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FOR SALE

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

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**



Check out our portfolio on Facebook at
Schultz-Construction-LLC
~ New Construction and Remodeling-
renovations, additions, and carpentry
work
~ Concrete- foundations, flatwork,
decorative concrete surfaces.

605-380-1717
www.shawnschultzconstruction.com

Thursday, June 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.

17

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at Rosewood Court, 10 a.m.

Olive Grove: Triathlon.

18

FATHER'S DAY

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Sarah Circle serves at nursing home, 3 p.m.

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

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

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

Heaven Bound Ministries: Worship in Pierpont at 10 a.m.



When we realize
the shortness of
life, we begin
to see the
importance of
making every
moment count.

-Dillon Burroughs



GFP Announces Father's Day Free Fishing Weekend

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) has declared Father's Day weekend as a free fishing weekend across South Dakota for residents and nonresidents.

As part of the department's strategic goal of providing outdoor recreational opportunities to get children and families active in the outdoors, anglers do not need a license to fish, or take home their daily limit of fish, beginning at 5 p.m. CDT Friday, June 16, through Sunday, June 18.

"For years, parents have taken kids fishing," said Kelly Hepler, GFP secretary. "Now it's time to return the favor. Go spend some time with your family; relax, reconnect with nature and make some memories."

Sunday is also National Go Fishing Day. Resident and nonresident anglers are encouraged to find a South Dakota stream, a pond, a lake or a river, bait a hook, cast a line and catch a fish or two.

A park entrance license is required to access boat ramps inside the boundaries of all South Dakota state parks and recreation areas as well as some lakeside use areas. For a list of lakeside use areas and those that require a park entrance license, visit <http://gfp.sd.gov/fishing-boating/boating/lakeside-use-areas.aspx>.

For a complete map of South Dakota public fishing access sites, visit <http://sdgfp.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=79c3f941ae6c4abbbc6ac4b6987a06f5>. Sites that require a park entrance license or daily fee are posted as such.

Hepler said some of his best childhood memories are fishing with his family in the Black Hills. "Summer meant any free time we had, we were fishing. It is important to connect with our outdoor heritage. Most of us remember the first fish we ever caught."

Share your fishing and Father's Day memories on social media by using #SDintheField.



The first known photograph of a tornado in South Dakota, taken in 1884, is now on display in the South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre. (Photo courtesy South Dakota State Historical Society-Archives)

Tornado photo from August 1884 on display at Cultural Heritage Center

PIERRE, S.D. – A photograph of a tornado and two funnel clouds, taken on Thursday, Aug. 28, 1884, by photographer F.N. Robinson of Howard is currently on display in the research room of the South Dakota State Historical Society Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre.

The photograph will be on display throughout the summer. The State Archives is open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CDT Monday through Friday and the first Saturday of most months. There is no charge to see the display.

The State Archives has two cabinet cards of the Robinson tornado photo, measuring roughly 4-by-6.5 inches in size. The display features the one cabinet card image of the tornado and the second showing text on the reverse, reading:

"The only cyclone ever photographed was taken by F.N. Robinson, Miner County, D.T. August 28, 1884. The storm passed 22 miles west of the city. It was first noticed at 4 o'clock p.m., moving in a southeast-

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erly direction, remaining in sight for over two hours; killing several people and destroying all property in its course.”

The tornado tracked 20 miles west of Howard that day around 4:30 pm. Surviving records, accounts and sketches of the tornado would today put it in the F3 to F4 range of the Fujita scale. The tornado was part of a larger outbreak of storms and tornadoes that killed at least six people and caused extensive property damage and loss of livestock in southeastern South Dakota, mainly located along the James River Valley.

A detailed report of the August 1884 storm was compiled by Samuel W. Glenn of the United States Army Signal Corps titled “Report on the tornado of August 28, 1884, near Huron, Dakota.” The report featured a number of accounts of the storms, sketches of the tornadoes and notes of their destructive force. The report is available at the library of the South Dakota State Archives.

Robinson took two and possibly a third image of the tornado west of Howard. The tornado was visible for an extended period of time. The more well-known image was the second one taken by Robinson and is the one shown in the photo display.

The photo was slightly retouched, a common practice in the era, and sold as a postcard. Robinson applied for and received a copyright for the image through the Library of Congress.

For decades, Robinson’s photograph held the distinction of being the first photograph of a tornado. An earlier photograph of a tornado does exist, however, taken by A.A. Adams near Westphalia, Kansas on April 26, 1884, three months before Robinson’s image. Robinson’s photo, being more dramatic and from a storm with fatalities, supplanted Adam’s image as the more popular tornado.

In addition, 13 weather-related books from the collections of the State Archives Library are also on display next to the photo display case. The books feature historical accounts of South Dakota weather-related incidents such as tornados, floods and droughts.

First WNV Case Of Year Reported In Davison County

PIERRE, S.D. – The Department of Health reminds South Dakotans to get in the habit of using mosquito repellent as the state's first human West Nile virus (WNV) case of the year has been detected in Davison County in the 60-69 age group.

"Most people who contract West Nile virus, about 70-80 percent, don't get sick but those who do can be severely ill," said Dr. Lon Kightlinger, state epidemiologist for the department. "While typical symptoms include fever, headache, body aches and rash, in severe cases WNV can invade the brain and spinal cord leading to stiff neck, confusion, paralysis, coma and even death."

Kightlinger said South Dakota has a disproportionately high number of WNV cases and he encouraged residents to reduce their risk with the following precautions:

- Apply mosquito repellents (DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535) to clothes and exposed skin. Limit exposure by wearing pants and long sleeves in the evening.
- Limit time outdoors from dusk to dawn when Culex mosquitoes, the primary carrier of WNV in South Dakota, are most active.
- Get rid of standing water that gives mosquitoes a place to breed. Regularly change water in bird baths, outside pet dishes, and drain water from flower pots and garden containers.
- Support local mosquito control efforts.

These precautions are especially important for people at high risk for WNV – those over 50, pregnant women, transplant patients, individuals with diabetes or high blood pressure, and those with a history of alcohol abuse. People with severe or unusual headaches should see their physicians.

Since its first human WNV case in 2002, the state has reported 2,359 human cases, including 745 hospitalizations and 38 deaths. Every county has reported cases.

Visit the department's website at westnile.sd.gov for more information about WNV.

Preventing and controlling infectious disease is one objective of the Department of Health's 2015-2020 strategic plan, <http://doh.sd.gov/strategicplan>.

Hit South Dakota's cultural hot spots this summer

By Jim Speirs, Executive Director, Arts South Dakota

When it comes to arts and crafts festivals, community cultural celebrations, musical weekends and summer theater, South Dakota really is the land of infinite variety. Our state has a full calendar of cultural events, many of them happening within an easy drive from where you live.

Cultural tourism is a vital economic force for South Dakota, as visitors come from all over the globe to view our monumental sculptures, including the newly installed Dignity on a bluff overlooking the Missouri near Chamberlain, Mount Rushmore and the internationally acclaimed Crazy Horse Memorial. Those destinations are matched by our world-class museums, from the National Music Museum on the USD campus in Vermillion to the Harvey Dunn collection housed at the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings to the Red Cloud Indian Art Show at The Heritage Center on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Drama and comedy draw crowds in theaters and parks from Custer to Sisseton, while music fills the summer air, with bluegrass in the Black Hills, jazz in Sioux Falls and traditional tunes at Newton Hills State Park.

South Dakotans will discover more arts and cultural events than they can pack into the summer on the Arts South Dakota website, www.ArtsSouthDakota.org, where anyone can sign up for the weekly arts events calendar. The calendar is interactive and functional for uploading your summer creative activities, as well as keeping up to date on what's happening in your area and around the state.

Thanks to the partnership between state government and the National Endowment for the Arts, South Dakota enjoys a higher level of per capita cultural support than larger states. We rely on that support—and grants from the National Endowment—for many of the creative activities that light up the summer in South Dakota communities. You can help us keep our cultural scene strong year-round. To connect with our Congressional delegation or learn more about Arts South Dakota programs, join us online at www.ArtsSouthDakota.org.



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Today in Weather History

June 15, 1935: This estimated F3 tornado moved east from 17 miles southwest of Onida. There was near F4 damage to one farm about 9 miles SSW of Onida. The house was destroyed, 60 cattle were killed, and five people were injured. At another farm, the home shifted over the storm cellar, trapping a family. Property damage was estimated at \$25,000.

June 15, 1977: There were thunderstorms with heavy rain and some hail which began on the 15th and continued into the 16th. At Watertown, almost 6.9 inches of rain fell during this two day period. In Deuel County, Gary received 6 inches, Altamont 5.5 and Brandt, 4.5 inches in Goodwin, and 3.70 inches in Clear Lake. Other amounts include; 4.85 inches at 3NE of Raymond; 4.57 inches in Clark; 4.21 at 1NE of Bryant; and 3.97 inches in Castlewood.

June 15, 1978: Numerous severe thunderstorms developed over all of central South Dakota. Tornadoes, funnel clouds, hail up to baseball size, and wind gusts to near 80 mph caused widespread destruction. Estimated loss was between 20-25 million dollars. The Governor declared some counties disaster areas. Six trailers were destroyed, and a home was unroofed northwest of Aberdeen. Fifteen people were injured from these storms.

June 15, 1978: Torrential rains began during the evening hours and continued into the morning hours on the 16th. Heavy rains were estimated between 5 to 6 inches, causing flash flooding south of Watertown. Some rainfall amounts include; 2.43 inches in Watertown; 2.07 in Castlewood; and 2.05 inches in Clear Lake. Hail caused severe crop damage in Hughes County.

1662 - A fast was held at Salem MA with prayers for rain, and the Lord gave a speedy answer. (David Ludlum)

1879 - McKinney ND received 7.7 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1896 - The temperature at Fort Mojave, CA, soared to 127 degrees, the hottest reading of record for June for the U.S. The low that day was 97 degrees. Morning lows of 100 degrees were reported on the 12th, 14th and 16th of the month. (The Weather Channel)

1953 - Dust devils are usually rather benign weather phenomena, however, two boys were injured by one near Prescott AZ. One of the boys suffered a black eye, and the other boy had two vertebrae fractured by wind-blown debris. (The Weather Channel)

1957 - East Saint Louis was deluged with 16.54 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the state of Illinois. (The Weather Channel)

1987: Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the northwestern U.S. A tornado damaged five homes and destroyed a barn near Salmon, Idaho. It lifted a metal shed 100 feet into the air and deposited it 100 yards away. Hail an inch and a half in diameter caused ten million dollars damage to automobiles at Nampa, Idaho.





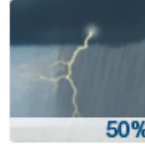


1988 - Severe thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region spawned five tornadoes around Denver, CO, in just one hour. A strong (F-3) tornado in southern Denver injured seven persons and caused ten million dollars damage. Twenty-six cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 97 degrees at Portland ME was a record for June. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather over the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast States. The thunderstorms spawned eight tornadoes, including strong (F-3) tornadoes which injured three persons at Mountville PA and four persons at Columbia, PA. There were 111 reports of large hail and damaging winds, including wind gusts to 80 mph at Norfolk, VA, and Hogback Mountain, SC. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

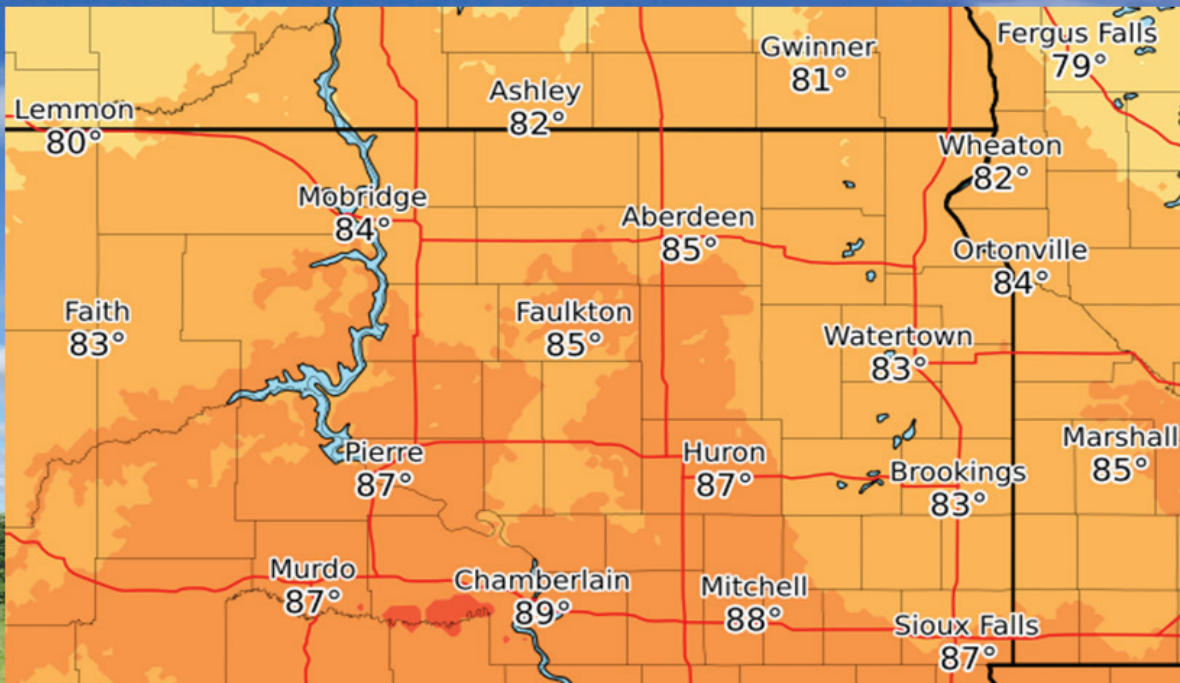
1991: The second largest volcanic eruption of the 20th Century began as Mt. Pinatubo injected 15 to 30 million tons of sulfur dioxide 100,000 feet into the atmosphere. 343 people were killed in the Philippines as a result of the eruptions, and 200,000 were left homeless. Material from the eruption would spread around the globe, leading to climate changes worldwide as the sun's energy was blocked out and global temperatures cooled by as much as one degree Fahrenheit. 1992 was globally one of the coldest since the 1970s.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear and Breezy then Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms
High: 85 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 73 °F

**Sunny - Seasonally Mild - Dry - Breezy Today
Increasing Clouds Friday - Showers Saturday**



National Weather Service - Aberdeen, SD

@NWSAberdeen



www.weather.gov/Aberdeen

Updated: 6/15/2017 4:52 AM Central

Published on: 06/15/2017 at 4:54AM

Should be a rather pleasant day with sunny skies and seasonally mild temperatures although a little breezy. The next chance for moisture comes just in time for the weekend.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 81.4

Low Outside Temp: 61.1

High Gust: 24

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 105° in 1933

Record Low: 36° in 1968

Average High: 77°F

Average Low: 54°F

Average Precip in June: 1.81

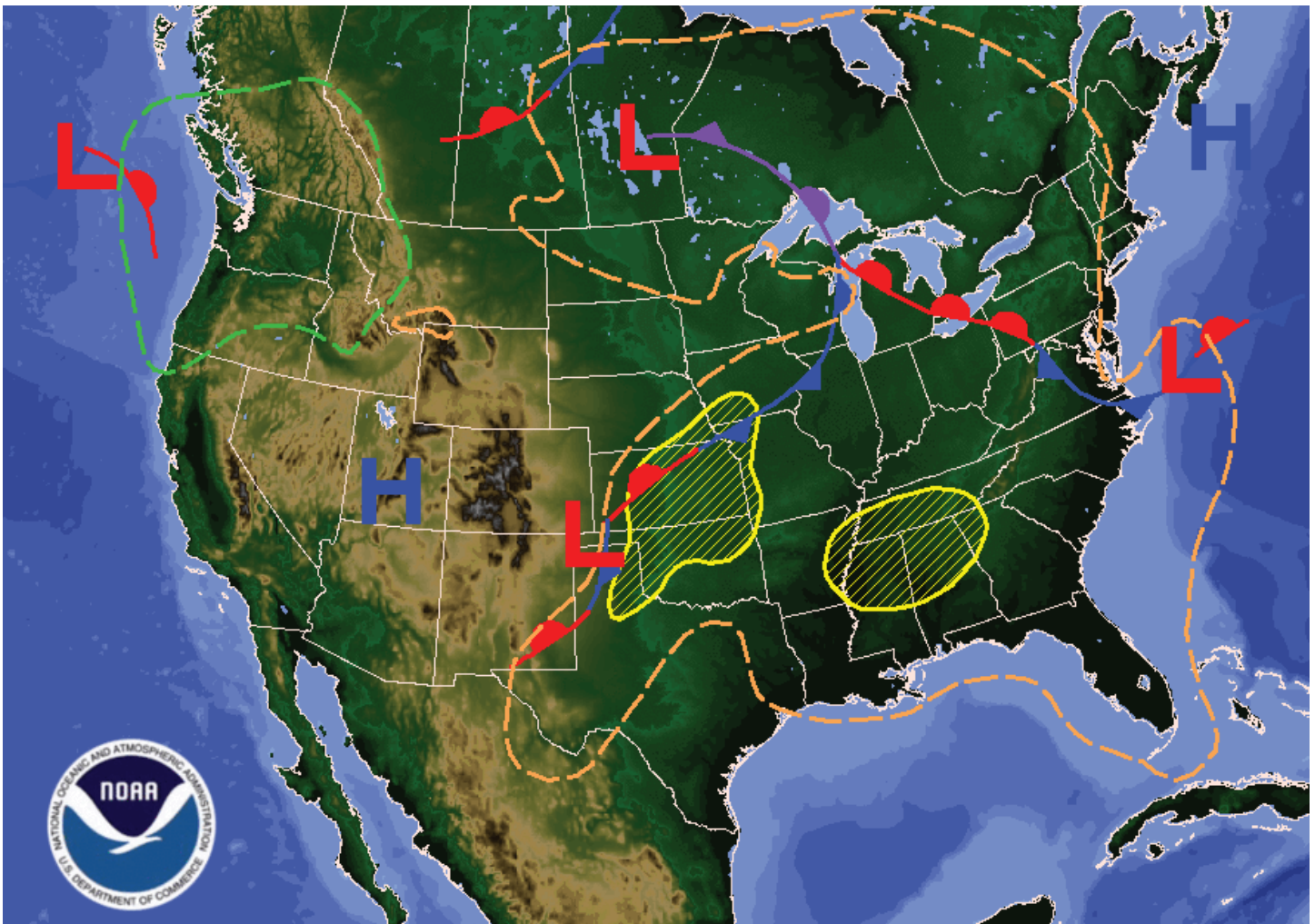
Precip to date in June: 2.02

Average Precip to date: 8.95

Precip Year to Date: 5.21

Sunset Tonight: 9:24 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:44 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Jun 15, 2017, issued 4:35 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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

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IN FEAR AND TREMBLING

George Fox is recognized as the founder of the religious movement that was once known as "the Quakers." They were given this name because they would "quake" if they saw someone who they thought was sinning or whenever they thought of "sin." Once, while appearing before a judge for his beliefs, Fox admonished him "to tremble before the Word of the Lord." The judge mocked him and called him a "quaker." Their reputation for holy living was well known.

In Psalm 4:4 David said, "Stand in awe, and sin not." Another way to translate this phrase is simply, "Tremble, and sin not."

Today, however, there are many who do not understand what sin is or its very real consequences. We live in a culture that does not recognize nor respect the value of life. We live in a world that focuses on pleasure and entertainment, wealth and the abundance of things. The moral compass of many individuals is spinning out of control and has no reference to what is right or wrong, good or bad, decent or destructive.

In this psalm David uses the word "meditate" – which means "to consider, to reflect." Too often the only time we spend with God is to tell Him what we want. We talk to Him without giving Him time to respond. Perhaps if we were willing to "consider" or "reflect" on His Word when we go to Him in prayer, we would realize how sinful our lives are and our need to "fear" sin.

Prayer: May we recognize Your greatness and glory Father, and wait before Your presence in deep humility. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 4:4 Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
09-12-21-23-25
(nine, twelve, twenty-one, twenty-three, twenty-five)
Estimated jackpot: \$235,000

Hot Lotto
09-14-29-42-45, Hot Ball: 11
(nine, fourteen, twenty-nine, forty-two, forty-five; Hot Ball: eleven)
Estimated jackpot: \$7.35 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$113 million

Powerball
05-22-43-57-63, Powerball: 24, Power Play: 2
(five, twenty-two, forty-three, fifty-seven, sixty-three; Powerball: twenty-four; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$40 million

North Dakota soybean plant developer seeks more investors

JAMESTOWN, N.D. (AP) — Developers of a \$240 million soybean processing plant in North Dakota are seeking more investors.

Minnesota Soybean Processors is investing \$60 million in the plant to be built near Spiritwood and will serve as the company's managing member.

North Dakota Soybean Processors is seeking another \$120 million in investments, with a minimum investment of \$40,000.

The plant is to process 125,000 bushels of soybeans per day into oil, meal and fuel.

Investor meetings are scheduled later this month in Jamestown, Fargo, Grand Forks, Hankinson and Bismarck.

Jackley issues caution about tobacco settlement money scam

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Attorney General Marty Jackley is cautioning South Dakota residents about what he says are deceptive advertisements regarding a nearly 20-year-old settlement with tobacco companies.

In 1998, the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement was signed by the four largest U.S. tobacco companies, 46 states, five territories and the District of Columbia. It resolved several lawsuits against the tobacco industry for tobacco-related health care costs.

Jackley says recent ads are misleading consumers into believing they're eligible to receive tobacco settlement money. He says that isn't the case, and people should not give out personal information to unsolicited emails or ads.

State parks, recreation areas to hold cooking classes

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — State parks and recreation areas around South Dakota are set to hold cooking classes. South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks says the Saturday classes will teach the basic skills and safety precautions of making meals outdoors and give a hands-on cooking experience.

Key lessons will include campfire, grilling and Dutch oven safety. Lynn Spomer, state park visitor services coordinator, says teaching kids how to take care of a fire and cook food properly is a lifelong skill.

An outdoor cooking class for kids will be held at Good Earth State Park at Blood Run; a Dutch oven cookout will be held at Mina Lake Recreation Area; and a campfire cooking event can be found at Oakwood Lakes State Park.

Rapid City to pay \$360K for failed development project

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Rapid City will pay more than \$360,000 to the company behind an unsuccessful multimillion-dollar development project in the western South Dakota city.

The city agreed to pay President's Plaza LLC for out-of-pocket expenses sustained during the initial planning of the proposed 15-story multi-use President's Plaza building, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2sopstL>) reported.

The deal was agreed to Monday as part of an out-of-court settlement to cover expenses for studies, plans and designs. The City Council will consider approving the agreement next week.

The development was slated to cost between \$40 million and \$50 million, and include condominiums, office space and a 500-stall parking garage, among other amenities.

President's Plaza's lawyers argued in April that the project failed because of former Mayor Sam Kooiker's persistent public and private questioning of the company's eligibility for new market tax credits.

The company eventually sent a cease and desist letter to the mayor, telling him to no longer contact potential funding sources for the project. But Kooiker continued to publicly question the company's eligibility, according to President's Plaza attorneys.

"It was clear that the City Council could not control Kookier, that he would not work through the President's Plaza Review Committee appointed by the Council and that, even if an award of NMTCs (new market tax credits) was made, Kookier would be challenging the eligibility of the project to receive them," a letter by the lawyers read.

The attorneys wrote that it "made no sense" for the company to continue to spend money pursuing the tax credits, and no future attempts were made to get them.

A phone message left Wednesday by The Associated Press seeking comment from Kooiker, who is now city administrator in Cherokee, Iowa, was not immediately returned.

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

Experts: Keystone XL pipeline power lines will hurt cranes

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Environmental experts in Nebraska say transmission lines to power pumping stations for the planned Keystone XL pipeline would threaten endangered whooping cranes.

Representatives from environmental groups, including the Sierra Club and Bold Nebraska, submitted written testimony on Monday to the Nebraska Public Service Commission, saying they object to the \$8 billion pipeline's impact on natural resources.

The commission regulates the 275-mile pipeline route through Nebraska.

"We need to reduce the threats to this magnificent bird, not increase them," said bird expert Paul Johnsgard, a retired biology professor from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Johnsgard said the preferred route of the pipeline would mean nearly 70 miles (110 kilometers) of new power lines in the state would pass through migration areas where whooping cranes roost and feed. He said that increases the risk of bird deaths from collisions.

"Of all the known threats to whooping cranes, collisions with power lines are the primary cause of mor-

tality," he said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently estimated that there are fewer than 350 whooping cranes left. "The loss of even a few, and even one, breeding adult could jeopardize the continued existence of this protected species," Johnsgard said.

Pipeline developer TransCanada said it'll review comments but that the route doesn't cross critical habitat for whooping cranes. It said it plans to create a conservation plan following the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which aims to protect migrating birds.

Environmental scientist Thomas Hayes recommended the route be rejected or at least shifted east, where there are fewer stream crossings and fewer miles of porous soils.

TransCanada has until July 17 to offer written rebuttals to submitted testimony. The Public Service Commission will hold a hearing on the pipeline in August.

Rapper Chief Keef free after South Dakota marijuana charge

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Chicago rapper Chief Keef has been released from a jail in South Dakota where he was charged with marijuana possession.

The rapper, whose legal name is Keith Cozart, was arrested Monday at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport where officials say marijuana was found in his carry-on bag.

Cozart is facing a felony charge for possessing a marijuana edible and two misdemeanors for possessing marijuana and drug paraphernalia. He appeared Tuesday in a Sioux Falls court where a judge set bond at \$2,000. The Minnehaha County Jail said Wednesday that Cozart is no longer in custody.

Cozart performed on Sunday at an anti-bullying celebrity basketball event at the University of Sioux Falls.

Details released for shrimp operation in southwest Minnesota

BALATON, Minn. (AP) — A Minnesota company has announced details of its plans for a \$50 million commercial shrimp production operation in the southwestern part of the state.

Balaton-based tru Shrimp says it plans a production facility in Luverne and a hatchery in Marshall. It also plans to renovate a vacant processing facility in Marshall to handle more than 8 million pounds of shrimp annually.

The company also plans a training facility in Balaton for workers.

President and CEO Michael Ziebell says the operation is a step toward developing a large shrimp industry in Minnesota.

South Dakota has 1st human West Nile virus case of the year

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota has its first confirmed human case of West Nile virus this year.

The state Health Department says the case is in a Davison County resident who is in his or her 60s.

West Nile virus is spread by mosquitoes. Symptoms include fever, headache, body aches and rash. Many people infected with the virus experience mild or no symptoms, but the virus can be fatal.

The virus was first reported in South Dakota in 2002. Since then the state has confirmed 2,359 human cases, including 745 hospitalizations and 38 deaths.

State Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger encourages South Dakotans to get in the habit of using mosquito repellent, to protect themselves.

South Dakota authorities seize estimated 20K fentanyl pills

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A 19-year-old South Dakota man is accused of possessing 20,000 fentanyl pills with intent to distribute them in a case that sent one officer exposed to the drug to the hospital.

Attorney General Marty Jackley said in a statement Wednesday the officer treated for exposure has been released from the hospital. Jackley says the street value of the fentanyl seized Tuesday in Chamberlain

is \$500,000.

The attorney general says Trevor Harden has been charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute. It wasn't immediately clear if Harden has a defense attorney to comment on his behalf.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid drug much more powerful than heroin. The federal Drug Enforcement Administration has warned law enforcement nationwide about the dangers of improperly handling fentanyl and that even a small amount absorbed through the skin can be deadly.

Hamill man pleads not guilty in death of former girlfriend

BURKE, S.D. (AP) — A Hamill man accused of killing his former girlfriend has pleaded not guilty.

The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2sADIer>) reports that 46-year-old Chance Harruff during a Tuesday hearing pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter. He had initially been charged with second-degree murder in the death of 38-year-old Kristi Olson.

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

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

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

Strong storms spawn numerous tornadoes in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Strong storms spawned numerous tornadoes in South Dakota. There were no reports of injuries but some damage.

The National Weather Service confirmed two tornadoes in northeastern South Dakota and received reports of several other unconfirmed twisters. Survey teams were heading out Wednesday to assess damage.

The Capital Journal reports two cabins were destroyed nine miles south of Rosholt, one by wind and one by a large tree that fell on it. Fires near Milbank were blamed on downed power lines.

The weather service received reports of five reported tornadoes that swept through southeastern South Dakota, including two twisters near White Lake. The Daily Republic in Mitchell reports the tornadoes caused minimal damage and no injuries.

Bond set in South Dakota for Chicago rapper on drug charges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Bond has been set at \$2,000 for Chicago rapper Chief Keef on drug charges in South Dakota.

The rapper, whose legal name is Keith Cozart, was booked into the Minnehaha County Jail Monday following his arrest at the Sioux Falls Regional Airport. Police say airport security found marijuana in his carry-on bag.

The Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2rqOPXz>) reports Cozart's attorneys declined to comment following his court appearance Tuesday.

Cozart was in South Dakota to perform Sunday at an anti-bullying celebrity basketball event at the University of Sioux Falls.

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

Crash near Langford kills 8-month-old girl, injures boy

LANGFORD, S.D. (AP) — A two-vehicle crash in Marshall County has killed an 8-month-old girl. The Highway Patrol says the infant was a passenger in a car that failed to yield at an uncontrolled intersection northwest of Langford shortly before 4 p.m. Tuesday. The car collided with a sport utility vehicle. Authorities say a 7-year-old boy who also was riding in the car suffered life-threatening injuries. The 27-year-old woman driving the car suffered injuries considered serious but not life-threatening. Charges are pending against her. The SUV driver suffered minor injuries. The patrol didn't immediately identify anyone involved.

Reports say Mueller probe now examining possible obstruction

By JAKE PEARSON and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The special counsel appointed to investigate Russian influence in the 2016 presidential campaign is now examining whether President Donald Trump tried to obstruct justice, it has been reported.

Accusations of obstruction arose last month when Trump fired FBI Director James Comey. Last week, Comey testified in a Senate hearing that he believed he was fired "because of the Russia investigation." Comey also testified he had told Trump he was not under investigation.

The Washington Post reported late Wednesday that special counsel Robert Mueller was seeking interviews with three Trump administration officials who weren't involved in Trump's campaign: Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence; Michael Rogers, the head of the National Security Agency; and Richard Ledgett, the former NSA deputy director.

Trump took to his Twitter account Thursday morning to denounce the report.

"They made up a phony collusion with the Russians story, found zero proof, so now they go for obstruction of justice on the phony story. Nice," the president tweeted.

Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Trump's personal lawyer, had responded Wednesday evening to the Post report by saying: "The FBI leak of information regarding the president is outrageous, inexcusable and illegal."

The Post report cited anonymous sources who were briefed on requests made by investigators. It was not known whether the FBI was the source of the information. The New York Times also reported the story.

Mueller met Wednesday with the leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee in an effort to ensure their investigations don't conflict.

The leaders of the Senate Intelligence committee said in a statement issued Wednesday that they "look forward to future engagements" with Robert Mueller.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr, R-N.C., and Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the panel's top Democrat, didn't provide any other details regarding the meeting. An aide familiar with the meeting said it was held to discuss the investigations, including ways that the parallel inquiries don't interfere with or overlap one another. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was private.

The meeting comes a day after lawmakers questioned Justice Department officials about the probe and Mueller's independence, and after a friend of Trump said the White House was considering firing Mueller.

Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller last month, testified Tuesday he has seen no evidence of good cause to fire Mueller.

Also Wednesday, Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley said his panel will investigate the removal of former FBI Director James Comey and "any alleged improper partisan interference in law enforcement investigations."

Grassley announced the investigation in a letter to California Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the panel's top Democrat. Grassley's office said the letter is in response to a recent letter from Feinstein requesting that the committee seek details from senior FBI leadership about Comey's interactions with President Donald Trump before he was fired.

The letter said the investigation will also probe Comey's testimony that Loretta Lynch, as President Barack

Obama's attorney general, had directed him to describe an FBI probe into Hillary Clinton's email practices as merely a "matter" and to avoid calling it an investigation.

"You and I agree that the American people deserve a full accounting of attempts to meddle in both our democratic processes and the impartial administration of justice ... It is my view that fully investigating the facts, circumstances, and rationale for Mr. Comey's removal will provide us the opportunity to do that on a cooperative, bipartisan basis," according to the letter.

Feinstein has said the Judiciary Committee should investigate, but had asked Grassley to keep the investigations separate. Grassley said Comey's dismissal and Comey's testimony on Lynch should be looked at together, noting that Comey "took the opportunity in his testimony to clear his own name by denouncing as false the administration's claims that the FBI rank-and-file had lost confidence in Mr. Comey's leadership in the wake of the Clinton email investigation."

The Latest: Labour leader Corbyn visits scene of tower fire

LONDON (AP) — The Latest on the London high-rise fire (all times local):

12:30 p.m.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has toured the area near the west London tower block devastated by a fire, meeting with volunteers helping victims and promising to get to the bottom of what happened.

Corbyn said Thursday that "the truth has got to come out and will come out" as he visited volunteers helping after the Grenfell Tower fire in which at least 17 people died and hundreds were left homeless.

Earlier, Prime Minister Theresa May met with emergency services during a private visit to the site. She returned to Downing Street without making any remarks.

12 p.m.

Relatives of two young Italian architects say they are missing in the London high-rise fire and are hoping for a miracle.

Gloria Trevisan and Marco Gottardi, both 27, lived on the 23rd floor of Grenfell Tower. Relatives also told Italian media that the couple had assured their family in Italy in phone calls that they would be rescued, since suffocating smoke made it impossible to go down the stairs.

The two moved to London in March and quickly found work as architects.

Gottardi's father, Giannino Gottardi, told ANSA he was talking to his son as late as 4:07 a.m. (0207 GMT Wednesday; 10:07 p.m. Tuesday), "then they told us their apartment had been invaded by smoke," and the call ended.

The couple's names weren't on hospital lists, ANSA reported.

11:25 a.m.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has visited the site of the high-rise blaze in west London, touring the devastation that killed at least 17 people.

May didn't speak with journalists during the visit. On Wednesday, she promised a "proper investigation" into the cause of the blaze.

Authorities say the death toll is expected to rise, but they haven't been able to provide a specific figure for the number of people missing.

11:15 a.m.

London police say that the death toll in the apartment building fire has increased to 17 people and is likely to rise even further.

Police Commander Stuart Cundy says that there is no suggestion the blaze was terror-related. Fire Commissioner Dany Cotton says specialist dogs would start searching the 24-story building.

Meanwhile, 44 households were given emergency accommodation after the blaze ripped through the tower on Wednesday. The local council says families with young children, elderly residents and the vulner-

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able were given "immediate priority."

10:55 a.m.

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip have paid tribute to London firefighters whose bravery prevented a greater loss of life in the high-rise fire.

The monarch and the Duke of Edinburgh also have hailed volunteers offering support to dozens of victims from the devastating blaze.

The queen says "Prince Philip and I would like to pay tribute to the bravery of firefighters and other emergency services officers who put their own lives at risk to save others."

At least 12 people have been killed in the fire, but the death toll is expected to rise.

9:55 a.m.

London's fire commissioner says that firefighters have been traumatized by the devastation they witnessed during a high-rise apartment blaze that killed at least 12 people.

Firefighters have extinguished the last of the flames at the 24-story and are now working to make the building safe so they can continue the search for more victims.

Entire families are missing, and the death toll is certain to rise. Fire Commissioner Dany Cotton told Sky would be a miracle if anyone were to be found alive.

Cotton says that firefighters are having trouble with the aftermath. She says "we like to think of ourselves as 'roughly, toughly' and heroes —they are heroes —but they have feelings, and people were absolutely devastated."

8:45 a.m.

London's fire commissioner says it will be a miracle if any survivors are found following a devastating high-rise fire that killed at least 12 people. Authorities have said many more victims are expected.

Dany Cotton told Sky News that authorities don't expect to find anyone else alive after the blaze and that it's too early to speculate on how it started.

She said early Thursday that authorities have finally extinguished the last pockets of flame, and are trying to secure edges of the building for a fingertip search.

--A previous version of this item has corrected the day of Cotton's comments to Thursday, not Wednesday.

8:10 a.m.

Community centers in London have been overwhelmed by the number of donations flooding in for those left homeless by a high-rise apartment building fire.

So much food, clothing, shoes and other items have been coming in that the centers, churches and mosques have had to start turning away new donations. At least 12 people have been killed in the inferno at the 24-story building, with the death toll expected to rise. Dozens of others have been hospitalized.

Missing people posters have been put up throughout the north London neighborhood of North Kensington. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has offered free food for survivors at one of his nearby eateries.

7:40 a.m.

London fire investigators are painstakingly searching for more victims of an inferno that engulfed a high-rise apartment building and killed at least 12 residents.

Authorities say the death toll is expected to rise as emergency workers sift through more of the wreckage on Thursday.

The fire early Wednesday in the 24-story building in west London's North Kensington district also injured dozens, 18 of them critically, and left an unknown number missing. The cause of the blaze is under investigation, but a tenants' group had complained for years about the risk of a fire.

More than 1 million pounds (\$1.27 million) has been raised to help victims of the tragedy as volunteers

and charities worked through the night to find shelter and food for people who lost their homes.

Police: Blast at China kindergarten; reports of casualties

BEIJING (AP) — Police say an explosion struck the entrance to a kindergarten in eastern China on Thursday, with reports saying there have been casualties.

Police officials say they're investigating and have no word yet on injuries or deaths.

However, state media reports say people have been hurt and photos purportedly from the scene and posted to social media showed children and adults lying on the ground, some bleeding.

Police say the blast struck at 4:50 p.m. Thursday at the Chuangxin Kindergarten in the city of Fengxian in Jiangsu province.

It wasn't clear whether the blast was an accident or was deliberately set. The newspaper Xiandaikuaibao on its website cited an unidentified witness as saying the explosive appeared to have been a bottle of cooking gas.

Calls to the kindergarten and local hospitals rang unanswered.

Kindergartens in China have been targeted before in apparent revenge attacks carried out by people bearing grudges against their neighbors and society.

China maintains tight control over firearms and most attacks are carried out using knives, axes or home-made explosives.

London fire death toll at 17; 'miracle' if anymore survivors

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — London firefighters traumatized by the devastation they witnessed in a high-rise apartment blaze that killed at least 17 people worked Thursday to make the building safe so they could continue the search for more victims.

Entire families are missing, and the death toll is certain to rise after flames tore through the 120-unit Grenfell Tower in the early hours of Wednesday when most people were asleep. Fire Commissioner Dany Cotton said it would be a "miracle" if anyone else were to be found alive.

It is unsafe for firefighters to go to all parts of the 24-story tower, so the fire department is working with structural engineers to shore up the building so they can complete a "finger-tip search" of the entire structure, Cotton said.

Some residents threw a baby and other children out the window to escape the flames. There were other reports of adults jumping.

"I spoke to one of my officers who was very near when someone came out the window, and he was in tears and he is a professional fire officer," Cotton told Sky News. "We like to think of ourselves as 'rough, tough' and heroes — they are heroes — but they have feelings, and people were absolutely devastated by yesterday's events."

More than 200 firefighters worked through the night and parts of the building were still seen as being unsafe. Now that the smoke has cleared, the public could only gape at the huge burned-out hulk in the working class, multi-ethnic neighborhood.

The blaze in west London's North Kensington district also injured 74 others, 18 of them critically, and left an unknown number missing. Cotton said that specialist dogs would be brought into search the building.

A tenants' group had complained for years about the risk of a fire in the building. The cause of the fire is under investigation, and authorities have refused to speculate on what could have started the blaze. But the focus has turned to renovations completed last year that added decorative touches to the building.

The renovation project included installation of insulated exterior cladding, double-glazed windows and a communal heating system. Fire experts say the investigators will need to look at what materials were used in the project and who approved their use.

Up to 600 people lived in the 120 apartments at Grenfell Tower. After announcing the updated death toll of 12 on Wednesday afternoon, Cmdr. Stuart Cundy said that "we believe this number will sadly increase."

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Prime Minister Theresa May promised an investigation and visited the site on Thursday. London Mayor Sadiq Khan said that many questions must be answered about safety for the scores of other apartment buildings around the British capital.

The London Fire Brigade said it received the first reports of the blaze at 12:54 a.m. and the first engines arrived within six minutes. Survivors told of frantic attempts to escape during the nighttime fire.

"The flames, I have never seen anything like it. It just reminded me of 9/11," said Muna Ali, 45. "The fire started on the upper floors. ... Oh my goodness, it spread so quickly. It had completely spread within half an hour."

More than 1 million pounds (\$1.27 million) has been raised to help victims of the tragedy as volunteers and charities worked through the night to find shelter and food for people who lost their homes.

St. Clement's Notting Dale, a church near the tower, has turned into an informal center for people searching for friends and family.

Laminated signs bearing the missing persons phone number are tied to the fence next to notices from happier times advertising the Summer Fete with its barbecue, children's games and giant slide. A handwritten sign ripped from a spiral pad reads "breakfast from 0800 inside." The church is also serving lunch and dinner to survivors.

On a utility box by the church's front door, residents have taped signs looking for information about Khadija Saye, last seen on the 20th floor, and Mariem Elggwahry, last seen on the 19th floor at 2:30 am.

Community centers in London have been overwhelmed by the number of donations flooding in for those left homeless by a high-rise apartment building fire.

So much food, clothing, shoes and other items have been coming in that the centers, churches and mosques have had to start turning away new donations.

Missing people posters have been put up throughout North Kensington. Celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has offered free food for survivors at one of his nearby eateries.

Many were moved to tears Wednesday at a moment of silent contemplation outside the Notting Hill Methodist Church in west London.

"There are times when all the words we can say are not adequate and sometimes words fail us because no words can do justice to how we feel, or what we have seen or what has happened. Today is one of those days," Rev. Mike Long said.

"What we can simply do is look to all that we have seen today — which is good, which is fabulous — people getting together."

Emergency accommodation had been provided to 44 households affected by the fire.

Associated Press writer Frank Griffiths contributed to this report.

Congressman's shooting first test for Trump-era gun debate

By STEVE PEOPLES AND CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — On the day that gunfire shattered the morning calm of suburban Washington, dozens of family members of those killed by past gun violence had gathered in the capital to lobby against Republican-backed legislation to make it easier to buy gun silencers.

The lobbying effort and a related hearing were canceled in the aftermath of the shooting. But gun control advocates aren't going far.

They're plodding ahead, hopeful for action but pragmatic enough to know that the latest shooting doesn't dramatically alter the dynamics of their uphill battle.

"Anytime there's a tragedy, it just once again amplifies the problem with gun violence in our country," said Lucy McBath, whose son, Jordan Davis, was shot to death four years ago in a dispute over loud music.

Wednesday's shooting at a congressional baseball practice marked the first high-profile test of Trump-era gun politics: Republican control of Congress and the White House has all but eliminated talk of tightening federal gun laws. President Donald Trump won election in part by making clear his opposition to new

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restrictions on gun purchases.

Gun control advocates, already on the defensive, insist they're not abandoning their efforts in Congress or state legislatures. But after Wednesday's shooting of Republican Rep. Steve Scalise and several others, they did not immediately land on a new strategy to challenge Trump and the Republican-led Congress.

"It is frustrating. These kinds of tragedies happen every single day," said McBath. "Americans should be able to play baseball and dance in a nightclub or attend religious services without the fear of being gunned down. Americans can do better and we deserve better."

As gun control advocates eyed the challenging political reality, the powerful National Rifle Association made clear it was not backing off.

NRA spokeswoman Dana Loesch praised the Capitol Hill police, saying that "good guys with guns kept this from getting worse." She said the organization would continue pushing for gun-friendly legislation at the state and federal level, arguing that new gun-control measures are not the answer.

"Evil is real, evil exists and it makes no sense that the good cannot protect themselves against evil," said Loesch. "Those policies have failed where they have been implemented."

Echoing those sentiments, the Republicans who control Washington dug in.

Trump ally Rep. Chris Collins, R-N.Y., who has a permit to carry a gun, vowed to keep his weapon close: "On a rare occasion I'd have my gun in the glove box or something, but it's going to be in my pocket from this day forward," Collins told a Buffalo ABC affiliate.

Rep. Jeff Duncan, R-S.C., argued that tougher gun laws aren't the answer. He noted the shooter had a criminal record and was from Illinois, which already has strict gun laws, "yet he was still able to access a firearm somehow."

The shooter was identified as James T. Hodgkinson, a 66-year-old home inspector from Illinois who had several minor run-ins with the law in recent years and belonged to a Facebook group called "Terminate the Republican Party." Officers in Scalise's security detail wounded Hodgkinson, who was taken into custody and later died.

Many gun control groups spent the immediate aftermath of the shooting privately contemplating their strategy. Most decided to proceed with caution, issuing public statements that avoided the gun control debate altogether.

"This shooting is an attack on all who serve and on all who participate in our democracy," said former Rep. Gabby Giffords, the only other member of Congress shot in the last four decades. Giffords said in a statement that she was "heartbroken" for Scalise and the other victims.

A group connected to the Newtown, Connecticut, school massacre said the latest shooting showed that "more conversations are needed."

"This is not about more guns, which we know would not have prevented this event in spite of the presence of Congressman Scalise's armed detail," said the group Sandy Hook Promise. "This is about prevention and education, about knowing the signs of someone who might commit an act of violence and how to stop it from happening in the first place."

They're pushing ahead in a harsh environment.

Trump, who has offered strong support for the NRA, appeared at the group's convention in April and told members: "The eight-year assault on your Second Amendment freedoms has come to a crashing end."

In one early sign of the new pro-gun environment, Congress in February passed a resolution to block a rule that would have kept guns out of the hands of certain people with mental disorders. Trump quickly signed it.

Gun control groups hope to defeat an NRA-backed effort to enact a national "concealed-carry reciprocity" law that would require all states to recognize other states' concealed carry permits. They helped beat back such proposals in Congress repeatedly during Obama's presidency, but face a far steeper challenge in the Trump era.

In the face of it all, McBath said simply: "I have hope."

AP writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Amid uproar, Southern Baptists condemn 'alt-right' movement

By RACHEL ZOLL AND ANGIE WANG, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Southern Baptists on Wednesday formally condemned the political movement known as the "alt-right," in a national meeting that was thrown into turmoil after leaders initially refused to take up the issue.

The denomination's annual convention in Phoenix voted to "decry every form of racism, including alt-right white supremacy as antithetical to the Gospel of Jesus Christ" and "denounce and repudiate white supremacy and every form of racial and ethnic hatred as a scheme of the devil."

Tuesday night, Southern Baptist officials who oversaw the resolutions had refused to introduce a different repudiation of the "alt-right," which emerged dramatically during the U.S. presidential election, mixing racism, white nationalism and populism.

Barrett Duke, who leads the resolutions committee, had said the original document contained inflammatory and broad language "potentially implicating" conservatives who do not support the "alt-right" movement.

Introducing the new statement Wednesday, Duke apologized "for the pain and confusion that we created," but said the committee had been concerned about potentially giving the appearance of hating their enemies. Duke said the committee members "share your abhorrence of racism" and were grateful for the chance to "speak on 'alt-right' racism in particular and all racism in general."

The resolution was adopted after a short but emotional discussion.

"We are saying that white supremacy and racist ideologies are dangerous because they oppress our brothers and sisters in Christ," said the Rev. Russell Moore, who leads the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission, the Southern Baptist public policy arm. "If we're a Jesus people, let's stand where Jesus stands."

Charles Hedman of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, said far-right groups had been distributing racist material outside the convention hall Tuesday night. He said some pastors had told him they would have to leave the denomination if the convention failed to denounce white supremacy Wednesday.

"We must stand strong," Hedman said. "We must all issue an apology that we didn't act on this yesterday."

The initial proposal that Southern Baptists had rejected came from a prominent black Southern Baptist pastor, the Rev. William McKissic of Arlington, Texas. His resolution repudiated "retrograde ideologies, xenophobic biases and racial bigotries of the 'alt-right' that seek to subvert our government."

After McKissic made an unsuccessful plea for reconsideration from the floor of the Phoenix meeting late Tuesday, pressure began building online and at the convention for the Southern Baptists to say something.

Several Southern Baptists were panicked, contending that silence would be misinterpreted as support for white supremacy. The denomination was formed in the 19th century in defense of slaveholders and has been trying to overcome its racist history.

A late-night call went out for convention participants to return to the assembly hall, where Steve Gaines, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, won approval to consider a new resolution on the topic Wednesday.

"It shows we're willing to bring issues to the floor, real issues," said Mark Croston, national director of black church partnerships for the Southern Baptist-affiliated Lifeway Christian Resources. "We're not intimidated or afraid to speak out, even though it brings up dirty laundry from the past."

The Southern Baptist Convention, based in Nashville, is the largest Protestant denomination in the country, although its membership has been shrinking, most recently dropping to 15.2 million members.

Leaders have been trying to diversify, repeatedly condemning racism in formal resolutions from past meetings, rejecting display of the Confederate flag and electing more black officers. As of 2014, the denomination was about 85 percent white, according to the Pew Research Center.

Duke later apologized personally to McKissic for how his original proposal was handled. McKissic was not consulted when leaders were drafting the new statement, but said he was encouraged by the outcry from white and black Christians that brought the issue to a vote. "We're turning the corner," McKissic told reporters. "I see the heart of the majority."

Debate also underscored ongoing tensions among Southern Baptists whether Donald Trump, a thrice-

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married casino and real estate mogul, was morally fit to be president.

Moore vehemently condemned candidate Trump. At the same time, several prominent Southern Baptists, including former presidents of the denomination, signed on as evangelical advisers to the Republican's campaign. They remain among the president's most steadfast supporters.

When Trump won with 80 percent of the white evangelical vote, Moore faced a backlash within the denomination. That landslide support for Trump left black evangelicals feeling alienated and disappointed given their concerns about Trump's past treatment of blacks, his rhetoric about Mexicans and his promised policies.

Zoll reported from New York.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. AFTER ATTACK ON LAWMAKERS, REFLECTION

Members of Congress call for a new dialogue on lowering the partisan temperature, and Trump urges Americans to come together, but the bitter national divide could resurface soon.

2. LONDON INFERNO EXTINGUISHED; DEATH TOLL RISES TO 17

Fire officials say authorities don't know how many people died in the high-rise apartment building and that firefighters have been traumatized by the inability to save more people.

3. EX-VA EXEC SAYS HE WASN'T TOLD HOSPITAL COST

Glenn Haggstrom tells AP he was never alerted that cost overruns at a Colorado VA medical center ballooned to \$1.7 billion, blaming widespread failures within the agency.

4. MANY THINK TRUMP MEDDLED IN RUSSIA PROBE

A new AP-NORC poll shows a majority of Americans believe the president tried to interfere with the investigation into Moscow's alleged election meddling and possible Trump campaign collusion.

5. TENSIONS RISE AS VERDICT ELUDES COSBY JURY

Some jurors appeared angry, the judge sounded exasperated and accuser Andrea Constand's mother broke down in tears as deliberations continue into a fourth day.

6. WHAT PRECEDED SAN FRANCISCO UPS SHOOTING

A United Parcel Service driver who opened fire during a meeting with co-workers had filed a grievance that he was working excessive overtime and appeared to target victims.

7. GOV'T REPORT: HEALTH CARE DEDUCTIBLES, CO-PAYS HIGHER UNDER GOP BILL

The non-partisan Office of the Actuary finds that out-of-pocket costs would average 61 percent higher under the House Republican health care bill.

8. SOMALI WITNESSES RECOUNT RESTAURANT SIEGE

Survivors hid under tables and curtains as Al-Shabab Islamic extremists continued firing in a pizza restaurant in Mogadishu and hunted for patrons, killing at least 17.

9. SEALING THE 'ART OF THE DEAL'

Dennis Rodman gives North Korea's sports minister a copy of Trump's bestselling book, hoping it will end up in Kim Jong Un's hands.

10. WHO LIKELY WON'T WIN AT ERIN HILLS

It's been 84 years since an amateur won the U.S. Open, and the outlook is bleak for the 14 amateurs in the field on the tough Wisconsin golf course.

Somali survivors tell of restaurant siege by rebels; 17 dead

By **ABDI GULED**, Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — At least 17 people were killed in the night-long siege of a popular Mogadishu restaurant by al-Shabab Islamic extremists that was ended Thursday morning by security forces.

Somali survivors early described harrowing scenes in which attackers hunted patrons of the popular Pizza House restaurant. The injured were taken by ambulances.

Al-Shabab claimed responsibility as the restaurant was under siege.

Soldiers surrounded the restaurant building and used guns mounted on the backs of vehicles to neutralize the militants. Troops entered the ground floor while the insurgent snipers held positions upstairs.

All five attackers were killed and after dawn the soldiers secured the building, said senior Somali police office Capt. Mohamed Hussein. The troops' efforts to take control of the restaurant were slowed by the darkness of night, forcing them to wait until morning, said Hussein.

Survivors said they hid under tables and curtains as attackers continued firing in the restaurant and hunted for patrons. Attackers moved from room to room, looking for people, said a survivor.

"I never thought I would have the chance to see the sun again. They were killing people on sight," Saida Hussein, a university student, told The Associated Press. She said she survived the attack by hiding behind a large table downstairs.

Another survivor, Aden Karie, was wounded by an attacker who spotted him moving behind a curtain in the dark room.

"He shot at me twice and one bullet struck me on the leg," said Karie as he was taken to an awaiting ambulance.

The roofs were blown off the restaurant and nearby buildings from the powerful blasts.

The bodies of five girls thought to have been killed by the militants were found in the restaurant, said police. Inside the building, the body of a Syrian man who worked as a chef at restaurant lay near the rubble of a blood-spattered and bullet-marked wall.

The attack began Wednesday evening a car bomb exploded at the gate to the restaurant and then gunmen posing as military forces stormed into the establishment.

An ambulance driver with the Amin Ambulance service, Khalif Dahir, said early Thursday they had carried 17 bodies and 26 wounded people. Most of the victims were young men who had been entering the Pizza House when the vehicle exploded, Hussein said.

The gunmen "were dressed in military uniforms. They forced those fleeing the site to go inside" the restaurant, witness Nur Yasin told AP.

Wednesday night's blast largely destroyed the restaurant's facade and sparked a fire. While al-Shabab claimed to have attacked the neighboring Posh Treats restaurant, which is frequented by the city's elite and was damaged in the blast, security officials said the Pizza House was targeted instead.

Security forces rescued Asian, Ethiopian, Kenyan and other workers at Posh Treats as the attack continued, Hussein said.

The Somalia-based al-Shabab often targets high-profile areas of Mogadishu, including hotels, military checkpoints and areas near the presidential palace. It has vowed to step up attacks after the recently elected government launched a new military offensive against it.

Al-Shabab last year became the deadliest Islamic extremist group in Africa, with more than 4,200 people killed in 2016, according to the Washington-based Africa Center for Strategic Studies.

The extremist group also faces a new military push from the United States after President Donald Trump approved expanded operations, including airstrikes, against al-Shabab. On Sunday, the U.S. military in Africa said it carried out an airstrike in southern Somalia that killed eight Islamic extremists at a rebel command and logistics camp.

Somalia President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed confirmed that airstrike and said such attacks would disrupt the group's ability to conduct new attacks.

With a new federal government established, pressure is growing on Somalia's military to assume full

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responsibility for the country's security. The 22,000-strong African Union multinational force, AMISOM, which has been supporting the fragile central government, plans to start withdrawing in 2018 and leave by the end of 2020.

Also Wednesday, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution extending the U.N. political mission in the Horn of Africa nation, which is trying to rebuild after more than two decades as a failed state, until March 31, 2018. The resolution recognized that "this is a critical moment for Somalia."

Associated Press writer Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed.

Congress seeks normalcy, heads back to work after shooting

By ERICA WERNER and CHAD DAY, Associated Press

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (AP) — The business of the House was resuming a day after a rifle-wielding attacker opened fire on Republican lawmakers practicing for a charity baseball game, critically wounding House GOP Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana and hitting aides and Capitol police. The assailant, who had nursed grievances against President Donald Trump and the GOP, fought a gun battle with police before he, too, was shot and later died.

Colleagues said Scalise, who had been fielding balls at second base, dragged himself away from the infield, leaving a trail of blood before they rushed to his assistance. He was listed in critical condition Wednesday night at a Washington hospital, which said he will require several more operations.

The shooter was identified as James T. Hodgkinson, a 66-year-old home inspector from Illinois who had several minor run-ins with the law in recent years and belonged to a Facebook group called "Terminate the Republican Party."

Capitol Police officers who were in Scalise's security detail wounded the shooter, who was taken into custody. He later died of his injuries, Trump told the nation from the White House.

"Everyone on that field is a public servant," Trump said, his tone somber, America's acrimonious politics set aside for the moment. "Their sacrifice makes democracy possible."

After visiting Scalise Wednesday evening at MedStar Washington Hospital Center, Trump tweeted: "Rep. Steve Scalise, one of the truly great people, is in very tough shape - but he is a real fighter. Pray for Steve!"

Lawmakers noted their good fortune in having armed protectors on hand — "Thank God," they exclaimed over and over — and said otherwise the shooter would have been able to take a huge deadly toll.

Across the Potomac River in Washington, the shocking events left the Capitol horrified and stunned, and prompted immediate reflection on the current hostility and vitriol in American politics. Lawmakers called for a new dialogue on lowering the partisan temperature, and Trump urged Americans to come together as he assumed the role of national unifier for one of the first times in his presidency.

Proceedings were canceled for the day in the House, and instead Speaker Paul Ryan of Wisconsin and Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California issued their own calls for unity. "An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us," Ryan said, to prolonged applause. On Thursday House proceedings were to resume as usual, and lawmakers were returning to the Capitol in search of some semblance of normalcy.

Shortly after the shooting, Bernie Sanders, the former candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, said on the Senate floor that the shooter apparently was a volunteer for his campaign last year. Sanders said he denounced the violence "in the strongest possible terms."

Scalise, 51, the No. 3 House Republican leader, was first elected in 2008. The popular and gregarious lawmaker is known for his love of baseball and handed out commemorative bats when he secured the job of House whip several years ago.

Texas Rep. Roger Williams said that one of his aides, Zack Barth, was shot but was doing well and expected to fully recover. Two Capitol Police officers sustained relatively minor injuries. A former congressional aide was hospitalized.

The shooting occurred at a popular park and baseball complex in Alexandria, Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, where Republican lawmakers and others were gathered for a morning practice

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about 7 a.m. They were in good spirits despite the heat and humidity as they prepared for the congressional baseball match that pits Republicans against Democrats. The popular annual face-off, which raises money for charity, is scheduled to go forward as planned Thursday evening at Nationals Park in Washington.

Hodgkinson has been in the area since March, living out of his van, said local FBI Special Agent In Charge Tim Slater. Democratic former Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille said he had spoken often with the man on recent mornings at the nearby YMCA.

Hodgkinson's apparent Facebook page included strong criticism of Republicans and the Trump administration. But Slater said authorities were still working to determine a motive and had "no indication" Hodgkinson knew about the ball practice ahead of time.

The GOP lawmakers' team was taking batting practice when gunshots rang out and chaos erupted.

Scalise was fielding balls at second base when he was shot, according to lawmakers present. Rep. Mo Brooks, an Alabama Republican, said his colleague "crawled into the outfield, leaving a trail of blood."

"We started giving him the liquids, I put pressure on his wound in his hip," Brooks said.

The gunman had a rifle and "a lot of ammo," said Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, who was at the practice.

Texas Rep. Joe Barton, still in his baseball uniform, told reporters that Scalise's security detail, Capitol Hill police and then Alexandria police returned fire in a battle that lasted as long as 10 minutes and included dozens of shots.

"The security detail saved a lot of lives," he said. "It was scary."

Lawmakers took cover in the dugout. Barton said his son, Jack, got under an SUV.

Texas Rep. Mike Conaway described what sounded like an explosion, then lawmakers scattering off the field as police roamed in search of the gunman and engaged him.

"The guy's down to a handgun, he dropped his rifle, they shoot him, I go over there, they put him in handcuffs," Conaway said, adding that if the shooter had "gotten inside the fence, where a bunch of guys were holed up in the dugout, it would have been like shooting fish in a barrel."

Rep. Jeff Duncan of South Carolina said he had just left the practice and encountered the apparent gunman in the parking lot before the shooting. The man calmly asked which party's lawmakers were practicing and Duncan told him they were the Republicans. The man thanked him.

The wounded Capitol Police officers were identified as David Bailey, who was treated for a minor injury, and Crystal Griner, who was shot in the ankle. Also wounded was former congressional aide Matt Mika, who now works for Tyson Foods in its Washington office. Mika's family said the lobbyist was shot multiple times and was in critical condition following surgery.

The event raised questions about the security of members of Congress. While the top lawmakers, including Scalise, have security details, others do not and they regularly appear in public without protection. The last time a lawmaker was shot was when Democratic Rep. Gabby Giffords of Arizona was hit in the head and grievously injured while meeting with constituents at a supermarket parking lot in 2011.

Following the Giffords shooting, lawmakers have held fewer open town halls and have been advised to increase security at such events.

Associated Press reporters Eric Tucker, Matt Barakat, Meghan Hoyer, Sarah Brumfield, Michael Biesecker, Mary Clare Jalonick, Ken Thomas, Vivian Salama, Stephen Ohlemacher, Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor in Washington and Alexandria, and Ed White in Detroit contributed to this report.

Attack on lawmakers stirs memories of Giffords shooting

By **ASTRID GALVAN, Associated Press**

PHOENIX (AP) — When Ron Barber saw the news that a gunman opened fire on Republican lawmakers practicing for a baseball game, he immediately was taken back to when he was yelling his wife's name and phone number while lying on a gurney. Pam Simon remembers lying on the ground unable to move after the bullet went through her wrist into her chest.

The attack Wednesday in Virginia that left Rep. Steve Scalise in critical condition brought back painful

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memories for survivors of another shooting six years ago involving a member of Congress, former Rep. Gabby Giffords, who was shot in Tucson, Arizona.

"It obviously floods back all the memories from Jan. 8," Simon said. "It really brings it back. You have PTSD symptoms that kind of flare up in things like this."

Giffords was holding a constituent event outside a grocery store in 2011 when gunman Jared Loughner opened fire, killing six people, including a federal judge and a 9-year-old girl, and shooting Giffords in the head, severely wounding her.

Wednesday's shooting happened in a similarly public place — a popular park and baseball complex in Alexandria, Virginia. Scalise and other Republican lawmakers were practicing for a charity game when James T. Hodgkinson started shooting and chaos erupted.

Hodgkinson, who had a long history of lashing out at Republicans, was shot and killed by police. Loughner, who is serving life in prison, had posted several online rambles about politics before he shot Giffords, a Democrat, although in the end no clear motive emerged.

Barber, who took over Giffords' seat in Congress before narrowly losing a re-election bid in 2014, said Wednesday's shooting was a reminder of how low political discourse has fallen.

"The vitriol, the harsh rhetoric, the personal attacks, they have escalated to a point where I hardly recognize our political process anymore. We have to stop this," Barber said.

For others, it prompted strong feelings about keeping weapons out of the hands of the wrong people.

"This isn't a political issue nor was the one in Tucson," said Ken Dorushka, who was shot as he shielded his wife from Loughner. "Anybody who would willingly take a gun and shoot somebody is unstable regardless of their political bent."

Giffords, who now advocates for tighter gun laws through her political action committee she founded with her husband, Mark Kelly, said she was heartbroken.

"This shooting is an attack on all who serve and on all who participate in our democracy," Giffords said in a written statement Wednesday. "May all Americans come together today with prayers for the survivors, love for their friends and family, and the courage to go about everyday making this country its best. Our nation is resilient, and we always come back stronger."

Six years ago, Sen. Jeff Flake had rushed from Phoenix to the hospital in Tucson when he heard Giffords was shot. On Wednesday, the Arizona Republican was at the baseball practice and tended to Scalise.

Flake said during an interview with CBS "This Morning" that he reached out to Giffords and Kelly.

"Those of us in Arizona remember well that situation a few years ago. So, I sure hope that this (brings) more unity, we need it around here," Flake said.

Simon said days like Wednesday don't feel normal because she gets a lot of calls from friends and reporters. She said she works through the difficult memories by getting together with loved ones and speaking about being positive and encouraging other survivors.

"The physical wounds fade but clearly the emotional ones are there. I have to disagree with the president when he made the statement that the congressman will have a complete recovery. No one who's been shot ever recovers emotionally," she said.

AP-NORC poll: Most in US think Trump meddled in Russia probe

By JOSH LEDERMAN and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A clear majority of Americans believe President Donald Trump has tried to interfere with the investigation into Russia's alleged election meddling and possible Trump campaign collusion, a new poll shows. Just one in five support his decision to oust James Comey from the FBI.

Following Comey's blockbuster appearance before Congress, an Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll shows 68 percent of Americans are at least moderately concerned about the possibility that Trump or his campaign associates had inappropriate ties to Russia. Almost half of Americans saying they're very concerned. Only 3 in 10 say they're not that concerned.

Americans largely view the issue along partisan lines. Sixty-two percent of Republicans say they're not very concerned or not at all concerned about any Russia ties. Though just over half of Americans say they

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disapprove of Trump's firing of Comey, the number grows to 79 percent among Democrats. Overall, only 22 percent of Americans support Comey's dismissal.

For Sandra Younger, a 50-year-old from San Diego, Comey's exit reinforced her suspicion "something fishy" was going on with the president and Russia. She said it was inappropriate to fire Comey given that he was overseeing the Russia investigation.

"If I had nothing to hide and someone wanted to investigate, I would say, 'Go ahead, do your thing, I don't care, because you won't find anything,'" said Younger, a Democrat who imports jewelry supplies. She added of Trump: "He seems to be buddy-buddy with these epic creeps."

But William Shepherd, a maintenance worker from Anderson, Indiana, felt it was the president's prerogative to choose his FBI director. He said he was untroubled by claims Trump tried to persuade Comey to back off the investigation, saying those revelations only emerged after Comey was fired and wanted to defend himself.

"These headlines don't really concern me, although they are attention-grabbers," said Shepherd, a 40-year-old Republican.

Of the six in 10 Americans who think Trump tried to obstruct or impede the investigation, most are Democrats and independents. Only a quarter of Republicans feel Trump meddled in the probe.

The poll began the day before Comey testified publicly before the Senate intelligence committee and continued through Sunday. Three percent of interviews were conducted before the hearing.

For many Democrats, there's some irony in coming to Comey's defense and embracing his concerns about Trump. Last year, Democrats aggressively attacked Comey for his handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, with many calling for his firing.

Now that Trump is president and Comey has emerged as a top Trump antagonist, some former Comey critics see his willingness to go after the leaders of both political parties as proof of his independence.

"I've not ever been a particular fan of Mr. Comey's," said James Shaw, 53, of Olney, Illinois, pointing to the Clinton saga as a key reason. "But he's an honest broker. I don't think he's politically motivated. I don't think he's partisan."

Trump's reference to the Russia probe as a reason for firing Comey bothers Linda Richardson, 62 — but not enough to second-guess his decision. Richardson, who said she's a registered Democrat but has voted Republican for years, said Trump might have had other reasons, too.

"I guess you feel like you just need to trust your president," said Richardson, a retiree from Meade County, Kentucky. "He just knows more about it than I do."

Americans are mixed on whether the Justice Department investigation, now led by Robert Mueller, can be fair and impartial. Twenty-six percent are very or extremely confident it can be. Thirty-six percent are moderately confident and an equal share of Americans aren't very confident or are not at all so.

Mueller, the former FBI director, was put in charge of the investigation after Trump fired Comey and public pressure mounted for a special counsel to take over. Comey later testified that he'd authorized a friend to disclose to the media his notes on conversations with Trump about the investigation, in hopes that it would lead the Justice Department to name a special counsel.

The poll shows the public relatively unsympathetic to those leaking information about the investigation. Fifty-four percent say they're doing more harm than good by potentially damaging national security. Forty-two percent think they're doing more good by giving the public necessary information.

In general, 29 percent of Americans say they have a great deal of confidence in the people running the FBI. Fifty-two percent have a moderate amount of confidence and 18 percent have hardly any confidence. Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they have a great deal of confidence in the FBI, 38 percent to 24 percent.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,068 adults was conducted June 8-11 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed

online or by phone.

Reach Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP> and Emily Swanson at http://twitter.com/el_swan

Online:

AP-NORC: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

Rodman gives Kim the gift of Trump: 'The Art of the Deal'

By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — Dennis Rodman has delivered a message from President Donald Trump to North Korea — sort of.

On Thursday, the former NBA player gave the country's sports minister a copy of Trump's book "The Art of the Deal," a present intended for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

It wasn't signed by Trump, who was Rodman's boss for two seasons of the "Celebrity Apprentice" reality TV show. Rodman has said his visit has nothing to do with the White House.

Some other highlights of what has so far been a low-key Pyongyang trip for the often flamboyant celebrity, who has visited the North four times before:

HANGING WITH NORTH KOREAN ATHLETES

While his previous visits in 2013 and 2014 often drew controversy, Rodman has said this week he's just here to meet old friends and have a good time.

He and his small entourage have been spending time hanging out with young North Korean basketball players and visiting local sights.

He watched a North Korean men's basketball team and met Sports Minister Kim Il Guk. Along with the Trump book, other gifts he presented for Kim Jong Un include a copy of "Where's Waldo? The Totally Essential Travel Collection," a mermaid puzzle, two sets of soap and two autographed jerseys.

Rodman also met North Korean Olympic athletes, including judo gold medalist An Kum Ae.

"All of you guys should be proud of yourselves, because, you know, a lot of people don't give you guys credit, because this is such a small country, and not many people from North Korea can compete around the world," Rodman said.

He continued: "But for you guys to come back here in your country, with a medal, that says a lot about North Korea, because people don't really take North Korea so seriously about sports or anything like that."

"AN OLD FRIEND"

Rodman, one of the only Westerners to have personally met Kim Jong Un, has been criticized for a prior trip where he sang "Happy Birthday" to Kim and suggested an American missionary was at fault for his own imprisonment in North Korea, remarks for which he later apologized.

But the sports minister made clear Rodman is viewed fondly in Pyongyang.

"In the past, our respected supreme leader met you several times and he used his precious time to watch the basketball match with the players you brought here. In the past he met you, so our people all know you well," Kim Il Guk told Rodman. "And also we feel that you are an old friend."

NO ROLE IN STUDENT'S RELEASE

Rodman's arrival on Tuesday came just hours after the North decided to release Otto Warmbier, an American university student who had been imprisoned for 15 years with hard labor for trying to steal a propaganda banner.

Warmbier, who had been confined for 17 months, has apparently fallen into a coma not long after his confinement began and Pyongyang issued a statement Thursday saying it decided to let him go for "hu-

manitarian reasons.”

Officials in Washington and Pyongyang said Rodman played no role in the release. Behind-the-scenes discussions regarding Warmbier had been underway well before his visit.

The 22-year-old Warmbier, a University of Virginia undergraduate, was convicted and sentenced in a one-hour trial in North Korea’s Supreme Court in March 2016. He got 15 years in prison with hard labor for subversion after he tearfully confessed that he had tried to steal the propaganda banner.

His father, Fred Warmbier, told Fox News that his son was “terrorized and brutalized” and has been in a coma for more than a year.

The report of Warmbier’s release on the North’s official Korean Central News Agency made no mention of Warmbier’s health.

Although U.S. citizens are not banned from visiting North Korea, the U.S. State Department strongly advises against it.

With Warmbier’s release, three other Americans remain imprisoned in North Korea.

UPS gunman who killed 3 had filed overtime grievances

By PAUL ELIAS and SUDHIN THANAWALA, Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A United Parcel Service driver who opened fire during a meeting with co-workers had filed a grievance that he was working excessive overtime and appeared to specifically go after the three drivers he killed before fatally shooting himself.

Jimmy Lam, 38, filed the grievance in March complaining of too much overtime and requesting that the package delivery company relieve him of working extra hours going forward, Joseph Cilia, an official with a Teamsters Union local that represents UPS workers in San Francisco, told The Associated Press.

During a Wednesday morning meeting, Lam walked up to driver Benson Louie and shot him. As his co-workers frantically fled the room, he shot Wayne Chan in the back, and then walked up to him and “finished him.” Mike Lefiti was fleeing from the building when Lam went out onto the street and shot him, Cilia said witnesses told him.

“It’s senseless. I can’t think of anything. Why him? Why them?” Cilia asked. “I can’t put it together.”

Officials late Wednesday confirmed San Francisco residents Louie, 50, and Chan, 56, and 46-year-old Lefiti, of Hercules, were killed in the shooting.

Two other UPS employees were wounded, but Cilia said both were released from the hospital.

Amid a barrage of gunfire, some workers sought refuge on the roof of the four-story facility, while others ran outside and pounded on the windows of a public bus, witnesses said.

“They were screaming, ‘Go! Go! Go!’” said Jessica Franklin, 30, who was riding to work when the bus made a regular stop in front of the UPS facility. “As they got on the bus, they were all ducking.”

Auto shop owner Robert Kim said he saw “a mob of UPS drivers” running down the street screaming “Shooter! Shooter!”

The shooting prompted a massive police response in one of the city’s industrial neighborhoods, about 2 miles (3 kilometers) from downtown San Francisco, Assistant Police Chief Toney Chaplin told reporters.

UPS spokesman Steve Gaut said the shooter was a company employee. A San Francisco Police Department official identified Lam, 38, and said he’s from San Francisco but had no immediate details on his background.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is ongoing.

Lefiti’s cousin, Mack Toia, told KGO-TV (<http://abc7ne.ws/2sch61d>) he was at the UPS facility waiting to pick up Lefiti when shots rang out. He left his van and saw his cousin sprawled on concrete behind a gate, Toia said.

“The police officers were right on the scene just like that. I got to touch him, but I couldn’t hug him,” Toia said. “They just pushed me away because they were trying to resuscitate him.”

Co-worker Isaiah Miggins said he saw Lefiti, known as “Big Mike,” as he arrived for work just before 9

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a.m., a few minutes before the shooting started. "He was a joyful man. Always happy," Miggins said.

On social media, heartbroken family members of Lefti recalled him as a warm-spirited man devoted to his children and family. A photo on his Facebook page shows Lefti in his brown UPS uniform holding a trophy. He also posted photos of his UPS truck and an award for 15 years of service to the company in 2015.

Chaplin said police have not determined a motive.

A 30-year-old tech worker who lives across the street from the warehouse said he heard up to eight gunshots.

"They were all in rapid succession," said Raymond Deng. "It was like tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat, tat."

Deng watched from his window in the Potrero Hill section of San Francisco as workers fled the building. He said another group of about 10 people gathered on the roof and held up their hands waving for help.

"I saw police officers go up from the ramp and then storm the buildings," he said. "It's crazy."

Officers found two victims outside and others inside and pulled the wounded to safety as they confronted the gunman, who was armed with an "assault pistol," Chaplin said.

"The suspect put the gun to his head and discharged the weapon," Chaplin said, adding that police did not fire any shots. Two guns were recovered at the scene, he said.

The shooting occurred the same day a gunman opened fire on Republican lawmakers at a congressional baseball practice in Virginia, wounding U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana and several others.

AP writers Janie Har, Jocelyn Gecker and Linda Wang in San Francisco and Mike Balsamo in Los Angeles contributed to this story.

APNewsBreak: Ex-VA exec says he wasn't told hospital cost

By DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A former Veterans Affairs Department executive who was harshly criticized by Congress for massive cost overruns at a new Colorado VA medical center said he was never told the price had ballooned to more than \$1.7 billion before he left the agency, and does not know how it happened.

"I'm just astounded, quite frankly, I'm absolutely astounded," Glenn Haggstrom told The Associated Press in a rare interview.

Haggstrom, who was the VA's top construction official when the project nearly collapsed amid legal disputes and skyrocketing costs, said the last estimate he heard from the builder before he was removed from the project was about \$890 million.

Haggstrom said had been made a scapegoat, and that responsibility for the failures was widespread within the agency. But he acknowledged that he had a role because he was director of the VA's Office of Acquisition, Logistics and Construction.

"As the leader of that organization you do bear the responsibility," said Haggstrom, who retired in March 2015 amid an internal VA investigation into the costs.

The medical center, under construction in the Denver suburb of Aurora, has been a monumental embarrassment for the VA.

The initial construction contract was awarded in 2010 with a projected cost around \$590 million. But after years of disputes among the VA, the contractor and the design team, an independent government panel called the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals ruled in December 2014 that the VA had violated the contract by not giving the builders, the Kiewit-Turner joint venture, a design that could be built within budget.

The VA then asked the Army Corps of Engineers to estimate the cost, and the answer, delivered in March 2015, was a staggering \$1.73 billion. The Corps took over management of the project, and the medical center is expected to be completed next year for about \$1.7 billion.

Multiple investigations concluded the costs got out of hand because the VA did not oversee the project closely enough, did not assign enough officials to it, approved lavish design elements, failed to get the designers and builders to agree on the design and tried to use a complicated form of construction contract

that agency executives did not fully understand.

The VA's inspector general, an internal watchdog, said last year that Haggstrom knew the project was veering toward huge cost overruns but didn't tell lawmakers when he testified before Congress in 2013 and 2014. That prompted lawmakers to call for a perjury investigation, but the Justice Department decided last month not to file charges, citing insufficient evidence.

Haggstrom told the AP he had been given conflicting information about the project.

He said cost projections kept rising, and the highest estimate he saw from Kiewit-Turner was about \$890 million. He said the VA removed him from the project before the Corps of Engineers compiled its estimate.

"This thing is a moving target," he said.

Kiewit-Turner spokesman Tom Janssen said the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals clearly faulted the VA for the problems. He quoted from the board's decision: "We find that the behavior of the VA has not comported with the standards of good faith and fair dealing required by law."

Haggstrom said the architectural and engineering team had repeatedly assured him it could be built within budget. The architects and engineers, a group of four companies known as the Joint Venture Team, said it had done what the contract required.

"The JVT worked diligently to ensure the project was designed to meet the standards set ... within the budget and on time," spokesman Andy Boian said.

Haggstrom declined to identify any other VA officials he thought shared the responsibility for the problems. "I'm not going to pin this on anybody because this was a decision that was made by the department," he said.

Haggstrom said he decided to retire because the members of the panel conducting the internal VA inquiry, called an administrative investigation board, did not have skills to sort out what happened.

"I didn't want to be a part of that process," he said.

Haggstrom said a high-ranking VA official had been pressuring him to retire for weeks, but he declined to say who it was.

The investigation board's report, obtained by the AP through an open records request, echoed many criticisms of previous reviews.

No one has been fired or criminally charged over the project, angering members of Congress. Lawmakers were incensed when Haggstrom retired with full benefits, but the VA said he was legally entitled to do so.

Congress this week passed a bill designed to make it easier for the VA to fire employees and allowing the department to reduce an employee's pension for negligence or mismanaging funds — in part a response to the Colorado project.

Last year, Congress stripped the VA of the authority to manage large construction projects and turned it over to the Corps of Engineers, also a reaction to the Colorado project.

Haggstrom said some VA employees were unfairly criticized for the failures when they were trying to get the project completed, and they made numerous cost-cutting suggestions, most of which were rejected by higher-ups.

"They're being vilified for it," he said.

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The sad duty now his, Trump calls for unity after shooting

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — It was a sadly familiar ritual: an American president addressing the nation at an unsettling time, decrying violence while urging citizens to set aside their differences and pray for the recovery of victims.

But this time, it was President Donald Trump who was called upon to speak words of comfort in such a troubled moment, one fraught with the overtones of gun politics and the heated rhetoric of a nation

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sharply divided along party lines.

Trump's measured response to Wednesday's shooting at a congressional baseball practice stood in stark contrast to his inflammatory reactions to some previous acts of violence. He delivered a brief address from the White House Diplomatic Room in which he denounced the shooting of a top House Republican and others as a "very, very brutal assault." He said that "many lives would have been lost without the heroic action" of Capitol Police officers who took down the gunman.

"We may have our differences, but we do well in times like these to remember that everyone who serves in our nation's capital is here because, above all, they love our country," Trump said. "We can all agree that we are blessed to be Americans, that our children deserve to grow up in a nation of safety and peace and that we are strongest when we are unified and when we work together for the common good."

Republican Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana was shot in the early morning fusillade of gunfire, and several other people, including members of Scalise's security detail, also were wounded. The gunman was killed.

On Wednesday evening, the president and first lady Melania Trump visited MedStar Washington Hospital Center, where Scalise remains in critical condition.

"The president entered the room, spoke with Scalise's family members and sat by his bedside with Mrs. Trump," Press Secretary Sean Spicer said, describing the scene in the intensive care unit as emotional. Scalise and his wife, Jennifer, have two children.

The president was briefed by Scalise's medical team and also visited with Capitol Police officer Crystal Griner, who was shot in the ankle during the attack.

Back at the White House, Trump tweeted: "Rep. Steve Scalise, one of the truly great people, is in very tough shape - but he is a real fighter. Pray for Steve!"

He wrapped up the long day by celebrating his 71st birthday by having dinner with his family at the White House.

Trump was informed of the shooting minutes after it occurred. The White House press office quickly put out a brief statement noting that Trump was "deeply saddened by the tragedy," and the president followed up with a tweet: "Rep. Steve Scalise of Louisiana, a true friend and patriot, was badly injured but will fully recover. Our thoughts and prayers are with him."

Wanting to present the president as a steadying hand and avoid any distractions after the shooting, the White House then quickly canceled a presidential event on apprenticeships at the Labor Department and scuttled any plans for a briefing. Instead, aides drafted the short, somber remarks Trump delivered from the Diplomatic Room.

The president praised Scalise as "a very good friend" and "a patriot," telling the legislator he had "not just the prayers of the entire city behind you, but the entire nation and frankly the entire world." He praised Capitol Police officers and first responders who mobilized at the softball field where the Republican baseball team was practicing ahead of Thursday night's charity game against the Democrats.

"Their sacrifice makes democracy possible," he said.

Trump also broke the news that the shooter, 66-year-old James T. Hodgkinson of Illinois, had died. Hodgkinson had a history of lashing out at Republicans and apparently had volunteered for Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign.

Several prominent Republicans, including the president's eldest son, were quick to link the gunfire to anti-Trump rhetoric from the left. But in the hours after the shooting, the president, whose pugnacious style has come to define this era of bruising partisanship, avoided any mention of the political debate surrounding the shooting.

Trump showed little of that restraint when reacting to acts of violence during his campaign. He drew sharp criticism a year ago when he tweeted "Appreciate the congrats for being right on radical Islamic terrorism" in the wake of the shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, that left 49 people dead. He also was accused of inciting violence when he warned that the "Second Amendment people" among his supporters might find a way to stop his opponent, Hillary Clinton, from rolling back gun rights.

Earlier this month he used Twitter to denounce the mayor of London in the wake of a terror attack that left seven dead there.

Trump's brief speech at the White House was reminiscent of the more than a dozen times that his predecessor had to address the nation after a mass shooting. Some of the most indelible images of Barack Obama's presidency followed an act of violence, including the tears in his eyes while mourning the 26 people, including children, killed in Newtown, Connecticut, in 2012 and his rendition of "Amazing Grace" while delivering a eulogy after nine churchgoers were killed in Charlestown, South Carolina, three years later.

While Obama's statements of mourning were frequently paired with a plea for stricter gun control laws, Trump did not mention firearms regulations.

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

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Family of freed student adjusting to 'different reality'

By **DAKE KANG, Associated Press**

WYOMING, Ohio (AP) — The father of an American college student who was imprisoned in North Korea and was returned to his home state of Ohio in a coma says the family is "adjusting to a different reality."

Fred Warmbier told Fox News' Tucker Carlson on Wednesday that his son, Otto, was "terrorized and brutalized" during his 17-month detention and has been in a coma for more than a year.

"The day after he was sentenced, he went into a coma," the father said in an interview scheduled to air Thursday night. He said he and his wife, Cindy, only learned of their son's condition last week.

The 22-year-old University of Virginia student was medically evacuated from North Korea and arrived in Cincinnati late Tuesday. He was then taken by ambulance to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. A hospital spokeswoman did not provide an update on his condition, but said his parents planned to hold a Thursday morning news conference.

Their public appearance will be at Wyoming High School, one of Ohio's top-rated schools. Warmbier graduated from there in 2013 as class salutatorian and had played soccer.

Residents of the northern Cincinnati suburb tied blue-and-white ribbons, the school colors, to trees near the family's home. Joy at his release was mixed with concern over his condition.

In its first official comment since Warmbier was returned home, North Korea said it released him over humanitarian reasons. The state-run Korean Central News Agency on Thursday said he had been sentenced to hard labor but did not comment on his medical condition.

Former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said there should be an investigation into what happened to Warmbier leading to this "tragic situation."

Richardson, a Democrat, credited the Department of State with securing Warmbier's return from North Korea without any preconditions but said a forceful response from the U.S. government would be required "if its determined that there was a cover-up and Otto's condition was not disclosed and he didn't get proper treatment."

City councilwoman Jenni McCauley said the tight-knit community was "thrilled" to have Warmbier back.

"Even though they're saddened by his condition, they're just glad for the family that he is home," McCauley said. "For any parent, this is their worst nightmare. ... We're hoping that he will be OK."

Warmbier was serving a 15-year prison term with hard labor in North Korea after he tearfully confessed that he tried to steal a propaganda banner while visiting the country.

Such detentions in the totalitarian nation have added to tensions between Washington and Pyongyang. Three Americans remain in custody.

The U.S. government accuses North Korea of using such detainees as political pawns. North Korea accuses Washington and South Korea of sending spies to overthrow its government.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Tuesday that his department was continuing "to have discussions" with North Korea about the release of the other three imprisoned American citizens.

When asked by Fox News what he would tell the families of those detained, Fred Warmbier said, "I

wouldn't know what to say to them. This is, I've been told, not unprecedented."

Mayweather coming back to fight UFC star McGregor Aug. 26

By TIM DAHLBERG, AP Boxing Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Floyd Mayweather Jr. will come out of retirement to meet UFC star Conor McGregor in an Aug. 26 boxing match that will feature two of the top-selling fighters in the world.

The two fighters both announced the fight Wednesday, after months of speculation about whether Mayweather would return at the age of 40 to face a mixed martial arts fighter who has never had a pro boxing fight.

Odds makers immediately made Mayweather a big 11-1 favorite in a fight that will take place in a boxing ring and be governed by boxing rules. It will take place at 154 pounds.

"It's official," Mayweather said on Instagram next to a video poster of both fighters.

"THE FIGHT IS ON," McGregor tweeted several minutes earlier, posting a picture of himself next to one of Mayweather's father, Floyd Sr.

Mayweather, who retired in September 2015 after winning all 49 of his pro fights, will face the Irish UFC superstar at the T-Mobile arena on the Las Vegas Strip. He had tweeted a picture of himself sparring in recent days to show he was already getting ready for the bout.

"This is really an unprecedented event," said Stephen Espinoza, who heads Showtime Sports, which will handle the pay-per-view. "Really we haven't seen anything in modern history that resembles it, it's impossible to predict how many sales this will do."

Espinoza said the fight came together quickly after McGregor and the UFC reached agreement last month on their end of the deal and Mayweather's team pushed for the fight in recent days.

"All parties were motivated and reasonable and thrilled we could get everything done," he said. "The sky's the limit on this."

Financial terms were not released, though Mayweather got the greater share of revenue when he fought Manny Pacquiao and is expected to have a similar percentage against McGregor.

Depending on pay-per-view sales, both fighters could earn huge purses, though probably not the \$200 million or so Mayweather earned for Pacquiao.

"Everybody's happy," said Mayweather's adviser, Leonard Ellerbe.

McGregor, the wildly popular UFC star, is 21-3 in UFC fights, and is coming off a win in November against Eddie Alvarez. Though he hasn't boxed professionally, McGregor did box while growing up and is known for his striking expertise in UFC.

"The reason he's such a superstar is this guy will fight anyone, anywhere and at any time," UFC chief Dana White said about his fighter. "It's the right fight at the right place at the right time."

The two fighters are expected to do a press tour that should provide fireworks shortly before going into final training for the fight.

The cost of tickets and the price of the pay-per-view has not been decided, though the pay-per-view is expected to be at or near the \$99.95 charged for Mayweather's 2015 fight with Manny Pacquiao that drew a record 4.4 million pay-per-view buys.

Mayweather will come off a two-year retirement in a bout that McGregor has been pushing for nearly that long. It finally came together and Nevada boxing officials on Wednesday approved the date for a Mayweather Promotions bout.

Mayweather last fought in September 2015, beating Andre Berto and then announcing his retirement. His fight before that, a decision win over Pacquiao, was the richest in boxing history and reportedly made him more than \$200 million.

Though odds makers make Mayweather a big favorite, the thought of the fight has excited many in the MMA world. It has also intrigued some in boxing, though most dismiss McGregor's chances under boxing rules against one of the greatest defensive fighters in history.

Adding to McGregor's challenge the fighters will be using 10-ounce boxing gloves instead of the smaller

UFC gloves and he will not be allowed to use the leg kicks or takedowns that are used in mixed martial arts. Even if the actual bout may not shape up as a great matchup, the run-up to the fight will. Both fighters are noted for their ability to sell their fights, and both have exchanged in trash talking and more to promote their bouts.

"As with every Mayweather and McGregor fight part of the appeal is the spectacle and outsize personalities who are participating in it," Espinoza said.

The pay-per-view revenue for the event would likely gross tens of millions of dollars. It comes less than a month before Gennady Golovkin and Canelo Alvarez meet in a highly anticipated fight Sept. 16 that could rival it for pay-per-view buys.

Jury in Bill Cosby trial wraps up Day 3 without verdict

By MARYCLAIRE DALE and MICHAEL R. SISAk, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — With fatigue appearing to set in, jurors in Bill Cosby's sexual assault trial reviewed portions of his accuser's testimony Wednesday as they deliberated for a third day over whether the 79-year-old star drugged and molested her at his suburban Philadelphia estate.

Jurors made the request to have portions of Andrea Constand's testimony read back to them but ended the day without a verdict in a case that has already helped demolish Cosby's nice-guy reputation. They will resume deliberations Thursday morning.

The panel of seven men and five women worked late for the third night in a row, asking for testimony about a detective's interview with Cosby in early 2005, about a year after Constand says the comedian assaulted her. They ordered strombolis for dinner while a court reporter raced to transcribe that portion of last week's testimony.

As deliberations crossed the 27-hour mark, some jurors closed their eyes and tilted their heads down as a court reporter reread Cosby's January 2005 interview. One slunk down in his seat, looking angry.

"Can you find 12 people who will agree? That's the question," said criminal lawyer Alan J. Tauber, who wasn't involved in the case.

On Wednesday, the group wanted to hear from both Cosby and his accuser.

Constand testified last week that Cosby gave her pills that left her woozy, helped her to a couch and then violated her while she was passed out, unable to say no or fight his advances.

The 44-year-old Toronto woman, who spent seven hours on the stand last week, was in the gallery as portions of her testimony were read back to the jury.

The panel also wanted to hear again from Cosby, who didn't testify at his trial but gave a deposition as part of Constand's civil suit against him and submitted to a police interview about her accusations.

Pennsylvania detectives spoke to Cosby in his lawyers' New York City offices a few weeks after Constand went to police in January 2005. Cosby said in the interview that he gave her Benadryl, an over-the-counter cold and allergy medicine, to help her relax. He said she didn't show any ill effects from the medicine, nor did she object as he groped her.

Constand's mother wiped away tears at times as the interview was read.

Cosby's lawyers maintain Constand was a willing sexual partner.

The long days appeared to be wearing on jurors.

"This is an incredible jury that has just acted with incredible dignity and fidelity, ... and I don't have any higher praise," Judge Stephen O'Neill told the panel before they broke for the night. "You have taken your task so seriously."

Constand denies there was any romance between them and told jurors she had rebuffed his advances before the assault. She believes he gave her something stronger than Benadryl on the night she says he molested her.

Cosby is charged with three counts of aggravated indecent assault. Each carries a maximum 10-year prison term, though the counts could be merged at sentencing if he is convicted.

The first prosecutor to review the case in 2005 passed on it. A successor, District Attorney Kevin Steele,

reversed course a decade later, after dozens of women came forward to accuse Cosby of sexual misconduct and after the public release of his startling deposition in which he spoke about giving the powerful sedative quaaludes to women he wanted to have sex with.

The long-married Cosby, once known as America's Dad for his portrayal of kindly Dr. Cliff Huxtable on "The Cosby Show," called all the encounters consensual.

The Rev. Andrew F. Kline, a vicar of a historic black church in Norristown who stopped by the courthouse steps Wednesday to check out the scene, said his congregation is "absolutely" talking about the case given Cosby's place in their lives.

"He was huge. He was huge. He was a role model. He couldn't escape that," Kline said. "You probably want it on one level, as a celebrity. He made some powerful statements that people either said, 'Yeah, Amen,' or 'That's not the way we are.'"

"So it's always difficult to look under the hood and see the reality of our lives," Kline said. "I pray for him. I pray for her. I pray for everybody here that justice be done, but that there be some mercy, too, right? I mean, we need to be about that."

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>.

Fed raises key rate and unveils plan to reduce bond holdings

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve has raised its key interest rate for the third time in six months, providing its latest vote of confidence in a slow-growing but durable economy. The Fed also announced plans to start gradually paring its bond holdings later this year, which could cause long-term rates to rise.

The increase in the Fed's short-term rate by a quarter-point to a still-low range of 1 percent to 1.25 percent could lead to higher borrowing costs for consumers and businesses and slightly better returns for savers. The Fed foresees one additional rate hike this year but gave no hint of when that might occur.

The overarching message the Fed sent Wednesday was an upbeat one: It believes the U.S. economy is on firm footing as it enters its ninth year of recovery from the Great Recession, with little risk of a recession. Though the economy is growing only sluggishly and though inflation remains chronically below the Fed's 2 percent target, it foresees improvement in both measures over time.

And the most important pillar of the economy — the job market — remains solid if slowing, with unemployment at a 16-year-low of 4.3 percent — even below the level the Fed associates with full employment.

The Fed's decision to raise rates, announced in a statement after its latest policy meeting, was approved 8-1, with Neel Kashkari, head of the Fed's Minneapolis regional bank, dissenting in favor of holding rates unchanged.

The announcement that the Fed plans to begin paring its balance sheet later this year — "provided that the economy evolves broadly as anticipated" — involves its enormous portfolio of Treasury and mortgage bonds. The Fed began buying the bonds after the Great Recession to try to depress long-term loan rates. That effort resulted in a five-fold increase in its portfolio to \$4.5 trillion.

On Wednesday, the Fed said it would eventually allow a small amount of bonds to mature without being replaced — an amount that would gradually rise as markets adjusted to the process. This process could put upward pressure on long-term borrowing rates.

The Fed would start with monthly reductions in Treasury holdings of no more than \$6 billion and \$4 billion in mortgage bonds. Those figures would rise in increments over a year until they reached \$30 billion a month in Treasuries and \$20 billion in mortgage bonds.

"With the Fed stating its intentions to start reducing the size of the balance sheet this year, it is offering a clear vote of confidence for the economy," said Curt Long, chief economist of the National Association

of Federally Insured Credit Unions.

Chair Janet Yellen was asked at a news conference whether she worried that the Fed could rattle markets once it starts shrinking its bond holdings. She said the central bank feels confident it can avoid "market strains" by detailing its plan far in advance and by stressing that the process will be gradual.

The Fed provided no date for the start of the bond sales but said that if the economy fares as expected, "we could put this into effect relatively soon."

The Fed also issued updated economic forecasts that showed it foresees one additional rate increase this year to follow Wednesday's increase and an earlier rate hike in March.

The rate forecast, based on individual projections from each member, envisions three more rate hikes in 2018 and three more in 2019. By then, the Fed's forecast would put its key policy rate at 3 percent. That's the level the Fed believes is a neutral rate — neither stimulating growth nor restraining it.

But the Fed's forecasts are only predictions and are frequently revised as its assessments evolve. Some economists suggested that even though the Fed foresees one more rate hike this year, the persistently low inflation may lead it to leave rates alone until 2018. Some also note that political paralysis in Washington has raised doubts about whether Congress will increase the nation's borrowing limit and pass a new budget. That possibility, too, could lead the Fed to wait.

Another rate hike this year is "becoming less of a sure thing as every month of data comes out," said Michael Dolega, senior economist at TD Economics. If inflation doesn't pick up, he said, the Fed will find that raising rates and reducing its balance sheet is "going to be a difficult maneuver."

The Fed's revised forecasts reduced its estimate for unemployment by year's end to 4.3 percent from a March projection of 4.5 percent. Unemployment has already reached a 16-year low of 4.3 percent.

The Fed kept forecast for economic growth this year of 2.2 percent, up slightly from its March forecast, with growth of 2.1 percent in 2018 and 1.9 percent in 2019. Those forecasts are far below the 3 percent annual growth the Trump administration has said it can achieve through tax cuts, deregulation and tougher enforcement of trade rules to protect American jobs.

The central bank updated its inflation projections to take account of a slowdown. It forecast that prices will rise just 1.6 percent this year, down from a March forecast of 1.9 percent. The Fed still foresees prices, as measured by a gauge tied to consumer spending, rising 2 percent in 2018 and 2019, achieving its target.

President Donald Trump is expected soon to fill three vacancies on the Fed's influential board, and those new members, depending on who they are, could alter its rate-setting policy.

The betting is that the administration will choose officials who will tilt the Fed toward a more "hawkish" stance. Hawks tend to worry that rates kept too low for too long could escalate inflation or fuel asset bubbles. By contrast, "doves" favor the direction taken under Yellen, favoring relatively low rates to maximize employment.

Yellen, the first woman to lead the Fed, is serving a term that will end in February. So far, Trump has sent conflicting signals about whether he plans to nominate her for a second term.

AP Economics Writer Paul Wiseman contributed to this report.

Animated explainer on the Fed: <http://bit.ly/2nlGOOK>

Health chief, 4 others charged with manslaughter in Flint

By DAVID EGGERT, Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — Five people, including the head of Michigan's health department, were charged Wednesday with involuntary manslaughter in an investigation of Flint's lead-contaminated water, all blamed in the death of an 85-year-old man who had Legionnaires' disease.

Nick Lyon is the highest-ranking member of Republican Gov. Rick Snyder's administration to be snagged in a criminal investigation of how the city's water system became poisoned after officials tapped the Flint River in 2014.

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Lyon, 48, the director of the Health and Human Services Department, is accused of failing to alert the majority-black population about an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease in the Flint area, which has been linked by some experts to poor water quality in 2014-15.

An involuntary manslaughter conviction carries up to 15 years in prison.

"The health crisis in Flint has created a trust crisis for Michigan government, exposing a serious lack of confidence in leaders who accept responsibility and solve problems," said state Attorney General Bill Schuette, who said his probe is moving to the trial phase and signaled that Snyder, who has apologized for his administration's failures that led to and prolonged the crisis, may not be charged.

"We only file criminal charges when evidence of probable cause of a crime has been established. And we're not filing charges at this time," he said.

Lyon also is charged with misconduct in office for allegedly obstructing university researchers who are studying if the surge in cases was linked to the Flint River.

The others charged with involuntary manslaughter were already facing other charges. They are: Darnell Earley, who was Flint's emergency manager when the city used the river; Howard Croft, who ran Flint's public works department; Liane Shekter Smith; and Stephen Busch. Shekter Smith and Busch were state environmental regulators.

Prosecutors also brought charges Wednesday against a sixth person — the state's chief medical officer, Dr. Eden Wells, 54, who is accused of obstruction of justice and lying to an investigator.

"Dr. Wells vehemently denies the charges," defense attorney Jerry Lax said.

Shekter Smith's lawyer, Brian Morley, said: "It's my understanding neither she nor the Department of Environmental Quality were responsible for legionella issues. So I fail to see why the charge is being filed against Liane."

Earley's attorney Todd Perkins said he's "very disappointed in these new charges," adding his client has "done nothing wrong."

Chip Chamberlain and Larry Willey are representing Lyon and called the charges "baseless."

"The true facts simply do not support the prosecution's claims," they said in a statement.

Convincing a jury that the officials' failure to disclose the risk of Legionnaires' disease caused a death would be difficult, Wayne State University law professor Peter Henning said.

"This case is going to become a battle of the experts, something we don't usually see in a homicide or manslaughter prosecution," Henning said. "This is a tough case for the attorney general. They can get a conviction but it's not going to be easy."

Snyder expressed support for Lyon and Wells.

"Director Lyon and Dr. Wells have been and continue to be instrumental in Flint's recovery," he said in a statement. "They have my full faith and confidence, and will remain on duty at DHHS."

Flint began using water from the Flint River while under state emergency management, but did not treat it to reduce corrosion. Toxic lead from old plumbing leached into the water system, causing elevated levels in children and leaving residents to drink and bathe with bottled or filtered water.

Some experts also have linked the water to Legionnaires' disease, a type of pneumonia caused by bacteria that thrive in warm water and infect the lungs. People can get sick if they inhale mist or vapor, typically from cooling systems.

There were nearly 100 cases in the Flint area, including 12 deaths, in 2014 and 2015.

Lyon, Croft, Earley, Shekter Smith and Busch are blamed in the death of Robert Skidmore in December 2015. He was admitted to McClaren Flint hospital in June 2015 with symptoms consistent with pneumonia. He died at home six months later.

Lyon was personally briefed in January 2015 but "took no action to alert the public of a deadly" outbreak until nearly a year later, special agent Jeff Seipenko told a judge as the charges were filed.

Lyon has admitted that he was aware of the Legionnaires' outbreak for months but wanted to delay saying anything public until state Health and Human Services Department investigators finished their own probe.

He told state lawmakers that experts likely wanted to "solve the problem" before they raised it with senior officials in the Snyder administration. The investigation, he said, "wasn't one that was easily solved."

Learning that Legionnaires' disease caused Robert Skidmore's death didn't sit well with his family, grandson Craig Skidmore told The Associated Press Wednesday.

"Everybody was pretty upset, rightfully, finding out this could be the reason that he died," Craig Skidmore said.

Schuetz has now charged 15 current or former government officials in an ongoing probe that began in early 2016, including two emergency managers whom Snyder appointed to run the impoverished city of roughly 100,000 residents. The Michigan Civil Rights Commission issued a report in February blaming "systemic racism" going back decades for the problems that caused the water crisis in Flint.

Associated Press writers John Flesher in Traverse City and Ed White and Corey Williams in Detroit contributed to this report.

Poll shows most doubt Trump's respect for institutions

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE and EMILY SWANSON, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Most Americans say they think President Donald Trump has little to no respect for the country's democratic traditions, according to a new poll that underscores the difficulty Trump faces in uniting a country deeply divided about his leadership.

The new survey, conducted by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, found more than 6 in 10 Americans disapprove of the job Trump is doing as president, and nearly half strongly disapprove. The poll was conducted before a shooting spree at a Washington-era baseball field on Wednesday left a congressman wounded and renewed calls for more civil political discourse.

"We may have our differences, but we do well in times like these to remember that everyone who serves in our nation's capital is here because, above all, they love our country," Trump said Wednesday, responding to the shooting.

The survey suggests Trump faces considerable challenges as he seeks to position himself as a unifying figure.

Two-thirds of Americans, or 65 percent, think Trump doesn't have much respect for the country's democratic institutions and traditions or has none at all. Just a third of Americans, or 34 percent, thinks he has a great deal or even a fair amount of respect for them.

Overall, 64 percent disapprove and just 35 percent approve of his job performance.

Trump was unpopular among Americans overall even as he was elected president, but the poll shows that even many Republicans have doubts. Nearly a third of Republicans and independents who lean toward the Republican party think Trump has little to no respect for the country's democratic institutions, and a quarter disapprove of the job he's doing as president.

Nine in 10 Democrats and 6 in 10 independents say the same.

Ron Denmon, a 55-year-old independent voter from Houston, agreed that Trump has little regard for the country's democratic institutions and traditions, including the White House taking steps to avoid politicizing the Justice Department and the FBI. Denmon referenced recent news reports that Trump was considering firing Robert Mueller, the special counsel named by the Justice Department to investigate Russia's role in the 2016 election. Mueller was appointed after Trump dismissed Comey, who had been leading the inquiry. Comey has said Trump was trying to influence his handling of the Russia investigation.

"The fact that he's even considering getting rid of Mueller is even more evidence that he thinks it's all about him and how he wants to control things," said Denmon, a 22-year Air Force veteran who said his vote for Trump last November was more against Hillary Clinton, the Democratic candidate, than for Trump.

Of Trump, Denmon said: "He doesn't care about the process. He only cares about him."

A White House spokeswoman, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, said Tuesday that Trump "has no intention" of firing Mueller, but maintained he "has the right to."

Linda Draper, an independent from Mulberry, Florida, who voted for Trump, said the president is the one who isn't being respected, and criticized those she says have tried to block him at every turn.

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"If they would leave him alone and let him do what the American taxpayers voted him in there to do, this country would be a whole lot better off," said Draper, 64. "What he's trying to do is good."

Among whites without a college education, who voted overwhelmingly in favor of Trump last year, 50 percent say they approve of Trump, down slightly from 58 percent in March.

Health care remains Trump's worst issue in the poll, with 66 percent disapproving of his handling of the issue. Even 33 percent of Republicans disapprove of his handling of the issue.

Nearly as many — 64 percent — disapprove of Trump's handling of climate change. The poll was conducted after Trump's announcement that the country would withdraw from the Paris climate agreement.

Sixty-three percent disapprove of Trump's handling of foreign policy, 60 percent disapprove of his handling of immigration, and 55 percent disapprove of how he's handling the economy.

Americans are more divided over Trump's handling of the threat of terrorism, with 47 percent saying they approve and 52 percent that they disapprove.

Among Republicans, 28 percent disapprove of Trump's handling of foreign policy and climate change and 22 percent disapprove of his handling of immigration, but less than 2 in 10 disapprove of how he's handling the economy or terrorism.

Sixty-five percent of Americans say they think the country is on the wrong track, the poll shows, and just 34 percent think it's headed in the right direction.

Seventy-five percent of Americans disapprove of the job Congress is doing, the poll shows.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,068 adults was conducted June 8-11 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using address-based sampling methods, and later interviewed online or by phone.

Online:

AP-NORC: <http://www.apnorc.org/>

Global shares fall on Fed rate hike, UK rate outlook

By ELAINE KURTENBACH, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Global stocks fell Thursday after the U.S. Federal Reserve raised its key interest rate and the Bank of England revealed it was unexpectedly close to hiking its own benchmark rate at its policy meeting.

KEEPING SCORE: Germany's DAX fell 0.9 percent to 12,690 while the CAC40 of France sank 1.1 percent to 5,188. The FTSE 100 of Britain dropped 1.1 percent to 7,393. U.S. shares looked set to open lower, with Dow futures down 0.4 percent and S&P futures off 0.6 percent.

INTEREST RATES: The Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the third time since December, something investors had widely expected based on the Fed's recent statements. Fed leaders, including Chair Janet Yellen, suggested they still expect to raise rates again later in the year. In Britain, the Bank of England saw three of its eight rate-setters vote for a rate increase, a fact that suggests a hike is much closer than many investors had expected.

GREECE DEBT: Attention in Europe will also turn to talks to get Greece the next batch of its rescue loans in time for it to avoid default in July. Greece also hopes to get a broad deal on debt relief at a meeting Thursday of finance ministers from the 19-country eurozone. The main obstacle to an agreement is a difference of opinion between the eurozone and the International Monetary Fund over Greece's long-term debt outlook.

ASIA'S DAY: Japan's Nikkei 225 stock index fell 0.3 percent to 19,831.82 and South Korea's Kospi sank 0.5 percent to 2,361.65. The Hang Seng in Hong Kong dropped 1.2 percent to 25,565.34, but Shanghai's Composite index rose 0.1 percent lower to 3,132.49. The S&P ASX 200 in Australia tumbled 1.2 percent to 5,763.20. Shares in Southeast Asia were mostly lower.

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ENERGY: Oil futures had plunged overnight after the U.S. government said oil supplies shrank only slightly last week while gasoline stockpiles grew. Benchmark U.S. crude fell another 22 cents to \$44.51 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 16 cents to \$46.84 a barrel.

CURRENCIES: The pound rose almost a cent, from \$1.2695 to \$1.2781, after the Bank of England's statement — currencies tend to rise when rates increase. The dollar rose to 110.09 from 109.57 yen. The euro dropped to \$1.1158 from \$1.1217.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 15, the 166th day of 2017. There are 199 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 15, 1775, the Second Continental Congress voted unanimously to appoint George Washington head of the Continental Army.

On this date:

In 1215, England's King John put his seal to Magna Carta ("the Great Charter") at Runnymede.

In 1520, Pope Leo X issued a papal bull in which he threatened to excommunicate Martin Luther if he did not recant his religious beliefs, a threat that was carried out the following January.

In 1836, Arkansas became the 25th state.

In 1849, James Polk, the 11th president of the United States, died in Nashville, Tennessee.

In 1904, more than 1,000 people died when fire erupted aboard the steamboat General Slocum in New York's East River.

In 1934, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an act making the National Guard part of the U.S. Army in the event of war or national emergency.

In 1944, American forces began their successful invasion of Saipan (sy-PAN') during World War II. B-29 Superfortresses carried out their first raids on Japan.

In 1955, the United States and Britain signed a cooperation agreement concerning atomic information for "mutual defence purposes."

In 1967, the war film "The Dirty Dozen" was released by MGM.

In 1977, Spain held its first free elections in four decades; the Union of the Democratic Center won the highest number of seats in the Congress of Deputies.

In 1985, the Shiite Muslim hijackers of a TWA Boeing 727 beat and shot one of their hostages, U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem (STEE'-them), 23, throwing him out of the plane to die on the tarmac at Beirut airport.

In 1992, during a visit to an elementary school in Trenton, New Jersey, Vice President Dan Quayle, relying on a faulty flash card, erroneously instructed sixth-grader William Figueroa to write "potato" as "potatoe" on a blackboard during a spelling quiz.

Ten years ago: During his ethics trial, a tearful Mike Nifong announced he would resign as district attorney of Durham County, North Carolina, after admitting that he'd made improper statements about three Duke University lacrosse players who were once charged with raping a stripper. (The players were later declared innocent by state prosecutors.) Retired "Price Is Right" host Bob Barker won his 19th Daytime Emmy. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, a crane lifted out a water-damaged 1957 Plymouth Belvedere that had been buried in an underground concrete vault half a century earlier to celebrate 50 years of statehood.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama eased enforcement of immigration laws as he announced a new policy, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA. Republican Mitt Romney launched the next phase of his presidential campaign, kicking off a six-state, small-town bus tour and telling middle-class Americans that President Obama hadn't given them "a fair shot." An armored car heist at the University of Alberta in Canada left three armed guards dead; fellow guard Travis Baumgartner later pleaded guilty to murder charges and was sentenced to life in prison with no chance of parole for 40 years. Daredevil

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Nik Wallenda became the first person to walk a tightrope across Niagara Falls. (The feat was broadcast live by ABC-TV, which required Wallenda to wear a safety tether.)

One year ago: The interim police chief in Oakland, California, Ben Fairrow, was abruptly removed after six days on the job by Mayor Libby Schaaf, who said she had lost confidence in Fairrow's ability to lead the department amid a widening sex scandal in which a number of officers allegedly had sex with a teenage prostitute. A public funeral was held in Detroit for hockey legend Gordie Howe, who had died five days earlier at age 88.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Ruby Nash Garnett (Ruby and the Romantics) is 83. Rock singer-actor Johnny Hallyday is 74. Funk musician Leo Nocentelli (The Meters) is 71. Actor Simon Callow is 68. Singer Russell Hitchcock (Air Supply) is 68. Rock singer Steve Walsh is 66. Comedian-actor Jim Belushi is 63. Country singer Terri Gibbs is 63. Actress Julie Hagerty is 62. Actress Polly Draper is 62. Rock musician Brad Gillis (Night Ranger) is 60. Baseball Hall of Famer Wade Boggs is 59. Actress Eileen Davidson is 58. Bluegrass musician Terry Smith is 57. Actress Helen Hunt is 54. Rock musician Scott Rockenfield (Queensryche) is 54. Actress Courteney Cox is 53. Country musician Tony Ardoin is 53. Country musician Michael Britt (Lonestar) is 51. Contemporary Christian musician Rob Mitchell is 51. Rock musician Jimmy McD is 49. Actor-rapper Ice Cube is 48. Actress Leah Remini is 47. Actor Jake Busey is 46. Bluegrass singer-musician Jamie Johnson is 45. Rock musician T-Bone Willy (Save Ferris) is 45. Actor Neil Patrick Harris is 44. Actor Greg Vaughan is 44. Actress Elizabeth Reaser is 42. Rock singer Dryden Mitchell (Alien Ant Farm) is 41. Rock musician Billy Martin (Good Charlotte) is 36. Rock musician Wayne Sermon (Imagine Dragons) is 33. Actor Denzel Whitaker is 27. Olympic gold medal gymnast Madison Kocian is 20. Actress Sterling Jerins is 13.

Thought for Today: "To know is nothing at all; to imagine is everything." — Anatole France, French author (1844-1924).