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President Orders Flags At Half-Staff For Orlando Victims

PIERRE, S.D. – President Obama has called for flags at half-staff, effective immediately, out of respect for the victims whose lives were taken by the violence in Orlando Florida, on Sunday, June 12.

Flags are to remain at half-mast until sunset on June 16.

Manager Wanted

Part Time Apartment Manager wanted. Responsible for showing apartments, handing out applications, overseeing maintenance and other duties as needed. Up to \$25 per hour. Previous sale experience a plus. Send email of interest to Grotnmnger@gmail.com

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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Monday, June 13

USF Basketball Camp in GHS Arena
Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff, noodles, mixed vegetables, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Roger Rix, Cheryl Krueger, Hunter Schaller, Andrew Wanner.

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

5:30pm: T-Ball Black at Columbia

6:00pm: Amateurs host Claremont (DH)

6:00pm: U12 Softball hosts Redfield (DH)

6:00pm: U8 Softball hosts Redfield

7:00pm: U10 Softball hosts Redfield

7:30pm: School Board meeting

Tuesday, June 14

USF Basketball Camp in GHS Arena
Senior Menu: Herbed roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, lemon buttered broccoli, cinnamon apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Danielle Schinkel, Roger Overacker, Todd Osterman, Brandon Keith, Nichole Tullis, Sandy McPartland, Betty Taylor.

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

11:30am: Blood Drive at American Legion

6:00pm: Amateurs at Redfield (DH)

6:00pm: Legion hosts Redfield (2)

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Wednesday, June 15

Senior Menu: Turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, carrot bar, whole wheat bread.

Apts for Rent

1 bedroom and HUGE 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartments available NOW! All utilities included except A/C, 1 bedroom \$504 and HUGE 2 bedroom 2 bath \$674 Please call or text 239-849-7674

Groton Chiropractic Clinic

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

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The 60th Annual Meeting of James Valley Cooperative Telephone Company was held at Groton Area HS on Friday, June 3rd.

JVT Board Members (L to R):

Jim Cremer, Attorney; Wendell Rye; Bill Ewalt; Duane Jark; Roger Zastrow; Mark Wattier; Bob Wegner; Bill Troske; James Groft, CEO. (Photo by Stacy Oliver)



Credit winners (L to R):

James Groft, CEO; Williard Horter \$500; Albert & Jane Goehring \$250; Marilyn Tople \$250; Irdene Bonzer \$100; Rowena & Wesley Wipf \$100. (Photo by Stacy Oliver)



Bob Peterson Memorial Telecommunications Scholarship \$2,000 winners (L to R): Savana Hinz, Frederick Area HS; Libbey Miles, Doland HS; Megan Unzen, Groton Area HS. (Photo by Stacy Oliver)



Treating the Crisis

Late into the evening on July 22, 2015, a young woman arrived in the Emergency Room of the Indian Health Service hospital in Rosebud. She was having contractions – each, about two and a half minutes apart. The baby was coming. Still, nursing staff allowed the young woman to leave and use the restroom. Minutes later, her boyfriend started yelling from the bathroom. He needed a doctor. The baby had been born on the floor.

The infant was not initially breathing. His color was “dusky.” Once a nurse entered the bathroom, the baby was scooped up and run into a nearby room where they were able to start his breathing. It’s a horrifying story, as told in a recent government review of the hospital. What’s more – it’s happened before.

I’ve heard stories like this over and over again from tribal members I’ve met with. For years, federal reports have documented shocking cases of mismanagement and poorly delivered care. There have been instances where medical staff saw patients while intoxicated, evidence of Indian Health Service (or IHS)

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employees stealing thousands of narcotics from the hospital pharmacy, and a time when a man known to have tuberculosis, which is highly contagious, was allowed to interact unsupervised with other patients.

IHS was left to make improvements on its own. They were given funding increases almost every year and yet, the agency produced increasingly poor care to South Dakota's tribal communities. Enough is enough.

This month, I led a bipartisan group of lawmakers in introducing comprehensive reform legislation. The Helping Ensure Accountability, Leadership, and Transparency in Tribal Healthcare Act (which we call the HEALTHH ACT) offers critical structural changes to how IHS operates, addressing both medical and administrative challenges.

Currently, IHS is empowered to make choices about hospital contracts without input from the tribes it serves or independent healthcare experts. My bill would change that and allow for a partnership among these three groups to better ensure contracts are designed to serve those they're intended to help.

I've also taken on the Purchased/Referred Care Program, which is the program that pays for care tribal members can't receive directly at an IHS hospital or clinic. To protect taxpayers, this program has limited funds. But the money is distributed according to an outdated formula that doesn't consider things like geography or population, leaving some areas with surpluses while others are unable to pay the bills. Through my legislation, we require IHS to make changes so the formula is based on factors that impact access to care, finally matching support with need. Additionally, because IHS currently pays a premium for these outside services, I've included provisions to help drive down prices and stretch every Purchased/Referred Care dollar further.

It's also been an incredible challenge to recruit competent medical staff and hospital leadership. These hospitals are typically in remote areas and the incentives to move there just haven't been offered. My legislation tries to make hiring a bit easier, while also giving additional help to medical professionals and administrators for things like paying back their student loans.

Critical accountability requirements are also included to make sure we can better monitor what is happening at IHS facilities in crisis.

The government is required by treaty to provide healthcare to tribal communities, but IHS has failed to uphold that duty. As it stands today, the Emergency Department at Rosebud is shut down until it can be made safe enough to see patients again. IHS facilities in Pine Ridge, Rosebud, and Rapid City are in jeopardy as well. Lives have been lost because of what's happening. Big adjustments urgently need to be made, but I'm committed to working together on agency-level changes and my legislative reforms to ensure tribal members finally receive the care their families need.

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Today in Weather History

June 13, 1943: An estimated F2 tornado moved ENE, destroying a home on the southeastern edge of Highmore in Hyde County. A mother and her five children seeking shelter in the home were injured. Barns and outbuildings were damaged on a dozen farms. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 8 miles and caused about \$10,000 in damage.

June 13, 1991: A small F1 tornado remained on the ground for 4 miles as it moved westerly from 10 miles west of Roscoe to 6 miles west of Roscoe, in Edmunds County. The path of the tornado continued for another 5 miles but was not consistently on the ground. It dissipated one mile west of Roscoe. Although the tornado had a long path, its width was 10 yards and traveled through open fields and cause little to no damage.

1889 - Forest fires in northern Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota were in the process of destroying millions of dollars of board feet of timber. (David Ludlum)

1907 - The temperature at Tamarack, CA, dipped to 2 degrees above zero, the lowest reading of record for June for the U.S. The high that day was 30 degrees. Tamarack received 42 inches of snow between the 10th and the 13th. On the 13th the snow depth was 130 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1984 - Severe thunderstorms struck Denver deluging the city with five inches of rain, and leaving up to six feet of water in some places. Softball size hail smashed windshields and ripped through metal cars. Snow plows had to be called out. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including International Falls, MN, with a reading of 92 degrees. Mason City IA and Waterloo IA reported record highs of 100 degrees. Thunderstorms in the northeastern U.S. produced golf ball size hail around Hamilton Square NJ, along with high winds which tore the roof off a hospital causing a million dollars damage. Averill Park NY was deluged with 1.64 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern and Central Plains Region. Forrest NM was deluged with 5.5 inches of rain in ninety minutes. Temperatures soared into the 90s across much of the eastern half of the nation, including New England. Northern Illinois reported a record twenty straight days of dry weather. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Southern Plains Region to the Carolinas during the day and night, and continued to drench parts of Texas and Oklahoma with heavy rain. Oklahoma City reported 13.41 inches of rain for the first thirteen days of the month, and Fort Worth TX reported 29.56 inches for the year, a total more than 13 inches above normal. Severe drought continued to rage across South Texas. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy then Chance T-storms	T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 81 °F	Low: 61 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 86 °F

Dry and Less Humid Today



Highs in the 80s

Thunderstorms Developing Tonight

Lows around 60°

Area

Impacts

South Central and
Northeastern
South Dakota



Frequent lightning
Gusty winds
Small Hail



Weather Forecast Office
Aberdeen, SD

www.weather.gov/abr @NWSAberdeen
US National Weather Service Aberdeen

GRAPHIC CREATED:
6/13/2016 5:00 AM

Published on: 06/13/2016 at 5:04AM

A surface high pressure will bring dry and less humid conditions to the area today. High temperatures will range in the low to mid-80s. Another storm system will cross the region tonight through Tuesday with additional showers and thunderstorms expected.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 93.3 F at 12:54 PM

Heat Index: 104.0 F at 12:47 PM

Low Outside Temp: 72.1 F at 6:33 AM

High Gust: 30.0 Mph at 12:11 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1936

Record Low: 36 in 1942

Average High: 77°F

Average Low: 53°F

Average Precip in June: 1.56

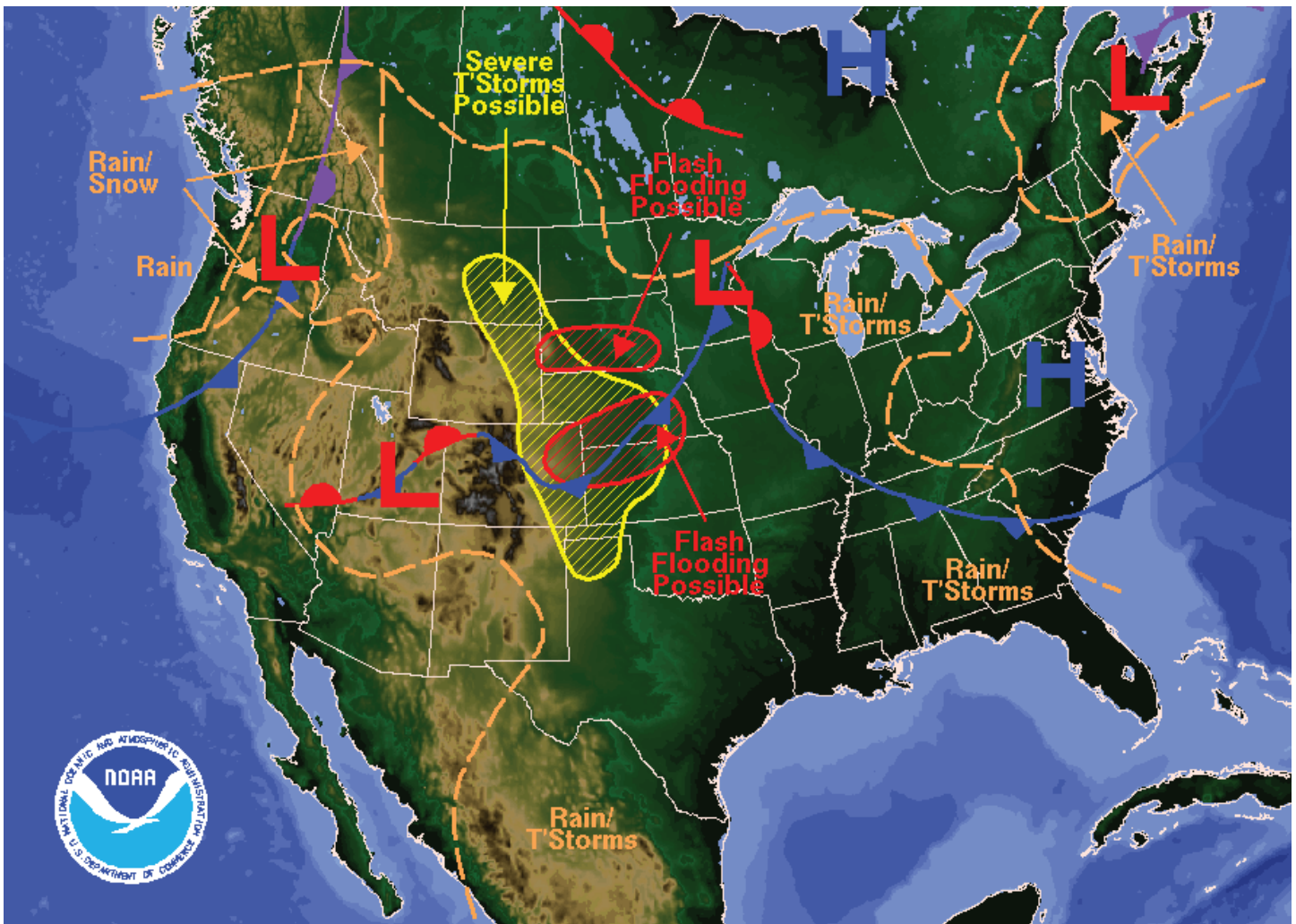
Precip to date in June: 0.72

Average Precip to date: 8.70

Precip Year to Date: 5.71

Sunset Tonight: 9:23 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Mon, Jun 13, 2016, issued 4:42 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts

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CHOOSING SIDES

A minister had been invited to have dinner with President Abraham Lincoln shortly after his inauguration. After they gave thanks for the food, the minister said, "I hope the Lord's on our side. We are facing some difficult times!"

"I don't agree with you," said the president.

"What?" gasped the minister. "You don't agree that we need the Lord on our side?"

"No," replied Lincoln. "It is my prayer that I and this nation should be on the Lord's side."

When we ask God to be on the side of the choices we make or the paths we choose to follow, they may or may not be those that would honor God. The assumption is that God will be with us and bless us no matter what.

But when we choose to be on God's side, everything is different. We look to Him for guidance and instruction and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. Often individuals think that if we are a nation of slogans and signs that refer to God we will be honored and blessed by Him. Not so!

The Bible clearly and consistently reminds us that: Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD!

Prayer: We acknowledge, Lord, that we cannot expect You to guide and guard us unless we willingly honor, worship and praise You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Exodus 32:26 then Moses stood in the entrance of the camp, and said, "Whoever is on the Lord's side—come to me!" And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.

News from the Associated Press

Weekend fire damages storage unit complex in Clark

CLARK, S.D. (AP) — A weekend fire damaged a storage unit complex in Clark.

KSDN radio reports that it took firefighters about two hours to put out the Saturday evening blaze. Multiple storage units and their contents suffered fire damage, and others had smoke damage.

Police say five firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation.

There was no immediate word on the cause of the fire.

Teachers from 4 states to learn about North Dakota coal

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — Teachers from four states will be learning about North Dakota coal.

The Lignite Energy Council says elementary and secondary teachers from the Dakotas, Minnesota and Montana are attending a seminar next week in Bismarck on how lignite is mined and used to produce energy.

The Lignite Energy Council says it has been offering the seminar since 1986, and more than 3,500 teachers have participated over the past 30 years.

Teachers can get graduate credits for attending the seminar.

Motorcyclist dies in crash with minivan in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City police say a motorcyclist has died in a crash with a minivan.

Police were called around 9:45 p.m. Saturday to the crash on Mount Rushmore Road. Police say the Honda minivan was trying to make a left hand turn into the parking lot of a fast-food restaurant when it turned in front of the motorcycle.

The 22-year-old man who was driving the motorcycle died at the scene. His name has not been released. Police say the 36-year-old woman who was driving the van was not hurt.

The crash is still being investigated, but police say speed appears to be a factor.

Lawmakers studying drug abuse prevention set to start work

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A group of lawmakers studying how to prevent drug abuse in South Dakota is set to start work at the Capitol in Pierre.

The Substance Abuse Prevention Interim Study is scheduled to meet Wednesday. Republican Sen. Jim White is leading the group.

The study group is expected to hear from state officials and law enforcement and take input from the public.

The studies can develop into concrete legislation, such as the major road and bridge funding hike lawmakers passed in 2015 that came out of a summer study group on highway needs.

Lawmakers are also studying South Dakota's Medicaid payment formula and examining the regulation of the number of nursing home and assisted living beds in the state.

The Legislature's Executive Board voted in April to approve the studies.

Brown County Jail inmates may soon get video calling system

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Brown County Jail inmates may soon be able to use an online video system to communicate with their families.

The Aberdeen American News (<http://bit.ly/1rhk4zl>) reports that the Brown County Commission is looking into the technology.

Brown County Chief Information Officer Paul Sivertsen says jail visits require an appointment and can only happen on the weekend.

He says the new system would offer families a lot more options. Visitors could use the video calling system at the jail or somewhere else with an approved connection.

The commission at a recent meeting approved a resolution to move forward with the plan, but didn't take binding action.

Members appeared inclined to eventually authorize the \$28,000 plan from Consolidated Telecom.

Sivertsen says the cost would be made up through user fees.

Washington Pavilion planning new space-themed exhibit

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Washington Pavilion in Sioux Falls is working on a new space-themed exhibition for August.

Space: An Out-of-this-World Experience in the Kirby Science Discovery Center will feature 15 new exhibits, expansion of the second floor gallery and new programming.

The exhibition will allow visitors to experience traveling to, living and working in space. It was developed by Science Museum of Minnesota in partnership with the International Space Station Office of NASA's Johnson Space Center, the California Science Center and the partner museums of the Science Museum Exhibit Collaborative.

South Dakota GF&P proposes 2016 fall turkey hunting season

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Commission is proposing to dissolve the West River prairie unit and offer 105 fewer one-tag licenses for the 2016 fall turkey hunting season.

The proposed season would run from Nov. 1 through Jan. 31, 2017. It would offer 400 resident and 32 nonresident Black Hills "any turkey" licenses. For the remainder of open units across the state, it would offer 1,230 single tag "any turkey" and 50 two-tag licenses for residents and 28 single tag "any turkey" licenses for nonresidents.

The dissolving of the West River unit would lead to an alignment of fall units with spring unit boundaries for licenses.

The commission will finalize the proposal at its July 7-8 meeting in Pierre.

Another night of drinking and dancing, until the shots began

TAMARA LUSH, Associated Press

JASON DEAREN, Associated Press

MICHAEL SCHNEIDER, Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Jon Alamo was ready for a good time.

The 22-year-old clothing store sales clerk arrived at Pulse in Orlando at 10:30 p.m. Saturday, clad all in blue from his button-down shirt adorned with palm trees to his loafers.

"It was definitely going to be an awesome night," he said.

Like young people in clubs the world over, Alamo met up with some friends, and then some more

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friends. He danced in Pulse's main room, where people swayed to the beat of salsa music. Then Alamo drifted into the club's two other rooms, which grooved to more of a hip-hop vibe. He remembers hearing Rihanna's "Work," one of his favorite songs, and grinding to it on the dance floor.

It was supposed to be just a night of dancing and drinking, of looking good and gleefully partying into the early morning hours. It was Latin night at Pulse, one of Orlando's top gay venues, and two drag performers were scheduled to perform, one of them a big draw for appearing on a season of the TV show "RuPaul's Drag Race."

"I was in the zone," Alamo recalled. "I wasn't even paying attention — just dancing."

About three and a half hours after he arrived, the gunshots began and the first of at least 50 people began to die.

Residents of the Delaney Court condos next door to Pulse first heard the shooting about 2:03 a.m. Marlon Massey was watching the movie "Creed" when he heard "pop, pop, pop!" He checked his phone for the time: The shots went on until 2:05 a.m.

A uniformed Orlando police officer working at the club off-duty had heard gunshots himself and spotted Omar Mateen outside the club. He fired his gun at the 29-year-old security guard from Fort Pierce, Florida, and two other officers quickly joined in. Mateen was not armed lightly: Police said he had an AR-15 assault-type rifle, a handgun and an explosive device.

Undeterred, he re-entered the club.

Inside, those on the dance floor weren't sure if what they heard was just part of the DJ's set.

"Everyone was getting on the floor. ... I thought it was just part of the music, until I saw fire coming out of his gun," patron Rose Feba explained to the Orlando Sentinel.

Mina Justice was sound asleep when she received the first text from her son, Eddie Justice, who was in the club.

"Mommy I love you," the first message said. It was 2:06 a.m.

"In club they shooting."

It was around this time that Alamo wandered back into the main room.

"He was holding a big weapon," Alamo said. "He had a white shirt and he was holding the weapon ... you ever seen how Marine guys hold big weapons, shooting from left to right? That's how he was shooting at people."

Alamo dashed toward the back of one of the smaller dance rooms, and said people then rushed to an area where two bouncers had knocked down a wooden fence to create an escape route.

"My first thought was, 'Oh my God, I'm going to die,'" Alamo said, his voice very quiet. "I was praying to God that I would live to see another day. I couldn't believe this was happening."

At 2:09 a.m., Pulse posted a chilling, hurried message on its Facebook page: "Everyone get out of pulse and keep running."

Brand White and her cousin were on the dance floor in the main room when White's cousin yelled to her, "B, it's a guy with a bomb!" Before she knew it, White was hit in the shoulder.

"All of a sudden it just started like a rolling thunder, loud and everything went black," White wrote in a Facebook message to an Associated Press reporter from his hospital room Sunday. "I think I was trampled."

She didn't recall leaving the club, but she remembered the state she was in: "Covered head to toe in blood."

"I remember screaming and mass chaos," she wrote. "There were hundreds of people there."

She made it to the hospital, where she got a blood transfusion. As Sunday wore on, her cousin remained missing.

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Brett Rigas and his partner also were dancing in the main room when they heard the crack of gunfire. "About 70 bullets," Rigas described in a terse Facebook message.

He was shot in the arm and a man next to him was struck in the leg before police entered the room. "I was behind the bar with four other people under the well. They called out to us and had us run out," he said.

Rigas saw dead bodies as he barreled out of the club. In the rush to escape, he became separated from his partner, who remained unaccounted for.

Three patrons, including a performer, ran to the nearby home of club regular David "Brock" Cornelius. Cornelius had gone to a different bar Saturday night and wasn't yet home, but he texted them his garage code and they hid in his house.

Police said a dozen or so other patrons took cover in a restroom.

At 2:39 a.m., Eddie Justice texted his mother from the bathroom, pleading for her to call police:

"Call them mommy

Now."

He's coming

I'm gonna die."

Justice asked her son if anyone was hurt and which bathroom he was in.

"Lots. Yes," he responded at 2:42 a.m.

The last text she received from Eddie was at 2:50 a.m. His name was later added to the city's list of those killed in the attack.

"All I heard was gunfire after gunfire," Brandon Wolf, who was in a restroom hiding, told the Sentinel. "Eventually, I thought you were supposed to run out of ammunition. But it just kept going and going," he said.

What happened in the three hours after the shooting broke out and the gunman was killed was not immediately clear.

As people lay dying in the club, the shooting developed "into a hostage situation," Orlando Police Chief John Mina said.

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said officers initially mistakenly thought the gunman had strapped explosives to some of his victims after a bomb robot sent back images of a battery part next to a body. That held paramedics up from entering the club until it was determined the part had fallen out of an exit sign or smoke detector, the mayor said.

The robot was sent in after SWAT team members used explosive charges and an armored vehicle to knock down a wall in an effort to access the club.

About 5 a.m., a decision was made to rescue the remaining club-goers, who authorities said likely were in one of the smaller dance rooms, the Adonis Room. Law enforcement officers used two explosive devices to try to distract the killer and then 11 officers stormed the club and exchanged gunfire with Mateen.

The explosives jolted some Pulse neighbors awake, including Dorian Ackerman, 28, who noted that it was just after 5 a.m.

"I heard a woman screaming," he said. "It was really terrifying."

The gunman started firing, hitting an officer who was saved by protective armor.

"That's when we took him down," the mayor said.

All bodies removed from club in worst mass shooting in US

JASON DEAREN, Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Dozens of bodies were slowly removed late Sunday from a popular Orlando gay club after a gunman sprayed the helpless crowd with bullets in violence that left 50 dead and devastated a city famous for family-friendly theme parks.

When the attacker opened fire in the early hours of Sunday morning, it interrupted an evening of drinking, dancing and drag shows at a club known for tolerance for all people.

Authorities say suspect Omar Mateen emerged, carrying an AR-15 and fired relentlessly — 20 rounds, 40, then 50 and more. In such tight quarters, the bullets could hardly miss. He shot at police. He took hostages.

When the gunfire at the Pulse Orlando club finally stopped, 50 people — including Mateen — were dead and dozens critically wounded in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. Mateen, who authorities said had pledged allegiance to the Islamic State in a 911 around the time of the attack, died in a gun battle with SWAT team members.

“I’ve always felt so safe here for my family, kids. And now, I don’t know,” said Marlon Massey, who lives across the street from the club.

Authorities are wondering if it was an act of terrorism and are probing the background of Mateen, a 29-year-old American citizen from Fort Pierce, Florida, who had worked as a security guard. The gunman’s father recalled that his son recently got angry when he saw two men kissing in Miami and said that might be related to the assault.

The Islamic State’s radio called Mateen “one of the soldiers of the caliphate in America.” Al-Bayan Radio, a media outlet for the IS extremist group, on Monday hailed the attack, saying it targeted a gathering of Christians and gays and that it’s the worst attack on U.S. soil since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The broadcast is apparently an opportunistic statement as IS has not officially claimed responsibility for the Orlando attack.

Thirty-nine of the dead were killed at the club, and 11 people died at hospitals, Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said. By Monday morning, families of 24 of the victims had been notified, Dyer said.

Workers removed the bodies four at a time on stretchers out of the club and loaded them into white vans. The action was repeated over and over. The covered bodies were taken to the County Medical Examiner’s office. All were there by 11 p.m., Dyer said.

On Monday morning, officials emphasized that there was no immediate threat to the public and said they didn’t know whether anyone would be charged as part of the investigation.

Jon Alamo had been dancing at the Pulse for hours when he wandered into the club’s main room just in time to see the gunman. “You ever seen how Marine guys hold big weapons, shooting from left to right? That’s how he was shooting at people,” he said.

“My first thought was, oh my God, I’m going to die,” Alamo said. “I was praying to God that I would live to see another day.”

Pulse patron Eddie Justice texted his mother, Mina: “Mommy I love you. In club they shooting.” About 30 minutes later, hiding in a bathroom, he texted her: “He’s coming. I’m gonna die.”

Justice’s would eventually be added to the city’s list of those killed in the shooting.

At least 53 people were hospitalized, most in critical condition, and a surgeon at Orlando Regional Medical Center said the death toll was likely to climb.

The previous deadliest mass shooting in the U.S. was the 2007 attack at Virginia Tech, where a student killed 32 people before killing himself.

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Mateen's family was from Afghanistan, and he was born in New York. His family later moved to Florida, authorities said.

A law enforcement official said the gunman made a 911 call from the club in which he professed allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The official was familiar with the investigation, but was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The extremist group did not officially claim responsibility for the attack, but the IS-run Amaq news agency cited an unnamed source as saying the attack was carried out by an Islamic State fighter.

Even if the attacker supported IS, it was unclear whether the group planned or knew of the attack beforehand.

Mateen was not unknown to law enforcement: In 2013, he made inflammatory comments to co-workers and was interviewed twice, according to FBI agent Ronald Hopper, who called the interviews inconclusive. In 2014, Hopper said, officials found that Mateen had ties to an American suicide bomber, but the agent described the contact as minimal, saying it did not constitute a threat at the time.

Asked if the gunman had a connection to radical Islamic terrorism, Hopper said authorities had "suggestions that individual has leanings towards that."

Mateen purchased at least two firearms legally within the last week or so, according to Trevor Velinor of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

In a separate incident, an Indiana man armed with three assault rifles and chemicals used to make explosives was arrested Sunday in Southern California and told police he was headed to a West Hollywood gay pride parade.

The Orlando shooting started about 2 a.m., with more than 300 people inside the Pulse.

"He had an automatic rifle, so nobody stood a chance," said Jackie Smith, who saw two friends next to her get shot. "I just tried to get out of there."

At 2:09 a.m., Pulse posted on its Facebook page: "Everyone get out of Pulse and keep running."

Mateen exchanged gunfire with 14 police officers at the club, and took hostages at one point. In addition to the assault rifle, the shooter also had a handgun and some sort of "suspicious device," Police Chief John Mina. About 5 a.m., authorities sent in a SWAT team to rescue the remaining club-goers, Mina said.

At first, officers mistakenly thought the gunman had strapped explosives to the dead after a bomb robot sent back images of a battery part next to a body, Mayor Dyer said. The robot was sent in after SWAT team members put explosive charges on a wall and an armored vehicle knocked it down in an effort to rescue hostages.

Just before 6 a.m., the Pulse posted an update on its Facebook: "As soon as we have any information, we will update everyone. Please keep everyone in your prayers as we work through this tragic event. Thank you for your thoughts and love."

Authorities were looking into whether the shooter acted alone, according to Danny Banks, an agent with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

"This is an incident, as I see it, that we certainly classify as domestic terror incident," Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings said.

Mateen's father, Mir Seddique, told NBC News about his son seeing the men kissing a couple of months ago.

"We are saying we are apologizing for the whole incident," Seddique said. "We are in shock like the whole country."

Mateen was a security guard with a company called G4S. In a 2012 newsletter, the firm identified him as working in West Palm Beach. In a statement sent Sunday to the Palm Beach Post, the company

confirmed that he had been an employee since September 2007. State records show that Mateen had held a firearms license since at least 2011.

President Barack Obama called the shooting an "act of terror" and an "act of hate" targeting a place of "solidarity and empowerment" for gays and lesbians. He urged Americans to decide whether this is the kind of "country we want to be."

Former PM Brown urges Labour supporters to vote 'in' on EU

JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown made an impassioned call Monday for Labour Party supporters to vote to stay in the European Union, amid nervousness in the "remain" camp that it is losing momentum ahead of next week's referendum.

Brown, who governed from 2007 to 2010, says Britain should "lead in Europe" and not leave it. His speech on the EU, due later Monday, is considered significant because Brown's last-minute intervention during the 2014 Scottish independence referendum is credited with bolstering support for remaining part of the United Kingdom.

Polls suggest the June 23 vote on whether to leave the 28-nation bloc could go either way. Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has long criticized the EU, and some Labour members feel Corbyn has not made a strong case for staying in the bloc. That has made Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron by far the most vocal proponent of a "remain" vote — and left many Labour voters confused about where their party stands.

With just 10 days to go until the vote, senior Labour figures are stepping up their campaigning.

Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, Hilary Benn, said in a speech Monday that Britain has "always looked beyond our own shores and engaged with the wider world," and argued that leaving the EU "would make us a poorer Britain. A lesser Britain. A less influential Britain."

But Gisela Stuart — one of the few Labour legislators backing a "leave" vote — said the EU "only heads in one direction, seizing more power and money from member states at every opportunity." She said leaving would let Britain "take back control of our borders, economy and democracy."

Telecoms giant BT became the latest company to take sides Monday, sending a letter to 80,000 staff urging a "remain" vote. The letter said "the majority of businesses — large, medium and small — believe we are better off staying in."

"Virtually all major independent experts believe leaving the EU would result in an economic downturn, one from which it may take several years to recover," said the letter, signed by chairman Mike Rake, chief executive Gavin Patterson and leaders of two major unions at BT.

Many large private-sector employers have said they want Britain to stay in the EU, citing access to the bloc's single market of 500 million people. Small firms are more divided, with some saying they would like to be free from EU regulation.

Top Tony moments: Miranda's tearful sonnet, Corden's antics

JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As presenter Barbra Streisand noted, "tonight our joy is tinged with sorrow" — and she wasn't the only one making reference to the horrific Orlando shootings during the Tony Awards ceremony. But the night was also a celebration of the power of theater to bring joy. And there much joy for the cast and creators of the wildly popular "Hamilton," which won a whopping 11 Tonys.

A look at some of the night's top moments, both onstage and off:

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A SEARING SONNET

"Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, the eloquent hero of this Broadway season, is known for giving acceptance speeches in freestyling rap. But on this night, he told the crowd, he opted to write a sonnet instead. His own tears over the Orlando tragedy were infectious, as he spoke of "when senseless acts of tragedy remind us that nothing is promised, not one day." But, he added: "Hope and love last longer, and love is love is love is love."

THE LOOK OF DIVERSITY

For all the talk about diversity and inclusiveness this season (absent at the Oscars, present at the Tonys), nothing could beat one powerful image: All four of the musical acting winners were black actors. "Think of tonight as the Oscars, but with diversity," host James Corden had said at the beginning of the show. "It's so diverse that Donald Trump has threatened to build a wall around this theater."

CORDEN'S BROADWAY CRED

Speaking of Corden, after his own somber opening referring to Orlando — a piece he pre-recorded to be sure to get it right — the late-night TV host delighted the crowd with an ode to what seemed like dozens of past Broadway shows, from "Les Miserables" to "Phantom of the Opera" to "Sweeney Todd" to "Grease." And there's no easier way to win over a theater-loving audience than to sing a few bars from "Rose's Turn" in "Gypsy."

WHAT YOU DIDN'T SEE

During commercial breaks, Corden worked the crowd a bit, and this included enlisting prominent audience members for impromptu singalongs. He got Jeff Daniels to sing from "The Sound of Music," and he got Jake Gyllenhaal and Sean Hayes to sing from "Aladdin." When he saw that Gyllenhaal was chewing gum, he simply took it and put it in his own mouth.

OUTSIDE ANTICS

Speaking of singalongs, Corden adopted the "Hamilton" practice of performing for a streetside crowd, actual putting on brief shows outside the Beacon Theater. This made for some odd combinations, like Miranda and Andrew Lloyd Webber joining Steve Martin and Edie Brickell in singing "Tomorrow" from "Annie" — or the cast of "Fiddler on the Roof" singing "There's No Business Like Show Business" from "Annie Get Your Gun."

A BLAST FROM THE PAST FOR GROBAN

Speaking of "Fiddler," Corden had a surprise for presenter Josh Groban: He unearthed, and played, a clip of the singer performing Tevye as a high school student. Groban seemed to have a good sense of humor about it.

GIVING THANKS

Many people thank their parents or their kids in their speeches, but Renee Elise Goldsberry, who plays Angelica Schuyler in "Hamilton," had an especially poignant moment speaking about her years-long struggle to become a mother. "If you know anything about me you know I've spent the last 10 years just trying to have children," she said. "God gave me Benjamin, he gave me Brielle — and he still gave me this," she said, gesturing to her Tony.

YOU NEVER KNOW

Ivo Van Hove, who won for best direction of a play ("Arthur Miller's A View From the Bridge,") told the story of how when he first came to New York at age 20, he met a woman on a park bench, and told her he was an aspiring theater director. She asked for his autograph — because, she said, "you never know." So, the director surmised in his Tony speech: "She's watching now and thinking, 'See? I was right.'"

PARTYING LIKE THERE'S NO (PERFORMANCE) TOMORROW

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If you were the “Hamilton” cast, wouldn’t YOU be partying? The “Hamilton” bunch had a day off on Monday, and it’s a good thing: their after-party Sunday night was way cooler than the official post-Tony gala. The show took over the Tavern on the Green restaurant in Central Park, and danced to a DJ until the early hours. Rapper Common, who introduced “Hamilton” at the ceremony, was among the guests. Besides eating, drinking and dancing, one could pose against a green screen and be inserted into a famous “Hamilton” photograph.

BARBRA DRESSES JUST RIGHT

Introducing Streisand, Corden warned that medical personnel were standing by, just in case her return was too exciting for some. She was appearing on the Tony stage for the first time since 1970 to present the award for Best Musical — to “Hamilton,” of course. “You’re making me verklemt!” she called out when the crowd gave her an ovation. Dressed in a ruffled, high-collared white blouse and black vest, she quipped when she opened the envelope: “Thank God I picked the right outfit.”

A LITTLE SELF-ESTEEM CAN’T HURT

Sheldon Harnick, the 92-year-old lyricist, wasn’t above a little healthy self-promotion when he received his Lifetime Achievement Award.

Responding to the accolades that had just been showered upon him, he replied: “Thank you. If I didn’t deserve it, this would be embarrassing.”

Analysis: Trump and Clinton contrasts in Orlando response

JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

An AP News Analysis

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Donald Trump, Sunday’s mass shooting in Florida was a moment to re-double his call for tougher action against terrorism and to take credit for “being right” about the threat. For Hillary Clinton, it was a time to choose words carefully and reiterate her call for keeping “weapons of war” off America’s streets.

The responses of Trump and Clinton to the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history were a study in contrasts for the two presumptive presidential nominees — one of whom will soon be leading a country fearful of terrorism, gun violence and the often merciless intersection of the two.

The motive behind Sunday’s early morning rampage at a gay nightclub in Orlando was unknown when Trump and Clinton began weighing in. By day’s end, authorities still had far to go in uncovering what led Omar Mateen, a 29-year-old American citizen from Florida, to open fire, kill 50 people and critically wound dozens more.

As information began trickling out, Trump took to Twitter to say he was “praying” for the victims and their families. “When will we get tough, smart & vigilant?” he wrote.

Within a few hours, the presumptive Republican nominee was back on social media saying that he’d appreciated “the congrats for being right on radical Islamic terrorism.” After President Barack Obama did not use that same phrase to describe Mateen in his remarks from the White House, Trump released a statement saying the president “should step down” — a provocative response that far exceeds the typical Republican criticism of Obama’s approach to extremism.

Trump is hardly the first politician to try to capitalize on a tragedy, though he’s more blatant than most in connecting his electoral prospects to incidents of unimaginable suffering. Shortly after last year’s deadly attacks in Paris, Trump said, “Whenever there’s a tragedy, everything goes up, my numbers go way up because we have no strength in this country. We have weak, sad politicians.”

After a deadly December shooting rampage in San Bernardino, California, Trump stunned many in his

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own party by calling for a temporary ban on Muslims coming to the U.S. Rather than sink his political prospects, it helped propel the businessman to his first victories in the GOP primary.

For Trump's detractors, his comments can appear jarring and crass. But he's also tapped into a deep frustration among some voters who believe Obama has been handcuffed in his response to terror threats because he's worried about offending Muslims in the U.S. and around the world.

"We can't afford to be politically correct anymore," Trump declared Sunday. He canceled a rally scheduled for Monday, but planned to go forward with a speech in New Hampshire, changing the topic from his case against Clinton to national security.

Clinton, who is more schooled in the political customs of responding to tragedies from her years as a senator and secretary of state, was careful in her initial comments. The presumptive Democratic nominee also made her first remarks on Twitter early Sunday, writing: "As we wait for more information, my thoughts are with those affected by this horrific act."

Like Obama, Clinton prefers to avoid early missteps even if that leaves her looking overly cautious. On Sunday, she waited for the president to declare the shooting an "act of terror" before doing the same.

Clinton and Obama postponed plans to campaign together Wednesday in Wisconsin, a decision driven both by political appearances and an expectation the president would need to spend his week overseeing the government's response to the shooting. Still, Clinton planned to continue with solo campaign stops Monday in Ohio and Tuesday in Pennsylvania.

Clinton didn't avoid the prospect of a link to international terrorism in her statement, though she was vague in her language. She has made stricter gun control legislation a centerpiece of her presidential campaign and was more direct in raising the shooting as an example of the nation's failure to keep guns "out of the hands of terrorists or other violent criminals." Federal authorities said later Sunday that Mateen purchased at least two firearms legally within the last week or so.

Whether the tragedy in Orlando ultimately sways the trajectory of the general election campaign is unknown. If current trends hold, there will be more deadly mass shootings in the U.S. before voters head to the polls in November.

Other unforeseen events will likely also shape the race over the next five months, as the 2008 economic collapse did in the closing weeks of that year's presidential campaign.

But as voters begin seriously weighing Clinton and Trump as their next commander in chief, Sunday's shooting left little doubt that the choice between the two candidates is stark.

APNewsbreak: Desert race through Nevada monument under fire

SCOTT SONNER, Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — Conservationists are asking the White House Council on Environmental Quality to put the brakes on plans to allow a popular off-road, desert race from near Las Vegas to Reno to run through a newly established national monument in southern Nevada.

The critics say the U.S. Bureau of Land Management jumped the gun by at least tacitly approving a "massive off-road race course running directly through" the Basin and Range National Monument about 150 miles northeast of Las Vegas.

"BLM is playing fast and loose with its legal obligations in order to let hundreds of vehicles roar through the fragile desert before the monument's protections can be solidified, said Jeff Ruch, executive director of the Washington-based Public Employees for Environmental Ethics.

The move violates the National Environmental Policy Act and threatens to circumvent President

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Obama's designation of the 1,100-square monument last June, he said in a letter Friday to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who oversees BLM, and Christy Goldfuss, managing director of the White House CEQ.

Ruch also accused the BLM of "engaging in bad faith, if not downright deceptive, public outreach" by failing to provide proper notice and environmental review of the plans for the 20th running of the two-day race scheduled Aug. 19-20.

BLM spokesman Rudy Evenson confirmed on Friday that BLM currently is conducting an environmental assessment of an application for a special recreation permit to run the race on BLM land, including a stretch through the monument. But he said they had not formally received the complaint from PEER and had no immediate response to the criticism. He expects agency officials to respond on Monday.

The race sponsor, the Best in the Desert Racing Association based in Boulder City, bills the event as the longest off-highway vehicle race in the United States. About 300 motorcycles, trucks, dune buggies and other all-terrain vehicles are expected to compete this year.

The route stretches 640 miles, starting in Alamo about 100 miles north of Las Vegas, with an overnight stop in Tonopah before finishing near Dayton, about 40 miles southeast of Reno.

No association officials were immediately available to comment, spokesman Russ Turner said in an email to The Associated Press on Friday.

Obama said in designating the monument it covers one of the "most undisturbed corners" and the "largest ecologically intact landscapes" in the Great Basin region stretching to Oregon, Idaho and into Utah.

Ruch said an environmental impact statement — more detailed and extensive than an environmental assessment — should be required given the "cumulative impact of individual race vehicles ... and the potential loss or destruction of important natural resources."

BLM said in a news release on Aug. 4, 2015 that coordination between the agency and Best in the Desert Racing "is already in progress to ensure permitting is completed and the public is involved."

On June 2, the agency posted notice in the Federal Register and announced in a statement that it had begun scoping work to develop a draft management plan for the overall monument. But Ruch said it included "no information or notice regarding the upcoming race, which will have substantial impact on the monument's preservation of undisturbed land."

"Now, a mere two months before the 2016 race is set to begin and with more than 200 racers already registered, no public notice has been provided and no public comment has been sought in regard to the race," Ruch said.

Jakarta's traffic trials give rise to a tech success
STEPHEN WRIGHT, Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The Indonesian capital's reputation as one of the most congested cities is typically not an advantage with investors. But one company has become the country's most visible technology success with an app that relieves some of the pain of its maddening traffic.

The ride-hailing apps that are now part of daily life from New York to New Delhi and London are usually used to summon cars. Jakarta, the world's sixth-largest urban sprawl and by some measures the most car-clogged, needed something different.

In hindsight, the Go-Jek mobile app for hailing rides on motorcycles, to dodge and weave through traffic, was a no-brainer. But its sudden success over the past two years took even its founder by surprise. The app's name is a play on "ojek," the Indonesian word for freelance motorcycle taxis, now a

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rare sight in Jakarta after many drivers joined Go-Jek's green-jacketed, GPS-coordinated ranks.

"We really had no idea it would be adopted so widely and so quickly," said Nadiem Makarim, who admits the company and its app struggled to keep pace when tens of thousands began downloading it.

Makarim believes Jakarta's carnageddon had arrived at a "pain point" of huge unmet demand for a solution.

"Smartphone penetration was at an all-time high in Jakarta, traffic was at an all-time high," he said. "Getting yourself or your things from A to B in the quickest way possible could only be achieved by motorcycles."

As by far the biggest economy in Southeast Asia, making up a third of the region's gross domestic product, Indonesia has also attracted Uber and Go-Jek's fiercest competitor, Malaysia's Grab, which is headed by Makarim's Harvard classmate Anthony Tan.

Analysts say both Uber and Grab have greater scale and resources than Go-Jek, crucial for sustaining losses in the transport app industry's early stages and for sustaining investments in the behind-the-scenes technology that makes the apps easy for people to use.

Go-Jek has built on its strategy of providing rides to introduce a slew of additional Go- services to the app, including delivering food, groceries, cleaners, massage therapists and beauticians to homes.

The Go-Send document pickup and delivery service and Go-Food are the company's two biggest businesses after rides, Makarim said. Go-Food, he said, has become the biggest food delivery business in Southeast Asia by number of transactions.

"Go-Jek's vision is to escape competition by creating an on-demand platform for anything our consumer wants," he said. "We're not stuck on our identity based on what we think it should be. We let the market decide what they want us to be."

Florian Hoppe, a partner at consulting company Bain who specializes in technology, said Go-Jek's approach is "fairly unique" but fits the situation in Jakarta and other Indonesian cities where service businesses are hobbled by transportation problems.

"It's hard to predict where this will be going," he said. "In the long-term, specialized services will likely have an edge but Indonesia has enough uniqueness, market protection and scale, that (Go-Jek) could be very successful in the long-term too."

Makarim dreamed up Go-Jek for an independent study project while at Harvard Business School and started it as a sideline business when he returned to Indonesia in the summer. For its first three years, it operated like a call center. It became a mobile app after Makarim turned his attention to it full-time from mid-2014.

Like elsewhere, ride hailing apps are drawing an angry backlash from taxi drivers as their incomes drop. In March, a protest by thousands of taxi drivers that paralyzed the capital turned violent, with cabbies brawling in the streets with green-jacketed drivers from Go-Jek and Grab.

Go-Jek says it has more than 200,000 drivers around Indonesia but the pain for taxis seems most acute in Jakarta, where all the ride hailing services are battling fiercely for customers, pushing fares to rock bottom.

Since a Go-Jek trip within the city costs only about 12,000 rupiah (90 cents) outside of peak hours, the company is burning through its investment cash because in Jakarta the fares are lower than what it pays drivers.

Yet the apps have proven so useful to people in a city where officials estimate congestion causes losses of \$3 billion a year that attempts to ban them on the basis of claims of unfair competition have failed.

When the transport minister issued a directive last December banning app-based ojek, the public outcry was such that President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo quickly overruled the decision.

The nationalistic appeal of a home-grown tech success is also a potent advantage for the company. "We want to make Indonesia proud that this is a uniquely Indonesian company that was started here," Makarim said. "We have a huge competitive advantage as the first mover and from a sense of growing nationalism and pride that we are the tech brand of Indonesia right now."

Coming later today: Apple's next big software improvements

BRANDON BAILEY, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — With sales of Apple's flagship iPhone slowing, the spotlight is on the company's hunt for its next big thing. Apple's annual software developers conference, which kicks off Monday, will be its next big opportunity to show the world what's coming next.

Artificial intelligence, and Apple's wisecracking digital assistant Siri, could play a big role.

Of course, Apple is expected to unveil a number of other advances — software improvements for its iPhones, iPads and Mac computers and a possible overhaul of its music service chief among them. After Apple's dust-up with the FBI earlier this year over iPhone security, it might also announce new security measures to protect users' data.

But AI is emerging as a major new tech battleground, one where Apple may have some ground to make up. Siri made a big splash when it debuted five years ago. But as other tech giants jockey to build intelligent "chat bots" and voice-controlled home systems capable of more challenging artificial-intelligence feats, Siri at times no longer seems cutting edge.

MAKING SIRI SMARTER

On Monday, Apple is expected to demonstrate an upgrade to Siri's smarts. The main question is whether it will be enough to keep up with rivals like Amazon, Google, Facebook and others who are racing to create digital services that consumers will find indispensable for shopping, chatting, controlling other appliances and simply getting through their daily lives.

"Google Now has kind of eaten their lunch," said Chris Monberg, co-founder of Boomtrain, a startup that makes artificial intelligence software used by online retailers. Monberg argues that Google's proactive digital assistant provides more useful reminders, recommendations and tips on local weather or traffic, largely because it reads his email and other data from his Android phone and crunches it with sophisticated algorithms on Google's powerful servers.

Amazon's Echo home speaker likewise has its fans; it recognizes informal voice commands and can order flowers, pizza or a ride to the airport. Facebook, Google and Microsoft are also working to incorporate intelligent "bots" into the voice- and text-messaging services that people use to chat with their friends.

In some respects, Siri remains plenty competitive, at least so long as you stick with Apple's other services. If an iPhone owner uses Google's Gmail, for instance, Apple's software may not scan those emails for useful information. But Jan Dawson, a tech analyst at Jackdaw Research, notes that Siri can volunteer helpful reminders from the Apple calendar, offer suggestions based on a user's location, or search for images stored in Apple's photo app.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Apple, however, has been largely unwilling to pry too deeply into your personal information. And some experts say that puts it at a disadvantage compared to Google, which has compiled vast quantities of data — about both individual users and consumer trends — from its search engine, Gmail, maps and other well-liked online services. (Many of those Google services remain popular on the iPhone, despite Apple's best efforts to replace them.)

With AI, "systems get much better the more they know about the user," said Alan Black, an expert in

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voice-enabled technology at Carnegie Mellon University.

Apple collects plenty of data from its users, but hasn't "focused on connecting all the dots," said Raj Singh, co-founder of Tempo AI, an artificial intelligence startup acquired by Salesforce.com last year.

Google, of course, makes money from advertising that's keyed to individual interests. Apple, which makes most of its money from iPhones, says its software respects customer privacy by working with an individual's data on the iPhone or iPad, while anonymizing information that's uploaded to its servers.

"We don't mine your email, your photos, or your contacts in the cloud to learn things about you," Apple VP Craig Federighi said at the company's Worldwide Developers Conference last year. "We honestly just don't want to know."

"SIRI, RESERVE MY TABLE"

Apple declined comment on plans for Siri. Last fall, however, Apple acquired a startup that makes AI software specifically for mobile devices, and another that helps computers carry on extensive voice conversations. And tech news sites have reported Apple may loosen its restrictions on Siri's ability to work directly with other companies' software. That could enable Siri to book a restaurant reservation on command, or order a ride from a car service, rather than show a link to an app like Open Table or Uber and requiring the user to do the rest.

Experts say the quality of Apple's software and online services is increasingly critical to maintaining its popularity with consumers.

Services like Siri, Apple Music and Apple Pay add significant value to the iPhone and other Apple devices, Dawson said. "They're important to keeping the Apple ecosystem attractive."

Road to 270: Electoral map already looks tough for Trump

THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

JULIE PACE, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The presidential primaries are just about over and the nominees have emerged. And the general election begins with Democrat Hillary Clinton already ahead of Republican Donald Trump on the Road to 270.

Trump, who shook the last of his rivals weeks before Clinton locked up her nomination, has made the GOP's uphill path to the White House more treacherous by failing to seize on that head start in the race for the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency.

In the dozen or so states most likely to determine the race, Trump has made little progress building a campaign operation to match Clinton's sophisticated get-out-the-vote machine. At the same time, he's created new problems in Florida, Colorado and Nevada with comments that some Republican leaders decry as racist.

There is a path for the billionaire real estate mogul and reality TV star to find his way to 270. But it's narrow, given the map's opening tilt toward the Democratic Party, and hinges on Trump's ability to continue to defy political norms.

Trump will need to turn out white voters in the Upper Midwest in numbers that far exceed those in past presidential elections. Even if that happens, he's still likely to need to convince women in swing-voting suburbs that he has the temperament to be commander in chief.

And he must stop his party from losing more ground among minorities, particularly Hispanics. That will be a particularly tough task against Clinton, who powered past Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders on the Democratic side due in part to her overwhelming popularity among black voters, as well as Latinos — a fast-growing voting group that is turning Southern and Western states into presidential battlegrounds.

Trump insists the rules that govern past elections don't apply to his untraditional candidacy, and he

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offers his victory against 16 candidates in the GOP primaries as proof. He says he will put reliably Democratic states such as New York and California in play.

But before Trump tries to expand the electoral map, he must make sure he can protect the safely Republican states the 2012 GOP nominee Mitt Romney won.

"Trump can't even take the Romney map for granted," said Pennsylvania GOP strategist Ray Zaborney.

Where does Trump begin his journey? A look at four questions he'll need to answer successfully to beat Clinton. The primary season ends Tuesday with the Democratic contest in the District of Columbia:

CAN TRUMP TURN OUT MORE WHITE VOTERS?

For Trump to have a shot, he'll need to replicate his overwhelming success in the GOP primaries at winning over white voters, but also count on doing even better on Nov. 8.

It's a risky strategy because white, noncollege educated voters have shrunk as a portion of the overall electorate in recent years. Also, it's at odds with many Republican leaders, who believe the party's White House prospects hinge on appealing to the growing number of black and Hispanic voters.

Yet Trump's campaign is confident he can turn out whites who have not voted in past elections in states such as Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania.

Winning all three would reverse decades of Democratic dominance there. If Trump could win Ohio as well, he would offset potential Clinton victories in Florida, Nevada and Colorado.

"Mr. Trump has the opportunity to bring people out," campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said.

Some Democrats think that's a real concern for their nominee.

"If the election were held today, there'd be a significant number of blue collar, whites — males particularly, but some females — who are registered Democratic and would vote for Trump," said former Gov. Ed Rendell, D-Pa.

Mike Baker, GOP chairman in Pennsylvania's rural Armstrong County, said hundreds of Democrats in his area voted in the Republican primary because of job losses in the region's coal mines.

"It's all about jobs and coal," Baker said. "Trump talks about unfair trade, and that appeals to people here."

But to win Pennsylvania, Trump also probably would need to capture more of the white vote in moderate areas, including the Philadelphia suburbs. Romney narrowly lost to President Barack Obama in the combined four-county area outside of Philadelphia and lost Pennsylvania by five percentage points.

"If someone tapped me to figure out a way for Donald Trump to win Pennsylvania, I would have him camp out in the Philly suburbs," Zaborney said.

CAN TRUMP CLOSE GAP WITH SUBURBAN WOMEN?

Trump is trailing badly among female voters, putting him at a disadvantage in numerous states.

A recent Associated Press-GfK poll found that 70 percent of women nationally have unfavorable opinions of Trump. He trailed Clinton by double digits in support from women in a range of polls this spring, including surveys conducted for Democratic, Republican and nonpartisan groups.

Clinton's campaign and her allies are eager to exploit Trump's weaknesses with women in the suburbs of contested states: Charlotte, Raleigh-Durham and Greensboro in North Carolina; northern Virginia; the Denver area; and the counties around several Ohio cities.

A super political action committee backing Clinton featured some of Trump's most caustic comments about women in early television advertisements weeks before she wrapped up the Democratic nomination.

"That is just a bloc of voters that is going to be very hard for him to move," North Carolina Democratic strategist Scott Falmlen said.

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In his own way, Trump has acknowledged his deficit with women. "My poll numbers with the men are through the roof. But I like women more than men," Trump said last month. "Come on, women, let's go."

Trump's campaign also notes that Clinton faces her own gender gap.

"She has a massive deficit with men, worse than his with women," Lewandowski said.

Some North Carolina polls — like national polls taken this spring — show Clinton trailing among men as badly, and in some cases worse, than Trump does with women.

Adam Geller, a Republican pollster in North Carolina, said Trump could balance out his struggles with women by cutting into Clinton's standing with men in her own party.

"He doesn't have to win them, he just has to keep her margins down," Geller said.

If Trump can shrink Clinton's lead among women and exploit his advantage with men, he perhaps could carry some combination of Colorado, Florida, North Carolina and Virginia.

It's a daunting challenge. All are states Clinton will expect to win.

CAN TRUMP BOOST HIS STANDING WITH MINORITIES?

When Romney lost to Obama in 2012, GOP leaders quickly identified a glaring problem: Romney's stunningly poor performance with black and Hispanic voters. Across the country, he won only 17 percent of the nonwhite vote.

Some Republicans fear Trump will do even worse.

That would put victory all but out of reach in states such as Florida, Nevada and Colorado, where Hispanics are a fast-growing segment of the electorate. In Florida, for example, Hispanics made up 17 percent of the electorate in the 2012 presidential race, and 60 percent sided with Obama.

"Romney was downright polite compared to where Trump is," said Sylvia Manzano, a principal at Latino Decisions, which studies the Hispanic electorate. "We only have to look at prior Hispanic voting behavior to see that that kind of antagonistic talk doesn't win voters."

Indeed, Romney won the support of just 27 percent of Hispanics nationally in a campaign where he backed the idea of "self-deportation." Trump has gone much further, declaring that some Mexican immigrants are rapists and criminals, calling for a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and pledging to throw out all people living in the U.S. illegally before allowing "the good ones" back in.

More recently, Trump angered his own party's leaders by raising a federal judge's Mexican heritage as a reason he might be biased in a legal case. The comments were widely condemned as racist, and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., publicly worried that Trump could push Hispanics from the GOP as Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater, the Republican nominee in 1964, did blacks in that election.

African-Americans have never come back to the GOP, and there's little expectation Trump will change that dynamic. The big question is whether black voters will show up for Clinton in the same record-breaking way they did for Obama, who carried 93 percent in 2012.

CAN TRUMP PUT NEW STATES IN PLAY?

Both Trump and Clinton are seeking a holy grail of presidential politics: winning states that long have voted for the opposing party.

For Trump, that means New York and California, two of the three biggest electoral prizes. Republicans haven't won either since the 1980s, and the contests since haven't been close.

Trump appears undeterred and insists he'll compete aggressively for both. "I'm going to put in a heavy play in California, I'm going to make a play for New York also," he said last month.

Some Trump advisers say their strategy is less about actually winning those states and more about

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forcing Clinton to spend money and resources defending territory that should be a sure thing.

While that's not an unusual move, Trump has not outlined a clear strategy for flipping California or New York. Nor does his campaign appear poised to devote the resources needed to be competitive in such big, expensive states.

But Trump isn't alone. Clinton recently suggested she could pull off an upset in Texas, a bastion of conservative politics and the second biggest stash of electoral votes.

"If black and Latino voters come out and vote, we could win Texas," Clinton said in the interview with New York Magazine.

While Texas is becoming more diverse and potentially friendlier to Democrats, even the most optimistic party operatives generally believe the state is years away from becoming competitive in presidential elections.

Wendy Davis, a promising Democratic gubernatorial candidate in 2014, was crushed by her Republican opponent by 20 percentage points.

If Clinton were to flip any traditionally Republican states, Arizona and Georgia appear more likely. Obama's campaign eyed Arizona, with its rapidly growing Hispanic population, in 2012 but ultimately decided against pouring resources into the state. In Georgia, Democrats also made an aggressive bid to win Senate and gubernatorial races in 2014 but were thwarted.

Yet Chip Lake, a Republican strategist in Georgia, takes a dim view of Trump's bravado, arguing he should concentrate on shoring up Republicans and conservative independents.

"The Electoral College already doesn't work in Republicans' favor," Lake said. "And he's just heightened the issue. Mitt Romney won independents by 5 points and still lost. Do we really think Donald Trump is going to do better?"

Penguins cap turnaround season with 4th Stanley Cup

JOSH DUBOW, AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Back in December, the Pittsburgh Penguins looked like a lost team bound to miss the playoffs.

Sidney Crosby and the offense couldn't score, the offseason acquisitions such as Phil Kessel and Nick Bonino had yet to click and coach Mike Johnston was fired.

Six months to the day after coach Mike Sullivan took over, the Penguins are champions again.

Led by Crosby's dominant play on both ends of the ice, speed that opponents struggled to match and a rookie goaltender who showed an uncanny ability to bounce back from rare shaky performances, the Penguins won their second title of the Crosby era — seven years to the day after last holding the Cup.

"I have a greater appreciation this time around," Crosby said. "At a young age, going back-to-back like we did, you just think it's going to be an annual thing. With the core we have, you think everyone's going to stay together, the team's not going to change. But it does. That's kind of the reality of playing hockey."

The turnover this season was a major reason for the turnaround in fortunes after six straight years of playoff disappointments.

General manager Jim Rutherford acquired the entire "HBK line" of Carl Hagelin, Nick Bonino and Phil Kessel over the past 12 months, Matt Murray stepped in as goalie when starter Marc-Andre Fleury got hurt and rookies such as Conor Sheary and Bryan Rust delivered clutch playoff performances.

Throw in mainstays such as Evgeni Malkin and Kris Letang and the Penguins had the right ingredients to win it all.

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But it all starts with Crosby, who set up Letang's game-winner midway through the second period and Patric Hornqvist's empty-netter that sealed the 3-1 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Sunday night that gave Pittsburgh its fourth title.

Despite not scoring a goal in the final, Crosby controlled the play with his committed defense, strong performance in the faceoff circle and playmaking ability that earned him the Conn Smythe trophy as playoff MVP.

"It places him up there with the greats of the game of all-time," Sullivan said. "He's that good in my mind. I've said all along here through the course of the playoffs, he's deserving of the Conn Smythe. His numbers don't indicate the impact he had on helping this team win, or the impact he had on a game-to-game basis. He was a great leader for our team."

Three nights after squandering a chance to become the first Pittsburgh team to win a title in front of the home fans in 56 years, the Penguins finished the job on the road just like they did in Minnesota (1991), Chicago (1992) and Detroit (2009) in past title runs.

The championship in Detroit was supposed to be the first of many for a team led by players like Crosby and Malkin. But a series of concussions cost Crosby almost an entire season and a half, and there were those playoff disappointments that included twice blowing 3-1 series leads. There was no second celebration in the Crosby era — until now.

"It's so hard to win it year after year," said Lemieux, who won back-to-back titles and Conn Smythe trophies as a player for Pittsburgh. "For them to be able to come through this year and win their second Cup is big. Hopefully there's a few more for them."

This didn't seem as though it would be a season to remember back in early December. But the Penguins found their stride under Sullivan and took off in March.

"Everyone takes that personal, puts the responsibility on their shoulders to be better," Crosby said. "I think individually and as a group we had high expectations, we knew we needed to be better. I thought we just slowly got better and better."

Pittsburgh knocked off the New York Rangers in the first round, Presidents' Trophy-winning Washington in round two and then rallied from a 3-2 series deficit to beat Tampa Bay in the Eastern Conference final.

The Penguins were in control for almost the entire final. They did not trail until Game 5 at home and responded to a strong push from San Jose in the clincher to avoid a decisive seventh game. Pittsburgh held San Jose to just one shot on goal in the first 19 minutes of the third period to preserve the one-goal lead. The Penguins sealed it when Crosby blocked a shot from Marc-Edouard Vlasic that set up Hornqvist's empty-netter.

"In the playoffs, suddenly we thought we could beat any team," Malkin said. "We tried to play the same game we played in 2009."

Logan Couture scored the lone goal for the Sharks, who were making their first trip to the final in their 25-year history. Martin Jones made 24 saves and was San Jose's best player for the series.

"The end is like hitting a wall," coach Peter DeBoer said.

While the season ended in disappointment, it also was a bit of a breakthrough for Joe Thornton, Patrick Marleau and the rest of a franchise that had been known for playoff collapses, most notably in 2014 when the Sharks blew a 3-0 series lead in the first round to Los Angeles.

"We thought we had the team, going through the teams we did in the West," Thornton said. "It's just tough right now."

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Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Monday, June 13, the 165th day of 2016. There are 201 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 13, 1966, the Supreme Court ruled in *Miranda v. Arizona* that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional right to consult with an attorney and to remain silent.

On this date:

In 1525, German theologian Martin Luther married former nun Katharina von Bora.

In 1842, Queen Victoria became the first British monarch to ride on a train, traveling from Slough Railway Station to Paddington in 25 minutes.

In 1865, Nobel Prize-winning poet-playwright William Butler Yeats was born in Dublin, Ireland.

In 1886, King Ludwig II of Bavaria drowned in Lake Starnberg.

In 1927, aviation hero Charles Lindbergh was honored with a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

In 1935, James Braddock claimed the title of world heavyweight boxing champion from Max Baer in a 15-round fight in Queens, New York. "Becky Sharp," the first movie photographed in "three-strip" Technicolor, opened in New York.

In 1942, the first of two four-man Nazi sabotage teams arrived in the United States during World War II. (The eight were arrested after one of them went to U.S. authorities; six of the saboteurs were executed.)

In 1957, the *Mayflower II*, a replica of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America in 1620, arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, after a nearly two-month journey from England.

In 1971, *The New York Times* began publishing excerpts of the Pentagon Papers, a secret study of America's involvement in Vietnam from 1945 to 1967 that had been leaked to the paper by military analyst Daniel Ellsberg.

In 1981, a scare occurred during a parade in London when a teenager fired six blank shots at Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1986, Benny Goodman, the clarinet-playing "King of Swing," died in New York at age 77.

In 1996, the 81-day-old Freemen standoff ended as 16 remaining members of the anti-government group surrendered to the FBI and left their Montana ranch.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush told Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki (NOO'-ree ahl-MAHL'-ih-kee) during a surprise visit to Baghdad that the fate of his war-scarred country was in Iraqi hands; for their part, Iraq's new leaders sought a promise from Bush not to withdraw U.S. troops too quickly. Charles Haughey (HAW'-hee), the former Taoiseach (TEE'-shuk) of Ireland, died outside Dublin at age 80.

Five years ago: Facing off in New Hampshire, Republican White House hopefuls condemned President Barack Obama's handling of the economy from the opening moments of their first major debate of the 2011-2012 campaign season, and pledged emphatically to repeal his historic year-old health care overhaul.

One year ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton formally kicked off her presidential campaign with an outdoor rally in New York where she asked supporters to join her in building an America "where we don't leave anyone out, or anyone behind." To scientists' relief and delight, the Philae spacecraft that landed on a comet the previous fall "woke up" and communicated with Earth after seven long months of silence.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bob McGrath is 84. Artist Christo is 81. Magician Siegfried (Siegfried & Roy) is 77. Singer Bobby Freeman is 76. Actor Malcolm McDowell is 73. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

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is 72. Singer Dennis Locorriere is 67. Actor Richard Thomas is 65. Actor Jonathan Hogan is 65. Actor Stellan Skarsgard is 65. Comedian Tim Allen is 63. Actress Ally Sheedy is 54. TV anchor Hannah Storm is 54. Rock musician Paul deLisle (deh-LYL') (Smash Mouth) is 53. Actress Lisa Vidal is 51. Singer David Gray is 48. Rhythm-and-blues singer Deniece Pearson (Five Star) is 48. Rock musician Soren Rasted (Aqua) is 47. Actor Jamie Walters is 47. Singer-musician Rivers Cuomo (Weezer) is 46. Country singer Susan Haynes is 44. Actor Steve-O is 42. Country singer Jason Michael Carroll is 38. Actor Ethan Embry is 38. Actor Chris Evans is 35. Actress Sarah Schaub is 33. Singer Raz B is 31. Actress Kat Dennings is 30. Actress Ashley Olsen is 30. Actress Mary-Kate Olsen is 30. DJ/producer Gesaffelstein is 29.

Thought for Today: "Fear has its use but cowardice has none." — Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948).