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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**



Put our experienced team to work for you!

GROTON
Ford

GROTONFORD.COM 605-397-2311

Tuesday, June 6

Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken breast, baked potato with sour cream, green beans, cake, whole wheat bread.

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

T-Ball: Both practice at 5 p.m.

Jr. Teener: at Webster for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U10: hosts Borge for 2 games, 6 p.m., Nelson Field.

U8 Red: hosts Borge for 2 games, 6 p.m., Falk Field

Olive Grove: Ladies Night, 6 p.m.

7

Senior Menu: Hamburger steak with braised onions, mashed potatoes, tomato spoon salad, peach sauce, whole wheat bread.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:30 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.

Outdoor Story Time: at the Little Free Library located south of the Methodist Church, 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist: Wednesday Coffee time, 9 a.m.

Olive Grove: Men's League, 6 p.m.

8

Senior Menu: Baked ham, sweet potato, Malibu-blend vegetables, Jell-O cake with topping, whole wheat bread.

St. John's Lutheran: Nursery Circle and Good Cheer Circle, 1:30 p.m.

T-Ball: Both practice at 6 p.m.

Legion: at Webster for 1 game, 5 p.m.

Jr. Teener: at Claremont for 2 games, 6 p.m.

Jr. Legion: hosts Sisseton for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U12: host Mobridge for 2 games, 5 p.m., Nelson Field

U10: hosts Doland for 2 games, 6 p.m., Falk Field.

Softball: at Ellendale (U10 at 6 p.m., U12 at 7 p.m.)

9

Senior Menu: Hot turkey sandwich, macaroni salad, Mandarin orange dessert, peanut butter cookie.

Legion: at Warner for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U12: hosts Clark for 1 game, 7 p.m., Nelson Field

Block to be the new finance officer



HOPE BLOCK

Hope Block took her oath of office on Monday as Groton's new finance officer. She will officially begin her duties on July 1, 2017. She will be going to Pierre with Finance Officer Anita Lowary for the next four days where Lowary will introduce her to other finance officers around the state. Block will then attend a debt/credit workshop in Pierre on June 29 and a budget training school in either Pierre or Sioux Falls in July.

Police Chief Stacy Mayou said that people need to use extra caution at the uncontrolled intersections around town, especially with the extra traffic with the US12 and SD 37 project this year. He also noted that he will be patrolling Second Avenue West and Fifth Avenue West more often. He said that people think that just because the road is block off on both sides does not mean they do not have to stop for the stop signs. He said the Groton Police will be making sure that people stop at those stop signs. The council was also notified that the city will get another electronic



speed sign from a grant. Later in the meeting, the council will have the Groton Police Department hand out notices to people who have not followed through with their clean-up letters.

There was discussion on the jail house. The council had decided last year that instead of repairing it, the building should be torn down as it is in bad shape. The jail is still standing and Lowary asked if the council wanted to revisit fixing it up. Councilman Burt Glover said that the council had decided to tear it down, so down it must come. The council agreed that it should be down before winter.

The council gave the okay to do dust-proofing of Fifth Avenue. Dust proofing should last most of the summer as long as a grader is not used. The area affected will be Fifth Avenue West from Garfield Street out past State Street to the city limit, and on Fifth Avenue East from Sixth Street to just past the club house. The estimated cost is around \$600 a block.

One piece of playground equipment in the city park is looking very faded. Lowary said she put in for a \$500 grant to have it repainted and will



The old jail house on First Ave. East, east of Third Street.

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fund raise for the other \$500 to match it. The playground equipment has been in the park for 11 years and is still in good shape; however, the paint has faded and needs to be freshened up.

A quote from Shirley Briggs to powerwash, scrape and paint the community center for \$1,000 was accepted. The roof at city hall needs new shingles. It will cost around \$5,000 to get it redone. The council directed Finance Officer Lowary to check on the price of a metal roof.

The city will no longer be getting funds from the county for responding to police calls outside the city limit, under the new Joint Powers Agreement with Brown County.

According to the finance report, the city has \$1.6 million cash available in its checking account, including \$610,664 in electrical, \$391,260 in debt service to be used for payment, \$121,064 in water and \$115,841 in waste water. The general fund has \$171,482. Currently, the city has \$3.1 million in debt.

The city will ask the county for \$1,000 for the library so that new books can be purchased.

There was discussion on the water rate study. WEB will be raising its rates in October. The council is grappling with how to adjust the rates, especially since the city is trying to save money for a new water tower.

There was a lengthy discussion on equipment needs and future capitol improvement projects. The water tower was at the top of the list, which is 97 years old and the life expectancy of a water tower is 50 years. A new street sweeper was discussed as well as future street projects including Lincoln Street and Meadowbrook Lane.

A request from Glenn Cooper to replat the Veteran's Circle at the cemetery. The plats are about full; however, it is proposed to cut the lots in half as there is plenty of room to do so and a sidewalk could be installed as well. The Legion would pay for the sidewalk. The council decided to move forward with the project once the Legion and City Superintendent Terry Herron all give the okay.

Colestock at State Golf Meet

Payton Colestock is representing Groton Area at the state golf meet being held on the Central Valley Golf Course in Hartford. Payton shot a 47 in the front nine and a 52 in the back nine for a total score of 99 on the first day. The tournament concludes Tuesday. She is tied for 40th place in a field of 98 players.



Photos by Craig Muilenburg

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Groton City June 5 Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2017

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Groton Community Center for their regular first monthly meeting. The following members present were: Opp, McGannon, Peterson, Babcock, Glover, and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Blackmun was missing. Also present were: Finance Officer Lowary, Paul Kosel, Kathy Sundermeier, and Hope Block.

The minutes were approved as corrected on a motion by Opp and seconded by Glover. All members present voted aye.

The financial report was approved on a motion by Glover and seconded by Opp. All members present voted aye.

Moved by McGannon and seconded by Opp to authorize the following bills for payment. All members present voted aye.

Executive Payroll 2,158.70 salaries; Administrative Payroll 6,235.71 salaries; Public Safety Payroll 12,432.23 salaries; Public Works Payroll 19,209.73 salaries; 1st State Bank of Claremont 9,026.54 ss & wh ; City of Groton 588.97 dep ref, postage, emp sav

Cons Fed Cr Union 1,125.00 emp savings; 1st State Bank of Claremont 1,000.00 change;

US Post Office 355.44 postage; Employers Mutual 95.60 life ins; Hsay Hgay, Nay Eh 168.42 deposit refund; Pete Hoscheid 32.71 deposit refund; Travis Kurth 820.00 Legion umpires; Adam Herman 800.00 Jr Teeners umpires; Mason Madsen 1,280.00 Jr Legion umpires; Matt Locke 980.00 Little League umpires; Aberdeen Hardball Assoc 300.00 Midget tours; SD Human Resources Assoc 75.00 school reg; SD Govt Finance Officers Assoc 75.00 school reg, dues; A & B Business 310.73 timeclock repair, copier rental; April Abeln 66.59 dep flex; Associated Supply Company 972.09 gaskets; Badger Meter, Inc 1,207.56 read support; Border States 215.36 tray, hook; Chamber of Commerce 490.00 dues; Chase Visa 3,336.25 supplies; Coca Cola 1,341.00 pop; Colonial Life 461.86 emp ins; Dakota Supply Group 69.51 adapter, valve; Danko Emergency Equip 593.77 charger ; Darrel's Sinclair 42.95 battery; Dollar General 36.00 totes, cleaners; Farmers Union 1,432.83 gas, dsl; Full Circle Ag 90.26 herbicide; Galls 177.30 shirt, shield; GCC 784.00 concrete; Geffdog 1,551.02 hats, shirts, banners; Groton Independent 158.31 publishing; H & D Supply 1,741.28 valve box, connectors; Heartland Waste 6,665.73 garbage hauling; J Gross Equipment 933.66 backhoe rental, spring; James Valley Tele 634.02 phones, internet; Bruce Kleinsasser 925.00 training; Shawn Lambertz 161.57 mileage; Locke Electric 703.50 LM install, plugin, wire, materials; MTI 63.73 solenoid; NWPS 10.00 nat gas; Quality Welding 42.00 welding; Runnings 102.78 pipe, elbow, cap, cplg; S&S Lumber 627.44 supplies; Sanitation Products 79.89 fitting; SD Dept of Health 30.00 testing; SD State Treasurer 9,746.21 sales tax; SD Retirement 8,283.74 retirement; Share Corp 230.59 sweeping compound; Stan Houston 85.05 light;

Verizon Wireless 41.81 dump comm.; VMI Supply 22.90 ear plugs; WEB Water 14,323.97 water; Weber Landscaping 2,259.98 trees; Wesco 3,801.00 street lights; Woodman Refrigeration 170.40 pump repair; Wright & Sudlow 70.00 adj ring

Moved by Opp and seconded by Peterson to hire Hope Block as Finance Officer at an hourly wage of \$20.20 per hour. All members present voted aye. Mayor Hanlon gave Block the oath of office.

Chief Stacy Mayou enters the meeting at this point and gave a department report especially concerning safety for the detoured traffic in town from the highway construction. A revised joint powers agreement between the Groton Police Dept and Brown County was discussed. Moved by McGannon and seconded by Glover to authorize Mayor Hanlon to sign this agreement. All members present voted aye. Mayou leaves the meeting at this point.

A request from Glenn Cooper to revise the number of veterans graves in the cemetery circle as reviewed. Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to allow this revision if the American Legion and Public Works Departments were in agreement. All members present voted aye.

Terry Herron, Shawn Lambertz, and Dwight Zerr enter the meeting at this point to give department reports. Herron reported on street reconstruction, dust control needs, and a full month of activities. Moved

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by Peterson and seconded by Glover to get dust proofing done on 5th Ave due to the increased traffic from the detours. All members present voted aye. Lambertz also had a busy month and the new street lights on Main St were reported as much brighter. Zerr reported on cleaning sewer lines near the highway construction. Each had a list of equipment and proposed projects to be considered with the 2017 Capitol Improvements List and future budget. The list was tabled until the next meeting. Herron, Lambertz, and Zerr left the meeting at this point.

Moved by Peterson and seconded by Opp to hire Shirley Briggs to prepare and paint the outside of the Community Center for \$1,000. All members present voted aye.

Replacing shingles on the roof at City Hall as discussed. The cost of a metal roof will be investigated. Minor painting at City Hall, park, and the cemetery will be done by public works employees. The jail will be torn down this fall. Painting of the playground equipment in the park was approved.

Council members were reminded of the Heartland Consumer Power District Meeting at Madison on July 11.

Moved by Glover and seconded by Opp to authorize Block to attend the Debit/Credit Workshop in Pierre on June 29 and the Budget workshop in Sioux Falls on July 27 for training. All members present voted aye.

Moved by McGannon and seconded by Opp to request \$1,000 for the library from Brown County for their 2018 budget. All members present voted aye.

Lowary presented a water rate study for the increase in WEB water costs.

Cleanup results were discussed and several extensions were requested. The police department will notify each property owner, who has not complied with the notices, that the final extension will be until July 3.

Meeting adjourned.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer

Published once at the total approximate cost of \$_____.

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Today in Weather History

June 6, 1895: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from 6 miles west of Summit, passing 3 miles northwest of Summit. Buildings were damaged on eight farms.

June 6, 1897: Light to heavy frost, and in some localities, killing frost occurred on the 6th and 7th. These cold temperatures along with last season frost in May and wet conditions several hampered the planting season. Luckily growing conditions changed towards the middle and end of the month. Some low temperatures on the 6th include 26 degrees in Castlewood and Watertown, 29 in Mellette, 30 in Aberdeen and Milbank, and 32 in Highmore. Some low temperatures on the 7th include; 24 degrees in Castlewood, 25 in Watertown, and 30 degrees in Milbank.

June 6, 1999: Heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches caused flash flooding on a creek feeding into the Grand River. At a ranch southwest of Bullhead, a bunkhouse wall moved off the foundation by a wall of water coming down the creek. All of the contents in the bunkhouse were destroyed. A machine shop was washed away along with several pieces of equipment and many tools. Some tools and equipment were found more than a mile down the creek. A pump-house and grain bin was also destroyed. A pickup was washed down the creek, and a propane tank near a house was rolled over. A colt was picked up by the water but managed to escape. The powerful flow of water took out several dead trees and washed them downstream. Finally, a road and a culvert were washed out by the flash flood.

1816: The temperature reached 92 degrees at Salem, Massachusetts during an early heat wave, but then plunged 49 degrees in 24 hours to commence the famous "year without a summer". Snow fell near Quebec City, Quebec Canada from the 6th through the 10th and accumulated up to a foot with "drifts reaching the axle trees of carriages".

1894: One of the greatest floods in U.S. history occurred as the Willamette River overflowed to inundate half of the business district of Portland, Oregon. The river crested at 33.5 feet, the worst flood ever recorded in the city.

1975 - A tornado, reportedly spinning backwards (spinning clockwise), was sighted near Alva, OK. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Severe thunderstorms with large hail and winds to 100 mph caused one million dollars damage around Norfolk, VA. A forty-two foot fishing boat capsized near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel drowning 13 of the 27 persons on board. (The Weather Channel)








1987 - Thunderstorms in southern California produced one inch hail at Mount Pinos, and marble size hail at Palmdale. Thunderstorms in southeastern Arizona produced heavy rain leaving some washes under four feet of water. Six cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the upper 90s. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)


1988 - Seventeen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Williston ND with a reading of 104 degrees. Thunderstorms in Florida produced wind gusts to 65 mph which damaged two mobile homes northwest of Melbourne injuring six people. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing during the late morning hours produced severe weather through the afternoon and night. Thunderstorms spawned 13 tornadoes, and there were 154 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-3) tornado injured six persons at Lorenzo, TX, and thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph killed one person at Glasscock City, TX. Softball size hail was reported at Lipscomb and Glen Cove TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)


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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms then Chance Showers	Slight Chance Showers then Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Hot
High: 87 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 91 °F



Today:
Shower/storm chances
highs in the 80s



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Weather Service
Aberdeen Weather Forecast Office

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD   Updated: 6/6/2017 4:41 AM Central

Published on: 06/06/2017 at 4:48AM

Isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms are possible today along a slow moving storm system. High temperatures today will range from the mid to upper 80s in eastern South Dakota, to the lower 80s in western South Dakota.

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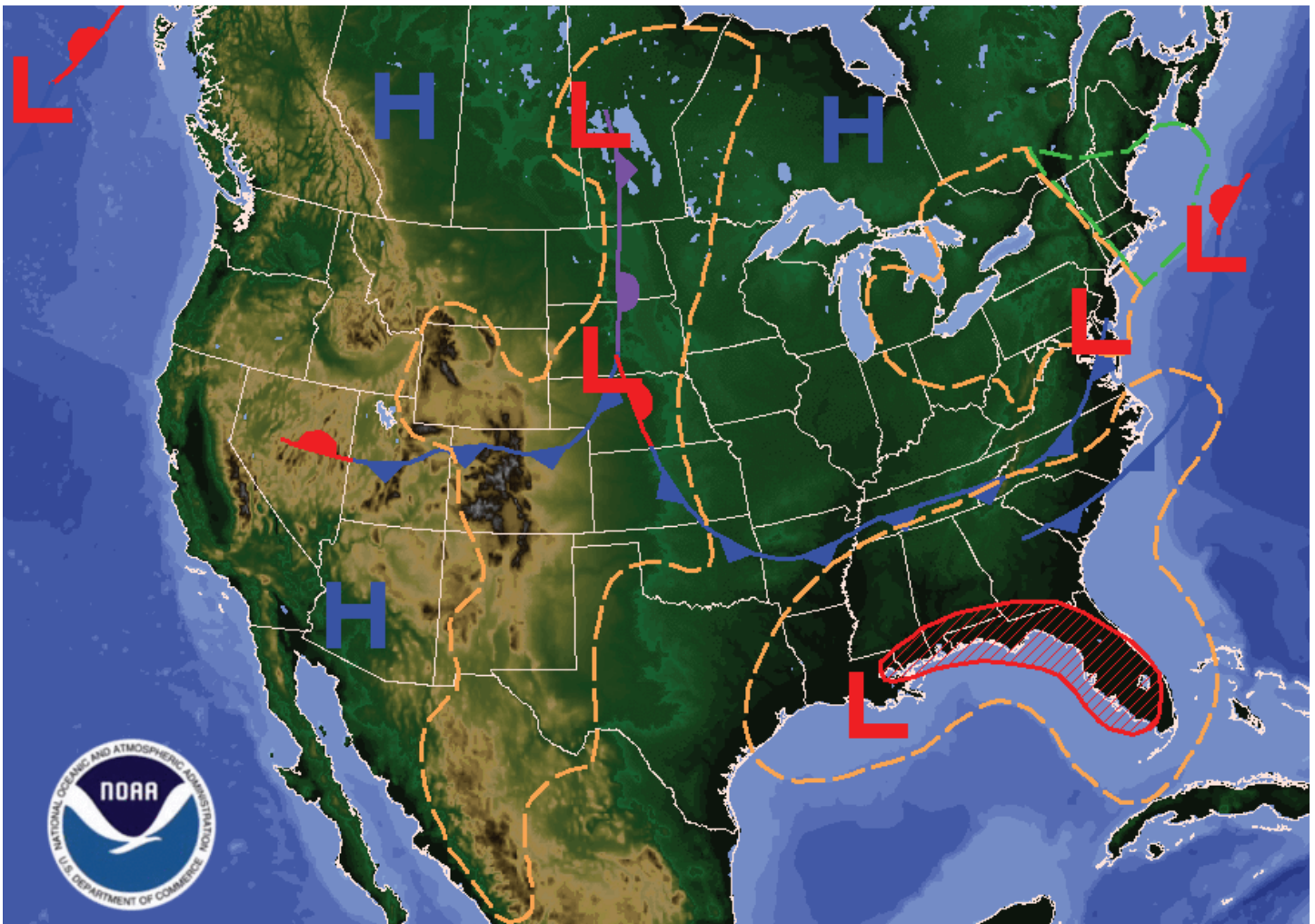
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 87.4 F at 5:21 PM
Heat Index: 86.0 at 3:53 PM
Low Outside Temp: 56.8 F at 6:07 AM
High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 11:37AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 99° in 1950
Record Low: 30° in 1897
Average High: 74°F
Average Low: 51°F
Average Precip in June: .70
Precip to date in June: 0.01
Average Precip to date: 7.84
Precip Year to Date: 3.20
Sunset Tonight: 9:19 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jun 06, 2017, issued 4:56 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McReynolds 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)



CONFIDENCE FOR THE CHRISTIAN

The school of suffering has many graduates. It seems that most of them provide insight into the grace and mercy of God for those willing to hear Him speak.

King David was a graduate of this school. What he learned about suffering is revealed in the sixth Psalm. He begins by describing his pain and the fear he has of his enemies. He shares with us a list of symptoms that most of us have experienced at one time or another: emotional stress, crying, sleepless nights, being attacked by others. However, when he cried out to God for help, God heard him and healed him.

Whatever brought about the distress of David was relieved when he called on God for His mercy. Here we find a pattern for us to follow when we need God to rescue us from our sin and suffering. First, he asked God not to abandon or punish him. Then he asked for God's compassion and care, admitting that he was weak, "sick at heart" and could not handle the situation by himself. He described his weeping as so intense that "my bed is wet with tears." He was remorseful for what he had done and what God might do to punish him. So, he cried out for God's "unfailing love" and knew that God heard him and he was able to declare with confidence: "The Lord has heard my crying and my plea (and) the Lord will answer my prayer."

God always hears and answers the prayers of anyone at any time who asks for His forgiveness and mercy. There are no limits to His love nor conditions for His grace.

Prayer: We thank You, Lord, for Your willingness to accept us as we are and grant us Your healing and hope. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 6:9 The LORD has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer.

News from the Associated Press

Meat producer's attorney: ABC reports nearly ended business

ELK POINT, S.D. (AP) — A more than \$1 billion defamation trial over ABC news reports on a South Dakota meat producer's lean, finely textured beef product started Monday with attorneys giving different versions of the company's decline.

Dakota Dunes-based Beef Products Inc. sued the television network in 2012, saying ABC's coverage was a "disinformation campaign" that misled consumers into believing the product is unsafe, is not beef and isn't nutritious. Critics have dubbed the product "pink slime."

The reports emphasized that the product at the time was present in 70 percent of the ground beef sold in supermarkets, but wasn't labeled. ABC stands by its reporting.

BPI attorney Dan Webb said the product was used in most of the country's ground beef, but that changed after ABC's reports, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2saP8pn>) reported. Webb said the company saw a 75-percent reduction in demand for its products.

He said BPI was "almost put out of business by the wrongful actions" of the defendants, ABC and correspondent Jim Avila.

But ABC attorney Dane Butswinkas countered that BPI had been losing clients over concerns about the product beforehand. He said fast food companies McDonalds, Burger King and Taco Bell stopped using beef with the product before the segments debuted.

BPI must show that ABC and Avila made defamatory implications or statements, and that they either knew the statements were false or acted with reckless disregard for the truth. The company also must prove that ABC hurt BPI.

The actual damages BPI is seeking could be as high as \$1.9 billion, according to a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing from Disney, which owns ABC. BPI is also seeking "treble" damages, or triple the amount, under South Dakota's Agricultural Food Products Disparagement Act and punitive damages.

The trial in state court is scheduled to last until late July.

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

Omaha police say South Dakota man dies after stun gun shock

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Omaha police say a man died while in custody and after being shocked by a stun gun.

Police say officers were called about 12:30 a.m. Monday to a Bucky's convenience store, where a man was refusing to leave.

Officers arrested 29-year-old Zachary N. Bearheels, of Murdo, South Dakota.

Police say Bearheels began acting erratically, and officers used a stun gun.

Officers called for medics about 1:30 a.m., and Bearheels was then taken to Nebraska Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead.

As required by state law, a grand jury will be convened to investigate the officers' actions.

US Supreme Court overturns Montana in railroad worker case

By **MATT VOLZ**, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has overturned a Montana court's ruling that two BNSF Railway workers could sue the company for their injuries in the state, even though the men never worked in Montana and they weren't hurt here.

The nation's high court ruled 8-1 on May 30 that state courts don't have jurisdiction over a railroad company headquartered elsewhere just because it has tracks running through those states. Justice Ruth

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Bader Ginsburg wrote in the opinion that deciding the workers' cases in Montana would be a violation of the Texas-based BSNF's due process rights under the 14th Amendment.

"The business BNSF does in Montana is sufficient to subject the railroad to specific personal jurisdiction in that State on claims related to the business it does in Montana," Ginsburg wrote. But, she added, that does not allow the state to exercise jurisdiction over claims "that are unrelated to any activity occurring in Montana."

The ruling largely reaffirms earlier Supreme Court decisions that prevent a state court from having the general authority to decide cases against a corporation unless the court is in the corporation's principal place of business, with limited exceptions.

The Montana Supreme Court ruled a year ago that railroad workers have special protections that allow them to file injury lawsuits wherever their employers do business. The Federal Employers' Liability Act was written specifically to allow injured railway workers to file such out-of-state lawsuits, as long as the rail company operates in the state where the claims are filed, the state court ruled.

BNSF has about 2,000 miles of track and 2,000 workers in Montana, which represents 10 percent of the company's operations.

Robert Nelson and the family of Brent Tyrell sued BNSF separately in Montana in 2014. Nelson was injured in Washington state in 2008. Tyrell's lawsuit alleged his exposure to carcinogenic chemicals while working in South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa that caused him to develop cancer and die.

BNSF spokesman Mike Trevino said in a statement the company "is grateful to the Supreme Court for the clarification they provided in deciding this case."

Julie Murray, an attorney for the Public Citizen Litigation Group that represented Nelson and Tyrell, said in a statement that her clients will continue to press their claims when the case is sent back to the Montana Supreme Court. But, she added, the U.S. Supreme Court decision is a loss for injured railroad workers who may have to travel far from home for a judge to hear their claims.

"Workers already suffering from disabling injuries caused by their employers shouldn't have to bear that burden," Murray said.

Her comments echoed Justice Sonia Sotomayor's dissenting opinion. Sotomayor She wrote that the majority opinion grants a windfall to large multistate and multinational corporations and that individual plaintiffs will be forced to sue in distant jurisdictions where they have no contacts or connections.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, one of four organizations to file "friend-of-the-court" briefs as interested parties in the case, said the Montana court's decision resurrected unfairness and uncertainty over the question of court jurisdiction that the nation's high court sought to eliminate with previous rulings.

Dry weather stresses South Dakota crops

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Dry weather is stressing South Dakota crops.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says mostly dry conditions prevailed in South Dakota for the week ending Sunday. Temperatures were near or above normal across the state with spotty rainfall in the west.

Soil moisture ratings continued to drop, and crop conditions declined. Topsoil moisture was rated 21 percent very short, 33 percent short, 43 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus.

Winter wheat condition was rated 12 percent very poor and 26 percent poor while spring wheat was rated 4 percent very poor and 28 percent poor. Sorghum plantings were well behind last year at 49 percent compared with 78 percent a year ago and a five-year average of 55 percent.

Alfalfa hay was rated 28 percent very poor and 37 percent poor.

Anti-tampering measure backers hope to get signatures soon

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Supporters of a proposed South Dakota constitutional amendment that would make it harder for the Legislature to tamper with voter initiatives hope to start building support soon to get on the ballot.

Attorney General Marty Jackley released an explanation for the proposal Monday, a step required before

petition gatherers can spread out across the state. Roxanne Weber, a co-sponsor of the new amendment, said she hopes backers start collecting signatures this month.

"We're going to go full force with getting signatures," said Weber, a software engineer in Pierre. "I'm anticipating the interest is going to get much bigger as we move along."

Supporters also plan to hold campaign kick-off forums next month in Aberdeen, Rapid City and Sioux Falls, Weber said.

The measure's provisions include requiring a two-thirds vote in each legislative chamber to repeal or amend ballot initiatives for seven years after they become law. Backers borrowed that language from North Dakota, which is among at least 10 states that have provisions to protect citizens' initiatives from lawmakers.

"The people ought to have a chance to see how their proposals actually function, see the difference that they make," said Cory Heidelberger, a liberal blogger and amendment supporter.

Weber has said she hopes to harness anger over lawmakers' repeal this year of a voter-approved ethics measure to advance the cause.

When lawmakers passed a bill scrubbing the ethics measure from law during the 2017 session, it contained an emergency provision that made the repeal take effect immediately and blocked voters from referring it to the ballot. Under the proposed amendment, a law passed with an emergency clause could be taken to a public vote.

It would cap the number of signatures required to get a constitutional amendment on the ballot at no more than 10 percent of the total votes cast for governor in the last gubernatorial election. The amendment would also require some legislative changes to the initiative process such as altering the number of people required to put a question on the ballot to go to a public vote.

South Dakota amendment supporters would have to submit nearly 28,000 valid signatures to the secretary of state by November 2017 for the amendment to appear on the 2018 ballot.

South Dakota motorists driving faster after speed limit hike

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Statistics show that motorists cited by the South Dakota Highway Patrol are driving at faster speeds since lawmakers increased the maximum highway speed limit.

Lawmakers increased the speed limit to 80 mph (nearly 130 kilometers) in April 2015.

An analysis of state data by the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2sINaST>) showed that prior to the increase, motorists ticketed in 75 mph zones were driving 86 mph on average. In the nearly two years since the increase, the average speed ticketed in 80 mph zones increased to 88 mph.

Statistics also showed that there was a 70 percent increase in the number of motorists cited for driving 100 mph or more since the new speed limit was implemented.

Supporters of the increasing the speed limit argued that doing so would legalize speeds people were already driving. But the group Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety said the findings only confirm safety advocates' warnings that higher speed limits would encourage faster driving.

"Higher limits, even higher speeds," said Catherine Chase, the group's vice president of governmental affairs. "This is a race to the graveyard because survivability in high-speed crashes goes down."

The data also showed that the Highway Patrol has become harsher since the new speed limit was implemented. An analysis of the number of tickets issued in the two years before and two years after the speed limit increase showed a nearly 45 percent hike in tickets issued.

"We always stress safe driving habits and that includes driving the speed limit," said Tony Mangan, a spokesman for the Department of Public Safety. "Drivers have always exceeded the speed limit, this is nothing new. We will continue to enforce the speed limits just as we are now."

Tribe planning extradition agreement with outside police

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — Oglala Sioux Tribe officials hope a mutual-aid agreement between the tribe and outside authorities could help curb violent crime in South Dakota.

The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2rtMZEEd>) reported that tribal leaders have met with officials from the Pennington County Sheriff's Office and Rapid City Police Department to discuss sharing emergency and police resources through a proposed extradition agreement.

Local police can't arrest people on reservation land because the areas are considered sovereign territories under federal law. Tribal police also face jurisdiction restrictions once offenders have left the area. Rapid City and the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation are separated by about 80 miles.

"Criminal behavior and illegal drug trafficking and illegal drug use do not respect jurisdictional boundaries," Rapid City Police Chief Karl Jegeris said. "The jurisdictional complications that exist actually give an advantage to criminal behavior. We're behind the curve."

The agreement would target people involved in violent crimes, illegal drug activity and domestic violence situations. Authorities hope the extradition agreement will bring justice to victims.

"It's time to work through and past those jurisdictional boundaries," said Pennington County Sheriff Kevin Thom. "We want to recognize the tribe's sovereignty and establish a process like we do with the other states so we have a mechanism to extradite people."

Stanley Little Whiteman, who leads the tribal council's law and order committee, said some people are worried the agreement will mean the tribe is ceding some of its power.

"The rumors have been that Pennington's gonna patrol the reservation, but that's not true," said Little Whiteman, a former law enforcement officer on Pine Ridge. "We're just all kind of expanding our areas to assist each other."

The tribe's 20-member council must vote on the proposed agreement.

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

Downtown Mitchell traffic rerouted due to discarded firework

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — Police cordoned off part of downtown Mitchell while they determined how best to dispose of unexploded fireworks left in a trash can.

Authorities say an individual had used a number of fireworks to create a larger explosive which was left in a garbage can. Police say the individual did not intend to harm anyone and thought the garbage can was the best place to get rid of it.

Sgt. Joel Reinesch tells The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2rKnEWG>) the garbage can also had a lot of cigarette butts which could potentially ignite the device. So police asked the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation for advice on how to neutralize the threat. Local firefighters watered down the can and moved the explosive to a smaller container, then took it out of the city.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

South Dakota horse trainer more than family name

By CUYLER MEADE, Aberdeen News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Amanda Haar is a rare element in the world of horse racing.

Not only is she a woman in the male-dominated world of horse training. She's also just 24 years old.

"It's tough," Haar told the Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2sijFxx>). "You're going up against a lot of guys that have anywhere from 10 to maybe around 15-to-20 years of experience. I've got four years, and I'm a female."

Haar, however, is far from alone in the horse-training universe.

An Aberdeen native, Haar grew up around racing. The daughter of Bubby Haar and the younger sister

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of trainer Robert Haar, racing flows through her veins.

"My dad announced, trained, owned horses himself, and now he's the president of the track here," Amanda Haar said. "We've always had a passion for it."

Running her own show since she was just 20 years old, it hasn't always been easy for Haar. Nor is it now. She's a petite young woman, about the height of some jockeys, and working with the massive beasts she trains can be challenging for her in ways it isn't for her larger counterparts.

But that doesn't hold her back; it just means she has to go about the operations a little differently.

"I don't always have the 'man strength' that it takes to control (the horses) sometimes," she said. "That's why I've always hinted toward building a strong team. My groom, Jose Estrada, does a lot of the handyman work and handling things. He's really good at listening to my instructions and how I want things done."

If it's tough being a woman in a largely male world, it doesn't sound like it's because of the people. Haar said she's happy to learn from her more-experienced peers, and even some of the less-experienced ones.

"It's cool because when you find other young trainers around, you kind of group together and go, 'OK, what should I try? Because I've got to go up against so and so and I know I need a little extra something,'" Haar said. "So we all work together."

Her relationship with her brother, Robert, helps, and so does her friendship with older trainers like Herman Fennell, Jr.

"I'd say (I learn a lot)," Haar said. "Especially Herman, he's been able to give us a lot of advice on the year. Being in the stables so close next to him, he's been really good about, 'Hey you guys, I've been seeing this. Why don't you go and try this on this one?' And we have been doing that a little bit, and we've had a great year."

Haar hits most of the upper-Midwest circuit with her horses and her family. She is pleased with the success she's having at this point in her young career.

"Our business is only going up from here," she said. "Especially with our finish (last Sunday). Second place in the derby. We were really thrilled. That filly's kind of been on and off with us, and that showed she was there where she belonged. Ima Dashin Follie, she was just nosed out. I think the coolest thing was her time. She ran a 17.81, and the challenge horses at the meet here (last Sunday) ran a 17.88. And that derby should've been a lot slower, so to have that type of horse in her size step up there and gets second (is really great)."

Many of the riders at the Brown County Fairgrounds live somewhat nomadic lives. The road is home and family travels with them.

Not so for jockey Sam Padilla. Originally from St. John, Ariz., Padilla has put down roots.

For the Padillas, Aberdeen is home, and for the local racer, the derby was a great day.

"The races are going good," Padilla said. "The horses are standing good in their gates, the gate crew is doing a good job, and all the horses are running good for everybody. Beautiful day because all the riders are winning some races."

Padilla was among them, of course, winning the second race aboard Cutthroat Cutie.

"It was nice," he said. "I jumped out in front, slowed down the pace, set a false pace, and nobody hooked me. So, on the backside I decided to open him up as much as I could."

And if the Padilla name is familiar to the local sports aficionados, it's not a coincidence.

"Victor Padilla, that's my boy," father Sam said proudly of the runner-up at 126 pounds at the State A wrestling tournament and Aberdeen Smittys second baseman and pitcher.

The younger Padilla was a senior last year at Aberdeen Central. Sam Padilla said Victor's hoping to get a shot playing something in college. In the meantime he's starting for the Smittys this summer.

Sam Padilla travels some with the races, though perhaps not as much as some other riders, since he works at a farm in Redfield. But as the Aberdeen contingent in the jockeys' room, he tries to make his competitors' stays a positive one.

"I welcome them," Sam Padilla said. "I want them all to win races. I don't think they're any better than I am, though."

The horses weren't the only thing moving fast across the track.

There were also a pair of quick-strike storms, featuring hail and lightning at times.

The sixth race was just about to start when lightning built to the north, just as clouds in the west seemed to touch the earth. They ran the sixth anyway, but quickly thereafter evacuated the grandstand and rushed the horses inside before the second storm of the day hit the racetrack.

The hurry was not misplaced, as it was moments later that the sky opened, dumped a load of near-horizontal rain and hail on the fairgrounds. But, almost as quickly, closed back up as the sun returned.

It was bizarre. It was wet. A rail fell over on the track — requiring the assistance of various nearby spectators to right — and it was an interruption. But it was South Dakota, and the races went on.

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

Report suggests Russia hackers breached voting software firm

By DEB RIECHMANN and RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Russian hackers attacked at least one U.S. voting software supplier days before last year's presidential election, according to a government intelligence report leaked Monday that suggests election-related hacking penetrated further into U.S. voting systems than previously known. A Kremlin spokesman denied the report.

The classified National Security Agency report, which was published online by The Intercept, does not say whether the hacking had any effect on election results. But it says Russian military intelligence attacked a U.S. voting software company and sent spear-phishing emails to more than 100 local election officials at the end of October or beginning of November.

U.S. intelligence agencies declined to comment.

However, the Justice Department announced Monday it had charged a government contractor in Georgia with leaking a classified report containing "Top Secret level" information to an online news organization. The report the contractor allegedly leaked is dated May 5, the same date as the document The Intercept posted online.

The document said Russian military intelligence "executed cyber espionage operations against a named U.S. company in August 2016 evidently to obtain information on elections-related software and hardware solutions, according to information that became available in April 2017."

Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for President Vladimir Putin, denied the allegations Tuesday, saying that the Kremlin did not see "any evidence to prove this information is true." He said Moscow categorically denies "the possibility" of the Russian government being behind it.

The hackers are believed to have then used data from that operation to create a new email account to launch a spear-phishing campaign targeting U.S. local government organizations, the document said. "Lastly, the actors send test emails to two non-existent accounts ostensibly associated with absentee balloting, presumably with the purpose of creating those accounts to mimic legitimate services."

The document did not name any state.

The information in the leaked document seems to go further than the U.S. intelligence agencies' January assessment of the hacking that occurred.

"Russian intelligence obtained and maintained access to elements of multiple U.S. state or local electoral boards," the assessment said. The Department of Homeland Security "assesses that the types of systems Russian actors targeted or compromised were not involved in vote tallying."

The Intercept contacted NSA and the national intelligence director's office about the document and both agencies asked that it not be published. U.S. intelligence officials then asked The Intercept to redact certain sections. The Intercept said some material was withheld at U.S. intelligence agencies' request because it wasn't "clearly in the public interest."

The Associated Press could not confirm the authenticity of the May 5 NSA document, which The Intercept said it obtained anonymously.

Also on Monday, Reality Leigh Winner, 25, of Augusta, Georgia, was charged in U.S. District Court with

copying classified documents and mailing them to a reporter with an unnamed news organization. Prosecutors did not say which federal agency Winner worked for, but FBI agent Justin Garrick said in an affidavit filed with the court that she had previously served in the Air Force and held a top-secret security clearance.

Winner's attorney, Titus Thomas Nichols, declined to confirm whether she is accused of leaking the NSA report received by The Intercept. He also declined to name the federal agency for which Winner worked.

"My client has no (criminal) history, so it's not as if she has a pattern of having done anything like this before," Nichols said in a phone interview Monday. "She is a very good person. All this craziness has happened all of a sudden."

In affidavits filed with the court, Garrick of the FBI said the government was notified of the leaked report by the news outlet that received it. He said the agency that housed the report determined only six employees had made physical copies. Winner was one of them. Garrick said investigators found Winner had exchanged email with the news outlet using her work computer.

Garrick's affidavit said he interviewed Winner at her home Saturday and she "admitted intentionally identifying and printing the classified intelligence reporting at issue" and mailing it to the news outlet.

Asked if Winner had confessed, Nichols said, "If there is a confession, the government has not shown it to me."

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia.

New search underway near home of London Bridge attackers

By LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A new search was underway Tuesday in a neighborhood near the home of two of the London Bridge attackers, hours after police said they had freed everyone detained in the wake of the rampage that left seven dead and dozens wounded.

The attack, the third in Britain in three months, has raised questions over the government's ability to protect Britain following cuts to police numbers in recent years. The issue has become a key one in the run-up to Thursday's general election.

Prime Minister Theresa May, who called the snap election in hopes of strengthening her mandate for discussions over Britain's exit from the European Union, has come under fire for the cuts to police numbers over recent years. A string of opinion polls over the past couple of weeks have pointed to a narrowing in the gap between her Conservative Party and the main opposition Labour Party.

London police said all 12 people held since the attack late Saturday from the Barking neighborhood in the east of the city, have been freed. A new search was underway Tuesday in Ilford, just north of Barking, as authorities tried to determine whether the group had accomplices.

One of the attackers, Khuram Shazad Butt, had appeared in a documentary "The Jihadis Next Door" and was known to investigators but police said he was not believed to be plotting an attack. The second man, Rachid Redouane, had not aroused any suspicions. Police have not released the identity of the third. The three, who were wearing fake suicide vests, were shot dead during the attack.

The Islamic gym where one of the London Bridge attackers trained says they saw nothing of concern during his time there.

In a letter posted outside Tuesday, the Ummah Fitness Centre said staff would "help the police in any way we can" as investigators try to learn more about Khuram Shazad Butt, who was one of those who rammed a van into pedestrians on London Bridge and then slashed and stabbed people in nearby Borough Market.

Neighbors described Butt as an avid weightlifter and Transport for London confirmed he worked for London Underground in customer service before leaving last October.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said questions would need to be asked about what the police knew about Butt. He has said cuts in the number of police officers have had an impact on the ability to prevent attacks.

Much of the area around London Bridge remained cordoned off as commuters struggled to work in the driving rain.

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The area around Borough Market is not expected to reopen Tuesday.

The nearby London Bridge station was operational though one of the exits that leads to the cordoned off area on Borough High Street remained closed.

Transport for London, which oversees the capital's transport network, has advised commuters to make alternative journeys as the station will be busy.

A minute's silence was observed in Britain at 11 a.m. local time (1000 GMT) in memory of those killed during the attack.

Questions remain over whether investigators had the resources to look into complaints such as those leveled by Butt's neighbors about his attempts to radicalize children and whether crucial opportunities were missed that could have saved lives.

Saturday's attack was the third in as many months involving suspects who had been on the radar of British authorities. All three have been claimed by the Islamic State group.

The country's official terror threat level remains at "severe," one notch down from the highest.

It had been set at "critical" in the days after the Manchester concert bombing on May 22 that killed 22 people — reflecting a judgment that an attack might be imminent because accomplices with similar bombs might be on the loose.

It was lowered once intelligence agencies were comfortable this wasn't the case. Authorities have said the London attack was apparently unconnected to the Manchester bombing.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. NSA LEAKED REPORT SUGGESTS RUSSIAN VOTE HACK

Russian hackers attacked at least one U.S. voting software supplier days before Trump was elected, suggesting election-related hacking penetrated further into U.S. voting systems than previously known.

2. WHAT IS NOW CENTRAL AHEAD OF UK VOTE

Two days ahead of the British general election in which security matters are now front and center, questions have been raised over the government's ability to protect Britain following cuts to police numbers in recent years.

3. INLAND US CITIES HAVE PLAN FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Many river communities are responding by raising or replacing bridges that suddenly seem too low to stay safely above water.

4. WHERE TERROR FUNDING CUTS ARE CAUSING OUTRAGE

Proposed cuts to anti-terrorism grants under Trump's spending plan have enraged Las Vegas, where a recent Islamic State propaganda video suggests the gambling mecca might be targeted.

5. WHO IS TRYING TO MEDIATE QATARI CRISIS

Kuwait is trying to arbitrate a Gulf crisis in which Arab countries have cut diplomatic ties to Qatar and moved to isolate the energy-rich travel hub from the outside world, Qatar's foreign minister says.

6. AP OBTAINS MILITANT FOOTAGE OF MARAWI PLAN

Video of that secret meeting offers a rare glimpse into the clandestine operations of insurgents who followed through with an unprecedented assault on the Philippine city.

7. AFTER DECADE OF HAMAS RULE, GAZA SHORT ON FREEDOM, JOBS, ELECTRICITY

Unable to offer a remedy, the Islamic militant group has been doubling down on oppression, jailing the few who dare complain publicly.

8. HOW COSBY'S LAWYER WANTS JURORS TO VIEW HIM

Not as a fallen celebrity on trial in a sex assault case but as a flawed man "whose infidelities have made him vulnerable to these accusations."

9. GM RESISTING GREENLIGHT CAPITAL'S POWER PLAY

David Einhorn's group wants to split up the automaker's stock to boost the price, which is stuck near its

2010 initial public offering price of \$33.

10. KEVIN DURANT CAN PLAY 'D' TOO

While best known for his sensational scoring and shot-making, the Warriors' star has proven himself as a capable defender — especially on LeBron James.

Sheriff: Fired worker had plan to kill former co-workers

By **TERRANCE HARRIS** and **MIKE SCHNEIDER**, Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A recently fired worker from an awning company in Florida followed through with a plan to kill his former colleagues, singling out five and fatally shooting them in the head before taking his own life, authorities said.

John Robert Neumann Jr., 45, shot and killed himself at the sound of approaching sirens Monday. He did not appear to belong to any type of subversive or terrorist organization, Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings said.

"My experience tells me that this individual made deliberate thought to do what he did today. He had a plan of action," said the sheriff, who wouldn't say why Neumann was fired in April.

Demings said Neumann had a "negative relationship" with at least one of his former co-workers in Orlando, and he singled out the former colleagues who were shot.

The shooting began after Neumann slipped through a rear door into the cavernous Fiamma Inc. factory, an area larger than two football fields where awnings are stitched together for recreational vehicles. He paused at least once to reload. Seven other workers were inside at the time but were unharmed.

State and federal law enforcement officers converged on the industrial park shortly after 8 a.m. after a woman ran out and called 911 from a tile business across the street, said Yamaris Gomez, that store's owner.

"All she kept saying was he was holding a gun and told her to get out," Gomez said.

That woman had been hired after Neumann was fired in April, so he probably did not recognize her and knew she was not a former co-worker, Deming said.

Deming said investigators were looking through any social media postings for clues. Neumann was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1999 and did not have a concealed weapons permit, the sheriff said.

The dead were identified as Robert Snyder, 69; Brenda Montanez-Crespo, 44; Kevin Clark, 53; Jeffrey Roberts, 57; and Kevin Lawson, 46.

Authorities had confronted Neumann once before at the factory, when he was accused of battering a co-worker in June 2014. But no charges were filed after both men were interviewed, and that co-worker was not among Monday's victims, the sheriff said.

In a 2014 incident report, Neumann's co-worker said Neumann punched him in the back of the head when he approached, knocking him to the ground. But the co-worker later changed his story, saying Neumann had chased him and then hit him on the back of the head.

The co-worker, who had no visible injuries, stated "he had problems in the past with John but thought they were resolved," the sheriff's office incident report said.

Neumann had a record of minor crimes, none violent, dating back more than 20 years. Most involved traffic violations: driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license, giving a deputy a false name and leaving the scene of a hit-and-run involving property damage.

Searching for a motive, deputies cordoned off a trailer park in Maitland, where Neumann lived alone in a mobile home on a busy road next to a funeral home, a used car lot and a dog-grooming business. Like the awning factory, it's far from Orlando's famous theme parks.

Arnie Boyd, who lives in the same trailer park, said Neumann was not particularly social. "Every once in a while, he would ride his bike around and that's it," Boyd said. "We would speak only once in a while."

Authorities had no reports of any specific threats the gunman made to people at the company or anyone else, but that's why people need to alert authorities whenever they learn of anything that could lead to violence, said Special Agent Danny Banks of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson noted that next Monday will mark a year since the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history at a gay nightclub in Orlando. The attack at the Pulse club killed 49 people and wounded dozens more.

"The city of Orlando, which is still healing from the Pulse massacre, has seen too much violence this past year," the Florida Democrat said in a statement.

White House tries to regroup, but Trump isn't helping

By JULIE PACE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In its effort to regain control of its message, the White House has curtailed press briefings, redirected questions on the Russia investigation to an outside lawyer and planned a major infrastructure policy rollout for this week.

But as long as President Donald Trump has a smartphone, no White House strategy is safe.

The sun was still rising Monday when Trump upended best-laid plans with a blitz of provocative statements delivered via Twitter. He assailed his own Justice Department for its legal strategy to defend his travel ban, potentially creating new headaches as his administration seeks the Supreme Court's backing for the order. And he renewed his criticism of the mayor of London, a city recovering from a weekend vehicle-and-knife attack that left seven people dead.

"To the extent that there is a process for making decisions and communicating them, he seems to ignore it more often than not," Alex Conant, a top adviser to Sen. Marco Rubio's presidential bid, said of the president.

Indeed, the president's free-wheeling, undisciplined style has made it nearly impossible for the White House to regroup after weeks of damaging reports about possible ties between his campaign and Russia, as well as a steady drumbeat of speculation about internal conflict and disarray. The struggle will come to a head Thursday when fired FBI Director James Comey is due to testify on Capitol Hill.

Efforts to create a "war room" stocked with former campaign officials and top-flight lawyers now appear stalled. Three people briefed on the matter said the process has been bogged down by a lack of decision-making in the West Wing over how to proceed, as well as reluctance from some of those the White House hoped to recruit about serving a president who keeps getting in his own way.

"Anybody with press chops looks at this and they're fearful there's not a path to succeed," said Sara Fagen, former White House political director for George W. Bush.

Even George Conway, the husband of White House counselor Kellyanne Conway, appeared to give voice to the frustrations Monday. Mimicking a favorite Trump expression, Conway wrote on Twitter that the president's comment on the travel ban won't help the administration get votes in the Supreme Court, "which is what actually matters. Sad."

Conway confirmed to The Associated Press that the tweet was authentic. His comments came days after he announced he was withdrawing from consideration for a top Justice Department post.

His wife took a different approach. During a Monday morning appearance on the Today Show, Kellyanne Conway condemned the media's "obsession with covering everything he says on Twitter and very little of what he does as president."

Trump supporters have long touted his unfiltered tweets and other communications as an unparalleled advantage. Yet some allies are now urging caution given the legal questions shadowing the White House.

"My personal view is that there should be a review process because of the sensitivity of so many of them," said Chris Ruddy, a longtime friend of Trump and CEO of the conservative outlet Newsmax.

White House spokesman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that she was not aware of the president's tweets being vetted by lawyers before being blasted out to the world.

White House director of legislative affairs Marc Short, meanwhile, insisted the president's efforts were "often very effective" and said Trump was elected because voters were hungry for a non-conformist candidate who would change the culture in Washington.

"And so he may not have a conventional style in doing that, but many of his efforts are extremely helpful to us in getting our legislation accomplished," Short said.

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As part of the White House's efforts to recalibrate, Sanders is taking on a more visible role at daily briefings instead of press secretary Sean Spicer, who has gained national celebrity for his often combative interactions with reporters. While Spicer did appear in the briefing room last week, his appearances were brief, including a 12-minute question-and-answer session that the White House would not allow to be aired on television.

On Monday, Sanders took the podium and appeared to acknowledge for the first time that Spicer would be a less frequent on-camera presence for the White House.

"He is taking on a little bit of extra duty at this point," she said. "There are a lot of demands on his schedule, particularly given the fact that there's not a communications director."

Mike Dubke resigned as communications director last month and served his final day in the White House on Friday. He has not yet been replaced.

The White House has made a conscious decision to avoid answering questions about the Russia probes, referring inquiries to Marc Kasowitz, the president's outside counsel. Kasowitz has so far had no comment on the investigations, leaving those questions unanswered.

A trio of top White House officials — chief of staff Reince Priebus, chief strategist Steve Bannon and senior adviser Jared Kushner — had been making plans to create an in-house "war room" to respond to the flood of revelations related to the FBI and congressional investigations. Both Corey Lewandowski, Trump's former campaign manager, and David Bossie, another former Trump campaign hand, had been under consideration, but it appears increasingly unlikely either plan to formally join the administration.

The cloud of investigation — the very thing a White House war room would be set up to handle — has put even some of Trump's backers and potential defenders in an uncomfortable position. One active supporter of the president said that while he was willing to defend Trump in public against allegations from Comey or Democrats, he was less comfortable weighing in on specific claims about Kushner's interactions with Russian officials.

The supporter, as well as those briefed on the White House's Russia response efforts, insisted on anonymity in order to disclose private deliberations.

The FBI is said to be looking into Kushner's contacts with Russia's ambassador to the U.S., as well as a meeting with a Russian banker. White House officials deny there was anything inappropriate about Kushner's interactions.

An administration official disputed that there was reluctance to defend Kushner, the president's son-in-law. The official noted that several top administration officials — including Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly and national security adviser H.R. McMaster — have vouched for him.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Catherine Lucey at http://twitter.com/catherine_lucey

Qatar says Kuwait trying to mediate, solve Gulf crisis

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Kuwait is trying to mediate a Gulf crisis in which Arab countries have cut diplomatic ties to Qatar and moved to isolate the energy-rich travel hub from the outside world, Qatar's foreign minister said early Tuesday.

The biggest diplomatic crisis in the Persian Gulf since the 1991 U.S.-led war against Iraq pits several nations against Qatar, which is home to some 10,000 American troops and a major U.S. military base. Airlines suspended flights and residents nervous about the peninsula's lone land border closing cleaned out grocery store shelves.

In an interview with Doha-based satellite news network Al-Jazeera, Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al Thani said Kuwait's ruler had asked Qatar's ruling emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, to hold off on giving a speech about the crisis late Monday night.

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"He received a call from the emir of Kuwait asking him to postpone it in order to give time to solve the crisis," Sheikh Mohammed said.

Still, the minister struck a defiant tone, rejecting those "trying to impose their will on Qatar or intervene in its internal affairs."

The state-run Kuwait News Agency reported Kuwaiti ruler Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah spoke with Qatar's emir Monday evening and urged him to give a chance to efforts that could ease tensions. The call came after a senior Saudi royal arrived in Kuwait with a message from the Saudi king. An Omani diplomat traveled to Qatar on Monday.

Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates announced Monday they would cut diplomatic ties. Yemen's internationally backed government, which has lost the capital and large portions of the war-torn country, also cut relations with Qatar, as did the Maldives and one of conflict-ridden Libya's competing governments.

The move came just two weeks after U.S. President Donald Trump visited Saudi Arabia and vowed to improve ties with both Riyadh and Cairo to combat terrorism and contain Iran. U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the move was rooted in longstanding differences and urged the parties to resolve them.

Soccer's governing body FIFA said it remained in regular contact with Qatar, which will host the 2022 World Cup. It did not elaborate.

Saudi Arabia said it was cutting ties due to Qatar's "embrace of various terrorist and sectarian groups aimed at destabilizing the region," including the Muslim Brotherhood, al-Qaida, the Islamic State group and militants supported by Iran in the kingdom's restive Eastern Province. Egypt's Foreign Ministry accused Qatar of taking an "antagonist approach" toward Cairo and said "all attempts to stop it from supporting terrorist groups failed."

Qatar long has denied funding extremists, though Western officials have accused it of allowing or even encouraging funding of Sunni extremists like al-Qaida's branch in Syria, once known as the Nusra Front.

The Gulf countries ordered their citizens out of Qatar and gave Qataris abroad 14 days to return home to their peninsular nation, whose only land border is with Saudi Arabia. The countries also said they would eject Qatar's diplomats.

The nations also said they planned to cut air and sea traffic. Doha-based satellite news network Al-Jazeera reported trucks carrying food had begun lining up on the Saudi side of the border, apparently stranded. The Qatar Stock Exchange fell more than 7 percent in trading Monday.

Qatar Airways, one of the region's major long-haul carriers, has suspended all flights to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain until further notice. On its website, the carrier said the suspension of its flights would take effect Tuesday and customers are being offered a refund.

The route between Doha and Dubai is popular among business travelers and both are major transit hubs for travelers between Asia and Europe. FlightRadar24, a popular airplane tracking website, said Qatar Airways flights already had started to be affected.

"Many of Qatar Airways' flights to southern Europe and Africa pass through Saudi Arabia," the site said. "Flights to Europe will most likely be rerouted through Iran and Turkey."

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellap. His work can be found at <http://apne.ws/2galNpz>.

Preds even Stanley Cup Final at 2-2, beat Penguins 4-1

By TERESA M. WALKER, AP Sports Writer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Frederick Gaudreau sure is doing his best to earn his own locker with the Nashville Predators with a Stanley Cup Final debut for the ages.

For now, he insists he is happy enough just to sit on the floor as long as he plays.

An undrafted free agent playing in just his sixth postseason game, Gaudreau scored the go-ahead goal

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3:45 into the second period and Pekka Rinne made 23 often-spectacular saves as the Predators beat the Penguins 4-1 on Monday night to even the series at 2-2.

It's now a best-of-three sprint to the Stanley Cup, and Nashville is riding a wave of momentum after outscoring the defending champions 9-2 in the Games 3 and 4 of their Final debut.

Game 5 is Thursday night in Pittsburgh.

Gaudreau, a 24-year-old rookie, only has a chair in the locker room, but he now is the second player in NHL history to score his first three career goals in a Stanley Cup Final, joining Johnny Harms with the 1944 Blackhawks.

"He's been unbelievable for us the way he's come in, and he's just been so good, timely goals and composed," Nashville captain Mike Fisher said. "He definitely belongs, and he's been a huge part of our success."

Gaudreau is also just the third rookie to score game-winning goals in consecutive games in the Stanley Cup Final since the NHL took over sole possession of the trophy in 1926-27. Pittsburgh's Jake Guentzel did it in the first two games of this series and Roy Conacher did it for Boston in Games 3, 4 and 5 against Toronto in 1939.

Calle Jarnkrok, Viktor Arvidsson and Filip Forsberg also scored for Nashville, which improved to 9-1 at home and roared back after dropping the first two games of the series on the road.

"We were in a tough hole against a really good team, came home and took care of the home games with the help of all our great fans," Rinne said. "It's a great feeling. We played two really good games."

Pittsburgh star Sidney Crosby scored his first goal in the series after not getting a shot on goal in Game 3. The goal was his first in the Stanley Cup Final since June 4, 2009, a span of 12 games, but it wasn't enough as the Penguins lost two straight for the second time this postseason. Goalie Matt Murray lost consecutive games for the first time in his young career.

"It's hard to win when you score one goal," Pittsburgh coach Mike Sullivan said. "I thought tonight of all nights, we generated the most chances of the highest quality."

Nashville tapped country singer Dierks Bentley as the latest star to sing the national anthem, while Jason Aldean waved the towel to rev up the crowd. Former NBA star and TV commentator Charles Barkley also was on hand, accepting NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman's invitation to watch in person. Carrie Underwood admitted during the first intermission that she didn't get Fisher, her husband, a birthday present on Monday — holding out hope that a Stanley Cup championship celebration would do the trick in coming days.

"That's all I wanted for my birthday," Fisher said afterward of the big win.

Craig Smith ricocheted a puck off Murray's pads that Jarnkrok tapped in at 14:51 to start the fans yelling louder. Pittsburgh lost a challenge for goalie interference.

Just 66 seconds later, Crosby tied it up for Pittsburgh on a dazzling breakaway. He skated in on Rinne, holding the puck, faking a slap shot and then slipping one past the goalie for his eighth goal and 24th point of the playoffs. He also moved into 20th all-time in NHL playoff points but the Predators clamped down after that.

Rinne kept it tied in the early minutes of the second with a stop of Guentzel before a big save on Chris Kunitz on a breakaway. And then came Gaudreau's goal, confirmed only after the horn sounded and officials reviewed the play. They ruled Gaudreau's wraparound attempt slid the puck just over the line before Murray stopped it, giving Nashville a 2-1 lead 3:45 into the second.

"I heard it on the bench that it was possibly in the net," Gaudreau said. "I wasn't certain. When I heard the horn, I sort of thought it was in."

Crosby had another breakaway nearly midway through the period, and Rinne stopped him not once, but twice. Then the goalie slid to his right stopping Guentzel with an assist from Nashville defenseman Roman Josi. Crosby and Evgeni Malkin finished with six shots, but just the lone goal.

"It's a game of execution," Crosby said. "They capitalized on our mistakes, and we have to do the same."

Arvidsson made it a 3-1 Nashville lead with his first goal since the end of the first round. James Neal started the play, getting the puck to Fisher who fed the puck up to Arvidsson while falling to the ice. Ar-

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vidsson beat Murray under his glove, putting the puck just inside the right post at 13:08.

"If I make the save there, it could be a different game," Murray said.

Forsberg sealed the win with an empty-netter with 3:23 left.

Notes: Fisher, scoreless until the Final, now has four points with his fourth on his 37th birthday. ... With his goal, Crosby now has 161 career playoff points and moved past Mike Bossy, Gordie Howe, Al MacInnis and Bobby Smith for 20th all-time by himself. ... The Penguins now are 13-3 after a playoff loss under coach Mike Sullivan, and Murray is 7-1 in playoff games started after a loss. ... Rain kept the crowd outside from reaching the more than 50,000 who turned Saturday night for the first Stanley Cup Final game in Tennessee. Still, people filled three blocks of Broadway, even with Nashville opening up a downtown amphitheater for fans to watch. ... After the anthem, two catfish and one stuffed penguin hit the ice despite Nashville coach Peter Laviolette's video plea earlier Monday asking fans not to throw anything.

More AP NHL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NHLhockey>

Follow Teresa M. Walker at www.twitter.com/teresamwalker

Legal experts to Trump on travel ban: Twitter hurting cause

By **SADIE GURMAN, Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Memo from legal experts to President Donald Trump on resurrecting his stalled travel ban: Quit Twitter.

Trump's 140-character musings Monday may have undercut his own efforts to persuade the Supreme Court to reinstate his revised travel ban, which Trump called a "watered-down, politically correct" version of what he'd originally sought. Just as Trump's Justice Department is arguing the ban doesn't target Muslims, legal experts said the president seems to be suggesting the opposite.

Those who oppose the travel ban said Trump's Tweetstorm, ironically, helps their case. Neal Katyal, the former acting solicitor general representing Hawaii in its lawsuit against the ban, said it was as if Trump was his co-counsel.

"We don't need the help but will take it!" Katyal wrote in his own Twitter post.

The courts in January halted Trump's initial order, which banned travel from seven majority-Muslim countries and indefinitely halted entry to Syrian refugees. Trump begrudgingly scaled back the order by removing Iraq from the list and making the Syria refugee ban only temporary, but that order was blocked by the courts, too.

At the heart of the legal wrangling is whether Trump's proposed ban violates the Constitution by discriminating on the basis of religion. As a candidate, Trump called for a "Muslim ban," comments that came back to haunt him as president when the courts determined that even his scaled-down order was "rooted in religious animus and intended to bar Muslims from this country."

Not so, the Justice Department has argued, insisting the temporary ban is based on credible national security concerns unrelated to religion, and his campaign statements should be ignored. But Stephen Vladeck, a University of Texas law professor, said Trump was making that argument much less tenable by calling the revised order "politically correct."

"These tweets are basically winking at his supporters to say, obviously, I'm only doing this so that the courts will uphold it," Vladeck said. "It makes it harder to argue this is not a Muslim ban, and more importantly, it makes it harder to argue that the president's statements should be irrelevant."

In a series of early-morning tweets, Trump bashed the Justice Department for its decision to ask the Supreme Court to review the second version of the ban — which he signed.

"The Justice Dept. should have stayed with the original Travel Ban, not the watered down, politically correct version they submitted to S.C.," Trump said. He urged the Justice Department, which he oversees, to seek a "much tougher version" of the order.

Hoping to shore up the order's legal underpinnings, both the White House and Trump's Homeland Se-

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curity chief have insisted it's not actually a "travel ban," criticizing reporters for mischaracterizing it. But Trump on Monday was having none of it.

"People, the lawyers and the courts can call it whatever they want, but I am calling it what we need and what it is, a TRAVEL BAN!" Trump wrote.

He pounded the point home Monday night, tweeting, "That's right, we need a TRAVEL BAN for certain DANGEROUS countries, not some politically correct term that won't help us protect our people!"

The inconsistency put White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders in a delicate spot Monday afternoon as questions streamed in about why Trump was contradicting his aides. His Twitter missive notwithstanding, Sanders insisted Trump "isn't concerned with what you call it," only with protecting Americans.

Sanders said the president had asked the Justice Department to pursue an expedited hearing at the Supreme Court, adding that Trump "wants to go as far and as strong as possible under the Constitution to protect the people of this country." Still, she said he'd signed the revised ban "for the purposes of expediency" and wasn't considering a third version of the ban.

Trump argues the ban is crucial for safeguarding American security, and he has intensified his push for it in the wake of the weekend vehicle and knife attack in London that left seven people dead and dozens injured. The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The second-guessing about Trump's Twitter strategy extended to the husband of one Trump's senior advisers. New York lawyer George T. Conway III, whose wife is White House aide Kellyanne Conway, wrote that online statements "may make some ppl feel better," but won't help win a Supreme Court majority.

"Sad," he said on Twitter, borrowing a phrase from Trump's own Twitter.

Conway had been considered for at least two high-ranking Justice Department jobs, including solicitor general, the government lawyer who represents the president at the Supreme Court.

Josh Blackman, a law professor at South Texas College of Law in Houston, called Trump "the worst client" for the solicitor general.

"When you're a lawyer what you want is your client to stay silent," he said.

Trump has the authority to order the Justice Department to pursue a different strategy. It's unclear whether the president has conveyed his requests to the department in a forum other than Twitter. The Justice Department declined to comment.

Trump has used attacks around the world to justify his pursuit of the travel and immigration ban, one of his first acts since taking office. The original order, signed at the end of his first week in office, was hastily unveiled without significant input from top Trump national security advisers or relevant federal agencies.

After that order was struck down, the administration decided to write a second directive rather than appeal the initial ban to the Supreme Court. The narrower would temporarily halt entry to the U.S. from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

If anything, Supreme Court may be more likely to hear the case in light of the tweets, to determine once and for all how far the president's power goes, said Peter S. Margulies, a law professor at Roger Williams.

It's unclear when it will make that decision.

Associated Press writers Julie Pace and Mark Sherman contributed to this report.

Sheriff: Fired worker killed 5, shot self as siren neared

By TERRANCE HARRIS and MIKE SCHNEIDER, Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — A man who was fired from a Florida awning factory in April returned Monday with a semi-automatic pistol and methodically killed five people, then took his own life at the sound of an approaching siren, authorities said.

Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings identified the shooter as John Robert Neumann Jr., a 45-year-old Army veteran who lived alone and did not appear to belong to any type of subversive or terrorist organization.

The shooting began after Neumann slipped through a rear door into the cavernous Fiamma Inc. factory,

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an area larger than two football fields where awnings are stitched together for recreational vehicles. He paused at least once to reload.

"My experience tells me that this individual made deliberate thought to do what he did today. He had a plan of action," said the sheriff, who wouldn't say why Neumann was fired. The gunman "had a negative relationship with" at least one of the victims.

"He was certainly singling out the individuals he shot," Demings said, adding that most victims were shot in the head. Some were shot multiple times.

State and federal law enforcement officers converged on the industrial park in Orlando shortly after 8 a.m. after a woman ran out and called 911 from a tile business across the street, said Yamaris Gomez, that store's owner.

"All she kept saying was he was holding a gun and told her to get out," Gomez said.

That woman had been hired after Neumann was fired in April, so he probably did not recognize her and knew she was not a former co-worker, Deming said.

Searching for a motive, deputies cordoned off a trailer park in Maitland, where Neumann lived alone in a mobile home on a busy road next to a funeral home, a used car lot and a dog-grooming business. Like the awning factory, it's far from Orlando's famous theme parks.

Deming said investigators also are looking through any social media postings for clues. Neumann was honorably discharged in 1999 and did not have a concealed weapons permit, the sheriff said.

Arnie Boyd, who lives in the same trailer park, said Neumann was not particularly social. "Every once in a while, he would ride his bike around and that's it," Boyd said. "We would speak only once in a while."

The dead were identified as Robert Snyder, 69; Brenda Montanez-Crespo, 44; Kevin Clark, 53; Jeffrey Roberts, 57; and Kevin Lawson, 46.

Authorities had confronted Neumann once before at the factory, when he was accused of battering a co-worker in June 2014. But no charges were filed, and that co-worker was not among Monday's victims, the sheriff said.

In a 2014 incident report, Neumann's co-worker said Neumann punched him in the back of the head when he approached, knocking him to the ground. But the co-worker later changed his story, saying that Neumann had chased him and then hit him on the back of the head.

Neumann had a record of minor crimes, none violent, dating back nearly 20 years. Most involved traffic violations — driving under the influence, driving with a suspended license, giving a deputy a false name and leaving the scene of a hit-and-run involving property damage.

Fiamma calls itself one of the largest manufacturers of awnings for camper vans, motor coaches and sport utility vehicles.

Shelley Adams said her sister, Sheila McIntyre, called her from the company's bathroom during the shooting and kept repeating, "My boss is dead. My boss is dead."

Officers arrived two minutes after being dispatched, the sheriff said. The FBI also responded, said Ron Hopper, who runs the FBI's Orlando office.

And while five people were killed, "seven others' lives were saved due to the quick actions of the officers who arrived on the scene today," said Special Agent Danny Banks of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

Authorities had no reports of any specific threats the gunman made to people at the company or anyone else, but that's why people need to alert authorities whenever they learn of anything that could lead to violence, Banks said.

"If people see something that seems abnormal, they need to say something," Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs added.

The latest government statistics indicate that fatal workplace shootings have ticked upward in the United States. Bureau of Labor Statistics data show a 2 percent rise between 2014 and 2015 to 417 cases. Among those, fatal shootings rose more sharply, by 15 percent.

Sen. Bill Nelson called for more action to address mental health issues. He noted that next Monday will mark a year since the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history, at a gay nightclub in Orlando. The at-

tack at the Pulse club killed 49 people and wounded dozens more.

"The city of Orlando, which is still healing from the Pulse massacre, has seen too much violence this past year," the Florida Democrat said in a statement.

Republican Gov. Rick Scott asked "all Floridians to pray for the families impacted by this senseless act of violence."

Associated Press Writer Freida Frisaro in Miami contributed to this report.

The story has been edited to correct Jacobs to Orange County mayor, not Orlando mayor, and the spelling of the sheriff's surname to Demings, not Demmings.

Bill Cosby goes on trial, his legacy and freedom at stake

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby went on trial Monday on charges he drugged and sexually assaulted a woman more than a decade ago, with prosecutors immediately introducing evidence the 79-year-old TV star once known as America's Dad had done it before to someone else.

The prosecution's opening witness was not the person Cosby is charged with abusing, but another woman, who broke down in tears as she testified that the comedian violated her in the mid-1990s at a hotel bungalow in Los Angeles.

Cosby is on trial on charges he assaulted Andrea Constand, a former employee of Temple University's basketball program, at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004. His good-guy reputation already in ruins, he could get 10 years in prison if convicted.

Prosecutor Kristen Feden, in her opening statement, noted the "Cosby Show" star previously admitted under oath that he gave Constand pills and touched her genitals as she lay on his couch.

"She couldn't say no," Feden said. "She can't move, she can't talk. Completely paralyzed. Frozen. Lifeless."

Cosby attorney Brian McMonagle countered by attacking what he said were inconsistencies in Constand's story, disputed that Constand was incapacitated and made the case that she and Cosby had a romantic relationship.

He said Constand initially told police that she and Cosby did not speak after their 2004 encounter, when, in fact, phone records show the two talked 72 times, with 53 of those calls initiated by Constand.

Constand, 44, of the Toronto area, is expected to take the stand this week and tell her story in public for the first time.

The trial's first witness was Kelly Johnson, who worked for one of Cosby's agents at the William Morris Agency. Johnson, of Atlanta, described an encounter she said took place in 1996 at the Hotel Bel-Air when she was in her mid-30s.

Prosecutors are trying to show Cosby's treatment of Constand fit a pattern of predatory behavior. They had wanted to call as many as 13 women who say Cosby sexually assaulted them, out of more than 60 accusers in all. But Judge Steven O'Neill, in a victory for Cosby, said the jury could hear only from Constand and Johnson.

Johnson testified that Cosby pressured her to take a large white pill that knocked her out, and when she woke up he put lotion on her hand and forced her to touch his genitals.

"My dress was pulled up from the bottom, and it was pulled down from the top, and my breasts were out," she said, crying. "And I felt naked."

Cosby's lawyer argued that Johnson was seeking a payout from the TV star.

McMonagle said Johnson mixed up the years and other details of her encounters with Cosby, and he grilled her about why she never said anything when she left William Morris. She came forward in 2015 at a news conference with celebrity lawyer Gloria Allred.

"I felt embarrassed because I had a secret about the biggest celebrity in the world at the time and it was just me, just my word against his, and I was very afraid," Johnson said.

Cosby grinned and tapped his wooden cane as his lawyer questioned Johnson.

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The comedian arrived at the courthouse in the morning holding his spokesman's arm for support as he walked past dozens of cameras.

Cosby's wife, Camille, was not in court. But actress Keshia Knight Pulliam, who played his daughter Rudy on "The Cosby Show" in the 1980s and '90s, was at his side as he made his way into the building. She told reporters she was there to support her TV dad.

"I want to be the person that I would like to have if the tables were turned," she said. "Right now it's the jury's job and the jury's decision to determine guilt or innocence. It's not mine or anyone else's."

Cosby built a wholesome reputation as a father and family man, on screen and off, during his extraordinary 50-year career in entertainment. He created TV characters, most notably Dr. Cliff Huxtable, with crossover appeal among blacks and whites alike. His TV shows, movies and comedy tours earned him an estimated \$400 million.

Then a deposition unsealed in 2015 in a lawsuit brought by Constand revealed that Cosby had a long history of extramarital liaisons with young women and that he obtained quaaludes in the 1970s to give to women before sex. Dozens of women soon came forward to say he had drugged and assaulted them.

Those developments led prosecutors in Pennsylvania to bring charges against Cosby a decade after the district attorney at the time concluded the case was too weak.

The statute of limitations for prosecuting Cosby had run out in nearly every case. This is the only one to result in criminal charges against the comic.

Feden, the prosecutor, warned the jury not to fall into the trap of confusing celebrities with the characters they play.

"We think we really know them," she said. "In reality, we only have a glimpse of who they really are."

Cosby's lawyers tried repeatedly to get the case thrown out, arguing that a previous district attorney promised him he would never be charged, and that witnesses have died, memories have faded and the comedian is all but blind.

The AP does not typically identify people who say they are sexual assault victims unless they grant permission, which Constand and Johnson have done.

For more on Cosby, including trial updates, historical photos, videos and an audio series exploring the case, visit: www.apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial

Apple's HomePod speaker pumps up the volume on tech rivals

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE and BARBARA ORTUTAY, AP Technology Writers

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Apple is hoping a new smart home speaker will strike a chord with music lovers — the latest test of the iPhone maker's ability to redefine markets originally staked out by its rivals.

The trend-setting company also is putting new twists on existing products as it delves deeper into virtual reality and a form of artificial intelligence called machine learning.

The moves announced Monday escalate Apple's technological battle of wits with Google, Amazon, Microsoft and Facebook. These giants are battling over still-emerging fields that are expected to turn into technological gold mines, much the way personal computers and smartphones became moneymaking machines in previous decades.

NO PLACE LIKE HOMEPOD

The "HomePod" speaker unveiled at Apple's annual developers conference is similar to rival devices that have been released during the past two years.

Like the Amazon Echo and Google Home, the HomePod will play music while also helping people to manage their lives and homes. Siri, a digital assistant that has been on Apple's iPhone since 2011, will be voice activated to respond to requests for information and other help around the house.

Unlike those other smart speakers, Apple is positioning the HomePod primarily as a way to listen to and discover new songs and artists. Making the most of it will require a subscription to Apple's own music streaming service, which runs \$10 to \$15 per month and has attracted 27 million subscribers so far.

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The company is casting Siri as a music connoisseur that will learn and cater to the tastes of the HomePod's owners, as well as answer questions about the songs as they are played. "It will reinvent home audio," boasted Apple CEO Tim Cook.

The speaker will sell for about \$350 in December in the U.S., U.K. and Australia. Amazon sells the main version of the Echo for \$180; Google's Home speaker goes for \$130.

The Echo, released in 2015, and Google Home, released last year, were the first entrants in a promising market. The research firm eMarketer says that 35 million people in the U.S. are expected to use a voice-activated speaker at least once a month this year, more than double its estimate from last year.

APPLE VS. THE DRY SPELL

The HomePod is Apple's first new gadget in nearly three years, following its announcement of the Apple Watch in September 2014. Although that product came out after other smartwatches hit the market, it quickly outshone competitors, according to industry research firms.

Still, the Apple Watch hasn't been a smash hit, fueling worries that the company's ability to transfix customers had waned after the 2011 death of co-founder Steve Jobs. During Jobs' last decade, Apple introduced the iPod, iPhone and iPad — all huge commercial successes that both reshaped daily life and swamped previous digital music players, smartphones and tablets.

Analysts said the smart home speaker market is ripe for Apple. The company "can't afford to yield valuable real-estate in the heart of people's homes to Amazon, Google and others," said Geoff Blaber, research analyst at CCS Insight. That's especially important because people are starting to access information, entertainment and search in a more "pervasive" way that's less dependent on smartphones, he said.

But it's also possible that the HomePod could expose Siri as less capable than Amazon's Alexa, Google's Assistant and Microsoft's Cortana, Blaber said. (Many reviewers have suggested that the current incarnation of Apple's assistant already trails competitors in key respects.) "This is the start of the AI wars," he said.

MACS, PHONES AND PAYMENTS

Apple had plenty of other announcements. New iMacs released Monday are getting better displays and graphics capabilities. Apple said that makes the Mac a great platform for developing virtual-reality "experiences," although the company didn't announce any consumer VR products.

Safari, Apple's web browser, is getting new features aimed at online annoyances. It will block videos that start playing automatically, for instance, and can also prevent ads from following and profiling users. It will not actually block ads, though.

Apple also introduced a new version of its business-oriented iPad Pro at an intermediate size with more storage, a better display and an improved camera. It's part of Apple's effort to entice professionals with tablets that can handle many tasks previously reserved for laptops.

New features coming to iPhones and iPads, meanwhile, include marginal improvements such as syncing messages to Apple servers in the cloud, saving storage space on phones and tablets. Apple also laid some groundwork for augmented reality, the projection of digital features onto real-world surroundings, by giving app developers tools for incorporating AR into their products.

Apple is also bringing the ability to send money to friends or other people through its payment service, Apple Pay. So far, the service has limited payments to purchases of products and services from companies and other organizations.

The free software update for mobile devices, iOS 11, is expected in September, when Apple typically releases new iPhones.

Ortutay reported from New York.

Alleged London attacker was a known radical Islamist

By DANICA KIRKA, PAISLEY DODDS and LORI HINNANT, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — One of the men believed to have carried out the deadly weekend attack in central London was a known radical Islamist who was filmed unfurling a black flag resembling the one used by the Islamic State group and raised the suspicion of a neighbor after allegedly trying to lure local youngsters to join his jihadist campaign.

On Monday, British police identified that man, Khuram Shazad Butt, a 27-year-old Pakistan-born Briton, as one of the assailants, saying he was known to authorities, though they had no evidence he was planning an attack. They identified a second attacker who had not aroused suspicion prior to Saturday's rampage that killed seven people.

As details about Butt emerged, however, they prompted questions of whether he could have been stopped sooner.

He had appeared in a documentary, "The Jihadis Next Door," that aired on British television last year. Neighbors identified Butt from the film's footage Monday, pointing to a scene in which he is shown participating in a provocative prayer session at Regents Park, near London's biggest mosque helping to display a black flag covered in white Arabic lettering similar to the one used by the Islamic State group, which took responsibility for the attack.

Butt is also seen in the film sprawling on the lawn and nodding as he listens to a sermon in which the speaker tells those gathered: "This is not the real life, my dear brothers. This is a passing time for us."

Butt's apparent zealotry led one neighbor, Erica Gasparri, to contact police about 18 months ago. The 42-year-old mother of three was working at a local school when she noticed Butt, who was also known as Abu Mohamed, meeting with local children and trying to draw them into his radicalism.

"It was wrong what he was doing," Gasparri said. "He kept talking about the Islamic State. I got very angry."

Salaudeen Jailabdeen, who lived near Butt, said the alleged assailant had once been ejected from a local mosque for interrupting an imam. Another neighbor, Michael Mimbo, said he saw the van used in the attack near his home on Saturday, but didn't see who was behind the wheel. He said the vehicle was seen going the wrong way down a one-way street and was later seen speeding off, followed closely by a small red car.

The second alleged attacker was identified by police as Rachid Redouane, who alternately used the surname Elkhdar, and claimed to be Moroccan and Libyan. He used two different birthdates that would make him either 25 or 30, authorities said.

Police have not yet released the identity of the third person involved in carrying out the attack on London Bridge, where the van swerved into pedestrians, and in nearby Borough Market, where the knife-wielding assailants slashed and stabbed anyone in their path. Besides the dead, dozens more were wounded by the men, who wore fake suicide vests to make themselves look even more imposing.

All three were ultimately shot and killed by police. Twelve others taken into custody have since been released.

All of it happened in just eight minutes, and though police have won praise for their response, it has led to a political fight certain to dominate the waning days before Thursday's national elections. The campaign roared back into public view Monday after a one-day hiatus, with Prime Minister Theresa May and Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn trading blame over one another's security stances.

May served as home secretary for six years before becoming prime minister last year, a period in which the number of police dropped by about 20,000 officers. That fact provided a line of attack for Corbyn, who called on May to resign even as he said the best remedy was to vote her out.

"There's an election on Thursday, that's the chance," he said, citing an "appalling" cut in police staffing levels. "We're calling for a restoration of police numbers, and there's a call being made for her to go, because of what she's done on the police numbers."

May said she has protected police budgets and increased the number of armed officers and matched

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Corbyn's finger-pointing with some of her own, saying her opponent wasn't fit to safeguard Britain at a time of heightened threat. "We have given increased powers to the police to be able to deal with terrorists, powers which Jeremy Corbyn has boasted he has always opposed," she said.

Given the speed with which the attack was ended, it wasn't clear whether having more police on the beat would have prevented it, but questions persisted over whether investigators had the resources to look into such complaints and whether crucial opportunities were missed that could have saved lives.

It was the third attack in as many months where suspects had been on the radar of British authorities.

Under the British government's counterterrorism program, residents are encouraged to alert police to suspicious activity. Police then cross-check whether the person has been reported for similar activity. From there, a number of scenarios can unfold. The matter can be dropped or if the complaint seems warranted, police and security officials can open an investigation. The real test comes in determining whether the person has the potential to become violent and what resources are available to investigate. Watching a suspect around the clock can require some 20 officers or security agents.

"That is the awkward question going forward," said Andrew Silke, who has advised the House of Commons on preventing violent extremism. "A message should have been passed onto the counterterrorism section, and if the report had some degree of credibility, an assessment would have had to have been made. There's a genuine question mark over this now and how the government's risk assessment framework is weighted. Given the recent attacks, it looks like people were on the radar but somehow they were still able to carry out attacks."

Police have foiled 18 terror plots since 2013 and are managing 500 active investigations involving around 3,000 individuals at any one time, according to two security sources who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak about ongoing investigations.

Some 20,000 other suspects, however, are on the periphery, according to the sources.

The country's official terror threat level had been set at "critical" in the days after the Manchester concert bombing on May 22 that killed 22 people — reflecting a judgment that an attack might be imminent because accomplices with similar bombs might be on the loose.

It was lowered once intelligence agencies were comfortable that this wasn't the case. Authorities have said the London attack was apparently unconnected to the Manchester bombing.

May has said the three attacks — including one outside Parliament in March — weren't connected in any operational sense but were linked by what she called the "perverted ideology" of extremist Islam.

Most of the London Underground stations that had been shuttered after the attack were reopened, and some residents who had been cooped up inside emerged for the first time since the violence. Police were not yet releasing the names of the dead, but thousands of people gathered at Potters Field, across from the Tower Bridge and the medieval Tower of London, to pay tribute to the victims.

It provided a kaleidoscope of London's diversity, with Buddhist monks in saffron robes, Christian clerics in purple cassocks and Muslims in black T-shirts bearing the words "I am a Muslim: Ask me anything."

Speaking to those gathered, Mayor Sadiq Khan decried the attackers, saying: "You will not win. We will defeat the terrorists."

Associated Press writers Gregory Katz and Raphael Satter in London and Matt Sedensky in New York contributed to this report.

'I've been stabbed': Stories from London attack survivors

By DANICA KIRKA and TAMMY WEBBER, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The knife-wielding attackers appeared to be leaving the restaurant where Candice Hedge was hiding under a table when one of them spotted her, returning to slash her throat, the 34-year-old waitress' father told an Australian newspaper.

Hedge, who moved to London last year, had just finished her shift at Elliot's restaurant and was having a drink with her boyfriend when the attack started, Ross Hedge told The Courier Mail of Brisbane. Candice

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Hedge wrote on social media that she was in a "bit of pain" after undergoing surgery.

"But I will survive," she said.

Hedge was one of at least 48 people who were injured in the attack carried out by three men in the London Bridge area that also left seven people dead and worried friends and relatives frantic to find out about others still missing. Eighteen of the injured remain in critical condition.

Victims and their families gave harrowing accounts of the sudden and random attacks that sent scores of people out on a Saturday night fleeing crowded restaurants and pubs or diving for cover. Others had no chance to react.

Ross Hedge said his daughter was "very lucky," though "she was terrified, of course."

The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for the brazen attack that started on London Bridge, where three attackers drove a rented white van onto a sidewalk and into pedestrians. Then, armed with knives and wearing fake suicide vests, they rampaged through Borough Market, an old-fashioned outdoor food market by day surrounded by bars and restaurants that come alive at night.

Australia's foreign minister said Hedge was among three Australians injured in the attacks. Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said Andrew Morrison received stitches for a stab wound to his neck and was on his way home to Australia. The government is still making inquiries into the third Australian's condition.

Morrison, an electrician from Darwin, posted on social media that he had been stabbed leaving Belushi's London Bridge bar after watching the Champions League soccer final.

"All of a sudden this guy comes up with a knife. I just, like, push him off. I walk into a pub and I'm like: 'Someone help me, I've just been stabbed,'" Morrison said in a video.

Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley said Sunday that a member of the public suffered gunshot wounds as officers opened fire and stopped the attackers.

A worker at Wheatsheaf pub, Fabio Lamas, 20, told NBC News he saw a patron get shot in the head by a stray police bullet as he stood by a window inside the establishment. At least one of the attackers was fatally shot outside the pub.

Lamas said the victim was conscious and "he was bleeding through his eye."

"I went to get the first-aid kit and I started speaking to his friends and to try and calm them down," he said.

Daniel O'Neill, 23, had just stepped outside a pub near Borough Market when he was attacked, his mother, Elizabeth, told reporters Sunday outside Kings College Hospital in London.

"A man ran up to him and said 'This is for my family, this is for Islam,' and stuck a knife straight in," she said. "He's got a seven-inch scar going from his belly round to his back."

Also among the injured was the business editor for Britain's Sunday Express newspaper. Editor Geoff Ho was photographed walking toward an ambulance on the arm of a police officer with a makeshift bandage on his neck. Ho intervened as the attackers tried to knife a bouncer at a pub, the newspaper said.

"Don't know whether it was stupid or noble to jump in and break up the fight outside the Southwark Tavern," Ho wrote on his Facebook page, the newspaper said.

Webber reported from Chicago. Associated Press Writer Linda Wang in San Francisco contributed to this report.

White House: Trump won't seek to block Comey testimony

By JULIE PACE, AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will not assert executive privilege to block fired FBI Director James Comey from testifying on Capitol Hill, the White House said Monday, setting the stage for a dramatic public airing of the former top law enforcement official's dealings with the commander in chief.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the president's power to invoke executive privilege is "well-established." But she said Trump wanted to allow for a "swift and thorough examination of the facts" related to Comey's ouster and the multiple investigations into his campaign's possible ties

to Russia.

Comey is scheduled to testify Thursday before the Senate intelligence committee. His appearance will mark his first public comments since he was abruptly fired by the president on May 9.

White House officials had weighed trying to block Comey by arguing that his discussions with the president pertained to national security and that there was an expectation of privacy. However, officials ultimately concluded that the optics of taking that step would be worse than the risk of letting the former FBI director testify freely.

Legal experts have also said that the president likely undermined his ability to assert executive privilege by publicly discussing his dealings with Comey in tweets and interviews.

Lawmakers in both parties have urged Trump to allow Comey to testify publicly. On Sunday, Sen. Roy Blunt, a Missouri Republican and a member of the intelligence committee, said the president would be "better served by getting all this information out."

"Sooner rather than later, let's find out what happened and bring this to a conclusion," Blunt said on "Fox News Sunday." "You don't do that I think by invoking executive privilege on a conversation you had apparently with nobody else in the room."

Comey associates have alleged that Trump asked the FBI director if he could drop an investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn and his Russian contacts. The White House has denied the president made that request.

Flynn was fired after less than a month because of revelations that he misled Vice President Mike Pence about his communications with Russia's ambassador to the United States.

Comey is also likely to be asked by lawmakers about Trump's assertion that the former FBI chief told him three times that he was not under investigation as part of the federal probe into his campaign's possible Russia ties. He later tweeted that Comey better hope there are no "tapes" of their conversations.

The White House has rebuffed questions about whether Trump was suggesting he had recorded his discussions with the former FBI chief.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>

Trump lashes out at London's mayor, again

By JULIE PACE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump continued a long-running feud with London's mayor on Monday, criticizing him on Twitter for the second day in a row in the wake of the deadly van and knife attack in the city.

Trump said London Mayor Sadiq Khan had offered a "pathetic excuse" and "had to think fast on his 'no reason to be alarmed' statement."

Trump's tweet renewed his mischaracterization of Khan's statement to London residents following the attack that left seven people dead and dozens injured. The mayor had told London residents not to be concerned by a stepped-up police presence in the city after the incident.

In a Sunday tweet, Trump mischaracterized Khan's remarks by suggesting the mayor had said there was "no reason to be alarmed" about the attack itself. Khan's spokesman said he was too busy to respond to Trump's "ill-informed" tweet.

On Monday, a spokesman for Khan responded to the latest statement from Trump, saying, "Nothing has changed since yesterday."

He said, "The mayor is focused on dealing with Saturday's horrific and cowardly attack and working with the police, the emergency services and the Government to keep London safe."

Asked if Trump was wrong to make the comments, British Prime Minister Theresa May said at a news conference Monday that "Sadiq Khan is doing a good job and it's wrong to say anything else — he's doing a good job."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said Monday that Trump was not "picking a fight with the

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mayor of London at all." She also pushed back against criticism that the president had mischaracterized Khan's remarks, saying "the media wants to spin it that way."

Asked if Trump was criticizing the mayor of London because he is Muslim, Sanders said that was "utterly ridiculous."

Trump's latest missive at Khan was part of several Monday morning tweeted statements from the president. Trump also lashed out at his own Justice Department for seeking a "watered down" version of the travel ban he signed in March instead of a broader directive that was also blocked by the courts.

The war of words was the latest episode in a long simmering conflict between Trump and Khan, a Muslim who was elected as London's mayor in May 2016. After his election last year, Khan tweeted criticism of then-candidate Trump's rhetoric, saying his "ignorant view of Islam could make both our countries less safe. It risks alienating mainstream Muslims." Trump later challenged Khan to an IQ test during an interview on ITV.

Senior White House adviser Kellyanne Conway on Monday condemned what she called the media's "obsession with covering everything he says on Twitter and very little of what he does as president."

In an appearance on NBC's "Today Show," Conway said people in England had tried to inform authorities about the suspects before the attacks happened.

"If you're going to see something and say something, it has to be followed by, do something," she said. "And this president is trying to do something to protect the people of this country."

Trump said he had spoken with May to express America's "unwavering support" and offer U.S. assistance as the British government works to protect its citizens and bring the guilty to justice.

British authorities have named two of the three suspects in the attack. The three suspects were shot dead by police officers within minutes after they drove a van into pedestrians on the bridge and then stormed pubs and restaurants, stabbing anyone in their path.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Catherine Lucey on Twitter: http://www.twitter.com/catherine_lucey

Asian stocks mostly lower on US drop, watch for UK elections

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian stocks were mostly lower Tuesday, following a drop on Wall Street, as investors looked toward British elections later in the week.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 dipped 0.7 percent in morning trading to 20,026.45. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 was down 1.1 percent at 5,692.10. South Korean markets were closed for the Memorial Day holiday. Hong Kong's Hang Seng edged up 0.2 percent to 25,923.17, while the Shanghai Composite lost 0.2 percent to 3,084.95.

UK ELECTIONS: General elections are set for Thursday in Britain, although the campaign has paused for grief in the aftermath of Saturday's deadly attack in the London Bridge area. The election campaign was earlier halted for three days in the wake of the May 22 concert bombing in Manchester, which killed 22 people.

WALL STREET: The Standard & Poor's 500 index dipped 2.97 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,436.10. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 22.25 points, or 0.1 percent, to 21,184.04. The Nasdaq composite index lost 10.11 points, or 0.2 percent, to 6,295.68.

THE QUOTE: "With U.S. markets moving less than a flicker from last Friday's closing levels, Asian markets could find little to draw inspiration from," says Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude slid 28 cents to \$47.12 a barrel. It fell 26 cents to \$47.40 a barrel in New York Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 26 cents to \$49.21 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: In currency trading, the euro fell slightly to \$1.1271 from \$1.1276 late Monday in Asia. The dollar weakened to 109.83 yen from 110.48 yen.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 6, the 157th day of 2017. There are 208 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 6, 1944, during World War II, Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, on "D-Day" as they began the liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

On this date:

In 1523, Gustav Vasa became Sweden's new king, Gustav I.

In 1654, Queen Christina of Sweden abdicated; she was succeeded by her cousin, Charles X Gustav.

In 1799, American politician and orator Patrick Henry died at Red Hill Plantation in Virginia.

In 1809, Sweden adopted a new constitution.

In 1844, the Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London.

In 1925, Walter Percy Chrysler founded the Chrysler Corp.

In 1933, the first drive-in movie theater was opened by Richard Hollingshead in Camden County, New Jersey. (The movie shown was "Wives Beware," starring Adolphe Menjou.)

In 1966, black activist James Meredith was shot and wounded as he walked along a Mississippi highway to encourage black voter registration.

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, a day after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

In 1977, a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law imposing an automatic death sentence on defendants convicted of the first-degree murder of a police officer.

In 1982, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon to drive Palestine Liberation Organization fighters out of the country. (The Israelis withdrew in June 1985.)

In 1994, President Bill Clinton joined leaders from America's World War II allies to mark the 50th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of Normandy. A China Northwest Airlines passenger jet crashed near Xian (SHEE'-ahn), killing all 160 people on board.

Ten years ago: The Group of Eight summit opened in Heiligendamm, Germany. Police arrested a suspect in the abduction and death of 18-year-old Kelsey Smith, whose body was found in a Missouri park four days after she'd disappeared from a Kansas store's parking lot. (Edwin R. Hall later pleaded guilty to capital murder and was sentenced to life in prison.) Police in Connecticut looking for clues in the yearlong disappearance of a 15-year-old Bloomfield girl found her locked in a hidden room in a West Hartford home owned by an acquaintance of her parents. (Adam Gault later pleaded guilty to kidnapping and sexual assault and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.) The Anaheim Ducks captured the Stanley Cup with a 6-2 victory over the Ottawa Senators in Game 5. Bob Barker taped his last episode as host of CBS' "The Price Is Right."

Five years ago: Business social network LinkedIn reported that some of its users' passwords had been stolen and leaked onto the Internet. New Yorkers lined the West Side waterfront to welcome the space shuttle Enterprise as it sailed up the Hudson River to its new home aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

One year ago: A jury in Los Angeles returned a death sentence for Lonnie Franklin Jr., the serial killer known as the "Grim Sleeper" who murdered nine women and a teenage girl over several decades. Space station astronauts opened the world's first inflatable space habitat, the Bigelow Expandable Activity Module, or BEAM, and floated inside. Kimbo Slice (Kevin Ferguson), the bearded street fighter who parlayed his internet popularity into a mixed martial arts career and worldwide fame, died in Margate, Florida, at age 42. Theresa Saldana, the "Raging Bull" actress who survived a stalker's brutal attack to become a

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crime victims' advocate and reclaimed her acting career with "The Commish" and other TV shows, died in Los Angeles at 61. Playwright Peter Shaffer ("Equus"; "Amadeus") died in County Cork, Ireland at age 90.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-songwriter Gary "U.S." Bonds is 78. Country singer Joe Stampley is 74. Jazz musician Monty Alexander is 73. Actor Robert Englund is 70. Folk singer Holly Near is 68. Singer Dwight Twilley is 66. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein (FY'-ur-steen) is 65. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 62. International Tennis Hall of Famer Bjorn Borg is 61. Actress Amanda Pays is 58. Comedian Colin Quinn is 58. Record producer Jimmy Jam is 58. Rock musician Steve Vai is 57. Rock singer-musician Tom Araya (Slayer) is 56. Actor Jason Isaacs is 54. Rock musician Sean Yseult (White Zombie) is 51. Actor Max Casella is 50. Actor Paul Giamatti is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Damion Hall (Guy) is 49. Rock musician Bardi Martin is 48. Rock musician James "Munky" Shaffer (Korn) is 47. TV correspondent Natalie Morales is 45. Country singer Lisa Brokop is 44. Rapper-rocker Uncle Kracker is 43. Actress Sonya Walger is 43. Actress Staci Keanan is 42. Actress Amber Borycki is 34. Actress Aubrey Anderson-Emmons is 10.

Thought for Today: "Excellence is to do a common thing in an uncommon way." — Booker T. Washington, American educator (1856-1915).