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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**



Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

Wednesday, June 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.

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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.)

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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

U10: hosts Clark for 1 game, 6 p.m., Nelson Field

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Groton School: ACT Test in Aberdeen

Jr. Legion: at Northville Tourney

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Groton's U10 team hosted a Warner team on Tuesday in Little League Baseball action. The photo on the right features Gavin Englund as the pitcher and the photo below is Korbin Kucker as the catcher.



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Aaron Severson has been helping to put the vinyl slats in the fence on Nelson Field. New posts were installed on Nelson Field this year with the outfield all getting the blue slats. It was a long process as each slat has to be individually slid into place. Each pane had 48 slats. Count the number of sections and that's a lot of slats. There were a couple of other people who also helped with this project.

The Groton Baseball Complex has been undergoing a major renovation during the past two years with Locke-Karst Field getting the fence overhaul last year. The buildings were also painted last year. New playground equipment is being installed.

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FIRE DANGER EMERGENCY!!

The Brown County Commission has declared a "fire danger emergency" per BCO 18.0702 and is prohibiting open burning. The fire emergency is imposed to prohibit or restrict open burning with the exception of campfires in campfire rings or pits, burning barrels 55 gallons or less, that are equipped with a screen or barbeque cooking grills.

This will go into effect June 7th, 2017 at 8:00 AM and will be in place until further notice.

Per BCO 18.0703: Any person who shall create, commit, maintain or permit to be created, committed or maintained an open burning in violation of a resolution declaring a "Fire Danger Emergency" shall be deemed to have committed a public nuisance in violation and subject to all criminal and civil penalties provided for therein.

Any person that maintains, commits, or fails to abate a public nuisance as required under the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a maximum penalty of thirty (30) days in jail, a \$200 fine, or both. Each and every day that the violation continues may constitute a separate offense.

This ban was put in place in order to help protect public health and safety.

Questions can be directed to Brown County Emergency Management at 605-626-7122.

CONSERVE WATER!!!!

Who would have ever thought that WEB Water would issue a conservation notice. Due to the drought in this part of the state, where WEB Water serves the area, WEB Water has notified all of its customers to reduce water usage. That includes residents in the City of Groton.

Prepare for Major Life Expenses with Tax-Advantaged Accounts

By Nathaniel Sillin

College tuition, a new pair of glasses and retirement may seem unrelated, but the tax law says otherwise. By knowing how and where to save your money, you could pay for each of these expenses with tax-advantaged – or in some cases income-tax-free – money.

Individual Retirement Agreements (IRAs) and 401(k)s are perhaps the two most well-known examples of these types of accounts. But they're not alone. With educational and medical expenses in mind, consider the following types of accounts and how you might be able to use one to help yourself or your family.

Invest your college fund in a 529 plan. State-sponsored 549 plans come in two forms. Prepaid tuition plans let you lock in today's rate for in-state public schools and 529 college savings plans allow you to invest your savings based on your goals and risk tolerance. Contributions aren't a federal tax write-off, but if you invest in your state's plan, there might be a state income tax write-off.

As new parents ourselves, my wife and I made the decision to start preparing for our son's education with a 529 college savings plan. However, the state where we live doesn't offer a tax incentive. After diligently researching our options, we chose to establish the account in another state.

Many states let non-residents invest in their 529 plans and you can compare the state-based benefits, investment options, fees and contribution rules when choosing your plan. The College Savings Plans Network (CSPN) has tools to compare 529 plans by features or by state.

If the money is spent on qualified educational expenses, such as tuition, fees or school supplies, you don't pay federal income tax (and may not have to pay state income tax) on investment gains.

Provide financial support for a disabled person using an ABLE account. News of a life-changing disability could come at any time. Following the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act in 2014, states can now sponsor ABLE savings accounts. Like 529 plans, contributions may be tax-deductible on the state (but not federal) level and the investment earnings can be withdrawn tax-free to pay for qualified expenses related to a mental or physical disability.

Beneficiaries must meet two criteria to qualify for an ABLE account: the disability must have begun before they were 26 and it must have "marked and severe functional limitations." Anyone can contribute to the beneficiary's ABLE account, and there is a limit on the total annual contributions – \$14,000 as of 2017.

For individuals dealing with a disability and those taking care of a loved one, an ABLE account could make it easier to manage and plan finances. Generally, if you have a disability you're disqualified from some types of federal government aid if you have over \$2,000 in assets. The first \$100,000 in an ABLE account doesn't count against the limit for non-Medicaid services, and the entire account balance doesn't count against the Medicaid limit.

Collectively known as ABLE 2.0, several new bills may increase the annual contribution for those who have a disability and are working, increase the eligibility age to 46 and allow families to rollover money from a 529 college savings plan to an ABLE account.

Make medical expenses more affordable with an FSA. Some employers offer a Flexible Spending Account (FSA) as a benefit to their employees. Employees can fund the accounts by putting aside a portion of their paychecks. You can then spend the money on qualified medical expenses, including eye exams, glasses and dental procedures, without paying income tax.

FSA accounts have a use-it-or-lose-it provision and the money you don't use could be forfeited at the end of the year. Employers could, but aren't required to, allow employees to roll over up to \$500 each year or give them an additional two-and-a-half-month grace period to use the money.

Bottom line: Paying for higher education, covering medical-related expenses and saving for retirement are three important financial goals. Incorporating tax-advantaged accounts into your long-term plan could be a win-win for your wallet. You might be able to save money now by lowering your tax bill and lower your effective costs later by withdrawing and using the money for qualified expenses.

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

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Today in Weather History

June 7, 1982: A house in Sunshine Acres, north of Pierre was struck by lightning, and the interior was destroyed by the ensuing fire. One person received minor burns. Over two inches of rain fell in Pierre causing Capital Lake to rise four feet. Water and mud flooded the State Maintenance Building.

June 7, 1993: A large F3 tornado destroyed a farmstead 9 miles southwest of Tulare. The tornado twisted the house on its foundation, virtually destroying it. This storm also destroyed a barn, three steel bins, three granaries, and two hog houses. Ten hogs were killed.

At least three more tornadoes damaged several farms in the Tulare and Redfield areas. A tornado hit one farm northwest of Tulare causing about 65,000 dollars in damage. Another tornado damaged a farm 5 miles west of Redfield.

1692: A massive earthquake strikes Port Royal in Jamaica, killing some 3,000 people.

1816: The following is found on page 31, from the book, "History of the American Clock Business for the Past Sixty Year, and Life of Chauncey Jerome," written by Chauncey Jerome. The book was published in 1860. "The next summer was a cold one of 1816, which none of the old people will ever forget, and which many of the young have heard a great deal about. There was ice and snow in every month in the year. I well remember on the seventh of June, while on my way to work, about a mile from home, dressed throughout with thick woolen clothes and an overcoat on, my hands got so cold that I was obliged to lay down my tools and put on a pair of mittens which I had in my pocket. It snowed about an hour that day." This bitter cold event occurred in Plymouth, Connecticut.

1972 - Richmond VA experienced its worst flood of record as rains from Hurricane Agnes pushed the water level at the city locks to a height of 36.5 feet, easily topping the previous record of thirty feet set in 1771. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the Laramie Mountains of eastern Wyoming produced golf ball size hail, and up to five inches of rain in just one hour. Half a dozen cities in the Upper Mississippi Valley reported record high temperatures for the date, including La Crosse, WI, with a reading of 97 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

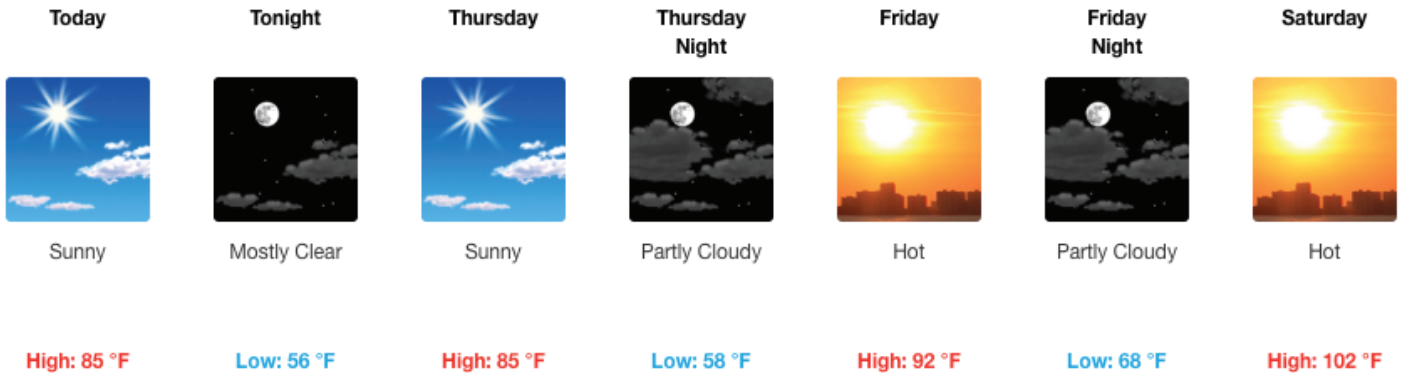
1988 - Snow whitened some of the mountains of northern California and northwestern Nevada. Twenty-six cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Rapid City SD with a reading of 104 degrees, and Miles City, MT, with a high of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from southern Oklahoma and eastern Texas to northwestern Florida through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned 22 tornadoes, including a dozen in Louisiana, and there were 119 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-2) tornado at Gross Tete LA killed two persons, injured thirty others, and another strong (F-2) tornado injured 60 persons at Lobdell LA. Softball size hail was reported at Hillsboro TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

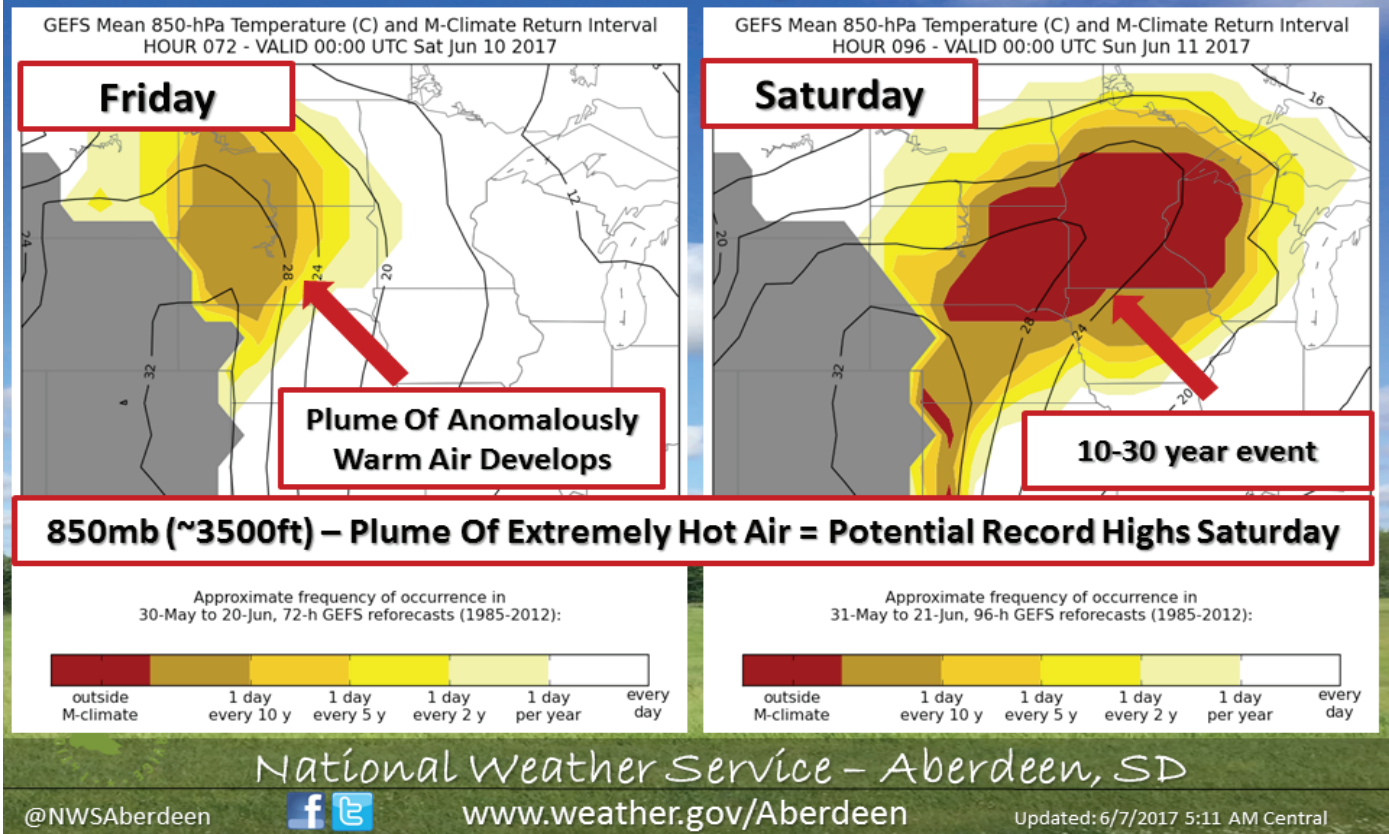
1995: Classic supercell thunderstorms spawned 21 tornadoes in the north Texas Panhandle. Five of the tornadoes were rated F4 on the Fujita scale, one which tracked through the center of Pampa injuring seven people and causing \$30 million in damages. The Project Vortex team (20 vehicles, including a state of the art truck-mounted Doppler Radar, and two P3 aircraft's) were all over the storms, collecting an incredible storm dynamics, structure, and environment data set, on the last day of the two-year funded project no less. The team witnessed one of the F4 tornadoes near Allison and said it was one of biggest and meanest appearing tornadoes they had ever seen. At Crane, TX, four-inch diameter hail fell for 10 minutes.

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A Few Degrees Above Average Today & Thursday Extreme Heat For Friday & The Weekend



Published on: 06/07/2017 at 5:21AM

An area of high pressure nosing out of Canada today will result in temperatures "much closer" to average, with highs in the 80s and low humidity. This feature continues to move east into the Western Lakes region Thursday with highs for our area again in the 80s. A broad low pressure region to the northwest will draw very hot air into South Dakota and Minnesota starting Friday and continuing through the weekend. We could even see a few records fall on Saturday and Sunday! This broad low pressure region will eventually make it into our area next week, which is when we could begin to see better opportunities for moisture.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 92.3 F at 3:17 PM

Heat Index: 93.0 at 3:15 PM

Low Outside Temp: 64.3 F at 6:05 AM

High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 8:39 AM

Precip: 0.07

Today's Info

Record High: 95° in 1952

Record Low: 28° in 1901

Average High: 75°F

Average Low: 51°F

Average Precip in June: .81

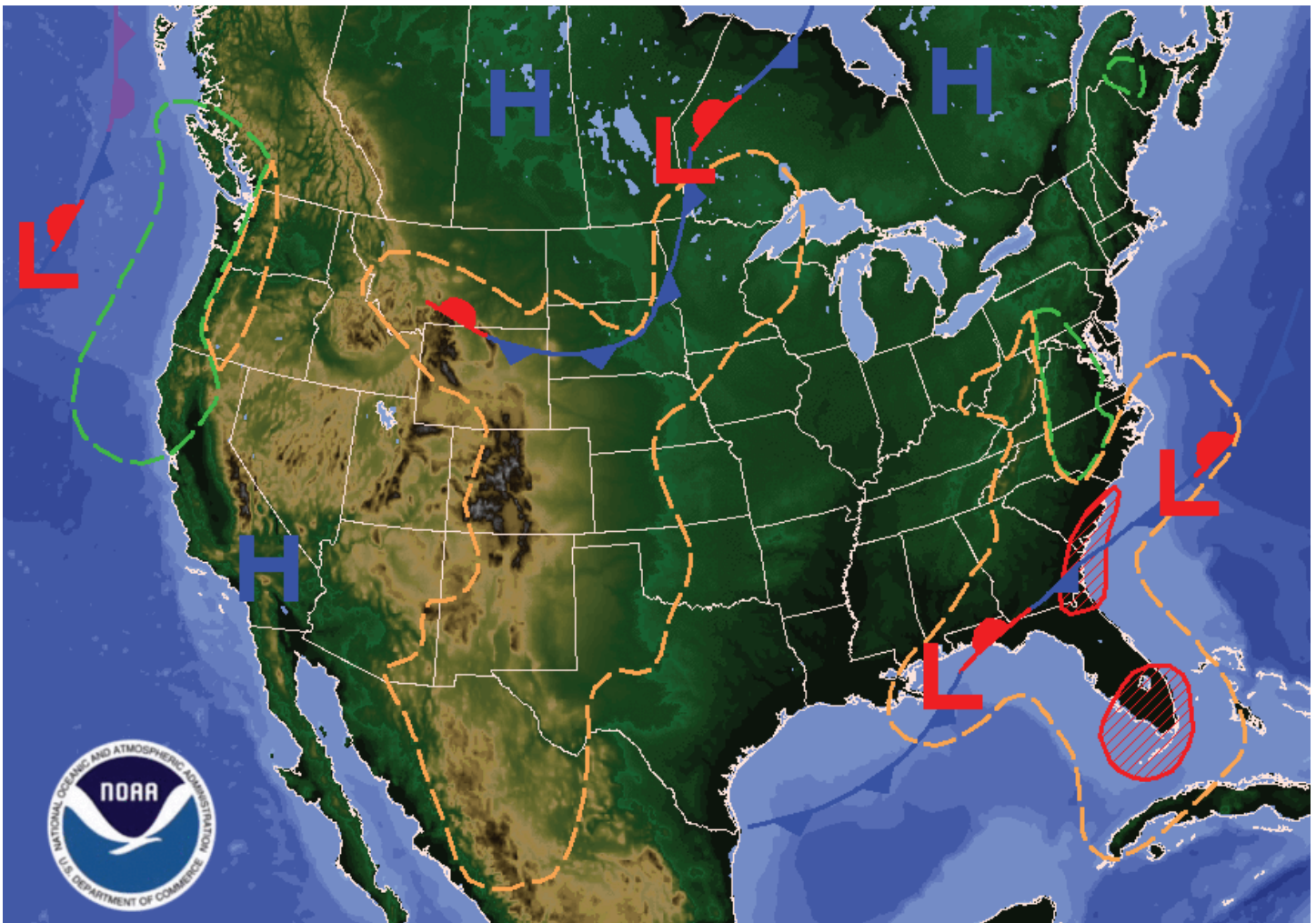
Precip to date in June: 0.08

Average Precip to date: 7.95

Precip Year to Date: 3.27

Sunset Tonight: 9:19 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Jun 07, 2017, issued 4:36 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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FALLING FOUNDATIONS

Roger Babson was a widely respected economist and entrepreneur who wrote numerous books and articles on financial issues. Once, while visiting the Argentine republic he was asked, "Why is it that South America, with all of its natural resources, is so far behind North America, notwithstanding that South America was settled first?"

After a moment's thought, the financier replied with a question of his own. "What do you think is the reason?"

"South America was settled by the Spanish who came in search of gold," answered the president, "but North America was settled by the Pilgrim Fathers who went there in search of God."

Warned Babson, "May we never forget the foundation upon which our permanent prosperity is based."

Years ago David wrote, "The foundations of law and order have collapsed. What can the righteous do?" Have we as a nation forgotten those words of wisdom? We enjoy our heritage of greatness and free government because our forefathers had a deep faith in God. Our Bill of Rights came into being because of their belief in the Word of God. Where do we stand today? Is our very foundation collapsing around our feet? And if so, what are we to do?

"If my people will humble themselves and pray, seek and turn from their wickedness I will hear them!"

Prayer: Lord, it is our responsibility as Christians to do what we need to do to restore our nation – now! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 11:3 When the foundations are being destroyed, what can the righteous do?

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

03-05-16-49-75, Mega Ball: 5, Megaplier: 3

(three, five, sixteen, forty-nine, seventy-five; Mega Ball: five; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$80 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$375 million

Dakotas buffalo trail tour traces story of American bison

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — From historical details of Native Americans' final great wild buffalo hunts to tales of the animal's rescue from near extinction, a new self-guided tour across 10 sites in the western Dakotas tells the story of the last stand of the American bison, the national mammal.

The trail, which is accompanied by the tour book "Buffalo Trails in the Dakota Buttes" oriented toward history and nature enthusiasts, officially opens June 11. Starting in Hettinger, North Dakota, the route runs — at times across gravel or pasture roads — into South Dakota before returning north with an opportunity to see the Standing Rock Sioux's tribal bison herds.

"They're authentic places, and not only that, but most of them are unspoiled," said Francie Berg, the tour book's author. "There's one place where it's good to be able to roll under a fence."

Tens of millions of bison, also known as buffalo, once thundered across a range stretching from central Canada through the Great Plains and northern Mexico. After a century-long slaughter driven by commercial hunting for buffalo pelts, the population dwindled to a thousand or fewer near the end of the 1800s.

At the tour's second stop in North Dakota, visitors see the valley near Hiddenwood Cliff where the "Great Buffalo Hunt" began in June 1882 on the Great Sioux Reservation. According to the book, for the previous 15 years those grasslands were empty of buffalo as white hide hunters had pushed them west and most herds had been killed.

But Indian agent James McLaughlin describes in his memoirs a herd that summer estimated at 50,000, with roughly 600 Native American hunters on horseback and others taking 5,000 buffalo.

"The story of the buffalo— that powerful, resilient, magnificent creature — is an American story," Berg writes. "In large part it is an Indian story. For thousands of years they flourished together, and as is fitting, Native Americans were in charge of the final hunts."

The tour's fifth site, with a view of the south fork of the Grand River in South Dakota, tells the story of Pete Dupree and other families honored as critical to saving the buffalo from extinction. By Dupree's death in 1898, his herd had grown to over 80 buffalo, according to the tour book.

Now, there are nearly 400,000 bison in North America, many on private ranches and farms, according to the National Bison Association. Member tribes of the InterTribal Buffalo Council have between 15,000 and 20,000 bison, said Jim Stone, executive director of the South Dakota-based group.

He said buffalo, or "tatanka" in Lakota, are key to some tribal creation stories.

"As long as there's been people on North America there's been buffalo, and we've co-existed with this relationship of them being a huge part of our daily lives," Stone said.

North Dakota Tourism Director Sara Otte Coleman said in a statement that the new experience tells of

the history and preservation of the buffalo in the Dakotas. The 10 stops are marked with signs for visitors, and Berg recommended taking two days to traverse the entire route. Detailed directions are included in the book.

"I think people get a taste of what it really was like, and of course you can see buffalo herds here, too," she said.

— "Buffalo Trails in the Dakota Buttes": www.hettingernd.com/buffalotrails

South Dakota tribe's \$2M water diversion lawsuit dismissed

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A judge has dismissed a lawsuit from a South Dakota tribe that was seeking \$200 million from the U.S. government for the diversion of Missouri River water.

The Crow Creek Sioux Tribe's reservation was established in 1863 and sits along the eastern banks of the river in central South Dakota, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2rHRpWb>) reported.

The federal lawsuit filed by the tribe in June 2016 accuses the government of infringing tribal water rights by allowing nontribal entities to take the water without payment. The complaint is based on the 1908 Winters Doctrine, which determines that a Native American tribe's land reservation includes an implied reservation of water rights.

Since the federal government built dams in the mid-1900s that flooded about 15,000 acres of the reservation, it has allowed nontribal entities to use the tribe's water for flood control.

Along with monetary compensation, the tribe also sought a formal measurement of its water rights, which it says hasn't been "quantified."

Senior Judge Robert Hodges Jr. wrote Thursday that the tribe didn't say how the government's usage of the water harmed the tribe.

"Defendant has withdrawn or diverted water from the Missouri River for flood control, and its diversion has provided benefit to others in the area, but plaintiff has not alleged that such uses have reduced the amount of water available to the Crow Creek Sioux," Hodges wrote. "The Tribe has not shown that it has a need for the water other than for its own consumption."

Phone calls by The Associated Press seeking comment from the tribe were unsuccessful. Phone messages left for the tribe's attorneys, Austin Tighe and Michael Angelovich, weren't immediately returned.

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

Federal investigators blame pilots in wrong-airport landing

By STEVE KARNOWSKI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Federal authorities have blamed pilot error for a Delta Air Lines jet with 130 passengers landing at the wrong airport in South Dakota last year, noting that the flight crew had been cautioned that the two airports are close and easy to confuse.

Delta Flight 2845 from Minneapolis landed July 7 at Ellsworth Air Force Base, about 6 miles (10 kilometers) northwest of the intended destination, Rapid City Regional Airport. The flight crew misidentified the runway due to excess altitude and failure to use all the navigation information available to them, according to the National Transportation Safety Board's final report. The report, adopted May 26, was first reported by the Rapid City Journal on Tuesday.

The two airfields have runways running northwest-to-southeast that nearly line up, with compass headings only 10 degrees apart, the report noted. Pilot confusion between the two is "fairly common," the report said, though air traffic controllers and flight crews usually catch the error before landing. Previous mistaken landings at the base include a Northwest Airlines flight in 2004 and a business jet in 2015.

Delta's own pilot guidance notes that Ellsworth lies northwest of Rapid City on final approach to the runway where the crew intended to land. "These airports have similar runway alignment and can be mistaken for one another," the guidance says.

In this case, the report said, a controller who cleared the crew for a visual approach to Rapid City from the northwest advised them, "use caution for Ellsworth Air Force base located 6 miles northwest of Rapid City Regional."

The first officer acknowledged the clearance and asked the captain: "You got the right one in sight?" The captain replied, "I hope I do," the report said.

The Ellsworth runway came up first. The crew realized its mistake just before touchdown, but decided it was safest to complete the landing.

Delta spokesman Michael Thomas said Tuesday that the captain retired shortly after the incident, and the first officer underwent retraining and is back flying for Delta. He said the airline would let the NTSB report speak for itself.

According to the report, the pilot was 60 years old at the time while the first officer was 51.

The airline said last July that the crew was taken off duty while the NTSB investigated. The airline also offered apologies to the passengers, who were kept in the plane for about 2½ hours and ordered to pull down their window shades while base security personnel investigated.

An Associated Press search three years ago of government safety data and news reports since the early 1990s found at least 150 flights in which U.S. commercial passenger and cargo planes had either landed at the wrong airport or started to land and realized their mistake in time.

South Dakota priest installed as bishop of Cheyenne Diocese

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — A former South Dakota priest is the new bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cheyenne in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Tribune Eagle reports (bit.ly/2qYuyZa) the Most Rev. Steven R. Biegler was installed and ordained during a Mass on Monday to serve about 54,000 members of the statewide diocese.

Biegler thanked his mother for being "a good role model of prayer and faith." He told the congregants he was honored to be their shepherd and asked them to pray for him.

Pope Francis appointed Biegler to head the diocese on March 16. He succeeds Bishop Paul D. Etienne, who was named archbishop for the Archdiocese of Anchorage in Alaska.

Biegler was most recently the vicar general of the Diocese of Rapid City in South Dakota and pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City.

Information from: Wyoming Tribune Eagle, <http://www.wyomingnews.com>

Plea agreement reached in fatal Sioux Falls beating

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A 17-year-old accused of fatally beating another teen during a fight in Sioux Falls has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in agreement with prosecutors.

Wilson Hughes entered the plea in court Monday in the death of 18-year-old Rick Strauser last July. The two were among a-half dozen teens involved in a fight circulated online through Snapchat.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2qT0ees>) reports a judge told Hughes he could be sent to prison for 30 years or more. Hughes agreed to the facts presented by the state — that he punched Strauser 10 to 12 times and kicked him in the ribs and head after he had fallen to the ground.

Strauser died the morning after the attack.

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

UK police seeking missing attack victim find body in river

By GREGORY KATZ, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Police searching for a French man who has been missing since the London Bridge attack say they have recovered a body from the River Thames.

The Metropolitan Police say the body was found Tuesday downstream from the bridge. The force says formal identification has not yet taken place, but Xavier Thomas' next of kin have been informed.

If confirmed, Thomas would be the eighth person killed in the vehicle and knife attack. Almost 50 were wounded.

Thomas, 45, was walking with his girlfriend over the bridge when the attack began on Saturday night.

Police said earlier that witness accounts suggested he might have been thrown into the river. Thomas' girlfriend was struck and seriously injured by the van.

Police early Wednesday arrested a 30-year-old man in east London in connection to the attack and are searching his home.

Two men are now in custody on suspicion of violating the Terrorism Act. They have not been identified or charged. All others who had been arrested have been released without facing charges.

London officials said a large part of the outer cordon of the crime scene had reopened. Borough Market, a popular gathering place, remains closed as more evidence is gathered.

The attack, and prior attacks in Manchester and near Parliament in London, have prompted Prime Minister Theresa May to call for tougher counterterrorism laws even if it means changing human rights protections.

Reaction to the attack has dominated the final days of campaigning before Thursday's general election, with opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn and others criticizing May for cutting police numbers by roughly 20,000 during her tenure as home secretary.

In the Saturday night rampage, the attackers first drove a rented van into a crowd and then jumped out and randomly stabbed people they encountered.

Police killed all three attackers.

At least two of the men were known to British intelligence and law-enforcement officials, raising questions about whether anything could have been done to prevent the assault.

Police have named the attackers as Khurum Butt, 27, who had been known for his extremist views; 30-year-old Rachid Redouane, also known as Rachid Elkhdar; and Youssef Zaghba, a 22-year-old Italian national of Moroccan descent who was reportedly working in a London restaurant.

Italian authorities said Zaghba had been stopped and questioned in Italy but had not been charged with any crime. Italian officials said suspicions about him had been shared with British authorities.

Islamic State claims attacks on Iran parliament, shrine

By **AMIR VAHDAT** and **NASSER KARIMI**, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The Islamic State group claimed a pair of attacks Wednesday on Iran's parliament and the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, which have killed two security guards and wounded more than 30 people, with the siege at the legislature still underway.

It marks the first attack in Iran claimed by the extremist group, which is at war with Iranian-backed forces in Syria and Iraq. In a message posted through its Amaq News Agency, the IS group claimed its fighters were behind the assaults.

The attacks began midmorning when assailants armed with Kalashnikov rifles stormed the parliament building. One of the attackers later blew himself up inside, where a session had been in progress, according to a statement carried by Iran's state TV.

Deputy Interior Minister Mohammad Hossein Zolfaghari told Iran's state TV the apparently male attackers wore women's attire.

An Associated Press reporter saw several police snipers on the rooftops of buildings around the parliament. Shops in the area were shuttered, and gunfire could be heard. Witnesses said the attackers were shooting from the fourth floor of the parliament building down at people in the streets below.

"I was passing by one of the streets. I thought that children were playing with fireworks, but I realized people are hiding and lying down on the streets," Ebrahim Ghanimi, who was around the parliament building when the assailants stormed in, told The Associated Press. "With the help of a taxi driver, I reached a nearby alley."

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Police helicopters circled over the parliament building and all mobile phone lines from inside were disconnected. The semi-official ISNA news agency said all entrance and exit gates at parliament were closed and that lawmakers and reporters were ordered to remain in place inside the chamber.

Soon after the parliament attack, a suicide bomber and other assailants targeted the shrine located just outside the capital, Tehran, according to Iran's official state broadcaster. It said a security guard was killed and that one of the attackers was killed by security guards. A woman was also arrested.

In addition to being lethal, the attack on the shrine of Khomeini is symbolically stunning. As Iran's first Supreme Leader, Khomeini is a towering figure in the country and was its revolutionary leader in the 1979 ouster of the shah.

An Associated Press reporter saw security forces, some uniformed and others in plainclothes, around the large and ornate shrine.

The IS group often claims attacks around the world, even when links to the group cannot be confirmed and appear dubious. Iranian security officials have not said who they suspect is behind the attacks, though state media has referred to the attackers as "terrorists".

Sunni extremists, including the IS, despise Shiite-majority Iran. Iran has also come under attack in the past by Arab insurgents.

The unusual attacks in Iran prompted the Interior Ministry to call for an urgent security meeting, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. Officials urged people to avoid using public transportation until further notice.

Associated Press producer Mahdi Fattahi and cameraman Saeed Sarmadi contributed to this report.

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. ISLAMIC STATE GROUP CLAIMS ATTACKS ON TEHRAN PARLIAMENT, SHRINE

The extremists say they attacked Iran's parliament and the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, killing two security guards and wounding more than 30 people — a first claim of its kind in Iran by IS.

2. WHAT SENATE PANEL IS EXPECTED TO DO

Trump's national security team will likely be asked about Russia's election meddling and whether the U.S. president has tried to influence ongoing investigations.

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Smallish Cincinnati infielder Scooter Gennett puts on the greatest home run show in Reds history, belting four home runs.

UAE ruling family member: Qatar now questioning its leaders

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates (AP) — An outspoken Emirati ruling family member on Wednesday raised the prospect of Qatar's leadership changing amid a growing diplomatic crisis between it and other Arab nations attempting to isolate the energy-rich travel hub from the rest of the world.

Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi's comments in an interview with The Associated Press came as Emirati officials also announced those offering support to Qatar online could face years in prison and fines for offering sympathy to the country, suggesting the crisis will only intensify.

"Qataris are questioning whether this is going to end up in seeing a change in leadership itself in Qatar," Al Qassemi told the AP in his office in Sharjah, near Dubai. "So it is a very serious issue. Again, this is Qataris speaking to international media wondering whether this is possible at all."

He added: "Doha now is completely isolated. Doha now needs to take serious steps very rapidly to placate not only their neighbors but also their allies around the world."

Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates were among those who joined Saudi Arabia on Monday in cutting diplomatic ties with Qatar. They alleged Qatar funds terror groups and has a worryingly close relationship with Iran, a nation with which it shares its vast offshore natural gas field.

Qatar long has denied funding extremists, and its foreign minister has struck a defiant tone in interviews, even after worried residents emptied grocery stores in its capital of Doha. Qatar relies heavily on food imports, especially those coming over its only land border with Saudi Arabia. The Arab countries have blocked Qatari vessels from entering their airspace, as well as using their seaports as Saudi Arabia has closed off its land border.

Among others joining them are Yemen's internationally backed government, which has lost the capital and large portions of the war-torn country. The Maldives and one of conflict-ridden Libya's competing governments also have joined them in cutting ties to Doha.

Late Tuesday night, the Jordanian government announced it was reducing its level of diplomatic representation in Qatar and cancelling the local registration for Al-Jazeera TV. And on Wednesday, the African nation of Mauritania joined them.

Soccer's world governing body FIFA has said it remains in regular contact with Qatar, which will host the 2022 World Cup. Qatar just finished one of the stadiums for the tournament, though others have yet to be built.

The Gulf countries have ordered their citizens out of Qatar and gave Qataris abroad 14 days to return home. The countries also said they would eject Qatar's diplomats.

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. It has increasingly been sending flights over Iran and Turkey to avoid Saudi and Egyptian airspace.

Al Qassemi, who previously wrote a column describing steps Qatar would need to take, said that the crisis will only escalate if Doha doesn't back down. He said Qatar needed to shut down or limit its Al-Jazeera news network, as well as stop funding extremist groups and others.

His comments took on further strength as the UAE's Justice Ministry warned social media users that they can face three to 15 years in prison time and fines starting from 500,000 dirhams (\$136,000) for offering sympathy for Qatar. The ministry quoted UAE Attorney General Hamad Saif al-Shamsi on social media making the warning, saying it came over Qatar's "hostile and reckless policy."

While liberal compared to much of the Middle East, the UAE has tough cybercrime and slander laws under which people can be arrested, imprisoned and deported for taking photographs without the consent of those shown.

Al Qassemi also warned Qatar should not rely on hosting some 10,000 American troops at its al-Udeid Air Base as protection against the Arab nations lined up against it. U.S. President Donald Trump made a series of tweets Tuesday calling into question his commitment to the peninsular nation after earlier telling Qatar's ruling emir that "we've been friends now for a long time."

"The Qataris should not count on that base as being a guarantee of sort of American protection when it comes to conflict with Saudi Arabia," Al Qassemi said. "I think the Americans would choose to side with Saudi Arabia over any other country in the region."

Associated Press writer Fay Abuelgasim contributed to this report.

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

Woman accused of leak made pro-environment, anti-Trump posts

By **RUSS BYNUM** and **JOHNNY CLARK**, Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Before she was charged with leaking U.S. government secrets to a reporter, Reality Leigh Winner shared sometimes scathing opinions on President Donald Trump and his policies for the whole world to see.

The 25-year-old U.S. government contractor has worked since February in Augusta, Georgia, for a federal agency that neither prosecutors nor her defense lawyer will name and where she had access to sensitive documents. But the secretive nature of her job didn't stop Winner from speaking freely on politics and other topics on social media accounts accessible to anyone.

She posted on Facebook three months ago that climate change is a more important issue than health care "since not poisoning an entire population seems to be more in line with 'health' care, and not the disease care system that people voted for a soulless ginger orangutan to 'fix.'"

Winner remained locked up Tuesday on federal charges that she made copies of classified documents containing top-secret material and mailed them to an online news organization. She was scheduled to appear before a federal judge Thursday for a detention hearing.

In her spare time, Winner lifted weights and taught the occasional yoga class. She served six years in the Air Force before she moved to Georgia early this year, according to her mother, Billie Winner-Davis. Reporters gathered Tuesday outside Winner's small, red-brick home in a neighborhood dotted with overgrown yards and houses in disrepair.

"She's got a good heart," Winner-Davis said. "She serves her community; she served her country. She believes in always doing what's right."

Gary Davis, Winner's stepfather, said she turned down a full college scholarship to join the Air Force. Court records say Winner held a top-secret security clearance.

"I know my daughter. She's a patriot," Davis said. "She served with distinction in one of the highest classified jobs in the Air Force."

Winner's mother said she was stunned when her daughter called over the weekend, saying the FBI had come to her home and she was being arrested. Winner asked if her mother and stepfather, who live in Texas, would travel to Georgia to help feed her cat.

"Mainly she was concerned about her cat," Winner-Davis said.

Court documents accuse Winner of mailing a classified report written on or about May 5 to an unnamed news organization. The website The Intercept reported Monday it had obtained a classified National Security Agency report dated May 5 suggesting Russian hackers attacked at least one U.S. voting software supplier days before last year's presidential election.

Winner's defense attorney, Titus Thomas Nichols, would not confirm whether she was being charged with leaking the NSA report cited by The Intercept.

On social media, Winner mostly shared glimpses into her life far removed from politics — such as watching Dr. Who with her cat and serving her family a vegetarian meal of barbecued jackfruit.

"I just know she cares about her world and taking care of people and animals," Winner-Davis said. "I never termed her as a political activist at all, ever."

But Winner's Facebook page does mention reaching out to Sen. David Perdue, a Georgia Republican, after Trump nominated Scott Pruitt to head the Environmental Protection Agency.

And in an angry reply to a report that Trump said he wasn't hearing complaints about building the Dakota Access oil pipeline, Winner wrote on Facebook: "I'm losing my mind. If you voted for this piece of (expletive), explain this. He's lying."

In the legal case, authorities say Winner admitted to leaking the classified report once government officials traced her as the source.

An affidavit by FBI agent Justin Garrick said the government found out about the leaked documents from the news outlet that received them. He said the agency that housed the report was able to identify six people — including Winner — who had made copies of the report.

A pattern of tiny yellow dots on the leaked documents themselves would also have offered the government a way to track down the alleged leaker, security blog Errata noted late Monday. At the request of the government, recent model color printers automatically leave a unique stamp on the documents they produce.

In a court affidavit filed late Tuesday, the FBI said it searched Winner's home and seized her U.S. passport, two spiral-bound notebooks, two laptop computers and other computer equipment, and a Department of Defense-issued country handbook for Iran.

Investigators said in court records that they wanted to search her property for a variety of computer information as well as possible contacts with media outlets as well as any possible contacts with "foreign governments, foreign powers, or agents of foreign powers."

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. Associated Press writers Jeff Horwitz in Washington and Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Cosby accuser to resume testimony in sex assault trial

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISAk, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby's chief accuser said she shot down the actor's casual advances twice before she found herself paralyzed and unable to fight him off the night she took pills that he convinced her were safe herbal supplements.

Andrea Constand emerged from 12 years of silence Tuesday to testify at Cosby's sexual assault trial.

Constand, who returns to the witness stand Wednesday, described how her professional relationship with the Temple University trustee evolved into a friendship that she considered critical to the school's athletics department where she worked.

At the same time, she said, Cosby became more flirtatious and suggestive — grabbing her thigh during one encounter at his home and attempting to unbutton her pants in another. Both times, Constand said, she made it clear she didn't welcome the behavior. But she didn't feel threatened.

"I'm not here for that. I don't want that," Constand recalled telling him.

The next time she visited Cosby's home, to discuss her future with the women's basketball team, Constand said the pills Cosby gave her left her incapacitated as he grabbed her breast and touched her genitals.

She said she awoke in the early morning, quietly passing Cosby in the kitchen as she left so she could make it to her Temple office on time. She said she didn't tell anyone about the alleged assault at the time

out of loyalty to the women's basketball team, which she managed.

"I did not want to stir up any trouble," she said. "He was a trustee, he was an alumni there. And I believed he supported many of the athletic programs," Constand said.

She said she also feared what Cosby might do.

"I felt that if I had gone to the police, that Mr. Cosby would retaliate and try to hurt me, that he would try to hurt me or my family in some way," she testified.

Cosby, 79, is charged with drugging and sexually abusing Constand in 2004. The TV star once dubbed America's Dad could get 10 years in prison if convicted.

His lawyers tried to poke holes in Constand's story, citing differences between her courtroom testimony and the accounts she gave to police and in a lawsuit in 2005. The defense has argued the two had a romantic relationship, that Constand wasn't incapacitated and that the sexual encounter was consensual.

Constand, an athletic 6-footer with dark curly hair, was calm and direct as she testified, frequently speaking straight to the jury.

Cosby, sitting across the room at the defense table, leaned in to listen, whispered to his lawyer and, at times, shook his head.

Before Tuesday, Constand had never spoken about Cosby in public, barred from doing so under the terms of a confidential settlement they reached in 2006. Her deposition from that lawsuit remains sealed.

Some 60 women have come forward to say Cosby sexually violated them, all but destroying his nice-guy image, but the statute of limitations for prosecution had run out in nearly every case. Constand's case is the only one in which Cosby has been charged.

The defense has pointed out that phone records show Constand called Cosby 53 times after she says he assaulted her. Constand told the jury the calls mostly involved the women's basketball team, especially around tournament time.

"He was a Temple friend, somebody I trusted. A mentor," she said.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are sexual assault victims unless they grant permission, which Constand has done.

White House looks for ways to undermine Comey's credibility

By JULIE PACE and JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With fired FBI Director James Comey's highly anticipated congressional testimony just a day away, the White House and its allies are scrambling for ways to offset potential damage.

Asked Tuesday about the testimony, President Donald Trump was tight-lipped: "I wish him luck," he told reporters.

Comey's testimony Thursday before the Senate intelligence committee could expose new details regarding his discussions with Trump about the federal investigation into Russia's election meddling.

Comey could also bring up other aspects of his dealings with the Trump administration. On Tuesday evening a person familiar with the situation said Comey had told Attorney General Jeff Sessions that he did not want to be left alone with Trump.

The person, who was not authorized to discuss the matter by name and spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press the comment was made because of concerns Comey had about Trump.

It was not immediately clear when the conversation occurred. But The New York Times, which first reported the interaction with Sessions, said it came after Trump had asked Comey in February to end an FBI investigation into Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

Justice Department spokesman Ian Prior declined to comment. He said Sessions "doesn't believe it's appropriate to respond to media inquiries on matters that may be related to ongoing investigations."

Trump's White House and its allies are crafting a strategy aimed at undermining Comey's credibility. Both White House officials and an outside group that backs Trump plan to hammer Comey in the coming days for misstatements he made about Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails during his last appearance on Capitol Hill.

An ad created by the pro-Trump Great America Alliance — a nonprofit "issues" group that isn't required

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to disclose its donors — casts Comey as a “showboat” who was “consumed with election meddling” instead of focusing on combating terrorism. The 30-second spot is slated to run digitally on Wednesday and appear the next day on CNN and Fox News.

The Republican National Committee has been preparing talking points ahead of the hearing, which will be aired live on multiple TV outlets. An RNC research email Monday issued a challenge to the lawmakers who will question Comey. There’s bipartisan agreement, the email says, that Comey “needs to answer a simple question about his conversations with President Trump: If you were so concerned, why didn’t you act on it or notify Congress?”

Comey’s testimony marks his first public comments since he was abruptly ousted by Trump on May 9. Since then, Trump and Comey allies have traded competing narratives about their interactions. The president asserted that Comey told him three times that he was not personally under investigation, while the former director’s associates allege Trump asked Comey if he could back off an investigation into Michael Flynn, who was fired as national security adviser because he misled the White House about his ties to Russia.

Democrats have accused Trump of firing Comey to upend the FBI’s Russia probe, which focused in large part on whether campaign aides coordinated with Moscow to hack Democratic groups during the election. Days after Comey’s firing, the Justice Department appointed a special counsel, former FBI Director Robert Mueller, to oversee the federal investigation.

The new revelation about Comey’s uneasiness with Trump brings to mind a posting last month by Comey friend Benjamin Wittes on his Lawfare blog, in which he said Comey “saw it as an ongoing task on his part to protect the rest of the Bureau from improper contacts and interferences from a group of people he did not regard as honorable.”

Despite the mounting legal questions now shadowing the White House, Trump has needled Comey publicly. In a tweet days after the firing, he appeared to warn Comey that he might have recordings of their private discussions, something the White House has neither confirmed nor denied.

White House officials appear eager to keep the president away from television and Twitter Thursday, though those efforts rarely succeed. White House spokesman Sean Spicer said the president plans to attend an infrastructure summit in the morning, then address the Faith and Freedom Coalition’s “Road to Majority” conference at 12:30 p.m.

“The president’s got a full day on Thursday,” Spicer said.

The White House had hoped to set up a “war room” stocked with Trump allies and top-flight lawyers to combat questions about the FBI and congressional investigations into possible ties between the campaign and Russia. However, that effort has largely stalled, both because of a lack of decision-making in the West Wing and concerns among some potential recruits about joining a White House under the cloud of investigation.

“If there isn’t a strategy, a coherent, effective one, this is really going to put us all behind the eight ball. We need to start fighting back. And so far, I don’t see a lot of fight,” said Barry Bennett, a former Trump campaign aide.

Still, Trump supporters say they are willing to step in to help the White House deflect any accusations from Comey.

“If we feel he crosses a line, we’ll fire back,” said Ed Rollins, chief strategist of Great America PAC, the political arm of the group airing the Comey ad.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

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

Senators to ask about Trump pushback on Russia investigation

By EILEEN SULLIVAN and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A day before a Senate panel hears former FBI Director James Comey's first public account of his dramatic firing, lawmakers will question senior members of President Donald Trump's national security team about surveillance law and are expected to ask whether the president has tried to influence ongoing investigations into Russia's election meddling and possible coordination with the Trump campaign.

Two of the four national security executives scheduled to testify before the Senate intelligence committee Wednesday were reportedly asked by Trump to publicly state that there was no evidence of collusion between Moscow and the Trump campaign. Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats has declined to answer questions about this publicly. And House Armed Services committee lawmakers did not raise the issue when National Security Agency Director Adm. Mike Rogers recently appeared before a subcommittee hearing on cyber issues.

The back-to-back hearings come as the White House grapples with the fallout from Comey's firing, which led to the appointment of a special counsel to take over the Russia investigation in an effort to prevent even the appearance of Oval Office interference.

Russia's role in the 2016 presidential election, and ensuing congressional and FBI investigations into Moscow's ties with Trump associates has dogged the president since he took office.

White House officials had weighed trying to block Comey from testifying on Thursday 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.

Chairman of the Senate intelligence committee Richard Burr, of North Carolina, said Tuesday that he will focus on reauthorizing a key portion of a U.S. surveillance law that is set to expire later this year. Burr said reauthorizing this authority "is an important issue, and so that's where my focus will be."

While the intended focus of Wednesday's hearing is the foreign intelligence surveillance law, other senators have said they plan to question Coats, Rogers, Acting FBI Director Andrew McCabe and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein about whether the president intended to derail the Russia investigation when he fired Comey.

"That was an attack on American institutions," Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden, of Oregon, said Tuesday. He said the lawmakers will likely try to flesh out Trump's actions.

Trump has consistently pushed back against suggestions that his campaign coordinated with Russia and has called the investigation a hoax.

Trump's son, Eric Trump, repeated that claim Tuesday in an interview with ABC News. Eric Trump said the allegations that his father's campaign colluded with Russia is "the greatest hoax of all time."

Scooter turns slugger, ties MLB record with 4 homers

By JOE KAY, AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI (AP) — Kluszewski. Robinson. Bench. Perez. Junior. All of them can just scooter on down the list of great Cincinnati slugfests.

A diminutive infielder has done all of them one better.

Scooter Gennett put on the greatest home run show in franchise history and ended the night grinning at the sheer improbability of it. The Cincinnati native hit four homers — only the 17th to do it in major league history — and matched the Reds record by driving in 10 runs during a 13-1 victory over the shell-shocked St. Louis Cardinals on Tuesday night.

"I was kind of laughing, to be honest with you," Gennett said. "For a guy like me to do that is crazy — a little short of a miracle."

With homers in his last four at-bats, Scooter became a slugger. Baseball's Hall of Fame called, wanting his uniform from the historic night. He stripped from his cap to his cleats, which were still wet from a

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celebratory on-field soaking by teammates.

"It's surreal, man, it really is," Gennett said, wearing backup clothes after the others were whisked away. "I'm truly blessed. I'm from here, born here. Watching all those guys play when I was little. And to do something that's never been done — I can't put words on it."

Try one: Unmatched.

No major leaguer had ever gotten five hits, four homers and 10 RBIs in a game, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Gennett's 17 total bases also were a club record.

"He had a career night, a great night," said Adam Wainwright (6-4), who gave up Gennett's second career grand slam. "Guys do that now and then. He almost beat us by himself tonight."

Sure did. And he was the most unlikely player on the roster to power his way into history.

The 5-foot-10, 185-pound infielder was claimed off waivers from Milwaukee during spring training for a utility role. Some seasons, he barely hit four homers at all — he reached double-digits only once and had 38 career heading into the game.

And then, there was Tuesday.

The 27-year-old Gennett joined the Cardinals' Mark Whiten as the only players with a grand slam among four homers in a game, according to Elias. Whiten did it in 1993 at the Reds' old riverfront ballpark, driving in 12 runs that stand as the major league record.

Josh Hamilton was the last player to hit four home runs in one game, for Texas against Baltimore in May 2012. The last National League player to hit four home runs in one game was Shawn Green for the Los Angeles Dodgers against Milwaukee in May 2002.

"It's amazing, especially since he's not an everyday player for us," manager Bryan Price said. "He's got power, but four homers in one game? I don't know what to tell you.

"It's very emotional. It was an honor to witness that."

Adding to the surprise: Gennett had just ended an 0-for-19 slump with a double on Monday night. By going 5 for 5 on Tuesday, he raised his batting average 32 points to .302.

Gennett got his big night started with an RBI single off Wainwright, who brought a long scoreless streak into the game but couldn't handle a team that has hit him like no other. He lasted only 3 2/3 innings and gave up nine runs for just the third time in his career.

The last time? Also against Cincinnati in 2013.

Gennett's grand slam in his next at-bat was the first Wainwright had allowed since 2012. Gennett then connected for a solo shot and a two-run homer off John Gant.

With the crowd of 18,620 on its feet in the eighth inning, Gennett hit a two-run shot off John Brebbia for a place in history and his second curtain call.

"My teammates were awesome the whole time," Gennett said. "They made me know exactly what I needed to do and exactly how many homers I had at each point."

Tim Adleman (4-2) gave up one run — on Stephen Piscotty's homer — in seven innings, sending the Cardinals to their season-high fifth loss in a row. They've dropped eight of their last 10 overall.

HOMER HISTORY

Gennett is the seventh player to hit homers in four consecutive at-bats during a game, joining American Leaguers Carlos Delgado, Mike Cameron, Rocky Colavito and Lou Gehrig along with National Leaguers Mike Schmidt and Robert Lowe from 1894.

WAINWRIGHT'S WOES

Wainwright's streak of scoreless innings ended at 17 in the first inning. Wainwright fell to 9-11 career against Cincinnati with a 5.01 ERA.

UP NEXT

Cardinals: RHP Lance Lynn (4-3) gave up only one run in six innings of a 7-5 win over the Reds at Busch Stadium on April 28. He is 9-4 career against Cincinnati.

Reds: RHP Bronson Arroyo (3-4) is coming off one of the best outings of his comeback season. He allowed only two runs in six innings of a 3-2 victory over Atlanta on Friday.

More AP baseball: <https://apnews.com/tag/MLBbaseball>

Uber moves to repair tainted image with 20 firings, 1 hiring

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Uber, the world's leading ride-hailing company, has taken two big steps toward repairing its corporate image: It fired 20 employees for a host of harassment problems and hired an Apple marketing executive to rescue its tainted brand.

Those fired for sexual harassment as well as bullying, discrimination and other behavior that violated company policies included both managers and lower-level workers. Some had retaliated against other employees after they complained about bad conduct, said Bobbie Wilson, a partner at the Perkins Coie law firm, which did the investigation.

Separately, Uber announced Tuesday that it had hired Apple marketing executive Bozoma Saint John, who will be Uber's chief brand officer. She ran global consumer marketing of Apple Music and iTunes. Her task at Uber will be to improve its brand image so people like it as well as they like the company's ride services, an Uber spokeswoman said.

"Boz has a long track record of successfully creating emotional connections between people and the products they love," Uber CEO Travis Kalanick said in a statement.

More action could come next week when a report on Uber's culture by former Attorney General Eric Holder is likely to be made public. He is supposed to make broader recommendations on how to change Uber's culture.

During Uber's ascent to becoming the world's most valuable startup, the San Francisco-based company took Silicon Valley's penchant for sexism, for cutthroat, unapologetic competition and distaste for government regulation and kicked it up several notches.

For a while, this worked well, pushing Uber's valuation to nearly \$70 billion. But this year, Uber's aggressive corporate culture and 40-year-old Kalanick's self-admitted need to "fundamentally change and grow up" has caught up with it.

In addition to the sexual harassment allegations, Uber is the target of lawsuits, boycott threats and a federal investigation into claims that it has used a fake version of its app to thwart authorities. It's also been accused of corporate espionage by Waymo, formerly Google's autonomous vehicle arm. Uber's former chief autonomous car researcher took confidential documents from Waymo before his startup firm was purchased by Uber, according to a Waymo lawsuit.

Uber also is searching for a chief operating officer and chief financial officer as it prepares for a possible public stock offering.

Uber Technologies Inc. retained Perkins Coie after former engineer Susan Fowler posted a blog in February about sex harassment at the company. Fowler wrote that on her first day at work her boss propositioned her in a series of messages and superiors ignored her complaints.

After the posting, Uber set up a 24-hour hotline to take complaints from employees, and hired Perkins Coie to investigate them. The firm checked into 215 complaints, and 57 remain under investigation. The hotline will remain in operation.

The probe into Fowler's complaints is still underway, and Wilson wouldn't say if any of those fired, or 31 other employees placed in counseling, were involved in that.

Wilson said Uber gave her law firm "unfettered access" to people and documents that were needed for the Fowler investigation.

Problems at Uber are not unusual in the technology industry, given the company's size of more than 14,000 employees, said Wilson, whose firm has done similar work for the biggest tech companies in the nation.

AP Technology Writer Barbara Ortutay contributed from New York.

Brazil's president faces key court session in campaign case

By MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's top electoral court on Wednesday moves into the second day of its examination of illegal campaign finance allegations that could force President Michel Temer from office, with much hinging on how the judges rule on motions seeking to throw out testimony that arose from plea bargains.

The damaging testimony against Temer came from executives at the huge construction company Odebrecht, which is one of the businesses at the center of a sprawling investigation into kickbacks and bribes at the state-run oil company Petrobras, a scandal that has upended Brazil's life. The legal teams of Temer and his former running mate in the 2014 election, then President Dilma Rousseff, argue that the testimony goes far beyond the purview of the Petrobras probe.

The issue is the first item on Wednesday's agenda, and a simple majority among the seven judges will decide the question.

If the testimonies are kept, Temer will be one step closer to being pushed out of office over allegations that the Rousseff-Temer ticket in 2014 was backed by illegal campaign contributions. Rousseff, who was impeached last year for illegally managing the government's budget and replaced as president by Temer, would come closer to losing her right to hold office for eight years.

Judge Herman Benjamin, who was named by the court to examine the case, began proceedings Tuesday evening with his analysis of the charges against the Rousseff-Temer campaign.

Hermann said the trial would be "based on facts, not on political convenience." Supreme Court Justice Gilmar Mendes, who presides over the electoral court, described the trial that could remove his old friend as "a great learning experience."

Rousseff claims innocence as does Temer, who argues that his team was not responsible for the fund-raising of the ticket.

The trial is expected to take at least three days, and there is no deadline for a final ruling by the seven judges. It is the first time in Brazil's history that a sitting president risks could have the job taken away by the electoral court.

The suit was brought after the 2014 election by the right-leaning Brazilian Social Democracy Party, whose presidential candidate, Aécio Neves, lost to the ticket of then President Dilma Rousseff and Temer as her vice presidential running mate. Ironically, the party has been a key ally of Temer since he took over the presidency.

If the court decides against the Rousseff-Temer ticket, Temer's mandate would be annulled and Congress would have to pick someone to serve out his term through December 2018. The embattled president, who is facing a number of different corruption allegations and whose popularity is hovering around 8 percent, has said he would appeal.

If Temer should be forced from the presidency by the court, or decided to resign, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Rodrigo Maia would take over for 30 days while Congress voted in a new leader.

Hours before the trial began, Temer's political situation deteriorated further with the arrest of a former tourism minister and close ally. Henrique Eduardo Alves was taken into custody on allegations of corruption related to the construction of a 2014 World Cup stadium in Natal.

Alves, a former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, was arrested a day after federal police sent Temer a list of questions in a separate criminal probe that involves the president. He had 24 hours to answer the questions, but his lawyers got an extension until Friday afternoon.

That investigation is looking into whether Temer should be charged with passive corruption and obstruction of justice. He is alleged to have endorsed the payment of hush money to former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Eduardo Cunha, another former ally. Cunha is serving a 15-year prison sentence for corruption and money laundering.

The president is also being investigated for allegedly receiving bribes via former aide Rodrigo Rocha Loures. On Tuesday, Brazil's top court rejected a petition by Loures to be released from jail. Loures was arrested over the weekend, and police released video that appears to show him carrying a suitcase filled

with \$154,000.

Brazil's court begins hearing on removing President Temer

By MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's top electoral court began hearing arguments Tuesday evening on whether embattled President Michel Temer should be pushed out of office over allegations of illegal campaign financing in the 2014 presidential election.

Judge Herman Benjamin, who was named by the court to examine the case, began with his analysis of the charges against Temer, but left his vote for the next session Wednesday morning.

The hearing was expected to take at least three days, and there is no deadline for a final ruling by the seven judges in the case, which is the first time in Brazil's history that a sitting president risks could have the job taken away by the electoral court.

The suit was brought after the election by the right-leaning Brazilian Social Democracy Party, whose presidential candidate, Aécio Neves, lost to the ticket of then President Dilma Rousseff and Temer as her vice presidential running mate. Ironically, the party has been a key ally of Temer since he took over the presidency after Rousseff was suspended and then impeached last year.

If the court decides the Rousseff-Temer ticket did receive illegal campaign financing, as several plea bargains have suggested, Temer mandate would be annulled and Congress would have to pick some to serve out his term through December 2018. However, the career politician whose popularity is hovering around 8 percent has said he would appeal.

Rousseff claims innocence as does Temer, who argues that his team was not responsible for the fund-raising of the ticket.

Amid growing pressure for the president to resign amid a number of different corruption allegations, Hermann said this trial will be "based on facts, not on political convenience." Supreme Court Justice Gilmar Mendes, who presides over the electoral court, described the trial that could remove his old friend as "a great learning experience."

If Temer is eventually pushed out of the presidency by the court, or decides to resign, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Rodrigo Maia would take over for 30 days while Congress voted in a new leader.

The electoral court scheduled more sessions for Wednesday and Thursday, but those could be postponed if any of the seven judges asked to review the case.

On Wednesday, the court will have to analyze a preliminary issue that could change the proceedings: Both Rousseff's and Temer's legal teams want the judges to reject information coming from plea bargain testimony from executives of the giant construction company Odebrecht, which is caught up in the sprawling investigation into bribes and kickbacks involving Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras. They argue that accusations made by Odebrecht employees involving the 2014 campaign exceed the original scope of the Petrobras investigation.

Mauricio Santoro, a political analyst at Rio de Janeiro State University, said he expects the court to postpone a final decision in the case or find a way to separate Temer from Rousseff's ticket.

"Temer has built a coalition of supporters in the Supreme Electoral Court under the argument that people may not like him, but there's no consensus about who his successor should be," Santoro said.

Hours before the trial began, Temer's political situation deteriorated further with the arrest of a former tourism minister and close ally. Henrique Eduardo Alves was taken into custody on allegations of corruption related to the construction of a 2014 World Cup stadium in Natal.

Globo News captured images of Alves being arrested by federal police. Officials held a news conference later at which they laid out allegations that Alves and Fred Queiroz, Natal's secretary of public works, received bribes from major construction companies.

Alves, a former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, was tourism minister under both Rousseff and Temer, who assumed the presidency last year when Rousseff was removed for illegally managing the federal budget. Alves gave up the Cabinet post soon after Temer took power in May 2016.

His arrest came just a day after federal police sent Temer a list of questions in a separate criminal probe that involves the president. He had 24 hours to answer the questions, but his lawyers got an extension until Friday afternoon.

Last month, Brazil's top prosecutor opened investigations on Temer for alleged passive corruption and obstruction of justice.

Temer is being investigated for allegedly endorsing the payment of hush money to former Chamber of Deputies Speaker Eduardo Cunha, another former ally. Cunha is serving a 15-year prison sentence for corruption and money laundering.

The president is also being investigated for allegedly receiving bribes via former aide Rodrigo Rocha Loures. On Tuesday, Brazil's top court rejected a petition by Loures to be released from jail.

Loures was arrested over the weekend. Police released video that apparently showed Loures carrying a suitcase filled with \$154,000. Should he reach a plea bargain, his testimony could further implicate Temer.

Temer has denied wrongdoing and has vowed to stay in office in the face of increasing calls for him to step down.

Associated Press writers Liliana Michelena and Peter Prengaman in Rio de Janeiro contributed to this report.

Mauricio Savarese on Twitter: twitter.com/msavarese

Trump wishes Comey luck, allies aim at lawman's credibility

By **JULIE PACE** and **JULIE BYKOWICZ**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and its allies are scrambling for ways to offset potential damage from fired FBI Director James Comey's highly anticipated congressional testimony, an appearance that could expose new details about his discussions with President Donald Trump about the federal investigation into Russia's election meddling.

Asked about the testimony, Trump on Tuesday was tight-lipped: "I wish him luck," he told reporters before a meeting with lawmakers.

Meanwhile, on Tuesday evening a person familiar with the situation said Comey had told Attorney General Jeff Sessions that he did not want to be left alone with Trump.

The person, who was not authorized to discuss the matter by name and spoke on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press the comment was made because of concerns Comey had about Trump.

It was not immediately clear when the conversation occurred. But The New York Times, which first reported the interaction with Sessions, said it came after Trump had asked Comey in February to end an FBI investigation into Trump's first national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

Justice Department spokesman Ian Prior declined to comment. He said Sessions "doesn't believe it's appropriate to respond to media inquiries on matters that may be related to ongoing investigations."

Trump's White House and its allies are crafting a strategy aimed at undermining Comey's credibility. Both White House officials and an outside group that backs Trump plan to hammer Comey in the coming days for misstatements he made about Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails during his last appearance on Capitol Hill.

An ad created by the pro-Trump Great America Alliance — a nonprofit "issues" group that isn't required to disclose its donors — casts Comey as a "showboat" who was "consumed with election meddling" instead of focusing on combating terrorism. The 30-second spot is slated to run digitally on Wednesday and appear the next day on CNN and Fox News.

The Republican National Committee has been preparing talking points ahead of the hearing, which will be aired live on multiple TV stations. An RNC research email Monday issued a challenge to the lawmakers who will question Comey. There's bipartisan agreement, the email says, that Comey "needs to answer a simple question about his conversations with President Trump: If you were so concerned, why didn't you act on it or notify Congress?"

Comey's testimony before the Senate intelligence committee marks his first public comments since he

was abruptly ousted by Trump on May 9. Since then, Trump and Comey allies have traded competing narratives about their interactions. The president asserted that Comey told him three times that he was not personally under investigation, while the former director's associates allege Trump asked Comey if he could back off an investigation into Michael Flynn, who was fired as national security adviser because he misled the White House about his ties to Russia.

Democrats have accused Trump of firing Comey to upend the FBI's Russia probe, which focused in large part on whether campaign aides coordinated with Moscow to hack Democratic groups during the election. Days after Comey's firing, the Justice Department appointed a special counsel, former FBI Director Robert Mueller, to oversee the federal investigation.

The new revelation about Comey's uneasiness with Trump brings to mind a posting last month by Comey friend Benjamin Wittes on his Lawfare blog, in which he said Comey "saw it as an ongoing task on his part to protect the rest of the Bureau from improper contacts and interferences from a group of people he did not regard as honorable."

Despite the mounting legal questions now shadowing the White House, Trump has needled Comey publicly. In a tweet days after the firing, he appeared to warn Comey that he might have recordings of their private discussions, something the White House has neither confirmed nor denied.

White House officials appear eager to keep the president away from television and Twitter Thursday, though those efforts rarely succeed. White House spokesman Sean Spicer said the president plans to attend an infrastructure summit in the morning, then address the Faith and Freedom Coalition's "Road to Majority" conference at 12:30 p.m.

"The president's got a full day on Thursday," Spicer said.

The White House had hoped to set up a "war room" stocked with Trump allies and top-flight lawyers to combat questions about the FBI and congressional investigations into possible ties between the campaign and Russia. However, that effort has largely stalled, both because of a lack of decision-making in the West Wing and concerns among some potential recruits about joining a White House under the cloud of investigation.

"If there isn't a strategy, a coherent, effective one, this is really going to put us all behind the eight ball. We need to start fighting back. And so far, I don't see a lot of fight," said Barry Bennett, a former Trump campaign aide.

Still, Trump supporters say they are willing to step in to help the White House deflect any accusations from Comey.

"If we feel he crosses a line, we'll fire back," said Ed Rollins, chief strategist of Great America PAC, the political arm of the group airing the Comey ad.

Rollins and others with Great America say they plan to stand up for Trump in cable appearances Thursday. He said the White House has "improved" its communications with surrogates, starting with the president's recent trip abroad, and frequently holds call-ins to discuss what story lines they'd like to push.

"I assume they'll do the same thing with this," Rollins said of the Comey hearing. However, he added, he had not heard from the White House about the Comey hearing as of midday Tuesday.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

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

Minnesota officer on tape: 'I don't know where the gun was'

By AMY FORLITI, Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A Minnesota police officer who fatally shot a black motorist told a supervisor on the scene that he didn't know where the motorist's gun was, but added that he told the motorist to get his hand off the firearm, according to audio recorded after the shooting.

The audio is key evidence in the manslaughter trial of Officer Jeronimo Yanez, who shot Philando Castile last July in a St. Paul suburb. Prosecutors argue Yanez acted unreasonably; his attorneys say he feared

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for his life and made a split-second decision in the presence of a gun.

Yanez and another officer had stopped Castile over a broken taillight when the 32-year-old elementary school cafeteria worker informed Yanez he was carrying a gun. Within seconds of hearing that, Yanez fired seven shots and Castile was mortally wounded.

The shooting was one in a string involving police and black men nationally, and drew added attention because Castile's girlfriend streamed the aftermath on Facebook as he lay dying. Castile's family claimed he was profiled because of his race.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys have given different narratives about whether or not Yanez saw Castile's gun.

The audio of the encounter came from squad car video, which does not show Yanez after the shooting but picks up his voice from his body microphone. He is heard swearing, yelling and breathing heavily. He tells a supervising officer that Castile went to grab something and that Castile's grip seemed wider than a wallet would be.

"I don't know where the gun was," Yanez says. "He didn't tell me where the (expletive) gun was." Seconds later, he added, "I told him to take his (expletive) hand off the gun."

The officer who was with Yanez, Joseph Kauser, testified that Yanez later told him he had seen a gun on Castile, who had a permit for the weapon.

Kauser said he didn't see a gun from his vantage point on the passenger side of Castile's car. But Kauser also said he was watching Castile's passengers — his girlfriend Diamond Reynolds and Reynolds' then-4-year-old daughter — rather than the driver.

An officer who arrived on the scene, Roseville police Officer Juan Toran, said he performed CPR on Castile. As paramedics were rolling Castile onto a backboard, Toran said he saw the gun slide out of Castile's front right pocket. Toran said he didn't even have to reach into the pocket to grab it.

But St. Paul firefighter Eric Torgerson, a paramedic, testified that he saw an officer reach deeply into the pocket to retrieve the pistol.

Yanez, 29, who is Latino, is also charged with two counts of dangerous discharge of a firearm for endangering Reynolds and her daughter.

Earlier Tuesday, Reynolds cried as squad car video, her Facebook video and still images of Castile were shown. Asked why she took out her phone and started recording, Reynolds said she feared for her own life.

"Because I know that the people are not protected against the police," Reynolds said. "I wanted to make sure if I died in front of my daughter that people would know the truth."

Defense attorneys also have argued that Castile had smoked marijuana that day and that it affected his actions. Toxicology reports show Castile had THC — the high-producing component of marijuana — in his system.

Reynolds acknowledged under questioning from defense attorney Earl Gray that she and Castile smoked regularly. She also acknowledged marijuana was in the car at the time. Gray's questioning also revealed inconsistencies in several statements she made to authorities and in public, including whether Castile was reaching for his wallet or seat belt when he was shot.

In his testimony, Kauser discussed the reason for the traffic stop and the way the officers handled it. He said even though Yanez told him that he thought Castile resembled a suspect in a recent armed robbery, there was not enough concern to do a felony traffic stop — in which all occupants are ordered out of the car with their hands up before officers approach.

Kauser, who is a good friend of Yanez, said he believed Yanez followed proper protocol, and that Castile was moving after Yanez told him not to reach for the gun.

Kauser and Toran also talked about how they would act if a motorist told them about a gun: They'd make sure hands were in view and ask where the gun was. They also testified about the vulnerability of officers during traffic stops.

A jury of 15, including three alternates, is hearing the case in Ramsey County District Court. Two of the 15 are black.

Follow Amy Forliti on Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/amyforliti>

This story has been corrected to show that Yanez's remarks captured on audio after the shooting were to another officer who was not his partner.

Prosecutor: Teen in texting suicide case wanted attention

TAUNTON, Mass. (AP) — A teenager charged with using text messages to encourage her boyfriend to kill himself played a "sick game" with another person's life, a prosecutor said Tuesday.

In dozens of text messages and telephone calls, Michelle Carter, then 17, repeatedly urged Conrad Roy III, 18, to kill himself, prosecutor Maryclare Flynn said in opening statements at Carter's manslaughter trial.

Roy was sitting in his pickup in the parking lot of a store in July 2014 as the truck filled with carbon monoxide. After he exited the truck, Carter told him to "get back in," Flynn said at the trial in juvenile court in Taunton.

Carter, who never called authorities or Roy's parents as he died, wanted the sympathy and attention that came with being the "grieving girlfriend," Flynn said.

Defense attorney, Joseph Cataldo, however, painted a starkly contrasting picture of Carter, who's now 20. Roy was depressed after his parents' divorce, was physically and verbally abused by family members and had long thought of suicide, even researching suicide methods online, he said.

It was Carter who urged him to get help, Cataldo said.

The couple met in Florida in 2012 but had only seen each other in person a handful of times even though they lived just 35 miles apart in Massachusetts — Roy in Mattapoisett and Carter in Plainville. They communicated mostly through text messages and phone calls.

When Roy suggested they should be like Romeo and Juliet, the lovers who killed themselves in the Shakespeare play, Carter said she didn't want them to die, Cataldo said.

"Conrad Roy was on this path to take his own life for years," he said. "It was Conrad Roy's idea to take his own life. It was not Michelle Carter's idea. This was a suicide, a sad and tragic suicide, but not a homicide."

Carter had her own mental health struggles and was taking medications that may have clouded her judgment, he said.

The first witness on the stand was Roy's mother, Lynn Roy.

She testified that she took a walk on the beach with her son hours before he was found dead and he showed no signs he intended to harm himself. She called police later when she noticed her son's truck missing.

She also testified that after her son's death, she received text messages from Carter expressing sympathy but not mentioning any prior knowledge about suicide plans.

Under cross-examination she acknowledged there was tension between her son and his father.

Camdyn Roy, Conrad Roy's 16-year-old sister, who was 13 at the time of his death, told a similar story on the stand. Her brother did not seem sad at the beach, she testified. She also received text messages from Carter offering support after her brother's death but no indication they had been in contact.

The case is being tried without a jury in juvenile court because Carter was a juvenile when Roy killed himself. Court proceedings are open because she was charged as a juvenile offender, which makes her subject to adult punishment if convicted.

George and Amal Clooney welcome twins Ella and Alexander

By The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — George and Amal Clooney's twins have arrived — one of the most anticipated births since Knox and Vivienne Jolie-Pitt were born in 2008.

Beyonce and Jay Z, you're next.

The Clooneys welcomed a son and a daughter on Tuesday morning, announcing in a joint statement

that daughter Ella, son Alexander and mother Amal were all "happy, healthy and doing fine."

"George is sedated and should recover in a few days," the statement said.

Clooney, 56, and international human rights lawyer Amal Alamuddin, 39, married in Italy in 2014. These are the first children for both.

Other celebrity parents of twins include Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt, Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon, Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony and Rebecca Romijn and Jerry O'Connell.

Beyonce and Jay Z are also expecting twins imminently. She announced the pregnancy in February.

AP entertainment writer Sandy Cohen in Los Angeles contributed to this report.

Siding against ally Qatar, Trump injects US into Arab crisis

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump injected the United States into a volatile crisis among America's Mideast allies, siding Tuesday with Saudi Arabia and other countries against Qatar in a dispute that threatens to disrupt efforts to defeat the Islamic State group and counter Iran.

In a series of early-morning tweets, Trump appeared to endorse the accusation that the small, gas-rich kingdom funds terrorist groups, a serious allegation against a strategic U.S. partner that hosts a base with some 10,000 American troops. He also sought to cast the anti-Qatar action led by the Saudis and the United Arab Emirates as the result of his trip last month to Riyadh, where he pressed leaders from dozens of Arab and Muslim governments, including Qatar's emir, to combat extremism.

Trump said he'd told the kings, presidents and prime ministers that funding "Radical Ideology" can't be tolerated, and "Leaders pointed to Qatar - look!"

"They said they would take a hard line on funding ... extremism, and all reference was pointing to Qatar. Perhaps this will be the beginning of the end to the horror of terrorism!" Trump said on Twitter, claiming his visit to Saudi Arabia was "already paying off."

He appeared to take a more measured tone during a call with Saudi Arabia's King Salman. Trump told Salman that a united Gulf Cooperation Council is "critical to defeating terrorism and promoting regional stability," according to a White House readout of the conversation. The council includes Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait.

The president's sharp critique of Qatar pulled the U.S. directly into a conflict that American diplomats had wanted the bickering parties to resolve among themselves. The U.S. wasn't planning a major mediation role, a State Department official said, pointing to offers from Turkey and Kuwait to intervene in what is emerging as the worst diplomatic crisis in the Persian Gulf in decades.

The fracas pits Qatar — a country smaller than Connecticut and the world's biggest producer of liquefied natural gas — against Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt and Bahrain. Those countries on Monday severed diplomatic ties with Qatar, leading to suspended flights and regional ports closed to Qatari ships as anxious residents started stockpiling food.

Qatar's neighbors have long accused the country of tolerating or even encouraging support for extremist groups, including al-Qaida's Syria branch — all of which Qatar denies. But its independent foreign policy has led to various tensions with its neighbors. The region's Sunni states bristle at Qatar's less hostile position toward Shiite Iran and object to its backing groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood, whose ideology challenges the system of hereditary rule in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and elsewhere.

For Trump, the rift has emerged as a key test of his goal to unite the region around destroying IS and other extremist groups, and containing Iranian influence. While he has even held out hopes that a communal effort could pave the way for Israeli-Arab rapprochement, the Qatar crisis serves as a reminder of the region's many fault lines that challenge U.S. diplomacy.

While Trump, too, shares the Saudi and UAE goals of weakening hardline Islamic movements and stemming Iran's influence, American officials hadn't publicly singled out Qatar as a problem. Like earlier

administrations, Trump's had kept its concerns private while publicly praising Qatari efforts to stamp out terror financing.

"They have made progress," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Tuesday, while adding that "they and we recognize more work remains to be done."

On Monday, Trump's secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, encouraged the sides to "sit down together" to resolve irritants he said had "bubbled up" for some time. He didn't take sides.

It was unclear how Trump's broadside against Qatar might affect the U.S.-led coalition fighting IS. The U.S. relies heavily on Al-Udeid Air Base in Qatar to orchestrate air attacks in Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan. And it is trying to galvanize the Arab world to assume greater responsibility in fighting IS, something governments won't be able to do if they're consumed with internal spats.

"It's a mixed bag with Qatar," said Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, summing up America's strategic conundrum. "They have been definitely playing footsie with a lot of terrorist organizations, but we have a big air base there."

The Pentagon cited no immediate effects from the instability on its operations. Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, expressed gratitude to Qatar for supporting the U.S. presence, outlining no plans to adjust American military posture.

Yet a prolonged crisis will put significant pressure on Qatar. Millions of migrant workers and expatriates live there, and much of Qatar's food comes from Saudi Arabia across the peninsular nation's only land border, which the Saudis have now closed.

And a coup attempt or any cross-border action by the Saudis or Emiratis would put Trump in an uncomfortable position, given his now vocal support for the anti-Qatar action.

If Qatar is economically weakened or decides to retaliate against Trump's 140-character allegations, it has leverage. Beyond hosting U.S. troops, Qatar has invested billions in the U.S. and increased its clout in Washington along the way.

It's a strategy shared by other Persian Gulf countries seeking to win U.S. support — including Saudi Arabia. During his Saudi trip, Trump announced \$110 billion in deals to sell weapons to the kingdom.

And in its bid to lobby the U.S. administration, the Saudis spent about \$270,000 at Trump's hotel in Washington between October and the end of March, new foreign agent filings show. The Trump Organization says the money will be handed over to the U.S. Treasury.

Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor, Richard Lardner and Julie Bykowicz contributed to this report.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

Flynn turns over documents to panel probing Russia, Trump

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, DEB RIECHMANN and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn turned over about 600 pages of documents Tuesday to the Senate intelligence committee as part of its investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election, according to a congressional aide.

The aide said the committee's investigators immediately began reviewing the information to determine the extent of what Flynn provided. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the committee's sensitive work.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the ranking Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, confirmed the panel had received documents from Flynn, but declined to characterize the material or say how many pages had been received.

"We can't make any judgment on whether he's fully complied because we've got to review the documents," Warner said.

The documents came as Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly indicated that President Donald Trump's son-in-law and top adviser Jared Kushner and his communications with Russia are part of a wide-ranging

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probe by the Justice Department's special counsel. Meanwhile, a Democratic lawmaker called on a top Justice Department official to clarify the scope of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

Flynn had previously invoked his Fifth Amendment protection from self-incrimination in rebuffing an earlier subpoena from the committee. After the panel narrowed the scope of that subpoena and issued additional ones for records from two of his businesses, Flynn agreed to turn over some documents.

On Tuesday, committee chairman Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., said the panel sought Flynn's business records — including travel, expense and phone records — to determine whether those records "would give us insight as to where he was when he was, what reimbursements he received, what expenses he might have had."

Burr said it was still possible Flynn may turn over more records. He noted the committee is still working with Flynn to see if he will agree to be interviewed as part of the panel's probe.

In addition to the Senate panel, Flynn is under investigation by other congressional committees as well the special counsel over his contacts with Russia. Among those contacts under scrutiny is a December meeting between Flynn, Kushner and Sergey Kislyak, Russia's ambassador to the U.S.

On Tuesday, Kelly defended Kushner at a Senate hearing amid reports that he attempted to establish "back-channel" communication between Russia and Trump's presidential transition team.

Kelly said back-channel talks have been common in U.S. diplomacy.

"We have to make the assumption — and I will — that Jared Kushner is a great American," he said.

Pressed by Montana Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat, on whether he believes lawmakers should "ensure that assumption is correct," Kelly described the questions as part of Mueller's scope of inquiry.

"I think there are numerous investigations that are looking into this," Kelly said. "I think it's part of the Bob Mueller investigation, and I think there's a number of congressional committees looking into it."

The full scope of Mueller's investigation into possible ties between Trump's campaign and Russia remains unclear. But it has incorporated a separate criminal investigation — which predated the election — of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, The Associated Press reported last week .

Also Tuesday, a senior Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee wrote Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein to clarify the scope and authority of Mueller's role and asked Rosenstein to ensure the probe is free of political interference.

"It is of paramount importance that Mr. Mueller's investigation proceed, unimpeded by any officials who may have a conflict of interest or other ethical bar, or by political interference of any kind," wrote Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y.

Rosenstein acknowledged Friday there's a chance his role in the firing of FBI Director James Comey could become part of the special counsel's investigation. If that happens, he said, he will recuse himself from being Mueller's point of contact on the probe.

"If there's a need from me to recuse, I will," Rosenstein told The AP.

He also said the scope of Mueller's probe is broad and could encompass any number of actions.

Late Tuesday, after meeting in closed session, the ranking Democrat on the House intelligence committee, Rep. Adam Schiff of California, said the committee intends to reach out to former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson to ask him to testify in open and closed session. Schiff said the committee is interested in interactions the Obama administration had with secretaries of state and local election officials about the dangers the Russian hacking posed to election systems.

Associated Press writer Sadie Gurman contributed to this report.

London attackers were chef, clerk and 'suspicious' Italian

By PAISLEY DODDS, RAPHAEL SATTER and KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Details emerged Tuesday of the three London Bridge attackers: a Pakistan-born failed customer service clerk with links to one of Europe's most prolific hate preachers, a Moroccan pastry chef whose partner said he once went swimming rather than see his daughter and an Italian man who told

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authorities he "wanted to be a terrorist."

At least two of the men were known to British intelligence and law enforcement officials, raising questions about whether anything could have been done to stop the attack, which began Saturday when the men drove a rented van into a crowd and then leaped out to stab people who crossed their paths. Seven were killed and nearly 50 wounded. All three of the attackers were shot dead by police.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said it was fair to ask how the attackers "slipped through our net."

Security has become a key issue in the run-up to Thursday's general election. British security officials said none of the men was considered violent, but they acknowledged the difficulty of predicting whether extremists will turn dangerous. The assault was the third attack in three months in which most of the assailants had been on authorities' radar at some point.

As the investigation expanded to look at how the men knew one another and whether they were part of a larger conspiracy, Pakistani intelligence authorities swooped Tuesday into the town of Jhelum, where Khurum Butt lived until the time he was 7, when he moved to Britain. His cousin, 18-year-old Bilal Dar, told The Associated Press that Butt's uncle was taken in for questioning. It was unclear if he was detained.

"Our family is hurt by what he did," Dar said in the town about two hours east of Pakistan's capital. "This has destroyed our family's pride."

Butt, 27, embraced radical Islam during his time in London and was once filmed in a documentary called "The Jihadis Next Door." In the film, he was seen with a group unfurling a black-and-white flag associated with the Islamic State group. The men were followers of Anjem Choudary, a preacher who was jailed for his support of the Islamic State and who once praised the Sept. 11 attackers.

It is thought that Choudary played a key role in Butt's radicalization, according to a British government official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk about the ongoing investigation. Choudary's now-banned al-Muhajiroun group was linked to one of Butt's alleged connections, Sajeel Shahid, according to the British government official who again spoke on condition of anonymity.

Shahid allegedly provided al-Qaida terror training to Mohammed Siddique Khan, one of the four suicide bombers who killed 52 people during London's morning rush hour in 2005. He was also accused of training other terror suspects in Britain, though Shahid's whereabouts were not immediately confirmed late Tuesday.

During his time in Britain, Butt once worked for Transport of London as a customer service clerk but failed his probation after a few months on the job after attendance issues. He also worked at Kentucky Fried Chicken and used a gym in east London. In his spare time, he tried to recruit followers to the Islamic State group — a practice that prompted a neighbor to report him to the police in 2015.

He was one of about 3,000 suspects who were known to British authorities but not part of 500 active investigations.

"The problem occurs when we know someone is moving in extremist circles but we don't have evidence to indicate that they are plotting an attack," said the British government official who spoke on condition of anonymity. "That's where the question of resources comes into play."

Police identified the second attacker as 30-year-old Rachid Redouane, also known as Rachid Elkhdar, who claimed to have both Moroccan and Libyan roots and worked as a pastry chef in Ireland, where he had lived in the past five years as well the east London suburb of Dagenham.

He married a British woman named Charisse O'Leary, who posted on Facebook last month that Redouane was negligent in seeing their young daughter and on one planned visit, she said he told her: "I'm going swimming." The couple is thought to have split. O'Leary was one of 13 people arrested after Saturday's attacks. Twelve were later released. One man is still being held.

Redouane was never under surveillance by Irish authorities, and Justice Minister Frances Fitzgerald urged caution in speculating about his movements. Several British media reports on Tuesday, however, said he had been denied political asylum in Britain in 2009 but allowed to work years afterward in Ireland after he married his British wife. British officials could not immediately confirm the reports.

The third attacker was identified as Youssef Zaghba, a 22-year-old Italian national of Moroccan descent who was reportedly working in a London restaurant.

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An Italian prosecutor says Zaghba told authorities after being stopped last year at Bologna's airport that he "wanted to be a terrorist," but then quickly corrected himself.

There was not enough evidence to arrest or charge Zaghba when authorities questioned him at the Marconi airport on March 15, 2016, Bologna prosecutor Giuseppe Amato said Tuesday. Amato told Italy's Radio 24 that Zaghba was flagged to British authorities as a "possible suspect."

Zaghba was stopped while trying to take a flight to Turkey on his way to Syria, Italian newspaper Corriere della Sera reported Tuesday.

After that, Amato said, any time Zaghba was in Italy, he was always tracked by Italian intelligence officers. "We did everything we could have done," he said. "But there weren't elements of proof that he was a terrorist. He was someone who was suspicious because of his way of behaving."

Over the past two years, Italy has expelled 181 people who were suspected of extremist activities but for whom there was insufficient evidence to bring formal charges. Zaghba's Italian citizenship prevented such an expulsion, Italian daily Repubblica reported.

His mother said her son used to show her videos of Syria and wanted to go "because it was a place where you could live according to a pure Islam."

Valeria Collina was quoted by Italian weekly news magazine L'Espresso as saying she last spoke to her son Thursday and now realizes it was a goodbye call. She said she tried to keep him away from radical friends, but "he had the internet and from there he got everything."

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 in 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.

The number of police officers in England and Wales fell by almost 20,000 between 2010 and 2016 — years when May, as home secretary, was in charge of policing.

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

Associated Press writers Paisley Dodds and Raphael Satter reported this story in London and AP writer Kathy Gannon reported from Pakistan. AP writers Danica Kirka, Jill Lawless and Gregory Katz in London and Paolo Santalucia and Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to show that one attacker used an east London gym but did not work there.

'I was frozen': Cosby accuser says she was drugged, groped

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISAk, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby's chief accuser took the stand at his sexual assault trial Tuesday to tell her story publicly for the first time, saying the comedian violated her after giving her three blue pills that left her paralyzed and helpless.

"In my head, I was trying to get my hands to move or my legs to move, but I was frozen," Andrea Constand, a 44-year-old former employee of the basketball program at Temple University, said in their long-awaited courtroom confrontation. "I wasn't able to fight in any way."

She added: "I wanted it to stop."

Cosby, 79, is charged with drugging and sexually abusing Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. The TV star once dubbed America's Dad could get 10 years in prison if convicted.

His lawyers tried to poke holes in Constand's story, citing differences between her courtroom testimony and the accounts she gave to police and in a lawsuit in 2005. The defense has argued the two had a romantic relationship, that Constand wasn't incapacitated and that the sexual encounter was consensual.

Constand, an athletic 6-footer with dark curly hair, was calm and collected as she testified, looking at the jury as she began describing the assault.

She said Cosby gave her pills he claimed were a natural remedy to ease her stress about a looming

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career change. "They're your friends. They'll take the edge off," she quoted him as saying.

She told the jury she started feeling woozy after about 20 minutes, with blurred vision, slurred words and legs that felt like rubber. Cosby then penetrated her with his hand and also placed her hand on his penis and moved it back and forth, she said.

She said she was unable to push him away or tell him to stop.

Afterward, Constand said, "I felt really humiliated and I felt really confused."

Cosby, sitting across the room at the defense table, leaned in to listen, whispered to his lawyer and, at times, shook his head.

Before Tuesday, Constand had never spoken about Cosby in public, barred from doing so under the terms of a confidential settlement they reached in 2006. Her deposition from that lawsuit remains sealed.

Some 60 women have come forward to say Cosby sexually violated them, all but destroying his nice-guy image, but the statute of limitations for prosecution had run out in nearly every case. Constand's case is the only one in which Cosby has been charged.

Constand, who is from the Toronto area, met Cosby while working for the women's basketball team at Temple, Cosby's alma mater. She said they became friends over conversations about the team and later her career. He invited her to dine with him at his home.

Cosby was "somebody I trusted," Constand said. "A mentor."

But he had also previously made advances on her, she said. One time, he placed a hand on her thigh. Another time, she said, Cosby tried to undo her pants but took his hand away when she leaned forward and told him: "I'm not here for that. I don't want that."

Asked by a prosecutor why she remained friends with him, she said: "I wasn't scared of someone making an advance at me or a pass at me."

The defense has pointed out that phone records show Constand called Cosby 53 times after she says he assaulted her. Constand told the jury the calls mostly involved the women's basketball team, especially around tournament time.

"It had more to do with business than it did with me personally," she said.

Constand also said she went to a performance of Cosby's later that year with her family in Canada after Cosby arranged to drop off tickets. She felt "terrible" about it, she said, especially when her mother brought Cosby some Canadian souvenirs.

"It was a very big burden on me, but ... I did not have the courage at the time to tell my family," she said. "So I just went along with them."

During cross-examination, defense lawyers seized on what they said were inconsistencies in Constand's accounts, including her answers on how long she had known Cosby and whether she had ever been alone with him before. Cosby lawyer Angela Agrusa also pressed Constand on why she stayed in contact with Cosby afterward.

Constand's cross-examination will continue when court resumes Wednesday.

The stage was set for her testimony after prosecutors used the first day and a half of the trial to argue that Cosby made a habit of knocking women out with pills and then molesting them.

Kelly Johnson testified on Day 1 that Cosby drugged and molested her at a Los Angeles hotel bungalow in 1996. She said she lost consciousness soon after Cosby pressured her to take a large white pill. She said that when she awoke, her breast was exposed, and a naked Cosby forced her to sexually gratify him with her hand.

On Tuesday, Johnson's mother, Patrice Sewell, bolstered her daughter's story. She told jurors that Johnson was distraught during a telephone call in 1996, fearing Cosby was trying to get her fired from her job working for the comedian's agent.

A few weeks later, Sewell said, Johnson disclosed that she had woken up next to Cosby in bed with her clothes askew.

Sewell said they didn't go to police at the time because her husband, a Los Angeles detective, feared the ordeal that would ensue.

"Her father didn't want her to be humiliated and feel shame and embarrassment as he had seen other

women go through when they went to the police at that time. He didn't want that," Sewell said.

Johnson told a similar story about Cosby in 1996, when she gave sworn testimony as part of a workers' compensation claim, lawyer Joseph Miller testified Tuesday.

She claimed to have developed debilitating stress from her secretarial job at the William Morris Agency and eventually settled for around \$10,000, according to Miller, who represented the talent agency in the case.

But Miller's account differed from Johnson's in at least one respect: Under questioning from Cosby's lawyers, Miller said his notes show Johnson told him the encounter with Cosby happened in 1990, not 1996.

The Associated Press 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: <http://www.apnews.com/tag/CosbyonTrial>

Global stocks mixed after Wall Street decline

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Global stocks were mixed Wednesday following Wall Street's decline as traders looked ahead to British elections.

KEEPING SCORE: France's CAC 40 gained 0.3 percent to 5,284.92 and London's FTSE 100 added 0.1 percent to 7,536.38 in early trading. Germany's DAX was unchanged at 12,685.47. On Tuesday, the DAX lost 1 percent and the CAC 40 was off 0.7 percent while the FTSE 100 was flat.

ASIA'S DAY: The Shanghai Composite Index rose 1.2 percent to 3,140.32 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 was unchanged at 19,984.62. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 0.2 percent to 25,941.89 and Seoul's Kospi shed 0.4 percent to 2,360.14. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 was unchanged at 5,667.20 and India's Sensex was flat at 31,186.97. Benchmarks in Taiwan and Southeast Asia gained while New Zealand fell.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks declined for a second day after bad news for retailers and banks. Macy's sank more than 8 percent after warning profit margins might be weaker. Banks fell as the yield on the 10-year Treasury slipped, which would mean lower rates on loans and smaller profits. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.3 percent to 2,429.33. The Dow Jones industrial average slid 0.2 percent to 21,136.23. The Nasdaq composite index lost 0.3 percent to 6,275.06.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The U.K. election result will give direction to sterling and the future Brexit talks," Margaret Yang of CMC Markets said in a report. "Risk-off' sentiment is likely to prevail as any surprises from the U.K. election, the ECB's policy outlook or changes in the White House could significantly impact the market. This has led to a hunt for safety, with gold, silver and the Japanese yen advancing to their highest levels in a month."

BRITISH ELECTION: Prime Minister Theresa May called a snap vote in hopes of increasing her Conservatives' majority ahead of Brexit talks. But after two deadly attacks, the focus shifted to security, raising questions about May's record as a former minister in charge of security services. Opinion polls show various results from a Conservative lead to a dead heat with the opposition Labour party.

TRUMP TROUBLES: The White House and its allies are scrambling to offset potential damage from fired FBI Director James Comey's congressional testimony about his discussions with President Donald Trump about the investigation into Russia's possible election meddling. Comey's testimony Thursday will be his first public comments since he was abruptly ousted by Trump on May 9. The former director's associates say Trump asked Comey if he could back off an investigation into Michael Flynn, who was fired as national security adviser because he misled the White House about his ties to Russia. To undermine Comey's credibility, White House officials and an outside group plan to hammer him for misstatements he made about Democrat Hillary Clinton's emails during his last appearance on Capitol Hill.

ECB WATCH: Investors looked ahead to Thursday's policy meeting of the European Central Bank. Following a recent decline in inflation, the bank is not expected to signal it is ready to ease up on monetary

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stimulus, even though growth across the region has picked up momentum.

QATAR TENSIONS: Kuwait tried to mediate an end to a diplomatic rift between Qatar and its neighbors that has roiled energy markets. Saudi Arabia and other Arab powers cut land, sea and air routes into the peninsula nation on Monday over accusations it supports extremist groups and Iran. Qatar is one of the largest suppliers of natural gas and is a base for some 10,000 American troops. Qatar denies funding extremists.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude retreated 32 cents to \$47.87 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract jumped 79 cents on Tuesday to close at \$48.19. Brent crude, used to price international oils, shed 42 cents to \$49.70 in London. It rose 65 cents in the previous session to \$50.12.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 109.28 yen from Tuesday's 109.39 yen. The euro retreated to \$1.1262 from \$1.1278.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 7, the 158th day of 2017. There are 207 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 7, 1942, the Battle of Midway ended in a decisive victory for American naval forces over Imperial Japan, marking a turning point in the Pacific War.

On this date:

In 1654, King Louis XIV, age 15, was crowned in Rheims, 11 years after the start of his reign.

In 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia offered a resolution to the Continental Congress stating "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States."

In 1892, Homer Plessy, a "Creole of color," was arrested for refusing to leave a whites-only car of the East Louisiana Railroad. (Ruling on his case, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld "separate but equal" racial segregation, a concept it renounced in 1954.)

In 1917, the Lions Clubs service organization was founded in Chicago. Actor-singer Dean Martin was born Dino Paul Crocetti in Steubenville, Ohio.

In 1929, the sovereign state of Vatican City came into existence as copies of the Lateran Treaty were exchanged in Rome.

In 1937, actress Jean Harlow died in Los Angeles at age 26.

In 1958, singer-songwriter Prince was born Prince Rogers Nelson in Minneapolis.

In 1965, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, struck down, 7-2, a Connecticut law used to prosecute a Planned Parenthood clinic in New Haven for providing contraceptives to married couples.

In 1967, the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic opened in San Francisco. Author-critic Dorothy Parker, famed for her caustic wit, died in New York at age 73.

In 1977, Britons thronged London to celebrate the silver jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II, who was marking the 25th year of her reign.

In 1981, Israeli military planes destroyed a nuclear power plant in Iraq, a facility the Israelis charged could have been used to make nuclear weapons.

In 1998, in a crime that shocked the nation, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man, was hooked by a chain to a pickup truck and dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas. (Two white men were later sentenced to death; one of them, Lawrence Russell Brewer, was executed in 2011. A third defendant received life with the possibility of parole.)

Ten years ago: At the G-8 summit in Germany, Russian President Vladimir Putin, bitterly opposed to a U.S. missile shield in Europe, presented President George W. Bush with a surprise counterproposal built around a Soviet-era radar system in Azerbaijan (ah-zur-by-JAHN'); Bush promised to consider the idea, but ended up essentially rejecting it. After three days in jail for a reckless-driving probation violation, Paris

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Hilton was released by Los Angeles County sheriff's officials to be sent home under house arrest. (The next day, a judge ordered Hilton back to jail, where she spent 2½ weeks.)

Five years ago: Attorney General Eric Holder clashed with Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee seeking more information about a flawed gun-trafficking investigation in Arizona known as "Operation Fast and Furious." Bob Welch, a former member of Fleetwood Mac who went on to write songs and record several hits during a solo career, died in Nashville.

One year ago: Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump claimed their parties' presidential nominations following contests in New Jersey, California, Montana, New Mexico, North Dakota and South Dakota. Five people were killed and four were injured when a pickup struck a large group of bicyclists from behind on a two-lane road in Kalamazoo County, Michigan; the driver of the pickup, Charles Pickett Jr., was charged with second-degree murder and driving under the influence of drugs.

Today's Birthdays: Movie director James Ivory is 89. Former Canadian Prime Minister John Turner is 88. Actress Virginia McKenna is 86. Singer Tom Jones is 77. Actor Ronald Pickup is 77. Poet Nikki Giovanni is 74. Actor Ken Osmond (TV: "Leave It to Beaver") is 74. Former talk show host Jenny Jones is 71. Americana singer-songwriter Willie Nile is 69. Actress Anne Twomey is 66. Actor Liam Neeson is 65. Actress Colleen Camp is 64. Singer-songwriter Johnny Clegg is 64. Author Louise Erdrich (UR'-drihk) is 63. Actor William Forsythe is 62. Record producer L.A. Reid is 61. Latin pop singer Juan Luis Guerra is 60. Vice President Mike Pence is 58. Rock singer-musician Gordon Gano (The Violent Femmes) is 54. Rapper Ecstasy (Whodini) is 53. Rock musician Eric Kretz (Stone Temple Pilots) is 51. Rock musician Dave Navarro is 50. Actress Helen Baxendale is 47. Actor Karl Urban is 45. TV personality Bear Grylls is 43. Rock musician Eric Johnson (The Shins) is 41. Actress Adrienne Frantz is 39. Actor-comedian Bill Hader is 39. Actress Anna Torv is 38. Actress Larisa Oleynik (oh-LAY'-nihk) is 36. Tennis player Anna Kournikova is 36. Actor Michael Cera is 29. Actress Shelley Buckner is 28. Rapper Iggy Azalea is 27. Rapper Fetty Wap is 26.

Thought for Today: "I might repeat to myself, slowly and soothingly, a list of quotations beautiful from minds profound; if I can remember any of the damn things." — Dorothy Parker (1893-1967).