

# Groton Daily Independent

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**At the Milbank Tourney yesterday, the Groton American Legion Post #39 lost to Volga, 9-1.**

## FOR SALE

**MARCY MWM900 Home Gym for sale. Asking \$100. Contact Brian at 397-7180.**

**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**

Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

**605-725-WOOD**

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE  
COMPANY**

## Saturday, June 3

**Legion:** at Milbank Tourney

**U10:** at Aberdeen Tourney (vs. Jamestown Blue at 10:30 a.m. and Milbank at 2:30 p.m.)

**U12:** at Aberdeen Tourney (vs. Welke at 9:30 a.m. and Mobridge at 1:30 p.m.)

## Sunday, June 4

**St. John's Lutheran:** Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Worship at 9 a.m.

**United Methodist Church:** Conde worship with communion, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship with communion, 11 a.m.

**Catholic Parish:** Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.

**First Presbyterian:** Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.

**Heaven Bound Ministries:** No Worship. (Paul at Emmanuel in Groton)

**Legion:** at Milbank Tourney

**Jr. Teener:** hosts Clark, 2 p.m., 2 games

**U10:** at Aberdeen Tourney (vs. Bismarck at 9:30 a.m.. Tourney is a pool play so there will be another game at 1:30 p.m. or 3:30 p.m.)

**U12:** at Aberdeen Tourney (vs. Huron at 9 a.m. and Watertown at 1 p.m.)

## Monday, June 5

**Senior Menu:** Beef stew, buttermilk biscuits, Waldorf salad, rainbow sherbet.

**Emmanuel Lutheran:** Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.

**Groton School:** State girls golf at West Central (Hartford)

**Jr. Legion:** hosts Claremont, 6 p.m., 2 games

**U8 Blue & Red:** hosts Britton at 6 p.m. for 2 games

**Softball:** at Webster (U8 at 7 p.m., U10 at 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m., U12 at 6 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. - the 7:15 p.m. games are with Milbank at Webster)

**City Council:** Meet at 7 p.m. at the Groton Community Center

**Olive Grove:** Kid's lessons, 9:30 a.m.-10:15 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.

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## Helping South Dakotans Get Back To Work

My parents took pride in self-reliance and taught me the value of hard work. They worked hard on our family farm, and when the farm went upside-down financially, they both took jobs as janitors at Augustana College to make ends meet.

Mom and Dad were also born deaf, but their inability to hear did not prevent them from working to support my sisters and me. They taught us that all work has dignity and that idleness is not an option.

In South Dakota we have the fourth lowest unemployment rate in the nation at 2.8 percent. That's very low compared to the national rate of 4.4 percent, and about half of the rates recorded in Alaska and New Mexico.

South Dakota's low unemployment number is in part thanks to the work ethic of our people. South Dakotans understand the value of work because working hard has been instilled in us by our ancestors.

Our low unemployment rate also has to do with responsible governance. In South Dakota we help those who stumble, but we don't carry those who choose to lie down. Unlike some states that allowed a person to receive unemployment payments for almost two years following the recession, South Dakota has kept unemployment insurance as a more temporary assistance program – a program in which claimants are required to work hard to find employment.

In May of 2012, the South Dakota Department of Labor and Regulation implemented a program for the unemployed called Re-Employment Intensive Services (RIS). Those unemployed who have received payments for more than 10 weeks must engage with dedicated labor specialists for one-on-one assistance in the job hunt. The program helps them identify in-demand careers, evaluate their skills and find training options.

RIS is working. Over the past five years, 4,022 people who participated in RIS have obtained employment. Only 6.2 percent of those who participated in the program exhausted their UI benefits.

Putting more than 4,000 people back to work is no small thing. Through RIS and their own resiliency, these individuals can now provide for themselves and their families. Perhaps more importantly, they can experience the self-respect and sense of accomplishment that come from a job well done.

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**Wanner breaks 19-year old long jump school record at state**

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**It was something that Audrey was striving for all year. She was close a few times, but always short of the goal. Finally, at her last meet of her high school career, at state, she broke the school record in the long jump that has held for 19 years. Traci Ehresmann had the previous record in 1998 at 17'0.25". At state, she placed second with a school record of 17'3.5". She is pictured above doing the long jump at the state track meet. (Photo by Lynn Wanner)**



## A Better Way to Determine How Your Tax Dollars are Spent

President Trump recently sent his first budget proposal to Congress. Historically, a president's budget, which is required by law to be submitted annually, is viewed as a framework for the administration's priorities and typically kicks off the appropriations process in Congress, where we are supposed to work our way through 12 individual appropriation bills. These bills allow us to make important changes to policy in the United States. When the appropriations process works as intended, it is the best tool we have to make certain that the federal government is a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars, reining in wasteful spending and allowing us to review programs to make sure they are working as intended. The problem is, the appropriations process has only worked as intended four times in the last 43 years. Yet the process remains unchanged. It is the epitome of "Washington is broken."

Rather than working through the separate appropriation bills individually, Congress continues to pass spending bills that preserve the status quo. I, along with a number of my colleagues in the Senate, have grown increasingly frustrated by this broken budget process and are working to fix it.

Even when the appropriations process works as it should, Congress still only debates around 28 percent of our annual spending, as the 12 appropriations bills only include spending for defense and non-defense discretionary programs. Meanwhile, mandatory payments on Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and interest on our ever-growing debt account for 72 percent of our budget and are not even debated in Congress. They run on auto-pilot. Discussions about lowering our federal deficit must include addressing the way we manage our mandatory payments if we're ever going to address the growing fiscal crisis we're currently in. We simply cannot afford to continue funding the government at the same levels year after year without addressing the major drivers of our debt.

By properly managing programs like Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, we will be protecting future generations from being saddled with debt, and also making sure those important safety nets are still available for generations to come. I often use the South Dakota Retirement System Board of Trustees as a good example of how the federal government should manage these programs: they are proactive about managing the retirement system so they can address and fix any issues well in advance. If federal mandatory programs were debated and improved by Congress every year, they would be much easier to manage and we would be in a better position to help them stay in good financial shape.

It is up to Congress to be responsible stewards of Americans' hard-earned tax dollars. By changing the way we address our budget each year, we will be able to cut wasteful spending, make federal programs as efficient as possible and, hopefully, allow more Americans to keep more of their money so they can reinvest in the economy instead of spending it on taxes. A growing number of members in the Senate are beginning to recognize the need to actually manage and vote on the entire budget, not just the 28 percent, as has been the case for the last 43 years. I think we are making progress.

###



**Pictured (L to R): Kelly Hyke (District 4 President), Chad C. Osthus, CFSP (Immediate Past President), Josh Fiedler (Secretary/Treasurer), Mitch Steinhoff (District 3 President), Andrea Eisenbeisz (President), Justin Nelson (President-Elect), Terry Rietveld (Vice President), Jim Jaeger (Policy Board Representative)**

## **Eisenbeisz elected as state funeral director president**

Andrea Eisenbeisz of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton, was elected as president of the South Dakota Funeral Directors Association (SDFDA) at its annual state convention held May 10-12 in Watertown. This year's convention marked the association's 118th anniversary.

Eisenbeisz, a funeral director for 18 years, will serve on the executive board of the SDFDA as president for the 2017-18 association year.

From an early age, Andrea knew she wanted to become a funeral director, so following graduation from South Shore High School in 1995, she attended South Dakota State University in Brookings. Upon completing the pre-mortuary program at SDSU, she continued her education in Dallas, Texas. As a student, she worked for Sparkman-Hillcrest Funeral Home & Memorial Park. Andrea graduated in December of 1998 from Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. She returned to South Dakota to complete her apprenticeship, working at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel. She continued to manage this location while earning a degree in Business Management from Northern State University in 2001. In October of 2006, she purchased the business and in recent years has constructed a new facility.

Andrea and her husband, Scott, were married in February of 2016 in Turks and Caicos. They enjoy traveling, scuba diving and all of Nolan's many activities. They are members of the United Methodist Church. Andrea is active in the Groton community, having served as Past President of the Groton Chamber of Commerce and as a 10 year member of the Groton Kiwanis Club. In her spare time, she enjoys reading.

The SDFDA is a professional association that represents the funeral service professional and the funeral home establishments in the state. The association provides education, legislative representation and public relations statewide.

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## From the Editors of E - The Environmental Magazine

Dear EarthTalk: How are farms and farmers dealing with climate change?

-- Michael Harris, Lorton, VA

Agriculture may well be one of the industries hardest hit by the effects of global warming. The non-profit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading environmental advocacy group, reports that warming-related drought and flooding is already behind tens of billions of dollars in American agricultural losses annually. Given this growing threat, more and more farmers are looking to incorporate tools and techniques—let alone switch up what crops they grow—to be prepared for the big environmental changes already underway.

According to Washington State University's Center for Sustaining Agriculture & Natural Resources (CSANR), some of the most promising warming-friendly farming technologies and practices include conservation tillage (stirring up the soil less), precision agriculture (which employs information technology to monitor crop development, refine soil inputs and optimize growing conditions), improved cropping systems (refining the sequence of which crops follow each other on a given piece of land), and anaerobic digestion of organic wastes (via capturing methane waste and turning it into useable energy).

NRDC has been working on sustainable agriculture for decades, and recently launched its Climate Resistant Farms campaign to focus on helping farmers roll with the punches of global warming through implementation of some of these new techniques. The group works directly with farmers to develop and share some of these best practices regarding soil health and water use.

"Climate change and extreme weather will likely have detrimental impacts on crop production, but farmers can use cover crops and other soil stewardship practices to make their farms more resilient to the climate change impacts already being felt and those likely to come in the years ahead," reports NRDC. "Such practices can also help to reduce and capture the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change."

NRDC analyzed the carbon capture and water-holding benefits of soil stewardship methods to increase soil organic matter in the 10 highest-value-producing agricultural states in the U.S. They found that "using cover crops on just half of the acres devoted to the nation's two most ubiquitous crops—corn and soybeans—in those top 10 states could help capture more than 19 million metric tons of carbon each year and help soils retain an additional trillion gallons of water."

But despite the benefits, fewer than seven percent of U.S. farms plant cover crops, while only one percent of total cropland nationally has them. NRDC would like to see the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP)—which is backed by U.S. taxpayers—offer discounts to farmers who implement cover crops "just as safe drivers can get discounts on their car insurance."

"While the program was created to help farmers manage risk, premiums are set using a formula that fails to equip them for the challenges of climate change," states NRDC. "Instead, the program spurs farmers to make risky production decisions." NRDC points out that besides saving taxpayer dollars in insurance payouts, expanding climate-friendly agricultural practices helps "ensure a reliable food supply for the nation even in the face of more extreme weather and climate risks."

CONTACTS: CSANR, [csanr.wsu.edu](http://csanr.wsu.edu); NRDC, [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org).

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## Today in Weather History

June 3, 1898: A violent windstorm passed over Aberdeen between 1 AM and 2 AM. Damage was confined to awnings, roofs of buildings, and plate glass windows.

June 3, 1933: This estimated F2 tornado moved ENE from 6 miles southwest of Wilmot, passing 3 miles south of town and dissipating at Big Stone Lake. A child was killed in a barn. Roof, barn, and church debris was scattered for miles, and over a dozen farms were heavily damaged. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 15 miles. Estimated loss from this storm totaled \$100,000.

June 3, 1975: Severe thunderstorms erupted across central sections of South Dakota. During the evening hours, the storms stretched from the southern border to the North Dakota state line and were packing high winds and large hail. In several areas, including Mobridge, hail as large as baseballs did damage to crops, homes, and vehicles and in some regions piled up to two feet deep. Strong thunderstorm winds also uprooted trees and damaged numerous farm buildings. Multiple funnels and small tornadoes were observed, including three in Charles Mix County.

June 3, 1997: Heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches through the early morning hours resulted in the flooding of some roads, fields, and creeks across parts of Jones and Lyman counties. In particular, the KOA campgrounds near Presho were heavily flooded. The KOA office and home had three and a half feet of water in them. Also, several homes near or in Presho received water and were heavily damaged. The Medicine and Stoney Butte creeks set record highs.

1860: Iowa's infamous Camanche Tornado, likely an F5 storm, kills 92 and injures 200. Every home and business were destroyed. It was one of the most damaging families of tornadoes ever to strike the US and resulted in more farm fatalities than any other tornado except for the Tri-State tornado.

1921: Heavy rains caused flash flooding over the southeastern portion of Colorado. The flooding cost the lives of 100 people and millions of dollars in property damage.

1993: Early morning severe thunderstorms dumped huge hailstones across northern Oklahoma. Hail, up to 6 inches in diameter in Enid, went through roofs of homes, damaged three jets at Vance Air Force Base, and did \$500,000 in damage at a car dealership. Winds gusts reached 70 mph at Vance Air Force Base as well. Hail damage to the wheat crop was estimated at \$70 million dollars.

1959 - Thunderstorms in northwestern Kansas produced up to eighteen inches of hail near Salden during the early evening. Crops were completely destroyed, and total damage from the storm was about half a million dollars. Hail fell for a record eighty-five minutes. The temperature dropped from near 80 degrees prior to the storm to 38 degrees at the height of the storm. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Six days of flooding in South Texas culminated with five to six inch rains from Bexar County to Bandera County, and five to nine inches rains in Gonzalez and Wilson Counties. Total crop damage was estimated at 500 million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Early morning thunderstorms in southern Texas produced wind gusts to 86 mph at Port Isabel, and wind gusts to 83 mph at South Padre Island. Unseasonably hot weather prevailed from the Southern Plateau Region to the Northern High Plains. Fourteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing over the Southern Plains Region during the afternoon hours produced severe weather into the night. Thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, and there were 169 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Newcastle, OK, and Wilson, OK. Softball size hail was reported at Monahans, Childress and Groesbeck TX. Monahans TX reported six million dollars damage. Five inches of rain deluged Geronimo OK. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1997: It was a chilly day in the East. The high temperature at Philadelphia International Airport was only 59 degrees, tying a record-low maximum for the date set back in 1881. The temperature at Middletown, Pennsylvania only rose to 58 degrees, breaking the record-low maximum for the date of 59 degrees set back in 1915. Washington, DC only reached 58 degrees, breaking the old record-low maximum of 59 set back in 1915. Central Park in New York City only reached 61 degrees.

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Hot	Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Chance T-storms
High: 91 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 92 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 86 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 85 °F



Highs:  
upper 80s to mid 90s

Lows: upper 50s

## Hot Weekend Forecast

### Heat Safety Tips

Limit Outdoor Activities  
Drink Plenty of Water  
Wear Light Clothing  
Wear Sunscreen



National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



[weather.gov/Aberdeen](http://weather.gov/Aberdeen)

Updated: 4/4/2017 4 am

Published on: 06/03/2017 at 4:21AM

Dry high pressure will build into the region through the weekend, with afternoon highs in the upper 80s to mid 90s. Lows will be in the upper 50s. If you plan to spend a significant amount of time outdoors, keep these heat safety tips in mind: drink plenty of water, wear light clothing, and wear sunscreen.



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## Yesterday's Weather

**High Outside Temp: 98.9 F at 5:26 PM (RECORD HIGH)**

**Low Outside Temp: 62.0 F at 5:27 AM**

**High Gust: 28.0 Mph at 1:54 PM**

**Precip: 0.01**

## Today's Info

**Record High: 100° in 1933**

**Record Low: 34° in 1950**

**Average High: 74°F**

**Average Low: 50°F**

**Average Precip in June: .034**

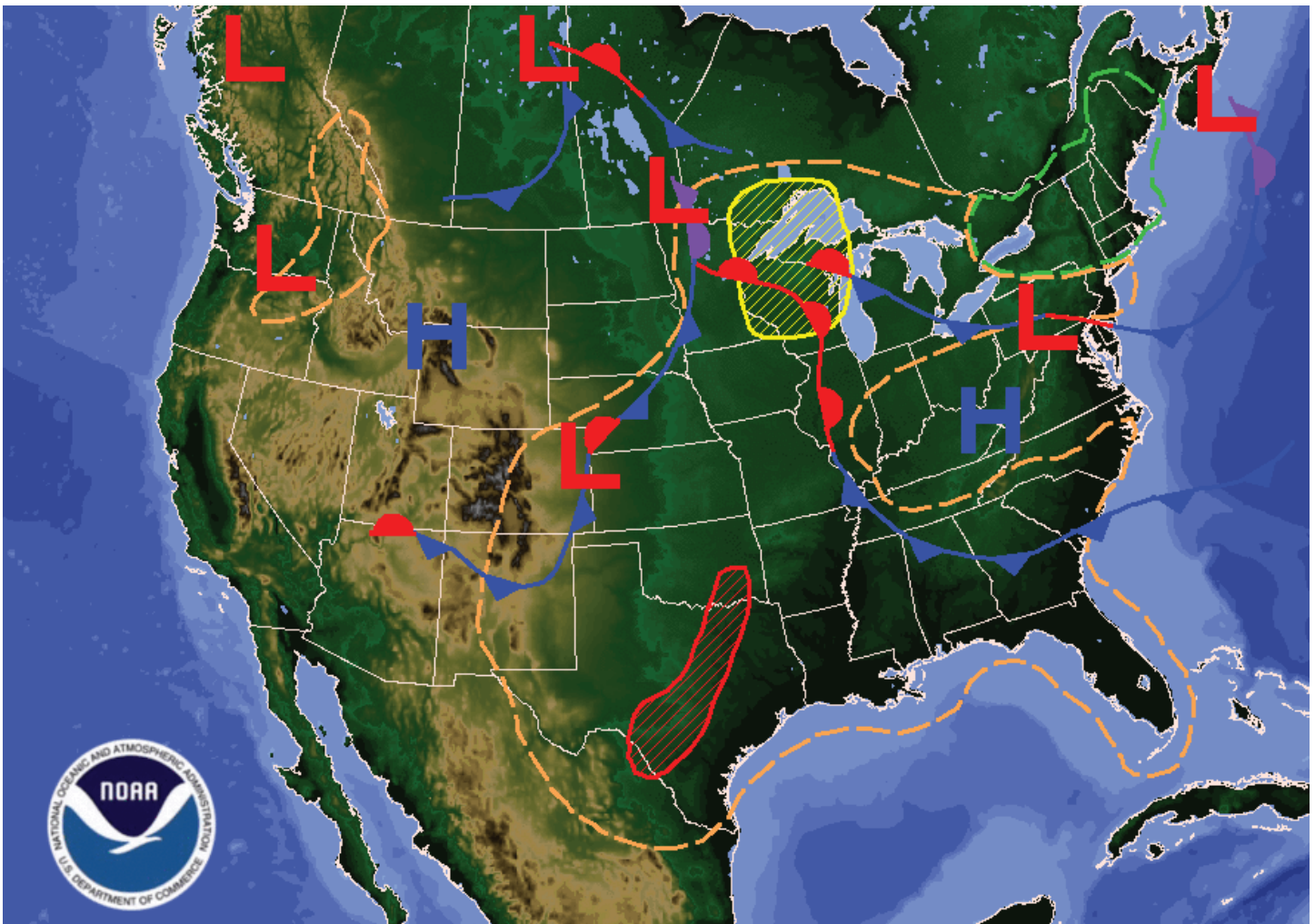
**Precip to date in June: 0.01**

**Average Precip to date: 7.48**

**Precip Year to Date: 3.20**

**Sunset Tonight: 9:16 p.m.**

**Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46 a.m.**



### Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jun 03, 2017, issued 4:51 AM EDT  
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center  
Prepared by Santorelli with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain  
Rain and T'Storms  
Rain and Snow  
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)  
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)  
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)  
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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## CHOICE AND CONSEQUENCES

The Bible does not present any proof for the existence of God. It simply declares that God exists and that only a fool denies that fact.

The verse, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" is perhaps one of the best-known verses in the Bible. However, many people today would say, "The fool has said in his heart, 'There is a God.'" Atheism has become a religion and many individuals and countries base their way of life on the denial of any supernatural being.

To prove the existence of God some would ask us to consider "cause and effect" as a reason to believe in a God. Every effect, they argue, demands a cause – or if there is a creation there had to be a Creator.

Some offer the argument of "being." Man has the idea that a "perfect being" exists somewhere or some place. Where did that come from? Certainly not from ourselves because we know we are imperfect. So, it had to come from a Perfect Being – therefore, God is!

Others claim the moral argument. We have a voice inside of us that says, "Thou shalt" and at times, "Thou shalt not." Certainly these are not man-made, they say, but God-given. So, there must be a "Moral-Ruler" – hence, God.

Is it wise to try to prove that "God is" with an argument? We can debate that issue forever.

Would it not be better to live a Christ-filled life that demonstrates the difference that only He can make?

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to live God-honoring lives and show others that You are alive and well by what we do. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 14:1 The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, their deeds are vile; there is no one who does good.

## News from the Associated Press

### **New South Dakota firefighters train for upcoming fire season**

**By AL VAN ZEE, Black Hills Pioneer**

NEMO, S.D. (AP) — New personnel were introduced to the world of firefighting at the Box Elder Work Center last week as the Forest Service conducted firefighter training to create its new force of Type II certified firefighting teams.

A total of 34 personnel consisting of four National Park Service employees, five Box Elder Job Corps students, one Bureau of Land Management firefighter, and 24 Forest Service firefighters took part in the training.

In the months ahead, some of the trainees will be manning fire lookout towers in the Black Hills. Others will be auxiliaries who will be performing tasks such as dispatch and transportation. But most of the new personnel will be taking on the vital task of fighting fires on the ground.

One firefighter trainee, Mariah Wieske Ormsby, is from Indiana, and saw firefighting as an opportunity to work in the outdoors. She said she had worked with the Forest Service during one previous fire season.

"I loved it. It's why I'm back this year," she told the Black Hills Pioneer (<http://bit.ly/2qDF96O>).

The training exercise followed the same procedures that would be used in fighting a real fire except that, instead of real fires, the crews would be dealing with fire areas marked out by smoke bombs.

"The fire training involves everything except the fire," said Robert Cota, assistant fire management officer for the Box Elder Job Corps fire program.

For the trainees, the primary lessons to be learned are about procedures, he said.

A fire is reported. The crews are alerted. The crews are transported and marched to the scene of the fire. They organize themselves into squads and plan their attack strategies using whatever tools and equipment they have available.

On this day, they have a fire engine with about 1,000 feet of hose stored on the truck's spools and in backpacks stored on the trucks. Some selected members of the crews strap on the backpacks and head up the ridge toward the fire line, with the hose feeding out the bottom of the backpack as they walk. The hoses are connected, the valves are turned on, and the work of wetting down the fire line can begin.

A second set of lessons to be learned is in the use of firefighting tools.

Most of the hard work of the training exercise is done by creating hand lines with the tried-and-true tools of wildland firefighting, said Cota.

One of them is the Pulaski hand axe invented by legendary Forest Service ranger Ed Pulaski more than one hundred years ago. Another is the McLeod fire tool, which is a combination of hoe and rake. They were also trained in the use of a combi-tool, which is a combination of a spade, shovel and pick.

The objective is to create a line of bare earth around the fire as quickly as possible to deprive the fire of fuels.

There were four engines at the site that were used for engine orientation and fire hose training. A helitack ground unit transport truck was also on hand for training in communications with aircraft, coordination between ground and aerial firefighting assets, and for training in handling the ground equipment and accessories used by fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.

Other tools used in the fire training were the drip torches used to start back fires, the compasses and GPS units used for navigation, and the weather observation instruments used to monitor and report temperature, humidity, and wind conditions.

Although the Box Elder Work Center has more than enough housing for the 34 people involved in the training, most of the trainees camped out during the week.

"They'll be sleeping in tents while fighting real fires," said Cota. "It's important that they learn how to do it."

The training wasn't a total experience in roughing it, however. Meals were prepared and served by Job

Corps culinary arts students who are also undergoing training at the site.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, <http://www.bhpioneer.com>

## Sioux Falls councilor stays true to activist roots

By JOE SNEVE, Argus Leader

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Theresa Stehly was on her living room floor. On her hands and knees. Framed pictures of music students, loved ones and a crucifix hung on the walls around her. She cried as she prayed for guidance to lead.

Hours earlier, the Sioux Falls city councilor had yelled over the sound of a gavel at Carnegie Town Hall before refusing to participate in a closed-door meeting she presumed to be about her.

As other first-year councilors have moderated their approaches to governing, Stehly has stayed true to her activist origins, alienating her from city government peers and leaving her with a short list of legislative accomplishments.

"I'd be willing to go to jail for what I believe in," Stehly told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2r7LD1k>) at her central Sioux Falls home, surrounded by an expansive garden with hardy perennials such as roses, iris, peonies and phlox.

Even before the 59-year-old gardener and music teacher got elected, she kept a close eye on City Hall. As a citizen activist, she led a pair of successful petition drives that left their mark on Sioux Falls — one pushing for snow gates and the other against an indoor pool at Drake Springs.

But she was all about volunteerism and community long before that. A devout Roman Catholic, she's done mission work for her church and once considered joining a convent and becoming a nun. But Stehly says she opted against it because she wanted "to provide ministry to Protestants and atheists too."

During a month-long mission in Jamaica at the age of 29, she said she became aware of abundant resources in the United States that she thought could be better used to help those in need here.

As a city councilor, she's brought those lessons with her. Though her spirituality drives everything she does - including the decisions she makes at City Hall - she rarely invokes religion when acting in an official capacity.

"God speaks through my actions," said the Mobridge native. "This city council thing, I wear that loosely. It doesn't define my life. It's a venue I'm using right now to help."

And if that means ruffling feathers, that's what she plans to do.

"In some ways it's good and in some ways it's very frustrating," said Councilor Rex Roling, the man who gavelled down Stehly in September. "Sometimes we just don't like the way she goes about it."

Stehly said from the time she got elected, she had colleagues and more seasoned players in Sioux Falls government telling her to slow down, take a softer approach and play nice. But as the summer of 2016 played out, Stehly stoked ire by bringing her activist approach to hot-button issues that commanded headlines for months.

When it became clear the City Council couldn't stop Mayor Mike Huether from borrowing \$25 million to pay for a new administration building, she helped a group of citizens circulate petitions in hopes of putting it to a public vote. When that effort failed, she unsuccessfully attempted to establish a citizens advisory vote.

She also made waves for City Hall when she spoke out against a planned Terrace Park improvement project and advocated on behalf of a neighborhood group, which eventually compelled the city's historical preservation board to halt the project.

More recently, when the city rebuffed her request that it send letters to every resident who might be affected by a newly-formed task force on annexation, Stehly printed her own notices and spent more than a dozen hours knocking on doors on the city's outer edges to inform homeowners of possible changes.

Media attention and tepid news releases, she reasoned, simply weren't enough.

"People don't always know that these things are happening and they can't do anything about it if we're not keeping them in the loop," Stehly said.

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That level of community engagement is fairly unique for a politician not currently running for office. All council members take calls from constituents and work late into the evenings on city business on occasion, but all-day door knocking is a step beyond the normal.

"For a part-time city councilor, taxpayers are getting a lot of mileage out of her \$18,000 a year salary," said Greg Jamison, a state legislator and former city councilor.

Stehly's blunt approach to public outreach and natural suspicion of city bureaucracy can be frustrating to her fellow council members. She is aligned closely with and amplifies the roles of blogger Scott Ehrisman and gadfly "Cameraman" Bruce Danielson, two of City Hall's most vocal and persistent critics, going so far as to list Ehrisman's blog as a reliable information source on her annexation flyers.

If you ask those who have known Stehly as both an activist and an elected official, they say they're not surprised she's able to generate attention from the public around issues regular citizens might not know they have a stake in.

Sioux Falls resident Dorene Weinstein's relationship with Stehly started years ago when the two began lobbying City Hall to update its boulevard ordinance. After years of dialogue with city councilors about allowing flowers and gardening in the parking strips between streets and sidewalks, the rules were changed in 2016 just before Stehly was sworn in.

"She doesn't let disappointment block her beliefs," Wienstein recalled of how Stehly embraced the hurdles they faced when tackling the boulevard issue. "She's really pretty inspiring. I'm not really a political person at all and I've watched her take on some of that stuff. She's brought that to the City Council."

Councilor Theresa Stehly was gaveled down during an informational meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2016, after saying council leadership and city attorney have been trying to silence her.

The tumultuous start to Stehly's first term at Carnegie Town Hall came to a head the night of the gaveling incident, when the Council held a closed-door executive session to talk about expected conduct of city officials. And it galvanized her.

"Before every council meeting I'm on my knees (praying) and that gavel thing, that whole darkness in September brought me to a place spiritually that I never would have purposely sought out," she said. "When I'm praying, an idea will come to me and I'll act on it, and it bears fruit."

But that hasn't resulted in many wins in the traditional sense for Stehly. Though some amendments she's offered on various bills have earned council support, she's authored only a few proposed ordinances that were carried to the full council. And none of those passed. She's also been the lone 'no' vote on many others that ended up in the rule books.

Her rigid stance and unwillingness to compromise is a big part of that.

"She's got it figured out and everybody else is wrong," Jamison said with a sarcastic nod to her inflexibility. "I get conviction, but if you want to get things done, sometimes you have to do it a little differently."

Jamison said Stehly is following in the footsteps of Kermit Staggers, the fiscally conservative three-term city councilor who earned the nickname "Dr. No." While respected, Staggers' reluctance to compromise didn't fare well for him when his ideas were up for debate.

"He wouldn't build any support from the other councilors," Jamison said. "Theresa struggles with the same approach."

Stehly has also struggled with maintaining the support she had when first elected. Northwest District councilor Greg Neitzert, seen as a close ally of Stehly's in the first months of their term, spoke out against her conduct in September after she accused City Hall of trying to keep her from speaking to the media and to citizen groups.

"It was a shameful performance on her part," Neitzert said then. "It's interesting that she talks about bullying and intimidation when she is the only one libeling people and calling them names."

For a time following that confrontation, the two weren't speaking or taking each other's calls.

Neitzert said that wasn't a productive period in his first year on the council. And if it happened again, he wouldn't have used such strong language and may have opted to avoid opining on a fellow city councilor's actions at all. The primary lesson he said he's learned and benefited from is to be cordial and non-accusatory.

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"Scorched earth and burning bridges is completely counter-productive," Neitzert said. "There's no point in burning bridges."(backslash)

Stehly, though, said she regrets nothing from her first term. Even if she doesn't have any feathers in her cap when it comes to new policies or projects, she said she's proud of many of the resistance efforts she's led against proposals coming from City Hall. She was among a majority of councilors to stop a city-wide outdoor public smoking ban from taking effect, as well as new garbage hauler rules that would have required trash companies to buy bonds.

And even efforts like proposing a public advisory vote on the administration building and forcing the parks board to record and broadcast its meetings, though not successful, are seen by Stehly as worthy causes she'd take up again.

Councilor Pat Starr said though Stehly's style is questionable and can be the source of frustration for other councilors, city staff and the mayor, it's made the city better by forcing City Hall to be more transparent when working with the Council.

"I think that's made the process better," he said. "They know they better be ready and have their ducks in a row."

Whether it's the two dozen music students she teaches at her home each week, the citizens she tries to get to meetings or the colleagues she encourages to see things her way, Stehly said her calling to do good isn't going away — no matter who doesn't like it or what it costs her.

"My colleagues didn't bring me to the table," she says. "The voters did."

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) \_ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

07-42-57-69-72, Mega Ball: 10, Megaplier: 3

(seven, forty-two, fifty-seven, sixty-nine, seventy-two; Mega Ball: ten; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$74 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$337 million

## State panel endorses rules for use of lakes on private land

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota legislative panel endorsed a set of rules Friday for outdoor enthusiasts who want to use lakes on private land for recreation, teeing up a special legislative session on the issue as early as this month.

Lawmakers on the study committee voted 13-2 for a draft bill that restores access to nearly 30 lakes for public recreation hampered after a recent state Supreme Court decision on publicly-owned bodies of water over privately-owned land. The longstanding issue has vexed landowners and outdoor enthusiasts alike.

The study was in response to a high court ruling that said the Legislature must determine if and how the public can use so-called nonmeandered waters for recreation. Since the decision, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has limited access to infrastructure on more than 20 lakes in the state.

It came after Day County landowners filed a lawsuit seeking to secure injunctions against hunters and anglers and the department that would prevent public use of lakes on their property.

All waters in South Dakota are public property. Nonmeandered waters are bodies of water — usually smaller in size — that weren't specially designated during government surveys in the late 1800s.

Bodies of water have since formed on flooded private property and created good fishing, but it's come at the cost of productive land that agriculture producers have lost.

Republican Sen. Brock Greenfield, the panel's vice chairman, said the committee tried to recognize the interests of the state, sportsmen, landowners and "main street South Dakota."

"Our state needs clarity on this issue, and frankly we can't afford to go a whole summer without the kind of recreation that we've currently lost to surrounding states," Greenfield said.

The bill specifies that lakes on private property are open for recreational use unless a landowner installs signs saying an area is closed. Property owners could grant permission to use the water, but the measure would bar them from getting compensation in exchange for allowing fishing on a lake over their land.

Officials hope to hold a special legislative session soon to consider the proposal, which would sunset in 2021. Gov. Dennis Daugaard in a statement encouraged the Legislature to work together to find a solution to the long-standing issue.

"This bill is a good compromise that balances the rights of landowners with the ability for sportsmen to use public waters for recreation," Daugaard said.

## Injured South Dakota athlete released from hospital

IPSWICH, S.D. (AP) — A high school athlete has been released from a Sioux Falls hospital after undergoing surgery for a head injury suffered while pole vaulting during practice.

The Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2shFaPY>) reported that Ipswich High School athlete Taylor Maurer wasn't wearing a helmet when she struck her head during an attempted controlled descent May 23.

The South Dakota High School Activities Association lets individual programs decide if athletes must wear helmets. The association doesn't keep track of numbers but few pole vaulters wear them.

Wade Royer is the pole vault coach for Northern State University. He said he's never seen someone injured while making a controlled descent.

"I am never going to say wearing a helmet is a bad idea," Royer said. "Accidents will happen, but like I said, I've never seen that (type of injury) happen during a meet I was participating in or directly coaching in. It is really such an infrequent type of accident, but I can see where it may bring up the use of helmets."

Ipswich pole vaulting coach Kayla Nilsson said Maurer is on the road to recovery and has the potential to return to the sport.

"She is very active and energetic. She doesn't want to just sit around," Nilsson said. "I can envision her getting through this. You just have to know her. She's strong-willed, and doesn't give up on things."

Nilsson started a GoFundMe fundraising account in Maurer's name to help raise money to cover her hospital bills. It raised more than \$1,000 in the first 24 hours.

"Ipswich and the surrounding community have shown a tremendous amount of support. I really wanted to start this so Taylor's family can focus on her getting her better and not have to worry about trying to handle the financial (burden) alone," she said.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

## Sioux Falls man pleads not guilty to federal gun charge

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of livestreaming himself brandishing weapons and making threats outside an anti-Islam event in April has pleaded not guilty to a federal gun charge.

Ehab Jaber of Sioux Falls was indicted for possession of firearms by a prohibited person after he was found in April in possession of five firearms while being a drug user. Prosecutors said Friday he entered his plea May 19.

The 46-year-old Jaber also faces state charges of making terroristic threats and possessing meth. Authorities say he made the Facebook video after he was kicked out of an April 9 event called "Sabotaging America: Islam's March Toward Supremacy."

He was arrested again after testing positive for meth, a violation of his bond, and charged with felony

ingestion of a controlled substance.

## Jury seated in South Dakota 'pink slime' defamation trial

ELK POINT, S.D. (AP) — A jury has been selected in a more than \$1 billion defamation case over ABC news reports on a South Dakota meat producer's lean, finely textured beef product, which critics have dubbed "pink slime."

Opening statements are set for Monday. The Sioux City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2s1Eykf>) reports that a panel of 12 jurors and four alternates was seated this week.

Dakota Dunes-based Beef Products Inc. sued ABC in 2012. The company says the television network's coverage misled consumers into believing the product is unsafe. BPI says that led to plant closures and hundreds of layoffs.

ABC stands by its reporting. It says in court documents that it accurately presented views and information from "knowledgeable sources on a matter of keen public interest."

The trial is scheduled to last until late July.

## Century-old South Dakota mansion sells in Winner

WINNER, S.D. (AP) — A century-old former hunting lodge has sold after five months on the market in southern South Dakota.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2sm4TXX>) reports that David and Tessa Howard bought the mansion in Winner after two potential buyers fell through. The couple manages the Winner airport.

The five-bedroom, four-bathroom house was built in 1914. A family lived in the home for much of the 20th century. A surgeon once owned it and turned it into a hunting lodge.

The house was originally listed at nearly \$138,000 but sold for \$119,000. The listing agent says few homes in the city of about 2,900 residents sell for more than \$100,000.

The Howards say they currently plan to use the home as a rental or put it back on the market.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

## Bill Maher's use of racial slur on HBO show draws criticism

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bill Maher is facing criticism for his use of a racial slur during a discussion with a Republican senator on his HBO talk show Friday night.

Maher was speaking with Republican Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska during a segment of his "Real Time with Bill Maher." Sasse joked that he would like to have Maher visit Nebraska and work in the fields, which prompted Maher to use a slur in a joke that he was a house slave.

The comedian immediately waved off audience groans.

Activists including the Rev. Al Sharpton quickly criticized Maher and it remained a top-ranked topic on Twitter on Saturday morning.

Sasse wrote Saturday that he wished he had immediately criticized Maher for using the term.

Maher's publicists did not respond to an email seeking comment.

## Security footage shows rampaging gunman in casino attack

By TERESA CEROJANO, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The gunman in a casino rampage in the Philippine capital was seen on security camera footage firing his M4 rifle in the air, setting fires and shooting at security forces in a stairwell during an attack that left at least 38 people dead.

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the rampage in Manila early Friday, but authorities say it looked like a botched robbery by one attacker and that there was no obvious link to terrorism.

The victims appeared to have died of smoke inhalation as they hid from the gunman, who doused gam-



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bling tables with gasoline and set them ablaze, police said. He later killed himself in a hotel room.

"He's crazy, that guy is crazy," Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said Saturday, in his first public comments on the attack. He discounted any links to the Islamic State, saying the terror group "is more cruel and brutal."

Many in Manila feared after the attack began that it was linked to ongoing battles with Muslim militants aligned with the Islamic State group in the southern Philippine city of Marawi. The fighting has placed much of the country on edge, prompted Duterte to declare martial law across the south and raised fears that IS is gaining a foothold in the country.

The Philippines has faced Muslim insurgencies for decades, though much of the violence has occurred in the troubled south.

At a news conference Saturday, authorities showed the security footage to the media and said the gunman's identity was still unknown. The taxi driver who dropped the gunman off at the casino said the man spoke fluent Tagalog and appeared normal during the ride, said Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde.

He said terrorism was unlikely because the gunman didn't shoot anybody.

"He could have shot everybody there," Albayalde said. "You see he was even changing magazines, he changed magazines at least three times. With all that ammunition, he could have killed hundreds of people inside that establishment. But he did not shoot anybody ... he just burned the casino. Burning the casino could be a diversionary tactic for his escape."

National Police Chief Ronald dela Rosa also said the attack did not appear to be terrorism, but he cautioned that authorities still know very little about the attacker.

"What if we establish the identity and there are leads that will lead toward terrorism? So our findings, our conclusion, will possibly change," he told DZMM radio.

According to police, the gunman stormed into the Resorts World Manila complex early Friday and used gasoline to torch gambling tables. The fire caused clouds of smoke that killed 37 people from smoke inhalation, Albayalde said. The gunman fled to an adjoining hotel and killed himself.

Police described the suspect as an English-speaking, fair-complexioned man in his 40s who was at least 1.8 meters (6 feet) tall. He was armed with an assault rifle but did not shoot anyone during the attack, police said.

Luchie Arguelles, 61, was playing the slots at around 12:10 a.m. Friday when she saw the man enter the room.

"(He was) all dressed in black, burly, everything was covered, you can't even see his eyes," said Arguelles, who was about 9 meters (30 feet) from the gunman. She said he was holding two small bottles of liquid and dousing the baccarat table.

"I said, 'He's going to burn that table, he's going to douse it,'" before she grabbed her husband's hand and started running.

There's been concern that the militants might attack elsewhere to divert the focus of thousands of troops trying to quell the siege in Marawi.

The attack occurred at a sprawling mall-like complex near the Manila airport that includes hotels, restaurants, stores and a multi-floor gambling area. Police said that during the attack the gunman stole more than \$2 million worth of casino chips, though he apparently abandoned them in a bathroom soon after.

As the gunman left, he exchanged fire with a building guard who managed to shoot him in the leg after being wounded, police and casino officials said.

"Severe blood loss from the gunshot wound significantly slowed the assailant down and resulted in his holing up in a room, where he took his own life," said Stephen Reilly, Resorts World's chief operating officer.

The attack sent hundreds of people fleeing through the complex and into the night. More than 70 people suffered mostly minor injuries in the stampede to escape.

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Associated Press writer Maamoun Youssef in Cairo contributed to this report.

## Russia probe counsel now has ex-Trump campaign chief in view

By **SADIE GURMAN, ERIC TUCKER and JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The special counsel investigating possible ties between President Donald Trump's campaign and Russia's government has taken over a separate criminal probe involving former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, and may expand his inquiry to investigate the roles of the attorney general and deputy attorney general in the firing of FBI Director James Comey, The Associated Press has learned.

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein told the AP in a separate interview that he would step aside from any oversight of special counsel Robert Mueller if he were to become a subject of Mueller's investigation.

The Justice Department's criminal investigation into Manafort predated the 2016 election and the counterintelligence probe that in July began investigating possible collusion between Moscow and associates of Trump. Manafort was forced to resign as Trump campaign chairman in August amid questions over his business dealings years ago in Ukraine.

The move to consolidate the matters, involving allegations of misuse of Ukrainian government funds, indicates that Mueller is assuming a broad mandate in his new role running the investigation. The expansiveness of Mueller's investigation was described to the AP. No one familiar with the matter has been willing to publicly discuss the scope of his investigation because it is just getting underway and revealing details could complicate its progress.

Rosenstein acknowledged that Mueller could expand his inquiry to include Attorney General Jeff Sessions' and Rosenstein's roles in the decision to fire Comey, who was investigating the Trump campaign. Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller as special counsel, wrote the memorandum intended to justify Trump's decision to fire Comey. Sessions met with Trump and Rosenstein to discuss Trump's decision to fire him despite Sessions' pledge not to become involved in the Russia case.

The AP asked Rosenstein specifically whether Mueller's investigation could expand to include examining Sessions' role.

"The order is pretty clear," Rosenstein responded. "It gives him authority for the investigation and anything arising out of that investigation, and so Director Mueller will be responsible in the first instance for determining what he believes falls into that mandate."

Under Justice Department rules, Mueller is required to seek permission from Rosenstein to investigate additional matters other than ones already specified in the paperwork formally appointing Mueller.

"I've talked with Director Mueller about this," Rosenstein said. "He's going to make the appropriate decisions, and if anything that I did winds up being relevant to his investigation then, as Director Mueller and I discussed, if there's a need from me to recuse, I will."

Peter Carr, a spokesman for Mueller, declined to comment on the scope of the investigation.

Mueller, who spent 12 years as FBI director and served under Republican and Democratic presidents, was appointed after Comey's firing on May 9. Comey is expected to testify for the first time before the Senate intelligence committee on Thursday.

Mueller's assignment covers the investigation into possible links or coordination between Russia and associates of the Trump campaign but also "any matters that arose or may arise directly" from the probe. It would extend to any allegations of perjury, witness intimidation or obstruction of justice uncovered during the course of the investigation.

Last month, House Democrats called for congressional investigations into whether Sessions violated his pledge to recuse himself from matters related to investigations into Trump associates. They also asked the Justice Department to investigate Sessions' role in Comey's firing and to lay out how that investigation would proceed.

A Democratic aide said Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., asked Rosenstein about the matter during a briefing before House members. Rosenstein said he would get back to Cummings, but he has yet to respond, said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private interactions.

The Justice Department began looking at Manafort's work in Ukraine around the beginning of 2014, as Ukraine's president, Viktor Yanukovich, was toppled amid protests of alleged corruption and Russian in-

fluence. Business records obtained by the AP show Manafort's political consulting firm began working as early as 2004 for clients that variously included a political boss in Yanukovich's party, a Ukrainian oligarch and Oleg Deripaska, a Russian businessman and longtime ally of Russian president Vladimir Putin.

A special counsel, by design, is constrained by the terms of his appointment to avoid boundless and perpetually open-ended investigations. In this case, though, Mueller's mandate appears fairly broad, said Samuel Buell, a former federal prosecutor and criminal law professor at Duke University.

"That investigation that's named in the appointment is already one that has, as far as we can tell, a number of tentacles and offshoots that involves conduct over a fairly lengthy period of time involving a lot of people," Buell said.

He said he did not expect Mueller to seek Rosenstein's approval each time he wants to subpoena a new witness or pursue a new Russia-related investigative thread. The more difficult question would involve any allegations separate and apart from Russia, he said.

"This gives him the authority to pull on all kinds of string and see where they lead him," Buell said. "As long as you're following a string that's connected to the string of Russian influence on the election — however that may have occurred, whoever that may have involved — would seem to fall within that appointment."

Manafort's work in Ukraine continued at least through the beginning of 2014, when Yanukovich's government was ousted amid protests of widespread corruption and his rejection of a European trade deal in favor of one with Moscow. As the AP reported last year, that work included covertly directing a lobbying campaign on behalf of Ukraine's pro-Russian Party of Regions in Washington. Following the AP's reporting on emails in which Manafort deputy Rick Gates was overseeing the work, two lobbying firms involved in the project registered as foreign agents. Manafort has not done so, and a spokesman for him has declined to say if he will.

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Associated Press writers Chad Day and Stephen Braun contributed to this report.

## **Cosby accuser calm and focused as trial nears, friends say**

**By MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press**

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — When Andrea Constand takes the stand in the coming days to break her decade-long silence about Bill Cosby, jurors will hear from a free spirit who devotes her life to family, her French poodle, and her work treating cancer patients and others as a massage therapist.

Constand will be the star witness when the comedian dubbed America's Dad goes on trial Monday in suburban Philadelphia on charges he drugged and sexually assaulted her. Cosby, 79, could get 10 years in prison if convicted.

When they last met, in 2004, Constand was wrapping up a life in basketball that had taken her from the Toronto suburbs to a national title with the University of Arizona to a pro league in Europe and finally a job on the coaching staff at Temple University in Philadelphia, Cosby's alma mater.

Constand, now 44, has never spoken publicly about the TV star under the terms of a confidential settlement they negotiated in 2006. And her deposition from that lawsuit remains sealed. Yet friends say she is ready to face Cosby and the crush of media in the courtroom.

"Andrea is not focused on the outcome. She is not emotional. She's the opposite. She is so centered and focused. She does yoga, she meditates," said Donna Motsinger, 75, a fellow Cosby accuser who has become close to Constand since the Canadian woman reached out to her two years ago. "She lives a beautiful life."

Constand, an athletic six-footer with colorful arm tattoos and a wild mane of brown curly hair, is the only Cosby accuser whose complaint has led to criminal charges. About 60 women have accused him of similar conduct, most of them coming forward in Constand's wake.

"She's the only one who found the fortitude to press charges against him within the statute of limitations. I think that's not a coincidence. She's so strong and courageous," said Lili Bernard, who said Cosby sexually assaulted her before giving her a one-time role on "The Cosby Show" in 1992, the eighth and

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final season of the top-ranked sitcom.

Constand has visited Motsinger during trips to the Southwest, an area she loves from her college days in Arizona. They hike, talk about their spiritual journeys and share the occasional margarita. One thing they don't talk about is Cosby, the older woman said. Constand also visited Bernard in Los Angeles last year, where they happened upon his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame while taking in the sights. They kept walking, Bernard said.

Cosby, Temple's most famous booster and trustee, first spied Constand from across the school gym in 2002. He had a friend introduce them. When she mentioned having back pain, he led her into the locker room to engage in a back-to-back, two-person stretch.

They became friendly over the next two years, discussing sports, health tips and Constand's career. Cosby, according to his deposition in her lawsuit, once invited her to a dinner with local college presidents and also took her to Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut to talk career options with an executive.

Cosby called some of their time together "romantic," describing a few occasions when he said he made advances toward her or lay next to her on his bed during the 2003 casino trip. He insists the encounter at the heart of the criminal case was consensual.

Constand's lawyer, Dolores Troiani, considers that ludicrous, since the 30-year-old Constand was dating a woman at the time.

The Associated Press does not usually identify people who say they are the victims of sexual assault, but Constand's lawyer has said her name can be used.

On the night in question, in early 2004, Cosby summoned her to his gated estate near Philadelphia to discuss her job search. In his deposition, he said he gave her three unidentified pills to ease her stress. She said she thought it was an herbal remedy. Cosby, 36 years her senior, then put his hand down her pants, according to his deposition.

She later told police she was drifting in and out of consciousness, unable to fend him off.

Constand left Temple when the basketball season ended, returning home to become a massage therapist like her father. During her training, she learned about the professional boundaries involving touch and started having nightmares, according to court documents. She told her mother in 2005 that something had happened. They went to the police.

Prosecutors in Pennsylvania at the time deemed the case too weak to prosecute.

Constand then filed the first sexual battery lawsuit against the Hollywood star, a case he settled for an undisclosed sum after giving four days of lurid testimony about his sexual conduct with Constand and other young women. He acknowledged giving some of them pills and alcohol and at least one woman quaaludes.

After that testimony became public in 2015, more women came forward and a new set of prosecutors took another look at the case and arrested Cosby.

The trial is expected to last about two weeks.

"Andrea was a basketball player. She would prepare for a championship game like no other," Motsinger said. "That's what she's done here."

## **NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week**

**By The Associated Press**

A roundup of some of the most popular, but completely untrue, headlines of the week. None of these stories are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. AP checked these out; here are the real facts:

**NOT REAL:** Trump's Top Scientist Pick: "Scientists Are Just Dumb Regular People That Think Dinosaurs Existed And The Earth Is Getting Warmer"

**THE FACTS:** A story on the satirical U.S Political News website hijacks an actual news story about Sam Clovis, widely reported to be President Donald Trump's pick for a U.S. Department of Agriculture research job, infusing it with made-up quotes expressing skepticism about scientists who believe in evolution and climate change. The fabricated quotes are attributed to KYXL, a non-existent radio station. The original story, by ProPublica, pointed out that Clovis had none of the research, education and economics qualifica-

tions specified for the position.

NOT REAL: ICELAND PAYING IMMIGRANTS \$5,000 PER MONTH TO MARRY THEIR WOMEN

THE FACTS: A story that began circulating last year claims Iceland is paying foreigners to marry women because women far outnumber men in the island nation. A spokeswoman for the country's embassy in Washington says the story is untrue. Iceland's official statistics agency reported last year that the split between males and females is close to 50/50.

NOT REAL: Scott Baio Killed In Small Plane Crash On His Way To Mar-A-Lago

THE FACTS: Stories claiming the "Happy Days" actor died when his single-engine Cessna crashed into a Louisiana hillside en route to Trump's Mar-A-Lago estate in Florida have been circulated by numerous websites. Baio debunked the reports on Twitter by sharing a picture of himself near a private jet and writing, "Fake news. I don't fly in Cessna's."

NOT REAL: Columbus, Ohio School Teacher Loses Eye After Fidget Spinner Breaks In Classroom

THE FACTS: Focus Times declared in a story shared last month that a high school English teacher was trying to confiscate several students' fidget spinners when one of them broke and hit the teacher in the eye. The report cited district officials. Columbus City Schools spokesman Scott Varner tells the AP that "this type of incident did not happen" in the district.

NOT REAL: Taco Bell announcing bankruptcy, all stores closing by 2018

THE FACTS: A hoax first circulating in 2015 has been updated with new dates. It claims the fast food chain's supposed demise is linked to health violations that drove customers away. Sites including feednewz.com directed users who kept clicking to a meme revealing the prank. Taco Bell has not filed for bankruptcy protection, company spokeswoman Laura Nedbal said. Last week, it outlined global expansion plans that would add more than 2,000 restaurants around the world in the next five years.

This new weekly fixture is part of The Associated Press' ongoing efforts to fact-check claims in suspected false news stories.

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <https://apne.ws/APFactCheck>

## Explosions kill at least 6 attending Kabul funeral

By RAHIM FAIEZ, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Explosions in Kabul on Saturday killed at least six people attending a funeral reportedly attended by government officials, including members of parliament, a day after hundreds of demonstrators turned out to demand more security in the capital.

The explosions came just three days after a powerful truck bomb attack in the city that killed 90 people and wounded more than 450. The attack raised fears about the government's ability to protect its citizens nearly 16 years into a war with insurgents.

Wahid Mujro, spokesman for the Public Health ministry, said three explosions rocked a cemetery where Afghan Sen. Alam Ezadyar's son was about to be buried. Salim Ezadyar was one of several people killed during the protest Friday attended by more than a thousand people in downtown Kabul.

Alam Ezadyar is deputy speaker for the upper house of the Afghanistan Parliament.

A couple hundred protesters passed the night under two big tents on a road near the presidential palace and the blast site and about 200 more joined them during the day. All roads toward the palace and nearby diplomatic areas were blocked Saturday by police and there was limited movement of vehicles and people.

The nature of Friday's demonstration shifted when protesters — many calling for the country's leadership to resign — attempted to move closer to the palace and some rushed police, who fired warning shots and

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used water cannons and eventually tear gas in attempt to disperse the crowd. The city's police chief said some demonstrators fired weapons in the direction of his men.

A member of Parliament said Friday that eight protesters had been shot dead, while a hospital official said four corpses were brought to his facility. Police said Friday two protesters were killed and 25 police injured but would not comment on the number of fatalities when asked to clarify the death toll Saturday.

Meanwhile on Saturday, Gen. Murad Ali Murad, deputy interior minister, urged demonstrators to disperse because of a high security threat level in the country. He also called on members of the public not to join the demonstration.

Ghani, meanwhile, met with senior security officials during an emergency security meeting. A statement from the president's office said the meeting determined that an investigation must find out what exactly happened that led to the violence and identify those who acted against the law.

Most of the casualties from the truck bombing were civilians, including women and children, officials have said. But the dead also included Afghan security guards at the facilities, including the U.S. Embassy, and 11 American contractors were wounded — none with life-threatening injuries, a U.S. State Department official said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, which came in the first week of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

## **GOP legislative agenda incomplete, lags as Congress returns**

**By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent**

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump and his GOP allies on Capitol Hill have made it through nearly half their first year in power without a single major legislative achievement. If that's going to change, it will have to start soon, a reality that Republican lawmakers will confront when they return to the Capitol on Monday from a weeklong break.

"We just need to work harder," said the second-ranking Republican senator, John Cornyn of Texas, in an interview on KFYO in Lubbock, Texas, over the recess.

For now, the party's marquee agenda items remain undone, their fate uncertain. The long-promised effort to overturn former President Barack Obama's health law hangs in limbo in the Senate after barely passing the House. A tax overhaul that's a top Trump priority is unwritten and in dispute, despite his recent claim on Twitter that it's ahead of schedule.

"The president keeps saying the tax bill is moving through Congress. It doesn't exist," House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said mockingly on Friday. "It doesn't exist. There is no tax bill moving through Congress."

Lawmakers will deal with those issues and more as Congress comes back into session, and realistically the window for action is closing fast. Seven legislative weeks are left before Congress scatters for a five-week August recess, a period when lawmakers are likely to lose momentum if they have failed to act on health care or taxes, and face GOP voters frustrated that they haven't delivered.

Both issues are enormously difficult challenges, and the tax legislation must follow, for procedural reasons, passage of a budget, no small task on its own.

On top of it all, lawmakers are way behind on the annual spending legislation needed to keep the lights on in government. They were recently informed by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin that they will have to raise the federal government's borrowing limit before August, a daunting task ripe for brinkmanship.

Looming over everything is the investigation into allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 campaign and connections with the Trump campaign. That investigation is in the hands of a special prosecutor and Congress' intelligence committees. Former FBI Director James Comey, who was fired by Trump, is scheduled to testify before the Senate committee on Thursday.

"The Russia investigation takes a lot of oxygen, it takes a lot of attention," said Republican Rep. Tom Cole of Oklahoma, a veteran lawmaker.

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Cole argued that Republicans have not gotten the credit they deserve to date for what they have accomplished: voting to overturn a series of Obama regulations, as well as reaching compromise last month on spending legislation for the remainder of the 2017 budget year that included a big increase for defense. The biggest bright spot for the party and for Trump remains Senate confirmation in early April of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, whose elevation goes far to placate conservatives frustrated with inaction on other fronts.

"I think we've done more than we've gotten credit for, but the big ones are ahead," Cole said. "It's certainly an ambitious agenda we've got, there's no question about it, it has been all along and I wouldn't have it any other way."

Historically, Capitol Hill has been at its busiest and most productive in the early days of a new president's administration, during the traditional honeymoon. But with his approval ratings hovering around 40 percent, Trump never got that grace period, and although his core supporters show no signs of abandoning him, he is not providing the focused leadership usually essential to helping pass major legislation.

Within Obama's first 100 days of office he had signed a large stimulus package as well as equal pay legislation and other bills. An active Congress under President George W. Bush had made progress on campaign finance legislation and bankruptcy changes, among other issues.

In the Senate, Republicans' slim 52-48 majority gives them little room for error on health care and taxes, issues where they are using complicated procedural rules to move ahead with simple majorities and no Democratic support. Trump's apparent disengagement from the legislative process was evident this past week when he demanded on Twitter that the Senate "should switch to 51 votes, immediately, and get Healthcare and TAX CUTS approved, fast and easy."

In fact that's exactly how Republicans are already moving. But the trouble is within their own ranks as Senate Republicans disagree over how quickly to unwind the Medicaid expansion under Obama's health law, as well as other elements of the GOP bill.

Addressing the health legislation, Cornyn pledged on KFYO, "We'll get it done by the end of July at the latest." Despite that show of optimism, there's uncertainty aplenty over whether the Senate will be able to pass a health bill, and whether a complicated tax overhaul or even a simple set of tax cuts will advance.

For some Republicans, their sights are set on the more immediate and necessary tasks of completing the annual spending bills that are needed to avert a government shutdown when the budget year ends Sept. 30, and on raising the debt ceiling to avert a first-ever default.

"It'll be more difficult than it should be," said GOP Rep. Charlie Dent of Pennsylvania, a senior member of the House Appropriations Committee. "Because Congress is what it is."

## Takeoff and cruise: Toyota making 'flying car,' luxury boat

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOYOTA, Japan (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp. is working on a "flying car."

A startup backed by the Japanese automaker has developed a test model that engineers hope will eventually develop into a tiny car with a driver who'll be able to light the Olympic torch in the 2020 Tokyo games. For now, however, the project is a concoction of aluminum framing and eight propellers that barely gets off the ground and crashes after several seconds.

Toyota has invested 42.5 million yen (\$386,000) in startup Cartivator Resource Management to work on "Sky Drive ." At a test flight Saturday in the city where the automaker is based, the gadgetry, about the size of a car and loaded with batteries and sensors, blew up a lot of sand and made a lot of noise.

It managed to get up as high as eye level for several seconds before tilting and falling to the ground. Basketballs attached to its bottom served as cushions. After several attempts, the endeavor had to be canceled after one of the covers got detached from the frame and broke, damaging the propellers.

The goal of Cartivator's is to deliver a seamless transition from driving to flight, like the world of "Back to the Future," said the project's leader Tsubasa Nakamura.

"I always loved planes and cars. And my longtime dream was to have a personal vehicle that can fly and

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go many places," he told The Associated Press.

The group is now working on a better design with the money from Toyota with the plan to have the first manned flight in 2019. No one has ridden on Sky Drive yet, or any drone, as that would be too dangerous.

Still, dabbling in businesses other than cars is Toyota's trademark. In recent years, it has been aggressively venturing into robotics and artificial intelligence, investing a billion dollars in a research and development company in Silicon Valley. It's also working in Japan on using robotics to help the sick walk. It also just announced a five-year \$35 million investment in its research center in Ann Arbor, Michigan, for autonomous and connected vehicle technologies.

The idea that each generation must take up challenges is part of Toyota's roots, said auto analyst Takaki Nakanishi.

President Akio Toyoda's great-grandfather Sakichi Toyoda started out developing the loom and then its automated improvements from the 1890s, before the company became an automaker. More recently, Toyota sees software and services as central to the auto industry, as cars become connected, start driving themselves and turn into lifestyle digital tools, Nakanishi said.

As Toyota gets into the business of ecological vehicles, such as hybrids, electric cars and fuel cells, it's turning into an energy company as well.

"Toyota's business is centered on mobility, anything that moves, including people, things, money, information, energy," said Nakanishi.

Toyota is traveling not only in the skies but also to the waters, although that still remains a tiny part of its sprawling empire.

Toyota's boat operations began in 1997. Toyota now offers four models and has sold a cumulative 845 boats. In contrast, Toyota sells about 10 million vehicles a year around the world.

Reporters recently got a ride in Tokyo Bay of a Lexus luxury concept "yacht," which runs on two gas engines. With a streamlined curvaceous design, inspired by a dolphin and evocative of a Lexus car, it's being promised as a commercial product in the next few years.

Designed for executives zipping through resort waters, it comes with fantasy-evoking features, like an anchor pulled in by a chain into a tiny door in the bow, which opens then closes mechanically.

The engine, shiny like a chrome sculpture, is visible beneath the sheer floor surface. Shigeki Tomoyama, the executive in charge, said the boat was going for "a liberating effect." A price was not given. Many Americans have already expressed interest, according to Toyota.

The project started about two years ago under direct orders from Toyoda, who has with Tomoyama spearheaded Toyota's Gazoo internet business, another non-auto business for Toyota.

"He asked us to create a space that can work as a secret hiding place in the middle of the ocean," Tomoyama said. "We went for the wow factor, which requires no words."

Online: <http://cartivator.com/>

Yuri Kageyama can be reached on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/yurikageyama>  
Her work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/yuri%20kageyama>

## Pentagon chief turns up heat on North Korea and China

By **ROBERT BURNS, AP National Security Writer**

SINGAPORE (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis turned up the heat on North Korea and its main benefactor, China, on Saturday, calling the North Koreans a "clear and present danger" and chastising the Chinese for coercive behavior in the South China Sea.

His sharp words for both countries suggest he believes China will, out of self-interest, exert leverage on North Korea to halt its nuclear and missile programs even as Washington pushes Beijing to change course in the South China Sea.

Speaking at an international security conference in Singapore, Mattis said the Trump administration is



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encouraged by China's renewed commitment to working with the U.S. and others to rid North Korea of its nuclear weapons. He also said he thinks China ultimately will see it as a liability rather than an asset.

China blocked tough new sanctions against North Korea that the United States pushed in the U.N. Security Council on Friday. However, the Security Council did vote unanimously to add 15 individuals and four entities linked to the North's nuclear and missile programs to a U.N. sanctions blacklist.

In his speech to the Shangri-La Dialogue, sponsored by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Mattis sought to balance his hopeful comments on China with sharp criticism of what he called Beijing's disregard for international law by its "indisputable militarization" of artificial islands in disputed areas of the South China Sea.

"We oppose countries militarizing artificial islands and enforcing excessive maritime claims unsupported by international law," he said. "We cannot and will not accept unilateral, coercive changes to the status quo."

Rep. Mac Thornberry, a Republican from Texas and chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, told a news conference later that he believed Mattis had effectively stressed the U.S. commitment to allies in the Asia-Pacific region.

"He was very clear, very strong," said Thornberry, who led a bipartisan congressional delegation on an Asia tour and attended Saturday's Singapore conference.

Overall, Mattis' speech struck a positive, hopeful tone for cooperation and peace in the Asia-Pacific region, where he and his predecessors have made it a priority to nurture and strengthen alliances and partnerships.

"While competition between the U.S. and China, the world's two largest economies, is bound to occur, conflict is not inevitable," he said. "Our two countries can and do cooperate for mutual benefit. We will pledge to work closely with China where we share common cause."

He was, however, unrelentingly critical of North Korea, a politically and economically isolated nation whose leaders have long viewed the United States as a military threat, in part because of periodic U.S. military exercises with South Korea, which the North sees as preparations for attacks aimed at destroying its ruling elite.

He called North Korea an "urgent military threat." In a question-and-answer session with his audience of national security experts from across the globe, Mattis was asked whether the U.S. might attack the North pre-emptively and without warning South Korea in advance.

"We're working diplomatically, economically, we're trying to exhaust all possible alternatives to avert this race for a nuclear weapon in violation of ... the United Nations' restrictions on North Korea's activities," he said.

"We want to stop this. We consider it urgent," he added.

The U.S. has about 28,500 troops permanently based in South Korea, a defense treaty ally.

"North Korea's continued pursuit of nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them is not new," Mattis said in his prepared remarks.

"But the regime has increased the pace and scope of its efforts," he added, alluding to the North's series of nuclear device tests in recent years and an accelerated pace of missile tests seemingly aimed at building a rocket with enough range to hit the U.S.

"While the North Korean regime has a long record of murder of diplomats, of kidnapping, killing of sailors and criminal activity, its nuclear weapons program is maturing as a threat to all," Mattis said. "As a matter of national security, the United States regards the threat from North Korea as a clear and present danger."

Mattis made no mention of President Donald Trump's decision to pull the U.S. out of the Paris climate change agreement.

The issue arose briefly during questions from his audience, but Mattis did not address it directly. An Australian questioner asked, in light of Trump's abandonment of an international trade deal known as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and his withdrawal from the Paris climate deal, "why should we not fret that we are present at the destruction of" a global rules-based order?

"There's going to be fresh approaches taken" to various issues by Trump, Mattis said, while making it

clear that he personally believes the U.S. needs to avoid isolationist tendencies.

"Like it or not, we're part of the world," he said.

## Source: Chicago, federal government draft police reform deal

By MICHAEL TARM and HERBERT G. MCCANN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The city of Chicago and the U.S. Justice Department have negotiated a draft agreement that calls for an independent monitor to oversee police department reforms, though it is unclear if there will be court oversight at some stage in the future, an official in Mayor Rahm Emanuel's administration told The Associated Press.

A monitor would be appointed if the Justice Department gives final approval to the "memorandum of agreement," which includes a framework for adopting and implementing reforms that federal officials said were needed in the Chicago Police Department, an official in Emanuel's administration familiar with the agreement said Friday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the person wasn't authorized to speak publicly about the proposal.

The Justice Department is currently giving the draft a final review. The official said in an email that the administration is hopeful the agreement "will be executed soon," adding that the action will "guide future reforms for years to come."

In January, just before President Donald Trump's inauguration, the Justice Department issued a scathing report on civil rights abuses by Chicago's police department over the years. It found that institutional problems had led to serious civil rights violations, including a tendency to use excessive force. The investigation began in 2015 after the release of dashcam video showing a white officer shooting a black teenager, Laquan McDonald, 16 times.

The proposed "memorandum of agreement" suggests the Trump administration may take a different approach from that of President Barack Obama's, which typically took a city's negotiated plan to a federal judge to make it legally binding in the form of a "consent decree." Under Obama, it was the court that also appointed a monitor, answerable to the court, to ensure police complied with the agreed upon reforms.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has expressed reservations about consent decrees, saying they can unfairly malign all officers for the actions of some bad apples. During his confirmation hearing, Sessions questioned the use of consent decrees and the involvement of federal courts. He said one risk was that such legal actions can "undermine the respect for police officers." Police unions — many of which endorsed Trump during the presidential campaign — have shared those concerns.

Advocates of consent decrees say they are the best way to ensure police departments enact reforms. A judge, independent of political appointees or a White House administration's policy, can determine if departments aren't complying and force them to do so via a court order.

Emanuel previously has said the city will embark on police department reforms whether or not the Justice Department enters into an agreement with his administration.

The Justice Department's 161-page January report on Chicago's 12,000-officer police force concluded officers had been too quick to use excessive force and shoot at suspects even when they posed no threat. It also pointed to a "pervasive cover-up culture." The document blamed bad training, describing one instance where an aspiring officer slept through an academy class on the proper use of force.

Up to now, there's been virtually no information on the negotiations between the city of Chicago and the Justice Department to hammer out a detailed reform plan. Under the Obama administration talks with far smaller cities than Chicago have taken more than six months. Many legal observers said negotiations with Chicago were likely to last at least that long.

A two-page joint statement released with the Chicago report, called an "Agreement in Principle," signed by Emanuel and federal officials, committed the sides to extensive reforms under a future consent decree. It had said that should include close judicial oversight and that a court-appointed monitor under a consent decree would ensure Chicago is meeting its reform commitments.

## Pence rallying GOP base in Iowa, where some cool to Trump

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Vice President Mike Pence is trying to solidify the Republican base in Iowa, where some conservatives complain President Donald Trump has much to prove and party leaders say he's being undermined from within.

Headlining Sen. Joni Ernst's annual summer fundraiser, Pence will promote steady job numbers under Trump, who campaigned last year on promises of economic growth.

But it's Pence's boss who has more work to do to satisfy Iowa's disproportionately influential Christian right, despite carrying Iowa by 9 percentage points in the 2016 election after Democrat Barack Obama won there in 2008 and 2012.

"I'm still waiting to see a conservative agenda put forward," said Iowa Republican Kay Quirk, a retired nurse from the socially conservative northwest region of the state. "I haven't given up hope by any means. But I'm still waiting."

Chiefly, Quirk and other Iowa conservatives are bothered that Trump has not delivered on the promise to repeal the 2010 health care law. But that's not all. Mike Demastus, a pastor from Des Moines, pointed to Trump's announcement Thursday that he would keep, at least for now, the U.S. Embassy in Israel in Tel Aviv. Trump promised during the campaign last year to move the embassy to Jerusalem, the place most closely associated with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

"When it comes to moral issues, he hasn't moved the needle one notch," Demastus said.

It's not as if there is a revolt brewing within the Iowa GOP.

Republicans control both houses of the Iowa Legislature, the governor's office, both U.S. Senate seats and three of four House seats. Trump also chose Iowa's longtime Republican governor, Terry Branstad, to be his ambassador to China.

And the vast majority of Iowa Republicans approve of the job Trump is doing. Surveys this year have shown Trump's job approval among Republicans around 85 percent, about the same as it is nationally.

But there's more potential meaning to that slice of Republicans who don't give Trump the nod in Iowa than in other states.

Trump finished second to Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in Iowa's leadoff presidential caucuses last year, and many of Cruz's supporters say they would back him again if he runs. A number of them, including Quirk, have scheduled a Cruz campaign reunion for this summer, and are planning to travel to Texas to volunteer for his 2018 Senate campaign.

Emerging national Republican figures also have been accepting invitations to meet Iowa party activists.

Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton headlined a county GOP dinner in conservative western Iowa last month, though he firmly dismissed he was making plans to run in 2020.

Nebraska Sen. Ben Sasse, a frequent and vocal critic of Trump, plans to headline a central Iowa county Republican dinner in July.

Iowa Republican Party Chairman Jeff Kauffman repeatedly accused Sasse by name of stoking dissatisfaction with Trump among Republicans for his own benefit.

"I hear more complaints about Ben Sasse" than about Trump, Kauffman said. "Here's a guy trying to catch a wave. I think he's riding a ripple, and looking pretty silly doing it."

And Pence would seem to be the right validator for Trump in Iowa. Ninety percent of Iowa Republicans approved of the job Pence was doing in a February Des Moines Register Iowa Poll, 6 percentage points ahead of Trump.

Trump's campaign dispatched Pence to the state less than a week before the November election. The former Indiana governor, popular among social conservatives, told Iowa Republicans during the visit to rural Prole, "It's time to come home."

## Griffin not 'laying down' for Trump, fears career is over

By FRAZIER MOORE and JOSEPH LONGO, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Embattled comedian Kathy Griffin says she's not afraid of Donald Trump and plans to keep making fun of him but maintained that she's sorry for a video that depicted her holding a likeness of the president's severed, bloody head.

At a rambling press conference Friday, Griffin tearfully predicted her career is over and said Trump "broke me." Since the video was posted Tuesday, she has lost her job co-hosting CNN's New Year's Eve special and had all her upcoming comedy shows cancelled. Trump, first lady Melania Trump and Donald Trump Jr. have publicly criticized the video.

Griffin, who asserted that she has been contacted by the Secret Service, said the Trumps are "trying to ruin my life forever."

The Secret Service declined comment Friday.

"The president, the first lady and the Secret Service have all made very clear their view on those thoughts," White House press secretary Sean Spicer said.

Griffin, 56, repeated her claim that the video was a parody, meant as a pointed comeback to Trump's remark last summer that former Fox News Channel personality Megyn Kelly had "blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of wherever."

"I'm not laying down for this guy," she said in one defiant moment. "I'm going to keep making jokes about this guy."

Republican Party spokesman Mike Reed called the press conference a "desperate attempt" to change the conversation.

"Kathy Griffin's career was over long before she attempted to make a disgusting joke about decapitating the President," Reed said. "What she did was wrong and President Trump and his family have every right to condemn it."

The California GOP later sent out a fundraising email calling Griffin's photo shoot disrespectful and obscene.

Griffin appeared surprised at the number of cameras and reporters in a packed conference room at her lawyer's office, her hands shaking at one point when she took a sip of water. She switched between contriteness to combativeness during the press conference, during which she attempted several nervous jokes that drew laughs mostly from her attorney, Lisa Bloom.

Bloom said the comedian has a First Amendment right to make fun of the president.

"Whether or not you get, or like, her artistic expression, in America, Kathy has the right to parody the president," Bloom said. "She never imagined it would be misinterpreted as a threat of violence against Trump."

Bloom, a former truTV anchor and lawyer Gloria Allred's daughter, has represented Wendy Walsh, who has accused former Fox News Channel personality Bill O'Reilly of hurting her career after she spurned his advances. O'Reilly has denied the accusations.

Backlash against Griffin has continued to grow. Griffin said five of her performances have been canceled this week.

Venues in New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and California canceled upcoming shows. The Community Arts Theater in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, posted on its website that the show had been dropped "due to the recent controversy surrounding Kathy Griffin and the concern for the safety and security of our patrons and staff."

Sen. Al Franken also dis-invited Griffin from an event promoting his new book, "Giant of the Senate."

"After hearing from many Minnesotans who were rightfully offended, I've come to the conclusion that it would be best for her not to participate in the event we had previously scheduled," the Minnesota Democrat said Thursday, a day after he had said she was still welcome. "I understand why Minnesotans were upset by this, and I take that very seriously."

He said what Griffin did "was inappropriate and not something that should be anywhere in our national discourse."

An endorsement deal with Squatty Potty also ended.

Though Griffin apologized within hours of the images appearing online Tuesday, they were met with swift and widespread condemnation.

Trump later tweeted that Griffin "should be ashamed of herself" for posting the images.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie on Thursday called Griffin "disgusting" and said the photo was "completely outrageous."

Even Anderson Cooper, her CNN co-host for the New Year's Eve show, condemned the images. Griffin said she has not spoken to Cooper since, and appeared visibly upset and struggled to speak when fielding questions about Cooper.

The comic has faced controversies before for her abrasive humor, but none as widespread as the one generated by Tuesday's images.

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This story has been corrected to show that Griffin accused the Trumps of "trying to ruin my life forever," not "my rights."

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AP writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this story.

## Philippine police seek casino attacker's identity

By JIM GOMEZ, Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine police say the attacker was a tall, English-speaking white man with a mustache. They say he carried an assault rifle and that he used gasoline to start a casino fire that caused clouds of smoke that left at least 36 people dead Friday morning in a sprawling entertainment complex in Manila.

But by Friday evening, police said they still didn't know the man's name, or why he launched his attack at the Resorts World Manila complex, only to flee to an adjoining hotel and kill himself.

The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, but Philippine police said they believed it had been a robbery gone wrong.

Police told reporters the man stole more than \$2 million in gambling chips and avoided shooting people he encountered in the casino, pointing his gun upward when he fired some shots.

"He would have shot all the people gambling" if his goal was terrorism, national police chief Ronald dela Rosa said.

But hours later, the IS claimed responsibility in a statement, saying "Brother Abu al-Kheir al-Arkhabili was able to immerse among a gathering of Christian fighters in the Resorts World Manila in Manila where he carried out killing and hurting until he died as a martyr. About 100 Christians were killed or wounded."

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla rejected the claim, saying the attack "does not have the slightest signature of terrorism whatsoever."

"As in previous incidents, this group is prone to claim and admit every criminal incident and label it as its own, clearly indicative of its pure penchant for propaganda," Padilla said.

Many in Manila feared after the attack began that it was linked to ongoing battles with Muslim militants aligned with the IS in the southern city of Marawi. The fighting has placed much of the country on edge and raised fears that the IS was gaining a foothold. The Philippines has faced Muslim insurgencies for decades, though much of the violence has occurred in the troubled south.

The attack occurred at a sprawling mall-like complex near the Manila airport that includes hotels, restaurants, stores and a multi-floor gambling area. Police said that during the attack the man stole more than \$2 million worth of casino chips, though he apparently abandoned them in a toilet soon after.

"Either he lost in the casino and wanted to recoup his losses or he went totally nuts," Metropolitan Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde said.

As the gunman left, he exchanged shots with a building guard who managed to shoot him in the leg

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after being wounded, police and casino officials said.

"Severe blood loss from the gunshot wound significantly slowed the assailant down and resulted in his holing up in a room where he took his own life," said Stephen Reilly, Resort World's chief operating officer.

Dela Rosa said security video showed the gunman earlier ignoring a guard who tried to question him at the complex's entrance. He then barged into the crowded casino carrying the gasoline and assault rifle after overcoming efforts by guards to stop him. He stuffed a backpack with the gambling chips, fired his rifle at TV screens and set gambling tables on fire by pouring gasoline onto them from a 2-liter bottle he carried, dela Rosa said.

The gunman, whom dela Rosa described as "white, with a mustache," about 6 feet tall and English speaking, fled the gambling area and barged into a room on the 5th floor of Maxims Hotel, which is part of the Resorts World complex. He lay down on the bed, covered himself with a blanket, doused himself with gasoline and then set himself on fire, dela Rosa said. He carried no identity documents, police said.

"I saw the gunman," said a 23-year-old casino employee who declined to give her name. "He was a tall man, he was wearing a ski mask. He was carrying an armalite (rifle). I saw him fire his gun twice, I saw him burning gaming tables. But I did not see what he did after that because I fled."

Police were examining a car that the gunman left in a complex parking garage, authorities said. Police Senior Superintendent Tomas Apolinario said the car's owner was being questioned and had denied knowing the gunman.

The attack sent hundreds of people fleeing through the complex and into the night. A South Korean died of a possible heart attack suffered during the evacuation, the Foreign Ministry said. More than 70 people suffered mostly minor injuries in the stampede to escape.

Family members of employees spent hours waiting for news of their relatives, hoping through the night that they had survived.

Gil Yongco rushed to the complex when his daughter Hazel Anne, a casino employee, called early Friday. "She was asking for help because she said it was suffocating on the second floor area where she was," a distraught Yongco said as he stood outside the Maxims hotel, adding that his daughter did not call again.

Hours later, when company officials announced the names of employees who perished in the attack, Hazel Anne was first on the list of 23 employees.

Ronald Romualdo, a Resorts World maintenance worker, said he and his colleagues heard gunshots and saw people smashing windows on the second and third floors to escape.

"We took out a ladder to save them. We were able to save many of them," he said. "But one woman I was trying to save fell from the second floor. ... I could not carry her." He said the woman was not moving after she fell, but he didn't know what happened to her.

As news of the attack spread, President Donald Trump offered America's thoughts and prayers to the Philippines.

"It is really very sad as to what's going on throughout the world with terror," he said from the White House Rose Garden. Trump said he was "closely monitoring the situation."

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, however, made no mention of the attack in a speech he gave to soldiers Friday in the country's south.

The unrest in Marawi has sparked fears that militants might attack elsewhere to divert the focus of thousands of troops trying to quell the siege. But dela Rosa said, "We cannot attribute this to terrorism without concrete evidence."

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Associated Press journalists Teresa Cerojano, Joeal Calupitan and Bullit Marquez contributed to this report.

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This story has been corrected to show that the dollar value of the stolen chips was more than \$2 million, not \$200,000.

## Special counsel's Trump investigation includes Manafort case

By **SADIE GURMAN, ERIC TUCKER and JEFF HORWITZ, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The special counsel investigating possible ties between President Donald Trump's campaign and Russia's government has taken over a separate criminal probe involving former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, and may expand his inquiry to investigate the roles of the attorney general and deputy attorney general in the firing of FBI Director James Comey, The Associated Press has learned.

The Justice Department's criminal investigation into Manafort, who was forced to resign as Trump campaign chairman in August amid questions over his business dealings years ago in Ukraine, predated the 2016 election and the counterintelligence probe that in July began investigating possible collusion between Moscow and associates of Trump.

The move to consolidate the matters, involving allegations of misuse of Ukrainian government funds, indicates that Special Counsel Robert Mueller is assuming a broad mandate in his new role running the sensational investigation. The expansiveness of Mueller's investigation was described to the AP. No one familiar with the matter has been willing to discuss the scope of his investigation on the record because it is just getting underway and because revealing details could complicate its progress.

In an interview separately Friday with the AP, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein acknowledged that Mueller could expand his inquiry to include Attorney General Jeff Sessions' and Rosenstein's own roles in the decision to fire Comey, who was investigating the Trump campaign. Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller as special counsel to take over the investigation, wrote the memorandum intended to justify Trump's decision to fire Comey. Sessions met with Trump and Rosenstein to discuss Trump's decision to fire him despite Sessions' pledge not to become involved in the Russia case.

The AP asked Rosenstein specifically whether Mueller's investigation could expand to include examining Sessions' role.

"The order is pretty clear," Rosenstein responded. "It gives him authority for the investigation and anything arising out of that investigation, and so Director Mueller will be responsible in the first instance for determining what he believes falls into that mandate."

Rosenstein told the AP that if he were to become a subject of Mueller's investigation, he would recuse himself from any oversight of Mueller. Under Justice Department rules, Mueller is required to seek permission from Rosenstein to investigate additional matters other than ones already specified in the paperwork formally appointing Mueller.

"I've talked with Director Mueller about this," Rosenstein said. "He's going to make the appropriate decisions, and if anything that I did winds up being relevant to his investigation then, as Director Mueller and I discussed, if there's a need from me to recuse I will."

Peter Carr, a spokesman for Mueller, declined to comment on the scope of the investigation.

Mueller, who spent 12 years as FBI director and served under Republican and Democratic presidents, was appointed as special counsel following the May 9 firing of Comey, who is expected to testify for the first time next week before the Senate.

Mueller's assignment, detailed in a one-page order signed by Rosenstein, covers the federal investigation into possible links or coordination between Russia and associates of the Trump campaign but also "any matters that arose or may arise directly" from the probe. It would also extend to any allegations of perjury, witness intimidation or obstruction of justice uncovered during the course of the investigation.

As Mueller's investigation begins, members of Congress are intensely interested in its direction and scope.

Last month, House Democrats called for congressional investigations into whether Sessions violated his pledge to recuse himself from matters related to investigations into Trump associates. They also asked the Justice Department to investigate Sessions' role in Comey's firing and to lay out how that investigation would proceed.

A Democratic aide said Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., asked Rosenstein about the matter during a briefing before House members. Rosenstein said he would get back to Cummings, but he has yet to respond, said the aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private interactions.

The Justice Department began looking at Manafort's work in Ukraine around the beginning of 2014, as Ukraine's president, Viktor Yanukovich, was toppled amid protests of alleged corruption and Russian influence. Business records obtained by the AP show Manafort's political consulting firm began working as early as 2004 for clients that variously included a political boss in Yanukovich's party, a Ukrainian oligarch and Oleg Deripaska, a Russian businessman and longtime ally of Russian president Vladimir Putin.

A special counsel, by design, is constrained by the terms of his appointment to avoid boundless and perpetually open-ended investigations. In this case, though, Mueller's mandate appears fairly broad, said Samuel Buell, a former federal prosecutor and criminal law professor at Duke University.

"That investigation that's named in the appointment is already one that has, as far as we can tell, a number of tentacles and offshoots that involves conduct over a fairly lengthy period of time involving a lot of people," Buell said.

He said he did not expect Mueller to seek Rosenstein's approval each time he wants to subpoena another new witness or pursue a new Russia-related investigative thread. The more difficult question would involve any allegations separate and apart from Russia, he said.

"This gives him the authority to pull on all kinds of string and see where they lead him," Buell said. "As long as you're following a string that's connected to the string of Russian influence on the election — however that may have occurred, whoever that may have involved — would seem to fall within that appointment."

Manafort's work in Ukraine continued at least through the beginning of 2014, when Yanukovich's government was ousted amid protests of widespread corruption and his rejection of a European trade deal in favor of one with Moscow. As the AP reported last year, that work included covertly directing a lobbying campaign on behalf of Ukraine's pro-Russian Party of Regions in Washington. Following the AP's reporting on emails in which Manafort deputy Rick Gates was overseeing the work, two lobbying firms involved in the project registered as foreign agents. Manafort has not done so, and a spokesman for him has declined to say if he will.

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Associated Press writers Chad Day and Stephen Braun contributed to this report.

## Does Trump believe in climate change or not? Aides won't say

By JILL COLVIN and JACK GILLUM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Does he or doesn't he? Believe in climate change, that is.

You'd think that would be an easy enough question the day after President Donald Trump announced he was pulling the U.S. out of the landmark global accord aimed at combatting global warming.

But don't bother asking at the White House.

"I have not had an opportunity to have that discussion" with the president, responded Press Secretary Sean Spicer on Friday.

"You should ask him that," offered White House Counselor Kellyanne Conway.

Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt dodged the question, too.

The president also ignored it during an unrelated bill-signing.

It's quite a reversal for Trump, who spent years publicly bashing the idea of global warming as a "hoax" and "total con job" in books, interviews and tweets. He openly challenged the scientific consensus that the climate is changing and man-made carbon emissions are largely to blame.

"Global warming is an expensive hoax!" he tweeted in 2014.

But Trump has been largely silent on the issue since his election last fall. On Thursday, he made scarce mention of it in his lengthy remarks announcing America's exit from the Paris accord. Instead, he framed his decision as based on economics.

Here's what he's said before:

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### TRUMP'S TWEETS:

The president's twitter feed once was filled with references to "so-called" global warming being a "total



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con job" based on "faulty science and manipulated data."

An Associated Press search of his twitter archives revealed at least 90 instances in which he has referred to "global warming" and "climate change" since 2011. In nearly every instance, he expressed skepticism or mockery.

"This very expensive GLOBAL WARMING bulls--- has got to stop," he wrote in January 2014, spelling out the vulgarity.

Often the president has pointed to cold weather as evidence the climate scientists are wrong.

"It's 46 (really cold) and snowing in New York on Memorial Day — tell the so-called "scientists" that we want global warming right now!" he wrote in May 2013 — one of several instances in which he said that warming would be welcome.

"Where the hell is global warming when you need it?" he asked in January 2015.

The same message was echoed in the president's books.

In "Great Again: How to Fix Our Crippled America," Trump made a reference to "the mistaken belief that global climate change is being caused by carbon emissions."

"If you don't buy that — and I don't — then what we have is really just an expensive way of making the tree-huggers feel good about themselves," he wrote.

## CANDIDATE AND SKEPTIC:

"I'm not a believer in man-made global warming," Trump told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt in September 2015, after launching his bid for the White House. He bemoaned the fact that the U.S. was investing money and doing things "to solve a problem that I don't think in any major fashion exists."

"I am not a believer," he added, "Unless somebody can prove something to me ... I am not a believer and we have much bigger problems."

By March 2016, the president appeared to allow that the climate was changing — but continued to doubt humans were to blame.

"I think there's a change in weather. I am not a great believer in man-made climate change. I'm not a great believer," he told The Washington Post. "There is certainly a change in weather," he said.

Then-campaign manager, Conway explained Trump's view this way: "He believes that global warming is naturally occurring. That there are shifts naturally occurring."

## EVOLVING PRESIDENT:

In an interview with The New York Times in November, after the election, Trump was asked repeatedly whether he intended to leave the Paris accord and appeared to have a new open-mindedness.

"I'm looking at it very closely," Trump told the newspaper. "I have an open mind to it. We're going to look very carefully."

He went on to say that he thought "there is some connectivity" between human activity and the changing climate, but that, "It depends on how much."

Asked about the comment several days later, Trump's now-chief of staff Reince Priebus told Fox News that Trump "has his default position, which is that most of it is a bunch of bunk."

"But he'll have an open mind and listen to people," he said.

Stay tuned.

Follow Colvin and Gillum on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj> and <https://twitter.com/jackgillum>

## 3 ex-Penn State officials sent to jail in Sandusky scandal

By **MARC LEVY** and **MICHAEL RUBINKAM**, Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Penn State's former president and two other ex-administrators were sentenced Friday to at least two months in jail for failing to report a child sexual abuse allegation against Jerry Sandusky a decade before his arrest engulfed the university in scandal and brought down football coach Joe

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Paterno.

"They ignored the opportunity to put an end to his crimes when they had a chance to do so," Judge John Boccabella said as he lambasted the three defendants and the Hall of Fame coach over a delay that prosecutors say enabled Sandusky to molest four more boys.

Boccabella said he was "appalled that the common sense to make a phone call did not occur," a transgression that "sort of robs my faith of who we are as adults and where we are going."

Former President Graham Spanier, 68, was sentenced to four to 12 months, with the first two in jail and the rest under house arrest. He was convicted of child endangerment.

Former athletic director Tim Curley, 63, received a sentence of seven to 23 months, with three in jail. Former vice president Gary Schultz, 67, was given six to 23 months, with two months behind bars. They pleaded guilty to child endangerment.

The three are to report to jail July 15.

They all apologized in the courtroom to Sandusky's victims before the sentences were handed down.

Spanier said he regretted that "I did not intervene more forcefully." Schultz said: "It really sickens me to think I might have played a part in children being hurt."

The case hinged on coaching assistant Mike McQueary's claim that he witnessed Sandusky — a retired member of the coaching staff who ran a charity for youngsters — molesting a boy in the team showers in 2001. Prosecutors said that after McQueary recounted what he saw, the three administrators decided not to report it to authorities to protect the university's reputation.

Sandusky was not arrested until 2011, after a prosecutor got an anonymous email tip. Sandusky was found guilty the next year of sexually abusing 10 boys and is serving 30 to 60 years in prison.

Penn State has paid out nearly a quarter-billion dollars in fines, settlements and other costs associated with the scandal, and the football program suffered heavy NCAA sanctions. More than 100 of Paterno's victories were briefly erased from the record books.

Both the judge and prosecutors Friday thrust blame onto Paterno himself. Paterno was fired but never charged with a crime; he died of lung cancer at age 85 two months after Sandusky's arrest.

Boccabella noted that others who were aware of McQueary's report, including McQueary and Paterno, could have called police.

Paterno "could have made that phone call without so much as getting his hands dirty," Boccabella said. "Why he didn't is beyond me."

Prosecutor Patrick Schulte said Curley at one point had drawn up a plan to report Sandusky to state authorities, but "something changed after talking to coach Paterno."

"What was it about that conversation that made you change your mind?" Schulte said, referring to the ex-athletic director.

Curley, Schultz and Spanier have denied they were told the encounter in the shower was sexual in nature. Paterno's son, Jay Paterno, said Friday that his father had followed the law in alerting Curley and Schultz, and that prosecutors have no evidence that Paterno tried to protect Sandusky.

"For them to bring that up and bring Joe Paterno into this, it's an abuse of their office," he said.

Prosecutors reserved some of their harshest words for Spanier, with Chief Deputy Attorney General Laura Ditka saying he was "a complete and utter failure as a leader when it mattered most." She said his inaction "allowed children to be harmed."

The judge came down hardest on Curley, however, saying the sports department was his responsibility and questioning Curley's claims of memory lapses on the stand during Spanier's trial.

"I find it really hard to believe that he doesn't remember every detail of the most serious mistake he ever made," Boccabella said.

## Q&A: Could executive privilege block Comey testimony?

By SAM HANANEL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Could President Donald Trump keep former FBI Director James Comey from testifying to lawmakers about their private conversations?

The White House appears to be considering raising the issue of executive privilege, but Trump may have a weak case for claiming that his conversations with Comey should be considered private — especially since the president himself has commented publicly about the circumstances surrounding Comey's May 9 firing.

Comey is set to testify Thursday before the Senate intelligence committee. He'll likely be asked to recount conversations with Trump about Russian meddling during last year's election and the FBI's investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

"The president will make that decision," White House adviser Kellyanne Conway told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Thursday when asked if Trump would try to block Comey's testimony.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer would not rule it out. He said the committee hearing was just set and "it has to be reviewed." He said he has not discussed the matter with White House counsel, adding, "I don't know how they're going to respond."

Some questions and answers about executive privilege:

### WHAT IS EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE?

The term "executive privilege" is not in the U.S. Constitution. But it has been invoked by presidents since George Washington to withhold private White House deliberations and records from Congress.

The idea is that presidents should expect to get candid advice from top aides without worrying about revealing it to Congress. The term wasn't coined until the 1950s, when President Dwight Eisenhower tried to shield administration officials from being questioned in Sen. Joseph McCarthy's hearings about communism.

The Supreme Court formally recognized the doctrine during the Watergate crisis as part of the balance between the executive branch and Congress. While the justices said conversations between presidents and top aides were presumed confidential, they said the privilege is not absolute. The court ruled that President Richard Nixon's audio recordings of White House conversations should be turned over to prosecutors.

### WHEN WAS IT LAST USED?

President Barack Obama invoked executive privilege in a bid to stop Congress from seeing records about Operation Fast and Furious, a botched gun-smuggling investigation that lost track of about 1,400 guns. Congress voted to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt for failing to turn over the records. A federal judge later rejected Obama's use of executive privilege and Congress got the documents.

### HOW STRONG A CASE COULD TRUMP MAKE TO BLOCK COMEY'S TESTIMONY?

Comey is likely to testify about the FBI's investigation into possible connections between Russia and the Trump campaign and whether Trump tried to interfere with the probe. Trump could argue that discussions with Comey pertained to national security and had the expectation of privacy.

But Trump likely undermined those arguments because he has already discussed the conversations in tweets and interviews, according to Mitch Sollenberger, a political science professor at the University of Michigan-Dearborn.

In his letter firing Comey, Trump said the former FBI director had informed him "on three separate occasions that I am not under investigation." Trump later tweeted: "James Comey better hope that there are no "tapes" of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!"

Trump also said in an interview that he was thinking of "this Russia thing" when he decided to fire Comey. "This isn't something that the president has denied," Sollenberger said. "That actually weakens his argument against executive privilege."

Sollenberger said any argument in favor of privilege also could be overcome because the investigation is focused on corruption and possible obstruction of justice.

IF TRUMP TRIES TO USE EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE, COULD COMEY DEFY HIM?

Comey has indicated that he wants to testify. He is now a private citizen, so he doesn't have to fear retaliation for defying Trump.

He has an incentive to push back against the White House portrayal of him as unfit for office. Comey's associates have said Comey told them Trump had asked for a pledge of loyalty to the president and later asked Comey to consider ending the investigation of Flynn. The White House has denied those characterizations.

HOW COULD CONGRESS RESPOND?

If Comey refuses to testify, Congress could subpoena him and then find him in contempt of Congress. The matter would then go to federal court, which could take months to resolve the dispute.

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

## Democrats worry GOP trying to bury torture report

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democratic lawmakers and rights groups criticized the Republican head of the Senate intelligence committee on Friday for seeking the return of copies of a report on CIA treatment of detainees after 9/11, saying he is trying to "erase history" by making it harder for the public to ever see the classified document.

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said federal courts have ruled the report is a congressional document and asked for copies held by intelligence bodies and other executive branch agencies to be returned. If the report remained in the hands of executive branch officials, it would be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. Congressional materials are not.

The CIA and the agency's inspector general's office, as well as the national intelligence director's office, have returned their copies. The FBI and the State, Justice and Defense departments also have copies of the 6,770-page classified report.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, a former Democratic chairman of the committee, called Burr's move was "alarming and concerning."

"This creates a dangerous precedent," she said, warning that "countless historical reports and records" could be nullified under the same procedure. "No senator — chairman or not — has the authority to erase history. I believe that is the intent of the chairman."

The so-called "torture report" has a long history.

The Senate intelligence committee spent years investigating the CIA's detention and harsh interrogation techniques on suspected terrorists captured by the United States after the Sept. 11, 2001, attack. The techniques authorized by the Bush administration included waterboarding. Interrogations were conducted in clandestine prisons around the world that were not in the jurisdiction of U.S. courts or the military justice system.

In December 2014, the committee published a declassified summary of the report. The full report remained classified, but it was sent to several government agencies.

Democrats and Republicans fought bitterly over the contents.

In 2015, Burr asked government agencies under the Obama administration to send report copies back. They didn't.

The American Civil Liberties Union sued the CIA for the entire classified report, but didn't get it.

"After more than two years of litigation, the federal courts have ruled that the Senate intelligence committee's 2014 full report on the CIA's detention and interrogation program is a congressional document," Burr said in a statement. "I have directed my staff to retrieve copies of the congressional study that remain with the executive branch agencies and, as the committee does with all classified and compartmented information, will enact the necessary measures to protect the sensitive sources and methods contained

within the report.”

There are certain copies of the report, however, that might not be returned.

During his Senate confirmation hearing, Attorney General Jeff Sessions told Feinstein in a written response to questions that he would not return the Justice Department’s copy of the report to the Senate.

Katherine Hawkins, senior counsel at the Constitution Project, an advocacy group, said another copy is included in Obama’s presidential papers, which are being handled by the National Archives. That copy is subject to the Presidential Records Act, and getting that declassified could take years and might never happen.

Hawkins said the Defense Department’s copy also is particularly important because it provides evidence that could be used in the military commission trials of Guantanamo Bay detainees. A military commission judge this week ordered the Defense Department to preserve its copy so it could possibly be used in the trial of Majid Khan, according to the Center for Constitutional Rights, which represents the detainee.

“The Senate report details the horrors of the CIA torture program, including the rape and sexual assault of (our) client Majid Khan and the ways the agency misled Congress, the courts and the public about the program,” the center said in a statement.

Democratic senators and rights groups were unanimous in their opposition to Burr’s move.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the committee, tweeted that the report “must be preserved so we can learn from past mistakes and ensure that abuses are never repeated.”

Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., said the report was a historical record that belongs to all Americans.

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., a former member of the intelligence committee, said, “The report contains difficult facts to face, but they must be aired.”

Hina Shamsi, director of the ACLU’s National Security Project, said agencies shouldn’t return the CIA torture report to Congress but should read and learn from it. “This critically important investigation should have been made public and must not be buried or destroyed,” Shamsi said.

Physicians for Human Rights called the report the most comprehensive accounting of the CIA’s torture program. “Its findings are critical to understanding how so many mistakes were made — and how to avoid making such grievous, harmful errors in the future,” Sarah Dougherty with the New York-based group said.

## Putin: ‘Don’t worry, be happy’ as Trump ditches climate deal

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — While other world leaders have strongly condemned President Donald Trump’s decision to abandon the Paris climate accord, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday he won’t judge.

“Don’t worry, be happy!” Putin quipped after being asked for his reaction at an economic forum in St. Petersburg, Russia. He said the climate deal doesn’t formally go into effect until 2021, giving nations years to come up with a constructive solution to combating global warming.

For Putin, leader of the world’s biggest crude oil producer and fifth-largest emitter of greenhouse gases, there was plenty to cheer in Trump’s rejection of the agreement painstakingly negotiated by the Obama administration and signed by 195 countries.

Trump’s move drives another wedge between the United States and its traditional European allies, while aligning its stance closer to Russia in boosting fossil fuels while deferring action to curb climate change.

While Putin’s government signed the 2015 Paris accord, he has delayed formally ratifying the agreement for at least two more years. Russia’s voluntary reduction goals under the deal are among the weakest submitted by any country, potentially allowing it to spew more planet-warming emissions in future years, not less.

Russia pledged to reduce its carbon emissions by at least 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. That gives Putin lots of wiggle room because the fall of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s triggered the collapse of the country’s centrally planned economy, greatly reducing carbon emissions in subsequent years.

Russia also insisted in its Paris submission that it be given the maximum potential credit for carbon adsorbed out of the atmosphere by Siberia’s vast undeveloped forests. Under current projections, Russia

could step up its carbon emissions and still claim to meet its 2030 goals.

That gives Putin's government little economic incentive to invest in green technologies. There are currently no utility-scale wind turbines or solar farms in Russia, which — like the U.S. — continues to get most of its electricity from burning fossil fuels.

Vladimir Chuprov, who tracks the Russian energy industry for the environmental group Greenpeace, said hardliners in the Kremlin will be buoyed by Trump's decision. The Russian economy is highly dependent on revenues from oil and gas exports.

"There are no real plans to change the energy balance at all," said Chuprov, who lives in Moscow. "Trump's decision signals business as usual."

While Trump has claimed that evidence of global warming is partly an elaborate hoax, Putin agrees with the overwhelming consensus of scientists that climate change is being driven by man-made carbon emissions.

"Pressure on the ecosystem is increasing, and as a result of human action and as a result of natural processes, these questions require deep study, research and analysis," Putin said Friday. "It is clear that when working out our politics, our inclusive line of action, we must be responsible and effective."

Still, Putin lamented that it was still so chilly and rainy in Russia, joking that future responsibility for the impacts of global warming could be pinned on Trump.

"Now we can blame it all on him and American imperialism," Putin said, laughing. "It's all their fault!"

Follow Associated Press environmental writer Michael Biesecker at [Twitter.com/mbieseck](https://twitter.com/mbieseck)

## Trump Paris pullout a new hurdle for Tillerson's diplomacy

By **JOSH LEDERMAN** and **MATTHEW LEE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Donald Trump announced America's withdrawal from a global climate change pact, infuriating allies far and wide, the man charged with defending the decision to the world kept his distance.

Having quietly lobbied Trump to stay in the pact, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was a few blocks away at the State Department, where America's diplomats were bracing for a flood of protests from overseas. The European Council's leader called Trump's decision a "big mistake." The typically understated German Chancellor Angela Merkel deemed it "extremely regrettable — and that's putting it very mildly." French President Emmanuel Macron trolled Trump's campaign motto, saying all nations share a responsibility to "make our planet great again."

Trump's climate reversal is the latest challenge he has presented to Tillerson, a newcomer himself to the world of diplomacy who is still working to establish his credibility as an advocate of American foreign policy. Not only did Trump appear to overrule Tillerson's advice concerning the Paris agreement, but the decision fanned fears of the U.S. abdicating its global leadership role and shunning international consensus on the world's most pressing issues.

Tillerson wasn't the only Cabinet member to skip the Rose Garden ceremony where Trump announced his decision, but his absence was perhaps the most glaring. He met Trump only hours earlier in the White House. Tillerson's aides maintained that he decided to follow his own schedule, which had him in his seventh-floor office on Thursday afternoon as Trump was speaking.

Aides could not say if Tillerson watched the president on television. But he will be almost surely be required to recite the rationale for Trump's pullout from the agreement cutting carbon emissions, given that his agency led the Paris deal negotiations and will now have to manage the international fallout.

"I don't think we're going to change our ongoing efforts to reduce those emissions in the future," Tillerson said Friday, playing down the president's decision. "So hopefully people can keep it in perspective."

Tillerson called Trump's action a "policy decision." He insisted the U.S. should be proud of its "terrific record" in cutting greenhouse gas emissions, even before the Paris pact took effect late last year.

Trump's announcement is renewing questions about the level of Tillerson's influence on his boss' mercurial foreign policy decision-making. Tillerson is the former CEO of Exxon Mobil, the world's largest oil

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company and one that spent years examining climate science until grudgingly accepting the dangers of global warming. Still, his support for the Paris deal was insufficient to persuade Trump to stay in.

This weekend, Tillerson visits Australia and New Zealand. Both countries have been outspoken in their climate change concerns and support for the Paris agreement. Tillerson is sure to hear an earful about the issue in the days, weeks, months and years ahead.

"Tillerson's credibility issues right now are far broader than just the Paris accord," said Cecile Shea, a retired U.S. diplomat, now of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. She said the withdrawal compounded suspicions about U.S. leadership since Trump left the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal and questioned the NATO alliance.

Tillerson's argument to Trump was that leaving the agreement would diminish U.S. influence in encouraging other countries to reduce their emissions, aides said. He didn't argue that it would affect U.S. efforts to reduce American emissions.

"This was not a litmus test on the reality of climate change for him," said R.C. Hammond, a senior Tillerson adviser. "He still sees a path forward on that and we're also going to continue to work with our friends and allies on our priorities: national security and the economy."

Tillerson said repeatedly in his confirmation hearing in January that he accepted climate change is real and believed it was important for America to "have a seat at the table" in international discussions on the matter. Exxon, his former company, was on the record supporting the agreement and publicly encouraging Trump not to withdraw.

Still, Tillerson's support has been quieter than that of his predecessor: John Kerry. As Obama's top diplomat, he played a major role persuading other governments to commit to cut their own emissions, even when it created political problems for them at home.

Paris deal supporters, including Kerry, predicted Trump's withdrawal would cause almost irreparable damage to America's standing abroad and potentially its ability to negotiate future diplomatic agreements.

"It is a global stain on our credibility that we will spend years, if not decades, working to remove," Kerry said.

But Ronald Neumann, a former U.S. ambassador who heads the American Academy of Diplomacy, noted Tillerson, like all secretaries of state, would occasionally lose policy battles.

"I don't think it particularly weakens him," Neumann said, though he suggested a lack of clarity over the role the administration intends to play internationally could still be problematic for Tillerson's diplomatic efforts.

Thursday wasn't a total loss for Tillerson. It began with Trump backtracking on a campaign pledge to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Tillerson, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and other members of the national security team strongly advised against relocating the embassy.

## Supreme Court asked to let Trump travel ban take effect

By MARK SHERMAN and SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Having so far failed to persuade judges to allow its travel ban to take effect, the Trump administration is turning to the nation's highest court with its slim conservative majority.

The Justice Department on Thursday formally asked the Supreme Court to let a ban on visitors from six mostly Muslim countries and refugees from around the world to be put in place. The high court also is being asked to uphold the constitutionality of the Trump travel policy, which lower courts have blocked because it shows anti-Muslim prejudice.

The administration is banking on being able to persuade at least five justices, a majority of the nine-member court, that they should defer to the president's considerable authority over immigration and his responsibility for keeping the nation safe.

Trump determined that a 90-day pause on visitors from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen is needed to "safeguard national security," acting Solicitor General Jeffrey Wall wrote in the Justice Department's filings.

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"The courts below openly second-guessed the president's finding that those conditions and risks provided the basis for ... (the) temporary pause," Wall wrote. The administration also wants to halt the U.S. refugee program for 120 days.

Omar Jadwat, director of the ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project, said the justices shouldn't disturb court rulings that are keeping the travel ban on hold. "The government has not set forth any justification for a stay," Jadwat said, using the legal term by which the Supreme Court would block lower court rulings.

The administration's Supreme Court filings reflect many of the same arguments that its lawyers have made in the lower courts, including their view that statements President Donald Trump made as a candidate — before he took the presidential oath — should not be considered.

Both the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and a federal judge in Hawaii cited Trump's campaign comments as evidence that religious prejudice undergirds the travel ban. Those court orders blocking the ban are the subject of the administration's plea to the Supreme Court.

"Without campaign materials, the court of appeals' analysis collapses," Wall wrote in his high court request for an order to allow the policy to be enforced.

Trump's recent speech to Middle East leaders in Saudi Arabia provides more evidence that Trump's policy was not motivated by anti-Muslim prejudice because the president explicitly said the fight against terrorism "is not a battle between different faiths," Wall wrote.

But Jadwat said Trump passed up a clear opportunity in front of many leaders of the Arab world "to explain or retract any of his earlier statements."

The justices will weigh those arguments in the coming weeks.

Justice Neil Gorsuch joined the court in April, giving it a full complement of nine justices for the first time since conservative icon Antonin Scalia died in February 2016. A full bench not only eliminated the prospect of a tie when all the justices are participating, but also restored the court's conservative tilt.

Even with Gorsuch aboard, though, Justice Anthony Kennedy probably will be in the majority whatever the outcome. Kennedy is the conservative justice who is closer to the ideological center of the court than any of his colleagues, and he often casts the decisive vote when the court is otherwise split between conservatives and liberals.

A Kennedy opinion from 2015 also has emerged as a key element in the legal fight. The 2015 case, *Kerry v. Din*, involved an American citizen's challenge to the denial of a visa for her Afghan husband.

Kennedy sided with the other conservative justices in favor of the Obama administration and against U.S. citizen Fauzia Din. But 4th Circuit Chief Judge Roger Gregory used Kennedy's opinion to buttress his majority opinion against the Trump travel ban.

Judges must "step away from our deferential posture and look behind the stated reason for the challenged action" when a lawsuit makes a strong argument about bad faith motivating the policy, Gregory wrote, citing Kennedy's opinion.

The dissenting judges said Gregory misread Kennedy's opinion. "Nowhere did the *Din* Court authorize going behind the government's notice for the purpose of showing bad faith," the dissenters said.

Kennedy also has been the focus of speculation that he may soon retire, yet another wild card that could unsettle the court's consideration of the Trump policy.

The administration is asking for quick action from the high court that would freeze the lower court rulings and allow the policy to be put in place. Both sides would file their legal arguments about whether the policy violates the Constitution or federal law over the summer and the justices could hear argument as early as the fall, under the schedule proposed by the administration Thursday.

The Supreme Court is almost certain to step into the case because it almost always has the final say when a lower court strikes down a federal law or presidential action.

But the initial vote on whether to let the travel ban take effect, even as the court weighs the case, would signal whether the government is likely to win in the end. If at least five justices vote to let the travel ban take effect, there's a good chance they also would uphold the policy later on.

The temporary nature of the bans means they could well have run their course by the time the case is



ready to be argued, unless the court were to schedule an unusual special argument session.

There is one other potential wrinkle involving timing. Some critics of the travel policy have said that the policy's 90-day halt to visitors from the six countries is about to expire in mid-June, even though the ban itself has never taken effect.

That's because the executive order Trump signed in March said the ban would expire 90 days after the order's effective date, March 16.

But the administration's argument appears to be that the clock wouldn't start until the policy can take effect.

## Jobs data could signal shortage of qualified workers to hire

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Are employers starting to run out of workers to hire?

A hiring pullback reported in Friday's U.S. jobs data for May raises that prospect. The economy added just 138,000 jobs, which was still high enough to help cut the unemployment rate to a 16-year low of 4.3 percent. With the recovery from the Great Recession having reached its eighth year, hiring is gradually weakening.

"It's definitely becoming an increasing problem for businesses — finding qualified workers," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at Amherst Pierpont Securities. "The pool has diminished considerably."

Not only did employers slow their hiring during May. The government also revised downward its estimate of job growth in March and April by a combined 66,000. Monthly gains have averaged 121,000 the past three months, compared with 181,000 over the past 12 months. As recently as 2015, job growth averaged 226,000 a month.

Companies are now choosing from among a smaller pool of applicants, especially for those who have the education or skills they need.

"Given reports that job openings are near all-time highs, it suggests that businesses are struggling to fill these positions," said Beth Ann Bovino, U.S. chief economist for S&P Global Ratings.

For now, most analysts think job growth remains solid enough for the Federal Reserve to feel confident about raising interest rates again when it meets in two weeks.

One unusual characteristic of today's job market is that the unemployment rate keeps falling even as hiring has slowed. Economists say the main reason is that the proportion of adults who either have a job or are looking or one has remained unusually low. Once people stop looking for a job, they're no longer counted as unemployed.

Contributing to the trend has been the continuing retirements of America's vast generation of baby boomers. In addition, companies are increasingly seeking workers with college degrees or specialized know-how — construction experience, for example, or a background in machine automation. As they do, the less-qualified are finding it harder to land work, and some have grown discouraged and given up their searches.

"After the recession, we saw employers hire people with higher levels of qualifications, and it seems like that habit has stuck through the recovery," said Cathy Barrera, chief economic adviser at the jobs firm ZipRecruiter.

Historically, declining unemployment tends to lead to strong pay raises. So far, that hasn't happened broadly across the economy. Average hourly earnings have risen a middling 2.5 percent over the past year.

There were some bright spots in May's jobs report that reflect an economy that continues to run neither too hot nor too cold, with economic growth holding at a tepid 2 percent annual rate.

Few foresee another downturn looming, in part because the recovery from the recession has been steady but grinding, and there's been little sign of the sort of overheated pressures that normally trigger a slump.

Food services added 30,300 jobs last month, health care 24,300. Construction added 11,000. As energy prices stabilize somewhat, the mining sector — which includes oil, natural gas, coal and metal ore — added 6,600 jobs.

But governments shed 9,000 workers, with the losses concentrated at the state and local level. And manufacturers let go of 1,000. Retailers cut 6,100 jobs.

The slowing job growth contrasts with the euphoric observations of President Donald Trump, who in a speech Thursday took credit for "absolutely tremendous economic progress" since his election.

Trump has yet to sign into law any policies that would change the trajectory of the job market or the economy from President Barack Obama's tenure. The health care overhaul the administration favors is being reworked in the Senate. And its proposed tax cuts have come only in a one-page outline, without the details that would need to be vetted by Congress.

Still, if hiring maintains even its current slower pace, it would exceed population growth, and the unemployment rate should eventually fall even further below its current 4.3 percent, a level associated with a healthy economy. At some point, pay should start to rise more sharply, especially in industries with hard-to-find skilled or educated workers.

For now, some companies that are hiring have no plans to raise pay much. One is Atlanta-based Workout Anytime Companies, which runs 24-hour-a-day gyms. It plans to open 47 franchises before year's end, adding 400 jobs.

But because most of its positions are entry-level jobs geared for younger workers, the company has been able to pay them in part through bonuses rather than hourly raises.

"We're not seeing a lot of upward pressure on hourly wages," said Mark de Gorter, the chief operating officer.

Pay gains may be weak in part because one crucial ingredient for economic growth — worker productivity — has been sluggish. Workers generally enjoy higher incomes once they generate more value per hour on the job.

"There is not going to be a big turnaround in wage growth until productivity picks up," said Andrew Chamberlain, chief economist at the jobs site Glassdoor.

Other economists suggest that broad pay gains tend to occur after a lag and that the low unemployment rate should lead to higher wages within the next 18 months.

"We would be surprised if wages were still running under 3 percent, for example, when we get to the end of 2018," said Chris Rupkey, managing director at MUFJ Union Bank.

## Leaders pledge to boost climate efforts after Trump decision

By **LORNE COOK** and **ANGELA CHARLTON**, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — A Malian cattle herder, German environmental activists, leaders from Mexico to China — they're among millions on Friday denouncing President Donald Trump's decision to pull the United States out of the Paris climate accord. Many nations pledged to ramp up their efforts to curb global warming instead.

Some allies pointedly refrained from criticism, however, and Russian President Vladimir Putin even joked that Trump's move made him a convenient scapegoat for any bad weather.

While Trump argued the landmark 2015 accord hurts U.S. jobs and business, others took a more global view. The French president's call to #MakeOurPlanetGreatAgain went viral online, and German Chancellor Angela Merkel said it's time to look ahead.

"This decision can't and won't stop all those of us who feel obliged to protect the planet," she said. "On the contrary. We in Germany, Europe and the world will combine our forces more resolutely than ever to address and successfully tackle challenges for humanity such as climate change."

Merkel, whose country hosts this year's international climate summit, called Trump's decision "extremely regrettable, and that's putting it very mildly."

Greenpeace activists projected Trump's silhouette onto the side of the U.S. Embassy in Berlin along with the words "#TotalLoser, so sad!"

In what could herald a tilt away from trans-Atlantic ties, European and Chinese officials joined to affirm their commitment to the Paris agreement, widely considered a landmark deal for bringing together almost all countries under a common goal.

European Council chief Donald Tusk, after meeting with visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Brussels,

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said the EU and China "are convinced that yesterday's decision by the United States to leave the Paris agreement is a big mistake."

Referring to "the latest unfortunate decisions of the new administration," Tusk said that the EU and China had "demonstrated solidarity with future generations."

Trump said the United States would be willing to rejoin the accord if it could obtain more favorable terms, but the leaders of France, Germany and Italy said in a joint statement that the agreement cannot be renegotiated.

Scientists blame manmade climate change for rising seas and increasing extreme weather. In the African country of Mali, many see global warming as the reason for a protracted drought.

In Mali's northern city of Timbuktu, 23-year-old Sididi Ould Batna has already lost a dozen cattle.

"The drought has become so severe that my animals are eating the branches of dried trees," he told The Associated Press on Friday. "I would tell Trump that here the misery is caused by climate change, and if he doesn't pay attention, the United States will be touched one day by these problems, too."

Fanta Coulibaly, 65, who sells vegetables in Mali's capital, Bamako, remembers when there was enough rain this time of year.

"Our rainy season used to start at the beginning of May but now it's the end of June, sometimes July, before the rains come regularly. The climate agreement gives me hope, and I ask Trump to think of us."

Poor countries are predicted to be among the hardest hit by global warming, with some foreseeing tens of millions of "climate refugees" in coming decades.

South Africa called the U.S. pullout "an abdication of global responsibility. It said the U.S. has a "moral obligation" to support poorer countries in the effort against climate change.

Former Mexican President Vicente Fox said on Twitter that Trump is "declaring war on the planet itself."

Environmental activists in Bosnia, one of the poorest European countries, said they were worried the Trump's move would empower global polluters.

But activist Samir Lemes of the Eko Forum group in the industrial town of Zenica voiced hope the "unfortunate decision" would energize environmental protection efforts. "This (decision) is an accident our planet had been made to suffer, but it should be used to raise global awareness," he said.

In Paris, where the agreement was reached after painstaking negotiations, President Emmanuel Macron encouraged an American brain drain, inviting U.S. climate scientists to move to France instead.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo insisted that clean energy is already creating jobs and boosting economies, contrary to Trump's claims, and called him "a representative of a world gone by, a world that is looking back in the rear-view mirror and does not see what is happening today."

She shrugged off Trump's remark that he was elected to represent the people of Pittsburgh, not Paris.

"He must be the only person on the planet who doesn't like Paris," Hidalgo joked.

Other world leaders were more reticent in their criticism, either out of domestic concerns or because they don't want to alienate the U.S. as an important ally.

Putin, speaking at an economic forum in St. Petersburg, avoided criticizing Trump and noted the Paris accord offers broad maneuvering room for each signatory nation.

He joked that Trump's move made him a convenient person to blame for any bad weather, including wet snow in Moscow on Friday.

"Now we can dump it all on him and American imperialism," Putin said.

India, a major polluter and a growing economy, has kept mum on whether the U.S. decision will affect Indian energy policy, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi — who is coming to Paris on Saturday to meet Macron — offered no reaction to Trump's decision.

The Paris accord aims to prevent average temperature around the world from heating up by more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) before the end of the century, compared to before the start of the industrial age.

Scientists say every fraction of a degree change in average temperatures can lead to noticeable swings in local weather patterns, although consequences are difficult to predict.

Cook reported from Brussels. Frank Jordans in Berlin, Baba Ahmed in Bamako, Mali, Ian Phillips in St. Petersburg, Russia, Eldar Emric in Zenica, Bosnia, Jamey Keaten in Geneva, Cara Anna in Johannesburg and Raf Casert in Tallinn, Estonia, contributed.

## Trump faces tough task unwinding Obama Cuba policy

By **MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN** and **VIVIAN SALAMA**, Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — President Barack Obama's 2014 opening with Cuba helped funnel American travel dollars into military-linked tourism conglomerates even as state security agents waged a fierce crackdown on dissent.

The rapprochement also poured hundreds of millions in U.S. spending into privately owned businesses on the island, supercharging the growth of an entrepreneurial middle-class independent of the communist state. It opened a new market for American corporations, with JetBlue and American Airlines operating from gleaming new Havana offices and tens of thousands of private bed-and-breakfasts listed on Airbnb.

Internet access became an affordable reality for hundreds of thousands of Cubans as President Raul Castro met a pledge to Obama and opened nearly 400 public Wi-Fi access points across the country. Meanwhile, longtime enemies separated by 90 miles of ocean struck agreements to cooperate on issues ranging from human trafficking to oil spills.

This is the complex scenario facing President Donald Trump as Cuban-American legislators and lobbyists pressure him to fulfill his campaign promise to undo Obama's deal with Cuba. The administration is close to announcing a new policy that would prohibit business with the Cuban military while maintaining the full diplomatic relations restored by Obama, according to a Trump administration official and a person involved in the ongoing policy review.

"As the President has said, the current Cuba policy is a bad deal. It does not do enough to support human rights in Cuba," White House spokesman Michael Short said. "We anticipate an announcement in the coming weeks."

Still under debate: new restrictions on American leisure travel to Cuba, which has more than tripled since Obama's announcement, to nearly 300,000 last year.

Anti-Castro Cuban-Americans hate the idea of U.S. travelers enjoying mojitos in the police state that drove exiles from their homes and businesses. Tourism to Cuba remains barred by U.S. law, and American travelers to Cuba still must fall into one of 12 categories of justification for their travel, ranging from religious to educational activities meant to bring the traveler into contact with Cuban people.

When Obama took office, "people-to-people" travelers could only see the country as part of organized tours — a measure meant to guarantee that Americans experienced only educational activities such as visits to printing workshops or organic farmers' markets.

In reality, the tour requirement guaranteed that American travelers spent virtually every second of their time in Cuba under the direct control of the government, which requires U.S. tour operators to use government tour buses and guides and stay almost entirely in state-run hotels.

As his second term came to a close, Obama eliminated that requirement and opened the door for tens of thousands of travelers to book their own independent trips to Cuba.

Opponents of Obama's rollback say that has allowed many to engage in prohibited tourism, spending leisure days at the beach and all-inclusive resorts.

But individual travel has also served as rocket fuel for Cuba's burgeoning private sector. Tens of thousands of Americans are booking direct flights on U.S. airlines to Havana, reserving private lodging through Airbnb and spending thousands of dollars on private guides, taxis and restaurants.

A former industrial engineer, 31-year-old Adyarin Ruiz runs a four-bedroom bed-and-breakfast in a restored section of Old Havana that's seeing an increasing number of Americans willing to pay up to \$100 a night in a country where state salaries average \$25 a month.

"Over the last two years, since relations with the U.S. were restored, I've seen the growth in American

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tourism, and even more so since the direct flights started," Ruiz said. "The Americans who've come here are VIPS. You can see that they have money and they appreciate and demand quality, and demand that the house looks really pretty."

There are also now U.S. jobs dependent on travel to Cuba. The American pro-detente group Engage Cuba released a study Thursday asserting that a complete rollback of Obama's Cuba policy would cost airlines and cruise lines \$3.5 billion over the next four years and lead to the loss of 10,154 travel jobs.

Administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss ongoing policy talks say domestic political concerns are the main force driving any rollback on Cuba.

During the transition, Trump and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson privately expressed support for Obama's Cuba policy, U.S. officials from the former and current administrations told The Associated Press.

The main people still seeking a reversal in the opening are Sen. Marco Rubio and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, both Cuban-Americans. The Trump government wants to maintain good relations with both Rubio, who sits on the Senate committee investigating Trump's relations with Russia, and Diaz-Balart, a member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee.

Some top Trump advisers also believe that a 2020 re-election victory will rest on keeping the loyalty of Cuban-Americans in Florida whom they see as essential to winning the critical swing state.

Many object to the Cuban government seeing any benefit from relations with the U.S., opposed to thousands of American travelers staying in hotels run by GAESA, an increasingly powerful business conglomerate with deep military ties. Cuban-Americans have been particularly offended by Obama allowing U.S. companies to deal directly with military-linked companies, most prominently in an agreement for Stamford, Connecticut-based Starwood to manage at least two Havana hotels. Anti-Castro forces have also been demanding action on human rights: arrests and short-term detentions of protesters climbed from 8,899 in 2014 to 9,940 last year.

Cuban officials say many of those arrests are deliberately provoked by dissidents who are funded and backed by anti-Castro groups with the deliberate objective of driving up detention statistics.

But the officials say there's another reason to tighten America's Cuba policy: pressuring Venezuela. The Trump administration has been looking for ways to force Venezuela to address the near-daily protests and violence trying to shake President Nicolas Maduro's iron grip on power. Cuba is Maduro's close ally and supporter and measures against the Cuban military would send at least the appearance that the U.S. is taking action.

Meanwhile, Cuba is preparing for its own transition. Castro is planning to leave Cuba's presidency in February 2018 and is expected to hand the role to a 57-year-old vice president who has said little about his vision for the country.

Rubio's office described the senator's goals as laying the groundwork for a new generation of Cuban leaders to empower ordinary citizens of the island.

"I am confident the President will keep his commitment on Cuba policy by making changes that are targeted and strategic and which advance the Cuban people's aspirations for economic and political liberty," Rubio said in a statement released by his office Thursday.

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Weissenstein reported from Havana and Miami. Salama reported from Washington. Matthew Lee in Washington and Andrea Rodriguez in Havana contributed.

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## AP FACT CHECK: A blast of hot air with Trump's climate move

By CALVIN WOODWARD and JIM DRINKARD, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's announcement that the U.S. will leave the Paris climate accord came with a blast of hot air.

Here's a reality check on some statements by Trump and his administration over the past week on global warming, jobs and other matters:

**TRUMP:** "The cost to the economy at this time would be close to \$3 trillion in lost GDP and 6.5 million industrial jobs, while households would have 7,000 less income, and in many cases, much worse than that." — Rose Garden ceremony Thursday announcing U.S. withdrawal from the worldwide agreement to curb emissions responsible for global warming. GDP is the gross domestic product, the broadest gauge of the economy.

**THE FACTS:** His claim is based on a study paid for by two groups that have long opposed environmental regulation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Council for Capital Formation. It makes worst-case assumptions that may inflate the cost of meeting U.S. targets under the Paris accord while largely ignoring the economic benefits to U.S. businesses from building and operating renewable energy projects.

Both groups behind the study get financial backing from those who profit from the continued burning of fossil fuels. The latter group has received money from foundations controlled by the Koch brothers, whose company owns refineries and more than 4,000 miles of oil and gas pipelines.

Academic studies have found that increased environmental regulation doesn't actually have much impact on employment. Jobs lost at polluting companies tend to be offset by new jobs in green technology.

**TRUMP:** "I was elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris." — Rose Garden ceremony.

**THE FACTS:** That may be so, but Allegheny County, which includes Pittsburgh, is not Trump country. It voted overwhelmingly for Democrat Hillary Clinton in November, favoring her by a margin of 56 percent to Trump's 40 percent. The city has a climate action plan committing to boost the use of renewable energy.

Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto, a Democrat, has been an outspoken supporter of the Paris accord, and tweeted after Trump's announcement that "as the Mayor of Pittsburgh, I can assure you that we will follow the guidelines of the Paris Agreement for our people, our economy & future."

**TRUMP:** Claims "absolutely tremendous economic progress since Election Day," adding "more than a million private-sector jobs." — Rose Garden ceremony.

**THE FACTS:** The number is about right, but it in no way counts as "absolutely tremendous economic progress." Private-sector job creation from October through April (171,000 private-sector jobs a month) actually lags just slightly behind the pace of job creation for the previous six months (172,000), which came under President Barack Obama. On Friday the government announced a lower figure for jobs added last month — 138,000.

**TRUMP:** "Our attacks on terrorism are greatly stepped up, and you see that — you see it all over — from the previous administration, including getting many other countries to make major contributions to the fight against terror. Big, big contributions are being made by countries that weren't doing so much in the form of contributions." — Rose Garden ceremony.

**THE FACTS:** Trump is recycling a misleading claim he made in April following a meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, and it's no truer now than it was then. NATO has not substantively changed its mission toward countering terrorism as a result of Trump's agitating.

As evidence that NATO is heeding his call to be more aggressive on terrorism, the president has cited an alliance decision last year to establish a high-level intelligence coordinator who could make the alliance more nimble in responding to threats. But that position was in the works under Trump's White House predecessor, and came about because of worries about Russian aggression as well as from a desire to respond more effectively to the Islamic State group.

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**WHITE HOUSE:** The Paris climate accord “would effectively decapitate our coal industry, which now supplies about one-third of our electric power.” — information released with Trump’s announcement.

**THE FACTS:** The U.S. coal industry was in decline long before the Paris accord was signed in 2015. The primary cause has been competition from cleaner-burning natural gas, which has been made cheaper and more abundant by hydraulic fracturing. Electric utilities have been replacing coal plants with gas-fired facilities because they are more efficient and less expensive to operate.

**VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE:** The Paris deal has “really put an extraordinary burden on the American economy.” — Rose Garden ceremony.

**THE FACTS:** If so, it’s a burden the U.S. put on itself. Each signatory to the Paris accord was left to devise its own emission goals and how to reach them; the negotiations were not a case of the world imposing standards on the U.S. The burden the U.S. placed on itself under the Obama administration is in part a function of the country’s status as the largest source of accumulated carbon dioxide emissions in the atmosphere.

**WHITE HOUSE,** citing a study from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: “If all member nations met their obligations, the impact on the climate would be negligible,” curbing temperature rise by “less than 0.2 degrees Celsius in 2100.”

**THE FACTS:** The co-founder of the MIT program on climate change says the administration is citing an outdated report, taken out of context. Jake Jacoby said the actual global impact of meeting targets under the Paris accord would be to curb rising temperatures by 1 degree Celsius, or 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit.

“They found a number that made the point they want to make,” Jacoby said. “It’s kind of a debate trick.”

One degree may not sound like much, but Stefan Rahmstorf, a climate scientist at the Potsdam Institute in Germany, says, “Every tenth of a degree increases the number of unprecedented extreme weather events considerably.”

**TRUMP:** “We have a MASSIVE trade deficit with Germany ... Very bad for U.S. This will change.” — tweet Tuesday.

**THE FACTS:** The U.S. has the world’s largest overall trade deficit, and has for four decades. Among trading partners, Germany’s contribution to that deficit last year was \$55 billion, ranking it third on the list. For a truly massive deficit, see China, No. 1 at \$347 billion.

Trump made no mention, though, of the benefits from the U.S.-German economic ties. About 600,000 people in the U.S. work for German companies such as chemical maker BASF, drug company Bayer and mobile phone provider T-Mobile USA. BMW’s auto plant in Spartanburg, South Carolina, was America’s largest single auto exporter, sending \$9.5 billion worth of SUVs to the rest of the world.

Associated Press writers Paul Wiseman, Seth Borenstein and Michael Biesecker in Washington and David McHugh in Frankfurt, Germany, contributed to this report.

Find all AP Fact Checks at <http://apne.ws/2kbx8bd>

## **Walmart touts investment in people, technology as advantages**

**By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER and ANNE D’INNOCENZIO, Associated Press**

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Walmart CEO Doug McMillon touted the company’s investments in people and technology, but also said the company may have reached an employment peak and urged employees not to be afraid of automation.

Speaking Friday at the annual shareholders’ meeting, McMillon highlighted ideas Walmart has introduced or tested in the past year, like grocery pickup and technology that tracks food through the global supply

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chain. The company has also put money into its online operations, buying up several smaller retail sites as it seeks to compete better with Amazon.

The gathering — part pep rally, part music concert, and only briefly a business meeting — comes as the retail industry has been challenged by shoppers moving online.

McMillon and other executives also noted the company's investments in higher wages and training for its employees. "We will compete with technology, but win with people," McMillon told a cheering audience.

He added that workers shouldn't fear increasing automation in the industry.

"No doubt our work will be different in the future — robots, drones and algorithms will do some work that we used to have to do," he continued. "Some people are afraid of what these changes will bring. I don't think we should be. Instead, I think we should recognize that we'll be able to learn, grow and change together."

A report conducted by the Cornerstone Capital Group commissioned by the Investor Responsibility Research Center Institute, says that 6 million to 7.5 million U.S. retail jobs could be wiped out in the coming years because of the use of technology.

In a briefing with reporters, McMillon did suggest that the company may have reached an employment peak, with 1.6 million workers.

"We may end up over time with fewer people, paying them more and have them use more technology," he said. But when or if that would happen is "to be determined."

Walmart's moves to meld its online services with its battalion of 4,700 stores are gaining momentum. But executives told shareholders they shouldn't remain comfortable in a fiercely competitive world.

The company's online sales surged as it tinkered with its shipping offers and other services, and drew more shoppers to its stores as well in its fiscal first quarter. The world's largest retailer has posted sales gains at established stores for the eleventh straight quarter, and customer traffic has risen for the tenth quarter in a row.

The mood at the meeting was upbeat, despite the overall struggles of the retail industry. About 14,000 people packed the arena including Wal-Mart workers from around the world. Performers included Gwen Stefani and Mary J. Blige, while Blake Shelton served as host.

McMillon cited the company's efforts to offer more shopping options, including automated pickup stations in some store parking lots, in-store pickup for online orders, and "Jet Fresh" delivery, which provides grocery delivery in 1-2 days and is available to about half of U.S. households. That service is a result of the company's acquisition last year of online retailer Jet.com.

"The historic trade-off between price and service doesn't really exist anymore," McMillon said.

With faster shipping a key area of competition, Walmart had announced on Thursday a delivery service using its own store employees, who will deliver packages ordered online while driving home from their regular work shifts.

Walmart has invested \$2.7 billion in higher wages and training for workers to lower turnover and make the shopping experience more appealing.

The company has opened 155 training academies, located at Supercenters, and plans to have 200 by the end of this year. Roughly 100,000 associates have been trained.

"I'm really excited about the environment that we're creating for people to learn," McMillon told reporters.

The company spent more than \$3 billion for Jet.com last year in its bid to lure younger and more affluent customers. With Jet.com founder Marc Lore installed as head of Walmart's U.S. e-commerce operations, it bought ShoeBuy.com, outdoor gear seller and MooseJaw and trend clothing seller ModCloth.

It's also implemented options like letting online shoppers pick up items at a store for a lower price, and revamped its shipping program to make it more competitive with Amazon's popular Prime plan.

McMillon tweaked the online giant for calling its shipping "free," given that Prime members pay \$99 a year for the benefit. "I don't think you should have to pay for free shipping," he said.

Walmart's financial performance has stood out amid a largely gloomy environment for retailers. Its shares have risen 13 percent over the past year and are hovering close to \$80.



Still, amid the company chants and upbeat presentations, there were some signs of dissatisfaction.

Two employees, speaking on shareholder proposals, called for Walmart to provide more hours for part-time workers and greater parental leave. The comments, both from members of the OUR Walmart worker group, prompted loud cheers from the employees.

Janie Grice, a three-year Walmart employee from Marion, South Carolina, thanked the company for its wage increases, announced two years ago, which has boosted her pay from \$7.25 an hour to \$10 an hour.

But "too many of us are still part-time," she said. "Too many of us have schedules and hours that change so frequently we can't plan our lives, or line up a second job."

Carolyn Davis, an employee from the Outer Banks, North Carolina, urged the company to provide more parental leave. Salaried Walmart employees get 10 weeks of maternity leave. Full-time hourly workers get six to eight weeks of leave at half pay.

"Investing in associates means that new parents are allowed time to bond with our children," Davis said.

Jeff Gearhart, executive vice president of global governance, said that last year Walmart converted 150,000 part timers to full-time work. And 200,000 were promoted to positions of greater pay or more responsibility.

D'Innocenzio reported from New York.

## Stocks set records again; bond yields sink after jobs report

By STAN CHOE, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bond yields sank Friday to their lowest level of the year, and the dollar's value fell against rivals after the nation's job growth slowed last month. But stock indexes chugged again to record heights, led by technology companies and dividend payers.

Yields fell immediately after the government said that employers added 138,000 jobs last month, which was short of economists' expectations and a slowdown from April's hiring. The yield on the 10-year Treasury dropped to 2.15 percent from 2.21 percent late Thursday and hit its lowest level since mid-November.

The government's jobs report also said that hiring was weaker in March and April than earlier reported. The unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent last month, its lowest level since 2001.

Stocks opened for trading an hour after the release of the jobs report, and they were higher for nearly the entire day. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.01 points, or 0.4 percent, to 2,439.07. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 62.11, or 0.3 percent, to 21,206.29, and the Nasdaq composite added 58.97, or 0.9 percent, to 6,305.80. All three indexes added to records set on Thursday.

Many economists say they don't expect the latest jobs report to dissuade the Federal Reserve from raising interest rates again at its next policy meeting in two weeks. The job market and inflation remain strong enough, they say. The central bank has been trying to pull rates gradually off their record low following the Great Recession, and it has raised rates twice since December.

Friday's jobs report slots in with a series of mixed economic reports that show continued modest gains, but no big acceleration. The economy grew at an annual rate of 1.2 percent in the first three months of the year, for example. That's a relatively weak showing but better than first estimated.

"Is the glass half-full or half-empty on the economic statistics?" asked Rich Weiss, senior portfolio manager at American Century Investments. "I don't know, but it's only half."

Weiss said he's been cautious on U.S. stocks given the continued tepid pace of growth, particularly as indexes have climbed to record after record this year.

"If you were a Martian and looked at the economic stats, you would not be pouring money into the equity market, or at least the U.S. equity market," he said.

Friday's drop in interest rates helped boost stocks in industries that pay big dividends. Real-estate investment trusts rose twice as fast as the overall S&P 500, for example. Dividends look more attractive to income investors when bonds are paying less in interest.

Technology stocks had the day's biggest gains, with those in the S&P 500 jumping 1 percent. It's the

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latest move higher for the streaking sector, which is already up 21.3 percent for the year. That's by far the biggest gain among the 11 sectors that make up the S&P 500.

Chipmaker Broadcom jumped to the biggest gain in the S&P 500 after reporting stronger quarterly revenue and profit than analysts had forecast. It rose \$19.94, or 8.5 percent, to \$254.53.

Lululemon gained \$5.62, or 11.5 percent, to \$54.29 after the athletic apparel company reported better results for the latest quarter than analysts expected.

On the opposite end were energy stocks, which deepened their losses for 2017 after the price of oil sank. Benchmark U.S. crude oil fell 70 cents, or 1.4 percent, to settle at \$47.66 per barrel. Brent crude, used to price international oils, sank 68 cents to \$49.95 per barrel.

Energy stocks in the S&P 500 lost 1.2 percent Friday, and they're down 14 percent for the year when the overall index is up 8.9 percent.

Gold rose \$10.10 to \$1,280.20 per ounce, silver added 24 cents to \$17.53 per ounce and copper lost 1 cent to \$2.57 per pound.

Natural gas was close to flat at \$3.00 per 1,000 cubic feet, wholesale gasoline fell 2 cents to \$1.58 per gallon and heating oil dipped 2 cent to \$1.48 per gallon.

The dollar fell to 110.50 Japanese yen from 111.33 yen late Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1276 from \$1.1214, and the British pound rose to \$1.2880 from \$1.2876.

Japan's Nikkei 225 index rose 1.6 percent to cross above the 20,000 level for the first time since 2015. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rose 0.4 percent, and South Korea's Kospi jumped 1.2 percent.

In Europe, Germany's DAX gained 1.2 percent, and the French CAC 40 rose 0.5 percent. The FTSE 100 in London added 0.1 percent.

## Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 3, the 154th day of 2017. There are 211 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 3, 2016, Muhammad Ali, the heavyweight boxing champion whose fast fists and irrepressible personality transcended sports and captivated the world, died at a hospital in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 74.

On this date:

In 1888, the poem "Casey at the Bat" by Ernest Lawrence Thayer was first published in the San Francisco Daily Examiner.

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Defense Act of 1916, which, among other things, created the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

In 1924, author Franz Kafka, 40, died near Vienna.

In 1937, Edward, The Duke of Windsor, who had abdicated the British throne, married Wallis Simpson in a private ceremony in Monts, France.

In 1948, the 200-inch reflecting Hale Telescope at the Palomar Mountain Observatory in California was dedicated.

In 1955, convicted murderer Barbara Graham, 31, was executed in the gas chamber at San Quentin State Prison in California, as were Jack Santo and Emmett Perkins, for the 1953 slaying of Mabel Monahan.

In 1963, Pope John XXIII died at age 81; he was succeeded by Pope Paul VI.

In 1965, astronaut Edward H. White became the first American to "walk" in space during the flight of Gemini 4.

In 1977, the United States and Cuba agreed to set up diplomatic interests sections in each other's countries; Cuba also announced the immediate release of 10 Americans jailed on drug charges.

In 1982, Israel's ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov, was shot and critically wounded outside a London hotel. The assassination attempt was followed by Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

In 1989, Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, died. Chinese army troops began their sweep

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of Beijing to crush student-led pro-democracy demonstrations. SkyDome (now called Rogers Centre) opened in Toronto.

In 1992, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton appeared on "The Arsenio Hall Show," where he played "Heartbreak Hotel" on the saxophone.

Ten years ago: After attending the MTV Movie Awards, Paris Hilton reported to jail to serve a 45-day sentence for a probation violation in an alcohol-related reckless driving case. (Hilton was released after three days for what were termed psychological problems, but the sentencing judge ordered her back to jail, where she remained for another 2½ weeks.)

Five years ago: A Dana Air MD-83 jetliner carrying 153 people crashed on the outskirts of Lagos, Nigeria, killing everyone on board and at least 10 people on the ground. The River Thames became a royal highway as Queen Elizabeth II led a motley but majestic flotilla of more than 1,000 vessels to mark her Diamond Jubilee. Tiger Woods birdied three of his last four holes to win the Memorial, closing with a 5-under 67. Olivia Culpo, a 20-year-old cellist from Rhode Island, won the Miss USA crown in Las Vegas.

One year ago: Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump was quoted in The Wall Street Journal as saying that U.S. District Judge Gonzalo Curiel, who was presiding over a lawsuit brought by former Trump University students, had an "absolute conflict" in handling the case because he was "of Mexican heritage." (Stations: Single name "Lalaine" is correct)

Today's Birthdays: The president of Cuba, Raul Castro, is 86. Actress Irma P. Hall is 82. Author Larry McMurtry is 81. Rock singer Ian Hunter (Mott The Hoople) is 78. Actress Penelope Wilton is 71. Singer Eddie Holman is 71. Actor Tristan Rogers is 71. Musician Too Slim (Riders in the Sky) is 69. Rock musician Richard Moore is 68. Singer Suzi Quatro is 67. Singer Deneice Williams is 66. Singer Dan Hill is 63. Actress Suzie Plakson is 59. Actor Scott Valentine is 59. Rock musician Kerry King (Slayer) is 53. Actor James Purefoy is 53. Rock singer-musician Mike Gordon is 52. TV host Anderson Cooper is 50. Country singer Jamie O'Neal is 49. Writer-director Tate Taylor is 38. Singers Ariel and Gabriel Hernandez (No Mercy) are 46. Actor Vik Sahay is 46. Rhythm-and-blues singer Lyfe Jennings is 44. Actress Arianne Zucker is 43. Actress Nikki M. James is 36. Tennis player Rafael Nadal is 31. Actor Josh Segarra is 31. Actress-singer Lalaine is 30. Actor Sean Berdy is 24.

Thought for Today: "Silence is golden when you can't think of a good answer." — Muhammad Ali (1942-2016).