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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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Saturday, June 18

Chamber Triathlon
Birthdays: Nick Strom, Halie Yarborough, Jason Pullan, Ryan Quiggle, Doug Swanson.
10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran pastor at Rosewood Court
4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, June 19

Father's Day
Anniversary: Garrett-Sindi Heitmann.
Birthday: Pat Dahlquist.
9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship with Communion
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 Pierpont Church
11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship
6:00pm: Legion at Sisseton (2)

Monday, June 20

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Robert Snyder, Scott Hanlon, Robert Osterman, Cary Bruckner.

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study
6:00pm: Junior Teeners at Milbank (DH)

Apts for Rent

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Outdoor World[®]

IT'S TIME FOR SOME TRASH TALK

A soda or beer carelessly discarded on a canoe or camping trip might decompose into the soil in the year 2509.

The plastic wrapper from the doughnuts you had for breakfast that blew into the woods at deer camp this year might be obliterated by 2253.

Would you believe if you left a glass bottle on the river bank this year, it will still be around in the year 1,002,010?

Think about these facts the next time you leave loose trash in your boat or in the back of your truck to blow out, littering the beautiful American landscape.

Be aware of where your trash ends up when you're out fishing, camping, hiking or hunting. While you're at it, pick up trash others have left behind.

As the great Sioux Chief Seattle said, "What we do to the earth we do also to ourselves. Take care of the earth."

By Larry Whiteley, Host of the award-winning Outdoor World Radio

For more tips, go to basspro.com and click on ISource News & Tips

GROTON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL MEMORABELIA NEEDED

The Dacotah Prairie Museum in Aberdeen is creating a new exhibit focusing on the history and development of football in Brown County. This exhibit will open in the fall of 2016 to coincide with football season and hopefully highlight teams and players from all Brown County High Schools, past and present.

DPM has no Groton football memorabilia in its artifact collection, so we need your help to have a good representation of Groton in the exhibit! If you have jerseys, uniforms, helmets, footballs, letter jackets, team photos, trophies etc that you would be willing to loan (or perhaps donate) to DPM for use in this exhibit, please contact Sue Gates at 605-626-7117 or e-mail dacotahpraiiemuseum@gmail.com Thank you so much.

GROTON CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

June 20, 2016 - 7pm
Groton Community Center

- 1) Minutes
- 2) Bills
- 3) Mowing into street or alley fines
- 4) Water Tower Reserve Fund- How much & funds from
- 5) CC rents
- 6) Girls Softball Umpires Payments- \$20/plate & \$15/line
- 7) Grant Applications on Well Capping & Playground Equipment
- 8) Dilapidated Houses
- 9) Electric Rate Rules
- 10) FO School Report
- 11) Meetings : a) SDML Budgets b) SDML Elected Officials Training c) Heartland Summer meeting d) DOT 2017 plans
- 12) Exe Session – Legal or Personnel



Field Hearing Important Step to Fixing Indian Health Service

I recently joined Senate Indian Affairs Committee Chairman John Barrasso and the other members of the South Dakota congressional delegation in a field hearing in Rapid City to discuss the inadequate health care being provided to our tribal members. The purpose of the hearing was to shed additional light on the ongoing crisis at Indian Health Service (IHS) facilities within the Great Plains Area, and to work with tribal leaders toward permanent solutions.

Nearly every week, if not every day, our newspaper headlines tell the tale of new problems with IHS facilities. It is important to understand the impact that IHS is having on real people on our tribal land. The Great Plains Area IHS, which covers South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa, has the second highest mortality rate among all IHS regions. We also have the highest diabetes death rate, almost double the average among all IHS regions. Tragically, our life expectancy rate is also the lowest of all IHS regions, at 68.1 years. The U.S. average life expectancy is nearly a decade longer at 77.7 years. It is clear the IHS is failing our tribal members, who are suffering and in some cases even dying due to this inadequate and disgraceful care.

As we all know, Rosebud has essentially had its emergency department shut down for approximately 200 days and counting, meaning tribal members are having to drive over 50 miles to receive emergency care. The same is true for their obstetrics and surgical departments. These circumstances are going to continue to occur until we demand a thorough review and reform of IHS. More specifically, we need an external audit.

I had the opportunity to meet with the Great Plains Tribal Chairman's Association in April. We discussed an in-depth profile analysis on IHS that my office put together in an attempt to seek answers and gain a better understanding. We talked about the administrative imbalance; of the 15,000 employees at IHS, only 750 are doctors and nearly 4,000 are administrative "medical billers." We also found that IHS employees and administrators can't explain or don't understand their own budget.

After reviewing the data with me, the Great Plains Tribal Chairmen voted on a resolution supporting an audit of IHS. The IHS needs major reform but more taxpayer money won't solve the dysfunction, because what IHS lacks is an efficient system and accountability. I appreciate Health and Human Services Acting Deputy Secretary Mary Wakefield's support for an independent audit and look forward to working with her to get the answers necessary to turn the agency around. From my standpoint, investing more taxpayer money in a dysfunctional system will only compound the problem.

This is a serious issue that requires tangible solutions, not temporary fixes. There are significant administrative, financial and quality-of-care issues that must be addressed. The hearing helped us better understand where the problems lie so IHS, working in close collaboration with the tribes, can take steps forward to fix these problems. IHS will never be able to deliver the timely, quality care the federal government has a trust responsibility to deliver, without broad reforms.

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By Richard P. Holm M.D.



Cancer and keeping your house in order
By Richard P. Holm, MD

There is something about that word cancer, the big C.

When the pathology report displays those abnormal type cells on biopsy spelling out six black letters, then, whether it is a simple treatable condition or one that will most certainly predict an early death, the patient hears cancer and it changes everything.

Through the years, I have had to inform too many patients about a new diagnosis of cancer and have learned there is often a paralyzing fear that comes with the word. Due to advancements in science, many more people with cancer are surviving than when I started. Still, when I have had to say to anyone of them, "You have cancer," often the word cancer is the only word they will remember for days, and so I always plan to keep readdressing the topic until plans can be clarified.

Unfortunately, some people who hear the word cancer come to face their mortality for the very first time, even when the chance of cure is good. I dare say this goes for too many of us, resulting both from unrealistic expectations in this scientifically advanced world, and the cover-up of the dying process in this everything-is-going-to-be-alright society.

This week a friend told me she and her husband were preparing to sell their house by thinning out their stuff collected over 15 years, and remodeling with that new carpet they've needed for a long time. It reminded me of what a realtor friend once said, that he keeps his house ready for sale at all times. Why not put in the carpet, paint the bedroom, and fix the step so that he can enjoy it right now?

In a similar vein, I have heard it said that every once in a while, perhaps every year, we should all have some kind of significant brush with death and then be rescued. Maybe that would help us to get and keep our house in order.

And then when each of us has our turn to cross the river into that land of the Sweet Bye and Bye, we can feel what the young neurosurgeon Paul Kalanithi described before dying of cancer, "(I have found a joy)...unknown to me in prior years... a joy that does not hunger for more and more, but rests... satisfied in this time, right now..." *

We shouldn't have to come down with cancer to get our house in order.

*Paul Kalanithi MD, Before I go: A Stanford neurosurgeon's parting wisdom about life and time. The Washington Post, March 12, 2015.

Secretary of State recognizes New Political Party (Libertarian)

Pierre, SD – Today, Secretary of State Shantel Krebs announced that a new recognized political party has been formed. The Libertarian Party submitted 7,859 valid signatures. The required number of signatures that must be submitted to form a new political party are 6,936 (2.5% of total vote for Governor in 2014: 277,403) (SDCL 12-5-1)

There are currently 1,570 active and inactive registered Libertarians in South Dakota.

The only deadline for a new party is if they wish to participate in the primary election process. That deadline was the last Tuesday in March.

The Libertarian Party may hold a party convention in which they would be able to nominate a candidate for Public Utilities Commission and the 3 Electors for President of the United States.

For your reference state statutes 12-5-1, 12-5-21 and 12-5-22 are included below:

12-5-1. (Text of section effective until approval of amendment by SL 2015, ch 77 to be submitted to the voters at the November 8, 2016 election.) Organization and dissolution of political party. A new political party may be organized and participate in the primary election by filing with the secretary of state not later than the last Tuesday of March at five p.m. prior to the date of the primary election, a written declaration signed by at least two and one-half percent of the voters of the state as shown by the total vote cast for Governor at the last preceding gubernatorial election, which declaration shall contain:

- (1) The name of the proposed party; and
- (2) A brief statement of the principles thereof;

whereupon the party shall, under the party name chosen, have all the rights of a political party whose ticket was on the ballot at the preceding general election. No signature on a declaration is valid if the declaration was signed more than one year prior to filing of the declaration.

A political party loses the right to participate in the primary election for failure to meet the definition of political party as defined in § 12-1-3.

The national and state chairperson of a recognized political party may request in writing, subscribed and sworn to by each chairperson before any officer qualified to administer oaths and take acknowledgments, to no longer be recognized as a political party. The political party shall also comply with the requirements for dissolution pursuant to chapter 12-27.

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12-5-21. Nomination of state candidates not voted on at primary--Presidential electors and national committee members. The state convention shall nominate candidates for lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, state auditor, state treasurer, commissioner of school and public lands, and public utilities commissioner and in the years when a President of the United States is to be elected, presidential electors and national committeeman and national committeewoman of the party.

12-5-22. Majority required for nomination by convention--Certification to secretary of state. Nominations by a state convention shall be made by a majority vote of the votes cast and shall be certified to the secretary of state by the officers of the convention, within three days of the close of the convention. No certification may be received by the secretary of state later than the second Tuesday in August.

The Secretary of State's office will be updating sdsos.gov in the next couple of days to reflect the new political party formation.



There is a gaggle of geese at the HRH Mobile Home Park. It looks like there are four families of geese being raised at the park.



Keep Fighting

You have to do a double take when you get a letter like this: "My name is Maggie Einrem. I am a 36 year old breast cancer survivor." Wow, a survivor – at 36.

Maggie, a mother of two from Watertown, was only 34 when she received the diagnosis. She wrote: "I had no warning signs, never even thought that breast cancer could affect me. Naïve, I know, however, it was not something that I had worried about.... At the ripe old age of 34, I found a lump. Not thinking it was anything serious, I just let it go for a couple of months."

She was a busy mom and the to-do list was already busting at the seams. But by June of that year, the lump had grown. She received an ultrasound and a mammogram. Less than a month later, Maggie was in surgery and so her battle began.

"I made it through eight rounds of chemo and 36 radiation treatments," Maggie wrote, "worked eight hours a day, raised two kids (ages 3 and 9), put supper on the table every night.... I knew if I stopped to think about everything, I would lose it and go into a very dark place. So I put on a smile, lost all my hair, had burned skin, numerous surgeries, and felt like junk every day, but I kept going."

Not only did Maggie keep going in her own fight, she began to reach out to help others with theirs. She's become an activist even within her own family to make sure that all the women receive annual mammograms and that the men do self-checks. She made a blanket for a co-worker that was diagnosed recently, as the transfusion room can be so cold. And through her workplace, Sparton, she's raised awareness about breast cancer by helping with a cancer walk, a soup cook-off, and a raffle.

After hearing her story, I chose Maggie to be my guest of honor at this year's Congressional Women's Softball Game. Every year, female members of Congress team up to take on the female members of the press corps. We play to benefit the Young Survival Coalition, an organization set up to help young women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Sadly, too many of these diagnoses are happening in our state. The number of incidents has risen steadily since 2010, putting South Dakota at the top of the list when it comes to breast cancer diagnoses per capita.

It's unclear what has caused the influx, and while not everything is in your control, there are steps you can take to reduce your risk. According to the American Cancer Society, excessive drinking, being overweight or obese (particularly after menopause), and a lack of physical activity can increase a woman's risk of developing breast cancer. These are things you can take action on today. Additionally, getting an annual mammogram can help make early detection possible. This means treatment can start earlier, possibly even before the cancer has spread.

We have made tremendous strides when it comes to detecting and treating breast cancer. Still, 680 South Dakotans are expected to learn they have breast cancer this year alone. I pray they are able to approach this diagnosis as Maggie did in her letter when she wrote: "I have too much to live for and so much love to give to others that I will never stop fighting!"

Keep on fighting, Maggie. You're an inspiration to your children, your community, and women fighting this disease everywhere.

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Today in Weather History

1875 - A severe coastal storm (or possible hurricane) struck the Atlantic coast from Cape Cod to Nova Scotia. Eastport ME reported wind gusts to 57 mph. (David Ludlum)

1958 - Hailstones up to four inches in diameter killed livestock as a storm passed from Joliet to Belfry in Carbon County MT. (The Weather Channel)

1970 - Wind and rain, and hail up to seven inches deep, caused more than five million dollars damage at Oberlin KS. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - It was a hot day in the Upper Great Lakes Region. Nine cities in Michigan and Wisconsin reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 90 degrees at Marquette, MI, marked their third straight day of record heat. Severe thunderstorm in the Northern and Central High Plains Region spawned half a dozen tornadoes in Wyoming and Colorado. Wheatridge, CO, was deluged with 2.5 inches of rain in one hour. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms in eastern North Dakota and northern Minnesota produced hail three inches in diameter and spawned four tornadoes in Steele County. Thunderstorms also produced wind gusts to 80 mph at Clearbrook MN. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Unseasonably hot weather prevailed in the southwestern U.S. In Arizona, afternoon highs of 103 degrees at Winslow, 113 degrees at Tucson, and 115 degrees at Phoenix were records for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Scattered T-storms	Mostly Clear	Sunny and Breezy then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 89 °F	Low: 72 °F	High: 92 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 81 °F



Hot June Weather Continues



Today

Morning: Partly Cloudy. Isolated Thunderstorms North Central.

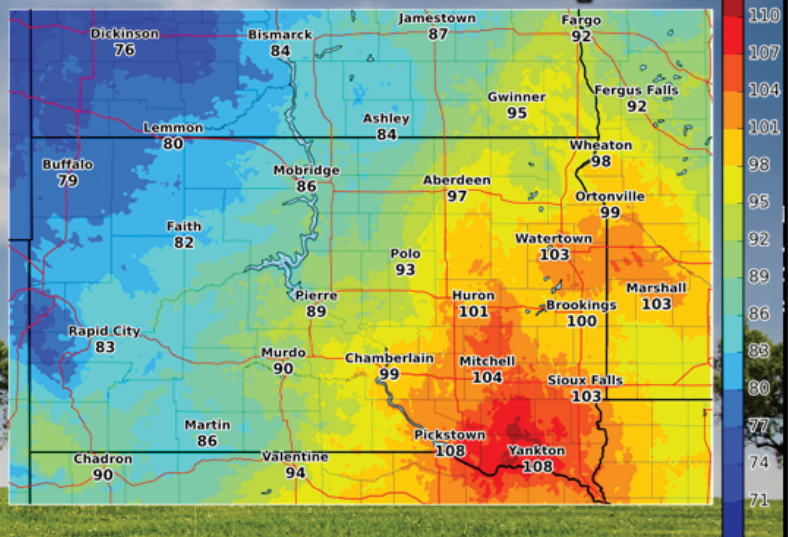
Afternoon: Mostly Sunny

Sunday

Mostly Sunny to Partly Cloudy

Chance of Thunderstorms east in the afternoon

Max Heat Index - Sunday



Highs this weekend: 85-96°

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD


weather.gov/Aberdeen

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

[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)
 Updated: 6/18/2016 4:52 AM Central

Published on: 06/18/2016 at 4:55AM

Expect hot and humid weather over the region this weekend, so make sure to drink plenty of fluids if enjoying outdoor activities. Highs will be in the 80s and 90s across the region, with the potential for a shower or thunderstorm this morning near the Missouri River and Sunday afternoon over the east.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 88.7 F at 5:13 PM

Heat Index: 96.0 at 3:10 PM

Low Outside Temp: 75.6 F at 3:21 AM

High Gust: 24.0 Mph at 11:43 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 108° in 1933

Record Low: 38 in 1902

Average High: 78°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in June: 2.20

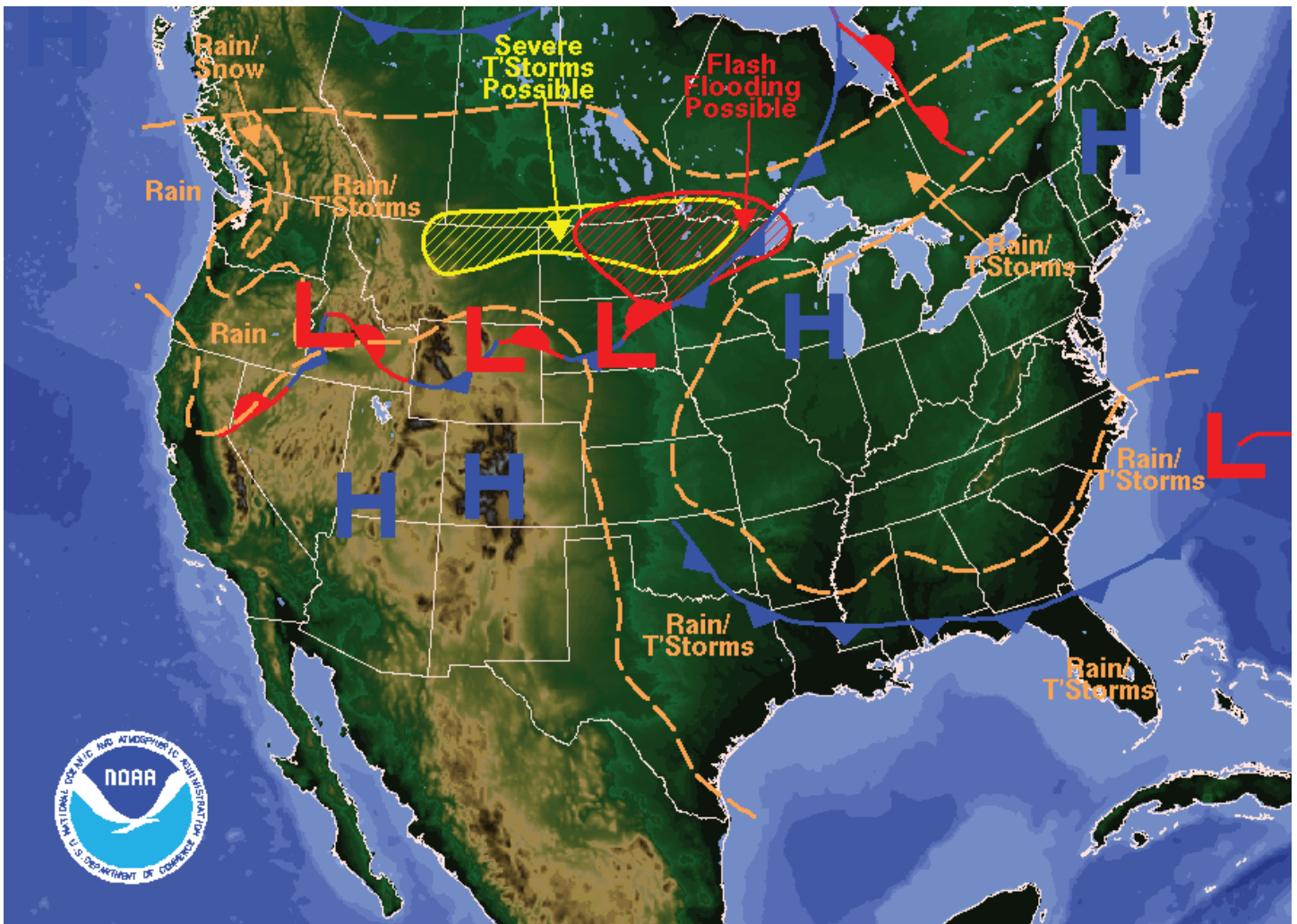
Precip to date in June: 1.67

Average Precip to date: 9.34

Precip Year to Date: 6.66

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Weather Forecast for Sat, Jun 18, 2016, issued 4:23 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Santorelli based on WPC, SPC and NHC forecasts



LEARN TO CONCENTRATE!

Kid McCoy was a notorious boxer who became the world champion in his weight division. He was known for the unusual tactics he applied to defeat his opponents. Not known for being fair, he was nevertheless, sought after as a boxing instructor who was effective in teaching people to fight.

On one occasion a man went to him and asked, "Would you teach me to fight?"

"All right," said McCoy. "Put up your fists. Say, who's that coming through the door?"

When the man turned his head, McCoy knocked him down. As the man got up, the Kid said, "That's the first lesson. Learn to concentrate and keep your eyes on the man in the ring."

One day Jesus was walking on the water. His disciple, Peter saw Him and asked if he could join Him. Jesus answered, "All right. Come." And he did.

And we all know the rest of the story. Things went well until the huge waves frightened him and Peter took his eyes off of Jesus and began to sink.

We will never walk on water but we will walk through the storms of life. When we do, we must stay focused on Jesus or we too will sink in despair.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to keep our eyes focused on You at all times, knowing that Your power to rescue us is greater than any storm we will face. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Matthew 14:22-36 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come."

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota's Civil Air Patrol to be evaluated Saturday

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota wing of the Civil Air Patrol will undergo an evaluation this weekend.

The U.S. Air Force will examine the CAP's search and rescue and disaster relief capabilities Saturday. Members from across South Dakota will participate in the event, including squadrons from Rapid City, Spearfish, Custer, Pierre, Brookings and Sioux Falls.

The Air Force evaluates CAP wings every two years to ensure they can perform missions safely and effectively.

The Air Force gave the South Dakota wing an overall "excellent" rating during its evaluation in 2014.

Lake Norden chosen to be South Dakota Capital for a Day

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Move over Pierre, it's Lake Norden's time in the sun.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced Friday that Lake Norden is set to step in for Pierre as part of the governor's Capital for a Day program.

Daugaard says he's looking forward to the July 28 event. He says it's an excellent opportunity to get better acquainted with the residents and issues affecting the Lake Norden area.

Activities planned include a walk on main street, business tours and a social event for the community. Leaders will discuss the needs of the city with Daugaard at a roundtable lunch.

Lake Norden Mayor Jason Aho says it's good to bring the governor into the community to offer residents and businesses an opportunity to discuss important issues.

Tribes, legislators demand greater IHS accountability

REGINA GARCIA CANO, Associated Press

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Tribal leaders and members of Congress demanded greater transparency and accountability from the federal agency responsible for providing health care to members of Native American tribes during a U.S. Senate committee hearing Friday in western South Dakota.

The field hearing of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs focused on legislation recently introduced in the U.S. Senate that could help fix severe shortcomings at the network of hospitals run by the federal Indian Health Service. Throughout the hearing, tribal leaders and the four legislators in attendance tied many of the issues that have affected the agency for years to what they characterized as a culture that discourages transparency and disregards accountability.

"What I've concluded is we can't fix the problem here by a tweak here or a fine-tune here. This requires systemic change," U.S. Sen. John Thune, a Republican from South Dakota, said of the deep-rooted challenges the agency faces. "You can't fix this by changing the oil and replacing the tires. We need a whole new car."

Tribal leaders and legislators exhorted the Indian Health Service, commonly referred to as IHS, to share copies of contracts with Congress and tribes, consult tribal members before making key decisions and agree to an independent audit of the agency's budget.

Legislators and tribal leaders cited instances when the IHS delayed notifying the tribes of upcoming changes affecting the hospitals. The examples included the last-minute notification regarding the closure of the emergency department of the hospital on South Dakota's Rosebud Indian Reservation and the appointment of a new director responsible for overseeing all IHS facilities on the Great Plains.

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"We need to be a part of this," said William Bear Shield, chairman of the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Health Board. "We need to get away from this type of consultation, which definitely isn't in our favor."

The bill, introduced by Thune and U.S. Sen. John Barrasso, a Republican from Wyoming, aims to increase transparency and accountability at the IHS, and improve recruiting and retention practices at the often remote hospitals — issues the agency has struggled with for several years.

Specifically, the bill would expand the IHS' authority to remove and discipline problem employees, require tribal consultation when hiring hospital leadership, and provide flexibility to create competitive pay scales and offer temporary housing assistance for medical professionals. The legislation also would ensure that the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees IHS, investigates patient deaths in which the IHS may have played a role.

Mary Wakefield, acting deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, said the agency would "certainly welcome" an audit of the IHS's budget.

Legislators on Friday did not hold back their criticism toward the agency. Barrasso described some of the agency's services as "malpractice," while South Dakota's Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem said the IHS provides "Third World" care.

In an interview with The Associated Press ahead of the hearing, IHS principal deputy director Mary Smith said the agency recently created a search committee for the hiring of area directors, and for the first time tribal members will be officially involved in the process.

This move is so that tribal leaders can be involved in the process of picking senior leaders at IHS from the very beginning, Smith said. The agency, which is divided into 12 regions covering the country, has openings for four area directors.

Deficiencies uncovered by federal inspectors at the hospital on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in November included the lack of immediate assistance for a patient who was having a heart attack. The IHS closed the facility's emergency room just weeks after the inspection, and the agency has not publicly said when it plans to reopen it.

Smith has acknowledged that hospitals beyond the Great Plains also face quality-of-care challenges. She said the agency has provided "technical assistance" to those drafting the legislation.

Man pleads guilty in Sioux Falls stabbing death case

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Minnesota man could spend life behind bars after an attack in a Sioux Falls apartment that left a woman dead and a man wounded.

Janno Talla pleaded guilty Friday to first-degree attempted murder and first-degree manslaughter.

He was arrested in October near Worthington, Minnesota, after the stabbing death of Ammuna Gayya. A man was also stabbed in the attack.

The Argus Leader reports that court documents say Talla walked into the Sioux Falls apartment and attacked the male victim. Gayya attempted to flee, but was stabbed and later died from her injuries.

The male victim survived.

Vanderbilt to face Minnesota on Dec. 3 in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Vanderbilt will play a regular-season basketball game with Minnesota on Dec. 3 at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The matchup was announced Friday.

This is one of seven Division I men's basketball regular-season games scheduled to take place in the

Sanford Pentagon during the 2016-17 season. The facility opened in 2013.

This will mark the second straight year Minnesota has played at the Sanford Pentagon. Minnesota lost 62-60 to Oklahoma State in front of a sellout crowd last season.

Although Vanderbilt and Minnesota have played each other on four previous occasions, this will be the first time they've faced each other since the 1959-60 season. Minnesota has won all four previous meetings.

South Dakota unveiling 3 more statues of former governors

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota is unveiling three more bronze statues of its former governors.

Former Govs. Warren E. Green, Nils A. Boe and M. Michael Rounds are the newest additions to the state's Trail of Governors series. The sculptures will be unveiled June 24 in the state Capitol rotunda.

Current Gov. Dennis Daugaard is set to participate in the event with Rounds, now a U.S. senator.

Family members and donors will also be there for the unveiling with the sculptors.

The statues will join others on the trail that goes through Pierre and the Capitol's grounds. It features a dozen statues now, with three commissioned each year by the trail's nonprofit foundation using individual and business donations.

New recognized political party formed in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Secretary of State Shantel Krebs says supporters have formed a new recognized political party in South Dakota.

Krebs said Friday that the Libertarian Party has submitted more than enough signatures to form a new party.

Backers turned in roughly 7,860 valid signatures, which is over the 6,936-signature requirement.

The Libertarian Party can hold a convention to put forward a candidate for Public Utilities Commission and nominate presidential electors.

2 more sentenced in South Dakota women's prison meth case

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two more inmates from the South Dakota women's prison have been sentenced on methamphetamine-related charges.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said Friday that 36-year-old Cassandra Bernard and 27-year-old Mary Sierra have each been sentenced to an additional year behind bars. Ten months of Sierra's sentence has been suspended.

Sierra has a sentence from Minnehaha County that she still must serve after her present one. Because of the stacking, the judge suspended part of the new sentence for ingesting meth.

The two were among other women's prison inmates charged in November 2015 for methamphetamine use.

Mission man gets prison time for assaulting federal officers

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Mission man has been sentenced to nearly two years in prison for assaulting federal officers.

Authorities say 33-year-old Lambert Gunhammer assaulted officers at the Rosebud jail after being arrested on a drug charge at a tribal casino on Nov. 18, 2015. They say Gunhammer scuffled with one officer, hit another in the face and struck a third in the head with a computer monitor.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says Gunhammer pleaded guilty in March to assaulting officers and was

sentenced this week to 22 months in prison to be followed by three years of supervised release. He also must pay more than \$3,500 in restitution.

Man sentenced for weapons offense in another man's death

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A convicted felon from Lower Brule has been sentenced for possessing a gun with which another man accidentally killed himself.

U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler says 37-year-old Lance Flute owned a rifle that a passenger in Flute's vehicle accidentally shot himself in the stomach with on Dec. 17, 2015. The man died at a Lower Brule health clinic.

Flute pleaded guilty in March to a charge of possession of a firearm by a prohibited person. He was recently ordered to serve four months in federal custody, to be followed by two years of supervised release.

235 people become US citizens during Mount Rushmore ceremony

KEYSTONE, S.D. (AP) — Two-hundred-thirty-five people from nearly 50 countries around the world became U.S. citizens during a ceremony at Mount Rushmore National Memorial in western South Dakota's Black Hills.

The Thursday ceremony included people from Belarus and Honduras, Laos and Liberia, South Sudan and South Korea, Columbia and Canada.

Federal Magistrate Judge Daneta Wollmann administered the Oath of Allegiance, and U.S. District Judge Jeffrey Viken proclaimed the immigrants U.S. citizens.

It was the largest naturalization ceremony ever held at Mount Rushmore.

Belgian authorities arrest 12 in major anti-terror raid

RAF CASERT, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian authorities have raided dozens of homes and held 12 suspects in a major anti-terror investigation which they said required "immediate intervention" because they feared an attack could have been close.

Across Belgium parties were held Saturday to watch live broadcasts of the country's soccer team playing Ireland at the European Championships in neighboring France and some media said such events could have been the targets. Belgium won 3-0 and no major incidents were reported during the game.

Prime Minister Charles Michel said the nation would remain "extremely vigilant, hour by hour," but that the terror level across the nation would remain at the second-highest level, meaning a threat of an attack "is possible and likely." Belgium has been living under such a threat level since the November attacks in Paris, some of whose perpetrators were either Belgian nationals or had lived in Brussels. On March 22, attacks on the Brussels subway and airport killed 32.

"It will be the case in the coming hours that we will take additional and adapted measures," said Michel after a meeting of the nation's security council. He refused to elaborate on the nature of the threat.

The federal prosecutor's office said Saturday that homes and car ports were searched in 16 municipalities, mostly in and around Brussels. The statement said there were no major incidents during the raids and that no arms or explosives were found.

It said 40 people were taken in Friday night and early Saturday for interrogation, of which 12 were held. A judge is to rule on their continued detention later Saturday.

"It is not over. We remain under terror alert 3, it means that something is still up," Interior Minister

Jan Jambon said. "Last night, we had a very successful action."

The prosecutor's statement said that "the results of the investigation necessitated an immediate intervention," indicating a violent attack was likely planned in the near future.

The federal prosecutor's office did not link the raids to the March 22 attacks, even though an eighth suspect was arrested as part of the investigation of those attacks late Friday. The Belgian man, identified as Youssef E.A., was charged with "participation in the activities of a terrorist group, terrorist murders and attempts to terrorist murders."

At the same time, four top ministers, including Michel, Jambon and Justice Minister Koen Geens received special protection following unspecified threats.

"We learned about that late yesterday that this close protection would happen. They say there are good reasons for that," Geens said.

Gay leaders turn to old nemesis, the police, for safety

MARK THIESSEN, Associated Press

Decades ago, an early morning raid at the Stonewall Inn in New York sparked violent protests among gay patrons who fought back after police burst in and tried to arrest them for daring to drink and dance with members of the same sex.

Nearly 50 years later, officers armed with assault rifles stand guard outside the historic bar, protecting patrons after a gunman in Florida staged a massacre at a gay nightclub and spread fear of more attacks.

The irony isn't lost on the gay community that used to see police as the oppressor and counts the 1969 Stonewall Inn raid as the start of the gay rights movement.

"Once upon a time they hit us with nightsticks, and now they're our protectors," said Gil Horowitz, 80, a retired research psychologist in New York who took part in the riots at Stonewall.

At gay pride parades this weekend, that evolution will be on display in cities like Denver, where the first parade in 1975 was in response to police raids on gay bars and arrests of gay men. On Sunday, police will march in solidarity and will have a robust presence among the crowd of 300,000 plus people.

"That's a snapshot of 40 years of progress," said Jason Marsden, executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, named for the University of Wyoming gay student who died after he was beaten and tied to a fence by two men in 1998.

Living an open gay lifestyle was unheard of across most of the U.S. just decades ago, and police routinely raided private gay clubs. During the raids, vice officers would beat the patrons — sometimes the targets were those not wearing sex-appropriate clothing — and arrest them on morals charges. The persecution reflected views in society at large: Until 1973, the American Psychiatric Association classified homosexuality as a mental disorder, and it was only in 2003 that a Supreme Court ruling declared state sodomy laws to be an unconstitutional violation of personal privacy.

The change in attitude didn't happen overnight, and it doesn't mean echoes of the past don't resurface, even in places seen as progressive.

In San Francisco, the police department has been shamed by the recent discovery of racist and homophobic text messages traded by officers. And a long-standing undercover police tactic in the Southern California city of Long Beach was dealt a blow last month when a judge dismissed lewd conduct and indecent exposure charges against a man arrested in a public bathroom. The judge said police improperly targeted gay men in the sting operation.

Numerous studies in the past six years have shown there is still a strong distrust of law enforcement, especially among LGBT people feeling bias, harassment or being assaulted by law enforcement, said

Jeremy Goldbach, assistant professor at the University of Southern California School of Social Work.

"The relationship has changed in some ways, but I don't know it has changed as much as we would like to think," he said.

But in cities across the U.S., police officers who once were criticized for enforcing outdated laws are instead undergoing robust LGBT cultural sensitive training.

Atlanta's police department has two full-time officers assigned as LGBT liaisons. Officer Eric King, one of the liaisons, said they try to regularly visit and keep in touch with businesses that focus or draw LGBT customers. King, who is gay, said building a direct line of communication is important to build trust.

He hopes LGBT leaders, working with city and police officials, can develop a plan that makes people feel secure but not "like big brother is watching."

"I wouldn't want there to be an overconcentration of police where people are always in fear, but I do want them to know we're present if you need us," King said.

While large departments for years have been more welcoming to the gay community and many have gay officers on the force, rural, conservative states are trying to catch up, too.

In the Idaho communities of Boise and Pocatello and in Missoula, Montana, officers are assigned as liaisons to the gay community.

More people are openly gay and demanding they be treated as just another part of the larger community. Montana state Sen. Diana Sands said that is driving the shift in attitude.

"That change has been revolutionary in the last decade," said Sands, who is gay.

In Anchorage, Alaska, Police Chief Christopher Tolley will march in the city's parade, and has ordered extra officers to be on scene, not because there's been an identified threat but to show support for the LGBT community. And in Juneau, at a gay pride festival last weekend, a woman wearing a pride T-shirt asked a police officer if her shirt made her a target.

"I am here to put myself between anyone who would hurt you and that T-shirt," Lt. Kris Sell told her.

Looking back over nearly 50 years of progress, Horowitz, who was arrested during the second night of rioting at the Stonewall Inn, said even if things haven't come as far as they need to, the changes in society have meant there is at least the appearance of acceptance.

"Police were homophobic at that time, maybe still a little bit. They understand now they're not supposed to exhibit it," Horowitz said. "If they act as if they accept us, whether they do or not, that's all we can really ask."

Few records for men sentenced by judge accused of misconduct

CLAUDIA LAUER, Associated Press

WYNNE, Ark. (AP) — A one-page Arkansas court docket says Richard Milliman was pulled over in 2014 for expired tags and sentenced to community service, which he completed about three months later.

Milliman, however, says it's all a lie perpetrated by a former district judge accused of sexually preying on him and dozens of other male defendants.

Of the 254 men Judge Joseph Boeckmann sentenced to community service over a seven-year period in one of three districts he oversaw, just 13 of the cases include timesheets and court records showing completion of the sentences, according to a review of documents by The Associated Press.

Several defendants — including Milliman, who was sentenced in another district — say they never served traditional community service because the judge offered them "alternative" sentences. Some alleged Boeckmann took photos as they bent over to pick up cans in his backyard. Others said he paid them to pose nude or spanked them with a paddle and took pictures of the red skin.

The judge resigned in May following a commission's investigation that found more than 4,600 pho-

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tos of nude or partially clothed men on computers belonging to the judge and financial records that showed he paid thousands of dollars from his business accounts to several defendants who appeared in his court. Boeckmann, who has denied the allegations, declined to comment Wednesday through his attorney Jeff Rosenzweig.

The AP requested all records related to the assignment and completion of community service kept by the Wynne, Cherry Valley and Parkin police departments, the Cross County Sheriff's Office and the Wynne, Parkin and Cherry Valley district court offices.

No records existed at the police departments or the sheriff's office. The Parkin and Cherry Valley district courts only kept the sparse docket sheets created by the judge, so only the Wynne branch provided extensive records — albeit only 13 showing completed community service.

Cross County Sheriff J.R. Smith said there was no written policy for community service at his office, but the court would give the defendants a timesheet that they would take to the law enforcement department or other agency they were assigned. Those sheets would be signed by the supervising agency and used to track the defendants' hours until they had worked off their fines. The sheets would then be sent with them to the court to prove they had completed community service, but copies were not kept by the law enforcement agencies or, most of the time, submitted to court clerks.

Without those documents, there is no record of how many hours and with whom defendants performed community service, raising questions of whether there were more victims than the 35 previously identified by the Judicial Discipline and Disability Commission. The commission determines whether judges have violated the code of judicial ethics or have been disabled to the point they can no longer serve on the bench.

David Sachar, the executive director of the commission, said he turned over portions of the files to federal investigators, but no criminal charges have been filed. Sachar also said he believed more victims would have been found if the investigation had continued.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Milliman said Boeckmann initially ordered him to do community service but asked him to stay after court to clarify it would be with a charity of the judge's choosing. He was told to gather two bags of aluminum cans and told to report to what he found out later was the judge's home.

Milliman said that during a nearly 45-minute encounter at the home, Boeckmann offered him several drinks, which he declined. The judge took his photo picking up cans in the backyard, telling him to bend over and to spread his legs further. The judge asked to see and take photos of Milliman's tattoos, but the man declined.

Milliman said Boeckmann offered him \$300 if he would pose as Michelangelo's statue of David as part of a bet the judge had with some friends. Milliman again declined and started looking for an escape route, he said.

"This has changed my life," said Milliman, who said he has moved to a different city and changed cars since the incident. "I mean, as a guy, you don't have to go through that stuff. You don't have to think of things with that fear.. I thought, 'Who is going to believe me, a 22-year-old, over a judge, a public official who has been in power for this long?'"

Lawyers for Ferguson seek any Michael Brown juvenile records

JIM SUHR, Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The city of Ferguson and other defendants in a wrongful-death lawsuit by Michael Brown's parents are seeking access to any juvenile records of the black 18-year-old who was

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fatally shot by a white police officer in 2014 — a request once rejected by a judge after a newspaper and blog sought such documents.

The motion, filed this month, seeks St. Louis County family court records concerning outcomes of any Brown-related juvenile cases “or records of any alleged delinquent acts committed by or pertaining to” him. The motion argues that any such information “is reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence” in the lawsuit against the St. Louis suburb, former Police Chief Thomas Jackson and Ferguson officer Darren Wilson, who shot and killed the unarmed Brown during an August 2014 confrontation.

Brown’s parents “have no standing to assert any privilege with respect to the requested information,” and at the time of Brown’s death “the interest in safeguarding the confidentiality of any juvenile court records became less compelling,” according to the motion, scheduled for a hearing Thursday. The filing, first reported by the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, claims a “legitimate interest” in the records without elaborating.

Peter Dunne, the attorney who filed the motion, did not reply Friday to requests for an interview.

Anthony Gray, an attorney for Brown’s family, said that even if Brown had a brush with the juvenile court system — including for such low-level offenses as truancy — those details are irrelevant to whether his death resulted from excessive force.

“This is just a smear tactic, a smear campaign,” Gray told The Associated Press. Wilson’s “decision to use deadly force has to be predicated on what he knew at the time (of his confrontation with Brown) and the circumstances he was facing,” not anything about his past.

“It is my full anticipation (searchers of Brown’s juvenile past) will find nothing of any significance or relevance,” Gray added. “If there is something there that would go to Michael Brown’s propensity as to what happened (during his encounter with Wilson), we would have known that by now.”

Police have said Brown had no adult criminal record. Juvenile records are confidential in Missouri, although being charged with certain violent crimes removes those privacy protections.

In September 2014, a month after Brown’s death, another St. Louis County family court judge denied without offering an explanation a request by the Post-Dispatch and California blog GotNews.com to release any Brown juvenile records. At a hearing, a juvenile court system lawyer said Brown did not face any juvenile charges at the time he died and never was convicted of a serious felony such as murder, robbery or burglary. It’s unclear whether Brown had ever faced lesser offenses as a juvenile.

A St. Louis County grand jury’s November 2014 decision to not indict Wilson rekindled sometimes-violent protests that immediately followed Brown’s death. Wilson later resigned. The U.S. Justice Department ultimately concluded that evidence backed Wilson’s claim that he shot Brown in self-defense after Brown first tried to grab the officer’s gun during a struggle through the window of Wilson’s police vehicle, then came toward him threateningly after briefly running away.

The latest motion over juvenile records came after a federal judge ordered that both sides in the lawsuit be given unredacted transcripts of the grand jury proceedings involving Wilson, marking the first time anyone outside of the secret proceedings will see its uncensored workings.

The family’s lawsuit is scheduled for trial next May.

Iraqi troops seize Fallujah hospital, clear mines

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi forces gained control of the main hospital in Fallujah on Saturday and were clearing mines after driving the Islamic State group from most of the city, one of its last remaining strongholds in the Anbar province west of Baghdad, a military official said.

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Fighting was still underway in parts of the city, where U.S. and Iraqi warplanes targeted snipers and other IS positions, Brig. Gen. Haider al-Obeidi told The Associated Press.

Troops had cautiously advanced toward the hospital, fearing that the militants would use patients as human shields, but when they stormed the facility they found no patients inside, he said, adding that the Iraqi flag has been raised over the building.

The troops later captured the Dubbat neighborhood and are now pushing into the northern neighborhood of Golan and several small areas, he said.

Iraqi special forces swept into Fallujah on Friday, recapturing most of the city after weeks of fighting on its outskirts. Al-Obeidi said Friday that Iraqi troops controlled 80 percent of the city, with IS fighters concentrated in four districts on its northern edge.

Fallujah was the first Iraqi city to fall to the extremist group, in January 2014, and was the last major IS foothold in the sprawling Anbar province, the heartland of the country's Sunni minority. The group still controls Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, in the north.

Iraqi troops have been advancing under the cover of airstrikes by the U.S.-led coalition and Iraq's air force. The operation inside the city of Fallujah was being conducted by the Iraqi army, regional and federal police forces as well as special anti-terrorism units. Shiite militias, known as the Popular Mobilization Force, remained outside Fallujah and have not taken part in the recent battles.

Aid groups estimated that 50,000 civilians were trapped inside Fallujah when the assault began several weeks ago, and that 30,000 to 42,000 of those have fled since then. The majority have been staying in camps near the city.

As government forces swept in on Friday, thousands of residents fled the city, some swimming across the Euphrates river to reach safety.

On Friday evening, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi spoke on national TV from the joint command center, congratulating the troops on their victories. "We promised to liberate Fallujah, and it has returned to the embrace of the nation," he said.

The conflict in Iraq has forced more than 3.3 million people to flee their homes. Iraq is also hosting up to 300,000 refugees who have fled the civil war in neighboring Syria. Most are living in camps or informal settlements.

In the central province of Salahuddin, where IS suffered a major defeat last year when it lost former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit, government forces pushed north of the province toward IS territory, said Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasoul.

Rasoul said the fighting is concentrated north of the oil refinery of Beiji, Iraq's largest. The refinery has not been working since IS seized much of northern and western Iraq in 2014, declaring a caliphate.

Despite being under attack on several fronts in Iraq and Syria, the extremists carried out a suicide truck bomb attack near the office of a Kurdish group in northern Iraq.

The blast killed at least one person, according to Shallal Abdoul, the mayor of the northern town of Tuz Khormato.

Egyptian court sentences 2 Al-Jazeera employees to death

HAMZA HENDAWI, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — An Egyptian court on Saturday sentenced six people, including two Al-Jazeera employees, to death for allegedly passing documents related to national security to Qatar and the Doha-based TV network during the rule of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi.

Morsi, the case's top defendant, and two of his aides were sentenced to 25 years in prison. Morsi and

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his secretary, Amin el-Sirafy, each received an additional 15-year sentence for a lesser crime. El-Sirafy's daughter, Karima, was also sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Morsi, Egypt's first freely elected leader, was ousted by the military in July 2013 and has already been sentenced to death in another case. That death sentence and another two — life and 20 years in prison — are under appeal. His Muslim Brotherhood was banned and declared a terrorist organization after his ouster. Khalid Radwan, a producer at a Brotherhood-linked TV channel, received a 15-year prison sentence.

All of Saturday's verdicts can be appealed. Of the case's 11 defendants, seven, including Morsi, are in custody.

Amnesty International called for the death sentences to be immediately thrown out and for the "ludicrous charges against the journalists to be dropped."

The two Al-Jazeera employees — identified by the judge as news producer Alaa Omar Mohammed and news editor Ibrahim Mohammed Hilal — were sentenced to death in absentia along with Asmaa al-Khateib, who worked for Rasd, a media network widely suspected of links to Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood.

There was no immediate comment from Al-Jazeera on Saturday's verdicts, but a news story on the Al-Jazeera English website identified Hilal as a former director of news at Al-Jazeera's Arabic channel and said Alaa Omar Mohammed was an Al-Jazeera employee until last year.

The three other defendants sentenced to death Saturday are documentary producer Ahmed Afify, EgyptAir cabin crew member Mohammed Keilany and academic Ahmed Ismail.

Judge Mohammed Shirin Fahmy recommended the death sentence for the six last month. Under standard procedure in cases of capital punishment, his recommendation went to the office of Egypt's Grand Mufti, the nation's top Muslim theological authority, for endorsement.

Fahmy quoted the Mufti's office as saying the six had sought to harm the country when they passed to a foreign nation details of the army's deployment as well as reports prepared by intelligence agencies.

"They are more dangerous than spies, because spies are usually foreigners, but these are, regrettably, Egyptians who betrayed the trust," the judge said. "No ideology can ever justify the betrayal of one's country."

Egypt's relations with Qatar have been fraught with tension since the ouster of Morsi, who enjoyed the support of the tiny but wealthy Gulf state. Cairo also maintains that Al-Jazeera's news coverage of Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East is biased in favor of militant Islamic groups.

Last year, President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi pardoned two imprisoned journalists from the Al-Jazeera English news network. Mohamed Fahmy, an Egyptian-born Canadian, and Egyptian Baher Mohamed were arrested in December 2013. They had been sentenced to three years in prison for airing what a court described as "false news" and coverage biased in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood.

The prosecution of the two, along with Australian Peter Greste — another Al-Jazeera English reporter who was deported in February last year — drew strong international condemnation.

Their long-running trial was entangled from the start with the wider political enmity between Egypt and Qatar following Morsi's ouster.

Nashville rape case echoes sex assault by Stanford swimmer

SHEILA BURKE, Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The cases are tragically similar: Student-athletes at two elite universities accused of sex crimes against unconscious women. Yet one is given six months in a county jail, while

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the other is facing at least 15 years in prison.

Some have questioned why 20-year-old former Stanford swimmer Brock Turner, who is white, received a far less severe sentence for a January 2015 assault than the one faced by former Vanderbilt football player Cory Batey, 22, who is black. The differences have taken on added significance this week as a white former teammate of Batey's, Brandon Vandenburg, stands trial again in Nashville for his role in the dorm room assault, which took place in June 2013.

But the comparison is not so simple.

The difference in punishment reflects the number of alleged perpetrators in one case, the acts committed, overwhelming evidence documenting one of the crimes, and variations in how rape is defined in Tennessee and California.

"It does seem like an extreme disparity, but I would say this: With these sex crimes, the facts are very important, the details are very important, and the law punishes the conduct differently depending on what conduct can be proven," said Dmitry Gorin, a Los Angeles criminal defense lawyer and former prosecutor specializing in sex crimes. "In the Stanford case, they did not prove rape."

The two cases have moved to the forefront of a national debate about sexual assaults on the nation's college campuses and the conduct of student athletes. And some critics insist the circumstances are too similar to justify the discrepancy.

Misee Harris, a Los Angeles-based blogger who used to live in Tennessee and writes extensively about race issues, has been among those criticizing how the two cases were handled. She says neither punishment hit the mark.

"One is just excessive and the other is just a little too lenient," Harris said.

The Stanford swimmer was convicted of sexual assault, not rape, after two students discovered him on top of an unconscious woman behind a dumpster. The four former Vanderbilt students, three of whom are black, were charged with aggravated rape. If Vandenburg is convicted, he faces the same sentence as Batey: a minimum of 15 years in prison with no parole.

The aggravated rape charges came into play under Tennessee law because the victim was unconscious and there was more than one alleged perpetrator. Two of the Vanderbilt players were charged with aggravated rape even though they did not have sexual contact with the woman because prosecutors considered them active participants.

In the cases of both Batey and Turner, the suspects and victims say they were drunk and remember little or nothing. Legal experts say that puts added weight on physical evidence, which was far more substantial in the Vanderbilt assault.

The Vanderbilt case included graphic evidence, such as cellphone videos and photos. No photo or video evidence surfaced in the case against Turner.

Another key distinction involves how the two states view the crime. Juries in both cases concluded that digital penetration took place but found that sexual intercourse had not been proven. Tennessee law considers digital penetration to be rape; California does not.

Turner, in fact, was not even charged with rape when he went to trial in March.

"They chose not to prove rape because they did not have the evidence for it, according to the records and the press reports," said Gorin, the Los Angeles attorney. "In the Tennessee case, they proved aggravated rape, and the law in the different states punishes the conduct differently."

California has minimum 15-year sentences for certain types of aggravated rape, Gorin said, but that's not what prosecutors proved in the Stanford case. The lesser charges Turner was convicted of in March carried a maximum of 14 years in prison, and prosecutors asked that he spend six years behind bars.

However, the judge did not have to adhere to a strict minimum and gave him six months instead. Ten-

nessie law does not grant the same discretion to judges in aggravated rape cases, said Rob McKinney, a Nashville lawyer and expert in Tennessee criminal law who is familiar with the case. That means the judge in Batey's case must sentence him to at least 15 years in prison when he is sentenced in July. The same is true for Vandenburg if he is convicted, and the charges against both carry a maximum of 25 years in prison.

"That is the floor, not the ceiling," said McKinney, addressing Batey's sentence. "He's not getting out of it. He's going to go to prison."

Oregon officials want a hold on oil trains after derailment

Oregon Department of Transportation officials have requested a moratorium on oil trains running through the Columbia River Gorge until there is a better understanding of what caused the fiery derailment on June 3 in the town of Mosier

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — The fiery derailment of an oil train in Oregon's Columbia River Gorge has state transportation officials asking for a halt to the massive trains because of concerns their heavier weight could be putting extra strain on a certain type of bolt that fastens the rails to the tracks.

The Oregon Department of Transportation discussed its concerns about the safety of the so-called "lag bolts" in a presentation Thursday to the Oregon Transportation Commission and made public a letter it mailed to the Federal Railroad Administration on June 8 asking for the moratorium.

Union Pacific, which operated the train, has said the June 3 derailment was caused by a failure of the bolts, fasteners which are used to attach the rail to the rail tie on a curved section of track. The accident forced evacuations in the tiny town of Mosier, about 70 miles east of Portland, and released 42,000 gallons of oil.

No one was injured and less than 10 gallons of oil entered the river.

In a presentation to commission members, ODOT administrator Hal Gard said the lag bolts found at the scene were rusted on both ends, indicating they had been sheared off before the derailment. State officials showed a photo of a pile of lag bolts collected at the site.

Trains that carry only crude oil began running in that section of the Columbia River Gorge in 2014 and state investigators are concerned that the heavier weight and shorter length of those trains might be causing the lag bolts to break. The trains' weight is spread out over a shorter distance, increasing the pressure on the tracks.

Without the fasteners anchoring the rails to the rail ties, the parallel rails can be pushed further apart, causing a derailment, said Tom Fuller, ODOT's director of communications. The sloshing of the liquid oil inside the tankers might also mean additional stress as the train's contents shifts on curves, he added.

"The liquid is heavier and the weight is even more concentrated because there's a shorter distance between the wheels and that's what allowed one of the cars to literally come off the rails and then it pulled the other cars with it," he said.

The lag bolt system was installed on the Columbia River Gorge route in 2001, Gard said, and the rails at the location were replaced in 2013.

Tests conducted by both Union Pacific and ODOT for flaws in the tracks didn't turn up the faulty bolts, Fuller said.

"Our concern right now is if Union Pacific or ODOT weren't able to determine that these bolts were broken, how do we know there aren't more of these bolts broken in other places?" he said. "Where else are these bolts installed? Where else might this exist ... just waiting to have a derailment?"

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Matthew Lehner, a spokesman for the Federal Railroad Administration, said in a statement that his agency was working closely with ODOT and would respond to the letter, but the investigation is not over.

Union Pacific said it has increased the frequency of inspections since the derailment.

The company is doing walking inspections each month on curved sections of track in the Columbia River Gorge and will use a special type of testing to detect problems once every three months instead of once every 18 months, said Justin Jacobs, Union Pacific spokesman. Oil trains are not currently running in the gorge, he said.

Jacobs could not provide more details about why the lag bolts failed, but cited a 99.9 percent safety record.

"Has a lug nut on a car tire ever failed? Yes, it has. Does it happen very often? No," he said. "Safety is a priority for us."

At least 27 oil trains and 11 ethanol trains have been involved in major fires, derailments or spills during the past decade in the U.S. and Canada, according to an Associated Press tally from data kept by transportation agencies and safety investigators from the two nations.

Hundreds more rail cars have released smaller amounts of crude following less-severe mishaps.

Combined, the accidents released more than 3.6 million gallons of crude and 2.3 million gallons of ethanol, according to safety investigators and an AP analysis of the data. Investigations into some of the accidents are ongoing and release volumes are incomplete.

An accident in 2012 in Alberta, Canada, was blamed on broken lag bolts on a portion of curved track.

Inspections did not catch the failing bolts and the track moved, leading to the derailment, according to Canadian rail authorities.

Democrats to give Trump 'rude awakening' in summer onslaught

LISA LERER, Associated Press

JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Donald Trump's unconventional campaign is about to feel the heat of political organization.

Hillary Clinton and her Democratic allies have invested at least \$41 million in commercials in crucial states such as Ohio, Florida and Nevada over the next six weeks, a series of summer broadsides against her Republican opponent. Those messages will be echoed by hundreds of Clinton workers in those same states and amplified by President Barack Obama and other top Democrats.

Trump has made few preparations for contending with that sort of well-oiled political machine. His campaign has no advertising plans and is just now hiring employees in important states. Republican leaders are far from in agreement on how best to talk to voters about the polarizing billionaire, or if they will at all. And Trump is running out of time: Early voting starts in Iowa in just 3 1/2 months.

"It's political malpractice," said Mitch Stewart, Obama's 2012 battleground states director and a Clinton backer. "He's in for a rude awakening. This isn't a national vote contest where you can be on cable news every day and dominate coverage. This is literally going state by state and coming up with a plan in each."

Clinton's large June and July ad buy comes as a reward for her near-constant fundraising. In May, she raised \$27 million in primary election money that must be used before she accepts her party's nomination at the convention in late July.

Trump is playing catch up. He did not begin raising money in earnest until May 25, having largely financed his primary bid through personal loans to his campaign.

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Clinton's latest spots, highlighting her past advocacy for children, are an attempt to reintroduce the returning presidential candidate — she lost the 2008 Democratic primary to Obama — to general election voters. Her campaign is spending about \$23 million on ads by the convention, according to advertising tracker Kantar Media's CMAG.

But those voters are also hearing from Priorities USA, a super political action committee financed by millions of dollars from Clinton's staunchest supporters. The goal of those that \$18.7 million batch of ads: cast Trump as a con-man and bully unprepared to be commander in chief.

"When I saw Donald Trump mock someone with a disability, it showed me his soul. It showed me his heart," says the father of a young girl with spina bifida, whose story is featured in one of the ads.

It's a strategy Democrats successfully used four years ago against Obama's GOP opponent, Mitt Romney. Over that summer, Priorities USA relied on an intensely negative advertising campaign to define Romney as unconcerned with the worries of average Americans.

Now, facing an opponent with far higher negative ratings and a weaker political organization, Democrats see an opportunity not only to retain the White House but make a strong play for winning control of the Senate and adding scores of Democrats to the House.

In the past week, Obama, Vice President Joe Biden and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., have lined up behind Clinton. Her primary rival, Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, is expected to support her eventually.

Trump has struggled to win over much of his party's establishment and lacks that kind of a bench behind his message. Many top Republicans, including Romney and past Presidents George W. Bush and George H.W. Bush, do not plan to attend the party convention in July. Others refuse to answer questions about their nominee, largely leaving Trump to defend himself.

"Donald Trump has people hiding under rocks hoping he doesn't know where they are," said New York Rep. Steve Israel, former chairman of the House Democrats' campaign arm.

For example, in critically important Ohio, where the state GOP backed Gov. John Kasich's failed presidential campaign, party officials have been unwilling to throw much support behind Trump.

Kasich, who had signed a pledge to back the Republican nominee, recently told MSNBC he "just can't do it" unless Trump makes some significant changes.

Marc Short, a Republican strategist who advised Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential campaign and previously led political operations for the billionaire Koch brothers' network of conservative donors, said Trump would be in a far stronger position if he weren't still getting organized.

"He has been underestimated throughout the process, so I'm hesitant to be too judgmental," Short said. "But it is always better when everyone is singing from the same song sheet."

Trump, who has belittled the need for endorsements, has signaled a willingness to go it alone if he believes the Republican leadership is undermining him.

"Republicans, either stick together or let me just do it by myself," he told a rally this past week in Atlanta.

Undeniably, Clinton's long-cultivated donor network and commitment to fundraising gave her a running start on general election staffing. She began sending employees to Ohio and other states months ago. Trump, who plans to rely on Republican National Committee support, has few, if any staff singularly devoted to his campaign in any of the most competitive states.

Clinton's aides argue their early investment will pay off in the final weeks of the campaign.

Data analyzed by Obama's campaign in 2008 showed the enthusiasm of his supporters in the last six weeks was higher in areas where the campaign's local operations got an early start, according to former staffers.

Greg Beswich, executive director of the Ohio Democratic Party, said of Trump's people: "They're not putting together the kind of campaign you need to win in Ohio, never mind in a number of swing

states.”

Uphill battle to get seasonal farmworkers health insurance

ALEJANDRA CANCINO, For The Associated Press

DUNN, N.C. (AP) — Some seasonal agricultural workers were finishing a meal after a long day of planting sweet potato seeds when Julie Pittman pulled into to their camp.

Up since dawn, they had worked through an 80-degree day that was just beginning to cool off. Now, Pittman, a paralegal with the Farmworker Unit of Legal Aid of North Carolina, wanted to get their attention.

The health care law passed in 2010 requires you to have health insurance, she told them in Spanish. If you don't get it, she said, you could be fined.

“Cuánto cuesta?” said one worker, wanting to know the cost.

These farmworkers, living in the United States legally through the H-2A visa program, must be insured, like most U.S. citizens and legal residents. But reaching them is an uphill battle. They live in cinder block homes built by employers in isolated areas. They work long days, and often, a full week.

The majority come from Mexico to work in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina. The countdown clock starts when they enter the country. They have just 60 days to learn about coinsurance and copayments, and decide whether to purchase a high- or low-deductible plan.

Alexis Guild, a migrant health policy analyst at Farmworker Justice, an advocacy group based in Washington, said North Carolina has been “very successful” in enrolling H-2A farmworkers, thanks to a yearslong partnership among various nonprofits and health centers.

In the camp near Dunn, about one-third of the 31 residents showed up for Pittman's presentation, gathering in a small dining room with two picnic tables and cement floors.

The cost of health insurance depends on the type purchased, income and family size, Pittman told them. Some people don't have monthly payments; others could pay \$40 per month. Consider, she added, that this year's fine is \$695 or 2 percent of wages, whichever is greater.

Antonio Flores, of Veracruz, said he worried about the cost. He is in the U.S. for six months and has a wife and son to support. Like other farmworkers based in North Carolina, he makes \$10.72 per hour. “Would I need to pay the fine?” said Flores, 29.

It's a difficult question because some workers qualify for an exemption or are offered insurance through their employer.

Mackenzie Mann, a health educator with North Carolina Farmworkers Project, said the only way to be sure is to fill out a form.

On a recent Wednesday, Mann and a co-worker traveled through a narrow road to a camp in Angier, where workers were waiting for them with insurance letters and payment questions.

On its way to surpass last year's enrollment totals, the group has signed up about 150 workers since February and they still have two months to go.

First in line at the camp was Apolinar Castillo, of Zacatecas, Mexico, who got a bill in the latest batch of mail he received from his boss.

Castillo, 44, said that after 15 years toiling in the nation's fields he didn't think twice about paying \$10.55 per month for health insurance. “I feel confident that, if there is an emergency, I can dial 911 and use my (insurance) card,” Castillo said.

After some confusion, Castillo was told that he had already made the monthly payment and the bill he had was old.

Farmworkers receive their mail sporadically, which means deadlines can be missed, further complicat-

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ing the process. To avoid further delays, Mann submits electronic copies. She uses a smartphone as a hotspot to connect to the internet, a spotty service that requires time and patience.

"I'm hungry," grumbled a man in a whisper as he waited for Mann to finish up with yet another worker.

Workers under the H-2A visa program are a small minority of the nation's more than 2.4 million farmworkers, many of whom are in the country illegally and don't have access to health insurance.

Agriculture ranks among the most dangerous industries, according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Farmworkers face exposure to pesticides, and risk heat exhaustion and heat-stroke.

Outside of emergencies, farmworkers can use community health centers, which receive federal funding to care for the poor and uninsured. In North Carolina, about 10 percent of the centers' more than 450,000 patients in 2014 were agricultural workers.

Dr. Eugene H. Maynard, of the Benson Area Medical Center, said providing care for farmworkers is a challenge. Many procedures can be done at his office, where prices are based on a sliding fee scale. But some problems require specialists, whose steep prices are out of the reach to most workers.

Often, Maynard said, he places workers on waiting lists for charity care, but they are so long that workers return to Mexico before seeing a specialist.

"Insurance makes that process a lot easier," Maynard said.

Alice Pollard of the North Carolina Community Health Center Association, said access to health insurance also opens the door to preventive care for, say, diabetes and high blood pressure, two chronic conditions that are prevalent among farmworkers.

Some are skeptical, though, that access to health insurance would translate into better health care.

Thomas Arcury, director of the Center for Worker Health at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, said farmworkers work long hours, don't have access to transportation or accumulate paid sick days, which is why many ignore their illnesses.

"There are a lot of roadblocks," Arcury said.

What's more, if they purchase insurance in one state and then move to another, the insurance may not work in the new state.

Large farmers are required to offer health insurance for their workers. They have raised the issue of cost, arguing that they already provide workers' compensation, which covers work-related injuries.

U.S. Rep. Renee Ellmers, R-N.C., has twice introduced a bill to exclude farmworkers under the H-2A visa program from the employer mandate. In a statement, she said the cost would put many farmers out of business.

"As North Carolina is the number one producer of sweet potatoes and tobacco in the country, it is imperative that we listen to our farmers when they relay a problem that could cause significant harm to their farming operation and our state's economy," Ellmers said.

Steve Davis of Greene County Health Care, a community health center that enrolled nearly 800 workers last year, said most farmworkers know of workers who were injured in a soccer game or got violently ill while in the U.S. and landed in the emergency room.

The bottom line, he said, is that there is a tremendous need to provide health services to farmworkers and health insurance is a step in that direction.

Last October, for example, Feliciano Gonzalez was picking sweet potatoes when he felt an unbearable pain in his arm and chest. In his 17 years picking and planting food in the U.S., Gonzalez, 50, said he never felt so sick.

He underwent a number of tests in the hospital emergency room. Doctors kept him overnight and told him to take a couple days off, he said.

The hospital billed \$14,900. It wasn't a work injury, so his boss' workers' compensation insurance didn't cover the expense. Luckily, Gonzalez had health insurance. His portion of the bill was \$750. "We need to be protected," Gonzalez said.

Trump's 'Mexican' label against judge brings up slur history

RUSSELL CONTRERAS, Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Presumptive GOP nominee Donald Trump referred to a U.S.-born federal judge as a "Mexican" and saw a backlash, even from other Republicans.

A black Democratic lawmaker called Republican New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez a "Mexican" during a heated exchange with another lawmaker and was forced to apologize. John Calipari, then New Jersey Nets coach, faced criticism for lashing out at a Latino reporter by calling him a "Mexican idiot."

True, the term "Mexican" describes a nationality for a people of a country south of the U.S. It also has been used as a slur against U.S.-born Latinos as a way to dehumanize them and dismiss them as foreigners, according to scholars and those who've been targeted by the loaded word.

In the latest example, Trump recently used the word against U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel, an American of Mexican origin. It came after Curiel agreed to unseal the details in a class-action lawsuit by people who say they were victims of fraud by Trump's real estate business education venture, the now-defunct Trump University.

"The judge, who happens to be, we believe, Mexican," Trump told a San Diego crowd in a rant against Curiel. "Which is great. I think that's fine."

But when pressed over his remarks about the Indiana-born judge, Trump suggested Curiel lacked the ability to be objective because of his ethnic background.

Curiel has "an inherent conflict of interest" because Trump is "building a wall," the billionaire real estate mogul said in an interview with The Wall Street Journal. He also told CNN that Curiel is "of Mexican heritage," dismissing the fact that Curiel was born in Indiana and saying, "He's proud of his heritage."

Trump's remarks, however, drew strong condemnation from Latino activists and Republicans. GOP House Speaker Paul Ryan called Trump's remarks "the textbook definition of racist comments." Roger Rocha Jr., president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation's oldest Latino civil rights group, said Trump's statement "epitomizes racism and is a slap in the face to minority judges across the country."

Alexandro Jose Gradilla, a Chicana and Chicano Studies professor at California State University, Fullerton, said the way the word "Mexican" was used to describe a Mexican-American judge likely helped fuel the widespread criticism.

"Donald Trump's use of the term represents the long history of the word in the U.S.," Gradilla said. "'Mexican' was often a stand-in for one of many closely related epithets targeting Mexican-Americans."

That's because the term "Mexican" often was tossed at Mexican-Americans to remind them that whites didn't think they belonged in the country or were part of the nation's history, especially after the U.S.-Mexico War, Gradilla said.

"That's what Trump is playing with when he described (Curiel) as simply a 'Mexican,'" Gradilla said.

Even as late as 1954, U.S. Supreme Court justices were confused about the legal status of Mexican-Americans. During oral arguments about a case challenging a Texas law that allowed some Mexican-Americans to be excluded from juries, justices repeatedly called the residents in question "Mexicans," and one justice, Felix Frankfurter, used another epithet.

That epithet sparked civil rights lawyer Gus Garcia to argue that the first immigrants to live illegally in

Texas were Southern whites.

Michelle Tellez, a Mexican-American Studies professor at the University of Arizona, said many Mexican-Americans also view the term "Mexican" as synonymous with bad because of the way it has been used against them.

"It's a reminder that we don't belong," said Tellez, who was targeted by the term and other epithets while going up in San Diego.

To get around it, Mexican-Americans will call themselves "mexicano"—the Spanish version of Mexican—Latino or some other terms that also tend to emphasize their middle-class status in the U.S., Tellez said.

Lauro Garza, a retired police officer who lives in Houston and hosts the podcast Latinotalk Texas, said he grew up thinking "Mexican" was a negative word to be avoided. "It's comparable with other slurs, depending how it's used," Garza said.

Garza said even whites are uncomfortable using the term "Mexican" and thinks that's why some white Republicans are denouncing Trump.

But Trump is hardly alone in drawing scrutiny for using the word.

In 2011, New Mexico Democratic state lawmaker Sheryl Williams Stapleton gave a public apology after she told a Latina Republican lawmaker she was "carrying the Mexican's water on the fourth floor"—a reference to Martinez, the nation's first elected Latina governor. Calipari was fined \$25,000 by the NBA in 1997 after referring to a reporter as a "Mexican idiot."

Gloria Garcia, 52, of Albuquerque, said Trump's use of the word was largely the reason she came out to vote in New Mexico's primary despite news that presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton had collected enough delegates for the Democratic nomination. "It's offensive," said Garcia, who voted for Clinton. "It's like he's saying we are dirty."

Steven Michael Quezada, an Albuquerque resident and a Mexican-American actor who starred in the AMC television series "Breaking Bad," said it all depends on the tone of the person using the term. "At the end of the day, we're Mexican. I'm Mexican," Quezada said. "After all, this was all once Mexico."

Accused killer of UK lawmaker makes defiant court statement

GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

SHAWN POGATCHNIK, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The man accused of murdering British lawmaker Jo Cox gave his name as "Death to traitors, freedom for Britain" in court Saturday, following the killing that has brought campaigning ahead of the country's EU referendum to a standstill.

Thomas Mair, 52, made his defiant statement as he made his first appearance in Westminster Magistrates' Court in London after being charged overnight with the murder of the popular Labour Party lawmaker.

Mair refused to give his correct name and did not answer when asked for his address and date of birth.

Labour Party lawmaker Cox, 41, was shot and stabbed to death Thursday after getting out of her car in the town of Birstall in her home constituency.

The rare killing in broad daylight of a British politician has stunned the country and silenced what had been a furious campaign ahead of Thursday's referendum on whether Britain should remain in the European Union.

Both sides suspended campaigning as a sign of respect for Cox, who became the first sitting member

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of Parliament to be killed in a quarter-century.

Major campaign events and rallies are not expected to resume until Monday or later, but there were signs Saturday of low-level campaigning being reactivated, with the "leave" campaign adding new posts to its Twitter feed.

Time is running out, and analysts say they expect the campaign tone to be more conciliatory and less confrontational when it resumes.

It is not clear what, if any, impact the killing of Cox may have on the referendum vote, which is expected by many observers to be close.

Mair was charged with murder, inflicting grievous bodily harm, possession of a firearm with intent to commit a crime, and other gun-related charges.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot said in court that a psychiatric report should be prepared "bearing in mind the name he has just given."

Mair will be kept in custody at Belmarsh Prison until his next court appearance, set for Monday at the Old Bailey courthouse.

He was not required to enter a plea during the brief session Saturday, during which he was handcuffed to a guard throughout the proceedings.

Authorities have not offered a motive for the killing. Counter-terrorism police were involved in the investigation looking for possible links, but the charges filed did not include terrorism offenses.

Cox was a former aid worker who championed immigrant rights, bringing an end to Syria's civil war and keeping the United Kingdom in the European Union. The day before her killing, Cox joined her husband and two young children in campaigning for the pro-EU cause on the River Thames, where the family had lived in a houseboat since her election last year.

Vigils have been held across the country in her memory and Parliament has been recalled Monday to honor her.

U.S. President Barack Obama telephoned her husband from Air Force One to express condolences and released a statement praising her commitment and service.

"The president noted that the world is a better place because of her selfless service to others, and that there can be no justification for this heinous crime, which robbed a family, a community, and a nation of a dedicated wife, mother, and public servant," the White House statement said.

Police have praised the bravery of a 77-year-old man who tried to aid Cox during the attack and was seriously injured. The man is recovering in hospital.

The attack has raised security concerns for other members of Parliament who routinely meet with constituents in public meetings.

It has long been a tradition in Britain for lawmakers to hold regular "surgeries" in which they discuss local, national and international issues with residents of their district.

Police lock down Chinese village to ward off protests

GERRY SHIH, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Police have locked down a village in southern China to ward off fresh anti-corruption protests nearly five years after an uprising there made it an internationally known symbol of grass-roots defiance against the ruling Communist Party.

A resident from Wukan village in Guangdong province said that police swept in late Friday night to surround sensitive government buildings and take away the village's democratically elected leader, Lin Zuluan, who had planned protests Saturday against illegal land grabs.

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Local police announced on social media early Saturday that Lin had been detained on bribery charges and urged villagers to maintain social stability and “not allow a small number of lawbreakers to incite drastic behavior.”

The village resident said by phone Saturday that paramilitary police were patrolling Wukan’s streets and guarding buildings including the police department, but that shops were open and daily life was carrying on as usual. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of fear of reprisal.

Another villager said police had established checkpoints and were requiring identification cards for everyone entering or leaving Wukan. Zhang Jianxing, a young Wukan resident who was one of the most well-known faces of the 2011 uprising, has not been reachable in several days, said this villager, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

Lin’s detention and the heavy police presence appeared to have staved off planned protests against land confiscation and collusion between property developers and higher-ups — a common complaint in rural China.

In 2011, Wukan residents with similar grievances expelled government officials and police and barricaded the village, prompting a weeklong standoff that was peacefully resolved when Guangdong’s Communist Party secretary, Wang Yang, agreed to let the village hold a series of elections to directly elect new leaders.

Lin, a protest leader, was named the village’s new party secretary after more than 6,000 villagers cast secret ballots in an election that was hailed abroad as a potential model for grass-roots political reform in China.

Before his detention, Lin had prepared a speech for Saturday that said the villagers of Wukan, frustrated with ongoing high-level corruption, are “prepared to sacrifice more than they did in 2011” in a new round of protests, according to the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post newspaper.

On Saturday, Lin’s Weibo microblogging account posted what appeared to be a 30-second video, shot in darkness, of his overnight arrest, with the caption “help me, help W K.”

Zhang Ming, a political science professor at Renmin University in Beijing, said that Lin’s bribery charge was “strange” because he did not have the authority as a village chief to sign off on projects that would have presented opportunities to collect kickbacks.

The peaceful resolution of the 2011 standoff amounted to a career boost for Wang, the Guangdong provincial boss who was elevated to the Politburo in 2013 and made vice premier. Another standoff would pose a test for Hu Chunhua, the current Guangdong party secretary and one of the Communist Party’s brightest up-and-coming stars.

But Zhang did not foresee a repeat of the insurrection five years ago, which quickly escalated beyond the party’s control.

“China today is a much higher-pressure political environment,” he said, adding, “But anything could happen.”

Plenty of story lines left to play out in US Open

TIM DAHLBERG, AP Sports Writer

OAKMONT, Pa. (AP) — Dustin Johnson started out early and finished 36 holes as darkness enveloped Oakmont Country Club. He did it well enough to grab a share of the lead in the U.S. Open, a position not unfamiliar to him.

Now those closest to Johnson will have to put in marathons of their own Saturday to stay in contention in a tournament turned upside down by storms.

It won’t be an easy task. Not for Lee Westwood, and certainly not for little-known Andrew Landry.

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Both will have to try and complete 36 holes Saturday on a course that figures to get tougher by the hour. They're hardly alone, as the field chases Johnson at 4 under.

Here's what lies ahead on another long day at the U.S. Open:

TOUGHER COURSE: Oakmont was playing tough even after rain softened the treacherous greens and slick fairways. With no rain expected on the weekend the course will dry out more and that will make things more difficult for those who still have 54 holes to play. Among them are Landry, who had an opening round 66, and Westwood, who was a shot further back. Bubba Watson is also within three shots of the lead after playing only 18 holes.

WATCH OUT FOR SERGIO: Strange things can happen in the Open, and strange things always seem to happen to Sergio Garcia. He played with Johnson on Friday and got his 36 holes in at 2 under. More importantly, he had to be on a high after chopping his way out of the deep rough and then holing a 70-footer for par on the final hole.

MIRACLE FOR PHIL?: Phil Mickelson's close calls at the tournament he wants most to win are well documented. Six times he has finished second in the only major championship he hasn't won and at the age of 46 his time may be running out. It looked that way Friday as Mickelson was 7 over through 34 holes before darkness halted play. To even make the cut Mickelson may have to play his final two holes under par Saturday morning.

SHORT MEMORY: Johnson has the lead and he has the advantage of sleeping in Saturday and only having to put in his regular 18 holes. He's striking the ball brilliantly and might have had an even bigger lead if he had sunk some very makeable putts. But the mind is a fragile thing, and Johnson can't start thinking back to last year at Chambers Bay when he had 15 feet for eagle on the final hole to win the Open. He missed the putt, and then missed the putt coming back as Jordan Spieth escaped with the win.

OUT OF NOWHERE: There are still plenty of holes — 54 for some, less for others — for someone to come out of nowhere and win the Open. Daniel Summerhays provided a glimpse of that when he shot 65 Friday to move to 1-under-par. And don't forget Spieth, the defending champion, who knows how to win and has three full rounds to improve on the 2-over 72 he opened with.

Woman arrested for killing pregnant daughter over love match

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Police in Pakistan say they have arrested a mother who is accused of killing her pregnant daughter for marrying against the wishes of her family.

Local police official Arshad Mahamood said Saturday that the mother and her son slit the throat of 22-year-old Muqadas Tofeeq in the village of Butrawala in Punjab province. Tofeeq was the mother of a 10-month-old infant.

He says Muqadas was lured into her parental home before she was killed on Friday. Her husband Mohammed Tofeeq reported the murder.

Violence against women is not uncommon in Pakistan where nearly 1,000 women are killed each year in so-called "honor killings" for violating conservative norms on love and marriage.

Attempt to hold pan-Orthodox synod stalls over disputes

PATRICK QUINN, Associated Press

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — A historic attempt to bring together all leaders of the world's Orthodox churches for the first time in more than a millennium has stalled after the powerful Russian church and three

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others pulled out at the last minute over disputes ranging from the seating plan to efforts to reconcile with the Vatican.

The Holy and Great Council, set to open Sunday on the Greek island of Crete, was to be the first meeting of all Orthodox leaders since the year 787, when the last of the seven councils recognized by both Orthodox and Catholics was held. The meeting is still on, but with the Russian Orthodox Church and three others staying away, its pan-Orthodox aura has faded.

Istanbul-based Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I, considered "the first among equals" since the time when Constantinople was the seat of the Byzantine Empire, has been the main driving force behind efforts to bring together the leaders of all 14 independent Orthodox churches. The gathering, for which preparations began 55 years ago, was meant to promote unity among the world's more than 300 million Orthodox Christians. But in recent weeks, differences that at first seemed minor escalated as the date for the meeting approached.

The Rev. John Chryssavgis, a spokesman for Bartholomew, said the 10 patriarchs attending the council met Friday and issued a final plea "even at the 11th hour" for the other churches to attend, saying whatever issues they have will be examined. But he added that the council will go on without them, and organizers say the decisions made by the remaining 10 will be binding — a claim certainly to be rejected by Moscow and the others.

But Russian Patriarch Kirill reiterated Friday that his church would not attend, saying in a message to the council that he considered the Crete gathering a preparatory session for a synod that will unite all the churches "without exception."

"Our prayers will be with you in the days of the work ahead of you," he added.

The argument is certain to further fray the brittle relationship between many of the churches.

Unlike the Roman Catholics, the Orthodox churches are independent and have their own leadership. They also have different priorities, with some in recent years becoming more inward looking and nationalist, while others have turned more liberal as they try to appeal to a more globalized flock, which has been growing distant from what is perceived to be a conservative faith clinging to centuries-old traditions. The Council was to be an important step not only to show a unity of cause, but to rekindle interest in the faith among an often disparate community of believers scattered in small churches around the globe.

But at the heart of the matter is a struggle for spiritual influence over the world's Orthodox faithful between the large, rich and dynamic Russian church, which represents more than 100 million faithful, and the older but far smaller Ecumenical Patriarchate headquartered in predominantly Muslim Turkey.

"The Russian Orthodox Church and the churches allied with it are on the rise," said Roman Silantyev, a Moscow-based scholar, and "can afford to resist any compromise."

Andrei Desnitsky, a Moscow-based author and commentator on religious affairs, said the rift reflected long-running tensions between the ecumenical patriarchate and Moscow. "Any serious issues related to Orthodox policies reflect a soft rivalry between the two patriarchates," he wrote in a recent commentary.

One of the first disagreements was over seating. According to some reports, the Russian church strongly opposed a plan for the ecumenical patriarch to take a presiding seat during the council session, seeing it as an attempt to promote primacy. Instead, Moscow and the Bulgarian Orthodox Church reportedly insisted that the participants sit at a round table.

While the seating issue was settled, other disagreements were more difficult to deal with.

The Bulgarian church was the first to drop out, citing a lack of "particularly important" topics on the agenda, the seating plan, and the handling of documents. The Damascus-based Antioch Patriarchate

said it would not attend unless an ongoing dispute with the Jerusalem Patriarchate was resolved ahead of the council. The two broke relations over the jurisdiction of the Muslim Gulf state of Qatar. The Georgian Orthodox Church cited a doctrinal issue to pull out.

Some observers say the three may have been influenced by the Russian church. Because of an agreement that all council decisions should be reached through consensus, the Moscow Patriarchate insisted on a postponement, arguing that the absence of even a single church would make that impossible.

Chryssavgis said Bartholomew could not postpone the council and unilaterally overturn the collective decision to meet. "Bartholomew is not the pope, he can't just decide," he told the AP, adding that it can't be ruled out that the 10 churches present could vote for a postponement when they gather.

Some in the Russian church have been deeply suspicious of the ecumenical patriarch's intentions, fearing that the council could pave way to closer ties to the Vatican, Protestants and others, anathema for conservatives in that institution.

"There are fears that the Orthodox will surrender their positions in the face of the Catholics," Silantiev said. "There are a certain number of priests and some bishops who share that view."

"It's a confrontation between liberals and anti-liberals, and Constantinople represents the liberal side," Silantiev added.

The "Great Schism" split Christendom in 1054 over the Vatican's power. Despite a landmark meeting between Pope Francis and the Russian patriarch Kirill in Cuba, many in the Moscow Patriarchate and other Orthodox churches do not want any rapprochement with the Vatican.

Some conservatives in the Russian church have been critical of Kirill's decision to endorse a set of compromise documents prepared for approval by the council, including one on relations with other Christian churches.

"The Russian church's leadership has found itself in an awkward position and preferred to dodge attacks for taking part in the project initiated by its Constantinople rivals, posing instead as keepers of Orthodox unity," Alexei Makarkin, a deputy head of the Center for Political Technologies, a Moscow-based think-tank, wrote recently.

The Moscow Patriarchate has tried to downplay the rift, saying that differences could be settled and a council be held at a later date.

"We aren't inclined to dramatize it or see it as some sort of catastrophe," Moscow Patriarchate's spokesman Vladimir Legoida told the AP. "We don't see the difficulties that have emerged as insurmountable."

Firefighters battle California brushfire as heatwave looms

NICK UT, Associated Press

JOHN ANTCZAK, Associated Press

GOLETA, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters battling a California wildfire that forced the evacuation of campgrounds and ranches were struggling with strong overnight winds and bracing for rising temperatures as an extreme heatwave is expected to sweep across the Southwest this weekend.

The blaze — which shut down U.S. 101, the state's major coastal highway, for two nights in a row — more than tripled in size Friday and had consumed 9 square miles of heavy brush.

The fire was 20 percent contained but so-called "sundowner" winds that rush down the mountains in 40 mph gusts were beginning to kick up again Friday night, fire officials said.

"It's very hot and dangerous," Susan Klein-Rothschild with the county health department said of the blaze. "The last couple of nights...it's calmer during the day and the eruptions and explosions and ex-

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pansions have happened during the night hours.”

Weekend fire dangers already were expected to worsen as the heatwave will bring potentially record-shattering temperatures across the Southwest.

Another fire erupted Friday afternoon in Northern California. The wind-driven blaze southwest of Sacramento quickly burned 200 acres of grasslands and prompted the evacuation of China Gulch, a tiny community in the historic Gold Country.

By evening, though, the fire’s forward movement had been stopped.

In central New Mexico, a blaze that began Tuesday had destroyed 24 homes and charred more than 26 square miles near the small community of Chilili.

Lighter winds helped firefighters battle the blaze in triple-digit temperatures.

Three days after the fire erupted in the Manzano Mountains south of Albuquerque, it remained “extremely active,” said fire information officer Denise Ottaviano.

“We’re seeing up to 100-foot flame lengths or more throughout the day,” Ottaviano said. “We’re fighting it as many ways as we can and as safely and quickly as possible.”

Authorities expanded a mandatory evacuation zone to include more subdivisions to the north and east. They could not say how many homes were affected or how many were directly threatened.

The fire cast a thick haze that reached as far north as Denver.

The California inferno appeared to support national wildfire authorities’ predictions of another dangerous and difficult year for the state after years of drought. State firefighters and the U.S. Forest Service already have fought more than 1,800 wildfires since Jan. 1, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said.

While El Nino delivered rain and snow to Northern California this winter, the south was bypassed. What rain fell was just enough to sprout grasses that quickly died, adding to the danger of long-dead vegetation.

“It is ominous,” Santa Barbara County Fire Chief Eric Peterson told a press conference.

About 270 homes and ranches were considered at risk in southern Santa Barbara County at the foot of the rugged Santa Ynez Mountains, an east-west trending range that parallels the south-facing coast.

Lanny Stableford watched as a fleet of aircraft attacked flames in rugged Refugio Canyon near his ranch.

He keeps 40 head of longhorn cattle.

“I can leave but they won’t let me back so I’m just kind of hanging out here,” he said, noting he was not in danger. “Somebody has to take care of my cows.”

In east-central Arizona, progress was made against a 15-square-mile blaze that broke out Wednesday south of Show Low.

Crews deliberately burned thousands of acres to deprive the fire of fuel.

Much of the fire is burning in terrain too rugged for safe work on the ground, so crews have concentrated on clearing firelines along a highway, roads and a power line, said Rick Miller, the fire team’s operations section chief.

However, a small Navajo County community remained evacuated and thousands of other residents were told to be prepared in case they had to leave.

Trump verbal volleys leave jarred GOP bracing for convention

ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — If Donald Trump's Republican Party were a family and its national convention a reunion, a therapist might say there are issues to resolve.

For all his harangues, the blustery billionaire remains on track to become the party's nominee at its Cleveland gathering next month. Yet his incendiary comments following the Orlando massacre have rattled the GOP, and pockets of apprehension and outright defiance are, if anything, growing.

More congressional Republicans are not endorsing Trump and planning to skip the convention. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., one of Trump's top House backers, says his support among lawmakers "has stalled." And there's a longshot movement among conservative delegates and operatives — including supporters of Trump's vanquished rival, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz — to change party rules so the convention can pick a different nominee.

"We're acting to save the Republican Party from imminent disaster," said Steve Lonegan, who chaired Cruz's New Jersey campaign and is helping organize an effort to let delegates chosen to back one candidate vote instead for another.

Lonegan, others leading the drive and Cruz aides say the Texas senator is not involved in that effort. Yet even with Trump's poll numbers dipping, many of his harshest GOP critics concede it's likely too late to pick someone else in Cleveland. They say such efforts lack sufficient support, are disorganized and have no alternative candidate.

That view prevails even after a shooter left 49 people dead in Orlando and Trump suggested that President Barack Obama was sympathetic to Islamic extremists, saying "there's something going on."

Asked what line Trump must traverse before imperiling his own nomination, Trump detractor Rep. Reid Ribble, R-Wis., said, "I don't know, because I think he's crossed it 20 times already."

Congressional Republicans aren't hesitating to distance themselves from Trump, who this month asserted that a Mexican-American judge couldn't fairly preside over a Trump civil case.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who's unenthusiastically backed Trump, said in an interview recorded for NBC's Sunday show "Meet the Press" that GOP lawmakers should follow "their conscience" when considering endorsing Trump. Others not supporting him or attending the convention include House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton, R-Mich., who for the first time in his 30-year congressional career is not backing the party nominee.

Many say, like him or not, Trump won and efforts to dump him would be crushed and would devastate the GOP. According to The Associated Press, Trump has 1,542 delegates, including 1,447 required by party rules to back his nomination, well above the 1,237 needed for victory.

One catch: Delegates "bound" to one candidate can vote freely in convention rules fights. Delegates could sour on Trump and approve procedures opening the door to an alternative.

"It's a fantasy, it won't happen," said Morton Blackwell, a Republican National Committee member from Virginia who initially backed Cruz.

"We have a responsibility to respect our democracy, and that means we accept the outcome of the vote," said Rep. Austin Scott, R-Ga., who supported the presidential bid of Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

Some are trying anyway.

Kendal Unruh, a Cruz delegate from Colorado, is helping lead the drive to allow delegates bound by current rules to one candidate to instead cast a "vote of conscience" for another. Delegates could do so if their original candidate has committed "grievous acts" including scandal, crimes or supporting views "in gross violation" of GOP stances.

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Ryan, who has said he doesn't want to be an alternative should Trump falter, didn't know Unruh — like him — used the word "conscience," said Ryan spokeswoman Ashlee Strong.

Unruh's group, which Lonigan is helping, is using social media and emails and held a conference call Thursday night to organize efforts to find support.

To prevail, Unruh needs a majority of the 112 members of the convention rules committee, which has two delegates from each state and territory. Then, a majority of the full convention's 2,472 delegates would have to approve.

There's a Plan B. If Unruh can win over one-fourth support from the rules committee — just 29 delegates — the full convention must vote on her proposal. So far she's got around 10 supporters though some prefer delaying the rule's impact until the 2020 convention, she said.

"Circumstances change and delegates aren't robots," said Unruh, who cited Trump's belittling of a Mexican-American judge as grounds to abandon him.

Party officials looking to smooth Trump's convention path are already counting noses.

Randy Evans, Georgia's RNC committeeman, says his informal tally suggests it will be a "pretty tall order" to prevent the full convention from voting on unbinding delegates. But he said he expects Trump forces to win a convention floor showdown "pretty comfortably."

"They can make everything look tumultuous," Cindy Costa, South Carolina's RNC committeewoman, said of those attempting to let delegates vote freely. But it would be "a big mistake" and would lose, she said.

In one indication Trump is moving to assert control, one of his operatives ensured at a meeting of Maryland delegates that the state's two slots on the convention rules committee went to Trump supporters, said Louis Pope, the state's RNC committeeman.

Apple ordered to suspend iPhone 6 sales in Beijing

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese regulator has ordered Apple Inc. to stop selling two versions of its iPhone 6 in Beijing after finding they look too much like a competitor, but Apple says sales are going ahead while it appeals.

The ruling by an intellectual property tribunal is the latest legal stumbling block for Apple in its second-biggest global market following the suspension of its iTunes movie service in April. The company also faces rising competition from local brands including Huawei and Xiaomi, which have gained market share.

The order by the Beijing tribunal said the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus looked too much like the 100C model made by Shenzhen Beili, a small Chinese brand. The order was issued in May but reported this week by the Chinese press.

Apple said a Beijing court stayed the administrative order on appeal and the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus still were on sale.

Apple suspended its iBooks and iTunes Movies services in April, which news reports said was due to an order by Chinese regulators. The company said it hoped to resume service soon.

In May, Apple suffered another setback when a court ruled that a Chinese company is allowed to use the iPhone trademark on bags, wallets and other leather goods. Apple said it would appeal.

Oakland police chief steps down after 2 days on the job

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Oakland lost its third police chief in eight days Friday as it struggles with allegations that a number of officers had sex with a teenage prostitute and exchanged racist text messages.

Mayor Libby Schaaf said acting Police Chief Paul Figueroa was on the job for two days before stepping down but said his decision was not connected to the two scandals.

However, she denounced the department's "toxic, macho culture" and vowed to root out "the bad apples."

"As the mayor of Oakland, I'm here to run a police department, not a frat house," Schaaf told a news conference Friday evening.

Schaaf said she will not immediately appoint an acting or interim chief. Instead, the command staff will report to City Administrator Sabrina Landreth, who will be responsible for personnel and disciplinary decisions.

"This is the appropriate time to install civilian oversight in this police department," Schaaf told a news conference Friday evening. "I want to assure the citizens of Oakland that we are hell bent on rooting out this disgusting culture."

The police department was already engulfed by the sex scandal when Schaaf revealed Friday a separate investigation into racist text messages that she said were "wholly inappropriate and not acceptable from anyone who wears the badge of the Oakland Police Department."

Schaaf said the number of officers involved is not as widespread as those involved in the sex scandal, but cautioned that the investigation was ongoing. One of the officers under investigation in the text scandal has been placed on leave, she said.

Some of the officers being investigated were "engaging in hate speech," and others were "tolerating it" by receiving offensive messages and not reporting them, Schaaf said.

She said Figueroa has taken a leave of absence and asked to return to the force as a captain, not as an assistant chief.

Schaaf appointed Figueroa on Wednesday after abruptly removing the interim police chief, Ben Fairrow, after learning unspecified information that led her to lose confidence in his ability to lead the beleaguered department. She had appointed Fairrow after Chief Sean Whent suddenly resigned June 9.

Two officers with the troubled Oakland department have resigned amid the sex scandal, and three others remain on paid leave.

The scandal involving at least 14 Oakland police officers is another blow to a department already under federal oversight over past failures to adequately hold officers accountable for misdeeds that included planting evidence and robbing residents in predominantly black west Oakland.

Today in History The Associated Press

Today is Saturday, June 18, the 170th day of 2016. There are 196 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 18, 1983, astronaut Sally K. Ride became America's first woman in space as she and four colleagues blasted off aboard the space shuttle Challenger on a six-day mission.

On this date:

In 1778, American forces entered Philadelphia as the British withdrew during the Revolutionary War.
In 1812, the War of 1812 began as the United States Congress approved, and President James Madi-

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son signed, a declaration of war against Britain.

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte met his Waterloo as British and Prussian troops defeated the French in Belgium.

In 1873, suffragist Susan B. Anthony was found guilty by a judge in Canandaigua, New York, of breaking the law by casting a vote in the 1872 presidential election. (The judge fined Anthony \$100, but she never paid the penalty.)

In 1908, William Howard Taft was nominated for president by the Republican National Convention in Chicago.

In 1940, during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill urged his countrymen to conduct themselves in a manner that would prompt future generations to say, "This was their finest hour." Charles de Gaulle delivered a speech on the BBC in which he rallied his countrymen after the fall of France to Nazi Germany.

In 1953, a U.S. Air Force Douglas C-124 Globemaster II crashed near Tokyo, killing all 129 people on board. Egypt's 148-year-old Muhammad Ali Dynasty came to an end with the overthrow of the monarchy and the proclamation of a republic.

In 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson and Japanese Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda spoke to each other by telephone as they inaugurated the first trans-Pacific cable completed by AT&T between Japan and Hawaii.

In 1979, President Jimmy Carter and Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev signed the SALT II strategic arms limitation treaty in Vienna.

In 1986, 25 people were killed when a twin-engine plane and helicopter carrying sightseers collided over the Grand Canyon.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Georgia v. McCollum*, ruled that criminal defendants could not use race as a basis for excluding potential jurors from their trials. Entertainer Peter Allen died in San Diego County, California, at age 48.

In 1996, Richard Allen Davis was convicted in San Jose, California, of the 1993 kidnap-murder of 12-year-old Polly Klaas of Petaluma. (Davis remains on death row.) Two Army transport helicopters collided and crashed during training exercises near Fort Campbell, Kentucky, killing six.

Ten years ago: Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori (SHOHR'-ee) was elected the first female presiding bishop for the Episcopal Church, the U.S. arm of the global Anglican Communion. Phil Mickelson's bid for a third consecutive major ended with a shocking collapse on the final hole, giving the U.S. Open to Geoff Ogilvy.

Five years ago: President Hamid Karzai acknowledged that the U.S. and Afghan governments had held talks with Taliban emissaries in a bid to end the nation's nearly 10-year war. British singer Amy Winehouse was heavily booed for being late and displaying erratic behavior on stage during a concert in Belgrade, Serbia. Yelena Bonner, 88, a Russian rights activist and widow of Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov, died in Boston. Clarence Clemons, the saxophone player for the E Street Band who was one of the key influences in Bruce Springsteen's life and music, died in Florida at age 69.

One year ago: In dueling decisions about free speech, the Supreme Court upheld Texas' refusal to issue a license plate bearing the Confederate battle flag and struck down an Arizona town's restrictions on temporary signs put up by a small church. Texas death row inmate Gregory Rousseau was executed for the 2001 slaying of James Syvertson, a 75-year-old East Texas auto repair shop owner, during a crack cocaine binge.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., is 79. Baseball Hall of Famer Lou Brock is 77. Rock singer-composer-musician Sir Paul McCartney is 74. Actress Constance McCashin is 69. Actress

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Linda Thorson is 69. Rock musician John Evans is 68. Former Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., is 66. Actress Isabella Rossellini is 64. Actress Carol Kane is 64. Actor Brian Benben is 60. Actress Andrea Evans is 59. Rock singer Alison Moyet is 55. Rock musician Dizzy Reed (Guns N' Roses) is 53. Figure skater Kurt Browning is 50. Country singer-musician Tim Hunt is 49. Rock singer-musician Sice (The Boo Radleys) is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nathan Morris (Boyz II Men) is 45. Actress Mara Hobel is 45. Singer-songwriter Ray LaMontagne is 43. Rapper Silkk the Shocker is 41. Actress Alana de la Garza is 40. Country singer Blake Shelton is 40. Rock musician Steven Chen (Airborne Toxic Event) is 38. Actor David Giuntoli is 36. Actress Renee Olstead is 27. Actor Jacob Anderson is 26. Actress Willa Holland is 25.

Thought for Today: "Most of the successful people I've known are the ones who do more listening than talking." — Bernard M. Baruch, American businessman and statesman (1870-1965).