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Official Notices

Frederick Town (updated 7-18)
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Other Official Notices Book
Claremont Town Official Notices Book
Frederick Area School Book

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

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

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Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, diced beets, fruit cocktail cake, whole wheat bread.

Legion: State at Winner

Jr. Legion: at Clark, 6 p.m., DH

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Olive Grove: Bridge, noon; Ladies League potluck meal, 6 p.m.

26

Senior Menu: Turkey sub sandwich, creamy potato salad, fruited Jell-O salad, ice cream sundae.

United Methodist: Wednesday Coffee Time, 9 a.m.

Outdoor Story Time: at the Little Free Library located south of the Methodist Church, 10:30 a.m.

Olive Grove: Men's League, 6 p.m.

27

Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes, squash, tomato spoon salad, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

Olive Grove: Full Circle Golf Tourney

			
			
Oven Fresh Sandwiches	Hot Desserts	Snack Melts	
11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627			

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Never get tired of doing
little things for others.
Sometimes, those
little things occupy
the biggest part
of their **hearts.**

-Author Unknown

@ChickenSoupSoul

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Groton Area Elementary Renovations and Addition Progress Update

07-24-2017

Each week at our weekly construction progress meetings attended by Ken Anderson (FJJ), Joel Bornhoft (FJJ), and each contractor, we discuss jobsite safety, clean-up, critical items (security), change events, Field Work Orders*, Requests for Information (RFIs)**, Supplemental Instructions (ASis)***, schedule reviews, equipment deliveries, manpower updates, and anything else of importance.

*Field Work Orders: As of last week, there have been 17 approved field work orders, all of which have been completed.

These are minor work orders outside of the scope of a contract that need to be completed on the spot and will likely result in a change order being processed at some point.

**Requests for Information: As of last week, there had been 82 RFIs submitted to be responded to by the responsible party, typically the architect or an appropriate engineer.

***Supplemental Instructions: As of last week, five ASis have been issued.

Work Completed/In Progress:

Ventilation: A few returns need to be dropped in the 1992/Center areas and in the lower pod. Refrigeration lines were being run to the exterior condensing units late last week. Controls are being installed as progress is being made. As grid is being installed, final supply drops are being made to the diffusers. Insulators have fallen behind and have extra men on-site this week to catch up (also doing plumbing insulation).

Electrical: Data wiring is nearing completion. Main power has been re-established to the building. The roof-top units are wired. Devices are being installed in the 1992 addition and lower pod behind painters and ceiling grid. Lights are being installed in the upper pod.

Plumbing: Floors are re-poured in the girls restroom and work is taking place in there in conjunction with wall framing today. Boys' restroom is in progress and is scheduled to be re-poured later this week. This work is critical to allow the time necessary for tile installation. Boilers are being installed in the mechanical room. Insulators have fallen behind and have extra men on-site this week to catch up (also doing ventilation insulation).

General Construction: Roof decking on the addition is 95% complete. The upper pod has been taped, textured, and painted. Casework has been mostly installed in center area/1992 addition and has begun in the lower pod. Flooring protection has been pulled up in the 1992 addition/center areas. Window openings are ready for window/door installation, which is scheduled to be complete at the end of this week.

Roofing: The roofers were here on July 20 to complete roof penetrations above the boiler room. They are planning to be back on-site on August 14 to begin roofing the new addition area.

Site Work: Curb and sidewalk installation is complete in front of the new addition. Asphalt is scheduled for July 26th.

Acoustical Ceilings: The ceiling grid has been installed in the 1992 Addition and the center area along with some of the cut tiles. Ceiling grid has been installed lower pod along with some cut tiles. Above-ceiling work is being completed in the upper pod to accommodate grid (scheduled to begin July 26).

Flooring: Tile has been installed in the lower pod bathrooms/sink area and in the SPED bathroom. Tiling has begun in the upper pod bathrooms/sink areas. Carpeting in the 1992 and center additions began today to be followed by the lower pod toward the end of this week.

Aluminum Storefronts and Glass: Window replacements in the 1992 Addition are completed. Windows in the lower pod are mostly installed (finish work remains) and progress is being made in the upper pod (scheduled for completion this week). Openings remain for exits/sidelight windows in the lower pod.

Fire Protection: Sprinkler heads are installed in the 1992/Center areas and progress is being made in the lower and upper pods as grid is being installed.

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John Shoemaker of Webster Scale (right) along with two South Dakota Department of Transportation officials were reviewing the damage done to the new concrete on US12 in Groton.

According to Police Chief Stacy Mayou who gave a report at the city council meeting Monday night, the damage will cost about \$30,000 to fix. (Photo by Tina Kosel)

Change orders take contingency used to 68%

The new change orders approved by the school board Monday night took the usage of the contingency fund to 68 percent. Superintendent Joe Schwan said that most of the change orders should be done by now with no big ticket items expected.

Tara Arntsen was hired as the new math teacher. Jenna Strom was hired as the new assistant volleyball coach. Jone Groeblichhoff was reassigned from SPED to kindergarten paraprofessional.

No new boys head soccer coach is on the horizon. Schwan said that Corey Harder and Chris Kucker, the girls coaches, will do both if no one steps forward. Also still missing is a junior high football coach. All other positions should be filled soon after interviews are done. "We should be in pretty good shape," Schwan said, "with six weeks out for our staff."

Chamber looking to hire a community communications director

John Wheeting, president of the Groton Area Chamber of Commerce, came before the city council to talk about the Chamber's plans for a new part-time position. "It would start out at an hourly rate," Wheeting said. He said that the person's responsibility would be to contact people through social media, attend Lions and Kiwanis meetings, coordinate a community calendar, manage the community Facebook page and the community sign. "We have to step up and help with various projects," Wheeting said. There is a possibility of using some space at the Groton Community Transit for an office space. "We need to network with the community groups, the Aberdeen Chamber and Aberdeen Development," Wheeting said.

"I think you have our blessings," said Mayor Scott Hanlon. Finance Officer Hope Block said that she would put it into the budget for consideration.

Police Chief Stacy Mayou said that they made personal contact with people who had yards that needed to be cleaned up. The cutoff date was July 3. Another letter will be sent out stating they will have until August 2, 2017, to get the work done or the city will come in and take care of it with the cost being passed on through a special assessment to the property.

Mayou reported that the damage to the concrete from someone driving on the fresh concrete on Saturday could cost up to \$30,000 in damage from the concrete damage. They were cutting out two sections today.

All seasonal passes to the pool will be cut in half on August 1.

The council approved for pool employees to work at the State Junior Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton, if asked to work at it, as coordinated by Matt Locke.

Ruby Donovan made a request that a Hazel McKittrick memorial be used to buy and plant a Quaking Aspen outside by the community on the boulevard.

Karyn Babcock talked about restriping Main Street for parking. Councilman David McGannon said that the school has a striping machine that the city could borrow. The council decided to get a plan put together for restriping Main Street from Railroad Ave. to City Hall and to do the cross walks on Main Street. "I think its a great idea, said Councilman Jay Peterson. "Everything would be neat and tidy."

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Gas Prices Expected to Climb into the Fall

July 24, 2017 - Across the country, 39 states saw prices increase on average by three cents – a major swing from last week when only nine states posted more expensive gas prices on the week. At \$2.28, the national gas price is three cents more than a week ago, which is the largest seven-day increase since before Memorial Day. South Dakota's statewide average stands at \$2.26 today, up just one cent from a week ago.

"Demand has remained strong as gasoline stocks dip for a fifth consecutive week, driving up prices at the pump," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "For much of the summer, gas prices have been fairly cheap. Those days are in the rearview mirror."

Check today's city, state and U.S. gasoline prices, visit www.GasPrices.AAA.com.

Current Price Averages per Gallon of Regular Gasoline

Sioux Falls – \$2.19, up 7 cents from one month ago ... up 23 cents from 7/24/16

Rapid City – \$2.25, down 10 cents from one month ago ... down 16 cents from 7/24/16

South Dakota – \$2.26, down 4 cents from one month ago ... up 2 cents from 7/24/16

U.S. – \$2.28, up 1 cent from one month ago ... up 12 cents from 7/24/16

According to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), gasoline stocks took their largest dip - 4.4 million bbl – for the first time in five weeks, bringing levels down to 231 million bbl. That is a 10 million bbl deficit year-on-year and a factor in prices at the pump increasing.

Quick Stats

The nation's top ten markets with the largest weekly increases are: Indiana (+8 cents), Florida (+7 cents), Ohio (+7 cents), Michigan (+6 cents), Delaware (+6 cents), New Jersey (+6 cents), Texas (+5 cents), Pennsylvania (+5 cents), Virginia (+5 cents) and Kentucky (+4 cents).

The nation's top ten markets with the cheapest gas are: South Carolina (\$1.99), Alabama (\$2.00), Mississippi (\$2.01), Oklahoma (\$2.04), Arkansas (\$2.04), Tennessee (\$2.05), Virginia (\$2.07), Missouri (\$2.07), Louisiana (\$2.08) and Texas (\$2.09).

Great Lakes and Central States

Gas prices are more expensive on the week in all Great Lakes and Central States, except for Kansas where prices remained flat. Four states land on the weekly biggest increase list: Indiana (+8 cents), Ohio (+7 cents), Michigan (+6 cents) and Kentucky (+4 cents).

Gasoline stocks in the region increased by 1.3 million bbl, bringing regional levels to nearly 55 million bbl. While levels are above the year-ago figure by a more than 1 million bbl, they are down considerably from the 2017 high of 60 million bbl reported in February, according to the EIA.

Oil Market Dynamics

The price per barrel of crude oil kicked off the week climbing above \$46 for West Texas Intermediate. The positive climb, compared to Friday's close of \$45.77, follows the OPEC announcement this morning that Nigeria will join its production reduction agreement to cut oil output by a combined 1.8 million b/d from January 2017 until the end of March 2018. With today's announcement at the 4th OPEC & Non-OPEC Ministerial Monitoring Committee in St. Petersburg, Russia about Nigeria – along with other countries in the agreement pledging stricter adherence to the cuts – OPEC's efforts to rebalance the market may have found a new foothold. However, outliers, including rising exports from OPEC and Libya's growth in production, could stall OPEC's efforts. In fact, at today's meeting Saudi Arabia agreed to cut its exports by 600,000 b/d, suggesting that OPEC has its eyes on the role of exports in thwarting its efforts to increase the global price per barrel of oil.

Growth in U.S. oil production still plays a critical role in suppressing the price of crude per barrel. For example, the latest EIA report for the week ending on July 14 showed that although crude oil inventories declined by 4.4 million bbl, when being compared with the five-year average, the surplus still stands at well over 75 million bbl. The total number of U.S. oil rigs stands at 764, which is one less than last week according to Baker Hughes, Inc., and is up 393 from last year.

On both the inventory and rig count fronts, the weekly decreases only show incremental downward movement, while the overall numbers still remain very high when compared to historical data. Unless these numbers take a more pronounced nosedive, they will still depress crude prices. In the meantime, as the numbers get closer to this season's steady, strong demand for refined products, such as gasoline, drivers are likely to see prices continue to move up.

In South Dakota, the arts mean business

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

We frequently discuss the benefits of the arts in South Dakota with an emphasis on the cultural, educational and entertainment value of creative performances, contacts and experiences. But that's only part of the equation. The simple fact is that the nonprofit arts and culture industry is a major contributor to South Dakota's economy, based on recent surveys conducted by the Sioux Falls Arts Council and the Rapid City Arts Council in partnership with Americans for the Arts.

The survey revealed that the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$114.3 million in annual economic activity in the Black Hills Region, supporting 3,573 full time equivalent jobs and generating \$10 million in government revenues. The Greater Sioux Falls area, composed of Lincoln, McCook, Minnehaha and Turner Counties, supports 3,567 full-time equivalent arts and culture jobs and generates \$8.6 million in local and state government revenue. Nonprofit arts and cultural organizations in the Sioux Falls region spent \$20.6 million during the study period and leveraged \$84.8 million in additional spending by their audiences—dollars that pumped vital revenue into restaurants, hotels, retail stores and other local businesses.

Nationally, the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates \$166.3 billion annually, according to the Americans for the Arts survey—\$63.8 billion in spending by arts and cultural organizations. Audiences spent an additional \$102.5 billion in event-related expenditures, for lodging, meals and other purchases—an average of \$31.47 per person. This economic activity supported 4.6 million jobs and generated \$27.5 billion in revenue to local, state, and federal governments—a return on investment well beyond their collective \$5 billion in arts allocations.

Arts and culture build community, enhance the education of our children and enrich our daily lives—and they are also a major American industry. Here in South Dakota, arts and cultural nonprofit organizations and events are generators of economic prosperity. As an integral part of the life of every South Dakotan, creative enterprise is a solid investment—an investment that pays dividends in business and in our state's future. The arts mean business!

For the full Americans for the Arts study results or to learn more about Arts South Dakota, join us online at www.ArtsSouthDakota.org.



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SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Tyler Bowling

Public Affairs Specialist

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Question:

I'm planning to retire next year. I served in the Navy back in the 1960s and need to make sure I get credit for my military service. What do I need to do?

Answer:

You don't need to do anything to apply for the special credit for your military service — it is added automatically. For service between 1957 and 1967, we will add the extra credits to your record at the time you apply for Social Security benefits. For service between 1968 and 2001, those extra military service credits have already been added to your record. So you can rest assured that we have you covered. Read our online publication, *Military Service and Social Security*, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10017.html. And when the time comes to apply for retirement, you can do it conveniently and easily at www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline.

Question:

Is it true that ten thousand people are retiring each day? What is the best way for me to apply and avoid long lines in my Social Security office?

Answer:

Yes. The best way is to use our online retirement application at www.socialsecurity.gov. You can complete it in as little as 15 minutes. It's so easy. You can apply from the comfort of your home or office at a time most convenient for you. Once you've electronically submitted your application, you're done. In most cases, there's no need to submit any documents. There's also no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative.

Question:

What is the earliest age that I can receive Social Security disability benefits?

Answer:

There is no minimum age as long as you meet the Social Security definition of disabled and you have sufficient work to qualify for benefits. To qualify for disability benefits, you must have worked under Social Security long enough under to earn the required number of work credits and some of the work must be recent. You can earn up to a maximum of four work credits each year. The number of work credits you need for disability benefits depends on the age you become disabled. For example, if you are under age 24, you may qualify with as little as six credits of coverage. But people disabled at age 31 or older generally need between 20 and 40 credits to qualify, and some of the work must have been recent. For example, you may need to have worked five out of the past 10 years. Learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/disability.

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Storybook Land Theatre heads out on the road to the Granary



Mark your calendars! On Monday, August 7, 2-3pm. the Storybook Land Theater troupe will be performing at the Granary Rural Cultural Center located in rural Brown County at 40161 128th St, Groton, SD. The Granary provides a unique prairie setting for this special outdoor performance. Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit among the sheltering trees and enjoy free popcorn! Beverages will be for sale and modern restrooms onsite.

Aberdeen's Storybook Land Theatre is hitting the road with their new musical, "Junie B. Jones the Musical," based on the popular book series by Barbara Park. The spunky and precocious Junie B. Jones sings and dances her way through a new

set of first grade adventures, all documented in her "Top Secret Personal Beeswax Journal." Audiences all over northeastern South Dakota are invited to take a peek for themselves. "Junie B. Jones the Musical" is free to the public and is suitable for all ages.

Junie B. Jones first appeared in "Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus" in 1992, written by author and creator Barbara Park with illustrations by Denise Brunkus. Since her creation, Junie has gone on to appear in twenty-seven books from 1992-2013 and sell more than fifty-five million copies in North America alone.

Music Theatre International calls this show "a delightful adaptation of four of Barbara Park's best-selling books, brought to life in a genuinely comical (and not strictly-for-kids) musical developed by TheatreworkUSA. Awaken a young person's desire to read with the sassy little diva, Junie B. Jones, and her adventures in first grade."

This production features scenes from the Junie B. First Grader series: "Junie B. Jones is a Graduation Girl," "Junie B. Jones is a First Grader At Last!," "Junie B. First Grader Boss of Lunch," "Junie B. First Grader Toothless Wonder," and "Top Secret Personal Beeswax, a Journal by Junie B. (And Me)."

The cast of "Junie B. Jones the Musical" is made up entirely of the Storybook Land Theatre summer cast: Julia Friedrichsen, Tylan Glover, Max Langbehn, Rachel Morrison, Isaac Seaton, Brian T. Schultz, Briggs Tople and Claire Vetter, who plays the title role of Junie B.

Storybook Land Theatre, a program of Aberdeen Parks, Recreation and Forestry, is in its 29th season of free, family-friendly performances. Partnering with Aberdeen Community Theatre's Young People's Theatre, under the direction of ACT Associate Artistic/Managing Director Brian T. Schultz, SBLT performs eight different shows in eight weeks in the Storybook Land Castle in Aberdeen's Wylie Park. Performances are typically held Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, June through August.

New this year is the touring element of SBLT's programming. Through funding from 3Mgives, SBLT is able to bring "Junie B. Jones the Musical" to rural communities surrounding Aberdeen at no cost.

"This has been on my bucket list for years," explained Schultz. "I know it can sometimes be a challenge to get the whole family to Aberdeen to see a show, so what better than to bring the show directly to them? So we posted on SBLT's Facebook page that any community interested in hosting us to get in contact. They provide the venue and the audience, we provide the fun.

"None of this would be possible without the support of 3M," Schultz added. "We appreciate so much the opportunity to partner with a forward-thinking local corporation that is committed to youth and the arts. This will be a tremendous experience not only for the communities we visit, but the actors that are part of the SBLT company. This is invaluable professional experience for them, too."

Schultz hopes the touring element of SBLT's programming is something that will be able to continue for several years to come.

3Mgives' purpose is to promote stronger and more sustainable communities through donations, investments and through their 3M volunteers. Since its inception, 3Mgives has invested \$1.45 billion in cash and in-kind support globally, according to the 3Mgives 2016 annual report.

For more information about this performance, contact the Dacotah Prairie Museum at 605.626.7117. For more information about SBLT, contact Schultz via SBLT's Facebook page or brian.act@nvc.net.

The Life of Glenn Johnson



Services for Glenn Johnson, 77, of Groton will be 11 a.m., Wednesday, July 26, 2017 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Ferney. The Rev. Lloyd Redhage will officiate. Burial with military honors will follow in St. Paul's Cemetery.

Visitation will be held at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, on Tuesday from 5-7 p.m., with a prayer service at 7 p.m.

Glenn passed away July 22, 2017 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen surrounded by his family.

Glenn Harold was born on August 9, 1939 in Aberdeen to Chester and Ver-nita (Sombke) Johnson. He was baptized, confirmed and a lifelong member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ferney. Glenn attended school in Ferney and began helping with his family's farm operations. In 1963, he was drafted into the US Army and served as a fuel specialist in France and Germany. Following his honorable discharge in 1965, he returned home to the family farm and took over operations with his brother, Jim in 1968.

After his "retirement" due to rheumatoid arthritis, he enjoyed driving around in the Ranger checking on the cows and crops, going to movies, and attending farm shows. He was proud of his children and grandchildren for whom he would do anything. The grandkids always brought a smile to his face. Many memories were made at the farm kitchen table playing cards and

eating meals with family, and discussing the farm business with his brother and son. Glenn appreciated all of nature and loved site seeing as he traveled the country with his family.

Celebrating his life is his wife of 47 years, Alvina Johnson of Groton, his children, Chad (Michelle) Johnson of Groton, Lyncee (Nick) Monson of Groton, two step-daughters, Pam Wiseman of Springfield, Missouri, Kathy (Dale) Zambo-Lesmeister of Eagle Butte, grandchildren: Brenna & Porter Johnson, Hailey & Hannah Monson, step-grandchildren, Tonica, Ryanne, Karla and Dustin, several step great-grandchildren, his siblings; Jim Johnson of Groton, Kenny Johnson of Yankton, Charlie (Sheila) Johnson of Conde, Sheila (Jim) Anderson of Winfred and Donna Gunderson of Parker.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his sister, Arlys Ehrenberg and brother, Richard "Herbie" Johnson. Casketbearers will be Jeff Harry, Greg Bonn, Kevin Krueger, Dustin Wiseman, Jim Leidholt and Roni Dobberpuhl.

Honorary Casketbearers will be all of Glenn's grandchildren.



1940 Groton Jr. Legion Team

Back row left to right coach Perry Doney, Tom Saunders, Jack Stewart, Dean Hinrichs, Doc Louis Eske and George Potter. Front row: Marvin Graves, Lyle Potter, Allen Miller, Wayne Cleveland, Keith Cutler, Richard Meison and Louis Eske Jr.-batboy.

Also on the team Jack Stewart, Bud Nygard, Ted Heinz, Klein Conanough, Dombrowe, and Voight

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Today in Weather History

July 25, 1961: A thunderstorm started late in the evening on the 25th and went into the early morning hours of the 26th. A sizeable area suffered 50 to 100 percent loss of crops resulting from hail over the following counties, Bison, Perkins, Faulk, Sully, and western Hand. Corn was stripped of leaves and broken off. Oats and wheat were flattened. High winds with recorded gusts of 75 to 80 miles per hour cause numerous power failures and damaged trees in Pierre.

July 25, 1972: Unofficial rainfall amounts of 8 inches caused flash flooding in Ferney and surrounding area in Brown County. Water, over two feet depth was reported in a parking area. Basements were flooded, and foundations were damaged. The torrential rains caused extensive damage to crops in the area.

July 25, 1984: Severe thunderstorms caused considerable damage to the Pierre area. Winds were gusting to 83 mph at the Pierre airport, where thirteen planes, as well as several hangars, were destroyed. In town, a home and three businesses lost their roofs, and a trailer home was destroyed. Rains of four inches in thirty minutes produced flash flooding with some streets closed for some time. Some basements were reported to have 6 to 8 inches of water in them. At Dupree, high winds caused extensive damage to the grandstand roof at the fairgrounds. Along the entire path of the thunderstorms, hail and high winds broke windows, damaged cars, downed trees, damaged crops, and caused power outages.

July 25, 1993: Lake Kampeska, near Watertown, reached near record level at 37 inches over full mark due to runoff from heavy rains in previous days. Dozens of homes and two businesses were flooded out. About 100,000 sandbags were distributed to help prevent more flood damage to lakeside property owners.

July 25, 2000: A powerful F4 tornado hit the city of Granite Falls in Minnesota. The tornado first touched down in rural parts of the county west-northwest of Granite Falls. The tornado struck the city at 6:10 pm. After tearing through the residential sections of town, the tornado lifted at approximately 6:25 PM after being on the ground for over nine miles. One person was killed, more than a dozen were injured, and the town and surrounding area suffered millions of dollars in property damage.

1886 - Rain fell at Lawrence, KS, for the first time in four weeks. Rain fell over much of the state of Kansas that day relieving a severe drought which began in May. The very dry weather ruined crops in Kansas. (David Ludlum)

1936: Lincoln, Nebraska saw an all-time high temperature of 115 degrees. The low only dropped to 91 degrees and the average temperature was 103. Many people spent the night sleeping outside to escape the heat.

1942 - The temperature at Las Vegas, NV, hit 117 degrees to set an all-time record for that location. The record was tied on July 19, 2005.

1947 - One of the most powerful strokes of lightning ever measured yielded 345,000 amperes of electricity in Pittsburgh, PA. (The Weather Channel)

1952 - The temperature at Louisville, GA, soared to 112 degrees to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1956: The Andrea Doria sank in dense fog near Nantucket Lightship, Massachusetts. The Swedish-American liner, Stockholm, hit the ship forty-five miles off the coast of Massachusetts. Fifty-two persons drowned or were killed by the impact.

1980 - Claudette, a weak tropical storm, deluged southeastern Texas with torrential rains. The Houston suburb of Alvin received 43 inches, a 24 hour record for the U.S. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Twenty-one cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 91 degrees at Beckley, WV, was their hottest reading in 25 years of records, and marked their third straight day of record 90 degree heat. Bakersfield, CA, dipped to 60 degrees, marking their eighth straight morning of record cool weather. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Oklahoma, and over Nebraska and Wisconsin. Thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Brainerd, NE. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 80.0 at 1:41 PM

Heat Index:

Low Outside Temp: 56.9 at 6:25 AM

High Gust: 19 at 10:42 AM

Precip: 0.20

Today's Info

Record High: 111° in 1931

Record Low: 44° in 1911

Average High: 84°F

Average Low: 59°F

Average Precip in July: 2.51

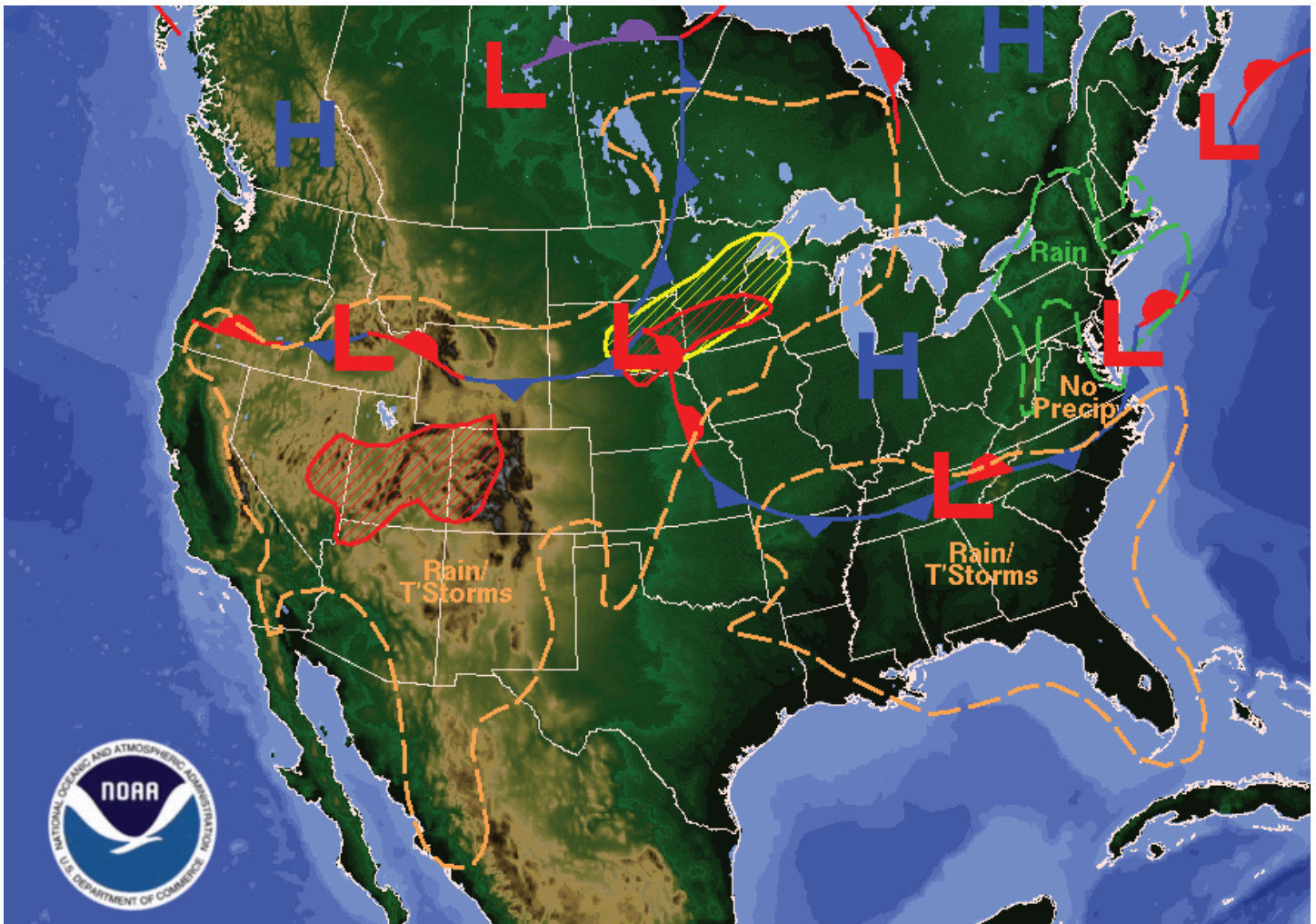
Precip to date in July: 1.47

Average Precip to date: 13.35

Precip Year to Date: 7.24

Sunset Tonight: 9:09 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:11 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jul 25, 2017, issued 4:45 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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THE OBJECT OF OUR DESIRES

We often hear phrases such as "I just didn't have enough time," or "I ran out of time," or "If I only had more time." Time seems to elude all of us. Yet all of us try to regulate our lives by time. We wear watches, have clocks and are time sensitive.

One of the most interesting facts about time, however, is that it reveals our priorities. If we say that we love our wife and children, yet have little time for them or to be with them, our words are meaningless. If we say that we love our Lord and Savior, yet have no time for church or take no time to serve Him, our behavior mocks us and cancels our words. Our priorities are what matter. Our priorities are known to us and visible to others by the time we spend on "things."

Psalm 24 makes a bold statement: "The earth is the Lord's and everything in it." It reflects the words that introduce us to God: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth!" This verse states that God was the Creator. Furthermore, this psalm states that the earth and everything in it belongs to Him. If so, He is to be the priority of our lives and everything we do is to be an act of worship – honoring Him in all that we do.

This psalm clearly announces the Kingship of God. We are quick to recognize God as Creator but that is not enough for Him. As our Creator-King, He has every right to expect us, His subjects, to place Him first and foremost in our lives. We know He is our priority when we honor Him by what we do with our time.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to make You the priority of our lives by being obedient to Your Word and serving You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.

News from the Associated Press

Report: South Dakota youth don't get enough counseling

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A new report shows that thousands of young South Dakota residents who qualify for mental health care from state-funded centers don't get counseling from the network of regional nonprofits set up to serve them.

A legislative task force found that the South Dakota Council of Mental Health Centers reached 5,010 kids in 2001. After years of population growth, the network saw just 5,005 kids in 2016, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2uZMQUR>) reported.

Administrators said the state system receives enough funding to help all kids who come to the centers seeking help, but that reaching out can be difficult due to persistent stigma and the growth of private facilities.

"I'll never give you an idea that we're going to be fully happy with the level of service we're providing," said Terry Dosch, the council's executive director. "We're always going to strive to improve access to the people in the state of South Dakota."

Dosch and others said private groups and hospitals have stepped up to fill some of the gap. But the council's flat numbers and the private facilities' shortage of beds and doctors raises questions about the state's ability to serve young people who have depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions.

The task force that identified the state's adolescent mental health care issue 15 years ago recommended a seven-point plan that includes better coordination among agencies, improved screening in schools and day cares, a public education campaign and more money for counseling and other services.

Amy Iversen-Pollreisz, deputy secretary of the Department of Social Services, said that although there's little legislative record of those changes, that doesn't mean there weren't improvements within state departments that work with children and mental health.

The state's 2015 Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Initiative started a program called Functional Family Therapy, which allows providers to address outside forces that affect a child's mental health.

"We're right on the verge of being able to move in a significantly different direction with those kids," said Mike Forgy, who heads the state's community mental health center in Brookings. While progress has been slow, he said, "that's how any new initiative works."

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

Highway Patrol: 2 dead, 6 hurt in South Dakota crash

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

ALCESTER, S.D. (AP) — Two people were killed and six others hurt when an 81-year-old woman drove into a group of people and then into a nursing home Monday in southeast South Dakota in an apparent accident, authorities said.

The woman, who had pulled into a driveway close to the building, appears to have stepped on the gas instead of the brakes, hitting seven people who were exiting Alcester Care and Rehab Center with a 2001 Pontiac Grand Prix, the state Highway Patrol said in a statement. Authorities said the driver — who hasn't been identified — was among those injured, a group that also included center employees and residents.

Highway Patrol spokesman Tony Mangan had no immediate information about the conditions of the injured, whom he said were taken to hospitals in Sioux Falls and Hawarden, Iowa, and Sioux City, Iowa. Alcester, a town of about 800 people, is about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of Sioux Falls.

Jayson Pullman, chief executive of Hawarden Regional Healthcare, said four of the injured were treated at his hospital. He said he believed three had been returned to the nursing home, with the fourth transferred by helicopter to another hospital.

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The other hospitals said they could provide no information without patient names. None of the victims of the crash were immediately identified. The nursing home's administrator declined an interview.

"It's horrible," Highway Patrol Capt. Jason Husby said. "Especially the situation we had here where there's a group of people. A lot of people are affected by this."

The Highway Patrol says the investigation will likely take days to complete.

Hours after the crash, a blue tarp was draped across the entrance to the nursing home. A maintenance worker later did work on a shattered window beside the cracked and damaged door.

Eldean Kjose, whose yard looks onto the nursing home, was rolling up his hose so he could mow the lawn when he heard sirens approaching. The 81-year-old retiree said he watched several people get loaded into ambulances, knowing the situation was serious.

"I've never heard of an accident like this," Kjose said. "It's a shocker to know that can happen, but accidents can happen so quick."



A car is seen outside the Alcester Care and Rehab Center after it slammed into a group of people and crashed into the center Monday, July 24, 2017, in Alcester, S.D. Authorities said at least two people were killed and multiple others injured. A Highway Patrol spokesman said the investigation is ongoing, but the crash appears to have been accident. The driver of the vehicle was among those brought to a hospital. (Trevor Mitchell/Argus Leader via AP)

Man dies after driving off-road vehicle over cliff

FARMINGDALE, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a man operating an off-road vehicle has died after driving over a cliff in a rugged area of Pennington County.

Sheriff's officials say the 55-year-old man died at the scene near Farmingdale. KOTA-TV (<http://bit.ly/2vRYy7f>) says a search and rescue team was activated about 2 p.m. Sunday and found the man's body about an hour later.

He has not been identified.

Information from: KOTA-TV, <http://www.kotatv.com>

Smugglers offer crammed big rigs as 'VIP treatment' to US

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — When Thomas Homan, the acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, was awakened Sunday morning with news that migrants were found dead inside a sweltering tractor-trailer outside a San Antonio Walmart, his mind flashed back to 2003, when he stood at the back of a truck about 120 miles (200 kilometers) southeast of San Antonio that carried 19 dead migrants.

"It is sad that 14 years later people are still being smuggled in tractor-trailers," he said. "There still isn't water, there still isn't ventilation. These criminal organizations, they're all about making money."

The striking similarities of the Texas tragedies demonstrate how smugglers have found a durable business model carrying large groups — often in big rigs — through an elaborate network of foot guides, safe house operators and drivers. A criminal complaint about Sunday's discovery that 10 were dead and dozens injured in the truck opens a window on their degree of sophistication and organizational muscle: passengers had color-coded tape to split into smaller groups; and six black SUVs awaited them at one transit point to bring them to their destinations.

Big rigs emerged as a popular smuggling method in the early 1990s amid a surge in U.S. border enforcement in San Diego and El Paso, Texas, which were then the busiest corridors for illegal crossings. Before that, people paid small fees to mom-and-pop operators to get them across a largely unguarded border. As crossing became exponentially more difficult after the 2001 terror strikes in the U.S., migrants were led through more dangerous terrain and paid thousands of dollars more.

Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, a political scientist who teaches at University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, said migrants she interviewed last year in South Texas paid \$2,000 to \$3,000 more to ride in the crammed tractor-trailers, considering them more effective, faster and safer than walking through the desert to a pickup point far from the border. Hundreds of border crossers perish each year in the desert, getting lost and dehydrated in extreme heat.

The growing use of trucks coincided with increased trade with Mexico under the North American Free Trade Agreement, allowing smugglers to more easily blend in with cargo, particularly on Interstate 35 from Laredo, Texas, to San Antonio, Correa-Cabrera said. Walking in the open desert more easily exposes them to U.S. Border Patrol agents.

Women, some carrying children, think they are less likely to be raped on a truck than in the open desert because there are more witnesses, Correia-Cabrera said. Riding in a big rig, she said, is "the VIP treatment."

For smugglers, the advantage of tractor-trailers boils down to scale.

"It's like any other business: the more they move, the more profit they make," Homan said. "Rather than taking four in a car, the profit margin on tractor-trailers is a lot more."



James Mathew Bradley Jr., 60, of Clearwater, Florida, center, is escorted out of the federal courthouse following a hearing, Monday, July 24, 2017, in San Antonio. Bradley was arrested in connection with the deaths of multiple people packed into a broiling tractor-trailer. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

Truck drivers are low-level cogs in a big machine, recruited in the U.S. at casinos and other places where smuggling organizations look for people who are down on their luck, desperate for quick cash and disinclined to ask questions.

James Matthew Bradley Jr., who made an initial court appearance Monday in San Antonio on smuggling charges, told authorities he was delivering what he thought was a sold vehicle from Schaller, Iowa, to Brownsville, Texas, and that he didn't know what was inside, according to the complaint. He said he was given no deadline or address to deliver the truck.

Other guides take migrants across Mexico by bus. Others join them on a raft across the Rio Grande or through the desert to a hideout or to a nearby house where they may wait days or weeks. Eventually smuggling organizations get them to major cities like Phoenix, Houston or San Antonio.

"I have to imagine that their winning percentage is really, really high," said Adam Isacson of the Washington Office on Latin America, a human rights advocacy group. "Whatever reputation they lose from episodes like this, their profit margins are still high enough to make it work. Otherwise people wouldn't pay."

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. BUOYED BY MCCAIN'S RETURN, GOP SET SENATE HEALTH BILL VOTE

The 80-year-old Arizona Republican, undergoing treatment for brain cancer, will be back in Washington for the critical roll call on beginning debate on the legislation, but it remains an uphill battle for Republicans.

2. KUSHNER READY FOR ROUND 2

Trump's son-in-law and adviser will return to Capitol Hill for a closed-door conversation with lawmakers on the House intelligence committee after denying collusion with Russia.

3. ISRAEL DISMANTLES METAL DETECTORS FROM DISPUTED JERUSALEM SHRINE

The move is designed to defuse a crisis with the Muslim world, including security ally Jordan, the custodian of the holy site.

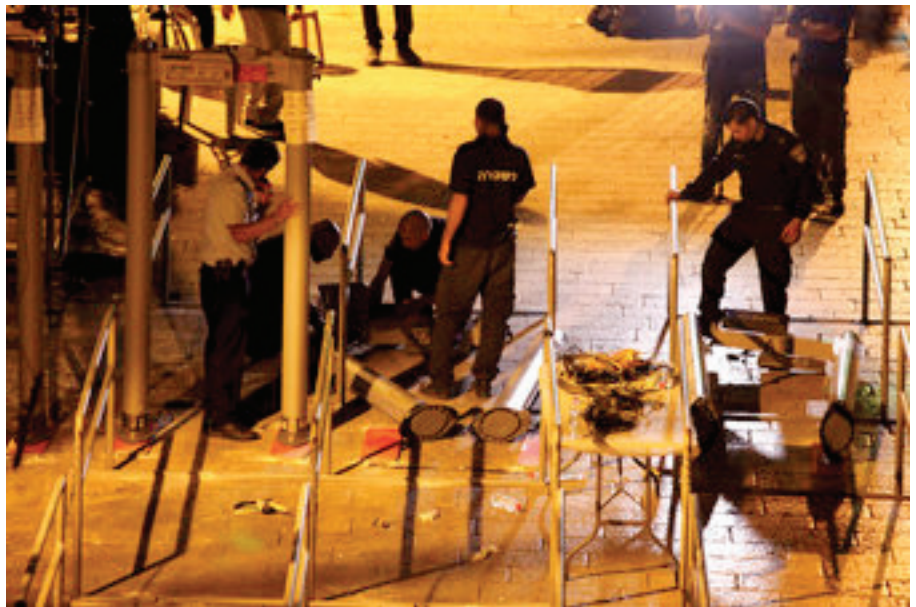
4. AP: TRUMP MULLS FIRING SESSIONS

The president referred to the attorney general, who recused himself from all matters related to the Russia investigation, in a tweet as "beleaguered."

5. WHY THE SMUGGLING INDUSTRY IS THRIVING

Traffickers have responded to the surge in U.S. border enforcement since the 2001 terror attacks with a durable business model, backed by money and organizational muscle.

6. AP: US CHURCH GOES TO BRAZIL; INSTILLS FEAR, SPLITS FAMILIES



Israeli police officers dismantle metal detectors outside the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City, early Tuesday, July 25, 2017. Israel's security cabinet has decided to remove metal detectors set up at the entrance to a Jerusalem holy site which had angered Muslims. (AP

Photo/Mahmoud Illean)

Word of Faith Fellowship took command of two congregations in Brazil, applying a strict interpretation of the Bible and enforcing it through rigorous controls and physical punishment.

7. WHO IS CLOSE TO SNUFFING OUT RIVALS IN NORTHWESTERN SYRIA

Syrian rebels and activists disclose that an al-Qaida-linked jihadi group seized control of the opposition's regional capital, Idlib, last weekend, giving Assad a pretext to attack.

8. WHAT HAPPENED MOMENTS BEFORE JUSTINE DAMOND WAS SHOT

A woman approached the back of a Minneapolis police car and "slapped" it shortly before the Australian woman was shot and killed by an officer, a warrant states.

9. 'THE RESULTS ARE OFTEN CATASTROPHIC'

Children whose sexual characteristics don't neatly align with the norm have for decades faced surgery to rearrange their anatomy. Now advocacy groups are assailing the practice and urging Congress to ban it.

10. BLACK SENIORS STROLLING DOWN MEMORY LANE

A study is testing whether jogging memories where they were made can help older African-Americans stay mentally sharp and slow early memory loss.

Israel dismantles metal detectors from key Jerusalem shrine

By **KARIN LAUB** and **ARON HELLER**, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel on Tuesday dismantled metal detectors it installed a week earlier at a contested Jerusalem shrine, hoping to defuse a crisis with the Muslim world, including security ally Jordan, the Muslim custodian of the holy site.

The removal of the devices followed the resolution of a 24-hour diplomatic standoff with Jordan over a deadly shooting at the Israeli Embassy in the kingdom, suggesting a broader deal had been struck.

However, there were signs Tuesday that the crisis over the shrine, revered by Muslims and Jews, was not over yet.

Israel announced it would replace the metal detectors with new security measures. This would include "advanced technologies," reportedly sophisticated cameras, and additional police deployments.

Muslim leaders had demanded that security arrangements go back to what they were before the metal detectors were erected.

Ikrema Sabri, a senior Muslim cleric, said Tuesday that Muslims should stay away from the shrine, pending a review of the new Israeli measures. The review could be completed by the end of the day.

"Our position is that for now, nobody should enter," he told The Associated Press.

The 37-acre (15-hectare) esplanade in Jerusalem's Old City is the third holiest site of Islam and the holiest of Judaism, once home to biblical Temples. It sits on the fault line of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and triggered several major confrontations in the past.



Israeli police officers stand outside the Al Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem's Old City Tuesday, July 25, 2017. Israel has begun dismantling metal detectors it installed a week earlier at the gates of a contested Jerusalem shrine, amid widespread Muslim protests. (AP Photo/Oded Balilty)

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Israel had erected metal detectors at the gates to the Muslim-administered site last week, after Arab gunmen killed two Israeli police guards there.

The move incensed the Muslim world, amid allegations that Israel was trying to expand control over the site under the guise of security — a claim Israel denies.

The installation of the metal detectors set off widespread protests and deadly Israeli-Palestinian violence over the past week.

Large crowds of Muslim worshippers prayed outside the shrine in protest every day, refusing to pass through the metal detectors.

Israel has denied it has a hidden agenda, portraying the metal detectors as a needed means to prevent attacks.

However, the Israeli government has come under growing diplomatic pressure in recent days to reconsider the decision. It also faced growing domestic criticism that it had acted hastily, without weighing the repercussions of installing new devices at the volatile site.

The diplomatic crisis with Jordan over the embassy shooting lent more urgency to finding a solution.

On Monday evening, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Jordan's King Abdullah II spoke by phone.

Following the conversation, the Israeli Embassy staff, including the security guard who had killed two Jordanians after being attacked by one with a screwdriver, returned to Israel from their base in Jordan.

Jordan initially said the guard could not leave without an investigation, while Israel said he had diplomatic immunity.

Israel's security Cabinet, meanwhile, announced it would replace the metal detectors with "advanced technologies," reportedly cameras that can detect hidden objects.

The Cabinet said police would increase the deployment of forces until the new measures are in place. The statement said the government would budget 100 million shekels (\$28 million) to implement the security plan over a period of "up to six months."

Before dawn Tuesday, workers were seen dismantling one of the devices at the Old City's Lion's Gate, a recent flashpoint and a scene of nightly mass prayer protests by Muslim worshippers.

President Donald Trump's Mideast envoy, Jason Greenblatt, met with Netanyahu before the decision was announced, a sign of the first direct involvement of the U.S. administration since the crisis began. Greenblatt then headed to Jordan.

It was not clear if the compromise would be accepted by Muslim and Palestinian leaders who had demanded a return to the security arrangements that were in place before the mid-July shooting attack.

Mahmoud Aloul, a senior official in Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement, said Tuesday that any changes to the previous arrangements are unacceptable.

"Israel is an occupying power and needs to take its hands from our holy sites," he told the Voice of Palestine radio station.

It was not clear if Aloul expressed the views of Abbas. The Palestinian president had announced last week that he was suspending all ties with Israel, including security coordination between his forces and Israeli troops in the West Bank, until the metal detectors are removed.

As custodian, Jordan has the final say over Muslim policies at the shrine, but also needs to consider public opinion, including among Palestinians in the Holy Land.

In his phone call with Netanyahu, Jordan's king stressed the need to "remove the measures taken by the Israeli side since the recent crisis broke out" and to agree on steps that would prevent another escalation in the future, Jordan's state news agency Petra said.

Israel captured the Old City compound, along with other territories sought for a Palestinian state, in the 1967 war. Under arrangements put in place then, Muslims administer the site and Jews can visit, but not pray there.

Jordan's ruling Hashemite dynasty draws much of its legitimacy from its role as protector of the holy site. However, it also maintains strategic, if discreet, security ties with Israel — a relationship that has survived

several crises and repeated friction over the Jerusalem shrine.

The swift resolution of the latest diplomatic row reflected the overriding interest by both countries to protect their relationship.

As the embassy staff returned to Israel, Jordan's Public Security Directorate said it had completed its investigation into Sunday's shooting.

The security agency said the incident had been triggered by an argument over a furniture delivery.

It said two Jordanians had arrived at a residential building housing embassy staff on Sunday evening to set up bedroom furniture.

One of the Jordanians was the son of the owner the furniture store, later identified as 17-year-old Mohammed Jawawdeh.

An argument erupted between the son of the owner and the embassy guard because of a delay in delivering the furniture, the Jordanian security agency said. The argument took place in the presence of the landlord and a doorman.

"The son of the owner attacked the Israeli diplomat and injured him," the statement said. It said the Israeli fired toward the teen, wounding him, and also struck the landlord who was standing nearby.

The two Jordanians died of their wounds at a hospital.

Earlier Monday, al-Jawawdeh's father, Zakariah, had called for an investigation, saying his son deserves justice. It was not clear if the findings of the security agency will satisfy him.

Laub reported from the West Bank. Associated Press writer Mohammed in Ramallah, West Bank contributed reporting.

GOP sets Senate health care vote buoyed by McCain return

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leaders are steering the Senate toward a crucial vote on their bill eviscerating much of President Barack Obama's health care law, buoyed by the near theatrical return to the Capitol of the ailing Sen. John McCain.

No stranger to heroic episodes, the Navy pilot who persevered through five years of captivity during the Vietnam War announced through his office that he would be back in Washington for the critical roll call on beginning debate on the legislation. The 80-year-old has been at home in Arizona since he revealed last week that he's undergoing treatment for brain cancer, but a one-sentence statement said he "looks forward" to returning for work on health care and other legislation.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., scheduled the initial health care vote for Tuesday. It seemed unlikely Republicans would bring McCain cross country if they didn't think his vote would make a difference, and his mere presence



President Donald Trump, accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, and others, speaks about healthcare, Monday, July 24, 2017, in the Blue Room of the White House in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

bring McCain cross country if they didn't think his vote would make a difference, and his mere presence

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could make it harder for wavering Republicans to cast a vote against even considering the bill.

Democrats uniformly oppose the effort to tear down Obama's signature legislative achievement. Republicans control the chamber 52-48, meaning they can afford to lose just two Republicans with McCain around and only one in his absence. Vice President Mike Pence would cast a tie-breaking vote.

At least a dozen GOP senators have openly said they oppose or criticized McConnell's legislation, which he's revised as he's hunted Republican support. While it had long seemed headed toward defeat, Republicans Monday began showing glimmers of optimism.

"My mandate from the people of Kentucky is to vote yes, and I certainly intend to do so," McConnell said Monday in what seemed an implicit reminder to his Republican colleagues that they've done the same.

As usual, President Donald Trump was blunter.

"Over and over again, they said, 'Repeal and replace, repeal and replace.' But they can now keep their promise," Trump said of GOP senators in White House remarks.

Senators and aides said talks were continuing that might win over enough Republicans to commence debate. The discussions were covering issues including potentially giving states more leeway to use federal funds to help people losing coverage under Medicaid, the health insurance program for the poor, disabled and nursing home patients.

Should Tuesday's vote fail, it would be an unalloyed embarrassment for a party that finally gained control of the White House, Senate and House in January but still fell flat on its promise to uproot Obamacare. Republicans could try returning to the bill later this year if they somehow round up more support.

Should the initial motion win, that would prompt 20 hours of debate and countless amendments in a battle likely to last all week. Moderate and conservative Republicans would try reshaping the bill in their direction while Democrats would attempt to force GOP senators to cast difficult votes aimed at haunting them in re-election campaigns.

Even then, the measure's ultimate fate still seemed iffy because of GOP divisions.

Obama's law was enacted in 2010 over unanimous Republican opposition. Since then, its expansion of Medicaid and creation of federal insurance marketplaces has produced 20 million fewer uninsured people. It's also provided protections that require insurers to provide robust coverage to all, cap consumers' annual and lifetime expenditures and ensure that people with serious medical conditions pay the same premiums as the healthy.

The law has been unpopular with GOP voters and the party has launched numerous attempts to dismantle the statute. All until this year were mere aspirations because Obama vetoed every major one that reached him.

Ever since 2010, Republicans have been largely united on scuttling the statute but divided over how to replace it.

Those divides sharpened with Trump willing to sign legislation and estimates by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office that several GOP bills would cause more than 20 million people to become uninsured by 2026. Polls showing growing popularity for Obama's law and abysmal approval ratings for the GOP effort haven't helped.

The House approved its version of the bill in May after several setbacks. It's similar to the Senate measure McConnell unveiled in June after writing it privately. But he's also revised it in his hunt for GOP votes.

McConnell's bill would abolish much of Obama's law, eliminating its tax penalties on people not buying policies, cutting Medicaid, eliminating its tax boosts on medical companies and providing less generous health care subsidies for consumers.

Moderate Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, has remained opposed to beginning debate on any option McConnell has revealed so far. Conservative Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said he would vote no unless leaders agreed to an early vote on simply repealing Obama's statute and giving Congress two years to replace it.

Conservatives were seeking language letting insurers offer bare-bones policies with low premiums, which would be illegal under Obama's law. Moderates from states whose low-income residents rely heavily on Medicaid were resisting the GOP bill's cuts in that program.

___ Associated Press writers Erica Werner and Andrew Taylor contributed to this report.

McCain's return, heavy with drama for 'Obamacare' repeal

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — At the twilight of a storied career and battling a brain tumor, Sen. John McCain stands poised to deliver for his party and his president on the issue that's defined the GOP for the past seven years.

It's a situation heavy with drama and symbolism. The 80-year-old Arizona senator will return to Washington just days after a cancer diagnosis, to cast what could be the deciding vote Tuesday to open debate on legislation to repeal and replace "Obamacare."

McCain himself campaigned heavily on the "Obamacare" repeal issue last year as he won re-election to a sixth and almost certainly final Senate term. And there could be sweet revenge in defying cancer to undo the signature legislation of the man who beat him for the presidency in 2008, Barack Obama.

The Arizona senator would also deliver a key victory to President Donald

Trump, despite emerging as one of the president's most outspoken GOP critics on Capitol Hill. During last year's campaign Trump shockingly ridiculed McCain over his years as a POW during the Vietnam War.

And the situation was eerily reminiscent of a similar scenario involving McCain's good friend, the late Democratic Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, who returned to the Senate in July 2008 while battling brain cancer to vote on Medicare legislation, his dramatic entry in the chamber eliciting cheers and applause. Kennedy died of cancer in August 2009.

The possibility of McCain returning had been discussed around the Capitol on Monday, yet the press release from his office late in the day came as a surprise. Nor did it guarantee success on Tuesday's vote for Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who is managing a balky GOP caucus with almost no room for error in the closely divided Senate.

"Senator McCain looks forward to returning to the United States Senate tomorrow to continue working on important legislation, including health care reform, the National Defense Authorization Act, and new sanctions on Russia, Iran and North Korea," his office said.

McCain has not been overly enthusiastic about the GOP health bill or the partisan process through which it's emerged. After an earlier version was poised to fail, he called on McConnell to reopen the process with a bipartisan approach, advice the majority leader ignored.

But McCain's best friend in the Senate Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, and other colleagues who've spoken with McCain of late, say he's been itching to get back to the Senate, impatient to return to work. And he's expected to support McConnell and Trump and vote to move forward with the GOP health bill.

"I have a feeling if there's any way he can be back he'll be here, whether or not his doctors like it, knowing John," Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said earlier Monday.

And sure enough, he will.

___ Associated Press writer Kevin Freking contributed to this report.



In this July 11, 2017, file photo, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., arrives on Capitol Hill in Washington. The office of Sen. John McCain says the ailing Arizona Republican will return to the Senate on July 25, the day of the health care vote. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin, File)

Kushner returns to Capitol Hill for 2nd day of interviews

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner will return to Capitol Hill Tuesday for a second day of private meetings with congressional investigators, this time for a closed-door conversation with lawmakers on the House Intelligence Committee.

Kushner on Monday answered questions from staff on the Senate's intelligence panel, acknowledging four meetings with Russians during and after Trump's victorious White House bid and insisting he had "nothing to hide." He emerged smiling to publicly declare, "All of my actions were proper."

A quiet insider who generally avoids the spotlight, Kushner is the first top Trump lieutenant to be quizzed by the congressional investigators probing Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

Hours before the Senate meeting, Kushner released an 11-page statement that was billed as his remarks to both the Senate and House committees. In it, he acknowledged his Russian contacts during the campaign and then the following weeks, in which he served as a liaison between the transition and foreign governments. He described each contact as either insignificant or routine and he said the meetings, along with several others, were omitted from his security clearance form because of an aide's error. Kushner cast himself as a political novice learning in real time to juggle "thousands of meetings and interactions" in a fast-paced campaign.

"Let me be very clear," Kushner said afterward in a rare public statement at the White House. "I did not collude with Russia, nor do I know of anyone else in the campaign who did so."

Kushner's statement was the first detailed defense from a campaign insider responding to the controversy that has all but consumed the first six months of Trump's presidency. U.S. intelligence agencies have concluded that Russia sought to tip the 2016 campaign in Trump's favor. Congressional committees, as well as a Justice Department special counsel, are investigating whether Trump associates coordinated with Russia in that effort and whether the president has sought to hamper the investigations.

Kushner said Monday he "will continue to cooperate as I have nothing to hide."

Trump watched on TV as Kushner made his appearance outside the West Wing and "thought Jared did a great job," said White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders. She said his House testimony on Tuesday would show "what a hoax this entire thing is."

Trump also took aim at the top Democrat on the House intelligence panel, California Rep. Adam Schiff, calling him "sleazy" in a tweet and saying he "spends all of his time on television." Schiff said on CBS's "Face the Nation" Sunday that he has a "great many questions" for Kushner.

Schiff responded Monday by tweeting that Trump watches TV too often and his "comments and actions are beneath the dignity of the office."

In the statement for the two committees, Kushner provided for the first time his recollection of a meeting at Trump Tower with a Russian lawyer who was said to have damaging information about Trump's



White House senior adviser Jared Kushner speaks to reporters outside the White House in Washington, Monday, July 24, 2017, after meeting on Capitol Hill behind closed doors with the Senate Intelligence Committee on the investigation into possible collusion between Russian officials and the Trump campaign. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

Emails released this month show that the president's son, Donald Trump Jr., accepted the meeting with the idea that he would receive information as part of a Russian government effort to help Trump's campaign. But Kushner said he hadn't seen those emails until recently shown them by his lawyers.

He called the June 2016 Trump Tower meeting with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya such a "waste of time" that he asked his assistant to call him out of the gathering. He says he arrived late and when he heard the lawyer discussing the issue of international adoptions, he texted his assistant to call him out.

"No part of the meeting I attended included anything about the campaign; there was no follow-up to the meeting that I am aware of; I do not recall how many people were there (or their names), and I have no knowledge of any documents being offered or accepted," he said.

Kushner also confirmed earlier media reports that he had suggested using Russian diplomatic facilities to set up secure communications between Trump adviser Michael Flynn, who would become Trump's national security adviser, and Russian officials. But he disputed that it was an effort to establish a "secret back channel."

His statement describes a December meeting with Flynn and Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak in which Kushner and Kislyak discussed establishing a secure line for the Trump transition team and Moscow to communicate about policy in Syria.

Kushner said that when Kislyak asked if there was a secure way for him to provide information from his "generals," Kushner suggested using facilities at the Russian Embassy.

"The ambassador said that would not be possible and so we all agreed that we would receive this information after the Inauguration. Nothing else occurred," the statement said.

Kushner said he never proposed an ongoing secret form of communication.

He also acknowledged meeting with a Russian banker, Sergey Gorkov, at the request of Kislyak but said no specific policies were discussed.

As for his application for a security clearance, Kushner said his form was submitted prematurely due to a miscommunication with his assistant, who had believed the document was complete.

He said he mistakenly omitted all of his foreign contacts, not just his meetings with Russians, and has worked in the past six months with the FBI to correct the record.

Meyer has Ohio State running like Fortune 500 juggernaut

By JIM LITKE, AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The tailored, slate-gray suit, the scarlet and gray power tie, the blacked-out chronograph on his wrist — if you didn't know Urban Meyer was the football coach at Ohio State, your first guess would be a Fortune 500 CEO.

That's hardly a coincidence.

After five seasons in Columbus, Meyer has the Buckeyes running as smoothly as any business enterprise in the land. He's won a third national championship there (to go along with two from Florida), a conference title and two division titles, and Ohio State is favored to return to the top of the Big Ten heap and compete for another college football crown.

All that despite getting smoked 31-0 by Clemson in the playoffs last season, then watching five players depart in the first round (and a dozen total) in the NFL draft.

"It's in the back of everyone's mind, and whether I'll use that during training camp or not is to be determined," Meyer said about that season-ending loss during Monday's session at the Big Ten media days. "But where we're at as a team, I like where we're at. So we're just pushing forward."

Pushing forward?

Like Kentucky basketball — another well-oiled sports juggernaut — Ohio State doesn't rebuild, it simply reloads.

Last season, Meyer had three rookies in the defensive backfield, the same number he wound up losing to the pros. This time around, the quarterback competition will be limited to who's backing up J.T. Barrett. But

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the coach will have to sort through seven candidates for starting right guard, leaving one rival supporter to grouse that any of the runners-up could start for nearly every other team in the conference.

Meyer's demeanor reflects the stability he's brought to the program, and his willingness, finally, to share some of the responsibilities of the job. That's a far cry from the anxiety-ridden days that led to his well-publicized burnout after taking Florida to the top of the sport.

That's probably not a coincidence, either.

"He had a (first) grandchild," center Bill Price said. "I mean, babies — what do babies do to men? I tell him that all the time. ... (In pictures) he's holding that child like he was holding the championship trophy, and it's the cutest thing in the world.

"I give him a hard time about it all the time," Price added. "He has become a little bit more, I guess, quote-unquote 'mild.'"

Linebacker Chris Worley thinks the mellower version of Meyer was mostly for the offseason. He expects the glow to wear off as soon as Meyer steps onto the practice field later this week.

"When football comes," Worley said, rolling his eyes, "it's football time."

Other developments from the first day of the Big Ten meetings:

— Like Ohio State, the conference is also on solid footing, at least as measured by TV ratings and exposure. Commissioner Jim Delany essentially pioneered the move by college football leagues to build their own television networks and shows no signs of cutting back.

Delany announced the Big Ten Network will triple its prime-time national TV exposure during football season and add more basketball games in the time slot, thanks to new deals with broadcast partners FOX, ABC/ESPN and CBS.

"College football has never been healthier. It's also never been more fragile," Delany said, citing major issues ranging from players' safety and lawsuits to more minor ones like scheduling conflicts on Friday night with high school football games.

The FOX and ABC/ESPN football deals run for six years, as does the basketball agreement with CBS. The conference network extended its joint venture with FOX through 2032. BTN President Mark Silverman said ratings were up 5 percent last season, when the network showed more live events and studio hours than ever before.

— Kirk Ferentz became the longest-tenured coach in major college football following Bob Stoops' retirement from Oklahoma.

"I haven't spent a lot of time thinking about it," said Ferentz, who will begin his 19th season as head coach at Iowa. "I feel fortunate that, in 1981, I somehow, some way, ended up there as an assistant."

The Hawkeyes are coming off an 8-5 season and Ferentz has promoted his son, Brian, to run the offense. Former coordinator Ken O'Keefe is back as the quarterbacks coach in hopes of sparking what has been a lackluster offense. Ferentz first met Stoops, who played at Iowa, in 1981 and they became co-workers for a while and good friends.



Ohio State NCAA college football head coach Urban Meyer speaks at Big Ten Media Day in Chicago, Monday, July 24, 2017. (AP Photo/G-Jun Yam)

"In my mind, we lost one of the good coaches in this game, one of the best coaches that's ever coached," Ferentz said. "But I'm happy for him. He's totally at peace."

No word on when or whether Ferentz plans to call it a career.

— Ohio State, Penn State, Northwestern and Wisconsin each placed two players on the preseason Big Ten all-conference list released Monday.

Buckeyes quarterback J.T. Barrett and defensive end Tyquan Lewis were joined on the East Division team by Penn State running back Saquon Barkley and quarterback Trace McSorley. Indiana linebacker Tegray Scales rounded out the lineup as chosen by a media panel.

Northwestern placed running back Justin Jackson and safety Goodwin Igwebuike on the West Division team, while Wisconsin had linebacker Jack Cichy and tight end Troy Fumagalli honored. Iowa linebacker Josey Jewell also made the West lineup.

Barkley is the only junior among the group.

More AP college football: <http://collegefootball.ap.org> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

AP sources: Trump speaks to advisers about firing Sessions

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump has spoken with advisers about firing Attorney General Jeff Sessions, as he continues to rage against Sessions' decision to recuse himself from all matters related to the Russia investigation.

The president's anger again bubbled into public view Monday as he referred to Sessions in a tweet as "beleaguered." Privately, Trump has speculated aloud to allies in recent days about the potential consequences of firing Sessions, according to three people who have recently spoken to the president. They demanded anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Trump often talks about making staff changes without following through, so those who have spoken with the president cautioned that a change may not be imminent or happen at all. What is clear is that Trump remains furious that the attorney general recused himself from the investigations.

"So why aren't the Committees and investigators, and of course our beleaguered A.G., looking into Crooked Hillary's crimes & Russia relations?" Trump tweeted Monday. His tweet came just hours before his son-in-law, White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, traveled to Capitol Hill to be interviewed about his meetings with Russians.

Trump's intensifying criticism has fueled speculation that Sessions may resign even if Trump opts not to fire him. During an event at the White House, Trump ignored a shouted question about whether Sessions



In this July 21, 2017 file photo, Attorney General Jeff Sessions speaks in Philadelphia. President Donald Trump took a new swipe at on Monday, July 24, 2017, referring to him in a tweet as "beleaguered" and wondering why Sessions isn't digging into Hillary Clinton's alleged contacts with Russia. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, File)

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should step down. The attorney general said last week he intended to stay in his post.

If Trump were to fire Sessions, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein would be elevated to the top post on an acting basis. That would leave the president with another attorney general of whom he has been sharply critical in both public and private for his handling of the Russia probe, according to four White House and outside advisers who, like others interviewed, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

It could also raise the specter of Trump asking Rosenstein — or whomever he appoints to fill the position — to fire Robert Mueller, the special counsel leading the investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election and potential collusion with Trump's campaign.

The name of one longtime Trump ally, Rudy Giuliani, was floated Monday as a possible replacement for Sessions, but a person who recently spoke to the former New York City mayor said that Giuliani had not been approached about the position. Giuliani told CNN on Monday that he did not want the post and would have recused himself had he been in Sessions' position.

The president's tweet about the former Alabama senator comes less than a week after Trump, in a New York Times interview, said that Sessions should never have taken the job as attorney general if he was going to recuse himself. Sessions made that decision after it was revealed that he had met with a top Russian diplomat last year.

Trump has seethed about Sessions' decision for months, viewing it as disloyal — arguably the most grievous offense in the president's mind — and resenting that the attorney general did not give the White House a proper heads-up before making the announcement that he would recuse himself. His fury has been fanned by several close confidants — including his son Donald Trump Jr, who is also ensnared in the Russia probe — who are angry that Sessions made his decision.

Trump and Sessions' conversations in recent weeks have been infrequent. Sessions had recently asked senior White House staff how he might patch up relations with the president but that effort did not go anywhere, according to a person briefed on the conversations. Sessions was in the West Wing on Monday but did not meet with the president, according to deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Newt Gingrich, a frequent Trump adviser, said that the president, with his criticisms of Sessions, was simply venting and being "honest about his feelings. But that doesn't mean he's going to do anything," Gingrich said. Still, he said the president's comments would have repercussions when it comes to staff morale.

"Anybody who is good at team building would suggest to the president that attacking members of your team rattles the whole team," Gingrich said.

Sessions and Trump used to be close, sharing both a friendship and an ideology. Sessions risked his reputation when he became the first U.S. senator to endorse the celebrity businessman and his early backing gave Trump legitimacy, especially among the hard-line anti-immigration forces that bolstered his candidacy. Several of Sessions' top aides now serve in top administration posts, including Stephen Miller, the architect of several of Trump's signature proposals, including the travel ban and tough immigration policy.

After Trump's public rebuke last week, Sessions seemed determined to keep doing the job he said "goes beyond anything that I would have ever imagined for myself."

"I'm totally confident that we can continue to run this office in an effective way," Sessions said last week.

Armand DeKeyser, who worked closely with Sessions and became his chief of staff in the Senate, said he did not see the attorney general as someone who would easily cave to criticism, even from the president.

"If Jeff thinks he is in an untenable position and cannot be an effective leader, I believe he would leave," DeKeyser said. "But I don't think he's reached that point."

But Anthony Scaramucci, the president's new communications director, said that it's time for Trump and Sessions to hash out a resolution, regardless of what they decide.

"My own personal opinion, I think they've got to have a meeting and have a reconciliation one way or another. You know what I mean? Either stay or go, one way or another," he said.

The Justice Department declined to comment.

Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Julie Bykowicz, Sadie Gurman and Catherine Lucey contributed reporting.

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

Immigrants wept, pleaded for water and pounded on the truck

By **FRANK BAJAK** and **NOMAAN MERCHANT**, Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The tractor-trailer was pitch-black inside, crammed with maybe 90 immigrants or more, and already hot when it left the Texas border town of Laredo for the 150-mile trip north to San Antonio.

It wasn't long before the passengers, sweating profusely in the rising oven-like heat, started crying and pleading for water. Children whimpered. People took turns breathing through a single hole in the wall. They pounded on the sides of the truck and yelled to try to get the driver's attention. Then they began passing out.

By the time police showed up at a Walmart in San Antonio around 12:30 a.m. Sunday and looked in the back of the truck, eight passengers were dead and two more would soon die in an immigrant-smuggling attempt gone tragically awry.

The details of the journey were recounted Monday by a survivor who spoke to The Associated Press and in a federal criminal complaint against the driver, James Matthew Bradley, who could face the death penalty over the 10 lives lost.

"After an hour I heard ... people crying and asking for water. I, too, was sweating and people were despairing. That's when I lost consciousness," Adan Lara Vega, 27, told the AP from his hospital bed. By the time he came to, he was in the hospital, where his ID bracelet identified him by the last name Lalravega. Mexican consulate and U.S. officials later told AP the correct spelling was Lara Vega.

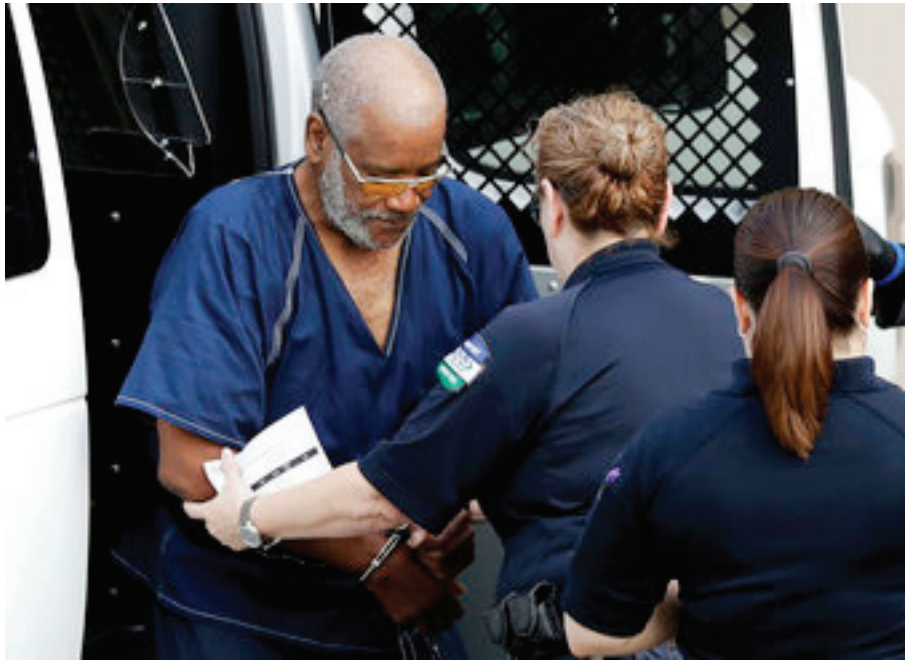
Bradley, 60, of Clearwater, Florida, appeared in federal court on charges of illegally transporting immigrants for financial gain, resulting in death. He was ordered held for another hearing on Thursday.

He did not enter a plea or say anything about what happened. But in court papers, he told authorities he didn't realize anyone was inside his 18-wheeler until he parked and got out to relieve himself.

In addition to the dead, nearly 20 others rescued from the rig were hospitalized in dire condition, many suffering from extreme dehydration and heatstroke.

Mexico's foreign ministry released a statement Monday night that said "according to preliminary information," 25 of the migrants inside the rig were Mexican.

Four of those who died and 21 of those hospitalized are Mexican, the statement said. Some of the others inside the truck were from Guatemala.



James Mathew Bradley Jr., left, arrives at the federal courthouse for a hearing, Monday, July 24, 2017, in San Antonio. Bradley was arrested in connection with the deaths of multiple people packed into a broiling tractor-trailer. (AP Photo/Eric Gay)

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Many of the immigrants had hired smugglers who brought them across the U.S. border, hid them in safe houses and then put them aboard the tractor-trailer for the ride northward, according to accounts given to investigators.

"Even though they have the driver in custody, I can guarantee you there's going to be many more people we're looking for to prosecute," said Thomas Homan, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Bradley told investigators that the trailer had been sold and he was transporting it for his boss from Iowa to Brownsville, Texas. After hearing banging and shaking, he opened the door and was "surprised when he was run over by 'Spanish' people and knocked to the ground," according to the criminal complaint.

He said he did not call 911, even though he knew at least one passenger was dead.

Bradley told authorities that he knew the trailer refrigeration system didn't work and that the four ventilation holes were probably clogged.

The truck was registered to Pyle Transportation Inc. of Schaller, Iowa. President Brian Pyle said that he had sold the truck to someone in Mexico and that Bradley was supposed to deliver it to a pick-up point in Brownsville.

"I'm absolutely sorry it happened. I really am. It's shocking. I'm sorry my name was on it," Pyle said, referring to the truck. He said he had no idea why Bradley took the roundabout route he described to investigators.

Bradley told authorities that he had stopped in Laredo — which would have been out of his way if he were traveling directly to Brownsville — to get the truck washed and detailed before heading back 150 miles (240 kilometers) north to San Antonio. From there, he would have had to drive 275 miles south again to get to Brownsville.

"I just can't believe it. I'm stunned, shocked. He is too good a person to do anything like this," said Bradley's fiancée, Darnisha Rose of Louisville, Kentucky. "He helps people, he doesn't hurt people."

One passenger described a perilous journey that began in Mexico, telling investigators he and others crossed into the U.S. by raft, paying smugglers 12,500 Mexican pesos (about \$700), an amount that also bought protection offered by the Zeta drug cartel.

They then walked until the next day and rode in a pickup truck to Laredo, where they were put aboard the tractor-trailer to be taken to San Antonio, according to the complaint. The passenger said he was supposed to pay the smugglers \$5,500 once he got there.

Another passenger told authorities that he was in a group of 24 people who had been in a "stash house" in Laredo for 11 days before being taken to the tractor-trailer.

Lara Vega told the AP that he was told by smugglers who hid him and six friends in a safe house in Laredo that they would be riding in an air-conditioned space.

The Mexican laborer from the state of Aguascalientes said that when they boarded the truck on a Laredo street Saturday night for the two-hour trip to San Antonio, it was already full of people but so dark he couldn't tell how many.

He said he was never offered water and never saw the driver. Lara Vega said that when people are being smuggled, they are told not to look at the faces of their handlers — and it's a good idea to obey.

Bradley told authorities that when he arrived in San Antonio, nobody met the tractor-trailer. But one passenger said six black SUVs were waiting to pick up the immigrants and were full in a matter of minutes. And San Antonio police said store surveillance video showed vehicles picking up some of the immigrants.

Lara Vega said he was deported from the U.S. three years ago but decided to take another chance because the economy is depressed where he lives with his wife, 4-year-old daughter and 3-year-old son.

"A person makes decisions without thinking through the consequences," he said, "but, well, thanks to God, here we are."

Associated Press writers Claire Galofaro in Louisville, Kentucky; Ryan Foley in Iowa City, Iowa; Scott McFetridge in Schaller, Iowa; Mike Graczyk in Houston, Elliot Spagat in San Diego; Peter Orsi in Mexico City; and Tammy Webber in Chicago contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show the survivor's name is 'Adan Lara Vega' according to records of U.S. and Mexican officials, not 'Adan Lalravega' as it was spelled on a hospital bracelet.

Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas at <http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv>.

Duterte vows end to uprising, 'jail or hell' in drug war

By JIM GOMEZ and TERESA CERAJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte vowed Monday to continue his bloody war on illegal drugs despite international and domestic criticism and warned that offenders will end up in "jail or hell." In his second state of the nation speech, Duterte also insisted he would not hold peace talks with communist rebels because of continuing attacks.

Security issues dominated his most important annual speech, including a disastrous two-month uprising by pro-Islamic State group militants in a southern city, the worst crisis he has faced.

Thousands of protesters marched outside Congress demanding he deliver on a range of promises which mirror the diverse burdens of his presidency, from protecting human rights to improving internet speed.

A look at the most serious issues confronting Duterte as he enters his second year in power.



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures during his second state of the nation address at the House of Representatives in suburban Quezon city, north of Manila, Philippines, Monday July 24, 2017. Duterte said he will not stop his deadly crackdown on illegal drugs and warns that addicts and dealers have two choices: jail or hell. (AP Photo/

Aaron Favila)

ISLAMIC STATE-LINKED SIEGE

Two months after more than 600

pro-Islamic State group militants blasted their way into the southern city of Marawi, the military is still fighting the last gunmen — fewer than 100, about 10 of them foreign. Duterte told reporters after his speech Monday that the government counteroffensive will not stop "until the last terrorist is taken out."

The crisis, however, may not end soon, according to Duterte, because troops have to move carefully to ensure the safety of about 300 hostages he said are being held by the gunmen. "I don't want these innocent people to be slaughtered," he said.

Congress overwhelmingly voted on Saturday to grant Duterte's request to extend martial law in the south to the end of the year to allow Duterte to deal with the Marawi crisis and stamp out other extremist groups across the south, something five presidents before him have failed to do.

About half a million people have been displaced by the Marawi fighting. Some have threatened to march back to the still-besieged city to escape the squalor in overcrowded evacuation camps in nearby towns. Rebuilding Marawi will require massive funds and national focus and will be fraught with pitfalls. Amid the despair and gargantuan rebuilding, it's important "to ensure that extremist teachings do not find fertile

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ground," said Sidney Jones, director of the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict.

DRUG WAR

Despite criticism and threats of criminal prosecution, Duterte said his drug crackdown, which has left thousands of suspects dead, will go on. "Do not try to scare me with prison or the International Court of Justice," he said Monday. "I'm willing to go to prison for the rest of my life." He reiterated his plea that Congress reimpose the death penalty for drug offenders and others.

"The fight will not stop until those who deal in (drugs) understand that they have to stop because the alternatives are either jail or hell," Duterte said, to applause from his national police chief, Ronald del Rosa, and other supporters in the audience.

During the campaign, he promised to rid the country of illegal drugs in three to six months and repeatedly threatened traffickers with death. But he missed his deadline and later declared he would fight the menace until his last day in office. When then-U.S. President Barack Obama, along with European Union and U.N. rights officials, raised alarm over the mounting death toll from the crackdown, Duterte lashed out at them, telling Obama to "go to hell." Duterte's fiercest critic at home, Sen. Leila del Lima, was detained in February on drug charges she said were baseless.

More than 5,200 suspects have died so far, including more than 3,000 in reported gunbattles with police and more than 2,000 others in drug-related attacks by motorcycle-riding masked gunmen and other assaults, police said. Human rights groups have reported a higher toll and called for an independent investigation into Duterte's possible role in the violence.

Duterte "has unleashed a human rights calamity on the Philippines in his first year in office," U.S.-based Human Rights Watch said. In April, a lawyer filed a complaint of crimes against humanity against Duterte and other officials in connection with the drug killings before the International Criminal Court. An impeachment complaint against the president was dismissed in the House of Representatives, which is dominated by Duterte's allies.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

More than a month into Duterte's presidency, the Philippines won a landmark arbitration case before a tribunal in The Hague that invalidated China's massive territorial claims in the South China Sea under a 1982 U.N. maritime treaty.

Aiming to turn around his country's frosty relations with China, Duterte refused to demand immediate Chinese compliance with the ruling. He promised he would take it up with Beijing at some point. Confronting China, which has dismissed the ruling as a sham, risks sparking an armed conflict that the Philippines would surely lose, Duterte contended.

In a news conference Monday, Duterte said he told Chinese President Xi Jinping during a Beijing visit last year that the Philippines would drill for oil in disputed areas it asserts as its own, and that Xi responded that such an action would spark an armed confrontation.

Nationalists and critics blasted Duterte for what they see as a sellout to China. After the Xi meeting, China allowed Filipino fishermen to return to Chinese-controlled Scarborough Shoal, where Chinese coast guard ships drove Filipinos away in 2012.

The Philippines had been the most vocal critic of China's assertive behavior in the disputed waters until Duterte took power and reached out to Beijing, partly to secure funding for infrastructure projects.

His move has de-escalated tensions in the busy sea, but critics have warned that Duterte's friendly overtures to China may erode the country's chances of demanding that China comply with the ruling and relinquish its claims to waters regarded as the Philippines' exclusive economic zone.

Pakistan: Suicide bombing in Lahore kills 26, wounds 54

By ZAHEERUDDIN BABAR, Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide bomber struck near a police team in the eastern city of Lahore Monday killing at least 26 and wounding another 54, many of them police officers. An outlawed Taliban faction claimed responsibility.

Senior police officer Haider Ashraf said a suicide bomber on a motorcycle targeted police guarding a demolition site at Kot Lakhpat's vegetable market on the outskirts of Lahore.

Ashraf said it was believed earlier that the bomb was in a car, but it was later discovered that the vehicle belonged to a police officer, among the eight officers killed.

He said many of 54 wounded are policemen and several bystanders were wounded by the impact of the powerful blast. Ashraf added that near the blast site a high rise building houses important information technology offices but the apparent target was the police gathering.

The outlawed militant group Tehrik-e-Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, confirming they used a suicide bomber on a motorcycle.

Rana Sanaullah, the home minister of eastern Punjab province of which Lahore is the capital, said anti-state elements who want to see instability in the country were behind the attack.

"No matter what name they use, these terrorists are one but they cannot demoralize the Pakistani nation," said Sanaullah.

Malik Mohammad Ahmed, a spokesman for the Punjab government, said the blast occurred near the secretariat of Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif but that he was not in the office at the time.

Sharif in a statement condemned the attack and called for the best possible medical service for the survivors.

The U.N. Security Council condemned "the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack" in the strongest terms and underlined the obligation of all countries to help Pakistan bring those responsible to justice. Members reiterated that "any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres strongly condemned attack in Lahore and called for those responsible to be brought to justice, U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq said.

"He supports the efforts of the government of Pakistan to fight terrorism and violent extremism with full respect for international human rights norms and obligations," Haq said.

Lahore has faced scores of terror attacks in recent years. A suicide bombing earlier this year killed 16 police on a busy road while another killed over 70 people during Easter last year.

Elsewhere in Pakistan Monday, gunmen riding on a motorcycle in Karachi opened fire on traffic police officers, killing one and critically wounding another, said Rao Anwar, a senior counterterrorism police officer.

Anwar said the gunmen also snatched away a dead officer's rifle and fired on another nearby police patrol but caused no casualties.



Pakistani rescue workers remove a body from the site of a deadly bombing in the eastern city of Lahore, Pakistan, Monday, July 24, 2017. Pakistani officials said that the suicide motorcycle bombing killed over 20 people and wounded more than 20 others at a vegetable market in the neighborhood of Kot Lakhpat on Lahore's outskirts.

(AP Photo/K.M. Chaudary)

Afghan security scrutinized after suicide bomber kills 24

By KATHY GANNON and AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — A Taliban suicide bomber killed 24 people in a horrific early morning assault in a neighborhood where prominent politicians reside, causing residents and analysts to question the government's ability to protect Afghanistan's capital.

Another 42 people were injured in the attack that took place during morning rush hour as government employees and students made their way to work and school. Plumes of black smoke were seen billowing skyward outside the entrance to a private high school. Students in nearby dormitories were injured by flying glass.

Several cars were destroyed and small shops that lined the busy street were decimated and many of the occupants within killed.

The suicide bomber had rammed his explosive laden car into a minibus carrying employees of the mines and petroleum ministry, said Kabul police chief spokesman Basir Mujahed.

In a statement to the media the Taliban took responsibility for the bombing saying the target was the employees of the intelligence services. Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, said insurgents had spent the last two months in Kabul shadowing intelligence services employees before striking early Monday.

Analysts said widespread corruption, rife within the government and the security forces, makes keeping Kabul safe a difficult job.

"You can bring any amount of explosives into the city if you have money. Corruption is the big problem," Kabul-based security analyst Waheed Muzhda told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "Any group, even a small group, can bring weapons, ammunition to anywhere in the city."

Last year Afghanistan was ranked as one of the world's most corrupt countries according to Transparency International.

The western Kabul neighborhood where the attack occurred is home to many prominent political leaders, such as Hazara leader Mohammad Mohaqiq. It has also been the site of several previous attacks, including the suicide attack last month that killed prominent Shiite Muslim cleric Ramazan Hussainzada, who was also a senior leader of the ethnic Hazara community.

Amir Helam, whose friend died in the explosion, told Afghanistan's Tolo TV that "every day people are dying." Addressing the government Helam said: "If you cannot bring peace then please leave and bring other people." And to the insurgents, he said: "If you are the Taliban opposition please come and talk with the government. It is enough, stop killing the people."

Kabul has been battered by explosions claimed by the Taliban and by the Islamic State group's affiliate in Afghanistan. On May 31, the Afghan capital saw its worst suicide attack since the Taliban's collapse in 2001 — an attack that killed 150 people and wounded scores.

In a statement the Interior Ministry called Monday's attack "a criminal act against humanity."



Policemen stand guard at the site of a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Monday, July 24, 2017. A suicide car bomb killed dozens of people as well as the bomber early Monday morning in a western neighborhood of Afghanistan's capital where several prominent politicians reside, a government official said. (AP Photos/Massoud Hossaini)

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Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said police were working around the clock to keep the capital secure, however he said intelligence to thwart attacks also required the public's cooperation. Residents have to help the security forces, he said.

A second security analyst, who also served as governor of Kunar and Herat, Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi said a growing mistrust of the government by many Afghans has helped insurgents.

"The police are corrupt, the security people are corrupt and the people are against the government, all this together makes it easy for the Taliban," said Wahidi.

The Taliban said the attack was carried out by an insurgent identified only as Ahmad and the target of the bombing was the intelligence services and their employees. Taliban spokesman Mujahid claimed the bus was filled with employees of the intelligence services saying 37 people were killed, but the Taliban often exaggerate their battlefield gains and death tolls.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani condemned the bombing.

"Once again, these terrorist are attacking civilians and targeting government staff," Ghani said in a statement.

The U.N. Security Council condemned "the heinous and cowardly terrorist attack" in the strongest terms, underlined the need to bring the perpetrators and organizers to justice, and "reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation."

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also strongly condemned "the horrifying bomb attack" in Kabul claimed by the Taliban saying "the deliberate targeting of civilians constitutes a grave violation of human rights and international humanitarian law and may constitute a war crime," according to U.N. deputy spokesman Farhan Haq.

Neighboring Pakistan issued a statement condemning the attack and saying that "terrorism is a common enemy."

Pakistan has been bitterly criticized by both the United States and the Afghan government for providing safe havens to Taliban insurgents, a charge it strongly denies. Both countries routinely accuse the other of harboring their enemy insurgents.

Noorullah, who uses just one name, was in his dormitory at a nearby university when the explosion occurred. He says he saw "so many injured people and cars burning." Noorullah sustained minor wounds from flying glass.

"The sound was very strong, the ground shook," said Mohammed Nader, who owns a convenience store in the neighborhood.

The Taliban have stepped up their attacks against both Afghan forces and civilians since U.S. and other NATO-led foreign combat troops pulled out of the country at the end of 2014, leaving only an advisory and training contingent of international forces. In addition, American troops in Afghanistan have a counterterrorism role.

The insurgents have also steadily expanded their reach across the country, staging offensives targeting entire towns and expanding their footprint.

The Afghan military and security forces, with 195,000 soldiers and more than 150,000 policemen, have struggled to contain the insurgency on their own.

Asian stock indexes mixed amid caution on earnings, politics

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian share benchmarks were mixed Tuesday as investors awaited a slew of corporate earnings reports. A meeting of the Federal Reserve and caution over potential twists and turns in U.S. politics kept most indexes trading within a narrow range.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 index slipped 0.1 percent to 19,964.81 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged 0.1 percent higher to 26,875.11. South Korea's Kospi edged 0.1 percent lower to 2,449.96. Australia's S&P ASX 200 gained 0.8 percent to 5,735.10 and the Shanghai Composite index was flat at 3,249.73. Shares in Southeast Asia were mixed.

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WALL STREET: The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 0.1 percent to 2,469.91 after nine of the 11 sectors that make up the index logged losses. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 0.3 percent to 21,513.17. The Nasdaq composite gained 0.4 percent to 6,410.81. The Nasdaq is up 19.1 percent this year, nearly double the rise for broader-market indexes as investors have massed into technology stocks in their search for strong growth as the global economy remains sluggish.

GLOBAL GROWTH: The International Monetary Fund on Monday held its forecast for global economic growth this year steady at 3.5 percent, but that masks some variation. It raised its forecast for economic growth in Europe, Japan and China, but cut its outlook for the United States on the assumption that politicians in Washington won't be as helpful for growth as earlier expected.

FEDERAL RESERVE: The Federal Reserve's policymaking committee begins a two-day meeting on Tuesday, following its decision last month to raise short-term interest rates for the third time since December. The central bank also announced plans to start gradually paring its bond holdings later this year, a move that could cause rates to rise. Most investors expect the Fed to hold rates steady at this week's meeting and possibly raise them one more time this year.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "The high level of trepidation continues to weigh on market sentiments as congressional hearing of White House advisers all but guarantees some headline risk and a possible escalation of the Russia- Gate bluster," Stephen Innes of OANDA said in a commentary.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude rose 25 cents to \$46.59 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It gained 57 cents, or 1.2 percent, to \$46.34 per barrel on Monday. Brent crude, the standard for international oil prices, rose 30 cents to \$49.12 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The euro rose to \$1.1646 from \$1.1644. The dollar ticked up to 111.14 Japanese yen from 111.10 yen and the British pound climbed to \$1.3023 from \$1.3007.



Trader Tommy Kalikas works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Monday, July 24, 2017. Stocks are off to a mixed start on Wall Street as declines in health care and consumer-focused companies outweigh gains in other parts of the market. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

AP Business Writer Stan Choe contributed from New York.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 25, the 206th day of 2017. There are 159 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 25, 1956, the Italian liner SS Andrea Doria collided with the Swedish passenger ship Stockholm off the New England coast late at night and began sinking; 51 people — 46 from the Andrea Doria, five from the Stockholm — were killed. (The Andrea Doria capsized and sank the following morning.)

On this date:

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In 1593, France's King Henry IV converted from Protestantism to Roman Catholicism.

In 1866, Ulysses S. Grant was named General of the Army of the United States, the first officer to hold the rank.

In 1917, Nikon Corp. had its beginnings with the merger of three optical manufacturers in Japan.

In 1934, Austrian Chancellor Engelbert Dollfuss was assassinated by pro-Nazi Austrians in a failed coup attempt.

In 1946, the United States detonated an atomic bomb near Bikini Atoll in the Pacific in the first underwater test of the device.

In 1952, Puerto Rico became a self-governing commonwealth of the United States.

In 1957, Tunisia became a republic.

In 1960, a Woolworth's store in Greensboro, North Carolina, that had been the scene of a sit-in protest against its whites-only lunch counter dropped its segregation policy.

In 1975, the musical "A Chorus Line" opened on Broadway at the Shubert Theatre, beginning a run of 6,137 performances.

In 1984, Soviet cosmonaut Svetlana Savitskaya (sah-VEETS'-kah-yah) became the first woman to walk in space as she carried out more than three hours of experiments outside the orbiting space station Salyut 7.

In 1992, opening ceremonies were held in Barcelona, Spain, for the Summer Olympics.

In 2000, a New York-bound Air France Concorde crashed outside Paris shortly after takeoff, killing all 109 people on board and four people on the ground; it was the first-ever crash of the supersonic jet.

Ten years ago: A presidential commission urged broad changes to veterans' care that would boost benefits for family members helping the wounded, establish an easy-to-use website for medical records and overhaul the way disability pay was awarded. The bullet-riddled body of one of 23 South Koreans held hostage in Afghanistan by Taliban kidnappers was found; eight other captives were released. Pratibha Patil (PRUH'-tee-bah puh-TIHL') was sworn in as India's first female president.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama embraced some degree of control on the sale of weapons but also told the National Urban League in New Orleans he would seek a national consensus on combating violence. NBC announced it had topped the \$1 billion mark in advertising sales for the upcoming Olympic Games in London, topping the \$850 million in ad sales for the Beijing games in 2008.

One year ago: On the opening night of the Democratic national convention in Philadelphia, Bernie Sanders robustly embraced his former rival Hillary Clinton as a champion for the same economic causes that enlivened his supporters, signaling it was time for them to rally behind her in the campaign against Republican Donald Trump. The FBI said it was investigating how thousands of Democratic National Committee emails were hacked (Wikileaks had posted emails suggesting the DNC had favored Clinton over Sanders during the primary season).

Today's Birthdays: Actress Barbara Harris is 82. Folk-pop singer-musician Bruce Woodley (The Seekers) is 75. Rock musician Jim McCarty (The Yardbirds) is 74. Rock musician Verdine White (Earth, Wind & Fire) is 66. Singer-musician Jem Finer (The Pogues) is 62. Model-actress Iman is 62. Cartoonist Ray Billingsley ("Curtis") is 60. Rock musician Thurston Moore (Sonic Youth) is 59. Celebrity chef/TV personality Geoffrey Zakarian is 58. Actress-singer Bobbie Eakes is 56. Actress Katherine Kelly Lang is 56. Actress Illeana Douglas is 52. Country singer Marty Brown is 52. Actor Matt LeBlanc is 50. Actress Wendy Raquel Robinson is 50. Rock musician Paavo Lotjonen (PAH'-woh LAHT'-joh-nehn) (Apocalyptica) is 49. Actor D.B. Woodside is 48. Actress Miriam Shor is 46. Actor David Denman is 44. Actor Jay R. Ferguson is 43. Actor James Lafferty is 32. Actress Shantel VanSanten is 32. Actor Michael Welch is 30. Actress Linsey (cq) Godfrey is 29. Classical singer Faryl Smith is 22. Actress Meg Donnelly (TV: "American Housewife") is 16. Actor Pierce Gagnon is 12.

Thought for Today: "No matter what side of an argument you're on, you always find some people on your side that you wish were on the other side." — Jascha Heifetz (YAH'-shah HY'-fetz), Russian-born American violinist (1901-1987).