

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 1 of 49

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- McKiver Collision Ad
- 1- Home Gym for sale
- 2- School Board Story
- 2- Noem: China to accept US Beef
- 3- Helicopters working on BSSE line
- 4- Today in Weather History
- 5- Today's Forecast
- 6- Yesterday's Weather
- 6- Today's Weather Info
- 6- National Weather Map
- 7- Daily Devotional
- 8- News from the Associated Press

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**



McKIVER COLLISION
Lifetime Warranty on all Collision Work!

13556 400th Ave., Groton SD 57445
Allen McKiver, Owner ~ 605/397-4404

Tuesday, June 13

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3-bean salad, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Salad Buffet: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Groton Legion.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 7 p.m.

Jr. Legion: at Milbank for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U12: hosts Kusler for 2 games, 6 p.m., Nelson Field

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

United Methodist: Girl Scouts at 3:30 p.m.

Olive Grove: Ladies Night, 6 p.m.; Noon Bridge.

Wednesday, June 14

FLAG DAY

Senior Menu: Sweet and sour pork, steamed rice, carrot and broccoli medley, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

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

United Methodist: Wednesday coffee time, 9 a.m.; Finance Committee, 6 p.m.; Ad Council, 7:15 p.m.

T-Ball: Black team at Claremont, 5 p.m., gold team practice at 6 p.m.

U12: at Claremont, for 1 game, 8 p.m.

U10: at Claremont for 1 game, 7 p.m.

U8 Red: at Claremont for 1 game, 6 p.m.

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

15

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, potato salad, baked beans, watermelon, cookie.

St. John's Lutheran: Quilting at 9 a.m.

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

Jr. Teener: hosts Redfield for 2 games, 6 p.m.

Softball: hosts Sisseton (U8 at 6 p.m., U10 at 7 p.m., U12/14 DH at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.)

Annual Transit Fundraiser: 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Transit (retirement party for Arlis Doeden)

16

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

U8 Blue: hosts Webster for 1 game, 6 p.m., Nelson Field

U8 Red: hosts Webster for 1 game, 7 p.m., Nelson Field

Olive Grove: SDSU Alumni tourney, 18 holes, Noon shotgun.

Sombke to be new middle/high school principal

There are a number of staff changes and reassignments that have been approved by the Groton Area School Board. Kiersten Sombke will be the new middle/high school principal. Dr. Anna Schwan will be in charge of the all-school play. Sombke will also be working with Jodi Sternhagen on the student council. Sandi Sippel and Aubray Harry will be co-football cheerleading advisors. Brandon Clocksene is the new food service director. Joel Guthmiller will take route 3 (Conde/Ferney) as a bus driver. Alexa Schuring will be the junior kindergarten teacher. Carrie Weisenberger and Dustin Vogel will be in elementary special education and Todd Peterson will be in middle/high school special education.

Greg Kjellsen has resigned after 30 years at GHS. He was the high school math teacher, girls golf coach and junior high football coach.

The following positions remain open: Math teacher, high school opportunity, three cooks, kindergarten para, elementary SPED/OST, elementary SPED, middle school football coach, golf coach, and boys and girls basketball cheerleading advisors.

The board reviewed change orders that amounted to \$50,000 and approved them. The biggest one was \$43,000 for soil correction to asphalt pavement which will include installing a mesh underground. The change orders will come out of the \$180,000 budgeted for contingencies.

Mary Johnson and Shaun Wanner were present to present their request for new textbooks for social science. The current books are old and falling apart.

Noem: China's Acceptance of U.S. Beef Imports Is a Welcome Change for the Market

Washington, D.C. – Rep. Kristi Noem, a member of the House Ways & Means Committee which has jurisdiction over trade policies, today released the following statement after the Trump administration announced the end of a 13-year ban on U.S. beef imports to China:

"Around 95 percent of the world's consumers live outside U.S. borders. As the world's largest beef producer, gaining market access is critical. I welcome the administration's proposal and am hopeful this renewed access to Chinese consumers will help boost the long-depressed cattle markets that have threatened many South Dakota cattle operations."

The U.S. has been banned from China's beef market since 2003. Until the ban took effect, the U.S. provided 70 percent of China's total beef intake. Today, Chinese beef imports total \$2.5 billion.

BSSE Transmission Line project using helicopters to assist in stringing conductor

Big Stone City, South Dakota – June 12, 2017 – Today the Big Stone South-Ellendale (BSSE) 345-kV Transmission Line project began using helicopters to assist in stringing conductor (transmission line) nine miles west of Big Stone City. The helicopters will work their way west toward Aberdeen, South Dakota, then northwest toward Ellendale, North Dakota. The project team expects to complete stringing in October 2018.

How stringing works

Helicopter stringing for news release “Using helicopters to assist in stringing conductor is more efficient and economical and safer than other options and minimizes ground impacts,” said Cris Oehler, Vice President, Public Relations, for Otter Tail Power Company. Here’s how it works:

- Because conductor is too heavy for a helicopter to lift, the helicopter first carries a rope from the ground to the top of the structure.

- Hovering between 30 and 80 feet from the structure, the helicopter sets the rope into the traveler, which looks like a pulley. The traveler has a trap door to allow the rope in but to prevent it from falling out, securing it in place.

- The helicopter continues on to the next structure, pulling the rope as it goes.

- After the helicopter installs the rope, crews connect the rope to the conductor. Crews then use a machine on the ground to pull the rope and set the conductor.

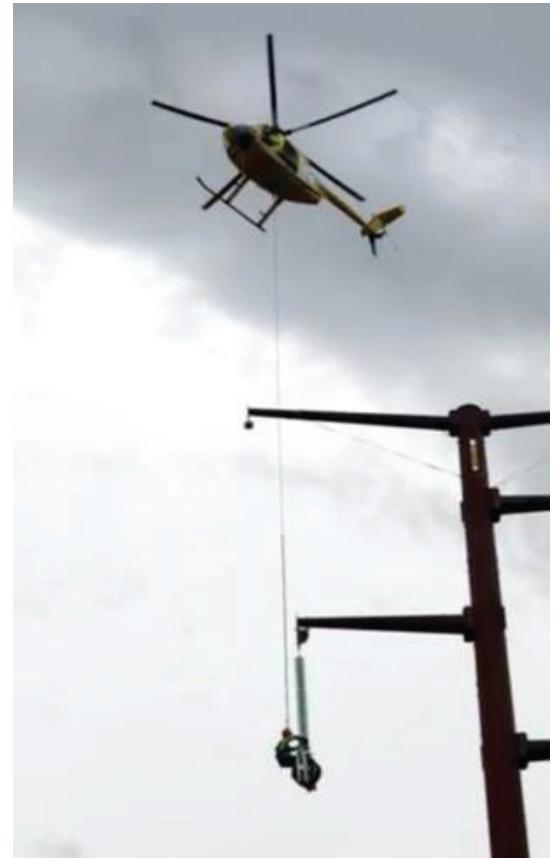
Safety is top priority

“We want to ensure the safety of our team and the community,” said Oehler. “So, before any work begins for that day—on the ground or in the sky—we carefully take into account the weather, visibility, and other conditions that could interfere with working conditions. It’s simple. If conditions aren’t safe, we don’t work.”

The project team encourages community members, especially motorists, who notice the helicopters at work to focus on safety and stay at least 500 feet away. To ensure public safety, the project limits access to areas under the helicopter’s path. “Please don’t attempt to watch while driving or from the side of the road,” said Oehler. “If you’re interested in seeing this work up close, you’ll soon be able to view photos and videos at BSSETransmissionLine.com.”

About the project

When complete, the line will connect the new Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, South Dakota, to the new Ellendale Substation near Ellendale, North Dakota. Project owners, Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., expect to complete construction late in 2018. To view construction progress, visit BSSETransmissionLine.com/maps.



Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 4 of 49

Today in Weather History

June 13, 1943: An estimated F2 tornado moved ENE, destroying a home on the southeastern edge of Highmore in Hyde County. A mother and her five children seeking shelter in the home were injured. Barns and outbuildings were damaged on a dozen farms. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for about 8 miles and caused about \$10,000 in damage.

June 13, 1991: A small F1 tornado remained on the ground for 4 miles as it moved westerly from 10 miles west of Roscoe to 6 miles west of Roscoe, in Edmunds County. The path of the tornado continued for another 5 miles but was not consistently on the ground. It dissipated one mile west of Roscoe. Although the tornado had a long path, its width was 10 yards and traveled through open fields and cause little to no damage.

1889 - Forest fires in northern Wisconsin and northeast Minnesota were in the process of destroying millions of dollars of board feet of timber. (David Ludlum)

1907 - The temperature at Tamarack, CA, dipped to 2 degrees above zero, the lowest reading of record for June for the U.S. The high that day was 30 degrees. Tamarack received 42 inches of snow between the 10th and the 13th. On the 13th the snow depth was 130 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1984 - Severe thunderstorms struck Denver deluging the city with five inches of rain, and leaving up to six feet of water in some places. Softball size hail smashed windshields and ripped through metal cars. Snow plows had to be called out. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Fifteen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including International Falls, MN, with a reading of 92 degrees. Mason City IA and Waterloo IA reported record highs of 100 degrees. Thunderstorms in the northeastern U.S. produced golf ball size hail around Hamilton Square NJ, along with high winds which tore the roof off a hospital causing a million dollars damage. Averill Park NY was deluged with 1.64 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Afternoon thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern and Central Plains Region. Forrest NM was deluged with 5.5 inches of rain in ninety minutes. Temperatures soared into the 90s across much of the eastern half of the nation, including New England. Northern Illinois reported a record twenty straight days of dry weather. (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Southern Plains Region to the Carolinas during the day and night, and continued to drench parts of Texas and Oklahoma with heavy rain. Oklahoma City reported 13.41 inches of rain for the first thirteen days of the month, and Fort Worth TX reported 29.56 inches for the year, a total more than 13 inches above normal. Severe drought continued to rage across South Texas. (The National Weather Summary)

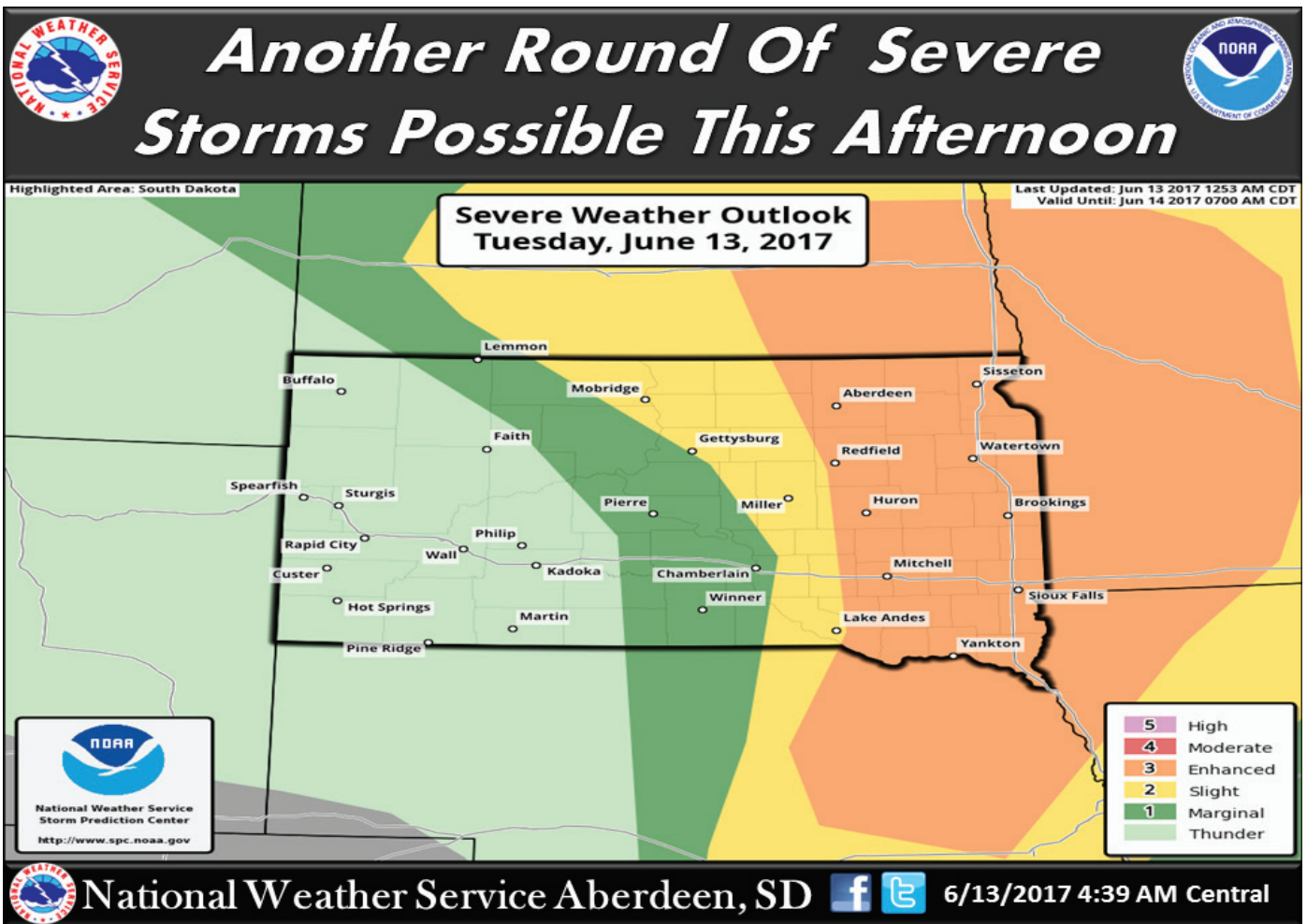
1972: Severe weather conditions over the Yucatan peninsula in Mexico begin to converge and form a tropical depression that would become Hurricane Agnes over the next two weeks. This hurricane affected most of the eastern United States with the Northeast being the hardest hit area with heavy rainfall.

1976: A deadly tornado moved across parts of the southwestern Chicago, Illinois suburbs killing three people and injured 23 others. The tornado, with winds over 200 mph moved from Lemont to Downers Grove causing \$13 million dollars in damage when 87 homes were destroyed, and another 90 were damaged. The tornado passed over the Argonne National Laboratory, peeling part of a roof of the building housing a nuclear reactor. The tornadoes movement was rather erratic moving southeast the north and finally turning northwest.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 5 of 49

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
60%	10%					20%
Severe Thunderstorms	Severe Thunderstorms then Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny then Slight Chance Showers
High: 84 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 83 °F



Published on: 06/13/2017 at 4:43AM

The last of the morning showers and thunderstorms will depart the area or weaken. With a little sunshine and a weak front crossing the Dakotas, we could get another round of storms this afternoon. Storms could be severe before moving off into Minnesota and North Dakota this evening. After that, the forecast will be mostly dry, with temperatures closer to average.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 6 of 49

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 83.6 F at 4:56 PM

Low Outside Temp: 56.6 F at 5:53 AM

High Gust: 21.0 Mph at 3:38 PM

Precip: 0.00 (This morning: 0.39)

Today's Info

Record High: 104° in 1893

Record Low: 31° in 1938

Average High: 76°F

Average Low: 53°F

Average Precip in June: 1.30

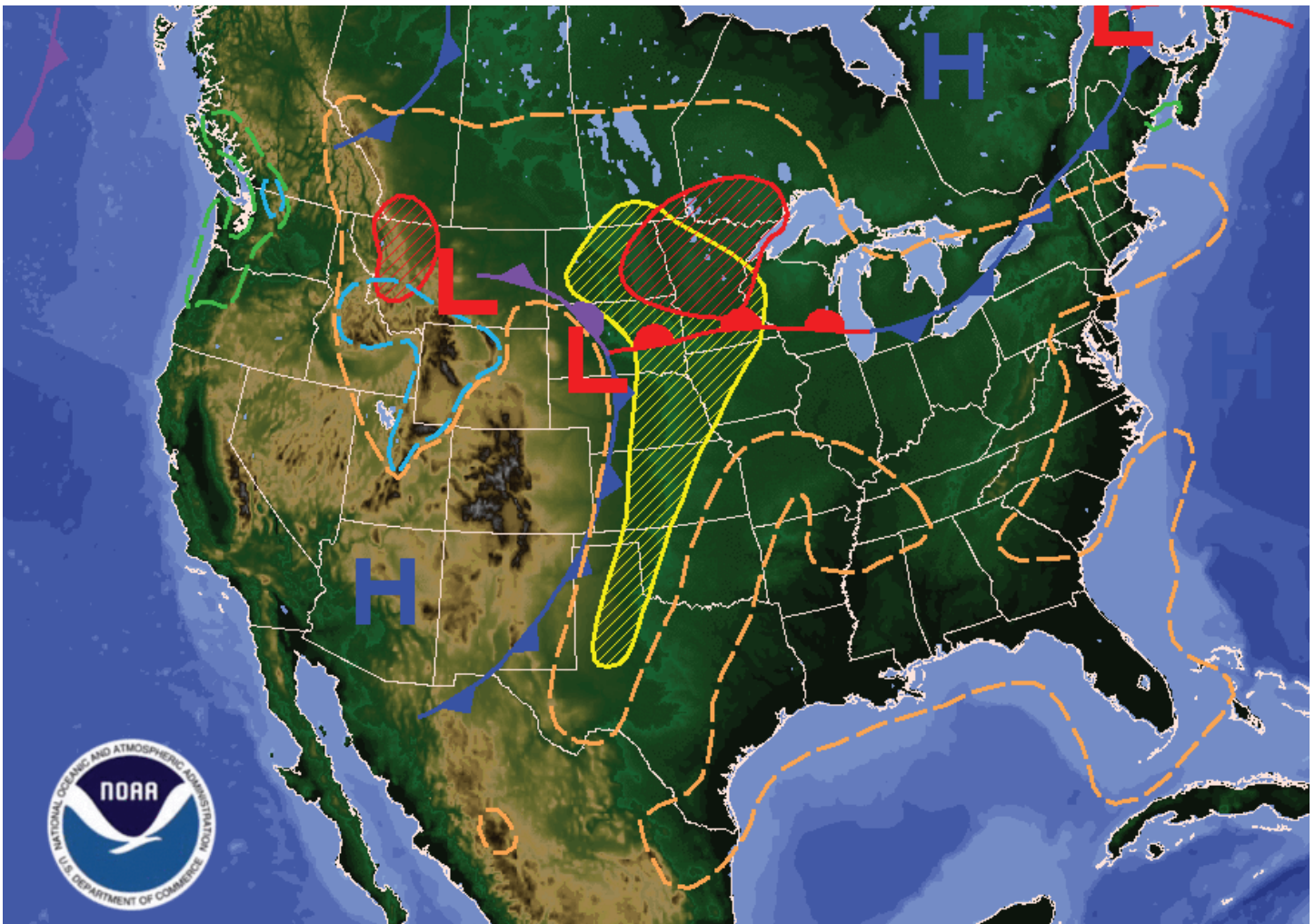
Precip to date in June: 0.35

Average Precip to date: 8.44

Precip Year to Date: 3.54

Sunset Tonight: 9:22 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jun 13, 2017, issued 4:44 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)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 7 of 49



HEAD, HEART AND HANDS

Justin came home from school with a note from his teacher. After handing it to his father he stood quietly as he read it out loud. "Mr. Brady, Justin started a fight during recess today and was sent to the principal's office. Please discuss this matter with him and decide what punishment he should receive."

After reading the note, his father looked him in the eyes and said, "Justin, I'm really disappointed in you. I never thought you would do something like that!"

"Dad," cried Justin, "it wasn't my fault. It was Danny's. He hit me first. Cross my heart and hope to die if I am not telling the truth!"

No one enjoys being judged for wrong doing. We all want to believe that we live a life that reflects clean hands, a pure heart and a mind free of evil thoughts. But if we were to be questioned and asked if we lived up to those character traits, not many of us would "cross our hearts and hope to die" if challenged.

David knew that his hands were not clean, nor his heart pure or his mind free of evil thoughts. So, he appealed to the mercy and grace of God and cried out to Him and said, "Declare me righteous, O Lord, for I am innocent, O Most High."

That wonderful declaration of David was finally and fully answered in Christ. When he called for the righteousness of God to declare him innocent, he knew that it was in God's nature to forgive him for his sins and to deliver him from his sinful behaviors.

Prayer: How grateful we are, Father, for Your grace that saves us and for Your presence that protects us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 7:8 Let the LORD judge the peoples. Vindicate me, LORD, according to my righteousness, according to my integrity, O Most High.

News from the Associated Press

Governor signs bill into law on use of lakes on private land

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard on Monday signed into law a bill that creates rules governing the use of lakes on private land for recreation, immediately re-opening many waters to outdoor enthusiasts and capping an hours-long special legislative session he called to address the issue.

The Legislature's votes exceeded the two-thirds threshold required in each chamber to pass the bill after the House and Senate came to an agreement over a provision that had divided the chambers, and the law went into effect with Daugaard's signature.

The Republican governor had urged state lawmakers to support the measure, and that evening fulfilled his pledge to sign the bill the same day if it passed.

"It took much work, and a great deal of compromise, but this is a good policy," Daugaard said during a morning address to the Legislature.

Nonmeandered waters are bodies of water that weren't specially designated during government surveys in the late 1800s. Some private property has since flooded, forming new, unofficial bodies of water and creating good fishing, but it's come at the cost of farmland and pastures lost by agriculture producers.

The issue has long vexed landowners and outdoor enthusiasts. State officials intervened after a March South Dakota Supreme Court ruling that said the Legislature must decide the extent the public can use so-called nonmeandered waters on 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. Lawmakers convened a study committee that endorsed the legislation.

The law restores access to nearly 30 lakes for public recreation hampered after the high court ruling. It also specifies that other lakes on private property are open for recreational use unless a landowner installs signs or buoys saying an area is closed, though property owners could still grant permission to use the water. The measure would bar them from being paid for allowing fishing. It sunsets in June 2018.

Daugaard called the lakes an "economic engine," saying their closure has hurt small-town businesses. There are thousands of nonmeandered lakes in South Dakota, but only roughly 90 have had fishing, according to Game, Fish and Parks.

"Fishing is great in South Dakota, and the fish are hungry for bait because they've been starving for a little while," Daugaard said as a message to out-of-state recreationalists after signing the bill. "They should be biting and biting and biting some more, so come on and put those hooks in the water."

At least one outdoor sporting and conservation organization had worked against its passage. Democratic Sen. Craig Kennedy, who opposed the bill, said that lawmakers were dealing with a public asset entrusted to their care, and said that the bill gave away control of it.

The gathering was South Dakota's 26th special legislative session. The most recent was in 2011 for legislative redistricting.

Community cares for boy tossed from burning Sisseton home

By OLIVIA JOHNSON, Aberdeen News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Ashley DuMarce threw her son out of the upstairs window of their burning home to her grandfather who was waiting below.

Family members say the 26-year-old then went back in to save her daughter, but never came back out, the Aberdeen News (<http://bit.ly/2rTuxVA>) reported.

Phoenix, the 6-year-old boy who survived a May 21 house fire in Sisseton, is now being looked after by his uncle, as well as his Roberts County hometown, according to his relatives.

His mother and 4-year-old sister, AjaRose Lawrence, died from smoke inhalation.

Alexis Wilson, a close friend and cousin to DuMarce, said she started a Go Fund Me page for Phoenix. His belongings were destroyed in the fire that was caused by faulty wiring on the building's first floor, Wilson said.

Since starting the online fundraiser two days after the tragedy, she said 67 people have donated \$3,490 to help Phoenix.

"She knew quite a lot of people in the community," Wilson said of DuMarce. "I've seen names on there that I've never even heard of."

Wilson said her son and Phoenix are good friends and rode the bus together during the school year.

"He's going to need a lot of aftercare," Wilson said of Phoenix. "He seems to be doing better."

DuMarce's older sister Chelsea also lived in the house that burned down, but said she was sleeping at a friend's house the night of the fire.

"All the smoke was going upstairs," Chelsea DuMarce said, "(Phoenix) remembers the fire and everything."

DuMarce said her sister graduated from Sisseton Wahpeton Community College a few years ago and enjoyed caring for others.

"She loved her kids so much," Chelsea DuMarce said.

She said that although Phoenix remembers what happened, he doesn't fully understand that his mom and sister are dead and often asks where they are.

Still, DuMarce and Wilson said, Phoenix is doing pretty well.

"Right now, he's happy," DuMarce said.

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

Backyard animal lovers in western South Dakota get a win

By TOM GRIFFITH

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — When city leaders attempted to outlaw rabbits and chickens in this mile-high town two months ago, some cried "fowl" over what they described as an ill-conceived plan that really ruffled their feathers.

Then the "Chicken Coalition" stepped in, pecked away at the arguments of the naysayers, and came away with a victory, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2rTtR2m>) reported.

In April, the Lead City Commission spent more than an hour discussing a proposed revision of a city ordinance that would have made it "unlawful for any person to keep enclosed or house chickens, ducks, geese or domestic fowl, livestock or rabbits in any house, pen, coop or enclosure within the city limits of Lead."

That didn't sit well with fans of fresh eggs, and after they showed their dissent, the commissioners on a 5-0 vote tabled any action on the measure. But the debate, now cited as evidence of the best in small-town government, didn't end with the tally.

After members of the so-called "Chicken Coalition" — a small group of mostly young chicken advocates — approached council members and Mayor Ron Everett about their desire to allow raising "backyard chickens" in city limits, the mayor set two meetings to gather public input.

"I think that we did it deliberately, and at each meeting I made the point that this was a discussion period," Mayor Everett said last week. "We'd listen to the people and see what they had to say, and then formulate an opinion. It was some very good dialogue back and forth, people had the chance to voice their opinions, and in the end the facts outweighed the emotion."

Everett credited the group with doing its homework, researching how other municipalities had handled the issue, and drafting a proposed ordinance that was reasonable.

"They dispelled a lot of rumors," the mayor said. "After two meetings solely for public input, the Chicken Coalition group wrote an ordinance, presented it to us, we tweaked it a bit, and that's the one we adopted."

A similar attempt to allow chickens at residences within the Rapid City limits a couple years ago fell flat, and a formal ordinance was never even offered for consideration.

The coalition was led by 30-year-old Robin Lucero, a married mother of five, who had to first convince

her husband that it was a good idea to go before the commissioners.

"My husband wasn't for chickens at first, and we had a few go-rounds, which actually prepared me for addressing the concerns of residents who were not in favor of chickens," Lucero said last week. "At one point, he told me he was going to tell the commissioners that I usually get what I want so they might as well just give in."

Suppressing a laugh, she added: "Now he is building me a chicken coop."

Well-acquainted with Facebook and other social media, Lucero said she initially found the idea of personally approaching the commission and mayor to change the ordinance intimidating. But after years of buying farm-fresh eggs from a supplier in Vale, she said pursuing the ordinance change seemed like a worthwhile pursuit.

"With today's social media and technology, people of my generation aren't accustomed to going to meetings and standing up and saying, 'My name is Robin, and I want chickens.' It was hard at first. It was intimidating."

Initially, Lucero said she and other chicken fans were surprised at the opposition to allowing chickens in city limits. Some even said permitting chickens would decrease their property values.

"At first they were, 'Oh no, that can't happen in Lead, because it will make our town look trashy, the mountain lions will come in, and that they would get out and we'd have chickens running down the street like stray dogs,'" she said. "But other county residents who had chickens informed commissioners that this wasn't the case. Realtors even came in and told the group that having a chicken coop never, in their experience, had lowered the value of a property they were selling."

After countering the objections, Lucero and coalition members met several times with Everett and City Administrator Mike Stahl, then called all of the city commissioners to discuss their concerns. The homework and engagement with city officials bore fruit and the Chicken Coalition drafted its ordinance and submitted it to the city.

Second-reading of the revised two-page ordinance, which allows chickens only in backyards and in side-yards by special permission, unanimously passed the commission last Monday and will take effect in mid-July. The ordinance also limits the number of chickens at any one residence to six, and roosters are banned.

Surprising to most involved in the day-to-day operations of a small city government, the Chicken Coalition also advocated for a \$100 permit fee for chicken raisers, the proceeds of which will offset the city's costs in processing applications and conducting site inspections, according to Stahl. Commissioners on Monday also unanimously passed a resolution establishing the chicken fee.

And, although commission debates and public meetings on the issue consumed a vast amount of time, Stahl said the lengthy process reaffirmed his belief in the strength of local governance.

"It was a very good exercise in civil input into government," he said. "Everybody was cordial and respectful, and nobody took anybody to task. It was a good debate. If everything was that professional and courteous, it would be a lot better world to live in."

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

South Dakota traffic signal upgrades may increase crashes

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Traffic-signal upgrades intended to smooth traffic and improve safety in Sioux Falls appear to have slightly increased the number of vehicle accidents.

The city has installed flashing yellow left turn arrows at 30 intersections since 2010. The blinking signal permits drivers to turn left after yielding to oncoming traffic and pedestrians, the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2skN8uY>) reported.

U.S. Highway Administration studies have shown that drivers are more cautious when facing a flashing yellow arrow compared to a solid green light. But an analysis of crash data by the newspaper found that nearly 20 intersections where the flashing signals were added show a 7 percent overall increase in accident rates.

City traffic engineers are hoping the numbers just reflect a learning curve. But some residents think the blinking signals are confusing drivers.

"They think they have to rush through," said Ray Wiener, who's witnessed confusion among drivers from his home near an intersection.

Heath Hoftiezer, principal engineer at City Hall, said there several potential reasons for increased crash rates. He said the data could reflect increased traffic, faster speeds or maybe just more time needed for drivers to get used to the signal change.

"There's a learning curve every time we switch one of these out," Hoftiezer said.

He said that most intersections with designated turn lanes will eventually have the flashing yellow arrow, but with the cost of up to \$10,000 a light, drivers have time to get used to existing ones.

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

List of projects getting Knight Cities Challenge support

By The Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation on Monday announced projects across the U.S. that will share \$5 million as winners of the Knight Cities Challenge. The following is a list of the projects:

Aberdeen, South Dakota: The A Place, \$35,000, information and assistance center for immigrants and new Americans.

Akron, Ohio: Innerbelt National Forest, \$214,420, reconnecting two neighborhoods by replacing a closed freeway with a forest and public space.

Akron, Ohio: @PLAY, \$241,000, custom games and recreational activities.

Biloxi, Mississippi: Witnessing the Beach, \$100,000, community gathering and discussion spaces at a beach where protests led to desegregation in the 1960s.

Bradenton, Florida: Speak Up Bradenton, \$32,000, opening up avenues for citizens to participate in government decision-making.

Charlotte, North Carolina: Rail Trail Grove & Field, \$150,200, creating a place to connect with nature and neighbors along Charlotte's light rail line.

Charlotte, North Carolina: Your Move, Charlotte, \$138,875, weekly podcast and follow-up roundtable.

Columbia, South Carolina: The State's Front Porch, \$195,000, encouraging residents to connect with their government by reimagining the statehouse as a front porch for all.

Detroit: Atwater Beach, \$225,000, to help create an urban beach along Atwater Street.

Detroit: Better Buildings, Better Blocks, \$150,000, to provide a pipeline for minorities into real estate jobs.

Detroit: Design Center in a Box: A Place for Informed Community Exchange, \$205,000, pop-up city planning offices where residents can connect with city planning staff and others.

Detroit: Happy 18th Birthday! Local Citizenship Kit, \$101,000, sending Detroiters a local citizenship kit in the mail on their 18th birthday.

Detroit: Slow Roll, \$129,400, supporting thousands of cyclists who participate in Slow Roll Detroit bike rides.

Duluth, Minnesota: Making Canal Park Pop, \$200,000, connecting residents to Canal Park and to each other.

Gary, Indiana: City Church Ruins Garden, \$163,333, transforming a historic, abandoned church into a ruins garden and event space.

Grand Forks, North Dakota: The Grand Forks Freezeway, \$141,140, turning unused bike paths into ice skating paths during winter.

Lexington, Kentucky: Plant&Play, \$125,000, building an adventure playscape and community garden in Castlewood Park.

Macon, Georgia: Back Lot Drive-In at the Tubman, \$92,925, transforming the parking lot of the Tubman

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 12 of 49

Museum into a drive-in theater with screenings that coincide with exhibitions.

Macon, Georgia: Pop-Up Garage Park, \$25,465, converting an abandoned parking garage into a community space.

Miami: Civic Incite: Citizens Setting the Agenda, \$105,595, online platform that tracks public meetings and legislation across cities.

Miami: Miami-Dade Quickbuild Program, \$150,000, establishing a program that advances low-cost, quick-build transportation and open space projects.

Miami: Rep(resentative) Miami, \$119,800, putting clear, actionable information about local elected officials directly into citizens' hands.

Milledgeville, Georgia: The Year of Voting Dangerously, \$12,000, mobile voting booth that prompts residents to respond to pressing local issues and initiatives.

Palm Beach County, Florida: 12 for 12: Popup to Rent, \$180,000, expanding on success of a pilot pop-up gallery project.

Philadelphia: A Dream Deferred: PHL Redlining - Past, Present, Future, \$295,000, series where decision-makers, social entrepreneurs, activists and innovators discuss equitable community development.

Philadelphia: PHL Participatory Design Lab, \$318,150, providing a space to design city service solutions with a mobile, participatory city design lab.

Philadelphia: Tabadul: (Re)Presenting and (Ex)Changing Our America, \$180,000, photographic displays of youths' expressions of identity.

Philadelphia: Up Up & Away: Building a Programming Space for Comics & Beyond, \$50,000, creating a space where diverse communities of aspiring comic creators can attend workshops and receive professional development.

Philadelphia: Vendor Village in the Park: Vending to Vibrancy, \$175,478, providing entrepreneurial opportunities and connecting diverse communities by opening a marketplace for immigrant cuisine in Mifflin Square Park.

San Jose, California: Local Color, \$180,000, creative bazaar featuring artist studios alongside modular, open spaces for multidisciplinary community learning and teaching.

San Jose, California: Reimagining the City: City Designer for San Jose, \$150,000, working to ensure San Jose develops into a walkable, green and engaged metropolis by hiring a visionary chief architect.

St. Paul, Minnesota: Bring Pop-Up Meeting and Power to the People, \$73,200, creating civic engagement tools to give St. Paul residents the power to design their own community meetings.

Wichita, Kansas: Horizontes, \$100,000, connecting two neighborhoods by painting murals depicting neighborhood residents.

Source: John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Man, 5-year-old boy fatally injured in northwest Iowa crash

SIBLEY, Iowa (AP) — Authorities say a 5-year-old boy and a man driving them have died after a collision in northwest Iowa.

The accident occurred around 10:50 a.m. Saturday on Iowa Highway 9 near Sibley. The Osceola County Sheriff's Office says a westbound car collided with an eastbound sport utility vehicle.

The car driver was pronounced dead later at Osceola Community Hospital. He was identified as 48-year-old Travis Mier, who lived in Spirit Lake. The boy was pronounced dead later at a Sioux Falls, South Dakota, hospital. The Sheriff's Office identified him as Elliot Mier.

The SUV driver was taken to Sanford Rock Rapids Medical Center in Rock Rapids for treatment of injuries not believed to be life-threatening. She was identified as 48-year-old Ann Vanderpool, who lives in Milford, Iowa.

Suspect in Rapid City homicide arrested in New Mexico

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Authorities in New Mexico have arrested a suspect in the recent killing of a man in Rapid City.

Police on Sunday said the 28-year-old suspect had been arrested in Albuquerque.

The suspect is a South Dakota Department of Corrections inmate who was placed on escape status after allegedly stealing a city vehicle on June 2 from an inmate work site at Rapid City's landfill.

The vehicle was later found a short distance from where 64-year-old Larry Mintzloff was found slain in his home on June 7. His vehicle had been stolen. Police say the suspect had Mintzloff's vehicle when he was arrested.

Police say argument over noise led to Watertown slaying

WATERTOWN, S.D. (AP) — Authorities believe an argument over noise led to the shooting death of a 17-year-old Watertown boy.

The Watertown Public Opinion reports (<http://bit.ly/2st5lq0>) that Assistant Police Chief Tim Toomey said the death of Jayden Harley on Saturday night was the culmination of an ongoing neighborhood dispute. He said neither alcohol nor drugs played a role.

Toomey said the 31-year-old suspect and Harley were neighbors. Authorities allege the suspect shot an unarmed Harley in the chest with a handgun.

Harley was pronounced dead at a hospital. He had celebrated his recent graduation from high school earlier in the day, at another location.

The suspect was arrested at the scene without incident.

Information from: Watertown Public Opinion, <http://www.thepublicopinion.com>

Former NBA player Dennis Rodman arrives in North Korea

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Dennis Rodman, the former NBA bad boy who has palled around with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, flew back to Pyongyang on Tuesday for the first time in Donald Trump's presidency. He said he is "just trying to open a door" on a mission that he thinks his former "Celebrity Apprentice" boss would support.

Rodman, one of the few people to know both of the nuclear-armed leaders, sported a black T-shirt advertising a marijuana cryptocurrency as he talked to reporters briefly before his flight from Beijing to the North Korean capital.

Asked if he had spoken to Trump about his trip, he said, "Well, I'm pretty sure he's pretty much happy with the fact that I'm over here trying to accomplish something that we both need."

Rodman has received the red-carpet treatment on four past trips since 2013, which have accomplished little in terms of diplomacy and served mainly to create publicity for the former athlete. He has been roundly criticized for visiting during a time of high tensions between the U.S. and North Korea over its weapons programs.

His entourage includes Joseph Terwilliger, a professor who has accompanied Rodman on previous trips to North Korea.

Rodman said the issue of several Americans currently detained by North Korea is "not my purpose right now."

In Tokyo, a visiting senior U.S. official said Rodman is making the trip as a private citizen.

"We are aware of his visit. We wish him well, but we have issued travel warnings to Americans and suggested they not travel to North Korea for their own safety," U.S. Undersecretary of State Thomas Shannon told reporters after discussing the North Korean missile threat and other issues with Japanese counterparts.

In 2014, Rodman arranged a basketball game with other former NBA players and North Koreans and regaled leader Kim with a rendition of "Happy Birthday." On the same trip, he suggested that an American

missionary was at fault for his own imprisonment in North Korea, remarks for which he later apologized. A North Korean foreign ministry official said Rodman would stay until Saturday. He spoke on condition of anonymity because the ministry had not issued a formal statement.

Any visit to North Korea by a high-profile American is a political minefield, and Rodman has been criticized for failing to use his influence on leaders who are otherwise isolated diplomatically from the rest of the world.

Americans are regarded as enemies in North Korea because the two countries never signed a peace treaty to formally end the 1950-53 Korean War. Thousands of U.S. troops are based in South Korea, and the Demilitarized Zone between the North and South is one of the most heavily fortified borders in the world.

A statement issued in New York by a Rodman publicist said the former NBA player is in the rare position of being friends with the leaders of both North Korea and the United States. Rodman was a cast member on two seasons of Trump's "Celebrity Apprentice."

Rodman tweeted that his trip was being sponsored by Potcoin, one of a growing number of cybercurrencies used to buy and sell marijuana in state-regulated markets.

North Korea has been hailed by marijuana news outlets and British tabloids as a pothead paradise and maybe even the next Amsterdam of pot tourism. But the claim that marijuana is legal in North Korea is not true. The penal code lists it as a controlled substance in the same category as cocaine and heroin.

Americans have been sentenced to years in North Korean prisons for such seemingly minor offenses as stealing a political banner and likely could not expect leniency if the country's drug laws were violated.

Associated Press journalists Mark Schiefelbein in Beijing and Mari Yamaguchi in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Highlights of Dennis Rodman's past visits to North Korea

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The last time Dennis Rodman visited North Korea, he delighted the country's young ruler with a rendition of "Happy Birthday," suffered an angry meltdown on CNN while defending his trip and spent time at a rehab facility after returning to the United States in rough shape.

He probably hopes things will go more smoothly on his latest visit to North Korea, which started Tuesday. The trip extends Rodman's surprising relationship with 30-something North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, who took power in 2011 but has yet to meet a more high-profile foreigner than the heavily tattooed former NBA bad boy.

Critics slammed Rodman over his past trips, saying he allowed himself to be a public relations tool for North Korea. He's likely to face similar accusations now: His visit comes amid international condemnation over North Korea's accelerating efforts to develop nuclear weapons and missiles, which poses one of the toughest foreign policy challenges for U.S. President Donald Trump.

A look at Rodman's previous visits to North Korea:

FRIEND FOR LIFE

Rodman is a rare individual who could claim friendships with both Kim and Trump, whom he worked with as a cast member for two seasons on "Celebrity Apprentice." He traveled to North Korea for the first time in February 2013 with the Harlem Globetrotters for an HBO series produced by VICE television. Since then, he has traveled to the country four times, according to his publicist.

During Rodman's first trip, he and Kim, known to be a basketball enthusiast, sat side by side at an exhibition game in Pyongyang, and chatted as they watched players from North Korea and the United States play on mixed teams. Rodman later addressed Kim before a crowd of thousands, telling him, "You have a friend for life," a VICE spokesman said then.

After the game, the VICE crew and the players were rushed across Pyongyang unexpectedly for a dinner with Kim and other members of North Korea's government.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 15 of 49

Rodman's 2013 trip came just two weeks after North Korea conducted the first of three underground nuclear tests it has done under the rule of Kim, who is openly pursuing a nuclear weapon capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

'HAPPY BIRTHDAY'

Rodman also visited North Korea in January 2014, just weeks after Kim made a stunningly violent move to strengthen his grip on power — executing his uncle and onetime No. 2 Jang Song Thaek for alleged treason.

Rodman still went through with a plan to take a group of retired NBA players to North Korea for an exhibition game, which he called a "birthday present" for his "best friend" Kim. The event soon became overshadowed by politics after Rodman suffered an angry meltdown on CNN before the game when asked whether during the trip he would raise the issue of Kenneth Bae, an American missionary who was detained in North Korea at the time on charges of "anti-state crimes."

"I don't give a rat's ass what the hell you think," Rodman yelled in response to the CNN question. "One day this door is going to open because of these 10 guys here."

At the start of the exhibition game, Rodman sang "Happy Birthday" to Kim, who was seated in the arena, and bowed deeply as the North Korean players clapped.

Former NBA player Charles Smith said at the time that he felt remorse for coming to Pyongyang with Rodman because the event was dwarfed by politics and tainted by Rodman's own comments.

"Apparently our message is not being conveyed properly due to the circumstances that are much bigger than us," Smith told The Associated Press before the exhibition game. "Dennis is a great guy, but how he articulates what goes on — he gets emotional and he says things that he'll apologize for later."

Rodman later apologized for the comments he made on Bae, who was released in November that year.

ENTERING REHAB

After returning to the United States following the 2014 visit, Rodman spent three weeks at a New Jersey-based alcohol rehabilitation center, which he said was not about giving up drinking, but to "decompress from all things" he was going through.

"I was trying to get this game going and get everything going in North Korea," Rodman told the AP then. "It was a lot."

His agent, Darren Prince, said Rodman had been drinking and was under pressure as he organized the Pyongyang exhibition game.

"What was potentially a historic and monumental event turned into a nightmare for everyone concerned," Prince said at the time. "Dennis Rodman came back from North Korea in pretty rough shape emotionally. The pressure that was put on him to be a combination 'super human' political figure and 'fixer' got the better of him."

AP FACT CHECK: The trophies in Trump's display Cabinet

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL and MATTHEW LEE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump showed off a few too many trophies in his display Cabinet. Trump opened part of a Cabinet meeting to the press Monday and filled that time with self-congratulation as well as praise from his team. On multiple fronts, that celebration of achievement was unearned.

A sampling of his comments:

—"Great success, including MS-13. They're being thrown out in record numbers and rapidly. And they're being depleted. They'll all be gone pretty soon."

THE FACTS: There's no publicly available information to back up Trump's claim that this violent gang is about to disappear.

Deportations are actually down slightly compared with the same time last year, as arrests of people caught crossing the Mexican border have dropped to historic lows. More than 100 MS-13 gang members

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 16 of 49

have been arrested in recent weeks, though the government hasn't said how many of those people have been deported.

In any event, deportations alone cannot eradicate MS-13, a homegrown gang with ties to El Salvador that includes U.S. citizens. The government has not said how many of the estimated 7,000 to 10,000 gang members are Americans, who cannot be "thrown out." The group's roots in the U.S. go back more than 20 years to Los Angeles.

The gang was in decline in Southern California long before Trump was elected. During a recent raid of MS-13 members in Los Angeles, Police Chief Charlie Beck said the gang's membership has been declining for several years in part because of law enforcement crackdowns.

MS-13 has been in the crosshairs of federal law enforcement since at least 2012 when the group was designated a transnational criminal organization and subjected to financial sanctions by the Treasury Department. Three leaders of the gang were targeted for sanctions in 2015.

— "I recently returned from a trip overseas that included deals for more than \$350 billion worth of military and economic investment in the United States. These deals will bring many thousands of jobs to our country and, in fact, will bring millions of jobs ultimately and help Saudi Arabia take a greater role in providing stability and security in that region."

THE FACTS: Trump's \$350 billion figure includes hundreds of billions of dollars in aspirational deals with Saudi Arabia that have not been signed yet and could be revised or eliminated. He's relying on a 20- to 30-year projection of what the government believes will be the contracts' long-term value because of the cost of sustaining them. When he visited Riyadh, agreements on more than \$110 billion in foreign military sales were pledged, according to the State Department. But many of those — along with a significant amount of the \$80 billion in announced commercial civilian sales — were memoranda of understanding or letters of intent and not sales contracts.

Arms sales make up the vast majority of Trump's total, but those must be approved by the State Department and Congress.

Since Trump's trip, the State Department has notified lawmakers of only a small fraction of the total — \$1.7 billion, mainly in naval and air force training contracts, and some Democrats say they want to hold those up over human rights concerns and Saudi Arabia's conduct in the war against rebels in Yemen. And while U.S. officials say further approvals, including large-ticket items such as a high-altitude missile defense system, could be approved in the coming weeks, there is no guarantee Congress will go along.

In addition, some of the business he's claiming to have generated was agreed to during the Obama administration.

— "I will say that never has there been a president -- with few exceptions; in the case of FDR, he had a major Depression to handle — who's passed more legislation, who's done more things than what we've done, between the executive orders and the job-killing regulations that have been terminated. Many bills; I guess over 34 bills that Congress signed. A Supreme Court justice who's going to be a great one ... We've achieved tremendous success."

THE FACTS: He has little to show for his first five months in office, in concrete ways, other than the confirmation of a justice.

Trump's two immediate predecessors, Barack Obama and George W. Bush, accomplished more in their early months. Trump has achieved no major legislation. The bills he is counting up are little more than housekeeping measures — things like naming a courthouse and a VA health care center, appointing board of regents members, reauthorizing previous legislation. He has indeed been vigorous in signing executive orders, but in the main they have far less consequence than legislation requiring congressional passage.

Trump's big agenda items, like his promised tax overhaul, have yet to pass or even reach Congress. His attempt to secure the borders from people from terrorism-prone regions is so far blocked by courts.

By contrast, Obama signed a \$787 billion stimulus package into law in his first month, while also achieving

a law expanding health care for children and the Lilly Ledbetter bill on equal pay for women in that time. Bush got off to a slower start, in part because he did not take office in a deep recession requiring quick action, as Obama had done. But by this point in his presidency, Bush had signed a huge tax cut into law.

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

Sessions to face sharp questions on Russia contacts

By ERIC TUCKER and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions is preparing for sharp questions from his former Senate colleagues about his role in the firing of James Comey, his Russian contacts during the campaign and his decision to recuse from an investigation into possible ties between Moscow and associates of President Donald Trump.

The public testimony Tuesday before the Senate intelligence committee should yield Sessions' most extensive comments to date on questions that have dogged his entire tenure as attorney general and that led him three months ago to step aside from the Russia probe.

Lawmakers for weeks have demanded answers from Sessions, particularly about meetings he had last summer and fall with the Russian ambassador to the United States.

Those calls have escalated since fired FBI Director James Comey cryptically told lawmakers on Thursday that the bureau had expected Sessions to recuse himself weeks before he did from an investigation into contacts between Trump campaign associates and Russia during the 2016 presidential election.

Sessions, a close campaign adviser to Donald Trump and the first senator to endorse him, stepped aside from the investigation in early March after acknowledging he had spoken twice in the months before the election with the Russian ambassador. He said at his January confirmation hearing that he had not met with Russians during the campaign.

Since then, lawmakers have raised questions about a possible third meeting at a Washington hotel, though the Justice Department has said that did not happen.

Sessions on Saturday said he would appear before the intelligence committee, which has been doing its own investigation into Russian contacts with the Trump campaign.

There had been some question as to whether the hearing would be open to the public, but the Justice Department said Monday he requested it be so because he "believes it is important for the American people to hear the truth directly from him." The committee shortly after said the hearing would be open.

The hearing will bring contentious questioning for Sessions and likely some uncomfortable moments for the Trump administration.

Sessions is likely to be asked about his conversations with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak and whether there were more encounters that should have been made public. And he can expect questions about his involvement in Comey's May 9 firing, the circumstances surrounding his decision to recuse himself from the FBI's investigation, and whether any of his actions — such as interviewing candidates for the FBI director position or meeting with Trump about Comey — violated his recusal pledge.

Asked Monday if the White House thought Sessions should invoke executive privilege to avoid answering questions about his conversations with Trump, presidential spokesman Sean Spicer replied, "It depends on the scope of the questions. To get into a hypothetical at this point would be premature."

He did not explicitly endorse Sessions' appearance, saying in response to a question, "We're aware of it, and we'll go from there."

Comey himself had a riveting appearance before the same Senate panel last week, with some key moments centered on Sessions.

Comey said Trump told Sessions and other administration officials to leave the room before Trump asked him in February to drop a probe into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn's contacts with Russia.

In addition, Comey has said Sessions did not respond when he complained that he did not want to be left alone with Trump again. The Justice Department has denied that, saying Sessions stressed to Comey the need to be careful about following appropriate policies.

The former FBI director also testified that he and the agency had believed Sessions was “inevitably going to recuse” for reasons he said he could not elaborate on.

“We also were aware of facts that I can’t discuss in an open setting that would make his continued engagement in a Russia-related investigation problematic,” Comey said.

Sessions’ appearance before the intelligence committee is an indication of just how much the Russia investigation has shaded his tenure. White House frustrations with the Justice Department spilled into public view last week, when Trump on Twitter criticized the legal strategy in defending his proposed travel ban.

Spicer, the spokesman, declined to say then that Sessions enjoyed Trump’s confidence, though spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said later in the week that the president had confidence “in all of his Cabinet.”

Though the Justice Department maintains that it has fully disclosed the extent of Sessions’ foreign contacts last year, lawmakers have continued to press him for answers about an April 2016 event at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, where both Sessions and Kislyak attended a foreign policy speech by Trump.

Senate Democrats have raised the possibility that Sessions and Kislyak could have met there, though Justice Department officials say there were no private encounters or side meetings.

Lawmakers, including Al Franken of Minnesota and Patrick Leahy of Vermont, have asked the FBI to investigate and to determine if Sessions committed perjury when he denied having had meetings with Russians.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Trump transition aide was key player in Flynn’s Turkish work

By **STEPHEN BRAUN** and **CHAD DAY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Michael Flynn spent last fall campaigning as Donald Trump’s top national security adviser, his little-known business partner supervised much of the foreign political work for Turkish interests that has boomeranged back on Flynn, now the target of a federal criminal investigation and congressional inquiries.

Flynn’s partner, Bijan Kian, joined the former chief of the Defense Intelligence Agency on Trump’s national security transition team after the election. For Kian, who led most of Flynn Intel Group’s research and lobbying for a Turkish businessman, the Trump transition role offered influence in the selection of intelligence agency candidates and access to internal discussions of U.S. national security policy.

Flynn’s mishandling of his dealings with Russia’s ambassador to the U.S. led to his firing by Trump from his post as national security adviser and is now a prime focus of special counsel Robert Mueller’s wide-ranging investigation into Russian contacts with the Trump campaign. But inquiries spawned by Flynn Intel’s Turkish work pose added legal complications for both Flynn and his associates. Federal investigators are concentrating on possible criminal violations and a House oversight committee inquiry is examining Flynn’s records to determine whether he lied to federal officials about his foreign contacts and payments.

It is not clear whether Kian has been drawn into the expanding criminal probe, but he was deeply involved in Flynn Intel Group’s creation, financing and operations, according to the Turkish businessman, people familiar with Flynn’s company and records submitted to the Justice Department. And Kian’s participation in the Trump transition — following his management of work that Flynn Intel acknowledged may have benefited Turkey’s government — reinforces concerns about the adequacy of the administration’s vetting process.

A current Trump transition official said Monday night that Kian’s records did not show his foreign work for Flynn Intel or that he planned to file with the government as an agent for his work for a foreign interest. “He did not indicate that to us in his transition documents. We would have no reason to know,” said the official, who requested anonymity to discuss Kian’s role during the post-election period. Both Kian and Flynn filed in March as foreign agents for the Turkish firm.

Kian connected Flynn with his Turkish client, helped to negotiate their \$600,000 contract and oversaw

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 19 of 49

a documentary and an op-ed aimed at an opponent of Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said the client and several others who requested anonymity because of the ongoing criminal investigation. The client, Ekim Alptekin, also confirmed to The Associated Press that Kian worked for one of his Turkish companies at the same time he was working for Flynn Intel.

"Content-wise, it was Bijan handling the day-to-day details," Alptekin told the AP during a recent interview in Washington.

An Iranian-American businessman whose full name is Bijan Rafiekian, Kian did not respond to repeated attempts over two months by the AP to contact him by phone, email and visits to properties listed for him in public records.

Alptekin told the AP he has not been contacted by federal authorities but has consulted with his U.S.-based legal team. "I'm very confident I engaged in a legal contract and was fully transparent from the beginning about what it entailed and what I was doing," he said.

Flynn's attorney, Robert Kelner, did not respond to detailed questions from the AP.

Kian's interests repeatedly intersected with Flynn's business ventures and political activities after Flynn, a former U.S. Army lieutenant general, left the government in 2014. Kian, a former director of the U.S. Export-Import Bank, shared Flynn's strong public opposition to Iran's theocratic government and a common interest in the development of secure communications systems.

Until Trump's election, Flynn served with Kian on the board of GreenZone Systems Inc., a technology firm Kian headed until April. Flynn and Kian co-authored a 2015 op-ed about ISIS militants, and attended galas put on by the Nowruz Commission, a nonprofit run by Kian and his wife promoting the Iranian Nowruz holiday. Alptekin was named a board director of that group in 2011.

Soon after Flynn Intel ceased operations after Trump's election, Flynn and Kian joined the president-elect's transition team. Kian described his role on his LinkedIn profile as "deputy lead" assigned to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Kian said he provided "policy input, strategic guidance and operational counsel to prepare" candidates for the director of national intelligence, the CIA and other top officials.

Two former transition officials said Kian was clearly close with Flynn and served as the retired general's sounding board. One official said Kian helped scrutinize then-Rep. Mike Pompeo before he was named Trump's CIA director. Another official said Kian was involved in transition discussions for the National Security Council and the director of national intelligence. That official added that Kian did not expect to get an administration post. Both transition officials spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the transition's work.

For the three months leading up to the election, Kian was Flynn Intel's linchpin, lobbying and managing contractors in the Turkish work. Alptekin said Kian was the intermediary who brought Flynn's firm together last summer with Alptekin's Dutch-based company, Inovo BV. Kian was also the "main one" representing Flynn Intel in contract talks with him last fall, Alptekin said, adding Flynn "wasn't involved at all" in the talks, though he signed the contract.

Inovo ended up paying Flynn Intel \$530,000 for research and lobbying aimed at persuading authorities to file criminal charges against Fethullah Gulen, a political foe of Erdogan. Flynn Intel disclosed its contract and other details of its Turkish work last March to the Justice Department, which regulates lobbying and other political activities for foreign interests in the U.S. Flynn and Kian were the only individuals who personally registered as foreign agents for Inovo.

Kian and Alptekin had an existing business relationship when Flynn Intel began its foreign work. Alptekin confirmed Kian had been vice chairman of his Istanbul-based aviation company, EA Havacilik, since November 2011. Alptekin said he and Kian regularly strategized to build an aviation customer base.

Alptekin has denied that any of Inovo's work was done at the direction of Turkey's government, but he is a member of a foreign trade board managed by the country's economic ministry.

Alptekin said he first met Kian during Kian's stint on the Export-Import bank board for the Bush and Obama administrations between 2006 and 2011. Kian promoted U.S. business interests abroad for the

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 20 of 49

bank, meeting officials in Russia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other nations, according to State Department cables released by WikiLeaks.

In his supervisory role for Flynn Intel, Kian was not always explicit about his ties to the firm, said several people who worked with him.

Kian led a lobbying meeting last October with a representative of the House Homeland Security committee on behalf of GreenZone's secure communications products. But, as the AP previously reported, the session veered into a lobbying pitch for Flynn Intel, according to a U.S. official with knowledge of the meeting. Kian and others involved pressed for congressional hearings to investigate Gulen but the request went nowhere, the official said. Kian never identified who he was working for, the official said.

Kian also recruited a freelance editor, Hank Cox, to fine-tune an opinion article in early November. The op-ed, praising Turkey's government as America's "strongest ally" against terrorism and pressing for Gulen's extradition, listed no author, Cox said. After he edited the article, Cox said, he sent it back, listing Kian as the writer.

"I assumed since Bijan was the one who hired me, that he had written it," said Cox.

Days later, Cox was baffled when he learned the op-ed had appeared under Flynn's name.

"I was only vaguely aware of General Flynn at the time but I had no idea I was working for him or his company," Cox said.

Flynn's firm told the Justice Department that Flynn, Kian and Cox drafted the op-ed based on the firm's research for Inovo. The firm said neither Inovo BV nor the Turkish government wrote or directed the op-ed, but Flynn Intel acknowledged it shared a draft with Inovo in advance of publication.

Flynn's op-ed, published in The Hill newspaper on election day, drew scrutiny from the Justice Department's foreign agent unit. Pressure from those officials forced Flynn and Kian to file as foreign agents and led in part to the federal investigation now targeting Flynn.

Associated Press writer Julie Pace contributed to this report.

Q&A: What's next in the legal fight over the travel ban

By **SUDHIN THANAWALA** and **GENE JOHNSON**, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Another appeals court, another defeat for the Trump administration.

The San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday refused to reinstate President Donald Trump's executive order banning travelers from six mostly Muslim countries. A three-judge panel said the administration failed to show that blocking citizens from Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen was needed to protect the U.S. The court also found that the president's order ran afoul of an immigration law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of nationality.

Another federal appeals court, the Virginia-based 4th Circuit, last month also refused to reinstate the travel ban, a decision Trump has already appealed to the Supreme Court. Here's a look at how the rulings compare and what might come next.

HOW DO THE RULINGS DIFFER?

Critics of the ban have asserted that the president's order was motivated by anti-Muslim sentiment, in violation of the Constitution's separation of church and state. The 4th Circuit's ruling took that question head-on, agreeing that the ban officially disfavored Islam — as evidenced by Trump's campaign statements calling for a "total and complete shutdown" on Muslims entering the U.S. — and was thus unconstitutional.

But the 9th Circuit sidestepped that question, saying they didn't need to answer it because the legality of the travel ban could be decided on narrower grounds: It violated immigration law.

While the president has broad authority over immigration, the judges said, to invoke that authority in this case, Trump would have to show the entry of citizens from the six countries would harm the U.S. He made no such showing, they said.

"National security is not a 'talismanic incantation' that, once invoked, can support any and all exercise

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 21 of 49

of executive power," the judges wrote.

By avoiding the question of Trump's motive for banning the travelers, the 9th Circuit avoided a thorny issue about whether courts should consider the president's campaign-trail statements.

The 9th Circuit, however, did not completely ignore the president's statements. The judges pointed to a June 5 tweet by Trump saying the executive order was aimed at "dangerous countries." That helped demonstrate that he was not assessing whether the roughly 180 million citizens of the six countries had ties to terrorism, they said.

WHAT ABOUT THE REFUGEES?

In addition to banning travelers from six mostly Muslim nations for 90 days, Trump's executive order called for a suspension of the nation's refugee program. In his March ruling striking down the travel ban, a federal judge in Hawaii also held that the suspension of the refugee program was unconstitutional.

The 9th Circuit rebuffed the administration's efforts to reinstate that part of the order as well. The court said the president was required to consult with Congress in setting the number of refugees that would be allowed into the country in a given year and could not decrease that number mid-year.

That issue wasn't before the 4th Circuit, because in the Maryland case it considered, the lower court judge had not struck down the refugee program's suspension.

WHAT COMES NEXT?

Attorney General Jeff Sessions said after Monday's ruling that the ban was necessary to protect national security, and the president was within his lawful authority to enact it.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said the administration was confident that the travel ban would be upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The administration has asked the Supreme Court to immediately reinstate the ban on travelers.

At the Supreme Court, anything is possible if you have five votes — a majority of the court. The justices have a range of options in front of them. They could order an unusual June argument and try to resolve the travel ban lawsuits before they leave town for the summer. They also could essentially do nothing, leaving the two appeals court rulings in place.

One reason the court might feel some responsibility to act — and sooner rather than later — is because the administration has asked for expedited review. The court typically also has the last word when a federal court strikes down a law or presidential order.

The 9th Circuit's more narrow focus on immigration law may appeal to conservative justices on the Supreme Court who might be loath to extend their review beyond the text of the executive order to include the president's campaign statements about a Muslim ban, said David Levine, a professor at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

"They don't need to psychoanalyze the president," he said. "They don't need to go beyond the four corners of the order."

Johnson reported from Seattle. Associated Press writer Mark Sherman in Washington, D.C., contributed to this report.

Warriors join Bulls, Lakers, Celtics on list of NBA's greats

By BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer

They could outrun teams like the Showtime Lakers and outgun them like Michael Jordan's Bulls — and the Golden State Warriors had a more dominant postseason than either.

Their run was better than anything Bill Russell or Larry Bird did in Boston, so they should be able to claim a spot on the list of the NBA's best teams ever.

Golden State finished the playoffs 16-1 when they beat the Cleveland Cavaliers 129-120 in Game 5 of the NBA Finals. They ended with the highest winning percentage ever in the NBA postseason and won 15

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 22 of 49

consecutive games, the longest streak in the major North American sports.

"This is history. We're going down as one of the best teams ever, and that's a special thing you cannot take away from us," reserve Andre Iguodala said.

They weren't so Golden in their lone blemish, a Game 4 loss when they played some of the poorest defense in Finals history to spoil a perfect postseason.

But throw in a 65-17 regular season, and the Warriors went 81-18 after Kevin Durant joined them, an impressive start to finish after their collapse in last year's Finals that prevented them from winning three straight championships.

Golden State plays under a set of offensive-friendly rules, and critics said they wouldn't have stood up to the rugged play of the past. But the Warriors also had shooting that would have made them the envy of even some of the toughest teams of all-time.

A list of some teams, now including the Warriors, who have permanent places on the list of NBA greats.

1961-62 Celtics

Team record: 60-20

Playoffs record: 8-6

Future Hall of Famers on team: Bill Russell, Bob Cousy, Sam Jones, K.C. Jones, Tom "Satch" Sanders, Tom Heinsohn.

All-Stars that season: Cousy, Russell, Sam Jones, Heinsohn, coach Red Auerbach.

What made them great: With Cousy controlling a powerful offense and Russell patrolling the paint for the league's leading defense, the Celtics outscored teams by more than nine points per game while going 23-5 and 11-3 on neutral courts — yes, NBA teams played neutral-site games back then. Even with all their talent it wasn't easy, as Boston needed seven games to beat Philadelphia in the Eastern Division finals and then seven more in the NBA Finals — the last going to overtime — to beat Los Angeles.

1970-71 Bucks

Team record: 66-16

Playoffs record: 12-2

Future Hall of Famers on team: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Oscar Robertson.

All-Stars that season: Abdul-Jabbar, Robertson, coach Larry Costello.

What made them great: Abdul-Jabbar and Robertson might be two of the top five players in NBA history, and they were on the same sensational team that season. Milwaukee clobbered teams by 12.2 points per game and increased that to an NBA-best 14.5 per game in the postseason. Abdul-Jabbar was the league's MVP and scoring champion, averaging 31.7 points.

1971-72 Lakers

Team record: 69-13

Playoffs record: 12-3

Future Hall of Famers on team: Wilt Chamberlain, Jerry West, Pat Riley, Elgin Baylor, Gail Goodrich

All-Stars that season: West, Goodrich, Chamberlain, coach Bill Sharman

What made them great: Baylor retired early in the season, then the Lakers launched an NBA-record, 33-game winning streak. Led the league with 121 points per game while outscoring opponents by 12.3 per night behind their potent backcourt of Goodrich and West, who each averaged nearly 26 points to rank in the league's top six. Chamberlain's 19.2 rebounds per game topped the league.

1982-83 Sixers

Team record: 65-17

Playoffs record: 12-1

Future Hall of Famers on team: Julius Erving, Moses Malone

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 23 of 49

All-Stars that season: Malone, Erving, Andrew Toney, Maurice Cheeks, coach Billy Cunningham
What made them great: Just missed following through on Malone's "Fo', fo', fo'" vow while delivering Erving's long-awaited first NBA championship. Malone averaged 24.5 points and a league-leading 15.3 rebounds while winning his second straight MVP award and made his boast that the 76ers would sweep every series in four games. They came close, dropping a game to Milwaukee in the Eastern Conference finals but then sweeping the Lakers in the Finals.

1985-86 Celtics

Team record: 67-15

Playoffs record: 15-3

Future Hall of Famers on team: Larry Bird, Robert Parish, Kevin McHale, Dennis Johnson, Bill Walton

All-Stars that season: Bird, Parish, McHale, coach K.C. Jones

What made them great: Set an NBA record by going 40-1 at home during the last of Bird's three straight MVP seasons. The original Big Three of Bird, Parish and McHale started in the frontcourt, and former MVP Walton backed them up and won the Sixth Man of the Year award. Overcame a 63-point performance from Michael Jordan in a first-round sweep of Chicago, but had to settle for beating Houston in the NBA Finals after the Rockets knocked off the hated Lakers in the West finals.

1986-87 Lakers

Team record: 65-17

Playoffs record: 15-3

Future Hall of Famers on team: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Magic Johnson, James Worthy

All-Stars that season: Johnson, Abdul-Jabbar, Worthy, coach Pat Riley

What made them great: The Showtime Lakers averaged 117.8 points on 51.6 percent shooting, with Johnson leading the league in assists and winning his first MVP award. He punctuated that season with his famed "Baby Hook" to win Game 4 of the NBA Finals in Boston, giving the Lakers a 3-1 lead before they finished off their rivals two games later.

1995-96 Bulls

Team record: 72-10

Playoffs record: 15-3

Future Hall of Famers on team: Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman

All-Stars that season: Jordan, Pippen, coach Phil Jackson

What made them great: A team that was on a vengeance all season after losing in the playoffs in 1995 when Jordan returned from baseball, they became the first team to win 70 games. Jordan led the league in scoring and Rodman in rebounding, and their three stars were perhaps the league's best defensive players at their positions, making it nearly impossible to score against the Bulls at times.

2001-01 Lakers

Team record: 56-26

Playoffs record: 15-1

Future Hall of Famers on team: Shaquille O'Neal, (eventually) Kobe Bryant

All-Stars that season: Bryant, O'Neal

What made them great: With a dominant inside-outside combination of O'Neal and Bryant, the Lakers stormed to their second of three straight titles, sweeping three 50-win teams along the way in the Western Conference playoffs. They dropped the NBA Finals opener to league MVP Allen Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers, then took the next four games.

2016-17 Warriors

Team record: 65-17

Playoffs record: 16-1

Future Hall of Famers on team: To be determined.

All-Stars that season: Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant, Draymond Green, Klay Thompson, coach Steve Kerr

What made them great: An explosive perimeter attack meant they could score from way beyond the basket, while the versatile Green's defense allowed them to play small-ball lineups without getting hurt on the boards. They finished one victory short of the NBA's first perfect postseason, but bounced back from their Game 4 loss to Cleveland in the NBA Finals with another high-scoring performance.

More AP NBA: www.apnews.com/tag/NBAbasketball

Trump cheerleaders turn on special counsel Mueller

By JILL COLVIN and JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — High-profile supporters of President Donald Trump are turning on special counsel Robert Mueller, the man charged with investigating Russian interference in the U.S. election and possible collusion with Trump's campaign.

As Mueller builds his legal team, Trump's allies have begun raising questions about the former FBI director's impartiality, suggesting he cannot be trusted to lead the probe. The comments come amid increasing frustration at the White House and among Trump supporters that the investigation will overshadow the president's agenda for months to come — a prospect that has Democrats salivating.

Trump friend Chris Ruddy, the CEO of Newsmax, went so far as to suggest the president was already thinking about "terminating" Mueller.

"I think he's considering perhaps terminating the special counsel," Ruddy said in an interview with Judy Woodruff of "PBS NewsHour." "I think he's weighing that option."

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, an informal Trump adviser, tweeted Monday, "Republicans are delusional if they think the special counsel is going to be fair. Look who he is hiring."

Just weeks ago, Gingrich had heaped praise on Mueller, hailing him as a "superb choice" for special counsel whose reputation was "impeccable for honesty and integrity."

But after the testimony of former FBI Director James Comey last week, Gingrich said he'd changed his mind.

"Time to rethink," he tweeted Monday, citing Mueller's hiring decisions and Comey's admission that he'd instructed a friend to share with reporters notes he'd taken of his private conversations with Trump in order to force the appointment of special counsel.

Conservative commentator Ann Coulter offered a similar message, tweeting, "Now that we know TRUMP IS NOT UNDER INVESTIGATION, Sessions should take it back & fire Mueller."

The talk about dismissing Mueller appeared to be coming from Trump allies — including some close to White House strategist Steve Bannon — who are increasingly frustrated with the prospect of a long and winding probe.

They say Trump did not collude with Russia and see the investigation as a politically motivated sham that handicaps Trump's ability to execute his agenda, according to one person who advises the White House on how to handle the probe. The person demanded anonymity to discuss strategy on the sensitive matter.

Ruddy appeared to be basing his remarks, at least in part, on comments from Jay Sekulow, a member of Trump's legal team, who told ABC in an interview Sunday that he was "not going to speculate" on whether Trump might at some point order deputy attorney general Rod Rosenstein to fire Mueller.

"Look, the president of the United States, as we all know, is a unitary executive. But the president is going to seek the advice of his counsel and inside the government as well as outside. And I'm not going to speculate on what he will or will not do," Sekulow said. Still, he added, "I can't imagine that that issue is going to arise."

It wasn't clear whether Ruddy, who speaks with the president often, was basing his remarks on a specific conversation with the president or entirely on Sekulow's comments. Ruddy did not immediately respond to questions seeking clarification.

Ruddy was at the White House Monday to meet with White House aides, but did not speak with the president, Press Secretary Sean Spicer said. "Mr. Ruddy never spoke to the president regarding this issue," Spicer said. "With respect to this subject, only the president or his attorneys are authorized to comment."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said via email, "Chris speaks for himself."

Peter Carr, a spokesman for Mueller, declined to comment on Ruddy's remarks.

Under current Justice Department regulations, firing Mueller would have to be done by Attorney General Jeff Sessions' deputy, Rosenstein, not the president— though those regulations could theoretically be set aside.

Sessions recused himself from all matters having to do with the Trump-Russia investigation because of his own conversations with Russian officials during the Trump transition.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker contributed to this report.

Twins draft California prep shortstop Royce Lewis at No. 1

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr., AP Sports Writer

SECAUCUS, N.J. (AP) — The Minnesota Twins think they've got their shortstop of the future in the speedy and slick-fielding Royce Lewis.

The California high school star was taken with the No. 1 pick in the Major League Baseball draft Monday night. It was the third time the Twins were up first — the last time was 2001, when they grabbed hometown high school catcher Joe Mauer with the top choice.

"My body just went numb," Lewis said during an interview with MLB Network. "It was an unbelievable feeling."

Lewis played both shortstop and outfield in high school. But the Twins, who lead the AL Central after going 59-103 last year, classified him as a shortstop when Commissioner Rob Manfred made the announcement at MLB Network studios.

The 6-foot-1, 185-pound Lewis hit .377 with four homers and 25 stolen bases for JSerra Catholic High School, establishing himself as a top prospect with excellent speed and a solid bat.

"He's got that 'it' factor that a No. 1 pick needs to survive and move forward and have success at the end of the journey," said Mike Radcliff, the Twins' vice president for player personnel. "He checked all the boxes for us."

The 18-year-old Lewis was a standout on USA Baseball's gold medal-winning Under-18 team at the Pan American Championships last year and was selected as this year's National High School Coaches Association's high school senior baseball athlete of the year.

"We know he's going to be a leader the second he steps on the field," Twins chief baseball officer Derek Falvey said. "We'll let the baseball play take care of itself."

With the second pick, Cincinnati took California high school right-hander Hunter Greene, one of the top two-way talents in a draft stocked with them.

Greene, chosen as a pitcher, also played shortstop at Notre Dame High School, but a fastball that can reach 100 mph has the Reds projecting him as a future ace. Greene, featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated this season, was the first of four prospects in attendance at the draft site to be selected.

He was asked to give a scouting report on himself as a pitcher.

"Man, I'm a monster," he said, chuckling. "I'm different on the field than I am off the field. I'm just going to go out there and compete and challenge and pound the zone and go after guys like I know I can and like everybody else knows I can."

And while the Reds drafted him as a pitcher, Greene sounded as though he still might have designs on playing the infield, too.

"I don't even know yet," he said, wearing a Cincinnati cap and jersey. "I still love doing both and I think the ballclub is excited for getting two players for one. So I think they're pretty pumped up for that, so we'll see how it works out."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 26 of 49

Falvey said the Twins' choice came down to the waning minutes and the decision to pass on Greene was "really tough."

"We felt Royce separated himself from those other guys just a bit, and we feel like he's somebody that we'll build around for the future," Falvey said.

At No. 3, San Diego selected North Carolina prep left-hander MacKenzie Gore, marking the first time since 1990 that the top three picks were all high school players.

Louisville two-way star Brendan McKay was drafted fourth overall by Tampa Bay as a first baseman.

McKay had teams considering whether they should draft him as a pitcher, hitter — or both. The Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year is hitting .343 with 17 homers and 56 RBIs for the College World Series-bound Cardinals. He's also 10-3 with 2.34 ERA and 140 strikeouts and 33 walks in 104 innings on the mound.

"It's just awesome, getting to swing it every day, play every day," McKay said in an interview with MLB Network. "It's going to be fun to be involved, and being on the field a lot."

Atlanta selected Vanderbilt right-hander Kyle Wright — who grew up a Braves fan — with the No. 5 pick, looking to augment a large stable of touted arms already in the team's farm system.

After North Carolina high school outfielder Austin Beck went sixth to Oakland, a pair of University of Virginia teammates were picked with the next two selections: first baseman Pavin Smith to Arizona and outfielder Adam Haseley to Philadelphia.

The University of North Carolina — with right-hander J.B. Bukauskas (15th by Houston) and shortstop Logan Warmoth (22nd by Toronto) — and Vanderbilt — with Wright and outfielder Jeren Kendall (23rd, by the Dodgers) — also had a pair of first-rounders.

UC Irvine second baseman Keston Hiura was the ninth pick to Milwaukee. The Los Angeles Angels rounded out the top 10 by taking Kentucky high school outfielder Jordon Adell, the second player in attendance to be selected.

"I can't wait to get out to LA," Adell said. "They're getting the full package, I believe."

At No. 13, Miami took New Mexico high school lefty Trevor Rogers, who was also at the draft site and is the cousin of former Marlins outfielder Cody Ross.

"Cody would have taken him 1/1 I think," Marlins vice president of scouting Stan Meek said. "He loves him. He says he's a great kid, a hard worker and the kind of person we want in our system."

In a touching moment that drew a standing ovation from the former major leaguers serving as team representatives, 11-year-old Yankees fan Landis Sims — born without hands or feet — announced his favorite team's first-round selection: South Carolina right-hander Clarke Schmidt at No. 16 overall.

Washington took left-hander Seth Romero at No. 25, even though he was dismissed from the University of Houston's baseball program last month for repeated violations of school and athletic department policies. His mid-90s fastball, biting slider and easy delivery still kept many teams interested.

Alabama high school outfielder Bubba Thompson was the last of the players at the draft to be taken, going to Texas with the 26th pick.

The Chicago Cubs capped the first round by selecting right-hander Alex Lange, who has helped pitched LSU to the College World Series.

Among the second-round picks was North Carolina State shortstop Joseph Dunand, the nephew of Alex Rodriguez who was selected as a third baseman by Miami at No. 51 overall.

The draft continues with rounds 3-10 on Tuesday via conference calls with teams, and concludes Wednesday with rounds 11-40.

AP Baseball Writer Mike Fitzpatrick and Sports Writers Dave Campbell in Minneapolis and Steven Wine in Miami contributed to this report.

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

Fresh questions for Sessions _ and he'll answer in public

By ERIC TUCKER and DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions, facing fresh questions about his Russian contacts during the election campaign and his role in the firing of James Comey, will be interrogated in a public hearing by former Senate colleagues on Tuesday.

The appearance before the Senate intelligence committee comes one week after former FBI Director Comey cryptically told lawmakers the bureau had expected Sessions to recuse himself weeks before he did from an investigation into contacts between Trump campaign associates and Russia during the 2016 election.

Sessions, a close campaign adviser to Donald Trump and the first senator to endorse him, stepped aside from the investigation in early March after acknowledging he had spoken twice in the months before the election with the Russian ambassador to the United States. He said under oath at his January confirmation hearing that he had not met with Russians during the campaign.

Since then, lawmakers have raised questions about a possible third meeting at a Washington hotel, though the Justice Department has said that did not happen.

Sessions on Saturday said he would appear before the intelligence committee, which has been doing its own investigation into Russian contacts with the Trump campaign. There had been some question as to whether the hearing would be open to the public, but the Justice Department said Monday he requested it be so because he "believes it is important for the American people to hear the truth directly from him." The committee shortly after said the hearing would be open.

The hearing will bring sharp questioning for Sessions and likely some uncomfortable moments from the Trump administration.

Sessions is likely to be asked about his conversations with Ambassador Sergey Kislyak and whether there were more encounters that should have been made public. And he can expect questions about his involvement in Comey's May 9 firing, the circumstances surrounding his decision to recuse himself from the FBI's investigation, and whether any of his actions — such as interviewing candidates for the FBI director position or meeting with Trump about Comey — violated his recusal pledge.

Asked Monday if the White House thought Sessions should invoke executive privilege to avoid answering questions about his conversations with Trump, presidential spokesman Sean Spicer replied, "It depends on the scope of the questions. To get into a hypothetical at this point would be premature."

He did not explicitly endorse Sessions' appearance, saying in response to a question, "We're aware of it, and we'll go from there."

Comey himself had a riveting appearance before the same Senate panel last week, with some key moments centered on Sessions.

Comey said Trump told Sessions and other administration officials to leave the room before Trump asked him in February to drop a probe into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn's contacts with Russia.

In addition, Comey has said Sessions did not respond when he complained that he did not want to be left alone with Trump again. The Justice Department has denied that, saying Sessions stressed to Comey the need to be careful about following appropriate policies.

The former FBI director also testified that he and the agency had believed Sessions was "inevitably going to recuse" for reasons he said he could not elaborate on.

"We also were aware of facts that I can't discuss in an open setting that would make his continued engagement in a Russia-related investigation problematic," Comey said.

Sessions' appearance before the intelligence committee is an indication of just how much the Russia investigation has shaded his tenure. White House frustrations with the Justice Department spilled into public view last week, when Trump on Twitter criticized the legal strategy in defending his proposed travel ban.

Spokesman Spicer declined to say then that Sessions enjoyed Trump's confidence, though spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said later in the week that the president had confidence "in all of his Cabinet."

Though the Justice Department maintains that it has fully disclosed the extent of Sessions' foreign contacts

last year, lawmakers have continued to press him for answers about an April 2016 event at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington, where both Sessions and Kislyak attended a foreign policy speech by Trump.

Senate Democrats have raised the possibility that Sessions and Kislyak could have met there, though Justice Department officials say there were no private encounters or side meetings.

Lawmakers, including Al Franken of Minnesota and Patrick Leahy of Vermont, have asked the FBI to investigate and to determine if Sessions committed perjury when he denied having had meetings with Russians.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

49 victims of Pulse massacre remembered in daylong services

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and TERRANCE HARRIS, Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Church bells tolled 49 times, a giant rainbow flag hung from a county government building and the names of the victims of the Pulse nightclub attack were read aloud at various ceremonies Monday as people in Orlando and beyond remembered the worst mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

At 2:02 a.m., survivors, victims' families, club employees and local officials were gathered for a private service at the gay club at the exact time Omar Mateen opened fire a year ago and pledged allegiance to the Islamic State. He was eventually killed by police after a three-hour standoff on June 12, 2016.

"I realize that gathering here in this place, at this hour, is beyond difficult," Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said. "But I also know that the strength you've shown over the past year will carry you through today and in the future."

The service began what would be almost 24 hours of solemn remembrances. During a midday service, the Orlando Gay Chorus performed Cyndi Lauper's "True Colors" and speakers talked less about the tragedy and more about how Orlando area residents came together in the aftermath.

Orange County Mayor Teresa Jacobs said the city will only partly be remembered for the shooting. Most of the patrons killed were gay Latinos.

"That will be a part of the history books, but the true legacy of our community is going to be in our darkest hour we responded with love and compassion and unity," Jacobs said.

At noon, church bells throughout the Orlando area rang 49 times. Gov. Rick Scott ordered U.S. flags around Florida to be flown at half-staff and a gay-pride flag was unveiled at the Orange County government building.

In the evening, rain didn't deter thousands of people from showing up at a remembrance in downtown Orlando in front of an amphitheater that was painted in gay-pride rainbow colors after the massacre. City officials estimated that 15,000 people showed up for the ceremony during which individuals dressed as angels with white billowing wings took the stage as the names of the 49 people killed were read.

At the last service, a late-night ceremony attended by hundreds of people outside the nightclub, Pulse owner Barbara Poma said she had wanted to start and end the one-year commemoration of the tragedy at the nightclub she had opened in memory of her brother.

"It truly means the absolute world to me to see all of you here," said Poma, who plans to open a memorial at the Pulse site.

Earlier in the day, Poma said when people ask her what has changed in her life since the tragedy, she tells them "everything." But she said she is grateful for the outpouring of support. She plans to build a memorial at the site of the nightclub, which has been closed since the tragedy.

"I miss Pulse," she said. "I miss everything it stood for."

President Donald Trump tweet out a photo of the victims and said: "We will NEVER FORGET the victims who lost their lives one year ago today in the horrific #PulseNightClub shooting. #OrlandoUnitedDay."

Local leaders said Mateen's hateful act caused an outpouring of love from Orlando and the wider world.

"What a terrorist tries to do is divide us," U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson said. "Isn't it interesting it had the opposite effect? It brought us together in unity and love."

Outside Pulse, hundreds of people dropped off flowers, drawings and cards.

"It still hurts, it's still very raw," said Erin Anderson, a friend and former co-worker of Pulse victim Xavier Serrano Rosado.

Jeannine Williams used to live within walking distance of Pulse and was a frequent visitor. She had made plans to be there the night of the shooting but decided to go another night club.

"A year later I think the thing that is most important is this community and why I live here and why I'm so happy to live here," Williams said through tears. "The support we not only have from our city government, it's not fleeting support, it's not support on certain days. It's the way the community is. This is Orlando. This is why I just love living here."

Next door to the club, an anti-gay protester was pushed to the ground by an officer and handcuffed as the crowd chanted "love conquers hate." Local television stations showed police officers talking to two protesters with an anti-gay sign and wearing anti-gay slogans on their shirts, as the men argued with the officers that they had a right to be there.

An officer can be seen holding out his hand to keep one of the men from walking any further as the man pushes back against his hand. Moments later, the officer pushes the man back and the man falls down. Spokeswomen for the police and city didn't return an email or phone call, and it was unknown if the man was taken into custody or charged.

A steady stream of visitors came by the Orange County Regional History Center to see an exhibit of memorial items, including 49 crosses with the victims' names and photos attached.

"The crosses were incredibly impactful," said Monique Stewart, an Orlando resident. "I feel like every piece that they collected was deliberate and serves a point and it just ties back to remembering those 49 people and spreading love."

Mateen's wife, Noor Salman, is facing charges of aiding and abetting and obstruction in federal court. She has pleaded not guilty to helping her husband.

Theater refuses to buckle after 'Caesar' Trump criticism

By MARK KENNEDY, AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Public Theater is refusing to back down after backlash over its production of "Julius Caesar" that portrays a Donald Trump-like dictator in a business suit with a long tie who gets knifed to death onstage.

Delta Air Lines and Bank of America have pulled their sponsorship of the Public's version of the play, but in a statement Monday the theater said it stands behind the production. It noted its staging has "provoked heated discussion" but "such discussion is exactly the goal of our civically-engaged theater; this discourse is the basis of a healthy democracy."

Other defenders included Scott M. Stringer, the New York City comptroller, who wrote letters to the heads of Delta and Bank of America, arguing that dropping their support "sends the wrong message." He writes: "Art matters. The First Amendment matters. Expression matters." He enclosed copies of the play with the letters.

"I hope you enjoy it — it is a classic, in any age," he wrote.

Before Monday night's performance, the play's director, Oskar Eustis, delivered a statement, which he urged audience members to record on their cellphones.

"Neither Shakespeare nor The Public Theater could possibly advocate violence as a solution to political problems and certainly not assassination," he said.

This modern-day Caesar's violent death at the hands of conspirators comes not long after comedian Kathy Griffin was widely condemned for posing for a photograph in which she gripped a bloodied rendering of Trump's head.

Though the Public's version of William Shakespeare's classic play is unchanged from its 400-year-old original, the production portrays Caesar with a gold bathtub and a pouty Slavic wife. Trump's name is never mentioned, but backlash was swift.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 30 of 49

On Sunday, Donald Trump Jr. retweeted a Fox News story about the play and wrote, "I wonder how much of this 'art' is funded by taxpayers? Serious question, when does 'art' become political speech & does that change things?"

Delta responded by saying "artistic and creative direction crossed the line on the standards of good taste."

Bank of America said the Public chose to present the play "to provoke and offend" without the bank's knowledge: "Had this intention been made known to us, we would have decided not to sponsor it."

"Julius Caesar" ends its run Sunday. The comedy "A Midsummer Night's Dream" begins in the park on July 11.

The National Endowment for the Arts, which Trump, a Republican, once proposed eliminating, said that while the Public's Shakespeare programming has received its grants in the past none was awarded for "Julius Caesar" or for funds supporting the New York State Council on the Arts' grant for the Public.

Theater lovers were quick to point out that a national tour of "Julius Caesar" in 2012 by The Acting Company featured a Caesar played by a black actor in a modern business suit who had a resemblance to then-President Barack Obama, a Democrat. Sponsors of the Guthrie Theater, including Delta, apparently had no objections when that show landed in Minneapolis.

The Public has long protected its role as incubator of provocative and challenging works, unafraid to mount plays that comment on current events or update Shakespearian plays to explore modern themes.

It's had Trump in its sights before. It's the institution that birthed the megahit "Hamilton," whose cast members last year implored Vice President-elect Mike Pence to support diversity, and where Meryl Streep donned self-tanner and a fat suit last summer to impersonate Trump at a gala fundraiser.

Laurence Maslon, an administrator and arts professor at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, said it was disingenuous for large corporations that have backed the Public for years and enjoyed co-opting its downtown cool vibe to sound alarmed now.

"You've got to know what you're getting into," he said, adding that the Public has "50 years of the most provocative, politically engaged work." He backed the director, Eustis, saying he's "nothing if not brave."

The Public produced "Embedded," Tim Robbins' heavy-handed 2003 riff on the events leading to the war in Iraq that had actors portraying hawkish presidential advisers wearing masks with grotesque facial expressions.

In 2006, Eustis dedicated the summer season in Central Park to three works that focused on foreign affairs — "Stuff Happens," in which David Hare looked at the debates in Washington in the lead-up to the Iraq war, a militaristic production of "Macbeth" set in the early 20th century and a "Mother Courage" with a new translation by Tony Kushner that had references to tax exemptions for the rich.

Maslon said he thinks any loss of funding the Public experiences from corporate defectors will be compensated for by donations from liberal grass-roots groups and people worried about the apparent threat to artistic freedom.

"I can imagine any sense that this political regime is imposing a kind of censorship and the free market can help correct it will probably be good for the Public," he said.

The Public isn't the only theater project trying to address the advent of Trump. On Broadway, Jon Jon Briones, who plays the sleazy Engineer in a revival of "Miss Saigon," makes a sarcastic reference to the Trump campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again."

The recent off-Broadway play "Building the Wall," by playwright Robert Schenkkan, imagined the country under Trump's campaign promise to detain immigrants living in the country illegally. And filmmaker and activist Michael Moore is bringing a one-man show taking on Trump to Broadway this summer.

Mark Kennedy can be reached at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 31 of 49

Still no one claims \$447M Powerball prize in California

By AMY TAXIN, Associated Press

MENIFEE, Calif. (AP) — Lottery officials on Monday gave a ceremonial million-dollar check to the owners of a Southern California liquor store that sold the winning \$447.8 million Powerball jackpot ticket and said whoever bought it has still not come forward to claim the prize.

At the busy store right off the freeway in the small city of Menifee, residents stopped by to congratulate members of the Alberre family, who have owned the business for more than two decades, and muse about whether someone among them might be about to take home the 10th largest lottery prize in U.S. history.

California lottery officials said a sole winning ticket was sold at the Marietta Liquor & Deli, but they won't reveal when the purchase took place to avoid encouraging false claims.

Russ Lopez, a lottery spokesman, urged whoever has the ticket to seek sound financial and legal advice. The winner has up to a year to claim the prize.

"That's a lot of money for somebody in this area," Lopez said as community members snapped photos outside the lucky store. "Winning the lottery should never be a nightmare."

The Alberre family said they didn't know what they would do with the \$1 million bonus awarded to the retailer that sold the winning ticket.

Albeir Alberre, a 65-year-old immigrant originally from Syria, said the store has sold a few winners since he started the business in the late 1990s but never this big. His son, Matthew Alberre, said he couldn't believe when he received a call with the news at his cousin's high school graduation party Saturday night.

"I was in shock at first," said the 26-year-old Alberre. "It's an incredible feeling. I'm just very blessed to be a part of this."

The store caters to local residents in the Sun City area of Menifee, which was originally developed as a retirement community in the 1960s, and is also a common stop for motorists passing through the area about 80 miles (130 kilometers) from Los Angeles.

Sun City has about 4,700 homes developed for residents age 55 and older. Today, the homes clustered around a golf course are part of Menifee, population 89,000.

Richard Byham, a 68-year-old retired mailman, said he plays the lottery daily at the store and rushed to check his numbers after hearing the winning ticket was sold there.

"This is as close as I've ever come, and I'm still excited," Byham said. "It was one heck of a rush to see this address and name pop up."

The lucky numbers drawn Saturday night were 20-26-32-38-58, and the Powerball number was 3.

Powerball is played in 44 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The estimated jackpot prize is based on a winner choosing an annuity, which pays off over 29 years. The cash prize would be \$279.1 million. Both prize amounts would be before taxes are deducted.

Before the drawing Saturday night, the jackpot was estimated at \$435 million. It had grown because no one had matched all the numbers since April 1.

The odds of winning Saturday's drawing were one in 292.2 million.

Associated Press writer Scott McFetridge contributed from Des Moines, Iowa.

Cosby jury sent home after deliberating 4 hours

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISAk, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — The jury at Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial deliberated without reaching a verdict Monday over whether he drugged and molested a woman more than a decade ago in a case that already has helped demolish the 79-year-old comedian's good-guy image.

A conviction could send Cosby to prison for the rest of his life, completing the stunning late-life downfall of one of the most beloved stars in show business.

Jurors got the case around 5:30 p.m. and met for about four hours before knocking off late Monday night, with deliberations set to resume in the morning.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 32 of 49

The fast-moving case went to the jury of seven men and five women on Day 6 of the trial after closing arguments gave differing portrayals of what happened between Cosby and Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia estate.

Defense attorney Brian McMonagle told the jury that Cosby and Constand were lovers who had enjoyed secret "romantic interludes," insisting the 2004 encounter was consensual. McMonagle said that while the comedian had been unfaithful to his wife, he didn't commit a crime.

Prosecutors countered by saying "fancy lawyering" can't save Cosby from his own words — namely, his admission about groping Constand after giving her pills he knew could put her to sleep.

"Drugging somebody and putting them in a position where you can do what you want with them is not romantic. It's criminal," District Attorney Kevin Steele said.

Before asking to go back to their hotel Monday night, jurors wanted to see a portion of Cosby's decade-old testimony from a civil suit filed against him by Constand.

They told the judge they wanted the "full context" of Cosby's testimony about the pills he gave to Constand, which he had described to her as "friends."

"I have three friends for you to make you relax," Cosby said he told Constand, according to a deposition transcript reread to the jury Monday night.

After the prosecution took five days to outline its side, the defense case consisted of just one witness, a detective, and six minutes of testimony earlier in the day. Cosby did not take the stand, ending days of suspense over whether the jury would hear directly from him.

Legal experts said testifying would have been a risky move that could have opened the TV star to withering cross-examination about some of the 60 or so other women who have accused him of drugging or molesting them.

He is charged with three counts of aggravated indecent assault, each one punishable by up to 10 years behind bars.

The black comedian once known as America's Dad for his portrayal of kindly Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show" suggested recently that race could have played a role in the case against him. The jury included two black members.

McMonagle, in his closing argument, tried to sow doubt about Constand's story, saying it had evolved during her interviews with police. He also pointed out that Constand telephoned Cosby dozens of times after the alleged assault. Constand told the jury she was merely returning his calls about the women's basketball squad at Temple University, where she was director of team operations and he was a member of the board of trustees.

"This isn't talking to a trustee. This is talking to a lover," McMonagle said of one call that lasted 49 minutes. "Why are we running from the truth of this case — this relationship? Why?"

Cosby's wife of 53 years, Camille, was in the courtroom for the first time in the trial. She was stoic during the defense argument but left when it was the prosecution's turn. She sat in the front row, across the aisle from Constand, who didn't react to McMonagle's two-hour closing but smiled at the end of it.

Constand, 44, testified last week that Cosby gave her three blue pills and then penetrated her with his fingers against her will as she lay paralyzed and half-conscious. She denied they had a romantic relationship and said she had rebuffed previous advances from him.

She sued Cosby after prosecutors in 2005 declined to press charges. Cosby testified over a decade ago as part of that lawsuit, eventually settling with her for an undisclosed sum. His deposition was sealed for years until a judge released parts in 2015 at the request of The Associated Press, prompting a new set of prosecutors to take a fresh look at the case and charge him.

McMonagle told the jury that Cosby's freedom is at stake now, not just his finances. "This is not a civil case about money, money, money. We're talking about all the man's tomorrows," he said.

In the prosecution's closing argument, Steele said that Cosby's lurid statements from 2005 helped corroborate Constand's allegations. Steele also reminded jurors about a telephone conversation in which Cosby apologized to Constand's mother and described himself as a "sick man."

"This is where all the fancy lawyering can't get you around your own words," Steele said.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 33 of 49

In his 2005 deposition, Cosby said he obtained several prescriptions for quaaludes in the 1970s and offered the now-banned sedatives to women he wanted to have sex with.

He also said he gave Constand three half-tablets of the cold and allergy medicine Benadryl before the "petting" began. Prosecutors have suggested he drugged her with something stronger — perhaps quaaludes.

The deposition seemed to be of keen interest to the jury, which asked to review more than a dozen additional excerpts when they resume deliberations Tuesday morning.

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>

10 Things to Know for Tuesday

By The Associated Press

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

1. ATTORNEY GENERAL JEFF SESSIONS APPEARS BEFORE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

Sessions will likely face questions about his Russian contacts during the election campaign, and his role in James Comey's firing.

1. TENS OF THOUSANDS PROTEST AGAINST CORRUPTION IN RUSSIA

More than a thousand were arrested Monday, including opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was sentenced to 30 days in jail hours later.

1. JURY DELIBERATES IN COSBY TRIAL

They will decide whether the once-beloved TV star Cosby is guilty of drugging and molesting a woman in 2004.

1. THOUSANDS ATTEND MEMORIAL FOR THOSE KILLED AT ORLANDO NIGHTCLUB

One year after a terrorist gunned down 49 people, most of them members of the LGBT community, the dead were remembered with rainbow flags, murals and speeches.

1. HOW TRUMP ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO CHANGE CONSUMER FINANCE WATCHDOG

A Treasury report urges Congress to remove the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's authority to supervise institutions like credit card issuers, banks and mortgage companies.

1. WHERE TRUMP IS PUSHING BENEFITS OF APPRENTICES

President Trump heads to Wisconsin to praise a state program that provides apprenticeships in industries like agriculture, manufacturing and construction.

1. WHAT MILITARY ANALYSIS GROUP SAYS ABOUT ISLAMIC STATE GROUP'S CHEMICAL WEAPONS CAPABILITY

A report by IHS Markit says U.S.-led coalition airstrikes have reduced their ability to produce such weapons, but not eliminated it.

1. MEGYN KELLY DRAWS CRITICISM FOR FEATURING CONSPIRACY THEORIST ALEX JONES ON HER SHOW

Kelly says she wanted to "shine a light" on the man, who has argued that the massacre of 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary was a hoax.

1. WHY PRODUCTION OF 'JULIUS CAESAR' IS FACING BACKLASH

The Shakespearean play as portrayed by New York's Public Theater features a Trump-like figure in the title role, and as in the original the character faces a violent death.

1. HIGH SCHOOLERS SELECTED AS NO. 1 AND NO. 2 MLB DRAFT PICKS

The Minnesota Twins drafted shortstop Royce Lewis and the Cincinnati Reds took right-hander Hunter Greene.

New frontier in cancer care: Turning blood into living drugs

By LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP Medical Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Ken Shefveland's body was swollen with cancer, treatment after treatment failing until doctors gambled on a radical approach: They removed some of his immune cells, engineered them into cancer assassins and unleashed them into his bloodstream.

Immune therapy is the hottest trend in cancer care and this is its next frontier — creating "living drugs" that grow inside the body into an army that seeks and destroys tumors.

Looking in the mirror, Shefveland saw "the cancer was just melting away." A month later doctors at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center couldn't find any signs of lymphoma in the Vancouver, Washington, man's body.

"Today I find out I'm in full remission — how wonderful is that?" said Shefveland with a wide grin, giving his physician a quick embrace.

This experimental therapy marks an entirely new way to treat cancer — if scientists can make it work, safely. Early-stage studies are stirring hope as one-time infusions of supercharged immune cells help a remarkable number of patients with intractable leukemia or lymphoma.

"It shows the unbelievable power of your immune system," said Dr. David Maloney, Fred Hutch's medical director for cellular immunotherapy who treated Shefveland with a type called CAR-T cells.

"We're talking, really, patients who have no other options, and we're seeing tumors and leukemias disappear over weeks," added immunotherapy scientific director Dr. Stanley Riddell. But, "there's still lots to learn."

T cells are key immune system soldiers. But cancer can be hard for them to spot, and can put the brakes on an immune attack. Today's popular immunotherapy drugs called "checkpoint inhibitors" release one brake so nearby T cells can strike. The new cellular immunotherapy approach aims to be more potent: Give patients stronger T cells to begin with.

Currently available only in studies at major cancer centers, the first CAR-T cell therapies for a few blood cancers could hit the market later this year. The Food and Drug Administration is evaluating one version developed by the University of Pennsylvania and licensed to Novartis, and another created by the National Cancer Institute and licensed to Kite Pharma.

CAR-T therapy "feels very much like it's ready for prime time" for advanced blood cancers, said Dr. Nick Haining of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, who isn't involved in the development.

Now scientists are tackling a tougher next step, what Haining calls "the acid test": Making T cells target far more common cancers — solid tumors like lung, breast or brain cancer. Cancer kills about 600,000 Americans a year, including nearly 45,000 from leukemia and lymphoma.

"There's a desperate need," said NCI immunotherapy pioneer Dr. Steven Rosenberg, pointing to queries from hundreds of patients for studies that accept only a few.

For all the excitement, there are formidable challenges.

Scientists still are unraveling why these living cancer drugs work for some people and not others.

Doctors must learn to manage potentially life-threatening side effects from an overstimulated immune system. Also concerning is a small number of deaths from brain swelling, an unexplained complication that forced another company, Juno Therapeutics, to halt development of one CAR-T in its pipeline; Kite recently reported a death, too.

And, made from scratch for every patient using their own blood, this is one of the most customized therapies ever and could cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"It's a Model A Ford and we need a Lamborghini," said CAR-T researcher Dr. Renier Brentjens of New York's Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, which, like Hutch, has a partnership with Juno.

In Seattle, Fred Hutch offered a behind-the-scenes peek at research underway to tackle those challenges. At a recently opened immunotherapy clinic, scientists are taking newly designed T cells from the lab to the patient and back again to tease out what works best.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 35 of 49

"We can essentially make a cell do things it wasn't programmed to do naturally," explained immunology chief Dr. Philip Greenberg. "Your imagination can run wild with how you can engineer cells to function better."

TWO LONG WEEKS TO BREW A DOSE

The first step is much like donating blood. When leukemia patient Claude Bannick entered a Hutch CAR-T study in 2014, nurses hooked him to a machine that filtered out his white blood cells, including the T cells.

Technicians raced his bag of cells to a factory-like facility that's kept so sterile they must pull on germ-deflecting suits, booties and masks just to enter. Then came 14 days of wait and worry, as his cells were reprogrammed.

Bannick, 67, says he "was almost dead." Chemotherapy, experimental drugs, even a bone marrow transplant had failed, and "I was willing to try anything."

GENETICALLY ENGINEERING CELLS

The goal: Arm T cells with an artificial receptor, a tracking system that can zero in on identifying markers of cancer cells, known as antigens. For many leukemias and lymphomas, that's an antigen named CD19.

Every research group has its own recipe but generally, scientists infect T cells with an inactive virus carrying genetic instructions to grow the desired "chimeric antigen receptor." That CAR will bind to its target cancer cells and rev up for attack.

Millions of copies of engineered cells are grown in incubators, Hutch technicians pulling out precious batches to monitor if they're ready for waiting patients.

If they work, those cells will keep multiplying in the body. If they don't, the doctors send blood and other samples back to researchers like Riddell to figure out why.

WHAT'S THE DATA?

Small, early studies in the U.S. made headlines as 60 percent to 90 percent of patients trying CAR-Ts as a last resort for leukemia or lymphoma saw their cancer rapidly decrease or even become undetectable. Last week, Chinese researchers reported similar early findings as 33 of 35 patients with another blood cancer, multiple myeloma, reached some degree of remission within two months.

Too few people have been studied so far to know how long such responses will last. A recent review reported up to half of leukemia and lymphoma patients may relapse.

There are long-term survivors. Doug Olson in 2010 received the University of Pennsylvania's CAR-T version for leukemia. The researchers were frank — it had worked in mice but they didn't know what would happen to him.

"Sitting here almost seven years later, I can tell you it works," Olson, now 70, told a recent meeting of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Bannick, the Hutch patient treated in 2014, recalls Maloney calling him "the miracle man." He had some lingering side effects that required blood-boosting infusions but says CAR-T is "giving me a second life."

SCARY SIDE EFFECTS

"The more side effects you have, that sort of tells everybody it's working," said Shefveld, who was hospitalized soon after his treatment at Hutch when his blood pressure collapsed. His last clear memory for days: "I was having a conversation with a nurse and all of a sudden it was gibberish."

As CAR-T cells swarm the cancer, an immune overreaction called "cytokine release syndrome" can trigger high fevers and plummeting blood pressure and in severe cases organ damage. Some patients also experience confusion, hallucinations or other neurologic symptoms.

Treatment is a balancing act to control those symptoms without shutting down the cancer attack.

Experienced cancer centers have learned to expect and watch for these problems. "And, most importantly, we've learned how to treat them," said Dr. Len Lichtenfeld of the American Cancer Society, who is watching CAR-T's development.

FIGHTING SOLID TUMORS WILL BE HARDER

CAR-Ts cause collateral damage, killing some healthy white blood cells, called B cells, along with cancerous ones because both harbor the same marker. Finding the right target to kill solid tumors but not healthy organ tissue will be even more complicated.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 36 of 49

"You can live without some normal B cells. You can't live without your lungs," Riddell explained.

Early studies against solid tumors are beginning, targeting different antigens. Time-lapse photos taken through a microscope in Riddell's lab show those new CAR-T cells crawling over aggressive breast cancer, releasing toxic chemicals until tumor cells shrivel and die.

CARs aren't the only approach. Researchers also are trying to target markers inside tumor cells rather than on the surface, or even gene mutations that don't form in healthy tissue.

"It's ironic that the very mutations that cause the cancer are very likely to be the Achilles heel," NCI's Rosenberg said.

And studies are beginning to test CAR-Ts in combination with older immunotherapy drugs, in hopes of overcoming tumor defenses.

HOW WILL PATIENTS GET THE FIRST CAR-T THERAPIES?

If the FDA approves Novartis' or Kite's versions, eligible leukemia and lymphoma patients would be treated at cancer centers experienced with this tricky therapy. Their T cells would be shipped to company factories, engineered, and shipped back. Gradually, more hospitals could offer it.

Because only certain patients would qualify for the first drugs, others would have to search for CAR-T studies to try the treatment. A drug industry report lists 21 CAR-T therapies in development by a dozen companies.

"This is the hope of any cancer patient, that if you stay in the game long enough, the next treatment's going to be just around the corner," said Shefveland, the Hutch patient.

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Monument review includes oceans, tribal lands and Sequoias

By **BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press**

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — President Donald Trump's call to review 27 national monuments established by three former presidents put in limbo protections on large swaths of land home to ancient cliff dwellings, towering sequoia trees, deep canyons and ocean habitats where seals, whales and sea turtles roam.

Trump and other critics say presidents have lost sight of the original purpose of the law created by President Theodore Roosevelt that was designed to protect particular historical or archaeological sites rather than wide expanses.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke made his first recommendation Monday: Proposing a reduced size for the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. He is set to issue a final report in late August for all the monuments.

A closer look at five of the monuments that are being re-examined:

BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT-UTAH

The creation of the 1.3 million-acre monument in December marked a victory for Native American tribes and conservationists and a blow to Utah Republican leaders who campaigned hard to prevent a designation they contend is a layer of unnecessary federal control that hurts local economies by closing the area to new energy development.

Tucked between existing national parks and the Navajo Nation, the monument is on land considered sacred to a coalition of tribes and is home to an estimated 100,000 archaeological sites, including ancient cliff dwellings. Tribal members visit the area to perform ceremonies, collect herbs and wood for medicinal and spiritual purposes and do healing rituals. The monument features a mix of cliffs, plateaus, towering rock formations, rivers and canyons.

Led by U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch, Utah's congressional delegation and top state leaders immediately vowed to work to get the monument repealed. Trump applauded Hatch for his dogged insistence while signing the executive order.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 37 of 49

Zinke's recommendation to downsize the monument to a yet-to-be determined new acreage came after he toured Bears Ears last month on foot, horseback and helicopter and met with Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and other state leaders who oppose Obama's December designation of the Bears Ears monument.

NORTHEAST CANYONS AND SEAMOUNTS MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT- MAINE

Designated by President Barack Obama in September 2016, the Atlantic Ocean's first marine national monument consists of nearly 5,000 square miles of underwater canyons and mountains off the New England coast. The designation was widely praised by environmentalists as a way to protect important species and habitat for whales and sea turtles while reducing the toll of climate change.

The designation closed the area to commercial fishermen, who go there primarily for lobster, red crab, squid, whiting, butterfish, swordfish and tuna. A coalition of commercial fishing groups filed a lawsuit in March to overturn the designation. They argued the creation of the monument would bring economic distress to fishermen and their families.

GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT-CALIFORNIA

In a decision praised by environmentalists but scorned by loggers, President Bill Clinton created this monument in 2000 covering about 328,000 acres of land in central California where the giant sequoia grows naturally. It expanded the number of groves protected, adding to Sequoias already safeguarded in Kings Canyon and Yosemite National Park.

In announcing his decision, Clinton marveled at the resilience of a partially charred tree that had been struck by lightning decades ago. "Look how deep the burn goes," he said. "These giant sequoias clearly are the work of the ages. They grow taller than the Statue of Liberty, broader than a bus."

A coalition of timber interest groups, recreation groups and a California county sued to reverse the designation or reduce the size. They argued that the trees were already protected and that the county's school districts depended on money that came from fees collected for logging. A federal judge dismissed that lawsuit.

In 2006, a federal judge rejected a plan by the Bush administration plan to allow commercial logging inside the monument.

PAPAHANAUMOKUAKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT-HAWAII

This remote monument northwest of Hawaii's main islands was created by President George W. Bush in 2006 and was quadrupled in size last year by Obama. The nearly 583,000-square mile safe zone for tuna, the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and thousands of other species is the world's largest marine protected area, more than twice the size of Texas.

Obama pointed to the zone's diverse ecology and cultural significance to Native Hawaiian and early Polynesian culture as reasons for expanding the monument when he visited the turquoise waters last fall. "I look forward to knowing that 20 years from now, 40 years from now, 100 years from now, this is a place where people can still come to and see what a place like this looks like when it's not overcrowded and destroyed by human populations," Obama said.

The decision to expand the monument was the subject of fierce debate within Hawaii, with both sides invoking Native Hawaiian culture to argue why it should or shouldn't be expanded.

The monument designation bans commercial fishing and any new mining. Fishing will be allowed through a permit, as will be scientific research and the removal.

Opponents argued the region is heavily dependent on fishing and can't afford the hit, adding that a federal ban would infringe on the traditions that ancient Hawaiians used to protect natural resources.

GRAND STAIRCASE ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT-UTAH

The oldest monument on the list, Clinton created the monument in southern Utah in 1996 by signing a declaration at the south rim of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. It was lauded by environmentalists for

preserving scenic cliffs, canyons, waterfalls and arches. Actor and Utah resident Robert Redford appeared at the ceremony with Clinton.

But in heavily Republican Utah, the move was viewed as a sneaky, stab-in-the back example of federal overreach that still irks the political establishment 20 years later. Many Utah Republicans and some local residents contend it closed off too many areas to development — including one of the country's largest known coal reserves — that could have helped pay for local schools.

In 2015, the county where it's located declared a state of emergency for falling school enrollment, and county commissioners laid some of the blame on Grand Staircase.

This year, Utah Republican Gov. Gary Herbert signed a resolution from state lawmakers asking Utah's congressional delegation to support shrinking the monument that is nearly 1.9 million acres, about the size of Delaware.

Anger management but no jail in Gianforte body-slam saga

By **BOBBY CAINA CALVAN** and **AMY BETH HANSON**, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Congressman-elect Greg Gianforte avoided jail time after pleading guilty Monday to an election-eve assault on a reporter that turned the race for Montana's lone U.S. House seat into a full-fledged political spectacle.

The Republican tech entrepreneur instead will serve 40 hours of community service and attend 20 hours of anger management classes for throwing Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs to the ground at Gianforte's campaign headquarters in Bozeman on May 24.

For all the national attention the audiotaped assault brought to the race in its waning hours, the judge, prosecutors and the new congressman's attorneys maintained Monday he was treated like any other first-time misdemeanor offender.

There was one notable exception, however: Gallatin County Justice of the Peace Rick West said he would allow prosecutors and the defense several weeks to argue over his order that the rookie politician be fingerprinted, photographed and booked like other defendants.

West ordered Gianforte to pay \$385 in fines and court costs in addition to his 180-day suspended jail sentence, meaning he will be under court supervision until late November and will be able to petition to have the conviction removed from his record.

Gianforte is expected to travel to Washington within the next few weeks to be sworn in by House Speaker Paul Ryan.

A coalition of press groups had called on a congressional committee to censure Gianforte for the attack, and Democrats have demanded he step aside. Some of Gianforte's fellow Republicans, including Ryan, have criticized him over the assault but said he simply needed to apologize.

"This was not a proud moment, but I'm ready to move on," Gianforte said outside the courtroom.

From the start, there was little question that Gianforte would avoid jail time in light of the extent of Jacobs' injuries and Gianforte's clean record.

"Given a complete lack of a criminal history, given all that he's done for the community and who he is, I think the assault was aberrant behavior that will not be repeated on his part," county Attorney Marty Lambert said outside court.

Gianforte was questioned by sheriff's deputies at his headquarters shortly after the attack, then didn't appear in public again until his victory speech the next night, in which he apologized to voters and to Jacobs.

Audio posted by Jacobs shortly after the attack recorded sounds of a scuffle, followed by Gianforte yelling for the reporter to "get the hell out of here." Jacobs tweeted that Gianforte had "body slammed" him and broke his glasses while he tried to question him.

During Monday's hearing, the judge tried to extract details of the confrontation from Gianforte.

"I knowingly made physical contact with Mr. Ben Jacobs that was insulting or provoking in nature and although it was not my intent to hurt him, I understand Ben was injured in this contact," Gianforte said.

"I grabbed for his wrist. A scuffle ensued, and he was injured," he said. "In the scuffle we fell on the

floor, and I understand his elbow was injured.”

A Fox News reporter who witnessed the attack said Gianforte, completely unprovoked, pushed Jacobs to the ground and punched him.

Despite the confrontation, Gianforte was elected by 6 percentage points over Democrat Rob Quist to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Ryan Zinke, who resigned to become Interior Department secretary.

The vast majority of ballots were cast by mail well beforehand.

Gianforte’s attorneys, including former U.S. Attorney Bill Mercer, noted that he had already paid more than \$4,600 in restitution to Jacobs as part of the criminal case. The money included expenses for medical bills and transportation to attend Monday’s court hearing, among other costs, Guardian spokeswoman Meghan Pianta told The Associated Press.

Gianforte also agreed to give \$50,000 to the Committee to Protect Journalists and wrote Jacobs a letter of apology in which he acknowledged assaulting the reporter for asking a “legitimate question about health care policy.”

Despite those repeated apologies, Gianforte has yet to fully address why his campaign’s initial account of the confrontation cast blame on Jacobs.

Interior head suggests reducing Bears Ears National Monument

By **MATTHEW DALY**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday recommended that the new Bears Ears National Monument in Utah be reduced in size and said Congress should step in to designate how selected areas of the 1.3 million-acre site are managed.

Zinke made the recommendation as part of an interim report to President Donald Trump on the scenic swath of southern Utah with red rock plateaus, cliffs and canyons on land considered sacred to tribes.

Trump signed an executive order in April directing Zinke to review the designation of dozens of national monuments on federal lands, calling the protection efforts “a massive federal land grab” by previous administrations.

Trump and other Republicans have singled out former President Barack Obama’s designation of Bears Ears, calling it an unnecessary layer of federal control that hurts local economies by closing the area to new energy development. They also say it isn’t the best way to protect the land.

Zinke toured Bears Ears last month on foot, horseback and helicopter and met with Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and other state leaders. Herbert and other Utah Republicans oppose Obama’s December designation of the Bears Ears monument.

“There is no doubt that it is drop-dead gorgeous country and that it merits some degree of protection, but designating a monument ... where multiple-use management is hindered or prohibited is not the best use of the land and is not in accordance with the intention of the Antiquities Act,” Zinke said.

Zinke did not specify how much of the 1.3 million acres should be trimmed, but said he has no doubt the monument must be “right-sized” significantly.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, called Zinke’s announcement “an unquestionable victory for Utah” and said reducing the monument’s footprint was in line with the intent of the 1906 Antiquities Act, which states that monument designations should be the “smallest area compatible” with proper care and management of the site.

Zinke, a former Republican congressman from Montana, said he wants to make sure Native American culture is preserved and said Congress should approve legislation granting tribes legal authority to “co-manage” some of the Bears Ears site.

“I have enormous respect for tribes,” he said.

But several tribal leaders who worked to win the monument designation bashed Zinke’s decision, vowing legal action if Trump accepts the recommendation to downsize the monument.

Zinke’s proposal to allow co-management rights for tribes — an action that would require congressional approval — does not ease their anger, tribal leaders said.

“Bears Ears is not for sale. It’s not up for trade,” said Natalie Landreth, a lawyer for the Native American

Rights Fund.

Ethel Branch, Navajo Nation Attorney General, called Bears Ears a holy land that contains "critical plants, minerals and powers" that numerous tribes rely on to heal and strengthen themselves.

"Protection of these lands is non-negotiable," she said.

Environmental groups also blasted the recommendation, which they said threatened the future of Bears Ears and boded poorly for a broader review of national monuments due in August.

"The Trump administration's announcement today on Bears Ears is nothing less than an attack on the future of all American monuments, parks and public lands," said Jamie Williams, president of The Wilderness Society. The recommendation ignores thousands of public comments in favor of the monument and makes "a mockery of the claimed public process," Williams said.

Zinke said he will issue a final report in late August, when he is due to make recommendations on Bears Ears and 21 other national monuments on federal land in 11 states, including Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah, Giant Sequoia in California, Nevada's Basin and Range and Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine.

The review also targets five marine monuments in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

Zinke rejected a plea by some Utah Republicans to recommend that the monument designation be rescinded entirely, an unprecedented step that would invite a near-certain legal challenge. Instead, Zinke said some of the sprawling, 1.3 million acre site should be designated for conservation or recreation, categories that are less restrictive than monuments.

Noting the contentious nature of the monument designation, Zinke called on Congress to approve a land-management bill for Bears Ears and other federal lands. The Republican-controlled Congress has failed to approve a significant public lands bill in recent years, but Zinke said that was because of veto threats by Obama.

He summed up his optimism in two words: "President Trump."

Associated Press write Brady McCombs in Salt Lake City contributed to this story.

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

Thousands rally across Russia in new challenge to Kremlin

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA and JIM HEINTZ, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Tens of thousands of protesters held anti-corruption rallies across Russia on Monday in a new show of defiance by an opposition that the Kremlin had once dismissed as ineffectual and marginalized.

More than a thousand were arrested — including opposition leader and protest organizer Alexei Navalny, who was seized outside his Moscow residence while heading to the rally in the city center and sentenced to 30 days in jail several hours later.

The Moscow protest was the most prominent in a string of more than 100 rallies in cities and towns stretching through all 11 of Russia's time zones — from the Pacific to the European enclave of Kaliningrad — with many denouncing President Vladimir Putin.

Thousands of angry demonstrators thronged to Tverskaya Street, a main avenue in the capital, chanting "Down with the czar" and singing the Russian national anthem.

The protests coincided with Russia Day, a national holiday that this year brought out historical re-enactors, some of them dressed in medieval costumes. At one point, the Moscow demonstration featured an unlikely scene of about 5,000 protesters rallying next to an enclosure with geese, a medieval catapult and bearded men in homemade tunics and carrying wooden shields.

The re-enactors watched the rally before riot police broke up the crowd and randomly seized the protesters.

Over 800 people were arrested in Moscow, while in St. Petersburg, about 500 were forced into police buses at an unsanctioned rally that drew up to 10,000 people. Navalny was taken to court Monday evening and sentenced to 30 days in jail shortly after midnight for repeated violations of the law on public gatherings.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 41 of 49

"The scope of the rallies was amazing, and so many people came out," Navalny told reporters shortly before he was sentenced, point to protest rallies held in towns which have not seen any public show of discontent for decades.

In his trademark humor, Navalny lamented on Twitter shortly before he was led out of the courtroom that he would have to skip a Depeche Mode concert while he is in jail.

The demonstrators appeared to skew predominantly younger — those who were born or grew up during Putin's 17 years in power. Similar crowds turned out on March 26, rattling officials who had perceived the younger generation as largely apolitical.

Three 16-year-old girls brought sheets of paper to the Moscow protest and sat on the pavement to write the articles of the Russian Constitution on them; a nearby group of teenagers climbed atop of a tent with posters saying, "Corruption kills the future." Other protesters scaled a scaffold and hung a sign saying, "Only revolution will defeat corruption."

School and university staff who reportedly reprimanded their students for attending the March protests warned them against going to Monday's rally.

Ivan Sukhoruchenkov, 19, attended anyway with four university classmates to protest what he described as "stagnation of the political system."

"Change is always good," Sukhoruchenkov said, adding that he and his friends were concerned about corruption — Navalny's rallying cry — that "manifests itself in all areas: from traffic police to university professors."

Navalny had called the anti-corruption demonstrations, and they drew crowds of several dozen to the 10,000 in St. Petersburg. Some of the rallies were sanctioned by authorities and peaceful, but police cracked down brutally on others.

Although it was not immediately clear if Monday's protests were larger than those in March, they underlined the deep dismay with the government. Putin is expected to seek another term in 2018, and Navalny has already announced his intentions to run.

Moscow officials had agreed to allow Navalny's rally, but late Sunday, he said official interference had prevented contractors from erecting a stage at the agreed-upon venue and instead urged demonstrators to gather on Tverskaya Street, which was closed to traffic for the Russia Day festivities.

Most of the Moscow protesters appeared to be under 30, although there was a sizeable number of middle-aged people and couples with children.

With opposition sentiment strong or even growing, authorities appear to be seeking a strategy to undermine the opposition without provoking more animosity.

Authorities allowed the unsanctioned rally to proceed, although riot police cut the crowd in half and began pushing the lines while grabbing some people from the crowd. Some of the arrests were violent with police using batons and dragging people along the street.

In Washington, White House press secretary Sean Spicer told reporters the United States "strongly condemns the detention of hundreds of peaceful protesters" which he described as an "affront to core democratic values." Spicer called on the Russian government to immediately release all peaceful protesters.

Navalny rose to prominence for detailed open-source investigations of government corruption. That was a key issue Monday for protesters, particularly his report on vast wealth allegedly acquired by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev.

"We are against the corruption that is costing the future of our young people," said Moscow protester Maria Badyrova, a 33-year-old finance specialist who came to the rally with a Russian flag.

Alexei Borsenko, a Vladivostok demonstrator who eluded a police attempt to detain him, cited Iceland's prime minister stepping down in the fallout from the "Panama Papers" scandal, while "our prime minister is caught on such big corruption cases and he doesn't go anywhere."

"This is very strange," Borsenko added. "It's a dead end for the country's development."

The popular anger has spread beyond Medvedev, with many demonstrators chanting "Putin is a thief" within earshot of the City Hall that later dismissed the protests as an "overt provocation."

Irina Titova in St. Petersburg contributed.

Opposition to Macron sweep may end up in French streets

By ELAINE GANLEY, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — President Emmanuel Macron's barely year-old party is set to upend politics as France knows it. But the rosy glow of a likely massive victory in next Sunday's final round of French legislative elections could be dimmed without a robust opposition to debate controversial initiatives like far-reaching labor law reforms that scare some, anger others and risk sending those who want none of it into the streets.

France's new leader, at 39 the youngest-ever and just getting his feet wet in politics, aimed from the start to remake the political landscape, much of it populated with old-school career politicians. Based on results from Sunday's first-round of voting, he is shattering it.

His fledgling Republic on the Move — fielding many candidates with no political experience — won 28 percent of the vote, putting it on course to take as many as 450 seats in the powerful 577-seat National Assembly, an unprecedented feat in France. Opponents occupying the remaining seats would represent a fragmented opposition, most without the 15 seats needed to even get speaking time, funding or other ways to weigh on policy.

Macron's party decimated the Socialist Party that governed France for the past five years and got less than 7.5 percent of Sunday's vote. It flattened the far-right National Front whose leader, Marine Le Pen, was vying with him for the presidency last month. The party got just over 13 percent of the vote. Macron's closest rival, the mainstream conservatives, took less than 16 percent.

Such a parliament would be the most "monochrome of the Fifth Republic," said Frederic Dabi of the Ifop polling firm, speaking on CNews TV.

But another figure also stood out — the record-low voter turnout. Less than half of France's 47.5 million electorate cast ballots.

The Le Figaro daily warned against the "optical illusion" created by the apparent sweep, noting in a commentary that with less than one in two voters casting ballots and a voting system that favors large political parties, the count racked up by Macron's party "is far from equaling support." Macron himself was massively elected on May 7 in large part to keep his rival, Le Pen, from power.

"I'll make their lives hell in the Assembly," declared Jean-Luc Melenchon, the far-left leader whose presidential bid failed — and who, after Sunday's vote, had a comfortable lead in his bid for a parliamentary seat.

Macron intends to set his reform agenda into motion within weeks and has called a special parliamentary session next month to kick-start the process. This includes plans to change French labor laws to make hiring and firing easier — reforms he intends to push through using a system, also used by previous governments, that calls for a measure to be quickly ratified by parliament without an extended debate and no opportunity to amend it.

But Macron is already being warned he will not have carte blanche.

Some unions and a collective, the Social Front, formed to combat Macron's policies, plan a rally next Monday outside the National Assembly to protest Macron's plans to reform the labor law and skirt normal procedure to pass changes.

With a super-majority all but assured in the legislature, "the opposition to Macron ... will be in the street," said Hall Gardner, chair for International and Comparative Politics at American University of Paris and a long-time observer of the French political scene.

"Any system that doesn't use checks and balances is dangerous," Gardner said. "If he's smart he will use the National Assembly and let them moderate the law somewhat. ... But I think he really wants to shake up the labor system."

Macron's electoral success has boosted the morale of France's European neighbors. They, along with foreign investors, are watching to see whether Macron follows through on his pledge to loosen French labor laws and reduce the power of unions, moves he says will help create jobs and inject new confidence into the Europe-wide economy. The past three French presidents also promised labor reforms but failed

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 43 of 49

to make dramatic or lasting change, and France's economy has lagged behind and its jobless rate remains stuck around 10 percent.

Macron also wants to reinvigorate cooperation among the 27 members of the European Union in the wake of Britain's Brexit vote, notably by joint military spending and a shared budget for the countries that use the euro.

At Wednesday's Cabinet meeting, he is to introduce plans to clean up politics, to staunch the steady flow of scandals that have over decades reduced voter trust in the French political class. New terrorism legislation is to be presented on June 21 to make some security measures permanent and to extend the current state of emergency beyond July, when it is set to expire. Last week, he formally presented a "national center of counterterrorism" to be based at the Elysee Palace.

Only four seats were decided in Sunday's first round of voting, and some powerful figures fell, including the Socialist Party leader, Jean-Christophe Cambadellis, and the Socialists' presidential candidate, Benoit Hamon.

Le Pen, who had Europe on edge until she lost the presidential race, was trying to save herself and her party in the legislative contests. She herself made it to the second round in her northern bastion of Henin-Beaumont, but some ranking party members were eliminated outright, notably campaign director Nicolas Bay, the party's secretary-general.

Francois Fezeau is among those happy with the outcome. The 29-year-old Parisian said the election results "fill me with enthusiasm."

"We had a recent (presidential) election that shook up the traditional parties and I think that the legislative elections give Macron the possibility to show what he is able to do," Fezeau said.

Maryland, DC attorneys general sue Trump over business ties

By BRIAN WITTE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The attorneys general of Maryland and the District of Columbia filed a federal lawsuit Monday against President Donald Trump, alleging he violated the Constitution by retaining ties to his sprawling global business empire and by accepting foreign payments while in office.

Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh joined District counterpart Karl Racine at a news conference in announcing the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in neighboring Maryland. Much of the case is focused on allegations that Trump's real estate and business holdings violate a little-known emoluments clause of the Constitution. The provision bars the president and other government employees from accepting foreign gifts and payments without congressional approval.

"The president's conflicts of interest threaten our democracy," Frosh said. "We cannot treat the president's ongoing violations of the Constitution and his disregard of the rights of the American people as the new acceptable status quo."

Trump's unique status as both president and the financial beneficiary of his global business empire raised questions about the emoluments clause of the Constitution even before he took office. Trump and his attorneys argue the clause does not cover fair-value transactions, such as hotel room payments and real estate sales.

The attorneys general aren't the first to sue Trump over emoluments. Just days after Trump's inauguration in January, the government watchdog Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington filed a federal lawsuit in the Southern District of New York. Since then, a restaurant group and two individuals in the hotel industry have joined as plaintiffs.

The Justice Department said Friday that those plaintiffs did not suffer in any way and had no standing to sue, and that it is unconstitutional to sue the president in his official capacity.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer noted that response at a White House press briefing Monday. "This lawsuit today is just another iteration of the case that was filed by that group CREW, filed actually by the same lawyers," Spicer said. "So it's not hard to conclude that partisan politics may be one of the motivations behind the suit."

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 44 of 49

The Trump Hotel in the nation's capital affects business in the Washington area and is part of the reason the lawsuit was filed, the two Democratic officials explained. They also said their action was non-partisan, and other state attorneys general, including Republicans, were welcome to join the suit. It seeks an injunction to stop what the two alleged are the president's constitutional violations.

Racine said he hopes the lawsuit will prompt Republicans in Congress and Trump to take steps that the suit is asking the court to take.

"Again, the reason why we're here is because the president of the United States, in a wholly unprecedented fashion, has decided to maintain a sprawling international business empire that accepts money without account from foreign governments," Racine said.

Frosh said Trump regularly welcomes foreign diplomats to his hotel and appears frequently at Trump establishments, "using his role as president to raise their public profile."

"We have economic interests that are impacted, but the most salient factor is that when the president is subject to foreign influence, we have to be concerned about whether the actions he's taking — both at home and abroad — are the result of payments that he is receiving at the Trump Hotel, payments that he is receiving at Mar-a-Lago, payments that he is receiving at Trump Tower, payments that he is receiving in all of his other far-flung enterprises, and he brags about it," Frosh told The Associated Press in an earlier interview.

The lawsuit also focuses on the fact that Trump chose to retain ownership of his company when he became president. Trump said he was shifting assets into a trust managed by his sons to eliminate potential conflicts of interests.

If a federal judge allows the case to proceed, Racine and Frosh say they will demand copies of Trump's personal tax returns in court to gauge the extent of his foreign business dealings.

"Mr. Trump is unique in American history in violating the emoluments clause," Frosh said. "There is no other president whose domestic and foreign investments, the entanglements, have been so bound up with our policy and our interests, and he is the only president who has refused to disclose the extent of his holdings and interests, so yes it will be a subject of our lawsuit. We will be seeking that information."

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Julie Bykowicz contributed to this report in Washington.

Megyn Kelly says important to 'shine a light' on Alex Jones

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Megyn Kelly defended her decision to feature "InfoWars" host Alex Jones on her NBC newsmagazine despite taking heat Monday from families of Sandy Hook shooting victims and other 7/87/8s, saying it's her job to "shine a light" on newsmakers.

Critics argue that NBC's platform legitimizes the views of a man who, among other conspiracy theories, has suggested that the killing of 26 people at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012 was a hoax. The network released a brief portion of the interview, which is scheduled to air on Sunday.

Kelly, who interviewed Russian President Vladimir Putin on the June 4 premiere of "Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly," said on Twitter that President Donald Trump has praised Jones and been on his show. Since many people don't know Jones and his views, Kelly noted the importance of explaining them. NBC hasn't immediately commented on the criticism.

Nelba Marquez-Greene, whose 6-year-old daughter Ana Grace was killed at Sandy Hook, said she fears that giving Jones exposure would encourage Jones' followers who have harassed her and others.

"You can't just put him in a box and say he's just a character," Marquez-Greene said. "He's really hurting people."

A year ago, a New York City man who was a follower of Jones was sentenced to probation after approaching a sister of slain Sandy Hook teacher Victoria Soto during a charity road race and angrily claiming the shootings never took place. On Facebook, Soto's family said the "incessant need for ratings at the cost of

the emotional well-being of our family is disgusting and disappointing.”

A writer at the conservative web site Red State, Andrea Kutz, wondered, “what is Megyn Kelly thinking?” “I’m a news and politics-engaged individual,” Kutz said, “but I don’t care to watch interviews with liars of either Putin’s or Jones’s ilk. These interviews aren’t interesting even in the abstract.”

In the interview clip released by NBC, Kelly said to Jones, “When you say people faked their childrens’ deaths, people get very angry.”

When he tried to change the subject, Kelly said, “that’s a dodge.”

After his interview had been taped, Jones denounced it on “InfoWars” as “fake news, in my view.”

He said he expected a “rigged” report because a day’s worth of interviews will be boiled down to an 11-minute report. “They’re scared of what we’re covering,” he said. “They’re scared of what we’re doing.”

Jones also described Kelly as not feminine, cold and robotic.

“I felt zero attraction to Megyn Kelly,” he said.

Among Kelly’s social media critics was Shannon Watts, the founder of the anti-gun violence group Moms Demand Action, who suggested that Kelly “turn your light off and let him back under the refrigerator.”

AP reporter Pat Eaton-Robb in Hartford, Conn., contributed to this report.

Quake kills woman, guts houses on Greek island of Lesbos

By **DEREK GATOPOULOS** and **NICHOLAS PAPHITIS**, Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 badly damaged scores of homes on the eastern Greek island of Lesbos Monday, killing one woman and injuring at least 10 people. It was also felt in western Turkey, including in Istanbul, and on neighboring islands.

Lesbos mayor Spyros Galinos and the fire service said the woman was found dead in the southern village of Vrisa that was worst-hit by the quake, which had its epicenter under the sea.

“Most houses in Vrisa have suffered severe damage,” Galinos said, adding that afflicted residents were being relocated to temporary housing set up in a football field in a nearby village.

At least 10 people were injured in the village, many of whose roads were blocked by rubble.

Local authorities and the fire service said there were no reports of other people trapped or missing.

Earlier, rescuers pulled out an elderly couple alive from their damaged home in Vrisa.

According to Turkey’s Disaster and Emergency Management, the epicenter was at a shallow depth of seven kilometers (four miles). At least 25 aftershocks were recorded following the initial quake at 3:28 p.m. (1228 GMT).

The tremor was also felt in densely populated Istanbul and the western Turkish province of Izmir, but no injuries were reported there.

The governor of Greece’s north Aegean region told state-run ERT television that “we’re using all the resources we have to help the people in southern Lesbos.”

“The army is also helping, and will provide tents for people remaining outside their homes,” Christiana Kalogirou said. “They will be able to stay in sports facilities.”

Lesbos authorities said homes were also damaged in the village of Plomari and some roads were closed. No severe damage was reported on nearby islands.

“We are advising residents in affected areas of Lesbos to remain outdoors until buildings can be inspected,” senior seismologist Efthimios Lekkas said.

Earthquakes are frequent in Greece and Turkey, which are on active fault lines. Two devastating earthquakes hit northwestern Turkey in 1999, killing around 18,000 people. Experts in both countries said more aftershocks are to be expected.

In Turkey, 61-year old Ayse Selvi felt the tremors in her summer home in Karaburun near the quake’s epicenter.

“My God, all the picture frames fell on the ground and I have no idea how I ran out,” she said. “I’m scared to go inside now.”

There was no reported damage or injuries at refugee camps on Lesbos or the nearby island of Chios. Both islands saw a major influx of migrants leaving from Turkey in 2015, and about 8,000 remain in limbo in Lesbos and Chios as they await news on their asylum applications.

Associated Press writer Zeynep Bilginsoy in Istanbul contributed to this report.

Ivanka Trump brand applies for, wins more China trademarks **By ERIKA KINETZ, Associated Press**

SHANGHAI (AP) — The Ivanka Trump brand is pushing to protect intellectual property in China, winning approvals for four more trademarks since April 20 despite repeated questions from lawmakers about whether she is using her position in the White House to help her company.

On Monday, Democratic lawmakers on the House Judiciary Committee said the new trademark approvals illustrate how President Donald Trump's daughter — who also serves as a White House adviser — could use her official position for personal benefit.

"We remain concerned that Ivanka Trump may have used and may continue to use her official position within the White House to benefit her private interests," the lawmakers wrote in a letter to Abigail Klem, president of Ivanka Trump's brand.

All told, Ivanka Trump Marks LLC has at least 24 trademarks that were granted provisional or full approval in China, plus 43 pending marks and three invalid marks, according to Trademark Office database records.

At least seven of those provisional approvals were published after March 29, when Ivanka Trump announced she would become a federal employee, serving as an adviser to her father. Four preliminary approvals were published on April 20, May 13 and May 27. If there are no objections, those marks — covering wedding dresses and jewelry among other things — will be registered after 90 days.

Three additional trademarks for jewelry, bags and spa services were initially published in China's Trademark Gazette on April 6, the same day Ivanka Trump dined with President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago, her father's resort in Florida, as reported previously by The Associated Press. The record of initial approval for one of them has subsequently disappeared from the database. It was not immediately clear why.

Ivanka Trump Marks LLC also applied for at least 14 new trademarks in China on March 28, the day before she announced her official White House role. A 15th application, with a small typo in the Chinese version of the name of the company, was filed on the same date. The applications, which were first reported by the Wall Street Journal, cover a wide range of goods and services, including real estate and financial services, construction, furniture, carpets, and alcohol. Detailed records of these filings were not available Monday on the Trademark Office's public online database.

In their letter Monday, the Democrats on the House Judiciary Committee demanded information about the timing of the company's applications in China.

"Did Ms. Trump's decision to join the staff of the White House play any role in the company's decision to file those applications or the timing of that decision?" the lawmakers wrote in response to information already provided to the committee by the company.

China has defended its handling of trademarks for both Ivanka Trump and Donald Trump as fair and in line with normal legal practice.

Ivanka Trump's brand has said the 2017 Chinese trademarks were filed defensively, to protect against squatters using her name.

"The brand has filed, updated, and rigorously protected its international trademarks over the past several years in the normal course of business, especially in regions where trademark infringement is rampant," Klem said in a statement.

To address ethical concerns, Ivanka Trump shifted the brand's assets to a family-run trust valued at more than \$50 million and pledged to recuse herself from government issues that present conflicts. She has stepped back from day to day management, but retains her ownership interest in the company.

Associated Press researcher Fu Ting contributed to this report.

Obesity rising in nations rich and poor, especially in kids

By MIKE STOBBE, AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The global obesity problem now affects 1 in 10 people in the world, it is rising in countries rich and poor, and in many countries it is increasing faster in children than adults, according to a new study.

The researchers estimated more than 107 million children and 603 million adults are obese.

The research found obesity has tripled in children and young adults in countries like China, Brazil and Indonesia. Those numbers are particularly troubling because it means more young people are on track to become obese adults and develop problems like diabetes, heart disease and a range of cancers, some experts said.

The study was led by a team at the University of Washington in Seattle. It was published online Monday by the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at a food science and policy meeting in Stockholm.

Researchers reported on 195 countries, although data was incomplete or nonexistent for many of them. They made assumptions and used mathematical modeling to fill in gaps.

Despite the limitations, "this is the best picture that's out there for global obesity," said Edward Gregg, a diabetes expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He wrote an editorial that accompanied the study.

Some of the findings:

—Obesity rates doubled in 73 countries between 1980 and 2015. Countries where obesity did not increase significantly included Afghanistan, Bulgaria, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

—Worldwide, about 5 percent of children and 12 percent of adults were obese in 2015. In the U.S. about 17 percent of children and 38 percent of adults are obese, according to earlier CDC estimates.

—Among the 20 largest countries, the United States had the highest level of obesity among children and young adults. Bangladesh had the lowest.

—Egypt had the highest rate of obese adults. Vietnam had the lowest.

—But the United States had the largest number of obese adults in 2015, with 79 million. China came in second with 57 million obese adults — even though China has more than four times as many people as the U.S.

—China had the largest number of obese children, with 15 million. India had 14 million.

—Globally, about 4 million deaths were attributed to being overweight or obese in 2014, from causes like heart disease and diabetes.

Some good news is that improvements in medications and other kinds of health-care seem to be helping people survive longer even if they have weight-related health problems. Researchers did not find an increase in weight-related rates of death and disability, Gregg observed.

But with obesity levels rising, there is a pressing need for better nutrition and other efforts to prevent unhealthy weight gain, said one of the authors, said Dr. Ashkan Afshin, the study's lead author.

Unfortunately, "there is no single simple solution for the problem of overweight and obesity," he said.

Plane lands safely in Sydney with hole in engine casing

SYDNEY (AP) — A plane heading to Shanghai returned safely to Sydney after an in-flight problem left a gaping hole in an engine casing.

China Eastern Airlines said the crew on Flight 736 noticed damage to the air inlet on the left engine after takeoff Sunday evening and the captain decided to return.

The airline said on its Sina Weibo microblog that the plane landed safely and the airline was taking care of passengers' needs. The Airbus A330 plane has two engines.

Passengers told Australian media they heard a massive noise and smelled something burning.

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 48 of 49

Passenger Ashley Beck told Australia's Channel Nine television that after the passengers heard the loud noise, the crew started moving everyone from the left side of the plane.

Photos showed a jagged, vertical hole in the side of the casing.

Asian stocks up as investors shrug off tech rout, eye Fed

By **YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer**

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian stock markets were higher on Tuesday as investors brushed off a second day of big losses on Wall Street tech stocks a day before the Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 was flat at 19,913.55 and South Korea's Kospi rose 0.5 percent to 2,370.16. Hong Kong's Hang Seng advanced 0.5 percent to 25,835.49, while the Shanghai Composite Index was up 0.4 percent to 3,151.25. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 jumped 1.1 percent to 5,727.30. Stocks in Taiwan, Singapore and Indonesia were higher, but in the Philippines, the benchmark index fell.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "The theme remained centered on the sell-off for tech stocks at the start of the week, though Asian markets could find some relief," said Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG in Singapore. "While the extent to which this decline may sustain remains uncertain at the current moment, the move has not triggered a more widespread decline."

FED WATCH: The Federal Reserve will meet Tuesday and Wednesday, and investors expect the central bank to raise interest rates for the third time since December. Super-low unemployment, gains in factory output and other economic data pointing to a recovery in the U.S. economy have led investors to believe that the Fed will lift rates.

WALL STREET: U.S. stocks fell again on Monday as tech stocks recorded sharp losses for a second straight day. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dipped 0.1 percent to 2,429.39. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 0.2 percent to 21,235.67, and the Nasdaq composite dropped 0.5 percent to 6,175.46.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude added 18 cents to \$46.26 per barrel on electronic trading in New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract added 25 cents to close at \$46.08 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, added 19 cents to \$48.48 per barrel in London. It closed up 14 cents at \$48.29 a barrel in the previous session.

CURRENCIES: The dollar gained to 109.97 yen from 109.95, while the euro weakened to \$1.119 from \$1.120. The British pound slid further to \$1.2654, down 0.1 percent.

Today in History

By **The Associated Press**

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, June 13, the 164th day of 2017. There are 201 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 13, 1942, a four-man Nazi sabotage team arrived on Long Island, New York, during World War II, three days before a second four-man team landed in Florida. (All eight were arrested after two members of the first group decided to defect and cooperate with U.S. authorities; they were ultimately spared while the other six were executed.) President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Office of Strategic Services, a wartime intelligence agency, and the Office of War Information, headed by radio news commentator Elmer Davis.

On this date:

In 1842, Queen Victoria became the first British monarch to ride on a train, traveling from Slough Railway Station to Paddington in 25 minutes.

In 1886, King Ludwig II of Bavaria drowned in Lake Starnberg.

In 1917, during World War I, a group of German Gotha bombers attacked London, killing 162 people. The Phillips Petroleum Co. was incorporated in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. (Phillips merged with Conoco in 2002.)

Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, June 13, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 334 ~ 49 of 49

In 1927, aviation hero Charles Lindbergh was honored with a ticker-tape parade in New York City.

In 1935, James Braddock claimed the title of world heavyweight boxing champion from Max Baer in a 15-round fight in Queens, New York. "Becky Sharp," the first movie photographed in "three-strip" Technicolor, opened in New York.

In 1957, the Mayflower II, a replica of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America in 1620, arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, after a nearly two-month journey from England.

In 1966, the Supreme Court ruled in *Miranda v. Arizona* that criminal suspects had to be informed of their constitutional right to consult with an attorney and to remain silent.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Solicitor-General Thurgood Marshall to become the first black justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., was recaptured following his escape three days earlier from a Tennessee prison.

In 1981, a scare occurred during a parade in London when a teenager fired six blank shots at Queen Elizabeth II.

In 1992, Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton stirred controversy during an appearance before the Rainbow Coalition by criticizing rap singer Sister Souljah for making remarks that he said were "filled with hatred" toward whites.

In 1997, a jury voted unanimously to give Timothy McVeigh the death penalty for the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people. The Chicago Bulls captured their fifth professional basketball championship in seven years with a 90-86 victory over the Utah Jazz in Game 6.

Ten years ago: In Beirut, Lebanon, a powerful car bombing killed Walid Eido, a prominent anti-Syrian legislator. Insurgents blew up the two minarets of a revered Shiite shrine in Samarra, Iraq, a year after the shrine's golden dome was destroyed in a bombing.

Five years ago: Federal prosecutors dropped all charges against former Democratic vice-presidential candidate John Edwards after his corruption trial ended the previous month in a deadlocked jury. A Houston jury convicted a man of shooting to death his neighbor during a confrontation outside the neighbor's home two years earlier, rejecting his claim that he was within his rights under Texas' version of a stand-your-ground law. (Raul Rodriguez was later sentenced to 40 years in prison for killing Kelly Danaher.) Matt Cain pitched the 22nd perfect game in major league history and the first for the San Francisco Giants, beating the Houston Astros 10-0.

One year ago: A day after the Orlando, Florida, nightclub shooting rampage that claimed 49 victims, Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton offered drastically different proposals for stemming the threat of terrorism and gun violence; Trump focused heavily on the nation's immigration system (even though the shooter was U.S. born) and redoubled his call for temporarily banning Muslims from the United States, while Clinton said she would prioritize stopping "lone wolf" attackers as president and reiterated her call for banning assault weapons. In a surprise move, Microsoft said it was buying LinkedIn for about \$26.2 billion.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bob McGrath is 85. Artist Christo is 82. Magician Siegfried (Siegfried & Roy) is 78. Actor Malcolm McDowell is 74. Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is 73. Singer Dennis Locorriere is 68. Actor Richard Thomas is 66. Actor Jonathan Hogan is 66. Actor Stellan Skarsgard is 66. Comedian Tim Allen is 64. Actress Ally Sheedy is 55. TV anchor Hannah Storm is 55. Rock musician Paul deLisle (deh-LYL') (Smash Mouth) is 54. Actress Lisa Vidal is 52. Singer David Gray is 49. Rhythm-and-blues singer Deniece Pearson (Five Star) is 49. Rock musician Soren Rasted (Aqua) is 48. Actor Jamie Walters is 48. Singer-musician Rivers Cuomo (Weezer) is 47. Country singer Susan Haynes is 45. Actor Steve-O is 43. Country singer Jason Michael Carroll is 39. Actor Ethan Embry is 39. Actor Chris Evans is 36. Actress Sarah Schaub is 34. Singer Raz B is 32. Actress Kat Dennings is 31. Actress Mary-Kate Olsen is 31. Actress Ashley Olsen is 31. DJ/producer Gesaffelstein is 30. Actor Aaron Taylor-Johnson is 27.

Thought for Today: "The penalty of success is to be bored by people who used to snub you." — Viscountess (VY'-kown-tihz) Astor, American-born English politician (1879-1964).