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Wednesday, May 18

School Breakfast: Cook's Choice

School Lunch: Hamburgers, French fries, broccoli and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken, rosemary red potatoes, old fashioned slaw, strawberry Jell-O dessert, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Bill and Jana Duncan

Birthdays: Jean Walter • Bill Duncan • Rosalie Gerdes • Jeslyn Kosel

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

Thursday, May 19

School Breakfast: Cook's Choice

School Lunch: Cook's Choice.

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: John Erickson • McKayla Harder

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Quilting

10:00am: Girls Golf at Olive Grove in Groton

12:00pm: Regional Track Meet in Groton

Friday, May 20

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

School Breakfast: Cook's Choice

School Lunch: Sack Lunch

Senior Menu: Spanish rice with hamburger, green beans, mandarin oranges, chocolate pudding, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Janice Fliehs • Alvina Hiepler • Charles Meister • Michelle Pullan

Saturday, May 21

Birthdays: Alex Brandt • Cody Hanson • Joey Harry • Alex Bretsch • Matthew Richards

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rose-

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**

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Building Academic Groton Students for Tomorrow Receives a \$2,000 grant for Food Bags

**Grant provided by Farm Credit Services of America
Working Here Fund for Hunger Nutrition**

Building Academic Groton Students for Tomorrow received a \$2,000 Working Here Fund grant to fund food bags to distribute to students. The grant is provided through Farm Credit Services of America's (FCSAmerica) Working Here Fund.

Building Academic Groton Students for Tomorrow provides a bag of easy to prepare grocery items to low income students each week. Many students have no food when they are home on the weekends, so these bags are distributed allowing the students to return to school on Monday with a full stomach, which will improve their learning experience.

"Our group hopes to improve their growing up experience and help them learn more when their stomachs are not demanding food and attention," said Anita Lowary, Building Academic Groton Students for Tomorrow.

"We are proud to support organizations dedicated to addressing food and hunger issues in our local communities," said Matt Lindgren, vice president of retail operations at FCSAmerica's Aberdeen office.

Building Academic Groton Students for Tomorrow is one of 107 organizations to receive a Working Here Fund grant in the first quarter of 2016. FCSAmerica awarded \$179,000 during the latest grant cycle ending March 31, 2016.

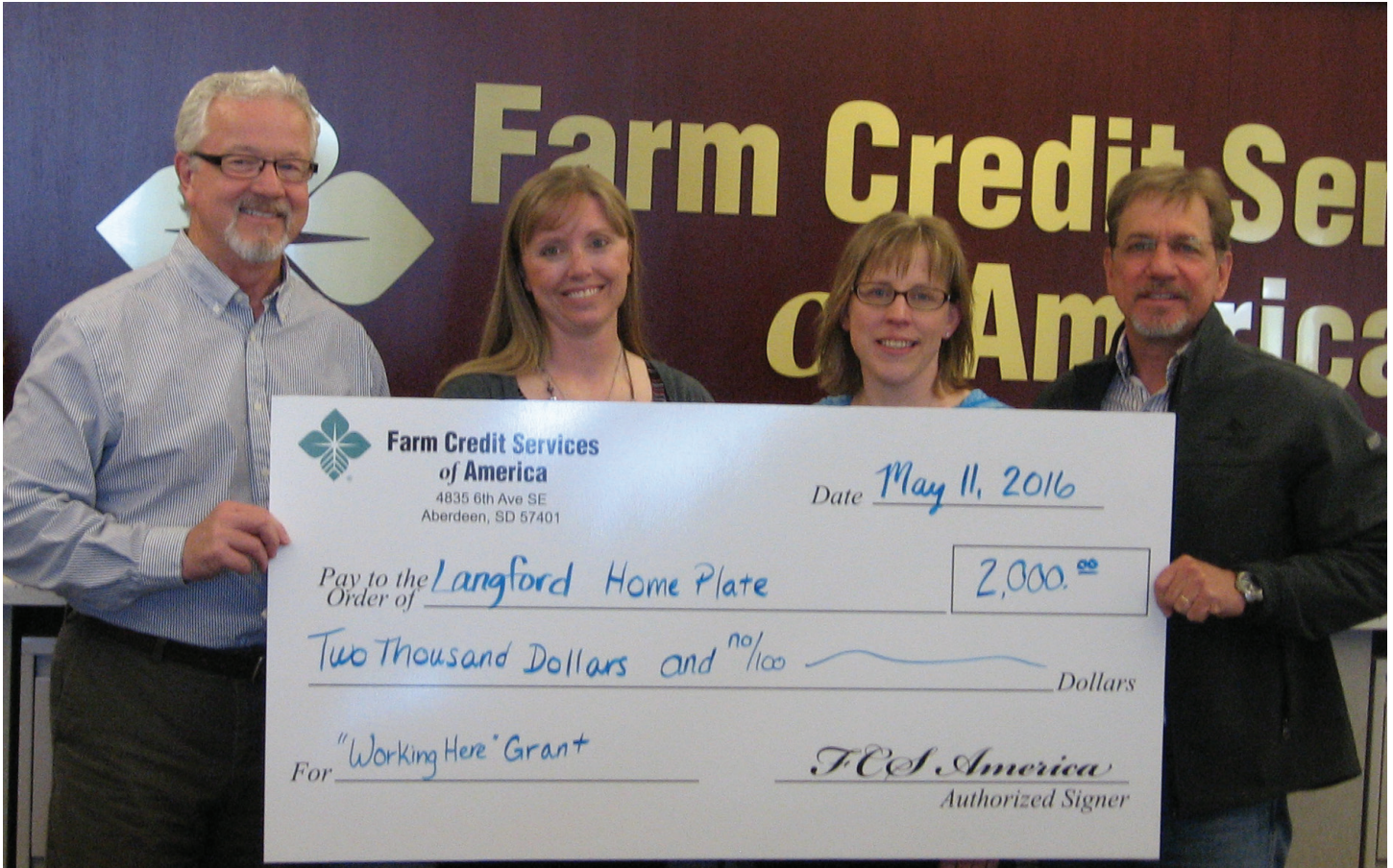


**Jeff Bompous,
Groton Lions Club
member, presenting
a \$500 Groton Lions
scholarship
to his son, Zack.
Zack graduated
from Aberdeen
Central High School.**

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Langford Weekend Food Program gets \$2,000 grant



Pictured left to right are Chuck Nietert, Jenn Gustafson, Susan Schaible-Heiser, Craig Sommers.

A weekend food program, Home PLATE (Promoting Learning and Teaching Everywhere), operates through the Claremont United Methodist Church for students at Langford Area School. This food program is offered to all children K-12 with the only qualifier that they meet standards for either free or reduced school lunches. Every weekend through the school year a bag of food is provided to each child to assist in keeping food available and ready to all students throughout the weekend. SD statistics suggest that 1:8 children are food insecure. Our numbers came very close to that with participation 1:7.5 students. This program has been well received and found beneficial to our students. We are thankful for partnering companies and individuals who have helped to fund this worthy program. Farm Credit Services of America is one such company. We have received other funding grants from Full Circle Ag, Land O'Lakes and Langford Area Foundation, as well as, from various individuals, areas businesses and churches. Without these funding sources this program wouldn't be able to operate.

DENR recognizes BDM for Drinking Water Compliance

PIERRE - The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced that the Brown-Day-Marshall R WS public water system and the system's operation specialists have been awarded a Drinking Water Certificate of Achievement Award.

"We cannot live without water; it is just that simple," said DENR Secretary Steve Pirner. "With these awards, DENR salutes the best-of-the-best drinking water systems and operation specialists who deliver water every day to their customers. The Brown-Day-Marshall RWS has successfully met all of the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act all year long."

The system's operation specialists are Peter Hesla, Darin Roehr and Jim Hagen.

To qualify for the Drinking Water Certificate of Achievement Award, public water systems and their system operations specialists had to meet all of the following requirements for 2015:

- compliance monitoring and reporting,
- drinking water standards, and
- certification requirements.

2016 BOYS STATE

WATERTOWN – The American Legion Department of South Dakota reports that high school boys from across the state of South Dakota will be arriving in Aberdeen on Monday, May 30, 2016, as the 74th annual session of the South Dakota American Legion Boys State will convene on the campus of Northern State University. The program will conclude Friday, June 3.

Over 300 high school students, who have just completed their junior year, will arrive on the NSU campus on May 30 for registration and the opening of the American Legion Boys State in South Dakota. The week-long session, part of The American Legion's Americanism Program, is one of the most-respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for high school students in the nation. South Dakota American Legion Boys State started in Aberdeen in 1940 and continued through 1942. World War II made it necessary to drop the activity from 1943-1945, but in 1946 South Dakota American Legion Boys State was resumed.

It is a participatory program where each boy becomes a part of the operation of his local, county and state government. The boys were exposed to the rights and privileges, the duties and responsibilities of a citizen. The training was objective and practical with city, county and state government operated by elected and appointed officials duly placed in office by the participants. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, chorus and recreational programs.

Participants were selected by local American Legion Posts and the expenses associated with attendance were paid by the sponsoring American Legion Post, a local business or another community-based organization.

Approximately 60 volunteer staff members consisting of Legionnaires and educators, along with civic and government leaders participate as counselors and advisors during the week-long program.

The South Dakota American Legion Boys State program is conducted under the direction of American Legion Boys State Director Gene Opbroek of Box Elder, SD.

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Today in Weather History

1825 - A tornado (said to have crossed all of the state of Ohio) smashed into the log cabin settlement of Burlington, northeast of Columbus. (David Ludlum)

1960 - Salt Lake City UT received an inch of snow. It marked their latest measurable snowfall of record. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - Mount Saint Helens (in Washington State) erupted spewing ash and smoke sixty-three thousand feet into the air. Heavy ash covered the ground to the immediate northwest, and small particles were carried to the Atlantic coast. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Kansas, developing along a cold front, spawned tornadoes at Emporia and Toledo, produced wind gusts to 65 mph at Fort Scott, and produced golf ball size hail in the Kansas City area. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed ahead of the cold front. Pomona NJ reported a record high of 93 degrees, and Altus, OK, hit 100 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure anchored over eastern Virginia kept showers and thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region. Flash flooding was reported in Pennsylvania. Up to five inches of rain drenched Franklin County PA in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front produced severe weather from the Central Gulf Coast States to the Lower Missouri Valley during the day and evening. Thunderstorms spawned sixteen tornadoes, and there were 74 reports of large hail and damaging winds. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the central U.S. spawning a sixteen tornadoes, including a dozen in Nebraska. Thunderstorms also produced hail four inches in diameter at Perryton TX, wind gusts to 84 mph at Ellis KS, and high winds which caused nearly two million dollars damage at Sutherland NE. Thunderstorms deluged Sioux City IA with up to eight inches of rain, resulting in a record flood crest on Perry Creek and at least 4.5 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Increasing Clouds	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Partly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy then Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Partly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 73 °F	Low: 44 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 78 °F




Mild And Dry Through Saturday












Today	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				
74° 44°	76° 48°	75° 54°	79° 57°	80° 59° 35%
S 16	S 25	SE 23	S 15	S 18






5 Day Outlook - Aberdeen

Today	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				
74° 50°	74° 54°	76° 54°	81° 59°	81° 58° 30%
SE 19	S 29	SE 27	S 17	S 18





5 Day Outlook - Pierre


weather.gov/Aberdeen

[National Weather Service Aberdeen](https://www.facebook.com/NationalWeatherServiceAberdeen)

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)

Published on: 05/18/2016 at 4:34AM

The mainly dry weather pattern is expected to continue for the next few days. Temperatures will see a slow and steady increase - along with a slight uptick in humidity.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 69.3 at 6:01 PM

Low: 38.7 at 6:26 AM

High Gust: 16 at 12:34 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 1934

Record Low: 26 in 1915

Average High: 69°F

Average Low: 44°F

Average Precip in May: 1.85

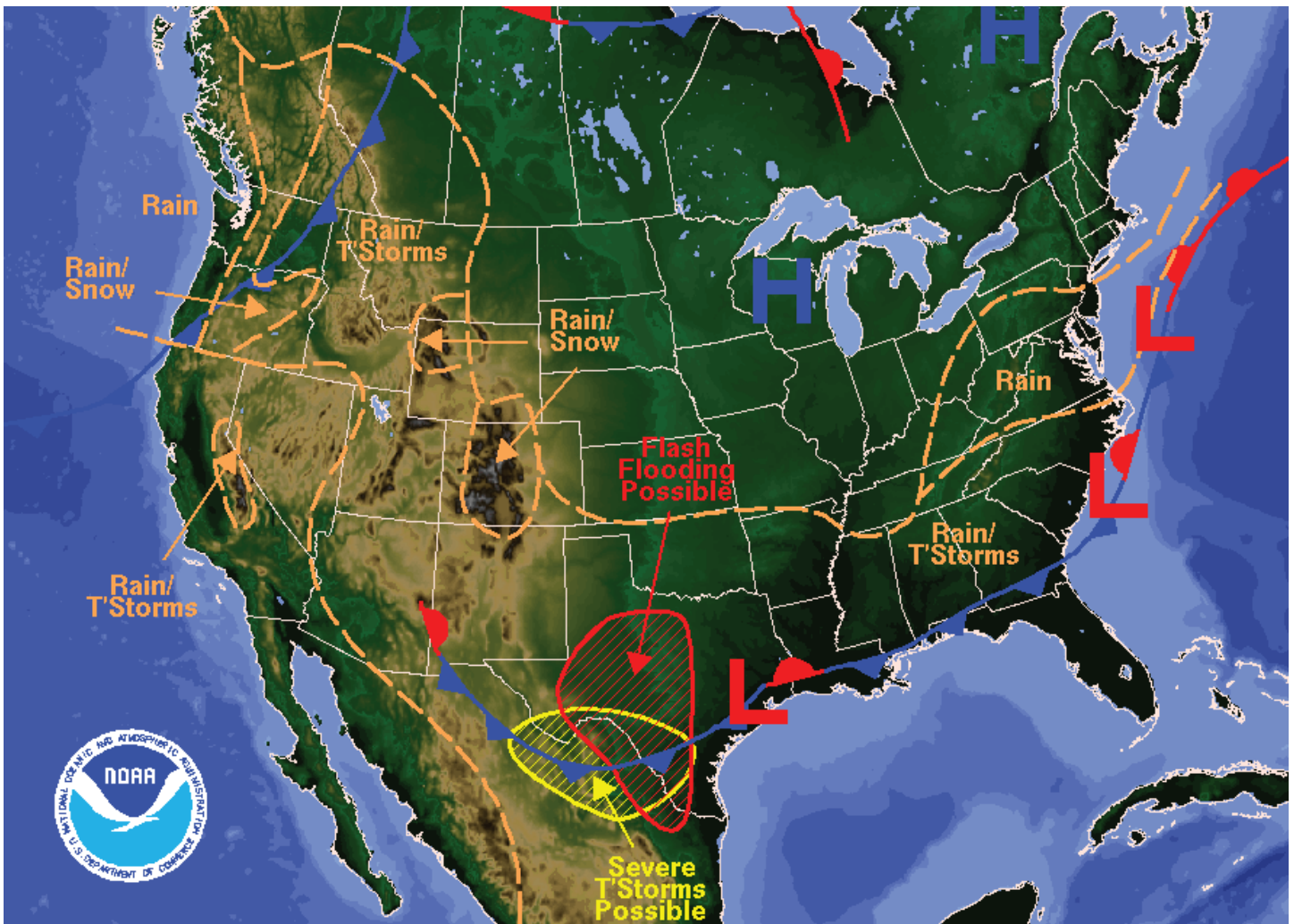
Precip to date in May: 0.11

Average Precip to date: 5.88

Precip Year to Date: 3.50

Sunset Tonight: 9:01 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:58 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Wed, May 18, 2016, issued 4:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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GOD WILL ENABLE YOU

During World War II a sergeant was driving a visiting evangelist to speak to the soldiers in the mess hall. On their trip across the military base the driver pointed to a sign that read, "Be All That You Can Be!"

The evangelist asked him, "Are you all that you can be?"

"No, but I would like to be," he replied.

Then the evangelist said, "Here's how you can become all you want to be:

"First you must surrender your life to the Lord and be born again. Once you do that, you can begin your journey to becoming all that you can be because He has a plan for your life."

"Then," he continued, "you need to seek God's plan for your life. You know, Sergeant, God has a plan that He designed especially for you and unless you do what He wants you to do, you will never be all you can be.

"His plan for you is special and specific and if you read His Word, seek guidance from Him and wait for His directions, you will become all you can be because you will become all that He wants you to be – now and throughout eternity."

Prayer: Help us, Father, to be all You intended us to be and to be faithful in fulfilling the plan You have designed for each one of us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

News from the Associated Press

Suspect in Sioux Falls slaying returned to South Dakota

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A man accused of killing another man outside of a Sioux Falls casino last month has been returned to South Dakota to face a murder charge.

Twenty-one-year-old Jared Stone was booked into the Minnehaha County Jail on Tuesday night, after being extradited from Wyoming.

Stone was arrested in that state on April 27 after a five-day multistate manhunt.

Stone is accused of killing 28-year-old Baptiste White Eyes on April 22. It's not clear if he has an attorney. He's being held on \$2 million bond.

Entrance fees to be waived at state parks this weekend

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Outdoor enthusiasts rejoice: Entrance fees will be waived at all state park and recreation areas in South Dakota this weekend.

The state Game, Fish and Parks Department has scheduled its annual Open House and Free Fishing weekend for this Friday through Sunday.

Residents and non-residents will also be allowed to fish for free this weekend. The three-day event allows people to fish without a license, but fishing regulations and limits, as well as camping fees still apply.

Some parks will also offer activities Friday and Saturday, including a 5K run at the Adams Homestead and Nature Preserve in North Sioux City and a family fishing event at the Palisades State Park in Garretson.

Bail revoked for man dubbed Porn's New King in money case

LARRY NEUMEISTER, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Bail was revoked Tuesday for a Los Angeles man once dubbed Porn's New King after prosecutors said he violated bail conditions in a financial case and sent threatening text messages to a one-time friend he erroneously believed was cooperating with the government, calling him a "weasel" and warning him to "sleep tight and be worried."

U.S. District Judge Kevin Castel ordered Jason Galanis imprisoned after he traveled to New York to face charges announced last week alleging he conspired with others to cheat a Native American tribe and investors out of \$60 million. Galanis had been free on \$10 million bail since he was arrested last fall in a separate financial fraud.

The judge said there was probable cause to believe Galanis committed securities fraud when he reassured a South Dakota tribe its money was safe.

Prosecutors had said that Galanis and others lied to the Oglala Sioux tribe from March 2014 through April about how proceeds from its bonds would be invested. They said the dealings occurred with the Wakpamni Lake Community Corp., an economic development corporation arm of the Oglala Sioux tribe of the Pine Ridge reservation.

The government alleges Galanis and the others spent most of the proceeds on homes, cars, travel and jewelry.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Brian Blais said Tuesday that Galanis sent threatening text messages to a one-time friend accusing him of being a "weasel" and promising payback because he incorrectly thought the man had been disloyal to his wife and was cooperating with the government.

"Sleep tight and be worried" was among a series of messages laced with vulgarities, the prosecutor said.

Attorney Marion Bachrach, representing Galanis, said the messages were sent by her client when he was drinking alcohol on an airplane.

"It's terrible language," she said. "They now call it drunk texting."

The judge made no mention of the texts as he concluded a letter sent to tribal representatives in Febru-

ary was enough to show Galanis likely was continuing to commit crimes.

"Mr. Galanis is unlikely to abide by any conditions of release," the judge said. "It is a danger to have somebody committing the crime of conspiracy to commit securities fraud while on release."

Outside court, Bachrach said she's considering appealing her client's detention order.

Forbes magazine labeled Galanis Porn's New King in 2004 after he bought the nation's biggest payment processor for Internet porn.

In a release last week, the Securities and Exchange Commission said Galanis had a checkered past dating from a 2005 accounting fraud case the SEC brought against him during his days as a major Penthouse International shareholder.

The regional director of the SEC's New York office, Andrew M. Calamari, said as the SEC brought civil charges against Galanis that he persisted in the "brazen and complex" scheme involving the Indian tribe even after he was arrested by criminal authorities and charged by the SEC in a different case.

Trails to be cleared throughout summer around Harney Peak

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — Black Hills National Forest crews will be clearing fallen trees starting on Memorial Day off hiking and horse trails around Harney Peak.

The work will continue throughout the summer, and some routes may impassable for hikers and horse traffic until the work is completed. Early summer hikers may find several trees blocking trails that the trail crew hasn't yet reached.

Last year, some 1,500 trees were cleared from about 55 miles on the high-use public trails.

Forest officials ask people to be aware of their surroundings and use caution when entering the Black Elk Wilderness. They say there are a high number of dead trees in the wilderness area due to damage from mountain pine beetle infestations, and the trees can easily fall in high winds.

Board of Regents honor outbound presidents, student regent

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Board of Regents has recognized an outbound student regent and two departing university presidents.

The board said Tuesday that the honors are for their service to South Dakota's public higher education system.

Regent Joseph Schartz served on the board for three years. He graduated from South Dakota State University this month.

SDSU President David Chicoine is departing the post after spending more than nine years leading the institution. He is remaining at the school as a faculty member.

James Smith has been recognized for serving as president of Northern State University for seven years. He will become president of Eastern Michigan University in July.

Feds hire contractor to run ERs at hospitals on reservations

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The emergency room at the only hospital on a Native American reservation in South Dakota could reopen after federal health officials on Tuesday hired a contractor to provide emergency services at that and two other government-run hospitals.

The Indian Health Service awarded a one-year contract to Arizona-based AB Staffing Solutions LLC to run the currently shuttered emergency department on the Rosebud Indian Reservation. The contract, with a \$60-million ceiling and renewable to up to five years, also covers the emergency rooms at hospitals on South Dakota's Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and Nebraska's Winnebago Reservation.

"This new contract underscores the IHS commitment to pursuing creative new solutions that ensure high quality care for our patients, who are our top priority," Mary Smith, principal deputy director of the IHS, said in a statement Tuesday. "The new contract will benefit IHS patients and providers by ensuring a 24-hour Emergency Department at IHS Rosebud Hospital and two others."

The Indian Health Service, commonly referred to as IHS, is responsible for providing health care to en-

rolled tribal members as part of the government's treaty obligations to Native American tribes. The move to privatize the emergency rooms comes after federal inspectors found serious deficiencies at the three hospitals.

The failures found at the emergency department of the 35-bed Rosebud Hospital prompted the Indian Health Service to close the facility's ER in early December, forcing people needing immediate care to travel about 50 miles. According to tribal officials in Rosebud, 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.

The IHS has not disclosed an exact date to reopen the ER, but it had previously expressed the desire to do so by the summer. The agency said the department will reopen "as soon as it is safe to do so," adding that the contract "marks a significant progress towards that goal."

The contract calls for AB Staffing Solutions to provide the management and clinical staff of the emergency departments. The IHS said the current staff at the emergency rooms in Pine Ridge and Winnebago will be assigned to other departments, which in turn, will allow the hospitals to provide additional services at night and on weekends.

The IHS has previously hired AB Staffing Solutions to provide temporary health professionals at its hospitals. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe, however, would have preferred that a local health system had been granted the contract.

"We know Avera (Health), we know Sanford (Health)," Rosebud Sioux council representative William Bear Shield said referring to two health systems based in South Dakota. "If it would have been any one of those two, I would have said 'Great. I feel comfortable.' But we are going to have to see what this AB Staffing Solutions is about. We are concerned, that's for sure."

AB Staffing Solutions did not immediately return a call seeking comment on the contract.

Some of the deficiencies uncovered by inspectors during an unannounced survey of the Rosebud facility in November included the lack of any apparent infection-control measures taken when a patient with a history of untreated tuberculosis sought medical attention, as well as the lack of immediate assistance for another patient who was having a heart attack.

The closure of the emergency room prompted the Rosebud Sioux Tribe to file a federal lawsuit last month against the IHS and others asking that officials be forced to reopen it, citing "immediate and irreparable injury" to tribal members.

5 arrested after missing Rapid City woman's body found

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Three men have been charged with first-degree murder and two others face accessory charges after authorities discovered the body of a missing 22-year-old woman buried in a forest in South Dakota's Black Hills, Rapid City police said Tuesday.

Jessica Rehfeld was last seen with two unknown men on May 18, 2015, in Rapid City. Her body was discovered last Friday buried in one of two remote gravesites dug in a forest near Rockerville, authorities said.

Rapid City police said they believe Rehfeld's stabbing death was a contract killing. They arrested 26-year-old Jonathon Klinetobe of Sturgis, 24-year-old David Schneider of Rapid City and 35-year-old Richard Hirth of Rapid City on first-degree murder charges. Investigators accused Klinetobe, Rehfeld's ex-boyfriend, of offering Schneider and Hirth "thousands of dollars" to kill Rehfeld.

Police said two other Rapid City men, Michael Frye, 24, and Garland Brown, 29, are accused of helping Klinetobe move the body to the second gravesite. They were arrested on charges of accessory to first-degree murder.

Attorney information for the five men was not immediately available.

Investigators said they believe that on May 18, 2015, Schneider and Hirth offered to give Rehfeld a ride to where she worked but instead drove her to a secluded service road in northeast Rapid City, where she was stabbed to death. They said Rehfeld's body was placed in a bag, and the two men picked up Klinetobe at his house before heading to the burial site.

Rapid City Police Capt. James Johns said all of the information came to light in a matter of days after

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detectives from the police department and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office made contact with a witness.

"Hundreds of man-hours were spent over this past weekend to work to understand the details and motivations behind this homicide," Johns said in a statement.

Police said the case remains an open and active investigation.

Boys, other bystanders rescue girl from Rapid City pool

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say the swift actions of a man and two boys saved the life of a 5-year-old girl who nearly drowned in a hotel swimming pool in South Dakota.

Wisdom Bass-Robinson, 12, and Btin Spears, 13, of Walthill, Nebraska, noticed the girl face-down in the pool at the Best Western Ramkota in Rapid City shortly after 8 p.m. Monday and pulled her from the water, according to police.

"We knew something was wrong when her face was in the water for so long," Wisdom said in a statement released by the police department. "I grabbed her and Btin and I pulled her to the side."

Rick Volk, of Phoenix, with the help of other bystanders began CPR and revived the girl, who was taken to a hospital and is expected to be fine. Authorities didn't identify her.

Sgt. Wayne Asscherick presented gift cards for pizza to Volk and the boys.

"It was the least we could do for these three," Asscherick said. "They worked as a team, with the boys being aware of others and Mr. Volk being versed in CPR that saved the life of the 5-year-old girl."

Rash of BB gun vandalism in Sioux Falls area believed solved

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls and Minnehaha County authorities believe they've identified three teenagers responsible for vandalizing vehicles, homes and a church with BB guns.

The sheriff's office says two 18-year-old boys and a 17-year-old boy have been cooperating with authorities. The state's attorney's office is deciding on charges.

The teens are suspected of shooting out more than 100 vehicle windows in Sioux Falls in the past week and also vandalizing homes and a church in the Renner area. Police estimate the damage at more than \$43,000.

3 sentenced for marijuana distribution, money laundering

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Three Minnesota residents accused of bringing marijuana from California to the Sioux Falls area and elsewhere have been sentenced in federal court in South Dakota.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says law officers believe the operation involved at least 500 pounds of marijuana.

Thirty-two-year-old Somwang Khanya pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit money laundering and was sentenced to five years and 10 months in prison.

Thirty-year-old Inpaeng Phady and 23-year-old Keophothone Rounoubon both pleaded guilty to marijuana distribution conspiracy. Phady was sentenced to 2 ½ years in prison and Rounoubon to one year and 11 months.

All three suspects are from Worthington, Minnesota.

Suspect in Faith killings being allowed to hire investigator

STURGIS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has approved a defense request to hire an investigator for the case of a man accused of killing two people in Faith.

Berton Toavs has pleaded not guilty to two counts of first-degree murder in the fatal shootings of Eliza Edgins and Nathan Gann on April 26 in the small western South Dakota town. Authorities say Edgins was Toavs' ex-girlfriend and Gann was his friend.

A closed-door status hearing was held Monday. Judge Jerome Eckrich approved the defense attorney's

request for up to \$3,000 for an investigator.

Gann and Edgins worked at a bar and grill in Faith, a town of about 430 people. Toavs has been working at ranches and a livestock auction. He's due back in court on July 6.

New OT rules force small businesses to make hard choices

JOYCE M. ROSENBERG, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The government's new rules requiring overtime pay for millions of workers have small business owners facing some hard choices.

The regulations being issued by the Labor Department Wednesday would double to \$913 a week from \$455 the threshold under which salaried workers must be paid overtime. In terms of annual pay, the threshold rises to \$47,476 from \$23,660. The rules take effect Dec. 1.

Many businesses like restaurants, retailers, landscapers and moving companies will have to transition staffers, many of whom are low-level managers, to hourly pay and limit the number of hours these employees work. That can increase the workload for other staffers, have everyone scrambling to get work done in fewer hours and hurt morale. Some owners say they'll have to limit hiring, cut services or other costs. Others are turning to technology to try to get work done in less time. And some say they'll give staffers a raise to get them out of overtime territory.

Chad Brooks expects to switch managers at his eight franchise restaurants to hourly pay, and plans to send them home as soon as their shifts are over. Other staffers at the Pittsburgh-area Qdoba and Burger 21 franchises will have to pitch in to handle their work. Brooks already foresees problems, for example, if a customer wants to complain to the manager.

"Guests will be extremely frustrated when they ask, 'where's the manager,' and a worker says, 'he's not here,'" Brooks says.

Brooks has warned his managers that the change is coming. They're not happy because they'll work fewer hours and take home less pay. And hourly pay in the restaurant business is seen as entry-level compensation, not the salary that managers get as they move up the ladder.

"Everyone coming to work for you wants to be salaried, have that cachet, that status," Brooks says.

The new rules, which will be revised every three years, aim to increase pay for an estimated 4.2 million workers, including many who work 45, 50 or more hours in a week without extra pay. Businesses have been on notice about higher overtime costs since last summer, when the government issued proposed regulations. Companies are on the hook not just for time and a-half, but also for higher Social Security and Medicare taxes employers must pay on all of a staffer's compensation. The rules don't cover many employees who are office workers, computer programmers or professionals.

Small businesses lack the large revenue streams and credit lines of bigger companies, so they may struggle to afford the additional overtime costs, particularly those already facing higher minimum wages or increased health care costs.

Some owners will decide that it makes sense to give staffers whose pay is close to the \$47,476 threshold a raise rather than face an uncertain overtime bill going forward, says Jonathan Sigel, a labor attorney with the law firm Mirick O'Connell in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Money isn't the only issue. Managers used to staying at work until a task is done may feel demoralized when forced to leave work unfinished, says Midge Seltzer, president of Engage PEO, a human resources provider based in Hollywood, Florida.

"Most of the workplace consists of conscientious employees. It's going to be difficult for them to just throw their hands up and say, 'I'm done,'" she says.

Whether staffers will earn more or less under the regulations depends on the hourly wage each company sets. Many companies who expect to pay more are already looking at their budgets for other expenses that can be reduced or eliminated.

Ben Walker is cutting his marketing budget to come up with the money he'll need for overtime for the four staffers at his phone call transcription service. Walker, owner of Transcription Outsourcing in Denver,

decided not to wait for the regulations; he put his workers on hourly pay last November after asking them what they thought would be a fair wage. The change has resulted in staffers getting higher pay and slightly fewer hours. His payroll costs, which account for half his expenses, have gone up 15 percent.

"I guess I could be angry about it, but it's the way it goes — and they're happier," Walker says. The staffers are team leaders at the company, overseeing freelancers who transcribe phone calls for doctors, lawyers and law enforcement agencies.

Automation is the answer at Deborah Sweeney. She's investing in customer service software for her online business services company, MyCorporation, because she expects higher overtime costs to limit her ability to hire more staffers. Thirty of the 43 employees at the Calabasas, California-based company will be affected by the new regulations. Software programs will help handle MyCorporation's growing workload.

Startups that expect to hire are now factoring overtime costs into their projected expenses.

Jeff Kerr, owner of Casefleet, an Atlanta company that makes software for law firms, anticipates hiring as many as 15 people in the next two years. The positions, which require less-experienced workers, will likely pay less than the \$47,476 threshold.

"We will just have to pay them overtime wages," Kerr says.

Taiwan panda's 'proof of life' photo debunks death rumors

BEIJING (AP) — The subject of the photo looks out from behind bars, with newspapers arranged in front of him to prove what day it is. This "proof of life" shot is not a scene from a kidnapping but an effort by the Taipei Zoo to debunk rumors that a prized panda recently died.

Photos released by the zoo this week show 11-year-old Tuan Tuan looking at the papers laid out in front of his inner enclosure. The zoo's director said in a statement that Tuan Tuan, his partner Yuan Yuan and their cub Tuan Zai are all fine.

"We welcome everyone to visit them at the zoo," said Director Chin Shih-chien said.

The website of China's official Communist Party newspaper Global Times had reported the panda died of canine distemper, sending the story racing across the Chinese-language Internet. The paper later retracted the story and apologized for not checking its facts, a potentially egregious error given the political sensitivity surrounding the panda pair.

Giant pandas exist only in China and Beijing has often used overseas gifts of the animals to make political statements about its relationship with other governments. Beijing claims the self-governing island of Taiwan as its own territory, to be brought under its control by force if necessary.

Tuan Tuan and Yuan Yuan, whose combined names translate as "Reunion," were sent by Beijing to Taiwan in December 2008 following the election of China-friendly President Ma Ying-jeou as the island's leader.

The rumors of Tuan Tuan's death came just days before the inauguration of Ma's successor, Tsai Ing-wen, whose party formally supports Taiwan's formal independence from China.

Over 200 families feared buried by landslides in Sri Lanka

BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI, Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Massive landslides triggered by torrential rains crashed down onto three villages in the central hills of Sri Lanka, and more than 200 families were missing Wednesday and feared buried under the mud and debris, the Sri Lankan Red Cross said.

Sixteen bodies have already been recovered and about 180 people have been rescued from the enormous piles of mud unleashed at around 5 p.m. Tuesday, according to military spokesman Brig. Jayanath Jayaweera.

Villagers recalled hearing and seeing the torrents of muddy water, tree branches and debris crashing down around their homes.

"I heard a huge sound like a plane crashing into the earth," said 52-year-old A.G. Kamala, who had just returned to her house in Siripura village when the landslides hit. "I opened my door. I could not believe my eyes, as I saw something like a huge fireball rolling down the mountain and again a huge sound."

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More than 300 soldiers were joined by local residents digging through the mud with their hands, sticks and shovels to search for survivors in the farming villages of Siripura, Pallegage and Elagipitya in Kegalle District, about 72 kilometers (45 miles) north of Colombo, Jayaweera said. Heavy fog and continuing rain, along with electricity outages and the instability of the ground, were complicating rescue efforts.

Some 220 families were reported missing, the Sri Lankan Red Cross said in a statement. Officials could not give the village populations, but such villages typically include about 1,000-1,500 residents each.

As anxious family members waited for news about missing loved ones, officials said the full extent of the tragedy was still unclear.

One woman, 70-year-old A.G. Alice, said all nine of her children were unaccounted for. "I don't know what happened to me after" the landslides hit with "a thundering sound I have never heard in my life," she said.

A man said his wife, mother-in-law, son and daughter-in-law were all in his house in Siripura when the landslides hit. "I still can't locate my family," M.W. Dharmadasa said. "I still don't know what happened to them."

State broadcaster Rupavahini showed images of huge mounds of earth covering houses, while cascades of muddy water gushed from hilltops above. Villagers said 66 houses had been buried or damaged, according to local journalist Saman Bandara.

More than 1,000 people who escaped the disaster were sheltering and being treated for minor injuries at a nearby school and a Buddhist temple, according to government official Mahendra Jagath.

The same rains that unleashed the mudslides have also caused severe flooding in cities including Colombo, the capital, where tens of thousands of homes were at least partially inundated. Schools were closed due to the bad weather.

Sri Lanka's disaster management center had reported 11 deaths from lightning strikes and smaller landslides elsewhere in the Indian Ocean island nation on Monday and Tuesday. Nearly 135,000 people across the country have been displaced and were being housed in temporary shelters.

Officials warned that more landslides and lightning strikes could occur in the countryside, as more rain was forecast along with rough seas along the coasts.

Mudslides are common in Sri Lanka during the monsoon season, with heavy deforestation to clear land for agriculture leaving the countryside exposed.

During heavy rains in December 2014, Sri Lankan authorities evacuated more than 60,000 people from thousands of homes damaged or destroyed by floods or landslides. Two months before that, dozens of tea plantation workers were killed when mudslides buried their hillside homes.

Poll: Americans more upbeat about own finances than economy

JOSH BOAK, Associated Press

EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are of two minds about the economy in the midst of an election race that largely hinges on the issue. They are strikingly pessimistic about the national economy yet comparatively upbeat about their own financial circumstances.

Just 42 percent of adults describe the U.S. economy as good, according to a survey released Wednesday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. But two-thirds say their own households are faring well.

The divide suggests that despite their own financial gains, many people worry about risks beyond their control — from a volatile stock market to another economic downturn. Just a third say they'd be very confident of finding another job if they were laid-off — a sign of vulnerability even though the Great Recession officially ended nearly seven years ago.

Some of the difference also reflects political views and education levels: Republicans are far more negative about the economy as President Barack Obama finishes his second term. And college graduates are more sanguine about a recovery that rewarded them while largely neglecting workers without college degrees.

The nation's unemployment rate has reached a healthy 5 percent, and workers' pay shows tentative signs

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of accelerating after years of barely budging. Auto sales hit a record in April. Housing and construction are rebounding. Americans are treating themselves to more restaurant meals.

But for every gauge of the economy that's pointing up, another has become cause for unease.

Hospitals have become dominant employers in most cities, yet health care costs are outpacing pay. Foreign imports have kept clothing and home appliance prices affordable. But those low-priced imports have cost U.S. jobs that in many cases haven't been replaced. Across the country, the low-educated are struggling.

And nothing has ignited the robust economic growth that Americans remember enjoying until the Great Recession struck in late 2007. The United States has endured a dreary recovery from the worst downturn since the Great Depression. Just 23 percent of Americans say they think the economy will improve this year.

Some view the slow growth as a sign that the economy has never escaped the threat of another downturn. For years, they have seen the political class feud over how to accelerate economic growth and extend more opportunities to people who have been left out, with little to show for it.

"It's just real shaky right now," said Dorothy Mszanski, 60, a former steelworker who had to retire on disability. "It's like nobody can figure out what to do."

Living outside Youngstown, Ohio, Mszanski sees her family's situation as relatively stable. Her husband works an auto body and paint shop. The couple has built up retirement savings after years of work and raised three adult children. Yet Mszanski fears economic risks that could upend their lives.

A stock market crash would deplete her husband's 401(k) account. Her medical bills could keep soaring to impossible heights, a challenge she is already straining to handle.

"I've had chronic back pain, and I'm a diabetic and I'm on oxygen 24-7," she said. "If my medication keeps going up, there will be a time that I won't be able to afford to eat or buy my medicine. So what are you going to do?"

That anxiety remains rooted in many communities even as Americans see some economic gains. The more than 40 percent who describe the economy as good compare with just 26 percent who said so in an October 2013 AP-GfK survey.

Doubts about the economy lie at the heart of the split over which presidential candidate is best equipped to lead the country: Donald Trump, the real estate mogul whose aggressive economic nationalism has made him the presumptive Republican nominee, or Hillary Clinton, the Democratic front-runner who has campaigned as a get-things-done policymaker.

Sentiments about the economy tend to parallel Americans' political views. With a Democrat having occupied the White House for seven years, Republicans with a dislike for Obama's policies tend to express discontent with the economy.

Just 34 percent of Republicans call the national economy good, compared with 54 percent of Democrats. Thirty-eight percent of Republican supporters say they expect the economy to deteriorate this year, versus 18 percent of Democrats.

Many Americans have seen their home values recover and have cut their mortgage bills by refinancing at ultra-low rates, thereby improving their personal finances.

Still, regardless of their own circumstances, history shows that voters tend to develop negative views of the economy during presidential election years, which typically dwell on economic shortcomings, said Diane Lim, a researcher at the Committee for Economic Development, a non-partisan think tank.

"If you turn on the news, you're very aware that the economic recovery has not lifted everyone back to normal," Lim said. "The campaign talk, of course, is going to emphasize the negative on either side."

The divide also reflects the uneven nature of a recovery that has favored the wealthier and better-educated.

Just 2.4 percent of Americans with a bachelor's degree are unemployed, compared with 5.9 percent of those with a high school diploma or less, according to the Labor Department. Nearly 60 percent of all income gains between 2009 and 2014 went to families in the top 1 percent of earners, according to analysis by Emmanuel Saez, an economist at the University of California, Berkeley.

The AP-NORC survey found that Americans with a bachelor's degree or higher are closely divided on whether the nation's economy is good (48 percent) or poor (52 percent).

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But those with a high school education or less are much more likely to consider the economy poor (63 percent) than good (37 percent) and less likely to feel confident about their finances.

College graduates such as Walter Johnson, 77, are able to work past conventional retirement age. A civil engineer in Chicago, Johnson said he still works at his firm 35 hours a week, giving him a degree of financial security.

Yet he views the overall economy as struggling. Annual growth has averaged a mere 2 percent during the economic recovery, compared with the roughly 3 percent that was common for much of his lifetime.

A registered Republican, Johnson said he thinks a key to faster growth is persuading local banks to support small businesses and entrepreneurship, instead of requiring them to follow regulations more suited to global financial firms. He considers Trump the candidate for voters who value good jobs, like the construction workers he sees in Chicago.

"If he can tone his verbiage down a little bit and get some reasonable advisers, I'd vote for him, I really would," Johnson said.

Many other Americans see Trump's bluster as a potential threat to the economy.

"If Trump runs, I'll probably vote Hillary," said Pat Miller, a retired teacher in Winter Park, Florida. "I think he's unstable."

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 today:

1. HOW VOTING WENT IN LATEST PRIMARIES

Bernie Sanders wins Oregon's presidential primary and battles Hillary Clinton to a razor-thin margin in Kentucky, vowing to stay in the race until the end.

2. THOUSANDS OF UNDERAGE MIGRANTS LIVE IN SHADOWS ACROSS EUROPE

These unaccompanied and vulnerable minors are selling drugs or sex in Rome, stealing food and sleeping on the streets of Stockholm or trying to jump onto the backs of moving trucks to Britain from France.

3. DEADLY MUDSLIDES STRIKE SRI LANKA

The Red Cross says rescuers are searching for more than 200 families feared buried by rain-triggered landslides in three villages in central Sri Lanka.

4. POLL: AMERICANS MORE UPBEAT ABOUT OWN FINANCES THAN ECONOMY

Two-thirds of adults describe their personal finances as good yet only 42 percent say the same about the nation's economy, according to a survey by the AP.

5. ECUADOR RATTLED BY ANOTHER EARTHQUAKE

A powerful magnitude-6.7 temblor hits near the Pacific coast area where a devastating tremor hit a month ago, but the South American country's president says the jolt caused only limited damage.

6. FEDS WERE WARY OF SYDNEY SIEGE GUNMAN

An FBI memo from 2009 warned that an Australian man who later held 18 people hostage in a cafe had the potential to incite others to violence.

7. WHAT TECH GIANT IS UNVEILING

Google will showcase its vision for phones, cars, virtual reality and more during its annual conference for software developers.

8. EXPLORERS PLAN MISSION TO FAMOUS SHIPWRECK

Sixty years after the SS Andrea Doria slammed into another ocean liner off Nantucket, killing 46 people, explorers are preparing to get a fresh glimpse of the wreckage on the sea floor.

9. TRUMP, MEGYN KELLY CALL A TRUCE

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee and popular Fox News Channel host sit down for an interview that for now could end their public feud.

10. CAVS QUICKLY MAKING HISTORY

Cleveland is 9-0 to start this year's playoffs, a streak matched or exceeded by only four other teams in NBA history.

6.7-magnitude earthquake reported in Ecuador

GONZALO SOLANO, Associated Press

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — A powerful 6.7-magnitude earthquake has hit Ecuador near the Pacific coast area where a devastating quake hit a month ago, knocking out power and rattling scared residents in their sleep but otherwise causing only limited damage.

The U.S. Geological Survey said Wednesday that the quake's epicenter was 35 kilometers (21 miles) from the town of Muisne. It struck shortly before 3 a.m. local time and had a shallow depth of 32 kilometers below the earth's surface.

President Rafael Correa, who was meeting with his disaster relief staff, said there was no tsunami alert and called on residents in Quito, where some residents poured into the streets, to return to their homes.

Some previously ravaged homes and buildings suffered more damage but there were no reports of injuries or fatalities. Authorities were working to restore power in affected areas.

"It was a big shake and all of us were scared but there are no major problems at the moment," said Jorge Zambrano, mayor of Manta, one of the areas hit hardest by last month's devastating quake.

The much larger magnitude 7.8 earthquake on April 16 was Ecuador's worst natural disaster in decades, killing 661 and leaving more than 28,000 people homeless. It has been followed by hundreds of aftershocks, at least five of them including Wednesday's which measured 6.0 or higher on the Richter scale.

Ecuador was already struggling economically before the April disaster. Correa has hiked taxes to fund the recovery but says it will take years to rebuild the beach towns and tourist hubs leveled by the quake.

Dash cam catches dramatic rescue of man from burning SUV

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP) — A dash cam camera in an Anchorage police cruiser caught dramatic video of an officer and four citizens rescuing a man whose arm was trapped under a burning sport utility vehicle.

The video released Tuesday is agonizing to watch at times as the man screams: "Oh my God! Oh my God!"

The vehicle had rolled onto its right side Sunday. The unidentified driver, who hadn't worn a seat belt, had his arm trapped under the passenger side of the vehicle.

Officer Mitchel Veenstra and four volunteers rocked the car just enough for the driver to free his arm, and the crying man scrambled away from the SUV.

As he flops to the ground in front of the cruiser, the man tells Veenstra that he's a firefighter with the state.

The man then says he's OK, but adds: "I thought I was literally going to die."

Veenstra says, "I'm glad to be talking to you right now."

The man replied: "Me too."

2 dead after small plane crashes near airfield in Arizona

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Two people were killed Tuesday evening after a small World War II-era plane crashed and exploded into flames near a Phoenix-area airport, authorities said.

Emergency crews were dispatched to Falcon Field Airport about 6:45 p.m. Deputy Chief Forrest Smith of the Mesa Fire Department said two people died in the crash. Their names weren't immediately released.

Smith said witnesses called to report an explosion when the plane went down shortly after takeoff from Falcon Field.

Aerial video from the scene showed the demolished single-engine AT-6 plane on a road that runs around the perimeter of the airstrip.

It appears the nose section housing the propeller broke away from the body of the aircraft and was laying a few feet away. A portion of the wreckage was covered with a tarp.

A dust storm was moving through the area Tuesday evening, but authorities said it was unclear if weather was a factor in the crash.

Ian Gregor, a spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration, said the FAA and National Transporta-

tion Safety Board will investigate the cause of the crash.

The small plane is believed to have been built in 1942. The AT-6 was flown during World War II and into the 1970s.

Falcon Field serves as a reliever to Phoenix Sky Harbor International and Phoenix-Mesa Gateway airports.

Thousands of underage migrants live in shadows across Europe

ELAINE GANLEY, Associated Press

COLLEEN BARRY, Associated Press

Outside the train station in Rome, teen migrants sell drugs from school backpacks and trade sex for cash or clothes. In the capital of Sweden, they steal food from supermarkets and sleep on the streets. From makeshift camps along the northern French coast, they try to hop at night onto the backs of moving trucks headed to Britain.

All across Europe, there is a growing shadow population of thousands of underage migrants who are living on their own, without families. They hide silently and in plain sight, rarely noticed in the crowd. Nobody even knows how many of them there are — Europol estimates broadly that at least 10,000 kids have gone missing from shelters or reception centers.

These unaccompanied minors are slipping through the seams of a European system strained to bursting, and they present one of the biggest challenges of the migrant crisis. The fact that accurate numbers are so hard to come by reflects the shortcomings of the bloc's 28 member states in implementing laws and guidelines that are supposed to protect asylum seekers in general and unaccompanied minors in particular. While the problem is not new, the sheer volume of migrants arriving last year has made it acute.

Like adult migrants, minors are flooding into Europe for both security and economic reasons, the AP found in interviews with more than two dozen. The question is where they end up.

Imran, a 13-year-old from Afghanistan, has passed through at least eight countries, mostly on foot, and is now trying to make it from a squalid migrant camp in Calais to the U.K. He dresses neatly in a donated sweat suit and tells his story politely. Only his gym shoes cracking at the seams and the cloud over his face hint at the hardship of his life, light years from his dreams of going to "doctor school."

The Taliban shot Imran's father when he was 8 or 9, and threatened to kill him too when he grew up. He says he started to receive letters at his house. Frightened, his mother sold the building that provided the family's income to pay smugglers for Imran to join his uncle in Britain.

Most nights Imran tries to sneak onto trucks to Britain — a dangerous venture which the Afghans call "going to the game." A 15-year-old Afghan died in January from sticking his head out and hitting an obstacle, and a 7-year-old who escaped Calais almost suffocated last month after the locked truck reached Britain. It is not uncommon here to see migrants with crutches or other injuries from failed efforts to jump onto moving vehicles.

During the day, Imran looks haggard from lack of sleep. He has not talked to his mother in four months, and he describes life in the camp residents dub the Jungle as fit for "dogs and cats." Imran is his nickname; the AP is not using the full names of children in this story to protect them.

"The hardest for me, the first thing, is mother. The second thing is the life. This is a shit life," he says, in what he calls Jungle-speak English. "If my mother sees I'm in the Jungle, she will be very sad..I don't want to tell her."

RUNNING AWAY

In 2015, almost 90,000 asylum seekers in the European Union were unaccompanied minors under 18, according to Eurostat. That's up about nine times from just three years ago.

About half run away from asylum centers or shelters within two days of their arrival, according to Missing Children Europe, which represents nonprofits in 24 countries. Sometimes they are discouraged by how long it takes to get legalized, or fear being sent home or to the country where they first arrived. And sometimes they join family members, or just try their luck at asylum elsewhere.

European Union officials say they have developed projects to improve the reception of minors, provide

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them with health assistance and relocate or unite them with relatives faster. Germany, for example, provides minors who stay at shelters with about 30 to 70 euros (\$39-\$79) a month in pocket money.

"European legislation pays particular attention to the rights and needs of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum," European Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos told The Associated Press. "Implementing these rules is therefore our priority."

However, missing young migrants, most of whom are 14 or older, are treated very differently from missing children in general. For example, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency recommends they be assigned a guardian responsible for reporting disappearances to police, but that seldom happens. Even when cases are reported, police seldom have enough information to follow up, such as a photo of the child, personal data or fingerprints.

Suleiman, a 17-year-old from Morocco, ran away from a shelter several times before ending up on the streets of Stockholm in Sweden. Sweden gets by far the most unaccompanied minors applying for asylum — more than 35,000 in 2015. In October, officials in the port town of Trelleborg revealed that some 1,000 unaccompanied refugee children who had arrived over the previous month had gone missing.

Suleiman, puffing on a cigarette, is one of dozens of Moroccan boys in Stockholm, where he and his friends steal food from supermarkets.

As a street kid in Morocco, he heard stories about how other poor people had left for Europe, and specifically Sweden. After several unsuccessful attempts, he managed to sneak aboard a boat leaving for Europe. He passed through several European countries before he got to Sweden.

There, he was sent to a refugee shelter in Kiruna, a town of 20,000 people in the north, where the winters are dark and very cold.

The cold gave Suleiman back problems, he says. Also, used to big cities with many people around him, Suleiman now felt he had nobody. After running away from the shelter several times, he was placed in compulsory psychiatric care, which he seemed to see as punishment.

"I hadn't done anything," he says. "First time I was there for two months, even though I wasn't guilty of any crime or taking drugs. Now I've managed to stay hidden on the streets of Stockholm for over a year."

AT RISK

The biggest danger for minors on the move is that they will fall into crime, trafficking or illegal labor, which Europol expects to increase rapidly.

"They are vulnerable, no social network, weak links to national authorities, not understanding the legal procedures, sometimes being treated as illegals," says Robert Crepinko, head of the migrant smuggling unit. "You can see all the boxes ticked."

Abib, an Egyptian migrant who arrived in Italy as a minor and is now 18, acknowledges dealing drugs.

"I buy 50 or 100 euros of drugs, and I can earn 200 or even 300 euros a day," he boasts.

Sometimes, he says, people hire a minor to move big orders of drugs inside school backpacks for just 30 to 50 euros. Sex trafficking also happens at the Termini station, he adds, in exchange for clothes or money.

Emanuele Fattori, police chief at the station, says minors are used for drug trafficking because both the penalty and the chance of arrest are lower for them. And recently, he says, a pedophile priest was arrested for paying underage migrants at the station.

The temptation of crime and illegal labor is greater because so many unaccompanied minors are in debt. All 11 Egyptian teens the AP interviewed say they feel an obligation to pay back the substantial sums of money — usually around 3,000 euros — their families paid for their passage to Europe with smugglers.

Kids who work at car washes can put in 12 hours for just two to three euros per hour, according to Save the Children Italy. And those who work at the Guidonia fruit market load and unload up to 12 pallets in two hours for 10 euros. Police have cracked down on illegal labor inside the market, with 10 people arrested and 50 minors found unloading fruit boxes.

"It is very difficult to find minors who report these situations of exploitation to the police, because they are aware that if they report they will never find a job again," says Antonio Di Maggio, a local police officer in Rome. "There is a big conspiracy of silence."

Seventeen-year-old Ahmed woke up at 2 a.m., took two buses to the station and then hopped a train

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to get to his job at a car wash outside Rome. There he worked 12 hours a day for 30 euros, for 10 days. When he quit, he was only paid for five.

"Of course I have to send money home," he says. "But I don't have a job, so how can I?"

Said, his hair shorn close to the head, has to help pay back the 3,000 euros his family spent on sending him to Italy.

Said worked two days at the seaside west of Rome selling cold drinks to beach-goers from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. His daily take-home was just 15 euros. When the summer was over, he spent some days — he won't say how many — moving crates of fruit for 5 euros a day, well below the market rate. Both Said and Ahmed stay in a shelter at night.

"As long as I am here in Italy, there is no future," he says, echoing a refrain of many young Egyptian migrants. "I have to go to France."

LIFE IN THE JUNGLE

Yet France is not the haven for young migrants that Said and his friends imagine.

Earlier this year, more than 325 migrant children were living without mother or father in the Jungle, which is widely considered Western Europe's largest makeshift migrant camp. The southern half of the camp was demolished in March, forcing those who remained to resettle in the north. In the process, 129 unaccompanied children went missing, according to a head count by British humanitarian group Help Refugees.

In April the Defender of Human Rights, Jacques Toubon, a state-appointed but independent watchdog, described "the alarming character" of the situation for unaccompanied minors in Calais and suggested French authorities have failed to keep count of them. It is not an easy task in an underground culture where each day is temporary because tomorrow, they hope, things might change. France Terre d'Asile, a major association, says that of 1,400 unaccompanied minors signed up in 2015 at a center in northern France, only 90 stayed.

Living conditions inside the camp have improved but are still "shocking," says Doctors Without Borders regional coordinator Olivier Marteau. "We're in a camp that doesn't have what you would find overseas."

Many of the unaccompanied children here are traumatized. Some are wily, inattentive and unruly, while others are cautious and quiet. There are few smiles.

Shahzeb, a 15-year-old from Afghanistan, holds a distant gaze as he talks, then abruptly cuts off conversation. His older brother was forced to join the Taliban and then killed at the age of 15 or 16, he says. The Taliban came to his house day and night with guns.

So his father sold the family's land to an agent to pay to send Shahzeb to Europe. The journey took about two months.

Shahzeb has now spent about five months in the Calais camp — the past month in Container No. 53, one in a fenced-off field of heated white containers holding up to 1,500 people. Kids on their own were given access only in late February, long after the start of the harsh winter.

Each night, he tries to slip into trucks making the ferry crossing to Britain. During the day, he sleeps.

"The hardest moment is that every night, we are trying to cross the border. Living in the Jungle is too hard, but when I go there (at night) and face the failure, I'm feeling so bad," he says.

He hasn't spoken to his parents in months. He imagines they think he is happy. He doesn't tell them the truth.

Izhar Ali in Container No. 54 tells a similar story. The 16-year-old's father, a school worker in Pakistan, sold the family house to pay \$13,000 for him to get to Britain and study. Izhar Ali says he missed up to five months of school a year in Pakistan because of the Taliban threat.

Izhar Ali talks to his father every four to five weeks.

"He says, 'Send pictures,'" Izhar Ali relates. "This Jungle is bad. ... I go to England and send a picture."

FBI: Sydney siege gunman had raised incitement concerns

ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Five years before he held 18 people hostage inside a Sydney cafe, Iranian-born Man Haron Monis attracted the attention of the FBI as someone who had “the potential to incite others to violence,” according to documents obtained by The Associated Press.

A November 2009 memorandum from an FBI office in Australia to the agency’s counterterrorism division said that while Monis was not believed to be a threat to national security, “his ongoing offensive and nuisance behavior has the potential to incite others to violence.”

A shotgun-wielding Monis took customers and workers captive in a December 2014 siege at the Lindt Cafe in Sydney and demanded to be delivered an Islamic State flag, an incident that fueled anxiety about the extremist group’s expanding influence across the globe. Police stormed the cafe 16 hours later, after Monis fatally shot one of the hostages. Monis was shot dead by police and another hostage was killed in the crossfire.

Though it’s been established that Australian authorities failed to detect that Monis was a threat, despite years of warnings, the memo shows how the FBI was itself concerned about his rhetoric even before the Islamic State group emerged as a prominent international force and well ahead of the siege. The documents are heavily redacted, and it was not immediately clear what additional action, if any, was taken in Australia or how widely that assessment was shared across Australian law enforcement.

The memo, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, was drafted as the FBI considered whether the self-styled cleric with a long criminal history should be able to have a U.S.-based Internet service provider host his website. The memo noted that Monis, who also went by the name of Sheikh Haron, maintained on his website “inflammatory and fundamentalist material regarding the Islamic religion, jihad, suicide bombings and terrorism.” A “veiled call to jihad against President Barack Obama” had also been observed on the site, according to the note.

The siege is currently the subject of a long-running coroner’s inquest being held in Sydney. The inquest, a court-like proceeding convened after unusual deaths, is aimed at determining how the hostages and Monis died, how authorities responded and whether the siege could have been prevented.

The inquest is also examining whether Monis was a lone wolf attempting to carry out an Islamic State group-inspired act, given that it appears he never established contact with the militant movement. Many believe Monis was simply a disturbed individual who was lashing out against a series of perceived personal injustices. In the lead-up to the siege, Monis’ life had been in a downward spiral; he had lost custody of his children, was in debt and was facing possible jail time on charges of sexual assault.

An Australian government review last year found no major faults with multiple agencies that failed to detect the threat Monis posed, despite his being out on bail on sexual assault and accessory to murder charges when he launched the attack. Then-Prime Minister Tony Abbott did, however, acknowledge the system itself had failed, saying Monis should never have been allowed into Australia, should not have been out on bail and should not have been able to get a gun.

Monis was on authorities’ radars for years before the siege. He arrived in Australia on a business visa in 1996 and was made a citizen in 2004. Before being granted citizenship, he was interviewed by the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation multiple times for security assessments required as part of the immigration process. The agency ultimately found he wasn’t a security risk.

The security agency investigated him again between 2008 and 2009 after he had sent offensive letters to the families of dead Australian soldiers. Again, it found no threat.

Australia’s National Security Hotline received 18 calls and emails from the public related to posts on Monis’ Facebook page in the six days leading up to the siege. The public’s warnings, which referred to posts about making a pledge of allegiance to the “Caliph of the Muslims,” were passed along to the security intelligence agency and the Australian Federal Police. The security agency determined the complaints did not indicate Monis intended to engage in terrorism.

Twin blasts kill police officer in northwestern Pakistan

RIAZ KHAN, Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP) — A twin bombing killed a Pakistani police officer and wounded nine people in the northwestern city of Peshawar on Wednesday, police said.

A roadside explosion first hit on the outskirts of the city, and the second bomb went off about half an hour later, after police and local TV crews arrived at the scene, police official Sher Khan said.

Some members of the media crews were among the wounded, Khan said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. The area has long been a center of Islamic militancy in Pakistan and Peshawar itself has seen several large-scale militant attacks.

One of the most horrific Taliban attacks struck an army-run school in Peshawar in late 2014, killing over 150, mostly schoolchildren. Pakistan has since taken strict measures to curb militancy and stepped up army operations in the lawless tribal areas along the Afghan border.

Another measure included the lifting of a ban on the death penalty and setting up military courts for terrorism trials.

Police have also stepped up crackdowns on militants hiding in urban areas. In one such raid on Wednesday, a Pakistani counter terrorism team intercepted seven militants in the eastern Pakistani city of Gujranwala, police official Khalid Mahmood said.

The militants were on their way to the nearby city of Lahore where they planned to carry out attacks, he added. A shootout that ensued left four of the militants dead while the rest escaped. Explosives and assault rifles were seized from their car, Mahmood said.

New Zealand fans back Thunder's Adams after 'monkey' comment

NICK PERRY, Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Oklahoma City center Steven Adams is breaking new ground as a New Zealander succeeding at the top levels of the NBA, and the jubilation of his fans back home seemed little dimmed by his comments that caused a stir in the U.S.

After his team's victory in Game 1 of the Western Conference final Monday, Adams described Golden State's guards as "quick little monkeys" in an on-court interview. He later apologized, explaining he was still trying to assimilate to a different culture in America.

In New Zealand, the term "little monkey" is often used to describe the antics of children. It's less frequently used when talking about adults, but generally wouldn't be considered offensive. However, it's widely considered to be a taboo, racially insensitive term in the U.S.

Kenny McFadden, who coached and mentored Adams in New Zealand, said Wednesday that Adams simply used the wrong words.

"It was unintentional, there was no malice behind it," said McFadden, a former Washington State University player who is African American.

"You have to put it into context. Growing up in the U.S., certain words mean different things to different people," McFadden said. "In New Zealand, we don't have the same issues. We've never had the same type of issues."

In New Zealand, race relations have tended to revolve around the relationship between European-descended whites, who make up about two-thirds of the population, and indigenous Maori, who account for 15 percent. There are also significant numbers of Pacific islanders and Asians but few Africans or African Americans.

"Obviously in the United States with a high proportion of African Americans in the population, who have received and still receive extensive racial discrimination, a term like that is received differently," wrote David Mayeda in an email. Mayeda, who is American, is a senior lecturer in sociology at New Zealand's University of Auckland.

Adams himself comes from a multicultural background. His father is from England, his mother from Tonga.

Graeme Yule, the headmaster at Scots College in Wellington, where Adams went to high school, said

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Adams arrived at the school "a bit lost" after his father died and he had all but given up on academics. He said Adams developed into a genuinely nice guy who wouldn't seek to harm anyone or cause offense.

Yule said the high school's dining hall was packed Tuesday with students watching the game during their lunch hour.

Indeed, there has been a new, nationwide interest in the NBA thanks to Adams. New Zealand singer Lorde this week even posted a picture on Twitter of a half-eaten piece of local chocolate, offering to send Adams some supplies.

The basketballer's comments hit close to home for Nick Koirala, founder of the Wellington-based software development company LittleMonkey.

Koirala said he'd chosen the name because the web domain was available at the time and it sounded playful and fun. He said he'd never really considered it to have any racial undertones until Adams' comments made headlines.

"Obviously that caught my attention," Koirala said. "I actually agree with what Steven Adams said, that in New Zealand it doesn't have the same connotations." He said he wasn't considering changing the company's name.

Wynne Gray, a sports columnist for the nation's largest newspaper, The New Zealand Herald, wrote that he didn't think Adams needed to apologize: "a microphone jabbed up his nose by some TV-type, these are unscripted moments," wrote Gray. "There will be blemishes but viewers are looking for the raw reaction to what has just happened."

The paper's sports editor, Cameron McMillan, disagreed, saying he thought Adams did the right thing by apologizing quickly: "Well handled," he wrote. "Now let's move on to game two."

House to vote on scaled-back Zika bill despite veto threat

ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republicans controlling the House are ignoring protests from Democrats and a White House veto threat as they speed legislation funding the battle against the Zika virus to a vote.

The \$622 million GOP plan would provide one-third of the resources requested three months ago by President Barack Obama to combat the virus, which can cause severe birth defects and other health problems. It is "paid for" with cuts elsewhere in the budget, including unspent funds from the successful fight against Ebola.

The White House has issued a veto threat on the House measure, saying it is woefully inadequate and protested that it would only fund the Zika battle through September.

"The House of Representatives is three months late and more than a billion short," White House press secretary Josh Earnest said.

Wednesday's scheduled House vote would follow a bipartisan 68-29 Senate procedural tally to advance a \$1.1 billion measure to fight Zika through September 2017. It is set to be attached to a pending appropriations bill.

While the Senate measure is financed as emergency legislation that isn't subject to budget limits, GOP leaders such as House Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin insisted that the House bill carry offsetting spending cuts. Whether to pair the Zika money with spending cuts appears to be the most difficult issue in upcoming House-Senate negotiations.

Top Senate Republican Mitch McConnell of Kentucky swung behind the compromise measure, calling it "a targeted approach that focuses on immediate needs while also providing resources for longer-term goals like a vaccine."

Zika is mainly a threat to unborn children and can cause a serious birth defect called microcephaly and other severe birth defects. Zika is commonly spread by mosquitoes, though all of the more than 500 cases in the continental U.S. have been linked to overseas travel.

Republicans say the administration has padded its Zika request and that there is plenty of unspent money in the budget to ameliorate its impact on the budget deficit. Top Republicans such as Appropria-

tions Committee Chairman Harold Rogers of Kentucky have successfully pressured the administration to unspent Ebola funds to finance almost \$600 million in anti-Zika efforts such as research on the virus and Zika-related birth defects, response teams to limit Zika's spread, and helping other countries fight the virus.

"This funding bill is the next step in our response," Rogers said, promising it'll be enough "to fight and prevent the spread of the Zika virus for the rest of this fiscal year" on Sept. 30.

The GOP measure provides funding for vaccine research, controlling the mosquitoes that spread Zika, develop better tests to detect Zika, and money to foreign governments to quell mosquito populations and inform people how to avoid getting the virus.

Democrats say the GOP measure is inadequate and will slow the testing of a vaccine, underfund mosquito control, and doesn't provide enough aid to battle Zika overseas.

"The Republican bill does not allow us to finish the job," said top Appropriations Committee Democrat Nita Lowey of New York. "It provides only \$622 million. ... We did not offset spending to respond to similar public health emergencies such as the Ebola and H1N1 influenza viruses. Why require offsets for Zika funding?"

Sanders wins Oregon, battles Clinton in Ky.; Trump wins Ore.

KEN THOMAS, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders has won Oregon's presidential primary and battled Hillary Clinton to a razor-thin margin in Kentucky, vowing to stay in the race until the end as Clinton aimed to blunt his momentum and prepare for a fall campaign against Republican Donald Trump.

Tuesday's primary in Kentucky was too close to call with Clinton leading Sanders by less than one-half of 1 percent. Closing in on the Democratic nomination, Clinton declared victory in Kentucky nonetheless, telling her supporters on Twitter: "We're always stronger united."

Trump won the GOP's Oregon primary, the only Republican contest on Tuesday. In a sign of his pivot into the general election, his campaign announced that it had signed a joint fundraising agreement with the Republican National Committee that will allow it to raise cash for both his campaign and other Republican efforts.

After months of discord within the GOP, Democrats displayed new signs that it could have trouble uniting around Clinton's candidacy as Sanders plows through the end of the primary calendar in mid-June. Sanders will need to win about two-thirds of the remaining pledged delegates to end the primary season in a tie but is not letting up.

"Before we will have the opportunity to defeat Donald Trump, we're going to have to defeat Secretary Clinton," Sanders said Tuesday night to cheers in Carson, California.

Clinton ended the night with a commanding lead of 279 pledged delegates over Sanders and a dominant advantage among party officials and elected leaders known as superdelegates. The outcomes in Kentucky and Oregon did not dramatically change the delegate count and the former secretary of state remains on track to clinch the nomination on June 7 in the New Jersey primary.

But Tuesday's elections followed a divisive weekend state party convention in Nevada in which supporters of Sanders were accused of tossing chairs and making death threats against the Nevada party chairwoman at the event in Las Vegas. Supporters argued that party leadership had rigged the results of the convention in favor of Clinton.

In a sign of the tensions between the two sides, Sanders issued a defiant statement Tuesday dismissing complaints from Nevada Democrats as "nonsense" and said his supporters were not being treated with "fairness and respect."

Later, in California, Sanders said the party could "do the right thing and welcome into the party people who are prepared to fight for real economic and social change." He said the other option would be to "maintain its status quo structure, remain dependent on big-money campaign contributions and be a party with limited participation and limited energy."

Sanders pointed to polls that show him in a stronger head-to-head matchup against Trump than Clinton.

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With his victory in Oregon, the billionaire businessman now has 1,160 delegates, putting him within 77 delegates of clinching the Republican nomination.

For Democrats, Clinton and Sanders will each pick up at least 25 delegates in Kentucky with five delegates remaining to be allocated pending final vote tallies. In Oregon, Sanders will receive at least 28 delegates and Clinton will get at least 24 of the 61 delegates at stake.

Overall, Clinton leads Sanders among pledged delegates, 1,767-1,488. When superdelegates are included, Clinton's lead grows to 2,291 to Sanders' 1,528. Clinton is now just 92 delegates short of the 2,383 needed to win.

The Sanders campaign did not immediately say whether it will challenge the results in Kentucky, which does not have an automatic recount.

Clinton campaigned in Kentucky on Sunday and Monday in an effort to break up Sanders' momentum after his recent victories in Indiana and West Virginia. She pointed to the economic gains under the administration of her husband, former President Bill Clinton, who is the last Democrat to carry the state in a presidential election.

Nearing the end of a long primary slog, the two Democratic candidates are preparing for June 7 primaries in California, New Jersey and four other states and then the District of Columbia primary on June 14.

When pledged delegates and superdelegates are combined, Clinton is now about 96 percent of the way toward securing the Democratic nomination.

Cavs 9-0 in these playoffs, and joining rarefied NBA air

TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer

Starting a postseason 9-0 does not guarantee a championship.

Neither does 10-0. Or even 11-0, for that matter. But the Cleveland Cavaliers surely aren't complaining about where they are right now, as their perfect postseason run continues.

Cleveland's 115-84 victory over Toronto in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals on Tuesday night pushed the Cavaliers' record in these playoffs to 9-0, and they became just the fifth team to start a post-season with that many consecutive wins.

Here's a rundown of the best starts in NBA playoff history:

11-0, Los Angeles Lakers, 1989 — The Lakers swept the first three rounds of the playoffs (the first round was best-of-five then), storming their way into the NBA Finals. And the title series was also a sweep, albeit of the variety that the Lakers didn't want. The Detroit Pistons won the series 4-0, ending the Lakers' reign as NBA champions in what would be the last games for Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

11-0, Los Angeles Lakers, 2001 — This time, 11-0 was a precursor to a title. The Lakers swept Portland (3-0), Sacramento (4-0) and San Antonio (4-0) in the Western Conference playoffs. "Custer had no idea. That's my statement. Figure it out. The roll they're on is ridiculous," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said after the West finals ended. The Lakers lost Game 1 of the NBA Finals to Philadelphia, then took the next four to finish 15-1 and as world champions.

10-0, San Antonio Spurs, 2012 — The Spurs ended the regular season on a 10-game winning streak, then won their first 10 games in the playoffs. They swept Utah and the Los Angeles Clippers in the first two rounds, then took the first two games of the West finals against Oklahoma City. And then they promptly lost their next four games, getting ousted by the Thunder in a stunning freefall. The Thunder went to the NBA Finals, falling to LeBron James and the Miami Heat in five games.

9-0, Los Angeles Lakers, 1982 — Pat Riley was in his first postseason, having gotten the job as Lakers coach in an in-season change. Los Angeles had a first-round bye, then beat Phoenix and San Antonio by 4-0 counts to get to the NBA Finals. The Lakers won Game 1 of the title series in Philadelphia to take control, and wound up prevailing in six games for one of what is now nine championship rings as a coach, player and executive for Riley.

9-0, Cleveland Cavaliers, 2016 — Want similarities with Riley's rookie season? Tyronn Lue is in his first post-

season as Cavaliers coach, getting the job in an in-season change. (Sound familiar?) And here's Cleveland, 9-0 and off to the same start as the Lakers were in Riley's first season. No coach has ever started 10-0 in his playoff career, and that's the opportunity Lue will have in Game 2 of this series against the Raptors.

The best of the rest, when it comes to hottest postseason starts:

8-0 — Orlando, 2010

8-0 — Cleveland, 2009

8-0 — Miami, 2005

South Carolina passes bill banning abortion after 19 weeks

SEANNA ADCOX, Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The South Carolina Legislature passed a bill Tuesday prohibiting abortion after 19 weeks, becoming the 17th state to pass the restrictive ban.

The legislation will now head to Gov. Nikki Haley's desk. The Republican said in March she will almost certainly sign it, but wants to look at the details once it reaches her.

Similar laws are in effect in 12 states. They've been blocked by court challenges in three others, and the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to rule on the ban's constitutionality. A South Dakota law signed in March takes effect this summer.

In Utah, a related law, also signed in March, requires doctors to provide anesthesia to a fetus at least 20 weeks in the womb.

The South Carolina bill is among several fronts abortion rights supporters say make having the procedure tougher. Abortion opponents have also passed laws in other states requiring clinics to get admitting privileges for doctors and banning a procedure commonly used in the second trimester, called the dilation and evacuation method.

The sponsor of South Carolina's bill, Rep. Wendy Nanney, said she's hopeful the law is a step to eventually "get rid of abortion altogether."

"I firmly believe life begins at conception and anything we can do to protect human life I'm all for," said Nanney, R-Greenville.

The South Carolina House approved the compromise 79-29. The Senate approved it 36-9 in March.

The ban allows exceptions only if the mother's life is in jeopardy or a doctor determines the fetus can't survive outside the womb. The measure's limited definition of "fetal anomaly" means it would be illegal to abort a fetus with a severe disability if the child could live.

Such anomalies are generally detected around 20 weeks.

That "fetal anomaly" exception was crucial for the bill clearing the Senate, where Democrats had blocked the legislation for years.

Sen. Brad Hutto, a leading opponent, still believes it should be the woman's choice. But he called the compromise he's worked on since last year "the best we can get." As it initially passed the House, the bill gave an exception only for the mother's life.

Only four of the 16 states to pass the restrictions since 2010 allow a legal abortion if a doctor determines the child will be stillborn or die upon birth. South Carolina legislators borrowed the wording for that exception from Georgia, where state court blocked enforcement of Georgia's 20-week ban in 2012.

The South Carolina bill, like most of the similar laws, contains no exceptions for rape or incest.

Supporters believe a fetus can feel pain at 20 weeks. Opponents argue such later-term abortions involve wanted pregnancies that go horribly wrong, and politicians should play no role in the difficult decision.

"They are wanted pregnancies, but they find out there is a terrible abnormality," Rep. James Smith, a Democrat, said Tuesday. "Wouldn't it be interesting if we take dollar-for-dollar the money we're going to spend litigating unconstitutional bills and put it into something that makes a difference in South Carolina?"

On average, fewer than 30 abortions yearly are performed at 20 weeks gestation or beyond, according to data since 1990 from the state's public health agency.

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The ban would affect only hospitals. None of the three abortion clinics in South Carolina provide abortions beyond 15 weeks. Most of the women are white, married and older than 24, according to the agency.

A doctor who performs an illegal abortion under the bill would face up to three years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

House Judiciary Committee Chairman Greg Dellaney said the law "prevents infanticide," noting it ties the fetus' age to conception, rather than a woman's monthly cycle, so the ban refers to what doctors generally consider a gestational age of 22 weeks.

The nonprofit Guttmacher Institute, which tracks abortion laws, knows of only one person ever charged under the bans. In 2011, an Idaho woman was arrested after giving herself an abortion with pills she bought online. That charge ultimately resulted in Idaho's law being struck down last year by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. The same court struck Arizona's law in 2013.

Without citing a reason, the U.S. Supreme Court declined in January 2014 to hear an appeal from Arizona — which had banned abortion at 18 weeks past fertilization.

Earlier Tuesday, a House subcommittee advanced a bill opponents say would essentially ban abortion past 13 weeks. It would make it a felony for a doctor to abort a fetus through "dismemberment" in the womb, punishable by at least a \$5,000 fine and/or five years in prison.

It has virtually no chance of passing this year.

Hong Kong in lockdown as Chinese official attends meeting

KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong authorities stepped up security for a top Chinese government official's appearance at a business conference Wednesday, preventing pro-democracy protesters from getting anywhere close to the venue.

As many as 8,000 police officers were being deployed for the visit by Zhang Dejiang, the South China Morning Post newspaper reported, citing an unnamed police source. Zhang, the Communist Party's No. 3 official, is the most senior Chinese leader to visit since pro-democracy street protests rocked the city for 11 weeks in late 2014.

About 100 protesters chanted "Zhang Dejiang get lost from Hong Kong" and burned a sign with the same message as they marched toward the convention center where Zhang was giving a keynote speech.

They also called for Beijing to stop interfering in Hong Kong's affairs and to let it have genuine universal suffrage.

In 2014, thousands of residents took to the streets to show their opposition to Beijing's decision to handpick candidates running for the city's top job of chief executive. Riot police clashed frequently with protesters at that time, once firing tear gas and later using pepper spray.

The protesters on Wednesday were kept back by a police security cordon that included hundreds of water-filled plastic barriers and metal barricades.

Authorities are taking no chances as political tension over Hong Kong's relationship with Beijing remains high. Residents are unhappy with Beijing's tightening grip on the semiautonomous Chinese financial city. Calls for independence from activist groups, once unheard of, have become commonplace.

"Zhang's visit to Hong Kong is just a political show," said Avery Ng of the League of Social Democrats, a small, radical political party. "We need to remind the world that it is a fake show."

Zhang "singlehandedly blocked the democratic path of Hong Kong two years ago," when, as chairman of the National People's Congress, China's ceremonial parliament, he backed a plan to restrict the elections, Ng said.

In his speech on China's "One Belt One Road," a sweeping plan to deepen trade relations with neighboring countries and open new markets, Zhang made only a few indirect references to Hong Kong's relationship with the mainland.

He said China "highly respects Hong Kong's stability" and added, "we support strengthening its cooperation with the mainland and expanding its role in global finance. At the same time, Hong Kong must do more to actively participate in the country's development."

Amtrak victims: Investigative findings hard to believe

MICHAEL R. SISAk, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Victims of last year's deadly Amtrak derailment aren't buying the findings of federal investigators that the train's engineer likely lost his bearings because he was distracted by an incident with a nearby train.

Through lawyers, they called the National Transportation Safety Board's cause determination frustrating, disappointing and hard to believe. One lawyer called Tuesday's explanation a "whitewash." Another said it was a "quantum leap."

Instead of closure, they said, the official report on the May 12, 2015 wreck only prompted more questions. "We've reached the end and there's no conclusion," lawyer Fred Eisenberg said.

Having ruled out other factors including equipment problems and cell phone use, investigators determined that engineer Brandon Bostian lost track of where he was after hearing on the radio that a commuter train had been struck with a rock.

At the same time, investigators said, Bostian accelerated full-throttle, causing the train to reach 106 mph as it entered a sharp curve with a 50 mph speed limit.

"Excluding all the other suspects that we looked at, the best we could come up with was that he was distracted from this radio conversation about the damaged train and forgot where he was," NTSB chairman Christopher Hart said.

Eight people aboard the Washington-to-New York train were killed. Four of them were ejected through emergency windows that dislodged as the cars slid on their sides, investigators said. More than 200 people were injured.

Bostian, who has been suspended without pay since the crash, did not attend the hearing. He and his lawyer did not return calls and emails seeking comment.

Duy Nguyen, of Teaneck, New Jersey, a passenger who suffered a cut on his head and fractures in his back when he was thrown across a car, attended the NTSB hearing. The Temple University professor said he was puzzled by the findings.

"The part that doesn't make sense is how does one accelerate when you're distracted?" Nguyen said. "The inclination is to slow down."

No evidence exists to support the NTSB's conclusion, lawyer Judy Livingston said, calling it "an awful explanation to the families who have lost loved ones."

Livingston represents the family of Justin Zemser, a Naval Academy midshipman who was killed on his way home to New York. Their feeling, she said, was after waiting so long for answers, "the answers they came up with were woefully inadequate."

Lawyer Tom Kline said the NTSB's findings "are based on speculation" and would not be admissible in any court.

NTSB spokesman Peter Knudson said Tuesday night that investigators would have preferred more evidence, like video from an inward facing camera in the locomotive that would have allowed them to review Bostian's actions.

"We can only evaluate the evidence that we have," Knudson said. "And the preponderance of evidence that we had to work with pointed us to a loss of situational awareness."

The NTSB said a contributing factor in the derailment was the railroad industry's decades-long failure to fully install positive train control — GPS-based technology that can automatically slow trains that are going over the speed limit.

Had positive train control been in use at the curve at the time of the derailment "we would not be here today," said NTSB investigator Ted Turpin.

T. Bella Dinh-Zarr, the board's vice chairman, urged the panel to put more blame on the lack of positive train control, arguing it would have prevented the train from going too fast when Bostian became distracted.

"Eight people have died, dozens more have been injured — life-changing injuries — because the government and industry have not acted for decades on a well-known safety hazard," Dinh-Zarr said. "I ask,

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why does our probable cause focus on a human's mistake and what he may have been distracted by?" Over the last 20 years, the NTSB has listed the lack of positive train control as a contributing factor in 25 crashes, Chairman Christopher Hart said, including fatal wrecks in Chatsworth, California in 2008 and New York City in 2013.

Amtrak has installed positive train control on all of the track it owns between Washington and Boston, but a 56-mile state-owned stretch between New Rochelle, New York and New Haven, Connecticut still doesn't have the technology.

Throughout the rest of the country, Amtrak operates on track owned by freight carriers, many of which have lagged in installing positive train control. Congress last year pushed the deadline to the end of 2018 and left the possibility that railroads could get another two years to complete the work.

Ed Greenberg, of the Association for American Railroads, said positive train control is a priority for freight carriers. They are working through testing and installation "as quickly as possible, without sacrificing safety" and are on schedule to implement the technology by the new deadline, he said.

Bostian was known among his friends for his safety-mindedness and love of railroading. Before the crash, he apparently commented in an online forum for train enthusiasts, lamenting that railroads hadn't been fast enough to adopt positive train control.

That history of conscientiousness makes the NTSB's explanation all the more hard to accept, veteran Amtrak engineer Karl Edler said. "What is the evidence that that is what happened?" he asked.

In a statement, Amtrak said it "deeply regrets the tragic derailment" and will carefully review the NTSB findings and recommendations and quickly adopt them where appropriate.

Amtrak already has taken responsibility for the crash, and its liability is capped under federal law at \$295 million, which could easily be exhausted, given the number of deaths and serious injuries.

The Philadelphia District Attorney's Office is helping the NTSB on the investigation, but a spokesman would not comment on the possibility of criminal charges.

The NTSB also recommended research into train seat belts and ways to secure luggage that can become missiles in a derailment; training for crew members on multitasking; and new equipment and procedures to help engineers keep track of their location in spots where there is no positive train control.

Eisenberg's client, Kate Varnum, suffered a shattered pelvis and multiple hip fractures when the train's third car left the tracks and landed on its side. After months of rehabilitation and multiple hip surgeries, she can walk with assistance, but struggles to perform normal tasks.

She vented to Eisenberg about Tuesday's findings.

"She just feels like it's not an explanation," Eisenberg said of the NTSB's findings. "Even if it was that he spaced out because he was thinking about the rock, that really is a poor excuse for putting their lives at risk."

Expect virtual reality, artificial intelligence from Google

MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google is expected to dive deeper into virtual reality and artificial intelligence Wednesday during an annual conference that serves as a launching pad for its latest products and innovations.

Although Google keeps its plans under wraps until the big event, the conference agenda makes it clear that virtual reality and artificial intelligence, or "machine learning," will be among the focal points. That has spurred speculation that Google is getting ready to release a virtual-reality device to compete with Facebook's new Oculus Rift headset, as well as the Samsung's Gear VR and the Vive from HTC and Valve.

Reporters and bloggers from around the world will attend, ensuring that whatever the company unveils will also be featured in stories, pictures and video delivered to a vast audience of consumers. The three-day showcase also attracts thousands of computer programmers, giving Google an opportunity to convince them why they should design applications and other services that work with its gadgets and an array of software that includes the Chrome Web browser and Android operating system for mobile devices.

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Android powers about 80 percent of the world's smartphones, largely because Google gives away the software for free to device makers. Google can afford to do that because it designs Android to feature its search engine, maps and other digital services, giving it more opportunities to show the digital ads that generate most of its revenue.

But Apple's iPhone carries more cachet with affluent consumers and often introduces features that Android copies. Apple will hold a similar conference in June to unveil its fall software plans.

Google is holding this year's conference, called Google I/O, at an amphitheater a few blocks from its Mountain View, California, headquarters. With more than 6,000 seats, the amphitheater could potentially accommodate a larger crowd than the San Francisco venue where Google held I/O in past years.

Google's bare-bones entry into the still-nascent field of virtual reality came two years ago when it unveiled a cheap headset made out of cardboard. The company may now be poised to get more serious, given far more sophisticated options available for sale. Analysts are touting virtual reality, a technology that casts its users into artificial, three-dimensional worlds, as one of the industry's most promising areas for growth.

Artificial intelligence, a term used to describe efforts to develop software that acts and behaves more like humans, has been a focal point of Google's for years. Progress in the field has helped Google's search engine comprehend the intent of people's inquiries more quickly and vastly improved the comprehension and responsiveness of its voice-recognition services.

Analysts have speculated that Google might tap into its artificial-intelligence research to introduce a virtual-assistant product that could be set up in homes to help people manage their lives and get information more quickly. Such a device would represent Google's response to the growing popularity of Amazon's Echo, a cylinder-like device equipped with speakers and an Internet-connected microphone that enables a virtual assistant called Alexa to interact with its users.

Fire under elevated train tracks in New York halts service

NEW YORK (AP) — A massive fire underneath elevated train tracks in New York City has halted service and stranded thousands of commuters.

More than 150 firefighters responded to the blaze, which broke out Tuesday evening at a garden nursery center beneath Metro-North tracks in East Harlem, fire officials said.

Service into and out of Grand Central Terminal remained suspended on all three Metro-North lines until further notice. Trains were still running north of the site.

Metro-North said it would run a Saturday schedule for the Wednesday morning rush hour with trains stopping in the Bronx so passengers could connect to subway service into Manhattan.

Metro-North said nearly 100 personnel would work through the night to inspect the structure for any damage and to make temporary repairs.

"There were four or five explosions. Flames were roaring. Everything under the overhead was burning," retired handyman Kenny Washington, 33, told the Daily News.

The fire also involved construction debris, several trailers and vehicles and may have blown off bolts from the tracks, fire officials said. Structural engineers were assessing any damage to the rails.

Officials are still investigating the cause of the fire, which forced evacuations to buildings on both sides of the tracks.

One firefighter suffered a minor injury, but no civilians were hurt.

Stranded commuters jammed into Grand Central waiting for word on when Metro-North service would be fully restored.

Passengers late Tuesday were advised to take subway service to the Bronx in order to connect to Metro-North trains.

Susan Hynson, of Rye, said she was on a Metro-North train that returned to Grand Central.

"We went out, we had just come out of the tunnel, and they brought us back in," Hynson told the Daily News. "I want to try to find an Uber, a bus, whatever to get us back to the suburbs."

Trump and frequent target Megyn Kelly call a truce

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump and Megyn Kelly appear to have called a truce.

The two sat down for a much-ballyhooed interview that was the culmination — at least for now — of the frequent sparring between the now-presumptive Republican presidential nominee and one of the biggest stars on the conservative-leaning Fox News Channel. It was taped last month and aired Tuesday night on the Fox broadcast network.

Their fight began last August, in the first GOP debate, when Kelly lobbed several tough questions at Trump, including one about how he has publicly talked about women. Trump escalated the feud over Twitter for months.

But the brash celebrity businessman appeared somewhat sheepish in the interview when Kelly asked him about some of the insults he tweeted — or retweeted — her way, frequently including “bimbo.”

“Uh, that was a retweet. Did I say that?” Trump asked.

“Many times,” Kelly responded.

“Ooooh. OK,” said Trump, who insisted that he didn’t want his followers bombarding Kelly with ugly social media posts.

Kelly made a clandestine visit to the Trump Tower in April to negotiate the interview.

Trump praised her for that, saying he had “great respect” for Kelly’s willingness to make the initial approach. He also turned, at times, somewhat introspective, saying “he could have done without” his retweet of a post that mocked the appearance of Heidi Cruz, the wife of former rival Ted Cruz.

“The thing that gets me in trouble is the retweet,” Trump said. “The retweet is really more of a killer than a tweet. I seem to do pretty well with the real tweet.”

But he largely defended his attacks as counter-punching and “not bullying.”

“When I’m wounded, I go after people hard. I try to un-wound myself,” said Trump.

“I’m responding,” he added. “Now, I then respond times 10, I don’t know. I then respond pretty strongly.”

At the conclusion of the interview, Trump tweeted “Well done Megyn — and they all lived happily ever after!” But he told Kelly sometimes stayed angry and appeared to hint that their feud could re-ignite someday.

“This could happen again with us,” he said.

But the proceedings clearly lacked any of the fiery denunciations Trump has been lobbing at Kelly since the night of the first debate, beginning with a tweet that declared Kelly was “not very good or professional.”

The relationship only worsened from there. Trump skipped the second Fox News-sponsored debate because of Kelly (though he attended the third) and kept up a steady stream of insults on Twitter. He unleashed screeds about her “dopey lies” and how her show was better when she was on vacation. He later called her “highly overrated and crazy,” retweeted a follower who called her a “bimbo” and called for a boycott of her show.

Kelly, meanwhile, told Vanity Fair that she could never be intimidated or “be wooed” by the celebrity businessman and insisted her coverage of Trump was fair.

Even as that largely one-sided feud raged, Trump enjoyed rather warm coverage from other hosts at Fox News. Kelly is in the final year of her contract with the network and has been non-committal about returning.

Trump had pledged to live-tweet the taped interview Tuesday night but instead largely engaged with followers who praised the show, all while insisting the interview “was not soft at all!” He also posted “I like Michael Douglas!” in praise of one of the other guests on Kelly’s hour-long special.

Senate approves new Army secretary after Guantanamo delay

RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate confirmed the long-stalled nomination of Eric Fanning to be Army secretary, making him the first openly gay leader of a U.S. military service.

The voice vote approval Tuesday came after Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., dropped his opposition to Fanning. Roberts said a senior Pentagon official had told him that no detainees held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, would be sent to the Army prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, or other facilities in the United States.

Congress has included prohibitions on moving Guantanamo detainees to the U.S. in annual defense policy bills, thwarting President Barack Obama's campaign promise to close the prison.

Roberts said he met May 10 with Deputy Defense Secretary Robert Work, who assured Roberts he was "the person who would have to execute" the moving of detainees to the mainland, "and the clock has run out."

But in a statement, Work said he made clear to Roberts that the Obama administration has not taken any location off the table for relocating Guantanamo detainees.

He said he told Roberts that blocking Fanning's confirmation was "depriving the Army of leadership at a time of war and was the wrong way to express his opposition to the administration's plan for responsibly closing the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay."

Defense Secretary Ash Carter issued a separate statement congratulating Fanning. Carter said he is confident Fanning will make an exceptional Army secretary.

Roberts said he knows Obama will continue to try and close the prison at Guantanamo before he leaves office in January. But said he took Work at his word.

"He understands the significant and costly changes that would need to be made at Fort Leavenworth to change the post's mission," Roberts said. "Most importantly, he understands the legal restrictions on funding to move the detainees to Fort Leavenworth by January 20, 2017."

Fanning served as the Army secretary's principal adviser on management and operation of the service, with a focus on the budget. He was undersecretary of the Air Force from April 2013 to February 2015, and for half a year was the acting secretary of the Air Force. He also worked on Defense Secretary Ash Carter's transition.

Asian shares mostly lower, Tokyo climbs on strong GDP data

EILEEN NG, Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Asian shares were mostly lower on Wednesday after a dismal day on Wall Street. But shares in Tokyo were buoyed by better-than-expected GDP data.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index jumped 0.6 percent to 16,753.55 and Singapore and Indonesia rose. But most other regional benchmarks fell. The Shanghai Composite index dropped 1.1 percent to 2,812.57 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 1.3 percent to 19,861.14. South Korea's Kospi lost 0.6 percent to 1,957.07. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 fell 0.2 percent to 5,387.00.

JAPAN'S SURPRISE: Growth in the first quarter of the year was a faster-than-expected 1.7 percent, the government reported. Solid consumer demand and higher government spending helped offset weak business investment and sluggish exports.

WALL STREET: The Dow Jones industrial average lost 180.73 points, or 1 percent, to 17,529.98. The S&P 500 index gave up 19.45 points, or 0.9 percent, to 2,047.21. The Nasdaq composite pulled back 59.73 points, or 1.3 percent, to 4,715.73.

ANALYST VIEWPOINT: "U.S. investor nerves were triggered by a stronger than expected read on headline CPI for April. The question of whether underlying US inflation surprises to the upside this year is near the top of the list for major market issues at the moment. If it does, U.S. rate hikes could be in prospect," Ric Spooner, chief market analyst for CMC Markets, said in a research note.

ENERGY: U.S. crude oil rose 16 cents to \$48.47 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile

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Exchange. It rose 59 cents to \$48.31 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 10 cents to \$49.38. It rose 31 cents to \$49.28 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar rose to 109.33 yen from 109.14 yen. The euro slipped to \$1.1287 from \$1.1314.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, May 18, the 139th day of 2016. There are 227 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 18, 1926, evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson vanished while visiting a beach in Venice, California. (McPherson reappeared more than a month later, saying she'd escaped after being kidnapped and held for ransom, an account that was received with skepticism.)

On this date:

In 1642, the Canadian city of Montreal was founded by French colonists.

In 1765, about one-fourth of Montreal was destroyed by a fire.

In 1896, the Supreme Court, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, endorsed "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept renounced 58 years later in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*.

In 1910, Halley's Comet passed by earth, brushing it with its tail.

In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure creating the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In 1934, Congress approved, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed, the so-called "Lindbergh Act," providing for the death penalty in cases of interstate kidnapping.

In 1944, during World War II, Allied forces finally occupied Monte Cassino in Italy after a four-month struggle with Axis troops.

In 1953, Jacqueline Cochran became the first woman to break the sound barrier as she piloted a Canadair F-86 Sabre jet over Rogers Dry Lake, California.

In 1969, astronauts Eugene A. Cernan, Thomas P. Stafford and John W. Young blasted off aboard Apollo 10 on a mission to orbit the moon.

In 1973, Harvard law professor Archibald Cox was appointed Watergate special prosecutor by U.S. Attorney General Elliot Richardson.

In 1980, the Mount St. Helens volcano in Washington state exploded, leaving 57 people dead or missing.

In 1991, Helen Sharman became the first Briton to rocket into space as she flew aboard a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft with two cosmonauts on an eight-day mission to the Mir space station.

Ten years ago: Visiting one of the busiest crossing sectors between the U.S. and Mexico, President George W. Bush said in Yuma, Arizona, that it made sense to put up fencing along parts of the border but not to block off the entire 2,000-mile length to keep immigrants from entering the U.S. illegally. Prisoners with makeshift weapons battled guards trying to save a detainee pretending to commit suicide at the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in what military officials said was a coordinated attack that left six prisoners injured.

Five years ago: Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the managing director of the International Monetary Fund, resigned, saying he wanted to devote all his energy to battling the sexual assault charges he faced in New York. (The charges were later dropped.) The United States slapped sanctions on Syrian President Bashar Assad and six others for human rights abuses over their brutal crackdown on anti-government protests, for the first time personally penalizing the Syrian leader for the actions of his security forces.

One year ago: President Barack Obama ended long-running federal transfers of some combat-style gear to local law enforcement in an attempt to ease tensions between police and minority communities, saying equipment made for the battlefield should not be a tool of American criminal justice. An 11-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco said a three-member panel of the same court should not have forced YouTube to take down an anti-Muslim film that sparked violence in the Middle East and death threats to actors.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bill Macy is 94. Actress Priscilla Pointer is 92. Hall-of-Fame sportscaster Jack Whitaker is 92. Actor Robert Morse is 85. Actor Dwayne Hickman is 82. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Brooks

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Robinson is 79. Actress Candice Azzara is 75. Bluegrass singer-musician Rodney Dillard (The Dillards) is 74. Baseball Hall-of-Famer Reggie Jackson is 70. Country singer Joe Bonsall (The Oak Ridge Boys) is 68. Rock musician Rick Wakeman (Yes) is 67. Rock singer Mark Mothersbaugh (Devo) is 66. Actor James Stephens is 65. Country singer George Strait is 64. Rhythm-and-blues singer Butch Tavares (Tavares) is 63. Actor Chow Yun-Fat is 61. Rock singer-musician Page Hamilton is 56. Contemporary Christian musician Barry Graul (MercyMe) is 55. Contemporary Christian singer Michael Tait is 50. Singer-actress Martika is 47. Comedian-writer Tina Fey is 46. Rapper Special Ed is 42. Rock singer Jack Johnson is 41. Country singer David Nail is 37. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Allen (Mista) is 36. Actor Matt Long is 36. Actor Allen Leech is 35. Christian-rock musician Kevin Huguley (Rush of Fools) is 34. Christian singer Francesca Battistelli is 31. Actor Spencer Breslin is 24.

Thought for Today: "Never do anything you wouldn't want to explain to the paramedics." — Author unknown.