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- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Groton Chiropractic Clinic ad
- 1- Woods Bridal Shower
- 2- Death Notice: Chad Blaschke
- 2- Flags at half staff today
- 2- Upcoming Livestream events
- 3- Part 8 of Prom Photos
- 4- Handyman looking for work
- 4- Cutting Edge Lawn Care ad
- 6- SDHSAA Meeting Report
- 7- Olde Bank Floral Ad
- 8- UMW May Luncheon
- 9- Today in Weather History
- 9- Golding Living Center ad
- 10- Local Weather Forecast
- 11- Yesterday's Groton Weather
- 11- Today's Weather Climate
- 11- National Weather map
- 12- Daily Devotional
- 13- AP News

Open House Bridal Shower For Brianna Woods

Bride-to-be of Zach Geary Saturday, April 30th 9:30-11:30

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church – Groton

The couple is registered at: Target, Herbergers & Menards

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Closed**

© 2015 Groton Daily Independent

Friday, April 29

School Breakfast: French toast, links, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Pizza, vegetable, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, sherbet, whole wheat bread.

1:00pm: Track at Sisseton 6:30pm: FFA Banquet

Saturday, April 30

Birthdays: Heather Feser, Logan Lane 4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church

Mass

Sunday, May 1

Birthdays: Patty Hein • Katie Leonhardt • Doug

Sombke • Travis Harder

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at Pierpont Church

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with com-

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

Monday, May 2

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken tenders, baked tiny potato, carrots and dip, fruit.

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

Birthdays: Tom Sundling • Terry Cutler • Hannah Luecke • Ryan Koehler • Jessica Nelson

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

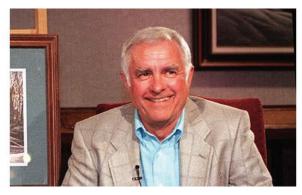
Carol McFarland-Kutter, D.C. 1205 N 1st St., Groton 397-8204

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Death Notice: Chad Blaschke

Chad Blaschke, 41, of Groton fell asleep April 28, 2016 at Sanford Medical Center, Sioux Falls. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.





Governor Requests Flags At Half-Staff To Honor Terry Redlin

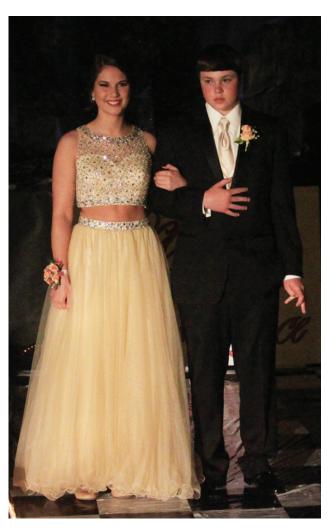
Honor Terry Redlin
PIERRE, S.D. – Gov. Dennis Daugaard has requested
that all flags in the state be flown at half-staff from 8
a.m. until sunset on Friday, April 29, to honor the life of
Terry Redlin.

The iconic South Dakota artist fell asleep on Sunday, April 24, at age 78. Public visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDT on Friday, April 29, at the Redlin Art Center in Watertown.



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Kailey Payne escorted by Nathan Fjelstad

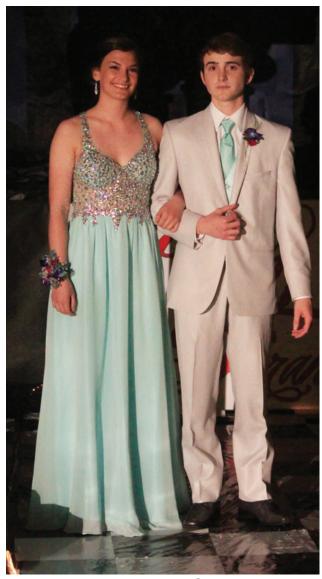
Hannah Lewandowski escorted by Turner Webb

The Groton Area prom was held Saturday evening in the high school gym.

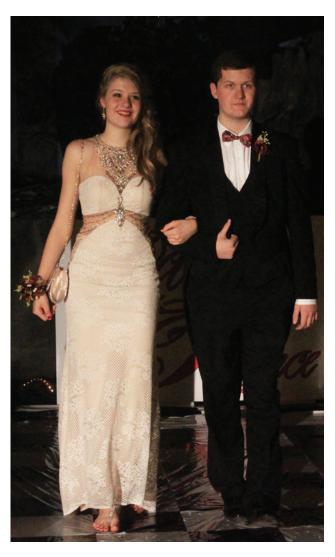
The Groton Independent will be featuring couples from the prom during the next few weeks. There were 52 couples at the prom. HD DVDs of the prom are available from the Independent for \$26.50 or can be mailed out for \$30.

Call 605-397-7285 or mail check to Independent, 110 N Washington St., Groton SD 57445-2252.

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Savanna Hinz escorted by Mark Leonhardt



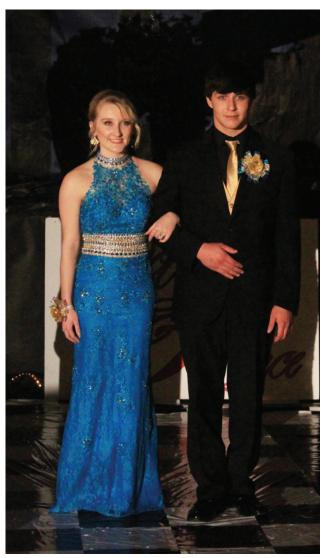
Gabrielle Kramer escorted by Canaan Smith



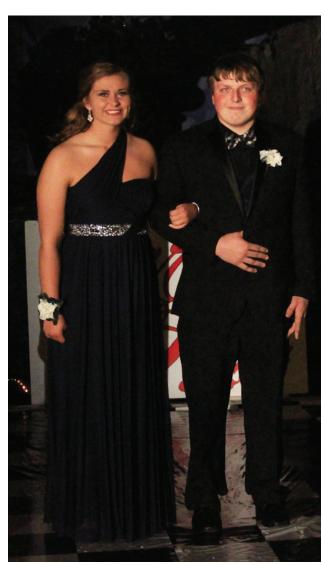
Handiman looking for work

I can do almost anything from building whatever you need, repairing machinery, welding, flooring, installing windows and doors. If you're looking for work to be done around the home or farm, I'm your guy. Call me at 605/228-4172.

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Shelby Price escorted by Reed Sattler



Madison Sippel escorted by Steven Fey

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SDHSAA Meeting Report

The dissolution of the cooperative sponsorship in boys' basketball between Marion and Freeman effective at the end of the 2015-16 school year was approved.

A cooperative between Sturgis and Newell for boys and girls soccer effective the 2016-17 school year was approved.

A cooperative for boys and girls soccer starting in the 2016-17 school year among Freeman, Freeman Academy and Marion was approved.

A coopeative for volleyball, boys' and girls' basketball, boys' and girls' cross country, boys' and girls' track, and boys' and girls golf between Freeman Academy and Marion was approved effective in the 2016-17 school year.

Pending receipt of application forms from Colome High School, the board approved a request for coopeative sponsorship of activities between Colome and Winner in the sport of wrestling was approved effective the 2016-17 school year.

Pending receipt of application forms from Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls, the board approved a request between Baltic and Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls for boys' and girls' basketball effective the 2016-17 school year.

A cooperative was approved in the sports of boys' and girls' cross country between Sanborn High School and Woonsocket High School effective the 2016-17 school year.

The Canistota/Freeman football cooperative will be placed in Region 2, Class 9AA for the 2016-17 school year.

The following were approved for basketball:

- 1) Class A and B Mercy Rule: When the point differential reaches 30 or more points in the second half, the clock will continue to run. The clock will only be stopped for free throws and time outs (team or official). Regular timing rules will be used if the score differential drops back to less than 20 points.
- 2) Class B Shot Clock: Add the shot clock for Class B with the implementation date of 2017-18 school year.
- 3)Undergarment Rule: Sublimated or printed logos around the collar of the under shirt are permitted.

The following were approved for football:

- 1) Classifications/Grace Period: Rules that allow a nine-man team to apply for a two-year grace period remain in place. However, a requirement shall be added that requires any team applying for a two-year grace period to demonstrate, using published SD Department of Education figures that their enrollment will return to nine-man figures for the following cycle in order for the grace period to be granted. Without this published proof, no two-year grace period will be granted.
- 2) Co-operative Agreements: Specific to the sport of football: "All co-operative agreements in the sport of football must remain intact for a period of four years. If a co-op is broken by either school before four years have passed, neither school will be eligible for post-season play unless a hardship is granted by the SDHSAA Board of Directors."
- 3) Halftimes for all 11-man varsity competitions shall be 15 minutes, with the mandatory plus-three warm-up. Halftimes may be extended to 20-plus-3 only if both teams are provided 24 hours of advance notice.
- 4) 11A Semi-Finals: All Class 11A Semi-Finals shall all be played on the Friday prior to the State Championship.

The board approved to use the Sweet 16 format for Class A volleyball starting with the 2016-17 school year.

On a 4-3 vote, the board approved the following: Basketball & Volleyball –10% Rule: Submitted by Brent Dirk and passed by Basketball and Volleyball Advisory Committees is the following:

Proposal for the sports of basketball and volleyball to take effect during the next alignment period, 2017-18. If two or more schools enter into a cooperative agreement, the larger school will

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be considered the base school and the smaller school(s) will be considered the satellite school(s). The entire ADM (9-11) of the base school will be counted and for each participant from the satellite school 10% of that school's ADM will be counted. The number of participants from the satellite school will be determined from the 2016-17 roster submitted on the SDHSAA website. Those students in grades 9-11 will be counted. It will be necessary for the satellite school to identify students from their school on the roster.

Under a proposal for the 2019-20 school year, Aberdeen Central will host state cheer and dance and Gymnastics. Aberdeen will also host the state B Boys' Basketball Tournament, state Jazz Band and Class B boys and girls golf.



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Groton United Methodist Women

May Luncheon

Wednesday, May 4th



Serving from 11 am - 1 pm No Reservation Required





Men & Women \$8 - Children 6 and under free

Come and join us for lunch OR Make your own lunch to go at the Groton United Methodist Church

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Today in Weather History

April 29, 1942: An estimated F3 tornado moved east through Marshall County, destroying almost every building on a farm northeast of Kidder. Barns were heavily damaged on two other farms. One person was reported killed, with five others injured.

1905 - The town of Taylor, in southeastern Texas, was deluged with 2.4 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. (The Weather Channel)

1910 - The temperature at Kansas City, MO, soared to 95 degrees to establish a record for the month of April. Four days earlier the afternoon high in Kansas City was 44 degrees, following a record cold morning low of 34 degrees. (The Weather Channel) (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1963 - A tornado, as much as 100 yards in width, touched down south of Shannon, MS. The tornado destroyed twenty-seven homes along its eighteen mile path, killing three persons. Asphalt was torn from Highway 45 and thrown hundreds of yards away. Little rain or snow accompanied the tornado, so it was visible for miles. (The Weather Channel)

1973 - The Mississippi River reached a crest of 43.4 feet, breaking the prevous record of 42 feet established in 1785. (David Ludlum)

1987 - A storm off the southeast coast of Massachusetts blanketed southern New England with heavy snow. Totals of three inches at Boston MA, 11 inches at Milton MA, and 17 inches at Worcester MA, were records for so late in the season. Princeton MA was buried under 25 inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced large hail and high winds in central Texas. Baseball size hail was reported at Nixon, and wind gusts to 70 mph were reported at Cotulla. Heavy rain in Maine caused flooding along the Pemigewassett and Ammonoosuc Rivers. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in Arkansas, Louisiana and eastern Texas, with more than 70 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Softball size hail was reported at Palestine TX. Hail as large as tennis balls caused ten million dollars damage around Pine Bluff AR. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

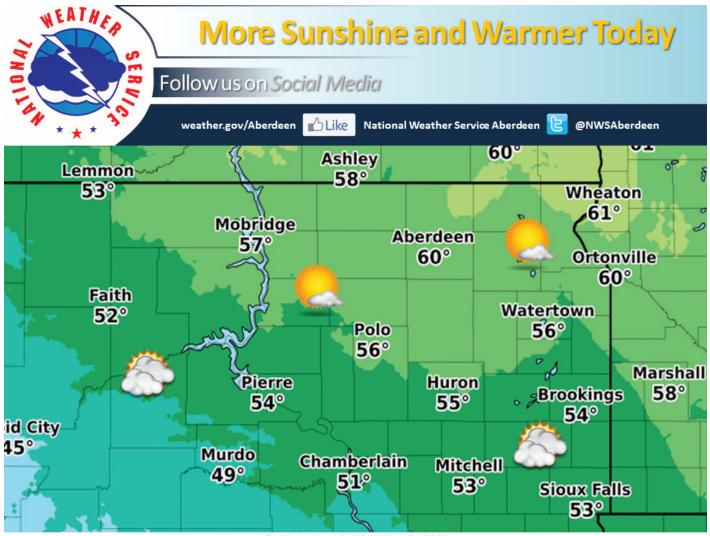
1990 - A storm system crossing northern New Mexico blanketed parts of the Rocky Mountain Region and the Northern High Plains with heavy snow, and produced blizzard conditions in central Montana. Much of southern Colorado was buried under one to three feet of snow. Pueblo tied an April record with 16.8 inches of snow in 24 hours. Strong canyon winds in New Mexico, enhanced by local showers, gusted to 65 mph at Albuquerque. Afternoon temperatures across the Great Plains Region ranged from

the 20s in North Dakota to 107 degrees at Laredo TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



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Today Tonight Saturday Saturday Sunday Sunday Monday Night Night Mostly Cloudy Partly Cloudy Sunny Mostly Clear Patchy Fog Mostly Sunny Mostly Sunny and Breezy then Partly Sunny High: 60 °F Low: 39 °F High: 60 °F Low: 36 °F High: 62 °F Low: 38 °F High: 65 °F



Published on: 04/29/2016 at 5:45AM

Dry conditions are forecast today as low pressure has moved well east of the region. The sun will make an appearance this morning for some areas with warmer temperatures as well. Overall, a slow warming trend will occur into early next week.

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Yesterday's Weather

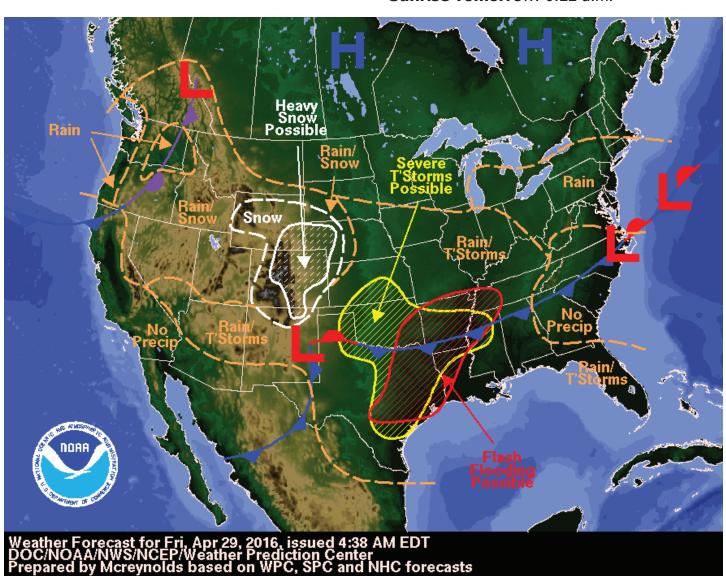
High: 50.7 Low: 33.8 **High Gust: 17**

Precip: 0.05

Today's Info Record High: 92° in 1934

Record Low: 16 in 1966 **Average High: 64°F** Average Low: 38°F

Average Precip in April.: 1.76 Precip to date in April.: 2.45 **Average Precip to date: 3.94 Precip Year to Date: 3.39** Sunset Tonight: 8:38 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:22 a.m.



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WHY MOTHERS MATTER

As the young man was saying his final goodbyes to his mother, through tear filled eyes, she asked, "Robert, will you make one final promise to me?"

"Yes, ma'am," he responded with a promise in his voice.

"Promise me," she begged, "that every night before you lie down to sleep, that you will read a chapter from the Bible and pray."

Hesitatingly, but sincerely, he replied, "I will."

Sometime later, keeping that promise led to his conversion to Christ. One day as he was walking on a country road in Scotland, he saw a poster announcing a missionary meeting. He decided to attend that meeting and while listening to the message, "God prompted the heart of the youth to become a missionary." Soon after attending that meeting, God called him to become a missionary to South Africa.

He labored among the Bacchanals for twelve years before there were any conversions. His loyalty to them finally lead to a revival that eventually spread to other tribes in the region and many came to know Christ.

As the revival spread and the church grew, he realized the need that the people had for a copy of the New Testament in their own language. He realized that if they were to learn God's Word and live God's way, they had to have a Bible. So, he not only translated the Scriptures, he procured a printing press to print it.

Robert Moffat opened the jungles to the Gospel; he braved their dangers, withstood the threats of medicine men, taught the natives to read, write, sing and farm and wrote two books about missions. What an impact one mother's request had on her son!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we realize the importance of a mother's influence and we ask that You equip and enable them to influence their children in Your ways. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 2 Timothy 3:13-16 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

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News from the App Associated Press

Low potential for major wildfires in western South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The potential for large wildfires in the Black Hills National Forest region appears low this year.

State Fire Meteorologist Darren Clabo says wetter-than-average conditions expected in May and June will dampen the likelihood of major fires through the rest of the summer.

There have been two big fires already this spring — The Cold Fire and the Storm Hill Fire that together burned more than three square miles. Clabo says warm, dry conditions contributed to those fires but that recent rain and snow has reduced the risk of a repeat.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows only a small pocket of abnormally dry conditions in the region, and no drought.

Congress votes to designate bison as national mammal BY MATTHEW DALY, Associated press MATTHEW BROWN, Associated press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bison could soon become the national mammal of the United States. Legislation approved by Congress would elevate the bison to a stature approaching that of the bald eagle, long the national emblem. There has not been an official mammal of the United States.

The Senate gave final approval to the bill Thursday, two days after the House approved it. It now goes to the president's desk.

Lawmakers called the bison — North America's largest land animal — the embodiment of American strength and resilience and said it reflects the nation's pioneer spirit.

"The bison has been an important part of our culture for many generations, especially in New Mexico, across the West and in Indian Country," said Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M. "Recognition of our new national mammal will bring a new source of pride for Americans — just like the bald eagle" and bring greater attention to ongoing species recovery efforts, he said.

Supporters said the bison legacy bill would afford overdue recognition to a species that has sweeping cultural and ecological significance. Bison already appear on two state flags —Wyoming and Kansas —and the official seal of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"No other indigenous species tells America's story better than this noble creature," said Rep. William Lacy Clay, D-Mo. "The American bison is an enduring symbol of strength, Native American culture and the boundless western wildness."

Tens of millions of bison, also known as buffalo, once thundered across a range stretching from central Canada through the Great Plains and northern Mexico. After a century-long slaughter driven by commercial hunting for buffalo pelts, the population dwindled to a thousand or fewer by the late 1800s. Now about 30,000 wild bison roam the country, with the largest population in Yellowstone National Park.

Bison also are scattered in public, tribal and private lands in the U.S. and Canada. A much larger number — more than 300,000 animals — are in commercial herds. Many of those are "beefalo," cattle-bison hybrids raised for their meat.

The push to give bison special recognition began about five years ago. That's when Native Americans on the InterTribal Buffalo Council joined with conservation groups to advocate for a "National Bison Day" in early November, to raise awareness of the animal's essential role in providing food, shelter and clothing for many Native American groups prior to European settlement.

Bison, known as "tatanka" to some tribes, are central to creation stories that say people were living beneath the earth's surface "and the buffalo said come up here and we will provide for you," said Jim Stone of the South Dakota-based council.

"Man and buffalo were put on this earth for a purpose and that purpose wasn't to be separate species."

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It was also to be intertwined," Stone said

Efforts to introduce wild bison into new areas have met resistance from Western ranchers concerned about animal disease and new competition for limited grazing space. Language added to the bison bill in the House bars the government from altering or changing policies because of the animal's newly-elevated status.

Wildlife advocates nevertheless were hopeful that the new designation will bolster efforts to restore herds on large patches of land where they once roamed. "We would like all of our children to be able to see a herd of several thousand bison roaming freely across some of these areas. That is really the vison of what the American West was and could be," said Cristian Samper, president of the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society.

The conservation group operates the Bronx Zoo, which played a key role in staving off bison's extinction by providing animals that became the nucleus of new herds a century ago.

GAO: Health care access hard to measure for Native Americans FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Access to health care for American Indians is difficult to gauge because the agency that oversees it does a poor job of tracking patient wait times, a report by a federal watchdog found. Long wait times are a known problem at hospitals and health centers run by the Indian Health Service, particularly in rural areas where unemployment and poverty levels are high, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said Thursday. New patients waited up to four months to see a physician at a facility on the Navajo Nation and up to a month for a routine vision check at a clinic in the Billings, Montana, region, staff told federal investigators.

But until the Indian Health Service develops a way to monitor patient wait times across all its facilities, it won't be able to tell whether it has improved health care for a population that suffers disproportionately from diseases like diabetes and chronic liver disease, the report said.

The report highlights the challenges facing Indian Health Service, which has been under intense scrutiny lately over findings of woefully inadequate services at some of the facilities in the Great Plains region. Multiple congressional hearings have been held on the quality of care for tribal members who are guaranteed free health care as a condition of treaties that tribes signed with the United States, staffing shortages and growing patient wait times.

Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming, chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, said the lack of oversight at the health facilities is not surprising but tribal members deserve better.

"IHS continually fails to put the needs of patients first, and the findings in this report are just another example of that," he said in a statement Thursday.

Long wait times also have plagued the Veterans Affairs Department. Investigations found that department employees falsified records to cover up the delays.

Governing boards in most of the Indian Health Service area offices review patient wait times only when tribal representatives or staff members raise concerns, patients complain or if the health facilities choose wait times as the focus of improving care, the report said.

Officials with the Indian Health Service say they struggle to provide timely care because of staffing shortages and outdated equipment. Some facilities have improved access to care with mobile clinics and home visits and made scheduling more flexible, the report said.

The Indian Health Service said it would consider incorporating data on patient wait times into a planned Office of Quality Management. Agency spokeswoman Britt Ehrhardt declined to comment further.

Sen. Jon Tester of Montana, the Indian Affairs Committee vice chairman, said he'll continue to work with tribes and colleagues to address the wait times and hold the Indian Health Service leadership accountable. He said the dysfunction within the agency is linked directly to Washington, D.C.'s ignorance about Indian Country and what's needed to address longstanding issues.

"We have known for years that IHS is underfunded and understaffed, and these deficiencies have led to unacceptably long wait times in Indian Country and subpar health care," he said.

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Daugaard requests flags at half-staff in Redlin's memory

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has requested that flags in South Dakota be flown at half-staff Friday to honor the life of outdoors artist Terry Redlin.

The flags are to be lowered from 8 a.m. until sunset Friday.

Redlin died Sunday after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's disease. He was 78.

Redlin is known for his paintings of wildlife and outdoors scenes. In the 1990s, he was named American's most popular artist in annual gallery surveys conducted by U.S. Art magazine. His depictions of ducks, deer and rustic cabins decorate everything from coffee mugs to jigsaw puzzles.

Public visitation will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday at the Redlin Art Center in Watertown.

South Dakota egg production down but value up to \$73.5M SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the value of South Dakota's egg

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the value of South Dakota's egg production rose to \$73.5 million in 2015, up from \$63.3 million in 2014.

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service says 2015 egg production is estimated to be 603 million eggs, down 149 million eggs from the previous year. The average number of layers for 2015 dropped by 556,000 to 2.08 million.

South Dakota producers raised 4.3 million turkeys in 2015, down 200,000 head from 2014. The value of that production was \$147 million, up from \$137.9 million in 2014. A total of 181 million pounds were produced in 2015, down from the 187 million pounds in 2014.

Attorney general explains referred youth minimum wage law PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley has released an explanation for a law referred to

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley has released an explanation for a law referred to voters that would carve out a \$7.50 youth minimum wage.

Jackley's office said Thursday the measure would not become law unless approved by a majority vote in the 2016 election.

The law was passed during the 2015 session. It would apply to non-tipped workers under 18.

Since opponents were successful in gathering enough support to put the measure on the ballot, it didn't go into effect as intended on July 1, 2015.

Opponents of the youth minimum wage law have argued that it is an affront to voters who overwhelmingly passed an \$8.50 minimum wage in the 2014 election.

The wage bumped up to \$8.55 in January because of a cost-of-living increase built into the law.

APNewsBreak: South Dakota tribe sues feds over ER closure REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Native American tribe in South Dakota sued the federal government Thursday over the nearly five-month closure of the only emergency room on its reservation.

The federal lawsuit filed Thursday by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe asks that federal officials be forced to re-open the emergency room at the hospital administered by the Indian Health Service. The agency shuttered the ER in early December, two weeks after federal inspectors uncovered serious failures that they said put patients' lives at risk.

The lawsuit, which The Associated Press obtained ahead of it being filed, contends that the Indian Health Service — an arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services — broke the law because an evaluation of the impact of the closure wasn't submitted to Congress at least a year before it was shutdown, as required by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

That evaluation must include several factors, including the quality of health care that would remain after such a closure, as well as the views of the tribe affected. It also requires the government to take into account how far tribal members would have to go to get care.

IHS provides free health care to enrolled tribal members as part of the government's treaty obligations to Native American tribes.

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The 35-bed Rosebud Hospital had nearly 13,000 emergency room visits during the fiscal year that ended in September.

Since the Dec. 5 closure, patients have had to go to hospitals about 50 miles away in Valentine, Nebraska, and Winner, South Dakota. The lawsuit alleges that in the six weeks following the emergency room's shutdown, five people died and two babies were born in ambulances on the way to the nearest hospitals.

IHS's decision has caused "the Tribe and its members immediate and irreparable injury," according to the lawsuit, which lists as defendants the federal government, the Health and Human Services Department and Secretary Sylvia Burwell, IHS and its top official, Mary Smith, and the director of the IHS's regional office, Rear Adm. Kevin Meeks.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Health and Human Services said Thursday that the agency does not comment on pending litigation.

Former U.S. attorney from North Dakota Timothy Purdon, who left that office a year ago to specialize in American Indian law for Minneapolis-based Robins Kaplan, said his company is taking the case free of charge.

The emergency room came under scrutiny in mid-November during an unannounced visit from inspectors from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, who concluded that serious deficiencies threatened the lives of patients. Their report noted one patient with a history of untreated tuberculosis who was treated without any apparent infection-control measures being taken. Another patient who was having a heart attack didn't get treatment until 90 minutes after she arrived.

IHS closed the emergency room citing "staffing changes and limited resources," and now intends to privatize it, as well as those at hospitals on the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska and Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

The lawsuit comes one day before the deadline for IHS and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reach a last-chance agreement to address problems at Rosebud Hospital. Without it, the hospital won't be allowed to bill the government for services provided to Medicare- and Medicaid-eligible patients after May 16.

The Indian Health Service, whose facilities bill Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance for care given to patients who have that coverage, historically has been severely underfunded. The tribe's lawyers are asking the U.S. District Court in Rapid City to require IHS to "take sufficient measures" to ensure health services are provided to tribal members.

The lawyers argue that "there is no rational basis or justification" for the federal government to provide "grossly inadequate health care to members of the Tribe at levels that are substantially below and unequal to health care benefits" given to federal inmates and others for whom it is required to provide health care.

Suspect in South Dakota killing arrested in Wyoming

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A suspect in a killing outside of a South Dakota casino last week led troopers on a high-speed chase through western Nebraska before his tires were taken out and he was arrested in Wyoming, authorities said.

Jared Stone, 21, surrendered without incident late Wednesday about 10 miles west of Pine Bluffs, Wyoming, the Wyoming Highway Patrol said. He remained jailed Thursday in Laramie County, Wyoming, and is wanted in the killing last Friday of 28-year-old Baptiste White Eyes outside of a Sioux Falls casino. White Eyes was shot in the head.

According to the Nebraska Highway Patrol, at around 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, a trooper spotted a car matching the description of one sought in White Eyes' killing heading west on Interstate 80 near Lodgepole, Nebraska. The trooper attempted to stop the car, but the driver sped off after stopping briefly to let out two women and an infant.

Stone led troopers on a 65-mile chase that reached speeds of up to 100 mph, firing shots at the patrol cars trying to stop him. The troopers didn't return fire, the patrol said.

The Nebraska troopers notified the Wyoming Highway Patrol, which set up tire-deflation sticks on In-

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terstate 80 at the state line.

With multiple tires flattened, Stone stopped the car just after 10 p.m. but remained in the car for about 25 minutes before surrendering, according to the Wyoming Highway Patrol.

Sioux Falls police haven't commented on the relationship between Stone and White Eyes, other than to say they knew one another and don't believe the shooting was random.

Police in Iowa on Tuesday arrested a woman believed to be an accessory in the Sioux Falls killing.

Black Hills National Forest Supervisor Bobzien retiring.

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Black Hills National Forest Supervisor Craig Bobzien is retiring.

Bobzien will step down on Saturday, after nearly 40 years of service with the U.S. Forest Service. He's been the supervisor of the 1.2 million-acre Black Hills National Forest in western South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming since June 2005.

Bobzien is a native of Iowa Falls, Iowa. Before coming to the Black Hills National Forest, he worked in forests in Montana, Idaho and Washington, serving in various roles.

Regional Forester Dan Jirón says Bobzien's career of public service "has been exemplary."

Jim Zornes will serve as the acting forest supervisor until a replacement for Bobzien is named. Zornes is currently the planning director for the Rocky Mountain Region Office in Denver.

2 slain in Faith were ex-girlfriend, friend of suspect

FAITH, S.D. (AP) — A woman and man shot and killed in the small town of Faith have been identified as the ex-girlfriend and friend of the man accused of pulling the trigger.

Thirty-two-year-old Berton Toavs is accused of killing Eliza Edgins and Nathan Gann on Tuesday morning at a residence in the northwestern South Dakota community. The motive isn't clear.

The Rapid City Journal reports (http://bit.ly/1qYjGpD) authorities say in court documents that Toavs was suicidal but eventually surrendered.

Toavs appeared in court Thursday morning on first-degree murder charges. Judge Jerome Eckrich scheduled an arraignment for Monday afternoon, during which Toavs will enter pleas.

Edgins and Gann worked at a local bar and grill. Toavs has been working at ranches and a livestock auction in the area.

About 430 people live in Faith.

Dakota Wesleyan AD position going from father to son

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — The athletic director position at Dakota Wesleyan University will stay in the family. The Mitchell school has promoted associate athletic director Jon Hart to the AD position. The 27-year-old will succeed his father, Curt Hart, who is retiring after seven years of leading the Mitchell school's athletics department.

Curt Hart is stepping down at the end of May, and Jon Hart will assume the AD duties June 1.

Hot Lotto lottery ticket sold in Castlewood worth \$9,000

CASTLEWOOD, S.D. (AP) — A Hot Lotto ticket sold in Castlewood is worth \$9,000.

South Dakota lottery officials say the ticket matched four of five white ball numbers and the Hot Ball to win the game's \$3,000 third prize in Wednesday's drawing. An option purchased for an additional dollar tripled the amount.

The odds of winning the third prize are 1 in about 139,000. The winner has about six months to claim the prize.

Hot Lotto is played in 14 states and the District of Columbia. The jackpot is at \$2.25 million for the next drawing, on Saturday.

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Authorities ID victim of fatal crash in Charles Mix County

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a 22-year-old Lake Andes man who died in a one-car crash in Charles Mix County.

The Highway Patrol says James Fischer was a passenger in a car that went into the ditch off state Highway 50 and rolled several times, striking several trees.

Fischer died at the scene. The car's driver suffered minor injuries.

The crash just before 8 p.m. Tuesday happened about 3 miles northwest of Wagner.

Fights follow Trump rally in Southern Cal, about 20 arrested GILLIAN FLACCUS, Associated Press AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Raucous protesters and supporters of Donald Trump took to the streets in California leading to some 20 arrests as the Republican presidential contender brought his campaign to conservative Orange County after sweeping the Northeast GOP primaries.

Dozens of protesters were mostly peaceful Thursday as Trump gave his speech inside the Pacific Amphitheatre. After the event, however, the demonstration grew rowdy late in the evening and spilled into the streets.

Approximately 20 people were arrested by Costa Mesa police, according to a tweet from the Orange County Sheriff's Department. One Trump supporter had his face bloodied in a scuffle as he tried to drive out of the arena. One man jumped on a police car, leaving its front and rear windows smashed and the top dented in and other protests sprayed graffiti on a police car and the venue's marquee.

Dozens of cars -- including those of Trump supporters trying to leave -- were stuck in the street as several hundred demonstrators blocked the road, waved Mexican flags and posed for selfies.

Police in riot gear and on horseback pushed the crowd back and away from the venue. There were no major injuries and police did not use any force. The crowd began dispersing about three hours after the speech ended.

Earlier in the evening, a half-dozen anti-Trump protesters taunted those waiting to get into the venue. Trump supporters surrounded one man who waved a Mexican flag and shouted "Build that wall! Build that wall!" -- a reference to Trump's call to create a barrier between the United States and Mexico to stop illegal border crossings.

At one point, seven women wearing no shirts and Bernie Sanders stickers over their breasts entered the square outside the amphitheater. They said they were protesting Trump's lack of engagement on issues of gender equality and women's rights.

"I feel like he wants to make America great again, but certainly not for women, for the LBGTQ community or for the lower class," said one of the women, Tiernan Hebron. "He has, like, done nothing to help with gender equality or women's rights or reproductive rights or anything."

Trump has drawn large crowds across the country as he has campaigned for the White House and some of his events have been marred by incidents both inside and outside these venues.

Earlier this week, a Trump rally in nearby Anaheim, California, turned contentious when his supporters and protesters clashed, leaving several people struck by pepper spray. Trump was not present.

Trump has drawn large crowds to most of his campaign events, and Thursday was no exception. The Pacific Amphitheatre was filled to its capacity of about 18,000 and many hundreds more were turned away. Ly Kou, 47, of Ontario, said she likes Trump because he has vowed to put the country first.

"It's obvious that America loves Trump," said Kou, who is from Laos, as she pointed at the waiting throng. "This thing about him being racist? Look around the crowd."

Trump was traveling from the rally site to the state's Republican convention in Burlington in the San Francisco Bay area.

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10 Things to Know for Today

The Associated Press

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

1. NORTH KOREA IMPRISONS US CITIZEN

North Korea sentences an American of Korean heritage to 10 years in prison after convicting him of espionage and subversion, the second American it has put behind bars this year.

2. WHY SOME NORTH KOREANS MISS THEIR HOMELAND

North Korea might seem like a Stalinist nightmare to many, but for tens of thousands of people scattered across South Korea and living underground in China, it's something far more complicated.

3. WHERE TRUMP PROTESTS BECAME VIOLENT

Demonstrators and supporters of the GOP presidential front-runner clash as he brings his campaign to Southern California, following his sweep of the Northeast primaries earlier this week.

4. WHO MIGHT HAVE DIED FROM A PRESRIPTION DRUG OVERDOSE

Investigators are looking into whether Prince died from a drug overdose and whether a doctor was prescribing him drugs in the weeks before he was found dead at his home in suburban Minneapolis, a law enforcement official tells AP.

5. VOTERS IN IRAN HEAD TO POLLS

Iran's parliamentary runoff elections are underway, a key vote to decide whether hard-liners or moderate forces backing President Hassan Rouhani will control the legislature.

6. FALLUJAH UNDER SIEGE

Residents of the Islamic State-held Iraqi city lack food and medicine as Iraqi government troops tighten their grip around it.

7. NO CRIMINAL CHARGES IN US ATTACK ON AFGHAN HOSPITAL

About 16 American military personnel are disciplined but won't face court-martial in last year's attack on a hospital in Kunduz operated by Doctors Without Borders that killed 42 people.

8. MUSIC ON VINYL! SLICED VEGETABLES! WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

Philip Kives, the tireless TV pitchman who famously implored viewers to hang on to hear more about the products he was hawking, has died at age 87.

9. HOW THE SOVIET UNION HANDLED A NUCLEAR ACCIDENT BEFORE CHERNOBYL

A generation before Chernobyl, a huge tank of radioactive waste leaked at the Mayak nuclear complex in 1957, which the Soviet Union didn't acknowledge it for decades. Unlike Chernobyl, Mayak is still operating - and still leaking.

10. WHO WAS TAKEN FIRST IN NFL DRAFT

Quarterbacks Jared Goff and Carson Wentz went first and second at the annual NFL amateur draft.

Doubts about honesty led to university chancellor's removal LISA LEFF, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — University of California President Janet Napolitano felt compelled to remove the chancellor of UC Davis after documents contradicted the campus leader's contention that she did not have any dealings with contractors that were hired to bolster the school's image online, a university spokeswoman said Thursday.

Napolitano put Chancellor Linda Katehi on paid leave Wednesday pending the outcome of an investigation of her role in the decision to retain image consultants to counter bad publicity from the pepper-spraying of demonstrators by campus police in 2011.

"The president has learned that the chancellor misspoke publicly and to the president herself about her involvement in these contracts," UC spokeswoman Dianne Klein said. "The chancellor said she knew nothing about these contracts, but records ... show she was in fact involved in these contracts and met with the principals."

Katehi expects to be fully cleared and welcomes "a full release of all relevant documents and public

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records," her lawyer said in a statement late Wednesday.

The public records originally obtained by The Sacramento Bee include a January 2013 email exchange between Katehi's executive assistant and a Maryland public relations firm about scheduling a meeting at Davis. A few months earlier, the firm had submitted a proposal for "A Proactive Online Brand Repair and Reputation Management Campaign" on behalf of both the campus and the chancellor.

Emails to and from a Sacramento-based social media monitoring company UC Davis has worked with at least since the beginning of the year also were among the documents. Katehi's chief of staff, speech writer and online communications director were among the recipients of detailed "social listening" reports documenting negative attention she was receiving online.

"We looked at this stuff and said, 'Oh my God,' "Klein said.

Napolitano also is concerned that Katehi, 62, has been less than forthcoming about her knowledge of a series of pay raises and promotions her daughter-in-law received while working for a vice chancellor who reports to Katehi, Klein said.

The daughter-in-law received a \$50,000 pay raise over 2 ½ years and Katehi recommended that the vice chancellor's pay go up by 20 percent during the same period, according to a letter Napolitano sent to the chancellor Wednesday.

Katehi's son is a paid graduate student researcher in the Center for Transnational Health, an academic project on health and academic disparities that was put under his wife's supervision after one of her promotions. A whistleblower complaint brought to Napolitano's attention alleges that student fees that were supposed to go toward athletic programs at Davis were redirected to fund the center, Klein said.

"That's another thing the chancellor says she didn't know anything about, about money with her daughter-in-law, her son," Klein said.

The independent probe Napolitano is launching will examine whether there were irregularities surrounding the hiring and compensation of Katehi's son and daughter-in-law. The chancellor's husband is an engineering professor at Davis, but "there is no suggestion there is any improprieties" with his employment, she said.

The various issues that will be the subject of the investigation hinge on university policies in the areas of ethics, conflict-of-interest and misappropriation of funds, Klein said.

Melinda Guzman, a lawyer representing Katehi, said she couldn't believe the aspersions being cast on her client in a state that has prided itself on treating its employees fairly.

"I'm appalled to see the President of our UC system recklessly impugn the character and cast arbitrary, unfounded accusations against a good public servant — without offering a shred of substantive evidence to support them - for the sole purpose of justifying a purely political decision," Guzman said.

Acting Chancellor Ralph Hexter, who served as second in command under Katehi until Napolitano tapped him to temporarily fill her job on Wednesday, said during a news conference Thursday that he has not seen the records that prompted the Napolitano to act, but he said he understands why she did so.

Hexter also praised Katehi and said from his discussions with her that she understands that only an investigation will help her restore her reputation and clear her name.

"We are never afraid of light being shown on what we are doing. We are public servants," he said. "If there were things that were not according to policy, let's find out about them and correct them."

APNewsBreak: Investigators look at overdose in Prince death

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press AMY FORLITI, Associated Press MICHAEL TARM, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Investigators are looking into whether Prince died from an overdose and whether a doctor was prescribing him drugs in the weeks before he was found dead at his home in suburban Minneapolis, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press.

The official said Thursday that among the things investigators are looking at is whether a doctor was with Prince on a plane that made an emergency landing in Illinois less than a week before the star died.

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The law enforcement official has been briefed on the investigation and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The official said investigators are also looking into what kind of drugs were on the plane and at Prince's house in suburban Minneapolis.

The official also confirmed some details that have previously been reported by other media outlets, including TMZ.

Prince's plane made an emergency stop in Moline, in western Illinois, on April 15 and he was found unconscious on the plane, the official said. The person said first responders gave Prince a shot of Narcan, which is used in suspected opioid overdoses. The official said the so-called save shot was given when the plane was on the tarmac in Moline as Prince returned to Minneapolis following a performance in Atlanta.

The official said investigators are looking at whether Prince overdosed on the plane and whether an overdose killed him, and at what kind of drugs were involved. One possibility is the powerful painkiller Percocet or something similar, the official said.

Narcan can be used on people even if an overdose isn't confirmed because it wouldn't necessarily be harmful.

While it's premature to say where the investigation is heading, the mention of a doctor calls to mind other celebrity deaths, including Michael Jackson's. Jackson's doctor, Conrad Murray, was convicted of involuntary manslaughter for his role in prescribing a powerful anesthetic that contributed to the pop star's death in 2009.

A second law enforcement official told AP that prescription drugs were discovered at Prince's home when the musician was found dead on April 21.

That official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak about the ongoing investigation into Prince's death. The official did not elaborate. An autopsy has been performed, but results aren't expected for three to four weeks. The search warrant for Prince's Paisley Park home and studio — carried out the day of his death — was filed Thursday under seal at the request of investigators who said it would hamper their investigation if contents were public.

An affidavit in support of sealing the warrant, signed by Carver County Chief Deputy Jason Kamerud, also warned that disclosing details in the warrant could cause "the search or related searches to be unsuccessful" and risk injury to innocent people.

Kamerud declined to comment Thursday on the reports of drugs found at Paisley Park, and told AP that he strongly disputed reports by several media outlets that investigators had asked the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for help in the case.

"We have not asked them for help, or asked them to be a part of the investigation," Kamerud said. "We might contact them to help us, but that hasn't happened. We don't have the medical examiner's report yet. We don't know to what extent pharmaceuticals could be a part of this."

Leo Hawkins, a DEA spokesman in Chicago, said he had no comment.

Prince's death came two weeks after he canceled concerts in Atlanta, saying he wasn't feeling well. He played a pair of makeup shows April 14 in that city. Prince was scheduled to perform two shows in St. Louis but canceled them shortly before his death due to health concerns.

Longtime friend and collaborator Sheila E. has told the AP that Prince had physical issues from performing, citing hip and knee problems that she said came from years of jumping off risers and stage speakers in heels.

California seeks \$90 million from utility over wildfire JANIE HAR, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — California officials say they will seek more than \$90 million in firefighting costs from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. after finding that a deadly 2015 fire was sparked by a tree that came into contact with a power line.

The utility said it accepts the cause but says it is not clear that it was to blame for the tree failing.

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The \$90 million is the largest recovery sought by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, which released a report Thursday detailing the cause of the fire that scorched remote Calaveras and Amador counties, about 125 miles east of San Francisco.

The blaze that started Sept. 9 burned for three weeks, killing two people and destroying more than 900 structures, including about 550 homes. The 110-square-mile fire caused an estimated \$300 million in insured losses and is the seventh-most destructive wildfire in state history.

Cal Fire said the state's largest utility and its contractors failed to provide proper maintenance after removing two gray pine trees from a stand in January 2015, exposing a weaker, skinnier interior tree.

The 44-foot-tall gray pine tree grew taller, seeking the sun, but it eventually slumped into a power line, according to the report.

But PG&E said in a statement later Thursday that based on its own review "we do not believe it is clear what caused the tree to fail or that vegetation management practices fell short."

The state's finding did not surprise Steve Campora, a Sacramento attorney who represents roughly 900 people suing San Francisco-based PG&E for fire-related losses. He said about 17 law firms throughout the state are representing about 1,800 people whose claims include loss of enjoyment of land and loss of treasured collections, including a telephone collection.

"One family has been on the property since 1862, and it burned. Luckily, the family home survived, but it burned 900 acres," he said.

In a statement, a PG&E spokesman said the company was reviewing Thursday's report. "We cooperated fully with Cal Fire in its investigation on the source of the ignition for the Butte fire. We are committed to doing the right thing for our customers and will respond in the normal legal process," Matt Nauman said.

This is not the largest amount sought or recouped by an agency for wildfire costs. The U.S. Attorney's office that covers the eastern district of California collected \$102 million from Union Pacific Railroad in 2008 for a wildfire that torched Plumas and Lassen counties in 2000.

The Calaveras County Board of Supervisors issued a statement Thursday saying it would seek "hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation" from the utility. The board said it will also ask the California Public Utilities Commission, which oversees the company, for an investigation and penalties.

Public Utilities Commission Chairman Michael Picker said last year that the utility continued to rack up accidents, some of them fatal, and questioned whether PG&E lacked a culture of safety that made the utility's leadership accountable.

In 2010, a natural gas pipeline explosion rocked San Bruno, a suburb of San Francisco, killing eight people and destroying more than three dozen homes. The explosion resulted in a record \$1.6 billion state penalty against the company.

Cal Fire has spent \$400 million this fiscal year battling wildfires.

Until Thursday, the agency's largest civil recovery effort was for a pair of 2007 wildfires in San Diego County, Cal Fire spokeswoman Janet Upton said.

The state sought to recover \$25.5 million and settled for just over \$22 million.

QBs Goff and Wentz soar, OT Tunsil takes bizarre tumble JAY COHEN, AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — California love for Jared Goff, and Philadelphia pride for Carson Wentz.

It was all about the quarterbacks before Laremy Tunsil's bizarre tumble down the board at the NFL draft. Goff went No. 1 overall to the Rams on Thursday for their first pick since they moved to Los Angeles in the offseason. Wentz was the No. 2 selection by the Eagles after a successful career at North Dakota State in the second tier of college football.

"I'm taking it as an honor and something I'm going to have to prove them right, that they made the right decision," Goff said.

After the top quarterbacks were off the board, the focus quickly turned to the slide by Mississippi offensive tackle Tunsil, once thought to be a potential first overall selection. He fell all the way to Miami at

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13 after a pair of damaging posts to his social media accounts.

A video shared on Tunsil's Twitter account Thursday night showed him smoking marijuana out of a bonggas mask contraption. His Instagram account reportedly showed a text-message exchange indicating he took money from coaches at Ole Miss, something he acknowledged during his news conference after he was selected by the Dolphins.

"Somehow, somebody got in my photos and hacked my Twitter account and somebody hacked my Instagram account, so it's crazy," Tunsil said. "I can't control that, man. I can control what I control."

Miami was happy to have him.

"He's a smart kid," general manager Chris Grier said. "He's very football intelligent. This guy is one of those grinders. There's no doubt this guy loves football, and football is very important to him."

There was little doubt about the position of the top picks after Los Angeles and Philadelphia each made a big trade to get into the draft's top two slots. It's the second straight year two QBs were the first names off the board and the seventh time in the modern era of the draft since 1967.

A third quarterback went in the first round when Denver moved up to No. 26 to take Paxton Lynch of Memphis, making him a possible successor for Peyton Manning with the Super Bowl champion Broncos.

After Goff and Wentz got their hats and exchanged pleasantries with Commissioner Roger Goodell, it was an Ohio State parade to the podium. San Diego grabbed defensive end Joey Bosa at No. 3 with the first real wild card of the night, and Dallas selected running back Ezekiel Elliott with the fourth pick.

Cornerback Eli Apple went to the New York Giants at No. 10, putting three Buckeyes in the top 10 for the first time in school history. Offensive tackle Taylor Decker to Detroit and speedy linebacker Darron Lee to the Jets ran the Ohio State total to five of the top 20.

"That's why we came to Ohio State — to play at the next level," Bosa said.

Elliott, who rushed for 1,878 yards last season, made quite a fashion statement when he showed off his midsection while walking the red carpet before the draft. But his dress shirt under his blue suit was in place by the time he was drafted by the Cowboys.

"I wanted to be a little different than everyone else," said Elliott, who played with a bare midriff during his time with the Buckeyes. "I had to go out on the red carpet with the crop top."

The Browns, who traded the No. 2 pick to the Eagles last week, moved down again in the first major deal of the night and grabbed Baylor wide receiver Corey Coleman with the 15th pick. They also have the first pick in the second round Friday and could field more trade offers with UCLA linebacker Myles Jack and Alabama's Derrick Henry and Reggie Ragland still available.

Jack was expected to go in the first half of the opening round at one point, but there is concern within the league about the health of his right knee.

The 6-foot-4 Goff started every game during his three seasons at California and set school records with 977 completions, 12,220 yards passing and 96 touchdown passes. The Rams traded with Tennessee to get the pick.

Tupac's "California Love" took over the speakers at the downtown Chicago theater when Goff went No. 1. "It's a good spot for me and for my family to come watch games," Goff said. "Very excited to get down there and get to work."

The Titans then returned to the top 10 through a trade with the Browns and selected Michigan State offensive tackle Jack Conklin at No. 8. Conklin began his career with the Spartans as a walk-on.

Wentz led the Bison to their fifth consecutive FCS championship in January. He passed for 1,651 yards and 17 touchdowns during his senior year that was shortened by a broken right wrist.

It's the first opening-round quarterback for the Eagles since they grabbed Donovan McNabb with the No. 2 pick in the 1999 draft.

"It's exciting a team believes in me that much to go up and get me," Wentz said.

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Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Friday, April 29, the 120th day of 2016. There are 246 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On April 29, 1991, a cyclone began striking the South Asian country of Bangladesh; it ended up killing more than 138,000 people, according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

On this date:

In 1429, Joan of Arc entered the besieged city of Orleans to lead a French victory over the English.

In 1798, Joseph Haydn's oratorio "The Creation" was rehearsed in Vienna, Austria, before an invited audience.

In 1861, the Maryland House of Delegates voted 53-13 against seceding from the Union. In Montgomery, Alabama, President Jefferson Davis asked the Confederate Congress for the authority to wage war.

In 1913, Swedish-born engineer Gideon Sundback of Hoboken, New Jersey, received a U.S. patent for a "separable fastener" — later known as the zipper.

In 1916, the Easter Rising in Dublin collapsed as Irish nationalists surrendered to British authorities.

In 1945, during World War II, American soldiers liberated the Dachau (DAH'-khow) concentration camp. Adolf Hitler married Eva Braun inside his "Fuhrerbunker" and designated Adm. Karl Doenitz (DUHR'-nihtz) president.

In 1946, 28 former Japanese officials went on trial in Tokyo as war criminals; seven ended up being sentenced to death.

In 1957, the SM-1, the first military nuclear power plant, was dedicated at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

In 1968, the counterculture musical "Hair" opened on Broadway following limited engagements off-Broadway.

In 1974, President Richard M. Nixon announced he was releasing edited transcripts of some secretly made White House tape recordings related to Watergate.

In 1983, Harold Washington was sworn in as the first black mayor of Chicago.

In 1992, rioting resulting in 55 deaths erupted in Los Angeles after a jury in Simi Valley, California, acquitted four Los Angeles police officers of almost all state charges in the videotaped beating of Rodney King.

Ten years ago: Tens of thousands of protesters marched through lower Manhattan to demand an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq. Liberal economist John Kenneth Galbraith died in Cambridge, Massachusetts, at age 97.

Five years ago: Britain's Prince William and Kate Middleton were married in an opulent ceremony at London's Westminster Abbey amid pomp, circumstance — and elaborate hats. President Barack Obama visited Tuscaloosa, Alabama, one of the sites of deadly tornadoes two days earlier, saying he had "never seen devastation like this."

One year ago: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (shin-zoh ah-bay) offered condolences for Americans killed in World War II in the first address by a Japanese leader to a joint meeting of Congress, but stopped short of apologizing for wartime atrocities. In what was believed to be the first major league game played without fans in attendance, Chris Davis hit a three-run homer in a six-run first inning and the Baltimore Orioles beat the Chicago White Sox 8-2. (The gates at Camden Yards were locked because of concern for fan safety following recent rioting in Baltimore.) Calvin Peete, 71, who became the most successful black player on the PGA Tour before the arrival of Tiger Woods, died in Atlanta.

Today's Birthdays: Jazz musician Toots Thielemans is 94. Actor Keith Baxter is 83. Bluesman Otis Rush is 81. Conductor Zubin Mehta is 80. Disgraced financier Bernard Madoff is 78. Pop singer Bob Miranda (The Happenings) is 74. Country singer Duane Allen (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 73. Singer Tommy James is 69. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., is 66. Movie director Phillip Noyce is 66. Country musician Wayne Secrest (Confederate Railroad) is 66. Comedian Jerry Seinfeld is 62. Actor Leslie Jordan is 61. Actress Kate Mulgrew is 61. Actor Daniel Day-Lewis is 59. Actress Michelle Pfeiffer is 58. Actress Eve Plumb is 58. Rock musician Phil King is 56. Country singer Stephanie Bentley is 53. Actor Vincent Ventresca is 50. Singer Carnie Wilson (Wilson Phillips) is 48. Actor Paul Adelstein is 47. Actress Uma Thurman is 46.

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International Tennis Hall of Famer Andre Agassi is 46. Rapper Master P is 46. Actor Darby Stanchfield is 45. Country singer James Bonamy is 44. Gospel/rhythm-and-blues singer Erica Campbell (Mary Mary) is 44. Rock musician Mike Hogan (The Cranberries) is 43. Actor Tyler Labine is 38. Actress Megan Boone is 33. Actress-model Taylor Cole is 32. Actor Zane Carney is 31. Pop singer Amy Heidemann (Karmin) is 30. Pop singer Foxes is 27.

Thought for Today: "In any great organization it is far, far safer to be wrong with the majority than to be right alone." — John Kenneth Galbraith (1908-2006).

White powder mailed to Trump campaign office ruled harmless COLLEEN LONG, Associated Press MICHAEL BALSAMO, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — An envelope containing a suspicious white powdery substance caused a scare when it was opened at a campaign office of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, but it later was deemed to be harmless.

The envelope was mailed to Manhattan's Trump Tower, near Central Park, police said. A campaign staffer opened the envelope Thursday night and immediately called police.

Five Trump staff members working in the office and a police officer who responded were temporarily isolated and evaluated. The substance was tested, and a few hours later authorities said it wasn't hazardous but it would need to be tested some more for them to determine what it is.

Trump campaign spokeswoman Hope Hicks referred questions about the brief scare to the U.S. Secret Service, which didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment.

Powders sent through the mail have been cause for concern since at least 2001, when anthrax-tainted letters were sent to media outlets and offices, killing five people.

In March, an envelope that contained a non-hazardous white powder and a threatening letter was mailed to the apartment of Trump's son Eric Trump, who has campaigned for him. The handwritten note, postmarked from Boston, said: "If your father does not drop out of the race, the next envelope won't be a fake."

Two days later, a threatening letter was sent to Trump's sister Maryanne Trump Barry, a judge who sits on the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit in Pennsylvania. The FBI said at the time it was working alongside the Secret Service and the Marshals Service to investigate.

Trump, the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, has been criticized by some political rivals and voters for his comments on topics including women, refugees and immigrants, such as when he said some Mexican immigrants in the U.S. illegally are "rapists."

Brother, others related to San Bernardino shooters arrested AMANDA LEE MYERS, Associated Press JOHN ROGERS, Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — Three people with close family ties to the couple responsible for the San Bernardino terror attack were arrested Thursday in an alleged marriage-fraud scheme involving a pair of Russian sisters.

The accused include Syed Raheel Farook. His brother and sister-in-law, Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik, died in a shootout with police after killing 14 people and wounding 22 others on Dec. 2.

Also arrested in the marriage-fraud case were Syed Raheel Farook's wife, Tatiana, and her sister, Mariya Chernykh. Prosecutors say Mariya's marriage to Enrique Marquez Jr., the only person charged in the shootings, was a sham designed to enable her to obtain legal status in the U.S. after overstaying a visitor visa in 2009.

Marquez confessed to the scheme when authorities questioned him about the shootings, and he acknowledged getting \$200 a month to marry Chernykh, according to his criminal complaint.

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The three each entered not guilty pleas at an arraignment late Thursday afternoon in federal court in Riverside. They were ordered to stand trial June 21 in federal court in Los Angeles. Federal Judge David Bristow also scheduled a pretrial conference for June 6 in Los Angeles.

Bristow ordered that Chernykh, who prosecutors allege was most culpable for the sham marriage, be subject to electronic monitoring. Her boyfriend, who is the father of her child, arrived in court late Thursday afternoon to tell the judge he would post her \$50,000 bond.

The mother of the Farook brothers posted bonds of \$25,000 each for her oldest son and his wife. Her son left court shortly thereafter, declining to speak to reporters. His wife was expected to be released later in the evening.

Farook, who like the others appeared in court with shackles on his hands and feet, wept at times during his arraignment and bail hearing, including when his mother came forward to tell the judge she was posting bail.

"This is about a misrepresentation of an act of marriage. This is not about terrorism," his attorney, Ronald Cordova, told Bristow as he argued for a reasonable bail, maintaining that Farook is not a flight risk or a danger to society.

Outside court he said Farook has cooperated with federal authorities throughout the terrorist investigation.

"I think his thorough cooperation may have led to some of the trouble he's going through now," Cordova said, adding that in discussing his family situation forthrightly Farook never stopped to consider that he might be involved in any illegal activity regarding his sister-in-law's marriage.

If convicted of conspiracy to make false statements on federal immigration documents, the Farooks and Chernykh face up to five years in prison. Chernykh also is charged with fraud, misuse of visas and other documents, perjury and two counts of making false statements, which could mean up to 25 years in prison.

The government may have brought the charges as a bargaining chip in order to get more information that the Farooks and Chernykh haven't shared, said James Wedick, a former FBI agent who was with the agency 35 years.

"It suggests to me they weren't talking so the government decided to ask a grand jury to return charges," Wedick said. "If they were cooperating, they'd probably make some kind of deal."

While the government can benefit from continued interviews with the trio, Wedick said they also stand to benefit.

"It's a mechanism for both the government and the defense lawyers to use to better their position — with the government trying to get information relative to terrorism, and the defense looking to resolve the matter without prison time," he said.

According to an indictment unsealed Thursday, Syed Raheel and Tatiana Farook participated in the sham by acting as witnesses to the union of her sister and Marquez, and by creating a joint checking account along with a backdated lease to make it appear as if all four of them lived together.

Tatiana Farook also accompanied her sister to buy a \$50 wedding ring, and Marquez and Chernykh posed in photographs that were staged to make the marriage appear real, prosecutors said.

All the while, Marquez was living with his mother next door to the house where the Farook brothers grew up, and Chernykh was living in a different city with her boyfriend, according to the criminal complaint against Marquez.

Marquez is charged with conspiring to provide material support to terrorists by buying the assault rifles used in the massacre, making false statements about when he bought the weapons, and conspiring with Syed Rizwan Farook on a pair of previously planned attacks that were never carried out.

Syed Raheel Farook, the shooter's older brother, earned two medals for fighting global terrorism for serving in the Navy from 2003 to 2007. In February, FBI agents spent hours searching his home in the Southern California city of Corona, carting out armloads of thick manila envelopes, a computer tower and an unidentifiable object so heavy it took two men to carry. That search warrant was sealed, and it wasn't immediately clear if it was connected to Thursday's arrests.

Syed Rizwan Farook was a county health inspector who targeted his co-workers at an annual training session in what became the deadliest terror strike on U.S. soil since Sept. 11, 2001.

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The FBI has not ruled out that someone other than the dead couple knew about or helped plan the attack. "Those questions are still lingering," Eimiller said. "Did they have help? Did they have some support of any form? This is very much a continuing investigation and will be for some time."

Syed Rizwan Farook's family maintains they had no inkling about the plot. His mother, Rafia Farook, lived with him, Tashfeen Malik, and their newborn daughter in a townhome near San Bernardino. She said she never saw anything to suggest her son and daughter-in-law were planning a massacre.

Malik was from Pakistan and came to the U.S. in July 2014 so she could marry Rizwan Farook, whose parents were born in Pakistan. Farook was born in Chicago and grew up in Southern California.

Start of 2nd weekend of Jazz Fest soaked by rain CAIN BURDEAU, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The start of the second weekend of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival was marked with thunderstorms, but the music played on to crowds that were thinned by the bad weather. By the time the headliners hit the stage on Thursday the rain had long ceased and the day ended on a high note, despite the mud and soggy conditions.

The headliners — rocker Elvis Costello, rapper Flo Rida and the American roots band the Tedeschi Trucks Band — thrilled fans with their punchy shows.

Costello and his band The Imposters paid tribute to New Orleans music legend Allen Toussaint, who died last year. Costello and Toussaint were friends and made an album together after Hurricane Katrina. For his show, Costello wore a purple cap with a button of Toussaint on the front. He also reminisced about Toussaint and played a song in homage to New Orleans and its struggles after Katrina.

"He had such a gracious attitude," Costello said about Toussaint.

Flo Rida performed a forceful and energetic set that got fans jumping and splashing in the mud. He got down from the stage and waded into the throngs of people; he also popped a bottle of champagne and sprayed it on fans during his hit song "My House."

"I don't like New Orleans," he shouted out to the crowd. "I love New Orleans!"

In the wet conditions, some went barefoot in the mud, while others dressed in rubber boots and rain gear as they crammed together in messy fields and under tents to enjoy the variety of musical acts and genres.

"It's beautiful from the ankles up," laughed Stephen Schwarz, standing in another muddy spot. He's a music venue owner from Brooklyn, New York. He held a high flagpole with four flags flapping in the breeze. It's a Jazzfest tradition to bring a flagpole and fly personal flags so "you can locate your friends in the thousands of people," Schwarz explained.

He said this year's lineup of musicians was so strong "it's making us make some hard decisions." He brought his 11-year-old son this year for the first time and had tickets for each of the festival's days.

By midafternoon, the sun poked through the clouds. But the crowds were thinner than usual. Many festival goers left during the earlier deluges that made the site — the infield of a racehorse track — soggy and muddy.

For some, the thin crowds were welcome.

Vicki Ricke, a 54-year-old dental assistant from New Orleans, listening to the blues of Gary Clark Jr., said the extra room to move made the festival more fun.

Her good friend, Joan Derouen, a 60-year-old "professional grandmother" from Texas and "newbie" to Jazzfest, had a blast in the rain. Derouen said dancing in the rain is something she's always wanted to do. "I've never danced in the rain — nowhere," she said, thrilled by the experience.

Jazzfest is not only about music. There are also banks of vendors selling straw hats, hand-made jewelry, paintings with New Orleans themes, drums and much more.

Shaka Zulu, a chief with the Yellow Pocahontas tribe of Mardi Gras Indians, was at a booth selling pieces of art made from "deconstructed Mardi Gras Indian suits," he said. The pieces were splendidly colorful, just like the hand-sewn elaborate Mardi Indian suits they are made from, ranging in price from \$200 to \$2,200.

Rukiya Brown, a Mardi Gras Indian queen with the Creole Wild West tribe, was selling "topsy-turvy" dolls.

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The dolls with flowing dresses can be flipped upside down to feature either an "indigenous woman" or a Creole (a "New Orleans native") woman, she said as she demonstrated how one worked.

"People come here for the culture, the food, the entertainment, for how we smile even though things are falling apart," she said. "My pleasure is to have people see my work." For her, it's not about the money, she said. "Material things don't mean much to me."

The weather was forecast to be better on Friday and Saturday. But more rain was possible on Sunday, the final day.

Man indicted in fatal shooting of ex-Saints player JANET McCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press KEVIN McGILL, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A business owner and semiprofessional football player was indicted Thursday on a second-degree murder charge in the shooting death of retired New Orleans Saints' defensive end Will Smith.

Cardell Hayes was also indicted on a charge of attempted second-degree murder because police say he wounded Smith's wife in the shooting. Hayes and Smith got into an argument after Hayes's Hummer hit Smith's Mercedes SUV from behind on April 9, police said. Smith's wife was in the passenger seat at the time.

Hayes' defense lawyer John Fuller has said Hayes was not the aggressor and that a witness saw a gun in Smith's possession. Police say a loaded gun was found in Smith's vehicle.

A lawyer for Smith's family, Peter Thomson, insists Smith never brandished or carried a gun. Thomson has described Hayes as "enraged" during the altercation and portrayed his clients as the victims.

Smith was shot seven times in the back and once along his side, the coroner said. His wife, Racquel, was shot twice in the legs but survived.

The Smith family says they're pleased, though not surprised, that a grand jury has indicted Hayes in Smith's death and attempted murder of Smith's wife, Racquel, Thomson said in a statement Thursday evening. "The Smith family remains confident that once a jury hears all the evidence, the killer will be convicted and justice will be served," the statement said. "Although nothing can ease the pain this family is feeling, today was a step toward ensuring this cold-blooded murderer is held responsible for the actions that took the life of their husband, father and friend."

Hayes was also indicted on charges of aggravated assault and aggravated damage to property. He pleaded not guilty to all charges. His bond was set at \$1.75 million.

Smith was heralded as a leader on the Saints team that rebounded with the hurricane-stricken city and won the Super Bowl after the 2009 season. He stayed in the area after his 2012 retirement and was active with various charities in his adopted city.

The indictment was handed down during a preliminary hearing on whether police had enough evidence to keep Hayes in jail, where he has been since the shooting. With the indictment, prosecutors will likely be able to keep some evidence closer to the vest rather than presenting it during a preliminary hearing.

During that hearing, Fuller accused prosecutors of trying to "jam an indictment down our throats" by trying to take Hayes to a grand jury proceeding when they knew that Fuller and his co-counsel would be in court on other matters.

Assistant district attorneys hustled the indictment into a magistrate's courtroom just after a private investigator testified that a witness told him she saw retired police officer William Ceravolo take a gun from the front seat of Smith's car before investigators arrived — something that might bolster self-defense claims. Ceravolo directed a reporter's questions to the police department.

Fuller said after the hearing that the woman wasn't subpoenaed because she's afraid.

"I've talked to the woman myself. She had no reason to lie. She came forward," he said.

Fuller also said he had represented thousands of people and participated in hundreds of preliminary hearings and "this is the only one where someone was indicted in the middle of a preliminary hearing."

Dane Ciolino, a criminal law professor at Loyola University-New Orleans, said in an email that it was

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"most unusual" for an indictment to be handed down during a preliminary hearing, but not unprecedented. Fuller said he asked prosecutors last week to let Hayes speak to a grand jury and got a hand-delivered response two days ago setting his appearance at 9 a.m. Thursday — a time that he said prosecutors knew he couldn't be with Hayes. He said Hayes did not appear before the grand jury.

Hayes owns a tow-truck company and last year played in a semiprofessional league. His attorney has repeatedly pointed out that Hayes stayed at the scene of the shooting until police arrived.

Flint residents tell civil rights panel of fear, distrust JEFF KAROUB, Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Half a century after a civil rights panel investigated Flint's segregated housing, the commission held its first hearing Thursday into whether city residents again faced discrimination or racial bias — this time related to the city's crisis over lead-tainted drinking water.

Dozens of Flint residents spoke before the Michigan Civil Rights Commission about their anger, fear and distrust, two years after the financially strapped city switched its water source while under state control to save money. Some residents in the largely minority city said the contamination wouldn't have occurred in a wealthy, predominantly white community.

A mention of the previous investigation by the commission's co-chairman resonated with Jonnie Faye Townsend, 52, who said she suffers from ulcers, diabetes and other problems. She suspects the water contributes to her health problems and has "psychologically tampered with me."

"We have been and continue to be discriminated against — classism, ageism and systemic racism," she said. "Fifty years of complaints ... and no one cared enough to put a stop to this systemic racism. I know it can't be done in one day but we have to do our best by (holding) conversations to resolve this."

Flint is under a state of emergency after improper treatment allowed lead from old pipes to leach into the Flint River water the city was using. Residents have been told to use water filters and pregnant or nursing women and children under age 6 should use bottled water.

"When we get up in the mornings, we have to think about every movement we make," said Elaine Connor, 66, who tested positive for lead and suffers from chronic health problems that she says have been exacerbated by the problems with the water. "How we brush our teeth, when we wash our face — we need to be careful not to get it into our eyes. ... You have to mindful when you bathe your children."

Commission co-chairman Arthur Horwitz said while two more hearings are planned, the board has come to the "inescapable conclusion that this is a case of environmental injustice." He said that's based on the findings of a report released last month by a bipartisan task force created by Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder, as well as prior testimony at the state capitol by Flint residents.

The commission decided in January to hold hearings. If it finds violations, it can order the violator to stop and take corrective action. That order can be appealed to circuit court.

Horwitz had noted that the commission first conducted hearings in Flint 50 years ago to investigate problems associated with urban renewal, particularly access to decent housing.

The 1966 probe found a "rigidly segregated" city with people living in "squalid conditions." It also called for an investigation into "the harmful effects of fumes and deposits from industrial operations on property and public health" in a mostly black section of the city.

President Barack Obama plans to visit Flint next week. He's due to receive a briefing on the federal effort to assist in the cleanup and to hear directly from Flint residents about the toll the contamination has had on their health and their lives.

Michigan State Police Capt. Chris Kelenske told the commission that roughly 11 million liters of water — equal to about 927,000 cases of bottled water — have been distributed to residents, and the state has coordinated the distribution of 116,000 filters and 47,000 water-testing kits. He adds that officials have visited all homes of active water customers.

Yaquelin Vargas, 21, said she and her father moved to Flint six years ago from San Antonio, Texas, after

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successfully bidding on a home. They had no connection to the Michigan city other than finding a small house on the city's east side that was "affordable," she said.

Vargas said having their own home was a "dream come true," but now they struggle in in it: Her father has become too ill to work — problems she says are worsened by the water — and she must care for him and her 7-month-old daughter, Lydia, who has tested positive for lead.

Although the public health emergency was declared last October, she said she didn't learn her water required a filter until January, and that word came from a community volunteer.

She broke down crying before the committee, and tried to regain her composure.

"I'm sorry, but it is very painful," she said.

Police: Shooting in southwest Louisiana is murder-suicide

SULPHUR, La. (AP) — A man who exchanged gunfire with sheriff's deputies after fatally shooting his wife in southwest Louisiana died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound, authorities said.

Calcasieu Parish Sheriff Tony Mancuso initially said investigators were trying to determine if Cody A. McAdams, 38, shot and killed himself or was fatally wounded by a sheriff's deputy after he opened fire on another deputy in the parish's Carlyss community around 8:30 a.m. Thursday. Mancuso said the deputies weren't injured.

Deputies were responding to separate burglary and trespassing calls from different homes in the area when they encountered McAdams in a field outside the home of his estranged wife's parents, where a resident reported the trespassing, Mancuso said. Brandi McAdams, 33, and their 5-year-old daughter had been living with her parents, according to a news release issued Thursday evening from the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's office.

Authorities believe McAdams tried to kidnap his wife and daughter with a gun from her parent's house and all three were in the pasture behind the house when homeowners called the police, the release said. When deputies arrived McAdams shot his wife and then shot at deputies.

Mancuso said that McAdams, of Kirbyville, Texas, fired at least three shots at a deputy in his vehicle, leaving holes in a window.

"I don't know how he didn't get hit," he added. "If you see the holes and where he was sitting, it's really amazing."

Another deputy fired a single shot at McAdams, grazing his arm, after he began shooting, Mancuso said. The coroner determined McAdams died from self-inflicted gunshot, the release said.

Mancuso said Brandi McAdams, was pronounced dead at the scene, while their daughter was unharmed and is now with other relatives.

Mancuso refused to identify the races of the gunman or the deputy who shot at him.

"That's not pertinent to the investigation," he said.

The Louisiana State Police is investigating the gunman's shooting, while the sheriff's office is investigating the woman's death.

'Bomb' hooked to man in animal suit really flotation deviceKASEY JONES, Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A young man in an animal costume and surgical mask who walked into a Baltimore TV station Thursday claiming to have a bomb was shot and wounded by police, who determined that his alleged explosive consisted of aluminum-wrapped chocolate bars duct-taped to a flotation device.

The 25-year-old white male was in serious but stable condition at a hospital and expected to survive, said Baltimore Police Department spokesman T.J. Smith. Smith said the man was from nearby Howard County, but that police would not identify him until they filed charges against him.

The progressively bizarre scene unfolded Thursday afternoon when the man walked into the lobby of Fox affiliate WBFF on Baltimore's TV Hill. The man, wearing what Smith said was a panda suit and what

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employees described as a hedgehog costume, gave a flash drive to a security guard and told him he wanted the station to broadcast its contents. Smith said police don't know what was on the drive.

The security guard activated an alarm under his desk, and the station was quickly evacuated, WBFF General Manager Bill Fanshawe said. Police say the man barricaded himself in the station.

As police, fire, arson, bomb squad and SWAT teams converged on the scene, a car in the station's parking lot was engulfed in flames. Smith said it was later determined to belong to the man.

When police tried to talk with the man in the lobby, he walked out of the building and into the street, and refused to obey numerous orders by heavily armed officers to show his hands. Police shot him more than once, Smith said, then sent a bomb-detecting robot to him through which they communicated from a distance as he lay on the ground.

The man eventually removed the flotation device. Once the robot had picked it up and rolled away, police and paramedics rushed to him and put him in an ambulance, Smith said.

The faux bomb also contained a motherboard from a fire extinguisher and a wire that ran down the man's sleeve to what looked like a detonator, Smith said.

No one else was hurt, he said. Officers were sweeping the station to make sure the suspect did not leave anything dangerous.

Police Commissioner Kevin Davis called the man's behavior "bizarre," and "dangerous."

"This is a very, very unusual event," Davis said.

How the Dow Jones industrial average fared on Thursday The Associated Press

U.S. stocks took their biggest loss in three weeks on Thursday after a late sell-off. Apple, which is mired in a slump, fell to its lowest price in about two months and dragged tech stocks sharply lower.

On Thursday:

The Dow Jones industrial average sank 210.79 points, or 1.2 percent, to 17,830.76.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index slid 19.34 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,075.81.

The Nasdaq composite closed lower for the sixth day in a row, falling 57.85 points, or 1.2 percent, to 4,805.29.

For the week:

The Dow is down 172.99 points, or 1 percent.

The S&P 500 is down 15.77 points, or 0.8 percent.

The Nasdaq is down 100.94 points, or 2.1 percent.

For the year:

The Dow is up 405.73 points, or 2.3 percent.

The S&P 500 is up 31.87 points, or 1.6 percent.

The Nasdag is down 202.12 points, or 4 percent.

How Amazon convinced you to pay up for shopping MAE ANDERSON, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is clearly entering its Prime. Meaning, of course, its \$100 annual membership program, now a decade old, which has accomplished the remarkable feat of convincing millions of people to pay an annual fee for the privilege of, well, shopping.

Prime is now central to Amazon's strategy of dominating the world of commerce. What started as a yearly fee for free two-day shipping now offers a sometimes bewildering array of perks, including household product subscriptions, one and two hour Prime Now delivery, streaming music and video, e-books, groceries (for an additional \$200 a year), photo storage and more.

"Prime has become an all-you-can-eat, physical-digital hybrid," Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos wrote in his annual shareholder letter in April. He wants the service to be such a good deal that you'd be "irresponsible" not to sign up, he wrote.

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Why the emphasis on Prime? Simply put, members of the loyalty program shop more frequently and spend more money, analysts say.

Prime shoppers helped drive Amazon's surprise profit surge in the first quarter. Shares of the e-commerce giant jumped in after-hours trading Thursday after it reported a 28 percent jump in revenue, to \$29.13 billion. Net income was \$513 million, compared to a loss in the year-earlier quarter.

Amazon doesn't release detailed numbers on Prime, although Bezos wrote that Prime has "tens of millions" of subscribers. Wedbush Securities analyst Michael Pachter estimates there are about 50 million Prime members.

Even a 25 percent price increase in 2014, the only one for Prime in 10 years, hasn't appreciably dampened enthusiasm for the program. Membership grew 51 percent last year, including 47 percent growth in the U.S., according to Bezos.

Pachter estimates that Prime members spend about four times what others do, and account for about a third of all Amazon purchases. "That's why Prime matters," he said.

Tawnie Knight in Tuscon, Arizona joined Prime about two years ago for the convenience of free shipping. Since then Amazon has become her default shopping site.

"I call it the \$100 cart, because every time I go on there I spend about \$100," she said. "Before Prime I probably spend around the same amount, just with other retailers like Walmart."

Brandon Kraft joined Prime when it began 10 years ago to get cheap textbooks while in school. Now he finds it essential — with five kids ranging in age 17 months to 6 years at home — for ordering diapers and wipes and other household goods.

"I think it's fair to say we spend \$125 or \$150 a month at Amazon that we wouldn't have been spending if we didn't have Prime," Kraft said. "We go to the Amazon site first when we need something, and if they don't carry it we start the actual shopping process of looking elsewhere."

Of course, Amazon Prime isn't for everyone. Those that shop infrequently online won't find the \$100-a-year fee worth it. With an estimated 244 million registered Amazon accounts, a large majority of Amazon shoppers — roughly 80 percent, in fact — haven't signed up yet.

Amazon continues to add Prime offerings to entice more users. Last week Amazon started offering a monthly Prime subscription for \$11 a month, aimed at hooking shoppers during the holidays when the majority of Prime members sign up. In 2015, 3 million shoppers joined Prime in the third week of December alone.

Amazon also introduced a standalone video service for \$9 a month, setting itself up to directly compete with other streaming services like Netflix.

Investors have long griped about Amazon's strategy of investing the revenue it makes into new offerings, leading to little or no earnings growth. But the first quarter results were the fourth in a row in which Amazon reported a profit, which some analysts interpret as a willingness to rein in costs when needed.

Chief financial officer Brian Olavsky, however, told reporters on a conference call that the company's profits stem mostly from strong growth in sales. The company isn't slowing its investments, he said, citing recent spending on logistics and original programming for its streaming video service.