

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 1 of 45

Thurs., June 29, 2017

- 1- Recycling trailers
- 1- Johnson Agency Ad
- 2- Chicken Soup of the Soul image
- 3- Heartland Ad on Lowary's Retirement
- 3- Kiwanis Club News
- 4- Outdoor World Column
- 5- Senior Citizens News
- 5- Groton gets mosquito grant
- 6- Today in Weather History
- 7- Today's Forecast
- 8- Yesterday's Weather
- 8- Today's Weather Info
- 8- National Weather Map
- 9- Daily Devotional
- 10- News from the Associated Press

Thursday, June 29

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: Kid Zone Camp, 7 p.m.

T-Ball: both teams Scrimmage in Groton, 5 p.m.

Legion: hosts Webster for 1 game, 6:30 p.m.

U12: at Redfield for 2 games, 7 p.m.

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

U8 Blue: at Redfield for 2 games, 5 p.m.

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

Softball: at Mellette (U10 at 6 p.m., U12/14 at 7 p.m. and 8 p.m.)

30

Senior Menu: Beef tips with noodles, lettuce salad with dressing, delicious cookie, whole wheat bread.

Retirement Party: for Anita Lowary, city finance officer for 36 years, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at City Hall.

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**

© 2017 Groton Daily Independent

JOHNSON AGENCY

Real Estate & Insurance

Jay Johnson, Broker

www.johnsonagencygroton.com

102 N Main St.

Office: 605/397-2424

Groton, SD 57445

Home: 605/397-8565



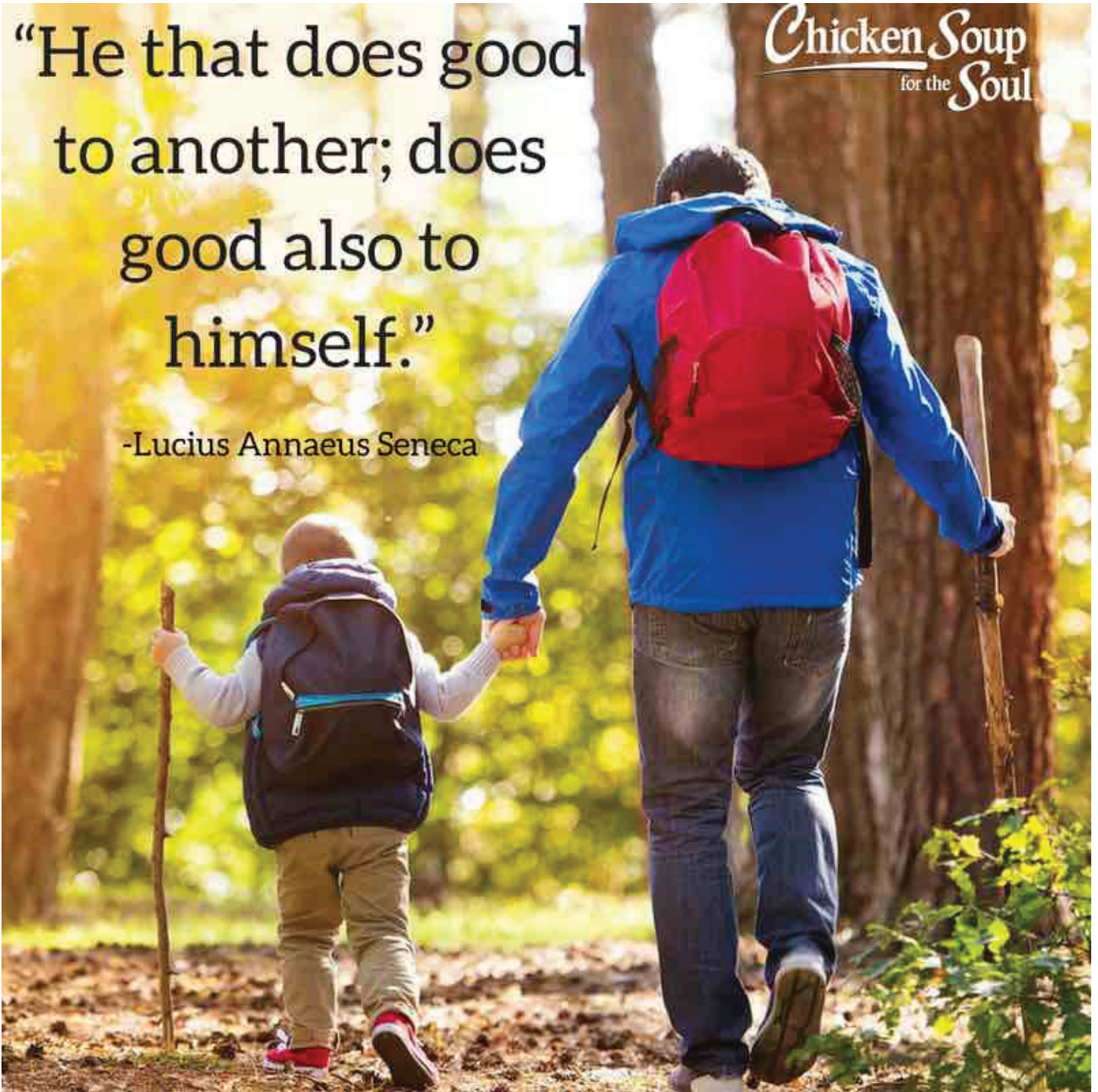
Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 2 of 45

“He that does good
to another; does
good also to
himself.”

-Lucius Annaeus Seneca

Chicken Soup
for the Soul



Congratulations to
**ANITA
LOWARY**
on your retirement!

Thank you for years of dedicated
service to the city of Groton.



KIWANIS CLUB

The Groton Kiwanis Club met Wednesday noon. Vicki Stange was cook for the day. Lee Schinkel introduced his guest, Ron Rehfuss.

Larry Schelle was the program leader, and introduced Vicki Stange, who gave us a presentaion of Table Talk, which she started in Groton. Approximately 60-80 high students from GHS attend this event every Wednesday noons. Several volunteers help Vicki serve a meal to these students, and they may share anything with their peers, if they wish. This event is in its third year of operation.

Next week's program leader is Lee Schinkel.

WHY WE CELEBRATE THE 4th OF JULY

The 4th of July is much more than fireworks, parades, picnics, baseball games and family cookouts.

It should also be a time to pause and honor those who served and are serving to defend the freedoms we enjoy today.

The men and women who died on the beaches of Normandy, the fields of Vietnam, the deserts of Iraq, the mountains of Afghanistan, the buildings in New York and Washington D.C. and so many other places around the world should never be forgotten.

It is because of their sacrifices we're able to enjoy fishing, camping, boating and hiking in our great outdoors.

To all of you men and women who served or are serving we salute you and thank you.

Enjoy the 4th of July but don't forget why we celebrate it.

Free Family Summer Camp activities are going on now at your local Bass Pro Shops.

Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World Tips presents free, seasonal how-to advice from Larry Whiteley, host of the award-winning Outdoor World Radio show. Each weekly tip offers practical advice to improve your skills.



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 5 of 45

Groton Senior Citizens

Groton Senior citizens met June 12 for a meeting and cars. Twenty five members were present. President Ruby Donavon opened with the flag pledge. Lee Schinkel volunteered and planted all the flowers at the center. A get well card was sent to Burt Raap. A motion was made and seconded to plant a tree in memory of Hazel McKittrick from a memorial given in memory of Hazel. Cards were the afternoon entertainment. Pinochle- Don Darwin, Whist- Tony Goldade and Lee Schinkel, canasta- Mary Walker and Marilyn Thorson, Bridge- Wally Fisher, Door prizes- Ruth Pray, Ruby Donavon, David Kleinsasser. Lunch was served by Bob and Ruth Pray and Eunice McColister.

June 19 pot luck dinner. Nineteen members attended, Bingo was played. Beulah Hoops and Ella Johnson both won black out. Door prizes- Don Darwin, Lee Schinkel and Darlene Fischer. Dessert was served by Tony Goldade and Lee Schinkel

June 26 , seventeen members attended. A memory of Marian Raines. Cards were played. Pinochle- David Kleinsasser , Canasta - Beulah Hoops and Pat Larson, Whist- Bob Pray and DeLoris Knoll. Door Prizes- LaVonne Helmer, Lee Schinkel and Pat Larson. Dessert was served by Mary Walker and David Kleinsasser.

Health Department Awards \$500,000 For Mosquito Control

PIERRE, S.D. – Nearly 200 South Dakota cities, counties and tribes will share in \$499,911 in grants intended to control mosquitoes and prevent West Nile virus (WNV), the Department of Health announced today.

“South Dakota has a disproportionately high number of WNV cases when compared to other states. Local mosquito control efforts play a vital role in protecting our communities,” said Bill Chalcraft, administrator of public health preparedness and response for the Department of Health.

All applying communities received funding, with grants ranging from \$400 to \$20,000. Grant awards were based on the population of the applying jurisdiction and its history of human WNV cases through 2016.

Since its first human WNV case in 2002, the state has reported 2,359 human cases, including 745 hospitalizations and 38 deaths. Every county has reported cases. This season South Dakota reported its first human WNV case, a Davison County resident, on June 22. WNV positive mosquitoes have also been detected in Brown County.

Including this latest round of grants, the state has provided local mosquito control programs with more than \$7 million in support, in either direct grant funding or control chemicals, since the virus emerged in South Dakota.

Area communities receiving grant money are Aberdeen, \$20,000; Andover, \$500; Bristol, \$948; Britton, \$7,782; Claremont, \$2,311; Columbia, \$1,141; Conde, \$946; Doland, \$947; Groton, \$5,000; Hecla, \$2,117; Ipswich, \$2,000; Langford, Pierpont, Roslyn, Eden Cooperative, \$3,487; Mansfield, \$1,335; Northville, \$1,500; Redfield, \$5,844; Spink County, \$5,862; Stratford, \$1,921; Warner, \$2,000; Webster, \$3,888; and Westport, \$2,506.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 6 of 45

Today in Weather History

June 29, 1927: This estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from near Claremont, passing along the northwestern edge of Britton. The Claremont area had a \$12,000 loss as a large silo was destroyed. A dozen homes had roof damage in Britton.

June 29, 2005: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell across far eastern Brown, western and northern Day, and most of Marshall Counties in the early morning and again in the afternoon hours. One location measured five inches of rain in two hours. Many township roads and highways were flooded along with thousands of acres of cropland. Water surrounded several homes resulting in people being rescued. Some of the homes were flooded. Many bridges were damaged, and roads and culverts were washed out. In Day County, 30 roads were washed out, and 15 bridges needed repairs. Some rainfall amounts include 5.04 inches in Britton, 3.34 at 8N of Columbia, and 2.08 in Aberdeen. Total June rainfall for some locations in Marshall and Day Counties was between 11 and 12 inches. The flooding continued into early July before receding by July 10th.

1826: Thomas Jefferson made his last entry in his weather observation log on this date, just six days before he died. The weather held a fascination for Jefferson as he made regular weather observations. He bought his first thermometer while working on the Declaration of Independence and his first barometer shortly after that.

1904: Tornado hits Karacharov Village area of Moscow killing about 24 people. Click [HERE](#) for more information from englishrussia.com

1931 - The temperature at Monticello FL hit 109 degrees to establish an all-time record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1954 - Hurricane Alice dumped as much as 27 inches of rain on the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The Rio Grande River at Laredo reached a level 12.6 feet above its previous highest mark, and the roadway of the U.S. 90 bridge was thirty feet below the high water. (David Ludlum)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Ohio Valley and the Great Lakes Region, with reports of large hail and damaging winds most numerous in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. Thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes in Michigan. A tornado near Clare MI was accompanied by softball size hail. In Colorado, an untimely winter-like storm blanketed Mount Evans with six inches of snow. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)








1988 - Alpena, MI, reported a record low of 39 degrees while Jackson, MS, equalled their record for the month of June with an afternoon high of 105 degrees. Thunderstorms in the central U.S. soaked Springfield MO with 3.62 inches of rain, a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern and Central High Plains Region. Thunderstorms in Colorado produced softball size hail at Kit Carson, while pea to marble size hail caused ten million dollars damage to crops in Philips County, CO. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1998: "The Corn Belt Derecho of 1998" in the following states NE, IA, IL, IN, KY. A derecho which originated in far southeast South Dakota moved across Illinois during the afternoon and evening and continued as far east as Ohio the next morning. Every county in central Illinois sustained some damage, as these severe thunderstorms passed. Winds gusted in the 60 to 80 mph range, with some localized microbursts producing winds more than 100 mph. Significant damage occurred in the microburst areas, including the towns of Morton, McLean, LeRoy, and Tolono. In Tolono, 22 cars of a southbound 101-car Illinois Central freight train were blown off the tracks. It was unknown how many cars were picked up by the wind, but 16 cars were turned over, and another six derailed but remained upright. The train was en route to Centralia from Chicago with a load of mixed freight, including plastic pellets and meal. The freight cars empty weighed about 60,000 pounds, while a full one weighs about 260,000 pounds. Overall, 12 people were injured, and damage was estimated around \$16 million dollars. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the Storm Prediction Center.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 7 of 45

Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
 40%	 50%	 20%				
Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 77 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 83 °F



Showers & Weak Storms Today



**Generally Light Precipitation –
A few Hundreds or Tenths of
an inch**

**Scattered Coverage Through
The Afternoon**

**Additional Chances
Eastern SD/Western MN
Friday**

National Weather Service – Aberdeen, SD



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



@NWSAberdeen

Updated: 6/29/2017 5:24 AM Central

Published on: 06/29/2017 at 5:37AM

Scattered coverage of showers and weak thunderstorms can be expected today with the best area for moisture being northwest/north central South Dakota. Another system will bring additional chances for tomorrow - however neither of these systems look to bring widespread drought relief.

Groton Daily Independent

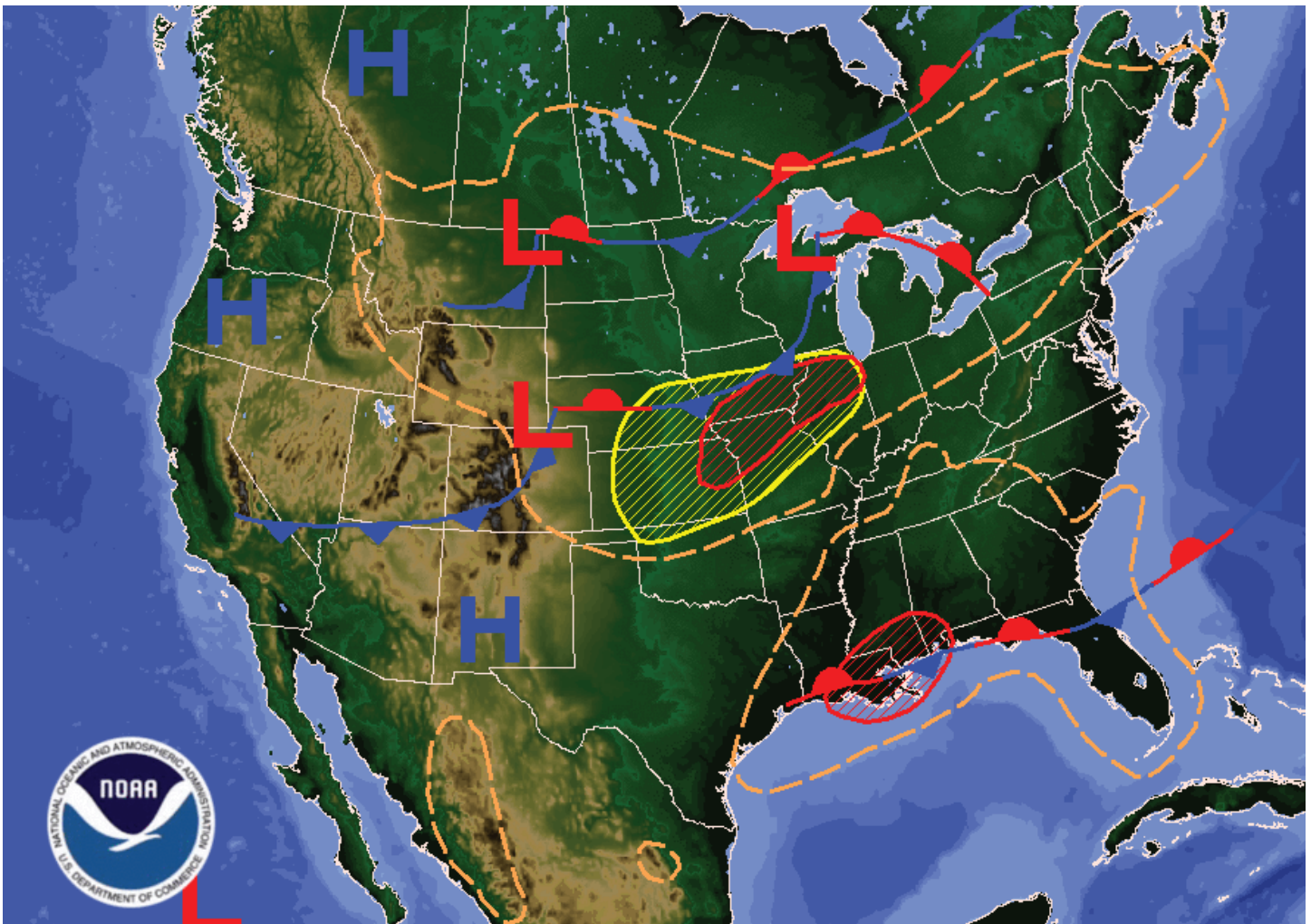
Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 8 of 45

Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 82.9 F at 5:03 PM
Low Outside Temp: 62.5 F at 10:45 PM
High Gust: 27.0 Mph at 2:02 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 107° in 1931
Record Low: 42° in 1900
Average High: 81°F
Average Low: 57°F
Average Precip in June: 3.59
Precip to date in June: 2.52
Average Precip to date: 10.73
Precip Year to Date: 5.71
Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Thu, Jun 29, 2017, issued 4:47 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 9 of 45



"WE'RE IN TERRIBLE SHAPE!"

It was the first day of geography class. The teacher was trying to get the class involved in a lively discussion. "What is the shape of the world?" she asked.

Immediately, James held up his hand and said, "My Dad says it's in terrible shape!" And most people would seem to agree with his dad.

Years ago a Psalmist gave us a reason for the condition of the world: "The kings and rulers of the earth," he said, "take their stand together against the Lord...and His Anointed One."

This Psalm points to the One who was to come – the Messiah. In it we find a description of Jesus – His life, death, resurrection and future reign. This Psalm also describes the rebellion of the nations of the world and their refusal to be obedient to the Word of God. The author wanted his readers to know and understand that God would fulfill His promises of peace and hope, grace and mercy, love and salvation. God, speaking to us through this Psalm, gave us His assurance that He is the One who is in control of all things – past, present and future. He wants us to know that through His Word we can become free from the worries and cares of this world and be certain of being with Him in eternity.

"Serve the Lord with reverent fear," said the Psalmist, and "submit to God's royal Son...and there will be joy for all who find protection in Him."

Prayer: Lord, we lift our hearts to You in worship and thanksgiving, knowing that Your peace will calm our fears, quiet our hearts and bless our lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 2:12 Kiss his son, or he will be angry and your way will lead to your destruction, for his wrath can flare up in a moment. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 10 of 45

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash
01-06-18-31-33
(one, six, eighteen, thirty-one, thirty-three)
Estimated jackpot: \$278,000

Hot Lotto
03-21-30-41-45, Hot Ball: 11
(three, twenty-one, thirty, forty-one, forty-five; Hot Ball: eleven)
Estimated jackpot: \$7.77 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$158 million

Powerball
29-37-46-53-68, Powerball: 8, Power Play: 2
(twenty-nine, thirty-seven, forty-six, fifty-three, sixty-eight; Powerball: eight; Power Play: two)
Estimated jackpot: \$92 million

Western governors back Endangered Species Act, with changes

By DAN ELLIOTT, Associated Press

The Republican-dominated Western Governors Association endorsed the aims of the Endangered Species Act on Wednesday but asked Congress to make changes, including giving states a bigger role and clarifying recovery goals for species protected by the law.

The governors said Western states benefit economically from healthy species and ecosystems but bear the burden of land-use restrictions that usually come with species protection, as well as some of the cost of recovery programs.

The 22-member association approved a resolution giving qualified backing for the act during a meeting in Whitefish, Montana. The governors include 14 Republicans, six Democrats and two independents. The vote count wasn't released.

The group passed a similar resolution last year.

Endangered species protection is controversial because it generally results in limits on mining, oil and gas drilling, agriculture and other economic activities.

Officials in some states have complained they are not given a big enough role in deciding what species should be protected, and how.

New Mexico sued the federal government last year over the release of more endangered Mexican gray wolves within its borders. The state lost an early round but the lawsuit is still pending.

Three weeks ago, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced his department will review the Obama administration's 2015 plan to protect the greater sage grouse, saying some governors complained their concerns were ignored.

The Western Governors Association asked Congress to change the act to require federal agencies to

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 11 of 45

actively pursue the removal of species from protection once they have recovered, and to clarify recovery goals.

They also said states should be "full partners" in decisions on whether to protect a species, what habitat should be protected, what steps are taken to help species recover and whether to take a species off the protected list.

The association asked for a better definition of the phrase "foreseeable future" in the law, especially when expected effects of climate change are a factor in decisions.

The governors urged lawmakers to give federal agencies more flexibility in carrying out the law. They said recovery programs need more federal money, and that giving private landowners economic incentives to conserve habitat could keep some species off the endangered list.

The association includes the governors of 19 states and three U.S. territories.

Follow Dan Elliott at <http://twitter.com/DanElliottAP> . His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/dan%20elliott>.

Daugaard elected chairman of Western Governors' Association

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard has been elected to serve as chairman of the Western Governors' Association.

The governor's office said Wednesday that he will serve in the post for one year. Daugaard says he looks forward to leading the bipartisan coalition of states.

The Republican governor has also announced the launch of a new association initiative on workforce. Through the initiative, governors aim to identify high-demand skills, add to career training opportunities for students and make strategies for rural communities.

The group plans to hold webinars and outreach events including one in Sioux Falls to meet with regional stakeholders. The association is made up of 19 states and 3 U.S.-flag islands.

Sioux Falls mayor slashes funding in 5-year capital plan

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls Mayor Mike Huether has laid out the most grim budget outlook of his tenure, just a year after proposing the city's most ambitious capital plan ever.

The mayor cited slow sales tax growth in South Dakota's largest city, the Argus Leader (<http://argusnews.com/2tkodaY>) reported.

Huether called for budgeting more than \$548 million in construction and equipment purchases through 2022, a large reduction from his \$589 million proposal last year.

Sales tax revenues have slowed to their lowest point since the recession of 2009 and 2010, after years of growth that was as high as 8 percent just three years ago. The mayor's finance team projects just 1 percent growth in sales tax revenues next year.

"The slow sales tax growth is real," Huether said. "One of the things we knew we had to do was to make some really, really tough choices, and you're gonna see that with this budget."

He said the bulk of the money will go toward roads and utilities rather than outdoor swimming pools, event centers and bike trails.

Huether said City Hall was spending about 60 percent of its revenues on roads and utilities during his first seven years in office.

The capital improvement plan calls for about 100 fewer blocks of road resurfacing over the next five years. But it also increases the percentage of city dollars being spent on roads and utilities to 90 percent.

That means about \$241.7 million will go toward highways and streets, and another \$189 million will go to utilities, under Huether's proposal.

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

Top officials unaware pipeline security operated illegally

By JAMES MacPHERSON and BLAKE NICHOLSON, Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — North Dakota's governor, top law officer and military leader all said Wednesday they were unaware that a private security firm hired by the developer of the disputed Dakota Access oil pipeline has been operating illegally in the state without a license.

North Dakota's Private Investigative and Security Board first notified TigerSwan in September it was unlicensed, and in December rejected its application, citing the alleged criminal history of the company's president.

Despite that, TigerSwan remained an integral part of the pipeline developer's security operation and assisted law officers. Internal company documents published by online news outlet The Intercept last month make references to planning and communication with law enforcement, the placing of a company liaison in the law enforcement joint operations center, and a meeting with the state attorney general's office's Bureau of Criminal Investigation "regarding video and still photo evidence collected for prosecution."

Attorney General Wayne Stenehjem, the state's top law enforcement officer, said he did not "recall being made aware" of TigerSwan's involvement or lack of a license.

"Certainly, If I had known they were operating, I would have advised them to comply with the law," he said.

The regulatory board's attorneys, Monte Rogneby and Justin Hagel, were hired by Stenehjem's office. Rogneby said neither the board nor the attorneys had "communications" with Gov. Doug Burgum, who inherited the pipeline protest issue when he became governor in December.

"I can't comment on who else the board has discussed this with because it's an ongoing investigation," Rogneby said.

Kelly Ivahnenko, a spokeswoman for Gov. Doug Burgum, said the governor-appointed regulatory board was not obligated under state law to inform Burgum of problems with the private security company.

"The governor had no knowledge or communication with the board on this issue," she said.

The regulatory board on Tuesday asked a state judge to stop TigerSwan's armed workers from continuing to monitor the pipeline system and requested administrative fines be levied against the company and its president, James Reese, for operating without a license, a misdemeanor carrying a potential sentence of 30 days in jail and a \$1,500 fine.

TigerSwan didn't answer phone calls or respond to an email seeking comment Wednesday. Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners confirmed that it uses TigerSwan for security but declined to comment further.

The pipeline this month began moving oil from western North Dakota to a distribution point in Illinois where it can be shipped to the Gulf Coast, though American Indian tribes who fear environmental harm continue to fight in court. The pipeline was delayed months by the legal battle and protests in southern North Dakota that resulted in 761 arrests between August and February.

The regulatory board alleges in court documents that TigerSwan employees with semi-automatic rifles and handguns protected workers and equipment at construction sites, conducted intelligence on protesters including placing or trying to place undercover agents within the protest groups, and even monitored traffic on a state highway. The board also says TigerSwan is still providing round-the-clock security along the pipeline in the state.

According to the board, it notified TigerSwan in September that the company wasn't properly licensed, and the company denied conducting private security in the state but at the same time applied for a license. The board denied the request in December, citing in court documents Reese's alleged criminal history without specifying the offenses. The board said Reese told the group he had never been convicted of a crime. A month later, the board rejected the application again, saying it was incomplete.

Rogneby, an attorney for the board, said "multiple private security companies" were hired by the company during the protest and that some were properly licensed and others are "still under investigation." He would not elaborate.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 13 of 45

North Dakota officials say the state incurred nearly \$40 million in law enforcement costs resulting from the protests. Hundreds and sometimes thousands of opponents camped in southern North Dakota, often clashing with police and National Guard soldiers. The pipeline company's private security personnel and their vehicles were often visible among the uniformed officers and military personnel.

Maj. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, the leader of the state's National Guard, said he did not know until Wednesday that TigerSwan was operating illegally.

"The National Guard had absolutely no interaction with them," said Dohrmann, whose troops spent months monitoring the protest and helped law enforcement remove protesters from the site in south-central North Dakota in February.

"If there was any interaction between our folks and them, it was only through casual conversation," Dohrmann said. "Through official Guard channels, there was no coordination."

TigerSwan was founded by retired military special forces members. Internal company documents indicate that employees conducted an aggressive, multifaceted operation against pipeline protesters that included maintaining a close working relationship with public law enforcement.

"When you have an organization like TigerSwan come in and start to influence decisions by law enforcement and even leadership in the state, you have to step back and say, where is the safety, where is the justice?" Standing Rock Sioux Chairman Dave Archambault said.

Morton County Sheriff Kyle Kirchmeier, who spearheaded the law enforcement response to the protests, didn't immediately reply to a request for comment.

Follow Blake Nicholson on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/NicholsonBlake> and follow James MacPherson at <http://twitter.com/macphersonja>.

ABC, meat producer settle in \$1.9B 'pink slime' libel suit

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — ABC and a South Dakota meat producer announced a settlement Wednesday in a \$1.9 billion lawsuit against the network over its reports on a beef product that critics dubbed "pink slime."

The terms of the settlement including its amount are confidential. Dakota Dunes-based Beef Products Inc. sued ABC in 2012, saying ABC's coverage misled consumers into believing the product is unsafe, is not beef and isn't nutritious. ABC spokeswoman Julie Townsend said in a statement Wednesday that throughout the case the network has maintained its reports accurately presented the facts and views of "knowledgeable people" about the product.

"Although we have concluded that continued litigation of this case is not in the company's interests, we remain committed to the vigorous pursuit of truth and the consumer's right to know about the products they purchase," Townsend said.

The coverage emphasized that the product at the time was present in 70 percent of the ground beef sold in supermarkets, but wasn't labeled. BPI and its family owners said in a statement Wednesday that the lawsuit was difficult, but necessary to start rectifying the harm suffered as a result of ABC's reports on lean, finely textured beef.

After the reports aired, some grocery store chains said they would stop carrying ground beef that contained the product. BPI claimed in the 2012 complaint that sales declined from about 5 million pounds (2.3 million kilograms) per week to less than 2 million pounds (907,000 kilograms) per week.

BPI has said the sales drop forced it to close plants in Iowa, Kansas and Texas and lay off more than 700 workers. Only a Nebraska plant in South Sioux City remained open.

"This agreement provides us with a strong foundation on which to grow the business, while allowing us to remain focused on achieving the vision of the Roth and BPI family," the company and family said in their statement.

BPI lawyer Erik Connolly said the trial and settlement were opportunities for the company to vindicate

its product

"If you judge this product on the truth, there is not a better product that goes into ground beef," Connolly said.

Lean, finely textured beef can be added to ground beef to reduce the overall fat content. It's made from trimmings left after a cow is butchered. The meat is separated from the fat, and ammonia gas is applied to kill bacteria.

Former Department of Agriculture microbiologist Gerald Zirnstein named the product "pink slime" in a 2002 agency email. He was among several people who were dismissed from the lawsuit before trial, including ABC anchor Diane Sawyer, leaving just the network and correspondent Jim Avila as defendants.

After the announcement, Avila thanked the jurors for their service, the Sioux City Journal reported.

"I wish they had had the chance to hear my side of the story," Avila said, according to the newspaper. "It's important to note we're not retracting anything or apologizing for anything."

BPI could have been seeking damages as high as \$1.9 billion, according to a U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filing from Disney, which owns ABC. BPI was also seeking "treble" damages, or triple the amount, under South Dakota's Agricultural Food Products Disparagement Act and punitive damages.

The settlement announcement came on the trial's 18th day in state court in Elk Point, a town of less than 2,000 people in southeastern South Dakota. The trial was scheduled to last until late July.

Jane Kirtley, a University of Minnesota media law professor who has followed the case, said it's "folly" to speculate what could have influenced ABC's decision to settle the case. But she said it's unfortunate whenever there's a settlement in a case that could have been defended.

"As a general proposition, I think settlements are bad because they send a message to other litigants that news organizations basically will buy their way out of lawsuits," Kirtley said. "This is a powerful corporation and it represents a powerful industry, and I think everyone should be concerned about the future of investigative reporting when powerful entities can bring an action like this and bring a settlement."

This story has been corrected to show that 5 million pounds is equivalent to 2.3 million kilograms, not 23 million kilograms.

Small College Basketball Hall of Fame to induct Don Meyer

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Legendary men's basketball coach Don Meyer is being inducted into the Small College Basketball Hall of Fame.

Meyer was one of the winningest coaches in college basketball history. He led his teams into the playoffs 19 times and compiled a 923-324 record during his 38-year career, most of which he spent at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, and at Northern State in Aberdeen, South Dakota.

The native of Wayne, Nebraska, died of cancer in 2014. He's already a member of the NAIA Hall of Fame, and in 2010 he was given a lifetime achievement award by the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Current Northern State coach Paul Sather, who played for Meyer, said Meyer was not only interested in success on the court but also "was just trying to make everyone around him better."

"He never took days off, and took so much pride in the work he put in and the young men he put on the floor," Sather told the American News.

Former Northern State athletic director Bob Olson told the newspaper that Meyer kept sports in perspective.

"I think you learned something from (Meyer) every day," he said. "You learned about character and leadership, and not only on the basketball court."

The Small College Basketball Hall of Fame induction ceremony is Nov. 2 in Evansville, Indiana.

More AP college basketball: <http://collegebasketball.ap.org> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 15 of 45

Fireworks ignite house fire in Wagner

WAGNER, S.D. (AP) — Fire officials say a blaze that burned a home in Wagner is a strong reminder about using fireworks safely.

A fire started by someone using fireworks destroyed most of the home Monday afternoon. Wagner Fire Chief Dale Petrik says the fireworks and explosion ignited a cedar tree with the fire spreading to the house.

Petrik tells The Daily Republic (<http://bit.ly/2toA0pn>) Tuesday is the start of the legal fireworks season. And with dry conditions, fire officials are concerned about ignition sources.

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

Pierre restaurant fire deemed electrical in nature

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A weekend fire that destroyed a Pierre restaurant has been deemed electrical in nature.

Fire Chief Ian Paul tells KCCR radio that the Saturday night blaze at the Branding Iron Bistro started in the kitchen.

The restaurant's interior and equipment were destroyed. Smoke heavily damaged the Pottery 2 Paint store next door. No one was hurt.

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

Limits on travel to US issued after Supreme Court ruling

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration has set new criteria for visa applicants from six mainly Muslim nations and all refugees that require a "close" family or business tie to the United States. The move came after the Supreme Court partially restored President Donald Trump's executive order that was widely criticized as a ban on Muslims.

Visas that have already been approved will not be revoked, but instructions issued by the State Department Wednesday said that new applicants from Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen must prove a relationship with a parent, spouse, child, adult son or daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the United States to be eligible. The same requirement, with some exceptions, holds for would-be refugees from all nations that are still awaiting approval for admission to the U.S.

Grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, fiancées or other extended family members are not considered to be close relations, according to the guidelines that were issued in a cable sent to all U.S. embassies and consulates late on Wednesday. The new rules take effect at 8 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Thursday (0000GMT on Friday), according to the cable, which was obtained by The Associated Press.

As far as business or professional links are concerned, the State Department said a legitimate relationship must be "formal, documented and formed in the ordinary course rather than for the purpose of evading" the ban. Journalists, students, workers or lecturers who have valid invitations or employment contracts in the U.S. would be exempt from the ban. The exemption does not apply to those who seek a relationship with an American business or educational institution purely for the purpose of avoiding the rules, the cable said. A hotel reservation or car rental contract, even if it was pre-paid, would also not count, it said.

Consular officers may grant other exemptions to applicants from the six nations if they have "previously established significant contacts with the United States;" "significant business or professional obligations" in the U.S.; if they are an infant, adopted child or in need of urgent medical care; if they are traveling for business with a recognized international organization or the U.S. government or if they are a legal resident of Canada who applies for a visa in Canada, according to the cable.

Meanwhile, the Middle East's biggest airline says its flights to the United States are operating as normal. Dubai-based Emirates said in response to questions on the travel ban Thursday that it "remains guided

by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection on this matter.”

The carrier reminded passengers that they “must possess the appropriate travel documents, including a valid U.S. entry visa, in order to travel.”

On Monday, the Supreme Court partially lifted lower court injunctions against Trump’s executive order that had temporarily banned visas for citizens of the six countries. The justices’ ruling exempted applicants from the ban if they could prove a “bona fide relationship” with a U.S. person or entity, but the court offered only broad guidelines — suggesting they would include a relative, job offer or invitation to lecture in the U.S. — as to how that should be defined.

Senior officials from the departments of State, Justice and Homeland Security had labored since the decision to clarify the ruling and Wednesday’s instructions were the result. The new guidance will remain in place until the Supreme Court issues a final ruling on the matter. Arguments before the justices will not be held until at least October, so the interim rules will remain in place at least until the fall.

Shortly after taking office, Trump ordered the refugee ban and a travel ban affecting the six countries, plus Iraq. He said it was needed to protect the U.S. from terrorists, but opponents said it was unfairly harsh and was intended to meet his campaign promise to keep Muslims out of the United States.

After a federal judge struck down the bans, Trump signed a revised order intended to overcome legal hurdles. That was also struck down by lower courts, but the Supreme Court’s action Monday partially reinstated it.

The initial travel ban led to chaos at airports around the world, but because the guidelines exempt previously issued visas, similar problems are not expected. After a judge blocked the original ban, Trump issued a scaled-down order and the court’s action Monday further reduced the number of people who would be covered by it. Also, while the initial order took effect immediately, adding to the confusion, this one was delayed 72 hours after the court’s ruling.

Under the new rules, would-be immigrants from the six countries who won a coveted visa in the government’s diversity lottery — a program that randomly awards 50,000 green cards annually to people from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States — will also have to prove they have a “bona fide relationship” with in the U.S. or are eligible for another waiver or face being banned for at least 90 days. That hurdle may be a difficult one for those immigrants to overcome, as many visa lottery winners don’t have relatives in the U.S. or jobs in advance of arriving in the country.

Generally, winners in the diversity lottery only need prove they were born in an eligible county and have completed high school or have at least two years of work experience in an occupation that requires at least two other years of training or experience.

Alicia A. Caldwell contributed to this report.

Rob Lowe says he feared death during bigfoot-like encounter

By The Associated Press

Rob Lowe says he thought he was going to be killed during an encounter with a bigfoot creature while filming his new A&E docuseries.

Lowe tells Entertainment Weekly the encounter took place in the Ozark Mountains, which stretch between Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma.

Lowe says he and his sons were camping there to investigate a bigfoot-like creature known to locals as a “wood ape” during a shoot for “The Lowe Files” when something began to approach their camp. Lowe says he was lying on the ground thinking he was going to be killed.

He adds that he’s “fully aware” the story makes him sound like “a crazy, Hollywood kook.”

“The Lowe Files” follows the actor and sons Matthew and John Owen as they explore mysterious phenomena across the country.

China's Xi in Hong Kong for anniversary as protests planned

By KELVIN CHAN, Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping landed in Hong Kong Thursday to mark the 20th anniversary of Beijing taking control of the former British colony, accompanied by a formidable layer of security as authorities showed little patience for pro-democracy protests.

After stepping off his Air China plane, Xi said he envisioned "stable development" of Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" framework. Pro-democracy activists fear Beijing is undermining the principle — agreed upon when Britain handed over the city back to China — which guarantees Hong Kong can mostly run its own affairs and keep civil liberties including free speech until 2047.

Xi's three-day visit culminates Saturday when he will oversee an inauguration ceremony for the Asian financial hub's new leader, Carrie Lam.

Pro-democracy activists staged protests ahead of his visit and more were expected, including an annual march through the streets on Saturday that has drawn big crowds in the past. Hong Kong authorities were taking no chances with disruptions and deployed heavy security across the city.

Helicopters hovered overhead and police and barricades lined the streets around a downtown convention center and hotel complex where Xi was expected to spend most of his time. Officers questioned passers-by taking photos of the few protests allowed near the area. Authorities even glued the gaps between sidewalk paving stones in an effort to prevent them from being torn up and thrown by protesters.

Three pro-democracy groups said 26 of their members were arrested Wednesday evening on public nuisance charges for staging a sit-in at a giant flower sculpture near the complex. They were still detained hours after Xi arrived. Police have the power to hold them up to 48 hours.

Those arrested included Joshua Wong, the young activist who helped lead 2014's "Umbrella Movement" protests, and Nathan Law, another student protest leader who was elected to the legislature last year.

Xi is visiting to mark the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover, when Britain ceded control of its colony to China at the stroke of midnight on June 30, 1997.

"It's been nine years since I last set foot in this place. I'm thrilled," Xi said on the airport tarmac. "Hong Kong has been tugging away at my heart," he said, adding that the anniversary of Hong Kong's "return to the motherland" on Saturday is "a big deal, a joyous occasion for the country and for Hong Kong."

He said one of the purposes of his trip is to plan for Hong Kong's future.

"We would like to look back at Hong Kong's extraordinary journey over the past 20 years, to learn from our experience, and look forward to the future to ensure the stable development of 'one country, two systems,'" he said in brief remarks before speeding off in a motorcade without answering questions.

Hong Kongers have grown concerned Beijing is backtracking on "one country, two systems" following a string of recent incidents, most notably the secret detention of five Hong Kong booksellers on the mainland.

Xi later visited the site of an arts hub under construction in West Kowloon district and was due to attend a banquet with government officials.

On Friday, he's expected to inspect Chinese troops at a People's Liberation Army base. China's only aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, will pay its first Hong Kong port call to mark the PLA's 20 year-presence in the city, the Defense Ministry said.

The ship, commissioned in 2012, and its battle group departed northern China on a training mission earlier this week and will likely pass through the Taiwan Strait along its voyage to Hong Kong.

Speaking at a monthly news briefing, ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian said the ship would take part in "celebratory activities," but gave no details. Media reports said the ship would arrive in Hong Kong on July 7 for a two-day visit.

Associated Press writer Christopher Bodeen in Beijing contributed to this report.

Cardinal takes leave from Vatican after sex assault charges

By **NICOLE WINFIELD** and **KRISTEN GELINEAU**, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Cardinal George Pell, one of Pope Francis' top advisers, took a leave of absence as the Vatican's financial czar on Thursday to fight multiple criminal charges in his native Australia that allege he committed sexual assault years ago.

Pell appeared before reporters in the Vatican press office to forcefully deny the accusations, denounce what he called a "relentless character assassination" in the media and announce he would return to Australia to clear his name.

"I repeat that I am innocent of these charges. They are false. The whole idea of sexual abuse is abhorrent to me," Pell said.

The Vatican said the leave takes effect immediately and that Pell will not participate in any public liturgical event while it is in place. Pell said he intends to eventually return to Rome to resume his work as prefect of the Vatican's economy ministry.

Pell, 76, is the highest-ranking Vatican official ever to be charged in the church's long-running sexual abuse scandal, and the developments pose a major and immediate new obstacle for Francis as he works to reform the Vatican.

Victoria state Police Deputy Commissioner Shane Patton announced the charges Thursday, saying police had summonsed Pell to appear in court to face multiple counts of "historical sexual assault offenses," meaning offenses that generally occurred some time ago. Patton said there are multiple complainants against Pell, but gave no other details on the allegations against the cardinal.

Pell was ordered to appear in Melbourne Magistrates Court on July 18.

Vatican spokesman Greg Burke said the Holy See had learned with "regret" of the charges and that the work of Pell's office would continue in his absence, albeit only its "ordinary" affairs.

In a statement he read to reporters while sitting beside Pell, Burke said the Vatican respected Australia's justice system but recalled that the cardinal had "openly and repeatedly condemned as immoral and intolerable" acts of sexual abuse against minors.

He noted that Pell had cooperated with Australia's Royal Commission investigation into sex abuse and that as a bishop in Australia, he worked to protect children and compensate victims.

"The Holy Father, who has appreciated Cardinal Pell's honesty during his three years of work in the Roman Curia, is grateful for his collaboration," Burke added.

The charges were announced on a major Catholic feast day, when many of the world's cardinals were already in Rome for a ceremony Wednesday to elevate five new cardinals. As Pell spoke to reporters, preparations were underway in St. Peter's Square for a huge Mass that Pell had been expected to jointly celebrate, but he stood down after the charges were announced.

For years, Pell has faced allegations that he mishandled cases of clergy abuse when he was archbishop of Melbourne and, later, Sydney. But more recently, Pell himself became the focus of a clergy sex abuse investigation, with Victoria detectives flying to the Vatican last year to interview the cardinal. It is unclear what allegations the charges announced Thursday relate to, but two men, now in their 40s, have said previously that Pell touched them inappropriately at a swimming pool in the late 1970s, when Pell was a senior priest in Melbourne.

Patton told reporters in Melbourne that none of the allegations against Pell has been tested in any court, adding: "Cardinal Pell, like any other defendant, has a right to due process."

The charges are a new and serious blow to Pope Francis, who has already suffered several credibility setbacks in his promised "zero tolerance" policy about sex abuse.

They will also further complicate Francis' financial reform efforts at the Vatican, which were already strained by Pell's repeated clashes with the Italian-dominated bureaucracy. Just last week, one of Pell's top allies, the Vatican's auditor general, resigned without explanation two years into a five-year term, immediately raising questions about whether the reform effort was doomed.

In his statement, Burke said Pell's economy secretariat would continue working in his absence until other

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 19 of 45

provisions are decided.

A prolonged absence, however, would require Francis to make other provisions, since it is unclear if the office could, for example, issue the Holy See's annual financial statement without Pell's imprimatur.

Pell's actions as archbishop came under intense scrutiny in recent years by a government-authorized investigation into how the Catholic Church and other institutions have responded to the sexual abuse of children. Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse — the nation's highest form of inquiry — has found shocking levels of abuse in Australia's Catholic Church, revealing earlier this year that 7 percent of Catholic priests were accused of sexually abusing children over the past several decades.

Last year, Pell acknowledged during his testimony to the commission that the Catholic Church had made "enormous mistakes" in allowing thousands of children to be raped and molested by priests. He conceded that he, too, had erred by often believing the priests over victims who alleged abuse. And he vowed to help end a rash of suicides that has plagued church abuse victims in his Australian hometown of Ballarat.

But he nevertheless became something of a scapegoat in Australia for all that went wrong with the Catholic Church in its mishandling of the sex abuse scandal. His flight to Rome to head Francis' reform effort had been viewed by many of his critics as an attempt to avoid justice.

The Australian public has been riveted by the investigation, and news of his charges sparked a media frenzy. Both the police announcement and Pell's statement from the Vatican were carried live across the country.

Australia has no extradition treaty with the Vatican. But in a statement from the Sydney Archdiocese, Pell said he would return to Australia "as soon as possible," following advice and approval by his doctors. Last year, Pell declined to return to Australia to testify for the third time before the Royal Commission, saying he was too ill to fly. He instead testified via video conference from Rome.

The Blue Knot Foundation, an Australian support group for adult survivors of childhood abuse, said the decision to charge Pell sent a powerful message to both abuse survivors and society as a whole.

"It upholds that no one is above the law, no matter how high their office, qualifications, or standing," the group's head of research, Pam Stavropoulos, said in a statement.

But actually proving the charges may be difficult. The prosecution must prove that the sex offenses occurred beyond a reasonable doubt, which can be difficult when so much time has passed, said Lisa Flynn, national manager of Shine Lawyers' abuse law practice in Australia.

The charges put the pope in a thorny position. In 2014, Francis won cautious praise from victims' advocacy groups when he created a commission of outside experts to advise him and the broader church about "best practices" to fight abuse and protect children.

But the commission has since lost much of its credibility after its two members who were survivors of abuse left. Francis also scrapped the commission's signature proposal — a tribunal section to hear cases of bishops who covered up for abuse — after Vatican officials objected.

In addition, Francis drew heated criticism for his 2015 appointment of a Chilean bishop accused by victims of helping cover up for Chile's most notorious pedophile. The pope was later caught on videotape labeling the parishioners who opposed the nomination "leftists" and "stupid."

Asked last year about the accusations against Pell, Francis said he would wait for Australian justice to take its course before speaking or casting judgment himself.

It remained unclear if Pell would face a church trial stemming from the accusations. The Vatican has clear-cut guidelines about initiating a canonical investigation if there is a semblance of truth to sex abuse accusations against a cleric. In the case of a cardinal, it would fall to Francis himself to judge. Penalties for a guilty verdict in a church trial include defrocking.

Gelineau reported from Sydney.

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. TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SETS TRAVEL RULES

The new criteria for visa applicants from six mainly Muslim nations and all refugees require that they have a "close" family or business tie to the U.S.

2. POPE'S FINANCE CHIEF FALLS UNDER SUSPICION

Cardinal George Pell takes a leave of absence as the Vatican's finance czar after police in his native Australia allege he committed sexual assault years ago.

3. WHY GOP'S IN A TIGHT SPOT

Congressional Republicans are stymied over health care. But after seven years of promising to repeal and replace Obama's law, they risk political disaster if they don't deliver.

4. FRESH TWIST IN VENEZUELA'S POLITICAL CRISIS

The country's highest court bars the chief prosecutor from leaving the country hours after she accuses President Maduro of "state terrorism."

5. CHINA, HONG KONG ACKNOWLEDGE TIES THAT BIND

China's President Xi is greeted by supporters waving red Hong Kong and Chinese flags as he arrives to mark two decades since China took control of the former British colony.

6. DOCUMENTS FILL GAPS IN HISTORICAL RECORD

Newly published State Department papers related to the U.S.-backed Iran coup in 1953 offer fresh insight into events that pushed the country to its Islamic Revolution.

7. HOW CONGRESS IS ONE-UPPING TRUMP

Going beyond any of the president's requests, the GOP-controlled Congress is adding tens of billions of dollars to the annual defense bill to pay for active-duty troops, combat aircraft and ships.

8. 'IT LOOKED LIKE ... THE WHOLE SKY WAS ON FIRE'

A wildfire burning through a dense Arizona forest forces thousands of people from their homes.

9. WHO'S GOT LAST WORD ON FIRST QUARTER

The Commerce Department is issuing the final estimate of how the U.S. economy performed in the January-March quarter.

10. TENNIS STAR BACK AFTER ATTACK

Just seven months after she was stabbed by an intruder at her home, Petra Kvitova is the front-runner to win a third title at Wimbledon.

Trump trashes media, cheers wins at \$10 million fundraiser

By JULIE BYKOWICZ and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican donors paid \$35,000 apiece to hear familiar a message from President Donald Trump: The media, particularly CNN, keep trying to take him down, and yet Republicans just keep on winning elections. He noted with pride that his party had won four special elections this year.

The president was whisked a few blocks from the White House to the Trump International Hotel, his name-branded Washington venue, for an evening of hobnobbing behind closed doors Wednesday with major party financiers, including Las Vegas casino mogul Steve Wynn.

One attendee stood out: Nevada Sen. Dean Heller, part of a small group of Republicans whose objections just a day earlier had doomed — at least for now — the Senate's effort to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's health care law.

Trump did not single out Heller, but Wynn, the lead fundraiser for the Republican National Committee, gently jabbed him by urging all Republicans to come together to support the president's agenda.

Breaking with the tradition of his predecessor, Trump barred reporters from the event, despite an announcement earlier in the day that a pool of reporters would be allowed inside. Two people in the room,

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 21 of 45

demanding anonymity to discuss a private event, relayed the messages given by Trump and Wynn.

"It's a political event, and they've chosen to keep that separate," White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said when asked why the event was closed to the media.

Trump's first re-election fundraiser comes some 40 months ahead of Election Day. Joined by first lady Melania Trump and top advisers, he held court for about two hours at an event attended by about 300 people that raised more than \$10 million. The money is to be spread among Trump's campaign, the RNC and other GOP entities.

Security was tight at the hotel, where guests in long gowns and crisp suits began arriving around 5 p.m. But the event also drew critics. The president's motorcade was greeted by dozens of protesters, who hoisted signs with slogans like "Health care, not tax cuts" and chanted "Shame! Shame!"

Among the event's guests: Longtime GOP fundraiser-turned television commentator Mica Mosbacher and Florida lobbyist and party financier Brian Ballard.

The Trump International Hotel has become a place to see — and be seen — by current and former Trump staffers, lobbyists, journalist and tourists. Several Washington figures of considerable influence popped into the lobby even though they didn't plan to attend the fundraiser in an adjacent ballroom.

Trump's decision to hold a fundraiser at his own hotel has raised issues about his continued financial interest in the companies he owns.

Unlike previous presidents who have divested from their business holdings or interests before taking office, Trump moved his global business empire assets into a trust that he can take control of at any time. That means that when his properties — including his Washington hotel — do well, he stands to make money.

Trump technically leases the hotel from the General Services Administration, and profits are supposed to go to an account of the corporate entity that holds the lease, Trump Old Post Office LLC. It remains unclear what might happen to any profits from the hotel after Trump leaves office, or whether they will be transferred to Trump at that time.

Under campaign finance rules, neither the hotel nor the Trump Organization that operates it can donate the space for political fundraisers. It must be rented at fair-market value and paid for by the Trump campaign, the RNC or both.

Although this was Trump's first major-donor event, his re-election campaign has been steadily raising money since the day he was inaugurated, mostly through small donations and the sale of Trump-themed merchandise such as the ubiquitous, red "Make America Great Again" ball caps. The campaign raised about \$7 million in the first three months of the year, according to Federal Election Commission reports.

The RNC also is benefiting from the new president's active campaigning, having raised about \$62 million through the end of last month. The party has raised more online this year than it did in all of 2016 — a testament to Trump's success in reaching small donors.

Trump's re-election money helps pay for his political rallies. He's held five so far, and campaign director Michael Glassner says those events help keep him connected to his base of voters.

The constant politicking, however, means it is challenging for government employees to avoid inappropriately crossing ethical lines. Some watchdog groups have flagged White House employee tweets that veer into campaign territory. White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters says the employees work closely with lawyers to avoid pitfalls.

Walters also says the White House takes care to make sure that Trump's political events and travel — including the Wednesday fundraiser — are paid for by the campaign and other political entities.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey and Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

GOP ponders whether Trump helps sell health care

By JULIE PACE, AP Washington Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was a platform most politicians can only hope for: A captivated, 6,000-person crowd and more than an hour of live, prime-time television coverage to hype the Republican vision for a new health care system.

But when President Donald Trump got around to talking about the Republican plan — about 15 minutes into his speech — he was wildly off message. Instead of preaching party lines about getting the government out of Americans' health decisions and cutting costs, he declared: "Add some money to it!"

The moment captured a major dilemma for Republicans as they look for ways to jumpstart their stalled health care overhaul. A master salesman, Trump has an inimitable ability to command attention, and that could be used to bolster Americans' support for Republican efforts and ramp up pressure on wavering lawmakers. But some lawmakers and congressional aides privately bemoan his thin grasp of the bill's principles, and worry that his difficulty staying on message will do more harm than good.

"You know, he's very personable and people like talking to him and he's very embracing of that, so there will be certain people he'd like to talk to," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn. "But I'd let Mitch handle it," he continued, referring to the lead role Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has played thus far.

McConnell delayed a vote on the health legislation this week after it became clear he couldn't muster enough Republican support to offset the unanimous opposition from Democrats. GOP leaders are now hoping to pass a bill in the Senate and reconcile it with an earlier version approved by the House before lawmakers head home for their August recess.

Trump has largely ceded the details to McConnell, deferring to the Kentucky lawmaker's legislative expertise. He has spent some time talking privately to wavering senators, including Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah, testing his powers of persuasion. But he's invested no significant effort in selling the American people on the impact the Republican bill would have on their health care coverage, beyond making sweeping declarations about how wonderful he expects it to be.

"We're looking at a health care that will be a fantastic tribute to your country," Trump said during a White House event Wednesday. "A health care that will take care of people finally for the right reasons and also at the right cost."

His approach is a contrast to former President Barack Obama, who delivered an address to Congress on health care and held town halls around the country about the Democrats' legislation in 2009. The Obamacare measure barely cleared Congress and became a rallying cry for Republicans, something Obama blamed in part on a failure by his party to communicate its virtues clearly to the public.

At times, even Trump's largely generic health care commentary has left Republicans fuming. Some lawmakers were particularly irked by Trump's assertion that the House bill — which he robustly supported and even celebrated with a Rose Garden ceremony — was "mean."

One Republican congressional aide said that comment left some lawmakers worried that the president — who had no real ties to the GOP before running for the White House — could turn on them if a bill passes but the follow-up becomes politically damaging. The official insisted on anonymity in order to describe private discussions.

Newt Gingrich, the former GOP House speaker and a close Trump ally, said Republicans have struggled to communicate about the complexities of health care policy because "nobody has served as a translator." He said Trump is well-positioned to take the lead, but acknowledged that the real estate mogul-turned-politician would need some help from policy experts in formulating a sales pitch.

"Trump will be able to repeat it with enormous effectiveness once somebody translates it," Gingrich said.

The White House disputes that Trump isn't steeped in the details of the Obamacare repeal efforts. Economic adviser Gary Cohn and other officials on the National Economic Council have convened several meetings with him to explain differences between the House and Senate bills. One senior White House official described the president as "fully engaged" in the process.

During a private meeting Tuesday with Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, who is strongly opposed to the current

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 23 of 45

Senate bill, Trump said his priority was to increase the number of insurance choices available to consumers and lower monthly premiums, according to an administration official with direct knowledge of the discussion. The official said the president also specifically highlighted the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office's projection that average premiums would be 30 percent lower in 2020 if the Senate bill took effect.

To some Trump allies, more public engagement on a substantive policy debate like the future of the nation's health care system would also be a welcome reprieve for a president whose approval ratings have tumbled amid the snowballing investigations into possible collusion between his campaign and Russia.

"I think his numbers would go up if he had a couple of addresses," said Sam Nunberg, a former Trump campaign adviser. "If he communicates directly with the American people, he cuts through the noise."

AP writers Ken Thomas and Josh Boak in Washington, and Jonathan Lemire in New York contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpace> and Ken Thomas at <http://twitter.com/kthomasDC>

Activists who probed Ivanka Trump supplier freed in China

By GERRY SHIH and BERNARD CONDON, Associated Press

GANZHOU, China (AP) — After a month behind bars, three Chinese investigators who went undercover at a factory that made Ivanka Trump shoes walked freely out of the local police station Wednesday. But they still face an uncertain future and the threat of a trial.

Chinese authorities released the three, who have been accused of breaking the law by using secret cameras and listening devices. They were freed on bail, which is extremely rare for individuals who have been detained for alleged crimes, a possible sign they won't be formally charged and put on trial.

But they're not in the clear yet. Political dissidents and other activists who are released in China typically face restrictions on what they can do and say — including comments to the media.

"This is a way of keeping people under pressure, under police control, without subjecting them to actual confinement," said Jerome Cohen, a law professor at New York University and a Chinese human rights expert. "Whether they are prosecuted depends on how they behave."

One of the activists, Hua Haifeng, was clearly relieved as he held his 3-year-old son outside the police station in Ganzhou, a city in southeastern Jiangxi province.

"I appreciate the media following my case the last month," Hua told The Associated Press, "but I'm not ready to speak yet."

When they disappeared in late May, Hua, Su Heng and Li Zhao of the labor rights group China Labor Watch were preparing to publish a report alleging low pay, excessive overtime, crude verbal abuse and possible misuse of student labor at Huajian Group factories. Some of the factories produced Ivanka Trump shoes, among other brands.

Huajian Group has denied allegations of excessive overtime and low wages. It says it stopped producing Ivanka Trump shoes months ago. Abigail Klem, president of the Ivanka Trump brands company, said that its products had not been produced at a factory in Ganzhou since March but "the integrity of our supply chain is a top priority and we take all allegations very seriously."

NYU's Cohen said he suspects the case now may follow the pattern of the one against Ai Weiwei, the dissident artist who was released on bail in 2011 and never faced trial.

"I think this is face-saving way to get rid of the case," Cohen said. "Formally, the case will exist for another year, then it will be dropped unless these people misbehave."

Li Qiang, founder of China Labor Watch, said the Huajian's factory in Ganzhou was among the worst he has seen in nearly two decades investigating labor abuses. His group says pay can be as low as a dollar an hour, in violation of China's labor laws. According to China Labor Watch investigators, until recently workers might get only two days off — or less — per month.

China Labor Watch alleges the company forced workers to sign fake pay stubs with inflated salary

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 24 of 45

numbers and threatened to fire them if they didn't fill in questionnaires about working conditions with pre-approved answers.

Separately, the AP recently spoke to three workers at the Ganzhou factory — one current and two former employees — who confirmed some of what the labor group has reported.

The three workers told the AP that beatings were not unheard of and that they had each witnessed a particularly gruesome scene one day: A worker with blood dripping from his head after an angry manager had hit him with a high-heeled shoe.

"There was a lot of blood. He went to the factory's nurse station, passing by me," said one of the former workers, who said he quit his job at the Huajian factory because of the long hours and low pay.

All three workers spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity, for fear of retribution or arrest.

The detention of the three activists prompted the U.S. State Department to call for their immediate release. At the time, Hua Chunying, spokeswoman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the men had been accused of using secret recording devices to disrupt normal commercial operations and would be dealt with under Chinese law.

"Other nations have no right to interfere in our judicial sovereignty and independence," she said, adding, "the police found these people illegally possessed secret cameras, secret listening devices and other illegal monitoring devices."

The White House directed any questions about the detainees on Wednesday to the State Department. Anna Richey-Allen, a department spokeswoman for East Asia and the Pacific, said: "We urge China to afford them the judicial and fair trial protections to which they are entitled."

Marc Fisher, which produces shoes for Ivanka Trump and other brands, has said it is looking into the allegations. Ivanka Trump's lifestyle brand imports most of its merchandise from China, trade data show.

The detentions came as China has cracked down on perceived threats to the stability of its ruling Communist Party, particularly from sources with foreign ties such as China Labor Watch.

Faced with rising labor unrest and a slowing economy, Beijing has taken a stern approach to activism in southern China's manufacturing belt and to human rights advocates generally, sparking a wave of reports about disappearances, public confessions, forced repatriation and torture in custody.

As he left the police station Wednesday, Hua was surrounded by family members. "I'm happy to be out," he said. "I just want to spend some time with my family,"

Hua said he had not been mistreated but declined further comment.

Condon reported from New York. AP writers Gillian Wong in Beijing and Matthew Pennington in Washington contributed.

China defends prison care of ailing Nobel Peace laureate Liu

By DIDI TANG, Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — In the midst of a growing outcry, China appears to be responding to criticism that prison authorities failed to provide sufficient care to ailing Nobel Peace laureate Liu Xiaobo, saying that he received regular health checks but nothing abnormal was detected until May.

Liu, 61, has been released from prison on medical parole after being diagnosed earlier this month with late-stage liver cancer and is being treated in a hospital in the northeastern city of Shenyang. He had been more than half-way through an 11-year sentence after being convicted in 2009 on subversion charges.

A statement released overnight Wednesday by Shenyang's judicial bureau said doctors found suspicious symptoms during a routine physical checkup on May 31. It said a 22-member medical team was convened and a week later diagnosed Liu with liver cancer that had metastasized. Defending Liu's care, it listed the steps taken and medical units involved.

"Liu Xiaobo and his family expressed their satisfaction with the treatment work undertaken by the prison and hospital," the statement said. Liu's wife, Liu Xia, who has been living under house arrest despite not being charged with any crime, was accompanying him in Shenyang, the statement said.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 25 of 45

Meanwhile, a video clip without a clear provenance emerged overnight on YouTube in which Liu thanks wardens for taking care of him. The clip, released anonymously, appears to show Liu receiving checkups, medical consultations and undergoing a magnetic resonance imaging procedure.

"Since I came here, both Captain Dai and Captain Jin truly have taken good care of me, especially of my health," said Liu, wearing a gray prison uniform. He appears relaxed in the footage, which seemed to have been shot over a period of time and edited together.

It is unclear when the footage was taken and by whom, though it is likely that only prison, police and other officials in the security apparatus had such close access to Liu during his incarceration. Also unclear is whether the footage had been manipulated and whether it accurately reflected the conditions of his eight-year detention.

The video spread after the popular dissident news site Boxun.com posted it on its YouTube account with a comment: "This must have been released by the authorities." Watson Meng, who runs Boxun, said he had noticed the video elsewhere on YouTube but didn't know its source.

"Keep in mind, the clip has been edited to show Liu happy and smiling," Meng told The Associated Press.

Attempts Thursday to independently verify the video with officials at the Shenyang government and judicial bureau were either met with rejection or claims of ignorance.

"We cannot comment on Liu Xiaobo case," said a person who answered phone at the Shenyang judicial bureau and who refused to give his name.

Liu, a literary critic and vocal opponent to China's one-party political system, was convicted of "incitement to subvert state power," after he co-authored a document known as "Charter '08" calling for democracy and political reforms in China. He was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 2010.

Liu's illness has drawn worldwide attention. Human rights groups and the United States have called for his unconditional release and accountability for his health care while incarcerated.

China has rejected all outside appeals over Liu's case, and foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang on Wednesday said Beijing had no intention of discussing the fate of one its incarcerated citizens.

"This issue is China's domestic affair. As we have said repeatedly, no country has the right to make irresponsible remarks on China's domestic affairs," Lu told reporters.

Following the revelation Monday of his deteriorating health, Liu's supporters questioned whether he'd been neglected or abused while incarcerated.

Chen Bingzhong, a former health ministry official and ex-head of a health education research institute, alleged negligence on the part of the prison in the small city of Jinzhou.

"Among all cancers, liver cancer is the easiest one to detect and diagnose, and early detection can lead to early, effective treatment," Chen said. "It's a chronic illness that does not develop overnight, but has ample time and shows sufficient symptoms for earlier diagnosis."

The prison has "inescapable responsibility for having failed to check him, to detect the cancer and offer timely treatments," Chen said, adding that the apparent negligence amounted to "another form of persecution."

Wu'er Kaixi, a Chinese dissident in exile, also blamed the authorities for Liu's illness.

"We believe that the reason why his health deteriorated so badly was because of the Chinese government's barbaric and cruel treatment over the past eight years," he told reporters in Taiwan.

In its official statement, the city of Shenyang's judicial bureau said Liu had hepatitis B before going to jail. It said he had been receiving an annual physical exam, supplemented by bi-monthly checks. The prison added screenings for hepatitis and cancer in 2012, but detected no abnormality until May 31, it said.

After the diagnosis by the 22-member group, the hospital summoned eight specialists from top hospitals around the country for seven rounds of consultations and, upon family request, added traditional Chinese medicine doctors with experience treating tumors, the statement said.

The statement offered no prognosis, although a brief video clip has been circulating of a deeply distressed Liu Xia telling a friend that no treatment — surgery, radiation, or chemotherapy — would be effective at this stage.

Supporters have called for Liu to be allowed to seek medical treatment abroad, but it's unclear if Liu

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 26 of 45

and his family — apparently under tight supervision — so desire. Friends say they are unable to get in touch with them.

“They are really cut out from the outside world,” said family friend Liao Yiwu, who released a handwritten note from Liu Xia in April that expressed the couple’s desire to leave the country.

“My biggest fear is that Liu Xiaobo dies, and Liu Xia remains under house arrest in China,” Liao said.

Associated Press video journalists Johnson Lai in Taipei and Isolda Morillo in Beijing contributed to the report.

US sets new visa rules for 6 mainly Muslim nations, refugees

By MATTHEW LEE, AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration on Wednesday set new criteria for visa applicants from six mainly Muslim nations and all refugees that require a “close” family or business tie to the United States. The move came after the Supreme Court partially restored President Donald Trump’s executive order that was widely criticized as a ban on Muslims.

Visas that have already been approved will not be revoked, but instructions issued by the State Department say that new applicants from Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen must prove a relationship with a parent, spouse, child, adult son or daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the United States to be eligible. The same requirement, with some exceptions, holds for would-be refugees from all nations who are still awaiting approval for admission to the U.S.

Grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, fiancées or other extended family members are not considered to be close relationships, according to the guidelines that were issued in a cable sent to all U.S. embassies and consulates late on Wednesday. The new rules take effect at 8 p.m. EDT on Thursday (0000GMT on Friday), according to the cable, which was obtained by The Associated Press.

As far as business or professional links are concerned, the State Department said a legitimate relationship must be “formal, documented and formed in the ordinary course rather than for the purpose of evading” the ban. Journalists, students, workers or lecturers who have valid invitations or employment contracts in the U.S. would be exempt from the ban. The exemption does not apply to those who seek a relationship with an American business or educational institution purely for the purpose of avoiding the rules, the cable said. A hotel reservation or car rental contract, even if it was pre-paid, would also not count, it said.

Consular officers may grant other exemptions to applicants from the six nations if they have “previously established significant contacts with the United States;” “significant business or professional obligations” in the U.S.; if they are an infant, adopted child or in need of urgent medical care; if they are traveling for business with a recognized international organization or the U.S. government or if they are a legal resident of Canada who applies for a visa in Canada, according to the cable.

Critics said they are watching closely to see how the guidelines are used.

“Initial reports suggest that the government may try to unilaterally expand the scope of the ban - for example, by arbitrarily refusing to treat certain categories of familial relationships as ‘bona fide.’ These reports are deeply concerning. We are watching for official word,” said Omar Jadwat, director of the ACLU’s Immigrants’ Rights

On Monday, the Supreme Court partially lifted lower court injunctions against Trump’s executive order that had temporarily banned visas for citizens of the six countries. The justices’ ruling exempted applicants from the ban if they could prove a “bona fide relationship” with a U.S. person or entity, but the court offered only broad guidelines — suggesting they would include a relative, job offer or invitation to lecture in the U.S. — as to how that should be defined.

Senior officials from the departments of State, Justice and Homeland Security had labored since the decision to clarify the ruling and Wednesday’s instructions were the result. The new guidance will remain in place until the Supreme Court issues a final ruling on the matter. Arguments before the justices will not be held until at least October, so the interim rules will remain in place at least until the fall.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 27 of 45

Shortly after taking office, Trump ordered the refugee ban and a travel ban affecting the six countries, plus Iraq. He said it was needed to protect the U.S. from terrorists, but opponents said it was unfairly harsh and was intended to meet his campaign promise to keep Muslims out of the United States.

After a federal judge struck down the bans, Trump signed a revised order intended to overcome legal hurdles. That was also struck down by lower courts, but the Supreme Court's action Monday partially reinstated it.

The initial travel ban led to chaos at airports around the world, but because the guidelines exempt previously issued visas, similar problems are not expected. After a judge blocked the original ban, Trump issued a scaled-down order and the court's action Monday further reduced the number of people who would be covered by it. Also, while the initial order took effect immediately, adding to the confusion, this one was delayed 72 hours after the court's ruling.

Under the new rules, would-be immigrants from the six countries who won a coveted visa in the government's diversity lottery — a program that randomly awards 50,000 green cards annually to people from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States — will also have to prove they have a "bona fide relationship" with in the U.S. or are eligible for another waiver or face being banned for at least 90 days. That hurdle may be a difficult one for those immigrants to overcome, as many visa lottery winners don't have relatives in the U.S. or jobs in advance of arriving in the country.

Generally, winners in the diversity lottery only need prove they were born in an eligible country and have completed high school or have at least two years of work experience in an occupation that requires at least two other years of training or experience.

Alicia A. Caldwell contributed to this report.

Venezuela hunts for copter pilot behind 'terrorist attack'

By JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Oscar Perez is a cop, pilot, action movie star and dog trainer. He's now also a fugitive, accused of strafing two key Venezuelan government buildings from a helicopter in a quixotic attempt to set off a revolt against President Nicolas Maduro.

Authorities on Wednesday conducted a nationwide manhunt for Perez a day after the government charged that he stole the police chopper and directed grenades and gunfire against the Supreme Court and Interior Ministry in what Maduro called a "terrorist attack."

No one was injured, and there was no sign of damage at the buildings. But the episode added another layer of intrigue to a 3-month-old political crisis that has left at least 75 people dead and hundreds more jailed or injured in clashes between security forces and protesters seeking Maduro's removal.

Did Perez act alone? Are other military uprisings in the works? Or was it an elaborate ruse clumsily orchestrated by the government to distract public attention or justify a tougher crackdown on the opposition?

Julio Borges, president of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, expressed doubts about Maduro's version of events but cautioned that he and the rest of the opposition were still analyzing what happened.

"There are people who say it was a government-staged hoax, others who say it was real," Borges said in a radio interview. "Whatever it was, it all points in the same direction: That the situation in Venezuela is unsustainable."

Little is known about Perez.

On his Instagram account, he notes his job as a police investigator and tactical helicopter pilot and says his passion is Venezuela.

In 2015, he starred in a film called "Suspended Death," and several photos show him in fatigues, bearing assault rifles, skydiving and standing in action poses with a German shepherd by his side.

Actor Marcos Moreno, who starred alongside Perez in the film, told The Associated Press that like many young officers in Venezuela, Perez was unhappy with the country's growing crisis. He described the police investigator as an honest man and expressed doubt about the suggestions that Perez was in cahoots with

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 28 of 45

a government plot to divert attention from Venezuela's problems.

"He just wanted to raise appreciation for police in society," Moreno said.

Sometime Tuesday, Perez posted on his Instagram account a video in which he read a manifesto calling for rebellion. He claimed to speak on behalf of a coalition of renegade members of the security forces.

Eyewitness accounts say the helicopter had hanging from its side a large banner referring to article 350 of Venezuela's constitution, which empowers Venezuelans to disobey any regime that violates human rights.

"We have two choices: be judged tomorrow by our conscience and the people or begin today to free ourselves from this corrupt government," Perez said while reading from the manifesto in front of four figures dressed in fatigues and ski masks and carrying assault rifles.

The government accused Perez and others in the helicopter of firing 15 shots at the Interior Ministry as a reception was taking place for 80 people. It then flew a short distance to the court, which was in session, and dropped grenades, two of them against national guardsmen protecting the building.

The helicopter was later found near the coast in Vargas state not far from Caracas, and elite special forces were deployed there to press the hunt, Vice President Tareck El Aissami said.

Photos of the pilot standing in front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington and a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter were shown on state television to bolster the government's case that he was taking instructions from the CIA and the U.S. Embassy.

"The magistrates of the Supreme Court and other judges of the nation are under a terrorist threat, for which we will request the appropriate measures to safeguard our integrity and that of our institutions," the high court said in a statement read by Maikel Moreno, the tribunal's president.

As the drama was unfolding outside the court, inside magistrates were issuing a number of rulings further blocking the opposition.

One broadened the powers of staunchly pro-government ombudsman Tarek William Saab, allowing him to carry out criminal investigations that are the exclusive prerogative of chief prosecutor Luisa Ortega Diaz, who recently has become a strong critic of Maduro.

A defiant Ortega accused Maduro of carrying out "state terrorism" and said she won't recognize three new rulings she portrayed as a brazen attempt to eliminate her position as the country's top law enforcement official.

"These rulings are giving the power to investigate human rights abuses to people who possibly are violating those rights," she said in her strongest remarks since breaking with Maduro over a ruling stripping the opposition-controlled legislature of its last powers.

Hours later, the government-stacked Supreme Court announced it was barring Ortega from leaving the country and freezing her bank accounts in order to ensure a complaint filed by a socialist party lawmaker against her can proceed.

Pedro Carreno is accusing Ortega of acting as an opposition leader and neglecting her duties as chief prosecutor. He has also asked the court to disclose any findings from a medical team that will evaluate her "mental insanity."

Joshua Goodman on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/APjoshgoodman>

Companies, governments assess damage from latest malware

By RAPHAEL SATTER and FRANK BAJAK, Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Companies and governments around the world on Wednesday counted the cost of a software epidemic that has disrupted ports, hospitals and banks.

Logistics firm FedEx says deliveries by its TNT Express subsidiary have been "slowed" by the cyberattack, which had "significantly affected" its systems.

Ports operated by the Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk are still crippled. An Alabama port official, James K. Lyons, said crews at Maersk's APM terminal in Mobile, Alabama, have been loading and unloading

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 29 of 45

containers in manual mode, without the normal computerized coordination. The company's operations were shuttered in Mumbai, India, Port Elizabeth, New Jersey, and Los Angeles, among others.

In a statement, Moller-Maersk acknowledged that its APM Terminals had been "impacted in a number of ports" and that an undisclosed number of systems were shut down "to contain the issue." The company declined to provide further detail or make an official available for an interview.

Ukraine, which was hardest hit and where the attack likely originated, said it had secured critical state assets — though everyday life remained affected, with cash machines out of order and airport displays operating manually.

As the impact of the cyberattack that erupted Tuesday was still being measured at offices, loading docks and boardrooms, the Ukrainian Cabinet said that "all strategic assets, including those involved in protecting state security, are working normally."

But that still left a large number of non-strategic assets — including dozens of banks and other institutions — fighting to get back online. Cash machines in Kiev seen by an Associated Press photographer were still out of order Wednesday, and Ukrainian news reports said that flight information at the city's Boryspil airport was being provided in manual mode.

A local cybersecurity expert discounted the Ukrainian government's assurances.

"Obviously they don't control the situation," Victor Zhora of Infosafe in Kiev told the AP.

At the very least, cybersecurity firms say thousands of computers worldwide have been struck by the malware, which goes by a variety of names, including ExPetr.

In Pennsylvania, lab and diagnostic services were closed at the satellite offices of the Heritage Valley Health System. In Tasmania, an Australian official said a Cadbury chocolate factory had stopped production after computers there crashed. Other organizations affected include U.S. drugmaker Merck, food and drinks company Mondelez International, global law firm DLA Piper, and London-based advertising group WPP.

But most of the damage remains hidden away in corporate offices and industrial parks.

As IT security workers turned their eye toward cleaning up the mess, others wondered at the attackers' motives. The attack has the telltale signs of ransomware, which scrambles a computer's data until a payment is made, but some experts believe this attack was less aimed at gathering money than at sending a message to Ukraine and its allies.

That hunch was buttressed by the way the malware appears to have been seeded using a rogue update to a piece of Ukrainian accounting software — suggesting an attacker focused on Ukrainian targets.

And it comes on the anniversary of the assassination of a senior Ukrainian military intelligence officer and a day before a national holiday celebrating a new constitution signed after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

"The threat we're talking about looks like it was specially developed for Ukraine because that was the place it created most of the damage," said Bogdan Botezatu, of Romanian security firm Bitdefender, calling it a case of "national sabotage."

Suspicious were further heightened by the re-emergence of the mysterious Shadow Brokers group of hackers, whose dramatic leak of powerful NSA tools helped power Tuesday's outbreak, as it did a previous ransomware explosion last month that was dubbed WannaCry.

In a post published Wednesday, The Shadow Brokers made new threats, announced a new money-making scheme and made a boastful reference to the recent chaos.

The malware didn't appear to make a lot of money for its creators. A bitcoin wallet used to collect ransoms showed only about \$10,000. And some analysts going through the malware's code said that the ransomware may not even operate as ransomware at all; victims' data appear to be hopelessly scrambled, rather than recoverable after the payment of ransom.

Matthieu Suiche, the founder of Dubai-based Comae Technologies, said the ransom demand was merely "a mega-diversion." In a blog post, he wrote that the code pointed not to criminals, but "in fact a nation state attack."

Researchers at Kaspersky Lab echoed the findings, saying in a statement, "Our analysis indicates there is little hope for victims to recover their data."

Bajak reported from Houston, Texas. Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow, Alison Mutler in Bucharest, Romania, Larry Rosenthal in Philadelphia, Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles, Kim Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama and Bruce Shipkowski in Trenton, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

US demands more security on international flights to US

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Homeland Security Department is demanding that airlines around the world step up security measures for international flights bound for the United States or face the possibility of a total electronics ban for planes.

Compliance with the new rules could lead to the lifting of a ban on laptops and other large electronics already in place for airlines flying to the United States from 10 airports in the Middle East and Africa. It could also stave off a much-discussed expansion of the ban to flights from Europe.

Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly announced the rollout of the new rules Wednesday.

The changes will be phased in over time and include enhanced passenger vetting, explosives detection and efforts to root out insider threats to airlines.

"Security is my No. 1 concern," Kelly said during a speech at the Center for a New American Security. "Our enemies are adaptive and we have to adapt as well."

Kelly said the changes will be "seen and unseen" and will be phased in over the coming weeks and months.

He said airlines that don't comply or are slow to enforce the new standards could be forced to bar large electronics in both carry-on and checked luggage. They could also lose permission to fly into the U.S. He said he's confident that airlines will cooperate.

The current ban, which affects only foreign carriers flying to the U.S. from 10 cities, allows passengers to travel with larger electronics packed in checked baggage.

The new rules will apply to roughly 180 foreign and U.S.-based airlines, flying from 280 cities in 105 countries, according to Homeland Security. About 2,000 international flights land in the United States daily.

Michael W. McCormick, executive director and COO of the Global Business Travel Association, said Wednesday that airports will have to deploy enhanced explosive trace detection technology within 21 days and within six months add additional screening, detection dogs and other enhanced security measures.

He said his organization supports the new security measures because they will reduce the security risks but still allow passengers to use laptops and other electronics on international flights.

"It's the best option we have right now," McCormick said.

The original laptop and electronics ban has been in place since March amid concerns about an undisclosed threat described only as sophisticated and ongoing. That ban applied to nonstop flights to the United States from Amman, Jordan; Kuwait City, Kuwait; Cairo; Istanbul; Jeddah and Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Casablanca, Morocco; Doha, Qatar; and Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. The roughly 50 affected flights are on foreign airlines.

The government had considered expanding the laptop ban to include some European airports, though in recent public comments Kelly had suggested the government was looking at alternatives.

The changes come after the Transportation Security Administration said this month that it is testing computed-tomography, or CT, scanning at one checkpoint at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport.

The technology is already used for screening checked luggage, but the cost and larger size of the CT scanners has held back their use for carry-on bags. TSA had expected to begin testing CT scanners for carry-on luggage by the end of 2016.

CT scanners create a 3-D image that can be rotated to give screeners a better look. Suspicious bags can be pulled aside and opened by screeners.

American Airlines, which is participating in the test, said the technology could let passengers leave laptops, liquids and aerosols in their carry-on bags, speeding up the trip through the airport.

The test comes as U.S. officials scramble to deal with potential new threats, including reports that ter-

rorists are developing bombs that can be disguised as laptop batteries.

The ban on laptops in the cabin is based on the belief that a bomb in the cargo hold would need to be bigger than one in the cabin, and capable of remote detonation. Checked luggage already goes through computed-tomography screening while carry-on bags don't.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee in Washington and Josh Funk in Omaha, Nebraska, contributed to this report.

Follow Alicia A. Caldwell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/acaldwellap and find her work at <http://apnews/2svihLQ>

Man destroys new Ten Commandments statue at Arkansas Capitol

By JILL BLEED and ANDREW DeMILLO, Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A man yelled "Freedom!" as he crashed his vehicle into Arkansas' new Ten Commandments monument early Wednesday, nearly three years after he was arrested in the destruction of Oklahoma's monument at its state Capitol, authorities said.

The privately funded Arkansas monument had been in place outside the state Capitol in Little Rock for less than 24 hours before it was knocked from its plinth and smashed to pieces.

Michael Tate Reed, 32, of Van Buren, Arkansas, was booked in the Pulaski County jail shortly after 7:30 a.m. on preliminary charges of defacing objects of public interest, criminal trespass and first-degree criminal mischief. An arrest report lists his occupation as "unemployed/disabled."

Authorities did not know whether he had an attorney who could speak on his behalf. A video arraignment was set for Thursday morning, a Pulaski County sheriff's spokesman said. A call to the number listed for Reed on a police report went straight to voicemail.

Arkansas Secretary of State's Office spokesman Chris Powell said officials believe a Facebook Live video posted on a Michael Reed's account that depicted the destruction is authentic.

In the video, the sky is dark and the Arkansas Capitol's dome is visible. Music is heard followed by a



Personnel from the Secretary of State's office inspect the damage to the new Ten Commandments monument outside the state Capitol in Little Rock, Ark., Wednesday morning, June 28, 2017, after someone crashed into it with a vehicle, less than 24 hours after the privately funded monument was installed on the Capitol grounds. Authorities arrested a male suspect. (AP Photo/Jill Zeman Bleed)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 32 of 45

female voice, likely on the radio, saying, "Where do you go when you're faced with adversity and trials and challenges?" The driver is then heard growling, "Oh my goodness. Freedom!" before accelerating into the monument. The vehicle's speedometer is last shown at 21 mph (33 kph) and then a collision can be heard.

The monument fell and broke into multiple pieces as it hit the ground.

Oklahoma County sheriff's spokesman Mark Ogrande told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Reed was the same man arrested in October 2014 in the destruction of Oklahoma's Ten Commandments monument at the state Capitol.

In a 2015 email to the Tulsa World, Reed apologized for wrecking Oklahoma's monument and said he suffered from delusions and heard voices.

"I am so sorry that this all happening (sic) and wished I could take it all back," Reed said.

Arkansas' granite monument weighed 6,000 pounds (2,721 kilograms). It was installed Tuesday morning on the southwest lawn of the Capitol with little fanfare and no advance notice. A 2015 law required the state to allow the display near the Capitol, and a state panel last month gave final approval to its design and location.

"Obviously, I'm very disappointed that someone would carry out an act of violence that's actually against the people of Arkansas," said Republican Sen. Jason Rapert, the state lawmaker who led the push for the monument. Rapert said he was confident he could quickly raise funds for a replacement.

Travis Story, the general counsel of the American History and Heritage Foundation, which raised money for the monument, said the group already has ordered a replacement but that it would take a couple of months.

Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who signed the legislation requiring the monument's installation, wrote in a tweet that "resorting to property destruction is never the answer to a policy disagreement."

The American Civil Liberties Union condemned the destruction of the monument, which it has called an unconstitutional endorsement of religion.

"We strongly condemn any illegal act of destruction or vandalism," ACLU of Arkansas Executive Director Rita Sklar said. "The ACLU remains committed to seeing this unconstitutional monument struck down by the courts and safely removed through legal means."

Arkansas' monument is a replica of a display at the Texas Capitol that was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2005. After Oklahoma's monument was destroyed in 2014, a replacement was erected but then ordered removed by that state's Supreme Court, which determined its location on state property violated a constitutional prohibition on the use of state funds to support a religion.

Family members told The Oklahoman in 2014 that Reed suffered from bipolar disorder and "some type of schizophrenia."

Oklahoma County District Attorney David Prater said he declined to pursue criminal charges against Reed because it was apparent he had a long history of mental illness and because the offense was a property crime. Prater said Reed's family lives in Arkansas and secured a facility there that could treat him.

"Had it been a violent crime where he had harmed another person, burglarized someone's home or something like that, I would have been forced to handle the case differently," Prater said.

Associated Press writer Sean Murphy in Oklahoma City contributed to this report.

UK charges 6 in Hillsborough stadium tragedy that killed 96

By DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prosecutors charged a former senior police commander with manslaughter Wednesday in the 1989 Hillsborough stadium disaster that left 96 people dead — long-awaited vindication for the families of the victims after authorities spent years blaming fans for the catastrophe.

The charges announced against former Chief Superintendent David Duckenfield and five others were met with applause from victims' relatives who had waged a decades-long quest for justice for their loved ones after the deaths were ruled accidental — a decision that was overturned in 2012 after a wide-ranging

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 33 of 45

inquiry found a cover-up by police.

The disaster, in which many victims were crushed against metal fences, prompted a sweeping modernization of stadiums across Britain, where standing-room-only sections like the one that contributed to the trampling of fans in the overcrowded stadium were commonplace. Top division stadiums were largely transformed into safer, all-seat venues, with fences around the playing surface torn down to avoid further tragedies.

Last year, a new inquest found that all 96 fans had been unlawfully killed and an independent police investigation asked prosecutors to consider criminal charges in the case. The Crown Prosecution Service announced its highly anticipated decision on Wednesday, filing charges against four police officers, a lawyer and an official of the team whose stadium was the venue for the April 15, 1989 match.

Barry Devonside, whose 18-year-old son, Christopher, was among those killed, pumped his fist after the indictments were made public.

"Everybody applauded when it was announced that the most senior police officer on that particular day will have charges presented to him," Devonside said.

Duckenfield, the police commander on the day of the tragedy, faced the most serious charge — gross negligence manslaughter in the deaths of 95 men, women and children. Duckenfield's failures in discharging his "personal responsibility were extraordinarily bad and contributed substantially to the deaths," prosecutors said in a statement.

They declined to issue a manslaughter charge related to the 96th fatality because the young man died four years after the fateful match.

Others indicted in the case were the former chief of South Yorkshire Police, Norman Bettison, who was charged with misconduct in public office for allegedly lying about the disaster and its aftermath. Peter Metcalf, a police attorney, was charged with acting "with intent to pervert the course of public justice" for allegedly suggesting changes to officers' statements. Former Chief Superintendent Donald Denton was accused of overseeing the changes to the statements and former Detective Chief Inspector Alan Foster was accused of being central to the process.

Graham Henry Mackrell, the former secretary and safety officer for the Sheffield Wednesday Football Club, which operated Hillsborough Stadium, was charged with failing to carry out health and safety duties.

Speaking before the House of Commons, British Prime Minister Theresa May called Wednesday a "day of really mixed emotions" for the families of the fans who died, adding that justice was moving forward "after so many years of waiting."

The tragedy at the stadium in Sheffield unfolded when more than 2,000 Liverpool soccer fans flooded into a standing-room section behind a goal, when the 54,000-capacity stadium was nearly full for a match against Nottingham Forest. The victims were smashed against metal anti-riot fences or trampled underfoot. Many suffocated in the crush.

The original inquest recorded verdicts of accidental death. But the families challenged that ruling and pressed for a new inquiry. They succeeded in getting the verdicts overturned by the High Court in 2012 after the far-reaching probe that examined previously secret documents and found wrongdoing and mistakes by authorities.

Sue Hemming, the head prosecutor for special crime and counterterrorism, said Wednesday in announcing the charges: "Criminal proceedings have now commenced, and the defendants have a right to a fair trial." British law strictly limits what can be reported about a case once charges have been laid, and Hemming reminded the media that "it is extremely important that there should be no reporting, commentary or sharing of information online which could in any way prejudice these proceedings."

Trevor Hicks, whose daughters Sarah and Vicki died in the disaster, said Wednesday's indictments were more than just a victory for the victims' families.

"This is a success for society at large, not just for us," he said.

___ This story has been corrected to show the former chief of South Yorkshire Police's last name is Bettison.

___ Associated Press writer Jill Lawless contributed to this report.

Travel ban a blow to Sudan refugees awaiting US resettlement

By BRIAN ROHAN, Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Dozens of Sudanese activists living in Egypt as refugees, many of whom fled fundamentalist Islamic militias and were close to approval for resettlement in the United States, now face legal limbo after the Supreme Court partially reinstated President Donald Trump's travel ban on six Muslim nations, including Sudan.

Many said they are not safe in Egypt because Sudanese agents operating in the country under tacit Egyptian approval regularly threaten them and their families, sometimes targeting them with violence.

Tayeb Ibrahim, who has worked to expose Sudanese government abuses in areas it controls in the country's volatile South Kordofan province, was partially blinded after being attacked with acid by Sudanese government agents, and narrowly escaped being brought back to Sudan after being kidnapped in Egypt.

"I'm totally depressed. I was approved over a year ago for resettlement, just passed my medical exam last week and was hoping to see family living in Iowa. But instead I'll be stuck here worried about my physical safety," said the 40-year-old Ibrahim, who like many Sudanese refugees has no travel documents and thus cannot leave Egypt.

Sudanese living in Egypt regularly complain of discrimination and harassment, while pro-democracy rights activists and opponents of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir's regime say they face abuses by both Sudanese and Egyptian security forces.

Rights groups have in the past documented cases where pro-democracy activists have been targeted by Sudanese secret police with violence, including rape. Egypt has denied any involvement in such targeted abuse.

There are officially some 36,000 Sudanese with refugee status in Egypt, most former residents of Sudan's Darfur region who fled government-sponsored Islamic and tribal Janjaweed militias in a separatist conflict that was front-page news a decade ago but has now been eclipsed by other regional crises in Syria and Iraq.

"It's like having our own little Islamic State group in Sudan, sponsored by the government, who has been persecuting us for years," said Awad, a 33-year-old Sudanese women's rights activist who has lived in Cairo since 2012. During that time, she said she has been the victim of burglaries and an attack by Sudanese men on a motorbike. Like others interviewed, she declined to give her last name out of fears for her safety.

Sudan's Darfur region has seen violent conflict since 2003, when ethnic Africans rebelled against the Arab-dominated Sudanese government in the capital, Khartoum, accusing it of discrimination and neglect. The United Nations estimates 300,000 people have died in the conflict and some 2.7 million have fled their homes.

Al-Bashir, who rose to power in 1989, is on the International Criminal Court's wanted list for committing crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide in Darfur. The ICC has issued two warrants for al-Bashir's arrest, in March 2009 and July 2010.

Sudan has been under U.S. financial sanctions since the 1990s after it was designated a "state sponsor of terrorism." But a week before leaving office, President Barack Obama eased some sanctions on Sudan citing positive actions by the government, including a reduction in offensive military activity and cooperating with the U.S. to address regional conflict and the threat of terrorism.

Later, the Trump administration singled out Sudan as one of six Muslim majority countries whose citizens were banned from immigrating to the U.S.

Activists awaiting resettlement in the U.S. say it's unfair to punish victims of al-Bashir's government, which has pushed for an ultraconservative interpretation of Islam and actively supported religiously inspired fighters to attack his opponents.

"We're the victims but we are paying the price of perpetrators," said Basham, a 36-year-old former mechanical engineering student who said he left Sudan in 2002 after being tortured for organizing information sessions at his university about abuses in South Kordofan and working as a translator for human rights groups. He said he was selected for resettlement to the U.S. in 2016.

Awad said she has been vetted for three years by U.S. and U.N. officials, and had hoped to be approved

for resettlement in Kansas or Minnesota, states with large Sudanese communities.

The U.S. Embassy in Cairo declined to comment on the cases, as did the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration, which manages the vetting process. The U.S. State Department has said it would provide additional details on how the ban would affect migration "after consultation with the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security."

Sudan's government has at times given Cairo a green light to crack down on its opponents, while complaining at other times about mistreatment of its citizens in Egypt, depending on the political winds of the day. Lately it has been engaged in a trade dispute with Egypt over its banning of some Egyptian agricultural products, while Cairo pressures it over links with its nemesis, the Gulf monarchy of Qatar.

Meanwhile, rights groups, including U.S.-based Human Rights Watch, say Washington should reevaluate its moves to lift sanctions on Sudan and insist certain criteria be met first, such as outlawing punishments like stoning, as well as dress code bans and official discrimination against women and girls.

Haram, a 48-year-old former teacher, who said she was arrested, raped and tortured in Sudan for collecting food and clothes for displaced people in Khartoum, has been waiting for four years for resettlement approval for herself and her five children in New York, where she has relatives.

"As a mother I'm so disappointed. I can barely provide for my children because I can only work as a maid, and besides that there's racism and harassment," said Haram, who like others with refugee status is banned from working in Egypt.

Awad noted the irony of Trump's travel ban: While it seeks to protect America against Islamic extremists, in the case of Sudanese in Egypt, it was punishing their victims, people still threatened by their government here.

"People have to understand, I fear for my life in this country," she said. "It's horrible to be so close to freedom and suddenly told you have to stay for an unknown time."

Follow Brian Rohan on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/brian_rohan

Supervisors suspended amid NYC subway derailment probe

By KILEY ARMSTRONG and FRANK ELTMAN, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Investigators probing the derailment of a New York City subway train said the accident was caused by an improperly secured spare rail, left on the tracks to make it easier to fix breakdowns quickly.

Two supervisors responsible for oversight of track maintenance work were suspended without pay pending a formal review, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority announced Wednesday.

MTA Chairman Joe Lhota and Interim Executive Director Ronnie Hakim said in a statement that storing equipment between tracks is a common practice employed by railroads across the country to accelerate repairs.

"The key to this being an effective and safe practice is making sure that the extra equipment is properly bolted down, which does not appear to have happened in this case," they said.

The derailment on Tuesday in Harlem caused an A train to list and scrape along a tunnel wall, tossing people to the floor and forcing hundreds of passengers to evacuate through dark tunnels. About three-dozen people were hurt, though not seriously.

Crews were inspecting "every inch of rail" in the system Wednesday to ensure that all replacement parts left near the tracks were properly stored and secured, MTA officials said.

David B. Clarke, director of the Center for Transportation Research at the University of Tennessee, said it was unlikely vibrations from passing trains could have moved such a rail, since it weighs approximately 100 pounds per yard.

"You have to make sure employees are aware that whatever is near the track is not a hazard. In this case, somebody apparently failed," he said.

The derailment followed a winter and spring marked by mechanical failures, power outages and several

episodes in which passengers were trapped on stuck trains for an hour or more.

The subway system, which dates to 1904, operates 8,000 trains daily over 655 miles of track; there are more than 1,600 mainline switches and 13,000 signals that control train movements.

"The pressures and problems of maintaining an older system while still operating 24/7 can lead to something like this," said Jim Gannon, spokesman for Transit Workers Union Local 100, which represents subway workers but not the suspended supervisors. "Every night, hundreds of them are out doing needed maintenance. They're under a lot of pressure."

Service on the four affected subway lines was restored Wednesday morning, though riders were told to expect residual delays.

An MTA track worker died last year after he was struck by a subway train in Brooklyn while working on a track project.

Eltman reported from Mineola, New York.

This story has been corrected to show that investigators said Tuesday the derailment was caused by an improperly secured spare rail, not Wednesday.

Lawsuits over new Utah monument to test president's power

By MICHELLE L. PRICE, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Native American tribes and environmental groups preparing for a legal battle to stop President Donald Trump from dismantling Utah's new national monument face a tougher challenge than anticipated.

Republican officials in the state who oppose Bears Ears National Monument asked Trump to rescind the designation. But U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended the monument be downsized instead, noting past presidents have tinkered with the boundaries of lands protected under federal law.

Legal experts disagree on whether the 1906 Antiquities Act allows a president to reduce a monument, and it's something that has never been challenged in court.

Environmentalists and Indian tribes were ready to pounce at the notion Zinke would recommend Bears Ears be abolished, armed with their belief that no president may undo the work of another by rescinding a monument, and the fact that no president has tried.

But past presidents have trimmed national monuments and redrawn their boundaries — 18 times, according to the National Park Service.

Bears Ears, established by President Barack Obama in December, is about the size of Delaware, covering roughly 2,000 square miles (5,300 square kilometers). It protects more than 100,000 archaeological sites on what's considered sacred tribal land in southeastern Utah.

A largely GOP group of Utah officials wants the monument repealed and see it as an overly broad, unnecessary layer of federal control that closes off the area to energy development and other access.

Republican state Rep. Mike Noel said shrinking a monument is politically and legally much easier to defend than attempting to undo one.

"There's been enough history of downsizing, even fairly large areas, significantly large areas," Noel said.

Many times, past presidents reduced monuments only slightly, like when Franklin Roosevelt removed about 52 acres from Arizona's Wupatki National Monument in 1941 to make way for a dam. But occasionally the changes were drastic, like President Woodrow Wilson's move in 1915 to cut Mount Olympus National Monument roughly in half to open more land for logging.

Environmental groups and others gearing up for a fight note that no president has tried to downsize a monument since the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which they say restricts a president's ability to do so. The groups also contend past presidents never faced court challenges for shrinking monuments.

"Whatever this administration does will certainly not go unchallenged," said Kristen Boyles, an attorney

with the environmental group Earthjustice.

Legal experts disagree on whether the environmental groups are right, but the court battle that's expected if Trump tries to cut down Bears Ears could significantly alter what's generally been a lasting protection from presidents.

The 1906 Antiquities Act that gives presidents the power to declare monuments does not explicitly say whether a president can nullify a monument proclamation or shrink its boundaries.

Donald J. Kochan, a professor of natural resources, property and administrative law at Chapman University in Orange, California, said the president's broad power to create a monument comes with an inherent ability to change a monument or undo it, just as presidents regularly undo other policies or regulations from past administrations.

Mark Squillace, professor of natural resources law at the University of Colorado-Boulder, disagreed. He said Congress controls public lands and it's significant that in passing the Antiquities Act, lawmakers spelled out only that the president can create a monument.

Congress took care in other laws passed around that time, more than a century ago, to explicitly give the president powers to both act and undo acts, Squillace noted.

He said the 1976 land policy law and congressional records of the law's drafting also make it clear that Congress didn't want to give presidents the authority to shrink or undo monuments.

The question about whether the president has the power to shrink a monument "is one of these big, lingering issues that's been out there for a long time," Squillace said. "I think there's a very strong case against the president's authority to do this."

Lawsuits are expected from the Navajo Nation, groups like the Wilderness Society and Earthjustice, and even outdoor gear company Patagonia once Trump takes action on Bears Ears. That's not likely to happen until at least August, when Zinke finishes the president's request that he review 26 other monuments.

Noel said he's working on legislation that will commit the state of Utah to intervening in the lawsuit to help defend the Trump administration's action.

Representatives for Gov. Gary Herbert and Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, both Republicans, declined to say whether they'd join a lawsuit. Messages seeking comment from the Interior Department were not returned.

Follow Michelle L. Price at <https://twitter.com/michellelprice>.

White House reporter says he's tired of being bullied

By DAVID BAUDER, AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The reporter who accused White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders of inflaming the public against the media at a press briefing says he did it because he's tired of being bullied by the administration.

Brian Karem, an editor at the Washington-area Sentinel newspapers, became an instant symbol in the tense relationship between the president and journalists when he interrupted Sanders on Tuesday. Given the nation's wide political divide, it took little searching to find depictions of him as either a hero or crying baby on social media.

"There's a time and a place for everything and the time has come to stand up and be counted," Karem told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "I'm tired of taking it. I want friendly relationships, but those who want respect, show respect. We have shown that man and shown the administration respect for six months, and all we're getting in return is a lack of respect, derision and bullying."

Karem, 56, is not a representative of the large national media organizations repeatedly described as "fake news" by the president. Besides his editing, he writes for Playboy, where his first-person account of the confrontation was posted late Tuesday. He was jailed as a Texas television reporter in 1990 for refusing to identify sources in a crime story.

The administration's own anger with the media is close to the surface, with the president tweeting Tuesday about a CNN story on Russian connections that was retracted last week, and on Wednesday about

The New York Times' coverage of the stalled health bill. Sanders opened Tuesday's briefing by calling on a reporter from the conservative Breitbart News, who asked about the CNN story, and she expressed frustration with media coverage.

"If we make the slightest mistake, the slightest word is off, it is just an absolute tirade from a lot of people in this room," Sanders said. "But news outlets get to go on, day after day, and cite unnamed sources, use stories without sources."

That's where Karem broke in.

"Come on!" he said. "You're inflaming everybody right here, right now with those words." He said that Sanders is there to answer questions "and what you did is inflammatory to people all over the country who look at it and say, 'See, once again, the president's right and everybody else out here is fake media.' And everybody in this room is only trying to do their job."

Sanders said that "if anything has been inflamed, it's the dishonesty that often takes place by the news media and I think it is outrageous for you to accuse me of inflaming a story when I was simply trying to respond to his question."

The White House has been holding fewer on-camera briefings lately, and the press has been pushing for more. With that backdrop, it felt like the chief purpose of Tuesday's on-camera session was to browbeat the press, Karem said.

Karem, who was not at the White House on Wednesday, said he hasn't heard from the administration about the exchange and doesn't know if there will be repercussions. Sanders did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

While Karem said he'd received expressions of support from some fellow reporters, not all sympathetic observers like to see frustration boil over. Liberal former talk show host Phil Donahue, on MSNBC Wednesday, said reporters should stay above the fray.

"I don't think the press should get in the mosh pit," he said. "I think they have to be big boys and girls and take the hits."

"The best way to handle this is to just keep working," Donahue said. "Don't be so sensitive. Don't look like you have a glass jaw ... I think the press has to be above that."

Karem said he always taught his children that the best way to handle bullies is to try and make friends with them and, failing that, punch back so they know you won't take their guff. Since it's a potent issue for Trump's supporters, he doesn't expect the administration's attitude toward the media will change.

"You think it's going to go away?" he said. "It's not. But I'm not going gently into the good night. I'm not going to sit there and be told that I'm the enemy of the people and that I'm fake news."

Texas Medicaid cuts leave special needs kids without therapy

By MEREDITH HOFFMAN, Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Stacey English has modest desires for her 7-year-old daughter Addison: Be able to eat without gagging and move both her arms.

But since Addison's occupational therapist went out of business this winter, the child with a rare genetic disorder has regressed in her fight to do even that much.

"I don't know where to go from here," said English, who has been unable to find a replacement therapist in their Texas college town of College Station. "How do you continue to help her make progress when you don't have someone to teach her?"

Some Texas children with special needs like Addison have lost critical services since the state implemented \$350 million in Medicaid cuts to speech, occupational and physical therapy in December. In Texas, reimbursement offered to providers fell up to 50 percent for certain therapy procedures, said Rachel Hammon, president of Texas Association of Homecare and Hospice. Clinics closed and therapists quit.

The Texas cuts are separate from Republican proposals now before Congress, which academics say could cut federal Medicaid spending as part of a law to replace the Affordable Care Act. But the fallout could eventually be similar if some form of what's been approved in the U.S. House, and is under consideration

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 39 of 45

in the Senate, becomes law, said Elizabeth Burak, the senior program director of Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy's Center for Children and Families

The Texas Legislature voted in 2015 to cut the state's Medicaid reimbursement for pediatric acute therapy services, which effectively capped how much providers can be paid. Proponents of the cuts argued that Texas' previous reimbursement rates were too high, sometimes even encouraging fraud.

In a 2015 letter, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and state Sen. Jane Nelson, the chamber's chief budget writer, argued then costs for acute care services to Texas' Medicaid program had risen 66 percent in the five years from 2009 to 2014. They also said nearly one in seven of the state's Medicaid legal sanctions cases for fraud were for therapy providers.

Relatives of children with disabilities and providers sued unsuccessfully to block the cuts. Republican House Speaker Joe Straus vowed to restore the lost funding during this year's legislative session which ended May 29 — though lawmakers eventually approved a budget replacing only about a quarter of what was cut.

Nelson now says she supported the original cuts as a way to prevent taxpayers from being overcharged for services. She says a Texas A&M University study found that the state's pediatric care providers received higher pay than in other states.

"These are vital services, and we remain in close contact with the agency to ensure that access to care is preserved as rates are adjusted to align with rates being charged to other payers," Nelson said in an emailed statement.

But those opposing the cuts counter that the study didn't specifically research the impact of reimbursement reductions on access to therapy.

Texas' Health and Human Services Commission hasn't yet seen a drastic decrease in therapy providers because of the cuts, said spokeswoman Carrie Williams. She said three agencies terminated contracts with Medicaid networks for that reason and "all clients are receiving assistance finding new providers."

"We want children to get the care and therapies they need while we continue to be responsible with taxpayer dollars and follow the budget," Williams said via email.

Providers say that since Texas' cuts, they've struggled to stay financially afloat. Kathi Strawn, owner of Therapy Options Texarkana, which served 130 children with special needs on the Texas-Arkansas border, closed her clinic June 1.

"I couldn't get any therapists to keep working for me who were registered or licensed," said Strawn, who had to cut pay for her therapists by about 30 percent. She began referring her patients to the two other nearby clinics — but one was too booked for new cases, and many therapists at the other had stopped taking children, citing low compensation rates.

"We've had quite a few patients not able to get service," Strawn said.

Hammon, of the homecare and hospice association, said Texas has no accurate way of tracking children deprived of services, calling them "the hidden victims" in the Medicaid cuts. Children relying on home care therapists have the most severe disabilities, and those agencies have been hit hardest, she said.

"These are children who may have been born prematurely and who can't eat because they were fed through tubes as a baby and if your swallowing reflex is interrupted you have to have therapy to relearn that," said Hammon.

For 15-year-old Maile Houston, with a rare chromosome deletion that has caused sensory issues and developmental delays, the recent loss of her home care occupational therapist set her back to behaviors her mother "forgot existed."

"She slaps things in front of her face and bangs things, and the therapy she was doing calmed a lot of those behaviors down," said Maile's mother Megan Houston.

English said her therapist introduced Addison to basic life skills and even new foods "like smashing up crackers into a little bit of peanut butter."

"Of all the things to cut," she said "they're taking away care from those who truly need help the most."

Knicks, Phil Jackson part ways after dismal 3-year run

By **BRIAN MAHONEY, AP Basketball Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — Phil Jackson wanted to trade Carmelo Anthony and wouldn't rule out dealing Kristaps Porzingis.

Turns out, Jackson is the one leaving.

Jackson is out as New York Knicks president after he oversaw one of the worst eras in team history, with the team saying in a statement Wednesday that they had "mutually agreed to part company."

Days after Jackson reiterated his desire to move Anthony and said he would listen to deals for Porzingis, Madison Square Garden chairman James Dolan reversed course and cut ties with Jackson with two years remaining on his contract.

"After careful thought and consideration, we mutually agreed that the Knicks will be going in a different direction," Dolan said. "Phil Jackson is one of the most celebrated and successful individuals in the history of the NBA. His legacy in the game of basketball is unmatched."

But his work as a first-time executive was awful. The winner of an NBA-record 11 championships as coach, Jackson couldn't engineer one playoff berth while running the Knicks. The team was 80-166 in his three full seasons, including a franchise-worst 17-65 in 2014-15.

His departure was quickly welcomed by Knicks fans such as film director Spike Lee, who posted a picture of himself on Instagram in a celebratory pose after it was first reported by The Vertical.

The move comes less than a week after Jackson led the Knicks through the NBA draft and on the eve of free agency that opens Saturday. Dolan said he would not be involved in the operation of the team, adding that general manager Steve Mills would run the day-to-day business in the short term and that former Toronto executive Tim Leiweke would advise him and help develop a plan going forward.

Jackson was a Hall of Fame coach with the Chicago Bulls and Los Angeles Lakers, delivering titles with some of the game's biggest stars like Michael Jordan, Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant. He also played for the Knicks when they won NBA titles in 1970 and 1973.

He was welcomed back to the organization with a \$60 million contract to huge fanfare in March 2014, but it soon became clear the transition would be a poor one. His first coaching hire, Derek Fisher, lasted just 1½ seasons, and Jackson's trades and free agency moves also failed to improve the club.

"I had hoped, of course, to bring another NBA championship to the Garden. As someone who treasures winning, I am deeply disappointed that we weren't able to do that," Jackson said. "New York fans deserve nothing less. I wish them and the Knicks organization all the best — today and always."

The turbulence he created off the court may have led to his departure more than the Knicks' record on it.

Jackson publicly talked about moving without Anthony — angering the National Basketball Players Association — though the All-Star forward has two years left on the five-year, \$124 million deal that Jackson gave him shortly after taking the job. Anthony has a no-trade clause and has said he wants to stay in New York, and the stalemate that hung over the team for much of last season threatened to linger throughout the summer.

Then Jackson said before the draft that he was listening to offers for Porzingis, the 21-year-old forward from Latvia whom he drafted with the No. 4 pick in 2015 in one of his few successful moves.

Coach Jeff Hornacek, in Orlando with the Knicks' team preparing for summer league, thanked Jackson for bringing him to New York last summer.

"It's a tough day for us but our group, really our focus is to get this team better, continue to build our young players and figure out a way to win," Hornacek said. "We have a lot of time before the regular season and we will figure that out."

Jackson believed the Knicks would compete for a playoff berth last season after he traded for Derrick Rose, signed Joakim Noah and Courtney Lee and hired Hornacek. But after a solid start, they quickly spiraled toward their familiar position at the bottom of the Eastern Conference and finished 31-51.

Despite all that, Dolan said during an ESPN Radio interview in February that he would allow Jackson to finish his contract, and the sides picked up the mutual two-year option on Jackson's contract.

But the instability involving Anthony and Porzingis threatened to damage the team's ability to lure free agents and may have spurred Dolan's decision. Though he had been intent on keeping Jackson, the dysfunction within the franchise showed no sign of ending even as Jackson, 71, largely stayed out of sight.

He never spoke to the media last season after vowing openness upon taking the job and refused to provide Anthony with the communication he sought.

"It's like a total train wreck," tennis great and Knicks fan John McEnroe told The Associated Press last week.

"I mean, he's known as the Zen Master, like a master talker, and then he's not talking to anybody," McEnroe said of Jackson. "So this whole thing seems to have gone completely off the rails."

There was also incessant debate about Jackson's insistence that the team employ the triangle offense, which potential incoming players were schooled on during the run-up to last week's draft. The Knicks wound up taking 18-year-old French point guard Frank Ntilikina, who spoke highly of the triangle and Jackson's belief in the scheme.

"I think I can definitely fit with this system," Ntilikina said on draft night.

Not even a week later, the triangle is probably gone, and the Knicks will start anew.

Rose, the 2011 NBA MVP, will be a free agent. Noah — whom Jackson gave a puzzling four-year, \$72 million contract last summer — will start the season by finishing out a 20-game suspension for violating the league's anti-drug policy. He averaged 5.0 points and 8.8 rebounds in his first season in New York, shooting just 44 percent from the foul line.

___ AP Basketball Writer Tim Reynolds in Miami and Associated Press Writer Terrance Harris in Orlando, Florida, contributed to this report.

Mom's ex-boyfriend gets life in killing of 'Baby Doe'

By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — A Massachusetts man was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison in the killing of a 2-year-old girl who became known as Baby Doe after her remains washed up on the shore of a Boston Harbor island.

Michael McCarthy, 37, will be eligible for parole after serving 20 years under the sentence imposed by Judge Janet Sanders.

McCarthy was convicted Monday of second-degree murder in the 2015 killing of Bella Bond, the daughter of his girlfriend at the time. A computer-generated image of Bella was shared by millions on social media as authorities scrambled to identify her.

Assistant District Attorney David Deakin asked the judge to set McCarthy's parole eligibility at 25 years — 10 years more than the minimum. McCarthy's lawyer called that recommendation "vindictive" and asked Sanders to make him eligible for parole after 15 years. The judge came out in the middle of the two recommendations at 20 years.

The girl's mother, Rachele Bond, who also was charged in the case, was the prosecution's star witness. She told the jury she saw McCarthy kill her daughter one night after the girl didn't want to go to bed.

McCarthy's lawyer, Jonathan Shapiro, insisted that Bond was the real killer and cast a "web of lies" to blame McCarthy.

"There was no justice for Mr. McCarthy here," Shapiro said.

Bond pleaded guilty to being an accessory after the fact for helping McCarthy dispose of her daughter's body. Under a plea deal with prosecutors, she is expected to serve less than two years in jail. The agreement calls for her to be released after her sentencing July 12.

Bella Bond's father, Joseph Amoroso, gave a victim impact statement before McCarthy was sentenced, describing Bella as "a happy and innocent child full of life."

"I was robbed of my chance to be a father to Bella," he said.

Testimony during the trial showed the girl's short life was marked by turmoil. Both McCarthy and Bond were heroin addicts. A friend testified that he saw McCarthy discipline the girl by putting her in a locked closet.

Paddington bear creator Michael Bond dies at 91

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — It was a last-minute Christmas gift for his wife that inspired Michael Bond to create Paddington bear, the marmalade-loving teddy in a duffel coat and floppy hat.

Bond would go on to see his creation enchant children for more than half a century and become an icon immortalized in print, on screens and as countless stuffed toys before his death at age 91.

His publisher, HarperCollins, said Wednesday that the author died at his home a day earlier after a short illness.

Ann-Janine Murtagh, executive publisher of HarperCollins Children's Books, said Bond "will be forever remembered for his creation of the iconic Paddington, with his duffel coat and wellington boots, which touched my own heart as a child and will live on in the hearts of future generations."

The furry adventurer first appeared in "A Bear Called Paddington" in 1958 — a stowaway from "Darkest Peru" who arrived at London's Paddington train station wearing a sign saying "Please look after this bear. Thank you."

Adopted by the kindly Brown family, the misadventure-prone bear went on to star in more than 20 books, several television series and a 2014 feature film. A sequel is currently in production.

The books have sold some 35 million copies worldwide and have been translated into 40 languages, including Latin ("Ursus Nomine Paddington.")

Born in Newbury, southern England, on Jan. 13 1926, Bond served in both the Royal Air Force and the British Army during World War II. He began writing while stationed with the army in Egypt in 1945.

He was working as a BBC cameraman when he created his most famous character. Paddington was inspired by a teddy bear that Bond bought for his wife one Christmas Eve as a stocking filler and named after the station he used for daily commutes.

Today, stuffed Paddingtons are for sale in toy stores and souvenir stands around Britain. A statue of the beloved bear stands at his namesake station.

In creating the initially homeless Paddington, Bond drew on memories of the refugees and evacuees who streamed through British train stations before and after World War II, seeking security in safer places. Many of the children had name tags hung around their necks.

Bond said a sense of vulnerability "was an important part of Paddington's persona" and a reason why children were drawn to him.

Explaining the character's enduring appeal in 2008, Bond said "there's something about bears which sets them apart from the other toys."

"I think dolls are always wondering what they're going to wear next," he told The Associated Press. "Bears have this quality that children in particular feel they can tell their secrets to and they won't pass them on."

Actor Hugh Bonneville, who plays Mr. Brown in the movie adaptations, said news of Bond's death came on the final day of shooting for the upcoming film.

Bonneville said Paddington's "enthusiasm and optimism has given pleasure to millions across the generations."

"Michael will be greatly missed by his legions of fans and especially by his wife, Sue, his family and of course by his beloved guinea pigs," he said. "He leaves a special legacy: long live the bear from darkest Peru."

In addition to the Paddington stories, Bond wrote a series of books about a guinea pig named Olga da Polga and a string of novels for adults about a French detective called Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Bond is survived by his wife and his children, Karen and Anthony.

Cyberattack: Shipping giant's terminals slowly recovering

By JAN M. OLSEN and RAPHAEL SATTER, Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller-Maersk, one of the global companies hardest hit by a malicious software that froze computers around the globe, said Thursday that most of its terminals are now operational, though some remain crippled.

The Copenhagen-based company said that some terminals are "operating slower than usual or with limited functionality." Problems have been reported across the shippers' global business, from Mobile, Alabama, to Mumbai in India.

The shipping company is one of a number of major corporations and government agencies — from logistics firm FedEx to Ukraine's banking system — to have been hit by the software epidemic.

Maersk, as the shipper is known, says it's able to accept bookings again via the INNTRA booking platform but that its logistics division, Damco, "has limited access to certain systems."

Maersk says it can't be specific about how many sites were affected or when business will get to normal. It also said it had deliberately shut down "a number of IT systems" which also had an impact on email systems.

As companies and governments gauged the cost of the attack, experts were trying to shed light on who launched it and why.

The attack has the telltale signs of ransomware, which scrambles a computer's data until a payment is made. But some analysts believe this attack was less aimed at gathering money than at sending a message to Ukraine, where it seems to have originated, and its allies.

That hunch was buttressed by the way the malware appears to have been seeded using a rogue update to a piece of Ukrainian accounting software — suggesting an attacker focused on Ukrainian targets.

And it comes on the anniversary of the assassination of a senior Ukrainian military intelligence officer and a day before a national holiday celebrating a new constitution signed after the breakup of the Soviet Union.

Asian shares rally on Wall St rebound as confidence rises

By KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian shares rallied Thursday following Wall Street's rebound as investors regained confidence in the global economic outlook.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index rose 0.6 percent to 20,242.63 and South Korea's Kospi advanced 0.7 percent to 2,399.41. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.7 percent to 25,872.94 and the Shanghai Composite in mainland China added 0.1 percent to 3,175.99. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 climbed 0.8 percent to 5,802.60.

GLOBAL OUTLOOK: Bank of England Governor Mark Carney became the latest central bank chief to hint that improving economic conditions mean it's time to wind down stimulus measures left in place since the global financial crisis. Carney's remarks that "some removal of stimulus is likely to become necessary" sent the pound higher. Traders had similar interpretations of comments a day earlier by the Fed and European Central Bank chiefs, underscoring how attuned financial markets are to central bank policy.

QUOTE WORTHY: "Central bankers have shifted market thinking with apparently coordinated commentary suggesting higher interest rates sooner on the back of strengthening economies," said Michael McCarthy, chief strategist at CMC Markets. "The result is a surge in shares and industrial commodities, and pressure on safe havens such as bonds and the U.S. dollar."

DATA WATCH: Investors are awaiting the release of China's official monthly indexes on factory and service sector activity Friday. The numbers are widely watched early indicators of the health of the world's No. 2 economy and investors will be watching fresh insight into China's recovery.

STRESS TESTS: The Federal Reserve gave its blessing to the 34 biggest U.S. banks, judging for the first time in seven years of annual "stress tests" that their financial foundations were strong enough for them to withstand a major economic downturn. The ruling means the banks can raise dividends and buy back shares and is a sign of confidence in an industry that nearly toppled the financial system during the

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 44 of 45

2008-09 financial crisis.

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks posted strong gains. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 0.9 percent to close at 2,440.69, its biggest single-day gain since April 24. The Dow Jones industrial average added 0.7 percent to 21,454.61 and the Nasdaq composite rose 1.4 percent to 6,234.41.

ENERGY: Oil futures extended gains, with benchmark U.S. crude adding 26 cents to \$45.00 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 50 cents, or 1.1 percent, to settle at \$44.74 a barrel on Wednesday. Brent crude, the international standard, rose 25 cents to \$47.79 per barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 112.25 from 112.30 yen late Monday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1408 from \$1.1379.

Today in History By The Associated Press.

Today in History

Today is Thursday, June 29, the 180th day of 2017. There are 185 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 29, 1767, Britain approved the Townshend Revenue Act, which imposed import duties on glass, paint, oil, lead, paper and tea shipped to the American colonies. (Colonists bitterly protested, prompting Parliament to repeal the duties — except for tea.)

On this date:

In 1613, London's original Globe Theatre, where many of Shakespeare's plays were performed, was destroyed by a fire sparked by a cannon shot during a performance of "Henry VIII."

In 1880, France annexed Tahiti, which became a French colony on December 30, 1880.

In 1927, the first trans-Pacific airplane flight was completed as Lt. Lester J. Maitland and Lt. Albert F. Hegenberger arrived at Wheeler Field in Hawaii aboard the Bird of Paradise, an Atlantic-Fokker C-2, after flying 2,400 miles from Oakland, California, in 25 hours, 50 minutes.

In 1936, entertainer and songwriter George M. Cohan was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal by President Franklin D. Roosevelt for his contributions to building American morale during World War I.

In 1941, Polish statesman, pianist and composer Ignacy Jan Paderewski (een-YAHS' yahn pah-dayr-EF'skee) died in New York at age 80.

In 1956, actress Marilyn Monroe married playwright Arthur Miller in a civil ceremony in White Plains, New York. (The couple also wed in a Jewish ceremony on July 1; the marriage lasted 4 1/2 years).

In 1967, actress Jayne Mansfield, 34, was killed along with her boyfriend, Sam Brody, and their driver, Ronnie Harrison, when their car slammed into the rear of a tractor-trailer on a highway in Slidell, Louisiana; three children riding in the back, including Mansfield's 3-year-old daughter, Mariska Hargitay, survived. Jerusalem was re-unified as Israel removed barricades separating the Old City from the Israeli sector.

In 1972, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a trio of death sentences, saying the way they had been imposed constituted cruel and unusual punishment. (The ruling prompted states to effectively impose a moratorium on executions until their capital punishment laws could be revised.)

In 1988, the U.S. Supreme Court, in Morrison v. Olson, upheld the independent counsel law in a 7-1 decision (the sole dissenter was Justice Antonin Scalia).

In 1992, the remains of Polish statesman Ignacy Jan Paderewski (een-YAHS' yahn pah-dayr-EF'skee), interred for five decades in the United States, were returned to his homeland in keeping with his wish to be buried only in a free Poland.

In 1995, the space shuttle Atlantis and the Russian Mir space station linked in orbit, beginning a historic five-day voyage as a single ship. A department store in Seoul (sohl), South Korea, collapsed, killing at least 500 people. Actress Lana Turner died in Century City, California, at age 74.

In 2003, actress Katharine Hepburn died in Old Saybrook, Connecticut, at age 96.

Ten years ago: British police defused two car bombs left to blow up near packed nightclubs and pubs in

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, June 29, 2017 ~ Vol. 24 - No. 350 ~ 45 of 45

central London. The first generation of Apple iPhones went on sale. Death claimed movie critic Joel Siegel at age 63 and George McCorkle, a founding member of the Marshall Tucker Band, at age 60.

Five years ago: A day after the House voted to find Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress, the Justice Department said Holder's decision to withhold information about a bungled gun-tracking operation from Congress did not constitute a crime, and that he would not be prosecuted. The younger brother and business partner of disgraced financier Bernard Madoff pleaded guilty to charges of doctoring documents for years, but Peter Madoff insisted he knew nothing about his brother's massive Ponzi scheme. (Peter Madoff was later sentenced to 10 years in prison.) The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency filed formal charges against Lance Armstrong, accusing the seven-time Tour de France winner of using performance-enhancing drugs throughout the best years of his career. (The USADA ended up stripping Armstrong of all his Tour de France titles and issued a lifetime ban from cycling.)

One year ago: President Barack Obama and the leaders of Mexico and Canada, meeting in Ottawa, pushed back forcefully against the isolationist and anti-immigrant sentiments roiling Britain and championed by GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump. First lady Michelle Obama, accompanied by daughters Malia and Sasha, arrived in Spain on the final leg of a three-nation tour to promote her global girls' education initiative.

Today's Birthdays: Movie producer Robert Evans is 87. Songwriter L. Russell Brown is 77. Singer-songwriter Garland Jeffreys is 74. Actor Gary Busey is 73. Comedian Richard Lewis is 70. Actor-turned-politican-turned-radio personality Fred Grandy is 69. Rock musician Ian Paice (Deep Purple) is 69. Singer Don Dokken (Dokken) is 64. Rock singer Colin Hay (Men At Work) is 64. Actress Maria Conchita Alonso is 62. Actress Sharon Lawrence is 56. Actress Amanda Donohoe is 55. Actress Judith Hoag is 54. Violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter is 54. Rhythm-and-blues singer Stedman Pearson (Five Star) is 53. Actress Kathleen Wilhoite is 53. Producer-writer Matthew Weiner is 52. Musician Dale Baker is 51. Actress Melora Hardin is 50. Actor Brian D'Arcy James is 49. Rap DJ Shadow is 45. Actor-dancer Will Kemp is 40. Actress Zuleikha Robinson is 40. Country musician Todd Sansom (Marshall Dyllon) is 39. Singer Nicole Scherzinger is 39. Comedian-writer Colin Jost (johst) is 35. Actress Lily Rabe is 35. Rhythm-and-blues singer Aundrea Fimbres is 34.

Thought for Today: "I have many regrets, and I'm sure everyone does. The stupid things you do, you regret if you have any sense, and if you don't regret them, maybe you're stupid." — Katharine Hepburn (1907-2003).