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Thursday, June 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.

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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.

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Legion: at Redfield Tourney

Jr. Teener: at Milbank Tourney

Jr. Legion: hosts Mobridge for 2 games, 1:30 p.m.

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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“IT TAKES A
STRONG PERSON
TO BE A SOLDIER.
IT TAKES A
STRONGER PERSON
TO LOVE A
SOLDIER.”

-AUTHOR
UNKNOWN

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Service Notice: Marian Raines

Services for Marian Raines, 88, of Groton will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, June 26th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Groton. Pastor Marcia Sylvester will officiate. Burial will follow in Union Cemetery, Groton under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel.

Visitation will be held one hour prior to services on Monday.

Marian passed away June 21, 2017 at Groton Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Kiwanis News

Lola Pollard, incoming Lt. Governor of Kiwanis, from Webster, addressed the Groton Kiwanis Club, on Wednesday.

Lola is a physicians assistant at Sanford Clinic, in Webster. She spoke of her family, her position at Sanford, and her years of service to Kiwanis.

Next week's program leader is Larry Schelle, followed by Lee Schinkel



Work on SD37 at the junction of US12 got stalled yesterday as the crew discovered that the city's 6" water main going under SD37 towards the Red Horse had to be lowered. Necessary fittings were ordered yesterday and the water main will be lowered this morning. It had to be lowered because of the storm sewer being installed.

During the time, the motel part of the Red Horse, Hanlon Brothers and New Deal Tire will be without water. The outage will start around 9 a.m. and last for 2-3 hours. Webster Scale will be assisting with the project.

Today in Weather History

June 22, 1916: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from 4 miles east of Willow Lakes to east of Vienna, in Clark County. A farmhouse was picked up and thrown into a granary. A boy was smothered to death by grains as a barn collapsed on him, one mile south of Vienna.

June 22, 1919: The second deadliest tornado in Minnesota's history occurred on this day. 59 people were killed as an estimated F5 tornado ripped through the town of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. 400 buildings were destroyed. A blank check was found over 60 miles away, and lumber was carried 10 miles. Of the 59 victims, 35 were guests of the Grand Hotel.

June 22, 1996: From the morning through the late afternoon hours, several supercell thunderstorms moved southeast along a strong warm front from eastern Corson County to southwest Deuel County. These storms produced several tornados, large hail, very heavy rains, and damaging winds. Hail up to the size of baseballs and winds gusting to 70 mph damaged and destroyed thousands of acres of crops, broke windows in homes, buildings, and vehicles. Many roofs were damaged, and trees were downed from near Mobridge to Redfield to Toronto. The most extensive crop, building, and tree damage was around the areas of Redfield, Vienna, Naples, Hazel, Bryant, Henry, Lake Norden, Castlewood, Estelline, and Toronto all south of Highway 212. The hail swaths of destruction were as much as 10 miles wide in places. Some farmers said you could not tell what was planted because the crops were destroyed. Hail piles of one to two feet were reported in some areas. Also, most of the area from Redfield to Toronto received one to three inches of rain which caused some flooding problems.

1928: A farmer near Greensburg, KS looked up into the heart of a tornado. He described its walls as "rotating clouds lit with constant flashes of lightning and a strong gassy odor with a screaming, hissing sound". Click [HERE](#) for more information from NOAA.

1947 - Twelve inches of rain fell in forty-two minutes at Holt, MO, establishing a world rainfall record. That record was tied on January 24-25, 1956, at the Kilauea Sugar Plantation in Hawaii, as their state record was established with 38 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - Hurricane Agnes deluged Pennsylvania and New York State with torrential rains resulting in the most costly flood in U.S. history. In the Middle Susquehanna Valley of Pennsylvania, 24 hour rainfall amounts were generally 8 to 12 inches, with up to 19 inches in extreme southwestern Schuylkill County. At Wilkes-Barre, PA, the dike was breached destroying much of the town. Flooding resulted in 117 deaths and 3.1 billion dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1981 - A young woman from Lubbock, TX, was struck by lightning. The bolt of lightning struck just above her right shoulder near her neck, and passed right to left through her body, tearing her warm-ups, causing her tennis shoes to explode, and lifting her two feet into the air. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in southern Texas produced wind gusts to 116 mph near Quemado. Thunderstorms in New York State produced 5.01 inches of rain in 24 hours at Buffalo, an all-time record for that location, and produced an inch of rain at Bath, PA. The temperature at Fairbanks AK soared to 92 degrees, establishing a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Sixty-five cities in twenty-four states reported record high temperatures for the date. Tucson AZ reported an all-time record high of 114 degrees, surpassing the previous record of 112 degrees established a day earlier. Highs of 98 degrees at Pittsburgh, PA, and 100 degrees at Baltimore, MD, tied records for the month of June. (The National Weather Summary)








1989 - Record cold temperatures were reported in the High Plains Region. Rapid City, SD, reported a record low of 39 degrees, in sharp contrast to their record high of 102 degrees two days earlier, on the 20th. (The National Weather Summary)

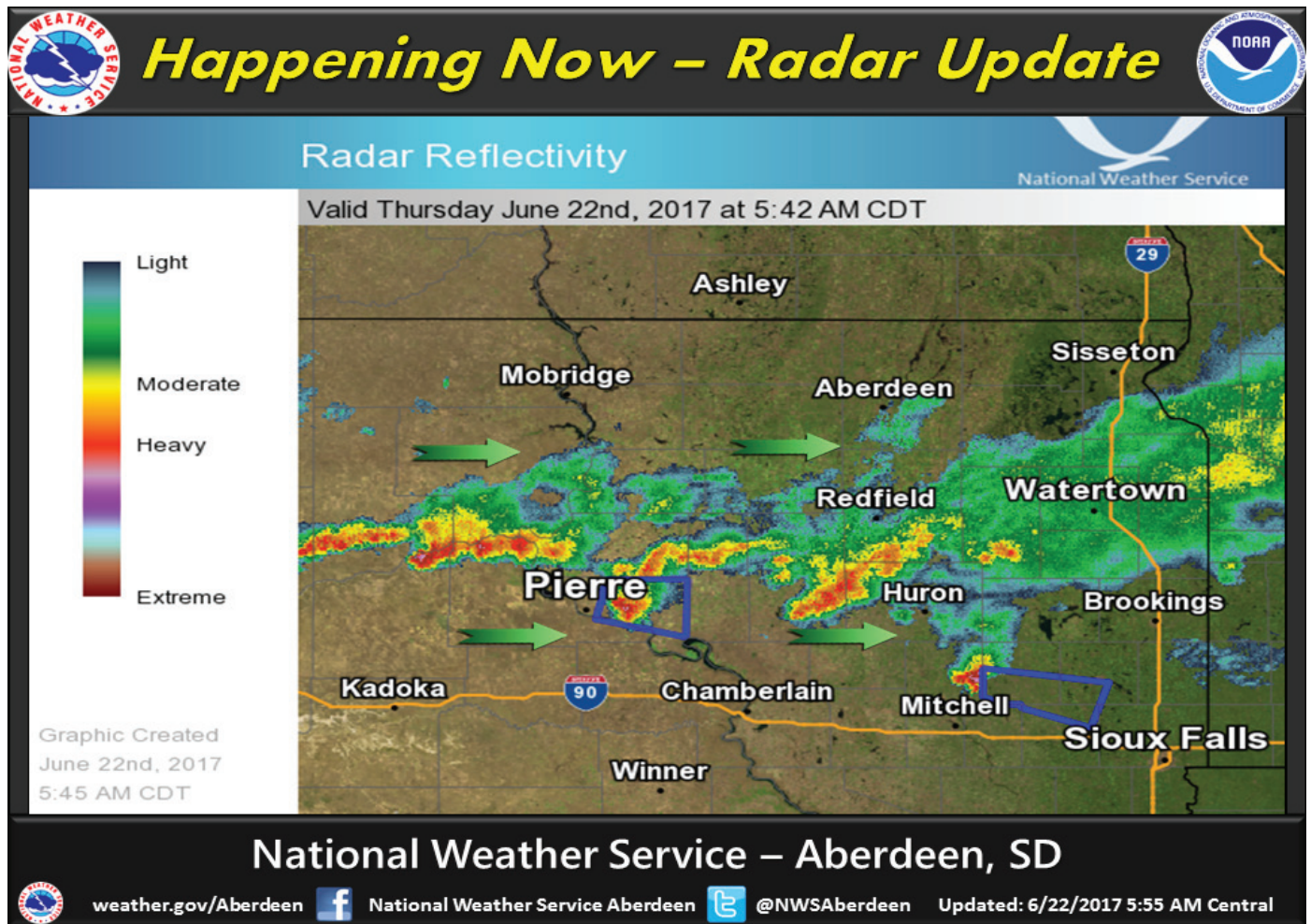
2003: A hailstone measuring 7.0 inches in diameter with a circumference of 18.75 inches and weighing 1.33 pounds falls in Aurora, Nebraska. The National Weather Service reports this is the second largest hailstone ever documented in the U.S. by weight, and the largest by size at that time. The world's largest hailstone NOW was produced from storms in South Dakota; 8" in diameter and 1.9375 lbs. on July 23, 2010.

2007: The first officially documented F5 tornado in Canada struck the town of Elie, Manitoba population 500 people. Video of the storm showed a heavy van being whirled through the air. The storm also tossed an almost entire house several hundred yards through the air before it disintegrated. The tornado traveled across the landscape for about 35 minutes covering 3.4 miles and leaving a damage path 984 feet wide. Wind speeds in the tornado were later estimated at 260-316 mph. Fortunately no fatalities or serious injuries were reported.

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Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
Scattered T-storms then Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 80 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 70 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 68 °F	Low: 46 °F	High: 71 °F



Published on: 06/22/2017 at 5:58AM

Showers and thunderstorms continue this morning across the area, mainly south of Highway 212. The radar image from 542am continued to show a couple severe thunderstorm warnings. There remains a threat for strong to severe storms this morning, with large hail and strong winds being the main concerns. Expect this activity to gradually exit the area by early afternoon as everything moves off to the east.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 90.4 F at 6:01 PM

Low Outside Temp: 61.7 F at 1:18 AM

High Gust: 25.0 Mph at 7:09 PM

Precip: 0.09

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1922

Record Low: 39° in 1905

Average High: 80°F

Average Low: 56°F

Average Precip in June: 2.71

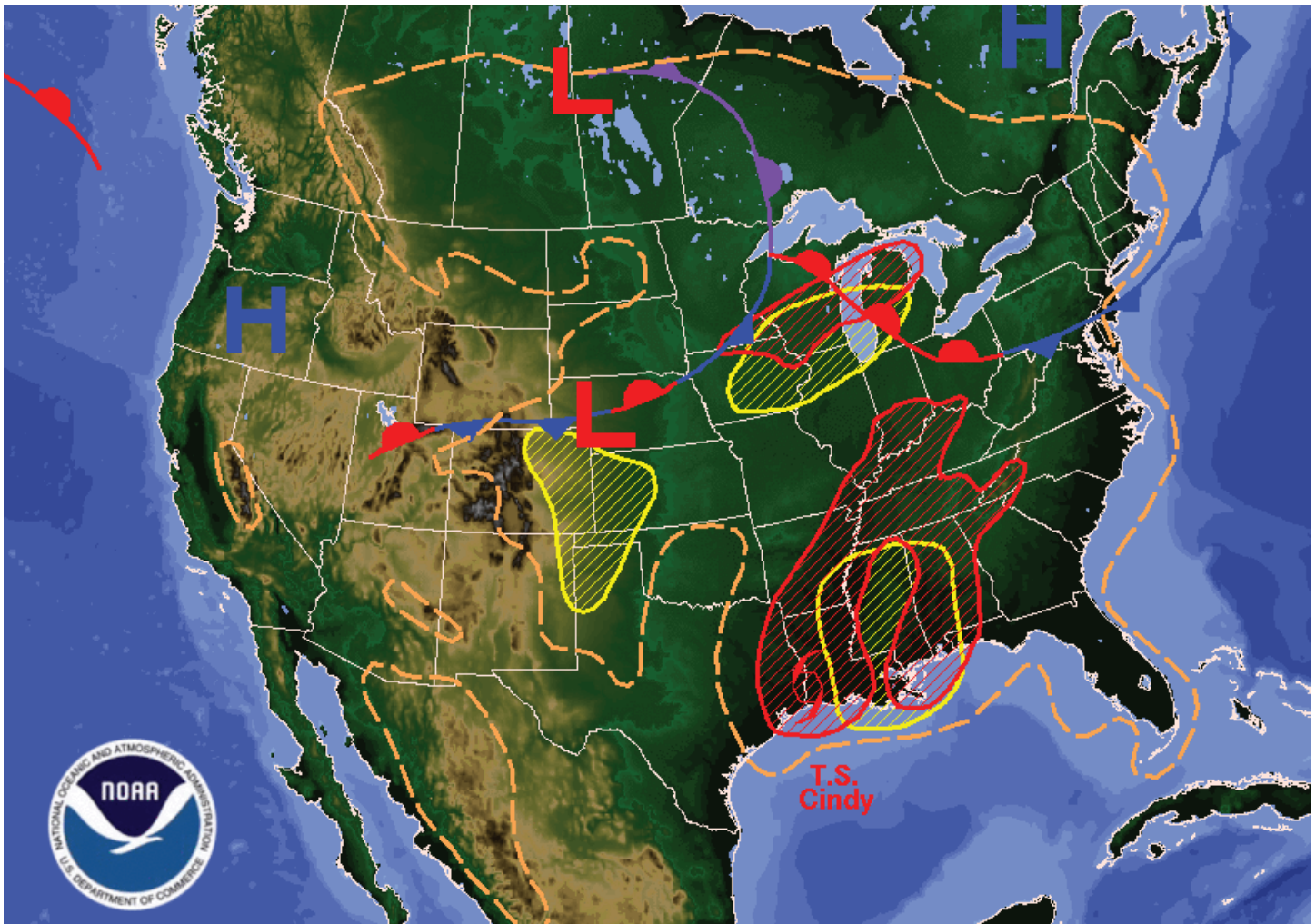
Precip to date in June: 2.52

Average Precip to date: 9.85

Precip Year to Date: 5.71

Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:45 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Jun 22, 2017, issued 4:36 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

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



HINDERING THE WORK OF THE LORD

An evangelist was visiting with a group of missionaries in South America. He asked them many questions about their work, their families, the natives in that particular country and what they missed most while they were away from their families and friends.

As he was concluding his visit, he asked one final question: "What is the greatest problem you face in your work as missionaries?" The answer surprised him.

"Inconsistent Christians," they replied. "The way they live confuses the unsaved because they are one way one day and another way the next day. They come between God and the sinner and make our work difficult!"

When we live inconsistent lives, those around us are unable to predict the difference that Christ makes in our lives or the difference He can make in their lives. There is no path for them to follow, no promises for them to claim and no peace for their anxieties.

The life of a Christian should be a bridge to the greatness of God that reflects the power of the risen Christ and the joy that comes from the presence of the Holy Spirit flowing through our lives.

Christians are responsible for setting an example for everyone to follow because we profess to be followers of the One who is "the Way, the Truth and the Life." If we are irresponsible and inconsistent in the way we live, what do we have to offer others that is different from what the world has to offer? We must be careful not to stand or come between God and the sinner.

Prayer: Lord, may we always represent Your love to those around us in a way that will draw them to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers.

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
02-03-04-30-31
(two, three, four, thirty, thirty-one)
Estimated jackpot: \$256,000

Hot Lotto
10-12-24-33-35, Hot Ball: 1
(ten, twelve, twenty-four, thirty-three, thirty-five; Hot Ball: one)
Estimated jackpot: \$7.55 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$134 million

Powerball
14-46-61-65-68, Powerball: 13, Power Play: 2
(fourteen, forty-six, sixty-one, sixty-five, sixty-eight; Powerball: thirteen; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$64 million

Governor proclaims day for post-traumatic stress injuries

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Gov. Dennis Daugaard has proclaimed there will be a "Post-Traumatic Stress Injury Awareness Day" this month.

The Republican governor says that Tuesday will be a day to think about the treatment, symptoms and causes of post-traumatic stress injuries.

Larry Zimmerman is secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs. Zimmerman says everyone should help raise awareness about post-traumatic stress injuries.

He says that people working together can make a difference.

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.

Ehab 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.

9 suspects charged in deadly drug ring in South Dakota

SPEARFISH, S.D. (AP) — A large-scale drug bust has resulted in the indictment of nine people in eastern South Dakota on a total of 50 felony charges involving a newly discovered illegal drug that's risen in

popularity and the overdose deaths of two people.

All but one of the suspects named in the Lawrence County grand jury indictments on June 14 have been apprehended, the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2rQSzSw>) reported.

Authorities alleged the drug ring north of Black Hills distributed methamphetamine as well as a drug similar to fentanyl, a trending synthetic opioid that has been blamed for hundreds of overdose deaths nationwide.

"I have probably not ever seen this many individuals indicted on this many felony counts," said John Fitzgerald, the Lawrence County state's attorney whose career as a prosecutor spans nearly 40 years.

The suspects named in the indictment are Eric Michael Reeder, 37; Ashley Kristina Kuntz, 32; Terry Geib, 32; Todd May, 26; Marcus Pelletier, 25; Jeffrey Deux, 33; Spencer Krueger, 27; and Eric Koller, 32. They face charges ranging from drug counts to manslaughter in connection with the January overdose deaths of Spearfish residents Carerra Hall, 23, and Troy Kuntz, 38.

Fitzgerald confirmed Ashley Kuntz is related to Troy Kuntz, but the prosecutor declined to say how.

Authorities said the two deaths involved the fentanyl equivalent.

"This is a drug that mimics fentanyl, a pharmaceutical painkiller that is very powerful and highly regulated," Fitzgerald said. "Fentanyl analog mimics those effects, but is not a pharmaceutical drug at all; it is a controlled substance listed as Schedule I narcotic, meaning it is not available under any circumstances at all. No one can prescribe it because it can be a deadly substance."

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

Ashley Kuntz and Deux have been arraigned and released on bond, while the remaining defendants remain in custody at the Lawrence County Jail in Deadwood.

Hansen said the ninth defendant in the case is still at large.

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

Polygamous leader hit with new felony charge after capture

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Captured polygamous sect leader Lyle Jeffs could face up to another 10 years in prison after prosecutors filed a new felony charge Wednesday connected to his nearly yearlong time on the run.

The new failure to appear count comes on top of two felony charges in a suspected multimillion-dollar food stamp fraud scheme. Jeffs was awaiting trial on those charges when he escaped from home confinement by using olive oil to slip out of his ankle monitor in Salt Lake City on June 18, 2016.

Many of the other 10 defendants accused in the food-stamp scheme struck plea deals with federal prosecutors, but U.S. Attorney for Utah John Huber said Jeffs will be different.

"Disobeying court orders has consequences, and in federal court those consequences are serious," He said in a statement Wednesday. "We intend to assert the public's right to a speedy trial and look forward to presenting our case to the jury."

No additional charges are expected in connection with the escape, said Melodie Rydalch, spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Utah.

He's also facing conspiracy to commit food-stamp fraud, which carries a sentence of up to five years, and money laundering, which could bring up to 10 years in prison.

Jeffs was recaptured in a small South Dakota town on June 14 after pawning two Leatherman pliers while apparently living out of his pickup truck near the South Dakota-Nebraska state line.

He had been in the area for about two weeks, running low on resources and struggling without the help of fellow sect members after falling out with his brother Warren Jeffs, who runs the group while serving a life prison sentence in Texas for sexual assault of underage brides, the FBI has said.

Their group, known as the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, is based in a

small community on the Utah-Arizona border. Members of the sect believe polygamy brings exaltation in heaven. The group is an offshoot of mainstream Mormonism, which disavowed polygamy more than 100 years ago.

The group has a small compound in far west South Dakota, but Lyle Jeffs was about six hours away when he was arrested.

Jeffs was the last of the defendants in the food stamp fraud case still behind bars when U.S. District Judge Ted Stewart last year in June reversed an earlier decision and granted his release.

Ruling on Dakota Access pipeline shutdown months away

By BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A federal judge won't decide until later this year whether to shut down the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline while federal officials conduct a more thorough environmental review.

U.S. District Judge James Boasberg on Wednesday approved a schedule under which both sides in a lawsuit over the pipeline will submit written arguments on the matter in July and August.

"We would expect a decision sometime after that, probably September," said Jan Hasselman, an attorney for the Standing Rock Sioux, which filed the lawsuit last summer that was later joined by three other Sioux tribes.

The Standing Rock tribe sued because it believes the \$3.8 billion pipeline built by Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners threatens cultural sites and its water supply. The company disputes that and maintains the pipeline is safe.

The long-delayed project was finished earlier this year after President Donald Trump took office and called for its completion. On June 1, the pipeline began moving North Dakota oil to a distribution point in Illinois, from which it's shipped to the Gulf Coast.

But Boasberg last week ruled that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which permitted the pipeline, didn't adequately consider how an oil spill might affect the tribe. He ordered the agency to reconsider parts of its environmental analysis.

About 50 anti-pipeline protesters rallied outside the federal courthouse in Washington, D.C., during Wednesday's hearing. They sang, chanted, held signs with messages such as "water is life" and gave speeches in support of the tribe.

"If that (pipeline) spills, it means game over," said the Rev. Lennox Yearwood Jr., president and CEO of the Hip Hop Caucus activist group. "It means they can't wash, they can't clean, they can't feed their children. It means their way of life ends."

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

Goehring, Johnson join call for emergency CRP haying

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota Agriculture Commissioner Doug Goehring and National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson have joined the call for emergency haying and grazing of grassland enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program.

Goehring has sent a request to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue as farmers and ranchers in the state deal with drought. North Dakota's congressional delegation made the same request earlier this week.

Johnson's request to Perdue is for North Dakota and parts of South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota.

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map shows all of North Dakota being either abnormally dry or in some stage of drought, with more than one-fourth of the state in severe drought.

\$1 million cash bond in slaying of retired teacher

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — Bond has been set at \$1 million cash for a man accused of escaping from custody in South Dakota and killing a retired teacher in Rapid City.

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Andrew Eastman is charged with first-degree murder in the death of 64-year-old Larry Mintzloff. Authorities say Eastman escaped from an inmate job site in Rapid City on June 2 using a city-owned pickup, then went over to Mintzloff's house, where the man was found dead on June 6.

Eastman was arrested in Albuquerque, New Mexico June 9 and brought back to South Dakota Tuesday. The Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2rRFmcm>) says a magistrate judge in Pennington County granted prosecutors' request for the \$1 million bond Wednesday.

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

Forbes: Sanford richest in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Forbes magazine has listed the richest person in every state. In South Dakota, T. Denny Sanford tops the list with a net worth of \$2.1 billion.

The man who made his money in the banking and credit card industries is wealthier than last year. Forbes 400 list in 2016 listed Sanford's worth at \$1.8 billion.

Sanford isn't alone in seeing his fortune increase. Thirty-six of the 52 people on the list are worth more than last year. Bill Gates is the richest person on the list with a worth of nearly \$89 billion. He also gained the most since last year adding nearly \$13 billion to his portfolio this year.

Murder defendant seeks to have case moved to juvenile court

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A 17-year-old accused of stabbing a Rapid City convenience store clerk to death during a January robbery wants to be tried as a juvenile rather than an adult.

Carlos Quevedo of Rapid City is charged as an adult with alternate counts of first- and second-degree murder, and he also faces a first-degree robbery charge. Nineteen-year-old Cody Grady is also charged in the death of 45-year-old Kasie Lord.

Quevedo's defense attorney, Randy Connelly, has asked the court for a meeting to determine if Quevedo's case can be moved to juvenile court.

Authorities say Lord was killed as she followed Quevedo and Grady outside while they attempted to steal some beer.

Prosecutors say surveillance video shows Grady running off with items from the store as Quevedo stabbed Lord more than 38 times.

London fire: Cladding in other buildings 'combustible'

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Some 600 buildings in England could have been fitted with flammable external panels like the ones believed to have contributed to a fire that killed at least 79 people in a west London apartment building, Prime Minister Theresa May's Downing Street office said.

Government facilities testing cladding have so far found three tower blocks to have combustible panels. The testing came after local authorities submitted samples following the June 14 fire at Grenfell Tower in north Kensington.

Police and fire officials are trying to determine whether the aluminum composite panels contributed to the rapid spread of the blaze, which engulfed the 24-story building in less than an hour.

"A number of these tests have come back as combustible," May said. "The relevant local authorities and local fire services have been informed, and, as I speak, they are taking all possible steps to ensure buildings are safe and to inform affected residents."

May encouraged the owners, both public and private, of tower blocks around the country to quickly forward samples of any similar material for testing. The government will work with local authorities to make sure any dangerous material is removed and residents are safe, she said.

The Department for Communities and Local Government said it would not identify the buildings with

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combustible panels until landlords have had the opportunity to inform tenants.

Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn called for urgent checks on around 4,000 buildings as Britain comes to grips with the potential ramifications of the disaster. Thousands need urgent assurances about their own safety, he said.

"At least 79 people are dead — it is both a tragedy and an outrage because every single one of those deaths could and should have been avoided," Corbyn said.

Corbyn compared the tragedy to the 1989 Hillsborough disaster in which 96 people were killed in the crush of a crowded soccer stadium, and recent sexual abuse scandals involving vulnerable children, arguing that the government had long turned a blind eye to the needs of the poor.

"The pattern is consistent: working-class people's voices are ignored, their concerns dismissed by those in power," he said.

May has apologized for mistakes that were made in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower tragedy and promised that "no stone will be left unturned" in a public inquiry into its causes.

"For any guilty parties there will be nowhere to hide," she said.

May's comments came after the resignation of the top administrative official in the local government that serves the community devastated by the fire. Local residents and the central government have criticized the response to the tragedy.

Nicholas Holgate, chief executive of the Kensington and Chelsea council, had come under intense pressure following last week's blaze. The first few days after the fire were marked by chaos on the ground as local authorities struggled to deal with the hundreds of people who were displaced.

Survivors who had lost everything found it hard to get information about missing loved ones or the services available to help them get back on their feet.

Tests on exterior building materials in other high-rise buildings conducted after the devastating west London fire has shown that some of the panels submitted were combustible, British Prime Minister Theresa May said Thursday.

May told the House of Commons that authorities submitted cladding on similar buildings following the Grenfell Tower fire on June 14 that killed at least 79 people. The aluminum composite material is being studied to see if it contributed to the quick spread of the blaze, which consumed the 24-story building in less than an hour.

"Shortly before I came to the chamber, I was informed that a number of these tests have come back as combustible," she said. "The relevant local authorities and local fire services have been informed, and, as I speak, they are taking all possible steps to ensure buildings are safe and to inform affected residents."

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"At least 79 people are dead — it is both a tragedy and an outrage because every single one of those deaths could and should have been avoided," Corbyn said.

Corbyn compared the tragedy with the Hillsborough disaster, a stampede in which people were crushed, recent child abuse scandals, arguing that the government turned a blind eye to the poor.

"The pattern is consistent: working-class people's voices are ignored, their concerns dismissed by those in power," he said.

May has apologized for mistakes made in dealing with the aftermath of Grenfell Tower tragedy and promised that "no stone will be left unturned" in the inquiry.

"For any guilty parties there will be nowhere to hide," she said.

May's comments came following the resignation of the local administrator in the west London community devastated by the fire after government officials criticized the speed of the response to the tragedy.

Nicholas Holgate, chief executive of the Kensington and Chelsea council, had come under intense pressure in the wake of last week's Grenfell Tower blaze. The first few days after inferno were marked by chaos on the ground as local authorities struggled to deal with the scope of the disaster.

Residents who survived the tower blaze lost everything, only to get little help or information on how

they'd get back on their feet.

Tropical Storm Cindy comes ashore in southwest Louisiana

By KEVIN MCGILL, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Gulf Coast states were in for a third day of rough weather as Tropical Storm Cindy sloshed ashore early Thursday in southwestern Louisiana.

Already blamed for one death in Alabama, Cindy was expected to keep churning seas and spin off bands of severe weather from eastern Texas to northwestern Florida.

The storm's maximum sustained winds had decreased to near 40 mph (64 kph) Thursday morning with additional weakening expected, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said.

A boy on an Alabama beach was struck and killed Wednesday by a log washed ashore by the storm. Baldwin County Sheriff's Capt. Stephen Arthur said witnesses reported the 10-year-old boy from Missouri was standing outside a condominium in Fort Morgan when the log, carried in by a large wave, struck him. Arthur said the youth was vacationing with his family from the St. Louis area and that relatives and emergency workers tried to revive him. He wasn't immediately identified.

It was the first known fatality from Cindy. Otherwise, the storm was blamed for widespread coastal highway flooding, rough seas and scattered reports of power outages and building damage caused by high winds. There were numerous reports of waterspouts and short-lived tornadoes spawned by the storm.

National Weather Service forecasters estimated the storm had dumped anywhere from 2 to 10 inches (50 to 250 millimeters) of rain on various spots along the Gulf Coast from southern Louisiana to the Florida panhandle as of Wednesday. And more rain was on the way.

Alek Krautmann of the National Weather Service in Slidell, Louisiana, said Thursday's pattern would likely be much like Wednesday's: Bands of intermittent, sometimes heavy rain spinning onto the coast.

In Gulfport, Mississippi, Kathleen Bertucci said heavy rainfall Wednesday sent about 10 inches of water into her business, Top Shop, which sells and installs granite countertops.

"It's pretty disgusting, but I don't have flood insurance because they took me out of the flood zone," said Bertucci, whose store is near a bayou. "We're just trying to clean everything up and hope it doesn't happen again."

In nearby Biloxi, a waterspout moved ashore Wednesday morning. Harrison County Emergency Management Director Rupert Lacy said there were no injuries but fences, trees and power lines were damaged.

Storms also downed trees in the Florida Panhandle. Fort Walton Beach spokeswoman Jo Soria said fallen trees hit houses and cars in what she called "pockets of wind damage" in two or three residential neighborhoods.

The White House said President Donald Trump was briefed on the storm Wednesday by Homeland Security Adviser Tom Bossert.

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency, like his Alabama counterpart a day earlier. He was among authorities stressing that the storm's danger wasn't limited to the coast.

In Knoxville, Tennessee, the power-generating Tennessee Valley Authority, said it was drawing down water levels on nine lakes it controls along the Tennessee River and its tributaries in Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky, anticipating heavy runoff from Cindy's rains once the storm moves inland. The TVA manages 49 dams to regulate water, provide power and help control downstream flooding.

In Alabama, streets were flooded and beaches were closed on the barrier island of Dauphin Island. Some roads were covered with water in the seafood village of Bayou La Batre, but Becca Caldemeyer still managed to get to her bait shop open at the city dock. If only there were more customers, she said.

"It's pretty quiet," Caldemeyer said by phone from Rough Water Bait and Tackle. "Nobody can cast a shrimp out in this kind of wind."

Some threats could be lurking in the flood waters, Alabama state officials warned: Floating colonies of fire ants could form in the gushing surge of water, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System said in a statement. The floating colonies of insects known as red imported fire ants may look like ribbons, stream-

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ers or a large ball of ants floating on the water, entomologists said.

Off the coast of Texas, rough seas also led to the rescue of a shrimp trawler in danger of sinking. The U.S. Coast Guard said crew of the trawler Footprint was about 80 miles (130 kilometers) southeast of Galveston when the crew radioed that the vessel was taking on water faster than onboard pumps could clear it. A helicopter crew lowered and extra pump that enabled the shrimp boat crew to clear enough water to stay afloat. A Coast Guard cutter escorted the vessel to Freeport, Texas.

Associated Press writers Janet McConaughy in New Orleans; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Jeff Amy and Emily Wagster in Jackson, Mississippi; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Kimberly Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama; Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida; and Jeff Martin in Atlanta contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. AP: UAE-RUN YEMEN PRISONS RIFE WITH ABUSE, TORTURE

An AP investigation finds that Americans have interrogated some of the detainees — hundreds have disappeared in a hunt for al-Qaida militants — in possible violation of international law, which prohibits complicity in torture.

2. AP: US, EU URGE CHINA TO LIMIT FOOD IMPORT CONTROL

Food exporters from nine nations and the EU pressure China to scale back plans for intensive inspections of imports they say will hamper access to its fast-growing market.

3. TRUMP'S COMEY TEASE COMING TO A HEAD

An answer is expected this week as the president plays a high-stakes guessing game over whether he has recordings of his conversations with the fired FBI director.

4. AP SOURCES: HEALTH BILL RESHAPING 'OBAMACARE'

Senate Republicans would cut Medicaid, end penalties for people not buying insurance and erase a raft of tax increases.

5. CINDY COMES ASHORE IN SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA

Gulf Coast states are in for a third day of rough weather as the tropical storm churns seas and spins off bands of severe weather from east Texas to northwestern Florida.

6. US AIRPORT STABBING INVESTIGATED AS TERROR

A Canadian man from Tunisia shouted about people being killed in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan before stabbing a police officer in the neck at an airport in Flint, Michigan, officials say.

7. CONVICTIONS RARE IN POLICE SHOOTINGS

Experts cite a myriad of factors, including racial bias, attitudes toward law enforcement and the challenge of showing what an officer was thinking in a high-pressure situation.

8. WHY PERSIAN GULF TURMOIL IS SPIKING

Many of the tensions between Riyadh and Tehran, as well the Qatar rift, existed for many years, but have hurtled to the surface now, some analysts say, since Trump visited Saudi Arabia and backed the kingdom.

9. HOLIDAY TRAVEL EXPECTED TO SPIKE

Americans are expected to put down the TV remote and hit the road in record numbers for the July 4th weekend, auto club AAA says.

10. AFTER TOP 2 SELECTIONS, INTRIGUE

Markelle Fultz and Lonzo Ball are expected to go 1-2 in the NBA draft, but then the Celtics have a slew of options with the third pick.

IS militants destroy 12th century mosque in Iraq's Mosul

By BALINT SZLANKO, Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — The Islamic State group blew up a historic landmark in Mosul — the city's famed 12th century al-Nuri mosque with its iconic leaning minaret known as al-Hadba, from where the IS leader proclaimed the militant group's self-styled caliphate nearly three years ago.

The explosion destroyed another piece of priceless Iraqi cultural heritage but also sent a strong message to U.S.-led coalition forces and Iraqi troops closing in on the last stronghold of IS, in Mosul's Old City neighborhood.

Iraq's Ministry of Defense said the militants detonated explosives planted inside the structures on Wednesday night. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi tweeted early on Thursday that the destruction was an admission by the militants that they are losing the fight for Iraq's second-largest city.

"Daesh's bombing of the al-Hadba minaret and the al-Nuri Mosque is a formal declaration of their defeat," al-Abadi said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

"It is a shock, a real big shock," Amir al-Jumaili, a professor at the Archaeology College in Mosul told The Associated Press.

The al-Nuri mosque, which is also known as Mosul's Great Mosque, is where IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi made a rare public appearance, declaring a so-called Islamic caliphate in the summer of 2014, shortly after Mosul was overrun by the militants. The minaret that leaned like Italy's Tower of Pisa had stood for more than 840 years.

The IS blew up the mosque during the celebrations of Laylat al Qadr, the holiest night of the year for Muslims. The "Night of Power" commemorates the night the Quran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which is now underway.

An IS statement posted online shortly after the Ministry of Defense reported the mosque's destruction blamed an airstrike by the United States for the loss of the mosque and minaret.

The U.S.-led coalition rejected the IS claim. Spokesman, U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon told the Associated Press coalition planes "did not conduct strikes in that area at that time."

IS fighters initially attempted to destroy the minaret in July 2014. The militants said the structure contradicted their fundamentalist interpretation of Islam, but Mosul residents converged on the area and formed a human chain to protect it. IS has demolished dozens of historic and archaeological sites in and around Mosul, saying they promoted idolatry.

Earlier this month, Mosul residents reported IS fighters had begun sealing off the area around the mosque. Residents said that IS fighters ordered families living in the area to leave — likely in preparation for the militants' final stand.

"This is a crime against the people of Mosul and all of Iraq, and is an example of why this brutal organization must be annihilated," U.S. Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin, the commander of coalition ground forces in Iraq, said in a written statement.

"The responsibility of this devastation is laid firmly at the doorstep of ISIS," he added. ISIS is another acronym for the Islamic State group.

The mosque sat at the heart of the Old City, the last IS stronghold in Mosul. Iraqi forces launched a push into the Old City earlier this week, but have made slow progress as the last IS fighters there are holed up with an estimated 100,000 civilians according to the United Nations.

Brett McGurk, the U.S. envoy for the global coalition against IS, also criticized the destruction at the hands of the militants, describing it as "a very significant moment," in comments Thursday at an annual security and policy conference in Herzliya, Israel.

"Late yesterday, as Iraqi security forces closed in on that mosque about a hundred meters away, ISIS blew it up, a mosque that sat there since the 12th century, ISIS blew it up," McGurk said.

The fight to retake Mosul was launched more than eight months ago and has displaced more than 850,000 people. While Iraqi forces have experienced periods of swift gains, combat inside the city has largely been grueling and deadly for both Iraqi forces and civilians.

Al-Jumaili, the archaeology professor, said he long feared the destruction of the mosque and minaret was inevitable.

"It was the last icon for the historic city of Mosul and a valuable symbol," he said. "I am sure Mosul residents could not sleep last night."

Associated Press writer Sinan Salaheddin in Baghdad and Lolita Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

US airport stabbing investigated as terror; Canadian charged

By JEFF KAROUB and MIKE HOUSEHOLDER, Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — A Canadian man from Tunisia shouted in Arabic before stabbing a police officer in the neck at a Michigan airport, and referenced people being killed overseas during the attack that's now being investigated as an act of terrorism, federal and court officials said.

Amor Ftouhi, 49, of Montreal, was immediately taken into custody. A criminal complaint charging him with committing violence at an airport says Ftouhi asked an officer who subdued him why the officer didn't kill him.

The attack Wednesday at Bishop International Airport in Flint, Michigan, is being investigated as an act of terrorism, but authorities have no indication at this time that the suspect was involved in a "wider plot," said FBI Special Agent in Charge David Gelios.

"At this time we view him as a lone-wolf attacker," Gelios said. "We have no information to suggest any training."

The criminal complaint says Ftouhi stabbed airport police Lt. Jeff Neville with a large knife after yelling "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for "God is great." According to the FBI, Ftouhi said something similar to "you have killed people in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and we are all going to die."

More charges against Ftouhi could be filed as prosecutors take the case to a grand jury seeking an indictment, Gelios said. The Flint Journal, citing court officials, said that Ftouhi is a dual citizen of Canada and Tunisia.

Neville was in satisfactory condition after initially being in critical condition, airport police Chief Chris Miller said at a Wednesday afternoon news conference where the charge against Ftouhi was announced.

Ftouhi appeared in federal court in Flint to hear the charge and will get a court-appointed attorney. A court spokesman says Ftouhi will remain in custody until a bond hearing next Wednesday.

The attack occurred just before 10 a.m., prompting officials to evacuate and shut down the airport and add security elsewhere in the Michigan city about 50 miles (80.46 kilometers) northwest of Detroit. White House press secretary Sean Spicer said President Donald Trump was briefed on the stabbing, and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said he was "proud of the swift response" by authorities from both the U.S. and Canada.

Police in Canada were searching a Montreal apartment. Montreal police spokesman Benoit Boiselle said officers with their department were assisting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the search on behalf of an FBI request.

Boiselle said three people staying at the residence had been taken in for questioning.

Luciano Piazza, the building landlord, said Ftouhi was not a difficult tenant and that he is married with children.

"I never had any problems with him," Piazza said. "I'm really surprised. I would see him at least once a month, when he paid his rent."

Gelios said Ftouhi legally entered the U.S. at Champlain, New York, on June 16 and made his way to the Flint airport on Wednesday morning.

Ftouhi spent some time in public, unsecured areas of the airport before going to a restroom where he dropped two bags before attacking the officer with a 12-inch knife that had an 8-inch serrated blade, Gelios said.

Ftouhi never went through any security screening, Gelios said. He described Ftouhi as "cooperative" and talking to investigators.

Witnesses described seeing the suspect being led away as Neville was bleeding, a knife on the ground. "The cop was on his hands and knees bleeding from his neck," Ken Brown told The Flint Journal. "I said they need to get him a towel."

Cherie Carpenter, who was awaiting a flight to Texas to see her new grandchild, told Flint TV station WJRT she saw the attacker being led away in handcuffs. She described the man in custody as appearing "blank, just totally blank."

Miller, the airport chief, said Neville "fought him to the end," managing to stop the stabbing and bring Ftouhi to the ground as Miller and other officers arrived to help.

After the stabbing, officials stationed police officers at Flint City Hall a few miles away. Mayor Karen Weaver said in a release the situation was "under control" but that officials sought to take "extra precautions."

Genesee County Commissioner Mark Young, a friend of Neville's who retired from the county sheriff's office in 1997, said Neville left that department two years after him. He said Neville served in various capacities with the sheriff's office including in the jail, on road patrol and as a court officer.

Neville retired from the sheriff's office as a lieutenant.

Karoub reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers Ed White and Corey Williams in Detroit, Rob Gillies in Toronto, Kenneth Thomas in Washington and Sadie Gurman in Phoenix, Arizona, contributed to this story.

Trump's tease of possible Comey tapes fits familiar pattern

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump said he had a secret.

He dangled it on Twitter. He parried reporters' questions about it. He milked the moment, drawing out the drama for weeks.

That big tease played out in 2011, when Trump promised to reveal what his private investigators had found in Hawaii about President Barack Obama's birth certificate. (Trump never did release anything.)

Now, Trump has stretched out a new high-stakes guessing game, this time in the White House, by hinting that he might have recordings of his conversations with fired FBI Director James Comey.

Trump is expected to answer the tapes question this week.

If they do exist, they could become a central piece of evidence in the Russia investigation that has transfixed Washington and cast a shadow over the future of Trump's presidency. If they don't, questions will be raised about why the president would stake his reputation and political capital on promoting something that just isn't real.

Several outside advisers who speak to Trump regularly said the president has not mentioned the existence of tapes during their conversations. White House aides have been known to grimace when the subject comes up, and more than a half-dozen staffers said they were unaware of any recording devices. All demanded anonymity to speak about private discussions with the president.

Whether the tapes exist or not, this is far from the first time that Trump, the former star of reality TV and tabloids, has manufactured a melodrama that begins with bluster but often ends with a whimper.

"I think he was in his way instinctively trying to rattle Comey," says former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a longtime Trump confidant. "He's not a professional politician. He doesn't come back and think about Nixon and Watergate. His instinct is: 'I'll outbluff you.'"

The latest chapter in Trump's tale of mystery began last month, just days after he fired Comey, then leading the investigation into contacts between the president's campaign and Russian officials.

A New York Times report cited two unnamed Comey associates who recounted his version of a January dinner with the president in which Trump asked for a pledge of loyalty. Comey declined, instead offering to be "honest." When Trump then pressed for "honest loyalty," Comey told him, "You will have that," the

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associates said.

Trump tweeted the next day that Comey "better hope that there are no 'tapes' of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!"

That immediately evoked the secret White House recordings that led to Richard Nixon's downfall during Watergate. Under a post-Watergate law, the Presidential Records Act, recordings made by presidents belong to the people and can eventually be made public. Destroying them would be a crime.

Comey has claimed that any recordings would support his claims that Trump asked him to pledge loyalty and to drop the investigation into Trump's former national security adviser.

"Lordy, I hope there are tapes," Comey declared at a congressional hearing.

But the president has steadfastly refused to clarify whether any tapes exist.

Two weeks ago, he teased reporters in the White House Rose Garden by saying that he'd explain "maybe sometime in the very near future." He cryptically added: "You are going to be very disappointed when you hear the answer." White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters said Wednesday that an answer would be provided this week, presumably by the Friday deadline set by the House intelligence committee for turning over any tapes.

Trump's private counsel, Marc Kasowitz, would not be involved in the handover of any tapes, his spokesman said. A White House spokesman did not respond to a question on whether White House counsel Don McGahn would have a role.

The Secret Service has no audio copies or transcripts of any tapes recorded within Trump's White House, according to a freedom of information request submitted by The Wall Street Journal. But that doesn't exclude the possibility that recordings were created by another entity.

At his office in New York, Trump was known to worry about possible listening devices, but he also occasionally taped his own phone conversations. Some campaign workers also believed Trump had a system set up to record phone calls.

Trump has a long history of making outsized claims. In the 1980s, he got ensnarled in a battle over a valuable tract of property on Manhattan's west side he dubbed "Television City," claiming without proof that major TV networks had promised to build there, according to George Arzt, press secretary for then-Mayor Ed Koch. The project never was built.

"This is all about gamesmanship for him," said Arzt. "It doesn't matter what the outcome of the gamesmanship is. He's a showman and it keeps him in the headlines. There haven't been repercussions if his bluff fails."

Trump flirted with presidential runs in 1988 and 2000 before abandoning them. He offered to help rebuild the World Trade Center in 2004 but never followed through. And his embrace of birtherism, which questioned whether Obama was born in the United States and eligible to become president, fueled his political rise. He claimed to have sent investigators to Hawaii and teased their possible findings for months, but never produced any evidence.

The pattern has continued since his election.

Sometimes he's delivered on the tease: He spent weeks building suspense about whether the United States would remain in the Paris climate agreement and eventually announced in a lavish Rose Garden ceremony that the U.S. would pull out.

But other times he has not. On New Year's Eve, he claimed he knew "things that other people don't know" about foreign hacking of last year's election, and that the information would be revealed "on Tuesday or Wednesday." Those days came and went without an answer. In March, he tweeted the incendiary claim that he was wiretapped by his predecessor, a charge he's never supported.

"He follows the paradigm that no news is bad news," said Sam Nunberg, a former campaign aide. "He knows how to play to America's insatiable appetite not just for news but for drama and interest. He brought that to Washington: you have a mogul sitting in the White House and he's going to keep doing it his way."

Associated Press writers Ken Thomas and Deb Riechmann contributed reporting.

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AP sources: Senate GOP health bill would reshape Obama law

By ALAN FRAM and RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans would cut Medicaid, end penalties for people not buying insurance and erase a raft of tax increases as part of their long-awaited plan to scuttle President Barack Obama's health care law, congressional aides and lobbyists say.

After weeks of closed-door meetings that angered Democrats and some Republicans, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell planned to release the proposal Thursday. The package represents McConnell's attempt to quell criticism by party moderates and conservatives and win the support he needs in a vote he hopes to stage next week.

In a departure from the version the House approved last month, which President Donald Trump privately called "mean," the Senate plan would drop the House's waivers allowing states to let insurers boost premiums on some people with pre-existing conditions. It would also largely retain the subsidies Obama provided to help millions buy insurance, which are pegged mostly to people's incomes and the premiums they pay.

The House's tax credits were tied to people's ages, a change the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said would boost out-of-pocket costs to many lower earners. Starting in 2020, the Senate version would begin shifting increasing amounts of tax credits away from higher earners, making more funds available to lower-income recipients, some officials said.

The emerging Senate bill was described by people on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it publicly.

Facing uniform Democratic opposition, the Senate plan would fail if just three of the chamber's 52 Republicans defect. More than half a dozen GOP senators have expressed problems with the measure, and a defeat would be a humiliating setback for Trump and McConnell on one of their party's top priorities.

"We have a responsibility to move forward, and we are," said McConnell, R-Ky.

GOP Senate leaders were eager for a seal of approval from Trump, who had urged them to produce a bill more "generous" than the House's.

"They seem to be enthusiastic about what we're producing tomorrow," No. 2 Senate GOP leader John Cornyn of Texas said Wednesday of White House officials. "It's going to be important to get the president's support to get us across the finish line."

Democrats say GOP characterizations of Obama's law as failing are wrong, while the Republican effort would boot millions off coverage and leave others facing higher out-of-pocket costs. The budget office said the House bill would cause 23 million to lose coverage by 2026.

The sources said that, in some instances, the documents McConnell planned to release might suggest optional approaches for issues that remain in dispute among Republicans.

That could include the number of years the bill would take to phase out the extra money Obama provided to expand the federal-state Medicaid program for the poor and disabled to millions of additional low earners.

The House-passed bill would halt the extra funds for new beneficiaries in three years, a suggestion McConnell has offered. But Republicans from states that expanded Medicaid, like Ohio's Rob Portman, want to extend that to seven years.

The Senate proposal would also impose annual limits on the federal Medicaid funds that would go to each state, which would tighten even further by the mid-2020s. Unlimited federal dollars now flow to each state for the program, covering all eligible beneficiaries and services.

The Senate would end the tax penalties Obama's law created for people not buying insurance and larger employers not offering coverage to workers. The so-called individual mandate — aimed at keeping

insurance markets solvent by prompting younger, healthier people to buy policies — has long been one of the GOP's favorite targets.

To help pay for its expanded coverage to around 20 million more people, Obama's law increased taxes on higher income people, medical industry companies and others, totaling around \$1 trillion over a decade. Like the House bill, the Senate plan would repeal or delay many of those tax boosts.

The House waiver allowing higher premiums for some people with pre-existing serious illnesses was added shortly before that chamber approved its bill last month and helped attract conservative support. It has come under widespread criticism from Democrats and helped prompt some moderate House Republicans to vote against the measure.

Conservatives like Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., have warned they could oppose the bill if it doesn't go far enough in dismantling Obama's law. Moderates including Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, have expressed concern that the measure would cause many to lose coverage.

In Iowa, Trump rallies base, celebrates GOP resilience

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP) — Struggling to advance his agenda in Washington, President Donald Trump traveled to the Midwest on Wednesday for a raucous rally with his loyal supporters — the kind of event he relished before winning the White House.

Trump touched down Wednesday evening in rainy Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and headed to a local community college, where he got a look at agriculture technology innovations before leading a campaign rally.

He reveled in Georgia Republican Karen Handel's congressional victory in an election viewed as an early referendum on his presidency.

"We're 5-0 in special elections," Trump said in front of a boisterous crowd that packed a downtown arena. "The truth is, people love us ... they haven't figured it out yet."

He also applauded Republican Ralph Norman, who notched a slimmer-than-expected win in a special election to fill the South Carolina congressional seat vacated by Mick Mulvaney, and mocked Handel's challenger, Jon Ossoff, saying the Democrats "spent \$30 million on this kid who forgot to live in the district."

Trump, no stranger to victory laps, turned his visit to a battleground state he captured in November into a celebration of his resilience despite the cloud of investigations that has enveloped his administration and sent his poll numbers tumbling.

With the appearance in Cedar Rapids, he has held five rallies in the first five months in office.

The event underscores Trump's comfort in a campaign setting. He laughed off the occasional heckler, repeated riffs from last year's rallies and appeared far more at ease when going after Democrats in front of adoring crowds than trying to push through his own legislative agenda from the confines of the White House.

Trump's aides are making a renewed push to get the president out of Washington. The capital is consumed with the investigation into Russian meddling in last year's election and Trump's firing of his FBI director.

Campaign rallies energize Trump by placing him in front of supporters who have stuck by him and are likely to dismiss the investigations as Beltway chatter.

Iowa, with its large share of independent voters, could be a proving ground for whether Trump can count on the support of voters beyond his base. Unaffiliated voters — 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 as 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. That margin helped Trump take the state by nearly 9 points after Barack Obama won it for Democrats the previous two elections.

Trump held a Des Moines rally in December as part of his transition-era "thank you" tour of states he

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had won, but has not been back to Iowa since.

Wednesday night, he touted his administration's efforts to roll back regulations, mused about putting solar panels on a Mexican border wall, derided wind power for killing birds in a state that uses a lot of it and revealed that he urged the Senate to create a health care plan "with heart. Add some money to it!"

He avoided any discussion of the scandals surrounding his presidency, other than one brief reference to the "witch hunt," which is what he has dubbed the probes into his campaign's ties to Russia.

Trump's evening in Iowa began with a tribute to former Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad, whom he had just appointed the United States' ambassador to China. He hailed Branstad, the longest-serving governor in the nation's history and an early Trump backer, as "a legend" and "one great man."

Trump's stop at Kirkwood Community College was intended to draw attention to the school's advancements in high-tech agriculture, but he resisted sitting behind the wheel of a virtual reality device that simulated a giant combine harvester. He was joined by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross as part of the administration's latest theme week, this time to highlight the importance of technology. He later touted the wealth of Ross and chief economic adviser Gary Cohn, saying: "Those particular positions, I just don't want a poor person. Does that make sense?"

But much of Trump's attention was on the suburbs of Atlanta, in the 6th Congressional District race.

Democrats had lavished attention and money on Tuesday's special election, hoping for a victory that would underscore Republican worries about Trump and serve as a harbinger of a Democratic wave in 2018.

Instead, Handel's victory, in a traditional Republican stronghold that rarely produces a competitive contest, was met with a sigh of relief among the GOP.

Trump tweeted several times during the night and capped the night off with a text message to supporters referring to his "Make America Great Again" slogan:

"The MAGA Mandate is stronger than ever. BIG LEAGUE."

Associated Press writer Jill Colvin in Washington contributed to this report.

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Who's No. 3? NBA draft intrigue begins after Fultz, Ball

By **BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Markelle Fultz is still expected to be the No. 1 pick, though the destination has changed.

Lonzo Ball wants to stay home with the Los Angeles Lakers at No. 2, and it seems surer than ever he will.

The intrigue, then, starts with the No. 3 pick in the NBA draft Thursday.

That's where the Boston Celtics are scheduled to pick after moving down two spots in a trade with Philadelphia, giving the 76ers the right to select Fultz with their second No. 1 pick in two years.

Forwards Josh Jackson of Kansas and Jayson Tatum of Duke are two players frequently mentioned as possibilities at the No. 3 spot, and Celtics president Danny Ainge said Boston could get the player there they might have taken at No. 1.

Jackson never thought that would be him, so he said he didn't work out for the Celtics.

"Me and my agent talked and we just didn't feel like they had much interest in drafting me at No. 1, so we felt like it would be sort of a waste of time for me to go out and work out if they were really not considering drafting me," Jackson said. "After they got the third pick, we tried to schedule something for me to get out there. But it was just scheduling issues and it was a little delayed for me to get out there."

He said he had been open to working out for the Celtics and said it was possible they might draft him, anyway.

Tatum and the Celtics seem to have more familiarity, with the 6-foot-8 swingman believing he'd be a good fit on the roster of the team that had the best record in the Eastern Conference.

"I talked about that with coach Brad Stevens," Tatum said. "He just said guys that are my size and are

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versatile offensively and defensively, it's hard not to play those guys. That's what we talked about."

Other things to watch from Barclays Center:

IT'S GOT TO BE THE SHOES: When Fultz walks on stage to shake hands with NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, he recommends you check out his feet.

"Pay attention to my footwear," the Washington guard said. "I'm going to have some custom-made shoes that I think nobody ever had before."

LOVING LONZO — AND LAVAR: Ball acknowledged that there might be a "target" on him entering the draft because of all his father's comments. But if the Lakers want Lonzo — and it seems they do after trading point guard D'Angelo Russell to Brooklyn — they won't be turned off by LaVar.

"They were just open arms," Lonzo said of his Lakers workout. "They said they love my dad and left it at that."

THEIR TIME TO SHINE: With so much trade speculation about All-Stars such as Paul George and Jimmy Butler, there hasn't been as much focus as usual leading into Thursday on the players who are in the draft.

"We don't need that attention," Kentucky guard Malik Monk said. "We're going to get ours tomorrow."

FRESHMAN FUN: The record of 14 freshmen selected in the first round might last just one year. Of the 20 players expected to be in the green room, 13 were college one-and-dones.

DULL DRAFT: Neither Golden State nor Cleveland, who met in the NBA Finals, has a pick in the two-round draft. The Los Angeles Clippers and Memphis Grizzlies also are without a pick, while Houston, New Orleans and Washington don't have one in the first round.

INTERNATIONAL INTRIGUE: A year after nearly half the draft — a record 27 of the 60 picks — were international players, French guard Frank Ntilikina and Finnish forward Lauri Markkanen, who played a year at Arizona, are two of the top international players. Both have met with the New York Knicks, who scored well two years ago when they went overseas with their pick of Latvian Kristaps Porzingis — to whom Markkanen has been compared as a 7-footer with perimeter shooting skills.

Markkanen was asked about potentially playing with or replacing Porzingis, who team president Phil Jackson told MSG Network on Wednesday the Knicks are taking calls about after he left New York without attending his exit interview.

"I try not to think about it too much," Markkanen said. "I've been doing my work here and I'm just waiting for tomorrow night and whatever happens, happens."

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

Attitudes, legal standards help make police convictions rare

By **ERRIN HAINES WHACK** and **DAN SEWELL**, Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — In the three years since fatal police shootings of unarmed black people launched the Black Lives Matter movement, few officers have been charged and none has been convicted by juries in those deaths.

Experts cite a confluence of factors, including racial bias, attitudes toward law enforcement and the challenge of showing precisely what an officer was thinking in a high-pressure situation. In the end, many jurors are simply reluctant to reject the accounts provided by police.

"They just don't want to second-guess officers in those life-or-death decisions," said Philip Stinson, a criminologist at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. "They think, 'What if that was me? What if that was my child who was the police officer?'"

A jury last week acquitted the Minnesota officer who fatally shot Philando Castile, whose girlfriend livestreamed the moments after the shooting on Facebook. Then on Wednesday, jurors acquitted a black police officer of first-degree reckless homicide in the killing of a black Milwaukee man who threw away the gun he was carrying during a brief foot chase after a traffic stop.

Meanwhile, a jury in Cincinnati is scheduled to deliberate for a fourth day Thursday in the second trial of Ray Tensing, a white former University of Cincinnati officer charged with murder and voluntary man-

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slaughter. He shot Sam DuBose, an unarmed black driver, during a 2015 traffic stop. The first trial in November ended with a hung jury.

A closer look at some factors that work against the prosecution or conviction of officers:

RACIAL BIAS

Studies have shown conscious and unconscious fear of African-American men plays out in numerous ways, including in exchanges between police and blacks.

"People think that black men are violent and dangerous," said Georgetown University professor and former federal prosecutor Paul Butler. "What the law does is respond to that fear by trying to contain the threat. The issue is always, 'Did the police act reasonably?'"

When the question is put before a jury, jurors must decide whether it was reasonable for an officer to think his or her life was in danger.

"That bias makes it much more reasonable to think that the black man posed a threat," Butler said.

PERCEPTIONS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Race also plays a role in how people view the role of police. A recent Pew survey found that fewer than half of blacks surveyed felt the police did an excellent or good job of protecting people from crime compared with nearly 80 percent of whites.

The same poll found that 75 percent of whites believed police used the right amount of force for each situation compared with 33 percent of blacks, and that 70 percent of whites believed the law holds officers accountable when misconduct occurs compared with 31 percent of blacks.

"Policing is structured in a way that favors the officer over the civilian," said Sam Sinyangwe, co-founder of Campaign Zero, which seeks to reduce police killings. "In many ways, the laws and institutions that have been created in this country have been in the context of those beliefs. It's not a coincidence that those two things align."

PROOF VS. INTENT

A conviction on charges of homicide or murder often requires prosecutors to establish the suspect's intent, which can be difficult in the split-second exchanges between police and civilians.

Many police shooting trials center on a self-defense strategy. Stinson found that almost 40 percent of cases in which officers were charged with murder or manslaughter since 2005 ended in mistrials or acquittals when officers testified they feared for their lives.

"It's about your character, about what you meant to do," said Phil Goff, president and co-founder of the Center for Policing Equity. "These are not officers who got up that day looking to shoot black people."

In Tensing's trials, both sides called use-of-force experts and other witnesses to testify about police training. The prosecution said Tensing could have de-escalated the situation and did not need to shoot. Defense witnesses said officers are trained to "stop the threat" if they believe they are in danger.

Tensing, 27, testified in both trials, tearfully saying that he feared he could be dragged or run over as DuBose tried to drive away from what began as a stop for missing a front license plate.

"I meant to stop the threat," he told jurors Friday. "I didn't shoot to kill him. I didn't shoot to wound him. I shot to stop his actions."

A video-analysis expert hired by prosecutors said his frame-by-frame review of the former officer's body camera video showed Tensing was not being dragged by the car.

In her closing argument Monday, prosecutor Stacey DeGraffenreid said Tensing repeatedly used "stop the threat" and "feared for my life" in his testimony as "buzzwords" he learned in training to justify the shooting.

Donyetta Bailey, president of the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati, said she understands how jurors could have difficulty convicting in some cases. But in others, she added, juries seem to disregard the facts, such as in the shooting of Walter Scott in South Carolina as he was running away from officers, and in the Castile slaying.

"We don't view police officers the same in our community," she said Wednesday. "I think (white jurors) view them as not being capable of any wrong even when the facts ... show the other side."

Some activists and criminal justice reform advocates say there are legal and systemic factors that can predetermine the outcome.

"Law enforcement is one of the most protected groups in our country," said Black Lives Matter co-founder Patrisse Cullors. "We don't have a judicial system that is set up to hold them accountable."

Sewell reported from Cincinnati.

Swift acquittal for former Milwaukee cop charged in shooting

By IVAN MORENO, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Milwaukee jury needed less than two days of deliberations to acquit a former police officer in the on-duty shooting of a black man last year that sparked two nights of violence on the city's north side.

Jurors found Wednesday that Dominique Heaggan-Brown, who is also black, was not guilty of first-degree reckless homicide when he shot 23-year-old Sylville Smith after a brief foot chase following a traffic stop Aug. 13. Smith had a gun when he ran, but the case hinged on whether he was a threat when Heaggan-Brown fired the shot that killed him.

Body-camera video showed Heaggan-Brown shooting Smith once in the arm as he appeared to be throwing the gun over a fence. The video showed the second shot — 1.69 seconds later — hit Smith in the chest as he lay on the ground.

Prosecutors argued Smith was defenseless at the time of the second shot because he had thrown the gun over the fence. Defense attorneys argued Heaggan-Brown had to act quickly to defend himself.

Smith's family members reacted angrily to the verdict, swearing and storming from the courtroom. Outside, one man shouted obscenities at a sheriff's deputy as he was held back by other family members.

Later, his father, Patrick Smith, said the killing was "in cold blood," but urged people not to react violently to the verdict.

"I really don't want them to act irrationally toward the cops, because all cops ain't bad," he said.

Smith's family filed a civil lawsuit against Heaggan-Brown and the city, family attorney David Owens announced after the verdict. He said it had become clear since the shooting that Heaggan-Brown never should have been on the force.

Heaggan-Brown's attorneys said he he was thankful for the acquittal and believed he was justified in using deadly force.

"There is not joy in a case like this. I think we must be mindful that a young man lost his life," said Steven Kohn.

Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm, who made the decision to charge Heaggan-Brown, said he did not agree with the verdict but would respect it.

Heaggan-Brown was fired from the police force in October after being charged with sexual assault in an unrelated case. The sexual assault case was not mentioned during the trial because it is being handled separately and knowledge of it could prejudice the jury.

Smith's shooting was among a string of killings of blacks by police in recent years that have increased debate about race and policing. Heaggan-Brown's acquittal came less than a week after a Minnesota officer, Jeronimo Yanez, was acquitted in the shooting death of a black motorist seconds after the motorist informed him he had a gun. Yanez testified the driver, Philando Castile, disregarded his commands not to take out his gun and he feared for his life.

In Milwaukee, Smith's death brought to the surface long-simmering tensions between black residents and police, and demonstrators assembled near the site of the shooting in Sherman Park hours after it happened. Two nights of riots followed, with protesters throwing rocks, bricks, and bottles at police officers. The protesters burned eight businesses and a police car. Forty demonstrators were arrested and a handful of officers hurt.

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In the encounter with Smith, Heaggan-Brown and two other officers had approached Smith's rental car because it was parked more than a foot from the curb and they believed a drug deal was about to take place.

In Heaggan-Brown's bodycam video, he began chasing Smith immediately after stepping out of his patrol car. The camera shows him briefly pointing the gun at Smith as he begins the pursuit. He put his gun back in his holster as Smith turned into a path between two houses.

Smith slipped and fell near a fence, dropping his gun. He started reaching for it as he stood up, with his left hand holding the fence.

When the video is slowed frame-by-frame, Smith is seen holding the gun by the barrel to throw it over the fence. Prosecutors argued that Smith no longer posed a threat.

The two shots by Heaggan-Brown came in quick succession, striking Smith once in his right arm and then the fatal shot to the chest.

The 12-member jury included four African-Americans.

The Milwaukee acquittal also came as jurors in Ohio concluded their third day of deliberations in the murder retrial of a white University of Cincinnati police officer who fatally shot an unarmed black motorist. Ray Tensing's first trial ended last November in a hung jury after some 25 hours of deliberations on the murder and voluntary manslaughter charges.

The Milwaukee verdict was in line with recent history.

Data shows 82 officers nationwide have been charged with murder or manslaughter for on-duty fatal shootings since 2005, said Philip Stinson, a criminologist at Ohio's Bowling Green State University. Thirty-four of those cases, or 41 percent, have ended in non-convictions. Twenty-nine officers, or 34 percent, have been convicted, often for a lesser offense. The remaining cases are pending.

Stinson said the race of the officer charged didn't appear to matter to judges or juries weighing these cases. Of the 12 black officers charged in the cases he tracked, three were convicted, five were acquitted, one had the case dismissed and three are pending.

"I think that the police subculture trumps the race of the officer. Black officers act in the same ways as white officers do," Stinson said. "A police officer is a police officer."

AP journalist Amy Forliti in Minneapolis contributed to this story.

IS destroys iconic al-Nuri mosque in Mosul

By **BALINT SZLANKO**, Associated Press

IRBIL, Iraq (AP) — The Islamic State group destroyed Mosul's al-Nuri mosque and its iconic leaning minaret known as al-Hadba when fighters detonated explosives inside the structures Wednesday night, Iraq's Ministry of Defense said.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi tweeted early Thursday that the destruction was an admission by the militants that they are losing the fight for Iraq's second-largest city.

"Daesh's bombing of the al-Hadba minaret and the al-Nuri Mosque is a formal declaration of their defeat," al-Abadi said, using the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

The mosque, which is also known as Mosul's Great Mosque, is where IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a so-called Islamic caliphate in 2014 shortly after Mosul was overrun by the militants. The minaret that leaned like Italy's Tower of Pisa had stood for more than 840 years.

An IS statement posted online shortly after the Ministry of Defense reported the mosque's destruction blamed an airstrike by the United States for the loss of the mosque and minaret.

The U.S.-led coalition rejected the IS claim.

A coalition spokesman, U.S. Army Col. Ryan Dillon, told The Associated Press that coalition aerial surveillance confirmed the mosque was destroyed, but he said a U.S. strike was not the cause.

"We did not conduct strikes in that area at that time," Dillon said.

IS fighters initially attempted to destroy the minaret in July 2014. The militants said the structure con-

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tradicted their fundamentalist interpretation of Islam, but Mosul residents converged on the area and formed a human chain to protect it. IS has demolished dozens of historic and archaeological sites in and around Mosul, saying they promoted idolatry.

"This is a crime against the people of Mosul and all of Iraq, and is an example of why this brutal organization must be annihilated," U.S. Maj. Gen. Joseph Martin, the commander of coalition ground forces in Iraq, said in a written statement.

"The responsibility of this devastation is laid firmly at the doorstep of ISIS," he added.

The mosque sat on the southern edge of the Old City, the last IS stronghold inside Mosul. Iraqi forces launched a push into the Old City earlier this week, but have made slow progress as the last IS fighters there are holed up with an estimated 100,000 civilians according to the United Nations.

Earlier this month Mosul residents reported IS fighters began sealing off the area around the mosque. Residents said IS fighters ordered families living in the area to evacuate in preparation for a final stand.

The fight to retake Mosul was launched more than eight months ago and has displaced more than 850,000 people. While Iraqi forces have experienced periods of swift gains, combat inside the city has been grueling and deadly for both Iraqi forces and civilians.

Associated Press writer Lolita Baldor in Washington contributed to this report.

Auto club predicts record travel over July 4th weekend

By **DAVID KOENIG, AP Business Writer**

DALLAS (AP) — Americans are expected to put down the TV remote and hit the road in record numbers for the July 4th weekend.

Auto club AAA said Thursday that it expects 44.2 million people will travel at least 50 miles (80 kilometers) from home, a 2.9 percent increase over last year's record for the holiday.

The vast majority of those revelers will go by car. But airline travel over the holiday is also expected to rise for the eighth straight year.

Travel industry officials expect domestic demand to remain strong, even while they worry that proposed travel bans and the prohibition on laptops in the cabins of some U.S.-bound planes could hurt travel to the U.S. from abroad.

With July 4 falling on a Tuesday, some workers will get a four-day weekend, making a quick road trip even more inviting.

Cheaper gasoline helps. Even though pump prices usually rise as summer begins, the national average for a gallon of regular was \$2.28 on Wednesday — 4 cents lower than last year's holiday weekend, and down more than 7 cents from a month ago.

AAA forecasts that average airfares on the most popular domestic routes will be 10 percent lower and car rentals will be down 14 percent from last year's holiday period, while hotel rooms will cost about the same.

Bill Sutherland, a AAA senior vice president, said low unemployment, rising incomes and higher consumer confidence will boost travel, including for the Independence Day weekend.

Last month, aviation trade group Airlines for America cited many of the same factors in predicting that a record 234 million Americans will fly between June 1 and Aug. 31.

AAA predicted that 37.5 million Americans will drive to their July 4 getaway, a 2.9 percent increase, and more than 3.4 million will fly, a 4.6 percent jump. Still others will take trains or buses.

The auto club defined the four-day July 4th travel period as Friday through the Tuesday holiday, compared with a Thursday-through-Monday stretch last year.

David Koenig can be reached at <http://twitter.com/airlinewriter>

Canadian charged in US airport attack investigated as terror

By **JEFF KAROUB** and **MIKE HOUSEHOLDER**, Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. (AP) — A Canadian man from Tunisia shouted in Arabic before stabbing a police officer in the neck Wednesday at a Michigan airport, and referenced people being killed overseas during the attack that's now being investigated as an act of terrorism, federal and court officials said.

Amor Ftouhi, 49, of Montreal, was immediately taken into custody. A criminal complaint charging him with committing violence at an airport says Ftouhi asked an officer who subdued him why the officer didn't kill him.

The attack at Bishop International Airport in Flint, Michigan, is being investigated as an act of terrorism, but authorities have no indication at this time that the suspect was involved in a "wider plot," said FBI Special Agent in Charge David Gelios.

"At this time we view him as a lone-wolf attacker," Gelios said. "We have no information to suggest any training."

The criminal complaint said Ftouhi stabbed airport police Lt. Jeff Neville with a large knife after yelling "Allahu akbar," the Arabic phrase for "God is great." According to the FBI, Ftouhi said something similar to "you have killed people in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan, and we are all going to die."

More charges against Ftouhi could be filed as prosecutors take the case to a grand jury seeking an indictment, Gelios said. The Flint Journal, citing court officials, said Ftouhi is a dual citizen of Canada and Tunisia.

Neville was in satisfactory condition after initially being in critical condition, airport police Chief Chris Miller said at a late afternoon news conference where the charge against Ftouhi was announced.

Ftouhi appeared in federal court in Flint to hear the charge and will get a court-appointed attorney. A court spokesman says Ftouhi will remain in custody until a bond hearing next Wednesday.

The attack occurred just before 10 a.m., prompting officials to evacuate and shut down the airport and add security elsewhere in the Michigan city about 50 miles (80.46 kilometers) northwest of Detroit. White House press secretary Sean Spicer said President Donald Trump was briefed on the stabbing, and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions said he was "proud of the swift response" by authorities from both the U.S. and Canada.

Police in Canada were searching a Montreal apartment. Montreal police spokesman Benoit Boiselle said officers with their department were assisting the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the search on behalf of an FBI request. A number of police stood guard outside the apartment building in the east end of Montreal located on Bélair St. in St-Michel borough. Canadian TV footage showed police escorting at least one person from the building where Ftouhi is believed to have lived.

Boiselle said three people staying at the residence had been taken in for questioning.

Luciano Piazza, the building landlord, said Ftouhi was not a difficult tenant and that he is married with children.

"I never had any problems with him," Piazza said. "I'm really surprised. I would see him at least once a month, when he paid his rent."

Gelios said Ftouhi legally entered the U.S. at Champlain, New York, on June 16 and made his way to the Flint airport on Wednesday morning.

Ftouhi spent some time in public, unsecured areas of the airport before going to a restroom where he dropped two bags before attacking the officer with a 12-inch knife that had an 8-inch serrated blade, Gelios said.

Ftouhi never went through any security screening, Gelios said. He described Ftouhi as "cooperative" and talking to investigators.

Witnesses described seeing the suspect being led away as Neville was bleeding, a knife on the ground. "The cop was on his hands and knees bleeding from his neck," Ken Brown told The Flint Journal. "I said they need to get him a towel."

Cherie Carpenter, who was awaiting a flight to Texas to see her new grandchild, told Flint TV station

WJRT she saw the attacker being led away in handcuffs. She described the man in custody as appearing "blank, just totally blank."

Miller, the airport chief, said Neville "fought him to the end," managing to stop the stabbing and bring Ftouhi to the ground as Miller and other officers arrived to help.

After the stabbing, officials stationed police officers at Flint City Hall a few miles away. Mayor Karen Weaver said in a release the situation was "under control" but that officials sought to take "extra precautions."

Genesee County Commissioner Mark Young, a friend of Neville's who retired from the county sheriff's office in 1997, said Neville left that department two years after him. He said Neville served in various capacities with the sheriff's office including in the jail, on road patrol and as a court officer.

Neville retired from the sheriff's office as a lieutenant.

Karoub reported from Detroit. Associated Press writers Ed White and Corey Williams in Detroit, Rob Gillies in Toronto, Kenneth Thomas in Washington, Patrick Lejtenyi in Montreal and Sadie Gurman in Phoenix, Arizona, contributed to this story.

Boy killed by log in surf as tropical storm churns in Gulf

By KEVIN MCGILL, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A boy on an Alabama beach was struck and killed Wednesday by a log washed ashore by storm surge from Tropical Storm Cindy, which spun bands of severe weather ashore from the Florida panhandle to east Texas as it churned ever closer to the Gulf coast.

Baldwin County Sheriff's Capt. Stephen Arthur said witnesses reported the 10-year-old boy from Missouri was standing outside a condominium in Fort Morgan when the log, carried in by a large wave, struck him. Arthur said the youth was vacationing with his family from the St. Louis area and that relatives and emergency workers tried to revive him. He wasn't immediately identified.

It was the first known fatality from Cindy. The storm formed Tuesday and was expected to make landfall some time late Wednesday or early Thursday.

Rough seas also led to the rescue of a shrimp trawler in danger of sinking off the coast of Texas. The U.S. Coast Guard said crew of the trawler Footprint was about 80 miles (130 kilometers) southeast of Galveston when the crew radioed that the vessel was taking on water faster than onboard pumps could clear it. A helicopter crew lowered and extra pump that enabled the shrimp boat crew to clear enough water to stay afloat. A Coast Guard cutter escorted the vessel to Freeport, Texas.

Cindy was expected to come ashore near the Louisiana-Texas line but the severe weather extended far to the east. National Weather Service forecasters estimated it had dumped anywhere from 2 to 10 inches (50 to 250 millimeters) of rain on various spots along the Gulf Coast from south Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle as of Wednesday. And more rain was on the way.

Alek Krautmann at the weather service office in Slidell, Louisiana, said more moisture was heading in from the Gulf Wednesday evening.

"There were plenty of breaks today, but it's filled in a little more this afternoon," he said.

Coastal roads and some buildings flooded. There were several reports of possible short-lived tornadoes.

In Gulfport, Mississippi, Kathleen Bertucci said heavy rainfall Wednesday sent about 10 inches of water into her business, Top Shop, which sells and installs granite countertops.

"It's pretty disgusting, but I don't have flood insurance because they took me out of the flood zone," said Bertucci, whose store is near a bayou. "We're just trying to clean everything up and hope it doesn't happen again."

In nearby Biloxi, a waterspout moved ashore Wednesday morning. Harrison County Emergency Management Director Rupert Lacy said there were no injuries but fences, trees and power lines were damaged.

Storms also downed trees in the Florida Panhandle. Fort Walton Beach spokeswoman Jo Soria said fallen trees hit houses and cars in what she called "pockets of wind damage" in two or three residential

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neighborhoods.

The White House said President Donald Trump was briefed on the storm Wednesday by Homeland Security Adviser Tom Bossert.

Also Wednesday, Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency, like his Alabama counterpart a day earlier. He was among authorities stressing that the storm's danger wasn't limited to the coast.

In Knoxville, Tennessee, the power-generating Tennessee Valley Authority, said it was drawing down water levels on nine lakes it controls along the Tennessee River and its tributaries in Tennessee, Alabama and Kentucky, anticipating heavy runoff from Cindy's rains once the storm moves inland. The TVA manages 49 dams to regulate water, provide power and help control downstream flooding.

The storm was centered Wednesday night about 105 miles (170 kilometers) south of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and had top sustained winds of 50 mph (85 kph). A tropical storm warning was in effect along the coast from San Luis Pass, Texas, to Grand Isle, Louisiana.

In Alabama, streets were flooded and beaches were closed on the barrier island of Dauphin Island. Some roads were covered with water in the seafood village of Bayou La Batre, but Becca Caldemeyer still managed to get to her bait shop at the city dock. If only there were more customers, she said.

"It's pretty quiet," Caldemeyer said by phone from Rough Water Bait and Tackle. "Nobody can cast a shrimp out in this kind of wind."

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott ordered the State Operations Center to raise its readiness level. He also activated four Texas Task Force 1 boat squads and two Texas Military Department vehicles squads of five vehicles each for weather-related emergencies.

The Louisiana National Guard dispatched high water vehicles and helicopters into flood-prone areas. The state said the Federal Emergency Management Agency also was moving 125,000 meals and 200,000 liters of water into Louisiana. And workers on Grand Isle, Louisiana's barrier island community south of New Orleans, reinforced a rock levee protecting the island's vulnerable west side.

"All arms of the state's emergency preparedness and response apparatus are taking Tropical Storm Cindy seriously, and we are calling on all Louisianans throughout the state to do so as well," Edwards said in a statement.

Associated Press writers Janet McConaughy in New Orleans; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Jeff Amy and Emily Wagster in Jackson, Mississippi; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Kimberly Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama; and Brendan Farrington in Tallahassee, Florida, contributed to this report.

Milwaukee mayor urges peaceful protest after ex-cop cleared

By IVAN MORENO, Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — A Milwaukee jury on Wednesday acquitted a former police officer in the on-duty shooting of a black man last year that ignited riots on the city's north side.

Jurors found that Dominique Heaggan-Brown, who is also black, was not guilty of first-degree reckless homicide when he shot 23-year-old Sylville Smith after a brief foot chase following a traffic stop Aug. 13. Smith had a gun when he ran, but the case hinged on whether he was a threat when Heaggan-Brown fired the shot that killed him.

Body-camera video showed Heaggan-Brown shooting Smith once in the arm as he appeared to be throwing the gun over a fence. The video showed the second shot — 1.69 seconds later — hit Smith in the chest as he lay on the ground.

Prosecutors argued Smith was defenseless at the time of the second shot because he had thrown the gun over the fence. Defense attorneys argued Heaggan-Brown had to act quickly to defend himself.

Smith's family members reacted angrily to the verdict, swearing and storming from the courtroom. Outside, one man shouted obscenities at a sheriff's deputy as he was held back by other family members.

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Later, his father, Patrick Smith, said the killing was "in cold blood," but urged people not to react violently to the verdict.

"I really don't want them to act irrationally toward the cops, because all cops ain't bad," he said.

No protests were immediately evident. Mayor Tom Barrett said police would have a strong presence in the Sherman Park neighborhood hit by the previous unrest, and urged any demonstrations be peaceful.

Smith's family filed a civil lawsuit against Heaggan-Brown and the city, family attorney David Owens announced after the verdict. He said it had become clear since the shooting that Heaggan-Brown never should have been on the force.

Heaggan-Brown's attorney, Jonathan Smith, said the former officer was thankful for the acquittal and believed he was justified in using deadly force.

"There is not joy in a case like this. I think we must be mindful that a young man lost his life," said Steven Kohn, another of Heaggan-Brown's attorneys.

Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm, who made the decision to charge Heaggan-Brown, said he did not agree with the verdict but would respect it.

Heaggan-Brown was fired from the police force in October after being charged with sexual assault in an unrelated case. The sexual assault case was not mentioned during the trial because it is being handled separately and knowledge of it could prejudice the jury.

Smith's shooting was among a string of killings of blacks by police in recent years that have increased debate about race and policing. Heaggan-Brown's acquittal came less than a week after a Minnesota officer, Jeronimo Yanez, was acquitted in the shooting death of a black motorist seconds after the motorist informed him he had a gun. Yanez testified the driver, Philando Castile, disregarded his commands not to take out his gun and he feared for his life.

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four of those cases, or 41 percent, have ended in non-convictions. Twenty-nine officers, or 34 percent, have been convicted, often for a lesser offense. The remaining cases are pending.

Stinson said the race of the officer charged didn't appear to matter to judges or juries weighing these cases. Of the 12 black officers charged in the cases he tracked, three were convicted, five were acquitted, one had the case dismissed and three are pending.

"I think that the police subculture trumps the race of the officer. Black officers act in the same ways as white officers do," Stinson said. "A police officer is a police officer."

This version of the story corrects the date of the Smith shooting to Aug. 13 from Aug. 23.

AP journalist Amy Forliti in Minneapolis contributed to this story.

US officials underscore Russia threat to 2016 elections

By DEB RIECHMANN and RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials sought Wednesday to underscore for lawmakers the threat Russia posed to the 2016 vote for the White House, outlining efforts to hack into election systems in 21 states and to fill the internet with misinformation during a divisive campaign season.

Officials also revealed what appeared to be a breakdown in communications about how severe the threat appeared, and they reported tensions the Obama administration faced in trying to publicly warn of meddling in the face of a skeptical then-candidate Donald Trump.

"One of the candidates, as you'll recall, was predicting that the election was going to be rigged in some way. And so we were concerned that, by making the statement, we might in and of itself be challenging the integrity of the — of the election process itself," Jeh Johnson, the former head of the Homeland Security Department, told members of the House intelligence committee.

The testimony came during a morning of double-barreled intelligence committee hearings — one in the House and one in the Senate — that underscored the U.S. intelligence community's months-old determination that Russia attempted to meddle in the election. The issue has become a flashpoint for the Trump administration as congressional committees and a special counsel investigate the interference and whether the Trump campaign may have become enmeshed in it.

A day earlier, Trump spokesman Sean Spicer said he still has yet to know the president's thoughts on whether Russia interfered.

Johnson said Russian hacking didn't change election totals, but he can't be sure other meddling didn't influence public opinion.

"It is not for me to know to what extent the Russian hacks influenced public opinion and thereby influence the outcome of the election," he said.

Senators said the Homeland Security Department should reveal which state election systems were targeted by hackers as Jeanette Manfra, the department's undersecretary for cybersecurity, demurred.

Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the committee's ranking Democrat, noted that the FBI has confirmed intrusions into voter registration databases in Arizona and Illinois, and said Americans need to know the identities of the other 19 states where meddling was detected.

"I do not believe our country is made safer by holding this information back from the American public," he said. "To have the number of states that were hacked into or attempted to be hacked into still kept secret is just crazy in my mind."

Manfra said the department was still tracking the meddling in the 21 states and believes it's important to protect the confidentiality of the states.

State elections officials, who testified before the Senate committee, complained that DHS could have offered more information about the hacking.

Michael Hass, the Wisconsin elections commissioner, said DHS could have been more timely — and provided more detail — on election security and threats to elections systems at the local level.

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Connie Lawson, Indiana secretary of state and president-elect of the National Association of Secretaries of State, said there were three conference calls led by Johnson with top state election officials about attempts to compromise state elections systems.

She said the calls occurred on Aug. 15, Sept. 8 and Oct. 12. "Each time Secretary Johnson was directly asked about specific, credible threats and each time he confirmed that none existed," Lawson said.

Johnson said in the late summer and into the fall, he was very concerned about the meddling in state election systems and that the department encouraged states to seek assistance from DHS. More than 30 states accepted help, but there was resistance at the state level to a designation that would have funneled needed federal resources their way.

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.

Johnson said he doesn't know whether the hacking of the Democratic National Committee's emails and other Moscow-directed interference "did in fact alter public opinion, and thereby alter the outcome of the presidential election." He said he was frustrated DHS learned of the hack into the DNC late in the game and said the committee refused help because it was using a private cyber security firm.

"In retrospect, it would be easy for me to say that I should have bought a sleeping bag and camped out in front of the DNC in late summer," Johnson said.

Associated Press writer Frank Bajak in Houston, Texas, contributed to this report.

Global stocks lower after oil prices drag down Wall Street

By JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Global financial markets declined for a second day Wednesday after weak crude prices dragged down energy stocks on Wall Street.

KEEPING SCORE: In early trading, France's CAC-40 fell 0.5 percent to 5,249.15 and London's FTSE 100 shed 0.4 percent to 7,413.74. Germany's DAX lost 0.3 percent to 12,739.01. On Wednesday, the CAC-40 fell 0.4 percent, while the DAX and the FTSE-100 both slipped 0.3 percent. On Wall Street, the future for the Standard & Poor's 500 index was off 0.2 percent and that for the Dow Jones industrial average was off 0.1 percent.

ASIA'S DAY: The Shanghai Composite Index declined 0.3 percent to 3,147.45 and Tokyo's Nikkei 225 lost 0.1 percent to 20,110.51. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gave up 0.1 percent to 25,674.53. Sydney's S&P-ASX 200 gained 0.7 percent to 5,706.00 and India's Sensex was up 0.6 percent to 31,458.07. Seoul's Kospi added 0.5 percent to 2,370.37 and benchmarks in New Zealand and Taiwan also gained. Manila and Jakarta declined.

WALL STREET: Energy stocks dived as oil dropped to its lowest price since last summer. Gains for health care and technology stocks helped reduce losses for broader market indexes. The S&P 500 lost 0.1 percent and the Dow fell 0.3 percent. The Nasdaq composite rose 0.7 percent. Energy stocks in the S&P 500 tumbled 1.6 percent, a day after falling 1.2 percent. They are down nearly 15 percent for the year, when the overall S&P 500 is up 8.8 percent.

OIL PRICES: The price of oil has dropped more than 20 percent this year, breaking into what traders call a bear market. On Wednesday, crude dropped for a third straight day and touched its lowest price since August on expectations supplies will exceed demand. That helps big consumers such as China and other Asian manufacturers but hurts the ability of exporting countries to pay their bills. Accelerating corporate profits have been a big reason for rise in U.S. stock prices this year, and energy companies had been forecast to provide some of the biggest gains.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "Falling oil prices continue to dampen sentiment in global macro markets," said Citigroup in a report. U.S. credit spreads are rising and concern in currency markets is increasing, they said. "Falling oil prices also hurts sentiment towards the higher-yielding emerging markets, but a steep drop

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in the price of oil usually spreads bearish sentiment more broadly.”

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude lost 11 cents to \$42.42 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract dropped 98 cents on Wednesday to close at \$42.53. Brent crude, used to price international oils, fell 16 cents to \$44.66 in London. It plunged \$1.20 the previous session.

CURRENCY: The dollar declined to 111.03 yen from Wednesday’s 111.37 yen. The euro retreated to \$1.1163 from \$1.1170.

Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 22, the 173rd day of 2017. There are 192 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On June 22, 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the “GI Bill of Rights.”

On this date:

In 1611, English explorer Henry Hudson, his son and several other people were set adrift in present-day Hudson Bay by mutineers aboard the Discovery.

In 1870, the United States Department of Justice was created.

In 1911, Britain’s King George V was crowned at Westminster Abbey.

In 1937, Joe Louis began his reign as world heavyweight boxing champion by knocking out Jim Braddock in the eighth round of their fight in Chicago. (A year later on this date, Louis knocked out Max Schmeling in the first round of their rematch at Yankee Stadium.)

In 1940, during World War II, Adolf Hitler gained a stunning victory as France was forced to sign an armistice eight days after German forces overran Paris.

In 1941, Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa, a massive invasion of the Soviet Union.

In 1945, the World War II battle for Okinawa ended with an Allied victory.

In 1969, singer-actress Judy Garland died in London at age 47.

In 1977, John N. Mitchell became the first former U.S. Attorney General to go to prison as he began serving a sentence for his role in the Watergate cover-up. (He was released 19 months later.)

In 1987, actor-dancer Fred Astaire died in Los Angeles at age 88.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, unanimously ruled that “hate crime” laws that banned cross burning and similar expressions of racial bias violated free-speech rights.

In 1997, world leaders in Denver concluded the historic Summit of Eight that included Russia’s first-ever full participation. Dr. Nancy W. Dickey was named the first female president of the American Medical Association.

Ten years ago: Atlantis and its seven astronauts returned to Earth safely, ending a two-week mission to deliver an addition to the international space station and bringing home crew member Sunita “Suni” Williams, who set a then-record for longest single spaceflight by a woman at 195 days. Guy Vander Jagt, a 13-term Republican congressman from Michigan, died in Washington at age 75. The Pixar animated film “Ratatouille” had its Hollywood premiere.

Five years ago: Ex-Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was convicted by a jury in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, on 45 counts of sexually assaulting 10 boys over 15 years. (Sandusky is appealing a 30- to 60-year state prison sentence.) Monsignor William Lynn, a Roman Catholic church official in Philadelphia, was convicted of child endangerment but acquitted of conspiracy in a groundbreaking clergy-abuse trial, becoming the first U.S. church official convicted of a crime for mishandling abuse claims. (Lynn served about a year and a half of a three-to-six-year sentence before an appeals court threw it out in 2013 and granted him a new trial.) A 12-hour rampage by heavily armed Taliban gunmen at a lakeside hotel near Kabul claimed 18 lives.

One year ago: Rebellious Democrats launched a 25-hour round-the-clock sit-in on the House floor to

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demand votes on gun-control bills, forcing exasperated Republicans to recess while cutting off cameras showing the protest. Dennis Hastert arrived at a Minnesota prison to serve his 15-month sentence in a hush-money case involving revelations that the former House speaker had sexually abused at least four boys when he coached wrestling at an Illinois high school. A massive crowd swarmed Cleveland for the Cavaliers' NBA title parade. The NHL announced it would expand to Las Vegas for the 2017-18 season. Chicago's Patrick Kane won the Hart Trophy, becoming the first player born and trained in the U.S. to be named the NHL's most valuable player.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Prunella Scales (TV: "Fawlty Towers") is 85. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is 84. Singer-actor Kris Kristofferson is 81. Movie director John Korty is 81. Actor Michael Lerner is 76. Actor Klaus Maria Brandauer is 74. Fox News analyst Brit Hume is 74. Singer Peter Asher (Peter and Gordon) is 73. Actor David L. Lander is 70. Singer Howard "Eddie" Kaylan is 70. Singer-musician Todd Rundgren is 69. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., is 68. Actress Meryl Streep is 68. Actress Lindsay Wagner is 68. Singer Alan Osmond is 68. Actor Murphy Cross is 67. Actor Graham Greene is 65. Pop singer Cyndi Lauper is 64. Actor Chris Lemmon is 63. Rock musician Derek Forbes is 61. Actor Tim Russ is 61. Rock musician Garry Beers (INXS) is 60. Actor-producer-writer Bruce Campbell is 59. Rock musician Alan Anton (Cowboy Junkies) is 58. Actress Tracy Pollan is 57. Environmental activist Erin Brockovich is 57. Rock singer-musician Jimmy Somerville is 56. Basketball Hall of Famer Clyde Drexler is 55. Actress Amy Brenneman is 53. Author Dan Brown is 53. Rock singer-musician Mike Edwards (Jesus Jones) is 53. Rock singer Steven Page is 47. Actor Michael Trucco is 47. Actress Mary Lynn Rajsak (RYS'-kub) is 46. TV personality Carson Daly is 44. Rock musician Chris Traynor is 44. Country musician Jimmy Wallace is 44. Actor Donald Faison (FAY'-zahn) is 43. Actress Alicia Goranson is 43. Actor-comedian Mike O'Brien (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 41. TV personality/actor Jai Rodriguez is 38. Americana singer-songwriter John Moreland is 32. Actress Lindsay Ridgeway is 32. Pop singer Dina Hansen (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 20.

Thought for Today: "To understand is hard. Once one understands, action is easy." — Sun Yat-sen, Chinese statesman (1866-1925).

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