

Groton Daily Independent

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Wednesday, June 21

FIRST DAY OF SUMMER

Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, macaroni salad, seasoned cabbage, Waldorf salad.

United Methodist: Wednesday Coffee time, 9a .m.; Conde UMW, 10 a.m.

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

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

Softball: U10 hosts Clark at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

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

22

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, green peas, sunset salad, oatmeal raisin cookie, whole wheat bread.

T-Ball: Gold team hosts Columbia on Falk Field, 5 p.m.

U12: hosts Redfield for 2 games, 7 p.m., Nelson Field

U10: hosts Redfield for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U8 Blue: at Britton for 2 games, 6 p.m.

U8 Red: hosts Redfield for 2 games, 5 p.m., Nelson Field

Softball: U10 at Warner, 7 p.m.

23

Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on wheat bun, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, crunchy cranberry salad.

Legion: at Redfield Tourney

Jr. Teener: at Milbank Tourney

Olive Grove: Chamber Golf Tourney, 18 holes, noon shotgun.

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**

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Removal, Grinding, Chipping, Trimming

605-725-WOOD

Mason Dinger: 605-216-6098

Trevor Zeck: 605-216-8910



**DAKOTA TREE
COMPANY**

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Chicken Soup
for the Soul

The
optimist
sees the

doughnut;

the
pessimist
the
hole.

-Oscar Wilde



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The yellow is disappearing as the grey tone fills in on the Groton Community Center.



The Butch Farmen house at 205 N. Fourth Street in Groton is scheduled for demolition this week.

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The Groton Junior Teener team is featured above. In back, left to right, are Coach Adam Herman, Jordan Bjerke, Evin Nehls, Jace Kroll, Alex Morris, Chandler Larson, Lucas Simon and Adrian Knutson; in front, left to right, are Trey Johnson, Lane Krueger, Pierce Kettering, Kaden Kurtz, Trevor Harry, Lee Iverson and Jayden Zak. (Groton Photography)

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Ben Gustafson tries to steal third but is tagged out by third baseman Alex Morris. Claremont-Britton Coach Mike Frey is also pictured.

(Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Junior Teeners split with Claremont-Britton

Claremont-Britton had a double play in the bottom of the sixth inning to stop Groton from tying the game. Groton had bases loaded twice in the game. The first time, Lucas Simon hit a two RBI single. The second time Groton had two players walked and one got on with an error, but the double play stopped the rally.

Kaden Kurtz and Alex Morris each had two hits while Chandler Larson and Lucas Simon each had a hit. Colin Frey had a double and a single for Claremont-Britton while Boston Marlow, Hayden Reints and Austen Wieser each had a single.

Alex Morris pitched for Groton with 13 strike-outs, one walk, two hit by pitch and five hits. Kaden Kurtz was the catcher. Colin Frey pitched for Claremont-Britton with eight strike-outs, eight walks and six hits. Boston Marlow was the pitcher.

Groton scored four runs in the first inning of the second game to help the home team with a 5-3 win. Claremont-Britton had two errors to help bring in runs for Groton. Alex Morris and Chandler Larson each had a single for Groton while Boston Marlow ended with a triple and single while Zander Widner, Ben Gustafson and Kash Cutler each had a single for Claremont-Britton. Chandler Larson pitched for Groton with five strike-outs, one hit by pitch, one walk and five hits. Zander Widner pitched for part of the first inning with three walks and a single. Then Boston Marlow pitched the rest of the game with four walks, three strike-outs and one hit.

The game was carried live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals with Kevin Nehls, The Johnson Agency and Harry Implement of Ferney.

E-Waste Nightmare: Cell Phones Getting Greener But Not There Yet

Dear EarthTalk: What can we do to solve the e-waste problem caused by so many of us tossing our cell phones out and getting new ones every two years?

—Sandy Bartram, Beverly Hills, CA

As more and more of the world develops—and smart-phones become ubiquitous—electronic waste (AKA “e-waste”) is a bigger problem than ever. Around the world, people generate some 50 million tons of e-waste every year, much of which ends up improperly disposed of in landfills where toxins common in electronics like lead, mercury and cadmium can leach out and contaminate surrounding soils and groundwater. Much of the remaining e-waste gets shipped off to developing countries happy to profit from taking others’ trash despite the environmental consequences, or even worse, just dumped illegally into the ocean.



Old cell phones can leak all kinds of hazardous elements into soils around landfills and potentially contaminate nearby groundwater supplies. Credit: SteveStLouis, Flickr-CC.

But thanks to consumer pressure to do the right thing, most major electronics manufacturers have started to pay attention to the problem and take action to reduce the flow of e-waste. Apple, for instance, long targeted by Greenpeace and others for lack of concern about the environmental and health impacts of its sourcing and production processes, has made great strides in the last five years in recovering customers’ old products and reusing the constituent parts in new products.

In 2015 alone, the company collected some 90 million pounds of Apple-branded e-waste, recovering upwards of 61 million pounds of material, including steel, plastics, glass, aluminum, copper, cobalt, zinc, lead, nickel, silver, tin and gold, to re-incorporate into new products. Environmental advocates who love their iPhones can sleep easier knowing that lead, mercury, beryllium, arsenic, PVC, phthalates and brominated flame retardants (BFRs) are no longer welcome in or will soon be phased out of Apple’s supply chain.

But most of us upgrade our smartphones every two years, so that means that even today’s greener iPhones still contribute to the e-waste problem. That’s where Europe’s Fairphone comes to the rescue. By incorporating long-lasting design and fair-traded materials, ensuring good working conditions and making products that are fully recyclable, easy-to-fix and reusable, Fairphone hopes to revolutionize the smartphone market with its eco-conscious products.

As the electronics industry matures and moves toward more sustainable components, that combined with better design can also help reduce the steady stream of e-waste. For instance, researchers at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have come up with a way to extend the life and boost the productivity of lithium ion batteries—the standard power source in today’s electronics—by treating their electrodes with hydrogen. Such a development could be huge for preventing e-waste, given that most of us toss our old phones within two years when the battery inside starts to deteriorate and underperform.

Choosing carefully when it comes to selecting your next smartphone and recycling your old one for free at BestBuy or through its manufacturer are important first steps in becoming part of the solution to the growing problem of e-waste. Becoming an advocate by encouraging others to do the same is another way to greatly expand your positive impact. The non-profit e-Stewards program is dedicated to teaching people how to deal with used electronics—and individuals can pledge to become one of the program’s Envoys to help spread the word about the importance of reducing e-waste.

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Groton City June 19, 2017 Meeting Minutes

June 19, 2017

The Groton City Council met on the above date at 7:00pm at the Groton Community Center for their regular second monthly meeting with the following members present: McGannon, Peterson, Babcock, Blackmun and Mayor Hanlon presiding. Members absent were Opp and Glover. Also present were: Finance Officer Lowary, Attorney Drew Johnson, Paul Kosel, Kathy Sundermeyer, Hope Block, Kim Bell, and Alyssa Underwood.

The minutes were approved as read on a motion by Blackmun, and seconded by Peterson. All members present voted aye.

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

First State Bank 18,565.95 ss & wh; Consolidated Fed Cr Union 2,225.00 emp savings;

City of Groton 802.40 sav to pay, postage, util; Anita Lowary 195.81 mileage; SD Municipal League 50.00 registrations; Milbank Baseball 175.00 leg tourn; Joseph Schulze 1.35 dep refund; Northville Baseball 150.00 tourn; Kathy Bjerke 770.00 umpires; April Abeln 775.00 flex; AFLAC 396.52 emp ins; AmeriPride 31.70 rug rent; Associated Supp Co 738.01 chemicals; Border States 127.69 wires; Car Quest 77.41 repairs; CWD 68.25 food; Dakota Elec 93.85 mic; Ecolab 102.42 pest control; Farmers Union 842.76 dsl, gas; Geffdog Designs 25.00 banners; Guardian 258.53 Emp ins; Heartland Cons Power District 35,319.72 power; Drew Johnson 1,100.00 legal fees; Ken's 842.41 supplies; Lien Trans 606.68 hot mix; Lori's Pharmacy 14.94 paint; MJ's Sinclair 1,528.53 gas, dsl; Michaels Fence 24,780.00 fence; Chuck Padfield 293.05 candy; Pipemasters 1,997.50 clean sewer; Potting Shed 233.66 flowers; RDO-John Deere Fin 310.87 repair; SD Supp Retire 3,060.00 retire; US Bank 9,604.27 loan payment; Wellmark Blue Cross/Blue Shield 12,706.60 health ins; Western Area Power Adm 20,739.20 power

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Peterson to have Perry Blocker shingle City Hall roof. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Peterson and seconded by Blackmun to paint the Community Center grey with white trim. All members present voted aye.

Capital improvement list was approved and accepted.

Councilman Glover entered the meeting at this point.

Alyssa Underwood and Kim Bell spoke on behalf of Dollar General. Moved by Babcock and seconded by McGannon to approve the following licenses.

Dollar General	224 E Hwy 12	Malt Beverage (off-sale)
Dollar General	224 E Hwy 12	Retail (on-off sale) Wine

All members present voted aye.

Kim Bell and Alyssa Underwood left the meeting at this point.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by McGannon to approve two more handicapped signs in the baseball parking lot. All members present voted aye.

Moved by Blackmun and seconded by Glover to move the following cash fund balance:

From General To Bonds Payable 2015-\$204,800; From General To Debt Service RR Crossing-\$17,390; From General To Debt Service W Sewer-\$27,910; From Electric To General-\$200,000 All members present voted aye.

Moved by Peterson and seconded by McGannon to approve participation in the Groton Chamber Golf Tournament on June 23, 2017 or donate the entry fee for prizes. All members present voted aye.

Water and electric rate study were tabled.

Moved by Peterson and seconded by Glover to move city council meetings to July 10 and 24, and declare July 3 as a holiday for city employees. All members present voted aye.

Discussion was held on the possibility of selling city jail and a new ice machine for the baseball complex.

Moved by Peterson and seconded by Glover to adjourn into executive session for personnel items 1-25-2 (1) at 7:58 pm. All members present voted aye. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:32 pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Scott Hanlon, Mayor

Anita Lowary, Finance Officer

Today in Weather History

June 21, 1902: Light to heavy frost occurred over most of the state with low temperatures ranging from the mid-20s to the lower 30s. Some record low temperatures include; 27 degrees in Ipswich and Leola, 29 in Kennebec, 30 in Mellette, 31 in Aberdeen, Clark, and Watertown, 32 in Faulkton and Gann Valley, 36 in Sisseton, and 40 degrees in Milbank.

June 21, 1961: One or more tornadoes moved southeast along a distance from east of Aberdeen to the southeastern edge of Sioux Falls. A funnel cloud was first seen between Aberdeen and Groton and later on near Raymond. A tornado hit about 4 pm a few miles southwest of Clark with about 20 farm buildings demolished. One house was destroyed, killing an elderly lady and injuring one person. A boy was reportedly lifted high in the air, and another woman carried 100 yards by winds. Both were injured. Between 4:30 and 5:00 pm, areas northeast of Willow Lake and in northern Kingsbury were hit with a total of 13 farm buildings destroyed or twisted off the foundations. Five buildings on one farm were destroyed, and a house was unroofed near Oldham. The house roof was found several miles away. The tornado was of F3 strength.

June 21, 1983: An F3 tornado touched down in a resort area two miles west of Pollock. Eleven people fled from the southwestern most cabin and crawled under a nearby cabin. The southwest cabin was destroyed and the cabin the group crawled under was moved five feet from its concrete block foundation. Four people were treated for injuries. A van, boat, and trailer were demolished, and a small car was heavily damaged. The tornado turned east and reformed four miles east of Pollock, where it touched down briefly and dissipated. Another F3 tornado touched down in open prairie three miles northeast of Glad Valley and moved northeast, creating a path of destruction as it progressed. On one farm, nine buildings were wiped out and scattered up to two miles away. Trees and poles were uprooted and scattered a half mile away. This tornado was estimated to be on the ground for six miles with a path width of 300 yards. A third tornado, rated F2, touched down seven miles south of Pollock. This tornado damaged several cabin roofs, a restaurant, and downed several trees. Boats were tossed into a lake, and picnic tables were hurled against cars.








June 21, 2013: A long-lived severe thunderstorm developed over the southern Black Hills and moved eastward across the South Dakota plains during the morning hours. The storm produced large hail to softball size from eastern Custer to northern Jackson Counties. The softball size fell 12 miles east-southeast of Fairburn in Custer County, damaging property. This storm intensified along a strong warm front with very unstable air and strong, deep layer winds into several supercell thunderstorms and a damaging line of thunderstorms/bow echo across parts of central and northeast South Dakota through the afternoon hours. Damaging winds up to 90 mph uprooted large trees and caused considerable structural and crop damage and loss of power to those along the path. The worst wind damage was located at Lake Poinsett, Watertown, and Milbank. A woman was killed, and her husband had been severely injured on Lake Poinsett when their lake house was destroyed. Numerous trees were downed along with many structures damaged or destroyed. Many trees had fallen onto homes, cabins, and trailers. The bowling alley in Clear Lake lost its roof along with numerous pole barns being destroyed along the path of the storm. Thousands of people were also left without power. Four tornado touchdowns occurred along with hail up to the size of softballs. Isolated flash flooding also occurred. Codington, Hamlin, Grant, and Deuel counties were all declared in a Federal Disaster Declaration. Total damage estimates were around 1,100,000 dollars.

1987: A tornado destroyed 57 mobile homes at the Chateau Estates trailer park northwest of Detroit, Michigan killing one person and injuring six others. Total damage was estimated at 1.7 million dollars. Thunderstorms over Lower Michigan also drenched the Saginaw Valley with up to 4.5 inches of rain in less than six hours.

1988: The first full day of summer was a hot one, with afternoon highs of 100 degrees or above reported from the Northern and Central Plains to the Ohio Valley. Sixty-nine cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. The high of 110 degrees at Sioux Falls, SD was an all-time record for that location.

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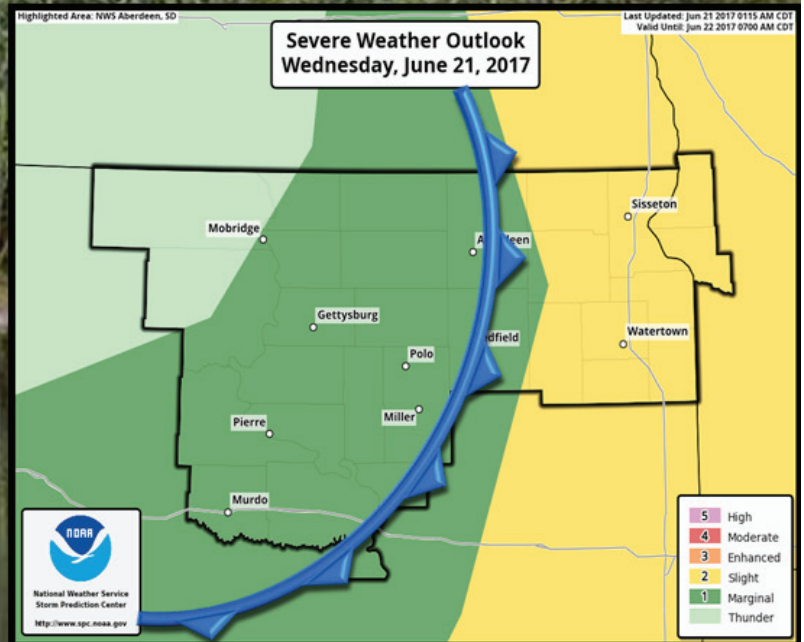
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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Chance T-storms 40%	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 89 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 71 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 67 °F

Today: A few Showers early
Otherwise Very Warm with
Highs 83 to 92F. Chance of
Storms east toward Evening,
Severe Possible.

Tonight: Chance of Storms, Severe
Possible early. Lows around 60F.

Thursday: Chance of showers
And Thunderstorms.
Highs 75 to 80F.



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 6/20/2017 5:11 AM Central

Published on: 06/21/2017 at 4:27AM

A slow moving cold front will track across the state today and into tonight. A few showers are possible this morning, but more showers and storms may fire over the east toward evening. If these storms do indeed develop, severe weather is possible with large hail and gusty winds being the main threat. Meanwhile, it will turn very warm over the region this afternoon. #sdwx #mnwx

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 75.3 F at 4:10 PM

Low Outside Temp: 53.8 F at 5:26 AM

High Gust: 14.0 Mph at 2:07 AM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 108° in 1988

Record Low: 31° in 1902

Average High: 79°F

Average Low: 55°F

Average Precip in June: 2.59

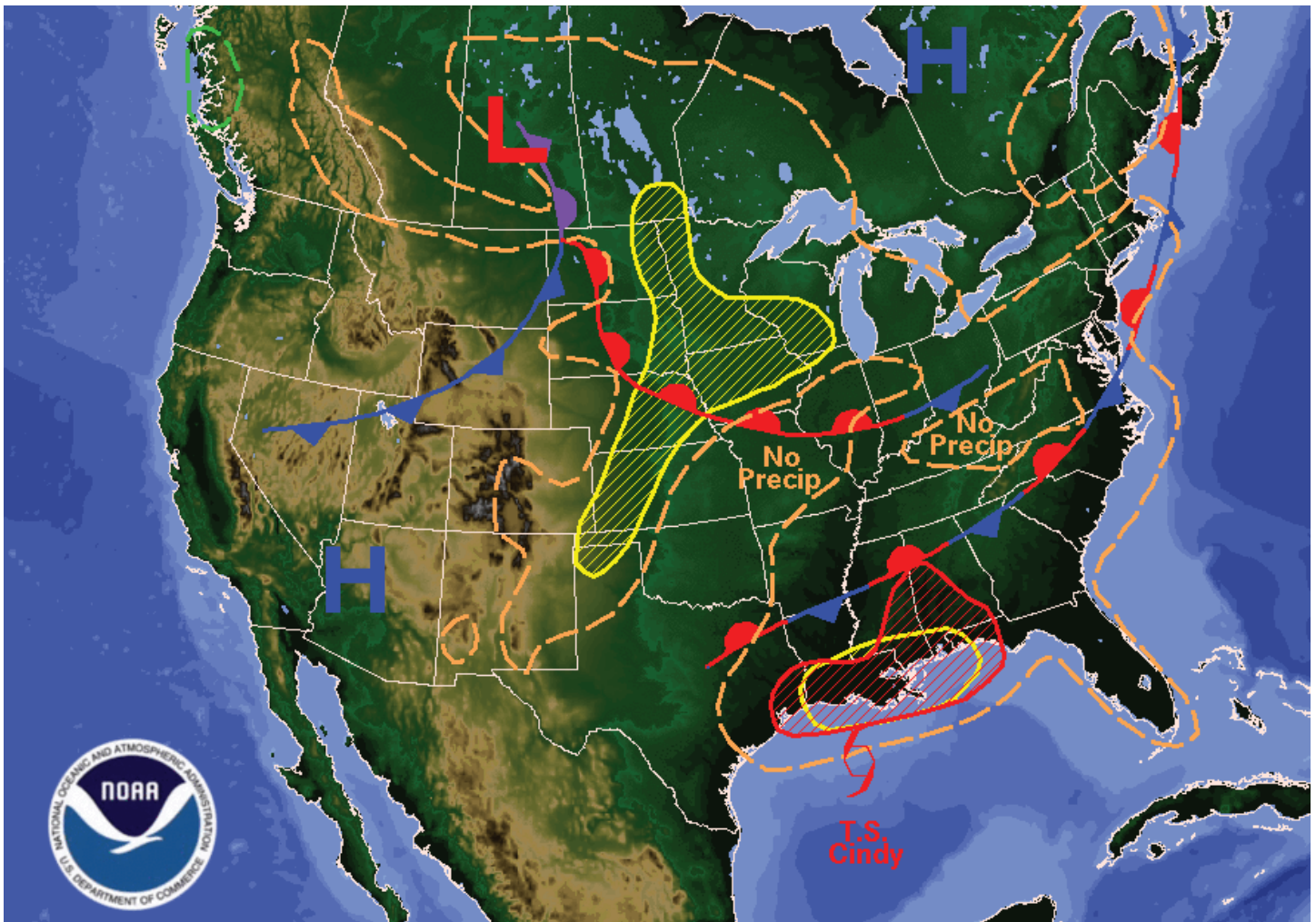
Precip to date in June: 2.43

Average Precip to date: 9.73

Precip Year to Date: 5.62

Sunset Tonight: 9:25 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Jun 21, 2017, issued 4:47 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)



THE CRY OF THE POOR

A young minister and a seasoned pastor were talking about serving the Lord. "When you were first beginning your ministry and were my age, what was your greatest desire?" he asked.

"To know the Scriptures and understand them to the best of my ability. If I could accomplish that," said the seasoned servant, "I knew that I would know the Savior better and be able to serve Him more effectively."

Our Lord wants each of us to have that same desire – to know Him personally, intimately. God is anxious to speak to each of us individually as He has always done. He called Abraham personally, wrestled with Jacob and addressed Moses from a burning bush. He spoke through prophets and priests, preachers and psalmists. Through inspired writers He gave us words of wisdom and volumes of knowledge. He even carried on a direct dialogue with David.

"I have seen violence done to the helpless and heard the groans of the poor. Now I will rescue them!" God has a special place in His heart for those who are poor and helpless. He heard their cries and promised to send a Messiah to rescue them from their oppressors – and He did. No one, even those who see themselves as insignificant, is beyond the eye or reach of the Lord.

Daniel was cast into a den of lions. Howl and cry as loudly as they could, they were not able to harm a hair on his head. As with Daniel, so with us. God will never allow His beloved to be destroyed by an oppressor.

Prayer: Lord, if we ever feel unimportant to You, help us to recall Your Word and know that You will rescue us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 12:5 "Because the poor are plundered and the needy groan, I will now arise," says the LORD. "I will protect them from those who malign them."

News from the Associated Press

9 people in northern Black Hills charged in deadly drug ring

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — Nine people in the northern Black Hills have been indicted on a total of 50 felony charges in the largest drug bust in the region in recent memory.

The Rapid City Journal reports (<http://bit.ly/2rQSzSw>) that the drug ring reportedly distributed methamphetamine as well as a drug that's similar to fentanyl, a synthetic opioid drug much more powerful than heroin.

The suspects named in the indictment are from Spearfish and Belle Fourche. All but one have been apprehended. They face charges ranging from drug counts to manslaughter in connection with the January overdose deaths of two Spearfish residents.

Lawrence County Chief Deputy Paul Hansen says some drugs were seized during arrests of the suspects, but he declined to release the amount.

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

South Dakota man accused of threats pleads to drug charges

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of livestreaming himself brandishing weapons and making threats outside an anti-Islam event in April has pleaded not guilty to drug charges.

Jaber was arrested in April on charges that he made terrorist threats outside an anti-Islam event in Sioux Falls. He was arrested again several weeks later when authorities said he tested positive for methamphetamine, violating the conditions of his release.

Jaber remains in federal custody on charges of having a gun while in possession of a controlled substance. He's charged in Lincoln County with making a terrorist threat and possessing meth.

An August trial is set for the drug charges.

Woman sentenced for stealing nursing home residents' drugs

FORT PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A Fort Pierre woman accused of stealing prescription pain pills from residents of a nursing home in Pierre has been sentenced to four years of probation.

Twenty-four-year-old Tori Rilling reached a plea agreement with prosecutors in April under which she pleaded guilty to a felony charge of obtaining drugs through misrepresentation. Other drug and fraud charges were dismissed.

KCCR radio reports that Rilling was recently sentenced to probation and restitution.

Information from: KCCR-AM, <http://www.todayskccr.com/>

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

02-15-41-49-63, Mega Ball: 3, Megaplier: 3

(two, fifteen, forty-one, forty-nine, sixty-three; Mega Ball: three; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$123 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$64 million

Members of military work on service projects in South Dakota

LEAD, S.D. (AP) — About 2,400 military service members are working on community service projects during an annual training exercise hosted by the South Dakota National Guard.

The Golden Coyote training exercise this week includes 30 military units from 13 states, Guam, Canada, and Denmark as well as a handful of service members from Germany and the United Kingdom.

"These projects provide service members with an opportunity to train on their specific skill sets and equipment, while simultaneously providing a direct benefit to our local communities," said Maj. Anthony Deiss, a state Guard spokesman.

Units complete projects throughout South Dakota, including on five of the state's Native American reservations, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2smg84l>) reported.

About 20 Guard members spent the past week at Lead's mile-high Sanford Underground Research Facility to work on road access for its water treatment plant. By Monday afternoon, crews were putting the finishing touches on grading and improving stormwater draining channels.

"We have to maintain our access roadways, and we just haven't had the money or equipment to do it, so they get the training and we get the repairs on a roadway that we needed," said Dan Regan, a surface operations foreman. "What a great bunch of young men and women, and they are all working together to get the job done."

Some military units committed time to reducing fuel loads at the 1.2-million-acre Black Hills National Forest, transporting 300 to 400 loads of firewood to South Dakota tribal reservations.

Black Hills Forest official Scott Jacobson said the work gave service members on-the-job training while reducing wildfire risk.

"They are professional, they are trained and they are awesome, hardworking military men and women intent on completing their mission," he said. "They have been great partners."

The Golden Coyote exercises will conclude Saturday.

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

Montana court asked to block crime victims' bill of rights

By MATT VOLZ, Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — A list of rights for crime victims that a California businessman is pushing to enact across the nation amounts to a hostile takeover of Montana's constitution and should be blocked, according to a lawsuit filed Tuesday.

Montana voters approved the crime-victims' rights known as Marsy's Law as a constitutional amendment last fall, joining Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota and California as states where the law has passed.

The law is named after Marsy Nicholas, a California college student who was killed by her ex-boyfriend in 1983. Her brother, Broadcom Corp. co-founder Henry Nicholas, campaigned to pass Marsy's Law first in California in 2008, then in the four other states and is now pushing to enact it in nine more.

The law gives crime victims and their families the right to participate in judicial proceedings, to be notified of changes in the case or of an offender's release and it expands their privacy rights, among other provisions.

Marsy's Law will take effect in Montana on July 1, unless the state's Supreme Court agrees with the prosecutor, defense attorneys, counties and civil-liberties organization who are trying to stop it.

The law, known in Montana as Constitutional Initiative 116, isn't tailored to the existing provisions of Montana's constitution, and it would amend or conflict with at least eight of them, according to the lawsuit.

Prosecutors could be required to take on cases they might not otherwise, the due-process rights of accused violators would be harmed and public information would be undermined to add privacy protections for relatives, friends and corporations, according to the lawsuit.

"CI-116 will force me to make the impossible choice between seeking justice for all Montanans and en-

forcing long-standing constitutional protections or serving the narrow, competing interests of Marsy's Law's newly expanded pool of victims," said Lewis and Clark County Attorney Leo Gallagher, one of the plaintiffs.

The state's high court should block the law because it violates a constitutional provision that prohibits multiple subjects from being included in a single ballot initiative, the lawsuit said. The law changes so much within the state constitution that it can't be considered a single subject, the plaintiffs said.

"The prescient framers of Montana's Constitution protected against this type of out-of-state financed, 'hostile takeover' of Montana's Constitution," the lawsuit says.

Chuck Denowh, a lobbyist who is the spokesman for the Marsy's Law initiative backers in Montana, said the plaintiffs are trying to deprive victims of the rights that voters approved by a two-to-one margin. "There will always be a handful of people that simply don't believe crime victims should have equal constitutional protections to their offenders," Denowh said.

Miranda Mack of Redfield crowned Miss South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A Redfield woman was crowned the new Miss South Dakota over the weekend in Hot Springs at the annual pageant.

Miranda Mack is a 21-year-old student at South Dakota State University. She will represent South Dakota in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in September.

Carrie Wintle of Iroquois was first runner-up in the state competition.

Measure aims to ban out-of-state giving to ballot questions

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — House Speaker Mark Mickelson is pursuing a 2018 ballot measure that aims to ban out-of-state contributions to initiative groups after ballot question campaigns brought in millions of dollars from across the nation last election cycle.

The Republican lawmaker said this week that supporters are tired of people who don't live in South Dakota using the state to test policy ideas that they want to bring elsewhere. A similar bill capping out-of-state contributions failed in the state Legislature this year, and experts have said such measures are unlikely to survive a legal challenge.

"The special interests in Pierre succeeded in killing this bill in Senate committee, so we're going to go around the special interests and directly to the people," Mickelson said.

The initiative would prohibit contributions to South Dakota ballot question committees from nonresidents, out-of-state political committees and entities that haven't filed with the Secretary of State's office for the preceding four years.

Since Election Day 2016, when voters decided 10 ballot measures, Republicans have frequently complained about outside interests experimenting with South Dakota's laws and constitution. Out-of-state donors pumped over \$10 million into campaigns for or against the state's questions.

A California billionaire whose sister was killed by a stalker ex-boyfriend bankrolled an amendment that established constitutional rights for crime victims. A Massachusetts group funded a transformative government ethics initiative that was on the books until lawmakers quickly repealed it. And a car title lender based in Georgia with locations in South Dakota tried unsuccessfully to amend the state constitution to allow unlimited interest rates.

A spokesman for Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard said in an email that he agrees with Mickelson's proposed ballot measure, but generally doesn't plan to be very active in 2018 initiative campaigns.

"There's a lot of support for this measure," Mickelson said.

But, the likelihood the ballot initiative would be upheld in a court challenge is "slim-to-none," according to Paul S. Ryan, a vice president at the Washington watchdog Common Cause, which opposes big money in politics.

The ballot measure proposal conflicts with a 1981 U.S. Supreme Court decision that declared that con-

tributions to ballot measure committees can't be limited under the First Amendment, Ryan said.

"People in other states haven't really pursued this as a viable reform," Ryan said. "It is pretty rare to see people pursue a reform that the Supreme Court has said is unconstitutional."

Ben Lee, state director of Americans for Prosperity-South Dakota, said the group is concerned with the proposal because it would limit free speech.

"I believe that citizens should have the right to support the causes and the issues that they believe in without fear of harassment and without unconstitutional restrictions," Lee said.

Mickelson also separately wants to ask voters to raise tobacco taxes to make state technical institutes more affordable. Supporters would have to submit nearly 14,000 valid signatures for each initiative to the secretary of state by November 2017 to put them before voters in 2018.

The Argus Leader first reported details of the initiatives.

Summer vacation: Never mind the hike. Where's the hammock?

By EMILY SWANSON and BETH J. HARPAZ, Associated Press

Never mind the hike. Where's the hammock?

A new poll about summer travel finds that the top thing Americans want to do on vacation is ... nothing.

The survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that resting and relaxing is very or extremely important to three-fourths of Americans on vacation.

But the poll also found that staying home and doing nothing isn't ideal either. Most people want a change of scenery. More than half said relaxing at home doesn't count as a real vacation.

How about unplugging?

Only 22 percent "completely disconnect" while on vacation. A third don't even try to get away from the internet and social media. Some of those polled — 42 percent — say they dial back their time online a little.

Britain's Prince Philip admitted to hospital with infection

LONDON (AP) — Prince Philip, the 96-year old husband of Queen Elizabeth II, has been admitted to a hospital for treatment of an infection and did not attend the Queen's Speech in Parliament.

Buckingham Palace said Philip was admitted as a precautionary measure and is in good spirits. He was said to be out of bed on Wednesday.

The palace said Philip was driven to the hospital by private car Tuesday evening on the advice of a physician. His infection was related to a pre-existing condition which was not disclosed.

The queen, 91, maintained her official schedule, giving a speech outlining the government's legislative plan in Parliament, and planned to attend the Royal Ascot horse races in the afternoon.

Philip, also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, said in May he was cutting down his public appearances and would not take on new charity roles.

He has suffered a blocked coronary artery and a severe bladder infection in recent years but has been in generally good health.

He still attends summer garden parties with the queen, hosting more than 2,000 guests at a time, and has maintained his presence at important ceremonial events, including the Trooping the Color procession earlier in June.

The palace said Philip is being treated at the King Edward VII Hospital in London.

He seemed fine Tuesday when he attended Royal Ascot with the queen and other senior members of the royal family.

The queen and Philip both suffered from severe cases of the flu at Christmas but have recovered.

In Georgia, Handel reaches out to Democrats and thanks Trump

By **BILL BARROW** and **KATHLEEN FOODY**, Associated Press

DUNWOODY, Ga. (AP) — Republican Karen Handel declared victory in Georgia's 6th Congressional District with a promise that she'll work to gain the confidence of voters who backed her Democratic opponent.

But Handel's thank you to President Donald Trump in the same speech Tuesday night is unlikely to comfort backers of the Democrat who came to symbolize anti-Trump resistance.

Handel won about 52 percent of the vote to quell the upstart phenomenon of Jon Ossoff, a 30-year-old Democrat who raised more than \$23 million and became a symbol of opposition to Trump.

The thank you to Trump was Handel's most public show of support of the man who wasn't embraced by many voters in the well-educated suburban Atlanta district in November and who she handled delicately throughout a primary and runoff election to fill the congressional seat vacated by Tom Price to take a spot in Trump's cabinet.

Handel devoted much of her speech to thanking national and state Republicans for backing her campaign before making a direct appeal to Ossoff's supporters.

"To the Jon Ossoff supporters, know that my commitments, they extend to every one of you as well," Handel said. "We may have different beliefs, but we are part of one community, the community of the 6th District. And I will work just as hard to earn your confidence in the weeks and months ahead."

She also noted last week's shooting of Republican Majority Whip Steve Scalise of Louisiana and said politics has become too embittered.

"What happened on that ballfield was a terrible tragedy and we need to all continue to lift up Steve and the others who were injured that day," Handel said. "And we need to also lift up this nation so that we can find a more civil way to deal with our disagreements. Because in these United States of America, no one — no one — should ever feel their life threatened over their political beliefs and positions. And I say that ladies and gentlemen in regards to both sides of the political aisle."

A day after the election, Democrats are left with the bitter hope of another tighter-than-usual margin, still searching for a contest where anti-Trump energy and flush campaign coffers actually add up to victory.

Handel, who left an abusive home as a teen, will be the first Republican woman to represent Georgia in Congress.

Handel's tough race, combined with closer-than-usual GOP House victories in Kansas, Montana and South Carolina, suggests Trump will dominate the coming election cycle, forcing Republicans to make peace with him, for better or worse.

In a Tuesday night tweet, Trump congratulated Handel, saying "we are all very proud of you!"

Joe Webb, a Handel supporter from Marietta, wore a red "Make America Great Again" hat throughout Handel's victory party.

"She personally told me she was rock solid" with the president, said Webb, 70. He added that 6th District Republicans united against a Democratic candidate many saw as a tool of his national party leaders.

Republicans immediately crowed over winning a seat Democrats spent at least \$30 million trying to flip. "Democrats from coast to coast threw everything they had at this race, and Karen would not be defeated," House Speaker Paul Ryan said in a statement.

Democrats must defend their current districts and win 24 GOP-held seats to regain a House majority next November. Party leaders profess encouragement from the trends, but the latest losses mean they will have to rally donors and volunteers after a tough stretch of special elections.

Ossoff told his supporters: "The fight goes on."

Handel is the latest in a line of Republicans who have represented the Georgia 6th since 1979, beginning with Newt Gingrich, who would become House speaker. Most recently, Tom Price resigned in February to join Trump's administration. Handel emphasized that pedigree often during her campaign and again during her victory speech.

She also noted throughout the campaign that she's lived in the district for 25 years, unlike Ossoff, who grew up in the district but lives in Atlanta, a few miles south of the 6th District's southern border.

Handel insisted for months that voters' choice had little to do with Trump. She rarely mentioned the administration, despite holding a closed-door fundraiser with the president earlier this spring. She pointed voters instead to her "proven conservative record" as a state and local elected official.

Protestations aside, Handel often embraced the national tenor of the race, joining a GOP chorus that lambasted Ossoff as a "dangerous liberal" who was "hand-picked" by House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California. She also welcomed a parade of national GOP figures to Atlanta to help her raise money, with Ryan and Vice President Mike Pence holding fundraisers following Trump's April visit.

It was enough to help Handel raise more than \$5 million, not a paltry sum in a congressional race, but only about a fifth of Ossoff's fundraising haul. The Republican campaign establishment, however, helped make up the difference. A super PAC backed by Ryan spent \$7 million alone; the national GOP's House campaign arm added \$4.5 million.

On policy, Handel mostly echoes the GOP line. She said she would have voted for the House Republican health care bill, though she sometimes misrepresented its provisions in debates with Ossoff.

She touts supply side economics, going so far as to say during one debate that she does "not support a living wage" — her way of explaining her opposition to a minimum-wage increase.

Follow Barrow on Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/BillBarrowAP>.

Queen outlines UK government agenda in scaled-down speech

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II outlined the government's legislative program in a speech to Parliament on Wednesday after the prime minister slimmed down her plans and promised "humility" in negotiating Britain's exit from the European Union following a disastrous election that cost the ruling Conservative Party its majority.

The 91-year-old monarch carried on with her royal duties at the ceremonial opening of the new Parliament despite the announcement that her husband, Prince Philip, had been hospitalized. Buckingham Palace said Philip, 96, has been hospitalized as a precaution for treatment of an infection.

His rare absence from the State Opening of Parliament added to the solemnity of an occasion cherished by the British people and replete with tradition. While the queen reads the Queen's Speech to lawmakers, it is written by the prime minister and her staff and offers a broad brush of goals for the future.

The nine-minute speech reflected May's weakened position — a loss of stature that has emboldened those within her own party who want a "softer" Brexit which makes a less-sharp break with the EU.

Eight of 27 bills outlined in the speech deal with the complex process of Brexit. May omitted several policies touted in the Conservative election campaign, including plans to change funding for the care of older people, which opponents dubbed the "dementia tax." Also missing was ending free school lunches and limiting winter fuel payments to low-income elderly.

Nor was there a mention of President Donald Trump's a state visit. May's invitation, extended with days of Trump taking office, had been sharply criticized by all parties.

May's Downing Street office said nothing had changed: an invitation had been extended and accepted. It was not mentioned in the speech was because no date had been set, May's office said.

Tempted a big lead over the opposition Labour party in opinion polls, May had called the snap election expecting an overwhelming victory that would silence dissenters and give her a mandate to push ahead with plans to leave the European Customs Union and drastically limit immigration as Britain leaves the EU. Instead, she lost seats and still hasn't secured a deal with another party to insure Parliament will back the government's agenda.

"The election result was not the one I hoped for, but this government will respond with humility and resolve to the message the electorate sent," May said in a statement. "We will work hard every day to gain the trust and confidence of the British people, making their priorities our priorities."

Signaling the importance of Brexit negotiations with the EU, set to continue until the spring of 2019, the

speech set out the government's program for two years, rather than one.

The prime minister, who had campaigned with the slogan "Brexit means Brexit," softened her tone in comments released ahead of the speech.

"First, we need to get Brexit right," she said. "That means getting a deal which delivers the result of last year's referendum and does so in a way that commands maximum public support."

Even before news of Prince Philip's illness, the government had announced that the speech would be delivered with less pageantry than normal a result of the timing of the snap election. For instance, the queen arrived at Parliament in a car, rather than a horse-drawn carriage, and delivered the speech in everyday dress, instead of the traditional royal robes.

The primary issue was scheduling. The state opening took place only days after another huge annual event, Trooping the Color, a celebration of the queen's birthday. Both ceremonies take weeks of preparation and planning, and it was deemed too difficult to prepare for two such events so close together.

Uber CEO Kalanick resigns under investor pressure

By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Travis Kalanick, the combative and embattled CEO of ride-hailing giant Uber, has resigned under pressure from investors at a pivotal time for the company.

Uber's board confirmed the move early Wednesday, saying in a statement that Kalanick is taking time to heal from the death of his mother in a boating accident "while giving the company room to fully embrace this new chapter in Uber's history." He will remain on the Uber Technologies Inc. board.

The move comes as Uber, the world's largest ride-hailing company, was having trouble morphing from a free-wheeling startup into a mature company that can stanch losses and post consistent profits. After eight years of phenomenal growth by upending the taxi business, Uber had reached a point where the culture that created the company had become a liability that threatened to kill it.

In a statement, the 40-year-old co-founder said his resignation would help Uber go back to building "rather than be distracted with another fight," an apparent reference to efforts on the board to oust him.

It was unclear who would replace Kalanick.

The resignation came after a series of costly missteps under Kalanick that damaged Uber's reputation, including revelations of sexual harassment in its offices, allegations of trade secrets theft and a federal investigation into efforts to mislead local government regulators.

Uber lost an expensive battle for supremacy in China against Didi Chuxing and had to be satisfied with taking a stake in Didi as a consolation prize. Uber posted a \$708 million first-quarter loss, unable to turn \$3.4 billion in revenue into a profit. The loss narrowed from the \$991 million it posted in the previous quarter.

Investors have talked about selling stock in Uber to the public, a move that would imply a transition to an established business. The company was valued at near \$70 billion the last time it sought capital.

Kalanick's penchant for conflict undermined the company's prospects, said Ferdinand Dudenhoeffer, director of the Center for Automotive Research at the University of Duisburg-Essen. Ride-hailing itself remains a topic of intense interest for the tech and auto industries as they compete to see whether Silicon Valley or the automakers will reap the profits from the digitalization of how people get from one place to another. But "the significance of Uber has declined because the company has not managed to present itself in a stable and socially responsible way," Dudenhoeffer said.

"When you're at war with customers, employees, service suppliers, you can't build up a business model and Kalanick was at war with everyone," said Dudenhoeffer. "There is no business model in being at war."

On Tuesday, the company embarked on a 180-day program to change its image by allowing riders to give drivers tips through the Uber app, something Kalanick had resisted. Drivers have said that Kalanick didn't value their labor even though it was the heart of the San Francisco-based company.

Uber's board said in a statement that Kalanick had "always put Uber first."

But under Kalanick, the company developed a reputation for ruthless tactics that have occasionally outraged government regulators, drivers, riders and employees. The company often flouted city regulations

for taxi companies with a culture that encouraged "Principled Confrontation."

The company's hard-charging style has led to legal trouble. The U.S. Justice Department is investigating Uber's past usage of phony software designed to thwart local government regulators who wanted to check on whether Uber was carrying passengers without permission.

A key step toward Kalanick's downfall came in February, when former Uber engineer Susan Fowler posted a personal essay about the year she spent at Uber, writing that she was propositioned by her manager on her first day with an engineering team. She reported him to human resources, but was told he would get a lecture and no further punishment because he was a "high performer," she wrote.

That caught the board's attention and brought outside investigations that led to the firing of 20 people including some managers. Former Attorney General Eric Holder conducted one of the probes, finding that the male-dominated Uber didn't have the most basic policies to protect workers from harassment. Holder's report suggested procedures that most companies have had for years such as using performance reviews to hold leaders accountable.

Also, Kalanick lost his temper in an argument with an Uber driver who was complaining about pay. The profanity-laced confrontation was caught on a video that surfaced in February. Afterward, Kalanick said he needed management help and had to grow up. The company began searching for a chief operating officer.

In March, board member Arianna Huffington expressed confidence that Kalanick would evolve into a better leader. But Huffington, a founder of Huffington Post, suggested time might be running out.

He's a "scrappy entrepreneur," she said during the call, but one who needed to bring "changes in himself and in the way he leads."

During the past year, several senior managers left the company, including the president and chief financial officer.

Outside experts said the only way to change Uber's culture was for Kalanick to step aside. But Uber's ownership and voting structure made it difficult to oust him.

Kalanick took an indefinite leave of absence earlier this month, in part to deal with a personal tragedy. In May, his mother was killed and his father hurt in a boating accident on a California lake.

AP Business Writer David McHugh in Frankfurt, Germany, contributed to this report.

Belgium tightens security after failed Brussels bombing

By **LORNE COOK** and **RAF CASERT**, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgium tightened security even more on Wednesday to counter fears that lone attackers could strike anywhere and at any time, a day after a failed bombing by a man shouting "Allahu akbar" at a Brussels train station put the nation on edge.

A soldier killed the attacker, who had tried to set off a powerful nail bomb that could have led to fatalities among the two dozen or so travelers checking train times on a public display board at Brussels Central Station on Tuesday, officials said.

Similar attacks by lone assailants causing maximum mayhem but few victims have also happened in London and Paris in the past couple of days, putting European capitals on alert on the eve of the busy summer tourist season.

The Brussels attacker was a 36-year-old Moroccan national not known to authorities for being involved in terror activities, federal magistrate Eric Van der Sypt told reporters. He declined to say if the man had a criminal record.

The man charged soldiers at Brussels Central Station after his suitcase, containing nails and gas canisters, failed to fully explode, Van der Sypt said. The man then shouted "Allahu akbar," Arabic for "God is great," before a soldier shot him dead, the magistrate said. Nobody else was injured.

"It was clear he wanted to cause much more damage than what happened," Van der Sypt said. "The bag exploded twice but it could have been a lot worse."

Witness Remy Bonnaffe had just walked away from the timetable board when he heard a loud bang

and saw a flame while he was on his phone. Still unsure whether it was an attack, he took time to take a photo but dashed off when he heard a second blast and shots.

"There must have been some 20, 30 people spread around the screens there," Bonnaffe said in an interview with The Associated Press, painting an image of the scope of carnage that could have happened.

Van der Sypt said the man was from the Molenbeek neighborhood, the home and transit point for many of the suspects linked to attacks in Brussels and in Paris in November 2015. On Wednesday, hooded police and forensic officers raided a home in the neighborhood and left with bags full of evidence.

Belgium has been on high alert since suicide bombers killed 32 people at the Brussels airport and a subway station on March 22, 2016.

Security remained high around rail facilities and preparations were underway to beef up security for a Coldplay concert at the 50,000-seat King Baudouin Stadium later Wednesday.

"In three years we have been confronted with several attacks or attempts and we say the zero risk does not exist," Prime Minister Charles Michel said after a specially-convened security meeting.

Central Station re-opened Wednesday morning. A mobile police command unit and several officers were still at the station, an Associated Press photographer said.

Burn marks remained on the floor at the scene, as workers continued to clean up and paint the area.

Belgium's Crisis Center said Wednesday that it sees no need to raise the national security alert level, which has been on its second-highest rung for more than a year. It said that no public events would be canceled but that additional police and troops have been mobilized.

Virginia Mayo in Brussels contributed to this report.

Saudi king upends royal succession, names son as first heir

By ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI and AYA BATRAWY, Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia's King Salman on Wednesday appointed his 31-year-old son Mohammed bin Salman as crown prince, placing him first-in-line to the throne and removing the country's counterterrorism czar and a figure well-known to Washington from the line of succession.

The monarch stripped Prince Mohammed bin Nayef from his title as crown prince and from his powerful position as the country's interior minister overseeing security. The announcements were made in a series of royal decrees carried on the state-run Saudi Press Agency.

The all-but-certain takeover of the throne by Mohammed bin Salman awards near absolute powers to a prince who has ruled out dialogue with rival Iran, has moved to isolate neighboring Qatar for its support of Islamist groups and who has led a war in Yemen that has killed thousands of civilians.

The prince already oversees a vast portfolio as defense minister and is spearheading economic reforms. He has become popular among some of Saudi Arabia's majority youth for pushing reforms that have opened the deeply conservative country to entertainment and greater foreign investments as part of an effort to overhaul the economy, including plans to list a percentage of the state-run oil giant Aramco.

The young prince was little known to Saudis and outsiders before Salman became king in January 2015. He had previously been in charge of his father's royal court when Salman was the crown prince.

The Saudi monarch quickly awarded his son expansive powers and named him deputy crown prince two years ago to the surprise of many within the royal family who are more senior and more experienced than Mohammed bin Salman, also known by his initials MBS.

The appointment of such a young royal as the immediate heir to the throne essentially sets Saudi policy for decades and removes the challenge of uncertainty. Saudi Arabia's stock market was up by more than 3.5 percent in mid-day trading.

"He could be there for 50 years," said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. "If you look at it positively, it is basically setting Saudi Arabia's course into the 21st century."

Another young prince also ascended to power on Wednesday. Prince Abdulaziz bin Saud, 33, was

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named the new interior minister tasked with counterterrorism efforts and domestic security. His father is the governor of Saudi Arabia's vast Eastern Province, home to much of the country's oil wealth and most of its minority Shiites. He previously served as an adviser to the interior and defense ministries.

The new interior minister is Mohammed bin Nayef's nephew, while Mohammed bin Salman is the former crown prince's cousin. All hail from the powerful Sudairi branch of the royal family.

The royal decree issued Wednesday stated that "a majority" of senior royal members — 31 out of 34 — from the so-called Allegiance Council support the recasting of the line of succession.

The Allegiance Council is a body made up of the sons and prominent grandsons of the late King Abdul-Aziz, the founder of the Saudi state. They gather in secret and vote to pick the king and crown prince from among themselves. It was not immediately clear if the council met before Wednesday's sudden change.

Even when there is disagreement, the royal family has long followed a tradition of speaking with one voice, particularly on issues of succession, in order to appear united in front of Saudi Arabia's many tribes and communities.

After the decrees were announced, Saudi TV aired footage of the new crown prince kissing Mohammed bin Nayef's hand and kneeling before him. Mohammed bin Nayef is heard telling him: "I will rest now, and God help you."

In celebration of the news, King Salman ordered the reinstatement of all benefits and allowances for government employees that had been curbed by austerity measures, and granted additional days off for the upcoming Eid holiday that marks the end of Ramadan.

Over the weekend, the king had issued a decree restructuring Saudi Arabia's system for prosecutions that removed Mohammed bin Nayef's oversight of criminal investigations, and instead ordered that a newly-named Office of Public Prosecution report directly to the monarch.

Mohammed bin Nayef was once a towering figure credited with crushing al-Qaida's cells in Saudi Arabia. He worked closely with Washington after the Sept. 11 attacks, helping to share intelligence to thwart more attacks. The prince had previously studied at the FBI and at Scotland Yard's anti-terrorism institute.

Dubbed by Washington insiders as "the prince of counterterrorism", Mohammed bin Nayef developed a ground-breaking program that rehabilitates and counsels individuals convicted of terrorism-related crimes. The center bears his name. In 2009, he survived an assassination attempt when a man who'd completed the program approached the prince and blew himself up.

The 58-year-old prince had served in a senior security post before taking over as interior minister from his father, the late Prince Nayef, in 2011. Both cracked down hard on rights activists and crushed any signs of dissent.

Though his image remained on billboards and atop buildings throughout Saudi Arabia, Mohammed bin Nayef appeared to be slipping in profile and was not believed to have played a significant role in Saudi and Emirati-led efforts to isolate Qatar for its support of Islamist groups and its ties with Iran.

Instead, it was Mohammed bin Salman, who embarked on major overseas visits, including a trip to the White House to meet President Donald Trump in March. That visit to Washington helped lay the foundation for Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia in May, which marked the president's first overseas visit and which was promoted heavily by the kingdom as proof of its weight in the region and wider Muslim world.

Saudi-U.S. relations had cooled under the Obama administration after Washington pursued a nuclear accord with Shiite-majority Iran that the Sunni-ruled kingdom strongly opposed.

The warm ties forged between Riyadh and Washington under the Trump administration may have helped accelerate Mohammed bin Salman's ascension as crown prince.

Despite his ambitions, the prince has faced criticism for the Saudi-led war in Yemen, which he oversees as defense minister.

The war, launched more than two years ago, has failed to dislodge Iranian-allied rebels known as Houthis from the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and has had devastating effects on the impoverished country. Rights groups say Saudi forces have killed scores of civilians and have called on the United States, as well as Britain and France, to halt the sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia that could be used in the war.

The U.S. already is helping the Saudis with intelligence and logistical support for the bombing campaign in Yemen, and the Trump administration has signaled it could assist with greater intelligence support to

counter Iranian influence there.

The newly-minted crown prince also raised eyebrows when he ruled out any chance of dialogue with Iran. In remarks aired on Saudi TV in May, Mohammed bin Salman framed the tensions with Iran in sectarian terms, saying it is Iran's goal "to control the Islamic world" and to spread its Shiite doctrine. He also vowed to take "the battle" to Iran.

Iran and Saudi Arabia's rivalry has played out in proxy wars across the region. The conflicts have deepened Sunni-Shiite enmity between hard-liners on both sides.

Batrawy reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writers Jon Gambrell and Fay Abuelgasim in Dubai contributed to this report.

Follow Aya Batrawy on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/ayaelb>

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. GOP ENJOYING SOME BREATHING ROOM

Karen Handel's victory over Democrat Jon Ossoff in Georgia's 6th Congressional District means Republicans held all four of their seats that were up for grabs in special elections this year.

2. UBER CEO KALANICK RESIGNS UNDER PRESSURE

The ride-hailing giant is trying to reverse damage done to its reputation by revelations of sexual harassment in its offices, allegations of trade secrets theft and an investigation into efforts to mislead government regulators.

3. SAUDIS SHAKE UP MONARCHY IN PALACE INTRIGUE

King Salman appoints his 31-year-old son Mohammed bin Salman as crown prince, placing him first-in-line to the throne and removing the country's counterterrorism czar and well-known Washington figure from the royal line of succession.

4. BRUSSELS ATTACKER MOROCCAN, NOT KNOWN FOR TERROR LINKS

A federal magistrate in Belgium says the attack suspect's bag at the central train station contained gas canisters and nails.

5. HOW IOWANS ARE VIEWING TRUMP

Independent voters who propelled the billionaire businessman to the presidency see last year's tough-talking candidate as a thin-skinned chief executive and wish he'd show more grace.

6. EX-HOMELAND SECURITY CHIEF OPINES ON RUSSIAN INTERFERENCE

Jeh Johnson says Moscow conducted cyberattacks on the U.S. to influence the presidential election, but the assault did not change ballots, the final count or the reporting of election results.

7. WHAT'S GETTING TOP BILLING IN US-CHINA TALKS

Trump is counting on Beijing to use its economic leverage with Kim Jong Un's totalitarian government as U.S. concern grows over North Korea's nuclear capability.

8. KUSHNER SEEKS TO REVIVE MORIBUND PEACE TALKS

Trump's son-in-law and chief Mideast adviser is headed to the region in hopes of laying the groundwork for a peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians, but it could be doomed to failure as in past decades.

9. NORTHERN GULF BRACING FOR CINDY

From the Florida Panhandle to eastern Texas, all are keeping an eye on the slow-moving tropical storm, which poses a threat of "life-threatening flash flooding."

10. MARKELLE FULTZ SET TO DON SIXERS CAP

The Philadelphia 76ers are poised to draft the Washington star with the top pick in the NBA draft, pairing him with last year's No. 1, Ben Simmons.

White House to negotiate tax overhaul behind closed doors

By JOSH BOAK and STEPHEN OHLEMACHER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House plans to privately negotiate a massive overhaul of the tax system with Republican leaders in Congress, possibly giving rank-and-file members little if any say over the finished product, according to a top aide to President Donald Trump.

Gary Cohn, Trump's top economic aide, said Tuesday the administration doesn't want to engage in prolonged negotiations after the package is made public this fall. Cohn said the goal is to release the overhaul in the first two weeks of September.

"We don't want to be negotiating the tax bill on the floor," Cohn said at a meeting of technology executives.

This type of top-down approach has a sketchy record on Capitol Hill, especially on issues as difficult to maneuver as the first remake of the nation's tax code in 31 years. Earlier this year, House members balked when Trump officials demanded that they vote on a bill to repeal and replace former President Barack Obama's health law.

The House narrowly passed the bill only after lengthy negotiations among lawmakers.

Senate Republicans have been widely criticized for crafting their health care bill behind closed doors, with even some in the GOP complaining about the secretive process.

Nonetheless, Republican leaders put a happy face on their efforts Tuesday, despite offering no evidence of progress in overcoming their differences.

"Let's not talk about why we can't do something. Let's talk about how fantastic things will be if we get this done," House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., told the National Association of Manufacturers. "Let's not talk about this little tax break or that little tax break. Let's talk about the big picture."

In April, the administration unveiled a one-page proposal that called for massive tax cuts for businesses and a bigger standard tax deduction for middle-income families, lower investment taxes for the wealthy and an end to the federal estate tax for the superrich — like the president and his family.

The plan also calls for eliminating the federal deduction for state and local taxes, a proposal opposed by Democrats and some Republicans in states like New York, New Jersey and California.

Ryan said he is confident Congress can pass a tax package by the end of the year, despite political divisions among Republicans and a crowded legislative agenda for Congress.

He acknowledged it won't be easy. But he preached against settling for something less than a complete overhaul of the tax system.

A growing number of Republicans say they would rather just cut taxes than take on the difficult task of simplifying the tax code, which would include eliminating many tax breaks to finance lower overall tax rates.

"We will not wait for a path free of obstacles because it does not exist. And we will not cast about for quick fixes and half-measures," Ryan said. "Transformational tax reform can be done, and we are moving forward. Full speed ahead."

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi's office released a statement calling Ryan's remarks "minor platitudes for hard-working Americans," short on specifics.

It has been about a year since Ryan and other House Republicans released a blueprint for how they would overhaul the tax code. Yet Ryan didn't provide any additional information about his tax plan or the state of negotiations among White House officials and Republican leaders in Congress.

Even if the White House were to forge an agreement among congressional leaders, the resulting package would still need to get buy-in from rank-and-file members, said Rohit Kumar, a former tax counsel to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who now heads PwC's Washington tax office.

"The one lesson we learned from 2017 is that everything takes longer than you think it will," he said.

One area of disagreement is Ryan's support for a new tax on imports to help finance a lower overall tax rate for corporations, and to encourage U.S. companies to stay in the United States. The tax, however, has no support in the Senate and is vigorously opposed by retailers who worry that it will increase the cost of consumer goods.

Congressional Republicans are planning to pass a tax package under a procedure in which they need only a simple majority in the Senate — preventing Democrats from blocking it. Under the procedure, the tax package cannot add to long-term budget deficits.

That means for every tax cut, there has to be a tax increase, at least over the long term.

Vice President Mike Pence, who addressed the manufacturers before Ryan, promised “the largest tax cut since the days of Ronald Reagan.”

“We’ll cut taxes across the board for working families, small businesses and family farms. We’ll simplify the tax code by cutting seven brackets down to three,” Pence said. “We’ll eliminate the alternative minimum tax, end almost every deduction and under President Donald Trump we’ll repeal the death tax once and for all.”

Associated Press writer Kenneth Thomas contributed to this report.

Follow Stephen Ohlemacher on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/stephenatap>

Ex-Obama homeland security chief to face intelligence panel

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson says the Russian government at President Vladimir Putin’s direction clearly conducted cyberattacks on the United States to influence the presidential election, but the assault did not change ballots, the final count or the reporting of election results.

In prepared testimony, Johnson described the steps he took once he learned of the hacking of the Democratic National Committee, his fears about a cyberattack on the election itself and his rationale for designating U.S. election systems, including polling places and voter registration databases, as critical infrastructure in early January — two weeks before President Donald Trump’s inauguration.

Johnson, who worked for Democratic President Barack Obama, is slated to testify on Wednesday before the House intelligence committee, which is investigating Russian meddling in the election and possible collusion with the Trump campaign. The Senate intelligence committee plans a hearing on the same election issues with current FBI, homeland security and state election officials.

“In 2016 the Russian government, at the direction of Vladimir Putin himself, orchestrated cyberattacks on our nation for the purpose of influencing our election - plain and simple,” said Johnson, who warned that cyberattacks would get worse before they get better.

Johnson described his discussions with state election officials about ensuring the integrity of the voting process. He said 33 states and 36 cities and counties used his department’s tools to scan for potential vulnerabilities.

He also said he contacted The Associated Press, which counts votes, and its CEO, Gary Pruitt.

“Prior to Election Day, I also personally reviewed with the CEO of The Associated Press its long-standing election-day reporting process, including the redundancies and safeguards in its systems,” Johnson said.

In the end, the former homeland security chief said, “To my current knowledge, the Russian government did not through any cyber intrusion alter ballots, ballot counts or reporting of election results. I am not in a position to know whether the successful Russian government-directed hacks of the DNC and elsewhere did in fact alter public opinion and thereby alter the outcome of the presidential election.”

Johnson served as Obama’s homeland security chief from December 2013 to January 2017.

The Senate intelligence committee, which also is examining Moscow’s interference in the campaign, is holding a separate hearing Wednesday with officials from DHS and the FBI’s counterintelligence division. Special counsel Robert Mueller is conducting an inquiry into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian officials.

Trump has decried the probes as witch hunts and he’s rejected the U.S. intelligence community’s assessment that Russia’s hacking and disinformation campaign was intended to aid his candidacy.

Johnson's designation of U.S. election systems as critical infrastructure was aimed at providing more federal cybersecurity assistance to state and local governments to keep voting safe from tampering.

Johnson announced the shift on the same day as the release of a declassified U.S. intelligence report that said Putin "ordered" an influence campaign in 2016 aimed at the U.S. presidential election. The report said Russian intelligence services had "obtained and maintained access to elements of multiple U.S. state or local electoral boards."

None of the systems targeted or compromised was involved in vote tallying, the report said, and there's no indication Russia's prying changed vote counts in key states.

But Johnson's decision triggered an outcry from state and federal election organization officials. They complained that Johnson's department failed to respond to questions and concerns they had about the designation before the change was made.

American elections are highly decentralized. Voters cast ballots in roughly 185,000 precincts spread over 9,000 jurisdictions during the 2016 presidential election. Elections are also subject to rigorous and elaborate rules that govern how and what equipment is used.

Contact Richard Lardner on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/rplardner>

Trump returns to Iowa and unhappy independent voters

By THOMAS BEAUMONT, Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa independents who helped Donald Trump win the presidency see last year's tough-talking candidate as a thin-skinned chief executive and wish he'd show more grace.

Unaffiliated voters make up the largest percentage of the electorate in the Midwest state that backed Trump in 2016, after lifting Democrat Barack Obama to the White House in party caucuses and two straight elections. Ahead of Trump's visit to Iowa on Wednesday — his first since the election — several independents who voted for Trump expressed frustration with the president.

It's not just his famous tweetstorms. It's what they represent: a president distracted by investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and a court battle over his executive order barring refugees from majority-Muslim countries at the expense of tangible health care legislation and new tax policy.

"He's so sidetracked," said Chris Hungerford, a 47-year-old home-business owner from Marshalltown. "He gets off track on things he should just let go."

And when he does spout off, he appears to lack constraint, said Scott Scherer, a 48-year-old chiropractor from Guttenberg, in northeast Iowa.

"Engage your brain before you engage your mouth," Scherer advised, especially on matters pertaining to investigations. "Shut up. Just shut up, and let the investigation run its course."

Scherer said he would vote again for Trump, but pauses a long time before declining to answer when asked if he approves of the job the president is doing.

Cody Marsh isn't sure about voting for Trump a second time. The 32-year-old power-line technician from Tabor, in western Iowa, says, "It's 50-50."

"People don't take him seriously," he said.

Unaffiliated, or "no party" voters as they are known in Iowa, make up 36 percent of the electorate, compared with 33 percent who register Republican and 31 percent registered Democrat. Self-identified independents in Iowa voted for Trump over Democrat Hillary Clinton by a 13-percentage-point margin last year, according to exit polls conducted for the Associated Press and television networks

They helped him capture 51.8 percent of the overall vote against Clinton.

Nationally, exit polls showed independents tilted toward Trump over Clinton by about a 4-percentage-point margin in November, but an AP-NORC poll conducted in June found that about two-thirds of them disapprove of how he's handling his job as president.

In North Carolina, Republican pollster Paul Shumaker says he has seen internal polling that has warning signs for his state, where Trump prevailed last year. Independent voters are becoming frustrated with

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Trump, especially for failing so far to deliver on long-promised household economic issues such as health care, said Shumaker, an adviser to Republican Sen. Richard Burr.

Inaction on health care and any notable decline in the economy will hurt Trump's ability to improve his numbers with independents, with broad implications for the midterm elections next year, Shumaker said. At stake in 2018 will be majority control of the House. A favorable map and more Democrats up for re-election make the GOP more likely to add to its numbers in the Senate.

"How the president and members of Congress move forward and address the kitchen-table issues facing the American voters will determine the outcome of the 2018 elections," he said.

In Iowa on Wednesday, Trump will be rallying his Republican base in Cedar Rapids. It's his first visit to the state since a Nov. 6 stop in Sioux City, two days before the election.

Earlier this month, Vice President Mike Pence attended Republican Sen. Joni Ernst's annual fundraiser, where he talked about job growth and low unemployment since the start of the year, although economists see much of it as a continuation of Obama policies.

Trump has only been in office five months.

It's a message the Republican establishment is clinging to, especially those looking ahead to 2018.

Gov. Kim Reynolds, installed last month to succeed new U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad, said last week of Iowa voters: "I think they are confident that President Trump and this administration are doing the job that they said that they would do, going out there and making America great again."

But Trump has to worry about people like Richard Sternberg, a 68-year-old retired high school guidance counselor from Roland, in central Iowa, who voted for Trump. But is Sternberg satisfied? "Not completely."

He is bothered by Trump's proposed cut to vocational education, an economic lift for some in rural areas.

"We, especially in Iowa, need those two-year technically trained people," Sternberg said.

More broadly, Trump needs to act more "presidential," he said.

"Trump speaks before he thinks," Sternberg said. "He doesn't seem to realize what the president says in the form of direct communication or Twitter carries great weight and can be misconstrued if not carefully crafted."

What offseason? A week after Finals, the NBA in overdrive

By **TIM REYNOLDS, AP Basketball Writer**

Dwight Howard and Brook Lopez are on the move. Dwyane Wade is opting in. Pau Gasol is opting out. The Los Angeles Lakers provided the clearest indication yet that Lonzo Ball is their guy.

The NBA offseason is already in overdrive.

A dizzying series of moves came on Tuesday. Howard got traded by the Atlanta Hawks to the Charlotte Hornets, who acquired the eight-time All-Star center for a package that included Miles Plumlee and Marco Belinelli.

And Lopez — another center — is leaving Brooklyn and headed to the Lakers, part of a deal that has D'Angelo Russell and Timofey Mozgov going to the Nets.

That leaves the Lakers with a clear need at point guard, a problem they will likely rectify on Thursday when they presumably will take Ball with the No. 2 pick in the NBA Draft. It was a big move for the Lakers in another way; Mozgov is still owed \$48 million over the next three seasons, while Lopez's contract will expire after next season.

Howard will be playing for his third team in three seasons following a disappointing homecoming in Atlanta. He signed a three-year, \$70.5 million deal with Atlanta and then sat out the fourth quarter in two of six playoff games in the Hawks' first-round loss to Washington.

"Let the madness begin," Portland guard CJ McCollum said. "Draft week is always the most interesting time of the year."

Madness is right.

Barely a week after the Golden State Warriors won their second NBA championship in three years, the rest of the league is maneuvering like mad.

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Along with the trades, confirmed by people with direct knowledge who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because neither deal was formally announced, Gasol opted out of his \$16 million deal for next season with San Antonio — but intends to sign a new multiyear deal with the Spurs that will reduce his annual salary but give him more security, and presumably give his team a chance to add a big-time free agent this summer. Wade told the Bulls he will take his \$23.8 million deal for next season, a decision he had until next week to make.

And Minnesota parted ways with Nikola Pekovic, waiving him in what could be the last act of a career that was derailed by foot and ankle problems over the past three seasons. Pekovic missed all of last season and played only 12 games the previous season.

All this comes with Paul George's status in Indiana most uncertain and with many trade rumors swirling there, the belief by many across the league that Jerry West joining the Clippers' front office could help their pursuit of LeBron James in the summer of 2018, and the ongoing watch in New York of what the Knicks will do — if anything — with Carmelo Anthony and Kristaps Porzingis.

It's not like Monday was a slow day, either.

That was when Philadelphia and Boston completed the deal that sent the No. 1 overall pick to the 76ers — giving them the chance to take Markelle Fultz, and allowing the Celtics to choose likely either Jayson Tatum or Josh Jackson at No. 3, which they got in the swap. The Celtics said they think the player they take at No. 3 would likely have been the player they used the No. 1 pick on anyway, so they called it a win-win move.

Then came Monday night's news that the Cleveland Cavaliers were parting ways with general manager David Griffin after three straight trips to the NBA Finals, a move that James clearly was not happy about. Cleveland then talked with former All-Star guard Chauncey Billups on Tuesday about a job in the front office.

To think, summer doesn't even start until Wednesday.

The draft is Thursday.

The league's inaugural after-the-season awards show is Monday.

Free agency and the new collective bargaining agreement start on July 1.

"Wow," Phoenix guard Devin Booker said on Twitter.

It wasn't clear what Booker was exactly referring to, though he probably said it a few times Tuesday.

Wow, indeed.

AP Basketball Writer Jon Krawczynski and AP Sports Writers Andrew Seligman and Tom Withers contributed.

Coroner still probing death of US student held by N. Korea

By DAN SEWELL, Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — A cause of death hasn't been determined for a 22-year-old college student who was detained for nearly a year and a half in North Korea before being sent home in a coma, an Ohio coroner's office said Tuesday.

Hamilton County's Dr. Lakshmi Sammarco's office released a statement saying Otto Warmbier's family objected to an autopsy so only an external exam of his body was done. It said his medical records from an air ambulance service that brought him to Ohio and from the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, where he was hospitalized until his death Monday, have been reviewed, and the treating physicians have been interviewed extensively.

"No conclusions about the cause and manner of Mr. Warmbier's death have been drawn at this time as there are additional medical records and imaging to review and people to interview," the coroner's office statement said, expressing "deepest sympathies" for his family and friends.

The funeral for Warmbier will be held at 9 a.m. Thursday at Wyoming High School, where he was an athlete and salutatorian of his 2013 class.

"All those that wish to join his family in celebrating his life are cordially invited," said the Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum.

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The coroner's office daily report Tuesday included Warmbier in its listings with cause of death termed "pending."

Warmbier's parents did not cite a specific cause of death but blamed "awful, torturous mistreatment" by North Korea. Doctors last week described Warmbier's condition upon his return June 13 as a state of "unresponsive wakefulness" and said he suffered a "severe neurological injury" of unknown cause.

Warmbier, a University of Virginia student, was accused of trying to steal a propaganda banner while visiting with a tour group and was convicted of subversion.

He was sentenced in March 2016 to 15 years in prison with hard labor. His family said it was told he had been in a coma since soon after his sentencing.

President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Warmbier's death after his lengthy detention in North Korea was a "total disgrace" and that if the college student had been returned home to the U.S. earlier, "I think the result would have been a lot different."

Doctors said Warmbier suffered extensive loss of brain tissue and "profound weakness and contraction" of his muscles, arms and legs. Unresponsive wakefulness is a medical term for persistent vegetative state.

North Korea said Warmbier went into a coma after contracting botulism and taking a sleeping pill. Doctors in Cincinnati said they found no active sign of botulism or evidence of beatings.

Warmbier had planned to study in China in his third year of college and heard about Chinese travel companies offering trips to North Korea. He was leaving North Korea on Jan. 2, 2016, when he was detained at the airport.

Three Americans remain held in North Korea. 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.

Associated Press writers Dake Kang in Wyoming, Ohio; Andrew Welsh-Huggins in Columbus, Ohio; Josh Boak in Washington; Carla K. Johnson in Chicago; and Gerry Shih in Beijing contributed to this report.

Follow Dan Sewell at <http://www.twitter.com/dansewell>

This story has been corrected to show that the coroner's last name is Sammarco, not Sammaraco.

Cheering 1st day of summer? Not in Phoenix as temps hit 119

By CLARICE SILBER and ANGIE WANG, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The first day of summer brought some of the worst heat the Southwest U.S. has seen in years, forcing flights to be canceled, straining the power grid and making life miserable for workers toiling in temperatures that reached 120 degrees or higher in some desert cities.

Arizona, Nevada and California saw dramatic temperatures Tuesday as researchers say deadly heat waves like this one were going to grow more frequent.

Meteorologists in Phoenix said Tuesday evening the temperature topped out at 119 degrees, one that has only been matched or surpassed four other times.

The forecast called for a high of 120 degrees (49 degrees Celsius) in Phoenix, which it hasn't seen in more than two decades. Death Valley, California, reached 125 and Palm Springs hit 121, still a degree lower than the same day last year.

The operator of California's power grid called on people to conserve electricity during peak hours.

Workers at a construction site in a Phoenix suburb huddled under an excavator to find a sliver of a shade during a break. At another building site, men in hard hats and yellow vests labored and sweated in the heat, downing water to stay hydrated. Project superintendent Tommy Russell says his company has held weekly safety meetings to prepare for the heat, and he will send his workers home if it hits 120.

Las Vegas also baked. Visitors tried to stay inside air-conditioned casinos, and some tourists lugged packs of bottled water around the Strip. Others went to a bar where the temperature is set at 23 degrees and glasses, walls and seats are sculpted from ice.

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Tonya and Lavonda Williams traveled to Sin City from Orlando, Florida, to see the Backstreet Boys in concert. Walking on the Strip in 112 degrees was too much to handle, even for people accustomed to heat.

"This is like the oven door is open," Lavonda Williams said as the sisters walked from a pedestrian bridge into The Palazzo casino-resort.

"It's too hot to even drink alcohol," Tonya Williams added.

Landscaper Juan Guadalupe scaled a spindly palm tree more than 50 feet tall in Phoenix, using a chain saw to hack the branches. He didn't mind being tethered to a tall tree because he occasionally catches a cool breeze.

"Down here, it's hot," Guadalupe said.

With cooling and hydration stations in full swing across the region, hundreds flocked to Grace Lutheran Church in Phoenix for water and refuge.

"We have homeless people come from a long way to sit here," longtime volunteer Moses Elder said. "There are other spots where you can go get cold water and sit down and cool off, but there are few places you can lay down and get something to eat."

Phoenix has hit 120 only three times in recorded history. The record high was 122 degrees on June 26, 1990.

In Palm Springs, Jim Brooks only had to walk 50 yards from his car to a burger restaurant but felt like he nearly melted in the process.

"I almost didn't think lunch would be worth it," the 30-year-old told the Desert Sun newspaper. "I was sort of hitting myself for leaving home. I have air conditioning there."

The weather comes as new research found that nearly one in three people now experience 20 days a year when the heat reaches deadly levels. The study of nearly 2,000 deadly heat waves worldwide since 1980 was published Monday in the journal Nature Climate Change.

In the Southwest U.S., the heat has caused several problems this week.

In addition to grounding more than 40 flights of smaller planes, airlines have been taking other measures on larger jets to reduce their weight. American Airlines spokesman Ross Feinstein said the carrier began limiting sales on some flights to prevent the planes from exceeding maximum weight for safe takeoff in the hot conditions.

The main burn center in Phoenix warned people to be careful around car interiors and pavement and with their pets.

About 50 people went a PetSmart store in a Phoenix suburb Tuesday to receive free elastic booties to put on their pets' paws so they don't burn on concrete and pavement.

Shelby Barnes, 48, picked up three sets of the booties for her dogs. She said she yells at people who walk their dogs without them in the afternoon heat.

"If you can't put your foot on the sidewalk, neither can they," she said.

Associated Press writers Regina Garcia-Cano in Las Vegas and Josh Hoffner contributed to this report.

Dashcam video shows officer firing 7 shots into Castile car

By **AMY FORLITI** and **STEVE KARNOWSKI**, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota police officer who pulled over Philando Castile politely told the driver that his brake lights were out and calmly instructed him not to pull out his handgun before suddenly drawing his own weapon and firing seven rounds into the car, a video released Tuesday showed.

The dashboard video taken from St. Anthony police Officer Jeronimo Yanez's squad car illustrated how a simple traffic stop of a black man shifted in an instant from a routine exchange to a deadly confrontation.

When Yanez opened fire, another officer near the car jumped back, and Yanez began yelling at the driver. As more police and an ambulance arrived, Yanez could be heard breathing heavily and swearing and trying to explain his actions to fellow officers.

The video was made public just days after the Latino officer was acquitted on all counts in the case.

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Although the squad-car footage was described repeatedly and was shown to jurors in the courtroom, it had never been made public until Tuesday.

The shooting on July 6, 2016, in the Twin Cities suburb of Falcon Heights gained widespread attention because Castile's girlfriend, Diamond Reynolds, livestreamed its gruesome aftermath on Facebook. Unlike Reynolds' video, the squad-car video shows the situation's quick escalation and the shooting itself.

Yanez, who was found not guilty of manslaughter and other charges, began firing only seconds after Castile told the officer he had a gun.

"Sir, I have to tell you, I do have a firearm on me," Castile said.

Before Castile finished that sentence, Yanez began pulling his weapon out of the holster. Yanez said, "OK. Don't reach for it then." He told the driver twice more not to pull out the weapon and then started firing into the car. After the firing ends, he screamed, "Don't pull it out!"

Castile, a 32-year-old elementary school cafeteria worker, had a permit to carry the weapon.

The release of the video made some people even angrier about the death.

Steven Belton, the black president and CEO of the Minneapolis Urban League, said the footage was "powerfully painful" and that Castile was "gunned down like a rabid animal."

Bekuh Sibet, a 29-year-old waitress from nearby Richfield, said it was obvious to her from the video that Castile was complying.

"I feel like it's 10 times worse now," said Sibet, who is white.

Craig Hutchinson, a white employment recruiter from the Minneapolis suburb of Plymouth, said in a tweet to The Associated Press that he was surprised at how quickly the situation intensified.

Hutchinson, who said he has a concealed-carry permit, also said the video left room for reasonable doubt, because it does not show where the gun was. He also said Yanez could have acted differently.

"If the officer would've exercised more caution, it may not have escalated as fast," he said.

Marcell Lenoir, a 24-year-old insurance worker from suburban Brooklyn Center, referred back to testimony that the officer thought Castile resembled a suspected armed robber.

"He already thought in his mind that this was a suspect in a robbery, and he just panicked and he messed up," said Lenoir, who is mixed race, African-American and white.

The footage shows a wide view of the traffic stop and the shooting, with the camera pointed toward Castile's vehicle. It captures what was said between the two men. The video does not show what happened inside the car or what Yanez saw.

Yanez testified that Castile ignored his commands not to pull out the gun.

The video shows Yanez following Castile's car, then pulling it over. Yanez can be seen approaching Castile and asking for a driver's license and proof of insurance. Castile gives the proof of insurance to Yanez through the driver's side window, and the officer puts it in his pocket.

After the first shot, Castile's body is thrown to the right. The video shows Yanez's backup officer, Joseph Kauser, standing on the passenger side of the vehicle, retreating when the shots were fired.

When the shooting stops, the video shows Yanez standing at the car window with his gun drawn for some time. Reynolds' then-4-year-old daughter starts to get out of the car and is grabbed by an officer.

Officers order Reynolds out of the car, and she gets out, hands held high. Soon, she is heard wailing.

A fellow officer speaks repeatedly to Yanez to get him away from the car: "I'm going to take your spot. I'm going to take your spot. Listen, listen, I'm going to take your spot." Yanez slowly walks away, and another officer says: "You all right? You all right? You're not hit any, are you?"

Officers pull Castile from the vehicle and begin CPR. Yanez is then off-camera, but can be heard talking through his body microphone.

Yanez, 29, is heard telling a supervisor that he didn't know where Castile's gun was, then saying that he told Castile to get his hand off it. Yanez testified, "What I meant by that was I didn't know where the gun was up until I saw it in his right thigh area."

Yanez's acquittal prompted days of protests, including one in St. Paul last Friday that attracted thousands and shut down Interstate 94 for hours. Eighteen people were arrested.

This story has been corrected to show that the officer began screaming after the shots were fired, not before.

Muslims question whether girl's killing was road rage

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and SARAH RANKIN, Associated Press

Islamic leaders are questioning Virginia detectives' insistence that the beating death of a teenage Muslim girl appears to have been a case of road rage, saying the attack looks all too much like a hate crime.

Nabra Hassanen, 17, was bludgeoned with a baseball bat early Sunday by a motorist who drove up to about 15 Muslim teenagers as they walked or bicycled along a road, Fairfax County police said. A Hassanen family spokesman said all the girls in the group were wearing Muslim headscarves and robes.

In a sign of solidarity, Muslim groups held vigils across the country Tuesday to honor Hassanen. Her mosque, the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, announced plans for her funeral Wednesday and encouraged people to come together and "respond to bad with good."

Darwin Martinez Torres, a 22-year-old from El Salvador suspected of being in the U.S. illegally, was jailed without bail on a murder charge after the girl's body was pulled from a pond near his apartment.

Ibrahim Hooper, a spokesman for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, said there is a strong possibility the crime wouldn't have happened if the teenagers weren't Muslim.

"You can't just say, 'Oh, he didn't say anything against Islam, so no hate crime,'" he said.

Fairfax police, in their account of the attack, said that Martinez Torres and one of the boys in the group got into an argument, and the motorist chased the youngsters down and got out swinging the bat. They said Martinez Torres beat Hassanen as her friends scattered, then put her in his car, assaulted her again and dumped her body.

"No evidence has been uncovered that shows this murder was motivated by race or religion," police said in a statement Monday night. "It appears the suspect became so enraged over the traffic dispute it escalated into deadly violence."

But after a string of attacks on Muslims around the world, most recently in London and in Portland, Oregon, some are deeply skeptical.

Rabia Chaudry, a lawyer and Muslim activist who lives in the Washington suburbs, ridiculed the notion it was road rage, saying on Twitter: "If you think for a minute that her appearance had nothing to do with this crime, you're lying to yourself."

Chaudry said that when a Muslim commits a crime, officials are quick to treat it as an act of terror, but when the perpetrator is not Muslim, police seem to approach it differently.

"I just feel like there is more hesitation and a lot of other factors are taken into account," such as whether the person was drunk or suffering mental problems, Chaudry said in an interview.

The public defender's office, which was appointed to represent Martinez Torres, declined to comment. He could get up to 40 years in prison if convicted on the murder charge.

Joshua Salaam, a chaplain at the ADAMS Center, said the community is struggling because Hassanen was beloved by so many and well-known for her kind spirit.

"If nobody gave you a compliment, she gave you a compliment. And it wasn't just Muslim youth" but the broader Reston community that she was connected to, he said.

The mosque expressed optimism that law enforcement will determine what motivated the crime and added: "We request the community to not speculate on the motives and jump to conclusions."

Salaam said police "have given us complete confidence."

CAIR called on Muslim communities to increase security during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in light of Hassanen's slaying and other recent crimes. The attack on Hassanen came as she was on her way to a mosque for Ramadan.

On Monday, British authorities charged a man with terrorism after he allegedly plowed his van into

Muslim worshippers outside a London mosque, injuring at least nine people.

And in Portland last month, a man was charged with the equivalent of a hate crime in the fatal stabbings of two white men who were trying to defend two teenage girls, one of them wearing a hijab, from his anti-Muslim tirade.

In those cases, the suspects allegedly made repeated anti-Muslim slurs before and during the attacks. In Virginia, neither police nor witnesses interviewed by The Associated Press said they saw anything to make them think the teenagers were targeted over their religion.

Fairfax County police said if they find any evidence the slaying was a hate crime, they will pursue appropriate charges. Virginia law, in part, defines a hate crime as any illegal act motivated by a person's race, religion or nationality.

A hate crime in Virginia can bring up to five years behind bars if it results in injury.

This story has been corrected to fix the CAIR reference to American-Islamic, not Islamic-American.

Contributors include Associated Press reporters Matt Barakat in Fairfax, Virginia; and Ben Nuckols and Luis Alonso Lugo in Sterling, Va.

Brussels train station blast being treated as terror attack

By RAF CASERT and LORNE COOK, Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian authorities said they foiled a "terror attack" Tuesday when soldiers shot and killed a suspect after a small explosion at a busy Brussels train station that continued a week of attacks in the capitals of Europe.

Federal prosecutor Eric Van der Sypt said soldiers "neutralized" a male suspect at the Central Station immediately after the explosion there on Tuesday night. The man lay still for several hours while a bomb squad checked whether he was armed with more explosives.

Prosecutor's spokeswoman Ine Van Wymersch confirmed his death early Wednesday and said no other explosives were found on his body. Some Belgian media had reported earlier that the suspect was wearing a bomb belt.

Belgium's Crisis Center, which monitors security threats in the country, said based on initial information it did not see a need to raise the country's terror threat to the highest level and kept it at the second-highest level.

Authorities set up a wide perimeter around the station, located near the city's famed Grand Place square.

Van der Sypt said no one else was injured besides the suspect and the damage from the explosion was limited. The attack, which took place during a rare heatwave in Belgium, came around 8.30 p.m., well after the evening rush hour had dissipated.

Nicolas Van Herreweghen, who works for Belgium's national rail company, said the male suspect was very agitated, yelling about jihadists and then "Allahu akbar," Arabic for "God is great," before blowing up something on a baggage trolley.

He said the man appeared to be 30 to 35 years of age.

The government agency that owns Belgium's railways was warned by a train driver who saw people running across the rail lines inside the station, spokesman Arnaud Reymann told broadcaster RTL.

National newspaper La Libre Belgique quoted the prosecutor's office as saying the suspect was wearing a backpack and an explosive belt. The information could not be immediately confirmed. Photos posted on social media showed a small fire in the station.

The Central Station is one of the busiest in the nation and soldiers could be seen patrolling there after the explosion. It was evacuated along with the Belgian capital's Grand Place, a major tourist site about 200 meters (656 feet) away.

Rail company spokeswoman Elisa Roux said Tuesday evening that trains were diverted from the station and buses sent out to take passengers to the area.

Belgium has been on high alert since suicide bombers killed 32 people on the Brussels subway and at an airport in March 2016. Extra police and soldiers in camouflage gear have become a common sight in crowded areas.

There have been attacks in Paris and London in recent days, including the attack by a van driver who tried to run down worshippers outside a London mosque.

As heat wave hits, air-conditioner fixers are in hot demand

By CLARICE SILBER and ANGIE WANG, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Alan Schwandt was rushing to his second job of the day when his phone rang with another desperate Phoenix homeowner calling about a broken air conditioner amid a scorching heat wave.

Dressed in gray shorts and a navy long-sleeve shirt emblazoned with the bright-red logo for "Alan's Air," Schwandt quickly crisscrossed the Phoenix metro area to bring relief to flushed residents.

He toiled in temperatures close to 120 degrees (49 degrees Celsius), sometimes with one hand on his cellphone and the other on his tools. Residents who had just spent the night in a stifling home rejoiced when his work was done.

The Associated Press spent part of Monday alongside Schwandt to provide a snapshot into the hectic work necessary in a region heavily reliant on air conditioning to beat the heat. Health officials with Maricopa County, which is home to the Phoenix area, say most heat-related deaths involve people with non-functioning air conditioners.

"Sometimes you wish the phone would ring for more calls, and sometimes you hope the phone doesn't ring," Schwandt said. "This is probably the day you don't want it ringing because there's more work than you can do."

Schwandt knew early Monday that it was going to be busy. The temperature was expected to peak at 118 degrees and calls were already coming in.

As a child in Florida, Schwandt watched his father work as an air conditioning repair worker. He later went to school to learn the trade and started his own company in 1978.

He said he hasn't advertised in 20 years, garnering service purely from word of mouth and online reviews.

Monday morning started in Scottsdale, a Phoenix suburb, with a longtime customer who had called the night before.

Russ Goodman said the temperature in his house had risen to 89 degrees (32 degrees Celsius) by the time he went to bed.

"Just in case the whole thing went caput, I'm all set: I have a villa reserved at the hotel," Goodman said as Schwandt and technician, Mike Miller, examined the air conditioning unit.

Schwandt worked methodically, checking blue and red pressure gauges and adding coolant.

He determined they needed to swap the capacitor, which acts like a battery and boosts the heart of the cooling cycle inside the machine.

Twenty minutes later, Goodman gleefully put his hand up to a vent relishing the cold air.

"These are like the unsung heroes — the people that keep my life going," he said.

As the mercury climbed above 100 degrees, Schwandt and Miller traveled south to the city of Tempe.

Schwandt fielded another call from a customer before joining his technician on a roof to examine a 15-year-old air conditioner.

The pair replaced a blown fuse and finished the job in less than half an hour.

Schwandt headed back to Scottsdale to drop off Miller at his home office for a separate assignment.

Schwandt arrived at a Scottsdale apartment complex at 10:30 a.m. His maintenance truck was among three others at the complex.

The client, Sean Robertson, was relieved to see Schwandt and said that he'd slept on his living room

couch Sunday night with a cooling pad on top of his pillow.

Schwandt climbed onto the roof and discovered the unit was too hot to touch because it had been running for 24 hours.

"Turn your unit off if it's not cooling," he said. "All it can do is cause more damage to it."

Schwandt removed several metal panels from the unit's exterior, climbed down the ladder and retrieved a hose and a bucket. He poured cup after cup of water over the fan as two other air conditioning repairmen worked on a nearby rooftop.

Eventually the machine cooled enough so Schwandt could unscrew it to look inside.

He determined that the unit's motor needed to be replaced, but he didn't have the part on hand.

Schwandt promised Robertson he would return later to switch the part, leaving tools behind as he moved on to the next customer.

With the sun almost at its zenith, Schwandt reunited with Miller at a home in Phoenix.

Michelle Franklin's air conditioning unit stopped working months ago, but she knew she needed to get it replaced when she saw the heat wave forecast this week.

Miller brought the new unit and Schwandt brought in the heavy equipment: a crane.

Jayne Martens, a crane operator for Smiley Crane Service, said the company helps lift about 180 new air conditioning units every day in the summer. Each crane is equipped with an ice chest, so air conditioning repair workers can have cold bottled water as they work.

"It's always hot but you have a job and have to do your job no matter what it is," Schwandt said.

Brazil federal police accuse president of getting bribes

By MAURICIO SAVARESE, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Brazil's federal police said Tuesday that investigators have found evidence President Michel Temer received bribes to help businesses, raising a new threat that the embattled leader could be suspended from office pending a corruption trial.

Temer has been under investigation due to plea bargain testimony by wealthy businessman Joesley Batista of the giant meatpacking company JBS that linked the president and an aide to bribes and the president to an alleged endorsement of hush money for jailed ex-House Speaker Eduardo Cunha.

Temer has denied any wrongdoing and insists he will not resign.

If Brazil's top prosecutor agrees with the federal police recommendation, Congress will decide whether Temer should be investigated by the Supreme Court, which is the only body that can formally investigate the president. If two-thirds of Congress voted to allow the investigation, Temer would be suspended from office pending trial.

In a report published Tuesday by Brazil's top court, federal police investigators said they have enough evidence of bribes being paid to warrant a formal investigation of Temer for "passive corruption" — Brazil's charge for the act of taking bribes. It said former Temer aide Rodrigo Rocha Loures directly received bribes from JBS on the president's behalf.

A previously released video made by investigators shows Loures carrying a suitcase filled with about \$150,000 in cash allegedly being sent from JBS to the president. Loures later gave the bag and most of the money to Brazil's federal police, authorities have said.

The federal police report noted Temer has refused to answer investigators' questions in the case.

"Before the silence of the highest authority of the nation and his former special aide, the evidence obtained from the information in this probe remains unchanged and indicates, with vigor, the crime of passive corruption," the report said.

Attorney General Rodrigo Janot had said last month there were enough preliminary indications of wrongdoing for Temer to be investigated for corruption and obstruction of justice.

The president is being investigated for three alleged crimes: corruption, obstruction of justice and being member of a criminal organization.

Temer, whose poll ratings have slumped into single digits, is in Russia on one of his few trips abroad since assuming the presidency a year ago after President Dilma Rousseff was suspended upon being impeached, which led to her permanent removal from office. Temer was expected to hold a joint press conference with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday.

Temer's push for economic austerity measures and reforms got a setback in Congress on Tuesday when a Senate committee rejected his proposal to loosen Brazil's labor laws. The bill on the matter, however, was not killed and will be voted on by the full Senate.

Senate steers toward showdown vote next week on health bill

By ALAN FRAM, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans steered toward a potential showdown vote on their long-awaited health care bill next week, despite indications that they've yet to solidify the 50 GOP votes they'll need to avert an embarrassing defeat.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he expected to have a draft of the bill ready Thursday. The measure would peel away much of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul and leave government with a more limited role in providing coverage and helping people afford it.

"We have to act, and we are," McConnell said on the Senate floor.

Later, he simply chortled when asked if he was confident the measure would pass, a victory that would elude him if just three of the 52 GOP senators voted no.

McConnell's ability to assess and line up votes is considered masterful, and he's eager to pass legislation fulfilling a keystone campaign promise of President Donald Trump and countless GOP congressional candidates. But underscoring the uncertainty he faces, senators from both ends of his party's spectrum were grumbling about the bill's expected contents and the clandestine way it's being crafted.

"It's apparently being written by a small handful of staffers for members of the Republican leadership," said conservative Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, using a Facebook video for an unusually public swipe at GOP leaders.

Though a member of the 13-senator working group McConnell had tasked with piecing legislation together, Lee said he's not seen the emerging bill and "whole-heartedly" shares the frustration of constituents unhappy over the secrecy. He said senators should have seen the measure "weeks ago" if the chamber is voting next week, the goal of top Republicans.

That echoed Democrats' lambasting of McConnell for writing the wide-ranging legislation in closed-door meetings. They unanimously oppose the GOP bill but lack the votes to defeat it. They fear McConnell will jam the legislation through the Senate with little debate, limiting their chance to scrutinize the bill and whip up opposition against it.

"I've never heard of a more radical or a more reckless process," said Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Aides and lobbyists said they expected the GOP bill to provide health care tax credits linked to people's incomes, not their ages like the House-passed measure, and impose spending limits on the growth of the federal-state Medicaid program for the poor that would tighten further by the mid-2020s. Another possibility was letting states drop some coverage requirements Obama's law imposes on insurers, they said.

They said unresolved questions included how to make sure the subsidies can't be used for policies that provide abortions and how fast they can repeal tax boosts Obama levied on high earners and medical companies to finance his statute's expanded coverage.

The No. 3 Senate GOP leader, John Thune of South Dakota, said Republicans were moving toward phasing out Obama's enlargement of Medicaid to additional low-income people over five or six years. That might satisfy Republican senators from states that expanded their programs, but conservatives have wanted to halt the extra expenditures quickly.

Though McConnell did not schedule the vote for next week, some Republicans said they believed he would hold it either way. A loss would be a major blow for Trump and congressional Republicans, but it

would let GOP senators take a definitive stance on the issue and let Republicans move on to other priorities like tax cuts.

"The leadership has made it clear we're going to vote," Thune said. "Hopefully we'll have 50 votes when that time comes."

At the White House, spokesman Sean Spicer said Trump "clearly wants a bill that has heart." A week ago, Trump called the version the House approved last month "mean." Spicer offered no specifics but said Trump wants the Senate to "strengthen it, to make it more affordable, more accessible."

Besides Lee, two other conservatives were also complaining.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, said the Republican plan does "not yet" do enough to reduce premiums, a key GOP goal, and said it needed to go further in easing Obama's coverage requirements. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., said it would be "a non-starter" if the developing bill's subsidies are as large as Obama's.

Moderate Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, said she didn't know how she'd vote, saying, "What is the deal we have? I have no idea what the deal is."

She's opposed conservative efforts to include language barring federal payments to Planned Parenthood, a group many Republicans abhor because it provides abortions.

AP reporters Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar, Andrew Taylor, Erica Werner and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Amazon aiming to be the dressing room in your house

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon is hoping to claim more territory once held by department stores, essentially placing a dressing room in your house.

The company, which has been making a big push into selling clothes, is testing a new service that lets members of its Prime program try on styles before they put items on their charge card — at no upfront fee. Customers have seven days to decide what they like, and then pay only for what they keep. Shipments arrive in a re-sealable box with a pre-paid label for returns.

More than a million pieces of clothing and accessories are eligible, Amazon said Tuesday, including from brands like Calvin Klein, Hugo Boss, Theory and Levi's that are big names at the department stores.

The program differs from what department stores like Macy's and other fashion sellers offer— and even from the usual way of buying clothes on Amazon. Department store return policies for online orders can be generous, but people don't get to try things on before buying. That's been an obstacle, especially for customers concerned about fit, to get shoppers to buy clothes online. The prepaid label is an attempt to lessen the hassle of generating one, the norm with Amazon returns.

It also offers better terms than some newer businesses. Subscription service Stitch Fix, for instance, charges a styling fee of \$20 and has a three-day limit for shoppers to return items. Stitch Fix said it's in a different business and its customers "love having their very own personal stylist who does the shopping for them."

Department stores, which have been struggling as customers move online, should have launched a subscription service a long time ago, said internet consultant Sucharita Mulpuru-Kodal.

"This is another attempt for Amazon to win in apparel," she said. "Why haven't the department stores done this? It's one of the reasons why they are in trouble."

And Amazon's vast logistics system that can send packages quickly to shoppers' home will make it easier for the company to offer that kind of service than its rivals could do, Mulpuru-Kodal said. She said, however, it remains to be seen how good the selection will be.

Amazon has made a concerted push into fashion through private labels like Lark & Ro that often sell for less than similar name-brand items. It's poised to surpass Macy's this year as the largest U.S. clothing seller, according to Cowen & Co. analysts. They expect Amazon to increase its share of the U.S. clothing market from 6.6 percent last year to more than 16 percent by 2021.

With Prime Wardrobe, Amazon's bidding for more loyalty from members of the program who are already

getting free shipping as well as free streaming of TV shows and movies. And it may be a way to get Prime shoppers who stuck to buying electronics and books to try buying clothes from Amazon without a lot of hassle.

Prime Wardrobe works this way: Shoppers pick three or more items and have a try-on period. Items they want to discard can be dropped off at a UPS location or picked up for free. Unlike Stitch Fix, it doesn't have a stylist to pick the items for customers.

Shoppers get 10 percent off if they keep three or four items, or 20 percent off for five items or more. Mulpuru-Kodal says the discount should be an incentive for shoppers to keep some of the items.

Follow Anne D'Innocenzio: —<http://twitter.com/ADInnocenzio>

Barbie's companion Ken gets new looks: Man bun, beefy bod

By JOSEPH PISANI, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — He's been overshadowed by Barbie for decades, but now Ken is finally getting some attention.

Mattel is introducing 15 new looks for the male doll, including different skin tones, body shapes and hair styles. Barbie had a similar makeover more than a year ago, both part of the toy company's plan to make its dolls more diverse and appealing to today's kids.

Ken hadn't changed much since he was introduced 56 years ago as Barbie's blue-eyed, chiseled boyfriend. Now he'll be sold in three body shapes: "slim," "broad" and "original."

He'll have modern hairdos, such as cornrows and man buns, and come in seven skin tones. And he'll also be sporting new fashions: think skinny ties, plaid shirts and graphic tees.

"We are redefining what a Barbie or Ken doll looks like to this generation," said Mattel's Lisa McKnight, who oversees the Barbie line.

Mattel is trying to fight falling sales of its iconic doll line at a time when many kids would rather play with an iPad. Barbie sales were down 13 percent in the first three months of the year compared with the same period a year ago. A live-action Barbie movie is in the works for next year, with hopes that the big-screen flick will spur doll sales as well.

Ken was in need of a makeover, said Jim Silver, the editor-in-chief of toy review website TTPM. He said kids who play with the revamped Barbie dolls don't want an outdated Ken.

"He's part of the storyline and he has to fit in with the picture," Silver said, "or you would lose sales."

Some of the new \$10 Ken dolls were being rolled out to shops and online stores Tuesday, Mattel Inc. said, and all of them will be on store shelves by the holidays.

The El Segundo, California-based company also announced new Barbie looks Tuesday, including one with a nearly shaved head and another with an Afro. Mattel has been tinkering with other lines to be more inclusive, such as adding its first boy doll for the American Girl brand.

Contact Joseph Pisani at <http://twitter.com/josephpisani>

After Warmbier's death, US weighs travel ban on North Korea

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is considering banning travel by U.S. citizens to North Korea, officials said Tuesday, as outrage grew over the death of American student Otto Warmbier and President Donald Trump declared it a "total disgrace."

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who has the authority to cut off travel to North Korea with the stroke of the pen, has been weighing such a move since late April, when American teacher Tony Kim was detained in Pyongyang, a senior State Department official said. No ban is imminent, but deliberations gained new urgency after Warmbier's death, said the official, who requested anonymity to discuss internal diplomatic

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discussions.

Even as Warmbier's family prepared to mourn him at a public funeral service Thursday in Ohio, the circumstances behind his death remained unclear. The coroner's office in Hamilton County, Ohio, said it had accepted Warmbier's case but had only performed an external examination on his body because the family had objected to an autopsy.

Warmbier, 22, was released last week by North Korea in a coma, but died days later, his family said. The former University of Virginia student had been visiting North Korea on a tour group when he was detained, sentenced to 15 years hard labor for subversion, and held for more than 17 months.

"It's a total disgrace what happened to Otto. That should never ever be allowed to happen," Trump said in the Oval Office.

Suggesting former President Barack Obama bears some blame, Trump said "the result would have been a lot different" had Warmbier been brought home sooner. Obama's office had no reaction, but his former aides have said he worked tirelessly to try to get Warmbier and other Americans released from North Korea.

From the White House to Capitol Hill, pressure mounted for a tough U.S. response, even as U.S. diplomats sought to protect others Americans from facing a similar fate. Three other U.S. citizens, including Kim, are still being held in North Korea.

Barring Americans from stepping foot in North Korea would mark the latest U.S. step to isolate the furtive, nuclear-armed nation, and protect U.S. citizens who may be allured by the prospect of traveling there. Nearly all Americans who have gone to North Korea have left without incident. But some have been seized and given draconian sentences for seemingly minor offenses.

The U.S. government strongly warns Americans against traveling to North Korea, but doesn't prohibit it, despite other sanctions targeting the country. It's unclear exactly how many Americans go to North Korea every year. Those who typically do travel from China, where tour groups market trips to adventure-seekers.

Some of those companies — including China-based Young Pioneer Tours, which took Warmbier to Pyongyang — have now stopped taking Americans. Other travel companies say they're considering a similar restriction.

The U.S. and North Korea have no diplomatic relations. The U.S. has been pressing Pyongyang to halt its nuclear weapons development and urging China and other countries to starve the North of funding for the program. But on Tuesday, Trump suggested that strategy had failed.

"While I greatly appreciate the efforts of President Xi & China to help with North Korea, it has not worked out," Trump wrote on Twitter. "At least I know China tried!"

In Congress, Democrats and Republicans found rare bipartisan consensus in denouncing the North. Several senators said they were considering a travel ban. In the House, lawmakers lined up behind legislation from Rep. Adam Schiff, a Democrat, and Rep. Joe Wilson, a Republican.

Under their proposal, the Treasury Department would be ordered to prohibit all financial transactions related to travel to North Korea by Americans, unless specifically authorized by a U.S. license. No licenses would be issued for tourism.

The Trump administration doesn't need an act of Congress to bar Americans from traveling to North Korea.

Under existing law, all it would take is a designation by Tillerson — called a "geographic travel restriction" — to make all American passports invalid for travel to North Korea. To back up the designation, Tillerson could assert that Americans face "imminent danger" to their health or safety if they travel there, an easily defensible assertion in the wake of Warmbier's death.

The U.S. doesn't currently prohibit its passports from being used to travel to any countries, even though financial restrictions limit U.S. travel to Cuba and elsewhere. If a passport ban were placed on North Korea, an American who violated it could face a fine and up to 10 years in prison for a first offense.

Schiff said a new law was important to show Congress' unity on North Korea, arguing that financial measures through the Treasury Department might be more effective than a passport ban because it would deter travel companies ferrying Americans.

"This has the merits of protecting Americans from going to a place of increasing danger, but also drying

up one source of our currency for North Korea," Schiff said in an interview.

Short of a total ban, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., proposed that prospective American travelers complete a form declaring they won't hold the U.S. government responsible for what happens. He said the form would require Americans to affirm they're aware of what's transpired to other U.S. citizens, such as Warmbier, whom the senator said was "murdered" by the North.

"If people are that stupid that they still want to go to that country, then at least they assume the responsibility for their welfare," McCain said.

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas, Matthew Lee, Matthew Pennington and Richard Lardner in Washington and Dan Sewell in Cincinnati contributed to this report.

'Bachelor' contestant lawyer disputes no misconduct finding

By LYNN ELBER, AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — No cast member misbehaved or was in danger on the set of ABC's "Bachelor in Paradise," producer Warner Bros. said Tuesday after a review of show videotape.

Production on "The Bachelor" spinoff that had been suspended during the probe will resume, Warner said in a statement. ABC immediately said that the reality series will air this summer as planned.

But an attorney for contestant Corinne Olympios dismissed the findings and vowed an independent investigation that he said will include additional witnesses.

The studio's investigation conducted with an outside law firm found that the footage "does not support any charge of misconduct by a cast member," Warner said in a statement.

"Nor does the tape show, contrary to many press reports, that the safety of any cast member was ever in jeopardy," the studio said. The video won't be released to safeguard the privacy of those involved, Warner said.

ABC said it appreciated Warner's "swift and complete investigation" into the misconduct allegations.

Warner hasn't detailed the allegations reportedly made by a witness to the show's fourth-season taping in Mexico earlier this month or which contestants were involved.

But last week, Olympios said she was a "victim" who was seeking therapy for what she called the physical and emotional trauma she experienced on the set June 4 but had little memory of.

"It needs to be made crystal clear that production of 'Bachelor in Paradise' was shut down because of multiple complaints" from producers and crew members on the set but not from Olympios, Martin Singer, her attorney, said in a statement.

"It comes as no surprise that Warner Bros., as a result of its own internal investigation, would state that no wrong doing had occurred. Our own investigation will continue based on multiple new witnesses coming forward revealing what they saw and heard," Singer said.

Despite the finding, Warner said it planned to implement changes to the show's policies and procedures "to enhance and further ensure the safety and security" of all participants.

"Bachelor in Paradise" first debuted in 2014, bringing together former contestants on "The Bachelor" and "The Bachelorette." They live together in a beach house, looking for a possible relationship with a fellow housemate.

Chris Harrison hosts the spinoff, as he does most installments of the franchise that launched with the "The Bachelor" in 2002.

Other spinoffs included "Bachelor Pad," which was canceled in 2013. There's also "Bachelor in Paradise: After Paradise," a talk show about "Bachelor in Paradise."

Asian stocks lower after Wall Street losses

By YOUKYUNG LEE, AP Business Writer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Asian markets were mostly lower Wednesday after overnight losses on Wall Street. A global stock benchmark provider's decision to add mainland China-listed shares to its widely followed stock indexes did little to boost risk appetite as the decision was widely expected. Oil prices fell.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's Nikkei 225 fell 0.2 percent to 20,183.90 and South Korea's Kospi fell 0.6 percent to 2,355.66. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index dropped 0.5 percent to 25,717.22. But China's Shanghai Composite Index added 0.1 percent to 3,143.48. Australia's S&P/ASX slumped 1.3 percent to 5,683.80. Stocks in Taiwan, Singapore and Southeast Asian markets were lower.

CHINA: Global stock benchmark provider MSCI decided to include 222 large Chinese companies in 2018 to its Emerging Markets index, which is closely followed by fund managers. The move could draw more foreign investment to Chinese firms but analysts said the decision was not a surprise to investors. South Korea's government forecast little impact on Seoul financial markets. Adding Chinese shares to the MSCI Emerging Markets index will reduce South Korean shares in the index, which could trigger outflows of at most 4.3 trillion won (\$3.8 billion) of foreign investment, it said. But that amount can be offset by the huge inflows of foreign investment to Seoul markets this year, according to South Korea's Financial Services Commission.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Chinese authorities have been garnering for this positive decision and this recognition of the country's efforts in opening up the financial market could really encourage more to be done that could lead to greater capital inflows," Jingyi Pan, a market strategist at IG in Singapore, said in a daily commentary. But for markets in the region, "the impact may be second-order and likely only be felt in the longer term. In the near-term, the inclusion could really been seen as symbolic at best."

NORTH KOREA: Geopolitical tension was in focus as President Donald Trump tweeted that China's efforts to pressure North Korea have not worked out. His tweet comes one day after learning that Otto Warmbier, an American student who was returned from North Korea to the U.S. in a coma last week, had died.

WALL STREET: Wall Street finished lower on Tuesday, retreating from record high levels. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.7 percent to 2,437.03 and the Dow Jones industrial average lost 0.3 percent to 21,467.14. The Nasdaq composite dropped 0.8 percent to 6,188.03.

OIL: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 8 cents to \$43.43 per barrel on electronic trading in New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 92 cents to settle at \$43.51 per barrel on Tuesday. Brent crude, the international standard, fell 11 cents to \$45.91 per barrel. It dropped 89 cents to \$46.02 per barrel on Tuesday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar weakened to 111.20 yen from 111.46 yen while the euro rose to \$1.114 from \$1.113.

Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, June 21, the 172nd day of 2017. There are 193 days left in the year. Summer begins at 12:24 a.m. Eastern time.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 21, 1942, German forces led by Generaloberst (Colonel General) Erwin Rommel captured the Libyan city of Tobruk during World War II. (Following his victory, Rommel was promoted by Adolf Hitler to the rank of Field Marshal; Tobruk was retaken by the Allies in Nov. 1942.) An Imperial Japanese submarine fired shells at Fort Stevens on the Oregon coast, causing little damage.

On this date:

In 1377, King Edward III died after ruling England for 50 years; he was succeeded by his grandson, Richard II.

In 1788, the United States Constitution went into effect as New Hampshire became the ninth state to ratify it.

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In 1834, Cyrus Hall McCormick received a patent for his reaping machine.

In 1932, heavyweight Max Schmeling lost a title fight rematch in New York by decision to Jack Sharkey, prompting Schmeling's manager, Joe Jacobs, to exclaim: "We was robbed!"

In 1954, the American Cancer Society presented a study to the American Medical Association meeting in San Francisco which found that men who regularly smoked cigarettes died at a considerably higher rate than non-smokers.

In 1963, Cardinal Giovanni Battista Montini was chosen during a conclave of his fellow cardinals to succeed the late Pope John XXIII; the new pope took the name Paul VI.

In 1964, civil rights workers Michael H. Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James E. Chaney were slain in Philadelphia, Mississippi; their bodies were found buried in an earthen dam six weeks later. (Forty-one years later on this date in 2005, Edgar Ray Killen, an 80-year-old former Ku Klux Klansman, was found guilty of manslaughter; he was sentenced to 60 years in prison.)

In 1977, Menachem Begin (men-AH'-kem BAY'-gihn) of the Likud bloc became Israel's sixth prime minister.

In 1982, a jury in Washington, D.C. found John Hinckley Jr. not guilty by reason of insanity in the shootings of President Ronald Reagan and three other men.

In 1985, scientists announced that skeletal remains exhumed in Brazil were those of Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele (MEN'-guh-luh).

In 1989, a sharply divided Supreme Court ruled that burning the American flag as a form of political protest was protected by the First Amendment.

In 1997, the WNBA made its debut as the New York Liberty defeated the host Los Angeles Sparks 67-57.

Ten years ago: Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, the chief U.S. nuclear envoy, made a rare trip to North Korea in a surprise bid to accelerate international efforts to press the communist government to abandon its nuclear weapons program. Bob Evans, creator of his namesake restaurant chain, died in Cleveland at age 89.

Five years ago: The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously threw out penalties against Fox and ABC television stations that violated the Federal Communications Commission policy regulating curse words and nudity on television, but the justices declined to issue a broader constitutional ruling. Miami's LeBron James capped his title bid with 26 points, 13 assists and 11 rebounds as he led the Heat in a 121-106 rout of the Oklahoma City Thunder to win the NBA Finals in five games. Broadway composer-lyricist Richard Adler, 90, died in Southampton, New York.

One year ago: Hillary Clinton, during a visit to the battleground state of Ohio, said Donald Trump would send the U.S. economy back into recession, warning that his "reckless" approach would hurt workers still trying to recover from the 2008 economic turbulence. North Korea fired two suspected powerful new Musudan midrange ballistic missiles, according to U.S. and South Korean military officials, the communist regime's fifth and sixth such attempts since April 2016. The Obama administration approved routine commercial use of small drones in areas such as farming, advertising and real estate after years of struggling to write rules to protect public safety.

Today's Birthdays: Composer Lalo Schifrin is 85. Actor Bernie Kopell is 84. Actor Monte Markham is 82. Songwriter Don Black is 79. Actress Mariette Hartley is 77. Comedian Joe Flaherty is 76. Rock singer-musician Ray Davies (The Kinks) is 73. Actress Meredith Baxter is 70. Actor Michael Gross is 70. Rock musician Joe Molland (Badfinger) is 70. Rock musician Don Airey (Deep Purple) is 69. Country singer Leon Everette is 69. Rock musician Joey Kramer (Aerosmith) is 67. Rock musician Nils Lofgren is 66. Actress Robyn Douglass is 64. Actor Leigh McCloskey is 62. Cartoonist Berke Breathed is 60. Country singer Kathy Mattea is 58. Actor Marc Copage (koh-PAJ') is 55. Actress Sammi Davis is 53. Actor Doug Savant is 53. Country musician Porter Howell is 53. Actor Michael Dolan is 52. Writer-director Lana Wachowski is 52. Actress Carrie Preston is 50. Actress Paula Irvine is 49. Rapper/producer Pete Rock is 47. Country singer Allison Moorer is 45. Actress Juliette Lewis is 44. Actress Maggie Siff is 43. Musician Justin Cary is 42. Rock musician Mike Einziger (Incubus) is 41. Actor Chris Pratt is 38. Rock singer Brandon Flowers is 36. Britain's Prince William is 35. Actor Jussie Smollett is 35. Actor Benjamin Walker is 35. Actor Michael Malarkey is 34. Pop singer

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Kris Allen (TV: "American Idol") is 32. Actor Jascha Washington is 28. Pop singer Rebecca Black is 20.

Thought for Today: "Three o'clock is always too late or too early for anything you want to do." — Jean-Paul Sartre, French philosopher (1905-1980).