mr. Robbins, has taught me is how to be patient. Good things do not happen in the snap of a finger. I also learned from him to do a job right the first time. If you don't, you will most likely have to do it over."

- Seth Peterson, Garreston FFA freshman members says, "Ms. Alysha Kientopf, as a new teacher, taught me 'You don't get what you don't work for'. She also has taught me the importance of agriculture. I can't wait to learn more."

- Emily Malsom, Garreston FFA junior shares, "Mr. Ed Mueller taught me the value of hard work through our chapter's charity garden. Although not an expert in floriculture, his encouragement to have one more practice before a contest or to visit the greenhouse to see the plants up close again paid off. Winning state was a result of his consistency, encouragement, and practices. He was like a second dad."

- Nikki Peters and Kaitlyn Graff, both Madison FFA juniors, express thanks to both their advisors. "Mr. Eric Fritz helped us become more outgoing and outspoken by reaching out and encouraging us to do things outside of our comfort zones we wouldn't otherwise do. Mrs. Lori Christensen encourages and helps us strengthen skills and abilities in and out of the classroom. They both push us to do our best and

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try different FFA activities.”

· Molly Dye, Deuel FFA freshman shares, “Mrs. Marie Jaacks turned me into an advocate for agriculture and a leader I never dreamt of being. She is right beside me for all my hardships and successes. What I like most is she admits to not being perfect. She makes mistakes and forgets things, but teaches us how to learn from our mistakes by sharing personal experience, not as someone who never makes mistakes.”

· Elizabeth DeBoer, also from Deuel FFA, says thanks, “Mrs. Marie Jaacks has taught me to be more patient with myself and others; to see humor in life even when it’s hard; to accept things I can’t change; how to deal with things I have no power over and keep my cool in those situations; and how to push through struggles and uphold promises and responsibilities that were previously made. Because of Mrs. Jaacks I have become a better leader, student and person.”

· Jessica Colville, Lemmon FFA seniors comments, “Mrs. Etta Knuth, is a catalyst, by definition, a person that precipitates an event or change; or a person whose talk, enthusiasm, or energy causes others to be more friendly, enthusiastic, or energetic. Mrs. Knuth embodies this with her amazing ability to get even the shyest students, like myself, to try new and amazing things.”

· Randi Tivis, Sturgis FFA junior expresses his thanks to advisor Mr. Brett Monson, “Mr. Monson is friendly, intelligent, hard-working, has a great sense of humor, and a passion for agriculture. He makes learning easy and fun! He encouraged me to be the best person I can possibly be and helped me discover a love of judging rangeland, which I plan to study in college. Naturally a shy, introverted person, Mr. Monson helped me break free from my shell and become involved in my school and chapter.

Scholarships are made possible through the SD FFA Foundation by West River Electric Association, Sioux Valley Energy, and the Walt Johnson Memorial Fund; in memory of two past FFA advisors: Leonard DeBoer and Walt Johnson. Both men led by example and their advice was truly ripened with wisdom. Mr. DeBoer spent his life teaching young people about agriculture and the leadership skills that would make them successful in their career choice. He was the FFA advisor in Chamberlain for almost 40 years where he lived FFA's mission by making a difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Mr. Johnson served as the SD FFA Foundation President, as well as on the SD FFA Foundation board, in Newell as an ag teacher, community supporter and coach for FFA career development events. He was devoted to agriculture education and earned his Honorary American FFA Degree in 2007.

For more information about the South Dakota FFA Foundation and South Dakota's FFA programs, visit www.sdffafoundation.org.

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**GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6
Special School Board Meeting
May 31, 2017 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room**

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed.
POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3
 1. Executive Session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(1) to interview MS/HS Principal candidate.
7:00 PM - Kerry Konda
- ADJOURN

**GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6
Special School Board Meeting
June 1, 2017 – 5:30 PM – GHS Conference Room**

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed.
POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3
 1. Executive Session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(1) to interview MS/HS Principal candidates.
5:30 PM – Amanda Olinger
7:00 PM – Kiersten Sombke
- ADJOURN



By Richard P. Holm M.D.



Teaching by example

By Richard P. Holm MD

There is a piece of ancient wisdom that rings so true: "You only teach by example."

We all have mentors in our lives; people who serve as examples; those whose patterns of living teach us how to face challenges. Most of us start out with our parents as mentors, and then we look to others: relatives, teachers,

partners, and heroes in stories worth imitating.

Even before my medical training, I watched our family physician, Dr. Bob Bell from DeSmet. I remember how his interests outside of medicine were very broad, including hunting and fishing, water skiing, sailing, playing cards, singing in the choir, enjoying art, and the list goes on. Dr. Bell and his wife Phyllis gave me the sense of how a superb physician family can enjoy and savor every moment of life.

I watched Dr. Karl Wegner, a pathologist, lecturer, and the first dean of our South Dakota Medical School, as he taught with empathy. I remember how he made every one of his students feel like he was speaking directly to him or her. Dr. Wegner gave me a sense of how a superb physician values the other guy.

I watched Dr. Joe Hardison, an internist at the VA hospital in Decatur, Georgia, whose diagnostic acumen and skills were famous among residents. I remember how he cleverly examined and listened to subtle clues to make the diagnosis. Dr. Hardison gave me a sense of how a superb physician uses her or his senses and brain to make a diagnosis.

I watched Dr. Keller, a cancer specialist at Emory Hospital in Atlanta, whose caring way remarkably helped cancer patients deal and cope with very ominous conditions. I remember how he confidently listened and spoke with consoling words and eyes to those with widely spread cancer. Dr. Keller gave me a sense of how a superb physician, with compassion for suffering patients, gives relief and exemplifies medical ethics in action.

And I am still watching Dr. Bob Talley, a Cardiologist and former Dean of USD Sanford School of Medicine, whose concern for students and residents elevated our medical school into the highest level of training in this country. A specific example is how he helped mold a new method of integrated training in South Dakota, which Harvard has copied, and into which the rest of the country is evolving. Dr. Tally gives me a sense of how a superb physician, who concentrates with all his soul on helping young physicians learn, can result in repercussions of caring, provided by the students he taught, for countless numbers of people throughout the world.

We only learn from and teach by example.

Colestock qualifies for state

The Region 1A Golf Tournament was held Thursday in Volga. Groton Area had three golfers participating. Payton Colestock shot a 111 with a 57 in the front half and 54 in the back half. Ashley Flihs shot a 124 with a 60 in the front and 64 in the back. Portia Kettering shot a 133 with a 67 in the front and 66 in the back. Colestock placed 19th and will qualify for the state tournament.

South Dakota Lakes are Open for Fishing and Making Memories

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota departments of Tourism and Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) say South Dakota's lakes and rivers are open for business and anglers are encouraged to come out and fish.

"Over 150 meandered lakes are open to provide fishing and access opportunity; most of which are on the eastern side of the state. Even though access has been restricted on 25 non-meandered lakes, there is still plenty of room and plenty of fishing to be had this summer on the quality fisheries that exist in our state," said Kelly Hepler, Secretary of GFP.

"South Dakota is open for business with anglers," said Jim Hagen, Secretary of the Department of Tourism. "What hasn't changed in South Dakota is the opportunity to get on the water to enjoy great fishing, the great outdoors and to experience even better hospitality."

"There has been much talk about the non-meandered waters in northeastern South Dakota," said Hepler. "While it is important to have state leaders, landowners, sportsmen and women, tourism and business groups working together to resolve this issue, it is also important to remember that there are many lakes in South Dakota accessible for fishing, boating and other recreational activities."

In March, the South Dakota Supreme Court ruled that the State Legislature must determine whether and how the public may use non-meandered waters for recreational purposes. State leaders are encouraging anglers and boaters to stay informed as the legislative task force works toward a solution.

"Do your part to know what is happening with this issue, but don't let this issue stop you from enjoying the great outdoor resources South Dakota has to offer. Fishing and boating add to our quality of life and it is important to spend time with family and friends outdoors," said Hepler.

Hagen agreed, "Outdoor recreation is important to this state. Fishing alone accounts for \$271 million spent across the state, but it is more than just dollars. I am from northeastern South Dakota and I know what fishing means to the businesses in the area. We have to make great summer time memories for families and anglers alike."

For more information on the South Dakota Supreme Court ruling regarding recreational use of water over private property, visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/courtruling.aspx>. Here you can also find a list of the 25 non-meandered lakes where access is currently restricted on department-managed boat ramps.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Tyler Bowling
Public Affairs Specialist

HONORING OUR HEROES ON MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day, we honor the soldiers and service members who have given their lives for our nation. Social Security respects the heroism and courage of our military service members, and we remember those who have given their lives in defense of freedom. Part of how we honor service members is the way we provide Social Security benefits.

The unexpected loss of a family member is a difficult experience for anyone. Social Security helps by providing benefits to protect service members' dependents. Widows, widowers, and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. You can learn more about Social Security survivors benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors.

It's also important to recognize those service members who are still with us, especially those who have been wounded. Just as they served us, we have the obligation to serve them. Social Security has benefits to assist veterans when an injury prevents them from returning to active duty.

Wounded military service members can also receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability claims. For example, Social Security will provide expedited processing of disability claims filed by veterans who have a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Compensation rating of 100 percent Permanent & Total (P&T). Depending on the situation, some family members of military personnel, including dependent children and, in some cases, spouses, may be eligible to receive benefits. You can get answers to commonly asked questions and find useful information about the application process at www.socialsecurity.gov/woundedwarriors.

Service members can also receive Social Security in addition to military retirement benefits. The good news is that your military retirement benefit does not reduce your Social Security retirement benefit. Learn more about Social Security retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement. You may also want to visit the Military Service page of our Retirement Planner, available at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html.

Service members are also eligible for Medicare at age 65. If you have health insurance from the VA or under the TRICARE or CHAMPVA programs, your health benefits may change, or end, when you become eligible for Medicare. Learn more about Medicare benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare.

In acknowledgment of those who died for our country, those who served, and those who serve today, we at Social Security honor and thank you.

Today in Weather History

May 26, 1983: Unofficial rainfall of up to 5 inches caused widespread flooding of basements and streets in and near Aberdeen. Only 1.72 inches of rain was reported at the Aberdeen airport.

May 26, 1985: Hail of unknown diameter was five inches deep, 1 mile north of Rosholt. Some hail remained on the ground until the following morning.

May 26, 1992: A widespread frost and hard freeze hit most of South Dakota except portions of the southeast causing up to \$14 million in potential crop losses to growing corn, soybeans, wheat, and other crops. Some low temperatures include; 23 degrees 12 miles SSW of Harrold; 26 at one mile west of Highmore and 23 north of Highmore; 27 in Kennebec; and 28 degrees 1 NW of Faulkton and at Redfield.

1771: Thomas Jefferson recorded the greatest flood ever known in Virginia. The great Virginia flood occurred as torrential rains in the mountains brought all rivers in the state to record high levels.








1917: A major tornadic thunderstorm took a 293-mile track across parts of central Illinois and Indiana. Once believed to be a single tornado, the later study indicated it was likely at least eight separate tornadoes. The first touchdown was about 50 miles south-southeast of Quincy, Illinois. The tornadic storm tracked due east, before beginning a northeast curve near Charleston; separate tornadic storms then curved southeast from Charleston. The towns of Mattoon and Charleston bore the brunt of the tornado. Damage from this severe tornado in Mattoon was about 2.5 blocks wide and 2.5 miles long, with over 700 houses destroyed, while the Charleston portion was 600 yards wide and 1.5 miles long, with 220 homes damaged. Damage in the two towns amounted to about \$2 million dollars 1917 dollars. Dozens of farms were hit along the path, and at least three farm homes were swept away between Manhattan and Monee. Another estimated F4 tornado touched down 6 miles south of Crown Point and devastated a dozen farms. A total of 7 people died, and 120 were injured. 53 people were killed in Mattoon, and 38 were killed in Charleston. Overall, 101 people in Illinois were killed during the tornado outbreak, with 638 injured.


2003: A BMI Airbus bound for Cyprus from Manchester, England encountered a violent thunderstorm over Germany. The plane bounced and twisted violently as it ran into severe turbulence with huge hailstones pounding the exterior. A football-sized hole was punched in the aircraft's exterior. None of the 213 passengers or eight crew members was seriously hurt.

2009: Northeast of Anchorage, Alaska, two hikers climbed a ridge to see a developing storm better. Lightning knocked the couple unconscious. Regaining consciousness, they called emergency services as the woman was unable to walk. The man's shoes looked as though they had melted.


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Today	Tonight	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday	Sunday Night	Memorial Day
						
Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms and Breezy	Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny
High: 74 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 67 °F






Mild Temps Through the Weekend



FRI	SAT	SUN
		
Highs 70-75° W/NW wind	Highs 70-75° Chance showers & T-storms	Highs 70-75° Chance showers & T-storms

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service
Aberdeen Weather Forecast Office

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD

 weather.gov/Aberdeen  National Weather Service Aberdeen  @NWSAberdeen Updated: 5/26/2017 5:35 AM Central

Published on: 05/26/2017 at 5:38AM

Pleasant temperatures are in the forecast today and through the weekend! Highs will generally be in the low to mid 70s all three days. Dry conditions can be expected today, but chances for showers and a few thunderstorms increase Saturday and Sunday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 72.5 F at 8:01 PM

Low Outside Temp: 49.2 F at 5:45 AM

High Gust: 41.0 Mph at 9:23 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 94° in 1900

Record Low: 30° in 1992

Average High: 71°F

Average Low: 48°F

Average Precip in May: 2.62

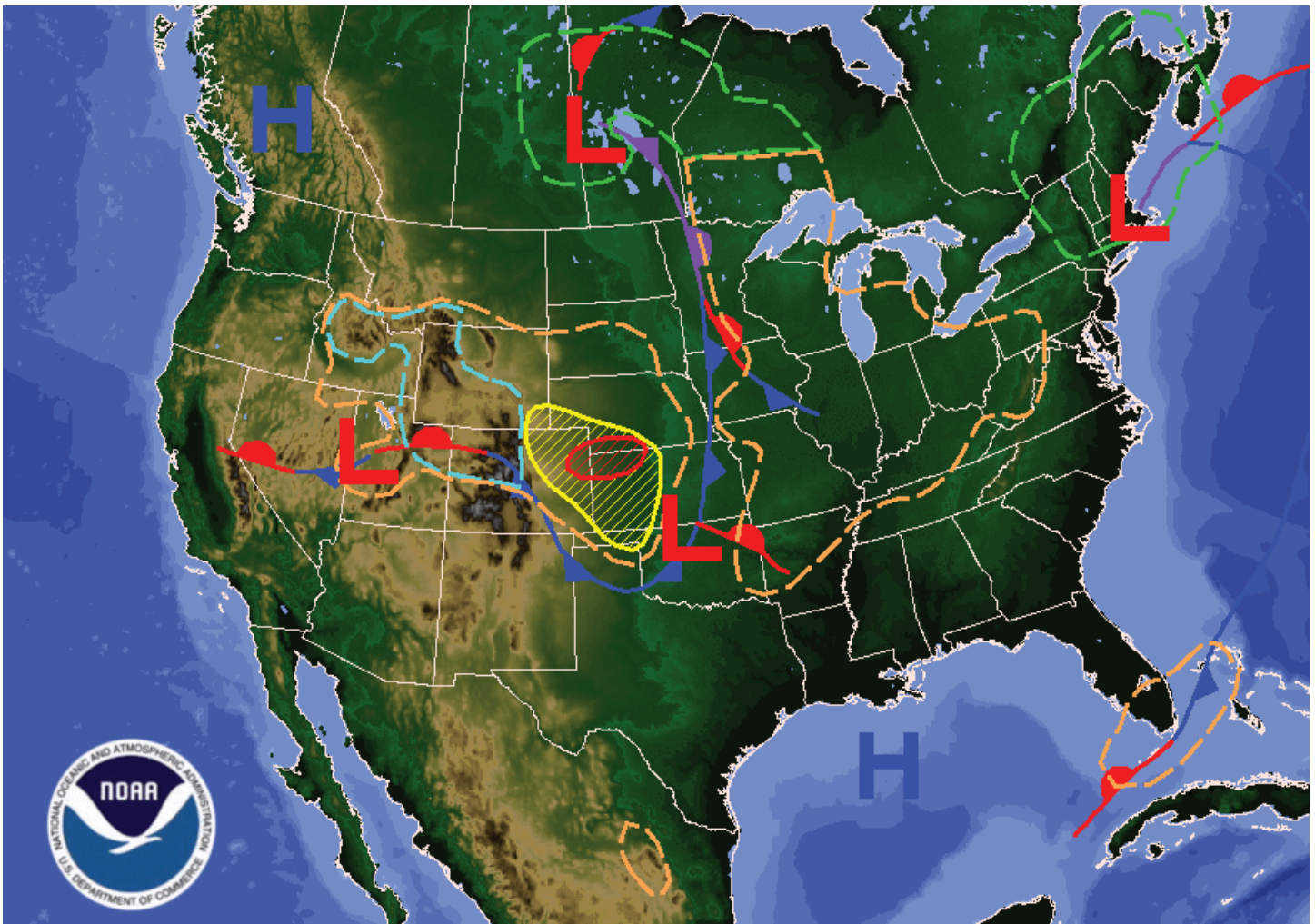
Precip to date in May: 1.21

Average Precip to date: 6.65

Precip Year to Date: 3.19

Sunset Tonight: 9:09 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Fri, May 26, 2017, issued 4:33 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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NEED HELP IN GETTING BACK UP?

Not long ago, shortly after spine surgery, I was walking from one room to another with a cup of coffee in one hand and a book in the other. Although I knew my balance had not returned to its pre-surgical state, I would not allow anyone to help me. Suddenly, I tripped, spilled the coffee on myself and my book and was lying flat on my face wondering what happened.

As I lay there, I soon realized that "pride," no doubt, contributed to my fall more than my inadequate balance.

Struggling to get up, my wife asked if she could help me. I said, "No, I can do this by myself!" When I realized how weak I was, and that I could not get up by myself, I finally asked for her help. Sitting in my chair, I realized that this was another example of my pride and unwillingness to ask for help. First, I fell when I refused her help. Then I refused her help a second time to lift me.

As I thought about my experience some time later, Psalm 145:14 came to mind: "The Lord 'lifts' all those who fall; and lifts all who are bowed down." Reflecting on that verse, I came to realize that we often "fall" in our daily spiritual journey because of pride and vanity. Even after we fall, we often refuse to turn to God for His strength, believing we "can do it on our own," without His help.

"I can do all things," Paul said, "through Christ." He was a man of strength and courage, vision and victory. Yet, he realized that what God called him to do was well beyond his strength. He needed Christ's strength to do Christ's work. Are you down? Reach out for God's hand!

Prayer: Lord, we often fail and fall because of our pride and vanity. May we realize we need You to stay "upright." In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 145:14 The Lord upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.

News from the Associated Press

Troopers focus on Interstate 90 in South Dakota, Minnesota

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Highway Patrol troopers in South Dakota and Minnesota are joining forces for a 23-hour traffic safety operation on Interstate 90 in the two states.

Other law agencies also are taking part in the effort that runs through 4 a.m. Saturday. Officers were focusing patrols on the interstate from the Wyoming border to the Wisconsin border, to boost safety as people travel for the long Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Troopers will be cracking down on speeding, hazardous driving, seatbelt use and impaired driving. The operation includes use of patrol aircraft, police dogs, drug recognition experts and motor carrier personnel.

Department of Public Safety encouraging safe start to summer

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Department of Public Safety is encouraging travelers to start the summer off safely over the Memorial Day holiday weekend.

Lee Axdahl, director of the state Office of Highway Safety, says officials don't want roadway safety details to get lost in the excitement of planning a trip.

The department says Highway Patrol troopers will be out on highways enforcing the law, including an I-90 safety operation with the Minnesota Highway Patrol that starts Friday and ends early Saturday.

Col. Craig Price is superintendent of the South Dakota Highway Patrol. He says motorists should slow down, watch for others, avoid getting distracted and wear seatbelts.

In 2016, 26 people were injured in auto accidents during the Memorial Day weekend. Ten of them weren't wearing seatbelts.

South Dakota teen with cancer gets OK to walk at graduation

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — School officials in Rapid City, South Dakota, have changed their minds and agreed to let a teen with brain cancer walk with her peers at graduation.

Officials had originally said that 17-year-old Central High student Meredith Erck could not participate in Sunday's ceremony because she's six credits short of graduation requirements. Erck wanted to walk across the graduation stage with her twin brother, who faced his own brush with cancer.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2qU8yxd>) that the school district reversed itself after an outpouring of support for Erck.

She was diagnosed with brain cancer in 2015, and previously had colon cancer. Her illness prevented her from completing all of her classes on time.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

South Dakota farmers market reaches agreement on tourism tax

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota farmers market has reached a deal with the state to end its tourism tax disagreement.

The Falls Park Farmers Market in Sioux Falls agreed Wednesday to pay a 1.5 percent tourism tax from now on, but the South Dakota Department of Revenue will forgive three years of back taxes because vendors were not aware of the tax, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2qjl7z9>).

The market's vendors have paid sales tax for years, but the Falls Park Farmers Market wasn't alerted about the tourism tax until recently, market spokesperson Susan Randall said.

"The majority of vendors, they never had any idea they needed to pay it, so this is a new baseline," Randall said.

The state said because the market is held in Falls Park — a major tourist destination Sioux Falls — it is

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subject to the state's tourism tax.

Randall argued that only 5 percent of sales are from non-residents of Sioux Falls, and while thousands of visitors come to the public park every year, the market isn't what draws them to the park.

"We're agreeing to (pay the tourism tax), not because we think it's right, but because it's just how it is," Randall said.

The farmers market group had considered moving to a different location to host its produce sales, but it worried the tourism tax might follow.

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

Top paid CEO in South Dakota is in energy industry

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A new survey shows the top paid executive in South Dakota is in the energy industry.

Calculations by The Associated Press and the executive data firm Equilar show Black Hills Corp. CEO David Emery tops the compensation list in South Dakota, earning \$4.1 million last year. Black Hills Corp. is headquartered in Rapid City and serves about one million natural gas and electric utility customers in eight states.

The survey includes only publicly traded companies with more than \$1 billion in revenue that filed their proxy statements with federal regulators. The calculation salary, bonus, stock awards, stock option awards, deferred compensation and other components that include benefits and perks.

The typical CEO in the Standard & Poor's 500 index made \$11.5 million last year.

Ex-Sioux Falls fire chief pleads not guilty to child porn

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Former Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Chief Jim Sideras has pleaded not guilty to child pornography charges.

The nearly 34 year veteran of the department appeared Thursday morning at the Minnehaha County Courthouse. Sideras faces 10 counts of possession of child pornography.

He was arrested this month after authorities carried out a search warrant at his home. Sideras was to leave his post at the end of June, but city officials abruptly fired him the same day as the search.

A court filing says that an email address linked to Sideras received at least two emails with child pornography attached from an email account under investigation by the Massachusetts State Police.

The Argus Leader reports that Sideras didn't comment to reporters after the hearing.

Excerpts from recent South Dakota editorials

By The Associated Press

Rapid City Journal, Rapid City, May 21

New strategy needed for city streets

Is street maintenance the "the elephant in the room" as one city councilor recently put it, or are the residents of Rapid City overreacting as the mayor suggested Thursday?

It was just two months ago that a report requested by City Councilor Jerry Wright said streets are in dire straits and the city needs to increase its annual maintenance budget from \$13 million to \$38.5 million to get them up to speed.

"We have a number of roads below average and some that have completely failed," Public Works Director Dale Tech told the Journal at the time.

"I've turned the lights on and said 'Let's talk about the elephant in the room,' " Wright said after the report he requested, "Status on Bridge and Street Funding Needs," was discussed at a Legal and Finance meeting.

As a result, city councilors began talking about raising taxes, using Vision Funds or even creating special

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assessment districts so residents can pay for their own street repairs in addition to property and sales taxes that help feed the city's \$160 million budget.

It was like going from zero to 100 in a matter of seconds.

Mayor Steven Allender countered Thursday by saying slow down, citing a 2015 study that said 90 percent of the city's streets are either fair (9 percent), good (18 percent), very good (31 percent), excellent (21 percent) or like new (11 percent).

In a letter to the council, Allender said: "All in all, my assessment of the pavement condition report does not match the public and political outcry for immediate attention to Rapid City roads."

In an interview with the Journal, the mayor said a rush to improve even the 10 percent of streets considered poor or very poor could come at the expense of libraries, parks and important services.

"You can't commit tens of millions of dollars of other people's money because you're getting nagged by your constituents," the mayor said.

He then said the city will conduct another study this fall as part of a process to rate the condition of streets.

Allender has a point when he says the overall condition of city streets is hardly an emergency. But city councilors who listen to constituents' concerns are hardly part of a hysteria campaign to press the issue. Many streets, especially in older residential areas, are in bad shape, seemingly held together by ribbons of asphalt or are crumbling while withering in our punishing cycles of hot, cold and wet weather.

The city's current practice is to only repair a street when the infrastructure below it needs to be replaced, which are costly projects. The city needs to consider a more middle-of-the-road approach. For example, why can't the city implement a resurfacing program for the streets that have fallen into disrepair but don't need an infrastructure overhaul while still addressing the more urgent projects?

The mayor is right when he says the city needs a new strategy for streets. It is long overdue. But any new plan needs to recognize that streets are a priority for those who live and work here.

American News, Aberdeen, May 25

Sully County leaders should say yes to drug dog

Why wouldn't Sully County officials want every tool available in the battle against drugs?

Sully County commissioners have been refusing to let the local sheriff use a trained drug-sniffing dog because they believe the resulting arrests could end up costing the county too much money.

Come again?

Officials have made a silly decision that sends a terrible message to their residents: We have a problem, but we give up.

The Sioux Falls Argus Leader first reported the story from the rural county along the Missouri River. Sully County Sheriff Bill Stahl wants to use Reggie, a black Labrador retriever, to help find drugs and drug offenders. This is a pretty common tool in police and sheriff's offices, including the drug dogs Neko and Dex in Aberdeen.

Reggie is owned by Sully County Deputy Jordan Anderson.

In February, Sully commissioners voted to block Stahl from using the dog, according to the Argus Leader. The anti-drug dog resolution noted "property taxes are too high in Sully County, and enforcing drug crime laws on state highways would make matters worse," according to the Argus Leader.

"We might put away a Chicago drug dealer once in a while, but that just helps Chicago at our expense," Commissioner Bill Floyd said.

Floyd argues that the drug-sniffing dog would likely catch more people traveling through Onida on U.S. Highway 83 than townspeople. He says that would lead to expensive cases that would have to be tried in Sully County, population 1,373.

A mind-blowing argument.

First, the dog would have to be deployed to find these "Chicago drug dealers." The travelers would have to be stopped, and there would likely have to be some reason for the two-deputy sheriff's department to

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take Reggie out.

The dog won't catch a vehicle just "passing through." That's not how drug dogs work.

Secondly, the commission's argument seems to be that a drug-sniffing dog would work too well, that too many bad guys would be caught. And that could be expensive.

Commissioners are acknowledging a problem, but lack the fortitude to actually try to solve it.

According to the Argus Leader, Stahl said Reggie "helped make a methamphetamine arrest in his first few weeks on the job. That arrest and three other drug felonies cost the county \$8,500 last month in housing fees at the Hughes County Jail in Pierre."

Sully County officials: This is a good thing. Take the win.

Despite concerns, a more realistic use of Reggie by Stahl and his small team would be on site at suspected drug homes or vehicles. In most cases, police would be acting on tips or search warrants — these are not likely to be out-of-towners stopping for a bite in Onida.

It is disappointing to hear this argument from those charged with keeping our communities safe and drug-free.

We understand commissioners are being frugal. On its own, that's not a bad thing.

But this isn't even penny wise and pound foolish. This is something else altogether.

We would much rather see a compromise worked out — or data that shows that Sully County is somehow immune to the scourge of methamphetamine, for instance.

Or, more immediately, that the residents of the county stand up and let commissioners know they are willing to chip in to put Reggie to work.

Hats off to Stahl for his community-focused idea. Too bad community leaders don't see it that way.

Capital Journal, Pierre, May 16

Wind farm moratorium was a good move

The Hughes County Commission made the right decision on Monday when it put a six-month moratorium on wind-farm development.

"Green" energy sounds great in theory, and there's no harm in exploring our options for generating electricity, but there are many questions remaining when it comes to wind power. And we're not talking about just dollars and cents here.

One of the biggest costs to a wind farm is its footprint. Wind farms need to be spread over many square miles in order to be effective. The turbines themselves need at least 1,000 feet of standoff from roads and houses, too. That amounts to a pretty big footprint that generates a comparatively small amount of electricity.

While it's true that the vast majority of the land within the wind farm can be used for growing crops or raising livestock, there still will be many acres taken out of production by access roads and the towers themselves.

It's a pretty good bet that not all the neighboring landowner's want to be surrounded by a bunch of giant wind turbines. Judging by how much opposition other recently proposed wind-farm projects have seen, it wouldn't be surprising to see at least a few folks come out against the Hughes County project. In some places, wind farm plans have driven a wedge between communities. It'd be a shame if that happened here.

Connected to a wind farm's footprint is its impact on the natural world. While wind farms don't emit greenhouse gasses once they've been built, they do cause some harm to the environment. Most notable is their impact on birds. A study published in 2013 in the journal Biological Conservation estimated that between 140,000 and 328,000 birds are killed by wind turbines each year. Central South Dakota is a migration corridor for many bird species, some of which already are declining in number.

Then there's the wind itself. Even in South Dakota, it's pretty fickle. That's a big reason why wind turbines generate only about 5 percent of U.S. electricity while accounting for about 8 percent of the country's capacity to generate electricity.

The Hughes County Commission isn't necessarily worried about these issues. Its members want to make sure they've got a solid, workable set of ordinances on the books. Taking the time to make sure the county's

rules are up to snuff is the right idea. It's not like South Dakota is going to get less windy anytime soon.

South Dakota man who shot tribal officer gets 20 years

PARMELEE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for shooting and wounding a tribal officer on the Rosebud Indian Reservation while on a six-day methamphetamine binge.

The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2qSN1oC>) reports that 23-year-old Linn Cross Dog III has been sentenced in federal court for the May 2016 incident in which he shot a tribal officer in the forearm.

Prosecutors said the officer pulled over a van in which Cross Dog was riding as part of a traffic stop. They said Cross Dog took control of the vehicle at gunpoint and drove away, and after a short pursuit he exited the vehicle and shot the officer.

Cross Dog was later captured. Authorities say he had been awake and injecting meth for six days before shooting the officer.

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

Sioux Falls teen charged in beating death set to change plea

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls teenager who pleaded not guilty to manslaughter in the beating death of an 18-year-old last year is scheduled for a change of plea hearing.

Court documents show 17-year-old Wilson Hughes is to appear in adult court June 5 for a change of plea hearing. The Argus Leader reports (<http://argusne.ws/2qfMheq>) the hearing is replacing a jury trial scheduled for the same day. Hughes' attorneys declined comment.

Hughes faces three manslaughter charges in the death last summer of Arick Strauser.

Authorities say Strauser died late on July 22 or early on July 23 after an altercation with a group of teenagers. Police allege Hughes beat Strauser to death with his hands and feet.

A video of the incident was posted on social media, leading police to arrest Hughes.

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

Aberdeen gas leak prompts business, apartment evacuations

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A natural gas leak on Aberdeen's Main Street prompted several businesses and two apartment buildings to evacuate.

NorthWestern Energy spokesman Tom Glanzer tells the American News (<http://bit.ly/2qfT3AN>) that the Wednesday afternoon leak was caused by construction work in the area.

The evacuations lasted about two hours. Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Joel Weig says no one was injured or sickened.

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

Militants attack Christians in Egypt, killing at least 26

By MAGGIE MICHAEL, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Masked gunmen opened fire on a bus carrying Coptic Christians south of the Egyptian capital on Friday, killing at least 26 people, including children, and wounding 25, officials said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which came on the eve of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The assault happened while the bus was traveling on the road to Saint Samuel the Confessor Monastery in Maghagha, in the Minya governorate, about 220 kilometers (140 miles) south of Cairo, security officials said.

The officials cited witnesses as saying they saw between eight and 10 attackers, dressed in military

uniforms and wearing masks. The victims were traveling from the nearby province of Bani Suief to visit the monastery.

Khaled Mogahed, the Health Ministry spokesman, said that the death toll reached 26 but feared it could rise further. According to Copts United news portal, only three children survived the attack.

Arab TV stations showed images of a damaged bus along a roadside, many of its windows shattered. Ambulances were parked around it as bodies lay on the ground, covered with black plastic sheets.

Though no one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, it had all the hallmarks of Egypt's Islamic State affiliate.

Egyptian authorities have been fighting IS-linked militants who have waged an insurgency, mainly focused in the volatile north of the Sinai Peninsula though attacks have taken place also on the mainland. Egypt's Coptic Christians have emerged as a top target of IS.

Friday's attack is the third against Christians in Egypt in six months.

In April, twin suicide bombings struck two churches on Palm Sunday, and in December, a suicide bombing targeted a Cairo church. The attacks left over 75 dead and scores wounded. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility and vowed more attacks.

Late last month, Pope Francis visited Egypt, in part to show his support for Christians of this Muslim majority Arab nation who have been increasingly targeted by Islamic militants.

During the trip, Francis paid tribute to the victims of the December bombing at Cairo's St. Peter's church, located in close proximity to the St. Mark's cathedral, the seat of the Coptic Orthodox Church.

Following the pope's visit, IS vowed to escalate the attacks against Christians, urging Muslims to steer clear of Christian gatherings and Western embassies, saying they are targets for the group's followers.

Egypt's Copts, the Middle East's largest Christian community, have repeatedly complained of suffering discrimination, as well as outright attacks, at hands of the country's majority Muslim population.

Over the past decades, they have been the immediate targets of Islamic extremists. They rallied behind the country's general-turned-president, Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, in 2013 when he ousted Islamist predecessor Mohammed Morsi, who hails from the Muslim Brotherhood group. Attacks on Christian homes, businesses and churches subsequently surged, especially in the country's south, traditionally Egypt's Christian heartland.

Associated Press Writer Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

Trump, G-7 peers seek deals on terrorism, trade, climate

By COLLEEN BARRY, SYLVIE CORBET and DAVID McHUGH, Associated Press

TAORMINA, Sicily (AP) — The differences are well-known: climate change, trade and migration threaten to throw a summit of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies off its consensus game, with President Donald Trump cast as the spoiler-in-chief. But it may not play out exactly that way, according to long-time G-7 observers.

"It is a forum made for Donald Trump's particular style. It is highly informal, highly interactive and they speak in very colloquial language to each other," said John Kirton, director of the G-7 Research Group at the University of Toronto. "It is the ultimate lonely hearts club. No one understands how tough it is to have the top job except the peers with the top job in other countries."

While Trump has met all of the leaders one on one, this will be the first time all seven are around the same table, including also newcomers Emmanuel Macron of France, Theresa May of Britain and the Italian host, Paolo Gentiloni — forging a new dynamic after a year of global political turmoil amid rising nationalism.

Climate policy promises to be the real buzzkill at the G-7 party. Endorsing measures to combat terror is expected to find easy agreement, especially after the attack on an English pop music concert killed 22 people Monday night. But some of the trust that fuels such meetings was undermined by a leak of British intelligence in the Manchester attack blamed on a U.S. official, annoying British officials. Trump also going against the grain on trade with more protectionist stand.

His pending review of U.S. climate policies and decision not to make up his mind before Taormina has

braced environmentalists for the possibility of bland language that says little after years of increasingly stronger commitments to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and emissions of in greenhouse gases under the Paris Agreement.

"What we do not want to see is a false compromise on nothing," said Tobias Muenchmeyer, a political expert for Greenpeace. "We want to see determination and commitment over unity," with the other partners going ahead without the United States.

Trump's attempts to impose a U.S. travel ban on some Muslim countries contrast with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's position that immigration is a source of strong, sustainable inclusive growth. Sicily is on the front lines in Europe's migration crisis, the first landfall for most of the more than 180,000 migrants who arrived in Italy last year — and the reason the Italian government chose Sicily as the backdrop for this summit.

Kirton said Trump has demonstrated the ability to come to bilateral agreements, and it is possible that Taormina will yield deals for which he can claim credit at home. But his volatile style could upend even summit decisions.

"It is always possible the president will change his mind even before he lands in Washington and fire off some more tweets," Kirton said.

Trump meeting with G-7 leaders after going on offensive

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JULIE PACE, Associated Press

TAORMINA, Italy (AP) — In the Middle East, President Donald Trump was feted with pageantry, the leaders of Saudi Arabia and Israel seemingly in competition to outdo the other with the warmth of their welcomes and the depth of their pledges of cooperation.

But in Europe, Trump has faced a far cooler reception and has been eager to go on the offensive.

Cajoled on issues like climate change and NATO's defense pact, he's responded by scolding some of the United States' most loyal allies for not paying their fair share. He's also refused to explicitly back the mutual defense agreement that has been activated only once, during the darkest hours of September 2001.

Still, Trump hailed the trip a success as he arrived to the G-7 summit in Sicily Friday, the final stop of his maiden international trip, a grueling nine-day, five-stop marathon.

"Getting ready to engage G7 leaders on many issues including economic growth, terrorism, and security," Trump wrote on Twitter. "Trip has been very successful. We made and saved the USA many billions of dollars and millions of jobs."

Once more, he will likely be received warily, a president who ran on a campaign of "America First" with suggestions of disentangling the United States from international pacts, now engaged in two days of pomp and policy with the leaders of the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada.

Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, said the group's leaders "sometimes have very different views" on topics such as climate change and trade, "but our role as the EU is to do everything to maintain the unity of the G-7 on all fronts."

The White House believes that Trump has made personal breakthroughs with his peers, having now met one-on-one with all the leaders of G-7.

"It's time for him to have an intimate discussion and understand their issues but, more importantly, for them to understand our issues," national economic adviser Gary Cohn told reporters on Air Force One late Thursday.

One of those relationships was on display as Trump began the day with a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The president hosted Abe at the White House and his Mar-a-Lago resort back in February, where they appeared to hit it off.

Abe was the latest world leader to publicly flatter Trump, saluting his visit to the Middle East and address to NATO on Thursday.

"Unfortunately," Abe told reporters, "this time around we won't be able to play golf together."

The president said he and Abe would cover many topics, including North Korea, which he said "is very

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much on our minds.”

“It’s a big problem, it’s a world problem, but it will be solved at some point. It will be solved, you can bet on that,” Trump said. North Korea has conducted a series of recent missile tests, rattling its Pacific neighbors.

Foreign policy will be the focus on Friday, with meetings on Syria, Libya, North Korea, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Other meetings over the two days will include discussions of global economy and climate, a meeting with small African nations — Trump will be seated between the leaders of Niger and Tunisia — and migration issues.

Trade will also be a big topic, with Cohn saying the United States’ guiding principle will be “we will treat you the way you treat us,” suggesting that retaliatory tariffs could be imposed.

The day will feature a welcoming ceremony and concert at the remains of an ancient Greek temple, as well as a relentless number of meetings, many of which White House aides are hoping to keep short in order to keep Trump’s attention. What the Sicily stay will likely not offer: a news conference, as Trump appears set to defy presidential tradition and not hold one during the entire trip.

The Republican president arrived in Italy fresh off delivering an unprecedented, personal rebuke to NATO, traveling to its gleaming new Brussels headquarters to lecture its leaders to their faces on the need for them to spend more on defense.

“This is not fair to the people and taxpayers of the United States,” Trump said. “If NATO countries made their full and complete contributions, then NATO would be even stronger than it is today, especially from the threat of terrorism.”

The 28 member nations, plus soon-to-join Montenegro, will renew an old vow to move toward spending 2 percent of their gross domestic product on defense by 2024. Only five members meet the target: Britain, Estonia, debt-laden Greece, Poland and the United States, which spends more on defense than all the other allies combined.

Trump refused to say he would adhere to the mutual defense pact, known as Article V, though the White House later claimed that his very presence alongside twisted World Trade Center steel — a memorial outside NATO headquarters — was evidence enough of his commitment.

As Trump spoke, the NATO leaders, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron, stood in awkward silence. Later, as they took the traditional “family photo” group shot, the heads of state quietly kept their distance from Trump, who minutes earlier was caught on video appearing to push the prime minister of Montenegro out of the way to get to his spot.

But while Trump lectured some of the United States’ strongest allies, he cozied up to the repressive regime in Saudi Arabia while pushing for the Arab world to root out extremism at home. It was a similar story in Israel, where Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warmly greeted Trump and the president reciprocated with emotional appearances at the Western Wall and Holocaust museum and suggested that there was an opening for peace with the Palestinians.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Pace at <http://twitter.com/@JPaceDC>

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. WHERE WORLD LEADERS ARE MEETING

Leaders of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies are holding a summit in Sicily, where President Donald Trump is cast as a potential spoiler-in-chief.

2. TRUMP DISCUSSES NORTH KOREA WITH JAPANESE LEADER

President Trump is calling North Korea a “world problem,” but he says it “will be solved, you can bet on that.” Trump was meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe before the G-7 summit.

3. WHO WON MONTANA’S US HOUSE SEAT

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Republican Greg Gianforte emerged as the state's new congressman, winning a special election a day after he was charged with assault for throwing a reporter to the ground.

4. KUSHNER WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH RUSSIA PROBE

A lawyer for President Trump's son-in-law and adviser says Jared Kushner is willing to cooperate with federal investigators looking into ties between Russia and the Trump campaign.

5. HOW BRITISH POLICE ARE RESPONDING TO CONCERT ATTACK

Police investigating the Manchester Arena bombing have arrested a ninth man, while extra security is being added for major British sporting events this weekend.

6. WHY THE WORLD'S NEED FOR PEACEKEEPERS PUTS VULNERABLE PEOPLE AT RISK

In a case that illustrates how military impunity seeps into U.N. peacekeeping missions, an AP investigation examines how a Sri Lankan general dogged by war crimes allegations was sent to Haiti to investigate a rape accusation against a countryman. He didn't interview the victim or medical staff, and cleared the soldier.

7. WHAT OLDER AMERICANS PREFER FOR LONG-TERM CARE

More and more middle-age and older Americans say Medicare should cover the costs of long-term care for older adults, according to a poll conducted by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

8. MAN DUBBED "HOUDINI" OF ALABAMA DEATH ROW IS EXECUTED

After escaping seven prior execution dates, 75-year-old inmate Tommy Arthur was put to death Friday, after years of litigation challenging the state's lethal injection procedure.

9. NBA, NHL FINALS ARE SET

Familiar faces return: LeBron James leads the Cleveland Cavaliers to another NBA Finals showdown with the playoff-perfect Warriors, while the Pittsburgh Penguins are back in the Stanley Cup Finals.

10. WHEN "THE SIMPSONS" HIT A HOMER

"Homer at the Bat" first aired 25 years ago, with an All-Star lineup that included Ken Griffey Jr., Darryl Strawberry and a clucking Roger Clemens. The Baseball Hall of Fame is paying tribute with an exhibit and playful ceremony.

Trump travel ban showdown headed for Supreme Court

By JESSICA GRESKO and MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's administration is pledging a Supreme Court showdown over his travel ban after a federal appeals ruled that the ban "drips with religious intolerance, animus and discrimination."

Citing the president's duty to protect the country from terrorism, Attorney General Jeff Sessions said Thursday that the Justice Department will ask the high court to review the case, although he offered no timetable.

The Supreme Court is almost certain to step into the case over the presidential executive order issued by Trump that seeks to temporarily cut off visas for people from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen. The justices almost always have the final say when a lower court strikes down a federal law or presidential action.

The case pits the president's significant authority over immigration against what the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit said was a policy that purported to be about national security but was intended to target Muslims.

Parties generally have 90 days to appeal to the Supreme Court, but if the administration waits until late August to ask the court to step in, the justices probably would not vote on whether to hear the case until October and arguments probably wouldn't take place until February 2018 at the earliest. That would be more than a year after Trump rolled out the first travel ban.

Administration lawyers could instead seek the justices' approval to put the travel policy in place on an emergency basis, even as the court weighs what to do with the larger dispute.

If that happens, the justices' vote on an emergency motion would signal whether the government is

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likely to win in the end. It takes a majority of the court, five votes, to put a hold on a lower court ruling. If at least five justices vote to let the travel ban take effect, there's a good chance they also would uphold the policy later on.

Thursday's ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit was a loss for the administration. The court ruled 10-3 that the ban likely violates the Constitution and upheld a lower court ruling blocking the Republican administration from enforcing the travel ban unveiled in March, a revised version of the policy first issued in January.

The Richmond, Virginia-based 4th Circuit is the first appeals court to rule on the revised ban. Trump's administration had hoped it would avoid the legal problems that the first version encountered. A second appeals court, the 9th U.S. Circuit based in San Francisco, is also weighing the revised travel ban after a federal judge in Hawaii blocked it.

A central question in the case is whether courts should consider Trump's public statements about wanting to bar Muslims from entering the country as evidence that the policy was primarily motivated by the religion.

Trump's administration argued the 4th Circuit should not look beyond the text of the executive order, which doesn't mention religion. The countries were not chosen because they are predominantly Muslim but because they present terrorism risks, the administration said.

But Chief Judge Roger L. Gregory wrote that the government's "asserted national security interest ... appears to be a post hoc, secondary justification for an executive action rooted in religious animus and intended to bar Muslims from this country."

The three dissenting judges, all appointed by Republican presidents, said the majority was wrong to look beyond the text of the order. Judge Paul V. Niemeyer wrote that Supreme Court precedent required the court to consider the order "on its face." Looked at that way, the executive order "is entirely without constitutional fault," he wrote.

Sessions said the court's ruling blocks Trump's "efforts to strengthen this country's national security."

Trump's first travel ban issued Jan. 27 was aimed at seven countries and triggered chaos and protests across the U.S. as travelers were stopped from boarding international flights and detained at airports for hours. Trump tweaked the order after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit refused to reinstate the ban.

The new version made it clear the 90-day ban covering those six countries doesn't apply to those who already have valid visas. It also got rid of language that would give priority to religious minorities and removed Iraq from the list of banned countries. Critics said the changes don't erase the legal problems with the ban.

Ilya Somin, a law professor at George Mason University, said it's difficult to make a confident prediction on what the Supreme Court will do with the case. If the Supreme Court follows a partisan divide, the Trump administration may fare better since five of the nine are Republican nominees. Still, he said, "Supreme Court justices don't always vote in ideological lockstep."

Associated Press writers Alanna Durkin Richer in Richmond, Virginia; Darlene Superville in Washington; and Matt Barakat in McLean, Virginia, contributed to this report.

Philippines official: Terror suspect still in besieged city

By JIM GOMEZ and TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

ILIGAN, Philippines (AP) — One of Asia's most-wanted militants is still hiding out in a city in the southern Philippines where government forces backed by armored vehicles and helicopters are battling gunmen linked to the Islamic State group, the country's military chief said Friday.

The city of Marawi, home to some 200,000 people, has been under siege by militants since a government raid Tuesday night on a suspected hideout of Isnilon Hapilon, who is on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists.

"Right now, he is still inside (the city)," Gen. Eduardo Ano told The Associated Press. "We cannot just

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pinpoint the particular spot.”

Gunmen are trying to find a way to extricate Hapilon, who suffered a stroke after a government airstrike wounded him in January, Ano said. But soldiers have been going house-to-house to clear the city of militants.

“We will make this their cemetery,” he said, estimating that the operation could take about a week. “We have to finish this.”

At least 44 people have died in the fighting, including 31 militants and 11 soldiers, officials said Thursday. The violence has forced thousands of people to flee and raised fears of growing extremism in the country.

It was not immediately clear whether civilians were among the dead.

President Rodrigo Duterte has imposed 60 days of martial law on the island of Mindanao, a traditional homeland of minority Muslims that encompasses the southern third of the nation and is home to 22 million people.

In a sign that the long-standing problem of militancy in the south could be expanding, Solicitor General Jose Calida said foreigners were fighting alongside the gunmen in Marawi, including Indonesians and Malaysians.

Ano also said foreign fighters were believed to be inside, but he was more cautious. “We suspect that but we’re still validating,” he said.

In a sign of the confusion over events inside the city, a local police chief told the AP on Friday that he was fine — two days after Duterte told journalists the police chief had been beheaded by militants.

Police Chief Romeo Enriquez said there may have been confusion because his predecessor in Malabang, a town near Marawi, was killed in the fighting on Tuesday, although he was not beheaded. Enriquez has been in the job for about two months.

The man at the center of the Marawi violence is Hapilon, an Arabic-speaking Islamic preacher known for his expertise in commando assaults. He is at the nexus of several militant groups that are trying to merge into a more powerful force.

Hapilon, who is a commander of the Abu Sayyaf militant group, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in 2014. He also heads an alliance that includes at least 10 smaller militant groups, including the Maute, which have a heavy presence in Marawi and were instrumental in fighting off government forces in this week’s battles.

All these groups are inspired by the Islamic State group, but so far there is no sign of significant, material ties.

“We have not seen any concrete evidence of material support from IS,” military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Thursday. But he added that the smaller groups “are working to really get that recognition and funds, of course.”

Washington has offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to Hapilon’s capture, but he has proved elusive.

The army raided what it believed to be his hideout on Tuesday night in Marawi, but the militants called in reinforcements and were able to overpower government forces. Once again, Hapilon escaped. The military said it believes Hapilon was still in Marawi.

Much of Marawi remains a no-go zone, but disturbing details have emerged.

Militants forced their way into the Marawi Cathedral and seized a Catholic priest, 10 worshippers and three church workers, according to the city’s bishop, Edwin de la Pena. The black flags of the Islamic State group were planted atop buildings and flown from commandeered vehicles, including a government ambulance and an armored car, said Mamintal Alonto Adiong Jr., vice governor of Lanao del Sur province, of which Marawi is the capital.

More than half of the population of Marawi has cleared out, Adiong said.

The southern Philippines has been troubled by decades-long Muslim separatist uprisings in the predominantly Catholic nation.

Duterte had repeatedly threatened to place the region under martial law, which allows him to use the armed forces to carry out arrests, searches and detentions more rapidly. But there are fears the expanded

powers could further embolden a leader who already has been accused of allowing extrajudicial killings of thousands of people in his crackdown on illegal drugs.

Cerojano reported from Manila.

Lawyer says Kushner willing to cooperate with investigators

By **MATTHEW DALY** and **CHAD DAY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, is willing to cooperate with federal investigators looking into ties between Russia and the Trump campaign, his attorney said.

The statement from attorney Jamie Gorelick was issued Thursday amid reports that the FBI was investigating meetings Kushner had in December with Russian officials.

"Mr. Kushner previously volunteered to share with Congress what he knows about these meetings. He will do the same if he is contacted in connection with any other inquiry," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the House oversight committee asked the FBI to turn over more documents about former Director James Comey's interactions with the White House and Justice Department, including materials dating back nearly four years to the Obama administration.

The FBI and the oversight committee — as well as several other congressional panels — are looking into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election and possible connections between Russia and the Trump campaign. Trump fired Comey May 9 amid questions about the FBI's investigation, which is now being overseen by special counsel Robert Mueller, a former FBI director.

NBC News and The Washington Post first reported that the FBI's ongoing investigation includes a look at Kushner, which would place the probe inside the White House.

Kushner, a key White House adviser, had meetings late last year with Russia's ambassador to the U.S., Sergey Kislyak, and Russian banker Sergey Gorkov.

The Post story cited anonymous "people familiar with the investigation," who said the FBI investigation does not mean that Kushner is suspected of a crime.

Earlier Thursday, House oversight committee chairman Jason Chaffetz told acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe that he wants records of Comey's contacts with the White House and Justice Department dating to September 2013, when Comey was sworn in as FBI director under President Barack Obama.

In a letter to McCabe, Chaffetz said he is seeking to review Comey's memos and other written materials so he can "better understand" Comey's communications with the White House and attorney general's office.

Chaffetz, R-Utah, previously requested Comey's recent memos about his private contacts with Trump. But the bureau told him Thursday it could not yet turn them over because of Mueller's probe.

Chaffetz, who said last week he has his "subpoena pen" ready to force Comey or the FBI to turn over the documents, told McCabe that "Congress and the American public have a right and a duty to examine this issue independently of the special counsel's investigation."

He added, in a thinly veiled threat, "I trust and hope you understand this and make the right decision — to produce these documents to the committee immediately and on a voluntary basis."

Chaffetz's letter comes a month before he is scheduled to leave office after abruptly announcing his resignation earlier this year. He canceled a hearing scheduled Wednesday after Comey declined to testify.

Assistant FBI Director Gregory Brower told Chaffetz on Thursday the agency is evaluating his request and will update him as soon as possible.

Some Republican members of Congress have pressured Chaffetz to step down from the Comey probe, saying it should be led by someone who will remain in Congress.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., is considered the front-runner to replace Chaffetz as oversight chair. Gowdy led a special House panel that spent more than two years investigating the deadly 2012 attacks at a U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi, Libya.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

NHL royalty vs. the rowdy neighbors in Stanley Cup Final

By WILL GRAVES, AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Penguins kept getting by even as their star players kept skating off the ice in pain. Even as the targets on their back as Stanley Cup champions kept getting bigger. Even as Columbus and Washington and Ottawa kept pushing and prodding, poking and pinching.

“Just play,” coach Mike Sullivan kept telling his players. Over and over and over again.

So the Penguins did. And the team that found itself uncharacteristically on its heels for long stretches as it fended off the Blue Jackets in the first round, shut down the Capitals in the second and outlasted blue-collar Senators in the third is back where it was a year ago: heading to the Stanley Cup Final with confidence, momentum and more than a little bit of swagger.

Next up: “Smashville.”

Pittsburgh earned a return trip to the Cup with a thrilling 3-2 double-overtime victory over Ottawa in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals on Thursday. Chris Kunitz provided the winner, a knuckler from just outside the circle that made its way past Craig Anderson 5:09 into the second extra period and moved the Penguins a step closer to becoming the first team in nearly 20 years to repeat.

And here’s the scary part: after a season pock-marked by the loss of do-everything defenseman Kris Letang and significant absences by Evgeni Malkin, Sidney Crosby, Kunitz, goaltender Matt Murray and a host of others, the Penguins are starting to look like the team that picked apart San Jose last June to capture the franchise’s fourth title.

“Our last four games in this series for me, we really found our game,” Sullivan said.

The result is a potentially intriguing final between NHL royalty and the rowdy neighbors next door. The Penguins have the experience, the leadership and the star power. The Predators have defenseman P.K. Subban, a bunch of country music A-listers in the stands and absolutely nothing to lose in their first appearance on hockey’s biggest stage.

Game 1 is Monday night in Pittsburgh. The teams split their two meetings during the regular season, with each winning on home ice, with Nashville overwhelming Pittsburgh 5-1 back in November and the Penguins returning the favor with a 4-2 victory in January.

Don’t let the flimsy resume fool you. Though they tied for the fewest points in the 16-team playoff field (94), the Predators are dangerous and very much for real after steamrolling through the Western Conference playoffs, never trailing at any point in series wins over Chicago, St. Louis and Anaheim.

“We haven’t dominated the play that maybe we wanted to,” Kunitz said. “Maybe we’ve done a better job these last couple of games. But it’s something we’re going to have to get better at playing a 60-minute game if we’re going to have a chance to beat Nashville.”

The meeting marks the first time in NHL history the coaches of both teams are Americans. Nashville’s Peter Laviolette first turned a team in the deep south into a champion 11 years ago when he guided the Carolina Hurricanes to their first and only Cup. Sullivan took over in Pittsburgh in Dec. 2015 and provided the edge the Penguins so desperately needed, becoming the sixth U.S.-born coach to win it all.

Their teams in some ways have become reflections of them. The Predators aren’t nicknamed “Smashville” just for kicks. They were the last team to qualify for the playoffs but have caught fire in the last six weeks, sweeping Chicago in the first round then proving it wasn’t a fluke by putting away the Blues and the Ducks.

“It should be some exciting hockey as far as back and forth and fast and physical,” Crosby said. “I think both teams like to play a pretty similar style.”

With a handful of familiar faces on both sides. One of Pittsburgh general manager Jim Rutherford’s first moves when he was hired in 2014 was to trade forward James Neal to the Predators for Patric Hornqvist and Nick Spaling. It’s worked out for nearly all involved.

Hornqvist’s relentless energy and penchant for crashing the net is invaluable when teamed with Malkin

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or Crosby, while Neal has given Nashville one of the more lethal shots in the league.

Yet it was Subban's arrival in a trade last June that provided Nashville with the grit and leadership it so desperately needed. Subban has been spectacular at times during the playoffs and goaltender Pekka Rinne is playing the finest hockey of his career, helping stoke the passion of a fanbase that likes to sledgehammer beat-up cars in parking lots before games and throw catfish onto the ice during them.

The Penguins, by contrast, have been here. They've done this. Considering all they've gone through to get back, they have every intention of doing it again.

"The biggest step is ahead," Crosby said.

The last one, too.

More AP NHL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NHLhockey>

No surprise: It's Cavs-Warriors in the NBA Finals, again

By TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer

Here they go again.

For the third straight year, it's Cleveland and Golden State in the NBA Finals. The 2016 champions versus the 2015 champions. The first "threematch" — rematch of a rematch — in league history. It's the matchup most expected, the matchup most predicted, and probably the matchup the Cavaliers and Warriors wanted as well.

Let the hype, and the waiting, begin: Game 1 isn't until June 1.

"I've been very blessed the last few years to be a part of this league and play on the big stage," said Cleveland star LeBron James, who has now reached the Finals for the eighth time — including each of the last seven years. "But we're going to enjoy this for a couple more days before we have to lock in on that juggernaut out west."

The Cavaliers and Warriors split their two meetings this season, both winning at home. Cleveland won by one on Christmas Day, Golden State prevailed by 35 on Jan. 16.

Golden State led the league with 67 wins this season and is a staggering 27-1 in its last 28 games — including a perfect 12-0 in the Western Conference playoffs, the first time a team has gone this deep into an NBA postseason without losing. Cleveland, which seemed sleepy at times in the regular season, went 12-1 in the Eastern Conference playoffs that ended with a win over Boston on Thursday night.

"Playing in this league, you can't take anything for granted," Warriors guard Stephen Curry said. "Thirty teams suit up every year trying to get to this point, and only two teams do. So you have to appreciate it. ... We need to understand the privilege that we have and the opportunity that we have to play in the Finals again, to have the opportunity to win a championship."

Already, the back-and-forth is underway.

Cleveland coach Tyronn Lue was quoted earlier this week saying he thought Boston's offense was "harder to defend" than Golden State's. Countered Golden State acting coach Mike Brown, when asked about it Thursday: "That's his opinion. It's cute."

And there will be reminders of the Halloween party that James threw for the Cavaliers last fall, with "3-1 Lead" — a nod to what the Warriors lost in last year's Finals — prominently displayed on the drum set.

Much more of that sort of that will likely follow over the next week, filling time before Golden State plays host to Game 1. But there's also a clear respect level between the clubs as well.

"The best team in our league the last three years," James said of the Warriors. "And they've added an unbelievable player in Kevin Durant this year. So it makes it even more difficult. They're going to challenge us a lot, offensively, defensively, mentally, physically. We have to be ready for the challenge."

For James, the Finals are an annual rite.

For Durant, this trip ends a five-year wait.

Durant's only other time in the Finals was 2012 when he was with Oklahoma City. The Thunder lost to Miami in five games, a series that made James a champion for the first time.

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At the very moment where the clock ran out in that series, the person James was embracing was Durant — telling the then-Thunder star, his offseason workout partner at the time, how proud of him he was. “Hopefully,” James said that night, “I don’t continue to have to run into him.”

They’ll collide again, starting next week.

Durant’s decision to leave the Thunder for Golden State as a free agent last summer meant the Warriors went from mere overwhelming favorites to win the West again to super-duper-overwhelming favorites to win the West again. They got a big scare in late February when Durant had a left knee injury, but he’s back and the Warriors have rolled since.

“It’s a little different, definitely. I can’t lie,” Durant said, when comparing the 2012 Finals trip to this one. “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. We have a bigger goal in mind.”

The storylines are many. Can James win his fourth ring? Can Durant win his first? Will the Warriors be haunted by letting last season’s 3-1 lead slip away? Will they become the first team in NBA history to go undefeated in a postseason? How will Golden State guard Kyrie Irving? How will Cleveland try to contain Curry?

There’s also the irony that Brown, the first coach who took James to an NBA Finals in 2007 — Cleveland was swept by San Antonio — will now coach against him, likely in the same leading role he’s had for Golden State since head coach Steve Kerr was forced to take a break because of continued problems with his surgically repaired back.

“I don’t care who you’re playing, to make it to the NBA Finals, to win your conference finals, it’s a big task,” Brown said.

The biggest task awaits.

Alabama executes man for 1982 murder-for-hire

By KIM CHANDLER, Associated Press

ATMORE, Ala. (AP) — An inmate once called the “Houdini” of Alabama’s death row for escaping seven past execution dates through legal challenges was put to death early Friday for a 1982 murder-for-hire shooting.

Tommy Arthur, 75, was pronounced dead at 12:15 a.m. CDT Friday following a lethal injection administered at a southwest Alabama prison, authorities said. Arthur was convicted of killing riverboat engineer Troy Wicker, who was fatally shot as he slept in his bed in the north Alabama city of Muscle Shoals.

“Thirty-four years after he was first sentenced to death ... Thomas Arthur’s protracted attempt to escape justice is finally at an end,” Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall said in a statement. “Most importantly, tonight, the family of Troy Wicker can begin the long-delayed process of recovery from a painful loss.”

In his final statement, Arthur appeared to cry and got choked up as he said he wanted to apologize to his four children and said each of their names. “I’m sorry I failed you as a father. I love you more than anything on earth,” Arthur said. He waved his fingers up in the direction of his daughters, who watched from a witness room.

Wicker’s two sons witnessed the execution but did not make a statement to the media.

Arthur’s lawyers filed a flurry of last-minute appeals in a bid to halt the execution, but the U.S. Supreme Court opened the way for the execution to proceed shortly before 11 p.m. Thursday. The state prison system began administering the lethal injection drugs around 11:50 p.m. before the death warrant expired at midnight. He was not pronounced dead until after midnight.

Wicker’s wife, Judy, initially told police she came home and was raped by a black man who shot and killed her husband. After her conviction, she changed her story and testified she had discussed killing her husband with Arthur, who came to the house in makeup and an Afro-style wig and shot her husband. She said she paid him \$10,000. Arthur was in a prison work-release program at the time for the 1977 slaying of his sister-in-law, a crime he admits to committing.

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His first two convictions in the Wicker case were overturned, but the third one was not. Arthur asked jurors to give him the death penalty. The decision was strategic, he said, to open up more avenues of appeal.

The state set seven execution dates for Arthur between 2001 and 2016. All were delayed as a pro bono legal team fought his sentence. In 2016, Arthur came especially close to the death chamber.

In a telephone interview Monday, Arthur maintained his innocence but acknowledged that his chance of another stay was diminishing.

"I'm terrified, but there's nothing I can do," Arthur told The Associated Press.

Janette Grantham, director of the Victims of Crime and Leniency, called the years of execution delays exceedingly painful for the family of Troy Wicker to bear.

Earlier, Arthur's attorneys had asked the U.S. Supreme Court to halt the execution. The lawyers have argued that the opening sedative in Alabama's execution protocol — midazolam — wouldn't properly anesthetize him before he's injected with other drugs to stop his heart and lungs. In December, inmate Ronald Bert Smith coughed for the first 13 minutes of his execution and moved slightly after two consciousness tests. Arthur's lawyers argued that Smith was awake during his execution. The state responded that there was no evidence Smith experienced pain.

Both the state of Alabama and Arthur's lawyers have pointed to his case as an example of what they see wrong in death penalty cases.

Arthur's lawyer said the state had sought DNA testing on hairs collected at the crime scene.

The state attorney general said Arthur used perpetual litigation to avoid the death sentence for years.

Gianforte apologizes to reporter after winning US House race

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN**, Associated Press

BOZEMAN, Mont. (AP) — Republican multimillionaire Greg Gianforte won Montana's only U.S. House seat on Thursday despite being charged a day earlier with assault after witnesses said he grabbed a reporter by the neck and threw him to the ground.

Gianforte, a technology entrepreneur, defeated Democrat Rob Quist to continue the GOP's two-decade stronghold on the congressional seat. Democrats had hoped Quist, a musician and first-time candidate, could have capitalized on a wave of activism following President Donald Trump's election.

Instead, the win reaffirmed Montana's voters support for Trump's young presidency in a conservative-leaning state that voted overwhelmingly for him in November.

Gianforte was a strong favorite throughout the campaign and that continued even after authorities charged him with misdemeanor assault on Wednesday. Witnesses said he grabbed Ben Jacobs, a reporter for the Guardian newspaper, and slammed him to the ground after being asked about the Republican health care bill.

Gianforte dropped out of sight after he was cited by police and ignored calls on Thursday by national Republicans for him to apologize to the reporter.

He emerged only at his victory celebration Thursday night, where he said he accepted responsibility for the incident. "Last night I made a mistake and I took an action I can't take back and I am not proud of what happened," Gianforte told the crowd. "I should not have responded the way I did and for that I am sorry."

The last-minute controversy unnerved Republicans, who also faced close calls this year in the traditionally Republican congressional districts in Kansas and Georgia. A runoff election is scheduled for next month in Georgia between Democrat Jon Ossoff and Republican Karen Handel after Ossoff fell just short of winning outright.

Quist told supporters that he called Gianforte to congratulate him on his win and to urge him to represent all Montanans. "I know that Montanans will hold Mr. Gianforte accountable," Quist said Thursday night.

Gianforte showed lukewarm support for Trump during his unsuccessful run for governor in Montana last fall but did an about-face and turned into an ebullient Trump supporter after he started campaigning for the congressional seat vacated by Republican Ryan Zinke, when he was tapped by Trump to serve as Interior Department secretary.

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Gianforte urged Montana voters to send him to help Trump "drain the swamp," brought in Vice President Mike Pence and first son Donald Trump Jr. to campaign for him and was supported by millions of dollars of ads and mailers paid for by Republican groups.

But the theme of the election shifted Wednesday night when Jacobs walked into Gianforte's office as he was preparing for an interview with Fox News.

Jacobs began asking the candidate about the health care bill passed by the House when the crew and Jacobs say Gianforte slammed him to the floor, yelling "Get out of here!"

Gianforte's campaign issued a statement Wednesday blaming the incident on Jacobs. But on Thursday night, Gianforte apologized both to Jacobs and to the Fox News crew for having to witness the attack. "I should not have treated that reporter that way and for that I'm sorry, Mr. Jacobs."

It had been unclear if Gianforte's assault charge would impact the race. About a third of eligible voters in Montana had already cast their ballots in early voting, and others said it didn't influence their vote.

Shaun Scott, a computer science professor at Carroll College in Helena, said the assault charge was barely a factor in his decision.

"If you have somebody sticking a phone in your face, a mic in your face, over and over, and you don't know how to deal with the situation, you haven't really done that, you haven't dealt with that, I can see where it can ... make you a little angry," Scott said Thursday.

Quist, a popular 69-year-old singer and cowboy poet who was the front man for the Montana's Mission Mountain Wood Band, was helped by money that poured in from across the U.S. as Democrats seek to capture congressional seats that would have been considered safely Republican a year ago.

But Gianforte also benefited from millions of dollars spent on ads and mailers by GOP groups like the Conservative Leadership Fund.

Gianforte campaigned as a gun-loving Montanan endorsed by the National Rifle Association to build his credibility among hunting enthusiasts and to motivate gun rights activists to vote. He echoed the Republican Party mantras of cutting taxes, beefing up the military and securing the country's borders.

Montana is a conservative-leaning state that became even more so after voters last November overwhelmingly supported Trump, voted in Republican majorities in the state Legislature and elected GOP candidates to four of five statewide elected positions, leaving Gov. Steve Bullock as the only Democratic statewide elected official.

A Democrat has not held the Montana U.S. House seat since Pat Williams departed in 1997 after he decided not to seek re-election.

Quist ran a nontraditional populist campaign that saw appearances by Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont. He stuck to issues that have broad appeal in Montana, such as maintaining and improving access to public land. He collected nearly \$3.2 million from individual donors across the U.S.

But Quist had to overcome reports of financial problems that included unpaid taxes, a loan default and legal squabbles with a former band member over royalties and a contractor over payments. He tried to turn those negatives into positives by saying his story illustrated problems many Montanans face because of high health care costs.

Libertarian Mark Wicks was the third candidate in the race.

Associated Press writers P. Solomon Banda in Bozeman, Amy Hanson in Helena and Colleen Slevin in Denver contributed to this report.

Kunitz's double-OT goal sends Penguins back to Stanley Cup

By WILL GRAVES, AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Chris Kunitz spent a portion of the spring nursing a lower-body injury and wondering if his time with the Pittsburgh Penguins was over. The veteran forward's contract is up this summer and he's been around long enough to know how these things go, particularly when you're 37.

"It's not fun thinking about the future," Kunitz said.

He found a pretty compelling way to put it off for at least four more games and push his team to the

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brink of history in the process.

Kunitz's knuckling shot from outside the circle fluttered past Craig Anderson 5:09 into the second overtime to give the defending Stanley Cup champions a 3-2 victory over the Ottawa Senators in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference final Thursday night.

Thrust alongside old linemate Sidney Crosby as the game wore on, the two reconnected for a goal that moved the Penguins closer to becoming the first team since the 1998 Detroit Red Wings to win back-to-back titles. Crosby sent a soft backhand pass from the right faceoff circle to Kunitz and for a moment, it seemed like old times.

"With the way he was holding the stick you could tell he wanted it bad," Crosby said. "I just tried to lay it there for him. I've seen him score from there pretty often. It was a huge goal for us, and a great reward for him for the way he played all night."

Kunitz scored twice, his first two of the playoffs. Justin Schultz added the other in his return from an upper-body injury, and Matt Murray stopped 27 shots on his 23rd birthday. The Penguins will host Western Conference champion Nashville in Game 1 on Monday night.

Not bad for a team that watched so many of its core players — from defenseman Kris Letang to Evgeni Malkin to Crosby — deal with some serious bumps along the way. And yet here they are on the doorstep to a title once again.

"If you look at the amount of guys who have played on this roster throughout the course of the year, it's a lot of guys," Crosby said. "The biggest step is ahead."

Mark Stone and Ryan Dzingel scored for Ottawa. The Senators rallied twice to tie it, with Dzingel making it 2-2 with 5:19 left in regulation. Craig Anderson made 39 saves, but couldn't get a handle on Kunitz's shot as the Senators fell to 0-6 in Game 7s in franchise history.

Just don't call them cursed. A year ago, Ottawa didn't even make the playoffs yet they found a way to push the Penguins to the 85th minute of Game 7 of the conference finals.

"We wanted to make them earn it and they earned it, rightfully so," said Senators defenseman Erik Karlsson, who assisted on both of Ottawa's goals and played the entire postseason with a pair of hairline fractures in his left heel. "We got to give it to them. They were the better team."

The Senators forced a return trip to Pittsburgh — where they lost 7-0 in Game 5 on Sunday — by leaning heavily on Anderson in a 2-1 Game 6 victory.

Ottawa coach Guy Boucher told his team to not get caught up in the big picture but instead focus on the small ones, a recipe that carried the Senators throughout a bumpy transition under their first-year head coach to within a victory of the franchise's second Cup appearance.

The Penguins, trying to become the first defending champion to return to the Final since Detroit in 2009, came in confident they would advance if they could replicate their dominant Game 6, when they were undone only by Anderson's brilliance.

Pittsburgh has been nearly unflappable in the face of adversity under Mike Sullivan, and is now 13-2 in playoff games following a loss over the last two springs.

"I couldn't be more proud of our team for just its 'sticktoitiveness,'" Sullivan said. "The last four games of this series, we found our game."

Kunitz ended a 25-game playoff goal drought when he completed a 2-on-1 with Conor Sheary — a healthy scratch in Games 5 and 6 — by slipping the puck by Anderson 9:55 into the second period.

The momentum lasted all of 20 seconds. Ottawa responded immediately with Stone — who stretched his left skate to stay onside — fired a wrist shot that handcuffed Murray.

Pittsburgh kept coming. Schultz, returning after missing four games with an upper-body injury, zipped a shot from the point through Kunitz's screen and into the net with 8:16 left in the third.

Once again, the Penguins could not hold the lead. Dzingel set up at the right post and banged home a rebound off Erik Karlsson's shot that hit the left post and caromed off Murray's back right to Dzingel's stick.

Unbowed, Pittsburgh continued to press. The Penguins pumped eight shots at Anderson in the first overtime before finally breaking through when Kunitz won just the fourth multiple-overtime Game 7 of a conference final in NHL history.

The next step, the last step, awaits.

NOTES: The home team is 21-20 in overtime Game 7s in NHL playoff history. ... Pittsburgh F Patric Hornqvist skated during warmups, but was held out of the lineup for a sixth straight game with an upper-body injury. ... Karlsson had 16 assists in the playoffs to set a team record. ... The Penguins are 10-7 in Game 7s. ... It was the fifth one-goal game of the series.

More AP NHL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NHLhockey>

Philippines says foreigners among IS-linked gunmen in south

By JIM GOMEZ and TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

ILIGAN, Philippines (AP) — Foreign fighters are among the militants linked to the Islamic State group who are battling government troops in the southern Philippines, an official said Friday.

Solicitor General Jose Calida said Indonesians and Malaysians are fighting alongside the gunmen who attacked Marawi, a city of some 200,000 people on Mindanao island.

"What is happening in Mindanao is no longer a rebellion of Filipino citizens," Calida told reporters. "It has transmogrified into an invasion by foreign terrorists who heeded the clarion call of ISIS."

Philippine troops backed by armored vehicles and rocket-firing helicopters are fighting to re-take control of Marawi, which has been under siege by gunmen linked to the IS group since a raid earlier this week failed to capture one of Asia's most-wanted militants.

Rebels have torn through the streets of Marawi since Tuesday night, torching buildings, taking a priest and his worshippers hostage and sealing off much of the city. The violence forced thousands to flee and raised fears of growing extremism in the country.

At least 44 people have died in the fighting, including 31 militants and 11 soldiers, officials said Thursday. It was not immediately clear whether civilians were among the dead.

In a sign of the confusion over events inside the city, a local police chief told The Associated Press on Friday that he was alive and well — two days after President Rodrigo Duterte told the media he had been beheaded by militants.

Police Chief Romeo Enriquez said there may have been confusion because his predecessor in Malabang, a town near Marawi, was killed in the fighting on Tuesday, although he was not beheaded.

As authorities worked to clear the city, residents spoke of their terror.

"At night we can hear the gunfire," said Mohammad Usman, who watched from his home just outside Marawi as thousands of residents streamed out of the city Thursday. "I'm just praying that the bullets will not find their way to my house and hit us. I hope that the bombs will not land nearby and harm us."

Duterte imposed 60 days of martial law Tuesday on the island of Mindanao, a traditional homeland of minority Muslims that encompasses the southern third of the nation and is home to 22 million people. Marawi has a population of around 200,000.

Duterte warned he may expand martial law nationwide, an unnerving development for many in the Philippines who lived through the rule of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Marcos declared martial law in 1972 and used it to maintain his grip on power for more than a decade.

The man at the center of the Marawi violence is Isnilon Hapilon, an Arabic-speaking Islamic preacher known for his expertise in commando assaults. He is at the nexus of several militant groups that are trying to merge into a more powerful force.

Hapilon, who is a commander of the Abu Sayyaf militant group, pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group in 2014. He also heads an alliance that includes at least 10 smaller militant groups, including the Maute, which have a heavy presence in Marawi and were instrumental in fighting off government forces in this week's battles.

All these groups are inspired by the Islamic State group, but so far there is no sign of significant, material ties.

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"We have not seen any concrete evidence of material support from IS," military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Thursday. But he added that the smaller groups "are working to really get that recognition and funds, of course."

Washington has offered a \$5 million reward for information leading to Hapilon's capture, but he has proved elusive. The Philippines launched an airstrike that wounded him in January, but he got away.

The army raided what it believed to be his hideout on Tuesday night in Marawi, but the operation quickly went wrong. Militants called in reinforcements and were able to overpower government forces. Once again, Hapilon escaped. The military said it believes Hapilon was still in Marawi.

Much of Marawi was still a no-go zone. Automatic gunfire and explosions could be heard clearly and plumes of black smoke rose from the direction of the city center. Air force helicopters swooped overhead.

As authorities tried to gain more control over the city, disturbing details have emerged.

Militants forced their way into the Marawi Cathedral and seized a Catholic priest, 10 worshippers and three church workers, according to the city's bishop, Edwin de la Pena. The black flags of the Islamic State group were planted atop buildings and flown from commandeered vehicles, including a government ambulance and an armored car, said Mamintal Alonto Adiong Jr., vice governor of Lanao del Sur province, of which Marawi is the capital.

More than half of the population of Marawi has cleared out, Adiong said.

The problem of militancy in the south, the scene of decades-long Muslim separatist uprisings in the predominantly Catholic nation, is not new.

Duterte had repeatedly threatened to place the region under martial law, which allows him to use the armed forces to carry out arrests, searches and detentions more rapidly. But human rights groups and others fear that martial law powers could further embolden the president, who already has been accused of allowing extrajudicial killings of thousands of people in his crackdown on illegal drugs.

Cerojano reported from Manila.

Trump scolds fellow NATO leaders: Spend more for military

By JULIE PACE and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Surrounded by stone-faced allies, President Donald Trump rebuked fellow NATO members Thursday for failing to meet the military alliance's financial benchmarks, asserting that leaves it weaker and shortchanges "the people and taxpayers of the United States."

Trump, who has often complained back home about other nations' NATO support, lectured the other leaders in person this time, declaring, "Many of these nations owe massive amounts of money from past years."

The president's assertion immediately put NATO under new strain and did nothing to quiet questions about his complicated relationship with an alliance he has previously panned as "obsolete." Notably, he also did not offer an explicit public endorsement of NATO's "all for one, one for all" collective defense principle, though White House officials said his mere presence at the meeting signaled his commitment.

Fellow NATO leaders occasionally exchanged awkward looks with each other during the president's lecture, which occurred at an event commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. When Trump tried to lighten the mood with a joke about NATO's gleaming new home base — "I never asked once what the new NATO Headquarters cost" — there was no laughter from his counterparts.

NATO officials had expected Trump to raise the payments issue during Thursday's meeting, even preparing Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg for the prospect that the president could try to pull off a stunt like handing out invoices. But one European official said NATO members were still taken aback by the aggressive tone of his speech.

As a presidential candidate, Trump railed against NATO's financial burden-sharing, suggesting the U.S.

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might only come to the defense of countries that meet the alliance's guidelines — for committing 2 percent of their gross domestic product to military spending. A White House official said the president wanted to deliver the same direct message in front of NATO allies.

Trump's public scolding was all the more remarkable given the fact that he has actually backed away from some of his most provocative comments on foreign policy issues since taking office. He's retracted his vow to label China a currency manipulator and has lavished praise on Chinese President Xi Jinping. During a visit to Saudi Arabia this week, he called Islam one of the world's great religions after declaring during the campaign that "Islam hates us"

But few issues appear to have as much staying power with Trump as the uneven financial contributions of NATO members. Last year, only five of the 28 countries met the 2 percent goal: the U.S., Greece, Britain, Estonia and Poland.

During a private dinner Thursday night, the 28 members, plus soon-to-join Montenegro, renewed an old pledge to move toward the 2 percent by 2024 — a move the White House touted as a sign of Trump's influence.

Some of the allies — particularly Eastern European nations deeply worried about Russian aggression — were hopeful that Trump would state a firm commitment to NATO's Article 5 mutual defense agreement, which underpins the entire alliance. Instead, he highlighted NATO's decision to invoke the article for the only time after 9/11 and said the U.S. would "never forsake the friends that stood by our side."

The White House insisted Trump had not intended to leave wiggle room on his commitment to coming to the defense of NATO members.

And Stoltenberg said later that Trump, Vice President Mike Pence and other U.S. officials have stated clearly their assurances. He said, "It's not possible to be committed to NATO without being committed to Article 5."

Trump scored a hoped-for success as NATO joined the 68-nation international coalition fighting the Islamic State group. An anti-terror coordinator may also be named. But most changes will be cosmetic, as NATO as an alliance has no intention of going to war against IS.

Finishing off a long day, Trump arrived late Thursday night in Sicily for meetings Friday with leaders from the Group of 7 wealthy nations. The summit marks Trump's final stop on a maiden international trip that began in Saudi Arabia and Israel, where the president was warmly embraced by the countries' leaders.

His reception has been less enthusiastic in Europe, given his negative campaign comments not only about NATO, but also the European Union. His arrival was also shadowed by new criticism from British Prime Minister Theresa May, who complained about leaks of intelligence to the American media about this week's deadly bombing at a concert in Manchester, England.

May said she planned to "make clear to President Trump that intelligence that is shared between our law enforcement agencies must remain secure." The two were seen talking during an event marking the opening of the new NATO headquarters.

British officials are particularly angry that photos detailing evidence about the bomb used in the Manchester attack were published. In a written statement, Trump called the alleged leaks "deeply troubling" and said he was asking the Justice Department and other agencies to review the matter.

The president opened his day with a meeting with leaders of the European Union, another alliance he criticized during the campaign. Following the talks, European Council president Donald Tusk said he and the U.S. president agreed on a need to combat terrorism but some differences loomed large.

"Some issues remain open, like climate and trade. And I am not 100 percent sure that we can say today — 'we' means Mr. President and myself — that we have a common position, common opinions about Russia," said Tusk. He said unity must be found around values like freedom and human rights and dignity.

Trump had lunch with newly elected French President Emmanuel Macron, who has been critical of the Republican president. As the press watched, the two men exchanged a very firm handshake during their meeting, both men gripping tight, their faces showing the strain.

AP writers Lorne Cook and Raf Casert contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Jonathan Lemire at <http://twitter.com/jonlemire>

This story has been corrected to fix the spelling of Emmanuel in the last paragraph.

Trump pushes aside Montenegro leader — who calls it natural

BRUSSELS (AP) — President Donald Trump's push to get in front of the pack at a NATO summit generated indignation in the Balkans and garnered attention on social media — but the man he shoved aside took it in stride.

At Thursday's gathering in Brussels, Trump put his right hand on the right arm of Montenegro Prime Minister Dusko Markovic and pushed himself ahead as NATO leaders walked inside the alliance's new headquarters and prepared for a group photo.

Trump then stood near Markovic and spoke to Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė.

Video of the incident spread on social networks in multiple languages.

"It seems Donald Trump did not want that anyone overshadows his presence at the summit," said the Montenegro newspaper Vijesti.

Other Balkan websites ran headlines such as "America First" and "Where do you think you are going?"

Markovic himself, however, shrugged off the slight.

"It didn't really register. I just saw reactions about it on social networks. It is simply a harmless situation," he told reporters after the summit.

Instead of being insulted, he took the opportunity to thank Trump for supporting Montenegro's membership in NATO. The small former Yugoslav republic is slated to become NATO's 29th member next month.

And in any case, Markovic said, "it is natural that the president of the United States is in the front row."

Monstrous cyclones churning over Jupiter's poles

By **MARCIA DUNN, AP Aerospace Writer**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Monstrous cyclones are churning over Jupiter's poles, until now a largely unexplored region that is more turbulent than scientists expected.

NASA's Juno spacecraft spotted the chaotic weather at the top and bottom of Jupiter once it began skimming the cloud tops last year, surprising researchers who assumed the giant gas planet would be relatively boring and uniform down low.

"What we're finding is anything but that is the truth. It's very different, very complex," Juno's chief scientist Scott Bolton of the Southwest Research Institute said Thursday.

With dozens of cyclones hundreds of miles across — alongside unidentifiable weather systems stretching thousands of miles — the poles look nothing like Jupiter's equatorial region, instantly recognizable by its stripes and Great Red Spot, a raging hurricane-like storm.

"That's the Jupiter we've all known and grown to love," Bolton said. "And when you look from the pole, it looks totally different ... I don't think anybody would have guessed this is Jupiter."

He calls these first major findings — published Thursday — "Earth-shattering. Or should I say, Jupiter-shattering."

Turning counter-clockwise in the northern hemisphere just like on Earth, the cyclones are clearly clustered near the poles. The diameters of some of these confirmed cyclones stretch up to 1,700 miles (2,800 kilometers). Even bigger, though shapeless weather systems are present in both polar regions. At the same time, the two poles don't really resemble each other, which is puzzling, according to Bolton.

Scientists are eager to see, over time, whether these super cyclones are stable or dynamic. "Are they going to stay the same way for years and years like the Great Red Spot ... Of course, only time will tell," Bolton said.

Just as intriguing will be how fast these super cyclones are moving.

Launched in 2011 and orbiting Jupiter since last summer, Juno is providing the best close-up views ever

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of our solar system's largest planet, peering beneath the clouds for a true portrait. It's made five close passes over Jupiter so far for science collection, the most recent last week; they occur about every two months given Juno's extremely oblong orbit. The next one will be in July, with investigators targeting the Great Red Spot.

Juno is moving so fast during these chummy encounters that it takes only two hours to get from the north pole to the south.

Besides polar cyclones, Juno has spotted white ice caps on Jupiter — frozen bits of ammonia and water. Bolton refers to them as Jovian snowfall — or maybe hail.

Juno also has detected an overwhelming abundance of ammonia deep down in Jupiter's atmosphere, and a surprisingly strong magnetic field in places — roughly 10 times greater than Earth's. It's also led scientists to believe Jupiter may have a "fuzzy" core — as Bolton puts it — big but partially dissolved.

Then there are the eerie sounds of plasma waves at Jupiter — "nature's music," according to Bolton. During the teleconference, he played two minutes of the spacecraft's recording from February, adjusted for the human ear and full of percussion sounds as well as high-pitched beeps and squeals, and even flute-like notes.

Results were published in *Science* and *Geophysical Research Letters*.

Jupiter's poles appear dramatically different from neighboring Saturn's, according to the scientists, with nothing like the hexagon-shaped cloud system over Saturn's north pole.

Researchers hope to compare Juno's observations with those of NASA's Cassini spacecraft, in its final months orbiting Saturn.

Juno's findings are "really going to force us to rethink not only how Jupiter works, but how do we explore Saturn, Uranus and Neptune," Bolton said.

Zuckerberg urges Harvard grads to build a world of 'purpose'

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Zuckerberg returned Thursday to Harvard, where he launched Facebook and then dropped out, telling graduates it's up to them to bring purpose to the world, fight inequality and strengthen the global community.

"Change starts local. Even global changes start small — with people like us," the Facebook CEO said. He shared stories about graduates such as David Razu Aznar, a former city leader who led the effort to legalize gay marriage in Mexico City, and Agnes Igoye, who grew up in conflict zones in Uganda and now trains law enforcement officers.

"And this is my story too," Zuckerberg added. "A student in a dorm room, connecting one community at a time, and keeping at it until one day we can connect the whole world."

Such lofty talk now comes naturally to Zuckerberg, a 33-year-old billionaire who has committed to giving away nearly all of his wealth. In February, he sketched out an ambitious, if vague, vision for Facebook that committed the company to developing "social infrastructure" that would help build a "global community that works for all of us."

But it also strikes a sharp contrast with the criticism Facebook has taken recently — not so much for connecting the world (a big chunk of it, anyway) as for failing to anticipate how vulnerable that connectedness could be to those who abuse it.

JOURNEY BACK

Zuckerberg, who like the graduates is a millennial, started Facebook in his dorm room in 2004. What began as a closed networking site for Harvard students is now a global communications force with nearly 2 billion members. Facebook's founding was the subject of a Hollywood movie, "The Social Network," in 2010.

Facebook's effect has been profound. It has connected people who would have never met otherwise, letting them form supportive networks online and offline. And it has allowed people to communicate in developing countries even if they don't have a phone number or a smartphone.

But it has also served to spread misinformation bordering on propaganda, hateful views and bullying,

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reflecting the worst parts of humanity back to us.

In his commencement speech, in interviews and in his February manifesto, Zuckerberg is decidedly optimistic about all that. He's been saying he wants to make the world more open and connected for more than a decade now, and he doesn't relent.

HIGHER PURPOSE

He told the graduates how, when Facebook's investors and executives wanted him to sell the company early on, he resisted. "You see, my hope was never to build a company, but to make an impact," he said. But as a young CEO, he never explained this to his co-workers, and the subsequent fight "tore our company apart."

"I wondered if I was just wrong, an impostor, a 22 year-old kid who had no idea how the world worked," Zuckerberg said. "Now, years later, I understand that is how things work with no sense of higher purpose. It's up to us to create it so we can all keep moving forward together."

Later in the speech, Zuckerberg's voice cracked with emotion as he talked about a high school student he mentors who is living in the U.S. illegally. When Zuckerberg asked him what he wants for his birthday, the student started talking about others he wanted to help, and asked for a book on social justice.

"Here is a young guy who has every reason to be cynical," Zuckerberg said, his eyes welling with tears. "He wasn't sure if the country he calls home — the only one he's known — was going to deny him his dream of going to college. But he wasn't feeling sorry for himself. He wasn't even thinking of himself."

If he can do this, Zuckerberg said, "then we owe it to the world to do our part too."

Zuckerberg isn't all talk on this front. He signed the "Giving Pledge" commitment to donate the majority of his money in 2010; five years later, he upped that to 99 percent. Together with his wife, pediatrician Priscilla Chan, he formed the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, a philanthropic organization focused on advancing science and education.

HONORARY DEGREE

Zuckerberg follows another famous Harvard dropout, Bill Gates, who spoke before its graduates a decade ago. Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, who dropped out of Reed College in Oregon, gave Stanford's commencement speech in 2005, reminding students to "stay hungry, stay foolish."

In addition to delivering the speech, Zuckerberg received an honorary degree, 12 years after dropping out of Harvard, and was subsequently introduced to graduates as "Dr. Mark Zuckerberg." Others receiving honorary degrees included the actress Judi Dench, the composer John Williams (known for "Star Wars," "Harry Potter" and many other scores) and Somali human rights activist and physician Hawa Abdi Dhiblawe.

"If I get through this speech today it'll be the first time I actually finish something here at Harvard," Zuckerberg said. He did.

Cornell funeral to take place Friday; widow pens letter

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Late Soundgarden singer Chris Cornell will be laid to rest Friday at a private memorial service at a Hollywood cemetery that is the final resting place of numerous stars.

The private service at Hollywood Forever Cemetery will be followed by a public memorial that begins at 3 p.m. PDT, during which fans can view Cornell's burial site.

The services come more than a week after the 52-year-old Seattle native was found unresponsive in a Detroit hotel room hours after performing a show with Soundgarden. Coroner's officials have said a preliminary autopsy showed Cornell hanged himself. A full autopsy and results of toxicology tests are pending.

The cemetery is the final resting place for numerous stars, including filmmaker Cecil B. DeMille, actress Jayne Mansfield, rockers Johnny and Dee Dee Ramone and silent film star Rudolph Valentino.

As Soundgarden's frontman, Cornell was a leading voice of the grunge movement that came out of Seattle and became mainstream in the 1990s. He achieved success with all his musical endeavors, including the supergroup Audioslave, Temple of the Dog and solo albums.

His widow, Vicky, penned an open letter to her late husband that Billboard published online Wednesday. "We had the time of our lives in the last decade and I'm sorry, my sweet love, that I did not see what

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happened to you that night. I'm sorry you were alone, and I know that was not you, my sweet Christopher. Your children know that too, so you can rest in peace," she wrote.

Vicky Cornell has said the singer may have taken more of an anti-anxiety drug than he was prescribed. "I'm broken, but I will stand up for you and I will take care of our beautiful babies. I will think of you every minute of every day and I will fight for you," Vicky Cornell wrote. "You were right when you said we are soulmates. It has been said that paths that have crossed will cross again, and I know that you will come find me, and I will be here waiting."

Online:

Vicky Cornell's letter to Chris Cornell: <http://www.billboard.com/articles/news/7808532/chris-cornell-wife-vicky-letter>

UK bomber said to have pleaded 'Forgive me' before blast

By JILL LAWLESS, PAISLEY DODDS, MAGGIE MICHAEL and GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

MANCHESTER, England (AP) — The suspect in the deadly Manchester concert bombing was driven by what he saw as unjust treatment of Arabs in Britain, a relative said Thursday, confirming he made a final phone call in which he pleaded: "Forgive me."

Salman Abedi was particularly upset by the killing last year of a Muslim friend whose death he believed went unnoticed by "infidels" in the U.K., said the relative, speaking on condition of anonymity over concerns for her own security.

"Why was there no outrage for the killing of an Arab and a Muslim in such a cruel way?" she asked. "Rage was the main reason," for the blast that killed 22 at the end of an Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena on Monday, she said, speaking by telephone from Libya.

The new insight into Abedi's motivation came as Britons faced stepped-up security, authorities pushed forward with raids and the investigation extended across Europe into Libya, where most of the suspected bomber's family lived.

The number of arrests in the U.K. ticked up to eight as British Transport Police said armed officers would begin patrols on some trains because of an increased threat of terrorism. Greater Manchester Police Chief Constable Ian Hopkins said, without elaborating, that searches of suspects' homes brought "very important" clues in the probe of the bombing. But leaks from the investigation were creating a trans-Atlantic diplomatic mess.

Manchester police halted their sharing of investigative information with the U.S. through most of Thursday until receiving fresh assurance there would be an end to leaks to the media.

British Prime Minister Theresa May, who spoke about the matter with U.S. President Donald Trump at a NATO summit in Brussels, said the countries' partnership on defense and security was built on trust. But "part of that trust is knowing that intelligence can be shared confidently," she said.

Trump pledged to "get to the bottom" of the leaks, calling them "deeply troubling" and asking the Justice Department and other agencies to "launch a complete review of this matter."

British officials were particularly angry over photos published by The New York Times showing remnants of a blue backpack which may have held the explosive. But it wasn't clear U.S. officials were the source of the images, which the Times defended as "neither graphic nor disrespectful of victims" and consistent with basic reporting "on weapons used in horrific crimes."

British security services were also upset that 22-year-old Abedi's name was apparently leaked by U.S. officials while police in the U.K. continued withholding it and while raids were underway in Manchester and in Libya. Hopkins said the leaks "caused much distress for families that are already suffering terribly with their loss."

Meanwhile, the investigation into the blast widened.

Authorities chased possible links between Abedi and militants in Manchester, elsewhere in Europe, and

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in North Africa and the Middle East. They were exploring potential ties to Abdalraouf Abdallah, a Libyan jailed in the U.K. for terror offenses, and to Raphael Hostey, an Islamic State recruiter killed in Syria.

Abedi's family remained a focus, too, with a brother in England, his father and another brother in Libya among those detained. Abedi's father was allegedly a member of the al-Qaida-backed Libyan Islamic Fighting group in the 1990s — a claim he denies.

An emerging portrait of the bomber remained complicated by competing assessments over whether Abedi held views that had sparked concern before the bombing.

Akram Ramadan, a member of the Libyan community in Manchester who attends the city's Didsbury Mosque, said Abedi was banned from the mosque after he allegedly interrupted an imam's anti-Islamic State sermon.

"He stood up and started calling the imam — 'You are talking bollocks,'" Ramadan said. "And he gave a good stare, a threatening stare into the imam's eyes."

Mohammed Fadl, a community leader, rejected that account. While Abedi's family was well-known in Manchester, Abedi himself did not attend many gatherings, Fadl said.

However, Fadl said he had heard Abedi's father took his son's passport away over concerns about his ties to alleged extremists and criminals.

"Very few people in the community here were close to him, and therefore Salman's fanaticism wasn't something the community was aware of," he said.

Ahmed bin Salem, a spokesman for the Special Deterrent Force in Libya, said Abedi placed his final call to both his mother and a brother. Abedi's relative said he had spoken with his brother only, asking that his message be relayed to his mother.

"He was giving farewell," bin Salem said.

Abedi's relative said the suspected bomber was pained by the killing of Abdel-Wahab Hafidah, an 18-year-old who news reports say was chased by a group of men, run over and stabbed in the neck in Manchester in May 2016.

"They wouldn't let you share bread with them," she said Abedi told her. "They are unjust to the Arabs."

Bin Salem said Abedi's mother told investigators her son left for the U.K. four days before the attack after spending a month in Libya. Based on the account from a younger brother, investigators think Abedi used the internet to learn how to make a bomb and "seek victory for the Islamic State," bin Salem said.

The allegations clashed with what Abedi's father said a day earlier in an interview with the AP. "We don't believe in killing innocents," Ramadan Abedi said before he was detained in Tripoli.

Around the U.K., many fell silent Thursday for a late-morning minute in tribute to the victims.

In Manchester's St. Ann's Square, where a sea of floral tributes grew by the hour, a crowd sang the hometown band Oasis' song "Don't Look Back in Anger." Queen Elizabeth II visited victims of the attack at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, telling 14-year-old Evie Mills and her parents: "It's dreadful. Very wicked, to target that sort of thing."

Fifteen-year-old Millie Robson, wearing one of Grande's T-shirts, told the queen she had won VIP tickets to the pop star's concert. She recalled leaving the concert when the blast struck and remembered an intense ringing in her ears, but not being entirely aware that she was bleeding badly from her legs.

The teenager credited her father's quick action in picking her up and tying off her wounds to stem the bleeding.

"Compared to other people I'm quite lucky really," she said.

In addition to those killed, 116 people received medical treatment at Manchester hospitals for wounds from the blast. The National Health Service said 75 people were hospitalized.

Dodds and Katz reported from London; Michael reported from Cairo. Contributing to this report were Sylvia Hui in London, Rob Harris in Manchester, Frank Jordans in Berlin, Julie Pace in Brussels and Matt Sedensky in New York.

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Asian shares mixed as oil's fall counters Wall St gains

By KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stock markets are mixed Friday as investors weighed Wall Street's latest gains on strong earnings reports against the latest oil production cut, which dragged down crude prices and commodity shares.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index slipped 0.3 percent to 19,761.98 but South Korea's Kospi climbed 0.4 percent to 2,353.07. Hong Kong's Hang Seng dipped less than 0.1 percent to 25,619.42 and the Shanghai Composite index in mainland China climbed 0.3 percent higher to 3,117.47. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 lost 0.8 percent to 5,747.80. Taiwan's benchmark fell and indexes in Southeast Asia were mixed.

CRUDE CUT: An alliance of oil-producing nations extended production cuts for nine months to shore up crude prices. The deal involving Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries members and Russia was widely expected by analysts, but disappointed investors who were hoping for a longer extension. Oil prices have rallied over the last few weeks, but experts doubt the deal will do much to boost prices. Benchmark U.S. crude lost 6 cents to \$48.84 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract shed \$2.46, or 4.8 percent, to settle at \$48.90 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 3 cents to \$51.49 a barrel in London. Australia's Woodside Petroleum fell 2.3 percent and PetroChina lost 1.5 percent.

QUOTE WORTHY: "The extent of oil's selloff demonstrates that, even with the extended production cuts now agreed, the U.S. oil price may struggle to get past the early to mid-\$50's range for some time yet," said Ric Spooner, chief analyst at CMC Markets. "This time around, the production agreement may be more difficult to hold together."

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks climbed for the sixth day in a row on strong first-quarter earnings results. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.4 percent to 2,415.07. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 0.3 percent to 21,082.95. The Nasdaq composite jumped 0.7 percent to 6,205.26, above the record it notched last week.

CURRENCIES: The dollar dipped to 111.66 yen from 111.84 yen in late Thursday trading. The euro rose to \$1.1190 from \$1.1209.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Friday, May 26, the 146th day of 2017. There are 219 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 26, 1917, a tornado in central Illinois killed 101 people, mostly in the Mattoon-Charleston area.

On this date:

In 1521, Martin Luther was banned by the Edict of Worms (vohrms) because of his religious beliefs and writings.

In 1868, the impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson ended with his acquittal on the remaining charges.

In 1897, the Gothic horror novel "Dracula" by Bram Stoker was first published in London.

In 1938, the House Un-American Activities Committee was established by Congress.

In 1940, Operation Dynamo, the evacuation of some 338,000 Allied troops from Dunkirk, France, began during World War II.

In 1942, the Tule (TOO'-lee) Lake Segregation Center for Japanese-American wartime internees opened in northern California. The U.S. War Department formally established the Armed Forces Radio Service (AFRS). Radio Tokyo boasted of recent victories in the Pacific War and declared that "the Japanese people can look forward to a triumphal march into London and a victory march in New York."

In 1954, explosions rocked the aircraft carrier USS Bennington off Rhode Island, killing 103 sailors. (The initial blast was blamed on leaking catapult fluid ignited by the flames of a jet.)

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In 1960, U.N. Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge accused the Soviets during a meeting of the Security Council of hiding a microphone inside a wood carving of the Great Seal of the United States that had been presented to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

In 1972, President Richard M. Nixon and Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty in Moscow. (The U.S. withdrew from the treaty in 2002.)

In 1977, George Willig scaled the outside of the South Tower of New York's World Trade Center; he was arrested at the top of the 110-story building.

In 1981, 14 people were killed when a Marine jet crashed onto the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off Florida.

In 1991, a Lauda Air Boeing 767 crashed in Thailand, killing all 223 people aboard.

Ten years ago: Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki (NOO'-ree ahl-MAHL'-ih-kee), U.S. Ambassador Ryan Crocker and American commander Gen. David Petraeus flew to Iraq's blistering western desert in a rare joint outing to highlight gains there in the fight against insurgents.

Five years ago: Gruesome video posted online showed rows of dead Syrian children lying in a mosque in Houla, haunting images of what activists called one of the deadliest regime attacks yet in Syria's 14-month-old uprising. International space station astronauts floated into the Dragon, a day after its heralded arrival as the world's first commercial supply ship.

One year ago: President Barack Obama, visiting Japan, said foreign leaders were "rattled" by Donald Trump and had good reason to feel that way, as he accused the presumptive Republican presidential nominee of ignorance about world affairs. First lady Michelle Obama told graduates at a Native American high school in Santa Fe, New Mexico, to take pride in their history and cultures at a time when she said the "loudest voices in the national conversation" suggested turning away from the tribal values that were part of their education. Angela Paton, an actress best known for appearing with Bill Murray in "Groundhog Day," died in Oakland, California, at age 86.

Today's Birthdays: Sportscaster Brent Musberger is 78. Rock musician Garry Peterson (Guess Who) is 72. Singer Stevie Nicks is 69. Actress Pam Grier is 68. Actor Philip Michael Thomas is 68. Country singer Hank Williams Jr. is 68. British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is 68. Actress Margaret Colin is 59. Country singer-songwriter Dave Robbins is 58. Actor Doug Hutchison is 57. Actress Genie Francis is 55. Comedian Bobcat Goldthwait is 55. Singer-actor Lenny Kravitz is 53. Actress Helena Bonham Carter is 51. Distance runner Zola Budd is 51. Rock musician Phillip Rhodes is 49. Actor Joseph Fiennes (FYNZ) is 47. Singer Joey Kibble (Take 6) is 46. Actor-producer-writer Matt Stone is 46. Contemporary Christian musician Nathan Cochran is 39. Actress Elisabeth Harnois is 38. Actor Hrach Titizian is 38.

Thought for Today: "Life is a tragedy full of joy." — Bernard Malamud, American author (1914-1986).