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Decision America Tour 2016 with Franklin Graham

Free bus ride to the prayer rally, Tuesday May 24, 2016. The bus will leave from First Presbyterian Church in Groton at 7:30 am with a pick up in Aberdeen at the Lakewood Mall at 8:00. This is a time of prayer for our great nation. Please call Pastor Kenny @ 397-8344 to reserve your seat.

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

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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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 Rosewood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, May 22

Birthdays: Logan Larsen • Jamie Osborne • Gavin Krueger • Duane Kavanaugh • Christopher Scott Larsen

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

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

9:00am: St. John's Lutheran Worship with Communion

10:00am: Heaven Bound Ministries worship at



Dakota Outdoors

Erik Dean
402 N Main St
Aberdeen, SD 57401
605.229.0123

dakoutdoors@midconetwork.com

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Searching for Eldest Living South Dakotan

South Dakota Health Care Association's Century ClubSM is in search of the 2016 Centenarian of the Year. In order to qualify for this honorable recognition, the centenarian's birth date must be before December 27, 1908.

According to Century ClubSM records, Bertha Mohr of Eureka, born April 1, 1908 is currently the eldest living South Dakotan and recently celebrated her 107th birthday! However, if you are aware of a South Dakota resident who is older, please contact our office.

The Century ClubSM is open to everyone in the State of South Dakota upon reaching his or her 100th birthday. There are no dues and every inductee receives a specially designed, framed certificate and membership card. The Century ClubSM has inducted over 1,500 applicants since its founding in 1997. At the end of each year, an award is presented to the current eldest living Century ClubSM member, recognizing him or her as the "Centenarian of the Year."

If you know someone in your community who would qualify for the Centenarian of the Year or to request an application to induct someone in to the Century ClubSM, please contact LuAnn Severson, Century ClubSM Coordinator, South Dakota Health Care Association at 1-800-952-3052 or write: Century ClubSM, South Dakota Health Care Association, 804 N Western Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104 or you may download an application at www.sdhca.org.

Groton Kiwanis Club

Groton Kiwanis met last Wednesday noon, with Larry Wheeting, program leader School experiences . Larry introduced his granddaughter, Carly Wheeting, Groton Kiwanis Club scholarship winner.

Carly thanked the club for her college scholarship, and related some of her Groton High School experiences, and plans for the future, including attending Northern State University, Aberdeen

Joining Your Friend's Wedding Party Without Going Broke

By Nathaniel Sillin

If a close friend or family member is getting married it's an honor to be asked to join the wedding party. However, if your budget is tight because you're saving up for a financial goal, paying off bills or have had a recent financial reversal like the loss of a job, you might need to do some thinking before you say yes.

The average spend by bridesmaids and groomsmen can exceed \$1,000 for clothing, wedding and shower gifts, bachelorette or bachelor party expenses and other incidentals. Add any number of factors – more expensive dresses, a purchased tuxedo, an upscale gift registry, a destination wedding – and suddenly, the cost of standing up for a friend's wedding can rival a rent payment, or beyond.

It can be tough to refuse a friend who wants you to be in his or her wedding – planning, saving and bargaining can help you avoid having to turn them down. Here are some ideas to potentially lower the wedding party's costs on the key items:

Clothing. Men luck out a bit in the tuxedo rental department because group discounts are often available for wedding parties. (Note to guys: If you're not going to get at least four wearings out of a tux, you may want to forego buying one.) However, for women, the landscape can get trickier – you'll probably never wear that dress again. So maybe it's time for negotiation with the couple. If the dresses or suits don't have to be identical, you can consider second-hand shops and online resale sites that can save significant money. Second-hand can be a big winner as well.

Gifts. With more pre-wedding events going co-ed, men and women in wedding parties may be buying both shower and wedding gifts for the couple. How can you cut that cost? The attendants can split a bigger gift at a lower cost per person. If you're already investing a significant amount of money in the wedding, consider a more sentimental gift that won't cost as much but will still be meaningful. If you want an alternative option to the typical registry gift, think about contributing to the couple's honeymoon fund.

Travel. Start searching for discounts the minute you're asked to participate, particularly on air and hotel – waiting will likely impact your budget. If the wedding is out of town or if overnight stays become a necessity, driving or rooming with other attendants can be a good option. Food costs can be cut by packing food for the drive. If friends live near by the wedding destination, ask if you can stay with them. Stay close to the proceedings – after all, cabs and onsite rental car costs add up, so it's wise to minimize travel distances. One last tip – check all your travel options one last time before you head to the wedding. Check to see if there are any special deals, price changes or upgrades to your travel or accommodations that you can take advantage of.

Pre-wedding celebrations. Bachelor and bachelorette parties are notorious for being over-the-top, but that doesn't mean you have to empty your savings to show the couple a good time. For safety and savings, consider locations with plenty of restaurants and bars close together so you can walk from place to place. Home-based parties can be a fun option, too.

After considering all these options, what if you still need to say no? Don't wait. Be early and be honest with your friend. And offer to help in any way you can.

Bottom line: Before you say "yes" to the dress, the tuxedo or the other list of expenses common to the wedding party, do some thinking about alternatives the couple might go for. The right amount of finesse and creativity can preserve your friendship and your budget.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

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These are the 2015-2016 Groton Area FFA chapter officers: Kaitlyn Ringgenberg, Katie Miller, Hailey Hanson, Nicholas Achen. back: Hayden Anderson, Brody Sombke, Carly Wheeling. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



These are the 2016-2017 Groton Area FFA chapter officers: Miranda Hanson, Madilyn Wright, Josie LaMee. back: Kate Helmer, Trey Wright, Brenna Johnson, Emma Watje. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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These are the Groton Area FFA Greenhand Degree recipients: John Achen, Cassandra Townsend, Miranda Hanson, Josie LaMee, Allison Wilson, Brenna Johnson. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



These are the Star Award recipients: John Achen - Star Greenhand, Kate Helmer - Star Ag Placement, Patrick Gengerke - Star Farmer. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



These are the Groton Area FFA chapter degree recipients: Nicholas Achen, Madilyn Wright. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Today in Weather History

1780 - The infamous "dark day" in New England tradition. At noon it was nearly as dark as night. Chickens went to roost, and many persons were fearful of divine wrath. The phenomena was caused by forest fires to the west of New England. (David Ludlum)

1955 - Lake Maloya NM received 11.28 inches of rain in 24 hours to establish a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1975 - Thunderstorms produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 110 mph in Minnesota, between Fridley and Hugo. Fifty persons were injured. The hail and high winds destroyed fifty mobile homes, and a dozen aircraft, and also destroyed a third of the Brighton Elementary School. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in Texas produced thirteen inches of rain northwest of Lavernia. The heavy rain, along with golf ball size hail, destroyed eighty percent of the crops in the area, while high winds toppled trees. Golf ball size hail was also reported south of Dallas and around San Antonio. Up to eight inches of rain drenched Guadalupe County. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in southwest Texas produced hail as large as tennis balls around Midland, with the hail accumulating up to a foot deep. Showers and thunderstorms in the Middle Atlantic Coast Region produced 3.5 inches of rain near Schuylkill PA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front spawned ten tornadoes from Illinois to Tennessee during the afternoon and night. Snow, wind and cold prevailed in the Northern Plateau Region and the Northern Rockies. Dixie, ID, was blanketed with nine inches of snow, winds gusted to 87 mph at Choteau MT, and the temperature at Crater Lake, OR, dipped to 11 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1990 - Thunderstorms deluged Hot Springs AR with thirteen inches of rain in nine hours resulting in a devastating flood. Two waves of water, four to six feet deep, swept down Central Avenue flooding stores and the famous bathhouses on Bathhouse Row. Water released from Lake Hamilton devastated the area between it and Rempel Dam. The 500 foot Carpenter Dam Bridge across Lake Catherine was completely washed away, as were cabins and mobile homes near the lake, many of which flowed right over the top of Rempel Dam. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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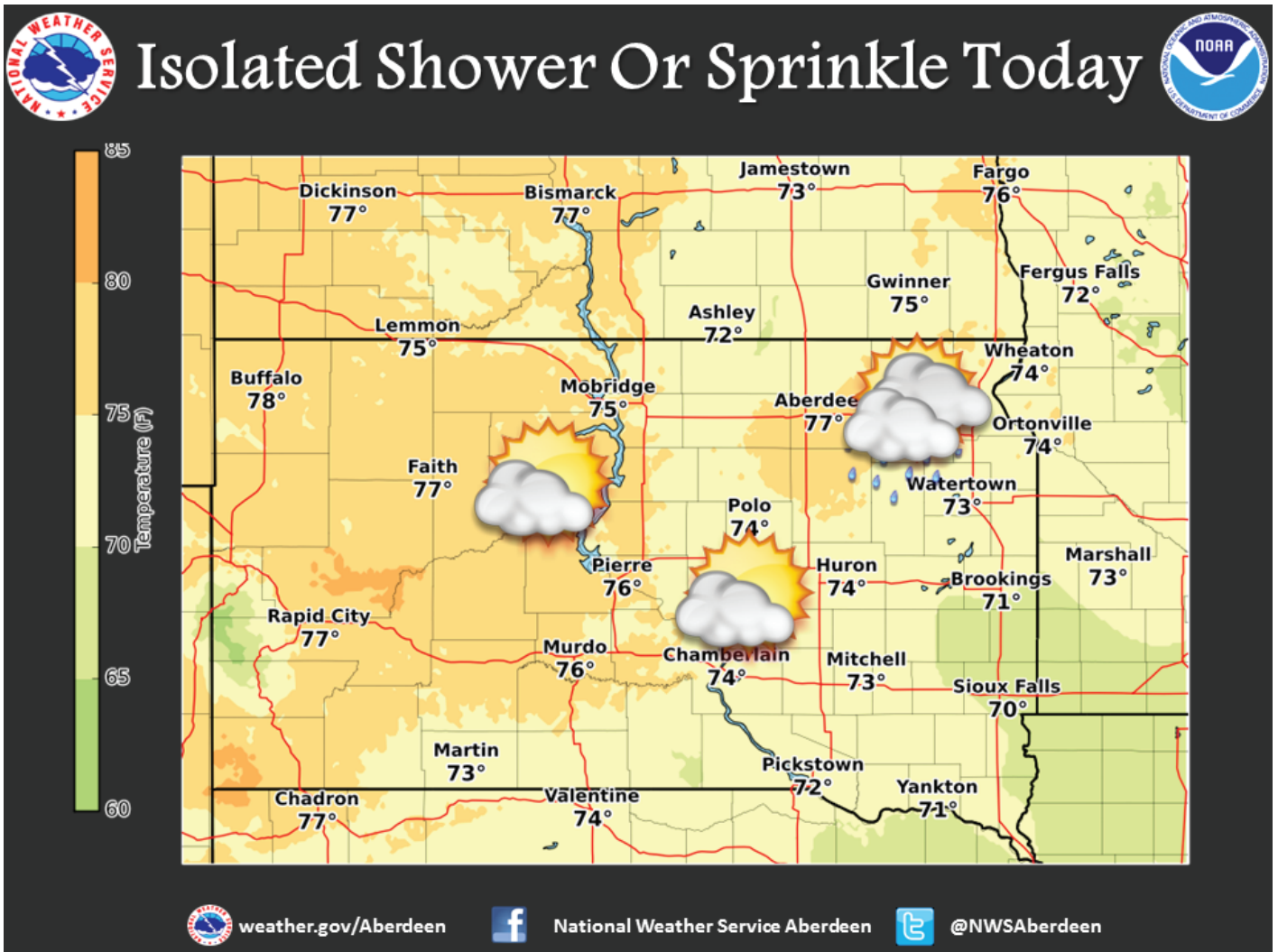

We now accept

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Sunny then Partly Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms and Breezy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny then Mostly Sunny and Breezy	Partly Cloudy	Breezy. Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 76 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 80 °F



Published on: 05/19/2016 at 4:51AM

The next few days will be getting more summer-like with warmer temperatures and increasing humidity. Through the weekend - there will be a few opportunities for some light moisture - with the best chance for storms on Sunday.

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Yesterday's Weather

High: 74.0 at 5:00 PM

Low: 42.6 at 6:17 AM

High Gust: 24 at 9:00 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 97° in 1932

Record Low: 28 in 2002

Average High: 70°F

Average Low: 45°F

Average Precip in May: 1.96

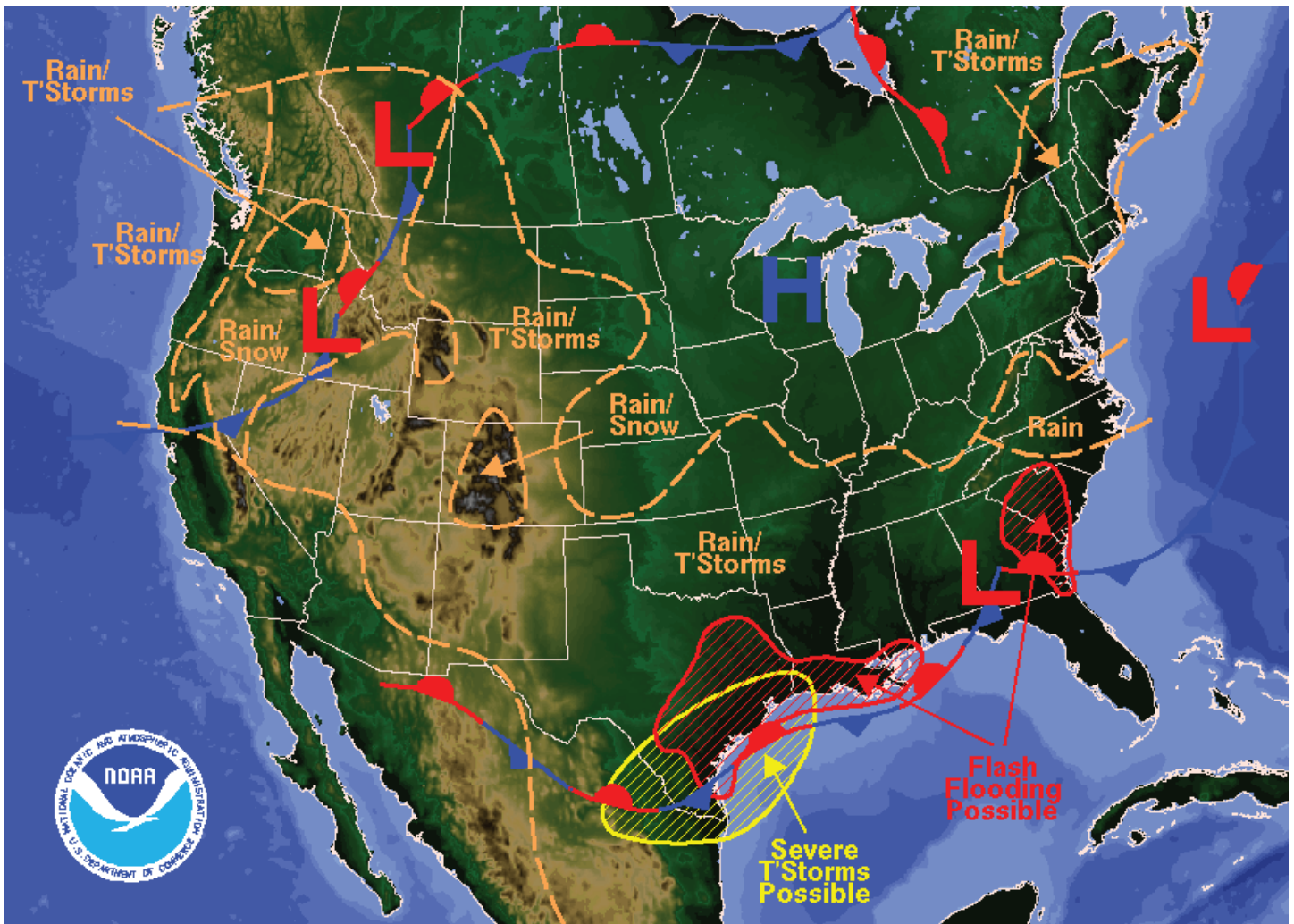
Precip to date in May: 0.11

Average Precip to date: 5.99

Precip Year to Date: 3.50

Sunset Tonight: 9:02 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:57 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Thu, May 19, 2016, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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GOING UP?

The late Bishop Sheen was shopping in a New York department store going from one floor to the next. After he finished looking at all of the items on the fifth floor, he got on the elevator and pushed the button for the sixth.

As the door was closing, a lady rushed on to the elevator and smiled at him. When the elevator stopped and he made his way to the door, she looked at him with a frown and said, "I did not want to go up, I wanted to go down!"

"Madam," he said with a grin, "I only take people up, not down!"

Often we are not aware of how our behavior is affecting others. We do what we do because it brings us pleasure, happiness or satisfaction. We may not realize that others may be watching what we do and then imitate our behavior – whether right or wrong. They may be looking for someone to follow.

Paul said, "So if what I eat causes another believer to sin, I will never eat meat again as long as I live – for I don't want to cause another believer to stumble." He was ever conscious of the example he set knowing others were watching. We must do the same.

Prayer: Father, may we never forget that we are a living example of what it means to be a Christian and always represent You well. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: 1 Corinthians 8:13 Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.

News from the Associated Press

Bond set for 2 more suspects in slaying of Rapid City woman

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Two men accused of being accessories in the alleged murder-for-hire last year of a Rapid City woman have had bond set at \$1 million apiece.

Twenty-nine-year-old Garland Brown and 24-year-old Michael Frye made initial court appearances Wednesday. The Rapid City men did not enter pleas.

They're charged in the May 2015 stabbing death of 22-year-old Jessica Rehfeld. Her body was found in a remote grave near Rockerville last Friday.

Three other people facing first-degree murder charges remain jailed on \$2 million bond apiece. They include Rehfeld's ex-boyfriend, 26-year-old Jonathon Klinetobe, of Sturgis. Authorities allege Klinetobe hired two others to kill Rehfeld.

Department: Families should read to thwart 'summer slide'

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The state Department of Education wants families to read over the summer to prevent a drop in reading skills when kids are out of school.

The agency says reading material should be challenging but not so difficult that students become frustrated.

Jasmine Rockwell is Children's and Youth Services coordinator for the South Dakota State Library.

Rockwell says children can take part in a local library's summer reading program. Parents can also encourage kids to read a sports hero's biography, research to prepare for a trip or keep up on current events.

Rockwell says there are many fun ways to keep kids reading over the summer.

Scientists gather in Rapid City to discuss neutrinos

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — About 175 scientists from across the globe are gathering in Rapid City Thursday to discuss the Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment.

The scientists are meeting at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology through Sunday. Another 100 scientists will participate via remote access.

The project planned between the Sanford Underground Research Facility in Lead and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory near Chicago will involve the world's highest intensity neutrino beam, which is 800 miles long. The experiment will be the world's flagship neutrino project, with hundreds of participating scientists from 27 countries.

A 160-kiloton cryogenic liquid argon detector system will be built one mile underground at the Sanford Lab to image the rare collisions of neutrinos beamed from Fermilab. The ultimate goal is to understand the origins of the universe.

Bond set at \$2M for suspect in Sioux Falls slaying

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has set a \$2 million cash bond for a man accused of killing another man outside of a Sioux Falls casino last month.

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

He made his first Sioux Falls court appearance on Wednesday, answering "Yes" when the Magistrate Judge Eric Johnson asked if he understood the charges.

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

Stone is accused of killing 28-year-old Baptiste White Eyes on April 22.

Database launched to gather, study DNA from Midwestern twins

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Researchers who study how genes and the environment influence people's health are hoping that twins who live in the Midwest will contribute DNA to a new database that might provide insight about traits and diseases specific to the region.

The database, known as a twin register, was launched Wednesday by Sioux Falls-based Avera Health. It is seeking DNA samples from identical and fraternal twins of all ages in the Midwest, primarily in the Great Plains, and it comes after the health system processed thousands of samples belonging to twins from the Netherlands through a collaboration with researchers in that country.

"Why does one twin get a disease and the other doesn't? That's what we are studying. We look at both the genetics and environmental influences on diseases such as type 1 diabetes, behavioral disorders and cardiovascular disease," said Gareth Davies, chief scientific officer at the Avera Institute for Human Genetics.

The health system believes the database could potentially allow for more accurate diagnoses, development of better treatment and prevention of diseases. The DNA of the participants will be analyzed by researchers, but the individuals won't receive any additional care or compensation. A couple that has begun the process of enrolling their 16-month-old identical twins believes the potential of contributing to a breakthrough in science is enough motivation to participate.

"We already have them and it doesn't hurt them, so, why not help the research?" said Sioux Falls resident Craig McCarthy, dad to Kamper and Sayers. McCarthy said he knows the parents of other twins and would recommend they participate as well.

The twins or their parents, depending on their age, will periodically submit information about their health and environment and answer questions from the researchers. Avera occasionally will host gatherings for the twins and collect information in person.

Twin registers have been used for years to study the roles that genetics and the environment play in people's health. In the mid-1980s, the government sought information from 30,000 veterans who were twins to compare the health of men who served in Vietnam with brothers who did not. Other studies have used twin registers to try to determine who gets Alzheimer's disease, why some people develop attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and what influences a woman's ability to orgasm.

Among the issues Avera plans to focus on are cardiovascular disease and obesity. All identical or fraternal twins, triplets and multiples and their immediate family members can sign up. DNA will be collected with a cheek swab.

The University of Colorado Boulder, the University of Southern California and Michigan State University are among the U.S. institutions that have maintained twin registers. Similar databases, varying in the number of participants, can be found around the world.

Among them is the Netherlands Twin Register at Vrije University, established in 1987. Avera has processed more than 80,000 DNA samples from twins listed in the Netherlands database since 2009. Researchers in both countries will have access to the database with information from Midwestern twins. Davies said the populations in the Midwest and the Netherlands make for an interesting comparison because they share a large number of genes, though Avera is by no means looking only for U.S. twins of Dutch ancestry.

"In genetics, collaboration is the norm," Dr. Dorret Boomsma, the founder of the Netherlands Twin Register, said in a statement. "Each population doesn't have the cohorts and resources to achieve the next breakthrough, so we need to work together and I'm excited to do that with Avera."

Huron police discover meth lab during search of home

HURON, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in Huron say they discovered a meth lab in a home in the southwest part of the city while serving a search warrant.

Huron police say officers were evacuated from the home after they discovered the nature of the chemicals on Tuesday. A South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation lab team was called in to neutralize the chemicals.

Police say three people have been taken into custody. No names or charges were released.

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Sanders opening office in SD; Clinton names state director

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders is formally opening a field office in Sioux Falls ahead of South Dakota's primary election on June 7.

Sanders' campaign said the office is set to open Wednesday. He held campaign rallies in Pine Ridge, Rapid City and Sioux Falls last week.

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton's campaign announced earlier this week that it has named a South Dakota state director.

Adam Weiland, who has worked to elect Democrats including former Sen. Tom Daschle, will lead a team campaigning for Clinton in South Dakota. Former President Bill Clinton is set to appear for Hillary Clinton in Sioux Falls on Friday.

Sanders is competing with Hillary Clinton for the Democratic nomination. Whoever gets it likely will run against presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump in the general election.

South Dakota native is next radio voice of NDSU football

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — South Dakota native Jeff Culhane has been named the next radio play-by-play voice of the five-time defending national champion North Dakota State University football team.

Radio FM Media and the NDSU athletic department announced the move Wednesday. Culhane also will be sports director for KQWB BISON 1660 AM.

The 33-year-old Culhane is a native of Mitchell, South Dakota, and a graduate of Dakota Wesleyan University, where he played football and baseball. He's completing his third year on the West Virginia Mountaineer Sports Network, following six years on the Husker Sports Network in Lincoln, Nebraska.

He'll start his duties in Fargo next month.

Dogs left inside Watertown pawn shop thwart burglary

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Watertown police say two dogs left inside a pawn shop thwarted a burglary. The would-be thief broke a window at Lester's Gun and Pawn to gain entry early Tuesday, only to be confronted by the dogs.

Police say the man punched the dogs to get away, and fled the business empty-handed.

Board declines to act quickly on pipeline construction

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa utilities regulators have declined to act quickly on a request to allow a Texas company to begin construction on an oil pipeline across Iowa.

Dakota Access had asked the Iowa Utilities Board to start Tuesday on the 1,150-mile pipeline that will carry a half-million barrels of oil a day from northwest North Dakota across South Dakota, Iowa and into south-central Illinois.

Construction begins this week in the other states and the Dallas-based company says it must start in Iowa now or risk running into winter and another farm planting season.

The board decided Tuesday to take time to consider comments from opponents, which indicate they want no construction in Iowa until all required federal permits are approved.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hasn't issued permits for river crossings.

South Dakota attorney general to lead delegation to Israel

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley is leading a delegation of his peers to Israel.

Jackley is leading the trip in his capacity as president of the National Association of Attorneys General. It's scheduled from May 25 to June 1.

Eight attorneys general will meet with Israeli government and legal officials and other political leaders.

They'll talk about issues of joint concern, including cybersecurity and public safety.

The trip is sponsored by the American-Israel Friendship League in cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Egypt plane crash: Airbus' A320 is workhorse of the skies

PARIS (AP) — The Airbus A320, the model of the EgyptAir plane that crashed in the Mediterranean on Thursday, is one of the most common planes in service around the world today.

Some key facts about it:

—Similar to the Boeing 737, the single-aisle, twin-engine jet is used to connect cities that are between one and five hours apart.

—The A320 is generally considered one of the safest passenger planes in service. Airbus says it has had 11 crashes with fatalities, on top of the Germanwings plane deliberately brought down by co-pilot Andreas Lubitz in March 2015. Overall, the A320 registered just 0.14 fatal accidents per million takeoffs, according to a Boeing safety analysis published last year.

—The first A320 entered service in 1988.

—There are nearly 4,000 A320s in operation worldwide.

—Airbus, a European plane-making group based in Toulouse, France, also makes nearly identical versions of the A320: the smaller A318 and A319 and the stretched A321. The entire fleet has accumulated nearly 180 million flight hours in over 98 million flights.

—The plane is certified to fly up to 39,000 feet, its maximum altitude before its rate of climb begins to erode. The plane has an absolute flight limit of 42,000 feet.

Pacquiao's Senate victory brings him closer to presidency

JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Boxing great Manny Pacquiao was proclaimed Thursday as a winner of a Philippine Senate seat, bringing him closer to a possible crack at the presidency.

At the proclamation ceremony, an elections commissioner introduced Pacquiao as the "people's champion" and called out his name in the same slow style that he is introduced in his world-famous bouts, drawing cheers from the audience.

The Filipino slugger garnered more than 16 million votes, landing 7th among 12 new members of the Senate, a traditional springboard to the presidency. Earlier this year, he said that he planned to retire from boxing to become a full-time politician.

Asked by The Associated Press if his next target is the presidency, Pacquiao smiled, then said, "Nothing, nothing, nothing" as he rode into his black Cadillac SUV after his proclamation.

Considered a hero in the country, which grinds to a halt during his televised fights to watch him box, Pacquiao has indicated in the past he would consider a run for the presidency. But he has often tried to ditch the topic, saying he was too young.

The Philippine Constitution requires presidential candidates to be at least 40 years old. The 37-year-old boxer would be eligible to run in the next presidential election in 2022.

Pacquiao's Senate victory is the latest chapter in his stunning rags-to-riches story. He came from an impoverished rural family and had worked odd jobs before lacing up the gloves at the age of 12. He rose steadily and became a champion in eight boxing divisions to become one of the world's most celebrated and wealthiest athletes.

He has represented southern Sarangani province in the House of Representatives since May 2010, though he has been criticized for seldom showing up for legislative duties due to his preoccupation with boxing and is still regarded a political lightweight.

He told reporters he was still thinking whether to participate in the Olympics in August because he might be criticized again for being absent from the Senate. "I need to ask if the Filipino people will allow me to participate in the Olympics," he said.

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Pacquiao said he would support the proposal by the crime-busting president-elect, Rodrigo Duterte, to re-impose the death penalty. That comment from the newly religious Pacquiao differs from the opposition of the country's dominant Roman Catholic church. He added he would oppose any proposed divorce bill.

In a populist stance, he said the first bill he would file would grant free elementary-to-college education for children from poor families, a proposal that has not been realized in the past due to the extensive costs it would entail. More than a fourth of the more than 100 million Filipinos are considered poor.

Pacquiao ran for the Senate under the ticket of losing presidential candidate Jejomar Binay, but also was endorsed by Duterte.

During his senatorial campaign, Pacquiao bounced back impressively after a huge drop in support from his remarks in February that people in same-sex relations are "worse than animals." He apologized to people hurt by his comments but made clear he opposed same-sex marriage.

President Benigno Aquino III revealed in April that the brutal Abu Sayyaf militant group considered abducting Pacquiao, along with the president's sister, who is a wealthy and popular actress. Despite the warning, Pacquiao continued to openly campaign in the south region where the militants are based.'

Two-thirds of US would struggle to cover \$1,000 emergency

KEN SWEET, The Associated Press

EMILY SWANSON, The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Two-thirds of Americans would have difficulty coming up with the money to cover a \$1,000 emergency, according to an exclusive poll released Thursday, a signal that despite years of recovery from the Great Recession, Americans' financial conditions remain precarious as ever.

These financial difficulties span all income levels, according to the poll conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Seventy-five percent of people in households making less than \$50,000 a year would have difficulty coming up with \$1,000 to cover an unexpected bill. But when income rose to between \$50,000 and \$100,000, the difficulty decreased only modestly to 67 percent.

Even for the country's wealthiest 20 percent — households making more than \$100,000 a year — 38 percent say they would have at least some difficulty coming up with \$1,000.

"The more we learn about the balance sheets of Americans, it becomes quite alarming," said Caroline Ratcliffe, a senior fellow at the Urban Institute focusing on poverty and emergency savings issues.

Harry Spangle is one of those Americans. A 66-year-old former electrician from New Jersey, Spangle said he thought he would always have a job and "lived for today" but lost his job before the downturn. He said he would have to borrow from friends or family in order to cover an unexpected \$1,000 expense.

"I have a pension and I am on Social Security, but it's very limiting," he said. "It's depressing."

Having a modest, immediately available emergency fund is widely recognized as critical to financial health. Families that have even a small amount of non-retirement savings, between \$250 and \$749, are less likely to be evicted from their homes and less likely to need public benefits, an Urban Institute study found.

"People are extremely vulnerable if they don't have savings," Ratcliffe said. "And it's a cost to taxpayers as well. Lack of savings can lead to homelessness, or other problems."

Despite an absence of savings, two-thirds of Americans said they feel positive about their finances, according to survey data released Wednesday by AP-NORC, a sign that they're managing day-to-day expenses fine. The challenge for many often come from economic forces beyond their control such as a dip in the stock market that threatens their job or an unexpected medical bill, risks that have shattered the confidence of most in the broader U.S. economy.

Yet when faced with an unexpected \$1,000 bill, a majority of Americans said they wouldn't be especially likely to pay with money on hand, the AP-NORC survey found. A third said they would have to borrow from a bank or from friends and family, or put the bill on a credit card. Thirteen percent would skip paying other bills, and 11 percent said they would likely not pay the bill at all.

Those numbers suggest that most American families do not have at least \$1,000 stashed away in an accessible savings account, much less under their mattresses, to cover an emergency.

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Americans' struggle to save isn't new. Three CBS News and The New York Times polls going back to the mid-1990s — the most recent one done in 2007 before the downturn — show a majority of Americans would have some difficulty covering a \$1,000 emergency. The AP-NORC results also correlate with a 2015 study by the Federal Reserve in which 47 percent of respondents said they either could not cover a \$400 emergency expense or would have to sell something or borrow money.

And the struggle impacts retirement savings as well. When AP-NORC asked if they will have enough savings to retire when they want to, 54 percent of working Americans say they are not very or not at all confident they will have enough. Only 14 percent say they are confident they can retire on time.

The findings in the AP-NORC poll illuminate how many Americans' frustrations over the economy, income inequality and insecurity about their financial futures has contributed to this dizzying presidential election season.

Billionaire businessman Donald Trump became the presumptive nominee for the Republican Party largely on a populist platform of kicking out undocumented immigrants, renegotiating free trade agreements and a promise to "Make America Great Again." On the left, socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont captured voters with a message of dismantling Wall Street and higher taxes on the rich.

The reasons why Americans don't save are complex. One economist says it's a holdover from the '70s and '80s, when high inflation ate into the value of money stashed in a savings account. Others say U.S. tax policy rewards saving money for retirement or taking out a mortgage to buy a home over short-term emergencies.

The Great Recession and lack of wage growth in recent years have not helped. In the same AP-NORC poll, 46 percent of workers said their wages have remained stagnant in the last five years, and another 16 percent said they've actually seen salary cuts. Meanwhile, costs for basic needs, such as food, housing and health care, have risen.

"The lack of (savings) is symptomatic to other financial problems that families are having," said William R. Emmons, a senior economic adviser at the Center for Household Financial Stability at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. "Many families are still struggling with debt from the housing bubble and borrowing boom. And the recent economic stresses make it much more likely families are going to be fighting basic financial issues."

Mitchell Timme, 26, said that his wages have remained basically flat for the last few years while his cost of living has increased. Once everything is paid "there's nothing left to save," he said.

"It definitely adds stress to everyday life. It hangs over you. While it's not something you would complain about every day, it's there. And it weighs on you," Timme said, who works at a security company in Phoenix.

It may not be entirely bad that some Americans do not have much cash savings, Emmons said. In the poll, 21 percent of Americans say they would strongly consider the option of putting the unexpected \$1,000 bill on a credit card to be paid in full when their statement came due.

"For financially stronger families, having access to low-cost credit is completely acceptable," he said.

Greece says crashed EgyptAir plane suddenly lost altitude

MAGGIE MICHAEL, Associated Press

DEREK GATOPOULOS, Associated Press

ANGELA CHARLTON, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An EgyptAir flight from Paris to Cairo with 66 passengers and crew on board crashed in the Mediterranean Sea off the Greek island of Crete early Thursday morning, Egyptian and Greek officials said.

Greek defense minister Panos Kammenos said EgyptAir flight 804 made abrupt turns and suddenly lost altitude just before vanishing from radar at around 2.45 a.m. Egyptian time.

Kammenos said the aircraft was 10-15 miles inside the Egyptian FIR and at an altitude of 37,000 feet. "It turned 90 degrees left and then a 360 degree turn toward the right, dropping from 38,000 to 15,000 feet and then it was lost at about 10,000 feet," he said.

Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail said it was too early to say whether a technical problem or a terror

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attack caused the plane to crash. "We cannot rule anything out," he told reporters at Cairo airport.

EgyptAir said the Airbus A320 vanished 10 miles (16 kilometers) after it entered Egyptian airspace, around 280 kilometers (175 miles) off Egypt's coastline north of the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria. Their account fits closely with an account from Konstantinos Lintzerakos, director of Greece Civil Aviation Authority.

The airline said the Egyptian military had received an emergency signal from the aircraft, an apparent reference to an Emergency Locator Transmitter, or ELT, a battery powered device designed to automatically give out a signal in the event of a sudden loss of altitude or impact.

The Egyptian military denied it had received a distress call and Egypt's state-run daily Al-Ahram quoted an airport official as saying the pilot did not send one. The newspaper did not identify the official.

The absence of a distress call suggests that whatever sent the aircraft plummeting into the Mediterranean was both sudden and brief.

Exploring the possibility that a terror attack brought down the aircraft, Egyptian security officials said they were running background checks on the passengers to see if any of them had links to extremists.

In Paris, the city's prosecutor's office has opened an investigation into the incident. "No hypothesis is favored or ruled out at this stage," the prosecutor's office said in a statement.

All Egyptian officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The head of Greece's air traffic controllers association, Serafeim Petrou, told The Associated Press that everything was operating normally prior to the plane's disappearance from radar.

Egyptian military aircraft and navy ships were taking part in a search operation off Egypt's Mediterranean coast to locate the debris of the plane, which was carrying 56 passengers, including one child and two babies, and 10 crew members. The pilot had more than 6,000 flight hours.

Greece also joined the search and rescue operation, officials at the Hellenic National Defense General Staff said.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault offered to send military planes and boats to join the Egyptian search for wreckage.

"We are at the disposition of the Egyptian authorities with our military capacities, with our planes, our boats to help in the search for this plane," he said. He spoke after French President Francois Hollande held an emergency meeting at the Elysee Palace.

Later, the French military said a Falcon surveillance jet monitoring the Mediterranean for migrants had been diverted to help search for the EgyptAir plane. Military spokesman Col. Gilles Jaron told The Associated Press that the jet is joining the Egypt-led search effort, and the French navy may send another plane and a ship to the zone.

Hollande spoke with Egyptian president Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi on the phone and agreed to "closely cooperate to establish as soon as possible the circumstances" surrounding the incident, according to a statement issued in Paris.

In Cairo, el-Sissi convened an emergency meeting of the National Security Council, the country's highest security body. The council includes the prime minister and the defense, foreign and interior ministers, in addition to the chiefs of the intelligence agencies.

Those on board, according to EgyptAir, included 15 French passengers, 30 Egyptians, two Iraqis, one Briton, one Kuwaiti, one Saudi, one Sudanese, one Chadian, one Portuguese, one Belgian, one Algerian and one Canadian. Ayrault confirmed that 15 French citizens were on board.

Around 15 relatives of passengers on board the missing flight arrived at Cairo airport Thursday morning. Airport authorities brought doctors to the scene after several distressed family members collapsed.

In Paris, relatives of passengers on the EgyptAir flight started arriving at Charles de Gaulle Airport outside the French capital, where their loved ones were last seen alive.

A man and a woman, identified by airport staff as relatives of the flight's passengers, sat at an information desk near the EgyptAir counter at Charles de Gaulle Airport's Terminal 1. The woman was sobbing, holding her face in a handkerchief. The pair were led away by police and airport staff and did not speak

to gathered journalists.

The Airbus A320 is a widely used twin-engine, single-aisle plane that operates on short and medium-haul routes. Nearly 4,000 A320s are currently in use around the world. The ubiquity of the A320 means the plane has been involved in several accidents over the years. The last deadly crash involving the plane was Germanwings Flight 9525, in which all 150 onboard died when one of the pilots intentionally crashed it in the French Alps.

Airbus said the aircraft was delivered to EgyptAir in 2003 and had logged 48,000 flight hours before it "was lost" over the Mediterranean. The European plane-maker said in a statement Thursday that it had engines made by Swiss-based engine consortium IAE, and had the serial number 2088.

An EgyptAir plane was hijacked and diverted to Cyprus in March. A man who admitted to the hijacking and is described by Cypriot authorities as "psychologically unstable" is in custody in Cyprus.

The incident renewed security concerns at Egyptian airports after a Russian passenger plane crashed in Sinai last October, killing all 224 people on board. Moscow said it was brought down by an explosive device, and a local branch of the Islamic State has claimed responsibility for planting it.

In 1999, EgyptAir Flight 990 crashed into the Atlantic near the Massachusetts island of Nantucket, killing all 217 people aboard. U.S. investigators filed a final report that concluded its co-pilot switched off the autopilot and pointed the Boeing 767 downward. Egyptian officials rejected the notion of suicide altogether, insisting some mechanical reason caused the crash.

Floating home marks return to Dubai's man-made World islands

JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Surrounded by 300 deserted man-made islands, Dubai's newest real-estate wonder has all the amenities of a luxury hotel — plus views of the bottom of the sea.

The Floating Seahorse villas feature submerged bedrooms whose curtains open up to transplanted coral and the waters of the Persian Gulf. Wide-mouthed groupers and other fish dart past its over 9-centimeter-thick (3.5-inch-thick) acrylic windows.

But the Seahorses, part of an ambitious larger hotel development called The Heart of Europe — which will be built on reclaimed islands — have an even more grandiose-sounding aim. They want to save The World, as the long-stalled Earth-shaped island project off the Dubai coast is called, by providing a major development that jumpstarts building on its other sandy islands.

"We wanted to be the first one. We always knew it's a risk and a chance," said Josef Kleindienst, the chairman of Kleindienst Group, which is building the Floating Seahorses and the Heart of Europe.

He added: "The World has started to move."

Dubai is already home to the world's tallest building, an indoor ski slope and man-made islands viewable from space. But while the machine-crafted frond of the Palm Jumeirah archipelago flourished, The World stopped spinning with Dubai's financial crisis of 2009.

Together with several other state-linked firms, Nakheel, the government-owned builder behind both projects, found itself at the time unable to repay billions of dollars in loans. Those defaults triggered a collapse that forced neighboring oil-rich Abu Dhabi to give Dubai a \$10 billion bailout.

Other projects have restarted in the years since, nudged by improving investor confidence and Dubai hosting the upcoming 2020 World Expo, or world's fair. But The World project as envisioned by Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, has languished.

Today, only two of the 300 islands are being actively used. One is a day-use beach resort on Lebanon island, another is an island with a luxury villa and a helipad believed to be used by Dubai's ruling family. The Dubai Media Office did not respond to a request for comment about the island.

In a statement, Nakheel acknowledged only two islands are developed, but said that financial deals involving the project are resuming on the project.

"We continue to see a renewed interest in The World, and have reached settlement agreements with third-party developers on payments worth over 1 billion dirhams (\$272 million), allowing work there to

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recommence," it said, without elaborating.

Some construction material and machinery can be seen entering The World by boat from Dubai's coastline. Earth-moving equipment rattles over the sandy dunes of one of the first islands after The World's circular breakwater, which offers the project its globe-like shape and stills its currents.

The rest of the islands are deserted until reaching the dock of the development run by Kleindienst, a former Austrian police officer and one-time member of the far-right Freedom Party who has written about making his fortune in stocks. He also wrote a book about his party obtaining classified police files on its political opponents, something its leaders denied in an ensuing political scandal in Austria in 2000.

At the dock, a sign painted in black, red and yellow announces in German: "Welcome to Germany: Passport Control." Behind it, the initial cement-block frames of two planned Bentley-branded villas stand on Sweden island. Plans call for 10 similar villas to be built there, as well as hotels, restaurants, bars and other attractions on empty surrounding islands as part of The Heart of Europe development.

The real star, however, is the Floating Seahorse anchored alone in a nearby channel.

Weighing 240 tons, the villa on the sea smells of the Myanmar teak adorning its walls. A wet bar on its top floor is both open-air and air conditioned, with a hot tub. Below, the glass walls of its living room and dining room open out on blue beach chairs and netting allowing a look at the water below.

Below deck, automated curtains in the bedroom open out onto an under-the-sea view. Coral transplanted from the site of the Burj Al Arab, Dubai's iconic sail-shaped luxury hotel, sits on the lip of the Seahorse under shade, drawing the sea life.

"It's amazing. It attracts a lot of fish," said Gianni Malerba, the director of hospitality operations for The Heart of Europe. "It fits very well with the 'wow factor' of Dubai."

So far, Kleindienst said his organization has sold Floating Seahorses to both people who will use them and others who will rent them out as part of the planned hotels at the site. The latest models of the Seahorses have a list price of 12 million dirhams (\$3.2 million).

Kleindienst said they plan to open the heart-shaped St. Petersburg island by October, with dozens of Seahorses connected to water, electricity and other utilities on the island via gangplanks.

For now though, the area runs off a generator and the model sits alone, drawing curious customers. Dubai's skyscrapers are visible on the horizon.

"If this would happen in any other country, even if it is done in 50 years, nobody would consider it as delayed," Kleindienst said. "Only in Dubai, everyone expects it needs to be done in one day."

McCrory lawsuit against feds may shift narrative on LGBT law

GARY D. ROBERTSON, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — After weeks of taking a beating from critics over North Carolina's law dictating which restrooms transgender people can use, Gov. Pat McCrory adopted a strategy long favored by Southern conservative governors: He went after the federal government.

The governor, trying to reshape the narrative as he fights for his political life, sued the Obama administration last week and accused officials of yet another overreach into state business. He said a court, not a federal agency, should dictate what the law known as House Bill 2 requires. The Justice Department sued him hours later over the law, with U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch casting the fight in stark civil rights terms.

"It's been successful in changing the discussion from one about the business community and its reactions to H.B. 2 to one that's more about the state's rights versus the federal government intervention," said David McLennan, a political science professor at Meredith College in Raleigh.

The fight, just months before McCrory faces a tough re-election battle, centers around a Justice Department directive that says not allowing transgender people to use facilities matching their gender identity broke the law and puts at least \$1.4 billion in education funding at risk. It's not the first time McCrory has called out the federal government: He joined a lawsuit challenging Obama's executive action on immigration and his administration has fought regulation of small streams and power plant emissions. He also joined a brief last fall siding with a Virginia school district in its efforts to dictate school bathroom use on

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the basis of biological sex.

Hundreds of corporate executives, trade groups and other organizations have called for North Carolina to repeal the law. Some businesses have scaled back North Carolina investments or canceled projects, including PayPal, which stopped construction of a call center, costing the state 400 jobs. Entertainers from Bruce Springsteen to Pearl Jam canceled shows in protest of the law, which also limits local government anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Refusing to capitulate to the federal government is fraught with peril, especially when civil rights laws are involved. Previous Southern governors, particularly those in the 1950s who tried to defy federally-mandated school integration, are forever defined as roadblocks to racial equality.

Lynch hinted at that past in announcing the lawsuit, saying North Carolina's law created "state-sponsored discrimination."

"It was not so very long ago that states, including North Carolina had other signs above restrooms, water fountains and on public accommodations keeping people out based on a distinction without a difference," said Lynch, a North Carolina native.

McCrory disagrees that he's refusing to carry out established civil rights law and said the courts should be the arbiter. He said Congress also should consider stepping in and make clear what sex discrimination means in the Civil Rights Act.

"The Obama administration is bypassing Congress by attempting to rewrite the law and set basic restroom policies, locker room policies, and even shower policies for public and private employers across the country, not just North Carolina," McCrory told reporters at the Executive Mansion just after he sued the Justice Department.

With McCrory preparing for a re-election campaign against Democrat Roy Cooper, his lawsuit wins him support from conservative Republicans who support the law but may be thinking twice about voting this fall with Donald Trump likely at the top of the ballot. Protracted litigation also could quiet public debate until after November. The cacophony has defined McCrory the past two months, hindering him in talking about a recovering economy he's wanted to make the centerpiece of his campaign.

"His message was so muddled," said Mac McCorkle, a consultant for North Carolina's past two Democratic governors, Mike Easley and Beverly Perdue. "Now he's able to say, 'hey, I'm just fighting the good fight, the good conservative fight.'"

His focus upon federal overreach stabilizes him politically for now but is unlikely to undo all the damage, McCorkle said. McCrory's intervention in social issues also could risk him losing independent voters who helped elect him in 2012, when he was viewed as a moderate, pro-business Republican.

"He's in a tricky political situation running against the federal government," said Thomas Keck, a political science professor at Syracuse University, who studies politics and the courts and has written about LGBT rights. "When you're talking about public restrooms, that directly raises that historical analogy" to racial segregation, Keck added.

Cooper, the state attorney general, opposes the law and said McCrory poured more fuel on the fire with litigation. McCrory's "continued to make the situation worse every day," said Jared Leopold with the Democratic Governors Association.

Chris LaCivita, McCrory's chief campaign consultant, said the debate over transgender people and restrooms doesn't need the "over the top irresponsible rhetoric from someone in the position as the attorney general of the United States." He said McCrory has been consistent in his defense of the law since signing it in March and in fighting federal government overreach. A Justice Department letter to McCrory demanding he stop enforcing the law opened the door for the governor to sue.

LaCivita said Lynch's legal challenge and last Friday's Obama administration directive to public schools nationwide to let transgender students use bathrooms and locker rooms that match their gender identity "reinforced and prove what the governor's been saying all along."

Trump more than happy to agree Sanders is getting a raw deal

LISA LERER, Associated Press

JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bernie Sanders is winning sympathy from an unlikely ally: Donald Trump.

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee is seizing on Sanders' refrain that the Democratic Party is stacked against him, shutting out his supporters and rigging the rules to favor Hillary Clinton.

In rallies, tweets and interviews, Trump has made Sanders' plight a frequent talking point.

"Bernie Sanders is being treated very badly by the Democrats — the system is rigged against him," Trump tweeted Wednesday. "Many of his disenfranchised fans are for me!" This followed Sanders' victory in the Oregon primary, with a Kentucky contest too close to call.

As Trump tries to make common cause with Sanders backers attacking their own party, Sanders' path to the nomination has narrowed to the nearly impossible and campaign donations have plummeted. He's putting forward a long list of grievances with the Democratic Party as the reason for his declining fortunes. And he's threatening that unless the system is changed, Republicans — like Trump — will win over working-class voters.

The central target of his ire: Democratic National Committee chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

"We can have a long conversation about Debbie Wasserman Schultz, just about how she's been throwing shade on the Sanders campaign from the very beginning," Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver said on CNN.

Schultz aside, Clinton has won over broad majorities of minority and female voters, giving her the lead not only in delegates but in the popular vote. But that reality hasn't swayed Sanders, whose heavy emphasis on party functionaries and arcane political rules is a notable change for a candidate who's long focused on curbing income inequality, regulating Wall Street and eradicating the influence of corporate money in politics.

Sanders and Trump have both seen themselves as victims of a system stacked against them by the establishment. It's a complaint Trump has put behind him now that he's vanquished his rivals and come within reach of a nomination-clinching delegate majority. But Sanders and his supporters are simmering, if not boiling over, with that grievance now.

"I've been receiving phone calls from all over the U.S. — profane, sexist, they threatened my life, they've threatened my family," said Nevada Democratic Party chairwoman Roberta Lange. "I feel threatened everywhere I go."

Those protests, though, are rooted in rules that were set months, if not years, ago — long before Trump and Sanders caught fire with the independents and first-time voters who've fueled their rise. Both were tripped up by Byzantine party statutes that govern how nominees are chosen.

When Trump saw Ted Cruz begin to outmaneuver him in the hunt for delegates, Trump started railing against a "rigged" and "crooked" electoral system that he said favored the will of party bosses over millions of Republican voters. And Trump frequently linked his fate with that of Sanders, expressing disbelief that Sanders could win one primary after the next and still be losing to Clinton.

While the Republican system's rigging was more "sophisticated," he said, the Democrats' system was just as bad, because of its use of hundreds of superdelegates — the party insiders who can declare their support for any candidate regardless of who wins primary contests.

In Nevada, chair throwing, shouted profanities and even death threats to party leaders marked a meeting of the state party on Saturday. Sanders supporters accused Lange of stacking the rules against them. But those rules were approved by the state party's full board weeks ago, party officials said.

Clinton backers say the Sanders supporters simply do not understand the process.

"I cannot see anything that's within the jurisdiction of the rules committee that has any impact on who's the nominee," said former Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank, a Clinton backer charged by the DNC with heading up the convention rules committee. "He just got mad at me because some of the criticism that I've made of his legislative record."

But Weaver said on MSNBC on Wednesday that “clear structural impediments” block the rise of insurgent candidates like Sanders and prevent new voters from joining the party.

Sanders says he will fight hard to defeat Trump, whether or not he captures his party’s nomination.

Clinton, who is on a firm path to clinching the nomination within weeks, faces the prospect of winning back Sanders supporters, many of whom are feeling increasingly alienated.

That hasn’t gone unnoticed by Trump. His campaign sees winning over angry Sanders supporters and other disenchanted Democrats — particularly in states like Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio — as key to victory.

In recent days, Trump has begun to suggest that Sanders should mount a third-party campaign. “He should run as an independent!” tweeted Trump on Monday. “Run Bernie, run.”

The idea is not rooted in sympathy, though, but in Trump’s conviction that such an independent effort would siphon votes from Clinton in the fall and help make him president.

Trump uses the word ‘rape’ when discussing Bill Clinton

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP) — Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump used the word “rape” on Wednesday when discussing past allegations of sexual misconduct involving former President Bill Clinton, further escalating his rhetoric on the subject.

Clinton’s wife, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, is the front-runner for the Democratic nomination and Trump’s likely opponent in the November general election.

In an interview with Fox News Channel host Sean Hannity, Trump was answering questions about an unflattering story published this past weekend by The New York Times involving his relationships with women when he turned his attention to Bill Clinton.

“By the way, you know, it’s not like the worst things, OK,” Trump said. “You look at what Clinton’s gone through with all of the problems and all of the things that he’s done.”

Hannity went on to question whether the newspaper would interview women including Juanita Broadrick, Paula Jones and Kathleen Willey. All three have accused Bill Clinton of sexual misconduct.

“In one case, it’s about exposure. In another case, it’s about groping and fondling and touching against a woman’s will,” Hannity said.

“And rape,” Trump responded.

“And rape,” Hannity repeated.

In response to the exchange, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill said in a statement: “Trump is doing what he does best, attacking when he feels wounded and dragging the American people through the mud for his own gain. If that’s the kind of campaign he wants to run, that’s his choice.”

Allegations of womanizing, extramarital affairs and abuse have trickled out over the course of Bill Clinton’s political life, including what his campaign referred to as “bimbo eruptions” when he first ran for president in 1992.

More allegations of misbehavior emerged after investigators in 1997 started looking into Clinton’s sexual encounters with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. Clinton was impeached over the Lewinsky affair.

In 1998, he agreed to an \$850,000 settlement with Jones, an Arkansas state worker, who had accused Clinton of exposing himself and making indecent propositions when Clinton was the state’s governor. The settlement included no apology or admission of guilt.

Broadrick, a nurse, in 1999 claimed she was raped by then-state Attorney General Clinton at a Little Rock hotel in 1978. Kathleen Willey, a White House volunteer, claimed Clinton fondled her when she met privately with him at the White House in 1993 to seek a job.

Clinton denied the allegations by Broadrick and Willey.

Trump has made clear in recent weeks that he intends to make Bill Clinton’s sexual history a key campaign issue, describing him at rallies and on social media as “the worst abuser of women in the history

of politics" and labeling his wife an "enabler."

Hillary Clinton has refused to respond to Trump's comments, at one point telling reporters she had "nothing to say" about Trump "and how he's running his campaign."

UConn's top puppetry program collaborates with Boston Pops

PAT EATON-ROBB, Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. (AP) — When Boston Pops conductor Keith Lockhart asked the University of Connecticut to provide a guest narrator to read "A Visit From St. Nicholas" during a 2014 holiday concert at the school, he was expecting to get UConn's president or perhaps a distinguished professor.

Instead, the school provided an orange puppet named Skip Toumalou, dressed in a Santa hat, to read the famous poem.

"We had not known that the university has one of the best puppetry programs in the entire world," Lockhart said. "The result was so professional, and the puppet and the student who voiced the puppet were one of the best narrators we've ever had."

That concert led to a bigger collaboration, which will culminate Saturday when students from UConn's Puppet Arts Program perform two shows with the world-famous Boston Pops at the city's Symphony Hall. "Puppets Take the Pops" also will be performed Tuesday when the orchestra celebrates Arthur Fiedler Night, named for the former conductor who made the Pops a household name.

The puppets will act out Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" and provide visual accompaniment to a suite of several short pieces by composer Leroy Anderson, who arranged music for the Pops. It will include a virtual tour of Boston performed to Anderson's best known piece, "Sleigh Ride."

There will be flamingos on roller skates, fish and giant butterflies. And it will be narrated by a 3-foot-tall plush version of Fiedler.

The production is schoolwork for the UConn students, the final product of a semester-long seminar in their studies for either a bachelor's or master's degree in puppet arts.

"I told them, I could not give them a better credit for your resume than a performance with the Boston Pops," said Bart Roccoberton Jr., the head of the program.

Kalob Martinez, a master's student from Amarillo, Texas, will be working and voicing the Fiedler puppet. He's been studying the legendary Pop's conductor's South Boston/German accent with the help of a 1970s television documentary.

Martinez said the production has given him and other students valuable experience with everything from performing to puppet building to the art of pitching ideas to a client — in this case, Lockhart and his staff.

But he acknowledges he'll be a little nervous when Fiedler is introduced to the audience at Symphony Hall for the first time since the 1970s.

"I'm hoping there will be a roar," he said. "I'm hoping it will be delightful and fun."

Lockhart said he also hopes the production will lead to further collaboration between the Pops and the puppeteers.

"It's a great resource to have this high-level art of puppetry available to us a stone's throw down the road," he said. "We can do some very interesting visual twists to our programs and it gives them an unparalleled opportunity for live performance and exposure."

Terror of Sri Lankan landslides: 'All I could do was scream'

KRISHAN FRANCIS, Associated Press

ELANGAPITIYA VILLAGE, Sri Lanka (AP) — Soldiers and police on Thursday struggled to find hundreds of people missing after landslides destroyed at least three central Sri Lankan villages, with fresh rains triggering smaller slides and forcing rescuers to briefly suspend their efforts.

Torrents of water streamed down the hill where mountains of mud swallowed three villages — Siripura, Elangapitiya and Pallege — on Tuesday evening, and the continuing danger forced rescue work to halt for about an hour. So far, 18 bodies have been recovered from the mud. The Sri Lankan Red Cross said

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at least 220 families were unaccounted for.

Heavy fog, electrical outages and the loose ground also have complicated the search.

Asked whether rescuers expected to find survivors, army Maj. Gen. Sudantha Ranasinghe pointed to an area in Elangapitiya village where 66 houses once stood.

"We don't have a trace of any house here. All gone with that landslide," he said. "So I have my doubts."

Villagers said torrents of muddy water, tree branches and debris came crashing down Tuesday around their homes in the three villages in Kegalle district, about 72 kilometers (45 miles) north of Colombo.

Near Elangapitiya, the village furthest down the hill, soldiers carried bodies to a school where families waited for news of missing loved ones. The school entrance was decorated with white flags, a symbol of mourning.

Farmer Hewapelige Lal said he had identified the body of his nephew, but that 18 other family members were possibly buried under the mud. He and his wife had left their home to take fruit to a daughter who lived elsewhere, but at some point his wife turned back.

"That was the last time I saw her," Lal said, sobbing. When he heard of the landslide, he rushed home but found the area covered with thick, heavy mud. "All I could do was scream."

In Elangapitiya alone, 14 bodies were recovered Wednesday and about 130 people were still missing, according to Maj. Gen. Sudantha Ranasinghe, who was coordinating rescue efforts. The Red Cross said some of those missing may have left before the disaster; heavy rains have lashed the island nation for several days, and local officials had warned residents of possible landslides.

Hundreds of stunned villagers took shelter in nine temporary camps set up in schools and a Buddhist temple, where they were being given food, blankets and basic medical treatment.

At the Viyaneliya Temple, about 300 villagers shared a meal of brown bread and curried lentils. Local officials interviewed each one to learn about missing family members and possessions buried under the mud.

All nine of A.G. Alice's children were unaccounted for after the landslide hit their home in Siripura village.

"I don't know what happened to me" after the landslides swept down, the 70-year-old 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."

Military spokesman Brigadier Jayanath Jayaweera told reporters in the capital, Colombo, that the army had so far rescued 156 people trapped by landslides, and that more than 1,550 people are in shelters. He said the army was assessing the situation and would deploy more troops if needed.

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

Sri Lanka's disaster management center reported 41 deaths across the country since Monday from lightning strikes, floods, falling trees and other, smaller landslides. Nearly 135,000 people have been displaced and are in temporary shelters.

Mudslides are common during the monsoon season. Much of Sri Lanka has been deforested to clear land for agriculture, leaving the countryside exposed.

During heavy rains in December 2014, 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.

Opportunities and hurdles with Google's Daydream VR vision

ANICK JESDANUN, AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Upcoming virtual-reality headsets based on Google's new Daydream VR system won't be as sophisticated as Facebook's Oculus Rift.

But they could give more people a taste of VR and make better games and applications affordable.

On Wednesday, Google said it will develop a range of VR headsets that promise to be more comfortable and durable than its ultra-cheap Cardboard headset. Google will make one and share design guidelines

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with other manufacturers.

There will also be a wireless motion controller — functioning like a fishing rod, a steering wheel or a pointer — to permit more-sophisticated VR experiences.

Sophisticated systems such as the Rift and the HTC Vive are expensive, limiting their appeal to gamers and other tech enthusiasts. Alternatively, cheaper VR headsets that tap the power of smartphones are typically tied to one manufacturer's phones, such as Samsung's or LG's.

Daydream headsets will work with a range of phone brands. Gartner analyst Brian Blau says he believes the Daydream-powered devices could prove to be a "thorn in the side" of both Samsung and Oculus, which teamed up to make a similar VR headset, called Gear VR, late last year.

But there are hurdles:

YOU MUST BUY A NEW PHONE

You'll need a higher-end phone running the upcoming "N" version of Android. Existing phones won't have the right hardware, and cheaper "N" phones won't either, so you might have to spend a few hundred dollars more for a top-of-the-line model.

Google says at least eight manufacturers, including Samsung, HTC, and Huawei, will make compatible phones this fall. It's a matter of adding sensors and good-enough screens, among other things.

Because these phones don't exist yet, it will take time for Daydream to grow, says Jan Dawson, chief analyst at Jackdaw Research.

Furthermore, Daydream won't work with Apple's iPhones, whereas Google Cardboard headsets do.

If anything, Daydream could spark interest in smartphone upgrades. Because the pace of phone innovation has slowed, some people have been holding on to their phones longer.

CHEAPER, BUT NOT CHEAPEST

Though no price was announced, the Daydream headsets will be more expensive than Cardboard, likely in the ballpark of Samsung's \$100 Gear VR. By contrast, Google sells Cardboard for as little as \$15, and many brands, including The New York Times, give them away as part of promotions. The price difference gives you better materials — not cardboard — and a strap to keep your hands free.

Still, the new headsets will be much cheaper than high-end VR systems like the Rift and the Vive. Those cost several hundred dollars, not including a powerful personal computer with fast-enough graphics.

IT'S NOT FULL VR

You won't get everything you get with higher-end systems. The Vive, for instance, offers full position tracking. As you walk around a room, images on the headset change to reflect your new perspective.

By contrast, smartphone-based VR is more like a 360-degree movie in 3-D. You're meant to watch it sitting down at the same spot. Moving around won't change the perspective.

It's the difference between climbing Mount Everest by gripping virtual ladders, or watching someone with a 360-degree camera do it.

Where Google's system advances over other smartphone headsets is in its motion controller. Cardboard and Gear VR don't offer much control beyond pushing a button on the headset as you move your head. Google's controller will be able to sense motion, so you can swing it like a tennis racket when playing a tennis game in VR.

THE COMPATIBILITY QUESTION

The introduction of yet another VR system might create more confusion and persuade some people to wait until it's clear which will survive. After all, no one wants to be stuck with VR's equivalent of Betamax recorders after the world has moved to VHS.

On the other hand, these headsets are cheap enough that consumers aren't taking a huge financial risk, certainly nothing near what it takes to commit to a Rift, Vive or Sony's upcoming PlayStation VR, says Ian Fogg, head of the mobile analyst group at IHS.

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And while some people might be buying VR games and apps that won't work with a future, competing system, Fogg says these are cheap, too — priced like a phone app, along the lines of a few dollars.

BETTER APPS, BUT NOT THE BEST

Once Google's devices are in the hands — and heads — of consumers, there will be more incentive for companies, educators and individuals to create VR apps. Google says leading brands like Netflix, HBO, The Wall Street Journal and game maker Electronic Arts have committed to Daydream. More apps and video could encourage even more people to buy headsets.

And the motion controller could lead to better VR experiences, ones where you do more than sit and swivel in a chair to look behind you.

But you'll need something far more sophisticated to unlock the true power of VR.

"You miss out on rich graphics, the fully immersive audio and the fully simulated environment," says Jason Paul, general manager for the VR business for Nvidia, which makes chips powering the graphics behind the Rift and the Vive.

But Paul is supportive of mobile headsets, given that casual users aren't likely to experience a sophisticated VR device.

"Each has their value," he says. "We can use the mobile platform to get the word out."

Feisty Lani to become first Japan-based horse in Preakness

DAVID GINSBURG, AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — In the weeks leading up to the Kentucky Derby, Japan-based Lani acted like a tourist on vacation.

The feisty gray colt displayed an amorous eye for passing fillies, often whinnied loudly upon exiting his stall and occasionally refused to budge during workouts.

All of this would have been cause for concern for his handlers if the temperamental bad boy didn't charge to a ninth-place finish in the Derby after being bumped at the outset.

Now, after a calming two weeks at Belmont Park in New York, Lani is poised to make a run at greatness in the Preakness on Saturday.

"Since he left Japan for this trip, I would say that he is in the best form right now," said Keita Tanaka, the agent for owner Koji Maeda.

Lani earned the right to compete for the Triple Crown by winning the 1 3/16-mile U.A.E. Derby on March 26 in Dubai. The plan was to run Lani in the Kentucky Derby and skip the Preakness for the Belmont, but his showing in Lexington caused trainer Mikio Matsunaga to change in the itinerary.

"He didn't want a long gap between races," said Soshi Inoue, spokesman for Matsunaga. "It was a good option to be here. (Matsunaga) feels we have a great chance."

Lani's behavior at Belmont Park — where there are fewer horses, a quieter atmosphere and a wider track — provided Matsunaga reason to believe his entrant has a shot at spoiling Nyquist's bid for a Triple Crown.

"He likes the barn and the track since arriving here, so the training is on plan," Tanaka said from New York. "He's been better behaved since he's been here."

Inoue insisted that Lani's excitable personality isn't necessarily a 24-7 thing.

"He's not always like that," Inoue said. "But it's his character. We are not concerned."

Lani will be the first Japan-based horse to run in the Preakness. His jockey, as it was in the Kentucky Derby, will be 16-time Japanese champion Yutaka Take.

Lani will break from the No. 6 post for the 1 3/16-mile race at Pimlico Race Course.

"He wanted the outside draw and No. 6 is technically outside, so he is pretty much satisfied," said Inoue, who spoke with Matsunaga by telephone after Wednesday's draw was announced. Matsunaga was at Belmont Park with Lani, who was to be shipped to Baltimore early Thursday.

Rain is expected on Saturday, but that would not dampen the chances of Lani, who was sired by the Grade I winner Tapit.

"(Matsunaga) wanted a fast track but isn't concerned about having to run on a muddy track," Inoue said. Rain or shine, quirky or business-like, Lani will make this unplanned run through Baltimore before heading back to New York.

"As long as we came to the U.S., I want to participate in all legs of the Triple Crown," Tanaka said. "The Preakness was not planned before the Derby, but he came out of the Derby OK in good condition, and so we have decided to have him run at Pimlico."

Mine environmental risk grows with bankruptcies in big coal

MEAD GRUVER, Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — As more coal companies file for bankruptcy, it's increasingly likely that taxpayers will be stuck with the very high costs of preventing abandoned mines from becoming environmental disasters.

The question is not if, but when, where and how many more coal mines will close as the industry declines, analysts say. Many mines already operate at a loss, and there's not enough money in the fuel anymore to enable their owners to keep their promises to clean up the land.

"It's sort of a situation where nobody, really, is going to end up looking good," said James Stevenson, director of North American coal for analyst firm IHS. "The states have I think a significant risk — the federal government does as well."

This reclamation crisis looms because of a practice called self-bonding, which allows coal companies to promise to eventually cover the cost of cleaning up abandoned mines without first setting aside the necessary money.

Because of self-bonding, billions of dollars in legally required reclamation funding exist only as IOUs, without dedicated assets or bonds backed by third-party investors.

Nationwide, self-bonding in the coal-mining industry tops \$3.3 billion. That includes \$2.3 billion in IOUs that the three biggest bankrupt coal companies — Alpha Natural Resources, Arch Coal and Peabody — owe in five states, according to an Associated Press analysis of bonding obligations in the top 16 coal-mining states.

The dilemma for state and federal regulators got even bleaker when the nation's largest coal producer, Peabody, filed for Chapter 11 protection from its creditors in April. Peabody alone holds more than \$1.1 billion in self-bonding obligations for mines in Illinois, Indiana, New Mexico and Wyoming, where its North Antelope Rochelle mine produces almost 12 percent of the nation's coal.

With several major U.S. coal producers filing for Chapter 11 over the last two years, the issue will play an important part in shaping coal's future. Mines in Appalachia are particularly likely to close as the industry consolidates around a smaller number of still-profitable mines out West, Stevenson said.

In Richmond, Virginia, Judge Kevin R. Huennkens is considering Alpha's proposal to transfer its "crown jewel" mines in Wyoming to creditors and close its unprofitable mines in West Virginia. Alpha's self-bonding obligations total \$410 million in Wyoming and \$243 million in West Virginia.

The company's plan would leave a reorganized Alpha without a reliable profit stream to address reclamation in West Virginia, the state's attorneys told the judge in April.

An Alpha spokesman didn't return a request for comment, while spokespeople for Arch and Peabody emphasized their companies' commitment to reclamation that occurs as part of day-to-day coal mining operations. Peabody is in talks with states about freeing up as much as \$200 million to cover the company's self-bonding obligations during reorganization, spokeswoman Beth Sutton said.

Many American utilities will need coal to generate power for decades to come, but low prices for natural gas and increasingly cheaper renewable energy have driven down coal's share of the nation's electricity portfolio from half to about a third in the past decade. Coal's prospects are so grim that major lenders including JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Citigroup, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo no longer plan to finance new coal mines or coal-fired power plants.

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"Lender fatigue is probably at an all-time high," said Monica Bonar, senior director at Fitch Ratings.

The 1977 Surface Mining and Reclamation Act enabled companies to open strip mines on the condition that assets be set aside to contain any pollution and return the mines to something resembling the pre-existing landscape. But companies with debts no greater than 2.5 times their net worth were allowed to avoid tying up capital by "self-bonding" instead.

Self-bonding has grown to represent more than a third of the industry's cleanup costs. With several companies now in bankruptcy, states have reached agreements to secure pennies on the dollar for reclamation should Chapter 11 reorganization proceed to Chapter 7 liquidation.

Meanwhile, Wyoming has agreed to keep in place permits for coal mines that otherwise would have insufficient bonding to operate.

"One of the fundamental parts of our surface mining laws is a mine can't get permitted without adequate bonding," said Shannon Anderson, an attorney with the Powder River Basin Resource Council in Sheridan. "Wyoming agreed to basically not pay attention to that legal requirement."

The federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has asked states to explain their approval of self-bonding in several cases.

"It's a big issue," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell told the House Natural Resources Committee late last year. "There is no question that with the increased financial fragility of many coal-mining companies, if they are self-bonded, that does potentially leave the states and the taxpayers at risk."

Wyoming, which produces almost 40 percent of the nation's coal, has more than \$2 billion in self-bonded coal mining, almost two-thirds of the nationwide total. Wyoming's coal mines are all still operating and the state would like to keep it that way: Gov. Matt Mead has promised to "double down" on coal rather than refocus on renewables.

"Wyoming is a coal state, but Wyoming will not accept sacrificing our reclamation efforts. One of the best ways to continue reclamation is to keep these companies in business," Mead said.

Environmentalists aren't reassured. The Rocky Mountain region has a long history of derelict hard-rock mines polluting rivers and streams.

"Is it going to turn into a big, toxic pit up there?" asked Jeremy Nichols with the group WildEarth Guardians. "If nobody's paying attention to it, it's going to be hard to say that it's safe."

Trump's investments include companies he bashed

JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press

CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump has invested in some of the companies that he uses as punching bags on the campaign trail, according to new financial documents he submitted to the U.S. government.

In his 104-page public financial disclosure report, the presumptive Republican nominee reported holding investments in companies like Ford Motor Co., Apple Inc. and the parent company of the maker of Oreo cookies — all businesses that he's assailed for outsourcing or, in Apple's case, not agreeing to crack into iPhones for police or federal law enforcement in criminal cases. Trump also has invested in other companies that have outsourced jobs but escaped his public shaming.

One of Trump's main talking points during his campaign rallies is that as president he would stop the outflow of American jobs. He often calls out companies and their products by name. The investments make up only a tiny fraction of Trump's reported net worth, and a comparison with his previous filings show he's reduced his holdings in some of the companies he targets.

Trump's campaign did not respond to emailed questions about his investments in companies that have recently outsourced jobs. The campaign also did not return a phone message from The Associated Press on Wednesday.

"I love Oreos. I will never eat them again," Trump said in August after Nabisco announced it was laying off 600 bakery workers in Chicago and building a new facility in Mexico. Trump reported between \$5,000 and \$15,000 in interest income from a now-sold investment in Nabisco's parent company.

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"Who do they think they are?" Trump said of Apple in February, when the company balked at hacking an iPhone used by one of the two people in a mass shooting in San Bernardino, California. More recently, Trump pledged to make Apple "build their damn computers and things in this country." Trump holds multiple investments in Apple, which combined are worth between \$1.1 million and \$2.25 million.

"We're going to tax you when those air conditioners come," Trump said in February of air conditioner manufacturer Carrier Corp., whose parent company United Technologies Corp. relocated 1,400 jobs to Monterrey, Mexico. Trump no longer owns stock in the company, but he earned between \$2,500 and \$5,000 in interest income from a sold investment.

In March, Trump blasted Disney for its "outrageous practices" in requiring 250 Florida workers to train their foreign replacements before being laid off. Trump owns between \$15,000 and \$50,000 in Disney stock.

In April, Trump called Ford's plans to open a \$1.6 billion assembly plant in Mexico "an absolute disgrace," and threatened to impose a 35 percent tax on imported Ford vehicles. In his personal financial disclosures, Trump reports investments in Ford Motor Credit Co. worth between \$500,000 and \$1 million.

Trump so far hasn't attacked all the companies he listed on his financial records that have outsourced jobs. Trump listed investments in V F Corp. and Thermo Fisher Scientific, both of which moved jobs out of the U.S. in high-profile outsourcing deals last year.

But Trump has put the others on notice.

"Carrier and Ford and Nabisco need to know that there are consequences to leaving and firing people," Trump said at a rally in Evansville, Indiana, last month. "You can't just go to another country and make products to sell across our weak borders."

Trump's Supreme Court list underscores election's importance

MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press

JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's list of potential Supreme Court nominees is a splashy reminder that the 2016 presidential election could determine the direction of the high court for years to come.

The presumptive Republican nominee on Wednesday named 11 federal and state court judges as potential replacements for the late Justice Antonin Scalia, any of whom would restore conservative control of the court lost with his death.

President Barack Obama has nominated Judge Merrick Garland to take Scalia's place, but Republicans who control the Senate say they will not fill the seat before the election. That leaves the Supreme Court with eight justices, divided 4 to 4 by ideology.

Scalia's death was a shock, but the next few years are almost certain to produce more vacancies. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is 83, Justice Anthony Kennedy turns 80 in July and Justice Stephen Breyer will be 78 before the end of the summer.

A Trump nominee in any of those seats would cement conservative domination of the court for years, if not decades. By contrast, a victory by the Democrats in November probably would lead to the most liberal Supreme Court in a half-century.

Trump had said he would appoint justices in the mold of the conservative Scalia, whom Trump called "a remarkable person and a brilliant Supreme Court justice."

The eight men and three women, all white, on Trump's list are all judges, six who sit on federal appeals court judges and five state appellate judges.

The announcement came as Trump is working to bring together a fractured Republican Party and earn the trust of still-skeptical establishment Republicans who question his electability in the general election, as well as conservatives in his party still wary of his commitment to their cause.

In a statement, Trump said the list "is representative of the kind of constitutional principles I value" and said that, as president, he would use it "as a guide to nominate our next United States Supreme Court justices."

They include Judge William Pryor of the Atlanta-based federal appeals court, who has called the landmark

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Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion nationwide the “worst abomination in the history of constitutional law.”

Joan Larsen, who serves on the Michigan Supreme Court, is a former law clerk to Scalia who delivered one of the tributes to the late justice at his memorial service. She served in the Justice Department office that produced the legal justifications for the enhanced interrogation techniques, including waterboarding, that critics have called torture.

“I’m focused on doing my job for the people of Michigan,” she said Wednesday. “I love being a judge. I love this court. I love the work of this court. And that’s where my focus lies. But I’m interested in doing it.”

Also on the list is Judge Steven Colloton, a member of the federal appeals court in St. Louis. Colloton was part of a unanimous three-judge panel that ruled for faith-affiliated groups that challenged Obama administration rules giving women covered by the groups’ health plans access to cost-free contraceptives.

Colloton’s panel was the only one of nine appeals courts that sided with the nonprofit groups, and the Supreme Court this week failed to resolve the conflict among the lower courts. Instead, the justices threw out all the appellate rulings and ordered the lower courts to re-examine the issue in a search for a compromise outcome.

Advocates on both sides of the abortion debate were quick to react in ways that pointed to the importance of the presidential election.

“Donald Trump’s list of potential Supreme Court nominees are a woman’s worst nightmare. Their records reveal a lineup of individuals who would likely overturn Roe v. Wade if given the chance, gutting what’s left of abortion access in this country and heaping punishment on women,” said Ilyse Hogue, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America.

On the other side of the issue, Susan B. Anthony List President Marjorie Dannenfelser said Trump’s list was especially strong and stood in contrast to judges Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton would choose.

“There is no question Clinton would only nominate judges who stand in lock-step with the abortion lobby and would strike down even the most modest abortion limits,” Dannenfelser said.

Trump’s list is also notable for the names that don’t appear. It omits two of the biggest stars in the conservative legal world, Judge Brett Kavanaugh of the federal appeals court in Washington, and former Bush administration Solicitor General Paul Clement.

Indeed, none of those mentioned works in Washington, although several have served as Supreme Court law clerks or worked in the Justice Department.

Among the judicial candidates, Sykes, a judge on the federal appeals court in Chicago, is the oldest at 58, while Stras, a justice on the Minnesota Supreme Court, is the youngest at 41.

No one has gone directly from a state court to the Supreme Court since Sandra Day O’Connor in 1981.

Train brings water to a drought-hit region in central India

MANISH SWARUP, Associated Press

MUNEEZA NAQVI, Associated Press

LATUR, India (AP) — Many trains pull into Latur’s railroad station, but none is as eagerly awaited as the train that pulls into the parched town in the dead of the night.

That train — called “Jaldoot” or the Messenger of Water — brings millions of liters (hundreds of thousands of gallons) of the precious liquid that the drought-plagued central Indian district so desperately needs.

Latur, with its ravaged farmland and thirsty families, has become the unfortunate poster child for the blistering drought that is hurting tens of millions of people across 13 Indian states. It’s the main city in Maharashtra state’s Marathwada region, where three districts — Beed, Latur and Osmanabad — have been devastated by two consecutive droughts.

With the monsoon rains still at least a month away, the water train, which started running in April, is a desperate measure to ease a desperate situation.

Tragic stories abound. Crops have failed, cattle are wasting away and long, scorching walks in search of drinking water have resulted in dozens of deaths.

“It’s an extremely bad situation. There’s absolutely no water. The water dried up in January,” says Ashok

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Balunke, a farmer in the region.

Nowhere is the tragedy more heartbreaking than in the stoic silence of 30-year-old Ranjana Umesh Jadav, whose husband fell into a well several kilometers (miles) from his home and died as he tried to fetch water for his family after their taps and the village well ran dry. Sitting with her two young children, she stares silently as older female relative explained her husband's death to visiting journalists.

Latur's crisis is part natural calamity and part man-made. The landlocked area has historically been drought-prone, but decades of environmental degradation and the lack of a water management plan have pushed the region to the brink. Over the last few decades, locals have extracted groundwater relentlessly, severely depleting the water table.

As Marathwada's crisis worsened over the last two years the state government decided to start sending a water train. The city of Miraj, about 340 kilometers (211 miles) west of Latur, was chosen as the place to source water for the thirsty Marathwada region. Located in the basin of the Krishna River, Miraj is one of the few cities in the region that has escaped the drought. The city has so much water that local residents can wash their cars and motorcycles, and surrounding villages are lush and green.

A medieval step well next to the Miraj train station serves as the filling point for the water train. According to local legend, the well never runs dry, but for the purpose of filling the wagons that transport water to Latur, kilometers (miles) of plastic pipes have been laid out from the Krishna River. The water that gushes into the well is then pumped out through another grid of underground pipes to the rail yard at Miraj.

The train, with its 50 shiny green wagons, has been specially prepared for its task. The containers, which once carried petroleum products or vegetable oil, were chemically treated and steam-cleaned before being freshly painted for their new cargo at a railway yard in the western state of Rajasthan.

It takes about eight hours for the train to be tanked up. Each wagon contains 53,000 liters (14,000 gallons) of water. It pulls out of Miraj station at 5 p.m. and pulls into Latur just after midnight.

Rubber pipes empty the train's precious cargo into a water treatment plant. From there, tankers transport the water across the city. Vendors with handcarts piled with brightly colored plastic containers take water to the surrounding villages.

The Indian Meteorological Department has forecast an above-average monsoon season this year. But until the rains soak Latur's parched land, the train is its only hope.

Indianapolis 500 moments, from four-time winners to tragedy

MICHAEL MAROT, AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis 500 is full of significant moments, from the return of racing in 1946 to the celebration of four-time race winners, stirring finishes and tragic deaths. With the 100th running of one of the world's most famous races set for May 29, The Associated Press looks back at some of the most memorable moments in race history in a chronological and completely subjective list:

START YOUR ENGINES!

1911: The Indianapolis 500 could not be the race it is today without Ray Harroun's creativity in the Marmon Wasp. He ditched the riding mechanic and instead relied on the rear-view mirror and a relief driver. Until Harroun arrived, the 2.5-mile speedway had been used primarily as a test track for the city's budding automotive industry. Harroun's 1 minute, 43 second victory in the inaugural race, which took 6 hours, 42 minutes, 8 seconds, proved drivers could turn a marathon into a sprint, a legacy that plays out each May.

MILKING THE VICTORY

1936: After becoming the first three-time winner of the 500, Louis Meyer celebrated his 1936 win by chugging a bottle of buttermilk. The unusual choice after a race that lasted nearly five hours was embraced by dairy farmers and has become one of the most unique traditions in sports. While race winners didn't choose milk from 1947-55, the celebration was revived in 1956 and has been used annually every year since with one notable exception. In 1993, Emerson Fittipaldi, an orange-grove owner, tried orange juice before swigging the milk after being told of the faux pas.

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GRAND REOPENING

1946: Indianapolis Motor Speedway closed its doors to racing in 1917 and 1918 because of World War I, but it was the closure during World War II that posed the biggest threat to the historic venue. Three weeks after the attack on Pearl Harbor, speedway President Eddie Rickenbacker canceled the 1942 race. The federal government banned automobile racing in July 1942, and when the war ended in 1945, the track was in disrepair. Tony Hulman Jr., a businessman from Terre Haute, Indiana, bought the track in November 1945 and refurbished it in time for the 1946 race. His descendants still run the track.

TRAGEDY STRIKES

1964: On the second lap, a double fatality made it a day to forget. Rookie Dave MacDonald lost control of his car in the fourth turn, hit the inside wall and the car exploded on impact. MacDonald's flaming car slid across the track into the path of Eddie Sachs. That crash caused a second explosion. Five more cars wrecked in the thick, black smoke that engulfed the front straightaway, forcing the race to be red-flagged more than an hour. MacDonald and Sachs were killed. A.J. Foyt won the race, and in '65, the race was televised for the first time.

SUPER MARIO

1969: Andy Granatelli's creativity changed racing. He introduced super-charged engines with almost as much horsepower as other cars. He introduced the turbine engine. He was a master publicist, turning STP into a household brand. But for most of the 1960s, Granatelli was known more for innovations than wins. Mario Andretti changed all that in 1969 when he held on for his first and only Indianapolis 500 victory. It didn't take Granatelli long to provide one of the race's most iconic images when he caught up with Andretti in victory lane and surprised him by planting a kiss right on Andretti's cheek.

ANDRETTI CURSE

1970-current: Fans often joke that the four most famous words in motorsports are "Mario is slowing down." Amazingly, the Andrettis have not driven into Indy's victory lane for more than 45 years. Since 1969, mechanical failures, crashes, bad luck and even what amounted to a recount in 1981 have derailed the family. Mario's son, Michael, led more laps than any other non-winner. Michael almost helped his son, Marco, end the curse in 2006. But Sam Hornish Jr. passed Marco in the final straight and the youngest Andretti settled for second. One saving grace: Michael has won three 500s as a team owner.

TRAGEDY RETURNS

1973: Drivers Art Pollard and Swede Savage and crew member Armando Teran were killed in May 1973 and another driver, Salt Walther, somehow survived a frightening, pin-wheeling crash. Walther's car got into the catch fence, breaking it and showering the crowd with debris and leaving Walther with severe burns. The worst was yet to come when Savage's car made a sharp left coming down the front straight, slammed into an inside wall and caught fire. Amid the chaos, fans began screaming again when they saw a safety team driver hit Teran, throwing him an estimated 50 feet in the air. Savage died more than a month after the race.

LAST RIDE

1977: At the time, the significance of the victory lap may not have been clear. Sure, A.J. Foyt was celebrating his record-setting fourth race win. But few expected it to be Foyt's last win or that they would see Tony Hulman sitting side-by-side with Foyt and waving to the crowd. It was the only time Hulman ever participated in the victory lap at the track he owned and he never got another chance. Hulman died almost exactly five months later.

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CRASH AND DASH

1982: One of the best races in history began in ominous fashion with Kevin Cogan running into both A.J. Foyt and Mario Andretti just as the green flag waved. By the end of the day, it became a two-car chase with Rick Mears trying to catch Gordon Johncock. Mears had him in his sights at the end. But Johncock took advantage of a rare splash-and-dash pit stop late in the race, taking just enough fuel to hold off Mears by 0.16 seconds in what was then the closest finish in 500 history. Four-time winner Mears had to settle for his only runner-up finish in 15 career Indy 500 starts.

SPIN AND WIN

1985: Danny Sullivan returned home to America from Formula One in 1984. A year later, he celebrated his greatest moment in racing. Sullivan appeared doomed when his car started to spin on Lap 120. After going a full 360 degrees, though, Sullivan regained control of the car, returned to the pits and eventually caught the leader, Mario Andretti. Sullivan went on to win his only 500 title with one of the most remarkable saves on record.

CLOSE CALLS

As the racing got tighter, so did the finishes. Al Unser Jr. held off Scott Goodyear by 0.043 seconds in 1992. Goodyear finished second to fellow Canadian Jacques Villeneuve in 1995 because of a late-race penalty for passing the pace car during a caution period. Sam Hornish Jr. maneuvered his way past Marco Andretti in the closing yards in 2006 to win by 0.0635 seconds. In 2014, Helio Castroneves lost to winner Ryan Hunter-Reay by a scant 0.06 seconds.

PENSKE STUNNER

1995: For most of the past 47 years, Roger Penske has been the epitome of consistency. He has 16 Indianapolis 500 titles and 17 poles, both records. But in 1995, Penske was reminded what it's like to be just another guy. One year after the longtime team owner dominated Indy with his untouchable Mercedes engines, Penske couldn't get defending champion Al Unser Jr. or Emerson Fittipaldi qualified for the race on opening weekend. Penske pulled out all of the stops over those two qualifying weekends, but nothing worked and Penske wound up going home without a qualifier for the first and only time of his Indy career.

THE SPLIT

1996: Tony George, the grandson of Tony Hulman, made it clear before the end of the 1995 season IndyCar racing was changing. He wanted to reduce costs, level the playing field and run primarily on American ovals. Except for A.J. Foyt, most of the others big-names stuck with CART. The open-wheel split damaged IndyCar's image. Eventually, Penske, Chip Ganassi, Michael Andretti and most other big-name teams returned to IndyCar because they needed Indy. George was eventually forced out as head of the series and the speedway, but Champ Car folded and now top American open-wheel racing runs under the single IndyCar banner.

Feds give scathing review of California border town's police
ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The U.S. Justice Department issued a scathing review Wednesday of a small town's police practices in a big drug and immigrant smuggling corridor on California's border with Mexico, finding a lack of basic controls and oversight of criminal investigations, unstable leadership and other red flags.

The 133-page report was released less than a week after the ousted police chief of Calexico filed a federal whistleblower lawsuit describing missing guns, money and other evidence, and allegations that city workers engaged in drug trafficking, overtime abuse and theft.

The Justice Department's Community Oriented Policing Services unit limited its review to broad systemic

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flaws and steered clear of specific allegations of wrongdoing and misconduct, but its unusually blunt language portrays a police department that is failing on many fronts. It recommends a sweeping overhaul.

"It shows a pretty significant level of deficiencies in the core operations of a department," Ronald Davis, director of the unit, said in an interview. "The consequences of not implementing the 169 recommendations would be that you would sustain a dysfunctional department."

Reggie Gomez, Calexico's interim police chief, said at a news conference that the city has already taken some measures to rebuild.

"I have faith that the officials elected and appointed by the city of Calexico will do what's right for the city of Calexico and its citizens," Gomez said.

Mayor Joong S. Kim said in an email that the report was "not objective" and that it was "more of an opinion report without many facts."

Kim said he has asked for an independent or state-controller audit of the city, which he said has suffered because of years of nepotism and poor leadership on the City Council.

Calexico, a city of 40,000 people 120 miles east of San Diego, is a big area of concern for federal agencies including the Drug Enforcement Administration and Customs and Border Protection, which routinely seizes heroin, methamphetamine and other drugs at two border crossings in the city. Easy freeway access to Los Angeles and Phoenix make it part of a coveted smuggling route, controlled by Mexico's Sinaloa cartel.

The Calexico Police Department has been suspended from two task forces with federal or state officials that are designed to disrupt the flow of drugs — the Imperial Valley Drug Coalition and the Imperial County Narcotic Task Force. The Justice Department report says unstable leadership led to the removals.

The FBI raided Calexico police headquarters and seized files in October 2014, less than a month after Michael Bostic, a former top official with the Los Angeles Police Department, was hired as police chief and began cleaning house. The FBI has not reported results of its investigation.

Bostic, who was ousted in November by new city leadership, said in a whistleblower lawsuit filed last week in San Diego that he told the FBI of drug use, drug trafficking, money theft and smuggling by city employees.

The lawsuit says an audit performed by the Imperial County Sheriff's Office at Bostic's request revealed significant amounts of missing money, drugs, guns and personal property believed to be stolen by Calexico officers.

Gonzalo Gerardo, also a plaintiff in the lawsuit, reported suspicions of drug trafficking by Calexico police employees to the FBI in late 2013 when he was a lieutenant.

The Justice Department unit launched its review at Bostic's request, as it has in Baltimore; Philadelphia; St. Louis County, Missouri; and several other jurisdictions that have asked for advice. It comes at a time of growing scrutiny of police practices nationwide.

The federal review found a general lack of supervision and accountability, absence of community policing, poorly functioning internal affairs department, no analysis of crime data or sharing of information internally or externally, and lack of commonly used tools to detect problem officers.

The Justice Department praises Bostic, saying the review could not have been completed without his support. It notes that he fired or suspended six officers and replaced the investigations unit.

After delays, House GOP moves forward to help Puerto Rico

MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After weeks of delays, House Republicans are moving forward with legislation to help Puerto Rico manage \$70 billion in debt.

A revised bill introduced late Wednesday would create a control board to help manage the U.S. territory's financial obligations and oversee some debt restructuring. Though it is the third version of the legislation, those objectives remain unchanged.

House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, R-Utah, has led negotiations on the bill and has worked closely with House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wisc., congressional Democrats and the White House.

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The aim has been to write legislation that could pass both the House and the Senate before Puerto Rico defaults on a \$2 billion debt payment due July 1.

The committee could vote on the bill as soon as next week.

Bishop originally introduced a bill last month, but canceled a scheduled committee vote after objections from both parties. Since then, he has worked closely with Ryan to win over conservatives who worry it might set a precedent for financially ailing states and Democrats who say they are concerned the control board will be too powerful and favorable to creditors.

The new version of the bill has concessions to Republicans, Democrats and members who want to make sure that Congress has the utmost say in who sits on the board.

Bishop had hoped to introduce the legislation last week, but said Wednesday that the delays centered around how members of the seven-member board would be appointed. Under the new bill, President Obama would select all but one of the board members from lists provided by the four Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and the Senate. If Obama does not choose from those lists, the members must be confirmed by the Senate. Lawmakers have been working to ensure that the bill is written so that President Obama can't easily reject those nominees and the board is chosen quickly.

The final bill also removes a controversial provision that would have transferred federal land on the nearby island of Vieques to the government of Puerto Rico — a major concession to Democrats, whose votes may be needed when the bill reaches the House floor.

The new version retains a provision to allow the Puerto Rican government to lower federal minimum wage requirements for some younger workers, which Democrats have also objected to.

Under the legislation, the control board would require the Puerto Rican government to create a fiscal plan, including directing the territory to provide adequate funding for pensions. The island has underfunded public pension obligations by more than \$40 billion.

Creditors have expressed concern that they would take a back seat to the pension obligations, while the Obama administration has pushed to make sure that pensions are also a priority.

Bishop has said the aim of the legislation is to make sure they are all paid.

"We're not in the process of picking winners and losers in this, and that's why you have the board in the first place, so they can make an orderly process of that," he said last week.

Puerto Rico has been mired in economic stagnation for a decade, and more than 200,000 people have left Puerto Rico in the past five years, reducing the island's tax base. Financial problems grew worse as a result of setbacks in the wider U.S. economy, and government spending in Puerto Rico continued unchecked. Borrowing covered increasing deficits and bonds were sold on special terms.

Some Republicans on the Natural Resources panel have been skeptical of the bill. Ads that have aired nationwide claiming the legislation amounts to a financial bailout, even though the bill has no direct financial aid, have complicated that effort.

Ryan has strongly supported the bill, and has made clear that he would not support any sort of a bailout. But he has said that the government may eventually have to bail out the territory if Congress doesn't take steps now to help the island avoid economic collapse.

Puerto Rico's representative in Congress, Pedro Pierluisi, issued a statement after the bill was released that it is "moving in the right direction." He opposed previous versions of the legislation.

"I hope every member of Congress will bear in mind that the collapse of the bill could mean the collapse of Puerto Rico's government," said Pierluisi, who is running for governor of the territory. "History will judge us harshly if we do not act swiftly and wisely."

The Senate has not yet acted on the issue, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the chamber is waiting for the House to act. But McConnell has provided input to Bishop's panel during negotiations, potentially making the bill's eventual path through the Senate a bit smoother.

Asian stocks slip after Fed raises chance of rate hike

KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Most Asian stock markets sank on Thursday after the Fed surprised investors by signaling that an interest rate hike is in the cards if economic conditions keep improving.

KEEPING SCORE: The benchmark Nikkei 225 index in Tokyo dipped less than 0.1 percent to 16,636.67 while South Korea's Kospi lost 0.5 percent to 1,946.74. Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 0.3 percent to 19,761.53 while the Shanghai Composite Index in mainland China gained 0.5 percent to 2,820.43. Australia's S&P/ASX fell 0.7 percent to 5,319.00. Benchmarks in Taiwan, New Zealand and Southeast Asia also lost ground.

FED IN FOCUS: According to minutes of the Fed's latest meeting, U.S. central bankers feel it would be time to raise rates at the next Fed meeting on June 14-15 if hiring and economic growth continue to strengthen and inflation keeps rising. The comments took investors by surprise and raise the prospect that some of the loose monetary policy that's supported stock markets globally will be dialed back.

QUOTEWORTHY: "Markets have looked for government stimulus as a reason for investing rather than good company economics or fundamentals. Obviously therefore if there's less chance of stimulus people are left wondering what to do," said Andrew Sullivan, sales trader at Haitong Securities. "Yes it will be a shock to people, and I'm sure there will be a knee jerk reaction but the reality is we are nowhere near normal rates."

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks were mostly little changed. The Standard and Poor's 500 index eked out a 0.02 percent gain to close at higher 2,047.63. The Dow Jones industrial average slipped less than 0.1 percent to 17,526.62. The Nasdaq composite climbed 0.5 percent to 4,739.12.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude oil extended losses, falling 70 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$47.49 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell 12 cents, or 0.2 percent, to settle at \$48.19 a barrel on Thursday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, dropped 75 cents, or 1.5 percent, to \$48.18 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar was marginally lower at 110.01 yen from 110.10 yen in late trading Thursday. The euro fell to \$1.1224 from \$1.1225.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, May 19, the 140th day of 2016. There are 226 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 19, 1962, actress Marilyn Monroe sang "Happy Birthday to You" to President John F. Kennedy during a Democratic fundraiser at New York's Madison Square Garden.

On this date:

In A.D. 715, Pope Gregory II assumed the papacy.

In 1536, Anne Boleyn, the second wife of England's King Henry VIII, was beheaded after being convicted of adultery.

In 1780, a mysterious darkness enveloped much of New England and part of Canada in the early afternoon.

In 1913, California Gov. Hiram Johnson signed the Webb-Hartley Law prohibiting "aliens ineligible to citizenship" from owning farm land, a measure targeting Asian immigrants, particularly Japanese.

In 1924, the Marx Brothers made their Broadway debut in the revue "I'll Say She Is."

In 1935, T.E. Lawrence, also known as "Lawrence of Arabia," died in Dorset, England, six days after being injured in a motorcycle crash.

In 1943, in his second wartime address to the U.S. Congress, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill pledged his country's full support in the fight against Japan.

In 1958, British actor Ronald Colman died in Santa Barbara, California, at age 67.

In 1973, Secretariat won the Preakness Stakes, the second of his Triple Crown victories.

In 1981, five British soldiers were killed by an Irish Republican Army land mine in County Armagh, Northern Ireland.

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In 1992, in a case that drew much notoriety, Mary Jo Buttafuoco of Massapequa, New York, was shot and seriously wounded by her husband Joey's teenage lover, Amy Fisher. Vice President Dan Quayle sparked controversy by criticizing the CBS sitcom "Murphy Brown" for having its unmarried title character, played by Candice Bergen, decide to have a child.

In 1994, former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis died in New York at age 64.

Ten years ago: A key U.N. panel joined European and United Nations leaders in urging the Bush administration to close its prison in Guantanamo Bay, saying the indefinite detention of terror suspects there violated the world's ban on torture. Freddie Garrity, lead singer of the 1960s British pop band Freddie and the Dreamers, died in Wales at age 69.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama for the first time endorsed the Palestinians' demand that their eventual state be based on borders that existed before the 1967 Middle East war, a position that put him sharply at odds with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Former Irish Taoiseach (TEE'-shuk) Garret FitzGerald, 85, died in Dublin. Katie Couric, the first regular solo anchorwoman of a network evening newscast, signed off the "CBS Evening News" for the last time after five years.

One year ago: On a visit to Ireland, Prince Charles shook hands with Sinn Fein (shin fayn) party president Gerry Adams in a significant moment for Anglo-Irish relations. National Football League owners meeting in San Francisco agreed to move back extra-point kicks and allow defenses to score on conversion turnovers. Margaretta "Happy" Rockefeller, 88, the widow of former U.S. Vice President and New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, died in Tarrytown, New York.

Today's Birthdays: PBS newscaster Jim Lehrer is 82. TV personality David Hartman is 81. Actor James Fox is 77. Actress Nancy Kwan is 77. Actor Peter Mayhew is 72. Rock singer-composer Pete Townshend (The Who) is 71. Concert pianist David Helfgott is 69. Rock singer-musician Dusty Hill (ZZ Top) is 67. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Archie Manning is 67. Singer-actress Grace Jones is 64. Rock musician Phil Rudd (AC-DC) is 62. Actor Steven Ford is 60. Actress Toni Lewis is 56. Rock musician Iain Harvie (Del Amitri) is 54. Actress Polly Walker is 50. Actor Jason Gray-Stanford is 46. Gospel singer Israel Houghton is 45. Rock singer Jenny Berggren (Ace of Base) is 44. TV personality Kim Zolciak Biermann (TV: "Real Housewives of Atlanta") is 38. Country/rock singer Shooter Jennings is 37. Actor Drew Fuller is 36. Christian rock musician Tim McTague is 33. Rock musician James Richardson (MGMT) is 33. Actor Eric Lloyd is 30. Pop singer Sam Smith is 24. Actor Nolan Lyons is 15.

Thought for Today: "Every moment one lives is different from the other. The good, the bad, hardship, the joy, the tragedy, love, and happiness are all interwoven into one single, indescribable whole that is called life. You cannot separate the good from the bad. And perhaps there is no need to do so, either." — Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (1929-1994).