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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**



www.harrmotors.com

605-225-3078 ~ 1-800-658-3463

Thursday, June 8

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9

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

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

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

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

10

Groton School: ACT Test in Aberdeen

Jr. Legion: at Northville Tourney

11

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

Jr. Legion: at Northville Tourney

12

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, apricots, whole wheat bread.

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

Groton School: School board meeting, 7 p.m.

T-Ball: Black team practice at 6 p.m., Gold team at Doland, 5 p.m.

Legion: hosts Mellette for 2 games, 6 p.m.

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

U8 Red: at Doland for 2 games, 6 p.m.

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**SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT
OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



**Larry Zimmerman
Secretary**

NINE MONUMENTS OF STONE MADE OF MEN

War memorials can be found everywhere in the world. There are buildings, monuments, and statues built to honor our men and women who stepped out of the crowd and swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies.

These memorials should be a constant reminder to the nation of the great debt to society that we owe our veterans for our way of life.

Last Friday I had the distinct honor to be a part of the rededication ceremony of the South Dakota Hall of Honor. The Hall of Honor, which recognizes South Dakota veterans who have been awarded the Medal of Honor, was recently redesigned and relocated from the Soldiers and Sailors Building in Pierre to the State Capitol.

The Hall of Honor pays tribute to nine heroes whose actions exemplify the finest qualities of the American soldier --- steadfast devotion to duty, tenacity in a fight, and love and respect for each other. They exemplified the warrior spirit that is essential to win in tough battles, and they proved what true warriors can do when faced head-on with the ultimate sacrifice. Their bravery, their resourcefulness and their patriotism marks them as America's finest heroes.

Spencer Kimball once said, "I promise that if you will keep your journals and records, they will indeed be a source of great inspiration to your families, your children, your grandchildren, and others. Each of us is important to those who are near and dear to us and as our posterity reads of our life's experiences, they, too, will come to know and love us."

I ask all of you to learn first-hand the entries in the journals of - General Patrick H. Brady, Brigadier General Charles D. Roberts, Colonel Leo K. Thorsness, Captain Willibald C. Bianchi, Captain Joe J. Foss, Captain Arlo L. Olson, Master Sergeant Woodrow W. Keeble, Specialist Four Michael J. Fitzmaurice, and Private First Class Herbert A. Littleton.

View the new Hall of Honor or read their citations on line at: <http://vetaffairs.sd.gov/resources/medal%20of%20honor.aspx>.

Their loyalty and leadership made them a cornerstone of this country. As Douglas MacArthur once said, "From one end of the world to the other [the American soldier] has drained deep the chalice of courage."

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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GROTON KIWANIS

Tom Paepke was program leader for Groton Kiwanis Club, on Wednesday noon. Tom introduced Nancy Jark. Nancy lives in Warner, and now has a realty office in Groton.

Nancy (Vitense) Jark spoke on growing up in Columbia, and graduating from Groton High School. She also related informatuion on her position as a realtor. She has been president of the Aberdeen Realtors Association, and was chosen realtor of the year for that organization also.

Lee Schinkel introduced his guest, Chuck Padfield, and proposed him for membership.

The president read a thank you card from Kate Helmer, who was chosen to receive the Kiwanis college scholarship this year.



ANNIE'S PROJECT
EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

***Management Education for
Today's Farm and Ranch Women***

Aberdeen

June 19, 26

July 3, 10, 17, and 24

5:30 pm - 8:45 pm

SDSU Extension Aberdeen Regional Center
13 2nd Ave SE

Register by:
June 17, 2017
at

www.iGrow.org/events
Registration: \$150 per person

If interested contact:

Shannon Sand
SDSU Extension Livestock
Business Management Field
Specialist
605-626-2870
shannon.sand@sdstate.edu

South Dakota State University, South Dakota counties, and USDA cooperating. South Dakota State University adheres to AA/EEO guidelines in offering educational programs and services.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Tyler Bowling

Public Affairs Specialist

2200 N Maple Ave Suite 301 Rapid City, SD 57701

Email: tyler.bowling@ssa.gov

Website: www.socialsecurity.gov

Question: How do I report a lost Social Security card?

Answer: You do not have to report a lost Social Security card. In fact, reporting a lost or stolen card to Social Security will not prevent misuse of your Social Security number. You should let us know if someone is using your number to work (call 1-800-772-1213; TTY 1-800-325-0778).

If you think someone is using your number, there are several other actions you should take:

- Contact the Federal Trade Commission online at www.ftc.gov/bcdp/edu/microsites/idtheft or call 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338);
- File an online complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov;
- Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit by calling 1-800-908-4490, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and
- Monitor your credit report.

Question: Why doesn't my estimate using the Retirement Estimator take into account my work as a teacher? I've worked for 20 years for another state and thought it would count.

Answer: If you work for a state or local government agency — including a school system, college, or university — your earnings may not be covered by Social Security. If you are covered only by your state or local pension plan and you don't pay Social Security taxes, your earnings won't be shown on your Social Security record. (Your record will show your Medicare wages if you pay into that program.) For information on how your pension from non-covered state or local employment may affect the amount of your Social Security benefit, you can visit www.socialsecurity.gov/retire2/wep-chart.htm

Question: How long does it take to complete the online application for retirement benefits?

Answer: It can take as little as 15 minutes to complete the online application. In most cases, once your application is submitted electronically, you're done. There are no forms to sign and usually no documentation is required. Social Security will process your application and contact you if any further information is needed. There's no need to drive to a local Social Security office or wait for an appointment with a Social Security representative. To retire online, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/retireonline.

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Destiny and scientific theory collide in "now then again"

Christel Peters

Discover a new twist on destiny during Neutrino Day's stage performance of "now then again" by Penny Penniston

Penny Penniston's play, "now then again," highlights the romance of science while questioning the theory of destiny. What if science could prove that interactions in our future could influence our actions of the past? It is a compelling idea that intrigues the minds of scientists and novices alike.

Penniston lives in Chicago and is excited that her play will run during Sanford Underground Research Facility's Neutrino Day celebration. "I live in a big city so it will be a treat to be some-

place a little bit more out in the open and surrounded by nature." She is looking forward to visiting Sanford Lab and exploring the Black Hills. Her role during Neutrino Day will be part tourist and part presenter.

Self-proclaimed "popular science geek" and science novice, Penniston began writing "now then again" to illustrate that science is romantic. "Nature is this force of beauty and this untamed thing that gives us a glimpse into the universe's mysteries and the idea that pursuit of science could be a passion," said Penniston. "We tend to think that science is kind of cold and clinical, but the things that drive scientists are really pretty romantic ideas."

Set in Fermilab, "now then again" theorizes how the future can impact the past. The point at which two objects collide appears to send ripples through the past, present and future and can affect the trajectory of their path through time. The play follows Henry and Ginny from the moment they collide in a fascinating spin on the concept of destiny. This idea is echoed throughout the play by Felix, a friend of Henry's, when he says, "The really big decisions in life aren't the ones that change the future. Changing the future is easy. No, the big ones come when we change the past."

Merlyn Q. Sell, who is the director of the play for Lead's Gold Camp Players, is enthusiastic about the upcoming performance. "'Now then again' explores the effects of theory turned to reality," Sell said. "In a world where many of us can feel trapped, fearful of the future and burdened by our daily obligations, 'now then again' offers hope—not in the form of magic or fantasy, but in a far more recognizable, if no less extraordinary, way. The play serves as a poignant reminder of how limitless our world can be and the wonders that are only just one discovery away."

Penniston, herself, doesn't believe people are meant to do things or that the future is inevitable. "I believe that what the future does is to give the past meaning," explained Penniston. "It constructs the narrative that we tell ourselves about the past."

Audience members do not need to have a scientific background to appreciate the theory behind "now then again." Spirited discussions following the play are standard and Penniston enjoys being included. She describes her perception of this theory with the exact moment that she met her husband, which may not have felt significant at the time. However, once they were married, that moment became significant. "It became the beginning of a story," she said.

So, is our future destined to be? Is love a product of statistical probability? Will science prove that the future can manipulate the past? Experiencing "now then again" will have you asking these questions and more.

"Now then again" will run Friday and Saturday, July 7-8, at 6 p.m. at the Historic Homestake Opera House in Lead. A reception will be held Friday at 5:15 p.m.; a Q&A will follow. For more information and a full list of Neutrino Day events visit the Sanford Lab Neutrino Day page.



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Today in Weather History

June 8, 2004: Over eight inches of rain fell near Okreek in rural Todd County causing nearly \$200,000 in damage to local roads. Lightning destroyed the Okreek Community Center.

1951: A tornado was captured on motion pictures for the first time in the USA. Click [HERE](#) for more information from a weather history blog.

1953 - The worst tornado of record for the state of Michigan killed 116 persons. Flint MI was hardest hit. The tornado, half a mile in width, destroyed 200 homes on Coldwater Road killing entire families. (The Weather Channel)

1966 - A tornado ripped right through the heart of the capitol city of Topeka KS killing sixteen persons and causing 100 million dollars damage. The tornado, which struck during the evening, cut a swath of near total destruction eight miles long and four blocks wide. It was the most destructive tornado of record up until that time. (David Ludlum)

1974 - Severe thunderstorms spawned at least twenty-three tornadoes in Oklahoma during the afternoon and evening hours. One of the tornadoes struck the town Drumright killing sixteen persons and injuring 150 others. A tornado struck the National Weather Service office in Oklahoma City, and two tornadoes hit the city of Tulsa. Thunderstorms in Tulsa also produced as much as ten inches of rain. Total damage from the storms was around thirty million dollars. It was the worst natural disaster of record for Tulsa. (Storm Data)

1987 - Thunderstorms in the northeastern U.S. produced large hail and damaging winds in Vermont injuring two persons. Thunderstorms in Ohio produced wind gusts to 75 mph near Akron, and deluged Pittsfield with two inches of rain in thirty minutes. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Overnight thunderstorms in Iowa produced 5.20 inches of rain at Coon Rapids. Thunderstorms in the Florida Keys drenched Tavernier with 7.16 inches of rain in 24 hours. Eleven cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Central Gulf Coast Region during the day and evening. Severe thunderstorms spawned 17 tornadoes, including one which injured ten persons and caused a million dollars damage at Orange Beach, AL. Thunderstorm winds gusting to 90 mph killed three persons and injured four others at Mobile AL. Thunderstorms also deluged Walnut Hill and Avalon Beach, FL, with eight inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2001: Tropical Storm Allison hits Houston, Texas, for the second time in three days. Louisiana and southern Texas were inundated with rain. Baton Rouge received 18 inches over just a couple of days. Some portions of Texas racked up 36 inches by June 11.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Hot	Mostly Clear then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 85 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 96 °F	Low: 70 °F	High: 99 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 91 °F

The "Rest of the Work Week" Forecast

Today: Dry
Highs:
80 to 90F

Tonight: Dry
Lows: 55 to 65F

Friday: HOT!
Highs:
90 to 100F



National Weather Service, Aberdeen SD

Updated: 6/8/2017 5:24 AM Central



Published on: 06/08/2017 at 5:28AM

Warm and dry conditions will continue through at least Saturday. Today will be the 'coolest' over the next three days.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 85.9 F at 5:06 PM

Heat Index: 85.0 at 5:09 PM

Low Outside Temp: 58.3 F at 6:15 AM

High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 6:25 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 98° in 2000

Record Low: 32° in 1938

Average High: 75°F

Average Low: 52°F

Average Precip in June: .93

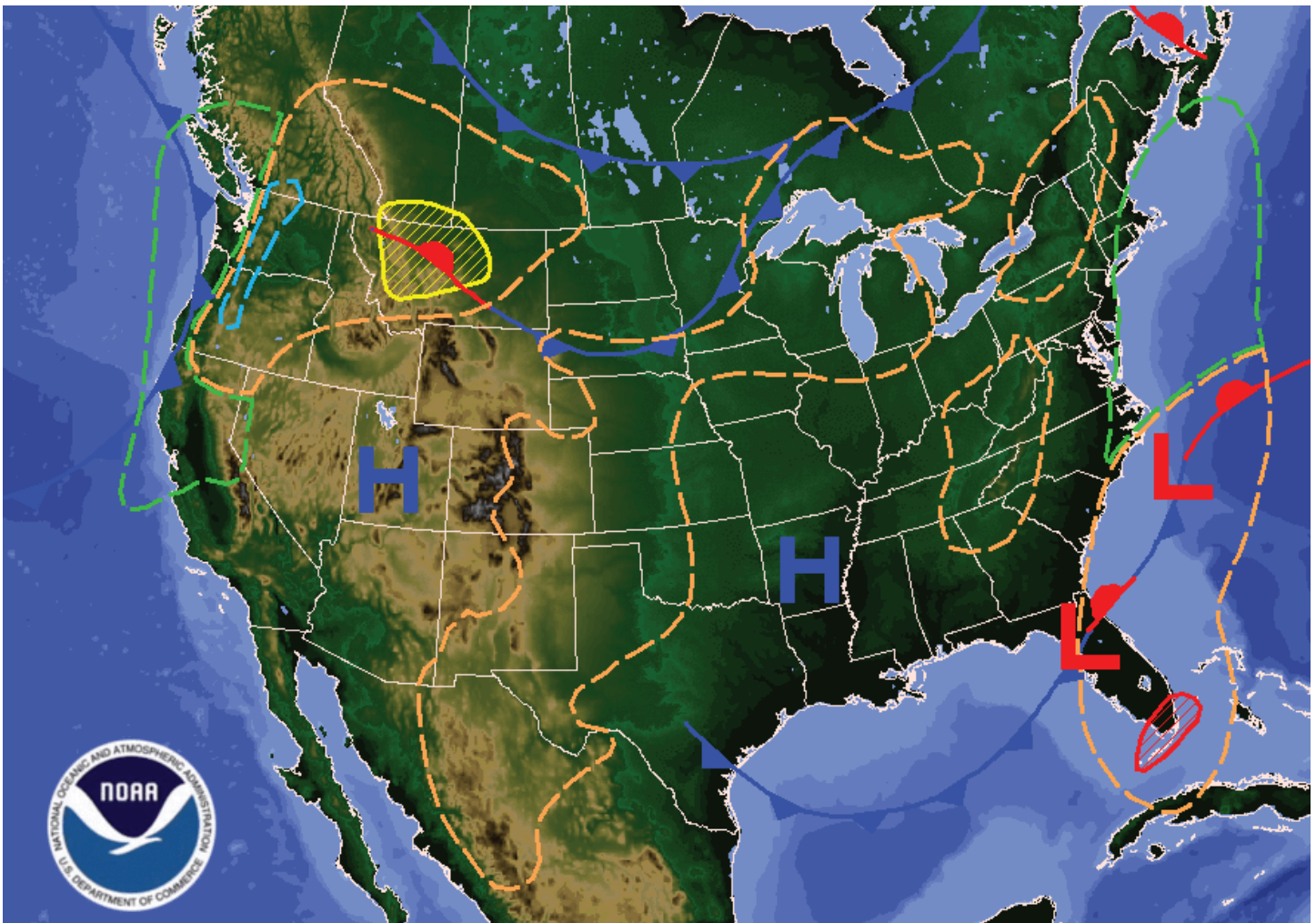
Precip to date in June: 0.08

Average Precip to date: 8.07

Precip Year to Date: 3.27

Sunset Tonight: 9:20 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Jun 08, 2017, issued 4:29 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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FIRST THINGS FIRST

"He who runs from God in the morning," said Paul Bunyan, the author of *Pilgrims Progress*, "will scarcely find Him the rest of the day." In other words, if we want to sense the presence of God, the guidance of God and the strength of God throughout every minute of every hour of every day, we must begin each day with God.

Rarely do we begin any day without some idea of the things we intend to do or where we plan to go or what is expected of us. And although we may not go through a formal planning process when we establish priorities and allocate certain amounts of time for each of them, we have some idea of what we are going to face and do.

That is why David, in his infinite wisdom that came from God said, "Listen to my voice in the morning, Lord. Each morning I bring my requests to you and wait expectantly!"

How presumptuous of Christians who profess our dependence upon God to make plans without Him, to set goals that exclude Him or make decisions without His advice. Beginning each morning with God and presenting our "agenda" to Him for His blessing is the proper thing to do. When we offer our thoughts and plans to God and seek His directions we are saying to Him: "Lord, what I face today may be beyond me, but it is not beyond You. Therefore, I need You to be with me in everything I do, to walk with me wherever I go and to put Your words in my mouth before I speak."

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize how inadequate we are to face life without Your goodness and guidance. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 5:3 In the morning, LORD, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly.

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
06-10-15-20-25
(six, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five)
Estimated jackpot: \$215,000

Hot Lotto
20-24-35-43-44, Hot Ball: 11
(twenty, twenty-four, thirty-five, forty-three, forty-four; Hot Ball: eleven)
Estimated jackpot: \$7.13 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$90 million

Powerball
05-21-57-66-69, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 3
(five, twenty-one, fifty-seven, sixty-six, sixty-nine; Powerball: thirteen; Power Play: three)
Estimated jackpot: \$375 million

Interior chief to review sage-grouse conservation plan

By MATTHEW DALY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Wednesday he is ordering a review of federal efforts to conserve the imperiled sage grouse to ensure that officials in 11 Western states where the bird lives are fully consulted.

While the federal government has a responsibility under the Endangered Species Act to protect the ground-dwelling bird, “we also have a responsibility to be a good neighbor and a good partner,” Zinke said.

Zinke made the comments Wednesday as he announced a 60-day review of a sweeping 2015 conservation plan put in place by the Obama administration. The plan set land-use policies across the popular game bird’s 11-state range that were intended to keep it off the endangered species list.

The plan was backed by more than \$750 million in commitments from the government and outside groups to conserve land and restore the bird’s range, which extends from California to the Dakotas.

Even so, the plan drew criticism from opposite ends of the political spectrum. Environmental groups complained it was riddled with loopholes and would not do enough to protect the bird from extinction, while mining companies, ranchers and officials in Utah, Idaho and Nevada argued that the Obama administration’s actions would impede oil and gas drilling and other economic development.

The ground-dwelling sage grouse, known for its elaborate mating ritual, range across a 257,000-square-mile region spanning 11 states.

The grouse population once was estimated at 16 million birds across North America. It’s lost roughly half its habitat to development, livestock grazing and an invasive grass that encourages wildfires in the Great Basin of Nevada and adjoining states. There are now an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 greater sage grouse.

Zinke said in a conference call with reporters that “state agencies are really at the forefront of efforts to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations,” and the government needs to make sure state voices

are being heard.

In particular, Zinke said he has received complaints from several Western governors that the Obama administration ignored or minimized their concerns as the plan was developed. Republican governors in Idaho, Utah and Nevada all would prefer that the plan give them more flexibility and rely less on habitat preservation "and more on numbers" of birds in a particular state, Zinke said.

"That's exactly what this secretarial order does — it provides more flexibility than the one-size-fits-all solution" ordered by former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Zinke said.

On other side, Democratic Gov. John Hickenlooper of Colorado and Republican Gov. Matt Mead of Wyoming told Zinke they opposed any changes that would move "from a habitat-management model to one that sets population objectives for the states."

"This is not the right decision," they wrote in a May 26 letter. Hickenlooper and Mead co-chair a federal-state sage grouse task force that worked to develop the 2015 plan.

Zinke's order calls for officials to evaluate both the federal sage grouse plan and state plans and programs to ensure they are complementary. A report is due in early August.

Nada Culver of The Wilderness Society called Zinke's order "disruptive" and said "it undermines carefully balanced and negotiated plans against the advice of the stakeholders involved. The plans do not need to be revised — they need to be supported and implemented in good faith by Interior."

Jim Lyons, a former Obama administration official who helped develop the 2015 plan, called the review "a thinly-veiled and unnecessary attempt to open up important habitat to oil and gas drilling, jeopardizing the important balance and flexibility offered in the existing plans."

Follow Matthew Daly: <https://twitter.com/MatthewDalyWDC>

Governor calls special session about lakes on private land

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Wednesday that he's calling lawmakers back to Pierre for a special legislative session to create a set of rules for outdoor enthusiasts who want to use lakes on private land in South Dakota for recreation.

The governor's office said the special session would be held Monday. Lawmakers will debate draft legislation endorsed by a study committee last week that restores access to nearly 30 lakes for public recreation hampered after a recent state Supreme Court decision on publicly-owned bodies of water over privately-owned land.

The longstanding issue has vexed landowners and outdoor enthusiasts.

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

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

All waters in South Dakota are public property. Nonmeandered waters are bodies of water — usually smaller in size — that weren't specially designated during government surveys in the late 1800s. Private property has since flooded, forming bodies of water and creating good fishing, but it's come at the cost of productive land that agriculture producers have lost.

Under the bill, Game, Fish and Parks would be able to negotiate with landowners to open access to such lakes for recreation. If approved, the measure would take effect immediately and would sunset in July 2021.

Daugaard has said the bill balances landowners' rights with the ability for sportsmen to use public waters recreationally.

Energy groups fight new South Dakota wind setback rules

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A coalition of farm and energy groups is asking voters to overturn restrictive wind turbine rules recently passed in southeast South Dakota.

The Lincoln County ordinance passed last month requires turbines to be at least a half mile from homes unless the energy company receives a waiver from the neighboring landowner, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2s0hpPD>) reported.

The coalition met Tuesday in Sioux Falls to support a repeal, organizing as a ballot question committee under the name "Farmers and Friends of Wind Energy."

Supporters of the Dakota Power Community Wind farm said the setbacks reduce hope of renewable energy development in the county.

Dakota Power official Brian Minish said that commercial wind supporters see the potential for additional payments for landowners, which unites agriculture groups who don't always see eye-to-eye on other issues.

"This is one thing that all the farm organizations agree on: This is good for rural America," Minish said.

Beresford Mayor Jim Fedderson said that a 300-turbine development will bring in about \$25 million in estimated tax revenue over 25 years, which would be shared between schools, counties and townships.

"Most of the townships don't have enough money to put gravel on the roads," Fedderson said.

People who back the ordinance said it protects property values and public health from the impact of large-scale wind projects. Winnie Peterson, chairwoman of the nonprofit We Care-SD, said that the real motivator from Fedderson and other wind supporters is profit.

"They're motivated to do this for lots of reasons, most of them financial," Peterson said.

Residents in south Sioux Falls are scheduled to vote on the restrictions July 18.

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

Police identify Rapid City homicide victim

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have released the name of a Rapid City man who was found slain in his home.

Rapid City Police and the Pennington County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday identified the victim as 64-year-old Larry Mintzlaff. An autopsy determined he died of blunt force trauma.

Authorities believe Mintzlaff died late last week. Officers were called to his home to do a welfare check Tuesday and found him dead inside the home.

Police are trying to locate the victim's stolen vehicle — a blue 2007 Ford Focus four-door sedan with South Dakota license plate 2H3205.

Detectives are investigating numerous leads but have released no other details.

North Dakota federal judge nominated for appeals court

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's U.S. senators say President Donald Trump has nominated U.S. District Judge Ralph Erickson to serve on the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Erickson is a federal judge in Fargo. He's served in various judicial positions for nearly a quarter of a century. In 2003, he was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as a federal judge.

Erickson says he's "humbled and honored" by the confidence Trump has shown in him. His nomination will need to be confirmed by the Senate.

Sen. John Hoeven and Sen. Heidi Heitkamp both say they'll support his nomination.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals handles appeals from federal courts in the Dakotas, Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska.

Brown bear euthanized at Great Plains Zoo

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Officials at the Great Plains Zoo say a 23-year-old brown bear named Kenai has been euthanized after she was diagnosed with an aggressive form of cancer.

The zoo said in a statement that staff explored treatment options with veterinarians and surgeons elsewhere, but that the cancer had spread quickly in a matter of weeks. Kenai arrived at the zoo in 1994 and lived alongside her brother, Smokey, who died in 2012.

Zoo CEO Elizabeth Whealy says it will be hard to see the new brown bear exhibit open next year without Kenai.

Moderate drought brings more cattle to auction

MANDAN, N.D. (AP) — Ranchers are bringing more cattle to auction with 25 percent of North Dakota in a moderate drought.

Kist Livestock Auction field man Matt Lachenmeier says the Mandan business has handled about 1,000 to 1,300 more animals than is typical for this time of the year.

The Bismarck Tribune (<http://bit.ly/2qWTXyG>) says a tough winter has depleted the hay supply with a poor outlook for a good crop this summer. Lachenmeier says the cattle brought to auction are from a widespread area. He says other sales barns across the state are also seeing increased sales.

The U.S. Drought Monitor says North Dakota has had below average precipitation during the past three months. Portions of central and south-central Dakota have gotten 25 percent to 50 percent of normal precipitation during the period.

Information from: Bismarck Tribune, <http://www.bismarcktribune.com>

Hearings scheduled on potential Dakota Access pipeline fines

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota regulators have scheduled late-summer hearings on potentially finable offenses alleged against the Texas-based developer of the Dakota Access oil pipeline.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission is investigating whether Energy Transfer Partners removed too many trees and shrubs while laying pipe in the state and improperly reported the discovery of Native American artifacts along the route. No artifacts were disturbed.

The three-member commission has set a half-day hearing Aug. 16 on the artifacts dispute and a full-day hearing Aug. 17 on the tree issue. Both are open to the public. The hearings were scheduled after the commission decided during a May 31 meeting that they were the best means of resolving the disputes, after what Commissioner Julie Fedorchak described as "a fair amount of back and forth the last few months" between company officials and commission staff.

Energy Transfer Partners maintains that it didn't intentionally do anything wrong and that it plans to plant two trees for every one removed, which would need the approval of regulators. The company could face fines of up to \$400,000 if found to have violated state rules, though it could fight any fines imposed by regulators in state district court.

The \$3.8 billion pipeline is moving North Dakota oil through South Dakota and Iowa to a distribution point in Illinois. President Donald Trump's administration and the courts allowed construction to wrap up earlier this year after months of protests by American Indian tribes and environmental groups that fear pollution. The pipeline went into service last Thursday.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake>

Affidavit: Hamill man hit woman with 'mule' strength punch

DALLAS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities say a Hamill man accused of second-degree murder assaulted his former girlfriend at her home.

Chance Harruff, 46, was appointed an attorney in the case Tuesday. He's charged in the death of 38-year-old Kristi Olson.

A court filing says Harruff argued with Olson at her residence in Dallas, South Dakota, on June 1. The document says he hit Olson in the chest with a "'mule' strength punch," knocking her to the floor.

The filing says Harruff said he left the residence without knowing whether Olson needed medical help. She was unresponsive when officials arrived June 1, and was pronounced dead after being taken to a hospital.

Defense attorney Clint Sargent wasn't immediately available to comment on Harruff's behalf.

The Mitchell Daily Republic first reported details of the charge.

Heat lamp blamed for fire that killed baby pheasants, eggs

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — A heat lamp is believed to be the cause of a rural Wagner building fire that killed about 200 baby pheasants and other birds.

The Daily Republic reports (<http://bit.ly/2rAWkdi>) that the Monday fire was in a building owned by a man who raises upland game birds such as partridge, quail and pheasants.

In addition to the baby birds that were killed, about 500 eggs were lost, along with three incubators and crates.

No people were injured in the smoldering fire that caused heavy smoke damage to the building.

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

Sioux Falls Council confirms mayor's pick for fire chief

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The Sioux Falls City Council has signed off on Mayor Mike Huether's pick for the city's next fire chief.

The mayor named Sioux Falls Fire Rescue Division Chief Brad Goodroad as interim chief last month, after then-chief Jim Sideras was fired in the midst of a child pornography scandal. Sideras has pleaded not guilty to criminal charges.

The City Council confirmed Goodroad's nomination Tuesday evening.

The Argus Leader reports that Goodroad started with Sioux Falls Fire Rescue in January 1994, serving since then as a firefighter, fire apparatus operator, captain, battalion chief, battalion chief of training and division chief.

Pierre residents elect city commissioner as new mayor

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Residents of South Dakota's capital city have elected a new leader for the next three years.

Preliminary vote counts from Pierre's city election on Tuesday show City Commissioner Steve Harding winning the mayoral race with 81 percent of the 2,180 votes cast. He defeated businessman Steve Robinson.

Harding also is a retired National Guardsman and deputy secretary of the state's Department of the Military.

Robinson told the Capital Journal that he knew his odds of winning were "a long shot."

Longtime Mayor Laurie Gill didn't seek re-election. Harding will take office July 1.

Tabor man gets 65-year prison sentence for child sex crimes

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — A 41-year-old Tabor man has been sentenced to 65 years in the State Penitentiary for child sex crimes.

The Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan reports (<http://bit.ly/2r5Ci6S>) that Paul Brewer was sentenced

Tuesday on convictions for rape of a child under the age of 13 and sexual contact with a child under 16. Brewer had faced possible life sentences on some of the counts against him.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, <http://www.yankton.net/>

Myanmar navy ship, fishermen find bodies in search for plane

By ESTHER HTUSAN, Associated Press

DAWEI, Myanmar (AP) — Fishermen joined navy and air force personnel Thursday in recovering bodies and aircraft parts from the sea off Myanmar, where a military plane carrying 122 people including 15 children crashed a day earlier, officials said.

The four-engine Chinese-made Y-8 turboprop aircraft had left Myeik, also known as Mergui, heading for Yangon on a route over the Andaman Sea. It was raining, but not heavily, at the time contact was lost with it at 1:35 p.m. Wednesday, when it was southwest of the city of Dawei, formerly known as Tavoy.

Win Lwin, a police officer in Laung Lone township, a landing point for recovery operations, said 28 bodies had been retrieved by mid-afternoon Thursday but had not yet made it to shore. More than 1,000 people gathered on the beach, including volunteers from dozens of community mutual aid societies with their vehicles.

The bodies were taken on larger boats and navy ships, and were supposed to be transferred to smaller vessels that could be offloaded at the beach in Laung Lone. However, heavy rains and choppy seas delayed the transfer.

Military spokesman Gen. Myat Min Oo earlier said a navy ship had found two life jackets, bodies and an aircraft wheel in the sea west of Laung Lone.

Local fishermen joined nine navy ships, five military aircraft and three helicopters in the search, the spokesman said.

The plane carried 108 passengers — mostly military personnel and their families — and 14 crew members, according to an announcement on the Facebook page of military Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, which originally gave slightly lower numbers. Fifteen of the passengers were children. It is not unusual for such flights to carry civilians to offset transportation costs for military families stationed in the somewhat remote south.

The Facebook page, the main source of official information about the crash, said the plane, carrying about 2.4 tons of cargo in addition to the 122 people aboard, was received in March last year and since then had logged 809 flying hours. It said the pilot and co-pilot both had more than 3,100 hours of flying experience.

The area is about 440 miles (700 kilometers) north of the last primary radar contact with Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which vanished on a flight from Malaysia to Beijing on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board. That plane is believed to have flown far off course and crashed into a remote area of the southern Indian Ocean.

Polls open in UK election after campaign marred by attacks

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Polling stations across Britain opened for national elections amid heightened security Thursday as one senior police official said the country was living through “unprecedented times” following a series of terror attacks in recent weeks.

Authorities asked people to be alert and report any concerns to police as voters choose 650 lawmakers for the House of Commons. Atrocities near Parliament, a Manchester concert venue and London Bridge have left Britain on high alert, with the official threat level at severe, the second-highest rating, indicating an attack is “highly likely.”

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D’Orsi of London’s Metropolitan Police Service acknowledged security concerns surrounding the election.

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"We appreciate that these are unprecedented times and together with our partners we continue to keep communities safe," D'Orsi said.

The election was supposed to be dominated by Britain's pending departure from the European Union, but voters are anxiously aware of the threat the country faces from international terrorism following attacks in London and Manchester. Voter Rachel Sheard, who was casting her ballot near the site of Saturday's attack, said the election had been somewhat surprising.

"They wanted this election to be was very much kind of Brexit vote and I don't think that's in the hearts and minds of Londoners at the minute, (not) nearly as much as the security is," said Sheard, 22. "It was very scary on Saturday."

Prime Minister Theresa May called the snap election seven weeks ago in hopes of increasing the Conservative Party's slim majority in Parliament and strengthening her hand in negotiating Britain's exit from the EU.

The campaign did not go to plan.

While the prime minister sought to capitalize on opinion polls showing that the Conservatives had a wide lead over the opposition Labour Party, that gap has narrowed in recent weeks.

May was criticized for a lackluster campaign and a plan to force elderly people to pay more for their care, a proposal opponents dubbed the "dementia tax." After the terror attacks in Manchester and London, which killed 30 people and forced the suspension of campaigning, security became the focus of the debate.

In her final message to voters, May appealed directly to the undecided, urging them to support her in negotiating the best deal for Britain as it leaves the European Union.

"I can only build that better country and get the right deal in Brussels with the support of the British people," she said. "So whoever you have voted for in the past, if that is the future you want then vote Conservative today and we can all go forward together."

Opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, who built his reputation as a left-wing activist, focused his campaign on ending the years of austerity that have followed the global financial crisis. He called for increased spending on the National Health Service, schools and police, as well as the nationalization of railroads and water utilities.

The Labour leader closed out his campaign by telling a rally he had reshaped British politics.

"As we prepare for government, we have already changed the debate and given people hope," he said. "Hope that it doesn't have to be like this; that inequality can be tackled; that austerity can be ended; that you can stand up to the elites and the cynics. This is the new center ground."

While the gap between the two parties has narrowed, virtually all polls suggest the Conservatives will retain control of Parliament. A high turnout is seen as Labour's best hope of eroding the Conservative majority.

The Conservatives held 330 seats in the last Parliament, compared with 220 for Labour, 54 for the Scottish National Party and nine for the Liberal Democrats.

Rain is forecast through much of the country, but it is unlikely to be severe. Turnout is not expected to be affected.

"We live in a country where a bit of drizzle is commonplace," said John Curtice, an election expert at Strathclyde University.

Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. (0600GMT to 2100GMT)

Kevin Scott contributed to this story.

Iran says 5 Tehran attackers had fought for Islamic State

By NASSER KARIMI and AMIR VAHDAT, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Five of the men who launched an attack in the heart of Iran's capital previously fought for the Islamic State group, the country's Intelligence Ministry said Thursday, acknowledging the first such assault by the extremists in the Shiite power.

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The attacks Wednesday on Iran's parliament and the tomb of its revolutionary leader killed at least 17 people and wounded over 40, stunning its people.

The ministry issued a statement on its website with bloody pictures of the men's corpses. It identified them only by their first names, saying they didn't want to release their last names due to security and privacy concerns for their families.

It described them as "long affiliated with the Wahhabi," an ultraconservative form of Sunni Islam practiced in Saudi Arabia. However, it stopped short of directly blaming the kingdom for the attack, though many in the country expressed suspicion Iran's regional rival had a hand in the attack.

The men had left Iran to fight for the extremist group in Mosul, Iraq, as well as Raqqa, Syria — the group's de facto capital, the ministry said. It said they returned to Iran in August under the command of an Islamic State leader and escaped when authorities initially broke up their extremist cell.

The ministry did not identify the men's hometowns, nor say how they were able to evade authorities. A woman suspected to be involved in the attack was arrested Wednesday.

Commuters in the Iranian capital noticed police on street corners and motorcycles, more than usual as dawn broke. That came after Mohammad Hossein Zolfaghari, a deputy Interior Minister, told state TV that "law enforcement activities may increase."

"We are focused on intelligence" gathering, he said.

The state-run IRNA news agency also reported Thursday that the death toll in the attacks had risen to 17 people killed, citing Ahmad Shojaei, the head of the country's forensic center.

The attack Wednesday as lawmakers held a session in parliament and at the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini shocked Iranians who so far had avoided the chaos that has followed the Islamic State group's rise in Syria and Iraq. Iranian forces are backing embattled Syrian President Bashar Assad while the Shiite power also is supporting militias fighting against the extremists in Iraq.

The attack came as emboldened Sunni Arab states — backed by U.S. President Donald Trump — are hardening their stance against Shiite-ruled Iran.

The White House released a statement from Trump condemning the terrorist attacks in Tehran and offering condolences, but also implying that Iran is itself a sponsor of terrorism.

"We grieve and pray for the innocent victims of the terrorist attacks in Iran, and for the Iranian people, who are going through such challenging times," the statement said. "We underscore that states that sponsor terrorism risk falling victim to the evil they promote."

The comments sparked anger from Iranians on social media, who recalled the vigils in Tehran that followed the Sept. 11 attacks. Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in a tweet on Thursday called the White House comments "repugnant" and accused the U.S. of supporting terror.

"Iranian people reject such U.S. claims of friendship," Zarif tweeted.

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guard indirectly blamed Saudi Arabia for the attacks. A statement issued Wednesday evening stopped short of alleging direct Saudi involvement but called it "meaningful" that the attacks followed Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia, where he strongly asserted Washington's support for Riyadh.

The statement said Saudi Arabia "constantly supports" terrorists including the Islamic State group, adding that the IS claim of responsibility "reveals (Saudi Arabia's) hand in this barbaric action."

The "spilled blood of the innocent will not remain unavenged," the Revolutionary Guard statement said.

Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash told The Associated Press on Wednesday that "the Iranian government should not use the attack in a very polarized situation against Saudi Arabia or claim that Saudi Arabia is somehow linked to the attack, because it isn't."

On the streets of the capital Thursday, Iranians said they remained suspicious that Saudi Arabia had a hand in the attack. Some pointed to comments in May by Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the son of the King Salman and the kingdom's defense minister, who said his country would "work so that it becomes a battle for them in Iran and not in Saudi Arabia."

"I am sure Persian Gulf Arab countries are behind this," said Nahid Ghanbari, a 21-year-old university student studying accounting. "They have been angry about Iran's power in the region. They look for a way to destabilize our country."

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Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the country's supreme leader, used the attacks to defend Tehran's involvement in wars abroad. He told a group of students that if "Iran had not resisted," it would have faced even more troubles.

"The Iranian nation will go forward," he added.

The violence began in midmorning when assailants with Kalashnikov rifles and explosives stormed the parliament complex where a legislative session had been in progress. The siege lasted for hours, and one of the attackers blew himself up inside, according to Iran's state TV.

Images circulating in Iranian media showed gunmen held rifles near the windows of the complex. One showed a toddler being handed through a first-floor window to safety outside as an armed man looked on.

As the parliament attack unfolded, gunmen and suicide bombers also struck outside Khomeini's mausoleum on Tehran's southern outskirts. Khomeini led the 1979 Islamic Revolution that toppled the Western-backed shah to become Iran's first supreme leader until his death in 1989.

Iran's state broadcaster said a security guard was killed at the tomb and that one of the attackers was slain by security guards. A woman was also arrested. The revered shrine was not damaged.

Police on Thursday said they now held six suspects as part of their investigation into the attacks.

Reza Seifollahi, an official in the country's Supreme National Security Council, was quoted by Iranian media as saying that the perpetrators of the attacks were Iranian nationals. He did not elaborate.

Tehran's stock exchange fell nearly 2 percent Thursday after the attacks.

Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 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. IT'S COMEY TESTIMONY DAY

The fired FBI director will recount conversations with Trump that he says made him uneasy and concerned about the blurring of boundaries between the White House and the agency.

2. IRAN: 5 ATTACKERS FOUGHT FOR ISLAMIC STATE GROUP

A ministry statement says the men had left Iran to fight for the extremist group in Mosul, Iraq, as well as Raqqa, Syria — the group's de facto capital.

3. HOW UK ELECTION MAY TURN OUT

Reeling from two deadly attacks that put the focus on security, Conservatives are still expected to win, but less clear is whether Prime Minister Theresa May will get the additional seats she wanted.

4. WHAT ALLEGED LEAKER'S FAMILY FEARS

The parents of Reality Winner, 25, the woman charged with leaking U.S. government secrets to a reporter, worry that prosecutors will seek to use the case to send a tough message from the Trump administration.

5. JURY MAY SOON HEAR FROM COSBY, EVEN IF HE DOESN'T TAKE STAND

Prosecutors are expected to show jurors an earlier deposition in which the entertainer says that he routinely gave women pills and alcohol before sexual encounters.

6. BULLETS FELL 'LIKE RAIN': FLEEING IRAQIS CAUGHT IN AMBUSH

After days of shelling, some 200 Iraqis fled one of the last Islamic State-held pockets of Mosul, only to be mowed down by the dozens by militant gunmen on the roof of a nearby hospital.

7. WHO HAS MOST TO LOSE IN GULF RIFT

Qatar faces massive pressure from its neighbors to cut ties with Hamas, and the result could be disastrous for the Gaza Strip, where Doha has invested millions in infrastructure.

8. WHERE OFFICIALS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ELECTION HACK

North Carolina, Virginia and Illinois are trying to figure out whether their local election offices were targeted by Russia to hack into election software last fall.

9. FOR KEITH URBAN, REDEMPTION

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After walking away empty-handed at the Grammys and the Academy of Country Music Awards, the "Blue Ain't Your Color" singer wins big at CMT Music Awards.

10. WARRIORS SET TO MAKE CLAIM AS NBA'S BEST EVER

After stunning the Cavaliers 118-113 with a late comeback in Game 3, Golden State is 15-0 and can finish off the league's first perfect postseason with a victory Saturday in Cleveland.

Congressional hearings have a high-stakes history

By NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — This city knows how to do big hearings — even Titanic ones.

Dramatic congressional hearings are something of a Washington art form, a rite of democracy carefully crafted for the cameras.

Suspense is building as fired FBI Director James Comey prepares to claim the microphone Thursday in an austere, modern hearing room of the Hart Senate Office Building. He is to testify about his dealings with President Donald Trump and the FBI's investigation into the Trump campaign's connections with Russia.

A look at past high-drama hearings:

ELEVEN HOURS

Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's marathon grilling before the House Select Committee on Benghazi in October 2015 was her moment — an extremely long moment — to push back against critics' suggestions that her State Department failed to protect U.S. diplomats in Libya before the 2012 attack that killed four Americans. In hours of sometimes testy testimony, Clinton, by then front-runner for the Democratic presidential candidate, said it was "deeply unfortunate" that the Benghazi attacks were being "used for political purposes." Asked how it felt to be accused of contributing to the deaths of four Americans, she said softly, "I imagine I've thought more about what happened than all of you put together. I've lost more sleep than all of you put together."

HE SAID, SHE SAID

The 1991 Senate confirmation hearings for Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas will forever be remembered for the lurid accusations of sexual harassment leveled by a young former subordinate, Anita Hill. From the witness table, Hill described what she said were Thomas' unwanted sexual advances toward her. Both Thomas and Hill withstood withering and painfully detailed questions from members of the all-male Judiciary Committee. He described the hearings as a "high-tech lynching." She later said senators should apologize for "their malicious indictment of me."

RAISE YOUR HAND

When Marine Lt. Colonel Oliver North, his chest brimming with medals, stood and raised his right hand to be sworn in at a 1987 Senate hearing, it became the enduring image from the Iran-Contra scandal, a covert arms-for-hostages overture to Iran. In six days of testimony before a Senate panel, North commanded the spotlight as he insisted his superiors had authorized all of his actions. "I came here to tell the truth, the good, the bad and the ugly," he said. "I am here to tell it all." A jury later found North guilty of three felonies, but an appeals court reversed his convictions, finding the case relied too much on testimony he gave to Congress under an immunity deal.

WATERGATE'S CANCER

Americans were glued to their TVs in the summer of 1973, when North Carolina Sen. Sam Ervin presided over the Watergate hearings. It was here that Nixon aide Alexander Butterfield revealed the existence of the White House taping system that contained the evidence that ended Nixon's presidency. And here that former White House counsel John Dean said he'd told Nixon there was "a cancer growing on the presidency" and revealed that Nixon had approved plans to cover up the break-in at Democratic National Committee headquarters.

THIS IS WAR

In 1966, Sen. William Fulbright launched "educational" hearings by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee aimed at heading off a buildup of U.S. forces in Vietnam. Retired generals and respected foreign policy analysts were among the witnesses who testified in the same caucus room where the Titanic and

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Army-McCarthy hearings had been held in earlier decades. The hearings helped produce a shift in public opinion by "making it respectable to question the war," according to a Senate historical account.

"HAVE YOU NO SENSE OF DECENCY?"

Wisconsin Sen. Joseph McCarthy's anticommunist campaign led to the Army-McCarthy hearings in the spring of 1954 that included an outburst from Boston lawyer Joseph Welch when McCarthy got particularly aggressive. "Let us not assassinate this lad further, senator," Welch declared in the televised hearing. "You have done enough. Have you no sense of decency?" With that, McCarthy's reign of fear collapsed.

BIG GAMBLE

The 1950 assassination of a gambling kingpin in Kansas City led to a special Senate investigation into organized crime chaired by Tennessee Sen. Estes Kefauver. The committee visited 14 major cities in 15 months, "like a theater company doing previews on the road" before heading for Broadway, according to a Senate historical account. When gambler Frank Costello refused to testify on camera in New York, the committee agreed not to show his face, and cameras instead showed his "nervously agitated hands, unexpectedly making riveting viewing," the Senate post recounted. The Associated Press wrote at the time: "Something big, unbelievably big and emphatic, smashed into the homes of millions of Americans last week when television cameras, cold-eyed and relentless, were trained on the Kefauver Crime hearings."

TEAPOT TEMPEST

This one looked to be a snoozer. The Senate in 1922 set out to investigate a secret deal involving the interior secretary and a lease for the U.S. naval petroleum reserve at Wyoming's Teapot Dome. The inquiry looked to be so tedious that a junior member of the minority, Montana Democrat Thomas Walsh, was named chairman. But the hearings uncovered shady dealings that made Albert Fall the first former cabinet officer to go to prison and turned Walsh into a national hero, according to an account posted on the Senate's website.

TRULY TITANIC

In April 1912, a special Senate subcommittee investigating the sinking of the Titanic met first at New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, then in the new caucus room of the Russell Senate Office Building. In all, 82 witnesses testified about ice warnings ignored, life boat shortages and other failings. The hearings ended with Sen. William Smith of Maine heading back to New York to interview crew on the Titanic's sister ship, Olympic. The hearing transcripts stretched to 1,100 pages, and were reprinted in 1988 after the movie "Titanic" piqued public interest.

Sources: "Senate Stories" on Senate website at <https://www.senate.gov/history/essays.htm>. Historical accounts at <http://history.house.gov/>

Follow Nancy Benac on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/nbenac>

Keith Urban wins big at CMT Awards, Underwood makes history

By MESFIN FEKADU, AP Music Writer

After walking away empty-handed at the Grammy Awards and the Academy of Country Music Awards earlier this year, Keith Urban found redemption at the 2017 CMT Music Awards, picking up four honors including video of the year for "Blue Ain't Your Color."

The country star also won male video, collaborative video and social superstar of the year at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

"I love making music, I love making videos ... who knows how long you get to do it," said Urban, who also thanked his fans and his actress-wife Nicole Kidman, who sat in the audience.

"I'm just trying to make a connection," he said.

Urban also performed, singing his disco-flavored hit "The Fighter" with Carrie Underwood, who continued to dominate as the most awarded act in the history of the CMT Awards with 17 wins.

She won female video of the year for "Church Bells" and collaborative video for "The Fighter."

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"Thank you God for so many incredible blessings that we have in our lives ... we are so grateful and we are so blessed," said Underwood, who is married to Mike Fisher of the Nashville Predators, who are competing in the Stanley Cup Finals against the Pittsburgh Penguins (Game 5 is Thursday).

"Go Preds," she said.

Others paired up for collaborative performances throughout the night. Jason Aldean, Darius Rucker, Charles Kelley of Lady Antebellum and Derek Trucks kicked off the show with a rocking tribute to southern rocker Gregg Allman, who died last month at age 69. Peter Frampton sang outdoors with Brothers Osborne; The Chainsmokers and duo video of the year winners Florida Georgia Line performed the energetic "Last Day Alive," which was pre-taped Tuesday; and Earth, Wind & Fire partnered with Lady Antebellum to close the awards show.

Luke Bryan and Jason Derulo, who won CMT performance of the year for "Want to Want Me" from their "CMT Crossroads" special, performed the pop song onstage as well as Bryan's slow groove, "Strip It Down."

The CMT Awards didn't only include singers from other genres; Hollywood stars also attended, including Ashton Kutcher.

Jada Pinkett Smith and Katherine Heigl sported pink sunglasses while Miranda Lambert sang "Pink Sunglasses" onstage. Blake Shelton, Thomas Rhett and Kelsea Ballerini also performed during the show. Little Big Town, who also sang, won group video of the year for "Better Man," their No. 1 hit that was written by Taylor Swift.

Band member Karen Fairchild thanked the group's fans "for making this such a big hit."

Lauren Alaina, who placed second on "American Idol" in 2011, won breakthrough video of the year for her No. 1 hit, "Road Less Traveled."

"Reba McEntire just gave me an award so that's pretty crazy," said the shocked 22-year-old singer. After thanking people she gave Jesus a shout-out.

"I should have said that first. Sorry God," she said.

Online:

<http://www.cmt.com/cmt-music-awards>

S. Korea leader warns North after latest missile launch

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's latest launches of several suspected anti-ship missiles were short-range and landed well short of past efforts, but they still served as a defiant message for its enemies that Pyongyang will continue to pursue a weapons program that has rattled its neighbors and Washington.

The projectiles were fired Thursday from the North Korean eastern coastal town of Wonsan and likely flew about 200 kilometers (125 miles), South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. They landed in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, where U.S. aircraft carriers USS Carl Vinson and USS Ronald Reagan participated in joint exercises with the South Korean navy that ended earlier this week.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who has expressed a desire to reach out to Pyongyang, said during a National Security Council meeting he "won't back off even a single step and make any compromise" on the issue of national security. He warned that North Korea could only face further international isolation and more economic difficulties.

The North's missile tests present a difficult challenge to Moon. North Korea, which could have a working nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile in the next several years, may also be the most urgent foreign policy concern for the Trump administration, which has been distracted by domestic political turmoil and has insisted China do more to rein in the North's weapons activities.

South Korean military spokesman Roh Jae-cheon said the launch was intended to show off Pyongyang's widening array of missiles and also its "precision strike capabilities" on ships in response to the joint drills.

North Korea's weapons tests are meant to build a nuclear and missile program that can stand up to

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what it sees as U.S. and South Korean hostility, but they are also considered by outside analysts as ways to make its political demands clear to leaders in Washington and Seoul. Analysts say the latest test appeared to be aimed at keeping up pressures on Moon to wrest concessions.

Moon has sought to expand cross-border civilian exchanges as a way to improve ties, but North Korea on Monday rejected a Seoul civic group's offer to provide anti-malaria supplies to protest South Korea's support of fresh U.N. sanctions adopted last week.

In what will likely become another source of animosities, Moon's government said Thursday that it will let two of the four North Korean fishermen recently rescued at sea resettle in the South in accordance with their wishes. The two other fishermen who want to return home will be repatriated.

Pyongyang is expected to demand the return of all four fishermen by accusing Seoul of enticing them to defect to the South.

The launches Thursday were North Korea's fourth missile test since Moon's inauguration on May 10.

Analyst Kim Dong-yub at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies said the projectiles, which showed longer range than North Korea's previously known KN-01 anti-ship cruise missiles, were likely from a new cruise missile system the North displayed during a massive April 15 military parade. The improved range indicates North Korea is pursuing weapons capable of reaching U.S. aircraft carriers that operate from deeper positions, he said.

Last month, North Korea premiered a powerful new midrange missile that outside experts said flew higher than any other missile previously tested by North Korea.

The North in following weeks launched a solid-fuel midrange missile that can be fired on shorter notice than liquid fuel missiles, and also what it described a new "precision-guided" missile, which experts say is designed with a maneuverable terminal stage meant to frustrate missile defense systems like the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense that is being deployed in South Korea.

Jury may soon hear from Cosby, even if he doesn't take stand

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISAK, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — A jury that heard seven hours of testimony from a woman who says Bill Cosby drugged and assaulted her may soon hear from Cosby himself — even if he doesn't take the stand.

Prosecutors are expected to show jurors an earlier deposition in which Cosby said that he routinely gave women pills and alcohol before sexual encounters and gave at least one of them quaaludes, a now-banned sedative.

The suburban Philadelphia jury on Wednesday heard trial accuser Andrea Constand offer her most direct denial yet that any of their earlier meetings were romantic.

"It wasn't a romantic time, no," Constand, 44, of Toronto, said of an earlier fireside dinner with Cosby, a trustee at Temple University, where she directed the women's basketball team.

The jury also heard Cosby's voice on a 2006 telephone call, offering Constand money for graduate school after her mother called to confront him about the encounter at his home a year earlier.

"She could go to school," he said. "If she wanted to do that, then I would be willing to ... pay for the schooling."

Cosby, now 79, acknowledges in the deposition from Constand's related lawsuit that he gave her three blue pills before fondling her breast and penetrating her with his fingers. The only question for the jury is how to interpret the encounter. Prosecutors say she was too impaired to give consent.

The defense lawyer sought to show that Constand changed her mind about the date of the alleged assault. But Constand perhaps blunted the attack by saying she got confused and initially thought the episode happened in March 2004.

"I was mistaken," she said, unflustered.

Gianna Constand, who followed her daughter to the stand, sounded alarmed at the thought Andrea had been drugged, and angry that they still don't know what type of pills Cosby gave her. Andrea Constand said the pills left her paralyzed and unable to stop Cosby from penetrating her with his finger and putting

her hand on his genitals. She said she was still woozy when she woke up six hours later.

The defense spent hours on cross-examination trying to suggest the sexual encounter with Cosby was consensual, based on Constand's previous visits to his home and continued contact afterward.

Constand's case is expected to get to the jury sometime next week. Prosecutors, before then, plan to call an expert in the behavior of sexual assault victims to explain why some remain in contact with their abusers and wait before lodging a complaint.

The defense may call a memory expert to cast doubt on the accuracy of testimony about long-ago events. Cosby was arrested in 2015 after his deposition became public and prosecutors reopened an earlier 2005 investigation that ended with Cosby not being charged.

"She has said the same thing from Day One. She's always said he drugged her. She's always said she didn't consent. She's always said it was digital penetration," Constand lawyer Dolores Troiani told The Associated Press when Constand finished her testimony Wednesday afternoon.

Some 60 women have come forward to say Cosby sexually violated them, 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 Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they grant permission, which Constand has 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>

Some states review election systems for signs of intrusion

By EMERY P. DALESIO and GEOFF MULVIHILL, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Officials in some states are trying to figure out whether local election offices were targeted in an apparent effort by Russian military intelligence to hack into election software last fall.

The efforts were detailed in a recently leaked report attributed to the U.S. National Security Agency.

North Carolina is checking on whether any local systems were breached, while the revelation prompted an election security review in Virginia. Both are considered presidential battleground states.

In Illinois, officials are trying to determine which election offices used software from the contractor that the report said was compromised.

The three are among eight states where election offices had contracts with VR Systems, a Florida-based company that provided software to manage voter registrations. The others are Florida, California, Indiana, New York and West Virginia.

The report, dated last month, asserts that hackers obtained information from company employees and used that to send phishing emails to 122 local election officials just before the election last November in an attempt to break into their systems.

So far, there is no indication that voting or ballot counting in any states were affected. Officials in at least five counties in Florida — a key political swing state — received the emails, the Miami Herald reported. It's not clear where else the emails may have been sent.

But the revelation, published by the online news outlet The Intercept, set off questions in the states where VR provides software.

North Carolina state elections board director Kim Westbrook Strach said her office had not been contacted by any federal officials about whether any of the 21 county election offices that use VR software were targeted. Still, her office was contacting county boards about potential breaches.

The news of a reported Russian hacking attempt surprised Bill Brian, elections board chairman in Durham County, which experienced problems with VR Systems' electronic poll books on Election Day. The issue forced officials to abandon the system, issue paper ballots and extend voting hours, but officials there said that trouble did not appear to have been caused by hacking.

"We have not had any big, 'Uh oh, we've got a problem with computers,'" said Brian, a Republican.

In Virginia, state Elections Commissioner Edgardo Cortes, said he could not comment on whether any

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local officials were targeted by the phishing emails, but he said he was not aware of any breaches. Still, the disclosure of the NSA document has prompted a review of election security, he said.

There also is no indication to date of the reported Russian attempt "resulting in any contact with local election officials in West Virginia," said Steven Adams, spokesman for the secretary of state.

In some states, VR software was used in only a handful of voting jurisdictions.

New York election officials said just four counties used the software last year and that federal authorities had not contacted the state about any of them being targeted.

California officials said only Humboldt County, in the far northern part of the state, used VR software during last year's election. Sam Mahood, a spokesman for Secretary of State Alex Padilla, declined to say if the office was investigating whether the county was targeted.

So far, Humboldt County has found no evidence that anyone in the elections office received the phishing emails, County Clerk Kelly Sanders said. The county used the software to sign in voters.

Illinois officials have asked local elections offices whether they used VR's software in 2016. By midday Wednesday, only one county said it had.

Last September, the Department of Homeland Security told the AP that hackers believed to be Russian agents had targeted voter registration systems in more than 20 states. No evidence of tampering emerged in the worst-hit state, Illinois. Hackers who penetrated its network with a method called SQL injection spent three weeks rooting around before they were discovered in July. Officials said nothing was added, changed or deleted.

The general counsel for the Illinois state elections board, Ken Menzel, said the state cooperated with the FBI and other federal authorities in the investigation but was not told who might have been responsible. He said the intrusion had been traced to some servers in the Netherlands and he heard speculation of Russian involvement.

"The feds did not see fit to enlighten us to the extent that the feds know more than that," he said. "That wasn't part of our need-to-know."

Kay Stimson, a spokeswoman for the National Association of Secretaries of State, whose members oversee elections in several states, said the group wants to know why federal officials did not warn potential victims at the time the attacks were allegedly happening.

Stimson said that with more specific information that breaches were possible, states could have offered help to local election officials and created firewalls to make sure any local problems would not have caused problems at the state level.

The Department of Homeland Security did not respond to a request for comment.

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Associated Press writers Frank Bajak in Houston; Sophia Bollag in Sacramento, California; Michael Virtanen in Morgantown, West Virginia; Alan Suderman in Richmond, Virginia; and Sophia Tareen in Chicago contributed to this article.

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Kuwait's emir meets with Qatari leader amid diplomatic rift

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Kuwait's emir traveled to Qatar to help mediate an end to a crisis that's seen Arab nations cut ties to the energy-rich nation home to a major U.S. military base, though Emirati officials warned there was "nothing to negotiate."

Kuwait's Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah was met planeside by Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, when he arrived on Wednesday night. The Qatari Foreign Ministry said in a statement the two held talks on how "restore the normal relations" of the Gulf as the 2022 FIFA World Cup host and international air travel hub now finds itself isolated by land, sea and air.

But the visit came after Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash told The Associated

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Press that Qatar has "chosen to ride the tiger of extremism and terrorism" and now needed to pay the price, despite Qatar long denying the allegation.

Gargash said Qatar "definitely" should expel members of Hamas, stop its support of terror groups "with al-Qaida DNA" around the world and rein in the many media outlets it funds, chief among them the Doha-based satellite news network Al-Jazeera.

Their "fingerprints are all over the place" in terror funding, Gargash said. "Enough is enough."

Qatari officials declined to comment on Gargash's comments. Its foreign minister has struck a defiant tone in interviews, even after worried residents emptied grocery stores in its capital of Doha as Saudi Arabia has blocked trucks carrying food from entering the country.

Its flag carrier Qatar Airways now flies increasingly over Iran and Turkey after being blocked elsewhere over the Middle East. Emirati officials also shut down the airline's offices in the UAE on Wednesday. Al-Jazeera offices also have been shut down by authorities in Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Meanwhile, Turkey's parliament approved sending troops to an existing Turkish base in Qatar as a sign of support.

The international agency Standard and Poors announced Wednesday that it lowered its rating on Qatar's long-term debt to AA-minus because of the country's dispute with its neighbors. S&P said those countries' severing of diplomatic and business links "will exacerbate Qatar's external vulnerabilities and could put pressure on economic growth and fiscal" stability.

Speaking to the AP from a Foreign Ministry office in Dubai, Gargash listed a number of terror groups he alleged Qatar had funded, including al-Qaida's branches in Syria and Somalia, militants in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula and other groups with "al-Qaida-type organizations" in Libya. He offered no documents to support his claim, but Western officials long have accused Qatar's government of allowing or even encouraging funding of some Sunni extremists.

Gargash particularly pointed out the tens of millions of dollars paid to Shiite militias and others to free dozens of Qatari ruling family members and others in Iraq after 16 months in captivity.

Asked for specifics about what Arab nations wanted from Qatar, Gargash said expelling members of Hamas and other groups like the Muslim Brotherhood from Qatar was important.

U.S. President Donald Trump, who tweeted Tuesday about Qatar funding extremists, called Sheikh Tamim on Wednesday and offered to host leaders at the White House to resolve the crisis. It's unclear whether the Qatari leader would accept, especially as one outspoken Emirati ruling family member, the writer and political analyst Sultan Sooud Al Qassemi, has raised the prospect of Qatar's leadership changing.

"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."

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.

"Doha now is completely isolated," Al Qassemi said. "Doha now needs to take serious steps very rapidly to placate not only their neighbors but also their allies around the world."

The crisis began in part over what the Qataris described as a false news report planted during a hack of its state-run news agency.

An initial report on the hack from Qatar's Interior Ministry late Wednesday said the website of the Qatar News Agency was initially hacked in April with "high techniques and innovative methods." It said hackers installed a file and then published a fake news item attributed to Sheikh Tamim just after midnight May 24.

The ministry did not say who it suspected carried out the attack, though it thanked the FBI and the British National Commission for Combating Crime for assisting it in its investigation.

Russia denied Wednesday it hacked the agency after a CNN report quoted anonymous U.S. officials saying they suspected Russian hackers.

The UAE did not hack the Qatari news agency, Gargash said. However, he did acknowledge the authenticity of recently leaked emails from Emirati Ambassador Yousef al-Otaiba in Washington, which several media outlets described as including criticism of Qatar.

"That hack showed the UAE's real concerns and that what we really say in our private emails is what

we say publicly," Gargash said.

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

Comey's testimony to put uncomfortable spotlight on Trump

By JULIE PACE and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a hugely anticipated hearing, fired FBI director James Comey will recount a series of conversations with President Donald Trump that he says made him deeply uneasy and concerned about the blurring of boundaries between the White House and a law enforcement agency that prides itself on independence.

The testimony, Comey's first public statements since his May 9 dismissal, is likely to bring hours of uncomfortable attention to an administration shadowed for months by an investigation into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia.

His account of demands for loyalty from the president, and of requests to end an investigation into an embattled adviser, are likely to sharpen allegations that Trump improperly sought to influence the FBI-led probe.

Comey's detailed and vivid recollections of his one-on-one conversations with Trump were revealed in seven pages of prepared testimony released Wednesday, the day before his appearance before the Senate intelligence committee.

He'll testify under oath that Trump repeatedly pressed him for his "loyalty" and directly pushed him to "lift the cloud" of investigation by declaring publicly the president was not the target of the probe into his campaign's Russia ties.

His remarks paint a picture of an FBI director so disconcerted by his interactions with the president that he began keeping written memos of their private discussions, including one he hastened to type out in an FBI vehicle immediately after a Trump Tower meeting.

He'll tell lawmakers he believed the president was trying to create a "patronage relationship" with him and describe in detail an Oval Office meeting in which Trump urged him not to investigate ousted National Security Adviser Michael Flynn's contacts with Russian officials.

But the ex-FBI director also will validate Trump's assertion that he was not personally a target of the federal counterintelligence investigation into possible campaign collusion with Russia. Comey says he did offer the president that "assurance," but resisted Trump's appeals to make that information public.

"The FBI and the Department of Justice had been reluctant to make public statements that we did not have an open case on President Trump for a number of reasons, most importantly because it would create a duty to correct, should that change," Comey says in the prepared remarks.

Trump's personal lawyer said Trump was cheered by the testimony.

"The president is pleased that Mr. Comey has finally publicly confirmed his private reports that the president was not under investigation in any Russian probe," attorney Mark Kasowitz said in a statement. "The president feels completely and totally vindicated. He is eager to continue to move forward with his agenda."

Comey has not spoken publicly since he was abruptly fired by Trump on May 9. His dismissal, four years into a 10-year term, fueled claims Trump's ultimate aim was to quash the investigation and obstruct justice, potentially a federal crime or an impeachable offense. Some legal experts said Comey's account could bolster such a case.

Ryan Goodman, a professor at New York University School of Law, said Trump's efforts to protect Flynn provide "strong evidence" of obstruction of justice. However, Jonathan Turley, a law professor at George Washington University, said that while Trump's dealings with Comey were inappropriate, "We do not indict people for being boorish or clueless."

The ex-FBI director's testimony recounts his conversations with the apparent precision of a veteran lawyer. Comey notes he had nine one-on-one interactions with Trump over a four-month stretch, compared to two private conversations with President Barack Obama between September 2013 and the end of 2016.

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He also says he did not keep written memos of his interactions with Obama.

The first meeting with Trump after the inauguration occurred on Jan. 27, during a private dinner at the White House that Comey came to view as an attempt by the president to "create some sort of patronage relationship."

According to Comey, Trump asked if he wanted to remain as FBI director and declared: "I need loyalty. I expect loyalty." Comey says he replied that he could offer his honesty, and that when Trump said he wanted "honest loyalty," Comey paused and said, "You will get that from me."

Comey also describes at length a Feb. 14 meeting in the Oval Office in which he believed Trump asked him to back off an investigation into Flynn.

"He then said, 'I hope you can see your way clear to letting this go, to letting Flynn go. He is a good guy. I hope you can let this go,'" Comey says, according to the prepared remarks. He said he believed the president was talking only about Flynn, not about the broader Russia probe.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said she was unsure if the president read Comey's testimony after its release. Asked whether the president stood by earlier assertions that he had neither sought Comey's loyalty nor asked for the Flynn investigation to be dropped, she said: "I can't imagine the president not standing by his own statement."

Earlier Wednesday, Trump announced that he planned to nominate Christopher Wray, a former Justice Department official, as Comey's successor.

Trump allies have raised questions about Comey's credibility ahead of his testimony, noting that the FBI had to correct some of his remarks from his last appearance on Capitol Hill. They've also questioned why Comey did not raise his concerns about Trump publicly or resign.

Comey's prepared testimony does not fully answer that question, though he does say he asked Attorney General Jeff Sessions to help prevent him having any direct communication with the president in the future.

Trump has repeatedly cast the Russia investigation as a "hoax" and denied having any improper ties to Moscow. According to Comey, Trump was acutely aware of the political toll of the investigation, complaining that the probe had left a "cloud" that was "impairing his ability to act on behalf of the country."

In a phone call on March 30, Comey says the president asked him what could be done to "lift the cloud." He says Trump also volunteered that "he had nothing to do with Russia, had not been involved with hookers in Russia, and had always assumed he was being recorded when in Russia" — referencing an unverified intelligence dossier detailing compromising information Moscow had allegedly collected on Trump.

The White House initially said Trump fired Comey on the recommendation of the Justice Department, citing as justification a memo from Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein that criticized Comey's handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation. But Trump later said he was thinking of "this Russia thing" when he fired Comey and would have dismissed him without the Justice Department's input.

Annotated testimony:

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/3860401-Os-Jcomey-060817.html>

AP writers Mark Sherman and Sam Hananel contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Eric Tucker at <http://twitter.com/etuckerAP>

North Korea fires suspected cruise missiles after US drills

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM** and **KIM TONG-HYUNG**, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea fired several suspected short-range anti-ship missiles Thursday, South Korea's military said, in a continuation of defiant launches as it seeks to build a nuclear missile capable of reaching the continental United States.

The projectiles were fired from the North Korean eastern coastal town of Wonsan and likely flew about 200 kilometers (about 125 miles) while reaching a maximum altitude of about 2 kilometers (1.2 miles),

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South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. They landed in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan, where U.S. aircraft carriers USS Carl Vinson and USS Ronald Reagan participated in joint exercises with the South Korean navy that ended earlier this week.

The North's missile tests present a difficult challenge to new South Korean President Moon Jae-in, a liberal elected last month who has expressed a desire to reach out to Pyongyang. North Korea, which could have a working nuclear-tipped intercontinental ballistic missile in the next several years, may also be the most urgent foreign policy concern for the Trump administration, which has been distracted by domestic political turmoil and has insisted China do more to rein in the North's weapons activities.

Roh Jae-cheon, spokesman of Seoul's military, said the latest launch would have intended to show off its widening arrange of missiles and also its "precision strike capabilities" on ships in response to the joint drills.

North Korea's weapons tests are meant to build a nuclear and missile program that can stand up to what it sees as U.S. and South Korean hostility, but they are also considered by outside analysts as ways to make its political demands clear to leaders in Washington and Seoul. Analysts say the latest test appeared to be aimed at keeping up pressures on Moon, who convened a National Security Council meeting in Seoul over the launch.

The launches Thursday were North Korea's fourth missile test in as many weeks as the country continues to speed up its development of nuclear weapons and missiles.

Kim Dong-yub, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said the projectiles, which showed longer range than North Korea's previously known KN-01 anti-ship cruise missiles that can travel up to 160 kilometers (99 miles), were likely from a new cruise missile system North Korea displayed during a massive April 15 military parade. The improved range indicates the North is pursuing weapons capable of reaching U.S. aircraft carriers that operate from deeper positions, he said.

Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said after Thursday's launch that Tokyo has not detected any "flying objects" that headed toward Japan or landed inside the country's maritime economic zone.

North Korea on May 14 premiered a powerful new midrange missile that it said could carry a heavy nuclear warhead. Experts said that rocket flew higher and for a longer time than any other missile previously tested by North Korea, and that it could one day reach targets as far away as Hawaii and Alaska.

The North in following weeks launched a solid-fuel midrange missile that can be fired on shorter notice than liquid fuel missiles, and also what it descried a new "precision-guided" missile, which experts say is designed with a maneuverable terminal stage meant to frustrate missile defense systems like the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense that is being deployed in South Korea.

Associated Press writer Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Warriors set to make their claim as NBA's best ever

By **BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer**

CLEVELAND (AP) — One victory left for the Golden State Warriors to claim another title.

Not the one as NBA champions. The one as the best team ever.

Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry and the rest of the Warriors will be able to make that boast if they win Friday to complete the most impressive postseason run in major sports history.

They moved to the brink of that with a 118-113 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday in Game 3 of the NBA Finals. The Warriors are 15-0 and can finish off the NBA's first perfect postseason with a victory here in Game 4.

Combine that with last year's 73-win season, and a second title in three years — which could have easily been three consecutive championships — and foundation of the case has been made.

The Cavaliers are no match for these Warriors, not even with arguably the best player on the planet in LeBron James. Golden State's only competition is with Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and the Bulls, and other great teams from the past.

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None won as dominantly as this team, which has four versatile All-Stars — including two former league MVPs — in their prime. These aptly named Warriors spent the last two months building big leads, then Wednesday wiped out a late deficit.

Some people may argue their greatness, but James won't.

"It's probably the most, most firepower I've played in my career," James said. "I played against some great teams, but I don't think no team has had this type of firepower. So even when you're playing well, you got to play like A-plus plus, because they're going to make runs and they're going to make shots and they got guys that's going to make plays."

The NBA's best postseason run is the 15-1 mark of the 2001 Lakers, while the 1983 Philadelphia 76ers went 12-1. Jordan's first title team in 1991 is one of three squads that went 15-2.

The Warriors thought they were carving out their place in history when they set a record with 73 wins last season. But history turned to infamy when they blew a 3-1 lead to the Cavaliers, the biggest collapse in NBA Finals history.

They spoke openly of their desire to beat Jordan's 72-win team in 1996, but this time have downplayed the importance of 16-0.

"We obviously know how hard it is to win a championship, what all goes into it and how important each game is. And now that you can look ahead to Friday, all our focus is on that," Curry said. "And just we obviously — we want 16 wins; it doesn't matter how we get there. But now that we're in this situation, why not take care of business and finish the job?"

They were winning by 16.9 points per game through the previous 14, which would easily be another NBA record. And when they finally got a close one, they showed why their roster is the envy of just about every other team, with the long-range shooting of Durant, Curry and Klay Thompson, and the defensive wizardry of Draymond Green and 2015 NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala.

That roster would give these Warriors a chance against any great team from the past — and gives most of their opponents no chance against them.

"They're definitely a different team than they were last year that's definitely in full effect that we're all fully aware of," the Cavs' Kyrie Irving said.

That's mostly because of Durant, the former NBA MVP who signed with the Warriors in July. Curry, winner of the last two MVP awards, is fully healthy after struggling through last year's Finals.

Neither will turn 30 until next year, while Thompson and Green are only 27. Should the Warriors stay healthy and together — and it would cost them enormously in salaries and taxes — they should be a title threat every year.

They very easily could be playing for a third straight championship.

They look ready to play for many more.

"Just the combination of offense and defense, the talent that they've been able to amass, it puts them in position where this is a dynasty to me," ABC analyst Jeff Van Gundy said before the NBA Finals. "They have their youth, they have their health. I see nothing preventing them from going to eight to 10 straight Finals. It will be a massive upset, I think, if they're not there each and every year."

More AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball>

Alleged leaker's parents fear Trump will be tough on case

By JOHNNY CLARK and RUSS BYNUM, Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — A young woman charged with leaking U.S. government secrets to a reporter poses no flight risk if she's released from pre-trial confinement, her parents said Wednesday, though they fear prosecutors will seek to use the case to send a tough message from the Trump administration.

It will be difficult for 25-year-old Reality Winner to get a fair trial if her case becomes "this big thing where we're not going to tolerate leakers," Winner's mother, Billie Winner-Davis, told The Associated Press

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in an interview.

"I think they're going to try to make an example out of her because of the political climate right now," Winner-Davis said.

Winner, a former Air Force linguist who now works as a U.S. government contractor, was arrested Saturday by FBI agents on charges that she made copies of a classified report containing top-secret information and mailed it to an online news organization.

A judge has scheduled a hearing Thursday for Winner in U.S. District Court to determine whether to allow her to be released on bond pending trial. She has been jailed in neighboring Lincoln County since her arrest, according to a booking report released by the sheriff.

"She's not a flight risk," said Gary Davis, Winner's stepfather. "Everybody in America knows what she looks like at this point. She's never ran away from anything in her life. She's not a violent person. She has no record. There's no reason to hold her."

Prosecutors have not named the news outlet, but her arrest was announced Monday as the website The Intercept reported it had obtained a classified National Security Agency report suggesting Russian hackers had attacked a U.S. voting software supplier before last year's presidential election.

The Intercept said the NSA report was dated May 5 — the same date court records cited for the documents Winner is accused of leaking.

Winner grew up in Kingsville, Texas, and enlisted in the Air Force after graduating from high school. Davis said she became a linguist, speaking Arabic and Farsi, and spent four years assigned to the NSA at Fort Mead, Maryland. During that time, he said, Winner provided real-time translation to Americans conducting field missions.

Davis said she received a commendation for aiding in the deaths of more than 100 enemy combatants and more than 250 enemy captures.

"If she made this mistake," Davis said, referring to the leaked documents, "it needs to be balanced against what she has done in the past and how she has served this country."

Neither prosecutors nor Winner's parents have identified the government agency where she worked at the time of her arrest. But the NSA has operated a \$286 million complex in Augusta since 2012.

Though she was active on social media, Winner doesn't appear to have discussed her work online. She did use her Facebook page to speak freely about politics, including some scathing opinions on President Donald Trump.

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.'"

Court records say Winner admitted to mailing a copy of the classified report to a news outlet when an FBI agent interviewed her at her home Saturday.

In a court affidavit filed late Tuesday, the FBI said it seized Winner's U.S. passport, two spiral-bound notebooks, two laptop computers, 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 and any possible contacts with "foreign governments, foreign powers, or agents of foreign powers."

Bynum reported from Savannah, Georgia. Associated Press writer Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Bodies, aircraft parts found in search for Myanmar plane

By ESTHER HTUSAN, Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — A navy ship found bodies and aircraft parts in the seas off Myanmar while searching Thursday morning for a military transport plane carrying 120 people, a spokesman said.

The Chinese-made Y-8 turboprop aircraft disappeared Wednesday afternoon about a half-hour after

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leaving Myeik, also known as Mergui, for Yangon on a route that would have taken it over the Andaman Sea. It was raining, but not heavily, at the time.

Nine naval ships, five army aircraft and three helicopters were searching for the plane Thursday morning, a military spokesman said.

Gen. Myat Min Oo said the ship found two life jackets, three bodies and a tire that was part of an aircraft wheel. The bodies were of a man, a woman and a child. The wreckage was found in the sea west of the town of Laung Lone.

The plane carried 106 passengers — mostly families of military personnel — and 14 crew members. Fifteen of the passengers were children. It is not unusual for such flights to carry civilians to offset transportation costs for military families stationed in the somewhat remote south.

An announcement posted on the Facebook page of the commander of the military, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, said contact was lost when the plane was believed to be about 32 kilometers (20 miles) to the west of Dawei, formerly known as Tavoy.

The military said Myanmar received the Y-8 plane in March last year, and since then it had logged 809 flying hours.

The area is about 440 miles (700 kilometers) north of the last primary radar contact with Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which vanished on a flight from Malaysia to Beijing on March 8, 2014, with 239 people on board. That plane is believed to have flown far off course and crashed into a remote area of the southern Indian Ocean.

Red Sox announcer Remy apologizes for no-translator remarks

By **BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Boston Red Sox announcer Jerry Remy apologized Wednesday for his on-air remarks a night earlier that pitchers such as Yankees star Masahiro Tanaka shouldn't be allowed to have translators on the mound.

During the NESN broadcast of the Boston-New York game at Yankee Stadium on Tuesday night, Remy said pitchers such as the Japanese-born Tanaka should "learn baseball language."

"Last night, during the course of the Red Sox-Yankees game I made some comments that offended a number of people in our audience," Remy said at the start of Wednesday's telecast. "I'd like to apologize to my colleagues at NESN, to the Boston Red Sox but most importantly to the fans who were offended by my comments. I sincerely hope you accept my apologies."

His comments Tuesday quickly drew sharp criticism on social media, with some saying there isn't one universal language for baseball. Remy apologized on Twitter earlier in the day, and the Red Sox and NESN released statements distancing themselves from Remy's remarks.

"NESN does not agree with any such views expressed by Jerry Remy and we know from talking to Jerry that he regrets making them. The network sincerely apologizes to anyone who was offended by Jerry's comments," NESN said.

Said the Red Sox: "We do not share the views expressed by Jerry Remy during last night's broadcast." Tanaka said he wasn't sure why Remy made his comments.

"Little nuances could get lost in the process of trying to communicate, especially when you don't know the language," Tanaka said through a translator.

His translator, Shingo Horie, did not want to comment beyond saying he felt the same way as Tanaka.

Remy has been a popular Red Sox television analyst since 1988. He was a Boston infielder for seven seasons and is a member of the team's Hall of Fame.

In 2013, Major League Baseball adopted a rule that permitted interpreters to join mound conferences. That same season, Red Sox relievers Koji Uehara and Junichi Tazawa each used translators on the team's run to the World Series championship.

Red Sox manager John Farrell said he wished he would have been able to have a translator on the mound during his time as Boston's pitching coach from 2007-10, when he worked with Daisuke Matsuzaka

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and Hideki Okajima.

"We were able to have the interpreter in bullpen sessions," Farrell said.

Farrell said he learned Japanese for single words, objects and numbers.

"But when you start talking concepts, let's face it, communication with players is priority No. 1," he said. "So to be clear, the interpreter is needed."

Remy's comments Tuesday night came hours after Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt, a longtime Phillies third baseman, said in a radio interview that Philadelphia outfielder Odubel Herrera's language barrier "would make it difficult" for him to be a team leader. Herrera is from Venezuela and conducts his interviews with English-speaking media in Spanish, through a translator.

Herrera said after the Phillies' game in Atlanta that Schmidt had called him to apologize for his remarks.

In the fourth inning of the Red Sox-Yankees game, Tanaka was visited on the mound by Horie and pitching coach Larry Rothschild.

"I don't think that should be legal," Remy said at the time, telling play-by-play man Dave O'Brien, "I really don't.

"Learn baseball language. You know, learn, it's pretty simple. You break it down pretty easy between pitching coach and pitcher after a long period of time," Remy said.

O'Brien answered: "I would say that probably, you know, they're concerned about nuance being lost in some of these conversations."

As he left the broadcast booth after Boston's 5-4 win, Remy said he had nothing more to say on the subject.

"I've got no comment on that. Really," he said.

AP Baseball Writer Ronald Blum contributed to this report.

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

Trump taps seasoned law enforcement attorney to head FBI

By **SADIE GURMAN** and **MARY CLARE JALONICK**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump surprised Washington on Wednesday with his choice to replace James Comey a day ahead of the ousted FBI director's blockbuster congressional testimony, tapping a white-collar defense lawyer with strong law enforcement background. Senate Republicans and some Democrats praised the nomination.

In an early morning two-sentence tweet, Trump said he intended to nominate Christopher Wray, a high-ranking official in George W. Bush's Justice Department who represented New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in the Bridgegate scandal.

Trump, in a statement later Wednesday, called Wray "an impeccably qualified individual."

"I know that he will again serve his country as a fierce guardian of the law and model of integrity once the Senate confirms him to lead the FBI," Trump said.

While the choice captured headlines early in the day, it was quickly overwhelmed by the advance release of Comey's riveting testimony, in which he said Trump sought his loyalty at a January dinner. The former FBI chief also said he told the president three times he was not under investigation in the probe of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and possible collusion with the Trump campaign.

The White House and its allies have been looking for ways to offset that potentially damaging testimony and have been working on strategies aimed at undermining Comey's credibility.

Trump abruptly fired Comey on May 9, roiling Washington and multiple congressional investigations and prompting the appointment of Special Counsel Robert Mueller. The nomination of Wray — and the Senate confirmation hearings for the 10-year post — promise days more of public discussion about Trump and Russia.

Wray said he was honored to be selected.

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"I look forward to serving the American people with integrity as the leader of what I know firsthand to be an extraordinary group of men and women who have dedicated their careers to protecting this country," he said.

Wray rose to head the Justice Department's criminal division in the Bush administration and oversaw investigations into corporate fraud, at a time when Comey was deputy attorney general. Wray took charge of a task force of prosecutors and FBI agents created to investigate the Enron scandal.

Wray is a traditional choice for the job. Trump had considered current and former politicians, including former Sen. Joe Lieberman of Connecticut, and some FBI agents worried that Trump would try to politicize the bureau.

Lawmakers had little or no advance notice of Trump's choice. The response in the Republican-controlled Senate, where Wray would only need a simple majority vote, was supportive but cautious.

"Christopher Wray's legal credentials and law enforcement background certainly make him a suitable candidate to lead the FBI," said Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the Judiciary Committee.

Grassley said it could take "a couple weeks" to receive all of Wray's nomination paperwork before the committee begins considering his nomination. After this week, Congress is only in session for six weeks before the five-week August recess.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell praised Wray, saying his "impressive credentials make him more than ready for the sober task of leading the FBI in fulfilling its law enforcement and national security missions, especially at a time when our country faces so many serious threats both at home and abroad."

Delaware Sen. Chris Coons, a Democrat on the Judiciary panel, said he, too, was encouraged that Trump's pick is a veteran of law enforcement "rather than a career in partisan politics, as was rumored over the past several weeks."

Wray's nomination is sure to be caught up by questions from both parties — but especially Democrats — over whether he will be able to be independent of Trump, how he will handle the investigation into Russia's election meddling and how he will interact with Mueller.

"The FBI is responsible for some of our nation's most important investigations and needs a professional who is willing to stand up to the administration when necessary," Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., said.

Wray works in private practice for the King & Spalding law firm. He represented Christie, a Trump ally, in the George Washington Bridge investigation, in which two former aides to the Republican governor were convicted of plotting to close bridge lanes to punish a Democratic mayor who wouldn't endorse Christie. During tense times, Christie said, he would make one call: to Wray.

The two met and bonded when Christie was the top federal prosecutor in New Jersey in the Bush administration. Christie said the president made an "outstanding choice" for FBI director, calling Wray an independent, nonpolitical pick.

"When I was at the absolute lowest point of my professional life, he was who I called. I don't think you can give a better recommendation than that," Christie told reporters after Wray was nominated. "And it's not like I don't know a lot of lawyers."

Christie, who has informally advised Trump, was not charged in the bridge case.

Christie's office disclosed last year that Wray had the missing cellphone that was used by the governor and contained about a dozen text messages that Christie exchanged with a former staffer during a legislative hearing related to the bridge in 2013.

Former colleagues described Wray as serious and professional.

Alice Fisher, who followed Wray as head of the Justice Department's criminal division and also interviewed for the FBI post, called Wray "an excellent lawyer who will provide even-keeled leadership" and already has strong ties to the FBI.

Early in his career, Wray, a 1992 graduate from Yale Law School, was an assistant U.S. attorney in Georgia.

Thomas O'Connor, president of the FBI Agents Association, said that group looked forward to meeting with Wray and learning about his views on the bureau and the challenges agents face.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey in Washington and Michael Catalini in Livingston, New Jersey,

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contributed to this report.

World stock markets firm as UK vote, ECB meeting loom

By KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — World stock benchmarks were firm Thursday as investors parsed economic data and awaited market-moving events in Europe, including Britain's general election and a European Central Bank meeting.

KEEPING SCORE: European shares were mostly higher in early trading. France's CAC 40 edged up 0.1 percent to 5,270.99 and Germany's DAX gained 0.3 percent to 12,704.46. Britain's FTSE 100 slipped 0.1 percent after polls opened. Wall Street was poised to open higher, with Dow futures up 0.1 percent to 21,189.00 and broader S&P 500 futures adding 0.1 percent to 2,434.40.

DATA DUMP: Japan released revised first-quarter data that showed Asia's second-largest economy expanded an annualized 1 percent, a significant drop from last month's initial 2.2 percent estimate, according to Kyodo News. The downgrade was based mainly on a drop in crude oil inventories. Meanwhile, China trade growth accelerated last month, with exports expanding 8.7 percent and imports up 11.9 percent, pointing to a pickup in global demand.

BRITAIN VOTES: Political risk is rising to the top of investors' minds as voters prepare to go to the polls for Britain's general election. The race looks to be tighter than expected as the Conservatives' lead over Labour narrowed sharply in recent weeks. Results aren't expected until Friday and an unexpected outcome could play havoc with global markets and the pound.

ECB MEETS: Investors will be monitoring the European Central Bank's meeting and news conference later in the day, where policymakers are expected to sketch out their latest plans for the bank's bond-buying stimulus program. No big changes are expected after officials said that the 19-nation eurozone's economy still needs support despite improvement. Rather, traders will be focusing on officials' assessment of the risks to the economy.

QUOTEWORTHY: "I think that the ECB meeting and the UK election are the risk events that will produce the big moves today," said Hussein Sayed, chief market strategist at FXTM.

ASIAN SCORECARD: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index lost 0.3 percent to close at 19,909.26 and South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.2 percent to 2,363.57. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.3 percent to 26,059.75 and the Shanghai Composite index in mainland China added 0.3 percent to 3,150.33. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 crept up 0.2 percent to 5,676.60.

ENERGY: Oil futures stabilized after slumping overnight on unexpected news that U.S. crude stockpiles grew 3.3 million barrels last week. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 28 cents to \$45.99 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract slid \$2.47, or 5.1 percent, to close at \$45.72 per barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 27 cents to \$48.33 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 109.80 yen from 109.83 in late trade Wednesday. The euro weakened to 1.1258 from \$1.1262.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 8, the 159th day of 2017. There are 206 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 8, 1967, during the six-day Middle East war, 34 American servicemen were killed when Israel attacked the USS Liberty, a Navy intelligence-gathering ship in the Mediterranean Sea. (Israel later said the Liberty had been mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.)

On this date:

In A.D. 632, the prophet Muhammad died in Medina.

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In 1042, Edward the Confessor became King of England, beginning a reign of 23 1/2 years.

In 1845, Andrew Jackson, seventh president of the United States, died in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1867, modern American architect Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

In 1917, during World War I, Maj. Gen. John J. Pershing, commander of the American Expeditionary Force, arrived in Liverpool, England, while en route to France; also, the 1st Expeditionary Division (later the 1st Infantry Division) was organized at Fort Jay in New York.

In 1920, the Republican National Convention opened in Chicago; its delegates would end up nominating Warren G. Harding for president.

In 1939, Britain's King George VI and his consort, Queen Elizabeth, arrived in Washington, D.C., where they were received at the White House by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1942, Bing Crosby recorded "Silent Night" and "Adeste Fideles" (O Come All Ye Faithful) in Los Angeles for Decca Records.

In 1953, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously that restaurants in the District of Columbia could not refuse to serve blacks. Eight tornadoes struck Michigan's Lower Peninsula, killing 126 people.

In 1972, during the Vietnam War, an Associated Press photographer took a picture of a screaming 9-year-old girl, Phan Thi Kim Phuc (fahn thee kihm fook), as she ran naked and severely burned from the scene of a South Vietnamese napalm attack.

In 1987, Fawn Hall began testifying at the Iran-Contra hearings, describing how, as secretary to National Security aide Oliver L. North, she had helped to shred some documents and spirit away others.

In 1995, U.S. Marines rescued Capt. Scott O'Grady, whose F-16C fighter jet had been shot down by Bosnian Serbs on June 2. Mickey Mantle received a liver transplant at a Dallas hospital; however, the baseball great died two months later.

Ten years ago: Defense Secretary Robert Gates announced the Bush administration was replacing Gen. Peter Pace as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and recommending Adm. Mike Mullen for the job. Mary Winkler, who killed her preacher husband with a shotgun blast to the back as he lay in bed, was sentenced in Selmer, Tennessee, to three years in prison (she ended up serving 67 days in custody, 12 in jail and the rest in a mental health facility). Paris Hilton was sent screaming and crying back to jail after a judge in Los Angeles ruled she had to serve out her sentence for a probation violation behind bars rather than under house arrest. The space shuttle Atlantis blasted off on a mission to the international space station.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama declared "the private sector is doing fine," prompting Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney to ask, "Is he really that out of touch?" (Obama quickly clarified his remarks, saying it was "absolutely clear that the economy is not doing fine.") In Cairo, Egypt, a mob of hundreds of men assaulted women holding a march demanding an end to sexual harassment. I'll Have Another's bid for the first Triple Crown in 34 years ended when the colt was scratched the day before the Belmont Stakes and retired from racing with a swollen tendon. Kevin Millwood and five Seattle relievers combined on a no-hitter, the third in franchise history, as the Mariners beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 1-0.

One year ago: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (nah-REN'-drah MOH'-dee) told the U.S. Congress that the world's two largest democracies could anchor stability and prosperity from the Indian Ocean to the Pacific in an aspirational speech that glossed over continuing divisions in the relationship. Maria Sharapova (shah-rah-POH'-vah) was suspended for two years by the International Tennis Federation for testing positive for meldonium at the Australian Open. (The ban, which was backdated to Jan. 26, 2016, was later reduced to 15 months.) Tim McGraw ended Carrie Underwood's four-year-winning streak for the top prize at the 2016 CMT Music Awards in Nashville with his music video for "Humble and Kind."

Today's Birthdays: Former first lady Barbara Bush is 92. Actor-comedian Jerry Stiller is 90. Actress Millicent Martin is 83. Actor James Darren is 81. Actor Bernie Casey is 78. Singer Nancy Sinatra is 77. Singer Chuck Negron is 75. Musician Boz Scaggs is 73. Author Sara Paretsky is 70. Actress Sonia Braga is 67. Actress Kathy Baker is 67. Country musician Tony Rice is 66. Rock singer Bonnie Tyler is 66. Actor Griffin Dunne is 62. "Dilbert" creator Scott Adams is 60. Actor-director Keenen Ivory Wayans is 59. Singer Mick Hucknall (Simply Red) is 57. Musician Nick Rhodes (Duran Duran) is 55. Rhythm-and-blues singer Doris Pearson

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(Five Star) is 51. Actress Julianna Margulies is 50. Actor Dan Futterman is 50. Actor David Sutcliffe is 48. Actor Kent Faulcon is 47. Rhythm-and-blues singer Nicci Gilbert is 47. Actress Kelli Williams is 47. Former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., is 47. Actor Mark Feuerstein is 46. Contemporary Christian musician Mike Scheuchzer (MercyMe) is 42. Actor Eion Bailey is 41. Tennis player Lindsay Davenport is 41. Rapper Kanye (KAHN'-yay) West is 40. TV personality/actress Maria Menounos is 39. Country singer/songwriter Sturgill Simpson is 39. Blues-rock musician Derek Trucks (The Derek Trucks Band) is 38. Rock singer Alex Band (The Calling) is 36. Folk-bluegrass singer-musician Sara Watkins (Nickel Creek) is 36. Tennis player Kim Clijsters is 34. Actress Torrey DeVitto is 33.

Thought for Today: "When we begin to take our failures non-seriously, it means we are ceasing to be afraid of them." — Katherine Mansfield, New Zealander author (1888-1923).