



Southwest Journalist

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No cork
in Sammy's
other bats
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Abortion bills criticized, praised

By KELLEY SHANNON
The Associated Press

Advocates for abortion rights on Wednesday called this year's Texas legislative session a major step backward for reproductive choices and women's overall access to health care. Abortion opponents, though, said the 140-day term was a huge success. Several Democratic legislators

along with Planned Parenthood, the Texas Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League and women's rights groups criticized a bill that makes women wait 24 hours before having an abortion. It also requires that they be offered printed material on abortion risks and photographs of fetal development. "This bill is an insult to women," said Rep. Mike Villarreal, D-San Antonio, the only member

of the House State Affairs Committee to oppose the legislation. The bill was passed by the Republican-controlled House and Senate and awaits a decision by the governor. The legislators and advocacy groups also denounced passage of a fetal protection act, which assigns individual rights to an embryo or fetus from the point of fertilization; the failure of legislators to approve more access to

emergency contraception; and cuts in Medicaid that deny prenatal care for thousands of pregnant low-income women. They also criticized \$13 million in state funding that will be denied to Planned Parenthood clinics that provide abortions. They said thousands of women won't have access to other health care services the clinics provide. "There are so many unintended consequences that have come

out of the misguided, misplaced priorities of a majority in this Legislature that focused on just simple-minded, myopic religious beliefs," said Rep. Dawnna Dukes, D-Austin. But those working the other side of the issues view the legislative session differently. "I think it was tremendously successful for women's health," said Elizabeth Graham, associate director of Texas Right to Life. The

abortion waiting period bill empowers women so that they can make an informed decision, she said. "This really protects women because it brings abortion up to the minimum standard of health care practices with all other surgeries," she said. As for the fetal protection bill, which makes it possible to impose

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JORDAN MIDEAST SUMMIT



ALI JAREKJI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, left, President George W. Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Jordan's King Abdullah II

make final statements at the end of the Mideast summit Wednesday in Aqaba, Jordan, where Abbas and Sharon made concessions for peace.

Abbas, Sharon pledge peace efforts

By TOM RAUM
The Associated Press

AQABA, Jordan — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pledged Wednesday to dismantle illegal outposts in Palestinian areas, while the new Palestinian leader renounced terrorism against Israel. President Bush sought both steps as he brought the two sides together in a dramatic bid to advance Middle East peace. Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas pleaded for "a clear improvement in the lives of Palestinians" that would allow them to live in dignity. "It is time to bring all this suffering to an end," Abbas said, and later added:

"There will be no military solution to this conflict, so we repeat our renunciation and the renunciation of terrorism against the Israelis wherever they might be." To that, Sharon promised to "immediately begin to remove unauthorized outposts." Joining Abbas, Sharon, and the summit's host, King Abdullah II of Jordan, at podiums positioned at the edge of an arm of the Red Sea, Bush praised the leaders' commitments and concessions. "Both leaders understand that a future of peace cannot be founded on hatred and falsehood and bitterness," he said.

It was the first time of his presidency Bush held a joint meeting with the two leaders. It followed a session in Egypt the day before, in which Arab leaders agreed to stanch the flow of money to terror groups. "The journey we're taking is difficult, but there is no other choice," Bush said. Later, Bush expressed obvious satisfaction with the session, telling reporters aboard Air Force One, "I'm the master of low expectations. We accomplished what I hoped we'd accomplish." "Some amazing things were said," the president said. "The prime minister of

ROAD TO PEACE

- Abbas pledged to run a Palestinian state based on the rule of law and democracy, without allowing weapons into the hands of rogue elements.
- Sharon said his government understands "the importance of territorial contiguity" in the West Bank, a key demand of Palestinians.
- Sharon accepted the principle of a Palestinian state. Abbas also publicly acknowledged Israel's right to exist side by side with a Palestinian state. In a goodwill gesture, Israel had released scores of Palestinian prisoners in advance of the summit.

Child's death in hot vehicle signals a fatal trend

Summer heat combined with parents' busy lifestyles can be a deadly combination for some children

By CRISTINA RODRIGUEZ
The Associated Press

DALLAS — The death of a 2-year-old boy left behind in a sweltering day-care van highlights a growing summer trend, child welfare and health experts said Wednesday. Children are increasingly becoming victims of today's busy

world at the hands of parents or caretakers. "I think the parents are becoming more and more busy. And serious things happen to their children," said Stacey Ladd of Child Protective Services. Dr. Steve Kernie, a pediatrician at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, said young children are more vulnerable to heat because

they haven't fully developed the ability to sweat yet. "Parents take them to a (Texas) Rangers game on a hot night, and they're not drinking a lot of water," he said. "A few kids are taken into an emergency room acting lethargic and with a fever, but it's not really a fever. It's a mild case of heat stroke."

Two-year-old Alan Brown Jr. died Tuesday, five days after he was left in a hot child-care van for more than two hours after a class trip to a pizza restaurant. Two employees at Little Dudes and Daisies Daycare and Learning Center in Lancaster, south of Dallas, have been charged with injury to a child, a second-degree felony.

When it's 85 degrees outside, the interior of a car can soar to 120 degrees in a half hour, according to a study by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, a Washington, D.C.-based public health group. The group said Tuesday's death was the sixth of 2003. Four other children in Dallas were found trapped Tuesday in



MARY ALTAFFER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Martha Stewart leaves federal court in New York on Wednesday after being indicted on securities fraud and obstruction of jus-

Queen of home decor indicted for fraud

Martha Stewart pleads innocent, steps down as CEO of her company

By ERIN McCLAM
The Associated Press

NEWYORK — Martha Stewart, the exemplar of "good things" who built an empire as an icon of tasteful living, was indicted Wednesday on securities fraud and obstruction of justice charges that could result in a prison term. The indictment also charged Stewart with conspiracy and making false statements and her

stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, with perjury and obstruction of justice. Stewart and Bacanovic pleaded innocent before a federal judge to all charges. "This criminal case is about lying — lying to the FBI, lying to the SEC and investors," U.S. Attorney James Comey said. "That is conduct that will not be tolerated. Martha Stewart is being prosecuted not because of who

she is, but what she did." Hours after the indictment, Stewart stepped down as chairman and CEO of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia Inc. A statement from the company said Stewart would remain on the company's board. Stewart, 61, has denied wrongdoing in the ImClone stock sale. She claimed to have had an arrangement with her broker for

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U.S. sends
more troops
to central

Iraqi zone
Combat units hope
to curb sentiment
against Americans

By CHRIS TOMLINSON
The Associated Press

HABANIYAH, Iraq — In a high-profile show of force, the U.S. military poured more than 1,500 combat troops into a swath of central Iraq on Wednesday, signaling that any violent resistance to American occupation would be met with harsh punishment. U.S. troops, sweeping out dust and sifting through debris left by looters, set up their headquarters at two Iraqi air bases and a railroad station outside Fallujah and Habaniyah, cities where anti-American demonstrations and attacks have been particularly aggressive. Commanders have tripled the number of troops around the cities in a bid to quell supporters of Saddam Hussein's Baath Party

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Study: Female lung cancer down

Patients have a
5-year survival
rate after diagnosis

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The No. 1 cancer killer is finally on its way down.

Female lung cancer rates have declined about 2 percent since 1998, long after men began a similar improvement, according

to a study in the journal Cancer.

Also, female death rates from lung cancer have leveled off, remaining virtually unchanged since 1995.

However, minorities are still more likely than whites to die from cancer, said the same journal.

But largely, the news remains optimistic. Death rates from cancer in general have dropped 1.1 percent a year since 1993, and Thursday's report confirms that decline continued in 2001. Rates of new cases are declining about half a percent a year, too.

"For the first time, we are turning the

corner in the lung cancer epidemic in women," said Ahmedin Jemal of the American Cancer Society, who co-wrote the report with scientists from the National Cancer Institute, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and North American Association of Central Cancer Registries.

"We have been anticipating ... this for a long, long time," Jemal said.

Smoking became rampant among men long before women, and the resulting lung cancer consequently struck men sooner.

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Army to extend terms

Program keeps soldiers overseas longer

By **JOHN J. LUMPKIN**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Army will prevent soldiers in units set for Iraq or Afghanistan deployment from leaving the service at the end of their terms, a top general said Wednesday.

The announcement, an expansion of an Army program called "stop-loss," means that thousands of soldiers who had expected to retire or otherwise leave the military will have to stay on for the duration of their deployment to those combat zones.

The expansion affects units that are 90 days away or less from deploying, said Lt. Gen. Frank L. "Buster" Hagenbeck, the Army's deputy chief of staff for personnel.

Commanders have the ability to make exceptions for soldiers with special circumstances.

Otherwise, soldiers won't be able to leave the service or transfer from their unit until they return to their home base after the deployment.

The move will allow the Army to keep units together as they deploy, Hagenbeck said. Units with new recruits or recently transferred soldiers would not perform as well because the troops would not have had time to work together.

"The rationale is to have cohesive, trained units going to war together," Hagenbeck said.

The announcement comes as the Army is struggling to find fresh units to continue the occupation of Iraq.

Almost every Army combat unit has faced or will face deployment there or in Afghanistan, and increased violence has forced the deployment of an additional 20,000 troops to the region.

Some criticize the stop-loss program as contrary to the



ANJA NIERINGHAUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman collapses after learning that one of her relatives died after a car bomb exploded in Baghdad, Iraq, on Wednesday. The car bomb killed four people and injured dozens, police said. The blast took place in Baghdad's Azimivah neighborhood, a Sunni Muslim district.

concept of an all-volunteer military force. Soldiers planning to retire now face additional months away from their families and homes.

Andrew Exum, a former Army captain who served under Hagenbeck in the 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan, called the treatment of

soldiers under stop-loss programs "shameful."

"Many, if not most, of the soldiers in this latest Iraq-bound wave are already veterans of several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan," he said. "But like draftees, they have been conscripted to meet the additional needs in Iraq."

Hagenbeck said the stop-loss move is necessary only because the Army also is undergoing a major reorganization that requires some units to be taken off line while they are restructured.

Hagenbeck does not know how many soldiers will be affected.

Thousands powerless after thunderstorms rock Dallas area



D.J. PETERS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joel Leath kicks shingles off a roof Wednesday while repairing a building that was damaged at the Tyler State Park.

By **SHEILA FLYNN**

Associated Press

DALLAS — It could be several days before electricity is fully restored to hundreds of thousands of people after powerful thunderstorms toppled power lines, damaged buildings and downed trees, officials said Wednesday.

About 350,000 homes and businesses across the Dallas-Fort Worth area remained without power Wednesday afternoon, said TXU Electric Delivery spokeswoman Carol Peters.

She said all available TXU

crews, as well as crews from up to 750 miles away, were working to restore power. In all, about 2,500 people were working, she said.

Tuesday night's storms packed winds of more than 80 mph, as much as 2 1/4 inches of rain, damaging hail and prolific lightning.

A tornado was spotted in Arlington, and buildings were damaged across Dallas, Johnson and Tarrant counties, forcing some residents from their homes.

"This particular storm was in another realm," Peters said.

Source of leaks about Iran code sought by FBI

Iraqi exile may be responsible

By **JOHN SOLOMON**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The FBI is investigating who in the U.S. government leaked information to former Iraqi exile Ahmad Chalabi — information



Chalabi

that made its way into the hands of the Iranian government, potentially damaging American efforts to monitor Tehran's activities, officials said Wednesday.

The officials, who would speak only on condition of anonymity because the information remained classified, said the U.S. government has evidence that Chalabi or his followers told Iran that Washington had cracked some of its secret codes for transmitting sensitive information.

In Najaf, Iraq, Chalabi said that reports that he leaked such information to Iran are "false" and "stupid."

"Where would I get this from?" Chalabi said. "I have no such information. How

would I know anything about that? That's stupid from every aspect."

Chalabi and other Shiite Muslim figures are in Najaf to try to shore up a cease-fire between U.S. troops and radical Shiite militiamen.

In Washington, an official speaking on condition of anonymity said a raid last month on Chalabi's home inside Iraq was conducted to determine how the leader of the Iraqi National Congress got the information and whom he shared it with. The FBI already is trying to determine if someone in the U.S. government gave the information to Chalabi. This would be a criminal offense for leaking highly classified material, the official said.

Chalabi, a member of the Shiite Islamic sect to which the majority of Iranians and Iraqis belong, once was a favorite of Pentagon officials.

He had provided intelligence to the Bush administration about weapons of mass destruction, which was used to justify the U.S. war against Iraq, but his information came under major criticism after no weapons were found.

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Budget cuts likely for marine science

By **DAVID MCCLARD**

Special to the Southwest Journalist

Despite ominous budget cuts looming over the UT's Marine Science Institute, faculty and staff are plagued with uncertainty and lack of information on how it might impact the knowledge gained from their research.

Proposed cuts in the national FY 2005 budget would cut federal environmental research spending by hundreds of millions of dollars — enough to prevent UTMSI faculty and graduate students from carrying out their research projects.

"All our research is important," said UTMSI director Wayne Gardner. "It's hard to say what projects are more important than others."

Gardner said that research projects will not be trimmed

until the money actually failed to show up.

If Congress passes the national budget, it would cut overall funding for the EPA by over \$600 million, or 7.2 percent, and would likely affect programs like UTMSI.

"We can only work with the money we get," said Kenneth Dunton, research professor at the UT department of marine science. "When the money gets put into other things, we can't do our work."

The national budget proposed by the Bush administration Feb. 2 seeks to cut funds for many critical environmental programs and organizations, according to partisan opposition and environmental activist groups like the Union of

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Time limits challenge young spellers



LINDA SPILLERS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cornel Andre Grey, 11, of Portmore St. Catherine, Jamaica, left, and John Tamplin, 11, of Louisville, Ky., rest while participating in the 77th annual National Spelling Bee on Wednesday, in Washington. Spellers now have an enforced time limit.

94 kids face changes in Scripps National Spelling Bee finals

By **BEN FELLER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the first speller on stage, Laura Brown had to take on “laloplegia,” the word meaning paralysis of the muscles involved in speech. So much for that. She got it right in about 10 seconds.

Then the 12-year-old from Birmingham, Ala., gave up center stage to Irene Park, 14, of Anchorage, Alaska, who was not derailed by her word either: “derailleur,” a device for shifting gears on a bike.

The oral competition of the 77th Scripps National Spelling Bee got off to a fast start Wednesday as 16 of the first 20 children offered correct spellings.

Overall, more often than not, these championship spellers were right. Of the 265 spellers, 191 got their first word on

stage correct; 94 ended up advancing.

As more spellers take longer at the microphone, the bee has been grappling with how to rein in the time, knowing that each lengthy spelling erodes the concentration of other children and bee officials.

The bee put the written test first this year after some spellers in earlier competitions said they could have done well on it but were finished after one jittery mistake on stage.

Another change in format: For the first time, spellers face a strict time limit per word of two minutes, followed by a final 30-second period with a countdown clock. Those who don't comply are disqualified.

All were in competition for a top package of \$17,000 in cash and other prizes, including \$12,000 and an engraved cup from the bee itself.

No speller was immediately eliminated for missing a word on stage during the first oral round.

Instead, those who got their word right were awarded three bonus points, to be tallied with their scores from a 25-word

written test from Tuesday.

Based on those combined scores, bee organizers narrowed the field for further competition Wednesday. The final rounds take place today.

Other stumpers from Wednesday's oral competition were “widdershins,” “hau-berk,” “putrescible,” “gallimaufry” and “salicylate.”

The spellers range in age from nine to 15, and from grades four to eight, with most of them at the older end of that spectrum.

They employed different spelling styles in standing before a crowd of roughly 1,000 people. Some were word detectives, asking for a definition and language of origin. Others knew their word — or thought they did — and barreled right on.

All spellers, no matter what their result, got a quick round of applause.

There's a new look this year, too. The stage backdrop is a collage of photos of past bee participants, with their expressions showing the joy and exasperation of competition. Gone are the oversized newspaper clippings of previous winners.

Study: Surviving longer

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Lung cancer remains the nation's top-killing malignancy for both sexes, and the second most common cancer. But it slowly declined among men starting in the early 1990s as older smokers died and fewer young men took up the habit — a pattern doctors expect to eventually see in women.

The report's other new finding: More people are living at least five years after a diagnosis of most types of cancer, a major milestone for cancer patients.

For men, survival rates improved the most — more than 10 percent — for cancers of the prostate, colon and kidney, and for melanoma and leukemia.

For women, the biggest survival improvements came in colon, kidney and breast cancers.

What does that mean? Today, 99.3 percent of men diagnosed with prostate cancer will live five years, up from 70 percent in the 1970s.

Five-year survival for breast cancer is 88 percent, up from 75 percent in 1970s.

But that survival is strongly con-

nected to how early cancer is caught, stressed co-author Brenda Edwards of the NCI's cancer-control division.

For example, five-year survival for lung cancer is just 15 percent, largely unchanged from the 1970s, because more than half of patients are diagnosed after the disease has spread beyond their lungs.

In the few cases where tumors are caught early, five-year survival jumps to 49 percent — but there is no proven early-screening method for lung cancer.

Even with colorectal cancer, where good tests have improved survival, only one of three cases still is caught at the earliest stage, Jemal lamented.

Then there's the racial gap.

When looking at all cancers combined, black men are 26 percent more likely to die of a malignancy than white men, and Hispanic men are 16 percent more likely than non-Hispanic whites, said the cancer society's Jemal. Black women are 52 percent more likely to die of cancer than white women, and Hispanic women 20 percent more likely, he said.

Leaks: CIA suspicious

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The CIA has long been suspicious of Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress, but he had maintained strong supporters in other government agencies.

Until last month, his organization was on the U.S. government payroll, receiving roughly \$340,000 a month from the Defense Department for intelligence under a specific authorization from Congress.

CBS News initially reported Tuesday that Chalabi had told an Iranian intelligence official that the United States had cracked its codes, allowing U.S. agents to read Iran's secret communications.

Revealing such information would

expose one of the United States' most important sources of information about Iran.

Following the broadcast report, The New York Times, Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post followed with similar stories, all quoting anonymous U.S. intelligence officials.

American officials quoted in the news reports said Chalabi told the Baghdad chief of the Iranian spy service that the United States was reading its communications and that the Iranian spy described the conversation in a message to Tehran, which was intercepted by U.S. intelligence.

**Associated Press writer
Mariam Fam contributed to this
report from Najaf, Iraq**

Bush and circumstance



ED ANDRIESKI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two cadets hug in celebration during Wednesday's commencement ceremonies at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., as President Bush, who gave a commencement speech, congratulates the graduates walking across the stage. There were 981 graduates.

Budget: Researchers fear impact of cuts

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Concerned Scientists. Such proposed cuts include a \$215 million, or 35 percent, cut for the National Ocean Service, the primary federal agency working to protect and manage U.S.

coastal waters and habitats.

One of the chief functions of NOS is to investigate harmful algal blooms that threaten fish populations.

“There is always the fear that we'll have a reduced budget for the next year,” said Dunton, who researches

algae populations through UTMSI, “and that's just something we deal with as researchers. Of course it's important information, and without it, I think people might suffer.”

UTMSI gets funding from major federal bureaus like the National Science Foundation, EPA, the Office of Naval Research and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, according to UTMSI Fiscal Office Executive Assistant Lynn Amos.

The Institute also receives funds from the state and private endowments.

“I couldn't tell you how much we might get from federal agencies next year,” Amos said. She said that the average combined annual fund for UTMSI hovers around \$3 million.

“We don't lobby anyone that I know of,” Amos said. She said that private donations vary from year to year but

do necessarily coincide with any given budget shortfalls, and that there is always enough money for the basic operation of the institute.

Based in Port Aransas, Texas, UTMSI sponsors field trips and a variety of research projects for undergraduate and graduate students.

There are several dozen faculty and staff and around 40 graduate researchers. The Institute receives about \$1 million from the University of Texas every year.

“We're mostly competing for what's important,” Gardner said. “We would like to see problems funded so the information gained would be cost-effective for solutions.”

With the proposed national budget, investments in environmental protection between FY 2004 and FY 2005 would decrease by \$1.9 billion, or nearly six percent. According to some calculations, over the next five

years the shortfall compared to FY 2004 would be a total of \$7.0 billion.

“I can see the national budget affecting us next year,” Gardner said. “There's definitely a trickle-down effect and we're not immune to that.”

Gardner has been the director of UTMSI for over seven years, and said the worst budget cut he has seen so far has resulted in cutting back a single field trip.

“We might lose a few research trips this year or the next, but I think there would have to be a sustained lack of money to really affect our research plans,” he said.

The proposed national budget would trim the Environmental Protection Agency's Science To Achieve Results grants program by about \$35 million and directly limit grants given to environmental research programs like UTMSI.



PHOTO PROVIDED

The R-V Longhorn, a research vessel for the marine sciences department at the University of Texas, was renovated in 1997.



CIA chief quits amid scandal

Intel leak, war may have influenced move

By KATHERINE P. SHRADER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — CIA Director George Tenet, a Democratic appointee whose close relationship to President Bush helped him survive Sept. 11 fallout and Iraq intelligence mistakes, said Thursday he would soon resign. His departure throws open a key position at a critical time in the war against terrorism.

President Bush said Tenet's deputy, John McLaughlin, would temporarily lead the United States' spy agency during a period in which Iraq remains unstable and U.S. officials worry terrorists might strike in hopes of influencing the November elections.

"It was a personal decision"

While Tenet and Bush cited personal reasons for his departure, some in Congress questioned whether Tenet had been pushed



"I can't remember any resignation that has struck me as more startling than this one. I suspect there's going to be more of a story to tell."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein

out, or perhaps had left in frustration.

The CIA has been angered over recent allegations that Defense Department civilians may have given highly classified information on Iran to an Iraqi politician, and agency officials still are upset over last summer's leak of a covert CIA operative's name. Bush said Wednesday he was considering hiring a private attorney to give him legal advice in a grand jury investigation into that leak.

In a speech to CIA employees, an emotional Tenet said, "It was a personal decision and had only one basis in fact: the well being of my

wonderful family, nothing more and nothing less."

Possible replacements

Among names mentioned as a possible successor are House Intelligence Chairman Porter Goss, R-Fla., Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, former Sen. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., and former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Giuliani's spokeswoman, Sunny Mindel, discounted any talk of the former mayor assuming the CIA post.

Tenet, 51, spent an hour with Bush at the White House on

Wednesday night, informing him of his decision to leave his post as head of the CIA and director of the 14 agencies that comprise the intelligence community.

The White House responds

In a hurriedly arranged announcement Thursday before leaving on a trip to Europe, Bush said, "I told him I'm sorry he's leaving. He's done a superb job on behalf of the American people."

A White House official said the president told his staff he did not want anyone speculating that Tenet was leaving for anything other than personal reasons. "If (Tenet) wants to expand on that further, then we will leave it to him to do so," Bush spokesman Scott McClellan later said.

Rep. Ray LaHood, R-Ill., who befriended Tenet while serving

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PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

CIA Director George Tenet ponders a question while testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Feb. 24. Tenet, buffeted by controversies over intelligence lapses, resigned Thursday.

In Remembrance



MIKE ELIASON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A couple walk down a row of some of the 810 small wooden crosses illuminated with candles on West Beach on Sunday evening at a memorial in Santa Barbara, Calif. The memorial, dubbed "Arlington West," goes up at sunrise and down at sunset every Sunday to mark the rising death toll in Iraq. Volunteers from the Santa Barbara chapter of Veterans for Peace erected the crosses last November and intend to continue until all the troops come home from Iraq.

Harry gets mature direction

In new movie, Potter is more cynical, wise

By ANTHONY BREZNICAN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Harry Potter is no longer impressed by plain old magic.

A patron at the Leaky Cauldron inn remotely stirs the spoon in his tea with a wave of his finger, and a busboy in the background makes empty bottles disappear into thin air, but the 13-year-old wizard is too wrapped up in conversation to notice — an escaped psychopath named Sirius Black is out to kill him, after all.

This is the increasingly sinister world of "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," the third movie based on author J.K. Rowling's phenomenally popular books.

Harry is a year older, wiser and a little more cynical after facing down two incarnations of his nemesis, the warlock Voldemort, in the previous movies. The orphan boy is somewhat embittered by his lonely lot in life, and tired of dealing with villains and monsters — not to mention school bullies.

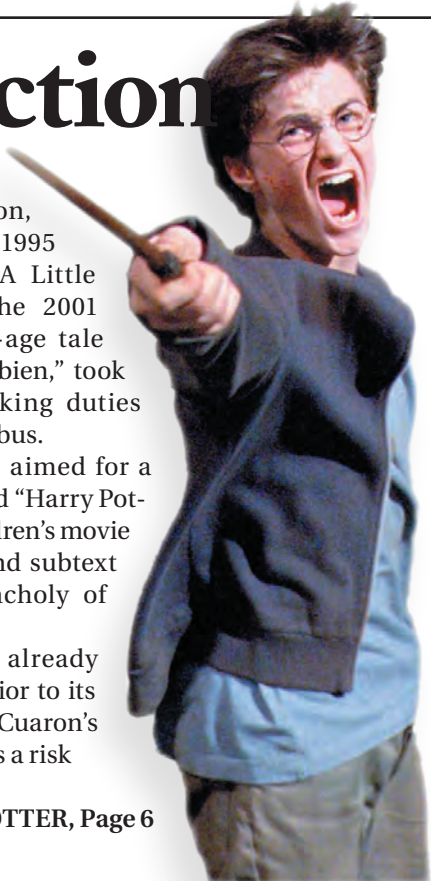
But aside from a more mature Harry, a major change in the latest "Potter" installment is the film's director.

Alfonso Cuaron, who made the 1995 children's film "A Little Princess" and the 2001 adult coming-of-age tale "Y Tu Mama Tambien," took over the filmmaking duties from Chris Columbus.

Cuaron said he aimed for a more sophisticated "Harry Potter" story—a children's movie with metaphor and subtext about the melancholy of growing up.

The movie is already regarded as superior to its predecessors, but Cuaron's change of tone was a risk

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Bush wary of troop pullout

By TOM RAUM
Associated Press

ROME — President Bush, facing tough talks with U.S. allies, said Thursday it would be disastrous if they took their troops out of Iraq.

Pulling out, Bush said, would send the wrong signals to the Iraqi people and to terrorists.

"It would dispirit those who love freedom in Iraq," he said.

Bush, standing alongside Australian Prime Minister John Howard, a strong ally on Iraq, made his comments at the White House before leaving Washington on the first leg of a

three-day European trip.

Howard renewed his intention to keep Australia's 850 troops in Iraq, despite political criticism in his own country.

"It is the worst time imaginable for allies to be showing any weakness in relation to the pursuit of our goals in Iraq," he said.

Bush's trip opened a month of high-level diplomacy that will bring him face to face with other staunch supporters on Iraq, including Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and

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OPEC increases oil output ceiling

Little change in U.S. gas prices is expected

By BRUCE STANLEY
Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — OPEC agreed Thursday to raise its oil production ceiling by 2 million barrels a day next month and, if necessary, an additional 500,000 barrels a day in August in a bid to rein in high prices.

Oil prices fell for the second straight day from peaks reached earlier this week, but industry analysts said the hike was unlikely to lead to cheaper gasoline in the United States due to refinery constraints and other production bottlenecks. The impact on crude prices would be modest.

Saudi Arabia, the group's most influential member, had proposed an increase of 2.5 million barrels, or 11 percent, to be made all at once.

However, OPEC agreed on an unusual two-stage increase as a compromise because some producers, such as Iran, preferred a more gradual rise. OPEC representatives approved

the decision during four hours of talks.

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham described OPEC's decision as "welcome news." U.S. State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said it would result in "much needed oil supplies."

Claude Mandil, head of the Paris-based International Energy Agency, said the decision "means that the producing countries recognize that production is important in order to calm the markets."

"At the same time, we think the most important (thing) is not quotas, it's not targets," he added. "What is really important is real extra barrels."

Prices have escalated in recent weeks despite OPEC's efforts to meet market requirements, the group said in a statement. Geopolitical tensions, stronger than expected demand in China and the United States, and stricter U.S. specifications for gasoline have all contributed to higher prices, it said.

"Combined, these factors have led to unwarranted fear

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Southwest Journalist

Center for Editing Excellence of The Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and School of Journalism of The University of Texas at Austin

Perry's future endangered

Despite efforts, governor fails to pass education bill, appease constituents

By KELLEY SHANNON
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Republican Gov. Rick Perry wanted badly to change the way Texas schools are funded and reduce homeowners' property taxes. His political future may well depend on it. Despite Perry's desire and coaxing, lawmakers left town without getting the job done. Their 140-day regular session ended Monday with no plan in place, despite some promising last-minute negotiations. Perry called it a "disappointment."

He reiterated Tuesday that if House and Senate leaders continue working toward an agreement, he may call a special session. He said he'll keep trying to broker a deal. "I don't believe that we're finished here," he said. "I don't believe the final chapter of this book has been written yet." The Texas Supreme Court has scheduled oral arguments for July 6 in a school finance lawsuit appeal, and Perry's aides have made it no secret they'd like to reach a solution with legislators before then. A state district judge last year

ruled Texas' school funding system unconstitutional and gave the state until October 2005 to make changes or stop funding public education. While Perry listed several accomplishments he said lawmakers delivered on — including Child Protective Services reform, a workers' compensation overhaul and a parental consent bill for minors seeking abortions — he said he wasn't hiding his disappointment over the failure of school funding and property tax relief. The stakes are high for Perry to preside over a school finance

solution. He could face criticism on the issue if he draws a Republican primary opponent in 2006. U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn might enter the GOP race. Perry said lawmakers may feel some heat from voters this summer, although he seemed to inadvertently refer to his own dilemma. "If there's a will, we can find a way," Perry said. "If they don't want to work to finish the job, well then, I think I may make, or

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HARRY CARLUCK / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, center, speaks during a news conference Tuesday in Austin, flanked by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, left, and House Speaker Tom Craddick. Perry suffered several setbacks during the session.

Deep Throat revealed

Ex-FBI agent was a Washington Post source for Watergate scandal

By SHARON THEIMER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Breaking a silence of 30 years, former FBI official W. Mark Felt stepped forward Tuesday as Deep Throat, the secret Washington Post source that helped bring down President Nixon during the Watergate scandal. Within hours, the paper ratified his claim. "It's the last secret" of the story, said Ben Bradlee, the paper's top editor at the time the riveting political drama played out three decades ago. It tumbled out in stages during the day — first when a lawyer quoted Felt in a magazine article as having said he was the source; then when the former FBI man's family issued a statement hailing him as a "great American hero," and finally when the Post posted a story on its Web site confirming him as the secret leaker of long ago. "I'm the guy they used to call Deep Throat," Felt, the former No. 2 man at the FBI, was quoted as saying in Vanity Fair. He kept his secret even from his family for almost three decades before his declaration.



Felt

Felt, who lives in Santa Rosa, Calif., is said to be in poor mental and physical health because of a stroke. His family did not immediately make him available for comment, asking the news media to respect his privacy "in view of his age and health." A grandson, Nick Jones, read a statement. "The family believes that my grandfather, Mark Felt Sr., is a great American hero who went well above and beyond the call of duty at much risk to himself to save his country from a horrible injustice," it said. "We all sincerely hope the country will see him this way as well."



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a statement issued later, Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein said, "W. Mark Felt was 'Deep Throat' and helped us immeasurably in our Watergate coverage. However, as the record shows, many other sources and officials assisted us and other reporters for the hundreds of stories that were written in The Washington Post about Watergate." The reporters and Bradlee had kept the identity of Deep Throat secret at his request, saying his name would be revealed

upon his death. But then Felt revealed it himself. Even the existence of Deep Throat, nicknamed for an X-rated movie of the early 1970s, was kept secret for a time. Woodward and Bernstein revealed their reporting had been guided by a Nixon administration source in their best-selling book "All the President's Men." A hit movie starring Robert Redford as Woodward, Dustin Hoffman as Bern-

Please see FELT, Page 6

Court lets Andersen off

Juror instructions blamed for ruling in obstruction

By HOPE YEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court threw out the conviction of the Arthur Andersen accounting firm for destroying Enron Corp.-related documents, ruling unanimously Tuesday that the jury instructions were too broad. The decision was a defeat for the Bush administration, which had declared prosecution of white-collar criminals a high priority following accounting scandals at major corporations. But it offered only symbolic relief for Andersen, the company whose 2002 conviction put 28,000 employees out of work and left it virtually defunct. "We pursued an appeal of this case not because we believed Arthur Andersen could be restored to its previous position, but because we had an obligation to set the record straight," Andersen spokesman Patrick Dorton said. "We are very pleased with the Supreme Court's decision." The Justice Department said it was disappointed and was reviewing its options, including retrying the case. "We remain convinced that even the most powerful corporations have the responsibility of adhering to the rule of law," said acting assistant Attorney General John C. Richter. The high court's decision was surprisingly swift, coming just

Other Supreme Court actions:

- Upheld the constitutionality of a federal law requiring state prisons to accommodate inmate religions, on a 9-0 vote.
- Agreed to consider reinstating a death penalty law that requires juries to sentence a defendant to die — rather than serve life in prison — when the evidence for and against imposing death appears equal.

over a month after the justices heard arguments in the case. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, writing for the court, said the former Big Five accounting firm's obstruction-of-justice conviction was improper because the instructions at trial were too vague for jurors to determine correctly whether Andersen obstructed justice. "The jury instructions at issue simply failed to convey the requisite consciousness of wrongdoing," he wrote. "It is striking how little culpability the instructions required." Enron crashed in December 2001, putting more than 5,000 employees out of work, just six weeks after the energy company revealed massive write-downs. As the Securities and Exchange Commission began looking into Enron's convoluted finances, Andersen put in practice a policy that called for the destruction of what is considered unnecessary documentation.

Steering bikes, bills

By BEN SKLAR
Special to the Southwest Journalist

A purple Harley-Davidson rests among an array of SUVs, mid-sized sedans and small coupes that fill the underground parking garage of the Texas Capitol building. The owner of the bike, "Da' Lady" as she is known to her biker buddies, represents both El Paso County and the bikers of Texas. The leather vest that hangs in her Capitol Extension office reads "Legislative Warrior," which state Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso, is proud to wear any time she carries a bill on the House floor. "I have been a motorcycle enthusiast for the last 10 years. As a passenger from 1995 to 2000 ... then I got my bike in 2000," Chavez says. "Prior to being elected in the Legislature, I participated in benefits and toy runs." Chavez formed a relationship with bikers around the state, most notably "Sputnik," leader of the Texas Motorcycle Rights Association. "She'd been around bikers all the



time, and finally we talked her into running (for office)," says Sputnik, whose legal name he changed to his biker name. After Chavez carried to the Legislature her first bill concerned with bikers' issues, Sputnik christened her with her road name: "Da' Lady." Bikers get their name based on something they do or how they act, says Sputnik. "So when she passed our first bill that she carried and she came off the floor, well then I told her, I said, 'Hey Norma, you Da Lady,'" Sputnik says. "She showed us she was wearing her vest underneath her jacket. And when they called our bill, she stood up, looked up at us, and she took off her jacket and threw it down, put the bill under her arm and went walking up there wearing her leather. It was fantastic." Although Chavez and Sputnik disagree on some points, they work together on many community and biker issues. West Texas and biker artwork and memorabilia fill Chavez's office, including a statue of baby Sputnik: a small baby figurine with a pink Mohawk. Sputnik says the statue represents her relationship with bikers.



SUSAN WALSH / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush answers a question during a news conference in the Rose Garden of the White House. Bush focuses on reform, not setbacks

By JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Bush, faced with a string of setbacks on Capitol Hill, shrugged off questions about his political clout and promised Tuesday to keep pushing the Republican-led Congress for a Social Security overhaul. Looking ahead, the presi-

dent also acknowledged he was thinking about a Supreme Court vacancy, widely expected this year. That was a departure from the White House's usual refusal to publicly discuss how Bush would approach filling a job that, while not now empty, has groups across the political spectrum already gearing up for battle. He pledged to consult sena-

tors at "an appropriate time," though he didn't say how early in the process those talks would come or whether he would seek input from Democrats as well as Republicans. He suggested that a recent compromise ending a Senate showdown over judicial nominees wouldn't necessarily lead

Please see BUSH, Page 6

U.S. detainees allege purchase

By MICHELLE FAUL
Associated Press Writer
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — They fed them well. The Pakistani tribesmen slaughtered a sheep in honor of their guests, Arabs and Chinese Muslims famished from fleeing U.S. bombing in the Afghan mountains. But their hosts had ulterior motives: to sell them to the Americans, said the men who are now prisoners at Guantanamo Bay.

Bounties ranged from \$3,000 to \$25,000, the detainees testified during military tribunals, according to transcripts the U.S. government gave The Associated Press to comply with a Freedom of Information lawsuit.

A former CIA intelligence officer who helped lead the search for Osama bin Laden told AP the accounts sounded legitimate because U.S. allies regularly got money to help catch Taliban and al-Qaida fighters. Gary Schroen said he took a suitcase of \$3 million in cash into Afghanistan himself to help supply and win over warlords to fight for U.S. Special Forces.

"It wouldn't surprise me if we paid rewards," said Schroen, who retired after 32 years in the CIA soon after the fall of Kabul in late 2001.

He recently published the book "First In: An Insider's Account of How the CIA Spearheaded the War on Terror in Afghanistan."

Schroen said Afghan warlords like Gen. Rashid Dostum were among those who received bundles of notes.

"It may be that we were giving rewards to people like Dostum because his guys were capturing a lot of Taliban and al-Qaida," he said.

Pakistan has handed hun-

dreds of suspects to the Americans, but Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told the AP, "No one has taken any money."

The U.S. departments of Defense, Justice and State and the Central Intelligence Agency also said they were unaware of bounty payments being made for random prisoners.

The U.S. Rewards for Justice program pays only for information that leads to the capture of suspected terrorists identified by name, said Steve Pike, a State Department spokesman. Some \$57 million has been paid under the program, according to its Web site.

It offers rewards up to \$25 million for information leading to the capture of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden and Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

But a wide variety of detainees at the U.S. lockup at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, alleged they were sold into capture. Their names and other identifying information were blacked out in the transcripts from the tribunals, which were held to determine whether prisoners were correctly classified as enemy combatants.

There have been reports of Arabs being sold to the Americans after the U.S.-led offensive in Afghanistan, but the testimonies offer the most detail from prisoners themselves.

In March 2002, the AP reported that Afghan intelligence offered rewards for the capture of al-Qaida fighters — the day after a five-hour meeting with U.S. Special Forces.

Intelligence officers refused to say if the two events were linked and if the United States was paying the offered reward of 150 million Afghanis, then equivalent to \$4,000 a head.

Bush: President takes on SS reform

him to lean to a more centrist pick for the high court.

"I told the American people I would find people of a certain temperament that would serve on the bench, and I intend to do that," Bush said in his seventh news conference in the seven months since his election to a second term.

Answering questions for 51 minutes in the sun-splashed Rose Garden, Bush said his policies in Iraq, Iran and North Korea were working. He denounced as "absurd" a report by the human rights group Amnesty International that compared the U.S. treatment of terrorism suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to a Soviet-era gulag.

Saying that Russian oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky seemed to have been "adjudged guilty prior to having a fair trial," Bush promised to watch how the government of Russian President Vladimir Putin handled the expected appeal in a case regarded as politically motivated.

The president held firm to his domestic policy agenda even though Congress — including some Republicans — has balked at much of it. Bush is facing fights over his plan to partially privatize Social Security, his nomination of John Bolton as U.N. ambassador, a free-trade pact with Central America, an immigration guest worker program and his opposition to legislation to expand embryonic stem-cell research.

Bush professed no worries that he's depleted most of the political capital he said in November that he earned with his re-election victory. Eager dispel any notion that he is a lame-duck president with little leverage, Bush used the word "push" three times and "lead" four and showed no intention of giving up in any area.

"I've been around here long enough now to tell you, and tell the people listening, things just don't happen overnight. It takes a while," the president said. "And one thing is for certain, it takes a president willing to push people to do hard things."

He indirectly criticized GOP Senate leaders for the delay in Bolton's confirmation vote, which Democrats united to force.

"I was disappointed that

once again the leadership there in the Senate didn't give him an up-or-down vote," Bush said.

On Social Security, Bush derided those who oppose his call for action as taking an "easy path." He predicted success for his drive to create private accounts within the government retirement program.

"It's like water cutting through a rock. It's just a matter of time," he said. "In the meantime, the people are watching Washington, and nothing's happening, except you got a president who's willing to talk about the issue."

Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid retorted that Bush should "stop caving to the demands of the far right" if he is serious about bipartisan accomplishment on any issue.

"Democrats stand in the commonsense center, ready to take up this work," the Nevada Democrat said.

Turning to global matters, Bush repeatedly defended his approach to sticky problems:

—Bush denied any increase of strength in the Iraqi insurgency, whose deadly attacks have been on the rise since a new government was announced April 28. He said the Iraqi government would be "plenty capable of dealing with them" with the help of American training. "I'm pleased with the progress," Bush said.

—He insisted that Europe-led talks with Iran "are making some progress" and defended his decision to allow Iran to apply for membership in the World Trade Organization as a key, but measured, step to advance those discussions.

—Bush also defended his approach to North Korea, denying critics who say it has allowed the government there to expand its nuclear program. The president said trying to persuade Pyongyang to abandon the program through six-nation talks was still the most likely route to success.

"We've got a lot of work to do with the North Korean because he tends to ignore what the other five nations are saying at times. But that doesn't mean we're going to stop," Bush said. "For those who say that we ought to be using our military to solve the problem, I would say that while all options are on the table, we've got a ways to go to solve this diplomatically."



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Left: W. Mark Felt, former FBI associate director waves at the door of U.S. District Court in Washington in 1978, prior to being arraigned on a charge of one count of conspiring to violate citizen rights.

Above: Carl Bernstein, left, and Bob Woodward verified that Felt, a former FBI agent, is the famous source known as "Deep Throat."

Felt: Deep Throat mystery is now over

stein and Hal Holbrook as Deep Throat was made in 1976.

In the film, Holbrook's shadowy, cigarette-smoking character would meet Redford in dark parking garages and provide clues about the scandal.

The movie portrayed the cloak-and-dagger methods that Woodward and Deep Throat were said to have employed. When Woodward wanted a meeting, he would position an empty flowerpot containing a red flag on his apartment balcony.

When Deep Throat wanted to meet, the hands of a clock would appear written inside Woodward's New York Times.

The identity of the source has sparked endless speculation over the last three decades. Nixon chief of staff Alexander Haig, White House press aide Diane Sawyer, White House counsel John Dean and speech writer Pat Buchanan were among those mentioned as possibilities.

Felt himself was mentioned several times over the years as a candidate for Deep Throat, but he regularly denied that he was the source.

Felt had expressed reservations in the past about revealing his identity, and about whether his actions were appropriate for an FBI man, his grandson said.

According to the article, Felt once told his son, Mark Jr., that he did not believe being Deep Throat "was anything to be proud of. ... You (should) not leak information to anyone."

His family members thought otherwise, and persuaded him to talk about his role in the Watergate scandal, saying he deserves to receive accolades before his death.

His daughter, Joan, argued

that he could "make enough money to pay some bills, like the debt I've run up for the children's education."

"As he recently told my mother, 'I guess people used to think Deep Throat was a criminal, but now they think he's a hero,'" Jones said.

Woodward, who had visited with Felt as recently as 1999, refused to confirm or deny, even to the man's family, that Felt was his source, and wondered whether Felt was mentally competent to decide whether to go public after all these years, the magazine reported.

Woodward and Bernstein were the first reporters to link the Nixon White House and the June 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Headquarters in Washington's Watergate complex.

Nixon, facing almost-certain impeachment for helping to cover up the break-in, resigned in August 1974.

Forty government officials and members of Nixon's re-election committee were convicted on felony charges.

In 2003, Woodward and Bernstein reached an agreement to keep their Watergate papers at the University of Texas at Austin.

At the time, the pair said documents naming Deep Throat would be kept secure at an undisclosed location in Washington until the source's death.

Felt was convicted in the 1970s for authorizing illegal break-ins at homes of people associated with the radical Weather Underground. He was pardoned by President Reagan in 1981.

Many suspected over the years

There was much fingerprinting and speculation over the years as to who the shadowy secret source was that helped Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein uncover the Watergate scandal that led to President Nixon's resignation.



Most individuals listed as Deep Throat were connected to the Nixon White House

Aides
Steve Bull
Jonathan Rose
Diane Sawyer
John Sears

Others?
Henry Petersen, assistant attorney general
A literary device

Counsels
Fred Fielding
Leonard Garment

Ron Ziegler, press secretary

Former associate FBI director, W. Mark Felt, left, confirmed as Deep Throat

Watergate scandal still vivid

By PETE YOST
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The scandal began with a botched burglary that initially attracted little attention but ended two years later with the first and only resignation of a president.

Six days after the break-in at the Watergate complex by the Potomac River, Nixon agreed to a plan to derail the FBI's investigation of the burglary at the Democratic National Committee's offices by claiming the probe would interfere with a CIA operation.

That conversation, when it finally emerged after a legal battle for the tapes that went all the way to the Supreme Court forced him from office.

The tale began with G. Gordon Liddy, a former FBI man who was finance counsel at the president's re-election committee.

Liddy got \$250,000 to implement a plan that included late-night forays to install telephone bugs at the DNC office and scouring the party's files

for useful information.

From the start, a couple of young unknown reporters from The Washington Post, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, pursued what they sensed was a scandal that went all the way to the White House.

Though they kept the story in the public eye, Nixon won re-election in a landslide.

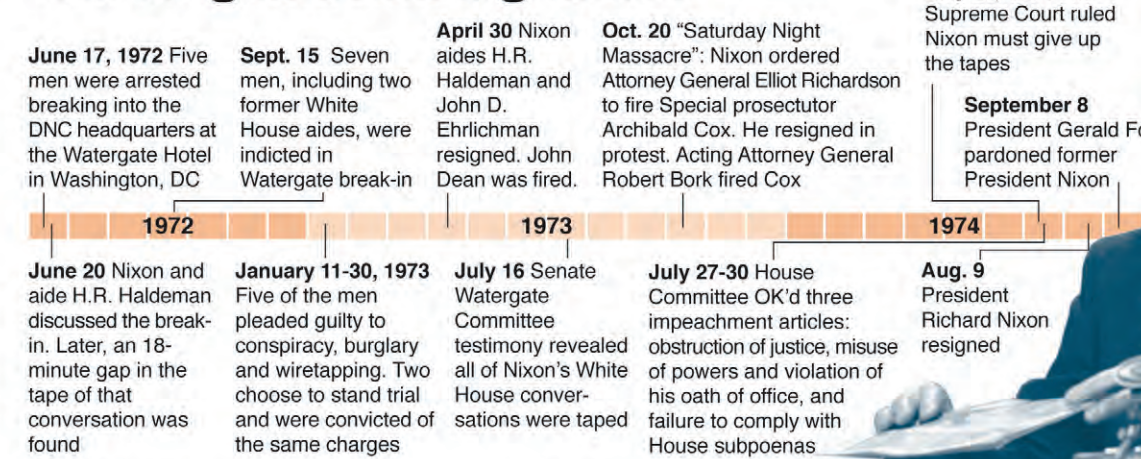
The Senate and the U.S. attorney's office pursued Nixon's aides, and with the pressure on, the president told two of them they would have to resign.

Nixon insisted he knew nothing of any cover-up and that he never encouraged his subordinates to employ improper campaign tactics.

"That was and is the simple truth," Nixon told the nation.

The cover-up collapsed when Nixon's schedule keeper, Alexander Butterfield, told the Senate of a taping system that recorded every conversation Nixon had in the Oval Office, the Cabinet Room, the Lincoln Bedroom sitting room and the Camp David presidential cabin.

'Our long national nightmare'



SOURCE: A.P. Research; Findlaw.com

Perry: Lawmakers face long summer

I should say, they should make plans for a long and uncomfortable summer when they go home, when they meet with those constituents and they explain that they didn't act on education reform, property tax relief."

Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, a Republican who presides over the Senate, said work needs to continue and that House and Senate negotiators should meet again in the next week or two once they are more rested.

"We're real close, and we can do it," Dewhurst said.

Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick also said lawmakers should keep trying. They were close to a deal on

the education side of the package, but on the finance side "we're not even in the same hemisphere," he said.

Perry suffered a few other setbacks this session.

He won only a watered-down version of the local tax revenue caps he proposed.

A private school voucher program — something Perry has long favored — died in the House after moderate Republicans sought to sabotage it.

Perry enjoyed some successes. Legislators allocated money for his Texas Enterprise Fund, used to seal deals with companies bringing jobs to Texas, and his proposed Emerging Technology Fund, intended to

nurture research and job creation in high-tech industries.

The Legislature gave him \$280 million for both funds combined, and he'll likely get another \$100 million expected to be available from the state's rainy day account.

It was short of what Perry asked for, but he said he was pleased. Democrats, however, have criticized the allocations. House Democratic leader Rep. Jim Dunnam of Waco called it the "governor's slush fund" during House budget debate.

On the state budget, Perry and his veto pen will have the last word.

Lawmakers approved a \$139 billion spending plan for the

coming two years. Some conservative groups have labeled that too high, though Republicans in the House and Senate presided over the budget-writing process.

Dewhurst and Craddick defended the budget Tuesday as justified, saying it covers growth in mandated Medicaid costs and school enrollment growth, which the state has no control over.

Perry declined to say if he'll slash parts of the budget using his line-item veto power.

"It's 800 pages, and we're just starting to get into it," he said. He expects to soon dig into it with "the appropriate fine-tooth comb and sharp pencil."



Houston company
honors wounded and
fallen soldiers, page 6.

Bills promise change for Average Joe

By **JIM VERTUNO**
The Associated Press

Strip clubs, steroids, dogs, guns and God.
The 140-day legislative session is over and that means changes for the Average Joe in Texas: more religion at school, more drug testing of high school students and a \$5 pop in the wallet to get into a strip club.
And that's just the start of it.

Lawmakers meet every two years to make Texas a better and brighter place to live. That, of course, depends greatly on where you live, what you do and what you think of the changes.
Teachers will get a modest pay raise (up to \$450). Gov. Rick Perry gets a big one (\$35,000).
Boisterous bachelor parties take note: the "sin tax" on strip club entry fees will go to a sexual assault prevention fund.

Texas' wild west reputation got a boost with the "Castle Doctrine" that allows more legal rights to shoot to kill if someone breaks into your home, car or business. The measure was the first bill Perry signed into law.
And public records that show who carries a concealed weapon on license now are closed.
Dogs got the better of it as the state will now help evacuate, transport and shelter pets

during a disaster, such as a hurricane. Dog owners, however, could face up to 20 years in prison if their animal attacks and kills someone.
To keep them healthy, more children in low-income families will get health insurance.
High school athletes face mandatory random steroid testing starting in the fall. A failed test could send Joe Quarterback to the sideline.

But it's not just football players. Athletes in any sport could be asked to urinate in a cup as the state checks to see if they are cheating.
Even young nonathletes can expect to break a sweat. Middle school students now face 30-minutes of physical education per day.
One thing that won't change for school girls is the shots they need. Lawmakers slapped down

Perry's plan to require they be vaccinated against the virus that causes cervical cancer.
Lawmakers saw fit to mix a bit more religion in school. Students reciting the Texas pledge of allegiance will note the state is not only indivisible, but "under God" as well. High schools will be able to offer elective Bible courses,

Please see **BILLS**, Page 2

For the winner: a new kidney

Terminally ill woman offers up organ on TV show

By **ARTHUR MAX**
The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — A 37-year-old woman suffering from an inoperable brain tumor wants to donate a kidney before she dies and will choose the recipient from among three contestants on Dutch national television, a TV network said Tuesday, claiming it wants to highlight a crisis in organ donations.
Asked to intervene, the government declined, saying it would be censorship to stop the broadcast, regardless of how distasteful — and even unethical — it might be. And it's unclear whether the contestants are a medical match with the terminally ill woman, and whether the winner would be capable of receiving her kidney.

The publicly financed television network, BNN, said it intends to go ahead with the program on Friday, drawing attention to the hundreds of people who die each year from lack of a kidney transplant.

The scheduled broadcast of "The Big Donor Show" reached the floor of parliament after a member of the governing Christian Democrats, Joop Atsma, questioned whether a public contest for a lifesaving organ would cross the boundary of merely objectionable to actually illegal.

"The information I have right now tells me that the program is unfitting and unethical, especially due to the competitive element, but it's up to program makers to make their choices," responded Education Minister Ronald Plasterk.

Government interference, he said, would amount to censorship.

BNN defended the program. "Some people will think it's tasteless, but we think the reality is even more shocking and tasteless: Waiting for an organ is just like playing the lottery," said network chairman Lau-

Please see **KIDNEY**, Page 2

Mom kills kids, self



TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A body is wheeled out of a mobile home where Parker County authorities say 25-year-old Gilberta Estrada hanging in a closet, all of them dead but an 8-month-old, who was taken to a hospital, the sheriff said.

Sheriff: Deaths 'horrendous;' baby survives

By **ANGELA K. BROWN**
The Associated Press

HUDSON OAKS — Worried when her sister's boss called to say she hadn't shown up for work Tuesday, the woman ran across the street of her mobile home park, forced her way inside a trailer and made a gruesome discovery.

She pulled back a sheet serving as a makeshift door to the large bedroom closet and saw her 25-year-old sister, Gilberta Estrada, and her four nieces — ages 5, 3, 2 and 8 months — hanging from fabric nooses tied around a clothes rod, said Parker County Sheriff Larry Fowler.

The sister, who has not been identified, heard sounds from the 8-month-old — who was hanging by her tiny neck from the arm of a sweater — and quickly pulled the baby out of the noose, then called for help, Fowler said. There were no stools or chairs under the bodies, Fowler said. After hanging her daughters, Estrada apparently tied the noose around her neck, leaned into it and buckled her knees to kill herself, he said.

"It's horrendous; that's all I can



TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Filly Echeverria, the children's godmother, holds an undated family photo.

say," he said. "It's just something you don't want to see."

Authorities said they believed it was a murder-suicide. The doors of the dilapidated trailer were locked from the inside and a relative said the woman had been depressed.

But Fowler also said Estrada had

won a temporary restraining order in August against Gregorio Rodriguez, believed to be the father of the infant and some of the other children, after an attack on Estrada.

Fowler said Estrada and Rodri-

Please see **DEATHS**, Page 2

Sheehan 'resigns,' leaves Crawford camp

By **ANGELA K. BROWN**
The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Cindy Sheehan, the soldier's mother who galvanized an anti-war movement with her month long protest outside President Bush's ranch, said Tuesday she's done being the public face of the movement.

"I've been wondering why I'm killing myself and wondering why the Democrats caved in to George Bush," Sheehan told The Associated Press while driving from her property in Crawford to the airport, where she planned to return to her native California.

"I'm going home for a while to try and be normal," she said.
In what she described as a "resignation letter," Sheehan wrote in her online diary on the Daily Kos blog: "Good-bye America ... you are not the country that I love and I finally realized no matter how much I sacrifice, I can't make you be that country unless you want it."

"It's up to you now."
Sheehan began a grassroots peace movement in August 2005 when she camped outside Bush's Crawford ranch for 26 days, demanding to talk with the president about her son's death. Army Spc. Casey Shee-

han was 24 when he was killed in an ambush in Baghdad in 2004.

Cindy Sheehan's protest started small but swelled to thousands and quickly drew national attention. Over the next two years, she drew crowds as she spoke at protest events. Sheehan also drew criticism for some actions, such as meeting with Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's leftist president.

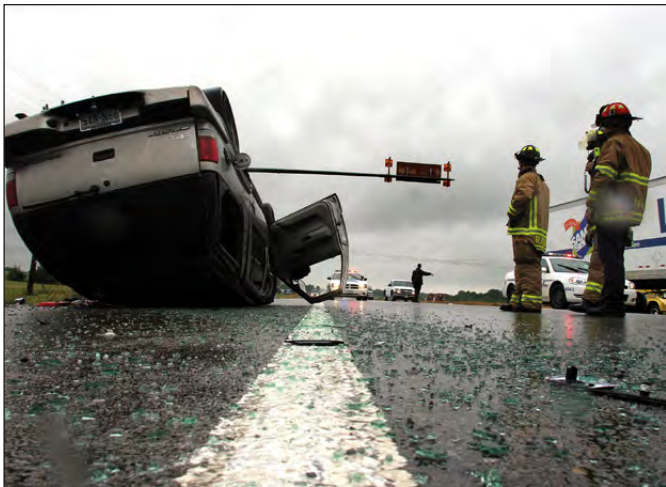
"I have endured a lot of smear and hatred since Casey was killed and especially since I became the so-called 'Face' of the American anti-war movement," Sheehan wrote in the diary.

Kristinn Taylor, spokesman for FreeRepublic.com, which has held pro-troop rallies and counter-protests of anti-war demonstrations, said dwindling crowds at Sheehan's Crawford protests since her initial vigil may have led to her decision. But he also said he hopes she will now be able to heal.

"Her politics have hurt a lot of people, including the troops and their families, but most of us who support the war on terror understand she is hurt very deeply," Taylor said Tuesday. "Those she got involved with in

Please see **PROTEST**, Page 2

WILD WEATHER



SAM CRAFT, THE PARIS NEWS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rain and slick streets made driving hazardous in Paris, Texas, above, and Austin on Tuesday.

KIDNEY: Show spotlights problems in organ donation

— Continued from Page 1

rens Drillch.

“The Big Donor Show” is produced by Endemol NV, which created the “Big Brother” concept in 1999 and marketed it around the world, setting off the rage of reality TV.

The network identified the donor only as “Lisa” and gave no other information about her. During the show, she will hear interviews with the three candidates, their families and friends before choosing who will get her kidney.

Viewers will be able to vote for a candidate via SMS text message, but the final determination will be Lisa’s, BNN said.

Though she intends to donate the kidney while still alive, she would be free to donate other organs after her death under the normal organ allotment system, said BNN spokeswoman Marieke Saly.

But there’s no guarantee that Lisa’s choice will actually receive the organ.

Plasterk said that as with any transplant, the tissues of the donor and the recipient must be compatible. “The doctors in this program can’t make any concessions on that front,” he

said during a lively parliament debate.

“So it’s very possible that in practical terms, we’re not talking about anything here, because it’s possible this transplant can’t take place,” he said.

Paul Beerkens, director of Kidney Association, welcomed the sudden attention to the problem of organ donations, but called on BNN to cancel the show now that it has gained publicity.

“There are about 1,500 people waiting on the list for more than four years, so something has to be done,” Beerkens told The Associated Press Television News. “But let’s be clear: This is not the way.”

Dutch TV producers have tested the limits of public good taste before.

Two years ago, a private station showing a “Big Brother” series followed the pregnancy of one of the contestants, then aired the birth. The mother hoped to win the \$540,000 top prize, but she quit before the end of the show. BNN showed footage of their reporter snorting cocaine and then being interviewed about the experience in a talk show.

DARFUR: Bush orders U.S. sanctions

— Continued from Page 1

Ministry spokesman Ali Sadiq told The Associated Press. He urged the rest of the world to ignore the U.S. move.

Beyond the new U.S. sanctions, Bush directed Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to draft a proposed U.N. resolution to strengthen international pressure on the Sudanese government of President Omar al-Bashir.

Save Darfur Coalition Director David Rubenstein welcomed the sanctions, but said they might be too little, too late.

“President Bush must not give further months to determine whether these outlines measures work. The Darfuri people don’t have that much time,” he said. “The president must set a short and firm deadline for fundamental changes in Sudanese behavior, and prepare now to implement immediately further measures should Khartoum continue to stonewall.”

Bush said he delayed imposing sanctions last month to allow more time for diplomacy, but that al-Bashir has continued to make empty promises of cooperation while obstruct-



ing international efforts to end the crisis.

“One day after I spoke, they bombed a meeting of rebel commanders designed to discuss a possible peace deal with the government,” the president said. “In the following weeks, he used his army and government-sponsored militias to attack rebels and civilians in south Darfur. He’s taken no steps to disarm these militias in the year since the Darfur peace agreement was signed. “The result is that the dire secu-

city situation on the ground in Darfur has not changed,” Bush said.

Al-Bashir agreed in November to a three-phase U.N. plan to strengthen the overstretched, 7,000-strong African Union force in Darfur.

After five months of stalling, the Sudanese president gave the go-ahead in April for the second phase — a “heavy support package” with 3,000 U.N. troops, police and civilian personnel along with six attack helicopters and other equipment.

Over the weekend, however, al-Bashir reiterated his opposition to the deployment of a 22,000-strong joint U.N.-AU force, saying he would only allow a larger African force with technical and logistical support from the United Nations.

The U.S. Mission to the United Nations plans to start discussing a resolution with allies on Tuesday, a Security Council diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly on the issue.

But any U.S.-backed sanctions resolution is expected to face a tough time especially

from China, which has strong commercial ties with Sudan.

The new sanctions target 31 companies to be barred from the U.S. banking system. Thirty are controlled by the government of Sudan; the other is suspected of shipping arms to Darfur, the officials said.

Nearly 10 years ago, the United States cut off about 130 Sudanese companies from the U.S. system over a different dispute.

The United States also is targeting three Sudanese officials, to prevent them from doing business with U.S. companies or individuals.

The U.N. resolution that Bush is seeking would apply new international sanctions against the Sudanese government in Khartoum. It also would impose an expanded embargo on arms sales to Sudan, prohibit Sudan’s government from conducting offensive military flights over Darfur and strengthen the U.S. ability to monitor violations.

DEATHS: Child killings allude to previous tragedies

— Continued from Page 1

guez had stopped living together in February. Emergency police calls had not been made to Estrada’s trailer before Tuesday, and Fowler said there was no evidence that Rodriguez abused the girls.

Attempts to reach Rodriguez, 38, were not immediately successful.

Child Protective Services will decide who takes custody of the baby, Fowler said.

The infant was listed in good condition at Cook Children’s Medical Center in Fort Worth, about 25 miles east of the trailer park, Fowler said.

The woman and her girls were last seen alive outside the trailer Monday evening, Fowler said. He said more information, such as how long they had been dead and whether Estrada drugged or suffocated them before hanging them, could be revealed after the autopsies were performed Wednesday.

Outside the white trailer with brown trim were cactus plants and rose bushes, and a bicycle, plastic cars and other toys cluttered the backyard.

After authorities removed the bodies and other evidence in the rain Tuesday, neighbors gathered on their front porches, some crying.



TOM FOX / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three unidentified women react near a mobile home in Hudson Oaks where Gilberta Estrada hanged herself and three of her children.

“She was a good mother, and she seemed happy,” said Filly Echeverria.

Many said they were stunned by the deaths at the run-down trailer park, which is located just off Interstate 20 in this rural town of about 1,600. Paint is peeling off many of the trailers, and items are strewn about the yards.

“I just got a big kick out of watch-

ing the kids play over there on her porch, and today it’s sad, very sad,” neighbor Joyce Harris said.

The slayings came nearly five years after another woman, Dee Etta Perez, 39, in Hudson Oaks killed her three children. — Associated Press Writer Jamie Stengle in Dallas contributed to this report.

By LARRY MARGASAK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Private security guards who are paid little more than janitors and restaurant cooks are guarding many of the critical security sites in the United States, usually with minimal or no anti-terrorist training, an Associated Press investigation found.

The nation’s security industry found itself involuntarily transformed after Sept. 11, 2001. But cutthroat competition by security firms trying to win contracts with low bids has kept wages low and high-level training nonexistent.

Richard Bergendahl fights the war on terrorism in Los Angeles for \$19,000 a year. Down the block from the high rise he guards is a skyscraper identified by President Bush as a target for a Sept. 11-style airplane attack.

Bergendahl, 55, says he often thinks: “Well, what am I doing here? These people are paying me minimum wage.”

Security consultant Hallcrest Systems said its experts think that 15 percent to 20 percent of

the country’s private security officers protect sites designated by the government as “critical infrastructure.” Major cities have a ratio of three or four security officers to each police officer, the study said.

The industry is governed by a maze of conflicting state rules. States vary widely in requirements for training and background checks. Tens of thousands of guard applicants were found to have criminal backgrounds.

Rep. Robert Andrews, D-N.J., said he’s confident that lawmakers will support a bill he sponsored to upgrade the industry by requiring criminal background checks for all U.S. security guards.

“How much is it worth not to have one criminal guarding a nuclear power plant?” he asked.

Andrews said the checks will raise pay, because they will weed out many guards whose criminal histories lead them to accept the lowest salaries.

“This is one area where doing things on the cheap is a really bad idea,” Andrews said.

“A security officer is ... not

trained to be a G.I. Joe,” said Paul Maniscalco, a senior research scientist at George Washington University.

More than five years after the attacks, Maniscalco is helping to change the security guard culture. He recently developed an anti-terrorism computer course for shopping mall guards, who are being taught they now have more concerns than rowdy teenagers.

The median pay for security officers in 2006 was \$23,620, according to a new Labor Department survey. The low pay reflects cutthroat competition among security firms, who submit the lowest possible bids to win contracts. Lowball contracts also mean lower profit margins and less money for training and background checks for guards.

Congressional investigators reported last year that 89 private guards working at two military bases had histories that included assault.

In an annual survey of employers, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the median hourly pay for security guards in 2006 was \$11.35.

BILLS: Clubs, faith in schools affected

— Continued from Page 1

and students who express their religious faith in their classroom or on the playground won’t be punished or penalized.

Drivers ages 85 and older will have to renew their licenses and pass a vision test every two years.

Family trips to state parks should be more fun. There’s more money to fix crumbling facilities at the state’s 600,000-acre parks system of rivers, lakes and trails.

Saying “I do” got more expensive. Lawmakers doubled the price of a marriage license from \$30 to \$60 but agreed to waive it for couples who take a class on how to be good spouses.

And Texas voters will get a say in cancer research. The November ballot will ask whether to borrow up to \$3 billion to fund projects looking for a cure.

But those same voters will have to wait their turn when it comes to presidential politics. A plan to move the state’s primary up from March to February fizzled without a vote in the Senate.

OTHER MEASURES PASSED, AWAITING ACTION BY GOVERNOR

- **Texas budget:** Sets out a \$153 billion two-year spending plan for the state covering major programs such as K-12 education, public universities, health and human services, state parks and criminal justice.
- **Sex offenders:** Imposes a possible death penalty for sex offenders who are twice convicted of raping children under age 14.
- **Toll-road moratorium:** Freezes most new privately financed toll road projects for two years.
- **Search warrants:** Allows judges to seal some search warrant information from the public for up to 60 days.
- **Tourist train:** Creates the Texas State Railroad Authority, intended to keep an East Texas tourist train running between Palestine and Rusk by allowing the venture to be leased to a private operator.
- **Sudan sanctions:** Requires state pension funds to divest from companies doing business with Sudan, where more than 200,000 people have been killed and 2.5 million been chased from their homes since 2003 because of civil strife.
- **TYC overhaul:** Puts an executive commissioner in charge of the Texas Youth Commission for two years. Improves staff-to-inmate ratios, creates new investigative powers to check abuse claims and prohibits courts from sending youths to state lockups for misdemeanors.
- **Replacing TAKS:** Replaces the state’s high-stakes high school exit exam, known as the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, with end-of-course tests.
- **Medicaid reform:** Rewards Medicaid recipients for adopting healthy lifestyles and encourages them to seek treatment at doctor’s office instead of a hospital emergency room.
- **Business tax:** Revises the state’s new business tax to fix errors and loopholes in last year’s franchise tax overhaul and give many small businesses a discount.
- **Children’s health insurance:** Changes enrollment rules for the Children’s Health Insurance Program to allow more than 127,000 children to be added to a low-cost state insurance program.
- **Foster care reforms:** Strengthens protections for foster children and repeals much of the privatization lawmakers ordered two years ago in the foster care system.
- **Physical education:** Establishes a 30-minute-per-day physical education requirement, of moderate to vigorous activity, for middle school students.
- **Border security:** Helps direct more money and resources to Texas-Mexico border security.

SOURCE: Associated Press

PROTEST: Mother heads home to be with children

— Continued from Page 1

the anti-war movement realize it was to their benefit to keep her in that stage of anger.”

When Sheehan first took on Bush, she was a darling of the liberal left. “However, when I started to hold the Democratic Party to the same standards that I held the Republican Party, support for my cause started to erode and the ‘left’ started labeling me with the same slurs that the right used,” she wrote in the diary.

Sheehan said she sacrificed a 29-year marriage and endured threats to put all her energy into stopping the war. What she found, she wrote, was a movement “that often puts personal egos above peace and human life.”

She said the most devastating conclusion she had reached “was that Casey did indeed die for nothing ... killed by his own country, which is beholden to and run by a war machine that even controls what we think.”

Sheehan told The Associated Press that she had been consid-

ering leaving the peace movement since last summer while recovering from surgery.

She decided on Monday to step down and spend more time with her three other children. She said she was returning to California on Tuesday because it was Casey’s birthday. He would have been 28.

“We’ve accomplished as much here as we’re going to,” Sheehan said, saying she was leaving to change course. “When we come back, it definitely won’t be with the peace movement with marches, with rallies and with protests. It will be more humanitarian efforts.”

Last year, with \$52,500 in insurance money she received after her son’s death, Sheehan bought 5 acres near downtown Crawford as a permanent site for protests.

“Camp Casey has served its purpose,” she wrote in the diary. “It’s for sale. Anyone want to buy five beautiful acres in Crawford, Texas?”



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Bloody day in Baghdad

Violence marks deadliest month of year for U.S.

By **RAVI NESSMAN**
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Ten American soldiers died in roadside bombings and a helicopter crash on Monday, the military reported Tuesday, making May the deadliest month of the year for U.S. troops in Iraq.

Five Britons were kidnapped Tuesday from an Iraqi government office in Baghdad, driven away in a 19-vehicle convoy filled with men in police uniforms who headed toward a Shiite stronghold in the capital, the British government and an Iraqi official said.

The American deaths raised the number of U.S. forces killed this month to at least 112, according to an Associated Press count assembled from U.S. military statements.

Eight of the soldiers were from Task Force Lightning — six killed when explosions hit near their vehicles and two in a helicopter crash. The military did not say whether the helicopter was shot down or had mechanical problems.

The military said two Multinational Division-Baghdad Soldiers were killed the same day when their patrol was hit by a roadside bomb in southern Baghdad.

The deaths were announced in three statements issued by the U.S. military public affairs office at Camp Victory at Bagh-



KARIM KADIM / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi women shout and cry outside of a hospital in Sadr City, a district of Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday. Tuesday was a violent day in Baghdad. A minibus exploded, killing 23 and wounding 68. An hour

later, a truck exploded outside of a mosque, killing 17. Ten American troops were killed Monday. May is now the deadliest month for U.S. forces this year, with at least 112 dead.

dad Airport. Maj. Gen. Abdul-Karim Khalaf, the Interior Ministry spokesman, said the abduction at the Iraqi Finance Ministry office was carried out by men wearing police uniforms who showed up in 19 vehicles of the type used by police. He said the band of kidnappers drove off toward Sadr City, the Shiite Mahdi Army stronghold in northeastern Baghdad.

In McLean, Va., Steve Lunc-

eford, a spokesman for the BearingPoint management consulting firm, said one of the kidnap victims worked for the company. The other four were employees with the Montreal-based security firm GardaWorld, according to Joe

Gavaghan, a spokesman for the company.

Also in Baghdad, a parked minibus packed with explosives blew up in Tayaran Square, riddling cars with shrapnel and sending smoke into the sky, witnesses said. The blast killed 23 and injured 68 others, a police official in the district said on condition he not be named. The attacks came a day after U.S. and Iranian officials met in Baghdad

under the auspices of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to try to end the violence here. Anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr on Tuesday criticized the talks as interference in Iraq's internal affairs. "I call on the brave people to reject these negotiations," he said in a statement released by his office in the holy city of Najaf.

U.N. agency wants smoking curtailed

World Health Organization says legal action can help protect public

By **BRADLEY S. KLAPPER**
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The U.N. health agency on Tuesday issued its strongest policy recommendations yet for controlling tobacco use, urging all countries to ban smoking at indoor workplaces and in public buildings.

"There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand tobacco smoke," said Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization.

Tobacco use is the world's leading cause of preventable death, accounting for 10 percent of adult fatalities, according to WHO. It is responsible for 5.4 million deaths each year, the agency says.

Increasing numbers of non-smokers will also die unless governments take action, WHO said in its 50-page report. It said governments should declare all public indoor places smoke-free, by passing laws and actively enforcing measures to ensure that "everyone has a right to breathe clean air, free from tobacco smoke."

At least 200,000 workers die each year because of exposure to smoke at their offices and factories, according to the U.N. labor agency. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that about 3,000 deaths from lung cancer each year occur among nonsmoking Americans.

"THIS IS NOT ABOUT SHAMING THE SMOKER ... THIS IS ABOUT SOCIETY TAKING DECISIONS ABOUT WHERE TO SMOKE AND WHERE NOT TO SMOKE. —ARMANDO PERUGA

"This is not about shaming the smoker. This is not even about banning smoking," said Dr. Armando Peruga, who heads WHO's anti-tobacco campaign. "This is about society taking decisions about where to smoke and where not to smoke."

He cited Ireland and Uruguay as governments that have successfully tackled smoking by creating and enforcing smoke-free environments. This kind of legislation has proved popular among both smokers and nonsmokers, according to WHO, whose policy recommendations set broad goals for its 193 member states but are not legally binding.

Almost half the world's children — some 700 million — are exposed to air polluted by tobacco smoke, particularly at home, WHO says.



CHANNI ANAND / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A laborer cycles past a brick kiln Tuesday near Jammu, India. India has said it will reject proposals to limit greenhouse gas emissions at the G-8 meeting next week.

U.S. rejects sweeping emissions goal

By **DAVID RISING**
The Associated Press

BERLIN — The United States does not accept the European Union's all-encompassing target on reduction of carbon emissions, President Bush's environmental adviser said Tuesday.

James Connaughton, chairman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, said the U.S. is not against setting goals but prefers to focus them on specific sectors, such as producing cleaner coal and reducing dependence on gasoline.

"The U.S. has different sets of targets," Connaughton said.

Germany, which holds the European Union and Group of Eight presidencies, is proposing a so-called "two-degree" target, whereby global temperatures would be allowed to increase no more than 2 degrees Celsius, or 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit, before being brought back down.

Connaughton, on a one-week bipartisan trip to Europe with members of the House of Representatives, said the U.S. favors "setting targets in the context of national circumstances."

In Hamburg, Asian countries, including rising global powerhouses China and India, reluctantly agreed Tuesday to back European calls for a new

climate-change treaty by 2009 to limit greenhouse gases after the Kyoto Protocol expires.

But deep differences remained at the end of the meeting of foreign ministers from the European Union and Asia over whether developing countries would themselves agree to cut emissions.

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, speaking on behalf of all 16 Asian nations at the Hamburg talks, said the EU should not expect developing countries to make the same kind of binding cuts as those taken by richer nations.

"Let the G-8 process run its course," Connaughton said. "Give the leaders a chance."

Guatemalans blame 'easy money' for kids' lifestyles

By **JUAN CARLOS LLORCA**
The Associated Press

SALCAJA, Guatemala — Working and going to school have become optional in this highland Guatemalan town, thanks to a flood of U.S. dollars sent home by migrants living in the United States.

The family-run mills that produce brightly colored, hand-woven traditional fabrics have fallen quiet as their potential work force — mostly young men — hang out at the town's pool halls or video game salons, living off remittances and waiting to make their own journeys north.

"Kids have easy money, and the only thing they know how to do is spend it on video games," complained Salcaja

Mayor Miguel Ovalle. "In this town, school attendance has fallen, in part because many go to the U.S. and also because those who stay don't want to go to school."

Some 48,000 Guatemalans left in 2005-06, almost all to the U.S., according to the Geneva-based International Immigration Organization, which also found that more than 1 million Guatemalans between the ages of 10 and 20 were getting U.S. remittances last year.

Last year, Guatemalans in the United States sent home more than \$3.6 billion, of which \$300 million went to some 300,000 people in Quetzaltenango. That's a substantial cash flow in a \$35 billion economy with an industrial output of just \$6.7 billion last

year as measured by gross domestic product.

Similar challenges are evident in other parts of Latin America, where remittances have made low-wage labor increasingly undesirable. In some places, local employers are being forced to raise salaries. In others, traditional industries are simply being abandoned.

"In many communities in Mexico and Central America, remittances have prompted a healthy competition among employers who offer better salaries because of the scarce work force, but dependence on remittances has also slowed local economic growth," said Eliseo Diaz, a researcher with the Tijuana, Mexico-based Colegio de la Frontera Norte.



ALEXANDRE MENEGHINI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Many Guatemalan teenagers have dropped out of school and aren't looking for employment. Living on money sent by relatives living in the United States, they spend their days hanging out and playing video games.

INTERNATIONAL

Bush to name World Bank president

WASHINGTON — President Bush has chosen Robert Zoellick, a one-time U.S. trade representative and former No. 2 official at the State Department,



Zoellick

to lead the World Bank, a senior administration official said Tuesday. Bush will announce the decision today. Zoellick would succeed Paul Wolfowitz, who is stepping down June 30 after a panel found that he broke bank rules when he arranged a compensation package in 2005 for his girlfriend, Shaha Riza, a bank employee.

Acropolis statues to move to museum

ATHENS, Greece — Three hundred marble statues will soon be moved off the Acropolis to a new museum, Greek officials said Tuesday.

The sculptures, weighing up to 2.5 tons each, were carved in the sixth and fifth centuries B.C. to decorate the Parthenon and other temples. Most are exhibited in a small museum on the Acropolis.

A new glass and concrete museum at the foot of the hill will open in early 2008, Culture Minister George Voulgarakis said. The marble works will be moved to the new facility starting in September.

Ethiopia's census will help donors

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia — Ethiopia began counting its population Tuesday, a daunting task in a country where asking personal questions is considered socially taboo but where the government and international donors sorely need more information to plan economic and social programs.

More than 100,000 census takers, most of them school-teachers, fanned out across Africa's second-most-populous country. The 10-day program aims to gather information from households: how many family members, their ethnicity, religion and the languages they speak.

Indonesian court sentences 9 to die

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Nine men, including Chinese, French and Dutch nationals, were sentenced to death Tuesday by Indonesia's Supreme Court for producing millions of pills of the illegal recreational drug Ecstasy. The punishment was harsher than that rendered last year by a lower court, which ordered the execution of two alleged Indonesian ringleaders while handing down lesser sentences to others.

The Dutch and French governments reiterated their opposition to the death penalty but did not yet have specific comment on the case.

Chinese ex-drug regulator set to die

BEIJING — China's former top drug regulator, Zheng Xiaoyu, was sentenced to death Tuesday by Beijing's No. 1 Intermediate People's Court in an unusually harsh punishment for taking bribes worth more than \$832,000 to approve substandard medicines, including an antibiotic blamed for at least 10 deaths. Seeking to address broadening concerns over food, the government also announced plans for its first recall system for unsafe products.

Russians cheer latest missile test

MOSCOW — Russia tested new missiles Tuesday that a Kremlin official boasted could penetrate any defense system. President Vladimir Putin warned against any U.S. plans for an anti-missile shield in Europe.

First Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov said Russia tested an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying multiple independent warheads. It also successfully conducted a "preliminary" test of a tactical cruise missile that he said could fly farther than similar existing weapons.

Poll: U.S. split on right to die

By **DAVID CRARY**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK— More than two-thirds of Americans believe there are circumstances in which a patient should be allowed to die, but are closely divided on whether it should be legal for a doctor to help terminally ill patients end their own lives by prescribing fatal drugs, a new AP-Ipsos News Center poll finds.

The results were released Tuesday, days before Dr. Jack Kevorkian will be freed from a Michigan prison Friday after serving more than eight years for second-degree murder in the poisoning of a man with Lou Gehrig's disease.

Kevorkian's defiant assisted suicide campaign fueled nationwide debate about patients' right to die and the role physicians should play.

The new AP-Ipsos poll asked whether it should be legal for doctors to prescribe lethal drugs to help terminally ill

patients end their own lives — a practice currently allowed only in Oregon. Forty-eight percent said it should be legal; 44 percent said it should be illegal.

More broadly, 68 percent said there are circumstances when a patient should be allowed to die.

A majority of respondents — 55 percent — said they would not consider ending their own lives if ill with a terminal disease while 35 percent said they would.

Oregon's physician-assisted suicide law took effect in 1997. Through last year, 292 people — mostly stricken with cancer — have died under its provisions, which allow terminally ill, mentally competent adults to use life-ending medication prescribed by a physician.

Oregon's law has been reaffirmed by state voters and survived intense legal challenges. Similar bills have been defeated by lawmakers in Vermont, Hawaii, Wisconsin and Washington.

The current battleground is

California, where a bill similar to Oregon's law is moving through the legislature. Even if it passes, there is uncertainty whether Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger would sign it.

California Assemblywoman Patty Berg, a co-author of the bill, contended most Californians support the measure, but it faces tough opposition from the Roman Catholic Church, some conservative Protestant churches and the California Medical Association.

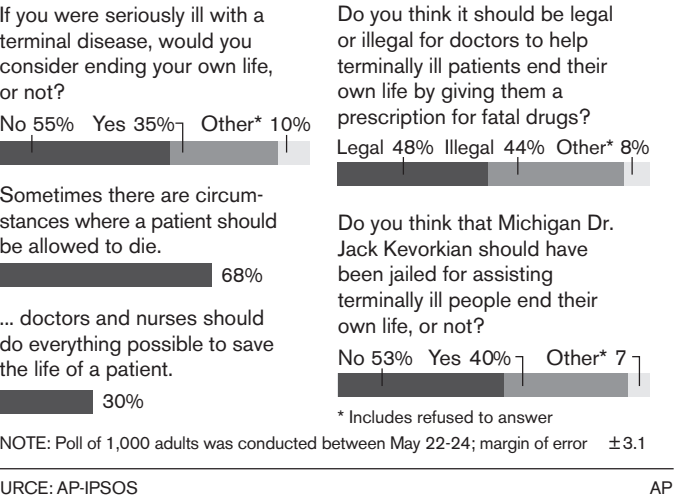
The AP-Ipsos poll showed that religious faith is a significant factor in people's views.

Only 34 percent of those who attend religious services at least once a week think it should be legal for doctors to help terminally ill patients end their own lives. In contrast, 70 percent of those who never attend religious services thought the practice should be legal.

Other division included those along partisan lines, with 57 percent of Democrats saying it should be legal for doctors to help terminally ill patients end

Divided over patients' right-to-die

Most Americans believe there are some circumstances where a patient should be allowed to die, but they are more closely divided on a doctor's role in death.



SOURCE: AP-IPSONS
AP

their own lives compared to 39 percent of Republicans.

The AP-Ipsos poll involved telephone interviews with 1,000

randomly chosen adults from May 22-24. The margin of sampling error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

New Orleans aims to build itself ‘up’



BILL HABER / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A giant poster shows what the proposed Trump Tower in downtown New Orleans will look like. The \$400 mil-

lion construction project would create the city's largest building. Though no actual construction had begun,

the project is still 'going ahead' as many other high-rise projects in New Orleans fall through.

Trump, high-rise developers still show sluggish progress despite government subsidies

By **MICHAEL KUNZELMAN**
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Lured by congressionally authorized tax credits and other financial incentives after Hurricane Katrina, a procession of developers announced plans to build high-rises in the city.

But 20 months after the storm, most have fallen by the wayside. The slow pace of the recovery gets much of the blame. New Orleans still has no comprehensive rebuilding blueprint, and funding is falling far short of planners' expectations.

Adding to the tension for commercial investors, construction and insurance costs have soared.

"There have been a lot of announcements, but you don't see a lot of cranes, do you?" said Michael Siegel, executive vice president of Corporate Realty Inc., a New Orleans-based brokerage.

At least one big plan — a \$400 million proposal by Donald Trump to construct the city's tallest building — is going ahead, although the only visible sign at the planned site of the Trump International Hotel & Tower is the tycoon's name

painted on a brick-wall mural. Not to worry, said Trump's son, Donald Jr. The city's slow recovery, he said, hasn't derailed the plan to build more than 700 units of condos and hotel rooms in the city's central business district. But while the Trump proposal is making its way through the city approval process, most other projects have seen more hype than hard hats. Many have stalled or fallen apart.

David da Cunha, president of the commercial investment division for the New Orleans Metropolitan Association of Realtors, said many develop-

ers are waiting for government leaders to devise a clear rebuilding plan before they invest.

Doubts about the strength of the city's flood protection system also weigh on developers' minds, said city planning administrator Arlen Brunson. When Katrina struck on Aug. 29, 2005, levees broke and flooded about 80 percent of New Orleans. The water extended well into the business district, and hurricane-force winds blew out windows in many high-rises.

The Army Corps of Engineers is pumping billions of dollars into flood protection improve-

ments. But the Corps itself acknowledges some levees are not up to federally mandated standards set before Katrina.

The Trumps, at least, have not been deterred. "This is going to be a big statement for the city and its recovery," Donald Trump Jr. said recently. "It's not charity, but we do think it's one of America's great cities and we want to be there to support it any way we can."

The Trump project is one of eight new luxury condo complexes, totaling more than 8,000 units, approved by the city planning commission since Katrina.

Supreme Court sets pay-discrimination suit deadline

By **MARK SHERMAN**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court limited workers' ability to sue for pay discrimination Tuesday, ruling against a Goodyear employee who earned thousands of dollars less than her male counterparts but waited too long to complain.

The 5-4 decision underscored a provision in a federal civil-rights law that sets a 180-day deadline for employees to claim they are being paid less because of their race, sex, religion or national origin.

Without a deadline, Justice Samuel Alito wrote for the court, employers would find it difficult to defend against claims "arising from employment decisions that are long past."

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg urged Congress to amend the law to correct the court's "par-

simonious reading" of it.

Lilly Ledbetter, a longtime supervisor at Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s plant in Gadsden, Ala., said sex discrimination was behind a series of decisions that left her pay significantly below that of men who performed similar work.

After 19 years with Goodyear, Ledbetter was making \$45,000 a year, \$6,500 less than the lowest-paid male supervisor. The company said poor performance evaluations, not discrimination, were behind Ledbetter's salary. She retired in 1998, shortly after claiming discrimination.

A jury sided with Ledbetter, but an appeals court overturned the verdict because she had waited too long to begin her lawsuit. The Supreme Court agreed that workers who wait too long under the civil rights law are out of luck. Alito said that "the passage of time may seriously diminish the ability of the parties and the factfind-

er to reconstruct what actually happened."

In this case, he said, one supervisor who Ledbetter claimed retaliated against her after she rejected his sexual advances died before the trial began. Ledbetter said she didn't sue earlier because employees are less willing to rock the boat when they are new on the job and have no reason to believe that there could be such pay disparity.

Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., said she will write legislation to make clear that workers like Ledbetter could use old evidence of unequal pay to demonstrate they are being discriminated against now. The decision broke along ideological lines

"This short deadline reflects Congress' strong preference for the prompt resolution of employment discrimination allegations through voluntary conciliation and cooperation," Alito wrote for the majority.

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Traveler with tuberculosis quarantined

ATLANTA — A man with a rare and exceptionally dangerous form of tuberculosis has been placed in quarantine by the U.S. government after possibly exposing passengers and crew on two trans-Atlantic flights earlier this month, health officials said Tuesday.

This is the first time since 1963 that the government issued a quarantine order, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The man flew from Atlanta to Paris on May 12. He returned to North America on May 24. He then drove into the United States.

He cooperated with authorities after learning he had an unusually dangerous form of TB. He voluntarily went to a hospital and is not facing prosecution, officials said.

The man is hospitalized in Atlanta in respiratory isolation, according to the World Health Organization. CDC officials recommended medical exams for cabin crew members on those flights, as well as passengers sitting in the same rows or within two rows.

Obama spells out health care plan

IOWA CITY — Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama on Tuesday offered a plan to provide health care to millions of Americans and more affordable medical insurance, financed in part by tax increases on the wealthy.

Bemoaning a health care "cost crisis," Obama said it was unacceptable that 47 million in the country are uninsured while others are struggling to pay their medical bills. He said the time is ripe for reforming the health care system Obama's plan retains the private insurance system but injects additional money to pay for expanding coverage. Those who can't afford coverage would get a subsidy on a sliding scale depending on their income, and virtually all businesses would have to share in the cost of coverage for their workers.

Obama didn't mention that his plan would cost the federal treasury an estimated \$50 billion to \$65 billion a year once fully implemented. That information was provided in a memo written by three outside experts and distributed by the campaign after his speech.

Romney to donate salary if elected

DOVER, N.H. — Republican Mitt Romney said Tuesday he would likely give his presidential salary — and more — to charity.

During a session with Liberty Mutual employees, Romney said that despite his personal wealth — his assets likely will total \$190 million to \$250 million — he has committed himself to public service, from head of the 2002 Winter Olympics to one-term governor of Massachusetts.

"I wouldn't disqualify somebody by virtue of their financial wealth or their financial poverty," Romney said.

Later, speaking with reporters, Romney said he would likely accept the presidential salary of \$400,000 annually but donate the money. While governor, Romney declined his \$135,000 annual salary. Romney's assets makes him the wealthiest of all the presidential candidates.

Bush answers foes of immigration plan

GLYNCO, Ga. — President Bush attacked opponents of an immigration deal Tuesday, suggesting they "don't want to do what's right for America."

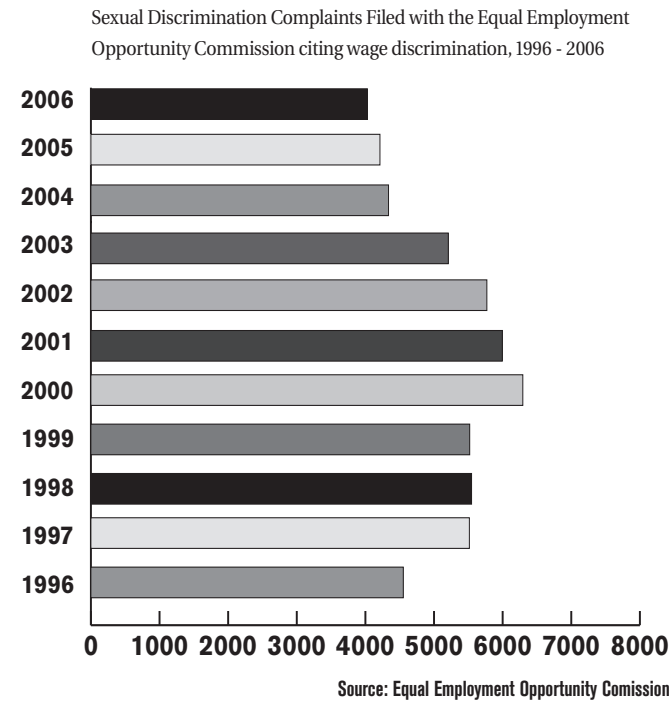
He spoke as conservative critics blast a Senate proposal as being soft on people who break the law. Hoping to blunt the message, Bush emphasized that any new options for immigrants and foreign workers would not start until tougher security is in place.

The presidential stop came during a congressional recess. Bush's aim is to build momentum for the legislation, perhaps his best chance for a signature victory in his second term. The Senate expects to resume debate on it next week.

The bill would give temporary legal status to millions of unlawful immigrants, provided they come forward, pay a fine and undergo criminal background checks.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal wage discrimination reports



STATE BRIEFS

Fundraising to save home of comedian

SAN ANTONIO – A local organization led by former U.S. housing secretary Henry Cisneros has committed to raise enough money to save the childhood home of comedian Carol Burnett.

American Sunrise, a nonprofit housing and education program, said it will raise the \$75,000 to \$100,000 needed to move the century-old house from its location in San Antonio. The Bill Miller Bar-B-Q restaurant chain wants to use the site for a parking lot.

Cisneros said the house will become a part of the American Sunrise campus in San Antonio.

Burnett, whose career included Broadway and “The Carol Burnett Show” on CBS, lived in the Victorian home until she was 7. She has often spoken of her memories of the house, including cold enchiladas for breakfast, donated used girls clothes and roller-skating on the hardwood floors.

Tech med school expanding to 4-year

EL PASO – The El Paso campus of the Texas Tech University medical school will expand into a complete four-year medical school by 2009 now that Texas lawmakers have approved start-up funding, officials said.

The state budget approved this week by the Texas Legislature includes \$48 million for the El Paso branch of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. The budget is now in the hands of Gov. Rick Perry, who has supported expansion of the campus.

Supporters of the medical school have argued that El Paso and the border region suffer from a lack of doctors, and that a medical school will help focus treatment on diseases affecting the area, such as diabetes, obesity and depression.

Dr. Robert Suskind, the school’s founding dean, said Texas Tech is preparing for a summer meeting with the accreditation board that must authorize the campus to accept four-year students.

Lawmakers first approved expanding the El Paso campus to a four-year medical school in 2003. The Legislature denied the funding request in 2005.

Escaped inmate still on the loose

HOUSTON – Authorities were looking Tuesday for an inmate who escaped from a downtown Houston prison.

Andrew Dale Coley, 25, went missing Monday night from the South Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility, Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark said.

Officials believe Coley escaped by getting over a fence in a recreation area and making his way into the ventilation system.

Coley was serving a two-year sentence for auto theft in Galveston County. He was incarcerated since January 2006.

Clark said the privately run, low-security prison holds about 450 inmates.

16 get up to 4 years for selling U.S. IDs

CORPUS CHRISTI – Sixteen people convicted of selling their birth certificates and social security numbers for use by illegal immigrants received punishments ranging from probation to more than four years in prison, prosecutors said Tuesday.

All pleaded guilty in March, with several telling a federal judge they needed to make a few extra dollars and received \$100 or more in return for valid documents. They were sentenced Friday.

Federal investigators found that the documents were sold to illegal immigrants in Dodge City, Kan., for as much as \$700 a set. The immigrants used the identities to get jobs in area meat packing plants.

The defendants were indicted in January after a six-year federal investigation. Investigators said the ring sold thousands of documents and earned hundreds of thousands of dollars.

—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cancer victims have zest for life
Arkansas Angels arrange for special weekend reuniting terminally ill mom, daughter

By CINDY V. CULP
Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO — As Hatch Bailey’s family ate lunch, the words that spilled from their lips were enough to fill a thousand story lines.

The meal was part of a day at a local spa that had been arranged for Hatch’s wife, Yvonne, and his mother-in-law, Bernice Mize.

Both have terminal cancer. Both are receiving hospice services. Neither had expected to see each other again, at least in this life.

But there they were, at a table just yards from where they had just gotten primped and pampered, wrapped in white waffle-weave robes. As they enjoyed a meal that started with salad, then moved on to gourmet pizza, they talked about everything ranging from SAT scores to white cell counts.

Hatch, a prominent Waco funeral director, didn’t want to waste a minute of precious family time and proceeded to ask Yvonne and Bernice a series of questions, eliciting words of wisdom, words of humor and, most noticeably, words of faith.

Hatch also posed some questions to his and Yvonne’s four sons. Ages 13 to 21, they seemed uncannily at ease as they talked about what they have learned from their mother’s and grandmother’s illnesses.

Rounding out the discussion were Kim Clatworthy and Candace Millwood. They work at the Little Rock, Ark., hospice where Bernice is now an inpatient. They’re the reason Bernice was in Waco.

Clatworthy is the founder of a group called Arkansas Hospice Angels. It provides love and support to patients by providing them spa treatments and other pick-me-ups.

When Bernice was nominated for the group’s services recently, she remarked to Clatworthy that the only thing that could make a day at the spa better was if she could do it with her daughter.

Bernice had hoped to visit her daughter again, but, by the end of April, the breast cancer she has battled for a decade was bad enough to cause her to check into a hospice. With both women so ill, they came to terms with the idea that their phone conversations would probably be their last communications.

But Bernice’s comments laid on Clatworthy’s heart. After mulling over the situation, Clatworthy started trying to line up a trip to Waco. A pilot friend of a business contact volunteered his time and his plane, and a church in Little Rock raised money for jet fuel.

On Mother’s Day, Bernice called Yvonne and told her the news. Then on the following Wednesday, she arrived in Waco. When Yvonne got up to greet her, it was the first time she had been out of bed in nearly a week.

As the two women ate lunch last week, though, it was hard to believe either is terminally ill.

There were some obvious signs. Both women are nearly bald because of cancer treatments.

But both mother and daughter still have a zest for life. They attribute it to the support they have gotten from their family and friends and, most importantly, the relationship they have with God.

“I don’t know how anyone could ever go through this without the Lord,” said Bernice, who is 68. “That’s where my strength comes from.”

Yvonne agreed, saying that when the melanoma she was first diagnosed with in 2001 came back in



ROY AYDELOTTE / WACO TRIBUNE-HERALD

Bernice Mize, left, and her daughter, Yvonne Bailey, both have terminal cancer. But they have not let that prevent them from spending quality time together. Arkansas Hospice Angels recently helped them get together at a Waco spa for a special weekend, possibly their last together.

February last year, the first thing she did was drop to her knees and ask God to use her situation for his glory. Since then she has seen him do that in incredible ways, she said.

Yvonne has struck out on a number of adventures over the past year, she said. She learned to fly fish and landed a five-pound bass on one trip. She also took flying lessons and, better yet, went up with an aerobatics pilot who took her for loops and turns and gravity-defying falls all right over her house in the McGregor area.

Just because she has put her trust in Jesus doesn’t mean her illness has been a cakewalk, she said.

There have been plenty of physical trials. But the most difficult thing has been the emotional struggles.

“The hardest part is not me dying,” Yvonne said.

“I’m at a real peace with that. I think the hardest thing for me is watching my family and my boys and Hatch. Your mother is not supposed to die when you are 13 or when you are 21.”

Still, illness inevitably changes things, Yvonne said, and one aspect of her cancer that has been overwhelming at times is all of the attention. She cherishes the love and support that have been lavished upon her, she said, but it has still been a major adjustment to be the center of attention.

“You learn a lot about yourself when you go

around bald in public,” Yvonne said.

She has never wrestled with the question of whether she made a difference in the world, she said. All she has to do is look at her sons and she knows what her lasting impact is, she said.

“I’ve never once asked, ‘Why me?’” Yvonne said. “Why not me? ... I have a very blessed life. I’ve made it 47 years with an incredible life.”

Yvonne and Bernice’s situation is certainly special because of the mother and daughter link, Clatworthy said. But what has really stood out to her is the way the family has fought to make the most of the time they have together. As the mother of boys herself, Clatworthy said Yvonne has been a role model for her.

“I want to be like her when I die,” Clatworthy said. “I’ve seen lots of people die, but I’ve never seen anyone do it with quite the grace or dignity she has.”

Soon after that, a spa worker told Yvonne and Bernice she was ready for them again, and they headed to one of the treatment rooms.

That mix of poignancy and practicality repeated itself throughout the rest of the visit. As Bernice got back on the plane to Little Rock, it marked the end of a bittersweet visit.

But to mother and daughter, it was just another step in the dance of living one day at a time while living each day for eternity.

School officials hit with charges

By JEFF CARLTON
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Two former Dallas school district officials are accused of taking bribes from a Houston businessman whose company was awarded nearly \$40 million in technology contracts, according to a federal indictment unsealed Tuesday.

William Frederick Coleman III, the former deputy superintendent and chief operating officer for Dallas schools, and former chief technology officer Ruben B. Bohuchot were accused of taking kickbacks to help win contracts for Micro Systems Engineering Inc, owned by Frankie Logyang Wong.

The indictment alleges the three men also laundered about \$2.5 million to disguise payments from Micro Systems to Bohuchot, Coleman and others.

All three men face charges of bribery, conspiracy to commit bribery through a program receiving federal funds and conspiracy to commit money laundering. They are also facing charges of obstruction of justice and making false statements on tax returns.

Bohuchot, 59, and Wong, 46, pleaded not guilty in federal court Tuesday and were released under travel restrictions pending trial. Coleman, 52, who left the Dallas Independent School District before the contracts were awarded, was expected to surrender late Tuesday, authorities said. The indictment alleges Coleman served as a facilitator between Wong and Bohuchot, who was in charge of technology contracts for Dallas public schools. The district eventually awarded two contracts worth \$39 million to the Houston-based company. Bertram Marks, Coleman’s

“It’s UNTHINKABLE THAT A MAN OF HIS INTEGRITY WOULD BE ACCUSED OF ANYTHING...”

— BERTRAM MARKS

attorney in the Detroit area, strongly denied the allegations.

“It’s just unthinkable that a man with his integrity would be accused of anything, let alone indicted,” Marks said.

In May 2002, Wong’s company paid for a trip to Key West, Fla., for the three men and their wives. There, they discussed a contract to provide computers before DISD had issued a public request for purchase, and inside information helped Wong win a \$4 million contract.

The indictment alleges Wong and Coleman created shell companies to conceal payments from Micro Systems to Bohuchot, and the company bought a \$300,000 yacht that Bohuchot named the Sir Veza II.

Bohuchot reached a settlement with the district and left in November 2005, interim district spokesman Jon Dahlander said. He said the district moved to fire Bohuchot but wouldn’t disclose why.

At least two years have passed since the district’s contract with Micro Systems ended, Dahlander said, and it has made conflict-of-interest policies more stringent.

“There are 20,000 employees within the school district,” Dahlander said. “If someone wants to work hard enough to circumvent the rules, they’re going to find a way. But we do the best we can with what we’ve got to try and guard against that.”

Session a bust for gov

By KELLEY SHANNON
The Associated Press

If anyone knows you can’t always get what you want from the Texas Legislature, it’s Gov. Rick Perry.

The Republican governor got batted down on his attempt to require cervical cancer vaccinations and on his proposal to sell the state lottery, in part to fund cancer research.

But he scored when legislators offered to let voters decide in November whether the state can to borrow up to \$3 billion to pay for his \$3 billion cancer research goal. Perry said he’ll campaign for the measure, even though the deal didn’t go down exactly as he’d hoped.

“We will look back at this session as the linchpin in the fight against cancer,” Perry said at the Capitol on Tuesday, assessing the legislative session that ended at midnight Monday.

Perry couldn’t get the House or Senate to go along with his proposal for tougher local government spending caps or his pleas for property appraisal limits, additional tax relief and what he calls truth-in-budgeting.

On the other hand, he got a long-sought victory in landing the \$100 million he requested from the Legislature for border security.

Overall, the nearly five-month legislative session was a mixed bag for Perry.

“The last 140 days reminded me of watching an old Clint Eastwood movie. It was a session that featured ‘The Good, The Bad and The Ugly,’” Perry said.

While he said he had some disappointments and there was unfinished business for the future, he stopped short of saying there was any dangling item that would lead him to call a 30-day special session. The next regular session is in January 2009.

He praised lawmakers for



HARRY CABLUCK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Rick Perry speaks about the legislative session he said reminded him of “The Good, the Bad and the Ugly” Tuesday.

“If TEXANS HAD A BAD TASTE IN THEIR MOUTH FROM THE SESSION, I WOULD SAY I COULDN’T BLAME THEM.”

— RICK PERRY

delivering the money he wanted for border security; making good on school property tax reductions promised last year; creating a health insurance opportunity pool; increasing college financial aid; implementing higher education performance incentives; and dedicating more money for state parks.

He criticized legislators for the conflict that engulfed the Legislature.

“If Texans had a bad taste in their mouth from the session, I would say I couldn’t blame them,” Perry said. “There was way too much acrimony . . . I’m glad legislators are leaving town so that there is time for the wounds to heal.”

House business stalled several times over the past weekend



KAREN WARREN / HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Tom Tucker, owner of Tomball's Graco Awards, holds a Purple Heart made by his company. Each medal represents a painstaking attention to details, such as the tiny green leaves which surround the red-and-white Washington family crest. These details are painted on by hand and

require employees to use magnifying glasses. The ongoing wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have increased the demand for the medals, which are given to those soldiers wounded in combat and the families of soldiers killed in combat.

Heart work: Houston plant, former Army captain produce medals for wounded soldiers

By **ROSANNA RUIZ**
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — A small manufacturing plant in Tomball owes much of its success to a product nobody wants. The 60 or so employees at Graco Awards make Purple Hearts, among other medals, primarily for the U.S. government.

Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have increased demand for the medals, which are presented to soldiers wounded in combat and to the survivors of those killed on the battlefield.

But Tom Tucker, who bought Graco Awards three years ago, said the medals are always big sellers either to veterans of previous wars seeking replacements or wholesalers who service military bases.

"We have always had trouble keeping Purple Hearts in stock," Tucker said. "Before the war, during the war, it's just always a high-demand item."

Tucker, a former Army captain, doesn't need publicity to sell his product, and he rarely lets outsiders into his unassuming 3,000-square-foot plant. But he gave the Houston Chronicle a tour.

The first thing a visitor notices after entering the plant is the strong epoxy aroma. Along a hallway hang displays of Graco-made medals, including obscure campaign medals issued for the Spanish-American War and National Guard medals for each state.

Tucker leads the way to a work area where tables are loaded with ribbons, packing boxes and other materials. Vietnam War medals, tucked into small plastic bags, are

piled high on one table. The medals, which all have the same yellow ribbons, need to be packed into boxes for shipment to meet a pressing deadline, Tucker said.

Onward through a dingy white door are three women stationed at tidy work areas, where they hand-paint finishing touches to nearly all of the medals that leave the plant.

It's intricate work that requires them to use magnifying lenses to paint the tiny details, such as the small green leaves that surround George Washington's red-and-white family crest on the Purple Heart.

Rebecca Aguilar just finished a tray of 24 combat-infantry badges. She applied the light-blue background around the crossed rifles.

The three-year Graco worker said she can paint 200 Purple Hearts an hour. Those medals, in particular, take more time than most.

Her supervisor's son, David Lowder, wears at least two medals made by Graco on his Navy uniform.

"He has the War on Terror Service medal," said Janette Harper, the

sailor's mother and a 10-year Graco employee. "We're the only ones who have done those contracts, so it definitely came from here."

On the wall above Aguilar's desk are yellowed newspaper clippings about those awarded Graco medals, including one recent article about a Medal of Honor recipient.

"Most of the people who have been here for any length of time just love what we do," Harper said.

From Harper and Aguilar's office, Tucker makes his way to a back area where men work behind table saws to churn out plaques, trophy bases and other products.

Tucker then heads through a storage area where boxes are ready for shipment. He points out coils of brass from which the medals are made. The company goes through 5,000 to 10,000 pounds of brass each month, he said.

Tucker's tour pauses at what appear to be ordinary baking pans, loaded with bronze medals, stacked on the factory floor.

The back side of the unfinished medals bears the engraved words "For Military Merit," and the mounting points on the face await the application of George Washington's gold-plated image and the hand-painted details.

Tucker sometimes coyly declines to answer questions that might reveal trade secrets. There are no over-the-shoulder views of the Purple Heart in production.

It's a patriotic enterprise that Tucker does not take lightly.

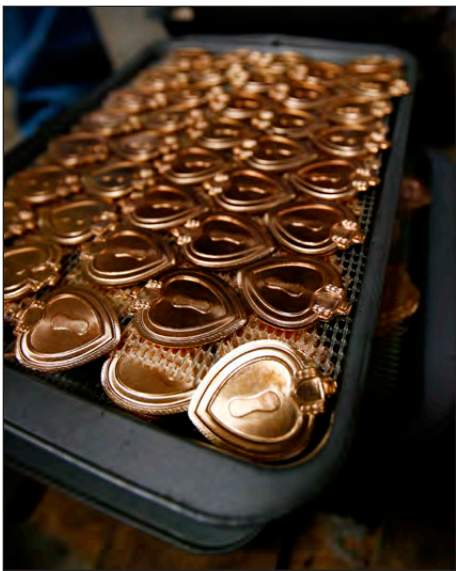
"At the end of the day, we can actually say we've made a difference," he said. "The men and women who serve this country, they earn these awards. We're just really proud to be part of that process."

PURPLE HEART FACTS

History The original Purple Heart, the Badge of Military Merit, was established by Gen. George Washington in 1782. He directed it be heart-shaped and purple. Three noncommissioned officers received it.

Expansion It was not awarded again until after World War I. In 1942, President Roosevelt ordered that the medal be extended to the Navy, Marine Corps and the Coast Guard after the Pearl Harbor attack. In 1962, civilians were included among those eligible to receive the medal.

Recently From July 1958 to March 2003, approximately 235,000 Purple Hearts were awarded, according to the Military Awards Branch.



KAREN WARREN / HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Newly minted Purple Hearts await the next step in production. They must be painted and have a ribbon attached before they are given to soldiers and families.

"BEFORE THE WAR, DURING THE WAR, IT'S JUST ALWAYS A HIGH-DEMAND ITEM,"
— TOM TUCKER, ON PURPLE HEARTS

'Army Wives' could become TV channel's heroes



LIFETIME TELEVISION

Kim Delaney and Brian McNamara, who play wife and husband in "Army Wives," attend the Military Ball in the first episode of the new Lifetime series, which premieres Sunday. The drama is about the lives of civilians whose spouses go off to war.

By **JANICE RHOSHALLE -LITTLEJOHN**
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Denise Sherwood tugs on her necklace as she watches her husband board the bus. There are no tears, but her sullen look reveals her fears as the Army major embarks on a three-month tour of duty in the Middle East.

It's an all-too-familiar scene across the country these days — and one played out in the pilot episode of the new Lifetime ensemble drama, "Army Wives," about the lives of the women — and one man — left behind when their soldier spouses go off to war.

Lifetime billed the 13-episode series, which premieres Sunday (9 p.m. CDT), as one of the biggest summer launches in the history of the female-focused cable channel.

"I wanted to make the premiere a special event," says Lifetime Entertainment Chief Susanne Daniels.

During the past few seasons, the

once top-rated network has failed to garner a hit original series. So with ratings and revenues down last year, Daniels is using "Army Wives" to anchor a slate of new scripted projects designed to flip the channel's fortunes.

The closest thing that Lifetime has had to a defining hit in recent years was "Strong Medicine," which ran for six seasons. Yet "Army Wives" could do it again, says Daniels, because it has "a unique voice, and we're always looking for stories that aren't being told on television right now."

The series centers on the stresses of military life for civilian spouses and the unlikely camaraderie between five of those sharing a common bond: the soldiers they each love.

It stars Kim Delaney as Claudia Joy Holden, the respected colonel's wife, and Catherine Bell as Sherwood, a housewife with a violent teenage son.

"There have always been stories

about the home front during war," executive producer Mark Gordon ("Grey's Anatomy") says. "But we haven't seen anything really about what's going on today with the women and men whose husbands or wives are in the military here at home or overseas."

"Army Wives" is based on the book "Under the Sabers: The Unwritten Code of Army Wives" by Tanya Biank.

But unlike the failed FX drama, "Over There," about soldiers on the front lines, or CBS's "The Unit," which tells the stories of both the covert operatives in the field and their significant others at home, "Army Wives" dwells entirely on the families back on the base.

"These are the heroes at home," says Delaney, 45, on the phone from Charleston, S.C., where the series is filmed. "These are the women that take care of the kids, the houses and themselves."



BLAZING UP:
Dutch government taking steps to make marijuana laws more secure



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A NEW BATTLEFIELD

For coverage of returning soldiers and the struggle of rehab, please see page 6.

Staff Sgt. Brad Alexander, left, and Spc. Frank Fields work out together at the new Center for the Intrepid, a \$50 million high-tech rehabilitation facility. The center, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, is designed to serve the growing number of soldiers who are returning from war as amputees or with severe burns.

TB scare raises concern

TUBERCULOSIS

- ★The **airborne**, infectious disease usually affects the lungs, but can attack any part of the body
- ★There are two ways people can be afflicted
 - ✓ **Tuberculosis bacteria infection:** The **carrier is protected** from becoming sick
 - ✓ **Tuberculosis, the active disease:** The carrier is sick and **can pass the disease to others**
- ★A person with the bacteria may take preventative medicine, but a person who contracts the disease may need medical treatment

Source: <http://www.lunguse.org>

Breakdown in border security exposes potential problems

By **LAURAN NEERGAARD**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is investigating how the globe-trotting tuberculosis patient drove into the country after his name was put on a watch list given to U.S. border guards. The episode showed a major gap in the nation's system to keep the worst diseases from crossing borders. That the Atlanta man and his wife were cleared by border agents is one in a series of missed opportunities to catch a patient seemingly determined to elude health officials. Worried infection specialists say it shows how vulnerable the nation is

BREAKING NEWS:

The Center for Disease Control has announced 107 people need to be tested for tuberculosis after flying with a man carrying a dangerous strain of tuberculosis.

See more coverage on Page 4.

because of outdated quarantine laws and the speed of international travel. What if, they ask, the now-quarantined man had carried something very contagious like the next super-flu? "It's regretful that we weren't able to stop that," Dr. Martin Cetron of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said of how the man fled when U.S. health officials tracked him down in Rome and told him not to get on an airplane. "There will be many lessons

learned from this." The CDC did not get the man's name to the no-fly list until he was apparently en route to Canada, Cetron said. The CDC did get word to U.S. Customs and Border Patrol before the man and his wife crossed into the country at Champlain, N.Y., a Department of Homeland Security spokesman told The Associated Press on Wednesday. Customs spokesman Russ Knocke said they are "reviewing the facts" of the decision to admit individuals into the country. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said the case "shows that something is wrong with the training and supervision of our border agents. We put all this time and effort into identifying those who shouldn't enter our country, but what good is it if it can be brushed aside by a border guard? I shudder to think that this individual could have been a terrorist."

South Padre aims to educate spring breakers on safety

By **LYNN BREZOSKY**
The Associated Press

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND — Police, aldermen and marketers are hoping to come up with a safer and more sober day at the beach for one of America's top spring break destinations. They are concerned about the raucous reputation that is attached to March at South Padre and are meeting with public-policy and mental-health experts this week to come up with a campaign to tame the lucrative annual tradition. "We recognize there are challenges involved, but we want to be proactive," said Dan Quandt, executive director of the South Padre Island Convention and Visitors Bureau. For the month of March, police responded to 83 reports of assaults, 161 reports of public

intoxication, 65 reports of criminal mischief, and 111 reports of "suspicious person." There were 165 calls for an ambulance. In the recent past, an 18-year-old man died after jumping or falling from a rooftop patio at about 3 a.m.; an intoxicated 21-year-old woman drowned after passing out during a night club foam party; and a 22-year-old man was stabbed to death, reportedly by a stranger. This year brought about 80,000 spring breakers. With each spending \$250, officials estimate their cash expenditure to be about \$20 million. Denise Bulling, a counselor and senior researcher with the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center, said next year's approach could involve educational campaigns targeting home states, deluging spring break hotels and condomini-

ums with safety literature, and setting up 24-hour help lines for women who have been assaulted but are reluctant to go to police. While the island triples its police force in March and tries to enforce laws to keep drunken students from falling off the backs of pickup trucks or getting into brawls, there's little that officials can do about some behavior. City Manager Dewey Cashwell said some messages were obviously not getting out to everyone. "There are two things kids are here for, and that's to drink and have sex," he said. "The gyrations on the stage are nothing short of what you'd see at a strip club. ... You combine alcohol and that music and the hormones and somewhere along the line someone's going to act out."

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND DO'S AND DON'TS:

Spring break safety tips for students, by students

"Never go on your own, and if you're in a bar and you put your drink down, get another one. **Always use the buddy system.**"
— Mary Jane of Austin

"Don't drive across the dunes ... it is illegal!"
— Chris of Kansas

"There are never lifeguards, and **don't underestimate the current.** ... Check the warning signs to see if [jellyfish] are out in full force."
— Anonymous

Source: VirtualTourist.com



COMING SUNDAY

GOING GREEN

Science writer Seth Borstein offers a state-by-state analysis of which states are working to lower greenhouse gas emissions and which aren't.



Not taking a stance

Exxon Mobile's chief says his firm will focus on finding new supplies, despite criticism

By **JOHN PORRETTO**
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Exxon Mobil Corp. reiterated its position Wednesday that creating far-reaching policies to reduce harmful greenhouse-gas emissions is important but premature, even as some shareholders lambasted the oil giant for what they said was an irresponsible and even dangerous environmental stance. Record profits aside, a dozen or so of the 450 attending the world's largest publicly traded oil company's annual shareholder meeting downtown criticized the firm. In particular, many environmentally minded investors and shareholder activists asked the Irving-based company to set quantitative goals for reducing greenhouse-gas emissions and to commit to greater investment in renewable energy sources. They got neither. Instead, Chairman and Chief Executive Rex Tillerson continued to insist that the prudent strategy was to focus on finding and producing new supplies of crude oil and natural gas. The reason: Exxon Mobil is a petroleum and petrochemi-

cal company, and worldwide demand for its products will persist for decades. Citing forecasts from the International Energy Agency, Exxon Mobil predicts that fossil fuels will continue to supply roughly 80 percent of the world's energy needs in 2030. Tillerson, leading his second shareholder meeting, called the climate-change debate an important issue but said, "There are some things we know, some things we don't know." "What I find perplexing is why people feel so threatened because we want to have a discussion about it," he said. Exxon Mobil has touted its \$100 million donation to Stanford University for a project to speed development of commercially viable energy technology that can lower greenhouse-gas emissions on a large scale. The company, whose \$39.5 billion profit last year was the largest ever by a U.S. company, also has said it's on target to improve energy efficiency by 10 percent at its global refining operations by 2012. But that has done little to

Please see **POLICIES**, Page 2

Bush calls Zoellick ‘eminently’ qualified

By **JEANNINE AVERSA**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush on Wednesday tapped his former trade chief and No. 2 diplomat, Robert Zoellick, to run the World Bank, to try to mend wounds inflicted by outgoing president Paul Wolfowitz.

Zoellick, 53, would succeed Wolfowitz, who is stepping down June 30 after a special bank panel found that he broke bank rules when he arranged a hefty compensation package in 2005 for his girlfriend, Shaha Riza, a bank employee.

Bush's selection of Zoellick must be approved by the World Bank's 24-member board.

Zoellick, who is a seasoned veteran of politics both inside the Beltway and on the international stage, is known for pulling facts and figures off the top of his head. He also has a reputation for being a demanding boss.

“Bob Zoellick has had a long and distinguished career in diplomacy and development economics,” Bush said. “It has prepared him well for this new assignment. This man is eminently qualified,” Bush said.

Internationally, the reaction to Bush's choice was generally positive, although some public health groups and others expressed concern about Zoellick's ability to carry out the institution's mission.

French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner welcomed Zoellick's appointment. Asked whether Zoellick was the right man for the job, Kouchner said, “Certainly.”

“In between the partners and the World Bank, it is mainly a question of confidence, and I hope that Mr. Zoellick will re-establish — or establish — confidence in between all of them,” Kouchner told reporters Wednesday on his arrival at a meeting of Group of Eight



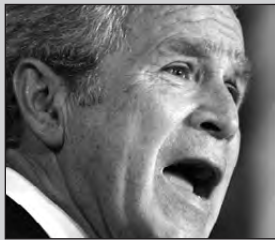
AMY ZERBA / SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

Robert Zoellick, former deputy secretary of State, will replace outgoing World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz. President Bush announced his decision Wednesday, but a 24-member board must approve.

foreign ministers in Potsdam, Germany. “This is absolutely crucial.”

European Commission Presi-

dent Jose Manuel Barroso said, “I certainly respect very much Mr. Zoellick,” but declined to comment further.



WHAT GEORGE BUSH HAD TO SAY

- ★ “Bob Zoellick has had a **long and distinguished career in diplomacy and development economics**. It has prepared him well for this new assignment.”
- ★ “Bob Zoellick is **the right man to succeed Paul [Wolfowitz]** in this vital work. He's a leader who motivates employees; he builds a constituent support and focuses on achieving goals.”
- ★ “He is **deeply devoted** to the mission of the World Bank. He **wants to help** struggling nations defeat poverty, to grow their economies and **offer their people the hope of a better life.**”

iTunes shirks copy protection

Unrestricted music
now costs more
with each download

By **MAY WONG**
The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Apple Inc.'s iTunes Store started selling thousands of songs without copy protection Wednesday, making the trendsetting company's latest coup a model for what analysts say will likely become a pattern for online music sales.

Launching initially with songs from music company EMI Group PLC, iTunes Plus features tracks that are free of digital rights management, or DRM, technology — copy-protection software that limits where songs or movies can be played and distributed.

The unrestricted content means some songs purchased from iTunes will work for the first time directly on portable players other than Apple's iPod, including Microsoft Corp.'s Zune.

The inaugural batch of iTunes Plus songs includes music from Coldplay, The Rolling Stones, Norah Jones, Frank

Sinatra, Pink Floyd and more than a dozen of Paul McCartney's classic albums.

The DRM-free tracks feature a higher sound quality and cost \$1.29 apiece — 30 cents more than the usual 99-cent price of other, copy-protected songs at the market-leading online music store.

If available, users could upgrade existing purchases to DRM-free versions for 30 cents a song or \$3 for most albums, Apple said.

Smaller online music vendors, such as eMusic.com, already offer songs without DRM, but the selections have been limited to mostly content from independent labels.

Earlier this year, Apple CEO Steve Jobs called on the world's four major record companies to start selling songs online without copy-protection software.

In a statement Wednesday, Jobs reiterated Apple expects that more than half of the 5 million songs on iTunes will feature a DRM-free version by the end of the year.

In the meantime, Apple's iTunes Store will continue to offer songs in the same copy-protected format as today at 99-cents-per-download and

encoded at 128 kilobits per second. The iTunes Plus versions are encoded at 256 kbps, which Apple says makes the audio quality on par with original recordings.

Apple also will continue to encode its songs — including EMI's DRM-free content — in the AAC audio format, which could force some users to go through an extra step of converting tunes into a version that would be compatible with their players.

Some gadgets don't support AAC, including SanDisk's newest Sansa Connect or Samsung Electronics Co.'s YP-K3, but industry analyst Susan Kevorkian of the IDC market research company expects support for AAC will widen following Apple's move this week.

The next generation of digital music will be untethered from usage restrictions, Kevorkian predicts. It's something major music labels will have to do if they want to combat the industry's years long decline of music CD sales, she said.

“They absolutely have to reach the Internet to drive music sales, and part of that is to remove the hurdle that comes with the lack of interoperability,” Kevorkian said.

EXXON: Firm viewed as behind

— Continued from Page 1

appease those who say Exxon places profits ahead of a clean environment and has funded groups to cast doubt on the science of global warming.

Exxon Mobil is viewed among many environmentalists as a laggard compared to competitors such as BP PLC, ConocoPhillips and Royal Dutch Shell's U.S. arm, which have joined a corporate-environmental coalition urging Congress to require limits on greenhouse gases tied to global warming.

Many shareholders have asked why Exxon Mobil doesn't use more of its vast research and development resources to help solve the climate-change threat, saying that failing to do so threatens its long-term financial health. Shareholder Stephen Viederman of New York likened Exxon Mobil's current tack to that of Ford and General Motors a quarter century ago, when they stuck with some larger models while foreign competitors began building more fuel-efficient cars.

He even questioned the accuracy of Exxon Mobil's slogan, — “Taking on the world's toughest energy challenges,” —



LM OTERO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rex Tillerson, chairman and CEO of Exxon Mobil, said Wednesday at a news conference in Dallas that the company will focus on finding and producing new supplies of crude oil and natural gas instead of creating policies to reduce harmful greenhouse-gas emissions.

saying there was little evidence of commitment to any type of energy beyond oil and gas.

Exxon Mobil representatives say they're still studying whether proposals such as mandatory emissions caps — which ConocoPhillips, BP and Shell have endorsed — or a tax on carbon emissions are the way to combat global warming via public policy.

Ken Cohen, the company's

vice president for public affairs, said any such policy would need to ensure a uniform and predictable cost of reducing carbon dioxide, promote global participation and adjust to developments in climate science.

“What we're trying to do is make sure, as policy options are being developed and analyzed, that all of them are on the table and given a full and fair hearing,” Cohen said.

AIRING PEACE



HOWARD YANES / ASSOCIATED PRESS

University students show their hands with the Spanish word for “peace” written on them during a protest Wednesday in Caracas, Venezuela. The students poured into the streets for a third day to protest the removal of a leading opposition TV station Radio Caracas Television, RCTV, from the air.

REFUGEES: Many wait in camps in nearby countries

— Continued from Page 1

resettlement in the U.S. will be given assistance from both government and private aid agencies, including language and job training in the communities that will be their new homes, officials said.

“America's tradition of welcoming international refugees and responding to humanitarian emergencies is unrivaled,” he said in a statement. “Yet we also must be mindful of the security risks associated with admitting refugees from war-torn countries — especially countries infiltrated by large numbers of terrorists.”

Homeland Security officials would not discuss what the enhanced process entails, but several people familiar with the program said it includes additional interviews, biometric screening and cross-checks against employer databases, none of which is necessarily required for non-Iraqi refugees.

The 59 Iraqis who will arrive soon are among a group of more than 700 considered to be the most vulnerable and for whom resettlement interviews have already been conducted, the department said.

BIOMETRICS ARE USED TO IDENTIFY INCOMING REFUGEES. THEY ARE...

- ★ **measurable**
- ★ **physiological and/or behavioral characteristics**
- ★ **used to verify the identity of an individual**

Source: Department of the Army

They include “persons whose lives may be in jeopardy because they worked for coalition forces,” it said, without giving specific numbers of former U.S. employees.

Refugee advocates on Wednesday praised the announcement but lamented that many desperate Iraqis have been languishing in camps in other Mideast countries.

“Obviously, DHS has a responsibility to make sure that everybody who comes into the country is going to be a good citizen ... but they also realize that the country has a responsibility to these Iraqis,” said Kenneth Bacon of Refugees International.

“My hope is that with this they will begin large-scale

resettlement program,” he said. “We are very disappointed that there are so few now, but I have hope for the future.”

Refugees International is one of several groups that have been pushing the administration to accept at least a fraction of the Iraqis and noted that other countries, including some Scandinavian nations, have agreed to accept tens of thousands.

“It is embarrassing that Sweden is taking more refugees than we are,” Bacon said. “The U.S. should be doing much more.”

That complaint has been echoed on Capitol Hill where the Senate and House earlier this month passed legislation allowing a tenfold increase in special immigrant visas for

Iraqis and Afghans who worked as translators and interpreters for U.S. forces.

“America has a fundamental obligation to help those brave Iraqis who put their lives on the line by working for our government,” said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., who co-sponsored the Senate bill with Richard Lugar, R-Ind.

As of May 18, the United Nations had identified 4,692 Iraqi refugees at camps in Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt for possible resettlement in the United States.

Officials said they expect that number of refugees at camps in Syria, Jordan, Turkey, Lebanon and Egypt to rise from about 4,600 to about 7,000 by Sept. 30 and the U.S. hopes to admit as many as possible.

“We fully intend and expect to be able to handle 7,000 referrals,” deputy State Department spokesman Tom Casey told reporters. “This is very good news that this has now been arranged.”

The State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, which deals with refugee resettlement, said communities around the U.S. have been identified as destinations for the first batch



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Laws to weed out sales to minors

Coffee houses will fingerprint, scan patrons' IDs

By **TOBY STERLING**
The Associated Press

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands — Coffee shops licensed to sell marijuana in the southern Dutch city of Maastricht will begin fingerprinting customers and scanning their identification cards this summer to help show they're following rules governing such sales.

In particular, the measures are expected to help stores show they are not selling to underage customers and that they haven't sold more than the maximum permitted to a customer on a given day.

"This is not something that we are doing willingly, but with pain in our hearts," Marc Josemans, chairman of the Union of Maastricht's Coffee Shops, said Wednesday. "We're very afraid we're going to lose customers over this, and to be honest we're even a little ashamed we're doing it, but the city of Maastricht has such harsh punishments that we don't feel we have any choice," he said.

Marijuana is technically illegal in the Netherlands, but cities may license shops to sell no more than 5 grams per customer per day. The shops may not sell to anyone under 18.

Since Maastricht Mayor Gerd Leers took office in 2002, police have strictly enforced the rules, and shops found in violation are automatically closed for a minimum of three months for



ERMINDO ARMINO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marijuana is technically illegal, but cities may license shops to sell to individuals. The city is negotiating to move some remaining shops to the outskirts of town — angering neighboring countries like Belgium.

a single offense, six months for a second and permanently for a third.

As a result, 11 of Maastricht's 26 licensed shops have closed.

Under the new plan, fingerprints, a digital photograph and a scan of customers' ID cards and stored on a computer system at the shop.

"We're not going to give this information to anybody else, and we're not linked to each other or the Internet," Josemans said.

Josemans, who is also owner of the "Easy Going" coffee

shop, said the electronic system would be tested at his store Aug. 1 and used by all licensed stores by September.

He said shops already have video surveillance cameras and cooperate with police in criminal investigations, but the stored fingerprints would be too low in quality for use by police.

Because of Maastricht's location near the border with Belgium and Germany and not

far from France, the city of

120,000 residents gets 4.5 million "drugs tourists" a year who come just to buy weed and drive home.

City spokesman Math Wijnands said the drug trade brought a host of problems, most notably petty criminals who seek to sell marijuana or other drugs in the neighborhood of the coffee shops.

"They know that they have a target group here, but they go about their business in an aggressive manner," Wijnands said. "That causes problems in the city center."

Cancer spreads in Asian nations

By **MARGIE MASON**
The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Asia is bracing for a dramatic surge in cancer rates over the next decade, as people in the developing world live longer and adopt bad Western habits that greatly increase the risk of the disease.

Smoking, drinking and eating unhealthy foods — all linked to various cancers — will combine with larger populations and fewer deaths from infectious diseases to drive Asian cancer rates up 60 percent by 2020, some experts predict.

But unlike in wealthy countries that have greater access to the world's top medical care, there will likely be no prevention or treatment for many living in poor countries.

"What happened in the Western world in the '60s or '70s will happen here in the next 10 to 20 years as life expectancy gets longer and we get better control on more common causes of deaths," said Dr. Jatin P. Shah, a professor of surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

The Asia-Pacific makes up about half of the world's cancer deaths and logged 4.9 million new cases, or 45 percent, of the global toll in 2002.

INTERNATIONAL

Pope prays for missing girl's return

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI clasped the hands of the parents of Madeleine McCann and blessed a photo of the missing 4-year-old, telling them Wednesday he would pray for the safe return of the little girl who disappeared a month ago in Portugal.

Kate and Gerry McCann, Roman Catholics from Britain, said the pope's words and blessings would sustain them as they press their campaign to find Madeleine and bring her home.

"It was more personal than I ever could have imagined," McCann said.

The brief meeting came at the end of Benedict's weekly general audience, when he regularly sees VIPs, visiting clergy, the sick and others needing comfort. The McCanns had a front-row seat — arranged after British Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor wrote the Vatican on their behalf.

Ukraine official suffers heart attack

KIEV, Ukraine — Interior Minister Vasyl Tsushko, a central figure in Ukraine's political standoff between the president and prime minister, has suffered a heart attack, a ministry official said Wednesday. She gave no information on his condition.

Last week, after President Viktor Yushchenko fired the country's prosecutor-general, the Interior Ministry sent police to surround the prosecutor's office to prevent him from being evicted. In the face of that defiance, Yushchenko said he had taken control of Interior Ministry's forces and sent some to the capital, although Tsushko refused to recognize the order.

The moves raised fears that the dispute between Yushchenko and Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych could spill over into violence. Tsushko was being treated in a hospital, said a ministry official who declined to give her name in line with policy.

Meanwhile, mutual recriminations and disorder in parliament scuttled plans to vote on the last of the bills needed to call the early elections, with each side accusing the other of trying to sabotage the agreement.

Bush picks leader to head World Bank

WASHINGTON — President Bush nominated Robert Zoellick as leader of the World Bank Wednesday.

"We need to put yesterday's discord behind us and to focus on the future together," Zoellick said. "I believe that the World Bank's best days are still to come," said Zoellick, now an executive at Wall Street giant Goldman Sachs.

If approved by the World Bank's 24-member board, Zoellick, 53, will also bring to the institution years of experience in the foreign and economic policy arenas under three Republican presidents, starting with Ronald Reagan.

World Trade Organization Director-General Pascal Lamy praised his "ability as a strategist, as one who can broker compromise and as one who has profound interests in the concerns of developing countries."

Villagers killed in land protest

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesian marines shot and killed five people on Java island Wednesday during a violent protest over a plot of land allegedly owned by the force, officials said.

The victims were trying to stop the marines from turning the 8,895-acre plot of land into a military training site, the officials said.

Nine other villagers were wounded in the clash in Pasuruan in East Java, said Lt. Col. Boy Rafli Amar, chief of the local police.

The troops had not violated procedures, said Lt. Col. Toni Syaiful, a marine spokesman.

"The marines tried negotiation, but that failed, and then they fired warning shots, but the villagers turned more cruel and stabbed a marine," Syaiful said. The condition of the injured marine was not immediately clear.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. chopper shot at, 5 killed in Afghanistan

By **JASON STRAZIUSO**
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Five U.S. soldiers were killed when their Chinook helicopter was apparently shot down in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday, a U.S. military official said. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

Initial reports suggested the helicopter was hit with a rocket-propelled grenade, said the U.S. military official, who requested anonymity because details of the crash had not yet been released. It wasn't clear if there were any survivors, the official said.

A purported Taliban spokesman, Qari Yousef Ahmadi, claimed in a phone call to The Associated Press that militants had shot the helicopter down in the volatile province of Helmand, the world's largest poppy-growing region and the scene of heavy fighting in recent months. That claim could not be immediately verified.

A battalion of U.S. forces from the 82nd Airborne Division has been engaged in fierce combat in Helmand in recent weeks, though Britain has the largest number of troops in Helmand.

NATO's International Security Assistance Force confirmed that one of its helicopters crashed in southern Afghanistan, but it released no details.

The CH-47 Chinook, a heavy transport helicopter with two rotors, can carry up to around 40 troops plus a small crew. The fact it was flying at night suggests the helicopter may have been carrying troops on a nighttime air assault.

Ahmadi said the helicopter was shot down in the Kajaki district of Helmand and that everyone on board died. He did not offer any evidence of the claim. Kajaki is the site of a large U.S.-funded hydroelectric dam that is being repaired.

"We have weapons that we have used to target helicopters before," he said.

Helicopter crashes in Afghanistan have been relatively rare. A Chinook crashed in February in the southern province of Zabul, killing eight U.S. servicemembers. Officials ruled out enemy fire as the cause.

SPEAKING OUT



MARCO UGARTE/ ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holding a plastic human fetus Wednesday, an anti-abortion activist protests a law that legalizes abortion in Mexico.



ALAA AL-MARIANI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi civilians mourn for a victim at a burial service after a raid on Wednesday in Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad. The victim was one of two killed when a joint Iraqi

American force raided Sadr City early Wednesday. Four others were wounded as they were sleeping on the roofs of their houses, police said.

Search for Britons continues

Gunmen snatched men from Iraqi finance office

By **RAVINE SSMAN**
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Hundreds of Iraqi and U.S. troops cordoned off sections of Baghdad's Sadr City slum Wednesday and conducted raids in an apparent effort to find five British citizens who Iraqi officials believed were abducted by the Shiite Mahdi Army militia.

Separately, the U.S. confirmed that two Iraqi employees of the American Embassy in Baghdad were believed to have been kidnapped, and announced that enemy fire brought down the U.S. helicopter that crashed and killed two soldiers in Diyala province on Monday.

If the work of the Mahdi Army, the kidnappings of the five Britons could be retaliation for the killing by British forces last week of the militia's commander in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

Canon Andrew White, the Anglican vicar of Baghdad, said it's "a possibility" the kidnapping was a response to the killing.

"We're working very hard with various religious leaders to try to work at this issue, but it's not easy. It's very, very difficult," he told The Associated Press.

The five men were pulled out of a Finance Ministry office by about 40 heavily armed men in police uniforms in broad daylight Tuesday.

They were driven in a convoy of 19 four-wheel-drive vehicles toward Sadr City, according to Iraqi officials in the Interior and Finance ministries.

British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said officials were doing all they could to ensure the men were released quickly.

"This is clearly a very distressing time for all concerned," she said upon arriving at a meeting in Potsdam, Germany.

Soon after the abduction, Iraqi forces established a special battalion of soldiers and police officers to search for the men, said Brig. Gen. Qassim al Musawi, an Iraqi spokesman.

Climate change risk to endangered animals

By **ARTHUR MAX**
The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — If you think the problem of endangered species is all about tigers, elephants and orangutans, ask violinists where they get their bows.

The best violin bows are made from pau brasil, a tree from the Brazilian rain forest that has been exploited for 500 years, and was once so economically vital for the red dye it produced that it gave its name to the only country where it grows.

Pau brasil is among dozens of plants and animals threatened with extinction that are on the agenda of the 171-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, which opens its meeting Sunday.

About 7,000 animals and 32,000 plant families now are regulated, with more than 800 species banned completely from commerce.

The conference focuses on over-exploitation of exotic species. But in the background this year are warnings that many species will be wiped

out by climate change.

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said a global temperature rise of 3.6 degrees will kill 30 percent of all known species.

"Climate change is a major threat, but so is trade," said Susan Lieberman, director of the Species Unit for the World Wildlife Fund.

Among the 36 proposals — each requiring a two-thirds majority of voting member states — are recommendations to increase protection for whales, European eel, and Brazilian spiny lobsters.

NATIONAL Wall Street closing prices skyrocket

NEW YORK — Wall Street shot higher Wednesday, sending the Standard & Poor's 500 index to its first record close in more than seven years, as investors grew more confident that the Federal Reserve might cut interest rates in the second half of 2007. The Dow Jones industrials also reached a new closing high.

The S&P 500, considered by traders as the best barometer of U.S. stocks, surpassed the record of 1,527.46, set March 24, 2000, at the peak of the dot-com boom, closing at 1,530.23, up 12.12, or 0.80 percent.

The index of 500 of the nation's biggest companies was powered by investors' relief over the minutes from the Fed's May 9 meeting of its Open Market Committee. The central bankers called inflation "uncomfortably high," a stance that made it less likely that the Fed would act to cut interest rates.

Survey: Traveling costlier than in '06

NEW YORK — Summer travelers already feeling the pinch of higher gas prices may find that lodging costs more too.

AAA found in its annual vacation costs survey, released Wednesday, that combined lodging and restaurant costs were 3.7 percent higher than last year.

The survey found that a family of four could expect to pay an average of nearly \$270 a day for food and lodging this summer. It said lodging rates averaged \$152 a night, up nearly 8 percent from last year, while meals were projected at \$118, down 1.3 percent.

Woman charged after keeping check

MINNEAPOLIS — An errant computer keystroke led the state to issue a \$2.5 million check to a school counselor — who spent thousands on cars, jewelry and electronics, prosecutors said.

Sabrina Walker, 37, was charged Tuesday with theft by swindle and concealing the proceeds of a crime. She remained in jail Wednesday in lieu of \$200,000 bail.

The state's accounting system was handling money for the Department of Human Services that was intended for the Hennepin County Medical Center when the check was issued to Walker by mistake in March.

Walker was in the state's system because she was once paid \$84 as a court witness. Her system vendor number was only one number off the hospital's number.

She has been placed on leave until the case is resolved.

Court denies stay in prostitution case

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday denied a request to delay the criminal case against a woman accused of running a prostitution ring in the nation's capital.

Deborah Jeane Palfrey, 51, of Vallejo, Calif., is accused of racketeering by running a prostitution ring that netted more than \$2 million over 13 years, beginning in 1993. Palfrey claims that her escort service, Pamela Martin and Associates, was legitimate.

Palfrey's attorney filed papers last week asking for an emergency stay of the case. The case has drawn attention because of her threats to expose high-profile Washington officials. An ABC News report this month mentioned NASA officials, military officers, chief executives and a career Justice Department prosecutor as clients.

Publisher arrested for meeting protest

BURLINGTON, N.C. — Newspaper publisher Thomas E. Boney Jr. was arrested for trespassing on Tuesday after refusing to leave the meeting of the Burlington-Alamance Airport Authority, which officials went on to conduct behind closed doors. He owns and edits The Alamance News, a weekly newspaper published in Graham.

Boney, 52, said he refused to leave the meeting voluntarily because the commissioners refused to assure him they would not discuss or vote on a proposed financing package for land bought to attract an unidentified manufacturer.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TB carrier defends actions

CDC scrambles to find passengers who sat near infected man on flights

By MIKE STOBBE
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — A man with a form of tuberculosis so dangerous he is under the first U.S. government-ordered quarantine since 1963 had health officials around the world scrambling Wednesday to find about 80 passengers who sat near him on two trans-Atlantic flights.

The man told a newspaper he took the first flight from Atlanta to Europe for his wedding, then the second flight home because he feared he might die without treatment in the U.S.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Julie Gerberding said Wednesday that the CDC is working to find passengers who may have been exposed to the rare, dangerous strain. Health officials in France said they have asked Air France-KLM for passenger

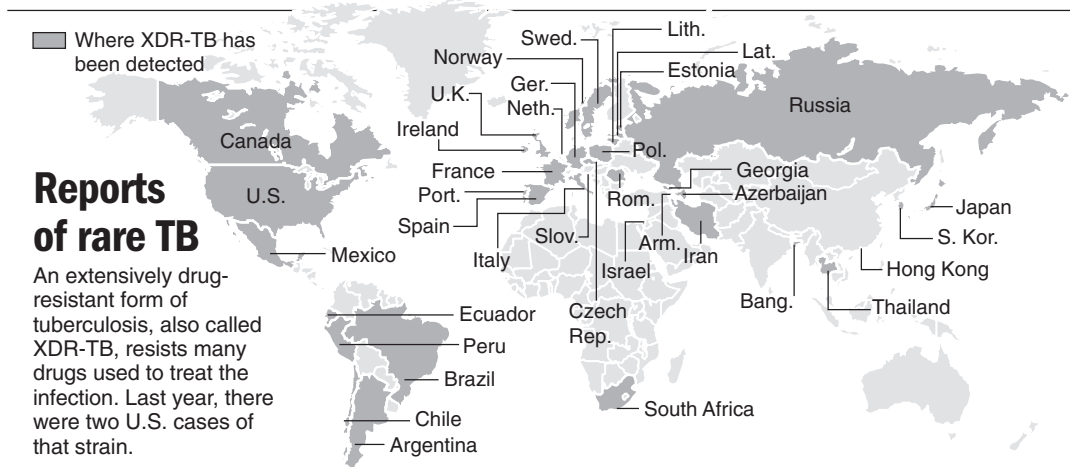
lists, and the Italian Health Ministry said it is tracing the man's movements.

"Is the patient himself highly infectious? Fortunately, in this case, he's probably not," Gerberding said. "We just have to err on the side of caution."

Dr. Martin Cetron, director of the CDC's division of global migration and quarantine, said Wednesday that the agency was trying to contact 27 crew members and about 80 passengers who sat in the five rows surrounding the man—about 40 or 50 on the Air France flight from Atlanta to Paris and about 30 passengers on the second flight from Prague to Montreal.

Health officials said the man had been advised not to fly and knew he could expose others when he boarded the jets.

The man, who declined to be identified because of the stigma attached to his diagnosis,



Reports of rare TB

An extensively drug-resistant form of tuberculosis, also called XDR-TB, resists many drugs used to treat the infection. Last year, there were two U.S. cases of that strain.

SOURCE: World Health Organization

told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that doctors didn't order him not to fly and only suggested he put off his long-planned wedding in Greece. He knew he had a drug-resistant form of tuberculosis, but he didn't realize the dangers until he was already in Europe.

He flew to Paris on May 12 aboard Air France Flight 385, also listed as Delta Air Lines codeshare Flight 8517. While he

was in Europe, health authorities told him tests had revealed his TB was a rare, "extensively drug-resistant" form and ordered him into isolation.

Instead, the man flew from Prague to Montreal on May 24 aboard Czech Air Flight 0104, then drove into the United States at Champlain, N.Y. He is now at Atlanta's Grady Memorial Hospital in respiratory isolation.

The other passengers on the flights are not considered at high risk of infection because tests indicated the amount of TB bacteria in the man was low, Cetron said.

A Canadian official said it appeared unlikely that the man spread the disease on the flight into Canada.

The man is not facing prosecution, health officials said.

Law could overload system

Employers worry about proposed citizenship checks

By SUZANNE GAMBOA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's employers say a major problem with system overload is on the way if Congress forces them to prove, electronically, that all their workers are legal.

Currently, 16,727 employers check employees through a system called the Electronic Employer Verification System. They have checked 1.77 million employees, according to Citizenship and Immigration Services, an agency within the Homeland Security Department.

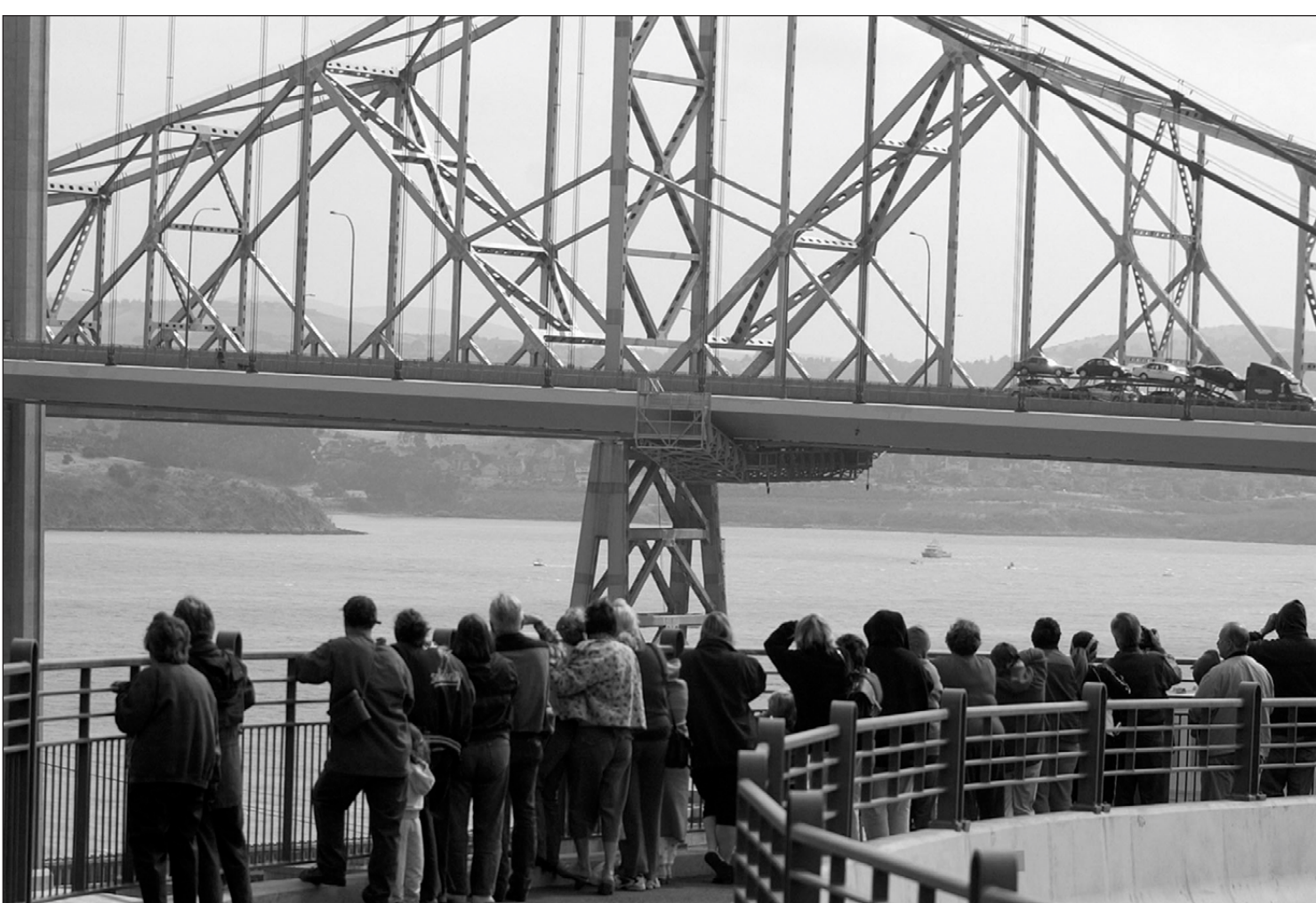
Current law leaves it to employers to verify that they are hiring legal workers. Immigration legislation pending in the Senate would require that Social Security numbers, identification and other information supplied by all U.S. workers be run through the system. Employers would have to check all new hires within 18 months of the law's enactment, and check all other employees within three years.

That could mean millions more employers logging on to a system that, right now, is still under development.

"I just don't think this is a realistic approach," said Susan R. Meisinger, president of the Society for Human Resource Management, a suburban Washington-based association of human resources professionals. To get to all new hires in a year, she said, the Homeland Security Department would have to sign up 20,000 employers a day.

There are an estimated 7 million to 8 million employers and 140 million employees in the U.S., business and labor officials say. Under the Senate proposal, employers who have illegal workers on the payroll could face fines from \$5,000 per worker up to \$75,000 and six months in jail per worker.

Homeland officials are testing a program now with about 50 employers that will allow checks of photos on green cards, used by legal permanent residents, to verify identities.



JOEL ROSENBAUM / THE REPORTER

People gather on the Carquinez Bridge to watch two lost whales make their way toward the Pacific Ocean on Tuesday. The whales were last spotted near the Golden Gate Bridge and may have

slipped back into the ocean after a two-week sojourn that took them 90 miles up the Sacramento River, scientists said Wednesday.

Bush doubles AIDS package

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush urged Congress on Wednesday to authorize \$30 billion more to fight AIDS in Africa over five years, doubling the current U.S. commitment.

The money would provide treatment for 2.5 million people under the President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief, Bush said.

Through March 31, the program had supported treatment for 1.1 million people in 15 countries, mostly in Africa, he said. The program's original five-year mandate, which called for spending \$15 billion, expires in September 2008, and Bush asked Congress to renew it.

"When I took office, an HIV diagnosis in Africa's poorest

communities was usually a death sentence. Parents watched their babies die needlessly because local clinics lacked effective treatments," the president said.

"Once again, the generosity of the American people is one of the great untold stories of our time."

White House press secretary Tony Snow said the specific goals for the next five years call for treatment of 2.5 million people, prevention of more than 12 million new infections and the care of more than 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and children.

The president said the money "will be spent wisely," in nations where it can have the greatest possible impact and be sustainable.

Bush also announced that



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush holds Baron Misima Loyiso Tantoh of South Africa. Tantoh's mother, Manyongo Mosima Tantoh, left, is HIV-positive. At center is Coptic Orthodox Church Bishop Paul Yowakim.

his wife, Laura, will visit four African countries — Zambia, Mali, Mozambique and Senegal — that have benefited from the U.S. program and report back to him on her findings. The trip will take place June 25-29.

The president's announce-

ment comes before next week's annual summit of industrialized nations in Heiligendamm, Germany. Germany is pledging to make Africa a central issue and is calling for more aid, further debt relief and improved financial oversight.

Spelling bee opens in D.C.

By JOSEPH WHITE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For most kids, the appearance of the word "Bewusstseinslage" on any kind of test would be reason to shriek in horror. For Matthew Evans, it was cause for joy.

"My favorite word!" said the 12-year-old boy from Albuquerque, N.M.

The 80th Scripps National Spelling Bee began Wednesday by reducing a record field of 286 spellers to the 59 who will return for the semifinals and finals Thursday, with the champion crowned on national television in prime time for the second consecutive year. Most

25 WORDS USED TO ELIMINATE CONTESTANTS		
1. icicle	10. solmizate	19. syssarcosis
2. hawthorn	11. mien	20. vernier
3. bizarre	12. Ananias	21. quale
4. colossus	13. takt	22. noesis
5. tarantula	14. halobiont	23. scytale
6. ciao	15. peirastic	24. ylem
7. malocclusion	16. retablo	25. Bewusstseinslage
8. succorance	17. Tetrastini	
9. demur	18. haricot	

of the paring was done with a 25-word multiple-choice test, followed by three oral rounds that featured a display of confidence, nervousness and befuddlement — not to mention sheer relief when a guess proved correct.

The champion receives \$35,000 cash, a \$5,000 schol-

arship, a \$2,500 savings bond and a complete set of reference works.

Samir Patel, 13, of Colleyville, is back for the fifth year after placing third, 27th, second and 14th.

The final rounds of the Bee will air today on ESPN at 9 a.m. and ABC at 7 p.m.



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kennyi Aouad, 11, of Terre Haute, Ind., laughs before correctly spelling 'Sardoodledom' at Wednesday's National Spelling Bee.

Mom ‘loved those little girls’

Infant will be placed in foster care temporarily

By **ANGELA K. BROWN**
The Associated Press

HUDSON OAKS — After gathering the courage to leave her common-law husband and moving into her own mobile home, Gilberta Estrada was making a better life for herself and her four young daughters just a few years after arriving from Tamaulipas, Mexico.

She was even planning her 8-month-old daughter's baptism. So the news that she hanged her children and herself stunned the staff of the women's shelter where she stayed for three months last year.

“Obviously every client that comes into the shelter is going to have a difficult time, and at times she was sad, but she was so eager to do better for her daughters,” Evelyn Haro, a case worker at SafeHaven of Tarrant County said Wednesday. “There was nothing to raise a red flag to me. She would always have a smile, and she loved, loved, loved those little girls.”

Alejandra Estrada, worried after learning her sister had failed to show up for work Tuesday, broke into the trailer and found the woman and the four girls hanging in a closet from clothing tied around their necks. Only baby Evelyn Frayre, named in honor of the case worker, was alive.

Dr. Kimberly Aaron, medical director of emergency services at Cook Children's Medical

Center in Fort Worth, called the infant a “miracle.”

The doctor attributed the baby's survival to the fact that she weighed only 20 pounds and her neck was protected by fatty tissue that kept it from breaking while she was suspended in the closet.

The baby has no brain damage, and no long-term problems are expected, Aaron said. Baby Evelyn's constant smile, babbling and bouncing to music charmed the nurses, she added.

The infant was released Wednesday to Child Protective Services, which will place her with a foster family while other options are being considered.

The child's father, Gregorio Frayre Rodriguez, went to the hospital but was not allowed to see the baby because of a

protective court order issued in August after Gilberta Estrada claimed he abused her and tried to hit one of the children.

Attempts to reach Frayre, 38, on Wednesday were not successful.

Autopsies were being performed Wednesday.

A fund to help relatives with funeral expenses has been set up at Wells Fargo banks under the name Estrada Memorial Fund, Haro said.

Gilberta Estrada claimed Frayre had been abusive since the couple began living together in 2003, at times pulling her hair, slapping her, trying to strangle her and once forcing her to have sex, according to court documents.

He once raised his hand to 5-year-old Maria when the girls were fighting over a toy, and

then kicked Estrada and pulled the phone out of her hand when she tried calling 911, according to documents.

Estrada said Frayre was the father of Yaneth “Janet,” 3, and Magaly Frayre, 21 months.

Estrada said she stayed in the abusive relationship because she had been too afraid to call police, fearing she might be deported, Haro said.

Just two weeks ago, Estrada called Haro to ask if she had received some pictures of the children. Haro said she asked about the baby's upcoming baptism, and Estrada told her she would be invited.

“I'm in shock because that was the last person I would expect something like that to happen to,” Haro said. “She was my success story. I told her, ‘I'm so proud of you.’”

Escaped thief recaptured

Off-duty officer spots fleeing felon on jogging trail

By **JOE STINEBAKER**
Associated Press Writer

HOUSTON — A 25-year-old prison escapee was captured Wednesday on a jogging trail behind the Harris County Jail — headquarters for one of the largest contingents of law enforcement officers in the state of Texas.

Andrew Dell Coley traveled only about seven blocks during his 30 hours on the lam before an off-duty university police chief jogging near the jail nabbed him.

Coley, a convicted car thief from Galveston County, apparently lacked a plan after escaping from the South Texas Intermediate Sanction Facility in downtown Houston on Monday evening. He was spotted by Chief Rick Boyle of the University of Houston-Downtown Police Department, who jogs the trail regularly.

Boyle, clad only in shorts and

a T-shirt, recognized Coley's tattoo from information sent to law enforcement and ran to the university to summon help. Boyle then watched Coley until help could arrive. Coley noticed he was being watched and continued his run of self-inflicted bad luck.

“I don't know if he knew where he was, because he ran straight toward the jail,” Boyle said. Boyle caught up with the escapee and took him into custody. He marched Coley inside the jail, where he is now being held on an escape charge.

Michelle Lyons, a spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said officials believe Coley escaped by getting through a layer of fencing into a ventilation system that runs to another part of the building. He then apparently kicked out a wall panel and fled. He had been in custody since January 2006.

The private prison, which can hold up to 450 inmates, is operated under contract by The GEO Group, Inc., a private corrections firm based in Boca Raton, Fla.

Former ally to run for Craddick's post

By **APRIL CASTRO**
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Democrat Sylvester Turner, the second-ranking member of the House and longtime ally of Republican House Speaker Tom Craddick, said Wednesday he's joining the growing number of candidates challenging Craddick for the top spot when his term expires in 2009.

Turner is the seventh lawmaker to announce his candidacy in recent weeks, part of a movement among legislators unhappy with Craddick's win-at-all-costs leadership style. The unrest reached fever pitch over the weekend with an attempt to kick Craddick out of office 18 months early.

Turner, the House speaker pro tempore, is one of a handful of Democrats who support Craddick. Craddick trusted Turner enough in recent days



Sylvester Turner

to allow him to preside over the House during a recent coup attempt by Craddick critics.

“I don't ever want to have another legislative session like the one just completed where taking care of the people's business took a back seat to political agendas,” Turner said.



LAURA MCKENZIE / THE BRAZOSPORT FACTS

Jeremy Royston, left, said his parents' plight inspired him to help students at the Lighthouse Learning Center in Clute.

through tough times.

He also spends spare time mentoring children at the Boys and Girls Club in Freeport.

“I'm so proud of Jeremy, and I know he will be able to achieve whatever he sets his mind to,” his mother, Evelyn Tademay, said.

Royston does not plan to stop his education and wants to go to college at Florida State University.

“I hope I can walk on the basketball team and get a scholarship; if not, then I'll pay for it,” Royston said. “Either way, I'm going.

IT TAKES TWO TO TANGLE



STEVE TRAYNOR / KILLEEN DAILY HERALD

Harker Heights High School plays host to a youth soccer camp, where Cory Leclerc of Killeen, top, and Jonathan Gay of Harker Heights, work on possession drills during camp on Wednesday.

Bexar jail bursting at seams

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — Bexar County criminal justice officials were expediting cases and setting up temporary beds to handle an overflow of inmates following the Memorial Day weekend.

The Bexar County Jail's inmate population reached 4,608 on Tuesday, exceeding its capacity by 316 beds, officials said. The jail was already above capacity before the holiday weekend.

“Our population has bounced way up in the last 60 days, and I don't know why,” County Judge Nelson Wolff said. “It's an efficiency

problem, and then not treating (mentally ill or addicted) people and instead throwing them in jail.”

Bexar County has grown by more than 370,000 people since the jail was built in 1988, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Dennis McKnight, the county's jail administrator, said the overcrowding problem was “beyond critical.”

The county obtained an extra 64 beds from the American Red Cross on Friday. Some inmates were already housed in nearby counties, which face their own capacity issues, McKnight said.

“At this point, everyone has a

bed or will be assigned a bed,” McKnight said Tuesday.

Court administrators said they were reviewing cases to determine whether bonds could be reduced. The district attorney's office was also working to push cases forward.

“There's no magic bullet,” said Jim Kopp, intake chief at the district attorney's office. “It's just constant work.”

McKnight said the county needs to address overcrowding by either considering a new facility or a “complete change in thinking as to who gets arrested and why.”

“Because frankly, I've pulled all the rabbits out of my hat,” McKnight said.

Student bikes to school, graduation

By **JASON SMITH**
The Brazosport Facts

CLUTE — A student slipping his backpack over his shoulders, throwing a leg over the seat of the bicycle and grinning on his way to school doesn't sound like much of a story.

Unless you're talking about 19-year-old Jeremy Royston.

On his trip to school, he braves busy Highway 332, filled with impatient drivers and 18-wheelers.

And he's not making a casual trip to the neighborhood school but pushing the pedals on his bike for 15 miles. Each way. Every day.

Without his determination, he wouldn't have been able to walk across the stage during Brazosport High School's commencement ceremony Saturday night at Hopper Field to receive his diploma.

Royston grew up in Freeport and moved with his mother

to Pearland in sixth grade, he said. When he was a sophomore, he decided to move back to Freeport to live with his sister and help raise her three kids.

“My father passed away from lung cancer when I was 1, and through stories my mother has told me, he worked very hard to provide for my mom and us kids,” Royston said. “I wanted to be like him and help out like he did.”

Royston helped his sister with the Social Security check he received every month and took care of the kids when she left early for her job, he said.

He was able to get to Brazosport High School with ease because it was close to his home.

Then in the first semester of his senior year, Royston's sister moved to Lake Jackson, and he moved with her.

“I wanted to continue going to Brazosport High School, so I

walked,” Royston said. “I wasn't going to stay at home. I thought of it as exercise.”

Even though Royston always made it to school, he got lots of tardy slips. Royston had to meet with a judge for his tardiness and they agreed the best solution was the Student Accelerated Instruction and Learning Program at the Lighthouse Learning Center in Clute.

Royston moved back to Freeport with his sister around Christmas and, after receiving a bicycle, started pedaling to school.

For the next five months, Royston got up every day at 5 a.m., helped dress his nephews and niece, fed them breakfast, and walked them to school, he said. Then he took his 15-mile ride to the Lighthouse Learning Center.

He would stay after classes to tutor peers and also took time at the alternative school to help motivate other students

STATE AREA

Austin police turn down TV's ‘Cops’

AUSTIN — City officials have decided not to allow the reality television show “Cops” to film Austin police for its long-running chronicle of officers on daily patrol duty.

City officials said the show only depicts a small, sensational part of officers' jobs. The show's film crews had been set to arrive in Austin this month.

Officer Joe Munoz, a vice president of the Austin Police Association, said officers would have been proud to showcase their work.

The show has filmed numerous law enforcement agencies in Texas over the years, including the Travis County Sheriff's Office.

Game warden dies when boat capsizes

GLEN ROSE — A Texas game warden died and another was injured Wednesday when their boat capsized while they were searching for the body of a drowning victim, authorities said.

Teyran “Ty” Patterson, 28, drowned, and Danny Tuggle was airlifted to a Fort Worth hospital but his condition was not immediately known, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said.

Patterson and Tuggle were on the Paluxy River, about 60 miles southwest of Fort Worth, in search of a 17-year-old drowning victim. Heavy rain across the state has left at least six dead. The storms have dumped as much as 10 inches of rain in some parts of the state.

Pilot dies in crash at Boerne air strip

SAN ANTONIO — The pilot of a single-engine plane died Wednesday when his craft crashed north of Boerne.

The plane, piloted by 39-year-old John Howard Key, crashed while taking off from a private runway owned by his parents, said Kendall County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Matt King.

The plane, which was headed to Houston, burst into flames when it crashed, King said.

Officer kills 1 after being hit by van

EL PASO — A police officer fatally shot a car-theft suspect after being struck by the suspect's getaway van, authorities said.

Officers closed in on four suspects Tuesday night at Cielo Vista Mall, police said. The men fled in a van, which hit an officer's unmarked car. The officer got out of the car and was hit by the van.

The officer fired at least one round and struck the driver, who died at the scene. The three other suspects were arrested.

Police did not release the names of the officer or the victim. The officer's injuries weren't life threatening, police said.

TXU Corp. sale now likely after session

DALLAS — The Texas Legislature passed no laws cutting prices for electricity and protecting consumers from overgrown utility companies before the end of the session, making the debated \$32 billion sale of TXU Corp. more likely than ever to be completed.

TXU is being bought by an investor group led by private equity firms Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. and TPG, formerly Texas Pacific Group. The buyers had lobbied against many of the proposals in Austin.

Gas leak causes blast that injures 5

CLEBURNE — A natural gas main leak caused a house explosion injuring five people, a city official said Wednesday. The leak migrated into the sewer system and caused an accumulation of gas in the house, which erupted Tuesday when someone inside lit a cigarette, Cleburne City Manager Chester Nolen said.

“As far as we know, there are serious injuries, but not life-threatening,” he said.

On Wednesday afternoon, Joyce Sanderson, 44, was in critical condition; Steve Sanderson, 49, was in serious condition; Hazel Pawlik, 64, was in critical condition; David Pawlik, 66, was in fair condition. A 9-year-old girl was also hospitalized.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sgt. Tawan Williamson goes through the process of being fitted for a prosthetic leg at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. Williamson's left leg was shredded in Iraq when a bomb blew up under his Humvee in June 2006. Less than a year after the attack,

Williamson plans to take up a new assignment as an Army job counselor and affirmative action officer in Okinawa, Japan. The military is putting many more amputees back on active duty, even back into combat, in some cases.



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Williamson goes through therapy on a wave machine at Brooke Army Medical Center. Wave machine treatment will help him regain balance.



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Williamson gets fitted for a prosthetic leg at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Ready to serve, again

After treatment, amputee soldiers remain active

By **MICHELLE ROBERTS**
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — In the blur of smoke and blood after a bomb blew up under his Humvee in Iraq, Sgt. Tawan Williamson looked down at his shredded leg and knew it couldn't be saved. His military career, though, pulled through.

Less than a year after the attack, Williamson is back again with a high-tech prosthetic leg and plans to take up a new assignment, probably by the fall, as an Army job counselor and affirmative action officer in Okinawa, Japan.

In an about-face by the Pentagon, the military is putting many more amputees back on active duty — even back into combat, in some cases.

Williamson, a 30-year-old Chicago native who is missing his left leg below the knee and three toes on the other foot, acknowledged that some will be skeptical of a maimed soldier back in uniform.

"But I let my job show for itself," he said. "At this point, I'm done proving. I just get out there and do it."

Previously, a soldier who lost a limb almost automatically received a quick discharge, a disability check and an appointment with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

But since the start of the Iraq war, the military has begun holding on to amputees, treating them in rehabilitation programs like the one at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, and promising to help them return to active duty if that is what they want.

"The mindset of our Army has changed, to the extent that we realize the importance of all our soldiers and what they can contribute to our Army. Someone who loses a limb is still a very valuable asset," said Lt. Col. Kevin Arata, a spokesman for the Army's Human Resources Command at the Pentagon.

Better prosthetics and treatment regimens also have improved amputees' ability to regain mobility.

So far, the Army has treated nearly 600 service members who have come back from Iraq or Afghanistan without an arm, leg, hand or foot. Thirty-one have returned to active duty, and no one who asked to remain in the service has been discharged, Arata said.

Most of those who return to active duty are assigned as an instructor or to a desk job, away from combat. Only a few — the Army doesn't keep track of exactly how many — have returned to the war zone, and only at their insistence, Arata said.

To go back into the war zone, amputee soldiers have to prove

they can do the job without putting themselves or others at risk.

One amputee who returned to combat in Iraq, Maj. David Rozelle, is now helping design the amputee program at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington. He has counted seven other amputees who have lost at least part of a hand or foot and have gone back to combat in Iraq.

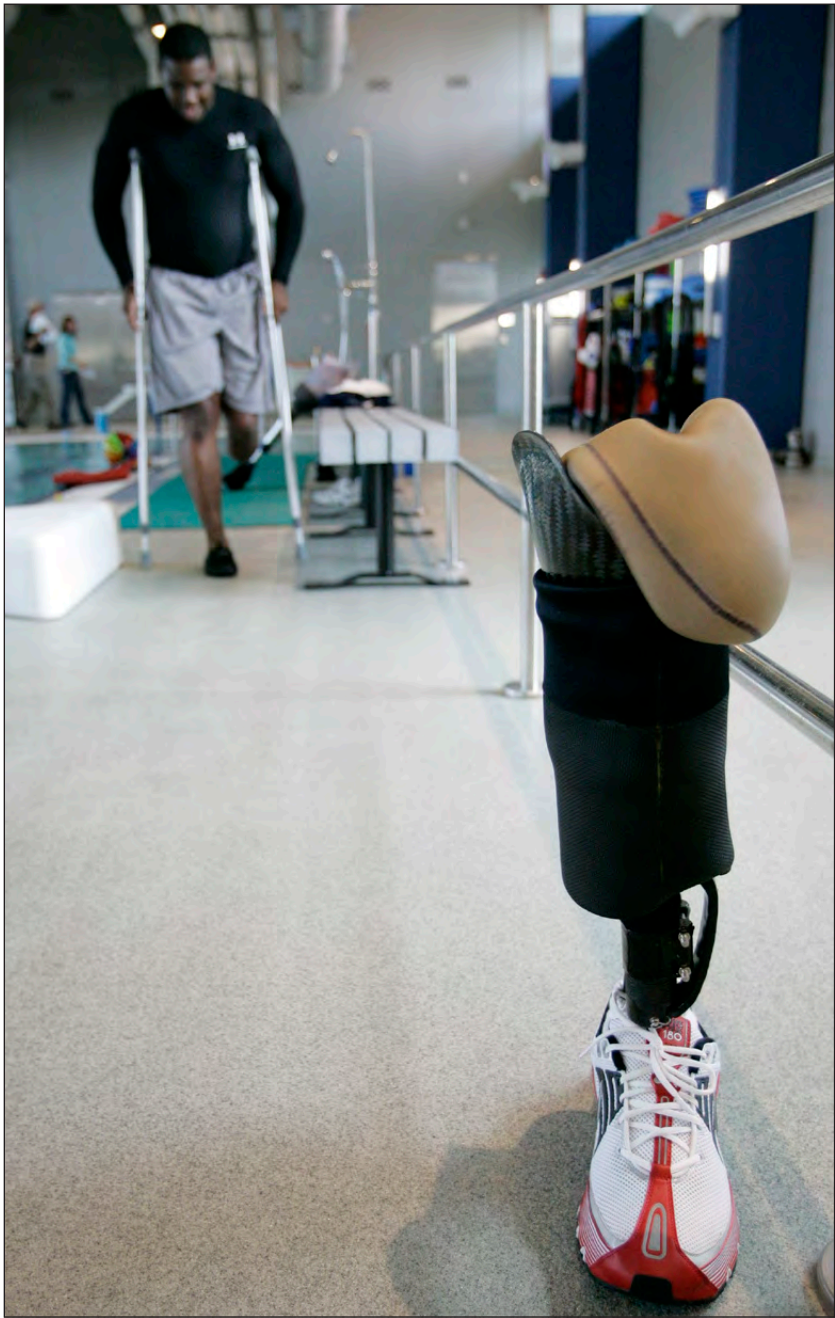
The 34-year-old from Austin said he felt duty-bound to return after losing his right foot to a land mine in Iraq.

"It sounds ridiculous, but you feel guilty that you're back home safe," he said. "Our country is engaged in a war. I felt it was my responsibility as a leader in the Army to continue."

Williamson is regaining his strength and balance at the new \$50 million Center for the Intrepid, built to rehabilitate military amputees. A hurdler in high school, he ran the Army minimum of two miles for the first time in mid-May, managing a 10-minute-per-mile pace on his C-shaped prosthetic running leg decorated with blue flames.

He is working out five days a week — running, lifting weights and doing pool exercises — and just got his first ride on a wave machine used to improve balance.

"I could leave here today if they told me I had to," Williamson said.



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Williamson goes through therapy at Brooke Army Medical Center. Williamson is running again with a high-tech prosthetic leg and plans to return to active duty possibly by fall.



Motorhead madness
NASCAR fans head to the speedway.
See Page 6

Law keeps documents from public

Vote recording, weapon licenses among newly closed Texas records

BY JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Concealed handgun permits are now off limits. Search warrant information could be kept under wraps for two months.

In the 140-day regular session that ended Monday, the Texas Legislature put some key restrictions on what the public has a right to know and when.

Journalists lost their bid to get limited immunity from being forced to reveal their confidential sources in court. But in what many consider a victory for open government, Texas voters will decide whether lawmakers must record their votes on final passage of bills.

No bill was lobbied harder by media groups than the shield law for reporters. The “Free Flow of Information Act” would have protected journalists from being compelled to

“IT’S SOMETHING WE’D LIKE TO GET PASSED IN THE NEXT SESSION.”

— KEN WHALEN,
TEXAS DAILY
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

testify about, disclose or produce confidential information in civil or criminal court cases, with certain exceptions.

Thirty-four states have a journalists’ privilege, and Congress is contemplating one.

The bill ran into opposition from Texas prosecutors but still passed the Senate. Supporters expected it to pass the House, but it was killed on a technicality without a vote.

Please see FOI, Page 2



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Bush outlines his plan for major nations to agree on a global emissions goal for greenhouse gases Thursday.

Bush: Emission goal necessary

BY TERENCE HUNT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush, seeking to reduce international criticism of the U.S. record on climate change, on Thursday urged 15 major nations to agree by the end of next year on a global target for reducing greenhouse gases.

Bush called for the first in a series of meetings to begin this fall, bringing together countries identified as major emitters of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

The list would include the United States, China, India and major European countries. After setting a goal, the nations would develop their own strategies to meet the target.

Bush’s proposal was welcomed by other leaders, who have been critical of the U.S. approach.

“I think it is positive, and the

“FOR THE FIRST TIME, AMERICA’S SAYING IT WANTS TO BE PART OF A GLOBAL DEAL.”

— TONY BLAIR

U.S. president’s speech makes it clear that no one can avoid the question of global warming anymore,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel said. “This is common ground on which to act.”

British Prime Minister Tony Blair called Bush’s plan “a big step forward.”

“For the first time, America’s saying it wants to be part of a global deal,” Blair said. “For

Please see BUSH, Page 2

2007 HURRICANE SEASON

STATES OF FEAR

Hurricane season brings sense of foreboding

The Associated Press

Katrina was the perfect storm — a catastrophic combo of the wrong hurricane in the wrong place at the wrong time — but that doesn’t mean that history can’t repeat itself, leaving another city obliterated by another tempest.

It can.

And as we enter what weather forecasters are euphemistically calling another “active season,” citizens and civil servants from Texas to New England are asking themselves: Where’s the next New Orleans?

The Associated Press has pinpointed five of the most vulnerable U.S. coastal spots.

Among them: Galveston, Texas, sitting uneasily by the Gulf of Mexico, its residents limited to a single evacuation route; Miami, full of elderly people and others who might be trapped; and New York City, long spared a major storm but susceptible to a calamity of submerged subways and refugees caught in horrendous traffic jams.

Like so many other places, they are vulnerable because of geography. But mostly, they are imperiled because Americans have a love affair with the coast.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 35 million people — 12 percent of the population — live in the coastal counties most threatened by Atlantic hurricanes. That figure has more than tripled since 1950, and the census isn’t

Please see STORMS, Page 2

Is one of these five locations the next New Orleans?

See Page 2

Meet the man who names the storms.

See Page 5

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-KGB spy faults Brits in poisoning



Andrei Lugovoi

BY VLADIMIR ISACHEKNOV
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — After months of saying very little, the former KGB agent accused of poisoning Alexander Litvinenko said in a statement Thursday that Britain’s secret services may have had a hand in the poisoning.

Andrei Lugovoi’s sensational claim, certain to further damage relations between Moscow and London, was part of an elaborate tale that included a secret codebook and a supposed British plot to smear Russian President

Vladimir Putin.

But he offered no evidence to back his claims, and for some his explanation created more confusion than clarity.

Litvinenko, a renegade member of the Russian secret services hated by many former colleagues, died in a London hospital last November after ingesting radioactive polonium-210. He accused Putin of his deathbed of being behind his killing — charges the Kremlin has angrily denied.

Lugovoi, who met with Litvinenko on Nov. 1 in London,

Please see SPY, Page 2

Spammer pleads not guilty to charges

BY GENE JOHNSON
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — A 27-year-old man described as one of the world’s most prolific spammers was arrested Wednesday, and federal authorities said computer users across the Web could notice a decrease in the amount of junk e-mail.

Robert Alan Soloway is accused of using networks of compromised “zombie” computers to send out millions upon millions of spam e-mails.

spammers in the world,” said Tim Cranton, a Microsoft Corp. lawyer and senior director of the company’s Worldwide Internet Safety Programs. “He’s a huge problem for our customers. This is a very good day.”

A federal grand jury last week returned a 35-count indictment against Soloway charging him with mail fraud, wire fraud, e-mail fraud, aggravated identity theft and money laundering.

Soloway pleaded not guilty

Please see ARREST, Page 2

“HE’S A HUGE PROBLEM FOR OUR CUSTOMERS. THIS IS A VERY GOOD DAY.”

— TIM CRANTON, MICROSOFT CORP. ATTORNEY

Directors are heart, soul of films

BY DAVID GERMAIN
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Fans would have trouble imagining a “Spider-Man” movie without Tobey Maguire or a “Pirates of the Caribbean” flick without Johnny Depp.

At least as important, however, are the men behind the camera. Unlike Hollywood in earlier days, when any old director might take on a

sequel, the same filmmaker continues to oversee the latest installments of most big franchises out this summer.

It costs more going in, but the box-office results can be far greater when a studio brings back directors such as Sam Raimi for all three “Spider-Man” films or Gore Verbinski for the “Pirates of the Caribbean” trilogy.

Please see MOVIES, Page 2



PHOTOS BY MATT SAYLES / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Returning directors Gore Verbinski and Sam Raimi oversee the third installments of their movie franchises.

FOI: Activist says journalists harmed by sealed records

— Continued from Page 1

Opponents said the bill could hinder criminal prosecutions. “The prosecutors did everything they could to muddy the water on this to try to keep it from passing. We were going to win,” said Ken Whalen of the Texas Daily Newspaper Association. “It’s something we’d like to get passed in the next session.”

Lawmakers restricted public access to concealed handgun permits and to information police file when they want a search warrant. Concealed handgun licenses had been public information since the law was passed in 1995. The entire list would not be furnished, but a requester could ask whether a specific person held a permit. That changed with a bill filed

by Rep. Patrick Rose, D-Dripping Springs. Republican Gov. Rick Perry has already signed the measure into law and it took effect immediately. The Associated Press requested concealed handgun license information in 2005 for all 150 state representatives and 31 senators. DPS records showed that 30 Texas lawmakers had permits at that time. Rose and Sen. Bob Deuell, R-Greenville,

who sponsored the Senate version of this year’s legislation, were not among those with licenses. Joel White, immediate past president and current member of the board of directors of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas, said sealing those records won’t allow the media and public to track whether licenses are given to felons or other people who

shouldn’t have them. Another bill allows judges to seal search warrant affidavits for up to 60 days. The bill is awaiting action by Perry to become law. Currently, a sworn affidavit filed to support a search warrant is public information once the warrant is executed and Texas courts have ruled it be made immediately available. The affidavits can provide

details on alleged crimes and explain why police need the warrant. Prosecutors and law enforcement officials argued they sometimes include information that could result in the destruction of evidence or put witnesses in danger. But White said the new law harms the public by putting a delay on an important check of police powers.



The devastation of Galveston by Hurricane Isaac in 1900 is shown in a file photo. Approximately 8,000 people died, and most of the homes were destroyed during the storm. Galveston has only one escape route, which takes refugees through Houston.

STORMS: Coastal homes at great risk

— Continued from Page 1

even counting the Northern coastal states. “When I was growing up on the Redneck Riviera, most of the stuff we built was built out of plywood, and you built it with your cousins on a weekend,” said Margaret Davidson, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin-

istration’s Coastal Services Center. “And what we now have strewn across the coast is a bunch of McMansions.” And according to William Gray, a researcher based at Colorado State University, those hulking houses may face a battering this year. In an updated forecast released Thursday, he pre-

dicted a 74 percent chance of a major hurricane hitting the U.S. coast in the season that begins today. He foresees 17 named storms and nine hurricanes, five of them intense. So, where’s the next New Orleans? Pick a place on the coast, and there’s a worst-case scenario. The calamities those places

face are less about Mother Nature’s caprices than they are about the human variety. “If we really want to stop hurricane losses, we really have to slow down the kind of growth that’s happening along the coast,” said Jay Baker, a geography professor at Florida State University, “rather than worrying about how many hurricanes are going to come.”

Top FIVE Hurricane Spots

1) Lake Okeechobee, Belle Glade, Fla.

A report issued last year has called the dike “a grave and imminent danger” and puts the probability of a breach by 2010 at 50-50 without any major repairs.

2) Galveston

After Hurricane Isaac killed over 8,000 people in 1900, Galveston has been protected by a 18-foot seawall. Officials say a Category 3 hurricane could wipe out the seawall, and a Category 5 would put most of the city under water.

3) New York City

Although the city’s main weather concern is usually snow, hurricanes have hit Manhattan every 90 years or so. Flooding could put most of lower Manhattan under water, much like an 1821 hurricane that flooded all the way to Canal Street with a 13-foot storm surge.

4) Outer Banks, N.C.

As a vacation site that hosts nearly 5 million visitors each year, the Outer Banks are in danger of losing almost 75 percent of the islands in the event of another storm of Katrina’s magnitude.

Four years ago, Category 2 Hurricane Isabel’s 8-foot storm surge washed out a third of a mile of Hatteras Island.

5) Miami

Since Hurricane Andrew, a Category 5, made landfall just south of Miami in 1992, local analysts have continually run simulations and tests to examine the potential impact of a major storm on the city. The most recent hurricane to hit Miami directly was in 1928; the barrier island off southern Florida flooded, bringing the ocean into Miami.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



JOEY CASTILLO / THE DAILY TEXAN

Nine interns and five instructors will complete a training workshop today. They are (front) George Sylvie, Beth Butler, Amy Zerba, Cristi Parker, Gregory B. Finley, Bradley Wilson, Ryan Claunch, Jackie Stone, David Ok, Griff Singer; (back) Katie Armstrong, Carrie Garza, Joel Gehringer and Bre Thomas.

Dow Jones interns trained as editors

Nine college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships on eight daily newspapers after completing two weeks of intensive preparation at the University of Texas at Austin. They are among a select group of 104 placed in internships in copy editing, business reporting and online journalism as part of a nationally competitive program funded by the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund, a foundation of the Dow Jones

Co., and participating newspapers. The School of Journalism at UT, one of nine workshop sites for copy editors, has been part of the program for 10 years. Participants in the UT workshop were involved in newspaper copy editing, design and production assignments moderated by newspaper professionals and UT journalism faculty. The UT Newspaper Fund interns will report for internships of 10-14 weeks.

SPY: Agent says dead man asked him to discredit Putin

— Continued from Page 1

hours before the former agent fell ill, described the British accusations against him as an effort to shift suspicion from British spy services, which he said might be implicated in the crime. He said Litvinenko tried to recruit him to work for MI6, Britain’s foreign intelligence agency, and to gather compro-

mising materials about Putin and his family. “It’s hard to get rid of the thought that Litvinenko was an agent who got out of the secret service’s control and was eliminated,” Lugovoi said. “Even if it was not done by the secret service itself, it was done under its control or connivance.” The British Foreign Office declined comment.

BUSH: Some laud Bush’s plan for global warming

— Continued from Page 1

the first time it’s setting its own domestic targets. For the first time it’s saying it wants a global target for the reduction of emissions, and therefore for the first time I think the opportunity for a proper global deal.”

Germany will host the G-8 summit on June 6, where global warming will be a major topic. The nations’ leaders are proposing a target allowing global temperatures to increase no more than 2 degrees Celsius — the equivalent of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit — before being brought back down. Experts said that change means a global reduction in emissions of 50 percent below 1990 levels by

2050. “The United States takes this issue seriously,” Bush said. “The new initiative I’m outlining today will contribute to the important dialogue that will take place in Germany next week.” Along with his call for a global emissions goal, Bush urged other nations to eliminate tariffs on clean energy technologies. Environmental groups were quick to criticize Bush’s plan. Friends of the Earth president Brent Blackwelder called the proposal “a complete charade. It is an attempt to make the Bush administration look like it takes global warming seriously without actually doing anything to curb emissions.”

MOVIES: Actors factor directors into film choice

— Continued from Page 1

“I don’t know how that would have gone down. I was contracted to do three of these movies, but to me, Sam really is the heart of these movies,” said Maguire of returning as Spider-Man in the sequels. “Spider-Man 3,” from Sony Corp.’s Columbia Pictures, opened in early May with a record \$151.1 million weekend domestically and already has grossed more than \$800 million worldwide. “Pirates of the Caribbean: At World’s End,” from Walt Disney Co., set a

four-day record over Memorial Day weekend with \$139.8 million and cruised past \$400 million worldwide in just days. Producer Jerry Bruckheimer’s “National Treasure” sequel due this fall brings back director Jon Turteltaub, while this summer is loaded with franchises overseen by returning directors, among them Steven Soderbergh on “Ocean’s Thirteen,” Tim Story on “Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer,” Brett Ratner on “Rush Hour 3” and Tom Shadyac on “Evan Almighty,” the follow-up to “Bruce Almighty.”

ARREST: Soloway lost two civil suits previously

— Continued from Page 1

Wednesday to all charges. A public defender who represented him for Wednesday’s hearing declined to comment. Prosecutors say Soloway had used infected computers to send out millions of junk e-mails since 2003. The computers are called “zombies” because owners typically have no idea their machines have been infected. He continued his activities even after Microsoft won a \$7 million civil judgment against him in 2005 and the operator

of a small Internet service provider in Oklahoma won a \$10 million judgment, prosecutors said. U.S. Attorney Jeff Sullivan said Wednesday that the case is the first in the country in which federal prosecutors have used identity theft statutes to prosecute a spammer for taking over someone else’s Internet domain name. Soloway could face decades in prison and is in federal detention pending a hearing Monday. “This is way beyond a nuisance,” prosecutor Kathryn Warma said.



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Phil Avila, Dow Jones Newspaper Fund; Gary Dinges, Austin360.com; Bradley Wilson, North Carolina State University; Drew Marcks, Austin American-Statesman visit host.

2007 DOW JONES NEWSPAPER FUND INTERNS

KATHERINE G. ARMSTRONG
University of Texas at Austin
The Denver Post

RYAN CLAUNCH
Texas Christian University
The Tennessean

GREGORY B. FINLEY
Cal State University, Chico
The Washington Post

CAROLYN A. GARZA
University of Missouri
Austin American-Statesman

JOEL GEHRINGER
University of Nebraska
The Arizona Daily Star

HOON DAVID OK
University of Texas at Arlington
The Beaumont Enterprise

CRISTINA PARKER
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Houston Chronicle

JACQUELINE C. STONE
University of Texas at Austin
Houston Chronicle

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University of Oklahoma
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

The Southwest Journalist was edited and designed by interns attending the 2007 Center for Editing Excellence, funded by a grant from the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and the daily newspapers hosting the interns.

Iraqis fight, work for peace

Violence continues in central Iraq cities

By SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A battle raged Thursday in west Baghdad after residents rose up against al-Qaida and called for U.S. military help to end gunfire that forced people indoors and kept students from attending final exams, a member of the district council said.

U.S. forces clashed with suspected al-Qaida gunmen in Baghdad's primarily Sunni Muslim Amariyah neighborhood for several hours, said the district councilman, who would not allow use of his name for fear of al-Qaida retribution.

The councilman said the al-Qaida leader in the Amariyah district, known as Haji Hameed, was killed and 45 other fighters were detained. The U.S. military gave no immediate word on the engagement or related casualties. Members of al-Qaida consider Amariyah part of their so-called Islamic State of Iraq and were preventing students from attending final exams, shooting randomly and forcing residents to stay home, the councilman said.

In Fallujah, a suicide bomber hit a police recruiting center, killing as many as 25 people, police said — though U.S. military officials said only one policeman was killed and eight were wounded. Elsewhere, three policemen and three civilians were killed and 15 civilians were wounded when a suicide truck bomber struck a communications center near



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ramadi, according to Anbar provincial security adviser Col. Tariq Youssef Mohammed.

The Fallujah suicide bomber killed at least 10 policemen in the attack, according to a police official in the city who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information. The rest of the dead were civilians, with as many as 50 wounded.

Police said the bomber detonated explosives in his vest while standing among recruits who were lining up to apply for jobs on the force. The center opened Saturday in a school in Fallujah. The U.S. military and Iraqi army and police were running the center with members of Anbar Salvation Council, a loose grouping of Sunni tribes that have banded together to fight al-Qaida.

Police stations and recruiting posts have been a favorite target of Sunni insurgents and al-Qaida throughout the war.



KARIM KADIM / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents of Sadr City, Baghdad, inspect a damaged car after a joint U.S.-Iraqi forces raid Thursday killed two elderly people sleeping on the roof of their home, a police officer said.

Militants, U.S. talk cease-fire

By PAULINE JELINEK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. military commanders are talking with Iraqi militants about cease-fires and other arrangements to try to stop the violence, the No. 2 American commander said Thursday.

Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno said commanders at all levels must reach out for talks with militants, tribes and religious leaders to combat insurgents, sectarian rivals and common criminals. He suggested he might not be able to strictly meet the September deadline for telling Congress whether President Bush's military build up in Iraq is working.

"It's just beginning, so we have a lot of work to do in this,"

he said. "But we have restructured ourselves ... to work this issue."

He said he thinks 80 percent of Iraqis can reach reconciliation with each other, though most al-Qaida operatives won't.

"We are talking about cease-fires, and maybe signing some things that say they won't conduct operations against the government of Iraq or against coalition forces," Odierno told Pentagon reporters in a video conference from Baghdad.

On the assessment of operations that is due in September, he said he thinks it will take longer to tell whether the increase of nearly 30,000 troops will quell violence enough to let Iraqi officials work on reconciliation and development.

"The way I understand it is we're going to be required to provide an assessment in September. So I will provide my assessment," Odierno said, adding it might not be complete.

He said he will be able to assess the work of forces that arrived for the beginning of the build up in February, but that the ones who just arrived this week won't be in place for a couple of weeks.

"So that'll be the first time I'll be able to make a real initial assessment of the true effect of the surge," he said. "The assessment might be 'I need a little more time.' The assessment might be, 'I've seen enough, and it's effective,' or 'I've seen enough, and it's not going to be effective.'"

Mexican soaps spice up China TV

Televisa signs deal, will dub hit shows into Mandarin

By IOAN GRILLO
The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's Televisa network, known around the world for its soap operas, said Thursday it plans to expand in China, following the lead of other Mexican businesses looking for a slice of the Asian nation's market.

The company said it has signed a deal with the Chinese government to make Chinese versions of its most successful programming, including the reality show "Dancing for a Dream" and its soap operas, which are dubbed into more than 50 languages.

Televisa said it has tested the market by broadcasting four soap operas dubbed into Mandarin starting in 2000 in China, where they have been hits.

"Although entering the Chinese market is a big challenge, Televisa has established an excellent relationship with the main players to open the doors," Televisa Vice President Jose Baston said.

Televisa also said that next week it will begin cable transmissions in Mexico of China's government-run channel



GREGORY BULL / ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

The likes of soap opera stars Beatrice Moreno and Ernesto D'Alessio of "Heridas de Amor" are set to appear on Chinese TV.

CCTV dubbed into Spanish.

International media companies, including Rupert Murdoch's STAR Group Ltd., have been battling for a place in China's economy.

Televisa hopes to create a niche with the potent Latin formula of its melodramas, packed with glamor and rags-to-riches tales.

The programs boosted Televisa's 2006 revenue to about \$3.45 billion.

"We are offering a product that China doesn't have," Baston said. "The Chinese viewers have a similar demographic to the Mexicans. The difference is there are 1.3 billion of them instead of 100 million."

Baston said Televisa's part-

nership with the Chinese government should help it avoid regulation problems that have bogged down other foreign investors.

Other companies also have started selling uniquely Mexican products to the Chinese.

In January, the popular taco chain El Fogoncito opened its first restaurant in China and announced plans for 25 more.

The Mexican government is pushing companies to expand in an effort to lessen Mexico's trade deficit with China.

Last year, Mexican exports to China were \$1.7 billion, while Chinese exports into Mexico were \$24.4 billion, the Economy Ministry announced Tuesday.

Spanish lawsuit seeks sunken treasure

Attorney: Booty found by Fla. firm should be Spain's

By PHIL DAVIS
The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The Spanish government has filed claims in U.S. federal court over a shipwreck that a Florida firm found laden with colonial-era treasure, an attorney said Thursday.

If the vessel was Spanish or was removed from that country's waters, any treasure would belong to Spain, said James Goold, an attorney representing the government.

"It's a very well-established principle under Spanish, U.S. and international law that a government such as the kingdom of Spain has not abandoned its sunken ships or sunken property, and that a company like Odyssey Marine

Exploration may not conduct recovery operations without authorization by the government," he said.

"The kingdom of Spain has not authorized any such operations by Odyssey, and by these legal actions it will see the return of any Spanish property Odyssey has recovered," Goold said of the claims filed Wednesday.

Odyssey Marine Exploration Inc. CEO John Morris said in a statement Thursday that "such a move was anticipated by Odyssey and is considered normal in Admiralty cases."

Odyssey has said it would notify all claimants once it conclusively determined the ship's identity. Odyssey said it was not found in Spanish territorial waters.

The company announced two weeks ago that it had discovered a shipwreck containing 500,000 gold and silver coins somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean. The Tampa-based company said the site was outside any country's territorial

waters but would not give the exact location or name of the ship.

Odyssey has said that the ship was not the HMS Sussex, a shipwreck that Odyssey recently got permission from the Spanish government to search for in the Strait of Gibraltar.

But Spain has called the new discovery suspicious and said the booty may have come from a wrecked Spanish galleon.

In Britain, the find generated press reports that Odyssey had salvaged the wreck of the long-sought British vessel Merchant Royal, which sank in bad weather off England in 1641. Odyssey has not confirmed or denied these reports.

Spain is using the U.S. law firm Covington & Burling, which has represented Spain in shipwreck cases before.

Odyssey shares rose 13 cents, about 2 percent, to \$6.83 in morning trading. Shares fell almost 4 percent early in the day. They have traded in a 52-week range of \$1.52 to \$9.45.

Rights groups urge Iran to free scholars

By KATARINA KRATOVAC
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO, Egypt — International human rights groups urged Iran on Thursday to immediately release four Iranian-American scholars being held on suspicion of spying.

The call came as the United States repeated denials the four are spies or employees of the U.S. government. State Department spokesman Tom Casey also said there had been no Iranian response to requests for access to the prisoners by Swiss diplomats who represent U.S. interests in Tehran.

In a joint statement, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Reporters Without Borders, the International Federation for Human Rights and 2003 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Shirin Ebadi, urged Iran to stop the "harassment of dual nationals."

The detentions are an "attempt by Iran's security authorities to sow fear into the wider community of journalists, writers, scholars and activists," the statement said.

The statement also accused Iran of confiscating the pass-

port of Mehrnough Solouki, a French-Iranian journalism student, who had been making a documentary in Iran.

Three of the scholars have been charged with endangering Iran's national security and with espionage, Iran's judiciary spokesman said Tuesday.

Casey confirmed Thursday that Ali Shakeri, a peace activist, is also in custody at Tehran's notorious Evin Prison, but it was not clear if he had been charged. He was supposed to leave Iran and fly to Europe on May 13 but never arrived.

All four were in Iran visiting family members or doing work when they were detained, according to Casey and their relatives and employers.

Haleh Esfandiari, director of the Middle East Program at the Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, and her organization have been accused by the Iranian Intelligence Ministry of trying to set up networks of Iranians to start a revolution to bring down the hardline regime. The ministry alleges that the Open Society Institute, which seeks to promote democracy worldwide, was also part of the conspiracy.

DO AS THE ROMAS DO



PETER DAVID JOSEK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

During the World Roma Festival Khamoro 2007, a Gypsy woman dances through central Prague in the Czech Republic on Thursday. Gypsies from across the world gathered in the capital city for traditional food, dance and music.

INTERNATIONAL

Thailand court tosses party leaders

BANGKOK, Thailand — A court disbanded the political party of Thailand's ousted prime minister Wednesday, barring him and 110 party executives from politics for five years because of election law violations.

The ruling followed a guilty verdict against the Thai Rak Thai Party for financing obscure parties to run against it last year to get around turnout rules.

The party's demise began after the military overthrew the prime minister in September. The bloodless coup followed demonstrations by tens of thousands of people demanding Thaksin's resignation and accusing him of corruption.

The court's decision is likely to unleash a flurry of political activity, with parties springing up to fill the vacuum left by Thai Rak Thai.

Carter Center urges talks in license fight

CARACAS, Venezuela — The Carter Center, a partnership with Emory University for the protection of human rights and the alleviation of human suffering, called for dialogue Thursday between President Hugo Chavez and opponents protesting his decision not to renew the license of an opposition TV channel, while calm returned to the streets after three days of demonstrations.

The organization expressed concern about the potential for escalating violence after the government halted broadcasts by Radio Caracas Television on Sunday. Police have repeatedly clashed with angry crowds hurling rocks and bottles.

The Carter Center, which has observed past elections here, said it is concerned that the decision "will have a chilling effect on free speech."

Standstill holds in Iran uranium scuffle

MADRID, Spain — Top envoys for Iran and the European Union ended talks Thursday with little indication they were closer to resolving a deadlock over Tehran's refusal to suspend uranium enrichment, but they agreed to meet again in two weeks.

In Vienna, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged Tehran to heed the U.N. Security Council and freeze enrichment, saying Washington was ready for wide-ranging discussions if it complied.

Rice said talks cannot resume if Iran continues "to try to perfect technologies that are going to lead to a nuclear weapon."

Syria condemns U.N. tribunal plan

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Syria and its allied Hezbollah group condemned Thursday a U.N. decision to set up a tribunal in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, warning that it violated Lebanon's sovereignty.

The Hezbollah-led opposition in Lebanon ignored a government appeal for dialogue to overcome the conflict before a June 10 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council. If the Lebanese parliament does not establish the tribunal by then, the Security Council will impose it.

Lebanon reopened the road Thursday where Hariri was killed in a suicide bombing in February 2005. Motorists honked in celebration, and a minivan driver stopped and kissed the ground.

Algae contaminates lake in east China

BEIJING — Fast-spreading, foul-smelling blue-green algae smothered a lake in eastern China, contaminating the drinking water for millions of people and sparking panic-buying of bottled water, state media said Thursday.

The algae bloom in Lake Tai, a long-polluted tourist attraction in Jiangsu province, formed because water levels are at their lowest in 50 years, leading to excess nutrients in the water, the Xinhua news agency said.

Residents swarmed stores in Wuxi, a city of 5 million, to buy bottled water Wednesday and prices skyrocketed to \$6.50 for a 2-gallon bottle, Xinhua said.

State TV showed a yellowish trickle coming from taps and a restaurant worker said customers refused to eat there until they were assured that the water used was safe.

NATIONAL

Five awarded \$20 billion telecom deal

WASHINGTON – Five companies – AT&T, Level 3 Communications, Qwest Communications, Sprint Nextel and Verizon – on Thursday were awarded a federal telecommunications contract worth up to \$20 billion over 10 years.

The winners of the contract must now compete with each other to win business from agencies looking to improve telecom services.

It's the second telecom contract awarded by the U.S. General Services Administration in about two months.

In late March, Qwest Communications International Inc., San Antonio-based AT&T Inc. and Verizon Communications Inc. were winners of a much larger Networx Universal contract, worth up to \$48 billion over a decade.

Blocked openness law fuels concerns

WASHINGTON – Advocates of an openness in government bill are fuming that a Republican senator is blocking a vote.

Dozens of journalism and advocacy groups supporting the Open Government Act argue it would speed up the government's response to public requests for information under the federal Freedom of Information law.

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., says the Justice Department is concerned that it could force them to reveal sensitive information.

In a statement Thursday, Kyl said the agency's "uncharacteristically strong" opposition is reason enough to think twice, and he will block a vote the differences are ironed out.

NASA to launch year's first shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. – NASA managers announced Thursday that they will go ahead with the first space shuttle launch of the year next week.

After a two-day meeting at the Kennedy Space Center, NASA officials agreed to launch Atlantis at 6:38 p.m. June 8 on a mission to deliver a pair of solar arrays to the international space station.

The launch was set for mid-March, but a storm dropped golf-ball sized hail on the launch pad, damaging it.

In 2003, a piece of foam fell off Columbia's tank and hit the spacecraft's wing. Damage from the impact allowed fiery gases to penetrate Columbia during descent, killing all seven astronauts aboard.

Kevorkian released from Mich. prison

LANSING – Jack Kevorkian, the controversial doctor who gave fatal drugs to his patients, will be released from a southern Michigan prison today.

Kevorkian, 79, was convicted of second-degree murder in the death of a man with Lou Gehrig's disease. He served just more than eight years of a 10- to 25-year sentence, with time off his sentence for good behavior.

Kevorkian was sentenced to prison after he administered fatal drugs to Thomas Youk in 1998.

Plame sues over delay in book

WASHINGTON – Valerie Plame, the former undercover CIA officer whose exposure touched off a leak investigation, is accusing the government of delaying publication of her book.

Plame and her publisher, Simon & Schuster, sued the CIA in a New York federal court Thursday. They accused the government of illegally refusing to let Plame write about specific dates she worked for the agency.

The CIA, which has acknowledged Plame worked for them since 2002, must approve all writings of former officers.

CIA spokesman Mark Mansfield said the concern is that the current manuscript reveals classified information.

Plame contends in court documents that the CIA released information about her work history in an unclassified letter. The letter, which the CIA says was sent inadvertently, was entered into the Congressional Record and says Plame worked at the CIA for more than 20 years.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Northwest back from bankruptcy

By JOSHUA FREED
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Northwest Airlines Corp. departed bankruptcy protection Thursday, capping a 20-month reorganization aimed at making the nation's fifth-largest carrier competitive for years to come.

Northwest shares began trading on the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday, with CEO Doug Steenland and other employees ringing the opening bell. The shares traded at \$25.25 after being offered to unsecured creditors at \$27.

Northwest has slashed debt by \$4.2 billion, cut \$400 million

a year in the cost of its fleet and trimmed unprofitable routes. It also cut \$1.4 billion a year in labor costs.

The result is a slightly smaller, more efficient airline with some of the lowest costs among the major carriers.

Northwest, which has had the oldest fleet of U.S. airlines, will be upgrading over the next two years. It will be the first U.S. airline to take Boeing's new 787 "Dreamliner."

The company also plans to add 72 regional jets, which include a first-class section, adding the number of first-class seats Northwest offers. The new 76-seat jets will fill an

empty spot in Northwest's fleet between its smaller regional jets and its old DC-9s, which generally have around 100 seats. The new jets will make it possible to fly routes that weren't busy enough for its larger planes, Northwest said.

By the end of 2006, when most of the airline restructuring was finished after the Sept. 11, 2001 acts, Northwest's costs were lower than many other airlines but still higher than at competitor United Airlines.

Northwest's new labor contracts lock workers into lower pay rates and more company-friendly work rules through the end of 2011.



PHOTOS BY CHUCK BURTON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Franklin Graham, successor to his father, the Rev. Billy Graham, walks through a series of lighted crosses as he leads a tour prior to the dedication for the Billy Graham Library in Charlotte, N.C.

Graham legacy lives

Three presidents pay him tributes at library service

By RACHEL ZOLL
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Three former U.S. presidents came to honor him, the last one letting out a sob as he spoke.

Speaker after speaker praised him — his love of God, his humility, his six decades on the road, preaching to 210 million people. They dedicated a new, \$27-million library to commemorate his life.

Then Billy Graham, his once-roaring voice diminished by age and illness, told a crowd of well-wishers Thursday that their attention was in the wrong place.

"This building behind me is just a building," the 88-year-old preacher said in view of the new Billy Graham Library, which opens Tuesday.

"It's an instrument, a tool for the Gospel. The primary thing is the Gospel of Christ."

The emotional dedication ceremony for the library had the air of a final tribute.

Even Graham quipped that "I feel like I've been attending my own funeral."



Graham



The 40,000-square-foot library complex, built near the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, traces the preacher's rise from farm boy to preaching the Gospel in person to more than 210 million people worldwide.

He was driven by golf cart to the stage, where he used a walker and leaned on his son and successor, Franklin, to reach a seat.

President George H.W. Bush sobbed as he spoke of how much the minister meant to him, calling Graham "a spiritual gift to all of us."

Bush noted that the preacher had comforted four generations of the president's family. That includes President George W. Bush, who sent Graham a handwritten note last week.

Presidents Carter and Clinton recalled how Graham's insistence that his crusades be racially integrated helped bring blacks and whites together in the South.

But Clinton said Graham, who has met every U.S. presi-

dent since Harry Truman and became a confidant to many of them, is just as impressive for his personal kindness.

As chief executive of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, the Rev. Franklin Graham has primary responsibility for preserving his father's legacy.

The entrance is a barn with a 40-foot cross.

The first Bible verse Graham's mother taught him, John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son," is engraved onto a rafter.

Graham's personal papers will be stored at the museum and managed by Wheaton College, the evangelical school in Illinois.

Billy and Ruth Graham met there as students.

BARACK AROUND THE CLOCK



ANDY BARRON / RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama greets members of an audience in Reno, Nev., Thursday. Obama says that he'll enjoy the same success in Nevada attracting rural voters as he did back home in Illinois.

New Hampshire OKs gay civil unions

By BEVERLEY WANG
The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — Gay couples in New Hampshire can start applying for many of the rights and responsibilities of marriage as early as January under a law Gov. John Lynch signed Thursday establishing civil unions.

"We in New Hampshire have had a long and proud tradition taking the lead in opposing discrimination," Lynch said. "Today that tradition continues."

Couples who enter civil unions will have the same rights, responsibilities and obligations as married couples. Same-sex unions from other states also would be recognized if they were legal in the state where they were performed.

Legislators who gathered for the bill signing packed the governor's chambers and overflowed into an adjoining sitting room. They snapped photos and burst into applause as he signed it.

"I've listened and I've heard all the arguments," said Lynch, a Democrat. "I do not believe that this bill threatens marriage. I believe that this is a

Did you know?

★**States currently allowing civil unions or domestic partnerships: Connecticut, Vermont, New Jersey, Maine, California and Washington. Hawaii extends certain rights to cohabitating and same-sex couples.**

matter of conscience and fairness."

Episcopal Bishop V. Gene Robinson was among those attending. Although his consecration in 2003 as the first openly gay bishop in the Episcopal Church divided the worldwide Anglican Communion to which it belongs, Robinson and his longtime partner plan to take advantage of civil unions.

"This is not a radical departure," Robinson said of the law. "This is a real confirmation of what New Hampshire has always been about — the freedom of its own citizens and fairness for everyone."

College students criticize man who flew with TB

By JIM DAVENPORT
The Associated Press

AIKEN, S.C. — Several South Carolina college students that flew alongside a man infected with a dangerous strain of tuberculosis called his actions selfish Thursday.

Laney Wiggins and Jason Vik were among more than two dozen University of South Carolina Aiken students on an eight-hour flight with 31-year-old Andrew Speaker, the honeymooner identified as the first person quarantined by the federal government since 1963.

"It's still very scary," Wiggins, 21, said by telephone. "I'm still upset that he got on a plane knowing that he was infected with this illness and he had the potential of infecting 487 passengers. That is an outrageous number of people that he was very reckless with their health. It's not fair. It's selfish."

Both students initially thought they were on the same row as Speaker, but said they learned Thursday afternoon they were 21 rows away.

Wiggins and Vik were tested and expect results possibly by Friday.

Speaker was infected with

a particularly drug-resistant strain of TB and ignored doctor's advice when he took two trans-Atlantic flights on his way to getting married and returning.

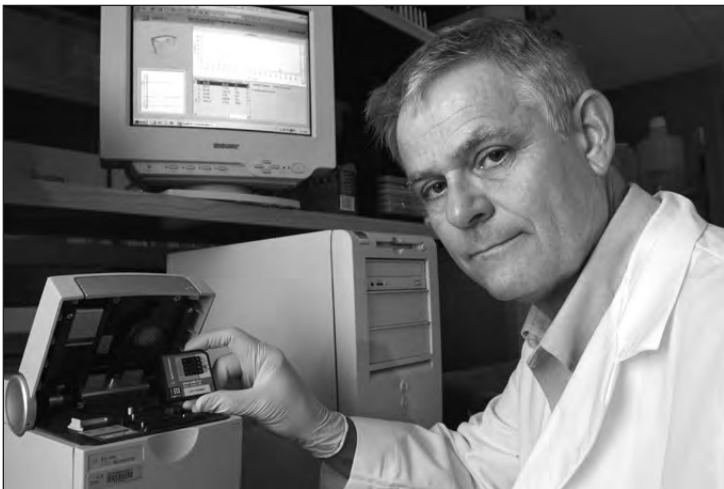
"He did not need to be on a plane. That's just wrong, selfish," said Vik, 21.

He said he was also angry at Air France, the Centers for Disease Control and other health officials he said never tried to contact him or other passengers.

Instead, one of his classmate's parents tracked down flight information and found that the students had been on the same trip, Vik said.

Twenty-six students and two faculty members flew from Atlanta to Paris on May 12 as part of a study abroad program with the school's business department, school spokeswoman Jennifer Lake said. Lake said she heard about the TB case on Tuesday after some students e-mailed her. She then got in touch with the school.

Business professor Arinola Adebayo, who was leading the trip, said most students on the flight had been to a clinic to be tested.



JAMES GATHANY / CDC

Dr. Robert Cooksey, a CDC microbiologist, the father-in-law of Andrew Speaker, the honeymooner quarantined with a dangerous strain of tuberculosis. Cooksey specializes in the spread of tuberculosis, but said that he was not the source of Speaker's TB.

Dell plans 8,000 job cuts

Computer maker's first-quarter earnings dip amid shake-up

By **MATT SLAGLE**
The Associated Press

DALLAS — Dell Inc. said Thursday that it planned to lay off more than 8,000 employees over the next year as part of a restructuring. The computer maker's earnings also fell slightly in

preliminary first-quarter results.

Hewlett-Packard Co. ousted it from the top spot in worldwide computer shipments last year.

The company said that the job cuts would vary across geographic regions and customer segments. They represent about 10 percent of Dell's global work force of 88,100 employees.

"While reductions in head count are always difficult for a company, we know these actions are critical to our ability to deliver unprecedented value to our customers now and in the future," Michael Dell said in a statement.

As part of an ongoing turnaround effort led by Michael Dell, the company has undergone an executive shake-up and other changes to improve customer service and reclaim market share. Earlier in May, Dell broke from its long-standing direct-to-customer business model with a plan to sell computers through Wal-Mart Stores Inc. beginning June 10. Dell also recently began selling consumer systems pre-loaded with a version of Linux, an alternative to Microsoft Corp.'s operating systems.

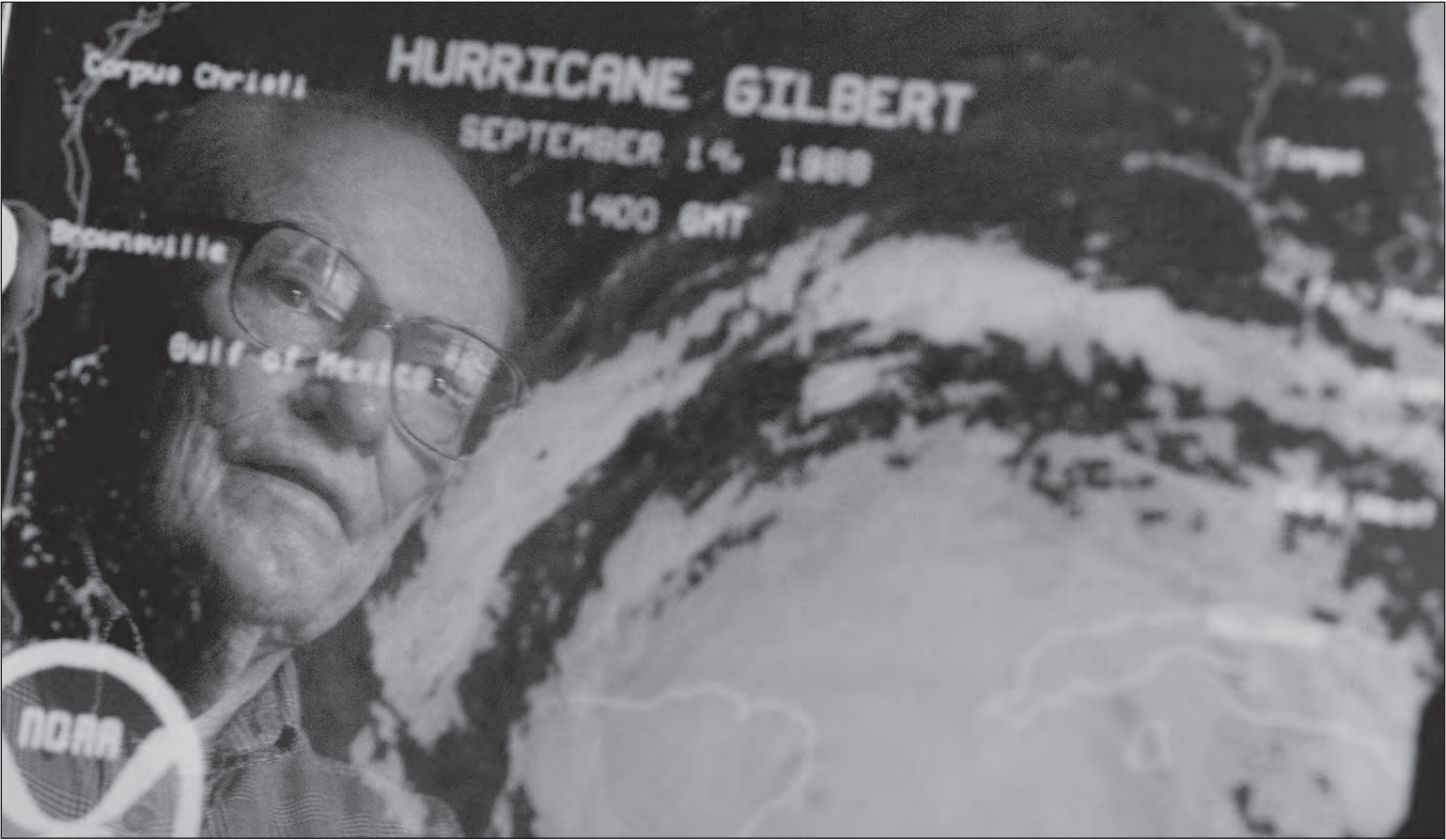
Dell said it earned \$759 million, or 34 cents per share, in the three months

that ended May 4. That compared with \$762 million, or 33 cents per share, in the year-ago period.

First-quarter sales rose nearly 1 percent from the last year to \$14.6 billion.

Dell's earnings statements from the second, third and fourth quarters have not been filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission because of an ongoing federal accounting probe that found numerous errors and evidence of misconduct and financial control deficiencies.

Dell also hasn't filed its annual report for the fiscal year ended Feb. 2.



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Retired hurricane forecaster Gil Clark, 84, spent 40 years predicting storms for the National Weather Service and National Hurricane

Center. As a tribute, colleagues added his name to the hurricane list in the 1970s. Hurricane Gilbert made landfall in 1988.

NAMING THE FURY

40 years of predicting storms

By **ELIZABETH WHITE**
The Associated Press

PEARSALL — Talk of Friday's start to the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season elicits an unusual reaction from Gil Clark: glee. "Everything looks good," Clark, 84, said of the coming season. "Good means bad to most people. It looks like there's going to be more storms than usual."

Clark, who now lives safely 100 miles inland, spent 40 years predicting storms for the National Weather Service and National Hurricane Center. But Clark's claim to hurricane history was his 1970 assignment: Come up with 10 new lists of women's names to update the list for naming Atlantic storms.

Many of those names are still used today, along with men's names after protests against associating only women with nature's fury, death and destruction.

So Clark browsed through a baby book, careful not to pick names with too many syllables or names that would translate to something untoward in

2007 hurricane names

Arthur	Hanna	Omar
Bertha	Ike	Paloma
Cristobal	Josephine	Rene
Dolly	Kyle	Sally
Edouard	Laura	Teddy
Fay	Marco	Vicky
Gustav	Nana	Wilfred

another language.

He also added his daughter's name, Roxanne, to one of the lists. In 1995, Hurricane Roxanne hit Mexico with force and the name was retired.

Clark spent most of his career in Miami and said he fell in love with hurricanes when he and his family survived one in Corpus Christi when he was 12 years old.

"There was no warning," Clark said. "All we knew is that all the sudden it started to rain, and the wind started blowing and finally the wind got to 80 miles an hour. That really fascinated me."

By the late 1970s, the World

Meteorological Organization took over storm-naming duties. Six rotating lists — with Spanish and French names for the other nations on the Atlantic hit by storms — are used now, with the names of deadly and destructive storms retired after each season. In 2005, five names, the most in a single year, were retired, including Katrina.

Before 1953, the phonetic alphabet, using "Able, Baker, Charlie" and so on, had been used to name storms. But that created confusion from year to year. Even earlier, Clark said, storms had no names at all.

"They had two or three

storms on the map at once and they were calling them 'this storm' and 'that storm' and they were getting them all mixed up," Clark said.

Bill Proenza, director of the National Hurricane Center, said Clark loves hurricanes for the knowledge that studying them yields and the possibility that forecasters can use that information to warn people early, Proenza said. Proenza trained under Clark in the 1960s.

As an octogenarian, Clark said he's glad to be living inland, because he never learned to swim. But, he misses his beloved storms.

Two televisions in Clark's house show The Weather Channel nonstop.

But Clark doesn't simply watch updates. He tracks and charts the storms on a large map unrolled across a table that shows the Atlantic Ocean and nearby land.

"It was a real thrill to have been there all those years and be lucky enough to get through it," he said. "Anything to do with hurricanes is exciting to me."

Children asleep when hanged?

Medical examiner notes no wounds, signs of struggle

By **ANGELA K. BROWN**
The Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Three young girls killed by their mother had no defensive wounds, indicating they may have been sleeping when they were hanged in the closet of their mobile home, the Tarrant County medical examiner said Thursday.

Dr. Nizam Peerwani said Gilberta Estrada tied pieces of clothing around their necks and then around a wooden board, probably about an hour or so before 6:30 a.m. Tuesday when they were found. Estrada also hanged herself and her 8-month-old, who survived.

Peerwani said Estrada, 25, could have killed herself and daughters up to six hours before her sister discovered them in their trailer in Hudson Oaks, about 25 miles west of Fort Worth. But he said the murders and suicide probably happened shortly before they were found because the infant, Evelyn Frayre, survived.

"When one is subjected to a life-threatening event one struggles to survive ... unless they were drugged or asleep, or were taken by surprise," Peerwani said.

He said no prescription drugs were found in the trailer and toxicology test results are pending for all five.

Evelyn was doing well in a foster home, Marissa Gonzales of Child Protective Services said Thursday. Officials were doing background checks on relatives seeking to care for her. Gregorio Frayre Rodriguez, father of the three youngest children, is not a suitable candidate to care for Evelyn, but CPS will consider his recommendations on where she should live, Gonzales said. Estrada obtained a protective order against Frayre in August, alleging abuse since 2003.

Boy at center of life support debate dies

Futile care law lets hospital decide on care

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A 2-year-old boy at the center of a dispute over the state's futile care law died of natural causes Wednesday.

Daniel Wayne Cullen II died at Children's Medical Center Dallas, about a year after his mother, Dixie Belcher, got a restraining order preventing the hospital from removing him from life support.

Daniel's case was championed by right-to-life advocates who want to modify a state law that allows hospitals to discontinue life support 10 days after their ethics board decides life-saving measures are futile.

Daniel's death came just two weeks after Children's Hospital of Austin wanted to discontinue life support for 18-month-old Emilio Gonzales, despite the opposition of his mother, Catarina. The case was pending in court when Emilio died of natural causes May 19.

A bill that would give families 21 days instead of 10 to

transfer patients failed to pass in the legislative session that ended this week.

Daniel had a tracheotomy after he was born three months premature. In April 2006, he was hospitalized after he pulled out a breathing tube.

After the hospital decided to disconnect his machines, Belcher fought fortune and Daniel was moved to a pediatric nursing center near Tyler.

Daniel's brain damage never improved and he was transferred back to Children's Medical Center with uncontrollable blood pressure.

"He just took a turn for the worse," Belcher said. "God was picking his angels, and he was needing another little boy."

Groups involved in the futile-care debate said Daniel's case demonstrates the need for compromise on the state law.

"There's no reason to speed a patient to his death by withdrawing or denying care," said Elizabeth Graham, director of Texas Right to Life.

Spokeswoman Amanda Engler said the Texas Hospital Association will send guidelines to its members based on concerns that were addressed in the bill.

STATE

Scientist gets first personal genetic map

HOUSTON — Nobel Prize-winning scientist James Watson, 79, became the first person Thursday to receive his own personal genome map, a DNA map that could show what diseases he is prone to.

Researchers say the mapping of Watson's DNA is the first step in making the sequencing of individual DNA quick, affordable and routine in personal medical care.

Watson, who shared a Nobel Prize for his role in discovering the structure of DNA in 1953 and who launched the Human Genome Project in 1990, said thousands more individual human genomes need to be mapped out before researchers can make better sense of the information they can provide.

The \$1 million, two-month project was a collaboration between a Connecticut-based DNA sequencing company 454 Life Sciences Corp. and Baylor College of Medicine's Human Genome Sequencing Center.

Texas teens test positive for TB

ARLINGTON - Four high school students tested positive for tuberculosis after they were exposed to another student with the disease, the Tarrant County Public Health Department said Thursday.

The students were among 78 who underwent skin tests for TB on Tuesday, said Gerry Dreyer, division manager for tuberculosis elimination in Fort Worth's Tarrant County. The students will undergo a nine-month preventive treatment.

Health department staff were investigating another TB case when they found a Bowie High student had contracted the disease. Officials say more than 500 students and teachers may have been exposed to that student, The Dallas Morning News reported in its online edition.

Dancer sentenced for sexual assault

CORPUS CHRISTI — A 66-year-old dance studio owner convicted of sexually assaulting a former student has been sentenced to three consecutive 99-year prison terms.

A Nueces County jury decided the punishment Wednesday for Ricardo Villa, owner of Ballet Nacional Dance Center. Villa won't be eligible for parole until he has served at least 30 years.

Villa was convicted for molesting a male dance student under the age of 14 in 1994.

The victim, who is now 24, said he was relieved by the sentence. He said he came forward for himself and other victims.

Ex-monk to receive \$1 million in suit

JOHNSON CITY — Former novice monk James B. Wright Jr. won a \$1 million settlement from a Texas monastery and the nonprofit group that runs it in a judgement Wednesday.

In a 2006 lawsuit, Wright claimed he was molested at the Christ of the Hills Monastery by its founder, Samuel A. Greene Jr., and followers William Hughes and Walter Christley in the late 1990s.

State District Judge Dan Mills ordered Wednesday that Wright get \$1 million from the monastery and Ecumenical Monks Inc.

The three accused and two of Greene's other followers, Hugh Fallon and Jonathan Hitt, are awaiting trial on charges of sexual assault of a child/organized crime. Greene and Christley are also charged with sexual performance by a child.

New TXU directors named in buyout

DALLAS — The private investors buying TXU Corp. said Thursday that former Commerce Secretary Donald L. Evans will become non-executive chairman of the electric utility when the \$32 billion buyout is completed.

Other directors will include former EPA chief William Reilly and Lyndon Olson, former ambassador to Sweden.

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., Texas Pacific Group and other investors are trying to complete the largest private buyout ever.

The sale still needs approval from federal regulators and TXU shareholders.

A s-a-d Texan exits spelling bee

Contest overturns appeal by mom on pronunciation

By **JOSEPH WHITE**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Samir Patel's five-year dream of winning the national spelling title ended in a moment Thursday with the word "clevis."

Spectators in the Grand Hyatt Washington ballroom gasped as the 13-year-old Texan spelled out the word for a type of fastening device as "c-l-e-v-i-c-e." The error eliminated him in the fifth round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Samir, considered by many to be this year's favorite, wiped away tears as he talked about it later.

"The first thing I thought was c-l-e-v-i-s, and if I had been slow and cautious like I always am, I would have got it right," he said.

Samir's mother appealed the dismissal on subtle differences in the pronunciation of the final syllable, but the appeal was rejected.

Thirty-three spellers advanced to the sixth round of the 80th annual bee. Fifteen survived to compete in Thursday night's finals.

Other top favorites from previous years remained in contention for the title, which comes with a \$35,000 prize, plus a \$5,000 scholarship, a \$2,500 savings bond and a set of reference works.

Tia Thomas, 12, of Coarsegold, Calif., dispatched "sagittal" (resembling an arrow), then raised both arms in triumph. Matthew Evans,



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five-year bee veteran Samir Patel, 13, of Coleyville misspells "clevis" and ends his title hopes.

12, from Albuquerque, N.M., mastered "azotea" (a terraced roof). Both are in the bee for the fourth time.

The words got tougher as the rounds progressed, and several spellers used humor when they reached the breaking point.

Josiah Wright of Fleetwood, N.C., asked "Is that English?" when he heard the scientific term "ptilopod."

"They tell me it is," replied pronouncer Jacques Bailly. Josiah spelled the word as "tylopod" and was eliminated.

Tyree Shelton, right, watches the Aaron's 312 race. Shelton and his friend Richard Barber, red hat, found a discarded couch and decided to put it to good use.

James "Junior" Fondren, of Semmes, Ala., cheers drivers as they drive around the first turn during the NASCAR Busch Series' Aaron's 312 race at Talladega Superspeedway in Talladega, Ala. Attendance at NASCAR races has increased 11.5 percent since 1997.



Race fans cheer as the field goes through turn one during the Aaron's 499 auto race at Talladega Superspeedway.

Race fans listen to the sounds of Savin Dixon as the band performs at the campground across from the track at the Superspeedway.



MOTORHEAD madness

NASCAR fans explain sport's mainstream popularity

To experience NASCAR and watch men race cars at speeds approaching 200 mph, you have to crawl along the jammed roads leading up to the track at 1 or 2 mph, if you can move at all.

Follow the RVs and the SUVs with their destinations finger-scraped into the dusty rear windows — “Dega Bound,” for Talladega, and “Daytona Bound” are two popular inscriptions — and realize: People who say NASCAR is like religion in these parts have it backward. Religion, rather, is like NASCAR.

NASCAR has exploded into mainstream popularity, embarking on a \$4.5 billion TV deal, its richest ever, and expanding its circuit of races to include stops outside Los Angeles, Chicago and Montreal.

Yet it remains to much of the country an object of curiosity at best and derision at worst, the pinnacle of a certain Southern stereotype.

Even onlookers who approach NASCAR and its fans with an open mind, wonder: What on earth would compel anyone to spend four hours watching 43 cars make an extended left turn?

But after watching a race, it becomes obvious that the difference between watching NASCAR on television and watching in person is the difference between getting a postcard from Paris and climbing the Eiffel Tower.

The crowds who turn ovals of asphalt into small cities for these races are overwhelmingly Southern whites. Their drink of choice is beer, in a can, in a foam beer cozy. Their snack of choice is the cigarette. Some even embrace the unavoidable “redneck” label.

At this moment the air smells distinctly of burning rubber and exhaust, and that is when it happens — a rush of wind and the ear-busting, exhilarating, intensifying whine of 43 cars whizzing by. Making their left turn and taking everyone's breath away. This all happens so close you could toss a rock with minimal effort and hit one of the cars.

“I never even liked NASCAR,” said Jason Baty of Smyrna, Tenn. “Then in '84 I went to a race



Terry Ryan, a blind saxophone player, entertains the crowd on Talladega Boulevard. Many fans never get into the race itself but come for the attractions surrounding the Superspeedway.

in Atlanta and saw that. Every time the cars go by — it's like your shirt's being sucked off. I was pretty much hooked then.”

NASCAR fans talk about tradition and heritage and about why they admire this driver over that, but talk to them long enough and it boils down to that — the rush of the cars racing by.

The infield is the nucleus of the NASCAR experience, but only that. The much larger Talladega campground teems with unmistakably American raw capitalism as thousands of fans with no prayer of getting into the race mill around for days buying food and souvenirs.

It is surprisingly difficult to pin NASCAR fans down on why they cheer for particular drivers. It is about family tradition for some, a driver's “attitude” or “makeup” for others, a style of driving for still others.

The point, really, is just to be here. It is about the race more than about the drivers, and it is about the weekend — the cooking and drinking and visiting — more than it is about the race.

“To hear the tires scream, the smoke, all that. If you ever come one time,” said Brad Braford during his 12th race at the Talladega Speedway, “I guarantee you you'll come back again.”

FINAL FIGHT?
The Spurs face a must-win situation tonight when they travel to the Staples Center for Game 5 of the Western Finals, Page 5



The price of indulgence



TINA FINEBERG/AP PHOTO

Juliet Ewing-Kwan helps her son, Dashiell, with his shoes after his gymnastics class. Ewing-Kwan will keep paying for extracurricular lessons and classes for 3-year-old Dashiell and his 6-year-old

sister, though Ewing-Kwan did trade out her trendy Bugaboo stroller, opting for a lighter and cheaper jogger. Parents across the country are having to choose how to indulge their children.

Tips for teaching teens dollar sense

- TALK ABOUT CREDIT CARDS:** Students often don't know even the basics about credit cards.
- DON'T BRIBE KIDS WITH MONEY:** Rewards are nice, but they don't help teens learn the value of working for a dollar.
- MONITOR SPENDING:** Tracking cash flow can be simple. Have your teen use envelopes to stash cash for budget categories on a weekly basis.
- ADMIT MISTAKES:** Parents can have bad money habits like everyone else. 'Fess up, but explain you're trying to improve.
- HELP KIDS LEARN TO BUDGET:** Budgeting takes time and practice. If you value saving, but don't budget for it, you are much less likely to save.
- STEPHEN EPSTEIN, OF DOLLARCAMP, STUDENT FINANCIAL TRAINING

Are we overspending on kids?

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
Associated Press Writer

Parents in all income brackets have the shaky economy on their minds, but in this spendy era of the \$900 baby stroller and the ultra-birthday party, are they resisting the urge to splurge on their kids?

Many parents acknowledge there's a blur between "necessities" and "luxuries" for their young ones as prices soar for everything from gas to milk.

"There's definitely pressure to buy. There's more consuming and more competition," said stay-at-home mom Juliet Ewing-Kwan, who recently had her third child. "So much of it is about products. Even my husband knows who has the expensive stroller, who spent the money."

Ewing-Kwan dumped her pricey Bugaboo stroller, opting for a lighter and cheaper jogger, but extracurricular Italian lessons, music class and yoga aren't on the chopping block for her 6-year-old daughter and her 3-year-old son.

"We do it for ourselves and we do it for our kids," said Ewing-Kwan, 39, whose husband works for a Wall Street investment firm. "Those things are really important when applying to middle schools and to make them well-round-



MIKE GULLETT/AP PHOTO

Brian Rogers and his son, Sage, 8, prefer low-cost activities such as going to the park.

ed individuals. And they love them."

Fretting about the economy is a national parental pastime these days in an age when preschool can mean a \$25,000 hit. A middle-income family with a child born last year should expect to spend \$204,060 on food,

Please see **MONEY**, Page 2

Dow Chemical to raise prices 20%

By **JAMES PRICHARD**
Associated Press Writer

Dow Chemical Co. plans to raise its prices by up to 20 percent almost immediately to offset the soaring cost of energy, and the CEO of the chemical giant lashed out at Washington on Wednesday for failing to develop a sound energy policy.

Dow supplies a broad swath of industries, from agriculture to health care, and any sizable price jump would likely affect almost all of them.

The price increases will

take effect Sunday and will be based on a product's exposure to rising costs. Dow said it spent \$8 billion on energy and hydrocarbon-based feedstock, or raw materials, in 2002 and that could climb fourfold to \$32 billion this year.

"For years, Washington has failed to address the issue of rising energy costs and, as a result, the country now faces a true energy crisis, one that is causing serious harm to America's manufacturing sector and all consumers of energy," Chairman and Chief Executive Andrew Liveris said

in a statement.

"The government's failure to develop a comprehensive energy policy is causing U.S. industry to lose ground when it comes to global competitiveness, and our own domestic markets are now starting to see demand destruction throughout the U.S."

Liveris said soaring costs for Dow are "forcing difficult discussions with customers."

Midland, Mich.-based Dow Chemical makes everything from the propylene glycols used in antifreeze, coolants, solvents, cosmetics and phar-

maceuticals, to acrylic, acid-based products used in detergents, wastewater-treatment and disposable diapers.

It makes key ingredients used in paints, textiles, glass, packaging and cars.

Its products are sold in 160 countries.

The company last month reported a 3 percent drop in quarterly earnings, despite a 42 percent jump in feedstock and energy costs.

Dow shares rose 60 cents to \$40.83 Wednesday.

For more information, see www.dow.com.

McClellan memoir claims president mishandled Iraq

By **JENNIFER LOVEN**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan wrote in a new memoir that President Bush relied on an aggressive "political propaganda campaign" instead of the truth to sell the Iraq war, and that the decision to invade pushed Bush's presidency "terribly off course."

The Bush White House made "a decision to turn away from candor and honesty when those qualities were most needed" — a time when the nation was on the brink of war, McClellan wrote in "What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception."

The way Bush managed the Iraq issue "almost guaranteed that the use of force would become the only feasible option."

"In the permanent campaign era, it was all about manipulating sources of public opinion to the president's advantage," McClellan wrote. McClellan

admitted that some of his own words from the podium in the White House briefing room turned out to be "badly misguided."

White House aides seemed stunned by the scathing tone of the book, and Bush press secretary Dana Perino issued a statement that was highly critical of their former colleague.

"Scott, we now know, is disgruntled about his experience at the White House," Perino said. "For those of us who fully supported him before, during and after he was press secretary, we are puzzled. It is sad. This is not the Scott we knew."

Perino said the reports on the book had been described to Bush and that she did not expect him to comment.

"He has more pressing matters than to spend time

Please see **MEMOIR**, Page 2



Scott McClellan

Gas companies pressure land owners

By **TIM HUBER**
Associated Press Writer

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Unsuspecting property owners around the country are getting trampled in an old-fashioned land rush by natural gas companies and speculators trying to lock up long-ignored drilling rights quickly and cheaply.

Stories of fast-talking industry representatives using scare tactics to strong-arm people into signing leases are popping up from New York to West Virginia to parts of Indiana and Texas. All of the properties sit

on largely untapped natural gas deposits made suddenly viable — and valuable — by soaring prices and improved drilling techniques.

West Virginia farmer and convenience store owner Brad Castle is still hurting from his experience.

Castle and his father thought they were getting a windfall when they signed a \$5-an-acre lease with a small Michigan company with the promise of 12.5 percent royalties for the gas rights to 800 acres they own near Rowlesburg in northern West Virginia. The process

started when a landman — an industry term for a person who secures mineral rights — knocked on his door.

"They're very nice people, the ones that come around. You thought you could trust them," said Castle, who was warned to sign or drillers would siphon the gas beneath his property without paying him a dime.

His feelings of trust evaporated when rival companies started offering \$350 an acre and royalties as high as 15 percent.

Castle hired a lawyer to look into breaking the lease.

"There's got to be a law broke somewhere," Castle said.

Retired dairy farmer Dewey Decker heard similar pitches when landmen started showing up in New York's Broome and Delaware counties.

"They were offering like \$25, then \$50," Decker said. "Quite a few people signed for \$50."

But Decker held out and formed a pool with other landowners that has grown to more than 40,000 acres. The approach worked: Decker's group agreed to a five-year deal

Please see **GAS**, Page 2



DALE SPARKS/AP PHOTO

Brad Castle stands on the grounds of his father's business on a 770-acre tract of land near Rowlesburg, W.Va., last Thursday. Castle's father and landowners recently leased the oil and gas rights to a company for an extremely low price of \$5 an acre.

Site helps find lost cameras

By DANIELA FLORES
Associated Press Writer

Imagine you lost the camera that had those one-of-a-kind vacation photos. Now imagine a stranger finding it: Would you feel happy, or somehow that your privacy was invaded, if that stranger put some of your images on the Web to track you down?

A new Web site, www.Ifoundyourcamera.net, asks people who find cameras, memory sticks or photos to upload a few of the images, which are posted for all to see. The intent is for people who visit the site to scroll through the pictures for their lost memories or for faces they know.

In three months, the Web site has had more than 700,000 hits, according to Matt Preprost, the blog's 20-year-old co-founder and operator. Almost 60 people have sent images from cameras they found, and that's led to eight happy reunions between camera owners and their digital memories, he said.

"I thought that it was something special and unique, but I was unsure of how long it was going to last," said Preprost, a student at the University of Winnipeg in Canada.

His site was inspired by a submission to PostSecret.com, where people submit secrets on the Internet via handmade post cards. In early February, one posted "secret" was from someone who had found a camera at Lollapalooza and wanted to reunite it with its owner.

Preprost found it compelling that the person was using PostSecret and e-mailed site-

founder Frank Warren. By the end of the day, they'd started www.Ifoundyourcamera.net.

Preprost asks people to send in two pictures with identifiable people and landmarks. When an owner turns up, he puts them in contact with the person who found their memories.

Brett Moist, a 21-year-old photography student from Crystal Lakes, Ill., lost his memory card at Union Station in Chicago during a trip. He figured it was long gone.

Then a picture of Moist and his girlfriend in front of Wrigley Field turned up on Preprost's Web site.

"A couple of weeks after I lost it, my girlfriend's friend randomly stumbled onto the site and went crazy when she saw us," Moist said.

While Preprost hasn't run into any problems with people upset about their pictures being

posted online, the site is in a bit of a legal gray area, according to R. Bruce Rich, a lawyer with Weil, Gotshal & Manges in New York City.

Whoever takes a picture owns it and almost any photo is entitled to copyright protection, Rich said. While Rich said one could argue that the Web site makes unauthorized copies of pictures, it's clear the intent of the site is to get cameras back to their rightful owners, not to deny the camera's owner any commercial benefit.

Another problem could arise, though, if someone who appears in a posted image claims that he or she had a reasonable expectation of privacy when the picture was taken, Rich said.

USING THE SITE

- ✓ Go to www.Ifoundyourcamera.net
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TINA FINEBERG/AP PHOTO

Dashiell Kwan, center, holds a ball as he participates in a gymnastics class. With the economic crunch, some parents are cutting

back on luxuries for their kids. The cost of raising a middle-income child born this year until they are 17 is estimated at \$204,060.

MONEY: Balancing 'want' with 'need'

— Continued from Page 1

shelter, clothing, education and other necessities through age 17, according to an annual government survey.

In 1960, the first year the survey was conducted, a parent could expect to spend \$25,230, or \$183,107 when adjusted for 2008 inflation. Some parents will always be able to afford designer wear for toddlers and fancy cell phones for grade-schoolers, but more average earners are scaling back, said Susan Smith Kuczmarski, a lecturer and author on family life.

"Nowadays, given the economy, most parents are not spending lavishly," said Kuczmarski, who lives in Chicago and has three sons. Some might "indulge education," as she did with private school for her kids,

while doing without structured play activities or fancy toys.

Stacy Francis, 33, the owner of a financial consulting firm just off Wall Street, shops at her hometown near Ann Arbor, Mich., for her 2-year-old, Sebastian, rather than hipster tot boutiques in her lower Manhattan neighborhood. Francis understands the pull, though, recalling a black tie backyard birthday bash her family attended for a 4-year-old. The party was complete with tuxedoed waiters passing trays of hors d'oeuvres and Dom Perignon.

"As a parent you can definitely get carried away," she said, "And start to believe that the amount of money you spend on your child, the clothes they're wearing, the activities they do, show how much you love them."

Melissa Ford, a 29-year-old stay-at-home mom in Midlothian, Va., with two boys and a third child on the way, said she catches herself thinking her children "need" whatever her friends' children have.

"I've never heard someone say 'I really wish my mom would have gotten me that Barbie,'" she said. "I hear people saying, 'I wish that my mom and dad had been home more or listened to me more or that I felt more loved.'"

For some parents, thoughts of their own childhoods bubble up when it comes to money.

Meri Rogers, from Webb City, Mo., has three boys and a girl. Sophia, 6, is a budding Hannah Montana fan with exactly one Miley Cyrus item to her name, a "girls rule" necklace. The thought of spending big

for Hannah concert tickets that sold earlier this year for \$350 and more doesn't enter into Rogers' parenting equation.

Rogers, 38, grew up on a 180-acre farm not far from her town; her family of five and nine foster kids lived off what they could grow.

Growing up as she did, it's hard for Rogers to hear her kids complain about coming up short in other material ways, like not being able to participate in expensive sports leagues.

They attend free or low-cost concerts and other cultural offerings around town and seek out discounts. They go to the library up the street once a week and buy store brands when grocery shopping.

"I don't want to begrudge them everything that they want. It's a balancing act."

GAS: Property owners face strong-arm gas companies

— Continued from Page 1

that pays \$2,411 an acre and a 15 percent royalty.

So, too, did entrepreneur and writer Tom Rodgers and much of his suburban Arlington, Texas, neighborhood, which sits atop a gas-rich formation called Barnett shale. Like Castle, Rodgers said landmen often warned that homeowners risked getting nothing if they didn't sign. "These landmen do lie. They do exaggerate."

Gas companies such as Chesapeake Energy Corp. make no bones about their desire to lock up leasing rights.

The Oklahoma City-based natural gas giant calls its aggressive lease acquisition program the "land grab" in its latest annual report to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Chesapeake takes pains to educate landowners about mineral and surface rights through open forums with state regulators and attorneys, spokesman Jim Gipson said.

"Many of the brokers that we employ are contractors," Gipson said. "We're not with them every day and we do hear

occasionally of instances that are not up to our standards and when we do, we move very quickly to rectify that."

West Virginia lawyer David McMahon said such aggressive tactics are showing up across West Virginia counties with substantial Marcellus shale, a 6,000-foot-deep rock formation believed to hold 50 trillion cubic feet of recoverable gas.

"Most everybody's getting a lowball dollar offer and lots of people are getting rushed," McMahon said. He recently started a campaign to educate landowners about mineral leasing through

the West Virginia Surface Owners' Rights Organization.

Among other things, McMahon advises landowners to take their time and refuse to be rushed into signing leases.

As for the kind of half-truths Castle was told — landowners can be reimbursed for gas sucked from beneath their property — McMahon said that's not universal — and not true.

"Some landmen are being fair, but sharp bargainers."

"MOST EVERYBODY'S GETTING A LOWBALL DOLLAR OFFER, AND LOTS OF PEOPLE ARE GETTING RUSHED."

—DAVID MCMAHON, ATTORNEY

MEMOIR: McClellan bashes Bush

— Continued from Page 1

commenting on books by former staffers," Perino said.

The book provoked strong reactions from former staffers as well.

"For him to do this now strikes me as self-serving, disingenuous and unprofessional," Fran Townsend, former head of the White House-based counterterrorism office, told CNN.

In an interview with Fox News, former top aide Karl Rove said: "If he had these moral qualms, he should have spoken up about them. And frankly, I don't remember him speaking up about these things. I don't remember a single word."

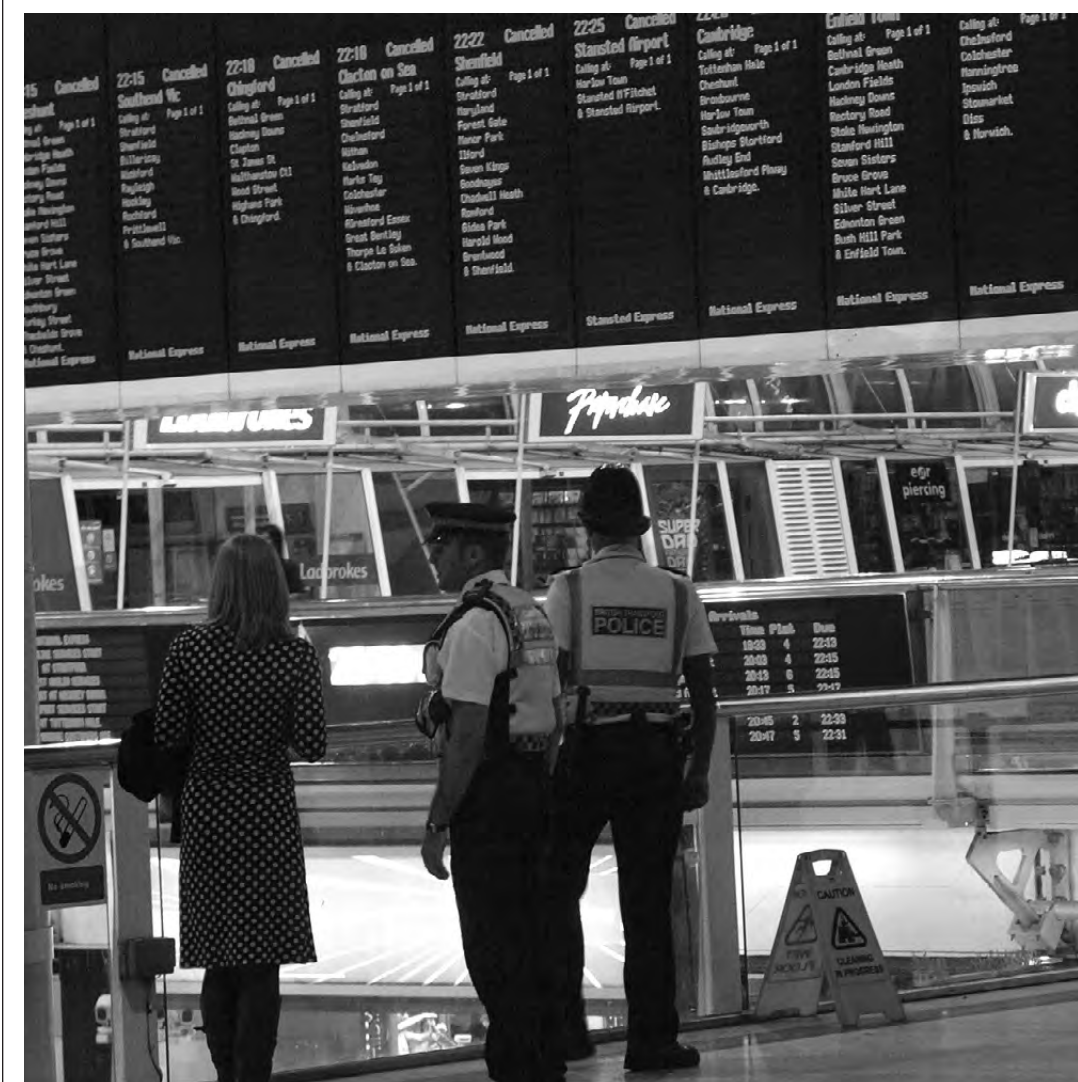
Richard Clarke, another former counterterrorism adviser who also came out with a book critical of administration policy, said he could understand McClellan's thinking, however Clarke told CNN that he, too, was harshly criticized.

"I can show you the tire tracks," Clarke said.

McClellan called the Iraq war a "serious strategic blunder," a harsh assessment from the man who was at that time the loyal public voice of the White House who had followed Bush to Washington from Texas.

"The Iraq war was not necessary," he concluded. "Waging an unnecessary war is a grave mistake."

END OF THE LINE



MAX NASH/AP PHOTO

A passenger tries to get information from two police officers after she arrives at the Liverpool Street station in London. The station was closed and all trains were suspended following damage to a bridge farther down the line Wednesday. A 1,433-ton bridge partially collapsed, forcing about 300 passengers to walk about two miles. No injuries were reported.



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INTERNATIONAL

Rebuilding China to be costly, slow

CHENGDU, China — Rebuilding China's devastated earthquake zone will be a long and arduous process, the government warned Wednesday in a signal to millions of survivors living in tents that there will be no quick return to normalcy from their upturned lives.

Infrastructure problems — from rehousing entire townships destroyed by the quake to digging channels to divert blocked rivers — are among the most pressing for officials more than two weeks after the disaster.

Some 5 million people were left homeless by the May 12 quake, and officials say the hard-hit Sichuan province is still prone to landslides.

Lebanese resident seeks new cabinet

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon's new president on Wednesday asked outgoing Prime Minister Fuad Saniora to form a new Cabinet despite reservations by the Hezbollah-led opposition.

President Michel Suleiman's appointment of Saniora had been practically ensured following a decision late Tuesday by the parliamentary majority to back him.

Saniora called on Lebanese to "heal the wounds" of the past and pledged to try to form a government for all of Lebanon.

The Western-leaning parliamentary majority and the Hezbollah-led opposition agreed to form a national unity government under a deal that resolved a prolonged political crisis which pushed Lebanon to the brink of a new civil war.

The opposition considers Saniora a provocative figure who has rejected power-sharing.

Serial killer found guilty in France

CHARLEVILLE-MEZIERES, France — A man accused of seeking young virgins to rape and kill was convicted Wednesday of seven murders and sentenced to life in prison.

Michel Fourniret, 66, was given the maximum sentence by the jury in northeast France. He cannot be considered for parole before serving 30 years behind bars.

His wife, Monique Olivier, 59, also was convicted of complicity in four of the murders and sentenced to life in prison.

The verdict closes a two-month trial that riveted France and neighboring Belgium, where one of the victims was killed.

The young women, aged 12 to 21, were strangled, shot or stabbed with a screwdriver between 1987 and 2001 to feed what prosecutors called Fourniret's obsession for virgins.

Tourist area hit by shark attacks

ZIHUATANEJO, Mexico — No one could even remember a shark attack along this resort-studded stretch of Mexican coast popular with surfers and Hollywood's elite. Many of the large predators had been pulled from the ocean by fishermen.

So when sharks attacked three surfers in less than a month, two fatally, it was unthinkable.

The latest attack came Saturday, when a shark chomped down on the arm of surfing enthusiast Bruce Grimes, an American expat who runs a surf shop in Zihuatanejo.

Grimes managed about five strokes before teeth sank into his arm. He made it to shore, escaping with a few gashes.

Right team, wrong flag causes stir

PRAGUE, Czech Republic — The Latvian flag was in the game program along with a photo of the Latvian national soccer team. Before the match, Czech organizers played Latvia's national anthem.

However, the Czech Republic was facing Lithuania on Tuesday night, not Latvia.

The Czech Republic's soccer federation apologized Wednesday. The federation said in a statement that the mistakes were inexcusable and measures will be taken not to repeat them.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pact bans cluster bombs

U.S. not part of talks to eliminate 'bomblets'

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
Associated Press Writer

DUBLIN, Ireland — More than 100 nations agreed on a treaty Wednesday to ban current types of cluster bombs and require the destruction of stockpiles within eight years.

However the biggest makers and users of cluster bombs — the United States, Russia, China, Israel, India and Paki-

stan — were not involved in the talks, and the pact leaves the door open for new types of bombs that could pick targets more precisely and contain self-destruct technology. The breakthrough on a ban capped more than a year of negotiations.

Cluster munitions, fired by artillery or dropped from aircraft, scatter dozens or hundreds of "bomblets" across a large area to attack concentrations of troops and vehicles. Critics of the weapon say that bomblets often fail to detonate on impact and instead explode when civilians later stumble on them.

Ireland and other lead sponsors plan

to unveil the treaty Friday after it is translated into several languages, and nations are expected to sign the document in December in Oslo, Norway.

The agreement contains two key concessions sought by the U.S. despite its absence from the talks. The pact would allow countries that sign the treaty to keep cooperating militarily with those that do not, and the treaty's detailed definition of what a cluster bomb is — and isn't — also will allow development of more advanced weapons.

The treaty specifies that designs are permitted if each weapon contains fewer than 10 bomblets weighing more

than 8.8 pounds. Each bomblet would have to contain targeting technology and include security measures to defuse duds, reducing the number of civilian casualties.

Campaigners against the use of cluster bombs welcomed the treaty's commitment to fund projects to remove unexploded bomblets and support those victimized by cluster munitions, but they also expressed worries that the treaty concedes too many loopholes.

Before the treaty was announced, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced that Britain will take all its cluster weapons out of service.

ISRAEL

Pressure mounts against Olmert

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel's powerful defense minister on Wednesday called on Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to step down amid a burgeoning corruption scandal and threatened to bring down the government if the Israeli leader does not comply.

The ultimatum was the latest in a string of career threatening challenges that Olmert has weathered during two years in office.

If Labor Party leader Ehud Barak carries out his promise to withdraw from Olmert's coalition, new elections could usher in a government opposed to current peace talks with the Palestinians and Syria.

Israeli prosecutors have been investigating tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions that Olmert collected from American donors in the years before he became prime minister in 2006.

Calls for Olmert's resignation gained volume this week after a key witness, U.S. businessman Morris Talansky, testified he had given \$150,000 of his own money to Olmert over the years, before he was premier. Talansky said the payments often were in cash-stuffed envelopes.

Olmert has denied any wrongdoing and promised to

resign if indicted.

At a news conference, Barak said that because of the criminal investigation, Olmert could not focus on peace efforts and Israel's pressing security needs.



Olmert

"I don't think the prime minister can at the same time lead the government and handle his own affairs ... I believe the prime minister must disconnect himself from the day-to-day running of the government," he said, suggesting Olmert suspend himself, resign or even go on vacation.

He promised to consider cooperating with a new leader from Olmert's Kadima Party, but vowed to pull Labor out of the government soon if Olmert doesn't step aside. Without Labor, Olmert would lose his parliamentary majority, probably forcing elections two years early.

Polls forecast a poor performance for Labor if elections are held now, signaling that Benjamin Netanyahu, a fierce critic of Olmert's peace overtures, would win. That could deter Barak from following through on his threat to bring down the government.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Tom Casey declined to speculate on the possible effect of a change in Israeli leadership on the U.S.-backed peace process.

Israel: Iranian arms moving into Gaza

By AMY TEIBEL

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM — Rockets and weapons bearing signs of Iranian paint, lettering and serial numbers are making their way into the Gaza Strip and Lebanon — helping Tehran cement its powerful role within militant movements on Israel's borders, senior Israeli security officials say.

Officials said they believe the weapons, including an 18-inch fragment of a Grad-type Katyusha rocket seen by The Associated Press, are reaching blockaded Gaza through a clandestine land and sea network. They also said trucks and airplanes carry Iranian-made rockets across the Syrian-Lebanese border.

After recent clashes across

Lebanon, Hezbollah forced the weakened Lebanese government into concessions that could free the guerrilla group to bring in even more rockets.

The Israeli claims have not been backed up by a public display of evidence, leading some to question the extent of Iranian involvement on Israel's borders. Iran, Hezbollah and Palestinian militants all deny an Iranian arms connection.

Experts think Iran's wider aim is to indirectly pressure Israel. Iranian officials did not respond to calls seeking comment.

Hamas and other militant factions in Gaza have been firing crude projectiles into southern Israel for years. In the past, Iran has acknowledged giving money to Hamas but denied supplying arms.



MUSTAFA QURAISHI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nepalese celebrate after lawmakers declare Nepal a republic on Wednesday. The future of the country under its Maoist leaders remains uncertain.

A NEW REPUBLIC

By MATTHEW ROSENBERG

Associated Press Writer

KATMANDU, Nepal — The world's last Hindu kingdom became its newest secular republic Wednesday as Nepal's lawmakers, led by former communist insurgents, abolished the monarchy that had reigned for 239 years.

Throughout the day, thousands of people marched, danced and sang in the streets of Katmandu in anticipation of the vote, waving red hammer-and-sickle flags as King Gyanendra awaited his fate. Late in the day, the newly elected Constituent Assembly declared the country a republic and abolished the monarchy by a vote of 560-4. Thirty-seven assembly members were not present.

"We have entered a new era today," said Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, calling Nepal's rebirth as a republic "the dream of the whole nation."

There was no immediate reaction from the 61-year-old king, who has remained silent in

recent months as it became apparent that his days on the throne were numbered. He now has 15 days to leave the palace.

As word of the republic's declaration spread through Katmandu, groups of celebrating young men yelled in the streets and set off firecrackers. With the king now gone, Nepal is settling in for a three-day public holiday.

The end of Nepal's royal dynasty may have come in a peaceful vote, but the stage for the monarchy's demise was set by a communist insurgency that bled Nepal for a decade.

What comes next for the new republic remains uncertain.

The Maoist leaders, who say they are committed capitalists, have promised to bring sweeping change to this largely impoverished country, but they are struggling to form a government.

Even in victory, the Maoists worry many in Nepal, and the country is still regularly bloodied by political violence, as evidenced by a string of small bombings that hit Katmandu this week, causing no serious injuries.

"WE HAVE ENTERED A NEW ERA TODAY."

— GIRIJA PRASAD KOIRALA, PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL

South Africa seeks better care for victims fleeing violence

By CELEAN JACOBSON

Associated Press Writer

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa — Foreigners fleeing their homes in the face of anti-immigrant violence must be housed in better facilities — but the shelters must not become permanent, government officials said Wednesday.

The government has been promising to move those seeking refuge in police stations, town halls and churches to better shelters. An announcement on government plans to accommodate the displaced is expected Thursday.

At least 56 people have been killed and nearly

50,000 foreigners forced from their homes in a wave of attacks by South Africans who accuse them of taking jobs and being responsible for crime.

Hlangwani Mulaudzi, a government spokesman, said officials were still identifying land and finalizing logistical details.

He said the government does not want the shelters to be "labeled as refugee camps" and hopes all those displaced eventually will be integrated back into their communities.

"We have a problem now, so let's put up shelters. But we don't want to see them become permanent," he said.

The government must

ensure the shelters have proper health and sanitation services, he said. Mulaudzi also said the government wants the shelters to be close to the victims' homes so they could return to work or school.

"We don't want to put them far away but find better areas nearby," he said.

In Cape Town, nearly 20,000 people have been accommodated into makeshift shelters of huge tents.

A coalition of health and human rights groups said that "exile" to these camps will make reintegration more difficult and further stress delivery of health and sanitation services.



SCHALK VAN ZUYDAM / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Displaced foreigners of African countries gather in Cape Town Wednesday. South Africa does not want to make shelters into permanent homes.

Dems seeking end to delegate dispute

Party: Fla., Mich. should not expect full vote count

By NEDRA PICKLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — With the nomination in sight, Sen. Barack Obama is willing to give rival Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton the lion's share of the delegates from Florida and Michigan but is stopping short of her demand to fully recognize the two renegade states.

The Democratic National Committee is trying to work out a compromise to the long-running dispute over Michigan and Florida. In violation of party rules, the two states held primaries in January and were stripped of their delegates. The committee's Rules and Bylaws panel meets Saturday.

The committee could decide to send half the delegates to the convention, uncertain is which half. Another option is to seat all the delegates with half a vote. Then the issue is how those votes should be split between the senators from New York and Illinois.

Whatever decision is made during a party meeting Saturday delays a resolution of the Democratic contest, just as Obama is within reach of the 2,026 delegates needed to win the nomination.

"Our magic number could increase kind of at the 11th hour here," Obama campaign manager David Plouffe said Wednesday.

He told reporters: "If it's raised a little bit based on the Rules Committee, we'll have to go get some more superdelegates. But at some point we're the nominee."

Clinton has been pushing for the Democratic National Committee to seat all 368 delegates from Florida and Michigan. She won both contests — after all the candidates agreed not to campaign in either state and Obama wasn't on the Michigan ballot.

Clinton strategist Harold Ickes is one of the 30 members of the committee, and he said he'll be encouraging them to base their decisions on the January primaries. "We are urging 100 percent of the delegations be seated and that each delegate have a full vote," Ickes said.

That's an unlikely outcome as even Clinton aides have privately acknowledged they lack the votes on the committee to restore all the delegates. Thirteen of the members are publicly committed to Clinton, eight have endorsed Obama and nine are undeclared.

Committee members interviewed by The Associated Press expressed little interest in the option of seating all the delegates. The staff wrote in an analysis sent to members this week that the rules call for the two states to lose at least half their delegates at a minimum for voting too early.

Chicago train derails; 14 hurt

By DON BABWIN
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — A Chicago transit spokeswoman says a train derailment was probably caused by operator error.

A Chicago Transit Authority train derailed Wednesday on the city's South Side, frightening passengers as emergency responders removed them from the elevated rails.

Fourteen people were taken to hospitals, 11 in good condition and three in fair condition, said Fire Commissioner Raymond Orozco. A total of 25 people had been on the train, including one CTA employee.

Agency spokeswoman Noelle Gaffney said an operator apparently failed to heed a stop signal. The train automatically stopped when it activated a trip.

But she says the operator moved the train forward again before the tracks could



M. SPENCER GREEN/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters and officials from the Chicago Transit Authority survey the scene of a four-car train derailment Wednesday in Chicago.

be switched into the proper position.

Gaffney said there is still a possibility the aging transit system played a role.

The first two cars of the four-car train sat askew at a junction between two lines

but remained upright after the derailment, which CTA spokeswoman Catherine Hosinski said happened shortly after 10 a.m.

"Everybody was screaming and hollering and you know, and praying for God," said

Drilling might ruin rock art



Group wants 'irreplaceable' etchings protected

By MIKE STARK
Associated Press Writer

WELLINGTON, Utah — Along Utah's Nine Mile Canyon lies what some call the longest art gallery in the world — thousands of prehistoric rock carvings and paintings of bighorn sheep and warriors engaged in hand-to-hand combat.

But now, a dramatic increase in natural gas drilling is proposed on the plateau above the canyon, and preservationists fear trucks will kick up dust that will cover over the images.

"They're irreplaceable," said Steve Tanner, a member of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, which wants more done to funnel industrial traffic away from the canyon to protect the art on the sandstone walls.

The more than 10,000 petroglyphs — a carving drawing on rock made by prehistoric people — have been a source of fascination since their discovery in the late 1800s.

The art is believed to be the work of the Fremont people, who lived in present-day Utah, Idaho, Colorado and



ROCK FACTS

- More than 10,000 petroglyphs were discovered in the late 1800s.
- The art is believed to be the work of the Fremont people.
- The area now has 100 to 110 active natural gas wells.

Nevada from A.D. 700 to A.D. 1300.

But the scrubby, rugged landscape around the canyon — a mix of private and public land — is also rich in minerals.

Then, in 2002, Denver-based Bill Barrett Corp. paid about \$8 million for more than 47,000 acres of oil and gas leases in and around the plateau.

The area now has 100 to 110 active natural gas wells by the Bureau of Land Management's estimate, and the agency is proposing to allow roughly 700 to 800 more to be drilled over eight years.

Traffic along the narrow gravel road through the canyon would increase from about 107 vehicles per day now to a maximum of 441 per day during peak development,

which would probably last two to three years, according to BLM estimates.

As for the effect on the artwork, some warn it would be akin to driving a truck through the Louvre Museum.

In 2006, the Bill Barrett Corp. agreed to pay for a study of the possible effects of the dust.

Constance Silver of Preservar Inc., which conducted the study, said that she found kicked-up dust that lands on a rock art panel creates "a very serious conservation problem."

Company spokesman Jim Felton defended the project, saying if drilling does not go forward, the implications will be "immediate, dire and drastic" given the demand for energy in the U.S. The project

35-year-old Willie Jackson, who was aboard the train's second car when it derailed and leaned west off the tracks.

"I was just hoping that train didn't go over the edge. That was the only thing I was really concerned about," Jackson said.

All passengers appeared to be off the train within about an hour.

CTA President Ron Huberman said the derailment's cause was unclear, but the agency's investigation was focusing on the signal system at the junction.

The derailment was just the latest problem for the city's deteriorating century-old train system, which runs throughout the city and to nearby communities on elevated and underground tracks.

A rush-hour Blue Line train derailed in a subway in July 2006, causing a fire that injured more than 150 people.

NATIONAL

Woman dies in iron lung after outage

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A woman who spent nearly 60 years of her life in an iron lung died Wednesday after a power failure shut down the machine.

Dianne Odell, 61, had been confined to the machine since she was stricken by polio at 3 years old, before a vaccine was discovered for the disease.

Family members said they were unable to get an emergency generator working for the iron lung after a power failure knocked out electricity to the Odell family's residence, about 80 miles northeast of Memphis.

Despite her confinement, Odell earned a high school diploma, took college courses and wrote a children's book.

Inmate to be tried with new evidence

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — A federal judge on Wednesday ordered Tennessee to quickly re-try or free a death row inmate whose conviction was questioned after DNA evidence raised doubt about his guilt.

Paul House was sentenced to die for the 1985 slaying of a young woman. However, the Supreme Court ruled in June 2006 that jurors would not have convicted House if they had the results of DNA tests that were revealed in the late 1990s.

On Wednesday, a district judge granted House's request to force prosecutors to begin a new trial quickly. Mattice said the process for a new trial must begin by June 17 or House must be freed.

Two face charges in marijuana case

LOS ANGELES — The owner of six California medical marijuana stores, including one linked to an accident that killed a motorist and paralyzed an officer, faces federal drug and money-laundering charges.

Virgil Grant III, 41, and his wife, Psytra Grant, 33, were arrested Tuesday, said a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's office.

Police are still searching for employee Stanley Jerome Cole, who is accused of selling marijuana to Jeremy White. White is charged with gross vehicular manslaughter in connection with an accident in which his truck hit a car, killing the driver and injuring a California Highway Patrol officer.

Kelly trial on hold for new evidence

CHICAGO — R. Kelly's child pornography trial was adjourned Wednesday after his lawyer said he received a call from a man

who claims to have relevant information.

Judge Vincent Gaughan said attorneys need time to interview the man, who could impeach someone else's testimony.

Kelly, 41, has pleaded not guilty to 14 counts of child pornography after being accused of videotaping himself having sex with an underage girl. He faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted.

Ex-SEAL: I alone killed woman

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — A former Navy SEAL trainee testified Wednesday that he alone killed a Georgia college student, a crime that sent him and a friend to prison.

Billy Joe Brown testified in Virginia Beach Circuit Court as part of Dustin Turner's bid to overturn his conviction. The two were stationed at Little Creek Naval Amphibious Base when pre-med student Jennifer Evans disappeared from a Virginia Beach bar in June 1995.

Turner and Brown were convicted of killing Evans in separate jury trials, but Brown said he became a Christian in prison and realized he should confess to the crime.

—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



BRETT BEIER / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tim Baker gave his daughter, Andria, a new Pontiac G6 for not missing a day of classes in 13 years at school.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONSTANTINE, Mich. — Andria Baker has always been present.

From kindergarten through high school, Baker made it to school every day, despite colds and sports injuries. Why? If she kept it up, her father promised her a car.

Baker kept up her end of the bargain by going to school on those days when she was sick. She notched her 13th year of uninterrupted attendance with her final day at Constantine High School on Friday.

At a party Sunday, her father,

Tim, presented the young woman with the keys to a new, \$17,000, Pontiac G6, complete with a "0 DAYS" personalized license plate.

"Without a doubt, it was worth every penny I spent," he said.

The look on his daughter's face when she saw the car was priceless, Tim Baker said.

"When she turned around after seeing the car, she did not know what to do," he said. "We got her into the car and she just sat there. Then she ran into the house to get her driver's license, and she and her best friend got in the car and toiled

"WITHOUT DOUBT, IT WAS WORTH EVERY PENNY I SPENT."

— TIM BAKER, FATHER

down the road."

Andria Baker, 19, said she probably would have gone ahead with her quest for perfect attendance even if a new car had not been promised.

"A lot of my friends thought I was crazy, but I just kept going," she said.

Couple arrested for buying babies

MONTERREY, Mexico — Police in northern Mexico have arrested two people accused of buying Mexican babies to sell to U.S. couples for a profit, investigators said Wednesday.

Amado Torres, 64, of Harlingen, and his wife Maria Isabel Hernandez, 25, are suspected of buying more than a dozen children aged 2 or younger, officials say.

Officials said Torres and Hernandez had a notebook with a list of babies. Mexican authorities were working with their U.S. counterparts to locate the children.

Torres said he was a missionary helping pregnant mothers unable to pay for their medical expenses and the costs of raising a child.

Mexican convicted of 3 murders loses federal appeal

HOUSTON — A Mexican national convicted of gunning down three El Paso teenagers has lost a federal court appeal, moving him a step closer to execution.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals refused to allow Ignacio Gomez to move forward with additional appeals for the 1996 murders.

Gomez, 38, argued he was unconstitutionally deprived of his rights under an international treaty because police should have told him of his right to legal assistance from the Mexican consulate.

Judge denies request to make home law constitutional

FARMERS BRANCH, Texas — A federal judge has denied a Dallas suburb's request to have its latest rule banning home and apartment rentals to illegal immigrants declared constitutional.

The decision issued Wednesday focused on a Farmers Branch ordinance that would require prospective tenants to get a rental license from the city. Farmers Branch would ask the federal government for the applicant's legal status before approving the rental license.

U.S. District Judge Sam A. Lindsay wrote that federal courts do not give advisory decisions to assure governments that their statutes pass constitutional muster.

LBJ tapes reveal connection to Israel

JERUSALEM — Tapes of Lyndon Johnson's Oval Office conversations, released to the public on Wednesday, reveal that the American president had a personal and often emotional connection to Israel, a scholar said.

In the first public presentation of the tapes Wednesday at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, professor Robert Johnson said this connection influenced his policy decisions and helped lay the foundation for the special relationship between the two nations.

While Johnson was in office from 1963 to 1969, the United States became Israel's chief diplomatic ally and primary arms supplier. He was also the first U.S. president to invite an Israeli premier on a state visit.

The tapes document LBJ's growing belief in the importance of Israel throughout his administration.

Voter suppresion lawsuit settled

MARSHALL — The Texas Democratic Party and a group of voters have settled a federal lawsuit against state officials over allegations of voter suppression.

The agreement reached Wednesday came just before a U.S. District Court trial was to begin in a lawsuit challenging the state and Republican Attorney General Greg Abbott.

Gerry Hebert, an attorney representing voters, said the settlement includes the Texas Attorney General's Office agreeing to no longer prosecute what are called hypertechnical violations involving mail-in ballots.

In a statement, Abbott proclaimed the settlement a victory in efforts to fight election fraud.

—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



To remain alive in series, San Antonio

MUST WIN



AP PHOTO/MATT SLOCUM

San Antonio Spurs guard Tony Parker, top, falls over Los Angeles Lakers guard Derek Fisher after taking a shot.

TONIGHT'S GAME

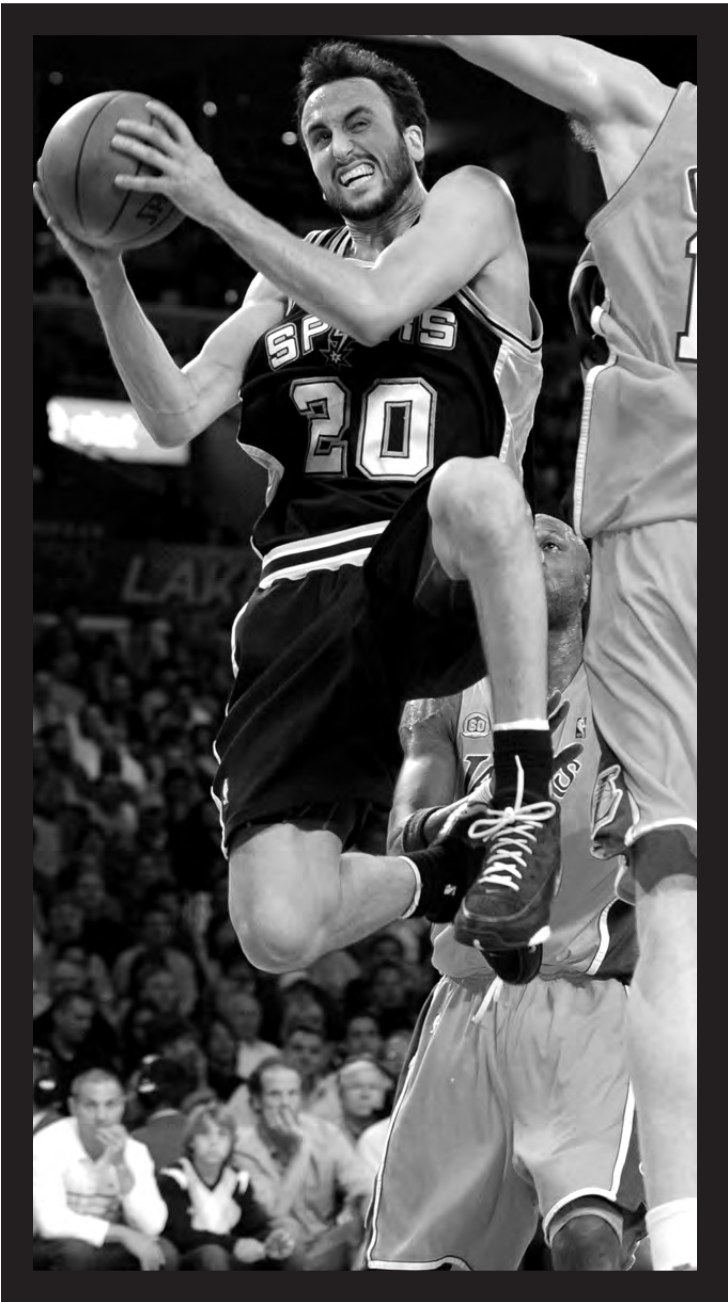
San Antonio at LA Lakers, 8 p.m. on TNT. The Lakers look to close out the Spurs in the best-of-seven series and advance to the NBA finals for the first time since 2004.

FIRST TIME

San Antonio lost at home for the first time in eight games this postseason Tuesday night, 93-91 to the Lakers, who lead the series 3-1.

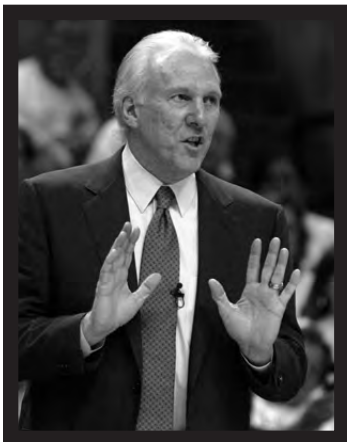
“(The Lakers) certainly can't rely on home court. They're going to have to go out and play a ballgame.”

—Phil Jackson, Lakers coach



AP PHOTO/MARK J. TERRILL

The Spurs' Manu Ginobili shoots as the Lakers Pau Gasol (right) and Lamar Odom defend during the second half in Game 2 of the Western Conference finals, Friday, May 23 in Los Angeles.



AP PHOTO/MATT SLOCUM

San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich instructs his players against the Los Angeles Lakers during the first half of Game 4 on Tuesday. The winner must take four out of seven games in the series.

HELP, PLEASE

Tim Duncan (29) and Tony Parker (23) combined for 52 of San Antonio's 59 points by its starters in a 93-91 loss to the Lakers on Tuesday.

SPEAKING OF LOSS

“It was just a good defense and missed a lot of easy shots. You know, myself, Timmy (Duncan), we missed a lot of layups. It was just never — we never (were) in a good rhythm.”

—Spurs guard Tony Parker after Tuesday's loss to the Lakers.



AP PHOTO/MATT SLOCUM

Sharon and Ron Ullrich of San Antonio sit among seats draped with T-shirts before the start of Game 4 of the Western Conference finals on Tuesday in San Antonio.



AP PHOTO/PAUL IVERSON

Actress Eva Longoria Parker, wife of Spurs player Tony Parker, works at the drive-thru window Tuesday at a Wendy's restaurant in Corpus Christi, Texas, during a campaign for “Father's Day Frosty Weekend” to raise money for adoption charities.



AP PHOTO/MATT SLOCUM

Los Angeles Lakers fan Freddy Lavassani of Los Angeles, takes his picture with former San Antonio Spurs player David Robinson before Game 4 in San Antonio.

Exxon head keeps 2 jobs

Tillerson gets to stay both CEO, chairman

By JOHN PORRETTO
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Exxon Mobil Corp. chairman and CEO Rex Tillerson will retain both of those jobs at the world's biggest publicly traded oil company after a highly public, Rockefeller-led push to separate the roles failed again Wednesday.

Stripping Tillerson of the chairman's job in favor of an independent director was the main focus of the company's annual shareholder meeting at a downtown symphony hall. In the end, the measure got support of only 39.5 percent of shareholders, slightly less than last year's 40 percent, despite a hard push by descendants of John D. Rockefeller, the founder of Exxon Mobil predecessor Standard Oil Corp.

None of the 17 shareholder proposals considered at the three-hour meeting received enough support to pass, and all were opposed by the Exxon Mobil board.

Introduced primarily by environmentally minded investors and shareholder activists, they sought such things as quantitative goals for reducing greenhouse gas

emissions, shareholder input on executive compensation and a report on the likely consequences of climate change for developing countries and poor communities between now and 2030.

This marked the seventh time the proposal to split the roles of chairman and CEO was considered.

Rockefeller family members and others have said they're concerned Irving-based Exxon Mobil is too focused on short-term gains from soaring oil prices and should do more to invest in cleaner technology for the future. Some shareholders lambasted the company for not doing enough now to create far-reaching policies to reduce harmful greenhouse-gas emissions.

“It's crucial for every company to ask, ‘Is it doing all it can to prepare for the future?’ The Rockefeller family believes now is precisely the time for Exxon Mobil, with its strong financial performance, to take the long-term steps needed to increase shareholder value,” said Peter O'Neill, a great-great grandson of John D. Rockefeller.

Some shareholders complained about the company spending too much on share repurchases; others said they'd like larger dividends.

But everyone seemed to agree it would be hard to top the company's financial results. Exxon Mobil posted the



AP PHOTOS/LM OTERO

Exxon Mobil Corp. chairman and CEO Rex Tillerson, left, will keep the company's two top posts after only 39.5 percent of shareholders voted to separate the positions Wednesday. Below, protesters gather outside Symphony Hall in Dallas, where the shareholders met.



largest annual profit by a U.S. company — \$40.6 billion — in 2007. Lifted by record crude prices to start 2008, the company earned another \$10.9 billion in the first three months of the year — the second-biggest U.S. quarterly corporate profit.

As he has in the past, Tillerson said Exxon Mobil will continue to spend the bulk of its profits on finding and producing new supplies of crude oil and natural gas.

The company predicts global

energy demand will grow by 1.3 percent annually, on average, from 2005 to 2030, and it often cites government forecasts that say fossil fuels will continue to provide about 80 percent of global energy supplies in 2030.

To that end, Exxon Mobil has said it expects to invest between \$25 billion and \$30 billion on capital and exploration projects annually for the next five years, up from about \$21 billion in 2007.

Houston mayor aims to fight pollution

HOUSTON — The mayor of Houston said Tuesday that the city will continue to oppose chemical industry attempts to receive or renew emissions permits.

Mayor Bill White renewed his criticisms of the city's chemical industry, saying he also wants local plants to set public goals for reducing emissions of the carcinogen benzene.

White also acknowledged that air monitoring sites in the Houston Ship Channel area are showing lower levels of benzene in recent months, but said the levels are not low enough.

Donald Empfield, chairman of the East Harris County Manufacturers Association, said he appreciated the mayor pointing out that air quality monitors show that some chemical plants are making progress. The manufacturers association said it believes that the city is not the appropriate regulatory agency; Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the county are the right regulatory agencies — not the city, Empfield said.

The mayor's remarks this week were the latest in an ongoing dispute between his administration and chemical plants over benzene and other pollutants.

How to get 'Sex and the City'

PROFILES BY JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

Maybe it's your first time, or maybe you're a veteran at knowing who's who on this HBO-turned-TBS show. But here's a guide to make sure you're ready when the movie opens Friday.



Miranda Hobbes

◀ Cynthia Nixon

Who she is: Fortyish lawyer, career-focused. Has a hard time relaxing.

Where we left her: Miranda moved to Brooklyn and lived there contentedly with down-to-Earth husband, Steve, and their baby son, Brady.

Where we find her now: "She's just stretched way too thin between her work and her home life," says Nixon. "She's angry when the film starts."



Carrie Bradshaw

Sarah Jessica Parker ▶

Who she is: The stiletto-clad epicenter of the story. A sex columnist who dated her way across Manhattan and mused about her findings on love and lust.

Where we left her: Carrie had been rescued from a relationship with that narcissistic Russian artist in Paris. Her knight in shining armor: Mr. Big, her once commitment-phobic boyfriend. "Carrie, you're the one" he says, and whisks her back to New York.

Where we find her now: In a long-term relationship with Big. She's richer, thanks to a succession of best-selling books. Now a contributing editor for Vogue, Carrie's still in her one-bedroom apartment. And she's still a buddy to Miranda, Samantha and Charlotte.



Samantha Jones

Kim Cattrall ▶

Who she is: PR executive, late 40s, with a healthy sexual appetite. Not a believer in monogamy.

Where we left her: Samantha had undergone treatment for breast cancer. Actor Smith Jerrod stayed by her side the whole time.

Where we find her now: Samantha left for California to live with Smith. "That's how much she wants to make this work," says Cattrall.



Charlotte York

Kristin Davis ▶

Who she is: Park Avenue socialite, pretty and prim. Had one bad marriage.

Where we left her: Charlotte married her divorce lawyer, Harry, and converted to Judaism. They adopted a baby from China.

Where we find her now: "It's real love with Harry," says Davis. "She's the most settled of her friends, in a good way. And she's there for her friends more than she was ever before."

■ Review

Long-awaited film overstays its welcome

By **CHRISTY LEMIRE**
AP Movie Critic

The clothes! The shoes! The magical depiction of Manhattan and the promise of finally finding true romance!

Fans of the TV show, which ended in 2004, will be thrilled to see their old friends — Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha — back together.

Writer/director Michael Patrick King and producer/star Sarah Jessica Parker know their audience: the devotees who've already reserved tickets for opening weekend, which they'll celebrate in high style, complete with Cosmopolitans and shopping sprees. In that regard, this hotly awaited follow-up is a success. This is one of those movies you have to assess in terms of whom it's aiming to please.

It's all really soapy, though, with only smidgens of substance. More often than not, our heroines are defined by the partners in their beds and the clothes on their backs. The movie (and the series) perpetuates stereotypes of female superficiality, but these women do stick by each other no matter what, which makes it somewhat easier to stick around for the conclusion.

It is a giddy, fizzy kick at the top, with Parker's Carrie breathlessly catching us up on what's happened to the girlfriends over the past four years. Carrie ended up with Mr. Big (Chris Noth). She's moved on from writing columns to books, and the two are scouring New York for the perfect apartment — even though they're not officially engaged.

Cynthia Nixon's Miranda is stuck in Brooklyn with her husband, Steve (David Eigenberg), and their son. Like many women, she's struggling to juggle marriage, motherhood and her career.

Charlotte (Kristin Davis) is living in the Upper East Side with husband Harry (Evan Handler) and the little girl they adopted from China.

Even Samantha (Kim Cattrall) has settled down — across the country in a Malibu beach house with her lover/client, actor Smith Jerrod (Jason Lewis). Cattrall, the oldest of the four — at 51, looks the best of all, especially in a nude scene that requires her to find creative uses for sushi.

They all come together when Carrie announces that she and Big finally plan to tie the knot ... and divulging much more would be positively criminal. The trying-on-wedding-gowns montage is a dazzler. (Also back for the movie is the show's costume designer, Patricia Field, with all the obligatory labels in tow.)

Marriage matters now to these women who were primarily on the prowl for satisfying romps when "Sex and the City" entered the cultural consciousness a decade ago. But the characters were younger then — and so were the actresses. Perhaps it's inevitable that their priorities would shift, but the sexual liberation the TV show introduced lingers.

Sitting through this extravaganza of extravagance, I couldn't help but wonder ... is this movie ever going to end? It takes about as much time as watching five episodes of the series all in a row, which you can do for free on TBS, albeit in a form that's cleaned up for basic cable — the city sans the sex.

Then again, one girl's slog is another girl's celebration.

'Sex and the City'

★★★★☆

- Rated R for strong sexual content, graphic nudity and language.
- 142 minutes

Visit SWJ.com for updates on the Spurs-Lakers basketball game



Court orders children returned

State high court rules removal of sect kids by CPS was ‘not warranted’

By MICHELLE ROBERTS
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — In a crushing blow to the state’s massive seizure of children from a polygamist sect’s ranch, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Thursday that child welfare officials overstepped their authority and the children should go back to their parents.

The high court affirmed a decision by an appellate court last week, saying Child Pro-

tective Services failed to show an immediate danger to the more than 400 children swept up from the Yearning For Zion Ranch nearly two months ago.

“On the record before us, removal of the children was not warranted,” the justices said in their ruling issued in Austin.

The high court let stand the appellate court’s order that Texas District Judge Barbara Walther return the children from foster care to their parents. It’s not clear how soon that may happen, but the appellate court ordered her to do it within a reasonable time period.

The ruling shatters one of the largest child-custody cases in U.S. history. State officials said the removals were necessary to end a cycle of sexual abuse at the ranch in which teenage girls were forced to marry and have sex with older

men, but parents denied any abuse and said they were being persecuted for their religious beliefs.

Word of the high court’s ruling spread immediately through e-mail and phone calls, said Cynthia Martinez, a spokeswoman for legal aid attorneys representing the 38 mothers named in the case.

“The moms are clearly very happy at the news that it looks like they’re going to get their kids a lot sooner than expected,” she said.

The case before the court technically only applies to the 124 children of those mothers who filed the complaint that prompted the ruling, but it significantly affects nearly all the children since they were removed under identical circumstances.

Roughly 430 children are now in foster care.

The ruling does not force CPS to end its involvement with the parents from the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, which runs the ranch in Eldorado.

The justices said child welfare officials can take numerous actions to protect children short of separating them from their parents and placing them in foster care and that Walther may still put restrictions on the children and parents to address concerns that they may flee once reunited.

Under Texas law, children can be taken from their parents if there’s a danger to their physical safety, an urgent need for protection and if officials made a reasonable effort to keep the children in their homes. The high court agreed with the appellate court that the seizures fell short of that standard.



PHOTOS BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

When it comes to picking a song for their campaign events, presidential candidates often have a difficult time finding selections that can portray their message and appeal to the masses. Clockwise from top left, Tom Petty, John Cougar Mellencamp, Bruce Springsteen and “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” singer Bobby McFerrin

have all had at least one of their famous songs played at campaign events. Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton has used Petty’s “American Girl” and Mellencamp’s “Small Town.” And Springsteen’s “Born in the USA” was a frequently played track at Ronald Reagan events, while George H.W. Bush was a fan of McFerrin’s tune.

A PERFECT TUNE

Presidential candidates find campaign song choices daunting

By TED ANTHONY
Associated Press Writer

So let’s say it’s the early 1980s, and you’re a rising young musician named John Cougar Mellencamp. You cut a song with a chorus that oozes Jeffersonian democracy and adds a touch of postwar suburban placidity. “Ain’t that America — for you and me,” you sing in your gravelly Indiana voice. “Ain’t that America; we’re something to see. Ain’t that America: home of the free. Little pink houses for you and me.”

Now let’s say you’re a strategist for Sen. John McCain, Republican candidate for president in 2008. You hear “Pink Houses” 25 years after it was recorded and think to yourself, hey — this is perfect. Let’s blast this out at the big guy’s rallies and hitch our wagon to Mellencamp’s imagery.

That scenario proved problematic when it unfolded earlier this year. First, Mellencamp is a Democrat and activist who has supported John Edwards. He didn’t like his work being co-opted and asked McCain to stop. Second, and just as important, “Pink Houses” is an edgy, melancholy song about chances lost and potential wasted: “‘Cause they told me when I was younger, said, ‘Boy, you gonna be president.’ But just like everything else,

those old crazy dreams just kind of came and went.”

For someone coveting the White House, that’s not exactly staying on message.

In the 21st century, music and politics exist at an intersection as volatile as the lonely crossroads in Mississippi where bluesman Robert Johnson supposedly bartered his soul for guitar prowess. And let’s not pick on McCain; he’s but one victim — or perp — of this music minefield.

GLIMPSSES

For a generation, candidates who have tried to dip their toes into the pop-culture ocean have tended to fall in. “Happy Days Are Here Again” may have worked for FDR in 1932, but ever since Reagan asserted in 1984 that Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the USA” was a patriotic paean, Democrats and Republicans alike have revealed tin ears as they try to set mood, convey message and show that they, too, are regular people attuned to the same mass entertainment as their fellow Americans.

And in doing so, they offer glimpses into the national temperament.

“Interesting thing about campaign songs: They mirror the life of America. It’s as if we’re taking snapshots,” says Oscar Brand, an 88-year-old folk musician and radio host who recorded an

album of campaign music ranging from the eras of George Washington to Bill Clinton.

Brand, though, focused mostly on what prevailed until roughly John F. Kennedy’s time — songs crafted expressly for the candidates, among them “Tippecanoe and Tyler, Too,” “Lincoln and Liberty” and the mercifully obscure “Get on a Raft with Taft.” These days, the zeitgeist dictates that candidates invoke existing tunes. We’ve seen how that turns out: Shouldn’t presidential hopefuls bother to get a culture maven to idiot-proof song choices — or, at the least, print out a lyric sheet?

George H.W. Bush’s 1988 co-opting of Bobby McFerrin’s ironic smile music — “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” — was about as astute as a helmeted Michael Dukakis poking his head out of a tank. His son’s re-election theme in 2004, “Still the One,” seems nice until you hear the verse, “sometimes I never want to see you again.” Same with one of Sen. Barack Obama’s 2008 choices, U2’s “City of Blinding Lights,” which features this line: “The more you see the less you know, the less you find out as you go.”

Often the songs are played in fragments as attempts to capture a mood rather than convey a message. Sen.

Please see MUSIC, Page 2

Dell revenue jumps by 9%

By DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS — Dell Inc. officials said Thursday that the company’s profit and sales grew in its fiscal first quarter, beating Wall Street expectations and signaling that the computer maker’s turnaround efforts may be paying off.

For the three months ending May 2, Round Rock-based Dell Inc. earned \$784 million, or 38 cents per share, up from \$756 million, or 34 cents per share, in the same period a year earlier.

Dell says its revenue jumped 9 percent to \$16.08 billion from \$14.72 billion.

On average, analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial expected a profit of 34 cents per share on sales of \$15.68 billion.

The company said strong growth of commercial and consumer products and services and lower operating costs as a percentage of sales helped drive the results above the forecasts.

Dell shares rose 12 cents Thursday, closing at \$21.81 before the quarterly results were released. In extended trading, the shares jumped \$2.02, or 9.3 percent, to \$23.83.

Dell is trying to cut costs by \$3 billion while also chasing Hewlett-Packard Co. in world-

Plans for Dell

- Dell wants to cut costs by \$3 billion over the next several years.
- Chief Financial Officer Donald J. Carty is expected to step down next month.
- The company has cut 7,000 jobs from a year ago.

wide shipments of personal computers, a category it once led.

Dell still leads HP in United States PC sales, according to technology research firms IDC and Gartner Inc., but that could make Dell more vulnerable to a slowdown in the U.S. economy.

Chief Financial Officer Donald J. Carty told the media that U.S. businesses “are holding back from spending” on desktops but that sales of servers and data-storage equipment were holding up.

The company reported that worldwide notebook computer shipments rose 43 percent from a year ago. Carty attributed the increase to a continuing shift from sales of desktops to notebooks and Dell gaining a greater market share of notebook sales.

Please see DELL, Page 2

Investigation looks at rising oil prices

By DAN CATERINICCHIA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators are six months into a wide-ranging investigation of U.S. oil markets, with a focus on possible price manipulation.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission on Thursday said it started the probe in December and took the unusual step of publicizing it “because of today’s unprecedented market conditions.”

Crude prices have risen more than 42 percent since December, even after a decline to \$126.62 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Gasoline prices are nearing a national average of \$4 a gallon, up from about \$3.20 a year ago.

The commission said details of the investigation remain

confidential but announced other initiatives designed to increase transparency of U.S. and international energy futures markets.

Analysts said the action would likely have a limited impact on oil prices, which have risen because of a combination of factors, including growing demand in China and other developed nations, the falling value of the dollar, geopolitical tensions and low interest rates, which have fueled a buying binge by institutional investors seeking to ride oil’s upward momentum.

Investment speculation has been cited as one on many factors contributing to surging petroleum prices, along with assumptions about new supplies, limited demand growth, possible supply disruptions overseas and the depressed value of the dollar.

The effects of high oil prices extend beyond the gas pump:

CLOTHING: Polyester is derived from petrochemicals

FOOD: Farmers who are forced to spend more money on gasoline pass the cost on to consumers

HEAT: The price of home heating oil is directly related to the price of crude oil

AIR TRAVEL: Some airlines have bumped up fares by adding charges for fuel

For more information, visit NPR.org and search “High Oil Prices Affect Many Products.”

Army suicide rate at record high

By **PAULINE JELINEK**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Army soldiers committed suicide in 2007 at the highest rate on record, and the toll is climbing this year as long war deployments stretch on.

At least 115 soldiers killed themselves last year, up from 102 the previous year, Army officials said Thursday.

“We see a lot of things that are going on in the war which do contribute — mainly the longtime and multiple deployments away from home, exposure to really terrifying and horrifying things, the easy availability of loaded weapons and a force that’s very,

busy right now,” said Col. Elspeth Ritchie, psychiatric consultant to the Army surgeon general. “And so all of those together we think are part of what may contribute, especially if somebody’s having difficulties already.”

Some common factors among those who took their own lives were trouble with relationships, work problems and legal and financial difficulties, officials said.

More U.S. troops also died overall in hostilities in 2007 than in any of the previous years in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the strain on the force was increased by the extension of deployments from 12 to 15 months.

The 115 confirmed suicides among

active-duty soldiers and activated National Guard and Reserve troops amounted to the highest suicide rate since the Army began keeping records in 1980. Two other suspected suicides are still under investigation.

So far, this year’s trend is comparable to last year, said Lt. Col. Thomas E. Languirand, head of command policies and programs.

As of Monday, there had been 38 confirmed suicides in 2008 and 12 suspected suicides that are still under investigation, he said.

The rate of suicide continues to rise despite Army efforts to improve the mental health of a force under unprecedented stress from the longer-than-expected war in Iraq and the

long and repeated tours of duty it has prompted.

These efforts include more training and education programs for troops and their families. Officials also have hired more mental health workers, increased screening to measure the psychological health of soldiers and worked to reduce any stigma that keeps them from going for treatment when they have symptoms of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress and other emotional problems.

“We still believe there is more to be done, and we are committed to maximizing prevention” and treating those who need help, said Brig. Gen. Rhonda L. Cornum, assistant surgeon general for force protection.

Suicides have been rising nearly each year of the five-year-old war in Iraq and the nearly seven years of war in Afghanistan.

The Army, which is the largest force serving in both of the wars, is the only service to release annual figures on suicides as well as lengthy reports it gathers every year by polling troops at the war fronts on mental health issues.

President Bush’s buildup of forces in Iraq last year led officials to increase tour lengths to 15 months. With a drawdown under way, officials are terminating the longer tours and returning to 12-month deployments.

Officials said they hoped that would help ease the strain on troops.

MUSIC: Song choices difficult

— Continued from Page 1

Hillary Rodham Clinton has used pieces of Tom Petty’s “American Girl” and Mellenkamp’s “Small Town” to convey the basic imagery of their titles; at a recent rally in a Pittsburgh suburb, her husband came on stage to the Police’s “Every Little Thing She Does Is Magic.” What the other lyrics might be didn’t much matter.

CAPTURING THE ESSENCE

Missteps are understandable. Candidates and handlers are fumbling their way through the untamed frontier territory of iPod Nation, a confusing geography where remix culture, sampling, shuffles and playlists rule the day and context is often absent.

“These songs are a quick and easy substitute to establish a connection between candidates and voters,” says Sean Wilentz, a leading presidential historian and scholar of American musical traditions.

“This music is everywhere,” Wilentz says. “And if you can choose the right song that can capture a bit of your message and a bit of your essence, you’re going to choose it.”

The key word is “essence” — particularly the essence of the American working class, whose approval and credibility candidates covet. But finding common ground is growing more difficult.

“The good old 20th-century model of everyone feeding from the same cultural trough, that doesn’t work in 2008,” says Robert Thompson, director of the Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture at Syracuse University. Today, he says, “You pull songs out when you

need them, some work, some don’t, and then you move on.”

Not if they’re Tom Scholz’s songs you don’t. The man behind the band Boston spoke up sharply earlier this year when Republican Mike Huckabee used the group’s 1970s anthem “More Than A Feeling” during at least one campaign event. The response from Scholz: Cease and desist.

“Huckabee was at the extreme opposite of everything I stood for or believed in,” Scholz says. “I don’t want to use the term un-presidential ... but somehow you expect these people to be a cut above all of that. It does seem odd to me that they are willingly and in some cases deceptively connecting themselves with some

form of pop culture.”

Not that candidates don’t try and try again. McCain did, to mixed results.

A b b a ’ s “Take a Chance on Me”? Nope. “We played it a couple times,” McCain says,

“and it’s my understanding they went berserk.”

In recent months, the McCain folks have been favoring “Johnny B. Goode,” a Chuck Berry rock ‘n’ roll classic from a half-century ago. Its energetic guitar licks make it a perfect rallying song, and its chorus — “Go, Johnny, go” — fits just right.

But with all the careful calibration of musical moods in 2008’s election-year arena, the decision to focus on “Johnny” emerged from one of the most common political motivations of all: pragmatism.

“I think,” McCain quips, “it might be because it’s the only one that hasn’t complained about us using it.”

“THESE SONGS ARE A QUICK AND EASY SUBSTITUTE TO ESTABLISH A CONNECTION BETWEEN CANDIDATES AND VOTERS.”

— SEAN WILENTZ, PRESIDENTIAL HISTORIAN

DEEP IN THOUGHT



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

She may seem stressed, but each time Veronica Penny, 10, is presented with a word at the 2008 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., she buries her head in her hands to think. Penny, a home-schooled fourth-grader from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, was among the 45 spellers of a record 288 contestants to advance Thursday to the semifinals. The Championship Finals will be shown live at 7 p.m. today on ABC.

DELL: Earning expectations exceeded

— Continued from Page 1

On the cost side, Carty said the company has cut 7,000 jobs from a year ago, including 3,700 during the past quarter, while adding about 2,700 employees through acquisitions.

Founder Michael Dell, who returned to the company as chief executive in 2007, said last month the company would go beyond its earlier goal of cutting more than 8,800 jobs. He pledged to slash costs by \$3 billion over several years to boost

profits.

Carty, who plans to step down next month, said the biggest challenges for the company now were continuing to control costs and, “We’ve got to continue to improve the product line.”

John Enck, a technology analyst for Gartner, said the better-than-expected resulted indicated that Michael Dell’s return refocused the company on controlling costs and repairing relations with business customers.

“The customer experience has been good this year,” Enck said.

Dell became successful by selling machines directly to customers — mostly businesses — by phone or over the Internet. Its new strategy of selling through retailers as well is an uphill struggle, some analysts said.

Barry Jaruzelski, a partner at the consulting firm Booz & Company, said even as Dell expanded beyond PCs, its success was due to a sharp focus

on adding foreign markets and products that were in the company’s strengths, such as PC servers and printers.

“Now that so much of the market is consumers, they have been forced into places that traditionally they didn’t want to go, which is retail,” he said.

With retail sales, Jaruzelski said, Dell loses the direct contact that used to give the company immediate feedback on winning pricing and features and an edge over competitors.



Dow Jones Newspaper Fund interns and instructors participate in a workshop at UT. From left: (front) Carrie Riles, Sandra Gonzalez; (back) Gregory Pietras, Bradley Wilson, Amanda Jacobs, Amanda Burton, Megan Kindade, Amanda Wells, Keith Smiley, Griff Singer, Courtney Bonnell, Anthony Wild, Lauren Thompson, George Sylvie, Carolyn Phenicie, Beth Butler, Amy Zerba and Linda Shockley

Dow interns prepare for jobs

Twelve college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships at 10 daily newspapers after completing two weeks of intensive preparation work at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a select group of 100-plus students placed in internships in copy editing, business reporting and online journalism as part of a national, competitive program funded by the Newspaper Fund, a foundation of the Dow Jones Company, and participating newspapers.

The School of Journalism at UT Austin, one of seven pre-internship training sites for

copy editors, has been part of the Newspaper Fund program for 11 years.

Participants in the UT workshop were involved in newspaper copy editing, design and production assignments as well as online journalism. Newspaper professionals and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions.

Grants from the Newspaper Fund and contributions from participating newspapers cover the cost of operating the workshops, including instruction, housing, meals and transportation for the participants.

The UT-Newspaper Fund interns will report for internships of 10 to 14 weeks at news-

papers across the country. The participating newspapers pay interns a weekly wage for their work during the internship. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the Newspaper Fund.

Similar copy editing training centers are located at Penn State University, the University of Missouri, the University of Nebraska, San Jose State University, the University of Central Florida and Temple University. An online editing program is based at Western Kentucky University.



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2008 DOW JONES NEWSPAPER FUND INTERNS

COURTNEY BONNELL
Arizona State University
Amarillo Globe-News

AMANDA BURTON
Wayne State University
San Francisco Chronicle

SANDRA GONZALEZ
University of Texas-Pan Am
Austin American-Statesman

AMANDA JACOBS
University of Missouri
San Francisco Chronicle

MEGAN KINKADE
University of Missouri
The Beaumont Enterprise

CAROLYN PHENICIE
American University
The Washington Times

GREGORY PIETRAS
University of Missouri
Roanoke Times

CARRIE RILES
University of Central Florida
Fredericksburg Freelance-Star

KEITH SMILEY
University of Kentucky
The Tennessean (Nashville)

LAUREN THOMPSON
University of Texas at Austin
Houston Chronicle

AMANDA WELLS
University of Arkansas
San Antonio Express-News

ANTHONY WILD
University of Texas at Austin
Houston Chronicle

The Southwest Journalist was edited and designed by interns attending the 2008 Center for Editing Excellence, funded by a grant from the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund and the daily newspapers hosting the interns.

\$1.2 billion aid to go to food crisis

WASHINGTON — The World Bank is making \$1.2 billion available to help overcome the global food crisis.

The bank says it also will increase its overall support for agriculture and food to \$6 billion next year — up from \$4 billion in 2008.

Robert Zoellick, president of the 185-nation lending organization, said Thursday that aid should be provided to address immediate humanitarian needs such as seeing that pregnant women receive proper nutrition. He said longer term help should go to small farmers, giving them seed and fertilizer so they can increase their crops.

‘Dungeon girl’ in Austria hosts show

VIENNA, Austria — Still adjusting to life after spending eight years held captive in an underground cell, Natascha Kampusch is starting a career as a TV talk show host.

“Natascha Kampusch Meets ...,” a chat show featuring local celebrities, debuts Sunday.

Kampusch was 10 years old when she vanished while walking to school in Vienna in March 1998. On Aug. 23, 2006, she escaped. Kidnapper Wolfgang Priklopil — who had confined her to a windowless cell beneath his home — committed suicide by leaping in front of a train.

Said Kampusch: “It’s not easy for me to get all my ducks in a row. But I’ll gladly take on this challenge. As long as you keep overcoming, you keep developing.”

Foreign minister: replace Olmert

JERUSALEM — Israel’s popular foreign minister said Thursday that the ruling party must prepare to replace Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, raising pressure on him to step down amid a growing corruption investigation.

Calls for Olmert’s ouster grew this week after the key witness in the case, U.S. businessman Morris Talansky, described handing tens of thousands of dollars to Olmert, in part to finance the Israeli politician’s expensive tastes. Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni was the first senior member of his own Kadima Party to question Olmert staying in office.

“I think the reality has changed since yesterday and Kadima has to make decisions,” Livni told the media in Jerusalem. “I suspect that Kadima needs to start right away acting for every eventuality, including elections.”

Livni said she favored holding a party primary to give the public a say in choosing a leader.

Bahrain names U.S. ambassador

MANAMA, Bahrain — Bahrain’s king has appointed a woman believed to be the Arab world’s first Jewish ambassador as the country’s envoy to Washington.

Lawmaker Houda Nonoo said she was proud to serve her country “first of all as a Bahraini,” adding she was not chosen for the post because of her religion.

“It is a great honor to have been appointed as the first female ambassador to the United States of America and I am looking forward to meeting this new challenge,” Nonoo told The Associated Press.

Bahrain — a pro-Western island nation with Sunni rulers and a Shiite majority — is a close U.S. ally and hosts the U.S. Navy’s 5th Fleet. It has about 50 Jewish citizens among a population of roughly half a million people.

Nonoo has served as legislator in Bahrain’s all-appointed 40-member Shura Council for three years.

Iceland shaken by earthquake

REYKJAVIK, Iceland — A strong earthquake shook southern Iceland on Thursday, causing more than a dozen injuries as it rocked buildings in the capital, touched off landslides and forced evacuations in outlying towns, officials and local media said.

Government officials reported that 15 to 20 people from Selfoss, 30 miles southeast of the capital of Reykjavik, were injured in the quake, none of them seriously. They were taken to a local health center for treatment.

The U.S. Geological Survey said Selfoss was near the epicenter of the magnitude 6.1 quake.

Iraq asks U.N. for debt relief

By **KARL RITTER**
Associated Press Writer

UPPLANDS VASBY, Sweden — Iraqi officials appealed Thursday to relieve the country from a nearly \$100 billion in debt and war reparations — owed mostly to Arab nations reluctant to forgive Iraq’s belligerence during Saddam Hussein’s regime.

Iraq’s plea for debt relief was made before nearly 500 delegates at a U.N. conference to assess Iraq’s reconstruction.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki received no firm commitments, and two key

neighbors — Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — sent only lower-level envoys to the meeting.

Iraq has at least \$67 billion in foreign debt, most incurred under Saddam and owed to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

In addition, the U.N. Compensation Commission says \$28 billion remains to be paid for Iraq’s 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Iraq gives 5 percent of its oil revenue to meet the compensation claims.

The Iraqi government maintains it should not be saddled with debts accrued during Saddam’s regime.

“It is time to liberate the

people of Iraq from this burden,” Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh said.

Many Western nations and other growing economic partners in Iraq, including Russia and China, have dropped Baghdad’s debt.

But Sunni Arab neighbors — wary of Iraq’s Shiite-dominated government and its Iranian ties — have been reluctant to follow suit. Kuwait also remains steadfast in demanding payments for the damage to commercial centers and oil facilities during the invasion, which led to the 1991 Gulf War.

Saudi Arabia announced last year it would forgive Iraq’s

debt, but so far has not followed through with the decision.

Al-Maliki said Saudi Arabia had made a proposal on reducing Iraqi debt during the conference, but added it “requires more clarification and more contact.”

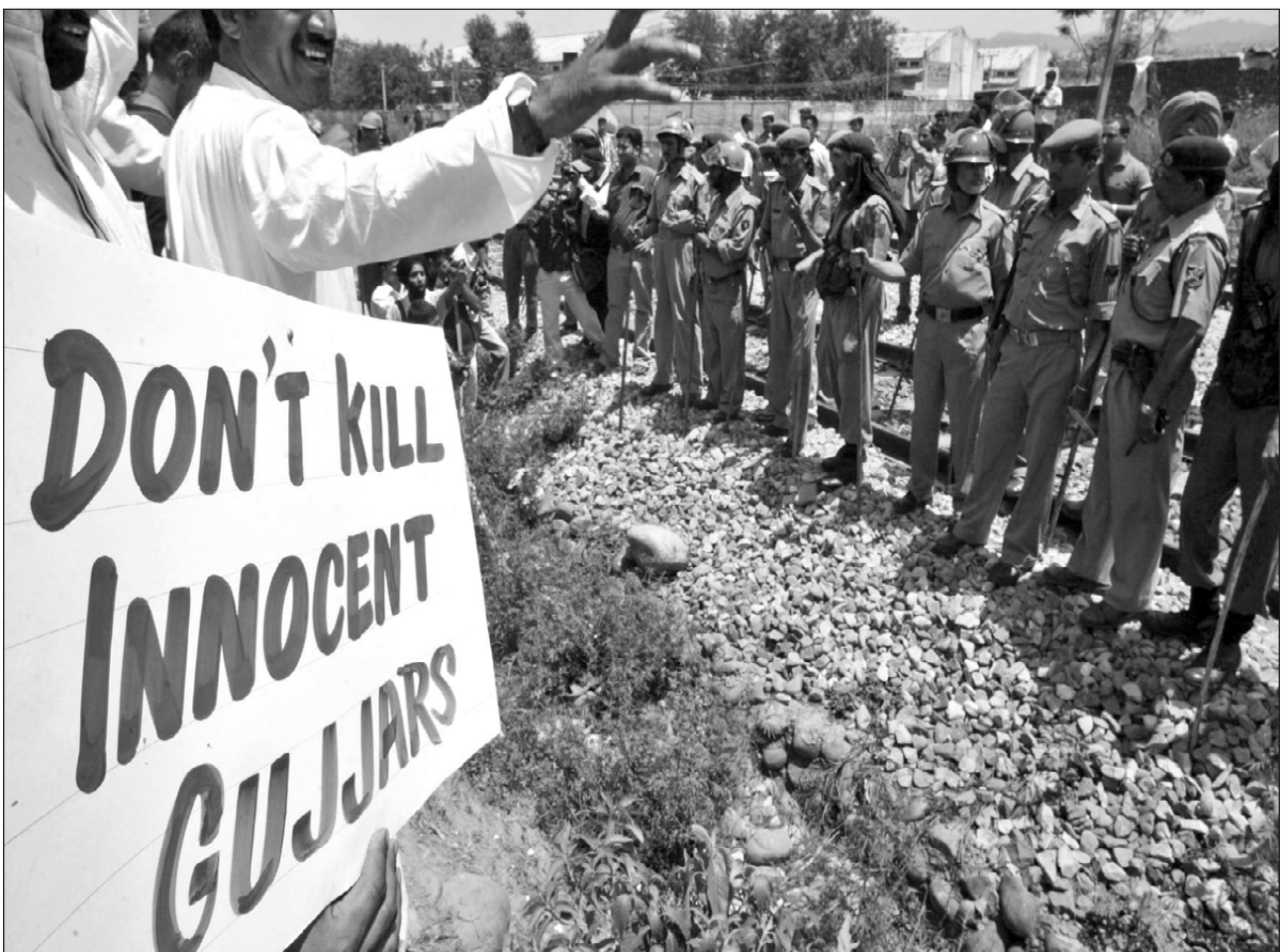
Meanwhile, Iraq is flush with oil revenue as prices push into record territory, blunting calls for increased aid to help Iraq rebuild. Oil brought in \$16 billion in the first quarter of the year and \$5.9 billion last month.

Associated Press writers Matthew Lee, Louise Nordstrom, Malin Rising and Qassim Abdul-Zahra contributed to this report.

MORE IRAQ NEWS

- **16 killed:** A suicide bomber detonated explosives among a group of men seeking police jobs Thursday, killing 16 people around a recruiting station in northwestern Iraq.
- **Soccer ruling lifted:** Soccer’s governing body, FIFA, lifted its ban on Iraq to keep alive the team’s World Cup qualifying hopes. Iraq will play Australia on Sunday in the qualifying tournament for the 2010 World Cup.

INDIA CASTE PROTESTS CONTINUE



ASSOCIATED PRESS / CHANNI ANAND



ASSOCIATED PRESS / AMAN SHARMA

Members of India’s Gujar caste, considered the second-lowest in the outlawed but still powerful caste system, protest the government’s refusal to reclassify them as members of the lowest caste.

The reclassification would allow them to benefit from government jobs and places at universities reserved for members of the lowest castes. The protests, which 39 people have been killed in, began May 23.

Above, a relative of a member of the Gujar community who was killed in a protest looks on near Bayana in the Indian state of Rajasthan.

Left, protesters shout slogans near train tracks in Jammu on Thursday.

Calm returns to Balkans

Crime down in former war-torn area, report finds

By **DUSAN STOJANOVIC**
Associated Press Writer

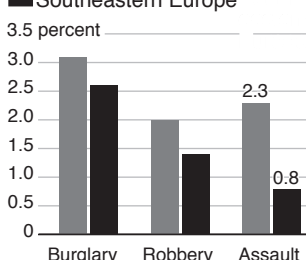
BELGRADE, Serbia — The Balkans, a hotbed of crime and violence during the Yugoslav wars during the 1990s, has become one of the safest areas in Europe to live, according to a U.N. report released Thursday.

The report concluded that the Balkans now boast lower levels of homicide, robbery and rape than Western Europe.

“The Balkans is departing from an era when demagogues, secret police and thugs profited from sanctions-busting and the smuggling of people, arms, cigarettes and drugs,” according to the report.

Crime in Balkans

Share of respondents who were victims of crime in past year



The survey was compiled by Antonio Maria Costa, executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Despite the progress, Costa warned that organized crime — and its links to politicians and business — continues to pose serious challenges in several Balkan nations, though that too is on the decline.

At a news conference in Brussels, Costa acknowledged

that the findings defied the stereotypical view many Europeans still hold of the Balkans as a place of lawlessness.

But, he said, the level of conventional crimes “across the region are by far lower than they used to be, particularly at the beginning of the 1990s.”

The report said the trend of reduced crime is likely to continue, “since the region lacks the usual vulnerabilities that lead to crime elsewhere in the world — mass poverty, income inequality, runaway urbanization and large-scale youth unemployment.”

The smuggling of drugs, guns and humans through the region is on the decline, although the Balkans remains the main transit zone for heroin destined for Western Europe, Costa said.

Albania has the worst crime in the region and remains the “soft underbelly” for Mafia rings, Costa said.

Music is migrating to Dubai

City-state shells out cash to draw top performers

By **BARBARA SURK**
Associated Press Writer

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Those who fetch \$130 for a barrel of oil can call the tune these days. And it seems the tune is becoming so catchy that even Madonna, the original Material Girl, might be singing soon in this rich Gulf city-state.

Flush with oil dollars, Dubai is trying to boost its prestige by pouring money into entertainment to draw the music industry’s priciest stars.

Santana’s February concert in Dubai was sold out. Last week, Jon Bon Jovi performed in Abu Dhabi, the Emirates’ capital just a short ride down the coast. Justin Timberlake, Elton John, Pink, Aerosmith and Destiny’s Child have all entertained Western, Asian and Arab expatriates in the last few months in this string of seven semiautonomous states in the Persian Gulf.

But a Madonna concert — if



ASSOCIATED PRESS / MANUEL SALAZAR

Jon Bon Jovi performed at Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi on May 20. Bon Jovi is one of several music performers who have entertain crowds in the oil rich city-state.

it happens — would take the musical glitz to a new level.

Earlier this month, the Dubai-based Gulf News daily and the tabloid 7Days reported

that the pop diva would come to Dubai this year on a tour organized to promote her new album.

The mania over the possible Madonna concert is a reflection that the Emirates have seen a “huge jump” in both the number of people attending concerts and the prominence of artists performing, said Thomas Ovesen, managing director of Middle East AEG Live, the regional arm of an international company that produces live events worldwide.

Artists who perform in Dubai expect to earn “twice as much” as they do in the United States or Europe, Ovesen said.

But not everyone is happy about the high production costs. It’s “good that Dubai is on the radar screen of the world’s major promoters,” said Abdulatif al-Sayegh, chief executive of Arab Media Group, which along with Viacom Inc.’s MTV Networks International owns MTV Arabia.

But it’s “not so good that we are paying twice or three times as much” for concerts as do promoters in the United States and Europe, he said.

Quake victims look for ways to survive

By **TINI TRAN**
Associated Press Writer

QINGCHUAN, China — Survivors swarm over the debris of this ruined city, searching for bits of scrap metal to sell.

Food and water supplies are adequate, but shelter is limited,

with a severe tent shortage. The need for jobs has yet to be addressed by China’s leaders.

Many survivors of the May 12 earthquake aren’t waiting for the government. Recycling companies want the scrap metal from twisted and crumbled buildings.

Standing atop a massive pile of rubble that was once a three-story building, Mao Hong Lin searched for metal. Spotting a pointed tip, he pulled out a twisted length of steel.

“It takes money to buy anything and everything. I need the money for basics, to buy salt and cooking oil,” said Mao, 37.

His wife, Dong Sheng Fang, 33, said: “Even before the quake, we were already very

poor.”

The two have joined others who have been coming for several days to one of dozens of demolished sites around town, after hearing that local salvage companies would pay about 7 cents for each pound of metal.

Fellow survivors have dis-

covered other quake-related, albeit dangerous, ways to earn hard cash.

F a r m e r Lin Cen You, 38, ventures into damaged buildings to haul out the belongings of other survivors.

“They tell me what they want and I go get it,” he said. “It’s a little dangerous but I don’t fear anything now. I just need money to feed my family.”

He added: “What else can I do? I have no choice now. I am a farmer with nothing left to farm.”

Aftershocks have rumbled across the disaster zone, collapsing thousands of buildings.

At least eight people have been killed in buildings that fell since the quake, according to media reports.



ASSOCIATED PRESS / DAVID GUTTENFELDERT

As survivors of the May 12 earthquake in central China clear debris from their homes, others left homeless dig for scrap metal to sell to support their families. Recycling companies are buying the twisted metal from damaged buildings.

Sexually abusive teachers on notice

States pushing for tougher penalties, awareness classes

By ROBERT TANNER
Associated Press Writer

Several states have taken action in recent months to crack down on sexually abusive teachers.

New measures in Florida, Ohio, Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota and Virginia include tougher penalties for teachers who abuse students, punishment for administrators who fail to properly oversee their faculty, and an effort to train a state's corps of teachers to recognize potential abusers. Measures are still being considered in California, Colorado, Delaware and Massachusetts. New York and South Carolina began or expanded programs on the problem.

While the vast majority of America's roughly 3 million public school teachers are committed professionals, a disturbing number have engaged in sexual misconduct.

An Associated Press investigation found 2,570 educators were sanctioned from 2001 through 2005 following allegations of sexual misconduct.

"Too often in the past, we as adults have failed our children," Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear said when he signed a new law last month. "Today with this legislation, hopefully, we begin earning back their trust." The measure passed unopposed.

South Carolina looked beyond punishment, instead creating a statewide training program that aims to instruct 10,000 teachers, administrators, guidance counselors, coaches and school nurses on how to prevent, identify and report abuse.

THE LAWS FIGHT:

- **Backroom deals.** Florida won't let districts make secret agreements with abusive teachers.
- **Failure to report.** Kentucky's law could mean 90 days in jail for the first offense and five years for repeat incidents.
- **Abusive teachers returning to school.** Colorado won't let teachers who lost a license for sexual misconduct teach again.

Pay more, get less



ALEX BRANDON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former President Jimmy Carter, right, joins a group working on a Habitat for Humanity home in the Upper Ninth Ward of New Orleans. Carter participated in a building project last week along

with other volunteers. The Gulf Coast in areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina. After the storm, many insurance companies did not renew policies for homeowners near the coast, and residents scrambled for coverage.

Higher post-Katrina insurance rates force coastal homeowners to look for better deals

By EILEEN ALT POWELL
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Since Hurricane Katrina blew ashore nearly three years ago and caused massive damage, families in many coastal states have found it difficult and costly to get comprehensive homeowners insurance.

People generally are paying more to get less coverage, experts say. That means that as this year's hurricane season begins, it is especially important for homeowners to shop around for the best policies, be aware of what is covered and what isn't, and consider purchasing federal flood insurance.

Government forecasters expect the 2008 hurricane season to be slightly heavier than average, with an estimated six to nine hurricanes forming.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration also said at least two storms could reach major status, with winds of more than 110 mph.

If creating an emergency evacuation plan is a family's No. 1 priority, getting good property insurance should be No. 2.

Tom Crowley, a regional director with the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York Inc., said that after

STORM READY?

Before the storms strike, emergency and insurance experts recommend some steps:

- **Establish family evacuation plan.**
- **Protect important documents.** Store in a safety deposit box or other secure, dry location.
- **Check on specifics of insurance protection.** Some policies do not cover damage from rising water.
- **Shop around for best insurance prices.** Katrina's aftermath also left a major increase in the cost of insurance.

Katrina, a number of major insurance companies, such as Allstate and State Farm, refused to renew some homeowners' policies to reduce their exposure in coastal areas, even if the homes were a half-mile or farther from the water.

Companies that continue to write policies for houses along the coasts have increased premiums, he added.

"Three or four years ago, insurance for a \$300,000 home cost about \$1,000 a year," Crowley said. "In the past year, it's gone to \$1,800 to \$2,000."

Richard Attanasio, vice president for property and casualty ratings at A.M. Best Co., a credit rating agency based in Oldwick, N.J., said consumers needed to shop around to try to hold down costs.

"It might require more work than it did in the past," he said. "There are risks where people are living, and companies have to price for those risks."

Consumers need to pay close attention to what's included and what's excluded from coverage, Attanasio added.

Agreeing to a "hurricane deductible," for example, can hold down the premium price but expose the consumer to higher out-of-pocket costs if there's storm damage, he said.

The hurricane deductible clauses in policies for homes near the coast often require the homeowner to pay some of the repair costs — typically 5 percent. So if a house insured for \$200,000 were destroyed in a hurricane, the homeowner would have to pay \$10,000 toward repairs before the insurance kicks in.

The homeowner might have a more traditional deductible of, for instance, \$1,000 for other events, such as a fire.

Besides excluding flood damage, many companies in recent years also have dropped coverage for mold or set limits on payouts, Attanasio added.

19,000 GM workers taking buyout route

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press Writer

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. said Thursday that a quarter of its U.S. hourly workers will take the company's latest buyout and early retirement offers, opening the door for lower-paid new hires.

The automaker said Thursday that 19,000 workers had taken the offers and will leave the company by July 1. GM offered buyouts to all 74,000 of its U.S. hourly workers in February.

Under a new agreement reached last fall with the United Auto Workers, GM may hire up to 16,000 non-assembly workers at half the old wage of \$28 per hour. GM said it would fill openings with current employees, but would also be hiring new workers.

Troy Clarke, GM's North American president, said GM is trying to reshape its business in a challenging U.S. market, which has seen a steep dropoff in auto sales because of high gas prices and the weak economy.

Retirement-eligible workers were offered financial incentives to retire with their full pension and benefits, while workers who were within four years of their 30th anniversary with the company could retire early and get reduced pay until their benefits kicked in. Workers could also take up to \$140,000 to leave the company

GM DEALINGS

- **19,000 hourly workers take buyout.**
- **Full pension and benefits came with retirement package.**
- **Buyout packages are as high as \$140,000, but with no benefits.**
- **16,000 lower-paid non-assembly workers will be hired.**
- **Hourly pay rates \$14, half of those taking buyout.**
- **Annual savings: \$2.1 billion.**

with no pension or benefits.

GM spokesman Dan Flores wouldn't say how many workers took each type of offer. He said the company will reveal later how much the buyouts cost.

Himanshu Patel, an auto analyst with JPMorgan, said GM's acceptance rate on the buyouts was better than expected. He predicted GM won't replace up to 15,000 of the departing workers and will hire 4,000 for total annual savings of \$2.1 billion.

GM conducted its last round of buyouts in 2006, when 34,410 workers left the company. GM had 113,000 U.S. hourly workers when it began those buyouts. Buyouts have been part of restructuring efforts at the Detroit Three and their major suppliers in recent years.

NATIONAL

Military: We'll study troops' ammo worries

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. — The military is reviewing soldiers' complaints that their standard ammunition isn't powerful enough for the type of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Army's highest-ranking officer said Thursday.

Current and former soldiers interviewed by The Associated Press said the military's 5.56-millimeter M855 rounds, used in M-16 and M-4 rifles, are not powerful enough for close-quarters fighting in cities and towns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., the Army chief of staff, said it was too soon to say whether the Pentagon will switch.

Casey said leaders are constantly soliciting feedback from soldiers in the field and were aware of complaints about the M855 ammunition.

Colo., W.Va. casinos adopt child-aid plan

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Win big at the casino tables in West Virginia or Colorado, and your kids might win, too.

The two states are moving ahead with plans to gamish the winnings of casino gamblers who owe child support. West Virginia's Department of Health and Human Resources is working on a plan that could be in place within 90 days, while Colorado is rolling out its system July 1.

The proposals are another tool in a diverse arsenal that authorities already have to collect money from delinquent parents.

While many states check big winners of traditional lottery games against lists of people who owe child support, the National Conference of State Legislatures believes Colorado and West Virginia would be first to go after casino winnings.

Model charged in 'luggage rage' case

LONDON — Naomi Campbell has been charged with assaulting two police officers during a "luggage rage" incident at Heathrow Airport, her lawyer and prosecutors said Thursday.

The 38-year-old supermodel was charged when she reported to Heathrow police station to answer bail over the April 3 fracas, lawyer Simon Nicholls said.

The Crown Prosecution Service said Campbell faced six charges — three counts of assaulting a constable, two counts of using threatening, abusive words or behavior to the cabin crew and one count of disorderly conduct.

N.Y. to recognize gay marriages

ALBANY, N.Y. — Opposition surfaced Thursday against Gov. David Paterson's directive to state agencies to recognize gay marriages legally performed in other states and countries.

Paterson issued a memo earlier this month saying that gay New Yorkers who marry where it is legal will have the right to share family health care plans, receive tax breaks by filing jointly, enjoy stronger adoption rights and inherit property.



Paterson

Sioux tribe restores land near condos

PRIOR LAKE, Minn. — A 30-acre field where corn and soybeans once grew is now covered with Canada wild rye, big bluestem, Golden Alexander and compass plant — the same grasses and flowers the pioneers saw as they pushed westward across the American prairie in the 1800s.

This small patch of prairie next to a condominium complex in suburban Minneapolis was painstakingly restored at great cost by the Shakopee Mdewakanton (pronounced SHOCK-ah-pee mid-ah-WAHK-tun) Sioux tribe.

By the end of the year, the Shakopee Mdewakanton hope to begin restoring 450 more acres near the Twin Cities. Most of it is land that has been farmed since at least the 1880s.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



M. SPENCER GREEN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Karen Darch, president of Barrington Village, Ill., stands at the Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railway tracks on Lake Cook Road. Residents are concerned about Canadian National railroad plans to buy the railway to help avoid freight congestion by diverting trains through the western Chicago suburbs.

Freight rail may face congestion 'meltdown'

By MICHAEL TARM
Associated Press Writer

CHICAGO — Matthew Rose stood before fellow industry leaders, pointing to a map meant to tell the future of the U.S. rail freight network. It was drenched in red, indicating areas where, by 2035, traffic could be so severe trains would wait for days.

"For those of you who've ever seen a good rail meltdown, this is what it looks like," Rose, CEO of Fort Worth-based Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp., said.

The nation's 140,000-mile network of rails is strained, with trains waiting for hours on one-track rail lines.

A new U.S. Chamber of Commerce report warns demand for freight trains is expected to double over the next 25 years.

"The amount of money we're investing nationally is pathetic," Rep. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., said during a recent congressional hearing. "We're heading toward fourth-world infrastructure."

Kenneth Kremar, a Global Insight analyst, disagreed, saying talk of a crisis serves industry interests as rail companies jockey for more money from Congress. He said investment in larger, high-tech train cars and computer systems that better pace trains should help avert logjams.

"Railroads have an inherent interest in doing something," he said. "The market will respond."

The Chamber says expansion would cost \$148 billion over 30 years. Private rail companies would pay most of it, with federal and state tax dollars chipping in.

Any ideas must include Chicago, which handles about 40 percent of U.S. rail freight on 180,000 trains a year. That will cost \$1.5 billion over six years, a coalition of officials and rail executives estimates.

Proposed solutions include building overpasses over busy intersections and updating old tracks.

TEXAS

Governor's e-mail policy challenged

AUSTIN — An open records attorney has asked the Texas attorney general to take legal action against Gov. Rick Perry's office to stop his policy of deleting e-mails every seven days.

Attorney Joe Larsen argues in the complaint that policy violates Texas public information laws.

Attorney General Greg Abbott's office has 30 days to respond to the request, which was first filed May 14 but updated Thursday.

Texas law requires e-mails to be kept in an electronic, searchable format, Larsen said. Perry's office requires each individual staffer to print or save e-mails that need to be retained before they are deleted.

A&M bonfire suits allowed to continue

HOUSTON — Texas A&M University officials are not immune from state lawsuits brought by the families of those killed or injured in the school's deadly bonfire collapse, a court ruled Wednesday.

The 10th Court of Appeals in Waco upheld a lower court's ruling that allowed administrators to remain as defendants because they are being sued as individuals and not in their official capacities.

The defendants had argued they are protected under sovereign immunity, the state's constitutional right that prohibits government actions and officials from being sued.

Twelve people died and 27 were injured in November 1999 when the 59-foot-high log stack collapsed as it was being built.

Transportation head asks for public faith

AUSTIN — Transportation Commission Chair Deirdre Delisi, whose political ties to Gov. Rick Perry drew criticism when he appointed her, led her first meeting Thursday and expressed a desire to build public trust in the agency.

The commissioners adopted an order governing toll projects and the Trans-Texas Corridor and set out to improve access to Texas Department of Transportation financial data.

The commission unanimously agreed that all Texas highways will be owned by the state, not private developers; that the state may buy back the interest of a private road developer; that only expansions to existing highways will be tolled; and that "non-compete clauses" will be banned.

Soldiers charged with sexual assault

EL PASO, Texas — Two Fort Bliss soldiers remained jailed Thursday in a sexual assault case involving a girl under 14.

Pfc. Adam Avenetti and Pfc. Mario Hunter, both 19-year-old soldiers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, were turned over to local police Tuesday.

Avenetti faces charges of continuous sexual abuse of a child, indecency with a child, and sexual performance by a child. Hunter is charged with aggravated sexual assault, possession or promotion of child pornography, indecency with a child, and sexual performance by a child.

Houston will fight to keep beard ban

HOUSTON — The Houston City Council on Wednesday authorized spending up to \$150,000 to defend the city in a lawsuit challenging the police department's ban on beards.

Council members were unanimous after more than an hour discussing the policy and questioning whether it discriminates against men who cannot shave on medical or religious grounds.

The department set the policy in 1993 so uniformed officers would look professional, according to a city memo.

Four police officers filed a federal civil rights lawsuit in November claiming the facial hair policy is discriminatory.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Base raises drinking age

Fort Bliss last Army post to end underage sales

By ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press Writer

FORT BLISS, Texas — This military base in the far West Texas desert stood as the last Army post in America where if you were old enough to fight and die for your country, you were old enough to drink a beer.

But the party is over at Fort

Bliss.

Citing fights and drunken-driving crashes and arrests, the new commanding general has raised the drinking age on base from 18 to 21, bringing 17,000-soldier Fort Bliss into line with what has been the law in the rest of Texas since 1986.

Not only that, all Fort Bliss soldiers are barred from slipping across the Mexican border to Ciudad Juarez, the city of famously loose morals where young Americans have been getting drunk — and getting into trouble — for generations. From now on, no passes to Juarez will be issued.

The new policy took effect May 22.

Maj. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, who took over in January, cracked down after a review of base crime statistics showed

“IT’S LIKE MY PARENTS SAY, I’M OLD ENOUGH TO JOIN THE ARMY, BUT I’M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO DRINK.”

— PFC. WALTER IVERSON

that in late 2007 and early 2008, sexual assaults, domestic violence and traffic accidents by soldiers 18, 19 or 20 involved alcohol more often than not.

Over the last two decades, other Army bases around the country raised their drinking age to 21. Many states made the change under federal pressure beginning in the mid-1980s, and 21 is now the law in all 50 states.

For the past 28 years, however, Fort Bliss let young soldiers drink.

For most of that period, it was peacetime, and things were calm on base. Also, com-

manders figured that letting soldiers drink at the base club would discourage trips to Juarez.

But now units are routinely shipping back and forth to Iraq and Afghanistan, and base officials say young men and women have been using alcohol to blow off steam — too much steam.

Before the war, “we didn’t have a large number of incidents involving younger soldiers,” said Fort Bliss spokeswoman Jean Offutt. “We weren’t in a wartime situation, which made for a difference in behavior upon returning.”

Police seek to ID victims

Youth advocate charged with sexual assault

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police said Thursday they were interviewing potential victims of a court-appointed children's advocate who faces aggravated sexual assault charges after police seized video showing him having sex with children.

The videotape showed Billy Dan Carroll, 53, having sex with kids ranging in age from 3 to 15, and two adult women who appeared to be unconscious, police said.

Carroll remained jailed in Travis County on Thursday on a bond of \$2 million. He was charged with one count of aggravated sexual assault of a child in a May 17 incident. A message left by The Associated Press for his lawyer on Thursday was not immediately returned.

Officers were going to children's homes to interview them in an attempt to identify the alleged victims, police Sgt. Rich Stresing said.

“We don’t know where it is going to end up, how many victims we may end up with,” police Sgt. Brian Loyd told the Austin American-Statesman in Wednesday's online editions. “There could be six. There could be 20.”

Carroll has been a volunteer children's advocate since 2004. Officials at Court-Appointed Special Advocates of Travis County suspended him last week after learning of the allegations, said Laura Wolf, the organization's executive director.

CASA volunteers work with Child Protective Services talking with children who are victims of abuse or neglect, their parents, foster parents and others about the child's future.

13-year-old may have identified excavated beer

By MELISSA LUDWIG
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — When Collin Lindsey followed a local archaeologist for a job-shadowing assignment recently, he had no idea he might get a taste of San Antonio's history.

Collin, an eighth-grader at Legacy Middle School, spent a day washing and handling artifacts at the University of Texas at San Antonio's Center for Archaeological Research and became so taken with an old, corked bottle found at the River Walk extension project that he went home, did some research and came back with a theory: The yellow liquid sloshing inside was likely century-old beer, brewed by a predecessor to the Lone Star Brewing Co.

His discovery so delighted archaeologist Lynn Yakubik and her colleagues that they agreed to test the liquid to see if Collin's theory bears fruit. Or hops.

“That’s San Antonio past right there in your hand,” said Yakubik, director of the center's education and outreach programs. “He was so excited about what he had done that day, he went above and beyond, looked it up for us and sent us an e-mail.”

Collin, a 13-year-old who loves to collect rocks, arrowheads, cannon projectiles and other curiosities, jumped at the chance to follow Yakubik around for a day as part of a career exploration class at his school in East Central Independent School District.



PHOTOS BY DELCIA LOPEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Above: Collin Lindsey, 13, looks at the old bottle on Tuesday that was found by Jon Dowling, an archaeologist at UTSA's Center for Archaeological Research. Below: The 100-year-old bottle.

She gave him a tour of the center's vast warehouse of 10 million artifacts all meticulously labeled, then put him to work washing artifacts as archaeologists toted them from the field.

An old bottle waiting to be analyzed caught Collin's eye.

“It was amazing to see that something so old could still have liquid in it,” he said. “There was even an air pocket inside of it.”

Collin examined the bottle and found an embossed star and the name William Esser. He went home, got online and found a history of Texas breweries that listed Esser as the proprietor of

San Antonio-based Lone Star Bottling Works in 1891.

The bottle is stopped with a spring stopper patented in 1879, said Jon Dowling, an archaeologist at UTSA. It also lacks seams on the lip found in older bottles, dating it between 1879 and 1907.

Dowling said he found the bottle sticking out of the riverbank in late April while monitoring construction of the river extension to north downtown.

Because archaeologists can't be sure it's beer, hazardous materials experts must open the bottle, Dowling said. Once opened, they can send a sample to Lone Star or

another brewery to be tested in a lab.

“When Collin turns 21, he's going to come back and sample the beer,” Dowling joked.

“It may have aged really well,” Yakubik added.

As for Collin, he wants to be an archaeologist more than ever and plans to attend more digs with UTSA staff.

“It makes me want to do it more now because of how nice they were, and how nice they were to each other,” Lindsey said.

He's eagerly awaiting the test results, though he thinks he's already got the answer.

“I really think it's beer,” he said.

“IT WAS AMAZING TO SEE THAT SOMETHING SO OLD COULD STILL HAVE LIQUID IN IT.”

— COLLIN LINDSEY, MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT

Border governors talk drug violence

By JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Officials from both sides of the border are meeting in Mexico City to push for more crime-fighting and border security amid unprecedented violence in Mexico.

The governors of California, Texas and New Mexico planned to offer support to Mexican President Calderon on Thursday for his crackdown against the drug trade, in which he has deployed more than 20,000 federal troops across Mexico.

Cartels have responded with increasingly bold attacks against police and other security officials. On Tuesday, seven federal officers were killed in a shootout at a suspected drug safe house.

The coalition made a similar anti-crime appeal to President Bush in February, but progress



Calderon

has been slow. Still, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's administration says the partnership already have produced results.

Federal Homeland Security Director Michael Chertoff has boosted the number of workers at key border crossings, reducing wait times, said Dan Dunmoyer, Schwarzenegger's cabinet secretary.

However, the wait at some border crossings can drag on for hours. Schwarzenegger is seeking a joint agreement aimed at cutting wait times in half by 2013.

Bush has used the wave of violence in Mexico to further an anti-crime legislative package. He is urging Congress to approve the first \$500 million installment of a proposed \$1.4 billion law enforcement aid package known as the Merida Initiative to combat drug crime in Mexico.

Courts void Vioxx rulings

By JEFFREY GOLD
Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. — Appeals courts in Texas and New Jersey on Thursday scrapped verdicts against the drugmaker Merck & Co. Inc., stemming from two of the earliest trials involving its once-popular painkiller Vioxx.

A Texas court reversed a \$26 million verdict against the drug company stemming from the first Vioxx trial in the nation. The court found no evidence that Robert Ernst suffered a fatal heart problem from a blood clot triggered by Vioxx. He had been taking the now-withdrawn drug for eight months before being stricken in May 2001.

In 2005, his widow won a \$253 million verdict against Merck, but Texas punitive damage caps later cut that to about \$26 million.

Also Thursday, a New Jersey appeals court voided \$9 million of the \$13.9 million awarded to John McDarby in a separate lawsuit in 2006. The panel vacated the punitive damage

award because it found that the federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act preempted New Jersey's Product Liability Act.

McDarby survived his 2004 heart attack, but died last fall from complications of his heart problems, his lawyer said.

The panel affirmed \$4.5 million in compensatory damages to McDarby, awarded when the jury found Merck failed to warn of Vioxx's cardiac risks.

Thursday's rulings give Merck 11 victories and three losses stemming from the trials that reached verdicts. Retrials are pending in a few cases.

New Jersey-based Merck pulled Vioxx in September 2004 after its own study showed the drug doubles the risk of heart attack or stroke.

In a statement, Merck general counsel Bruce Kuhlik said the company was gratified by the courts' decisions.

Both the Ernst and McDarby cases were excluded from the settlement Merck reached in November in which it agreed to pay \$4.85 billion to end thousands of other Vioxx lawsuits.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Robert Ernst died in 2001 of heart problems. His widow, Carol Ernst, alleges that the painkiller Vioxx caused his death. She won a lawsuit against the manufacturer in 2005, but the ruling was reversed Thursday.

ABOUT VIOXX

- Painkiller introduced by New Jersey-based Merck & Co. in 1999.
- Withdrawn from the market in 2004 when a Merck-sponsored study showed the drug doubles the risk of heart attack or stroke.

On the hunt for a HAUNT

Trailing ghosts gains popularity as spooky shows flood airwaves



SKIP PETERSON / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

James Willis, founder of The Ghosts of Ohio, a ghost-hunting group, sets up a camera in hopes of capturing paranormal activity along a railroad track in Urbana, Ohio. Organizations that track spirits have seen an increase in membership thanks to TV shows such as “Ghost Hunters.”

By JAMES HANNAH
Associated Press Writer

URBANA, Ohio — As midnight approached, a grassy field where the old train depot once stood pulsed with activity.

About 90 people tiptoed around night-vision cameras atop tripods and dodged remote sensors. They waited for the Lincoln Ghost Train, which some people believe appears on the anniversary of the 1865 trip that carried the president’s body to Springfield, Ill., for burial.

Ghost-hunting groups around the country are swelling with members — their popularity fueled by television shows, the Internet and the increasing availability of high-tech equipment.

“I’m hoping for some vindication that there might be some type of paranormal activity surrounding this,” said Julieanne Phillips, an assistant professor at Urbana University who invited the ghost hunters and organized the vigil.

On this April night, there wasn’t.

“Ghost reality shows have really opened the door for people to get involved themselves,” said James Willis, founder of The Ghosts of Ohio.

Airwaves are populated with shows such as “Ghost Whisperer,” “Medium,” “Paranormal State” and “Ghost Hunters.”

Viewership of “Ghost Hunters,” a reality show on the SCI FI Channel that chronicles investigations by The Atlantic Paranormal Society, or TAPS, has doubled since it debuted in 2004 — growing from 1.3 million viewers to 2.6 million.

The Rhode Island-based society currently has about 80 affiliates in 44 states, twice the number it had two years ago.

“We’re actually grateful for (‘Ghost Hunters’)

because instead of being a bunch of freaks, we’re like the cool people on TV,” said Pat Jones, founder of the Paranormal Study and Research Group. “People used to look at us like we were absolutely insane, and now they want to come along with us. It’s almost like every day is Halloween.”

Thirty-four percent of Americans say they believe in ghosts, according to an October survey by The Associated Press and Ipsos.

Joe Nickell, senior research fellow with the Amherst, N.Y.-based Committee for Skeptical Inquiry, said he has investigated dozens of reported hauntings since 1969 and has turned up no evidence of ghosts.

“PEOPLE USED TO LOOK AT US LIKE WE WERE ABSOLUTELY INSANE, AND NOW THEY WANT TO COME ALONG WITH US.”

— PAT JONES, PARANORMAL STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP FOUNDER

GHOST GEAR

- Electromagnetic field meters, to measure electromagnetic radiation
- Infrared thermometers, to measure infrared energy
- Digital voice recorders
- Point-and-shoot digital cameras
- Infrared cameras
- Magnetic compasses
- Digital video-recorder surveillance systems
- Camcorders
- Hygrometer, to measure humidity
- External microphone



SKIP PETERSON / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ghost chaser Mark DeLong, left, monitors heat end energy levels while James Willis watches video during an investigation of supernatural activity.

LOCAL HAUNTS

- CitySearch lists the top five haunted spots in Austin.
- The Driskill, 604 Brazos St.** — Local legend says that Col. Jesse Driskill haunts the hotel he opened in 1886. When a late freeze killed thousands of cattle two years later, he lost his fortune and was forced to sell the hotel.
- Saint Edward’s University, 3001 S. Congress Ave.** — Several people have reported seeing the shadow of a man who killed himself in the theater on campus.
- Austin’s Inn At Pearl Street, 809 W. Martin Luther King Blvd.** — Visitors have reported see-

- ing a woman carrying a sick child from room to room. Lights have also flickered on even when the building had no power.
- Governor’s Mansion, 1010 Colorado St.** — The ghost of Gov. Pendleton Murrah’s nephew is said to haunt the mansion. He committed suicide there in 1864.
- The Tavern, 912 W. 12th St.** — A ghost named Emily reportedly breaks dishes and changes TV channels.
- For more information, visit www.austinghosttours.com

HUNTERS

- The Atlantic Paranormal Society** — www.the-atlantic-paranormal-society.com
- Committee for Skeptical Inquiry** — www.csicop.org
- Texas Ghost Hunters** — www.texasghosthunters.com
- Ghost Hunters of Texas** — ghosthuntersoftexas.com
- Gulf Coast Ghost Hunters Association, Austin chapter** — www.gcghosthunters.com/gcgha_2_006.htm
- South Texas Paranormal Society** — www.southtexasparanormalsociety.com
- Lone Star Spirits** — www.lonestarspirits.org
- South Texas Ghost Hunters Alliance** — www.gercsa.com
- San Antonio Paranormal Network** — www.ghost411.com
- Texoma Area Paranormal Investigations** — www.texomaghosts.com

NATIONAL

Rachael Ray ad pulled over scarf

BOSTON — Dunkin’ Donuts has pulled an online ad featuring Rachael Ray after complaints that a fringed black-and-white scarf worn by the celebrity chef in the ad offers symbolic support for Muslim extremism and terrorism.

The chain said the ad that appeared online May 7 was pulled last weekend because “the possibility of misperception detracted from its original intention to promote our iced coffee.”

Critics, including conservative commentator Michelle Malkin, said the scarf looked like a kaffiyeh, the traditional Arab head-dress.

A company statement said the scarf had a paisley design and was selected by a stylist.

“Absolutely no symbolism was intended,” the company said.



Ray

German pop group makes teens swoon

LOS ANGELES — Move over, Jonas Brothers. The Kaulitz twins are moving in.

The 18-year-old brothers make up half of Tokio Hotel, a German glam-pop quartet creating hysteria among teens in their native land. They’ve sold close to 3 million CDs and DVDs in their country and hope to replicate that fan base in the United States.

Tokio Hotel came out of the Internet. A YouTube search shows 123,000 video listings compared to 88,100 for the Jonas Bros. or 21,000 for a veteran like Bruce Springsteen.

The fan frenzy in Germany has reached epic proportions, such as when a group of teen girls delivered a fan letter more than seven miles long.

But the band has a long way to go before they reach Backstreet or ‘N Sync like U.S. sales — since the group’s CD was released in May, it has sold just over 23,000 copies.

Bill Murray’s wife seeking divorce

CHARLESTON, S.C. — The wife of entertainer Bill Murray has filed for divorce after nearly 11 years of marriage, alleging he abused her and is addicted to marijuana and alcohol.

Jennifer Butler Murray filed divorce papers May 12. She owns a home on Sullivan’s Island, S.C., where she lives with the couple’s four children.

The complaint also alleges frequent abandonment.

Bill Murray’s and Jennifer Murray’s attorneys wouldn’t comment on the allegations.

The couple signed a prenuptial agreement, in which both waived their right to alimony.

The complaint alleges he would often leave without telling his wife and engage in “sexual liaisons.”

It also alleges Murray physically abused his wife, and last November “hit her in the face and then told her she was ‘lucky he didn’t kill her.’”



Murray

On-set Monroe film hits auction block

Want a behind-the-scenes look at Marilyn Monroe’s last completed feature? Better call the bank.

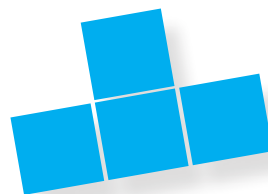
Two reels of silent, 8 mm color film titled “On Set With ‘The Misfits’” are going on the auction block, with bids starting between \$10,000 and \$20,000. Julien’s Auctions is listing the 47-minute film next month in Las Vegas.

According to the Julien’s Auctions Web site, it’s the original film by amateur photographer Stanley Floyd Kilarr, who shot scenes of the stars and crew during the making of “The Misfits” — the final completed film for both its stars, Monroe and Clark Gable.

Gable had a heart attack just after filming was finished, and died Nov. 16, 1960, two months before the movie’s U.S. release. Monroe died Aug. 5, 1962.

THE SHOWS

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| GHOST HUNTERS <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Members of The Atlantic Paranormal Society hold ordinary day jobs and moonlight as paranormal researchers. The show follows the team as it investigates hauntings across the country.● SCI FI | PARANORMAL STATE <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A half-hour docudrama following a group of Penn State students as they look for the truth behind reports of ghosts and other paranormal phenomena.● A&E | MEDIUM <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Patricia Arquette plays a wife and mother who sees the future in her dreams. As a consultant to the district attorney, she uses her abilities to help solve crimes.● NBC | GHOST WHISPERER <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Jennifer Love Hewitt plays Melinda Gordon, a woman who can communicate with the dead. Gordon helps the spirits take care of their unfinished business.● CBS |
|---|--|---|---|



DEVELOPING NEWS

Air France jet crashed, defense minister says



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A French army air crewman aboard an Atlantic Model 2 aircraft, which took off from a French air base in Dakar, Senegal, patrols the presumed site of the crash of a missing Air France flight.

France has three military patrol aircrafts flying over the central Atlantic from its Senegal base and will send an AWACS radar plane that should join the operation Wednesday.

No bodies discovered among 3 miles of wreckage in Atlantic

ALAN CLENDENNING
Associated Press

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, Brazil — Brazilian military planes found a 3-mile path of wreckage in the Atlantic Ocean, confirming that an Air France jet carrying 228 people crashed in the sea.

Defense Minister Nelson Jobim said Tuesday in Rio de Janeiro the discovery “confirms that the plane went down in that area,” hundreds of miles from the Brazilian archipelago of Fernando de Noronha. “There isn’t the slightest doubt that the debris is from the Air France plane,” Jobim said.

He said the strip of wreckage included metallic and nonmetallic pieces but did not describe them in detail. No bodies were spotted in the crash of the Airbus A330 in which all are believed to have died.

The discovery came just hours after authorities announced they found an airplane seat, an orange buoy

The locations where the objects were found are toward the right of the point where the last signal of the plane was emitted. That suggests it might have tried to make a turn, maybe to return to Fernando de Noronha.

— COL. JORGE AMARAL

and signs of fuel in a part of the Atlantic Ocean, where depths range from less than one mile to more than three miles.

Jobim said recovery of the cockpit voice and data recorders could be difficult because much of the wreckage sank.

The search will be difficult to complete because the wreckage could be as deep as 1.2 miles to 1.8 miles in that area of the ocean, Jobim said.

The initial announcement that wreckage had been discovered came about 36 hours after the jet went missing. A Brazilian air force spokesman said the two spots where debris was located suggested the pilots may have tried to turn the plane around to return to

Fernando de Noronha.

“The locations where the objects were found are toward the right of the point where the last signal of the plane was emitted,” said the spokesman, Col. Jorge Amaral.

“That suggests that it might have tried to make a turn, maybe to return to Fernando de Noronha, but that is just a hypothesis.”

Amaral said some of the debris was white and small but did not give more detail.

A U.S. Navy P-3C Orion surveillance plane and 21 crew members arrived in Brazil on Tuesday from El Salvador and were to begin overflying the zone in the afternoon, U.S. officials said.

The French dispatched a research ship equipped with unmanned submarines to the debris site.

Investigators on both sides of the ocean are trying to determine what brought the plane down. Potential causes include violently shifting winds and hail from towering thunderheads, lightning and other factors.

The crew made no distress call before the crash, but the plane’s system sent an automatic message before it disappeared, reporting lost cabin pressure and electrical failure.

French police were studying passenger lists and maintenance records, and preparing to take DNA from passengers’ relatives to help identify potential bodies.

On board the flight were 61 French citizens, 58 Brazilians, 26 Germans, nine Chinese and nine Italians. A lesser number of citizens from 27 other countries also were on the passenger list.

Disagreement continues as session ends

KELLEY SHANNON
Associated Press

Staring at a rough Republican primary battle ahead, Gov. Rick Perry declared success Tuesday in the just-completed Texas legislative session, trumpeting victories such as small-business tax cuts and unspent savings money. But primary voters may see defeat in the failure to pass anti-abortion measures he vocally backed.

The specter of a special session to keep the Texas Department of Transportation and other major agencies operating could assist GOP rival Kay Bailey Hutchison.

“We’ll find a solution to keeping government going,” Perry said Tuesday, pledging to look at all options.

Hutchison’s campaign was careful to praise legislators’ work while criticizing Perry as the five-month Legislature came to a close.

Texas GOP spokesman Hans Klingler said the session was “unfortunately” slowed by “the need to clean up after a governor who refused to address systemic and dangerous problems in his own state agencies.”

The governor, in a post-session news conference, praised lawmakers for approving a tax cut for some 40,000 small businesses by raising the revenue exemption from \$300,000

to \$1 million for the state’s relatively new business tax, a move he sought.

He also praised the state’s balanced budget and an estimated \$9.1 billion in the Rainy Day Fund for the end of the coming two-year spending cycle.

His Texas Enterprise Fund and Emerging Technology Fund, two accounts Perry uses to bring jobs to the state, got restocked with money, albeit short of what he requested.

Lawmakers placed \$48 million in the enterprise fund and \$109 million in the emerging tech fund, on top of existing balances.

Perry successfully opposed a local-option gas fuel tax proposal that would have let major metro areas impose taxes to build roads. Perry said it reeked of too much taxation statewide.

Perry won the battle with lawmakers to reject \$555 million in federal economic stimulus money for the unemployment fund.

In a highly publicized stand against Washington, Perry said the money would force an expansion of Texas’ unemployment system and require the state to pay the long-lasting tab later on.

But Perry missed his goals on issues dear to GOP pri-

Please see PERRY, Page 2



KIUCHIRO SATO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hummer said Tuesday that it has tentatively agreed to sell the brand, a day after the U.S. automaker filed for bankruptcy protection.

GM inks deal to sell Hummer

Saturn, Saab brands also have interested buyers

BREE FOWLER
Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. took a step toward downsizing Tuesday, striking a tentative deal to sell its Hummer brand to a Chinese manufacturer, while also revealing that it has potential buyers for its Saturn and Saab brands.

China’s Sichuan Tengzhong Heavy Industrial Machinery Co. said Tuesday afternoon that it had reached an agreement to acquire the brand from GM for an undisclosed amount. The Detroit automaker had announced Tuesday morning that it had a memorandum of understanding to sell the brand, but it didn’t identify the buyer.

Sichuan Tengzhong deals in road construction, plastics, resins and other industrial products, but Hummer would

be its first step into the automotive business.

GM said the sale will likely save more than 3,000 U.S. jobs in manufacturing, engineering and at Hummer dealerships. Tengzhong said it will assume GM’s existing agreements with Hummer dealers.

“We will be investing in the Hummer brand and its research and development capabilities, which will allow Hummer to better meet demand for new products such as more fuel-efficient vehicles in the U.S.,” Chief Executive Yang Yi said in a statement.

As part of the proposed transaction, Hummer will continue to contract vehicle manufacturing and business services from GM during a transitional period. For example, GM’s Shreveport, La., assembly plant would continue to contract to assemble the H3 and H3T through at least 2010, GM said.

Hummer will keep its existing management team and remain based in the United

Please see GM, Page 2

Insurgent, US deaths up in Afghanistan

JASON STRAZIUSO
Associated Press

KABUL — U.S. deaths in Afghanistan have risen to 65 so far this year, up from 36 over the first five months of 2008 — though U.S. and coalition troops have also killed hundreds more militants, an Associated Press tally shows.

As newly arriving Marines enter the violent Afghan south — the spiritual home of the Taliban and the country’s major drug-producing region — the military said Tuesday that U.S. deaths will likely increase even further this summer.

“We’re doing everything we can to ensure the deaths occur on the militants’ side, but there is a potential there will be an increase in U.S. deaths,” said Col. Greg Julian, the top U.S. military spokesman in Afghanistan.

In Washington, the U.S. general chosen to take over as commander of American and NATO troops in Afghanistan said he believes the war is “winnable, but I don’t think it will be easily winnable.”

Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal said at his confirmation hearing that avoiding civilian casualties is key to success.

Civilian deaths, long a contentious issue in Afghanistan, are also higher this year because of militant attacks and U.S.



MUSADEQ SADEQ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of Afghan students of Kabul University demonstrate Sunday against airstrikes that have contributed to an increase in civilian deaths.

and NATO operations.

The latest U.S. death came Tuesday during an insurgent attack in the east that killed one soldier.

On Monday, two roadside bombs ripped through two military vehicles in the same convoy, killing four Americans in Wardak, which is one province west of

Kabul.

U.S. counter-IED experts say they expect IED attacks — roadside bombs and suicide attacks — to rise 50 percent this year, contributing to the increase in casualties.

Please see SURGE, Page 2

As legislative session ends, a look at the most influential members

JACKIE STONE
Associated Press

The 81st Legislature began with partisan strife and ended in bipartisan chaos.

Here are some lawmakers who shaped the tone and direction of the session:

Sen. Tommy Williams

On opening day, the Woodlands Republican set a session-long fuse that exploded late and derailed many bills.

Though it normally takes a supermajority to allow any bill to make it to the floor, Williams proposed an exception be made for a controversial voter identification measure. The move created a partisan split that would eventually thread its way to the House.

Speaker Joe Straus

This San Antonio Republican's rise to power was swift as party members met early in the year to find a consensus candidate to replace then-Speaker Tom Craddick.

Straus was picked in part because of his hands-off approach and determination to follow the rules.

But when the voter ID standoff between Democrats and Republicans began to threaten other legislation, Straus was criticized for not taking a stronger hand. In the end, Straus sided with his party on voter ID.

Rep. Jim Dunnam

Love him or hate him, Dunnam was an undeniable force in the House.

Instrumental in elevating Straus to Speaker, the Waco Democrat and minority party caucus leader also led the Memorial Weekend Chub, when Democrats delayed the voter ID bill until a House deadline killed it.

Democrats succeeded by talking up uncontested bills in order to slow business to a halt, also known as "chubbing."

Rep. Larry Taylor

When the House was set to debate the state budget, many expected typical partisan debate on hot-button issues.

The debate was long but not the emotional free-for-all it could have been.

Taylor, the House Republican leader from Friendswood, met with Dunnam and stripped out many amendments that would be killed anyway, saving lawmakers from a divisive showdown.



HARRY CABLUCK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

House Democrats and Republicans reached a showdown Tuesday over whether they would decide on a voter identification bill as the session wrapped up. Debate over the voter ID bill and surrounding controversy dominated the session.

Sen. Steve Ogden

The chair of the Senate Finance Committee was the driving force in passing the state budget through the Senate, but his name was also tied to a host of high-profile issues.

The Bryan Republican added one-time \$800 bonuses for more than 100,000 state employees to the supplemental budget.

His attempt to block state spending on embryonic stem cell research failed, and he bore the weight of unsuccessful Senate efforts to reconfirm a debated creationist as head of the State Board of Education.

Late in the session, Ogden

refused to pass a bill for the Senate Finance Committee to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program, a decision that spurred proponents of the CHIP expansion to blame him for its eventual failure.

And when efforts to address the sunset of the Texas Department of Transportation failed on the final night, Ogden was quick to call for a special session.

Sen. Jane Nelson

Nelson's Health and Human Services Committee passed judgment on many of the session's controversial issues.

Nelson carried a host of health care legislation includ-

ing a bill aimed at retaining nurses and one of Gov. Rick Perry's emergency items — reforms for the state's 13 large institutions for people with developmental disabilities.

Sen. John Carona

The Dallas Republican got himself tied to the two biggest legislative bombs lobbed this year.

In January, he was the sole Republican to oppose bringing up the voter ID bill in the Senate.

In the last 48 hours of the session, Carona threatened a filibuster over a bill to reauthorize and reform the Texas Department of Transportation.

SURGE: Increased violence likely

—Continued from Page 1

Not counting the five deaths that have occurred in June, U.S. deaths are up 66 percent the first five months of the year over the same period last year.

President Barack Obama has ordered 21,000 more troops into Afghanistan to bolster the roughly 40,000 already in the country. U.S. officials predict a rise in violence this summer as the troops enter militant-controlled areas where they haven't previously operated.

Sami Kovanen, a security expert in Kabul, said casualties among international troops are rising partly because Taliban attacks are becoming more effective. He said insurgents now have better — and more — weapons, and he too

predicted violence would peak this summer.

"We will see a steady increase of violence and attacks, which will be at the highest level during July-August, with an additional spike during the election," said Kovanen, of Tundra Strategies. The country holds presidential elections on Aug. 20.

The increase in violence has come at a high cost for militants as well. Insurgent deaths are up 90 percent so far this year, from 815 over the first five months of 2008, according to the AP count, which relies on statements from the Afghan government and international militaries.

Julian said more militants are fighting in Afghanistan.

"And primarily it's more activity in areas where we haven't

We will see a steady increase of violence and attacks, which will be at the highest level during July-August, with an additional spike during the election.

—SAMI KOVANEN

had a permanent presence and directed activities at eliminating Taliban and al-Qaida leadership and their immediate associates," Julian said.

"I think there were quite a number (of insurgents) that have been there for a while that simply haven't been engaged, and now there are head-on confrontations," he said. "And I think we're go-

ing to see quite a bit more in southern Afghanistan, where the drug resources come from."

In southern Afghanistan on Tuesday, British forces announced they had killed an alleged Taliban commander called Mullah Mansur the previous day.

The British described him as a major figure in the insurgency who was behind several bloody suicide bombings.

In Washington, McChrystal stressed the importance of minimizing Afghan civilian casualties as allied forces apply counterinsurgency tactics designed to gain the support of the local population.

"How we conduct operations is vital to success. This is a critical point. It may be the critical point," McChrystal stressed.

GM: Sale would protect US jobs, automaker says

—Continued from Page 1

States, the companies said. Tengzhong said it expects to expand the brand's dealer network worldwide, including to China.

On Monday, the Shreveport plant, which has about 800 workers, escaped being among 12 plants that GM said would be shut down by next year. The plant, which employed 3,000 several years ago, also produces Chevrolet and GMC pickups.

Morgan Johnson, head of the United Auto Workers local at the plant, said GM indicated to the union that pickup assembly would continue in Shreveport through 2012.

"We're just happy that the doors are still open considering all the plant closings," said Sharon Brock, 52, who has worked at the sprawling plant for 26 years.

GM also said Tuesday that it has 16 buyers interested in purchasing its Saturn brand, while three parties are interested in its Swedish Saab brand.

Chief Financial Officer Ray Young told reporters and industry analysts that GM is

MORE ON GM
✓ Concerns arise over conflicts of interest in control of GM, Page 3.

continuing to pursue manufacturing agreements with a new Saturn buyer.

GM would like to sell the money-losing Saturn brand's dealership network, contracting with the new buyer to make some of its cars while the buyer gets other vehicles from different manufacturers.

At the same time, bridge loan discussions with the Swedish government are progressing, Young said.

GM, which filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in New York on Monday, is racing to remake itself as a smaller, leaner automaker. In addition to its plan to sell the Hummer, Saab and Saturn brands, GM will also phase out its Pontiac brand, concentrating on its Chevrolet, Cadillac, Buick and GMC nameplates.

Sales at Hummer have been in a steep slide since gasoline prices rose to record heights last summer. For the first five months of this year, Hummer sales are down 64 percent.

PERRY: Session could affect gubernatorial race

—Continued from Page 1

many voters' hearts: a Republican-pushed attempt to require Texas voters to show more identification and on anti-abortion activists' efforts to establish "Choose Life" license plates and require women having an abortion to view a fetus sonogram.

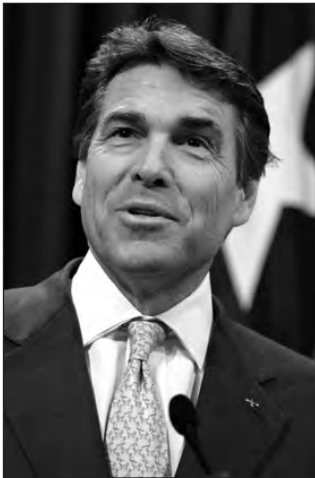
"Those were issues that I talked about in my State of the State address," he said of the anti-abortion measures. "They were obviously important to Texans, they were important to me. I'm looking forward to the legislative session where I get everything I ask for. This one was close."

Rep. Larry Phillips, a Sherman Republican who pushed for the "Choose Life" plates, said proponents of the measure know that it wasn't Perry's fault it didn't pass and wouldn't hold it against him in the primary.

The proposal was in the major transportation department bill that failed.

"It wasn't because of him it didn't pass," Phillips said. "Those that are supporters of it know that he supported it."

In the Senate, two of Perry's appointees to state posts were blocked: Don McLeroy for chairman of the State Board of Education and Shanda Perkins for the Texas Board of Pardons and Parole. Another, Will Harrell as Texas Youth Commission ombudsman, was running into opposition and resigned from the post before a vote.



Democratic leaders blamed Perry and other top Republicans for what they called a failed session.

"It would be difficult to be more disappointed in the results of this 'do nothing' legislative session," Sen. Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio and Rep. Jim Dunnam of Waco said in a joint statement.

They said lawmakers and Perry should have reformed homeowners insurance, expanded access to the Children's Health Insurance Program and reined in college tuition costs.

Perry said he didn't want to expand CHIP to higher-income families when all the children from working low-income families currently eligible for the health care pro-

Gov. Rick Perry won't rule out a special session to avert a shutdown of major state agencies, saying there are a "lot of different options" to ensure the Texas Department of Transportation and other agencies remain open.

Speaking to reporters Tuesday, Perry said he was caught off guard by the Senate's failure to pass measures keeping key agencies operating without interruption, including TxDOT and the Texas Department of Insurance. The Legislature adjourned Monday without passing the measures.

Senate Republicans said the inaction would require a special session, but Perry — the only official who can call one — remained noncommittal.

gram aren't enrolled.

As for college costs, he pointed to increases in the TEXAS Grant scholarship program; his early proposal to freeze tuition rates for four years for incoming freshmen didn't pass.

Perry also took pride in the Legislature's vote to modify the state's top 10 percent automatic college admissions law, something he supported. He said it gives the University of Texas at Austin more discretion in selecting the students it admits.

Emergency legislative items Perry declared this session were addressed, including windstorm insurance, Hurricane Ike recovery and reform in state schools for the mentally disabled.



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NATIONAL Abortion foe charged in Kansas death

WICHITA, Kan. — An anti-abortion activist was charged Tuesday with first-degree murder in the death of late-term abortion provider George Tiller.

The prosecutor said evidence in the case ruled out the death penalty.

Scott Roeder, 51, was shown via a video link from the Sedgwick County Jail. He said “OK” three times as Judge Ben Burgess read the charges.

Burgess ordered Roeder to be held without bond.

A preliminary hearing is set for June 16.

If convicted on the murder charge, Roeder faces a mandatory life sentence and would not be eligible for parole for at least 25 years.

Roeder is accused of shooting Tiller on Sunday at the doctor’s Lutheran church in Wichita. Roeder also was charged with aggravated assault for threatening people who tried to stop him.

D-Day memorial seeks new owner

BEDFORD, Va. — On the eve of the 65th anniversary of D-Day, the foundation that runs the National D-Day Memorial is on the brink of financial ruin.

Donations are down, and the primary base of support — World War II veterans — is dying off. Also, the privately funded memorial is struggling to draw visitors because it’s miles from Richmond, the closest major city.

The memorial’s president, William McIntosh, said he believes its only hope for long-term survival is to be taken over by the National Park Service or by a university.

The memorial opened in 2001 at a ceremony attended by President George W. Bush. It was built in Bedford because the community suffered among the nation’s highest per-capita losses on D-Day.

Several thousand visitors are expected at the memorial Saturday to mark the anniversary.

Murder suspect pleads not guilty

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — A Muslim convert who already was under federal investigation pleaded not guilty Tuesday in an attack that killed a young soldier at a military recruiting center.

Abdulahakim Muhammad, 23, of Little Rock, was charged on Monday’s death of Pvt. William Long, 23, of Conway outside an Army-Navy Career Center in a west Little Rock shopping center.

He pleaded not guilty to a capital murder charge and is being held without bail.

An FBI-led joint terrorism task force based in the southern United States has been investigating Muhammad since he returned to the United States from Yemen, a law enforcement official said. Assistant U.S. Attorney Pat Harris said no decision has been made on whether to pursue federal charges against Muhammad.

Licenses revoked in cut corpse case

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Authorities revoked the licenses of the Cave Funeral Home in Allendale, S.C., and its director after he admitted one of his employees cut the legs of a 6-foot-7-inch man without the family’s permission so the corpse would fit in a casket.

The state Board of Funeral Service voted unanimously Monday to close Cave Funeral Home and fined funeral director Michael Cave \$500 and ordered him to pay \$1,500 for the investigation.

In an agreement with the board, Cave said employees never told James Hines’ family that his body might not fit in a standard casket. An unlicensed worker, Charles G. Cave, cut the legs with an electric saw.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama must balance policy, profits

GM ownership raises conflict-of-interest concerns for government

By JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — As majority stakeholder in General Motors, the government is straddling two responsibilities that could be at odds: corporate ownership and public policy making.

With a \$50 billion investment in the once dominant automaker, the administration’s objective is to return the company to profitability and recoup as much of the bailout as possible.

But President Barack Obama also has a policy agenda that includes creating jobs and a greener economy, goals that may conflict with the bottom line.

What if reducing production of a fuel-efficient car at a time of low gas prices would save GM money? What if it were cheaper to close a plant and send certain manufacturing jobs overseas?

Administration officials say that they intend to maintain a virtual firewall between policy initiatives and Obama’s task force that has been working with GM and Chrysler to restructure.

“It was made very clear to us that an exercise in which we try to accomplish multiple policy objectives simultaneously was fraught with peril and would very substantially reduce the chance of success,” said Steven Rattner, one of the top advisers on the auto task force.

The administration has already walked that high wire. Two months ago, in rejecting Chrysler’s and GM’s initial restructuring plans, it said GM’s underperforming dealers were a drag on the company and that its plug-in Chevrolet



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama says GM’s future is a top concern for administration.

Volt was too expensive.

GM weighed its corporate needs against public policy needs after the United Autoworkers and members of Congress urged it to abandon plans to build a small, fuel efficient car in China.

GM now says it will build the car in a U.S. plant that was going to be idled.

Rattner said GM decided to build the car in the United States rather than China after negotiations with the union made the project economically worth-

Boss: Astute at work, not home

Consultant says man she married not a Rockefeller after all

By DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

BOSTON — At work, Sandra Boss was a dynamic, Harvard-educated executive who made \$2 million a year and advised companies on complex business strategies.

But at home, she was a “stupid” wife who believed her husband’s fantastic lies about his past and allowed him to control almost every aspect of her life, she testified Tuesday at her ex-husband’s kidnapping trial.

“I’m not saying that I made a very good choice of husband,” she said of the man she knew as Clark Rockefeller. “It’s pretty obvious that I had a blind spot.

“All I’m saying is that it’s possible that one can be brilliant and amazing in one area of one’s life and pretty stupid in another,” she said.

Prosecutors say Rockefeller, whose real name is Christian Karl Gerhartsreiter, has used multiple aliases since moving to the United States from Germany in 1978. He is accused of kidnapping their 7-year-old daughter, Leigh, during a supervised visit in Boston last July after he lost custody of the girl in their December 2007 divorce.

His lawyers say he is mentally ill with a delusional order and, therefore, is not criminally responsible for his actions.

Prosecutors rested their case Tuesday after calling their final witnesses, including a Wisconsin woman who said she agreed to marry Gerhartsreiter in 1981 so he could get a green



I’m not saying that I made a very good choice of husband. It’s pretty obvious that I had a blind spot.

All I’m saying is that it’s possible that one can be brilliant and amazing in one area of one’s life and pretty stupid in another.

—SANDRA BOSS

card and stay in the United States. The defense is scheduled to begin its case Wednesday.

During more than two hours of cross-examination Tuesday, Boss, 42, revealed stunning details about their 12-year marriage.

Gerhartsreiter’s lawyer, Jeffrey Denner, repeatedly pressed her on how a sophisticated and intelligent woman could believe her husband’s stories and why she didn’t leave him earlier. Denner ticked off numerous lies that Gerhartsreiter told her during their 15-year relationship, including:

- After suffering a childhood fall that left him mute for about seven years, he regained his speech after seeing a dog and speaking the word, “woofness.”
- He was left penniless after paying \$50 million to settle the debts of his late father, in part to prevent creditors from coming after Boss.
- He was part of the Trilateral Commission, a nongovernmental discussion group established in the 1970s to foster cooperation between North America, Western Europe and Pacific Asia.

Boss said she knew her husband lied “to make people think that he

was more important than he was,” but she did not realize the extent of his deception until hiring a private investigator during their divorce.

In testimony Monday, Boss said the man she knew as Clark Rockefeller wooed her with his intelligence and charm, but became angry and controlling after they married in 1995.

Denner pressed her to explain why she didn’t try to verify any of the claims he made about his past. She acknowledged that she never saw him with any form of identification and the only corroboration she had for his claim that he was related to the famous Rockefeller clan was a book he said had been signed by David Rockefeller.

Boss said they had marital difficulties from the beginning, but she was afraid to leave because he became angry.

Also testifying Tuesday was Gerhartsreiter’s first wife, Amy Jersild-Duhnke. The Milwaukee woman said she agreed to marry Gerhartsreiter in 1981.

She said a couple of weeks after they married, she went to a federal courthouse with him to sign immigration documents. She said she never heard from him again.

while. But it probably didn’t hurt to make a nod to domestic manufacturing at a time when the auto industry is swallowing thousands of job losses.

“Clearly they have several goals,” said Marina Whitman, a business professor at the University of Michigan and a former executive at GM. “They want GM to be viable and profitable. They want it to have a greener mix of cars than they are making now. And they are inevitably sensitive to the arguments of the Congress that, by golly, there are \$50 billion of the taxpayers’ money (in GM) they shouldn’t be subsidizing jobs somewhere else.”

The president and members of his auto task force have said operating decisions will be left to GM’s management and that the administration will exercise its ownership rights only on fundamental decisions such as the selection of a board of directors and on any potential acquisition or merger.

But though none of the directors would be government employees, the government will have a hand in their selection. That opens the door to questions about the directors’ loyalties.

What’s more, even if Obama doesn’t want to intervene in management decisions, Congress has shown that it will use its legislative powers to inject the government into issues such as executive compensation.

Car dealers are often prominent employers in their communities with significant political clout.

Under the GM and Chrysler restructuring plans approved by the administration, thousands of dealerships have been singled out for closure.

Lawmakers say they do not intend to micromanage, but reserve the right to question corporate managers.

Sotomayor addresses bias accusations

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Judge Sonia Sotomayor on Tuesday countered Republican charges that she would let her background dictate her rulings as Americans signaled a favorable first impression of President Barack Obama’s first Supreme Court choice.

A new Associated Press-GfK poll suggested that a third of Americans have a favorable view of her.



Sotomayor

As Sotomayor made her Senate debut with a series of private meetings, Republicans said they would prefer holding hearings on her nomination in September, which could cloud a summertime confirmation.

Sotomayor, who would be the high court’s first Hispanic and its third woman, told senators she would follow the law as a judge without letting her life experiences inappropriately influence her decisions.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., asked her what she meant by a 2001 comment — calling her decisions as a “wise Latina” better than those of a white male without the same experiences — and said the judge told him: “Of course one’s life experience shapes who you are, but ... as a judge, you follow the law.”

Democrats hold 59 votes in the Senate — enough to win Sotomayor’s confirmation — but short of the 60 it would take to advance the nomination should Republicans try to block it.

Presidential choppers could cost \$13 billion

KIMBERLY HEFLING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Once the effort to replace the president’s aging fleet of helicopters became the poster child for government waste, it didn’t take long for the multibillion-dollar program to hit the chopping block. Even so, the cost to taxpayers could just be starting.

Already \$3.2 billion has been spent on the new helicopters with an estimated \$10 billion to go.

The helicopter that carries the president is designated Marine One. President George W. Bush ordered a replacement fleet when security concerns heightened after Sept. 11, 2001.

Demands such as making the helicopters capable of functioning after a nuclear attack but gentle to the White House foliage helped put developing the aircraft six years behind schedule and doubled the estimated price tag to \$13 billion.

Talk of scrapping the building plan surfaced at a White House fiscal summit in February. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., put President Barack Obama on the spot about the program’s cost overruns. Obama concurred and

called the program an example of federal contracting run amok.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates agreed, and the military in May halted production at Lockheed Martin in Owego, N.Y. That order was made final Monday.

However, some members of Congress vow to keep the program going and say it will cost \$555 million in early termination fees to drop the program.

The Navy is developing options for another run at a new helicopter fleet, while figuring out what to do with the nine aircraft already delivered to the Navy under the aborted contract.

The New York lawmakers want to abandon plans for more sophisticated helicopters and churn out 19 basic models, which they say can be done for the originally budgeted \$6 billion.

The issue likely will come up Wednesday at a House defense appropriations subcommittee hearing. Earlier, subcommittee chairman Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., asked Gates if it might be more expensive than estimated to keep the fleet airborne.

“I’ve never seen an estimate yet that didn’t cost a lot more,” Murtha said.



CHARLES DHARAPAK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

If Congress has its way, President Obama might be stepping off a more costly helicopter in the future.

Colombian terrorist receives prison sentence

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON — An apologetic member of a Colombian right-wing paramilitary group was sentenced to 7 1/2 years in prison Tuesday for trying to acquire anti-aircraft missiles, grenade launchers and other powerful weapons for \$25 million worth of cocaine.

Diego Alberto Ruiz Arroyave pleaded guilty in October to conspiring to provide material support and resources to the United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia, known as AUC, its Spanish initials. The U.S. government designated the group a foreign terrorist organization.

“In my prayers, I thank God ... for the courage he has given me to make reparations for

the damage I have done in my life,” Ruiz read in Spanish from a statement.

His wife, who had come from Colombia, sat in the courtroom.

Under sentencing guidelines, U.S. District Judge David Hittner could have given Ruiz a prison term of more than 27 years, but he agreed to a request from prosecutor Jeff Vaden to reduce the sentence because of Ruiz’s cooperation with U.S. and Colombian authorities.

Erik Sunde, Ruiz’s attorney, said his client was not a combatant in the AUC.

Sunde described him as more of a “go-fer” for his cousin, Miguel Arroyave, who was the leader of the Centaurs

Bloc, one of the AUC’s biggest factions.

Ruiz has helped demobilize paramilitary fighters as part of a peace effort in Colombia, even after his cousin was killed in 2004 in the middle of peace talks with the Colombian government, Sunde said.

Ruiz was one of 14 Colombian paramilitary members extradited to the United States in May 2008 to face charges of supporting a terrorist organization and drug trafficking. Since then, three other members have been extradited to the U.S.

The case against Ruiz stemmed from a 2004 indictment that accused him of participating in a scheme to acquire the Russian and Eastern

In my prayers, I thank God ... for the courage he has given me to make reparations for the damage I have done in my life.

— **DIEGO ALBERTO RUIZ ARROYAVE,**
Colombian terrorist convicted of trading drugs for weapons

European-made weapons for the AUC.

The weapons included shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and AK-47 assault weapons. The AUC never got any weapons.

Prosecutors say that for a little more than a year from 2001 to 2002, those who took part in the scheme met in Houston; Mexico City; London; and other locations with an undercover police officer and an FBI confidential informant.

The AUC was formed in the 1980s to defend wealthy ranchers from leftist guerrillas.

But the vigilante force quickly turned into one of Colombia’s biggest drug-trafficking organizations.

TEXAS

Swine flu suspected at school

MESQUITE — Dallas County health officials are looking into whether some of the more than 100 students who missed classes at a North Texas elementary school have swine flu.

Fewer than 36 students were out sick Friday, but 114 missed classes Monday at Range Elementary due to an illness, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Dallas County health officials said they have not determined what caused the students’ illnesses and said at least two students are confirmed to have a strain of Type A influenza. Health officials suspect the two cases might be swine flu.

Fever, cough and other flu-like symptoms have been reported among some of the students. Other illnesses include strep throat.

School officials sent a note Friday asking parents to keep sick children at home and sent a follow-up letter Monday.

Alcohol might be factor in crash

DALLAS — It was a late-night motorist’s worst nightmare come true.

Investigators suspect alcohol was a factor in an overnight head-on collision between a car and a sport-utility vehicle on the Dallas North Tollway late Monday. Investigators say 28-year-old Jenny Hall of Dallas was driving the SUV north in the tollway’s southbound lanes for four miles before it slammed into the car near the Walnut Hill Lane exit.

Both vehicles burst into flames.

The Dallas County medical examiner’s office says Hall and the driver of the car, Carl Thomas Lotspeich of Addison, were both killed.

The wrong-way SUV also forced other motorists to veer away to avoid collisions. One driver who veered into a concrete barrier was unhurt.

Machete attacker called ‘troubled’

DANVILLE, Ill. — An Illinois State Police report portrays a former medical student who was fatally shot by officers after he charged them with a machete as a solitary, troubled man with mental health issues.

Vermilion County prosecutors released the 320-page report Monday. It says 23-year-old Oluwatofunmi Kaiyewu was experiencing hallucinations and episodes of paranoia when he led state police on a three-county car chase through central Illinois on April 6.

The report says officers disabled Kaiyewu’s car and when he emerged, he was gripping a machete. It says he didn’t blink as he told officers to shoot.

The Missouri City, Texas, native was taking courses in Carbondale, Ill. Administrators said Kaiyewu was often absent from his courses.

No clues found in UFO search

LIBERTY — Law officers in Liberty County found no evidence of a “strange object” flying about 150 feet beneath a Continental Express plane.

Sheriff’s Department Cpl. Hugh Bishop says deputies looked for a possible launch or landing site.

Kristy Nicholas, a spokeswoman for ExpressJet Airlines, says the pilot of the Embraer 145 told flight controllers that the “strange object” he saw never showed up on his radar Friday night.

Nicholas says the plane, with 23 passengers and three crewmembers, had just passed 11,000 feet, going to 16,000 feet.

Flight 2822 from Houston’s Bush Intercontinental Airport continued safely on to South Carolina and Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS



MAYRA BELTRAN / HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Samuel Kent, a federal judge, and his wife walk away from Bob Casey Federal Courthouse in Houston on Monday. Kent, who was sentenced to nearly three years in prison for lying about groping two female employees, will report to prison on June 15 but will collect his \$169,000 salary until next year. Kent decided to delay his resignation so his wife could continue receiving medical benefits, his lawyer said.

Judge will collect salary in prison

Kent to leave bench a year into sentence

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON — A convicted federal judge told the president Tuesday he would resign from the bench in June 2010, nearly a year after he begins serving prison time for lying about the sexual abuse of two assistants.

U.S. District Judge Samuel Kent would draw a full salary of \$169,000 a year and benefits until the resignation takes effect, said his lawyer, Dick DeGuerin.

Kent decided on the delay so his wife could retain her medical benefits, DeGuerin said.

“His wife will be destitute unless he receives his benefits for that year,” DeGuerin said. “She will be without any kind of medical insurance. His wife had a brain tumor recently and other serious medical problems.”

The resignation was submitted a week after denial of Kent’s request to retire on disability due to depression — which would have meant full salary for the rest of his life. By resigning, he gets nothing after next year.

DeGuerin said Kent, 59, is

resigning to try to avoid the “spectacle” of an impeachment process by Congress. The House Judiciary Committee has scheduled a hearing on the matter for Wednesday.

“Judge Kent’s own actions continue to prove that he is unworthy of public service,” said Rep. Lamar Smith, the ranking Republican on the committee. “This is an outrageous abuse of authority and defies the very principles of justice Judge Kent swore to uphold. Ensuring that a corrupt judge does not receive another penny of taxpayer dollars is one of the most important jobs for this Congress and a priority

for the Judiciary Committee.”

Last month, Kent was sentenced to 33 months in prison, fined \$1,000 and ordered to pay \$6,550 in restitution to his former secretary and his case manager, whose complaints resulted in the first sex abuse case against a sitting federal judge.

Kent is set to report to prison June 15. A decision by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons on where he will serve his sentence has not been announced. He also was ordered to participate in an alcohol-abuse program while in prison.

At Kent’s sentencing, the two women said they came to work

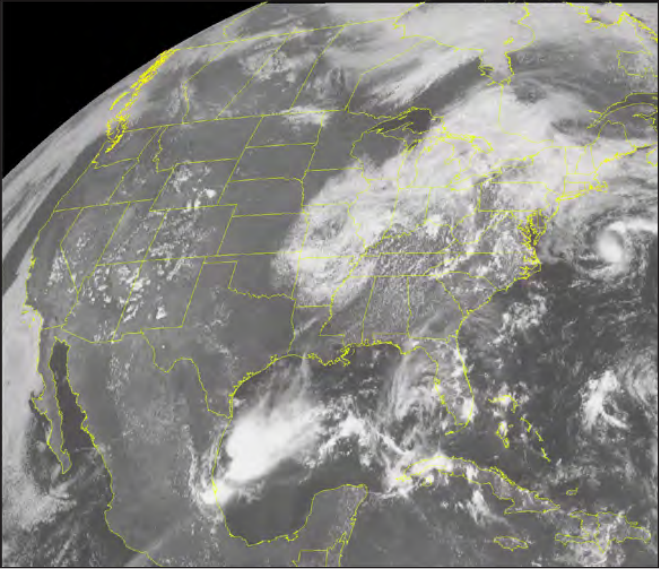
scared of the judge because he put them through repeated and humiliating sexual abuse at the federal courthouse in Galveston, where Kent had been the lone jurist before being transferred to Houston.

As part of the plea deal, Kent admitted he tried to force his former case manager into unwanted sex acts in August 2003 and March 2007 and did the same with his secretary from 2004 through at least 2005.

DeGuerin said it would also probably take a year for the impeachment process to be completed in Congress.

“With him resigning, it’s not necessary,” he said.

Scientists predict mild hurricane season



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A satellite image from Thursday shows widespread cloud coverage over the U.S. as several weather disturbances cause unsettling weather activity. A team from Colorado State University is predicting fewer hurricanes this upcoming season, a shift from the last few years in which hurricanes have hit Texas, Louisiana and other Gulf Coast states.

ERNEST SCHEYDER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The chance of a severe 2009 hurricane season continues to fade, according to the most recent forecasts, a potential break from recent years when violent storms smashed in the Gulf Coast and sent energy prices spiking.

Even if a storm does hit the nation’s energy complex, which runs from the deepwater drilling platforms in the Gulf to facilities along the shores of Texas and Louisiana, energy experts say falling demand and excess capacity likely would mean fuel supplies will not be seriously disrupted.

Colorado State University on Tuesday trimmed its hurricane prediction from six to five, and the number of named storms from 12 to 11.

The team at Colorado State is headed by William Gray, who pioneered the field of storm

season forecasts.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said late last month that the 2009 Atlantic hurricane season, which began Monday, should be near-normal, with a good chance of four to seven hurricanes. One to three of those storms could be major, NOAA said.

Predicting hurricanes is tricky, however. In 1989, Gray forecast a relatively mild hurricane season. That year, seven hurricanes and four tropical storms killed 84 people in the U.S. In 2005, Gray’s team forecast eight hurricanes. There were 15 hurricanes, including Katrina and Rita.

The two seasons after Katrina were mild, despite forecasts for more violent weather.

Last year, hurricanes Gustav and Ike — both category four storms — destroyed 60 oil and gas platforms in the

Gulf of Mexico and disrupted fuel supplies to much of the Southeast.

The damage to major utilities from Texas to New England was severe, however, knocking out power to millions.

Utilities spent billions cleaning up.

This year, even if a hurricane knocked out refineries along the northern Texas coast, which account for about 20 percent of U.S. gas production, refineries in Louisiana and elsewhere likely would pick up the slack.

That is not to say prices would not rise in anticipation of a storm. The price of crude has jumped nearly \$20 over the past month and on Tuesday passed \$69 per barrel for the first time since early November.

Energy markets can trade on anticipation of a direct hit, and prices can rise even before a storm enters the Gulf.

INTERNATIONAL

Suicide suspected at Gitmo

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A Yemeni detainee at Guantanamo Bay has died of an “apparent suicide,” U.S. military officials announced Tuesday.

The Joint Task Force that runs the U.S. prison in Cuba said guards found 31-year-old Muhammad Ahmad Abdallah Salih unresponsive and not breathing in his cell Monday night.

In a statement issued from Miami, the U.S. military said the detainee was pronounced dead by a doctor after “extensive lifesaving measures had been exhausted.”

The prisoner, known as Al-Hanashi, has been held without charge at Guantanamo since February 2002.

His death is the fourth apparent suicide at Guantanamo.

Iraqi murderer gets life in prison

BAGHDAD — An Iraqi court Tuesday convicted a Sunni architect in the 2004 kidnap-slaying of British aid worker Margaret Hassan and sentenced him to life in prison. Her family appealed for him to reveal where her body is buried so her remains can be returned to Britain.

The Irish-born Hassan, who was married to an Iraqi and had lived for 30 years in Iraq, was among the highest-profile figures to fall victim to the wave of kidnappings in the early years of the war.

She was seized in October 2004 on her way to work in Baghdad, where she served as director of CARE International in Iraq.

A panel handed down the sentence against Ali Lutfi al-Rawi, 36, after a one-day trial in Baghdad, convicting him of kidnapping, murder and extortion.

Expense scandal embarrasses UK

LONDON — A scandal over lawmakers' expenses threatened to overwhelm Prime Minister Gordon Brown's government Tuesday, as his minister for security and police prepared to quit and the future of several other senior figures was in doubt.

Brown is coping with a raft of resignations after embarrassing details of lawmakers' expenses leaked out, and he is expected to fire some senior ministers in response to public anger.

Lawmakers from all parties have expensed items ranging from cookies and cushions to horse manure, swimming pool repairs and bogus home loan payments, outraging Britons suffering through a deep recession and soaring unemployment.

The expense scandal threatens to sweep a host of veterans out of Brown's Cabinet before a national election that must be held by June 2010.

Drug fight aims at corrupt police

MEXICO CITY — At least 25 police officers were detained in northern Mexico on Monday for alleged ties to drug traffickers, authorities said.

It was Mexico's latest sweep to root out corruption among police and government officials, which has been a major impediment to President Felipe Calderon's battle against drug cartels.

Soldiers and state and federal agents detained the local police officers for questioning after soldiers found evidence linking them to drug dealers who were arrested last month, the Nuevo Leon state government said in a statement. It did not give details on the evidence or say how many police were arrested.

A state public security official said 25 officers were detained at police headquarters in the cities of Monterrey, San Nicolas de los Garza, Apodaca and the state public security offices. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about the investigation.

Kim's son might be next leader

Little is known about possible N. Korean pick

JEAN H. LEE
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — One photo shows a chubby boy with an impish grin. Former classmates at a Swiss boarding school describe a shy student who loved basketball and Jean-Claude Van Damme. Recent reports describe him as overweight and a heavy drinker.

Now 26, Kim Jong Un reportedly has been tapped to become the next leader of nuclear-armed North Korea.

The youngest son of Kim Jong Il, he appears to have led a cloistered life, kept out of the limelight.

But he's already being hailed as “our Commander Kim,” and North Koreans are learning the lyrics to a song praising him as the next leader of the world's first communist dynasty, South Korea's Dong-a Ilbo newspaper said Tuesday.

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers the Pyongyang regime has begun “pledging its allegiance to Kim Jong Un,” legislator Park Jie-won said.

The apparent anointment comes at a time of mounting tensions over a May 25 nuclear test and North Korea's April 5 rocket launch. Global powers are discussing how to rein in Pyongyang for its nuclear defiance.

Kim is believed to want to name a successor by 2012, the centenary of the birth of his father, North Korea's found-

er, Kim Il Sung.

The regime stepped up the pace last month, launching a “150-day battle” urging North Koreans to work to build the country's economy.

Analyst Cheong Seong-chang of the Sejong Institute think tank noted the 150-day campaign is set to culminate in October. He said North Korea could hold a convention then to formally announce Kim's successor.

In the 1970s, Kim Il Sung arranged for his son to take credit for a “70-day battle” before he was tapped as his father's successor, Cheong said. Kim Jong

Il formally assumed leadership upon his father's death in 1994.

Kim Jong Il's eldest son Jong Nam, 38, was considered the favorite to succeed his father until he was caught trying to enter Japan on a fake passport in 2001, reportedly to visit the Disney resort.

Jong Un reportedly is the only son with a military background, said Paik Hak-soon of the Sejong Institute.

His uncle, Jang Song Thae, a member of the all-powerful National Defense Commission, will likely guide and advise him, he said.

Little is known about Kim Jong Un. The one photo purportedly showing him as a boy cannot be verified, and there are no known images of Jong Un as an adult.



HADI MIZBAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A U.S. soldier carries a bed frame in Camp Carver on the outskirts of Madain, about 15 miles southeast of Baghdad. The U.S. military is expanding some bases and building others to

house thousands of troops displaced by a June deadline to withdraw from Iraq's major cities. The Americans have already closed or handed over 60 bases since the beginning of 2009.

US military to get new bases

CHELSEA J. CARTER
Associated Press

CAMP CARVER, Iraq — The U.S. military is expanding some rural bases and building others to house thousands of troops displaced by a June deadline to withdraw from Iraq's major cities.

With continual power outages pushing temperatures well above 100 degrees, that can't come soon enough for some soldiers living in sweltering tents at Camp Carver in the small town of Madain, about 15 miles southeast of the capital.

“Can't wait,” said Spc. Oscar Garza, 20, of Port Lavaca, Texas, as he carted his bed frame to newly constructed plywood houses with air conditioners elsewhere on the U.S. base.

The Americans have already closed or handed over 60 ur-

ban bases since the beginning of the year, with more than 50 others tentatively scheduled to be closed or returned to Iraqi control by the end of June, said Lt. Col. Brian Maka, a military spokesman.

Many of the troops have been transferred to temporary housing on bases just outside cities. They still go into urban areas to support Iraqi security forces but don't sleep there.

A tent city has popped up at Camp Carver, where the population has more than doubled in recent weeks with the influx of troops from Baghdad, said Lt. Col. Greg Parker, chief of staff for the 225th Brigade. The military would not release exact figures, citing security.

Parker, who has been overseeing the expansion at Carver, said engineers have been building housing and fortify-

Iraqi combat pullout

- ✓ **President Barack Obama plans to withdraw all combat troops by Aug. 31, 2010, leaving 30,000 to 50,000 troops to train and advise Iraq's forces. Those remaining would withdraw by the end of 2011.**
- ✓ **American troops are required to withdraw from cities by the end of June.**

ing the base since early May.

“This should all be completed well before the June 30 deadline,” said Parker, 42, of Gonzales, La.

Spc. Zachary Kyser, 25, of Atlanta, said better housing means more effective soldiers.

Under the security agree-

ment that took effect Jan. 1, American troops are required to withdraw from cities by the end of June and leave Iraq completely by the end of 2011.

The U.S. military would not say how many bases are being constructed, but they are thought to be on the outskirts of Baghdad and other big cities.

Army Maj. Gen. David Perkins said there are no plans to close Camp Victory, which houses more than 20,000 troops, and two other smaller bases within Baghdad. Large Marine bases in western Anbar province on the outskirts of Ramadi and Taqqadam, outside of Fallujah, will also remain.

In northern Iraq, the main U.S. air base at Balad and the logistics base on the outskirts at Taji also will stay.

China limits access to networking sites

CHRISTOPHER BODEN
Associated Press

BEIJING — Ahead of the 20th anniversary of the bloody crackdown on Tiananmen Square this week, Chinese authorities have rounded up dissidents and shipped them out of town. Now, authorities have even shut down Twitter.

Along with their usual methods of muzzling dissent, the authorities extended their efforts Tuesday to silence social networking sites that might foster discussion of any commemoration of the events of June 3-4, 1989.

“There has been a really intensified clampdown on quasi-public discussion of awareness of this event,” said Xiao Qiang, adjunct professor at the University of California-Berkeley, and director of the school's China Internet Project.

“It's a discussion about where China is now and where China can go from here. So the authorities are making a major crackdown to block user-generated sites such as Twitter and show there is no right to public discussion,” he said.

China has the world's larg-

est online population, and Internet communities have proven increasingly influential in spreading word of events to everything from student protests to group shopping excursions.

Government Internet monitors have shut down message boards on more than 6,000 Web sites affiliated with colleges and universities, apparently to head off talk about the 1989 events, according to the Hong Kong-based Information Center for Human Rights and Democracy.

Numerous blogs maintained by edgy government critics such as avant-garde artist Ai Weiwei have been blocked and the text-messaging service Twitter and photo-sharing site Flickr could not be accessed within China on Tuesday.

Video-sharing site YouTube has been blocked within China since March.

China has never allowed an independent investigation into the military's crushing of the 1989 protests, in which possibly thousands of students, activists and ordinary citizens were killed.



RICK RYCROFT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police wait to arrest skyscraper climber Alain Robert, who says he suffers from vertigo despite his hobby.

Police arrest 'Spiderman' in Australia

SYDNEY — A French skyscraper climber nicknamed “Spiderman” was arrested Tuesday after scaling a 41-story building in downtown Sydney with his bare hands, stopping traffic on the busy street below as spectators and safety officials gathered.

About 200 people gathered to watch as Alain Robert, known for scaling some of the world's tallest and best-known buildings without ropes or other equipment, climbed to the top of the Royal Bank of Scotland Tower.

Police closed a section of the busy street below, causing gridlock. The crowd cheered as Robert reached the top. He then climbed back down, where waiting officers arrested him.

The 46-year-old has climbed more than 70 skyscrapers around the world, including the Empire State Building, the Sears Tower, Taipei 101 and the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, according to his Web site.

Camera to work as new Xbox controller

DERRIK J. LANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Gamers, get ready for your close-up.

Microsoft introduced a prototype camera Monday that can be used as a controller for the Xbox 360. Codenamed “Project Natal,” the camera eliminates the need for a handheld input device — instead, the gizmo can track a player’s full body movement, recognize their face and voice, scan images of real items and respond to both physical and vocal commands.

Microsoft also debuted 10 exclusive new games and several additions to the Xbox Live online service at their Elec-

tronic Entertainment Expo press conference at University of Southern California’s Galen Center.

Microsoft Senior Vice President Don Mattrick and Steven Spielberg introduced “Project Natal” to an eager crowd.

“Two months ago, Don shared with me the ‘Natal’ experience, and the gamer in me went out of my mind when I got to be really interactive with this,” said Spielberg, a game developer as well as a filmmaker.

During the press conference, “Project Natal” was demonstrated with three prototype programs: “Ricochet,” a soccer-like game which required the player to use his

or her entire body to bounce balls at targets; “Paint Party,” an art-making program that used the player’s body as the brush; and “Milo,” a virtual boy who communicated and interacted with the player.

“This is all about breaking down barriers the way only Xbox 360 can,” Microsoft corporate vice president Shane Kim said before the conference. “For far too long, the controller has kept people from playing games.”

The “Project Natal” prototype device showcased at the E3 news conference combines a camera, depth sensor, microphone and processor running proprietary software. Kim said that there was no date set

for when the device and accompanying software would be available to the public.

Several announcements were made about Xbox 360’s other video capabilities, including increased functionality with the Netflix online service, streaming 1080p high-definition video, live TV in the United Kingdom via the Sky network and the ability to watch selected movies online with friends with Xbox Live Party.

For the Xbox Live online service, Microsoft announced the ability to access streaming music service Last.fm as well as the social networking sites Facebook and Twitter beginning this fall.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Film director and game developer Steven Spielberg, who was given advance access to the new Microsoft Xbox Project Natal, a new interactive technology, appears at the Microsoft Xbox 360 E3 news conference.

Classic game’s popularity as high as ever

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

With its scratches and sticky brown beer stains, the Tetris arcade machine near the back of a Brooklyn bar called Barcade has seen better days. Which makes sense, given that the machine was made in the 1980s.

Even today, though, it’s not hard to find 20- and 30-somethings plucking away at its ancient controls, flipping shapes made up of four connected squares and fitting them into orderly patterns as they descend, faster and faster as the game goes on.

“You could just play infinitely,” said Michael Pierce, 28, who was playing against Dan Rothfarb, also 28. Both have been fans since they — and the game — were young. Tetris has its 25th birthday this week.

Pierce recalls playing Tetris on a Nintendo Game Boy that was on display in a department store when his family couldn’t afford the unit. Rothfarb played on his Nintendo until the game wouldn’t go any faster.

Completed by a Soviet programmer in 1984, Tetris has come a long way from its square roots. It’s played by millions, not just on computers and gaming consoles but now on Facebook and the iPhone as well.

Tetris stands out as one of the rare cultural products to come West from the Soviet Union during the Cold War. And the rhythm of its task-by-task race against time was an early sign of our inbox-clearing, Twitter-updating, BlackBerry-thumbing world to come.

In her book “Hamlet on the Holodeck,” Georgia Tech professor Janet Murray called Tetris the “perfect enactment of the over-tasked lives of Americans.” The game, she wrote, shows the “constant bombardment of tasks that demand our attention and that we must somehow fit into our overcrowded schedules and clear off our desks in order to make room for the next onslaught.”

Many people who grew up with Tetris haven’t stopped playing.

“I’d stay up, wait for my parents to go to bed, smuggle my Nintendo into my bedroom, hook it up to my television and play this game until all hours of the morning,” said John Clemente, another player at Barcade. Tetris, he says, was the only game to drive him “to the point of insanity.” As a child, he once kicked his Nintendo across the room.

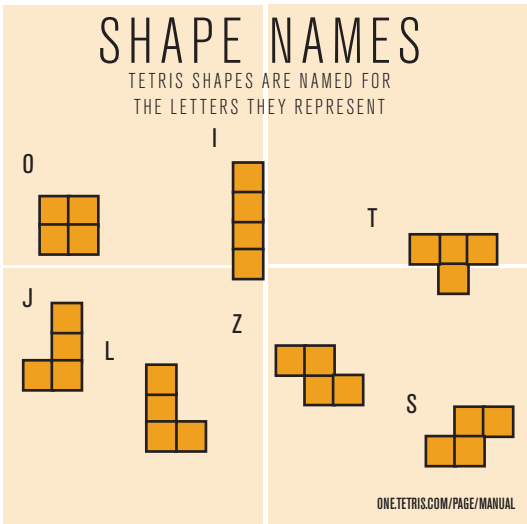
“It was a very love-hate relationship,” he said.

Tetris is easy to pick up. Rotate the falling shapes so that you form full lines at the bottom of the screen. Fit the shapes so there are as few open spaces left as possible. Aim for a tetris: four lines completed in one swoop. Repeat. Watch your score zoom.

But Tetris is hard to master. Because the shapes — technically known as tetrominoes — come in a random order, it is hard to predict the best way to organize them so that they can form neat rows.

In 2002, Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers determined that the potential combinations of blocks are so numerous that it would be impossible even for a computer to calculate the best place to put each falling shape. Erik Demaine, an associate professor of computer science, praised the game’s “mathematical elegance,” which perhaps stems from the background of its developer.

Alexey Pajitnov was 29 and working for



the Moscow Academy of Sciences when he completed Tetris on June 6, 1984, for a Soviet computer system called the Elektronika. A computer programmer by day who researched artificial intelligence and automatic speech recognition, Pajitnov worked on the game in his spare time.

“All my life I liked puzzles, mathematical riddles and diversion,” Pajitnov said in a recent interview from Moscow. Tetris, he said, was just one of the games he made back then. The others are mostly long forgotten.

Pajitnov’s creation spread in Moscow through the small community of people who had access to computers. Word filtered through computer circles to the West, where the game drew the interest of entrepreneurs. A company called Spectrum HoloByte managed to obtain PC rights, but another, Mirrorsoft, also released a version. Years of legal wrangling followed, with several companies claiming pieces of the Tetris pie — for handheld systems, computers and arcades.

Complicating matters, the Soviet Union prohibited privately held businesses. The Soviet state held the Tetris licensing rights, and Pajitnov had no claim to the profits. He didn’t fight it.

“Basically, at the moment I realized I wanted this game to be published, I understood that Soviet power will either help me or never let it happen,” he said.

It wasn’t until 1996 that Pajitnov got licensing rights. Asked whether he made enough money off the game to live comfortably, he says yes, but offers no more details. Today, he is part owner of Tetris Co., which manages the game’s licenses worldwide.

Nintendo Co. was an early and big beneficiary of the game, which stood out from its mid-’80s peers because it had no characters and no shooting.

When Nintendo was preparing to release its Game Boy device in 1989, the company planned to include with it one of the games that are also classics today:

RELATED LINKS

- tetris.com - Official Tetris Web site
- tetrisfriends.com - Online Tetris game
- zone.tetris.com - Game and information
- tetrisconcept.com - Tetris forums, wikis and records
- freetetris.org - Free flash-based version
- tetristd.org - Satirical one-dimensional Tetris

TRIVIA

- The name “Tetris” was derived from the Greek numerical prefix meaning “four.”
- Tetris has been played on everything from computers to graphing calculators and the sides of buildings.
- A single line clear in the game is worth 100 points, while a back-to-back Tetris is worth 1,200 points.

INTERVIEW WITH ALEXEY PAJITNOV ON WEB SITE FOR GAMING NETWORK 64

TERMS

Tetrimino – a group of four blocks (minos) joined together to form one of seven shapes

Matrix – playfield on which the game is played, 10 cells wide and 20 cells high

Soft Drop – causes tetrimino to drop at 20x the normal speed

Line Clear – when a horizontal line in the matrix is filled and then cleared

Ghost Piece – shows where active tetrimino will rest in current position

T-Spin – Rotating tetrimino after it lands but before it locks into place

Block Out – Game-over situation in which stacks of existing tetriminos prevent new tetriminos from entering game play on the matrix

ZONE.TETRIS.COM/PAGE/MANUAL

TIMELINE

1984 Russian scientist Alexey Pajitnov develops the very first version of Tetris in Moscow on an Electronica 60.	
1987 Tetris launches on PCs in North America and Europe.	
1988 Video game designer and publisher Henk Rogers discovers Tetris at a Las Vegas trade show; his company releases Tetris on the PC and NES in Japan.	
1989 Nintendo’s Game Boy launches platform with Tetris.	
1992 Scientific research suggests Tetris can make the brain operate more efficiently.	
1996 The Tetris Company is formed and becomes the exclusive source of all licenses to Tetris.	
The Tetris Guidelines are created to establish consistency and quality standards for Tetris.	
2000 G-mode publishes Tetris on mobile phones in Japan. Tetris goes on to become the No. 1 mobile-phone game in the Japanese market.	
2006 Tetris for the iPod is launched and instantly becomes Apple’s No. 1 downloaded game.	
2007 Alexey Pajitnov receives the First Penguin Award at the Game Developers Conference.	
2008 A study by Emily Holmes, Ph.D., of Oxford suggests that Tetris may help treat patients with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.	
2009 Guinness World Records Gamer’s Edition ranks Tetris No. 2 on the “Top 50 Console Games of All Time.”	WWW.TETRIS.COM

“Super Mario,” “Donkey Kong” and “Zelda.” But Nintendo wanted something everyone would play — a “perfect killer game” that would sell the Game Boy, said Minoru Arakawa, Nintendo of America’s president from 1980 to 2002.

The solution was Tetris — though Nintendo needed help from Henk Rogers, a U.S. entrepreneur.

Rogers had spotted Tetris at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas and bought the rights to a PC version of the game in Japan from Spectrum HoloByte. In February 1989, he went to Moscow on a tourist visa to try to get the rights for Nintendo. He spent his first day in a taxi with a driver who didn’t speak English,

communicating by gestures and trying in vain to find the ministry of software and hardware export. The next morning, he hired an interpreter and things went more smoothly, and Tetris got bundled into the first Game Boy.

Since then, Tetris has expanded to all kinds of devices and inspired a generation of knockoffs. Tetris Co. says 125 million copies have been sold in various incarnations.

Pajitnov says Tetris could stick around another quarter-century.

“I hope so, why not?” he said. “Technology changes a lot, but I can’t say people change a lot.”

Associated Press Writer Mark Lennihan contributed to this report.

TETRIS

TURNS 25

Thursday, June 4, 2009



PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY

Lawyer seeks Bush testimony in dispute

JEFF CARLTON
Associated Press

DALLAS — A Texan is trying to put a former president under oath to discover what he knew and when he knew it.

But the issue isn't national security, political skulduggery or a sex scandal. It's a property dispute involving George W. Bush's presidential library at Southern Methodist University.

Gary Vodicka, a lawyer who was forced out of his condominium by SMU to make way for the project, contends the university coveted the property as the future site of the library and lied about its intentions.

On April 17, a Texas district judge ordered the former president to appear at a deposition. The order has been stayed pending an appeal, but if it stands, it could be historic: No sitting or former president ever has been forced to testify in a state court proceeding, according to John Martin, one of Bush's attorneys.

However, Martin and an SMU attorney expressed confidence the order would be overturned.

The lawsuit centers on SMU's acquisition of University Gardens, a 40-year-old condominium complex across the street from the university.

The two sides disagree on whether the school breached its legal duty to the owners after purchasing a majority of units by letting the place fall into disrepair so it could be torn down.

Vodicka, who is representing himself, alleges SMU officials began angling for the presidential library as far back as 1998, when Bush was governor of Texas. He says the school acquired the condo property with the library project in mind.

Mark Lanier, a lawyer for SMU, scoffed at the accusation and the accuser, saying that Vodicka, "bless his heart, is a man of many suits." Vodicka, an SMU law school graduate who would not disclose his political affiliation, has been a party to more than a dozen lawsuits in Dallas County alone.

"It's not some big conspiracy," Lanier said. "There was no crystal ball-gazing that Bush would be elected and ultimately after eight years would give his library to SMU and we would need that property. That was not a consideration."

Timeline of Bush library dispute

1998: SMU began buying units in University Gardens, a 40-year-old, 347-unit complex immediately north of Park Cities Plaza.

The school bought enough units to gain a majority of seats on the board of the homeowners association, which were filled with SMU employees and others affiliated with the school who did not own units or live at the complex.

2006: Citing problems with asbestos, the roof, mold and sewer lines, the school bulldozed the condos.

2010: Deadline by which officials say they hope to break ground on the library.

2013: Projected opening date

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIDEAST VISIT

Bin Laden tape airs as Obama visits



TARA TODRAS-WHITEHILL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli protesters demonstrate against U.S. President Barack Obama in Jerusalem on Wednesday. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is under heavy U.S. pressure to get peacemaking back on track by

recognizing the Palestinians' right to a state of their own and halting settlement expansion in the West Bank. Obama visited the Mideast to alleviate hostility toward the U.S.

President aims to alleviate unease between US, Mideast

JENNIFER LOVEN
Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Opening a mission to write a new chapter on Islam and the West, President Barack Obama consulted Wednesday with the Saudi king "in the place where Islam began," prelude to a high-stakes speech in Egypt meant to ease long-held Muslim grievances against the United States.

The son of a Kenyan Muslim who lived part of his childhood in Muslim-majority Indonesia, Obama planned what aides called a "truth-telling" address on Thursday, aimed directly at the world's 1.5 billion Muslims. Many harbor animosity toward the U.S. over its staunch support for Israel, its terrorist-fighting policies, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many Americans, likewise, formed negative perceptions of the Muslim world after the 9/11 attacks.

In advance, Saudi King Abdullah staged a lavish welcome after Obama's all-night flight to Riyadh.

"I thought it was very important to come to the place where Islam began and to seek his majesty's counsel," Obama said. The president and the king talked in the splendor of Abdullah's sprawling retreat, a lush patch of searing desert.

Birthplace of Islam, Saudi Arabia is still considered guardian of the faith as home to the holy cities of Medina and Mecca. The Sunni Arab powerhouse also sits on the world's largest oil reserves, buys billions in U.S. military equipment and has cooperated extensively with the U.S. on anti-terrorist operations.

As such, Obama's goals of opening what speechwriter Ben Rhodes called "a new chapter between the United States and the Muslim world" could hardly proceed without Saudi

Please see OBAMA, Page 2



I consider the king's friendship a great blessing, and I am very appreciative that he would bestow this honor on me during this visit.

—BARACK OBAMA



Let the American people be ready to reap what the White House leaders have sown.

—OSAMA BIN LADEN



(Medallions) are only given to the very few friends of the king, and (Obama is) certainly one of those.

— ABDULLAH BIN ABDUL AZIZ AL-SAUD



This entire problem began with al-Qaida and its associates and everybody in the world knows that.

— RICHARD HOLBROOKE

Bin Laden: Obama policy increased hatred toward US

MAAMOUN YOUSSEF
Associated Press

CAIRO — Osama bin Laden threatened Americans in a new audio recording aired Wednesday, saying President Barack Obama inflamed hatred toward the U.S. by ordering Pakistan to crack down on militants in the Swat Valley and block Islamic law there.

Bin Laden claimed U.S. pressure led to a campaign of "killing, fighting, bombing and destruction" that prompted the exodus of a million Muslims from Swat in Northwest Pakistan.

The message was broadcast for the first time on pan-Arab Al-Jazeera Television around the same time Obama touched down in Saudi Arabia at the start of a Mideast visit. He is trying to repair relations with the Muslim world frayed under the previous Bush administration.

"Elderly people, children and women fled their homes and lived in tents as refugees after they have lived in dignity in their homes," bin Laden said. "Let the American people be ready to reap

Please see BIN LADEN, Page 2

NEW HAMPSHIRE

State Legislature OKs gay marriage in N.H.

NORMA LOVE
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.H. — New Hampshire legislators approved a measure Wednesday to make the state the sixth to allow gay marriage, and Democratic Gov. John Lynch signed legislation about an hour after the key vote in the House.

He had promised a veto if the law didn't clearly exempt churches and religious groups from officiating at gay marriages or providing other services if they so chose.

The Senate passed the measure Wednesday, and the House — where the outcome was more

Dates of gay marriage legalization in states

Massachusetts: May 17, 2004

Connecticut: Nov. 12, 2008

Iowa: April 3, 2009

Vermont: April 7, 2009

California: May 15 - Nov. 4, 2008

Maine: May 6, 2009

in doubt — followed later in the day. The House gallery erupted

Please see N.H., Page 2



GARRY MITCHELL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bay Community Church student pastor Josh Sullivan, left, and Jacob Parnell pack supplies with church members May 26 in Malbis, Ala., for a mission trip to Honduras. The church gave \$50,000 to members to encourage outreach.

FAITH AND WORSHIP

In lean times, church adopts creative charity

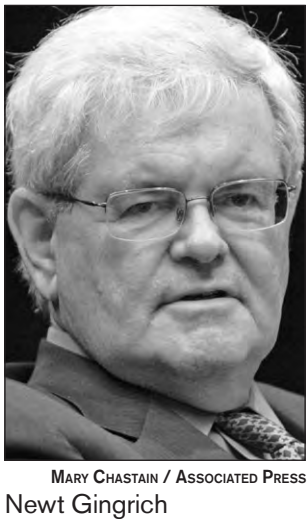
GARRY MITCHELL
Associated Press

MALBIS, Ala. — Members of Bay Community Church each were given envelopes stuffed with cash. Inside was \$20, \$40 or \$100, depending on luck of the draw.

No ordinary handout, the \$50,000 gesture was billed as a "faith stimulus." Church members were told to spend it helping others, a novel approach to religious outreach during tough economic times.

Amid the worst recession in generations, religious organizations are taking a variety of approaches to help struggling families and laid-

Please see RELIGION, Page 2



MARY CHASTAIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS
Newt Gingrich

Gingrich reverses Sotomayor comments

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said Wednesday he shouldn't have called Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor a racist but said he was still concerned that she would bring bias to her decisions.

In a letter to supporters, the Georgia Republican said his words had been "perhaps too

strong and direct" last week when he called Sotomayor a reverse "racist," based on a 2001 speech in which she said she hoped the rulings of a "wise Latina" would be better than those of a white male without similar experiences. Gingrich's remarks created a furor among Sotomayor's backers and caused problems for GOP figures who have been pushing to bring more diversity to the party.

Gingrich conceded that Sotomayor's rulings have "shown more caution and moderation" than her speeches and writings, but he said the 2001 comments "reveal a betrayal of a fundamental principle of the American system — that everyone is equal before the law."

Sotomayor, 54, would be the first Hispanic and the third woman to serve on the

Supreme Court.

Gingrich's reversal came as Sotomayor's supporters hit back against GOP criticism of her 2001 remarks and the notion that she would bring personal prejudice to rulings. They circulated a 1994 speech in which the judge made similar statements.

Sotomayor disclosed the speech during the 1997 Senate debate over seating her on

a federal appeals court, but no Republican publicly voiced concern about it at the time.

In that speech, Sotomayor said, "I would hope that a wise woman with the richness of her experiences would, more often than not, reach a better conclusion" than a wise man.

"What is better?" she said. "I ... hope that better will mean a more compassionate, caring conclusion."

BIN LADEN: Recording similar to previous releases

—Continued from Page 1

what the White House leaders have sown," he added.

Pakistan launched in April a military offensive to expel the Taliban from Swat Valley after the militants abandoned a peace deal with the government that gave them control of the region.

The offensive, strongly backed by Washington, is seen as a test of Pakistan's resolve against militants in the northwestern border region near Afghanistan. Pakistanis tired of militant attacks in the country that have killed hundreds of civilians have also supported the campaign. But the fighting has uprooted some 3 million people.

Richard Holbrooke, U.S. special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, promptly dismissed suggestions that anyone but al-Qaida and the Taliban are responsible for the refugee crisis in Pakistan. He spoke during a visit to Islamabad.

"This entire problem be-

gan with al-Qaida and its associates, and everybody in the world knows that. It's silly indeed to respond to such a ludicrous charge," Holbrooke said at a joint news conference with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari.

Bin Laden focused entirely on Pakistan in his latest message, claiming the White House paid Zardari to start the crackdown.

Zardari "turned the army from its main task of protecting Islam, Muslims and their land," bin Laden said. He said Zardari "betrayed the nation" to "implement an American, Jewish and Indian conspiracy" against Pakistan.

Al-Jazeera aired excerpts of the recording and did not say how it was obtained. The authenticity of the recording could not be verified.

A U.S. counterterrorism official said this message recycles themes from earlier messages and does not appear to contain any specific or credible threat information.

OBAMA: Speech in Egypt to focus on Mideast policies

—Continued from Page 1

support. Obama also came asking for specific requests of help from Abdullah on a range of related issues, such as peace between the long-feuding Israelis and Palestinians, Iran's suspected efforts to build a nuclear bomb, rising Taliban extremism in Pakistan and a destination for some 100 Yemeni detainees now in the U.S. at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison camp.

Abdullah showered Obama with compliments in the welcoming ceremonies and presented him with the King Abdul Aziz Order of Merit, a large medallion with a thick gold chain that is the kingdom's highest honor.

"Those are only given to the very few friends of the king, and you are certainly one of those," Abdullah said.

Obama had pledged during his presidential campaign to deliver a major address from an Islamic capital within 100 days of becoming president. He did so with a speech to the parliament in Turkey, a secular but overwhelmingly Muslim nation. The White House says his speech in Cairo, a center of Islamic thought and culture, is the one he had in mind in making that promise, and set high expectations for it.

Aides spared no effort to ensure Obama's speech Thursday reaches a vast Muslim audience.

Obama's remarks were to be played live on the White House Web site and translated into 13 languages, and excerpts were being distributed not only on the White House's dedicated YouTube page but also on special-event links on social networking sites such as Twitter and Facebook.

In his speech, Obama does not intend to make new policy — but to frame it differently. By stressing both U.S. respect for Muslims and the need for all sides, including Washington, to make changes, the president said he hopes to start setting relations between the U.S. and the Muslim world down a more constructive path even while some disagreements persist.

The centerpiece of the speech is the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, a driving force behind Muslim anger worldwide. Obama was prepared to discuss in some detail what needs to be done to resolve it, though by urging all sides to meet obligations already agreed upon, Rhodes said.

That includes calling for a full halt to all growth in Jewish settlements in the Palestinian West Bank, the subject of a striking rift between the U.S. and Israel in recent days. It also includes telling Palestinians that anti-Israel rhetoric, and the violence it spawns, does not benefit their daily lives. Obama also was to call on his hosts, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, as well as other Arab nations, to put actual money behind their rhetorical support for the struggling Palestinian government of Mahmoud Abbas.

Obama also was to explain the U.S. goals in Iraq, Afghanistan and Iran.

And he wasn't going to shy away from a hot topic — the fact that he was to speak from Egypt, which has been under the iron rule of President Hosni Mubarak for nearly 30 years.

Obama planned to salute Egypt's historically positive role in Mideast peacemaking, while also talking about the need for a better democratic and human rights model.



ALEX BRANDON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former first lady Nancy Reagan sits in the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday in Washington during a ceremony to unveil a bronze statue of President Ronald Reagan.

A statue of Ronald Reagan stands in the Rotunda of the Capitol in Washington atop a three-foot-tall marble pedestal containing a piece of the Berlin Wall.

STANDING ON THE WALL

WASHINGTON — Nancy Reagan watched as a bronze statue of her late husband Ronald Reagan was unveiled in U.S. Capitol. A blue cloth cover was pulled from the 7-foot statue of the 40th president Wednesday as Mrs. Reagan, 87, and a crowd packed with Reagan era-policymakers, looked on in the Capitol's Rotunda. The statue cast Reagan flashing his aw-shucks grin, the expression that transformed his face whenever he was ready to deliver the punchline of a joke. Mrs. Reagan, seated next to former Treasury Secretary James A. Baker III, said it was nice to return to the Rotunda for a happy occasion. Each state is allowed two statues in the Capitol, and Reagan's replaces that of the Rev. Thomas Starr King.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

N.H.: Democratic governor secures religious exemption

—Continued from Page 1

in cheers after the 198-176 vote.

"If you have no choice as to your sex — male or female, if you have no choice as to your color, if you have no choice as to your sexual orientation, then you have to be protected and given the same opportunity for life, liberty and happiness," Rep. Anthony DiFruscia, R-Windham, said during the debate.

New Hampshire opponents, mainly Republicans, objected on grounds including the fragmented process that required three bills.

"It is no surprise" the bill passed, said Kevin Smith, executive director of gay marriage opponent Cornerstone Policy Research. "After all, when you take 12 votes on five iterations of the same issue, you're bound to get it passed sooner or later."

The revised bill added a sentence specifying that all religious organizations, associations or societies have exclusive control over their religious doctrines, policies, teachings and beliefs on marriage.

It also clarified that church-related organizations that serve charitable or educational purposes are exempt from having to provide insurance and other benefits to same-sex spouses of employees.

RELIGION: Churches help members help one another

—Continued from Page 1

off workers: Food is being grown on church plots, job counseling and home foreclosure counseling are on the rise, and free haircuts and oil changes are offered.

But at Bay Community, a non-denominational church near a busy Interstate 10 exit in southern Alabama, leaders hoped to impress on members some creative one-on-one giving.

While similar cash giveaways have been done before at churches, the congregation seized on attention paid to government-funded stimulus efforts to encourage faith-based philanthropy when needs are especially high.

"We have to get creative to do our part," said Trey Taylor, associate pastor of the 2,000-member church.

He said members were not expected to give the stimulus money to the "first person you can find," but to take some time to consider how to help.

The rules for spending the money: You can't spend it on yourself or your family. You can't give it back to the church. Be creative and make the

money go as far as possible.

The Rev. David Eberhard, pastor of the 1,500-member Historic Trinity Lutheran Church in inner-city Detroit, said the project at the south Alabama church is "great if they've got the money."

But he said "handing money out to people you don't know — and you don't know if they have a need — may not be the answer. As soon as word gets out there's money free, everybody lines up."

He said his church has paired employed members of the congregation with the unemployed, encouraging them to take a part-time job if possible or seek retraining.

"All we're doing is shoring up what we have," he said.

Paul G. Schervish, professor and director of the Center on Wealth and Philanthropy at Boston College, said the south Alabama church's faith stimulus idea is an exercise in "quiet care."

"Care means meeting true needs," he said. "What the church is doing is providing some money for that, teaching people that realm of philanthropy."



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NATIONAL

Bernanke urges cuts to deficit

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Wednesday urged Congress and the administration to cut record-high budget deficits, warning that they could endanger the economy's long-term health.



Bernanke's comments came as concerns grow worldwide about the United States' mounting red ink.

"Even as we take steps to address the recession and threats to financial stability, maintaining the confidence of the financial markets requires that we, as a nation, begin planning now for the restoration of fiscal balance," Bernanke told the House Budget Committee.

Pleas expected in pet-food case

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A company and its owners have agreed to plead guilty in connection with melamine-tainted pet food that might have killed thousands of dogs and cats in 2007, according to a court document.

An attorney for Stephen S. Miller, co-owner of ChemNutra Inc., said his client would plead guilty at a hearing June 16, according to the court documents.

Miller's wife, Sally Miller, and Las Vegas-based ChemNutra also plan to plead guilty, the filing said.

The Millers and ChemNutra, along with two Chinese companies, were indicted in February 2008 on charges alleging they imported wheat gluten tainted with the chemical melamine, which was then sold to pet food makers.

FEMA to sell Katrina trailers

NEW ORLEANS — President Barack Obama's administration, which is trying to avoid mass evictions of hurricane victims still living in federally supplied trailers along the Gulf Coast, will offer \$50 million in new housing vouchers and sell trailers for as little as \$1, an administration official said.

More than 3,300 Louisiana and Mississippi households affected by hurricanes in 2005 remain in Federal Emergency Management Agency trailers and mobile homes.

May 1 was the deadline to vacate. To entice people to move into more permanent housing, the Department of Housing and Urban Development also plans to work with state officials to tap the states' shares of "re-housing" and homelessness prevention aid.

Some communities have banned trailers. But in areas where they are permitted, people will be allowed to buy their trailers for \$1 or mobile homes for \$5, the official said.

Nuclear locations released in error

WASHINGTON — The head of the agency responsible for the country's nuclear weapons says a list of nuclear sites accidentally made public does not include classified information about weapons-related facilities.

Thomas D'Agostino, head of the National Nuclear Security Administration, told a Senate hearing Wednesday that the sites on the list are civilian facilities and that none of the information is classified. Still, he said he's concerned the list could provide an "easy locator" for uranium storage sites and other facilities related to the country's civilian nuclear program.

The 266-page document was accidentally put on the Government Printing Office Web site.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

AN ONGOING BATTLE IN THE CENTER OF AMERICA

Tiller's death part of a long history



FILE PHOTO BY LARRY W. SMITH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Operation Rescue President Troy Newman, center, speaks out against partial-birth abortion in April 2007 in Wichita, Kan.

Fight in Kansas over abortion reveals a state torn in two

DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — In a nation divided by abortion, Kansas has become perhaps the fiercest battleground with mass protests, prosecutions, lawsuits and now a killing keeping the issue almost constantly in the public eye.

Dr. George Tiller, shot to death at his church last Sunday, had been the target of a relentless protest campaign for most of the 36 years that he performed abortions at his Wichita clinic. He was a focal point of the abortion conflict, but it transcended him, often becoming the state's dominant political topic.



Tiller

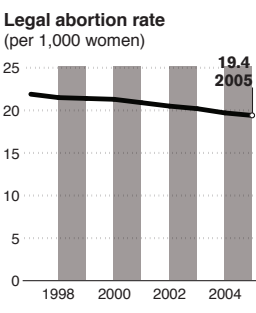
Some Kansans are sick of the rancorous debate; for others, it permeates their lives and affects their personal relations. "Most of my adult life has been in the middle of this fight," said Peggy Bowman, who lives near Tiller's church and oversees a fund that helps women cover the cost of abortions. "I have people in my neighborhood who, once they found out I was pro-choice, turned their back on me."

In part, it's a power struggle — conservative Republicans, many of them evangelical Christians, battling over abortion and other hot-button social issues with moderates of their own party and with the Democrats.

"When you get down to the heart of the split among Kansas Republicans, it always comes

Slight decrease

The U.S. abortion rate among women between the ages of 15 to 44 has decreased from 21.9 in 1997.



SOURCE: Guttmacher Institute AP

back to abortion," said Burdett Loomis, a University of Kansas political science professor. "It may pop out in gun laws, homeschooling, evolution, but it starts and stops with abortion."

Unlike many states, where either supporters or foes of abortion hold sway politically, Kansas often seesaws. For example, the Republican-dominated legislature passed numerous bills to restrict abortions during the past six years, only to see many vetoed by Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, now President Barack Obama's health and human services secretary.

As a result, to the frustration of some anti-abortion militants, abortion remains relatively available in the state despite widespread opposition to it among legislators and the Kansas congressional delegation.

Tiller played a part in intensifying the debate. He became one of the nation's few providers of late-term abortions and, unlike many of his peers, embraced a high profile even after he was shot in both arms by an anti-abortion activist in 1993.

His clinic, heavily fortified



FILE PHOTO BY CHUCK FRANCE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group of Kansans For Life members protest April 8, 2008, outside the Kansas Supreme Court in Topeka, Kan. About a month later, the Kansas Supreme Court allowed a grand jury to continue investigating Dr. George Tiller, one of the few U.S. doctors who performed late-term abortions.

after a bombing in 1986, became the target of both peaceful and violent protests. In 1991, a 45-day "Summer of Mercy" campaign organized by Operation Rescue drew thousands of anti-abortion demonstrators to Wichita.

More than 2,700 arrests resulted.

Abortion opponents gained strength in the Legislature in the 1990s and began pushing annually for new restrictions, often citing Tiller's clinic as a reason. A 1998 law restricting late-term procedures was aimed at him.

Tiller also found himself un-

der investigation by the attorney general's office and, most recently, the Kansas Board of Healing Arts, which regulates doctors.

"There's a very prominent vein in Kansas politics that tends toward moral righteousness," said Joe Aistrup, a Kansas State University political scientist.

That contributes to the unending abortion battle: "It's an unsettled debate that produces extremists on both sides."

Peter Brownlie, as CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, has been on

the front lines of the conflict for a decade and describes Kansas as "the epicenter of the abortion debate."

"On issues relating to family planning, abortion, sex education, Kansas' views are not markedly different from most Americans, but there are political forces at work, some of them well beyond the state borders," Brownlie said.

In agreement is Tom Frank, Kansas-born author of the 2004 political best-seller "What's the Matter With Kansas?"

"It's one Kansas colliding with another."

Auto reps present woes to Senate committee

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chiefs of General Motors and Chrysler told skeptical lawmakers Wednesday they have too many dealers to support their slimmed-down operations and sacrifices must be shared as they fight to overcome bankruptcy and survive. They acknowledged that slashing dealerships is causing pain in communities around the country.

"This is our last chance to get it right," GM President Fritz Henderson told the Senate Commerce Committee.

Chrysler President James Press told the panel his company was "working hard to achieve a soft landing" for dealers. But if underperforming dealers aren't selling cars, the company can't return to profitability, he said.

Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., suggested both companies were abandoning customers and dealers, some of whose families have been in the business for decades. "I don't believe that companies

should be allowed to take taxpayer funds for a bailout and then leave local dealers and their customers to fend for themselves with no real plan, no real notice and no real help," Rockefeller told the automakers. "That is just plain wrong."

Those dealers "are looking into a black hole right now," while companies seem to be implying "that the dealers themselves are responsible for the companies' problems," Rockefeller said.

More than 2,700 dealerships are in line to lose their franchise. Two small-town dealers invited to appear before the committee spoke of the anguish ahead.

Russell Whatley, a Chrysler-Dodge-Jeep dealer in Mineral Wells, Texas, said his grandfather opened the business in 1919. "A 90-year investment is just gone," he said. He called Chrysler's actions "wasteful and devastating."

Peter Lopez, a GM and Chrysler dealer in Spencer, W.Va., said he had met every financial obligation put

Chrysler closing 789 dealerships

Roughly a quarter of Chrysler LLC's dealerships are set to be eliminated by June 9.



SOURCE: COMPANY'S BANKRUPTCY FILING

AP

forth by Chrysler and GM but still "they want to shut me down."

"I am the face of GM and Chrysler in my town," he said. "It's unbelievable how we have been treated."

The executives of the struggling companies said there are too many dealers, with many representing the same company often competing with each other for sales. Auto officials claim many of the dealerships date to the 1940s and 1950s, when motorists lived farther apart and Detroit auto-

makers led the world in sales.

After hemorrhaging customers for decades and losing market share to foreign competitors, the two automakers said their companies need to scale back all their operations to become leaner and, they hope, return to profitability.

Chrysler is expected to emerge from bankruptcy protection within the next few days, and General Motors filed for Chapter 11 protection on Monday.

TEXAS

Drug cartel official shot to death

EL PASO — A 37-year-old Mexican man recently shot to death in front of an El Paso house has been identified as a mid-level official in the Juarez drug cartel, police said Wednesday.

Jose Daniel Gonzalez Galeana, 37, was killed in East El Paso on May 15.

Police identified Gonzalez as a lieutenant of the Juarez cartel, a criminal gang believed responsible for countless killings in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, across the Rio Grande from El Paso.

No arrests have been made.

Two guilty in \$5m health care fraud

BEAUMONT, Texas — Two workers at a pain management clinic in Port Arthur have pleaded guilty in a nearly \$5 million health care fraud case.

Ashley Colin Walkes of Houston pleaded guilty Wednesday in Beaumont to misprision (neglect of official duty) of health care fraud.

Walkes, with no medical training, managed the facility. A 30-year-old Bridge City woman, Kristi Rose, pleaded guilty Tuesday to conversion of health care benefit program funds.

Prosecutors say Medic Management was fraudulently paid more than \$4.3 million by Medicaid. Medicare and Blue Cross Blue Shield paid nearly \$585,000.

Cuban militant wants more time

EL PASO — An anti-Castro Cuban militant accused of lying about his role in a series of bombings in Cuba wants his perjury trial delayed.

Lawyers for Luis Posada Carriles, an 81-year-old militant and former CIA operative, have also asked U.S. District Judge Kathleen Cardone to force the government to turn over more evidence.

Posada was indicted in 2007 on charges of lying to immigration authorities in a bid to become a U.S. citizen. The former U.S. Army officer was indicted again in April on 11 counts, including allegations that he lied about his role in the Havana bombings.

The latest indictment was the first time the U.S. government formally accused Posada, a one-time ally, of being involved in an act of terrorism.

Southwest pilots reject contract

DALLAS — Pilots at Southwest Airlines Co., have voted down a new contract that would have given them raises in the midst of a slump in the airline industry.

The vote was close, with fewer than 51 percent voting down the contract.

Union president Carl Kuwitzky said Wednesday that despite some financial gains, there were too many negative provisions in the contract.

The union board of directors will meet next week to plan for returning to the bargaining table with Southwest.

Death row inmate's case gets sent back

HOUSTON — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Wednesday sent back to a trial court the case of an East Texas man condemned for killing two Texas men.

Attorneys for Clinton Lee Young questioned what they said was false testimony presented by prosecutors and a failure by prosecutors to produce evidence favorable to Young at his 2003 trial in Midland. Young's lawyers also argued that some evidence was improperly suppressed.

The same court in 2005 upheld Young's conviction. Young, 25, from Ore City, was convicted of the 2001 fatal shootings of Samuel Petrey, 52, of Eastland, and Doyle Douglas, 41, of Ore City.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer hands documents to a woman entering the U.S. from Mexico on Monday. The vehicle line for people entering the U.S. from Mexico at the Gateway International Bridge in Brownsville, Texas was short Monday morning, the first day of stricter identification requirements for Americans re-entering the country. Brownsville recently agreed to allow the U.S.-Mexico border fence to be built on part of its downtown area.

BRAD DOHERTY / ASSOCIATED PRESS



Officials address immigration issues

Obama reverses Bush-era rule on deportation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration has reversed a rule issued in the last days of the Bush administration that said immigrants facing deportation did not have an automatic right to an effective lawyer.

Attorney General Eric Holder says he is vacating the

order, issued by predecessor Michael Mukasey, and instructing the Justice Department to study whether a new rule is needed.

Mukasey had issued a 33-page decision in January saying the Constitution does not entitle someone facing deportation to have a case reopened based upon shoddy work by a lawyer.

Mukasey said the Justice Department does have the discretion to reopen such cases if it wished to do so. Immigrant rights groups had criticized the Mukasey decision.

City agrees to let feds build border fence downtown

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — Despite opposition from the mayor, city commissioners have approved a deal with the federal government to allow the U.S.-Mexico border fence to be built on city land downtown but preserve the possibility of redeveloping the riverfront.

The agreement with the Department of Homeland Security, approved Tuesday night, allows U.S. Customs and Border Protection to erect temporary fencing on some of nearly 16 acres of city property.

But if and when the city comes up with money to replace the fence with something less intrusive but still effective, such as a levee wall, the government will remove the fence.

The deal allows the city to continue forming plans to redevelop its downtown riverfront and to build a bypass for

heavy truck traffic outside the downtown.

Mayor Pat Ahumada, one of two commission votes against the agreement, said the city doesn't know how much it would cost to replace the temporary fence and suggested the temporary fence would become a permanent one, the Brownsville Herald reported in its online edition Wednesday.

The federal government has completed nearly 670 miles of vehicle and pedestrian barriers along the U.S.-Mexico border.

COWBOYS FOOTBALL Official: Tent vetting fumbled

ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING, Texas — A series of text messages between Irving City Manager Tommy Gonzalez and city real estate and development director Brenda McDonald after the Dallas Cowboys practice facility collapsed reveal concerns about the structure's quality and suggest the team receives preferential treatment.

The day after the facility collapsed, Gonzalez referred to it as "a big ole tent" that "probably never was structurally sound enough" to hold up against straight-line winds.

The collapse of the Cowboys' tent-like practice facility paralyzed scouting assistant Rich Behm and injured 11 others.

In an exchange with McDonald, Gonzalez characterized the Cowboys as a team that "pushes" its projects through the city bureaucracy.

He wrote in a text to another city official that "it was for the 'the cowboys' ... that's just what my gut tells me."

City Council member Beth Van Duyn said there is a perception that the Cowboys and owner Jerry Jones get whatever they want.

Trapping for a good cause: Swine catcher goes hog-wild

JEANNE WILLIAMS
Temple Daily Telegram

BURLINGTON, Texas — Wild swine living high on the hog at the expense of North Milam County farmers might have met their match.

It's round-up time in Burlington, and for feral hog trapper Robert Bohuslavicky, it's either pig or pork.

Since April 1, Bohuslavicky has been trailing and trapping the rolling-fat, grain-fed feral hogs at no charge to aid Central Texas residents toiling in the root-hog-or-die field of agriculture.

His business, Hogs-B-Gone, earns money by selling swine.

Feral hogs caught live are hauled in trailers and sold by the pound to certified meat processors in the state, or bought by a certified wild game hunting ranch that offers Bohuslavicky higher rewards for hordes of hogs on the hoof.

Some wild hogs are butchered and donated through a nonprofit organization that gives the pork to economically disadvantaged families.

After sampling wild pork, Bohuslavicky began trapping feral hogs on the side primarily in the East Texas area.

Learning of farmland havoc feral hogs were wrecking in



SHIRLEY WILLIAMS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two feral hogs are held in a cage after being captured near Burlington, Texas in May. Robert Bohuslavicky traps hogs at no charge to land owners and sells them.

Central Texas, Bohuslavicky decided to move to the area and establish a business.

Gene Klein said hogs are

most destructive on grain sorghum and corn, and this spring he had to replant more than 40 acres of corn because

hogs ate the seeds. Some farmers have planted cotton instead of grain crops to fend off losses from pig raids.

Actual monetary damages from feral hogs have been as difficult to track as the actual wild hog population in Milam County, said Jon Gersbach, Texas AgriLife Extension agent for ag and natural resources in Milam County.

Ag producers have been battling wild hogs for years, but a plus for the people side of the war on hogs is that the wild swine have no season or bag limit in Texas.

Dr. Billy Higginbotham, Texas AgriLife Extension professor and extension wildlife and fisheries specialist based in Overton, said trapping can be the most productive of three conventional hog control methods for rural farmers and ranchers.

Conventional wildlife census techniques are not accurate in calculating the number of feral hogs living in Texas, but an estimated 1 to 2 million populate more than 90 percent of the state's 254 counties, Higginbotham said.

Eventually, Bohuslavickysaid he will charge his customers, with plans to open a state-certified meat processing plant.

Texas man, killer of 5, put to death

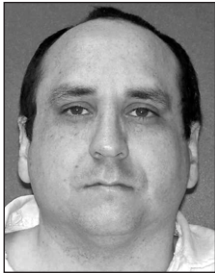
MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — His voice wavering, condemned killer Terry Lee Hankins sought forgiveness in the seconds before he was put to death for killing his stepchildren, who were among five relatives he acknowledged murdering.

"I am sorry for what I've done and for all the pain and suffering my actions caused," Hankins, 34, said Tuesday as he received lethal injection. "Jesus is Lord. All glory to God."

Eleven minutes later, he was pronounced dead.

Hankins took responsibility



ity for fatally shooting his two stepchildren — 12-year-old Devin Galley and 11-year-old Ashley Mason — as they slept in their home in Mansfield, southeast of Fort Worth, eight years ago. Their mother and Hankins' estranged wife, Tammy, 34, was also gunned down with a .45-caliber pistol at the mobile home.

"I didn't come here to witness his death," said Linda Sheets, Tammy Hankins' mother.

After his arrest, Hankins disclosed to police that nearly a year earlier he'd also killed his father and his half-sister, whom he'd impregnated twice.

Competing claims cause legal dispute

TIM TALLEY
Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Tribal water rights could further complicate a pending lawsuit against the state by Texas officials who want to buy water in southeastern Oklahoma, legal experts told tribal officials and attorneys Wednesday at the Sovereignty Symposium.

The experts also said tribal water rights must be addressed while state officials develop a new statewide water plan.

Stephen Greetham, an attorney who specializes in water and natural resources for the Chickasaw Nation, said without a comprehensive plan for the state's water re-

sources, entities outside the state could try to grab Oklahoma's surplus water.

The Chickasaw Tribe is one of several Oklahoma-based tribes who have an interest in water sought by a federal lawsuit filed in 2007 by the Tarrant Regional Water District, which serves 1.6 million people including residents in north-central Texas.

The water district is seeking 150 billion gallons annually.

The lawsuit challenges a statewide moratorium on out-of-state water sales that expires in November. It seeks a ruling on whether the state can treat an application to purchase water from Texas differently, Greetham said.

But even if Texas officials win, the court must still decide the extent of the tribes' rights to the water Texas is seeking.

Edmondson cited a decision by the Cherokee Nation

last month that authorized the state to represent its water interests in a lawsuit against Arkansas poultry companies over pollution of the Illinois River Watershed as one example of how tribal and state water interests intersect.

The 4.5-year, \$13 million water planning process launched in 2006. A draft water plan is scheduled for January 2011.

On Tuesday Gov. Brad Henry signed legislation designed to protect Oklahoma water rights while considering selling water out-of-state.

The measure says that no out-of-state permit shall impair the state from meeting obligations under interstate compacts with other states. It also requires the Oklahoma Water Rights Board to consider water shortages across the state when considering applications for out-of-state water sales.

INTERNATIONAL

Candidate criticizes Iran’s leader

TEHRAN, Iran — The main pro-reform candidate in next week’s presidential elections accused Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday of undercutting Iran’s international standing by questioning the Holocaust.

In a nationally televised debate, Mir Hossein Mousavi said Iran has been “downgraded” in the eyes of the world by President Ahmadinejad’s firebrand style and statements. Mousavi and Ahmadinejad are in a tight race heading into the June 12 election.

The outcome will set the tone of Iran’s policies on crucial issues ahead such as its standoff with the West over its nuclear ambitions and the possibility of groundbreaking talks with Washington after a nearly 30-year diplomatic freeze.

Caution vowed in Afghan airstrikes

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The incoming general in charge of U.S. troops along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border vowed Wednesday to be careful in the use of airstrikes.

Maj. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, took over command of all troops in 14 provinces in eastern Afghanistan. A U.S. defense official said Wednesday that the U.S. military’s failure to follow tightened rules for aerial strikes likely caused civilian deaths in a May 4 American bombing in western Afghanistan.

The Afghan government says 140 civilians died in the May 4 battle in Farah province, while American commanders say video evidence recorded by fighter jets and the account of the ground commander suggest no more than 30 civilians were killed, as well as 60-65 Taliban.

Pregnant woman gets life sentence

VIENTIANE, Laos — A court in Laos found a pregnant British woman guilty of trafficking heroin and sentenced her to life in prison Wednesday, a court official said.

The life sentence for 20-year-old Samantha Orobator came after a one-day trial in the Lao capital, according to Chanthaly Duangvilai, vice president of the Vientiane Court.

Orobator pleaded guilty. Heroin trafficking is punishable by death, but she was spared because Lao law does not allow the execution of pregnant women, Chanthaly said. Lao officials have asserted that she might have artificially inseminated herself while behind bars.

Orobator had been jailed since last August, but her plight drew public attention last month after the British legal charity Reprieve publicized what they believed was the possibility she could be executed by firing squad if found guilty.

Macau denies entry to protester

HONG KONG — The second-most-wanted student leader from the 1989 Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests was denied entry to the southern Chinese territory of Macau on Wednesday, a day before the 20th anniversary of China’s crackdown.

Wu’er Kaixi told The Associated Press by phone that he traveled to Macau from Taipei to turn himself in to authorities, but immigration officials asked him to take a return flight, which he refused. He said Wednesday that he remained detained in a small room guarded by a lone official at the Macau airport’s immigration offices.

Named No. 2 on the Chinese government’s list of 21 wanted student leaders after the military crushed the protests, killing at least hundreds, Wu’er escaped and has lived in exile on the self-ruled island of Taiwan.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

47-YEAR SUSPENSION ENDS

OAS lifts ban on Cuba; Clinton objects

Cuban leaders have said they do not want to participate

NESTOR IKEDA
Associated Press

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras — The Organization of American States voted Wednesday to revoke the 1962 measure suspending communist Cuba, overturning a landmark of the Cold War in the hemisphere.

“The Cold War has ended this day in San Pedro Sula,” Honduran President Manuel Zelaya said immediately following the announcement. “We begin a new era of fraternity and tolerance.”

The action doesn’t mean, however, that Cuba will return to the 34-member body that helps coordinate policies and mediates disputes throughout the Americas.

Cuban officials have repeatedly

insisted they have no interest in returning to an organization they consider a tool of the United States.

If Cuba changes its mind, the agreement calls for dialogue in line with the OAS’ “practices, proposals and principles” — a veiled allusion to agreements on human rights and democracy.

The decision was taken by consensus, meaning the United States accepted it, though Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton had lobbied for requiring Cuba to make democratic reforms and improve respect for human rights.

The Cold War has ended this day in San Pedro Sula. We begin a new era of fraternity and tolerance.
—MANUEL ZELAYA, Honduran president

Clinton left the meeting before the final vote, saying that the organization had been unable to reach consensus on Cuba.

The U.S. won Cuba’s suspension from the hemispheric body in 1962 as Fidel Castro’s government veered into the Soviet bloc at a moment of intense global tension.

But in recent years, with the Cold War fading and left-of-center governments spreading in the Americas, Cuba’s isolation has melted away. Every country in the hemisphere except for the United States has re-established relations with Cuba, and the U.S. embargo of Cuba is unpopular throughout the region.

Membership in the OAS gives a country a voice in hemispheric agreements on major issues. The OAS has often tried to mediate solutions to political conflicts, and it has offshoots that coordinate health policies and protect human rights.



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, back left, met world leaders Tuesday at the 39th General Assembly of the Organization of American States.

AIR FRANCE JET CRASH



Nelson Marinho holds a photo of his son, Nelson Marinho, a passenger on Air France Flight 447 that was reported missing on its way from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. Brazil’s military found a 3-mile path of wreckage in the Atlantic Ocean, confirming that the jet carrying 228 people crashed in the sea.

Hopes dim as more debris found



An Air France employee weeps outside the Notre Dame Cathedral following a church service for relatives and families of Flight 447’s passengers.

Newspaper report, late messages offer glimpse of jet’s final moments

ALAN CLENDENNING
Associated Press

FERNANDO DE NORONHA, Brazil — Military planes located more debris from an Air France jet Wednesday as the first navy ship arrived at the scene in the mid-Atlantic. But high seas and heavy winds slowed the recovery effort and delayed the arrival of crucial deep-water submersibles.

Search vessels from several nations pushed toward the floating debris, including a 23-foot chunk of plane and a 12-mile-long oil slick that Brazilian pilots spotted from the air. Rescuers have still found no signs of life from the plane that was carrying 228 people from Rio de Janeiro to Paris, air force spokesman Col. Jorge Amaral said.

Flight 447 disappeared minutes after flying into an extremely

dangerous band of storms Sunday night, but what exactly caused its electrical systems and cabin pressure to fail remains a mystery.

If the “black box” cockpit recorders can’t be recovered, investigators will focus on maintenance records and a burst of messages sent by the plane just before it disappeared. Officials have released some details of these messages, but a more complete chronology was published Wednesday by Brazil’s O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper, citing an unidentified Air France source.

Air France and Brazilian military officials refused to confirm the report. But if accurate, it suggests that Flight 447 may have broken up thousands of feet in the air as it passed through a violent storm, experts told The Associated Press.

The report said the pilot sent a manual signal at 11 p.m. local time saying he was flying through an area of black, electrically charged cumulonimbus clouds.

Satellite data have shown that towering thunderheads were send-

ing 100 mph updrafts into the jet’s flight path at that time.

Ten minutes later, the plane sent a burst of automatic messages indicating the autopilot had disengaged, the “fly-by-wire” computer system had been switched to alternative power and controls needed to keep the plane stable had been damaged. An alarm also sounded, indicating deteriorating flight systems, according to the report.

Three minutes later, more automatic messages indicated the failure of two other systems pilots use to monitor air speed, altitude and direction. Then came a cascade of other electrical failures in systems that control the main flight computer and wing spoilers.

The new debris was discovered about 90 kilometers south of where searchers a day earlier found an airplane seat, a fuel slick, an orange buoy and pieces of white debris. The original debris was found roughly 400 miles northeast of the Fernando de Noronha islands off Brazil’s northern coast.

BY THE NUMBERS

228The number of passengers on Air France Flight 447

12 MILESLength of the oil slick left in the Atlantic Ocean from the plane

100 MPHThe speed of the wind when the plane was traveling through storm clouds, according to satellite data.

NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR TESTING

UN aims to put food-loving Kim on diet

WILLIAM FOREMAN
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The first time North Korea tested a nuclear device, the United Nations tried to hit the reclusive nation’s leader where it really hurts — in the stomach.

The global body slapped North Korea with a ban on luxury goods. The sanction targeted Pyongyang’s top man — the then-paunchy Kim Jong Il. He is a notorious foodie with a taste for live

No matter what comes out of the U.N. Security Council, there is not much we can do to twist the arm of North Korea.
—LEE SANG-HYUN, analyst

lobster, rare cognac, shark-fin soup and sushi sliced by his own Japanese chef.

Nearly three years later, North Korea has tested another nuclear device, and the U.N. is out to punish Kim again. But analysts doubt the

initial ban on luxury goods was effective. They are also skeptical that renewed efforts to enforce the luxury goods ban will help get North Korea to give up the nukes it thinks are essential for its survival.

“No matter what comes out

of the U.N. Security Council, there is not much we can do to twist the arm of North Korea,” said analyst Lee Sang-hyun of the Sejong Institute, a think tank outside Seoul.

Another possible problem with the luxury ban is that Kim’s dining habits have probably changed.

The trick now is to figure out what is considered to be a luxury item in the secretive state, said Michael Breen, author of the book “Kim Jong-il: North Korea’s Dear Leader.”

Growing tensions

North Korea is reportedly preparing to launch a medium- and a long-range missile, following up on its nuclear test last week.

THE FANS HAVE

Stewart keeps eye on the prize as NASCAR's leader in points

DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

DOVER, Del. — When Tony Stewart saw his team celebrating as if it had won a championship, the impact of his sensational start really hit him.

Some members of his crew had never been part of a race win, or even a top-five finish. Stewart changed that by taking the checkered flag in the NASCAR All-Star race. Afterward, all of his team members told him how much it meant to finally be part of the Victory Lane celebration.

"It's been a dream season for us up to this point," Stewart, also known to his fans as "Smoke," said. "You hope that you don't wake up tomorrow and all of a sudden realize that we're just getting ready to go to Daytona."

Stewart has smashed all expectations in his first season as owner and driver for SHR. His second-place finish at Dover on Sunday catapulted him to the top of the Sprint Cup standings, 46 points ahead of Jeff Gordon going into Sunday's race at Pocono Raceway in Pennsylvania. He is the first driver/owner to lead the points since Alan Kulwicki won the 1992 Cup championship.

Never in Stewart's 10 previous years of Sprint Cup competition has he been this high in points 13 races into the season, disproving predictions that he would struggle in his dual role as driver and owner.

Stewart has struck the right balance with three runner-up finishes and just four finishes outside the top 10 all season. The only things that have changed from his days at Joe Gibbs Racing are the car and the crew.

"We want this to be the last 10 races and be talking about this... but it's a good place to be right now," he said.

Stewart's fast start has helped him stamp the CNC, as a contender. Teammate Ryan Newman is a strong fifth in the standings, and it would take a total collapse for both drivers to miss the Chase for the Championship.

All that's missing is the points victory. "I'm enjoying both sides of it," Stewart said. "On race weekends, I'm a driver. I'm not a car owner."



CHUCK BURTON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tony Stewart celebrates after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup All-Star Race on May 16. Stewart has smashed all expectations in his first season as owner and driver for Stewart-Haas Racing, leading in the points standings.

Stewart is seeking to become the first owner/driver to win a race since Ricky Rudd at Martinsville in 1998. He's in first place for the first time since he won his second Cup championship in 2005. It's noteworthy that in every season Stewart has led the standings, he has gone on to win the Cup championship.

His ownership role was only the last title he put on his business card. He has already proven he's a successful promoter; an event at his Ohio racetrack raises money for charities that cater to severely injured military personnel, fallen soldiers and their families. Originally scheduled for Wednesday night, the Prelude to the Dream at Eldora Speedway was postponed because of rain and has been rescheduled for Sept. 9.

Not even Stewart could have imagined how quickly he would mold his team into a title contender. He doesn't want to think about what it would mean to win the title in his first season, but he has said he enjoyed the ride into contention.

Driver diva leaves drama behind

Top-five finish streak fueled by newfound focus, racer Danica Patrick says

CHRIS JENKINS
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Danica Patrick is consistently running near the front this season, and with every top-five finish she distances herself from the drama that seemed to swirl around her early in her IndyCar career.

And, perhaps, moving a step closer to NASCAR.

Patrick finished fifth at the Milwaukee Mile on Sunday, her fourth straight top-five, and is fourth in the series points standings going into Saturday night's race at Texas Motor Speedway. And her streak of strong finishes has been delightfully devoid of drama — a sign, she says, that she no longer feels she must make a scene when things go wrong just to prove that she cares about winning.

"I've always been just pretty honest with my emotions, sometimes to a fault," Patrick said. "But like I said, I'm learning all the time. And I think a lot of that came from wanting to achieve wins and place high in the race and when somebody prevented that, there's always so much pressure."

Then Patrick pauses to reconsider her use of the word "pressure."

"Maybe not so much pressure, be-



DARREN HAUCK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danica Patrick gets ready for the start of the IndyCar Series at the Milwaukee Mile. Patrick says she is becoming a more mature race car driver, and it shows: Patrick placed fifth at the Milwaukee Mile, her fourth top-five finish in a row.

cause I've never really acknowledged that being a problem," she said. "But I think nowadays it's just like, if you don't think I can race, and if you really don't see it, then I can't really help you any more. I'm not going to show you that I want more by being mad."

But just as Patrick, who trails championship leader Scott Dixon by 22 points, seems to be hitting her stride as a consistently competitive driver, could she be on her way out of IndyCar? Patrick's existing contract with Andretti-Green Racing, which Patrick joined in 2007 as part of the IndyCar Series, is up at the end of this season. Under the terms of the deal, she can begin fielding offers from other teams this week. And if NASCAR comes calling, Patrick will listen.

"We can start exploring our options with all kinds of different things, whether it be who I'm with now or NASCAR," she said. "We're going to evaluate all the options."

Patrick said her decision will be guided by an inner circle that includes a pair of high-profile agents from IMG: Mark Steinberg, who is Tiger Woods' agent, and Alan Zucker.

"I've over the years established a great group of people that look after that sort of thing," Patrick said.

At the same time, she's striving to be disciplined on the track, putting high-profile run-ins with drivers such as Dan Wheldon, Ryan Briscoe and Milka Duno in the past.

Patrick's newfound maturity isn't airtight; she caused a stir last week for her comments in an interview with Sports Illustrated. In response to a hypothetical question about whether she would take a performance-enhancing drug that would allow her to win the Indianapolis 500 and not get caught, Patrick said, "Well, then it's not cheating, is it? If nobody finds out?"

Patrick later told USA Today that her comments were meant as a joke and apologized if they came across differently. But U.S. Anti-Doping Agency CEO Travis Tygart called Patrick's comments "totally irresponsible," noting her obligations as a role model.

That episode aside, Patrick has mostly flown under the media radar this season. She finished third in the Indianapolis 500 last month — the best Indy finish ever by a woman, beating her previous best by one position — but it wasn't hyped up the way her fourth-place finish in 2005 was.

Certainly that had something to do with the fact that the race was won by Helio Castroneves, a pop icon in his own right.

But the lack of hype surrounding Patrick's good Indy finish could also be a sign that people are beginning to consider her a good driver, not just a novelty.

"You know, I think that's good," she said. "I think that shows (the reaction) wasn't, 'Oh my gosh, we'd better celebrate this third because she totally lucked into this.' Or like, 'Thank goodness, we might not be able to get the publicity from this great finish from her again.' They believe it's going to happen again. At least that's the message I get from people not making a big deal out of it. Which I think is great."



Friday, June 5, 2009

SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

The University of Texas at Austin

The Newspaper Fund Center for Editing Excellence



Fungus putting bats at risk

DINA CAPPIELLO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A mysterious fungus attacking America's bats could spread nationwide within years and represents the most serious threat to wildlife in a century, experts warned Congress on Thursday.

Displaying pictures of bats speckled with the white fungus that gave the disease its name — White-Nose Syndrome — experts described to two House subcommittees the horror of discovering caves whose bat populations had been decimated by the disease.

As a state wildlife biologist from Vermont put it, one cave there turned into a morgue, with so many carcasses littering the cave's floor.

The stench was too strong for researchers to enter.

They also warned that if nothing more is done to stop its spread, the fungus could infect caves with some of the largest and most endangered populations of hibernating bats in the United States.

At stake is the loss of an insect-eating machine. The six species of bats that have so far been stricken by the fungus can eat up to their body weight in insects each night, reducing insects that destroy crops and forests and carry diseases such as the West Nile Virus.

"We are witnessing one of the most precipitous declines of wildlife in North America," said Thomas Kunz, director of the Center for Ecology and Conservation Biology at Boston University. Kunz said between \$10 million and \$17 million is needed to launch a national research program into the fungus.

Merlin Tuttle, a world-renowned bat expert and president of Bat Conservation International in Austin, said that White-Nose Syndrome is probably the most serious threat to wildlife in the past century.

"Never in my wildest imagination had I dreamed of anything that could pose this serious a threat to Amer-

Please see BATS, Page 2

LIVING IN LEAN TIMES

Economy hits singles, stores



PAUL SAKUMA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A shopper peruses refrigerated items last week at Costco Wholesale in Mountain View, Calif. Many U.S. retailers are reporting sales declines in May as shoppers continue to buy cautiously. Some people also report

cutting back on other expenditures, such as dates. Men held nearly 80 percent of the jobs lost since December 2007, and some say they are dating less while they are unemployed.

Without jobs, some cut back on courting

MEGAN K. SCOTT
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sean Hamilton considered stopping his search for that special someone when he lost his job in January. With 90 percent less income and no unemployment checks coming in, the 34-year-old IT professional couldn't really pay for a dinner date.

"To speak plainly, chicks don't dig a broke guy," said the Dallas resident, now a part-time consultant. So he came up with a strategy: "I don't bring it up."

Men have been hit much harder than women by this recession. Close to 80 percent of the job losses since December 2007 were jobs held by men, according to economics expert Mark J. Perry, who analyzed Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

For some guys, unemployment is the last thing they want to reveal to a potential date. Even if men aren't expected to pay for a date, they feel pressure from women who are looking for someone who is financially stable.

Hamilton said he proposes cheap dates, like cooking

Please see DATELESS, Page 2

ECONOMY BY THE NUMBERS

• **\$41.9 billion:** Average daily borrowing from the Federal Reserve by commercial banks over the week that ended Wednesday

• **Close to 80:** Percent of the job losses since December 2007 that were held by men

• **4.6:** Percent decrease of overall same-store sales as reported by a Goldman/Sachs tally

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Confidence growing, but sales still drop

MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Although consumer confidence might be increasing, it's not showing up at the cash register yet.

Many retailers posted disappointing May sales on Thursday, and food and necessities remained high on shoppers' lists. According to a Goldman Sachs/ICSC tally, overall same-store sales fell 4.6 percent, worse than the 3 percent drop predicted.

The lower-than-expected results did not include Wal-Mart stores, which in recent months have boosted totals. The company has stopped reporting monthly figures.

April's same-store sales had edged up with Wal-Mart, but excluding the world's largest retailer, May was the 10th straight month of same-store sales declines, according to a tally by Goldman Sachs and the International Council of Shopping Centers.

The results come amid faint signs that the gloom of recession is lifting. On Thursday, the Labor Department said the number of Americans on the unemployment rolls fell

Please see SALES, Page 2

OVERSEAS DIPLOMACY

Obama continues tour of Mideast



GERALD HERBERT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama tours the Sphinx and pyramids outside Cairo on Thursday. Obama visited Egyptian ruins and gave a speech at Cairo University, addressing relations with the Muslim world. For analysis of the day's events, see page 5.

N. Korea arraigns US journalists

JEAN H. LEE
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Two American journalists headed to trial Thursday before North Korea's highest court on charges they crossed into the country illegally and engaged in "hostile acts" — allegations that could draw a 10-year sentence in a labor camp.

Laura Ling and Euna Lee, reporters for former Vice President Al Gore's California-based Current TV, were arrested March 17 near the North Korean border while on a reporting trip to China.

Their trial began at a time of mounting tensions on the Korean peninsula following the regime's provocative May 25 nuclear test.

Choi Eun-suk, a professor of North Korean law at Kyungnam University, said the court could convict the women, and then the government could use them to bargain with the United States.

"The North is likely to release and deport them to the U.S. — if negotiations with

the U.S. go well," Choi said.

The two nations do not have diplomatic relations, and experts

called Pyongyang's belligerence a bid to grab President Barack Obama's attention.

North Korea's official news agency said the trial would begin by midafternoon, but hours later, there was no word on the status of the proceedings.

A State Department spokesman said American officials had seen no independent confirmation that the case was under way.

Few details are known about how Ling and Lee have been treated since they were arrested nearly three months ago. So far, family members have not reported mistreatment.

North Korea's government is notorious for its brutality, but the most recent accounts



Ling



Lee

indicate the regime has softened treatment of imprisoned foreigners. Still, the experience has left scars

on almost all who have endured it.

State-run media have not defined the exact charges against the women from Current TV, but South Korean legal experts said conviction for "hostility" or espionage could mean five to 10 years in a labor camp.

The State Department has not divulged details about negotiations for the journalists' freedom.

Ling's sister, TV journalist Lisa Ling, said on CNN's "Larry King Live" that the women "are essentially in the midst of this nuclear standoff," urging the governments to "try to communicate, to try and bring our situation to a resolution on humanitarian grounds — to separate the issues."

Police: Actor Carradine hangs self

GRANT PECK
Associated Press

BANGKOK — Actor David Carradine, a cult idol who broke through as the willing “grasshopper” in the 1970s TV series “Kung Fu” and decades later as leader of an assassin squad in “Kill Bill,” was found dead Thursday in Thailand. Police said he appeared to have hanged himself.

The officer responsible for investigating the death, Lt. Teerapop Luanseng, said the 72-year-old actor had been staying in a suite at the luxury Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel.

“I can confirm that we found his body, naked, hanging in the closet,” Teerapop said. He said police suspected suicide.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy, Michael Turner, said the embassy was informed by Thai authorities that Carradine died either late Wednesday or early Thursday. “We send our heartfelt condolences to his family and his loved ones,” he said.

Carradine came from an acting family. His father, John, made a career playing creepy, eccentric characters in film

My Uncle David was a brilliantly talented, fiercely intelligent and generous man. He was the nexus of our family in so many ways, and drew us together over the years and kept us connected.

— MARTHA PLIMPTON

and on stage. His brothers Keith, Robert and Bruce also became actors. Actress Martha Plimpton is Keith Carradine's daughter.

“My Uncle David was a brilliantly talented, fiercely intelligent and generous man. He was the nexus of our family in so many ways, and drew us together over the years and kept us connected,” Plimpton said Thursday.

Carradine was “in good spirits” when he left the U.S. for Thailand on May 29 to work on the movie “Stretch,” said Tiffany Smith of Binder & Associates, his managers.

“David was excited to do it and excited to be a part of it,” she said by phone from Beverly Hills. “When he was on a set, he was in heaven.”

Filming on the thriller by French director Charles de

Meaux began Tuesday, she said.

“It is shocking to me that he is no longer with us,” said Michael Madsen, who played an assassin in “Kill Bill.”

“I have so many great memories of David that I wouldn't even know where to begin,” he said. “He has a very special place in my heart.”

The Web site of the Thai newspaper The Nation said Carradine could not be contacted after he failed to appear Wednesday for a meal with the rest of the film crew and that his body was found by a hotel maid Thursday morning. It said a preliminary police investigation found that he had hanged himself with a cord used with the suite's curtains and that there was no sign that he had been assaulted.

Police said Carradine's body

was taken to a hospital for an autopsy.

Carradine appeared in more than 100 feature films with such directors as Martin Scorsese, Ingmar Bergman and Hal Ashby. One of his early film roles was as folk singer Woody Guthrie in Ashby's 1976 biopic, “Bound for Glory.”

But he was best known for his role as Kwai Chang Caine, a Shaolin priest traveling the 1800s American frontier West in the TV series “Kung Fu,” which aired in 1972-75.

He returned to the top in recent years as the title character in Quentin Tarantino's two-part saga “Kill Bill.”

In a 2004 interview with Associated Press Radio, Carradine talked candidly about his past alcohol and narcotics use, but he said he had put all that behind him.

“You're probably witnessing the last time I will ever answer those questions,” Carradine said. “Because this is a regeneration. It is a renaissance. It is the start of a new career for me.

“It's time to do nothing but look forward.”



Carradine is pictured on the set of the 1986 CBS film “Kung Fu: The Movie.”

News students complete ‘boot camp’

Eleven college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships on 10 daily newspapers after completing two weeks of intensive preparatory work at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a select group of 70-plus students placed in internships in copy editing, business reporting and online journalism as part of a national, competitive program funded by the Newspaper Fund, a foundation of the Dow Jones & Company Inc. and participating newspapers.

The School of Journalism at UT-Austin, one of five pre-internship training sites for copy editors, has been part of the Newspaper Fund program for 12 years.

Participants in the UT workshop were involved in newspaper copy editing, design and production assignments as well as online journalism. Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions.

The UT-Newspaper Fund interns will report for internships of 10-14 weeks. In the second week of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist. The Austin American-Statesman printed



Workshop participants, are front row, from left to right, Arianna G. Davis, Stephanie M. Call, Alexandra McGuffie, Hedy Phillips, Aja J. Junior, Beth Butler, Griff Singer. Back row, Jennifer A. Wright, Bradley Wilson, Vikram Swarup, George Sylvie, Brady Jones, Sean Beherec, Hilary Stohs-Krause, Cody Winchester.

the interns' newspaper.

Participants in the UT Austin workshop, including their universities and host newspapers, are:

Sean Beherec, University of Texas at Austin-Amarillo Globe-News; Stephanie M. Call, University of Missouri-The Arizona Daily Star; Arianna Davis, Penn State University-New York Daily News; Brady Jones, University of Nebraska-The Dallas Morning News; Aja

Jonelle Junior, University of Missouri-The Detroit News; Alexandra McGuffie, University of Missouri-The Beaumont Enterprise; Hedy Phillips, University of Central Florida-Contra Costa (Calif.) Times; Hilary Stohs-Krause, University of Nebraska-Amarillo Globe-News; Vikram Swarup, University of Texas at Austin-Austin American-Statesman; Cody Winchester, Baylor University-Waco Tribune-Herald;

and Jennifer Wright, Ball State University-San Luis Obispo Tribune.

Grants from the Newspaper Fund and contributions from participating newspapers covered the cost of the workshops.

Participating newspapers will in turn pay interns a weekly wage for their work during the internship.

Directing the UT workshop were S. Griffin Singer, director; George Sylvie, assistant director; and Sonia Reyes-Krempin, administrative assistant of the UT School of Journalism.

Faculty were Beth Butler, Kent State University; Amy Zerba, CNN.com, Atlanta, Ga.; Richard Holden, executive director of the Newspaper Fund; Zach Ryall, managing editor of statesman.com and Austin360.com; and Bradley Wilson, coordinator of Student Media Advising, North Carolina State University. Drew Marks, assistant managing editor of the Austin American-Statesman, coordinated the visit to that newspaper.

Similar Newspaper Fund pre-internship copy editing training centers are located at Penn State University, the University of Missouri, the University of Nebraska and Temple University.

An online editing program is based at Western Kentucky University.

BATS: Fungal sickness has appeared in nine states

—Continued from Page 1

ica's bats,” Tuttle told the House panel.

Since it was first discovered in a cave west of Albany, N.Y., in March 2007, White-Nose Syndrome has spread to 65 caves in nine states, turning up last winter in West Virginia and Virginia, federal wildlife officials said. Several caves in Canada are also suspected of harboring the fungus.

To date it has killed between 500,000 and 1 million bats, mostly common species. But what has wildlife officials concerned is that the fungus looks to be on the verge of entering the Southeast and Midwest, where some of the most endangered and largest populations of bats live. For example, the fungus is known to occur in caves used by the Virginia big-eared bat, which has a population of only 20,000.

How exactly the fungus kills bats is poorly understood, but once the fungus attaches, it invades tissues. The bat then fidgets, burning up its excess energy. Most simply starve and die; others leave the cave prematurely to look for nonexistent food in the winter and perish.

Most bat species in Texas, including the estimated 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats that live under Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge, don't hibernate for long periods. Instead, they migrate south or pass into a state of apathy, said Mylea Bayless, a conservation biologist at Bat Conservation International in Austin. As a result, they can maintain a more constant metabolic rate and stronger immune system, leaving them less susceptible to diseases such as White-Nose Syndrome. There have been no documented cases of White-Nose Syndrome in Texas. “We're cautiously optimistic that we have some time before it reaches Texas,” Bayless said.

— SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST



A researcher holds a dead Indiana species of bat in an abandoned mine in Rosendale, N.Y.

DATELESS: Some low on funds still find match

—Continued from Page 1

an elegant dinner for a woman at her place.

Christie Nightingale of Premier Match said an unemployed man is a harder sell. She used to be able to brag to her female clients that a man worked in hedge funds, for example. Now she has to explain that he is a great match in other areas — looks, religion — “but, you know, he's looking for a job.”

“I find that women are very accepting,” she said. “Some of the women are going through it as well. They have friends

that have gotten laid off. It's the times that we're in.”

Melissa Braverman, who blogs about dating, said in the past six months, she's noticed that men don't suggest meals. When they meet for drinks, they limit it to one hour. She thinks it's so she won't order a second drink.

Sit out of the dating game, though, and you might miss out on the love of your life.

Christopher Floyd, 39, a photographer and video producer in Albuquerque, N.M., almost stopped communicating with a woman he met on eHarmony late last year be-

cause of his financial situation. But his potential love match, Angela Sowers, 31, who works in human resources in Sacramento, Calif., persuaded him to give the relationship a shot.

Floyd is moving to Sacramento next week and will live with her parents, so the two can date locally. Sowers said she isn't too worried about his lack of income. She's hoping he can get his business going in Sacramento.

“The relationship isn't based on how much money he makes,” she said. “It's who he is and what's in his heart that matters to me.”

SALES: Buyers spend on food, health care products

—Continued from Page 1

slightly for the first time in 20 weeks; the tally of new jobless claims also dipped.

In May, the Conference Board's Consumer Confidence Index rose to its highest level since September.

But that generally did not translate to sales, as job worries and falling home prices are still clearly weighing on consumers as they shop.

Results are a “clear indication that the consumer is not stampeding back to the stores, they're still being very careful,” said BMO Capital Markets an-

alyst John Morris.

Luxury chains continued to be the weakest sectors, with Saks Inc., and Neiman Marcus reporting double-digit declines. Discounters such as Ross Stores Inc. and teen apparel retailers such as The Buckle Inc., were stronger. Cheap chic discounter Target reported a bigger drop than expected. Overall, food and health care products continued to be the strongest sellers.

Wal-Mart's absence makes conclusions about the broader economy more difficult, said Ken Perkins, president of retail consulting firm Retail Metrics

LLC, because it accounts for 10 percent of retail spending.

Wal-Mart said monthly reports had too much volatility caused by calendar shifts and would now report same-store sales quarterly.

Also affecting results was the \$50 billion fiscal stimulus, which shoppers received in May last year and retailers credited for a lift in sales.

Same-store sales, or sales at stores open at least a year, are a key indicator of retailer performance because they measure growth at existing stores rather than newly opened ones.

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NATIONAL

IRS seeks tax prep overhaul

WASHINGTON — The IRS wants to start regulating paid tax preparers in an effort to reduce fraud and errors.

New rules could require education and training as well as licensing for people who get paid to prepare returns, IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman said Thursday.

From 2006 through 2008, the IRS initiated more than 600 investigations of fraud among tax preparers. During that time, 356 tax preparers were convicted, with more than 80 percent of them sentenced to prison, home confinement or electronic monitoring.

About 60 percent of taxpayers pay someone to prepare their returns, Shulman said. An additional 20 percent or so buy computer software. However, tax preparers don't have to be licensed, unless they represent clients in proceedings before the Internal Revenue Service.

Baseball coach tweets up lawsuit

ST. LOUIS — St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa is suing the social-networking Web site Twitter, claiming an unauthorized page that used his name to make light of drunk driving and two Cardinals pitchers who died damaged his reputation and caused emotional distress.

The suit filed last month in the Superior Court of California in San Francisco seeks unspecified damages.

The lawsuit claims that someone created a false account under La Russa's name and posted updates, called "tweets," that gave the impression that the comments came from La Russa. The suit said the comments were "derogatory and demeaning" and damaged La Russa's trademark rights.

The account bearing La Russa's name is no longer active. La Russa, 64, has led the Cardinals since 1996 and also managed the Chicago White Sox and Oakland A's during his 30-year managerial career.

Police: Man set up Craigslist rape

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — A man who police say arranged on Craigslist for his wife to be raped by another man was in jail on \$200,000 bond Thursday, as investigators searched for the attacker.

The husband faces first-degree rape and other charges. The Associated Press is not naming the man to avoid identifying his wife, a victim of sexual assault.

Police said the husband had gone on Craigslist to look for someone to come to his house and have sex with his wife using "scare tactics." Police said the act was without the wife's consent or knowledge.

The wife called 911 Sunday and reported a man with a knife raped her in her bedroom. Police said the husband was in the room at the time of the attack.

Reef fish just keeps on ticking

ELEELE, Hawaii — Hawaii resident Curt Carish boasts a timely fish tale: a 10-inch reef fish he caught by hand coughed up a ticking gold watch.

Carish says he was enjoying a picnic Wednesday on Port Allen beach when he saw the nenu fish awkwardly swimming close to shore.

He says a friend gave him a bamboo stick and told him to get the fish so he jumped in the waist-high water and hit the nenu until it went limp.

He noticed the fish had an abnormally large belly as he tossed it into a cooler.

A friend opened the cooler later to discover a gold watch next to the fish's mouth.

Carish says the watch was ticking and keeping correct time.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ill. scandal shows admissions favoritism

JUSTIN POPE
Associated Press

All college applications are equal. But some are more equal than others.

A Chicago Tribune expose about how the University of Illinois gives extra consideration to well-connected applicants has set off a storm of protests.

But the truth is, many universities give some degree of special treatment to the sons and daughters of big donors, politicians, trustees and others with clout, admissions experts say.

"How can they really say no when the directives come from the very top of the institution?" said David Hawkins of the National Association for College Admission Counseling.

Whether formalized or not, "virtually every selective college, public or private, has some kind of list" like the one maintained by the University of Illinois, said Daniel Golden, whose 2006 book "The Price of Admission" exposed admissions practices that favored well-connected applicants.

Golden's reporting focused mostly on private universities,

Virtually every college, public or private, has some kind of list.
— DANIEL GOLDEN, author of "The Price of Admission"

but the Illinois story shows how far "the problem goes of colleges essentially trading admissions slots for favors," he said.

In the mid-1990s, the Los Angeles Times detailed hundreds of requests by University of California regents and politicians on behalf of applicants. Not all the applicants got in, but the Times found some were admitted over more qualified candidates, and the university acknowledged that pull could make a difference in a small number of cases.

In interviews this week, officials at several public universities acknowledged there is no absolute wall between admissions officers and other parts of their institutions.

At the University of Virginia, fundraisers are not supposed to approach admissions staff-

ers directly about candidates. However, Carol Wood, assistant vice president for public affairs, acknowledged in an e-mail it sometimes happens.

UVA's president's office might also get involved. When a request for help arrives there, a staff member decides "if it is appropriate to ask the dean of admission to take an additional look at a student's application," Wood said.

Several experts said the system described at Illinois may have crossed some important lines. The university, the Tribune reported, considered hundreds of connected applicants as a separate set of applicants called "Category I" that was not publicized.

Illinois insists no unqualified students were admitted, and it is impossible to say how many would have gotten in otherwise.

"I had never heard of such a formalized process of circumventing the public rules the university has articulated itself," said Barmak Nassirian, associate executive director of AACRAO, a professional group for admissions and other college officials.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students walk to class on the University of Illinois campus at Urbana-Champaign. According to a report published May 29 in the Chicago Tribune, the university keeps a little-known list of applicants tracked by politicians and university trustees, often resulting in the admission of clout-heavy students over those with better qualifications.

GOING APE OVER GIGGLES



DR. MARINA ROSS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baby orangutan Enero laughs while being tickled in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo in a photo from 2005. By studying an assortment of apes and human babies' laughter, scientists

say they've traced the origin of laughter back to evolution more than 10 million years ago through a shared ancestor between apes and humankind.

More Marine-style schools to open

DORIE TURNER
Associated Press

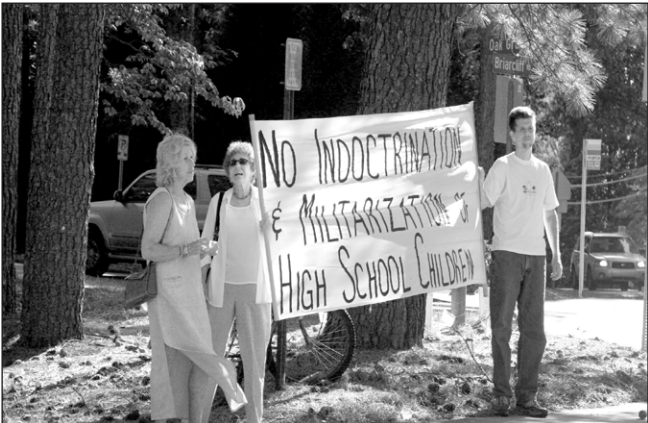
ATLANTA — The U.S. Marine Corps is wooing public school districts across the country, expanding a network of military academies that has grown steadily despite criticism that it's a recruiting ploy.

The Marines are talking with at least six districts — including suburban Atlanta, New Orleans and Las Vegas — about opening schools where every student wears a uniform, participates in Junior ROTC, which stands for Reserve Officers Training Corps, and takes military classes, said Bill McHenry, who runs the Junior ROTC program for the Marines.

Those schools would be on top of more than a dozen public military academies that have already opened nationwide, a trend that's picking up speed as the U.S. Department of Defense looks for ways to increase the number of units in Junior ROTC.

"Many kids in our country don't get a fair shake. Many kids live in war zones. Many kids who are bright and have so much potential and so much to offer — all they need to be given is a chance," McHenry said.

Last year, Congress passed a defense policy bill that included a call for increasing the number of Junior ROTC units



DORIE TURNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

DeKalb County residents protest a proposed U.S. Marine Corps academy during a school board meeting at Lakeside High School in Atlanta on June 1. The U.S. Marine Corps is expanding a network of military academies, despite criticism that it's a recruiting ploy.

Many kids who are bright and have so much potential and so much to offer, all they need to be given is a chance.
— BILL MCHENRY, national program director for the U.S. Marine Corps JROTC

across the country from 3,400 to 3,700 in the next 11 years, an effort that will cost about \$170 million, Defense Department spokeswoman Eileen M. Lainez said. The process will go faster by opening military academies, which count as four or more units, McHenry said.

In DeKalb County, which in-

cludes part of Atlanta, protests by parents and threats of lawsuits began almost as soon as the school board announced last year that it planned to open a Marine Corps high school. The district wanted to open it this fall, but the approval process in Washington has delayed that. The district hopes to open the school in

fall 2010.

Critics like Mike Hearington, a 56-year-old Vietnam War veteran whose son attends Shamrock Middle School in DeKalb County, say the schools are breeding grounds for the military.

"To pursue children like they are is criminal in my mind," Hearington said.

Between 5 and 10 percent of graduating seniors from the nation's public military schools end up enlisting, according to an Associated Press review of the majority of the schools' records. About 3 percent of all new high school graduates join the military, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

Proponents say the academies aren't recruiting tools but focus on discipline, ethics and civics.

"The whole notion behind this is that there is so much literature out there and myth that kids from low socio-economic levels can't learn and won't learn," said DeKalb County schools Superintendent Crawford Lewis. "We are partnering with the Marines to show if we come together and do this right, we will debunk that whole stereotype."

In DeKalb County, the school district would get about \$500,000 a year plus \$1.4 million in startup funds from the Marines, Lewis said.

who might be living largely paycheck to paycheck.

She has \$1.16 million in assets but \$418,350 in debts, including her mortgage, credit card bills and a big dentist bill.

Previous financial disclosure reports showed her with an annual income of about \$200,000.

THE HEARINGS



Sotomayor

✓ White House Counsel Gregory Craig called Sotomayor on April 27, four days before Justice David Souter announced his retirement.

✓ Thursday was Sotomayor's third day on Capitol Hill for visits with senators.

Chrysler dealers plead case

BREE FOWLER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A parade of Chrysler dealers slated to lose their franchises took the stand Thursday in the automaker's bankruptcy protection case as they questioned how they were chosen for termination.

Fewer than 20 dealers were sworn in at the start of the day. About 14 testified.

It was unclear when U.S. Judge Arthur Gonzalez would rule on Chrysler's motion to cancel the dealerships' franchise agreements, or how this would affect Chrysler's plans to sever ties with them effective Tuesday.

James Tarbox broke down while testifying about learning that his two dealerships in Rhode Island and Massachusetts were included on Chrysler's list of the 789 it plans to terminate.

"I thought there must be a mistake," he said.

Officials of the Auburn Hills, Mich.-based Chrysler claim it needs to reduce its dealer base to about 2,400 dealers to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

The dealers said that if Gonzalez approves Chrysler's motion, hundreds of dealerships will be shuttered, and thousands of workers would lose their jobs.

Auto dealer Alan Spitzer of Medina, Ohio said he spent \$3.5 million in 2003 on a new building to combine two of his Ohio dealerships.

The plan was to put Chrysler and Jeep dealerships at the same location. But all of Spitzer's Chrysler franchises, including others in Ohio and Florida, were included on Chrysler's list.

He said he wouldn't have invested millions in his dealerships if he thought he wasn't protected by state franchise laws.

Before the day's testimony began, Gonzalez noted that the automaker has a good case to terminate the dealer franchises.

Gonzalez issued a ruling Sunday approving the government-backed sale of most of Chrysler's assets to a group led by Fiat, but the sale has been stayed pending an appeal.

Texas sues BP, claiming widespread pollution

State: Company showed pattern of noncompliance

MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Texas authorities are accusing BP Products North American Inc. of 46 pollution violations at its Texas City refinery — including one tied to an explosion that killed 15 workers and injured 170 others.

The suit, filed by the Texas Attorney General's Office in state court in Austin last month announced Thursday, alleges the BP Texas City refinery, about 35 miles southeast of Houston, spewed hundreds of thousands of pounds of

pollutants in a "pattern of unnecessary and unlawful emissions."

The state said the emissions were the result of poor operational practices and inadequate maintenance at the refinery, the nation's third largest, which refines 460,000 barrels of crude oil daily.

According to the suit, which court documents indicate was filed May 22, among the improperly released air pollutants were volatile organic compounds, carbon monoxide, hydrogen sulfide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

BP spokesman Ronnie Chappell said Thursday the company had no comment on the lawsuit specifically but that the company's goal was to "resolve this matter and ad-

dress the state's concerns."

"We are working hard to reduce the number of emissions events at the Texas City refinery," Chappell said, noting more than \$1 billion in investments to upgrade facilities.

The suit seeks an injunction requiring BP to take all necessary steps to eliminate future unlawful emissions. The state also wants BP to install additional air-quality monitors "to ensure future compliance with emissions restrictions" and is seeking unspecified civil penalties, fines and attorneys' fees.

Abbott said the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality filed 15 enforcement orders against BP between 2000 and 2007.

The fatal explosion in March 2005 led to an unlawful re-

lease of contaminants for more than 160 hours, Abbott said. The TCEQ said the event was an "avoidable" result of "poor operations practices."

In March of this year, a federal judge in Houston approved a plea deal, highly criticized by victims, that fined parent British oil company BP PLC \$50 million for its criminal role in the blast. The agreement included BP's subsidiary pleading guilty to a violation of the Clean Air Act,

QUICK LOOK

- ✓ Texas authorities are accusing BP of 46 separate pollution violations.
- ✓ The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality filed 15 enforcement orders against BP between 2000 and 2007.
- ✓ A fatal explosion at BP's Texas City refinery in 2005 killed 15 workers and injured 170.

a felony, and also placed the company on probation for three years.

A month earlier, BP agreed to pay almost \$180 million to settle a federal pollution case with the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection

Agency. That agreement included spending \$161 million on pollution controls, \$12 million in penalties and \$6 million to reduce air pollution near the Texas City refinery.

TEXAS

Perry seeks 600 soldiers for border

Gov. Rick Perry sent a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano proposing that 600 soldiers be put in "reconnaissance platoons" that would scour remote areas for drug and immigrant smugglers along the border.

The secretary has so far made no recommendation on Perry's April letter, which suggested the patrols would be prudent given Mexico's drug-gang killings and kidnappings.

The San Antonio Express-News obtained a copy of the letter for a story published Thursday.

Perry's plan would be part of 1,000 Texas National Guard troops called up to full-time duty. Perry could call up the Guard on his own, but the state would have to pay for it. The \$135.6 million it would cost in the first year isn't included in the 2010-11 state budget.



Perry

Building, rebuilding after Hurricane Ike

Lawmaker writes bill exempting damaged zone, his own home

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GALVESTON — A provision that a Texas lawmaker helped pass in the final hours of the legislative session is narrowly tailored to exempt the area where his beachfront property is located from a state law preventing building on the beach.

Rep. Wayne Christian helped craft an amendment that exempts properties only on the Bolivar Peninsula, including his own. But it's the advantage gained by Christian — the right to rebuild his destroyed home on the beach — that's drawing criticism.



Christian

"It's a very special bill to benefit a state legislator, and that is flat-out wrong," said Tom Brown, president of Texas Open Beach Advocates. "This is

legislation at its worst."

Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson has asked Gov. Rick Perry to veto the bill containing the amendment, but the bill has not yet crossed the governor's desk.

"I don't think building houses on the beach, with the waters of the Gulf beneath them, is a good idea or good public policy," Patterson said. "My option is just to say, 'Screw you, Wayne Christian,' because the Legislature didn't pass this, one guy passed this."

The amendment was approved just before the session ended Monday as part of a bill extending homestead exemptions to homes destroyed by Hurricane Ike until they can be rebuilt. Christian, R-Center, who does not represent Bolivar or any coastal community, was one of the legislators who helped work on the bill.

Christian said his vote benefited other peninsula property owners and therefore was not a breach of ethics.

"If I were to pass a law that affected only Wayne Christian, that would be a conflict," he said.



DAVID J. PHILLIP / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hurricane Ike approaches Galveston in this file photo from September 2008. Nearly nine months after the storm, almost

75 percent of the city's businesses have reopened, but some areas are still rebuilding.

City continues recovery from storm as '09 violent-weather season begins

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

GALVESTON — Another hurricane season is the last thing people in Galveston want to think about after last year's devastation from Hurricane Ike.

"Hurricane season got here a lot quicker than I thought it would," said Steve LeBlanc, manager of the island city 50 miles southeast of Houston. "I'm still busy working on my own house, trying to get back in there. But we are busy getting prepared for another season."

As the 2009 hurricane season began this week, many of Galveston's residents still were mired in repairs nearly nine months after the costliest disaster in Texas history battered the tourist spot with 110-mph winds and 12-foot storm surge.

During Galveston's annual hurricane preparedness meeting Wednesday, Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas and other officials had a warning for the approximately 12,000 island residents who ignored an evacuation order for Ike: This time, they said, leave when we ask you to.

But amid the ongoing reconstruction,

there are signs of rebirth and recovery.

Stacks of new lumber and plywood are piled on front yards of homes throughout the city.

The recent Memorial Day weekend saw 250,000 visitors to the island, on par with previous years.

About 75 percent of businesses have reopened in Galveston's historic Victorian district.

On Galveston's famed Seawall, construction has begun to rebuild Murdoch's, the city's nearly century-old gift shop.

All but three hotels on the island have reopened. Hotel occupancy tax receipts are down 20 percent so far this year, but tourism officials attribute that as much to the recession as to post-Ike problems.

"We are encouraged to see that tourists are coming back and they haven't forgotten about Galveston," said RoShelle Gaskins, a spokeswoman for the Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau.

On a recent weeknight, Galveston's popular seawall beaches were filled with tourists and residents.

Thomas said she has been encouraged



FILE PHOTO

Hurricane Ike displaced thousands from their homes. Galveston has 13,000 fewer residents than a year ago.

by the pace of Galveston's recovery.

"The efforts have moved ahead much faster than we thought they would. We are looking forward to the future," she said.

But Thomas also noted that the city, whose pre-Ike population of 58,000 is just 45,000 now, still has a long way to go.

The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, the city's biggest employer, which laid off 3,000 workers shortly after the storm, still is limping along after suffering more than \$1 billion in damage.

ONE ATHLETE DOES IT ALL — AND WINS

Rochelle's track team doesn't need a bus to get to state meet



HARRY CABLUCK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bonnie Richardson, wearing one of her five 2008 medals, will try to repeat her championship performance Friday and Saturday at the state track meet.

By JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

When Bonnie Richardson became the first girl in state history to win a team high school track title all by herself, she was just a small-town kid who worked on a ranch and trained on a dirt path with pot-holes.

Then her phone started ringing. A lot.

Sports Illustrated put her in the magazine after last year's title. TV networks set up interviews. Texas A&M even threw a scholarship at her.

She's back to try it again starting Friday.

At the Texas state meet, Richardson, now a senior, has qualified in the same five events she competed in last year: the long jump, high jump, discus and

the 100 and 200 meters.

Richardson competes for Rochelle High School in Class 1A — the smallest — and she's the No. 1 or No. 2 qualifier in all her events, making her a favorite to win the team title all by herself again.

But Richardson — the only girl who runs track at the 59-student school — said the team trophy is not her goal.

"That's never been part of the plan," Richardson said this week.

They cared in Rochelle, a town of fewer than 200 people about 85 miles east of San Angelo. Folks threw her a victory party after the 2008 crown.

Until she won the team title, Richardson had only heard from track coaches at small colleges.

"After she won, the phones started ringing off the hook," her coach Jym Dennis said. "Being at a school this small, athletes don't usually sign with Division I schools."

In Rochelle, Richardson trains on a track that is really just a ring of dirt dug and graded into the rocky soil. But Richardson says she is used to roughing it.

When she's not on the track or in school — where she recently graduated as her class valedictorian — Richardson works on a ranch, tending to livestock, cutting down trees or clearing fields.

"I like to be outside. I hate sitting down in a room all day," she said.

Richardson competes in three of her five events on Fri-

ACHIEVER PROFILE

Rochelle's Bonnie Richardson is the top Class 1A qualifier in three of five events at state high school track meet:

- ✓ Long jump: 18 feet, 9 inches
- ✓ High jump: 5 feet 8 inches
- ✓ 200 meters: 25.48 seconds
- ✓ Second in 100 meters, discus
- ✓ Graduated as valedictorian of high school class

day. If she finishes according to her qualifying marks, Richardson will earn 48 points, six more than her team-winning total last year.

PARIS — A defense attorney says charges have been dismissed against two white men accused of killing a black man in a racially charged dragging death in East Texas.

Attorney Ben Massar said Shannon Finley and Charles Crostley were released from jail in Paris on Thursday afternoon after a judge granted the special prosecutor's motion to dismiss the case. The men had been charged with fatally striking 24-year-old Brandon McClelland in September following a late-night beer run by the trio to Oklahoma.

The case had been unraveling in recent months because of a lack of eyewitnesses and physical evidence. Last month, a gravel truck driver gave a sworn statement acknowledging he might have accidentally run over McClelland.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERNATIONAL

Tiananmen vigil brings thousands

BEIJING – China aggressively deterred dissent in the capital on Thursday, the 20th anniversary of the crackdown on democracy activists in Tiananmen Square. But tens of thousands turned out for a candlelight vigil in Hong Kong to mourn the hundreds, possibly thousands, of demonstrators killed.

In Beijing, foreign journalists were barred from the vast square as uniformed and plainclothes police stood guard across the area, the epicenter of the student-led movement that was crushed by the military on the night of June 3-4, 1989.

The repression on the mainland contrasted starkly with Hong Kong, where thousands bearing white candles chanted slogans calling for China to own up to the crackdown and release political dissidents.

Organizers estimated the crowd at 150,000 – the largest rally since the first anniversary vigil in 1990 – while police put the number at 62,800.

Catholic orders agree to audit

DUBLIN – Bowing to government pressure, 18 Roman Catholic religious orders that had abused thousands of Irish children pledged Thursday to allow external audits of their finances and to establish an entirely new compensation fund for victims.

The promise came after leaders of the orders held a three-hour meeting with Prime Minister Brian Cowen, who bluntly criticized their refusal to accept the magnitude of the harm they did to generations of children by chronically shielding abusers.

Later, the 18 groups said in a joint statement they would “make financial and other contributions toward a broad range of measures designed to alleviate the hurt caused to people who were abused in their care.”

The orders agreed to a government demand to accept an external audit to determine their net worth.

Romania ceases Iraq deployment

BAGHDAD – Romania’s small military contingent ended its deployment in Iraq on Thursday, reducing the U.S.-led coalition to three countries.

The alliance that once included nearly 40 countries has been whittled down as the Americans themselves prepare for a full withdrawal from the country by the end of 2011. Aside from the United States, the remaining troops come from Britain and Australia.

The Americans have nearly 140,000 troops in Iraq, according to the U.S. military.

Several high-profile bombings in recent months have raised concerns that insurgents are regrouping to undermine confidence in the government as the Americans reduce their presence.

Three killed in Afghan bombing

KABUL – Taliban militants detonated a bomb and opened fire on a vehicle carrying U.S. soldiers on Thursday, killing three of them, as President Barack Obama said he did not want to keep American troops in Afghanistan longer than necessary.

The ambush was the third strike by insurgents in the region in less than a week, part of a surge in violence eight years after the U.S. invaded to oust the Taliban regime.

Thursday’s attack took place in Kapisa province, near the Bagram base that is home to thousands of troops and the U.S. command, the military said in a statement. Three Americans were killed and another soldier, whose nationality was not released, was injured.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUILDING OR BURNING BRIDGES?

Obama draws mixed reaction

Muslims want action, more pressure on Israel

MARJORIE OLSTER
Associated Press

CAIRO — Muslim shopkeepers, students and even radical groups such as Hamas praised President Barack Obama’s address Thursday as a positive shift in U.S. attitude and tone. But Arabs and Muslims of all political stripes said they want him to turn his words into action — particularly in standing up to Israel.

Obama impressed Muslims with humility and respect, and they were thrilled by his citing of Quranic verses. Aiming to repair ties with the Muslim world that had been strained under George W. Bush, he opened with the traditional Arabic greeting “Assalamu Aleikum,” which drew applause from a Cairo University audience.

Obama’s address touched on themes Muslims wanted to hear. He insisted Palestinians must have a state and that Israeli settlement in the West Bank is not legitimate. He assured them the U.S. would pull all troops out of Iraq by 2012 and promised no permanent U.S. presence in Afghanistan.

But at the top of his priorities, he put the battle against violent extremism.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, a moderate who rivals Hamas for leadership of the Palestinians, welcomed Obama’s words.

“The part of Obama’s speech regarding the Palestinian issue is an important step under new beginnings,” his spokesman Nabil Abu Rdeneh said.

A joint statement by eight Syrian-based radical Palestinian factions, including Hamas, was harsher.

“Obama’s speech is an attempt to mislead people and create more illusions to improve America’s aggressive image in the Arab and Islamic world,” it said.

In Syria, political analyst Imad Shouaibi said: “It is a speech with a different language from what we used to hear. This is a positive thing.”



EYAD BABA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

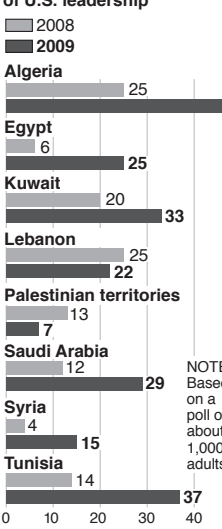
Palestinian Hamas militants watch President Barack Obama speak at Cairo University wearing masks to protect their identity Thursday at a training base in Rafah, in southern Gaza Strip.

Many Arab and Egyptian TV stations ran a live broadcast of the speech Obama gave on the second of a four-stop tour of the Middle East and Europe, with an Arabic-translated voice-over.

Warming trend

In much of the Arab world, approval of the U.S. administration has grown since President Barack Obama took office, according to a recent poll.

Percentage that approves of the job performance of U.S. leadership



NOTE: Based on a poll of about 1,000 adults.
SOURCE: Gallup Poll
AP



MUSADEQ SADEQ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. soldier E. Parker Gyokeres listens to President Barack Obama’s speech at the U.S. Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday.

Israelis lukewarm to president’s words

STEVEN GUTKIN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — In a statement, Israeli government officials said they hoped President Barack Obama’s speech to the Muslim world Thursday would help usher in a “new period of reconciliation” in the Middle East, but the positive emphasis barely masked discomfort over policy differences highlighted in the historic address.

The statement skirted any reference to Obama’s calls for a settlement freeze in the West Bank and the creation of an independent Palestinian state — demands that Israel’s hawkish prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, continues to reject.

“We share President Obama’s hope that the American effort heralds the beginning of a new era that will bring about an end to the conflict and lead to Arab recognition of Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people, living in peace and security in the Middle East,” the statement said, noting that Israel’s security must also be guaranteed in any future peace moves.

Israelis had mixed reactions to Obama’s speech, which was meant to heal rifts between the U.S. and the Muslim world.

One government official said the speech could have been worse for Israel, while a spokeswoman for Jewish set-

tlers called Obama naive and out of touch with reality.

Obama devoted significant time in his speech to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He asked Muslims to accept Israel’s right to exist as a nation that formed after centuries of persecution and the Nazi genocide of 6 million Jews.

He urged his audience to speak out against Holocaust denial, a common occurrence in the Arab world.

He also made an emotional plea for the right of Palestinians to live in dignity in an independent state of their own.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas welcomed Obama’s words. “It shows there

is a new and different American policy toward the Palestinian issue,” said his spokesman, Nabil Abu Rdeneh.

Israel, the country most on edge about Obama’s outreach to Muslims, tried to put a positive face on Thursday’s events. Israel’s government did not want to exacerbate already palpable tensions with the U.S. president.

“All in all, it’s not bad. I don’t think there’s anything we disagree with here,” said Danny Seaman, the director of Israel’s Government Press Office.

“The state of Israel isn’t against reconciliation,” he added.

A MAMMOTH DISCOVERY



SRDJAN ILIC / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A skeleton of a mammoth is unearthed at the open pit coal mine in Kostolac, Serbia, on Thursday. Scientists believe the mammoth originated in northern Africa and is about 1 million years old. The mammoth was more than 13 feet tall and 16 feet long, and it weighed more than 10 tons, according to the Archaeology Institute.

UK Cabinet comes unhinged

Prime Minister Gordon Brown’s leadership received a devastating blow late Thursday when one of his ministers resigned and called on him to step down.

Work and Pensions Secretary James Purnell became the fifth minister to abandon Brown’s Cabinet in recent days. Purnell was the first of the five ministers to openly criticize Brown and ask him to step down.

Cabinet Minister Hazel Blears, in charge of local government, quit her post Wednesday in what was seen as a deliberate attempt to damage Brown.

—Associated Press



Gordon Brown
UK Prime Minister



James Purnell
Former Work and Pensions Secretary
Resigned: June 4



Hazel Blears
Former Communities Secretary
Resigned: June 3



Jacqui Smith
Former Home Secretary
Resigned: June 3



AL RENDON / SAN ANTONIO CONVENTION VISITORS BOARD

Visitors ride a River Cruiser along the River Walk in San Antonio. Narrated 30- to 40-minute tours of the site cost \$7.75 for adults.

Renovations make
San Antonio
tourist attraction

a river walk
to remember

MICHELLE ROBERTS | ASSOCIATED PRESS

HISTORY
OF THE
SITE

1736

Construction begins on the first bridge spanning the San Antonio River. The bridge connects a fort and a mission established there by the Spanish Council of War.

1825

Immigrants reach the settlement of San Antonio and begin purchasing land on the river.

1919

An engineers' study reports that heavy flooding could damage San Antonio.

1921

On Sept. 9, a storm floods the Olmos Basin and San Antonio River and covers Houston Street with 9 feet of water. The flood kills about 50 people.

1926

Work begins on a bypass channel. Final plans for flood control are published, including draining the river bend and making it a storm sewer with a street over it.

1929

On June 28, architect Robert H. H. Hugman presents his plan for "The Shops of Aragon and Romula" to the mayor, city commissioners, property owners and civic leaders.

1938

A special election is called to approve a tax to raise the \$75,000 needed to leverage \$325,000 in funds from the Works Progress Administration, part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.

1939

On October 25, Hugman's river project breaks ground.



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new "museum reach" section of the River Walk in San Antonio is part of a \$72 million overhaul to the area. Improvements included the installation of 12 pieces of art, benches and fountains.

Improvements include more access, new art

For decades, the channel of the San Antonio River north of the popular restaurants and retail shops downtown was the kind of place tourists went only if they made a wrong turn. Not anymore.

A \$72 million overhaul — essentially doubling the size of the River Walk — has transformed the dry, weed-choked eyesore north of the River Walk into a 1 1/2-mile manicured waterway with whimsical art, benches and fountains that can be passed on foot or by water taxi en route to attractions upriver.

The so-called "museum reach" of the River Walk, which opened Sunday, connects visitors from the busy convention center and Alamo area to the San Antonio Museum of Art and the Pearl Brewery, a retail redevelopment project. Beyond that, this fall, a path will allow pedestrians and cyclists to keep going north along the river to Brackenridge Park, home of the Witte Museum and the zoo.

"The entire river is an

artwork," said former Mayor Phil Hardberger, who pushed the project and saw it open on his last weekend in office.

The River Walk, a bustling development built in the 1940s with help from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, is already the most popular tourist attraction in Texas, just ahead of the nearby Alamo. But beyond the River Walk, much of the other 11 miles of riverbed had been neglected over the years.

Now, visitors will be able to ride water taxis from downtown, hailing them from any of the landings, or walk the paved path.

Along the way, trees and flowers line the sidewalks with covered overlooks and water features. A small steel bridge that once allowed beer kegs to move between the two towers of the old Lone Star Brewery, now home to the art museum, was salvaged from the scrap heap and turned into a small foot bridge over the river, said Boone Powell, the lead designer on the project.

The nonprofit San Antonio River Foundation raised money to place 12 pieces of art along the three miles of walkway. The pathways are lighted at night, as are many of the art pieces. Retail and residential development along the museum reach is expected to grow in coming years, but the river renovation has already given visitors a new way to access the stores and weekly farmers market at the Pearl Brewery.

It's also provided easy access to a historic spot that was largely hidden before the River Walk made it more accessible. VFW Post 76, the oldest in Texas, occupies a grand two-story columned mansion along the river, and features a first-floor bar, which opens every afternoon and serves ice cold beer "until everyone has gone home or 2 a.m., whichever comes first."

The San Antonio River begins just north of downtown before it joins the San Pedro Creek about 13 miles downstream. The waterway drew Native Americans and European settlers, including the missionaries who built the Alamo.

The museum reach is the first and most urban of the redevelopment plans, but officials hope by 2014 to have completely restored the San Antonio River. The newer sections will be largely pedestrian and bike paths, with a heavy focus on restoring plants and trees south of downtown.

"The river is why there is a San Antonio," Hardberger said. "It connects our city together in a way that nothing else does."

OTHER TEXAS TOURIST
ATTRACTIONS

Austin

Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum

Archives and museum of the nation's 36th president on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin include gifts from foreign heads of state, a moon rock, a replica of the Oval Office and changing exhibits.

- Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
- 2313 Red River St.
- 512-721-0200
- No admission fee

Houston

NASA/Space Center Houston

See actual spacecraft, such as the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo capsules, and watch astronauts train for upcoming space shuttle missions. NASA's official visitor center offers family fun, including live shows and presentations, interactive exhibits, an IMAX theater and behind-the-scenes tours to the Johnson Space Center.

- Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extended hours in the summer; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- 1601 NASA Parkway
- 281-244-2105
- Admission: adults, \$19.95 at the door, \$16.95 online; children 4 to 11, \$15.95 at the door, \$12.95 online; seniors, \$18.95 at the door, \$15.95 online

Dallas

Dallas Arboretum

On the shores of White Rock Lake are 66 acres of flowers and plants. Also on the grounds are two historical mansions.

- Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily
- 8525 Garland Road
- 214-515-6500

El Paso

Centennial Museum and Chihuahuan Desert Gardens

Highlights the Chihuahuan Desert and includes more than 625 species of plants in the gardens

- Open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, garden open dawn to dusk
- University Avenue and Wiggins Road
- 915-747-5565
- No admission fee

Tuesday, June 1, 2010

SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

The University of Texas at Austin

Dow Jones News Fund Center for Editing Excellence

OIL LEAK

Spill fix 2 months away

BP planning relief wells

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — The best hope for stopping the flow of oil from the blown-out well at the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico has been compared to hitting a target the size of a dinner plate more than two miles into the earth, and is anything but a sure bet on the first attempt.

Bid after bid has failed to stanch the nation's worst-ever spill, and BP PLC is readying another attempt as early as Wednesday, this one a cut-and-cap process to put a lid on the leaking wellhead so oil can be siphoned to the surface.

But the best-case scenario of sealing the leak is two relief wells being drilled diagonally into the gushing well — tricky business that won't be ready until August.

"The probability of them hitting it on the very first shot is virtually nil," said David Rensink, incoming president of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, who spent most of his 39 years in the oil industry in offshore exploration. "If they get it on the first three or four shots, they'd be very lucky."

For the bid to succeed, the bore hole must precisely intersect the damaged well. If it misses, BP will have to back

up its drill, plug the hole it just created, and try again.

The trial-and-error process could take weeks, but it will eventually work, scientists and BP said. Engineers will then pump mud and cement through pipes to ultimately seal the well.

As the drilling reaches deeper into the earth, the process is slowed by building pressure and the increasing distance that well casings must travel before they can be set in place.

Still, the three months it could take to finish the relief wells — the first of which started May 2 — is quicker than a typical deep well, which can take four months or longer, said Tad Patzek, chair of the Petroleum and Geosystems Engineering Department at the University of Texas at Austin. BP already has a good picture of the different layers of sand and rock its drill bits will meet because of the work it did on the blown-out well.

On the slim chance the relief well doesn't work, scientists weren't sure exactly how much — or how long — the oil would flow. The gusher would continue until the well bore hole collapsed or pressure in the reservoir dropped to a point at which oil was no longer

Please see **WELLS**, Page 2



ROGELIO V. SOLIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hentzel Yucles, left, wife Christina, and their two sons enjoy a visit to the beach Monday in Biloxi, Miss.

Despite spill, tourists still heading to beaches

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BILOXI, Miss. — Tourists along the Gulf coast are enjoying the beaches despite the nation's worst oil spill.

Tourism officials from Mississippi to Florida have fought the perception that oil has come ashore, and hotels have offered lower rates and other incentives to vacationers.

On Biloxi beach, Paul Dawa and his

friend Ezekial Momgeri sipped Coronas after a night gambling at the Hard Rock Casino. Both men drove from Memphis, Tenn., and were chased off the beach by a storm, not oil.

"We talked about it, and we decided to come down and see for ourselves" whether there was oil, Momgeri said. "There's no oil here."

Though some tar balls have been found on Mississippi and Alabama barrier islands, oil from the spill has not significantly fouled the shores.

Still, the perception that it has soiled white sands and fishing areas threat-

ens to cripple the tourist economy, said Linda Hornsby, executive director of the Mississippi Hotel and Lodging Association.

"It's costing a lot of money to counter that perception," Hornsby said. "First it was cancellations, but that evolved to a decrease in calls."

Yet there was fear the oil would eventually hit the other Gulf coast states. Hentzel Yucles, of Gulfport, Miss., hung out on the beach with his wife and sons.

"Katrina was bad. I know this is a different type of situation, but it's going to affect everybody," he said.

MIDDLE EAST

At least 9 killed in attack on aid flotilla

Netanyahu: Soldiers had to defend their lives or be killed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israeli commandos rappelled down to an aid flotilla sailing to thwart a Gaza blockade on Monday, clashing with pro-Palestinian activists on the lead ship in a botched raid that left at least nine passengers dead.

Bloodied passengers sprawled on the deck and troops dived into the sea to save themselves during several hours of hand-to-hand fighting that injured dozens of activists and six soldiers. Hundreds of activists were towed from the international waters to Israeli detention centers and hospitals.

International condemna-

tion was swift and harsh as Israel scrambled to explain how what was meant to be a simple takeover of a civilian vessel went so badly awry.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu abruptly canceled a planned meeting with President Barack Obama in Washington to rush home. The global reaction appeared likely to increase pressure to end the embargo that has plunged Gaza's 1.5 million residents deeper into poverty.

The high-seas confrontation was a nightmare scenario for Israel, which insisted its soldiers were simply unprepared for what awaited them on the Mavi Marmara, the ship carrying 600 of the 700

activists headed for Gaza. Instead of carrying their regular automatic rifles, the Israelis said they went in with nonlethal paintball guns and pistols they never expected to use.

Israel intercepted the six ships carrying some 10,000 tons of aid for the isolated seaside territory, which has been blockaded by Israel for three years, with Egypt's cooperation. The Israeli government had urged the flotilla not to try to breach the blockade before the ships set sail from waters off Cyprus on Sunday and offered to take some aid in for them.

Key regional ally Turkey

Please see **RAID**, Page 2

EDUCATION

States shun Texas texts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — Pop quiz: Does the school curriculum adopted in Texas really wind up in textbooks nationwide? If you answered yes, you might get a failing grade.

As the second-largest purchaser of textbooks behind California, the Lone Star State historically wielded enormous clout in deciding what material appears in classrooms across the country. That's why the state school board's recent decision to adopt new social studies standards was closely watched far beyond Texas.

Critics feared the new, conservative curriculum in Texas

would spread elsewhere, but publishing experts say those concerns are overblown.

After months of discussion, the Texas Board of Education last week approved placing greater emphasis on the Judeo-Christian influences of the nation's Founding Fathers and teaching schoolchildren that the words "separation of church and state" do not appear in the Constitution. In Washington, Education Secretary Arne Duncan called the process a case of politicians deciding curriculum. California lawmakers proposed that state education officials comb through textbooks to ensure Texas material isn't twisting

the history curriculum

This year, as states weigh which textbooks to buy, many "are going to be asking whether this was the book that went to Texas," said Kathy Mickey, an analyst at Simba Information, a market research firm.

Technology has made it easier and more affordable for publishers to tailor textbooks to different standards. That's especially true in 20 other states where education boards also approve textbooks for statewide use.

Substitutions are an easy fix, and publishers won't gamble on incorporating one state's

Please see **BOOKS**, Page 2

OBAMA EVENT CANCELED



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama's Memorial Day ceremony at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Ill., was washed out by a severe thunderstorm and high winds. Obama, who had taken the podium before the storm hit, asked people to return to their cars for safety. He later boarded a bus to greet military families. **More on Memorial Day tributes, page 3.**

MILITARY HISTORY

WWII dog tags return home

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BUDA — Dog tags and other items belonging to a Texas soldier wounded during World War II were found on an old Italian battlefield and returned to his family by a man who recently took up metal detecting as a hobby.

The son of Oscar F. Glomb, who died in 1998, said his father never forgot about his dog tags.

"You just don't separate a soldier from his dog tag," Steve Glomb, 60, of Buda, told the Austin American-Statesman. "He always talked about them. He'd say, 'I need to go back and find those dog tags.'"

Retired Italian police inspector Daniele Bi-

anchini tracked down Steve Glomb last month after finding Oscar Glomb's tags and other objects, including his ring and a medallion.

In an e-mail, Bianchini said he was thrilled to learn Oscar Glomb had survived the battle.

"This will be ... above all a gesture of thanks to (Oscar Glomb) and all the American soldiers during World War II who fought in Italy in order to crush a dictatorship and give us longed-for freedom," Bianchini wrote.

Soldiers traditionally get two dog tags with information such as their name and home address. When they are killed on the battlefield,

Please see **TAGS**, Page 2



A demonstrator wearing an Israeli flag is confronted by pro-Palestinian demonstrators gathering outside the Israeli Embassy in London on Monday. Israeli naval commandos stormed a flotilla of ships carrying aid to the blockaded Gaza Strip.

RAID: UN urges apology

—Continued from Page 1

withdrew its ambassador on Monday, the U.N. Security Council held an emergency session, the British foreign secretary demanded an end to the blockade of Gaza, and Jordan called Israel's raid a "heinous crime."

An al-Jazeera journalist delivering a report before Israel cut communications said Israel fired at the vessel before boarding it.

The military said naval commandos descending from a helicopter onto the deck of a Turkish-flagged ship were assaulted by armed activists. Military footage showed activists swarming around the commandos as they rappelled from a helicopter one by one, hitting them with

sticks until they fell to the deck, throwing one off the ship and hurling what the military said was a firebomb.

Speaking alongside the Canadian prime minister, Netanyahu expressed "regret" for the loss of life but said the soldiers "had to defend themselves, defend their lives, or they would have been killed."

Activists said Israeli naval commandos stormed the ships after ordering them to stop in international waters, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) from Gaza's coast.

A spokeswoman for the Free Gaza movement, which organized the flotilla, said the group's goal — beyond just bringing supplies to the impoverished territory — was to shatter the blockade.

"What we're trying to do is open a sea lane between Gaza and the rest of the world," Greta Berlin said in Cyprus. "We're

not trying to be a humanitarian mission. We're trying to say to the world, 'You have no right to imprison a million and a half Palestinians.'"

Israel's international image had already taken a beating from allegations that it committed war crimes during its 2008-2009 winter war in Gaza, and from widespread global opposition to the blockade. Hamas was also accused of rights violations in that conflict.

Relations with Turkey, a key supporter of the aid flotilla but also until recently Israel's staunchest ally in the Muslim world, were badly damaged by Monday's events, possibly irreparably.

Ankara announced it would recall its ambassador and call off all military exercises with Israel. Around 10,000 Turks marched in protest

WELLS: Storms could delay relief

—Continued from Page 1

ger pushed to the surface, Patzek said.

"I don't admit the possibility of it not working," he said.

A third well could be drilled if the first two fail.

"We don't know how much oil is down there, and hopefully we'll never know when the relief wells work," BP spokesman John Curry said.

The company was starting to collect and analyze data on how much oil might be in the reservoir when the rig exploded April 20, he said.

Two relief wells stopped the world's worst peacetime spill, from a Mexican rig called Ixtoc 1 that dumped 140 million gallons off the Yucatan Peninsula. That plug took nearly 10 months beginning in the summer of 1979. Drilling technology has vastly improved since then, however.

The Gulf oil spill has leaked between 19.7 million and 43 million gallons, according to government estimates.

In the meantime, BP is turning to another risky procedure federal officials

acknowledge will likely, at least temporarily, cause 20 percent more oil — at least 100,000 gallons a day — to add to the gusher.

Using robot submarines, BP plans to cut away the riser pipe this week and place a caplike containment valve over the blowout preventer. The company hopes it will capture the majority of the oil, sending it to the surface.

The latest attempt to capture the well comes after BP failed to plug the leak Saturday with its top kill, which shot mud and pieces of rubber into the well but couldn't beat back the pressure of the oil.

The location of the spill couldn't be worse. To the south lies an essential spawning ground for imperiled Atlantic bluefin tuna and sperm whales. To the east and west, coral reefs and the coastal fisheries of Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. And to the north, Louisiana's coastal marshes.

More than 125 miles of Louisiana coastline already have been hit with oil. "It's just killing us by degrees," said Tulane University ecologist Tom Sherry.



GERALD HERBERT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

BP Chief Executive Tony Hayward, right, looks at oil booms as he visits a Coast Guard command center in Venice, La., on Sunday.

It's an area that historically has been something of a superhighway for hurricanes, too.

If a major storm rolls in, the relief well operations would have to be suspended and then restarted, adding more time to the process. Plugging the Ixtoc was also hampered by hurricane season, which begins today and is pre-

dicted to be very active.

Three of the worst storms ever to hit the Gulf coast — Betsy in 1965, Camille in 1969 and Katrina in 2005 — all passed over the leak site.

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS KEVIN MCGILL, BEN NUCKOLS AND GREG BLUESTEIN IN COVINGTON, LA., AND HOLBROOK MOHR IN BILOXI, MISS., CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

TAGS: Glomb earned Bronze Star for service

—Continued from Page 1

one tag is usually taken for notification, while the second stays with the body.

In a June 1944 battle near Gavorrano, shrapnel tore through Oscar Glomb's neck and pierced his arm and legs. At some point, his dog tags fell off.

Glomb eventually recovered, returned to his hometown of Shiner, got married and had four children.

Steve Glomb gave the dog

tag, ring and medallion to his mother, Dorothy, 85, who lives in Shiner.

"To me, it's like a miracle to have this come back now. It means so much to me because he kept wanting to get those dog tags back," she said. "It brings closure. It's something he wanted done, and it's finally accomplished. We are just so thankful."

Oscar Glomb served with the 36th Infantry Division, now a Camp Mabry-based Texas National Guard unit,

To me, it's like a miracle to have this come back now. It means so much to me because he kept wanting to get those dog tags back. It brings closure.

— Dorothy Glomb

and landed at the Bay of Salerno in 1943.

A few days before he was wounded, Glomb, who manned a Browning automatic rifle, killed 12 German soldiers and wounded several

others, according to the U.S. military. His actions protected helped his platoon advance. He also earned a Bronze Star.

Steve Glomb said the deaths weighed heavily on his father, a Catholic.

"It was always in the back of his mind. He felt guilty. He said, 'Those were young guys,'" Steve Glomb said.

In 1990, he and his father went to Italy together to retrace the steps of his father's unit.

They drove from Rome to the town of Paestum, where a monument marks the 36th Infantry Division's landing. They made their way north, following the general path of the troops but didn't make it to Gavorrano.

BENEFIT OF 2010 CENSUS

Detainees may help cities get federal dollars

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TACOMA, Wash. — Paulo Sergio Alfaro-Sanchez, an illegal immigrant being held at a detention center in Washington state, had no idea that the federal government would count him in the census.

No one gave him a census form. No one told him his information would be culled from the center's records.

But counted he was, along with other illegal immigrants facing deportation in detention centers across the country — about 30,000 people on any given day, according to U.S. Immigration and Customs and Enforcement.

By the time the census delivers the total tallies to the state and federal government, most of the immigrants will be long gone. But because the population snapshot determines the allocation of federal dollars, those in custody could help bring money to the towns, cities and counties in Texas, Arizona, Washington and Georgia where the country's biggest and newest facilities are located.

"I think the irony, if there's any irony, is that the locality is what's going to benefit, because you have a detention center in a particular city where people have been brought from different parts of the region, and that com-

munity will benefit," said Arturo Vargas, executive director of National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, an organization that has pushed Latinos to participate in the census.

This census brings a twist, though. For the first time, states have the option of counting people in detention centers and prisons as residents of their last address before they're detained, worrying some local lawmakers who say cities and counties that host detention centers could lose money.

ICE operates 22 immigrant detention centers and also houses people in hundreds of other jails or prisons. Texas is home to six detention centers.

The payout can be hefty for small towns. Federal money being distributed from the census averaged about \$1,469 per person in fiscal year 2008, according to the Brookings Institute.

In Raymondville, Texas, the Willacy Detention Center holds an average daily population of about 1,000. The center opened in 2006 and was a boon to the community.

Now, the detention center's population may push Raymondville over the town's goal of surpassing 10,000, a number that will allow them to qualify for more federal help, Mayor Orlando Correa said.

BOOKS: Publishers not bound to 1 edition

—Continued from Page 1

controversial curriculum into a one-size-fits-all product, said Jay Diskey, executive director of the schools division of the Association of American Publishers, a trade group for Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, McGraw-Hill and Pearson Education Inc., which together publish more than 75 percent of the nation's K-12 textbooks.

Even Idaho, which has just 279,000 students in public schools, can sometimes command changes from publishers as easily as Texas does for its 4.8 million schoolchildren.

"Some publishers have added content to their textbooks or other material to make sure they meet Idaho standards," said Melissa McGrath, spokeswoman for Idaho's Department of Education.

Other states aren't so sure of being beyond Texas' shadow.

In Washington state, which has about 1 million public school students, a spokesman for the state superintendent of public instruction said some districts may be using Texas textbooks.

The superintendent has noted that if all 50 states were to approve national education standards, appropriate textbooks would be easier to find. Only two states have balked at those standards — Alaska and Texas.



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NATIONAL Police guard Ohio farm in cow cruelty case

PLAIN CITY, Ohio — About 150 law enforcement officers are guarding high-ways around an Ohio dairy farm where animal welfare activists want to stage a protest after a video showed cows being kicked and poked with pitchforks.

Conklin Dairy Farms Inc. fired a worker who's charged with 12 counts of animal cruelty in relation to the video. The Union County sheriff's office says Internet chatter indicated a protest was scheduled Sunday.

Authorities say the Plain City farm is private property and is surrounded by highways, leaving no place for people to legally park or protest. Conklin Dairy Farms says it won't condone animal abuse and is cooperating with authorities.

Feds: Man's Ponzi scheme 'massive'

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. — U.S. prosecutors say 53-year-old Nicholas Smirnow, a one-time bank robber, swindled \$70 million from investors on six continents while warning clients to avoid such scams.

Prosecutors believe he lives in the Philippines, though his whereabouts are unclear. He's charged with conspiracy and fraud.

Avalanche kills 2 at Alaska park

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Two climbers from Toronto, Canada died in an avalanche in Alaska's Denali National Park and Preserve.

Park officials say 39-year-old Andrew Herzenberg and 42-year-old Avner Magen were descending a steep gully of Ruth Gorge Saturday when they were swept away by the avalanche.

The bodies of the two men were recovered Sunday morning.

Hiker shoots, kills grizzly bear

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A backpacker shot and killed a grizzly bear with his handgun in Alaska's Denali National Park, officials said.

A man and woman reported that they were hiking Friday when the bear emerged from brush and charged the woman, park spokeswoman Kris Fister said in a statement. The man fired nine rounds from his .45 caliber, semiautomatic pistol at the animal, which then stopped and walked into the brush and was found dead on Saturday by rangers.

It's legal to carry firearms in that area of the park but illegal to discharge them.

Volcano erupts under Pacific

SAIPAN, Northern Marianas — Scientists say a volcanic eruption near the Pacific's Northern Mariana Islands shot clouds of ash and vapor nearly eight miles into the sky.

The U.S. Geological Survey says Saturday morning's eruption appeared to come from an underwater volcano off Sarigan, an uninhabited island about 100 miles north of the U.S. commonwealth's main island of Saipan.

Pair born in same hospital on same day to marry

BUSHKILL, Pa. — An engaged eastern Pennsylvania couple were born on the same day in the same hospital — and their mothers even shared a room in the maternity ward.

Amy Singley and Steven Smith were born at St. Luke's Hospital in Fountain Hill on April 17, 1986.

The two families stayed in contact through their church.



PAUL SAKUMA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Meg Whitman, former CEO of eBay, campaigns Friday at Graniterock, a company in Redwood City, Calif., that manufactures products for construction companies. Whitman will run for California Governor as a Republican.

GUBERNATORIAL RACE

Midwest GOP gov hopefuls

LIZ SIDOTI
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A political tail wind boosting their prospects, Republicans have significant opportunities to gain governorships across the Great Lakes and Midwest this fall. However, the GOP is struggling with internal fights in a handful of primaries, giving Democrats hope of snatching a few big states. Controlling 26 states to the GOP's 24, Democrats are on defense.

Five months before the election, primary contests that will set the November stage are well under way.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, a potential 2012 challenger to President Barack Obama, leads the committee working to elect GOP governors. He predicts major victories: "This cycle is so much more impor-

tant than usual because of the way the Obama administration and the Democratic Congress have made this huge lurch to the left. The American people are scared of all the spending."

With a fundraising advantage, a favorable political landscape and victories in New Jersey and Virginia last fall, Republicans aim for the GOP to emerge from November controlling at least 30 states. They argue this would make it hard for Obama to win re-election.

Democrats privately say they likely will lose states in Kansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma and Wyoming. Polls show Iowa Gov. Chet Culver in such serious trouble that he's expected to lose to former Gov. Terry Branstad, favored in the GOP primary.

Republicans have mounted similarly strong challenges to

other Democrats across the Midwest and the Great Lakes — and Democrats acknowledge that states in that region will be among the toughest to win given that they have suffered the brunt of the recession.

Many Democrats believe they have their work cut out for them in: Michigan, which has the highest unemployment rate; Ohio, where Democratic Gov. Ted Strickland faces former GOP Rep. John Kasich; Pennsylvania, where Democrat Dan Onorato, the Allegheny County chief executive, faces GOP Attorney General Tom Corbett to succeed the outgoing Democratic Gov. Ed Rendell; and Wisconsin, where Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle is retiring. Milwaukee's Democratic mayor, Tom Barrett, will run against whoever emerg-

es from the GOP primary in September.

Republicans will make a play for the scandal-scarred but Democratic-leaning Illinois but they say it will be hard for Republican state Sen. Bill Brady to win even though Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn was the deputy of disgraced former Gov. Rod Blagojevich. The GOP is trying to beat back Democratic efforts to win in Minnesota, where Republican Gov. Tim Pawlenty is leaving office presumably to run for president.

For all the dreariness, there are bright spots for Democrats. Chief among them are GOP primaries in a handful of states in which Republicans nominating a tea party-backed conservative or a moderate battered from the primary.

HEALTH

Brief exercise has lasting effects

LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ten minutes of brisk exercise triggers metabolic changes that last at least an hour. The unfair news for panting newbies: The more fit you are, the more benefits you just might be getting.

We all know that exercise and a good diet are important for health, protecting against heart disease and diabetes, among other conditions. But what exactly causes the health improvement from working up a sweat?

They're among questions that metabolic profiling, a new field called metabolomics, aims to answer in hopes of one day optimizing those benefits — or finding patterns that may signal risk for disease and new ways to treat it.

"We're only beginning to catalog the metabolic variability between people," said Robert Gerszten of Massachusetts General Hospital, whose team just took a step toward that goal.

The researchers measured biochemical changes in the

blood of a variety of people: the healthy middle-aged, some who became short of breath with exertion, and marathon runners.

First, in 70 healthy people put on a treadmill, the team found more than 20 metabolites that change during exercise, naturally produced compounds involved in burning calories and fat and improving blood-sugar control.

Thinner people had greater increases in a metabolite named niacinamide, a nutrient byproduct that's involved in blood-sugar control, the team from Mass General and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard reported last week in the journal Science Translational Medicine.

People who were more fit — as measured by oxygen intake during exercise — appeared to be burning more fat than the less fit, or than people with shortness of breath, a possible symptom of heart disease.

The extremely fit — 25 Boston Marathon runners — had ten-fold increases in that metabolite after the race.



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anita Dixon, of Wichita, Kan., whose son Army Sgt. Evan Parker was killed while serving in Iraq in 2005, kisses the graves in section 60, where many of the casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan are buried, at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va., on Thursday. Aircraft from the American Airpower Museum accompanied a B-17 bomber to New York on Monday in honor of seven CIA employees killed by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan.

MEMORIAL DAY

Tribute honors 7 CIA deaths

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. — Historic aircraft escorted a B-17 bomber as it dropped flowers over the Statue of Liberty in a public Memorial Day tribute to seven CIA employees killed in Afghanistan.

Several aircraft from the American Airpower Museum on Long Island accompanied the bomber to a site in New York Harbor near where the World Trade Center once stood.

Museum spokesman Gary Lewi said officials decided to honor the fallen CIA employees after it appeared no other Memorial Day commemoration in the country had been planned. Museum president Jeff Clyman said such a public acknowledgment is rare.

"The knowledge that seven CIA personnel were killed at the hands of a terrorist compels us to pause and remember these patriots who fully understood the mortal danger they faced and yet deliberately went into harm's way to protect our homeland and our lives," Clyman said.

A CIA spokeswoman said it was the only memorial to all seven the agency has been told about.

The seven CIA employees and a Jordanian intelligence officer were killed when a suicide bomber detonated explosives at a tightly secured CIA base in Khost province, a dangerous region southeast of the Afghan capital, Kabul.

The CIA had cultivated the bomber, a Jordanian doctor, in hopes of obtaining information about al-Qaida's second in command, but he turned out to be a double agent.

Michael J. Sulick, director of the National Clandestine Service of the CIA, and U.S. Rep. Steve Israel participated in the Memorial Day service.

"The CIA is deeply grateful to the museum for honoring our colleagues who made the ultimate sacrifice in Afghanistan while courageously serving our nation," Sulick said. "I'm honored to represent the agency at the Memorial Day event, which promises to be a fitting tribute to their strength and dedication."

Bonuses offered for a healthier employee

At least a third of U.S. companies offer financial incentives, or are planning to introduce them, to get their employees to lose weight or take other steps to get healthier.

Incentive rewards offered to employees for healthier living, 2009				
	Offered today	Plan to offer in next 2-3 years	Plan to offer next year	Don't currently offer/have no plans to offer
Gifts, merchandise	52%	11	10	27
Raffles, drawings	43	11	9	37
Free or low cost preventive health services	46	7	10	38
Cash	33	6	6	55
Health insurance premium reductions	29	11	19	41
Employer-subsidized gym membership	33	4	12	51
Reimbursement for wellness classes	30	8	16	45
Contribution to flexible spending/health savings accounts	15	5	17	63
Vacation days, paid time off	11	6	13	70
Reduced health copayments	9	8	15	67

NOTE: 1,103 organizations from more than 45 countries, representing more than 10 million employees, responded to survey. Figures do not add to 100 due to rounding.

SOURCE: Buck Consultants

PRESCRIPTION ABUSE

Texas to monitor pain medications

Six Harris County doctors doled out addictive drug combo

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A Texas Department of Public Safety tracking system shows that six Harris County doctors rank among the top in prescribing three highly addictive drugs that officials say give users a “heroin high” when taken together.

DPS records show these six doctors had each written between 23,907 and 43,383 prescriptions for the ingredients for what has come to be known as the “Houston Cocktail.”

After a new state monitoring law took effect 20 months ago, pharmacies were required to report to the state all prescriptions that doctors write for those controlled substances.

Investigators are using those records to look at pain-management clinics that frequently write prescriptions for the cocktail.

Dr. C.M. Schade, a former president of the Texas Pain Society, said he knows of no legitimate medical reason for a doctor to prescribe all three drugs together.

“It’s a red flag that can be seen across the

country,” he told The Houston Chronicle.

The three drugs include: hydrocodone, a narcotic known by brand names like Vicodin; alprazolam, an anti-anxiety drug known as Xanax; and carisoprodol, a muscle relaxant known as Soma.

Authorities say customers can often be seen lining up around the block at pain-management clinics in Houston.

“Sometimes they hire security officers to handle the crowd. I’m not kidding,” said Schade, who said these clinics can easily earn \$1 million to \$3 million a year.

Louisiana adopted stringent laws between 2007 and 2009 to regulate and monitor pain clinics there. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration spokesperson Wendell Campbell said that’s when Louisiana customers started coming into Texas for the drugs.

“You can find one of these pain clinics in a strip center in five minutes,” said Tommy Hastings, a Houston attorney representing the families of four people who died of drug overdoses after going to Houston-area pain clinics.

Since Texas began monitoring prescriptions, five Houston doctors have been accused of conspiring to illegally distribute controlled substances at a dozen clinics.

One of them, Dr. Christina Clardy, had dispensed more than 3.5 million tablets of Vicodin, Xanax and Soma in one year.

Investigators allege that Clardy was paid thousands of dollars a month for presigned prescription pads used by two clinic operators. Both clinics where she served as medical director have since been shut down.

Clardy’s attorney, Chris Downey, told the Chronicle she looks forward to proving her innocence.

Schade said he believes new regulations taking effect in September will help cut down on the pain clinics that churn out prescriptions for the drugs.

The law require that clinics be certified by the Texas Medical Board if 50 percent of their patients get prescriptions for controlled substances. It also requires the clinics to be owned by a Texas doctor who must be on the premises for at least a third of the facility’s operating hours.

The Houston cocktail: a three-ingredient combo



Vicodin



Xanax



Soma

State officials say some Houston doctors are writing thousands of prescriptions monthly as patients go for a “heroin high.”

GRIFF SINGER/SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

TEXAS

Pair killed in shooting at strip club

Two men are dead after a shooting outside a Travis County strip club.

Sheriff’s spokesman Roger Wade said deputies were called to the Pink Monkey Cabaret early Monday morning and found two men who had been shot. One man died at the scene and the other at a local hospital.

Wade says witnesses and others who may have been involved were being interviewed Monday. None of the people involved have been identified.

Third victim dead in apartment fire

COCKRELL HILL, Texas — Officials say a third person has been found dead in the charred ruins of a Dallas-area apartment building.

Cockrell Hill Fire Marshal Robert de los Santos said investigators are still looking for the cause of Saturday’s fire in the town surrounded by Dallas.

Officials say the third victim’s body was discovered Sunday evening after family members called police that afternoon to report that a man was still missing after the fire.

The victims haven’t yet been identified.

Astros pitcher gets heave-ho

HOUSTON — Astros pitcher Roy Oswalt was ejected in the third inning of Monday’s game against Washington for arguing with home plate umpire Bill Hohn.

With Houston trailing 4-1, Oswalt missed the strike zone with a 2-2 pitch to Josh Willingham. He looked toward the first base line and yelled something, though it was unclear if Oswalt was snapping at Hohn or chastising himself.

Hohn took off his mask and yelled back at Oswalt. The pitcher responded, “I ain’t talking to you!” Hohn then ejected Oswalt. Catcher Humberto Quintero confronted the umpire and Houston Manager Brad Mills joined the conversation.

Oswalt has acknowledged his frustration with the Astros’ dismal start. His agent asked the team to trade him.

Rangers’ hurler on injury list

ARLINGTON — Texas Rangers left-hander Derek Holland is likely headed to the disabled list because of mild inflammation in his left rotator cuff.

The pitcher left in the second inning of his start Sunday night in Minnesota. Holland returned to Texas and was examined Monday by team physician Dr. Keith Meister.

The Rangers made no official move Monday, an off day. They open a three-game series Tuesday in Chicago against the White Sox.

Holland will remain in Texas and won’t throw for three to five days. Right-hander Pedro Strop could join the Rangers in Chicago.

Driver boycotts races in Texas

INDIANAPOLIS — IndyCar driver Davey Hamilton will not compete in Texas after de Ferran Dragon Racing decided to run just one of its damaged cars Saturday.

Hamilton was knocked out of Sunday’s Indianapolis 500 before completing a lap. He blamed the driving tactics of South African Tomas Scheckter for the wreck.

The team’s other driver, Raphael Matos, also hit the wall after completing 72 laps.

Hamilton has not started a race outside of Indianapolis since being seriously injured in a 2001 crash at Texas. After 21 operations before climbing back into the cockpit, Hamilton has competed in four Indy 500s since 2001.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARALYZED POET

Finding a voice with ‘Echoing Faith’

VINCENT T. DAVIS
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — When the words came, they revealed the voice of a poet.

It’s been that way for 20-year-old Terrence Ealoms since he was 15, looking for a way to slip free from years of adversity.

The words freed him.

But, he needed someone to transcribe his thoughts.

Terrence, a quadriplegic, is paralyzed from the neck down. His nurses, physical therapists, foster mother and English teacher, Ben Curtiss, wrote his thoughts for him.

“It kind of shocked me,” Terrence said. “I didn’t think I had it in me; it helped me deal with life better.”

His first poems flowed from the depression of a young boy locked in a body stilled with the cruel swoop of a car crash.

Later, with the aid of around-the-clock care from family and nurses, he scraped the dark tones from the words and added the luster of life. Twenty-eight of Terrence’s poems fill the pages of his first book, “Echoing Faith,” published by Healthy Learning publications.

The book’s dedication reads: “To every child in foster care, in your journey through the oftentimes dark tunnel that is depression. May the love that you find renew your echoing faith.”

One of eight foster children taken in by Judy and Stephen

Foster, Terrence has inspired his family, classmates and faculty at Stevens High School with his spirit.

An underage driver struck then-7-year-old Terrence and a childhood friend walking near College Station, leaving him with a spinal cord injury. He was in a coma and on life support for four months.

Overwhelmed by Terrence’s injuries, his birth mother relinquished his care to the state foster-care system. Terrence’s father, Milton Patterson, has been in prison since he was an infant.

From ages 7 to 12, Terrence moved through foster and nursing homes around Texas, never staying more than three months at one location. His caregivers couldn’t bear his rage and depression.

When Judy and Stephen Foster met Terrence at a hospital 12 years ago, he was giving a nurse a fit. Stephen Foster didn’t think they could take him.

Judy did. She liked kids with spirit after years as a head nurse. Terrence stayed with the Foster family in Tyler for two and a half years but wasn’t emotionally ready to become part of a family.

Three years ago, the Fosters brought him back into their lives as their foster son. Terrence brought his raw poems to Curtiss three years ago, but then Terrence was diagnosed with heart problems, forcing him to miss two months of school.

Family members say doctors gave Terrence two years to live, but he’s made it for longer than that.

Terrence wrote a “bucket list” of things he wanted to accomplish before he died. Sharing his poems in a book was one of his goals.



KIN MAN HUI / SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

Terrence Ealoms, 20, has shared his struggles through motivational talks at schools. Ealoms, who was struck by a car and paralyzed from the neck down, published “Echoing Faith,” a collection of 28 original poems.

Curtiss created a curriculum they followed four hours a week in Terrence’s bedroom. They agreed Terrence would never hold back or lie, and Curtiss pledged to never steer the work.

Among life-sustaining equipment threaded across Terrence’s room, the off-and-on hiss of a ventilator machine punctuated his rhymes.

They reached out to Terrence’s biological father in prison, who drew the illustrations in his book.

The Fosters found a self-publisher to make the item on his list a reality.

Since its publication, Terrence has shared his prose and motivational talks with fellow students, teachers and administrators at his school, where they call him “T.” After his first session with Terrence, Curtiss knew he was living a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

“Some teachers teach an entire career and never have this,” he said.

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE

Teenagers build backyard coaster

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — It seemed simple to two high school seniors with few limits on their independent study project: They’d build a roller coaster.

Almost \$1,500 and 4,000 screws later, a 10-foot-tall wooden ride covers the side of Nathan Rubin’s house. The Predator, one of the few backyard coasters in the country, darts down a straight track into what used to be Cindy Rubin’s pond.

The project came out of an unusual class in the Frisco Independent School District that aims to teach students how to interact with the professional world as they inch toward careers of their own.

“You learn how to be taken seriously rather than just as a high school student,” said Rubin, a Liberty High 18-year-

old who designed the structure with Frisco High counterpart Ian Mair.

Rubin, who admits to an obsession with these thrill-producers, pitched the idea to Mair last summer. The pair thought they could twist through loops necessary to feed their mechanical interests in their Independent Study and Mentorship class.

“We figured anything is possible with this program,” Mair, 18, said. “The opportunities tend to arise if you look for them.”

Five hundred hours later, Cindy Rubin saw a functioning roller coaster in her yard.

“Do you know what a mess I had to put up with? They tore up my whole backyard,” Rubin said. “But everyone has their passion, and that’s Nathan’s. You can’t deny someone that.”

BLASTING OFF



SERGEY PONOMAREV / ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASA astronauts Doug Wheelock and Shannon Walker and Russian commander Fyodor Yurchikhin told reporters they will take off for the orbiting outpost in a Russian Soyuz spacecraft on June 16. The next U.S.-Russian crew for the International Space Station said Monday in Moscow they are fully ready for their mission, although they initially flunked one of their tests.

INTERNATIONAL

German president resigns

BERLIN – President Horst Koehler stunned Germans by resigning Monday after being criticized for appearing to link military deployments abroad with the country's economic interests.

The resignation, effective immediately, came a year into Koehler's second term as the largely ceremonial head of state. Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right alliance installed the former International Monetary Fund boss as president in 2004, and his departure is a symbolic blow.

"I was surprised by his phone call and I tried to talk him around, but unfortunately I didn't succeed," Merkel said. "I think people in Germany will be very sad about this resignation."

Bremen Mayor Jens Boehrsen, a member of the opposition party, temporarily takes over presidential duties. A new president must be elected within 30 days.

Al-Qaida leader turns self in

ALGIERS, Algeria – Algeria's Interior Ministry says a leader of al-Qaida's North Africa offshoot has turned himself in to authorities.

The ministry says Atmane Touati – alias Abu El Abbas – gave up after his wife "convinced her husband to abandon the criminal horde and come home."

The 37-year-old allegedly took part in a long-running Islamic insurgency against the government in the 1990s and was seen as an ideological leader of the Algeria-based affiliate of al-Qaida.

The ministry said Touati became one of four members of al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, or AQMI, to turn himself in recently.

The statement said the defections pointed to the "ruin and disarray" within a movement nearly in a phase of "every man for himself."

Aeromexico flight diverted

MONTREAL – Canadian authorities identified a man arrested on an Aeromexico flight from Paris to Mexico City that was forced to divert to Montreal after U.S. authorities refused to let the plane use U.S. airspace.

Abdirahman Ali Gaall was arrested Sunday under an outstanding warrant at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport, said Robert Gervais, an Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada spokesman.

The Canada Border Services Agency confirmed Monday the passenger was on a U.S. no-fly list and said the man was known to them.

A spokesman for Canada Border Services, Dominique McNeely, said the man was being detained in Montreal and that a detention hearing would be held in the next 48 hours.

Director del Toro quits 'Hobbit'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand – Hollywood director Guillermo del Toro said Monday that production delays have forced him to quit the planned film version of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Hobbit," a two-part prequel to New Zealand filmmaker Peter Jackson's blockbuster trilogy "Lord of the Rings."

"In light of ongoing delays in the setting of a start date for filming 'The Hobbit,' I am faced with the hardest decision of my life," del Toro told a "Lord of the Rings" fan website.

"After nearly two years of living, breathing and designing a world as rich as Tolkien's Middle Earth, I must, with great regret, take leave from helming these wonderful pictures," del Toro said.

He added that the film still hadn't been given the green light by MGM, the struggling Hollywood studio.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

HURRICANE SEASON

Long-suffering face more pain



Tropical storm levels Guatemalan infrastructure

Border bridge collapses

Guatemalans survey the damage on the Arce Bridge, above, in La Hachadura, El Salvador. Torrential rains from Tropical Storm Agatha washed out roads, isolating devastated communities on the Guatemalan border.

After the storm

Guatemalans cover victims' coffins in Santa Apolonia, right. Many of the small town's residents were killed in mudslides.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



LUIS ECHEVERRIA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

An aerial view of Escuintla, Guatemala, shows the flood damage from Agatha.

Central America crumbles under Agatha's wrath

JUAN CARLOS LLORCA

Associated Press

GUATEMALA CITY — Flooding and landslides from the season's first tropical storm have killed at least 142 people and left thousands homeless in Central America. Dozens of people are still missing, and emergency crews are struggling to reach isolated communities cut off by washed-out roads and collapsed bridges caused by Tropical Storm Agatha.

The sun emerged Monday in hardest-hit Guatemala, where officials reported 118 dead and 53 missing.

"It was raining really hard, and there was a huge noise," said Vicente Azcay, 56, who saw a hill crumble outside the tiny village of Parajbei.

Volunteers from nearby villages worked nonstop since Sunday to recover the bodies in Parajbei, and on Monday they found the last two: brothers, 4 and 8 years old, who were buried under tons of dirt, rocks and trees.

As a thank-you, rescuers got a plate of rice and beans from the mayor of Santa Apolonia.

"It's a small thing, but it comes from the heart," Mayor Tulio Nunez told them through a translator.

Nunez said he worried about the well-being of survivors in the area because the landslides blocked roads and burst water pipes.

In all, some 110,000 people were evacuated in Guatemala.

Thousands more have fled their homes in neighboring Honduras, where the death toll rose to 15 even as meteorologists predicted three more days of rain. Two dams near the capital of Tegucigalpa overflowed into a nearby river.

In El Salvador, at least 179 landslides have been reported, and 11,000 people were evacuated. The death toll was nine, President Mauricio Funes said.

Agatha made landfall near the Guatemala-Mexico border Saturday as a tropical storm with winds up to 45 mph. It dissipated the following day over the mountains of Western Guatemala.

Rescue efforts in Guatemala have been complicated by a volcanic eruption Thursday near the capital that blanketed parts of the area with ash and closed the country's main airport.

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS FREDDY CUEVAS IN TEGUCIGALPA, HONDURAS, AND DIEGO MENDEZ IN SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR, CONTRIBUTED .

Haiti braces for wet season

BEN FOX

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — A hurricane season predicted to be one of the wettest on record opens today in the Caribbean, where hundreds of thousands of Haitian earthquake victims have only tarps or fraying tents to protect them.

The Haitian government, which had five months to prepare, says it's still working on emergency and evacuation plans.

But it is unclear where people will go with many churches, schools and other potential shelters toppled by the quake.

Since the Jan. 12 earthquake killed up to 300,000 people and left more than 1.5 million homeless, there has been little progress on clearing rubble so people can return to their neighborhoods or start building sturdier shelters.

The moderate spring rains that drench Port-au-Prince almost daily already leave camp residents up to their knees in putrid water.

Claudia Toussaint, a 24-year-old camped near a golf course, dug a shallow channel in the dirt under her tarp in a futile effort to keep water away from her mattress.

"When it rains, we don't have anywhere to go, we don't have any-

We don't need a hurricane to have problems in Haiti, we just need three or four days of continuous rain to have serious problems.

—PRIME MINISTER JEAN-MAX BELLERIVE

where to sleep," she said. "We just get soaked."

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted as many as 23 named tropical storms, which would make this season one of the more active on record. The quake has forced

Haiti to update its storm contingency plans, said Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive, including positioning emergency food and equipment.

"We don't need a hurricane to have problems in Haiti, we just need three or four days of continuous rain to have serious problems," he said. Bellerive added that the country's condition remains "fragile," even though aid groups and government officials have said since the quake that flooding is a major looming disaster.

Many are taking a do-it-yourself approach — adding corrugated steel and plywood to homes first constructed from a few bed sheets and plastic tarps. Leon Louis was confident about his prospects as he set up a shanty in the Champs de Mars, the capital's central plaza.

"The rain might fall, but we'll be in a stable place," Louis said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS JONATHAN M. KATZ AND YESICA FISCH CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

AFGHANS TO DISCUSS PEACE

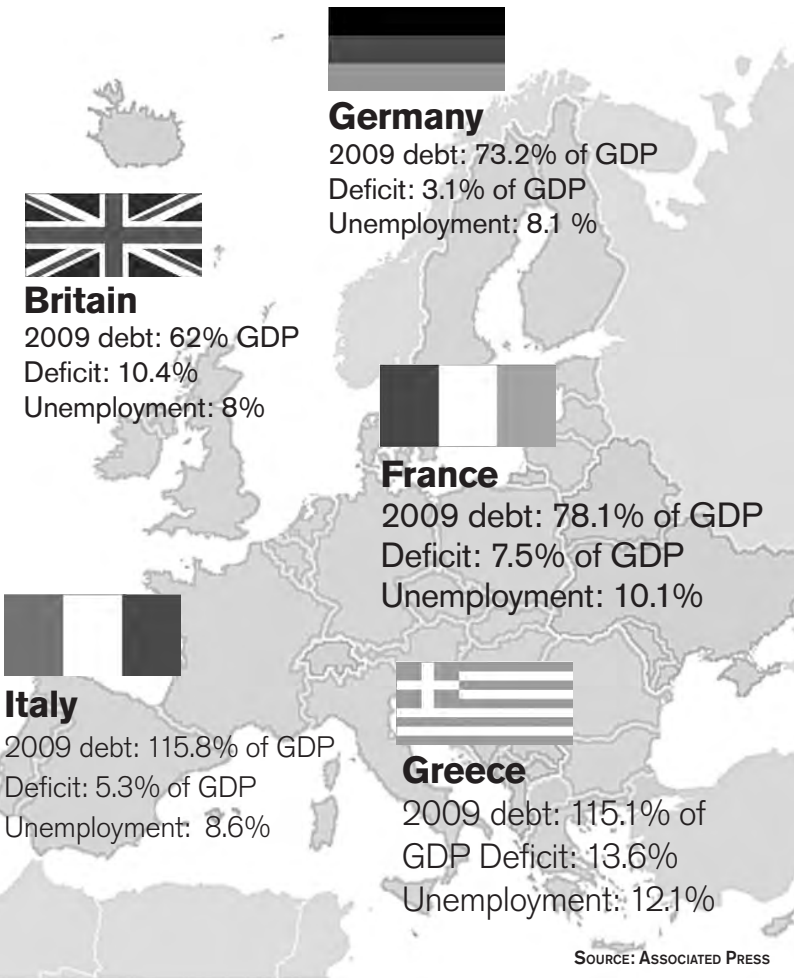


MUSADEQ SADEQ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan laborers wait to be hired in front of a peace conference billboard in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday. After two delays, President Hamid Karzai is rolling out his program to lure Taliban and other insurgent fighters off the battlefield, addressing a three-day conference starting Wednesday aimed at building a national consensus on how to end the nearly nine-year war. About 1,600 Afghans are expected to convene for the meeting.

Europe's debt at a glance

Europe's governments are struggling to deal with a mountain of debt made worse by the past three years of global financial and economic turmoil.



GULF OIL SPILL



ERIC HOFFMAYER / GULF COAST RESEARCH LAB

Mysteries of the deep



LUKE PINNEO / U.S. COAST GUARD

TOP: Whale sharks in the Gulf of Mexico are particularly vulnerable to oil because they feed from the water's surface. **ABOVE:** Sharon Taylor of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Coast Guard Officer Andrew Anderson monitor

birds on a Coast Guard aircraft Sunday. Four brown pelicans, one laughing gull and one Northern Gannet were found oiled near Louisiana's coast, cleaned at Fort Jackson, La., and transported to St. Petersburg, Fla., for their release.

Oil could unravel Gulf's ecosystem for years

MATTHEW BROWN
Associated Press

Independent scientists and government officials say there's a disaster we can't see in the Gulf of Mexico's mysterious depths, the ruin of a world inhabited by enormous sperm whales and tiny, invisible plankton.

Researchers have said they found at least two massive underwater plumes of what appears to be oil, each hundreds of feet deep and stretching for miles. Yet the chief executive of BP PLC — which has for weeks downplayed everything from the amount of oil spewing into the Gulf to the environmental impact — said there is “no evidence” that huge amounts of oil are suspended undersea.

BP chief executive Tony Hayward said the oil naturally gravitates to the surface — and any oil below was just making its way up. However, researchers say the disaster in waters where light doesn't shine through could ripple across the food chain.

“Every fish and invertebrate contacting the oil is probably dying. I have no doubt about that,” said Prosanta Chakrabarty, a Louisiana State University fish biologist.

On the surface, a 24-hour camera fixed on the spewing, blown-out well and the images of dead, oil-soaked birds have been evidence of the calam-



NICK AMEEN / U.S. COAST GUARD

Sharon Taylor releases a Northern Gannet at the Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge near St. Petersburg, Fla., on Sunday.

ity. But there is no camera to capture what happens in the rest of the vast Gulf, which sprawls across 600,000 square miles and reaches more than 14,000 feet at its deepest point.

Every night, the denizens of the deep make forays to shallower depths to eat — and be eaten by — other fish, according to marine scientists who describe it as the largest migration on earth.

In turn, several species closest to the surface — including red snapper,

shrimp and menhaden — help drive the Gulf Coast fishing industry. Others such as marlin, cobia and yellowfin tuna sit atop the food chain and are chased by the Gulf's charter fishing fleet.

Many of those species are now in their annual spawning seasons. Eggs exposed to oil would quickly perish. Those that survived to hatch could starve if the plankton at the base of the food chain suffer. Larger fish are more resilient, but not immune to the

toxic effects of oil. The Gulf's largest spill was in 1979, when the Ixtoc I platform off Mexico's Yucatan peninsula released 140 million gallons of oil. That was in relatively shallow waters — about 160 feet deep — and much of the oil stayed on the surface where it broke down and became less toxic by the time it reached the Texas coast. Last week, a team from the University of South Florida reported a plume was headed toward the continental shelf off the Alabama coastline, waters thick with fish and other marine life.

The researchers said oil in the plumes had dissolved into the water, possibly a result of chemical dispersants used to break up the spill. That makes it more dangerous to fish larvae and creatures that are filter feeders.

While no major fish kills have been reported, federal officials said the impacts could take years to unfold.

“This is just a giant experiment going on and we're trying to understand scientifically what this means,” said Roger Helm, a senior official with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“There are species out there that haven't been described, and they're going to disappear.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER JASON DEAREN
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT FROM
SAN FRANCISCO.



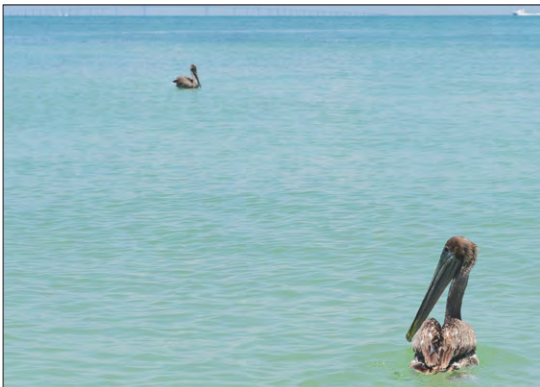
LUKE PINNEO / U.S. COAST GUARD

Taylor and Anderson observe a sea turtle that was found on the Louisiana coast.



NICK AMEEN / U.S. COAST GUARD

A brown pelican is released at the Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge near St. Petersburg, Fla.



NICK AMEEN / U.S. COAST GUARD

Two brown pelicans swim at the refuge after the Coast Guard rescued and took them to Louisiana.

BY THE NUMBERS

400 Wildlife species threatened by the spill • **AT LEAST 30** Species of birds the Audubon Society says are potentially threatened • **25 MILLION** Birds traverse the Gulf Coast per day and are potentially at risk • **494** Dead birds have been found • **69** Oiled birds have been taken to rescue centers along the Gulf • **102** School gymnasiums could theoretically be filled floor-to-ceiling with oil from the spill

SOURCES: New Orleans Times-Picayune, Audubon Society, LA Times Greenpeace Blog, The New York Times, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

Feds to investigate oil spill



GERALD HERBERT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of the Louisiana National Guard hook up sandbags to helicopters for shore barriers against the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in Buras, La. Four states reported oil on their coastlines. Meanwhile, BP stocks fell drastically.

BP’s stock nose-dives by 15%

GREG BLUESTEIN
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — BP’s stock plummeted and took much of the market down with it Tuesday as the federal government announced criminal and civil investigations into the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

BP engineers, meanwhile, tried to recover from a failed attempt to stop the gusher with an effort that will initially make the leak worse.

Attorney General Eric Holder, who was visiting the Gulf to survey the fragile coastline and meet with state and federal prosecutors, would not say who might be targeted in the probes into the largest oil spill in U.S. history.

“We will closely examine the actions of those involved in the spill. If we find evidence of illegal behavior, we will be extremely forceful in our response,” Holder said in New Orleans.

BP’s stock nose-dived on Tuesday, losing nearly 15 percent of its value on the first trading day since the previous best option — the so-called “top kill” — failed and was aborted at the government’s direction. It dipped steeply with Holder’s late-afternoon



CHARLES DHARAPAK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama walks with BP Oil Spill Commission co-chairs, former Florida Sen. Bob Graham, right, and former EPA Administrator William Reilly. The federal government announced criminal investigations into the oil spill.

announcement, which also sent other energy stocks tumbling, ultimately causing the Dow Jones industrial average to tumble 112 points.

After six weeks of failures to block the well or divert the oil, BP was using robotic machines to carve into the twisted appendages of the crippled well. The latest attempt involved using tools resembling an oversized deli slicer and garden shears to break away the broken riser pipe so engineers can then position a cap over the well’s opening.

Even if it succeeds, it will temporarily increase the flow of an already massive leak by 20 percent — at least 100,000 gallons more a day.

“It is an engineer’s nightmare,” said Ed Overton, a Louisiana State University professor of environmental sciences. “They’re trying to fit a 21-inch cap over a 20-inch pipe a mile away. That’s just horrendously hard to do. It’s not like you and I standing on the ground pushing — they’re using little

Please see SPILL, Page 2

EPA seeks ‘Titanic’ director

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — “Top kill” didn’t stop the Gulf oil spill. How about something “titanic”?

Federal officials are hoping film director James Cameron can help them come up with ideas on how to stop the disastrous oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The “Avatar” and “Titanic” director was among a group of scientists and other experts who met Tuesday with officials from the Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies for a brainstorming session on stopping the massive oil leak.

The Canadian-born Cameron is considered an expert on underwater filming and remote vehicle technologies. “Avatar” and “Titanic” are the two highest-grossing films of all time.

SUPREME COURT

Court restricts right to silence

Suspects must inform police if they do not wish to speak

JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Want to invoke your right to remain silent? You’ll have to speak up.

In a narrowly split decision, the Supreme Court’s conservative majority expanded its limits on the famous Miranda rights for criminal suspects on Tuesday — over new Justice Sonia Sotomayor’s dissent, which said the ruling turned Americans’ rights of protection from police abuse “upside down.”

Justice Anthony Kennedy, who wrote the majority opinion, said a suspect who goes ahead and talks to police after being informed he doesn’t have to has waived his right to remain silent. Elena Kagan, who has been nominated by President Barack Obama to join the court, sided with the police as U.S. solicitor general when the case came before the court. She would replace Justice John Paul Stevens, one of the dissenters.

A right to remain silent and a right to a lawyer are at the top of the warnings that police recite to suspects during arrests and interrogations.

But Tuesday’s majority said suspects must break their silence and tell police they will remain quiet to stop an interrogation, just as they must tell police they want a lawyer.

This decision means police can keep questioning a suspect who refuses to talk in hopes that the person will crack and give them some information, said Richard Friedman, a University of Michigan law professor.

“It’s a little bit less restraint that the officers have to show,” Friedman said.

The ruling comes in a case in which a suspect, Van Chester Thompkins, remained mostly silent for a three-hour police interrogation before implicating himself in a Jan. 10, 2000, murder in Southfield, Mich. He appealed his conviction, saying he had invoked his Miranda right to remain silent by remaining silent. Kennedy, writing the decision for the court’s conservatives, said that wasn’t enough. “Thompkins did not say that he wanted to remain silent or that he did not want

Please see COURT, Page 2

BUSINESS

Dell CEO earnings decrease by half

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWYORK — Michael Dell, CEO of computer maker Dell Inc., was awarded compensation valued at \$963,623 in fiscal year 2010, a 54 percent decrease from \$2.1 million in the previous year, according to an Associated Press analysis of a regulatory filing.

Dell’s base salary climbed 2 percent to \$950,000 from \$931,731 in 2009, according to the proxy statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Nearly all of the decline in his compensation package was due to security expenses. Dell received \$1.2 million for personal and home security in 2009 but not in 2010.

Dell Inc. spokesman David Frink said Michael Dell made the decision to stop receiving compensation for security not directly related to business.

The CEO also was awarded \$12,500 in retirement plan matching contributions, up from \$11,500 a year earlier. He received \$1,123 in benefit plans, up from \$1,081.

Dell, the world’s No. 3 PC maker, posted a net income of \$1.43 billion in fiscal 2010, down 42 percent from a year earlier.

Revenue fell 13 percent to \$52.9 billion for the year, which ended Jan. 29.

Shares of Round Rock, Texas-based Dell rose 36 percent during the year to close at \$12.90 on Jan. 29.

GORES SEPARATE



DOUG MILLS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, are separating after 40 years of marriage, saying they “grew apart.” Gore kisses Tipper during a campaign rally at the University of Michigan in Dearborn, Mich., on Nov. 5, 2000. See full story on page 3.

MILITARY

Attorneys win delay in Fort Hood shooter case

ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — Wearing his Army uniform and sitting solemnly in a wheelchair, the psychiatrist accused of gunning down 13 people at Fort Hood made his first courtroom appearance Tuesday and won a delay in his case.

Maj. Nidal Hasan, who was paralyzed after being shot by two Fort Hood police officers, only spoke when answering questions about the proceedings with a soft: “Yes, sir.”

His attorneys sought a delay in his Article 32 hearing because they needed more time to review reams of documents they recently received and still lacked other key documents, including the FBI ballistics report and a government review on the Nov. 5 shootings.

The Article 32 hearing is similar to a civilian grand jury proceeding in which a judge hears witness testimony to determine whether the case should go to trial.

The hearing is set for Oct. 4.

Hasan is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the worst shooting on a U.S. military post.

Before Hasan

Tuesday’s one-hour hearing, Hasan was flanked by military police as he rolled his wheelchair into the courtroom and up to the defense table. One of his attorneys said Hasan was cold, and later an attorney draped a large seafoam-green blanket around his shoulders. Hasan pulled it tightly against him and sometimes covered his nose with it during the proceed-



Hasan

ing.

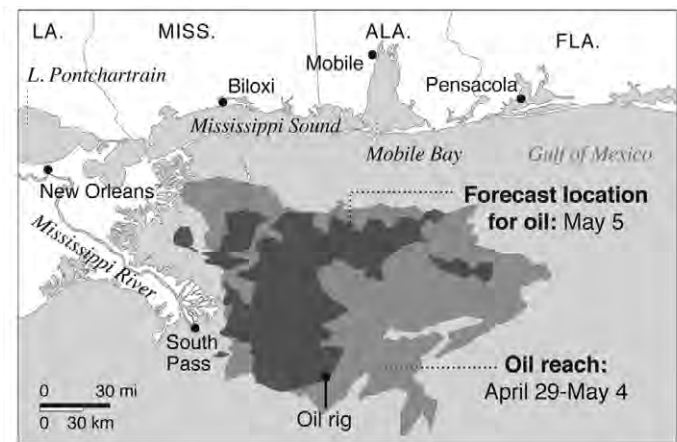
He answered “yes, sir” or “I understand, sir” when asked if he understood his rights, if he had read the charges against him and if he knew his right to a speedy trial.

Officials had increased security at Fort Hood on Tuesday, blocking off the road to the court building, having bomb-sniffing dogs search the parking lot and using hand-held metal detectors to screen the few people approved to be in the court. Usually, none of those precautions are taken.

Col. Michael Mulligan, the lead prosecutor, objected to delaying the Article 32 and said prosecutors would be ready to proceed in July. He said prosecutors did not yet have the FBI ballistics report or government review but would continue working to provide those to the defense.

Col. James L. Pohl, a military judge who

Please see DELAY, Page 2



Gulf oil spill by the numbers	
1	Length in miles of a tube put into place on May 15 to funnel crude oil from the leaking well into a tanker
10	Length in miles of the largest undersea plumes of oil scientists have spotted in the Gulf of Mexico since the explosion
11	Number of workers killed in the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon rig on April 20
48	Distance in miles of the blown-out well from the Louisiana coast
100	Weight in tons of a container that was lowered over the blown-out well in a failed attempt to cap the spill
100	Percentage of cleanup costs BP has promised to pay
5,000	Depth of the blown-out well in feet
42,000	Gallons of crude oil that BP estimates is funnelled per day into a tanker
210,000	Gallons of oil that BP and the U.S. Coast Guard estimate is spewing into the Gulf every day from the leak
10,000,000	Dollars BP estimates it is spending per day on cleanup costs
500,000,000	Dollars BP estimates it has spent so far on cleanup costs
6,100,000,000	Dollar amount of BP's first quarter 2010 profit

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPILL: Oil has hit four states

—Continued from Page 1

robots to do this.” The operation has never been performed in such deep water, and is similar to an earlier failed attempt that used a larger cap that quickly froze up. BP PLC officials said they were applying lessons learned from the earlier effort, and plan to pump warm water through pipes into the smaller dome to prevent any icing problems.

“If all goes as planned, within about 24 hours we could have this contained,” BP’s Doug Suttles said Tuesday after touring a temporary housing facility set up for cleanup workers in Grand Isle. “But we can’t guarantee success.”

Since the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded on April 20, killing 11 workers and eventually collapsing into the Gulf of Mexico, an estimated 20 million to 40 million gallons of oil have spewed.

Oil has fouled many fishing areas and miles of ecologically sensitive coastline. Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said oil from the spill was found in his state for the first time, on

a barrier island, and newly expanded federal restrictions mean that nearly a third of federal waters are closed to fishing.

Red-brown oil is surfacing on an Alabama island near the mouth of Mobile Bay, off the Florida coast near Pensacola Beach and on an island near the Mississippi-Alabama border. The discovery means Louisiana, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi have all been hit by oil.

President Barack Obama on Tuesday ordered the co-chairmen of an independent commission investigating the spill to thoroughly examine the disaster, “to follow the facts wherever they lead, without fear or favor.” The commission is led by Bob Graham, a former Florida governor and U.S. senator, and William K. Reilly, a former head of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Holder said the laws under review for the criminal and civil probes include the Clean Water Act, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act. He said the government would pursue criminal charges “if warranted,” a caveat he did not include for civil action.

We will closely examine the actions of those involved in the spill. If we find evidence of illegal behavior, we will be extremely forceful in our response.

—Attorney General Eric Holder

IMMIGRATION

Layoffs force Hispanics to leave

PERLA TREVIZO
Chattanooga Times Free Press

DALTON, Ga. — The feeling that the town is emptying out coupled with a lack of jobs is pushing people like Jesus Saldana to seriously consider relocating, even if it means leaving the place they’ve called home for years.

“There used to be a lot of things going on and there used to be jobs, now there are none,” said the 24-year-old California native, who moved to Dalton when he was 16.

“You used to see people, cars coming up and down the street. Even on the weekend there’s no people on the streets,” he said, standing across from his friend’s home in the Walnut Creek Apartments complex, off Fourth Avenue.

There’s anecdotal evidence that people, especially Hispanics, are leaving the Dalton area, although no one knows for sure how many.

“We’ve had a sharp downturn in the economy, as everybody is facing at the moment,” said Dalton Mayor David Pennington. “What is somewhat different here is that recent immigrants, Latinos for the most part, came here for jobs, established here, and when the layoffs started, what we’ve seen is that many have left.”

The unemployment rate in the Dalton Metropolitan Statistical area decreased to 12.6 percent in March, down from 13 percent in January, but it remains among the highest in Georgia.

Nationwide, there’s been a decrease in the number of unauthorized immigrants, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Pew Hispanic Center. Between January 2007 and January 2009, the number of illegal immigrants decreased by 1 million, from 11.8 million to 10.8 million.

In Georgia, the number of illegal immigrants has fluctuated. It went down from 490,000 in 2007 to 460,000 in 2008 and increased to 480,000 in 2009, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Most experts agree that the recession is closely linked to the declining number of illegal immigrants, especially since many of the job losses are in the construction industry, typically a place of employment



ALLISON KWESSELL / CHATTANOOGA TIMES

Jesus Saldana, 24, stands outside the Walnut Creek Apartments where he was visiting a friend in Dalton, Ga. Saldana has been unemployed for the last two years. He is planning on moving to California this summer, hoping to find more job opportunities there. Nationwide, there’s been a decrease in the number of unauthorized immigrants, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Pew Hispanic Center.

for those who have recently arrived.

For the Dalton area, Whitfield and Murray counties, the number of residential foreclosures more than doubled from three years ago.

From May 2007 through November 2007, there were 123 foreclosures filed, said Gaile Jennings, executive director of the Dalton-Whitfield Community Development Corp. From October 2009 to March 2010, there were 470, she said.

“Prior to those six months (in 2007), we would have like five a year,” she said. “I was shocked and scared seeing the trend then, now look where we are.”

And she believes it will still be a while before the housing market stabilizes in Northwest Georgia.

At its high point, Dalton had close to 50,000 people, Pennington said; now it’s probably around 40,000. As a result of a large number of people leaving, he said retail sales are not as strong as before, so

the city has lost tax dollars.

“A lot of people have left to other states like Texas or California, where they have relatives,” said the Rev. Juan de Dios Oliveros, one of two priests at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church, which has a large Hispanic congregation.

Mass attendance decreased about 20 percent since 2008, he said, when there would be more than 200 people standing during Mass because there was no more room to sit.

“There’s also been a lot of deportations of the mom or dad and the whole family leaves,” he added.

The number of confirmations and first holy communions at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church almost doubled from 2005 to 2009, said Rev. Paul Williams.

“To me that’s an indication of families who can be here on a two-year commitment and they intend to be here for a long time,” he said.

COURT: Sotomayor wrote dissenting view

—Continued from Page 1

to talk to police,” Kennedy said. “Had he made either of these simple, unambiguous statements, he would have invoked his ‘right to cut off questioning.’ Here he did neither, so he did not invoke his right to remain silent.”

He was joined in the 5-4 opinion by Chief Justice John Roberts and justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito. Prosecutors cheered the decision, saying it takes the guesswork out of when police have to stop questioning suspects.

“Is it too much to ask for a criminal suspect to say he doesn’t want to talk to police?” said Scott Burns, executive director of the National District Attorneys Association.

This is the third time this session the Supreme Court has placed limits on Miranda rights.

Earlier this term, the high court ruled a suspect’s request for a lawyer is good for only 14 days after the person is released from police custody — the first time the court has placed a time limit on a request for a lawyer — and that police do not have to explicitly tell suspects they have a right to a lawyer during an interrogation.

For Justice Sotomayor, deciding to make suspects speak to have the right to remain silent was a step too far. Sotomayor wrote a strongly worded dissent for the court’s liberals. “Criminal suspects must now unambiguously invoke their right to remain silent — which counterintuitively

“You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to an attorney. If you cannot afford an attorney, one will be appointed to you. Do you understand these rights as they have been read to you?”

Miranda rights explained

History: In *Miranda v. Arizona*, the Supreme Court found that the rights of Ernesto Arturo Miranda had been violated during his arrest and trial for rape and kidnapping.

Case outcome: Miranda was subsequently retried, found guilty and sentenced to 20–30 years.

Results: The Supreme Court stated that the person in custody must, prior to interrogation, be clearly informed he or she has the right to remain silent.

SOURCE: STIGALL, DAN E., COUNTERTERRORISM AND THE COMPARATIVE LAW OF INVESTIGATIVE DETENTION

requires them to speak,” she said. “At the same time, suspects will be legally presumed to have waived their rights even if they have given no clear expression of their intent to do so. Those results, in my view, find no basis in *Miranda* or our subsequent cases and are inconsistent with the fair-trial principles on which those

precedents are grounded.”

She was joined in her dissent by Stevens, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer.

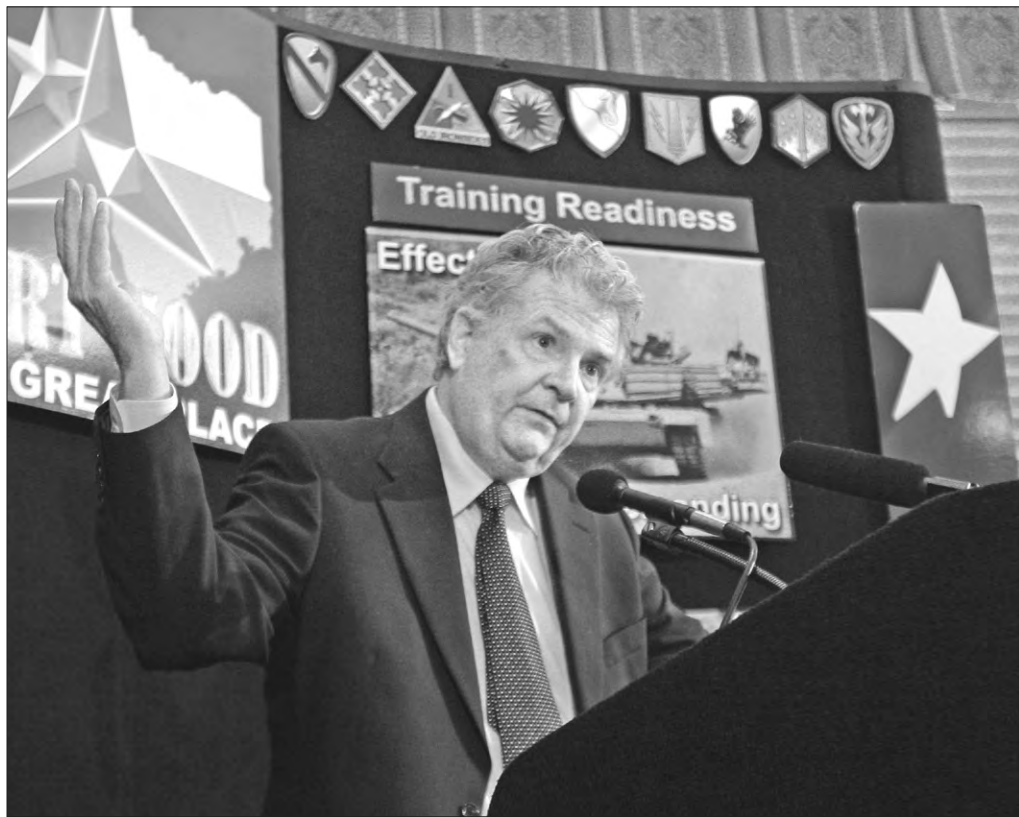
Supreme Court nominee Kagan had sided with the police in this case. As solicitor general, she told the Supreme Court that the Constitution “does not require that the police interpret ambiguous statements as invocations of *Miranda* rights.”

“An unambiguous-invocation requirement for the right to remain silent and terminate questioning strikes the appropriate balance between protecting the suspect’s rights and permitting valuable police investigation,” Kagan wrote in court papers.

Thompkins was arrested for murder in 2001 and questioned by police for three hours. At the beginning, he was read his *Miranda* rights and said he understood. The officers in the room said Thompkins said little during the interrogation, occasionally answering “yes,” “no,” “I don’t know,” nodding his head and making eye contact as his responses. But when one of the officers asked him if he prayed for forgiveness for “shooting that boy down,” Thompkins said, “Yes.”

He was convicted, but on appeal he wanted that statement thrown out because he said he had invoked his *Miranda* rights by being uncommunicative with the interrogating officers.

The Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati agreed and threw out his confession and conviction. The high court reversed that decision.



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Galligan, defense attorney for Maj. Nidal Hasan, talks to media following a hearing Tuesday in Fort Hood, Texas. Hasan’s attorneys won their request Tuesday for a delay in his next hearing, scheduled for Oct. 4. The hearing is similar to a civilian grand jury proceeding.

DELAY: Hearing set for Oct. 4

—Continued from Page 1

is acting as the investigating officer in the case, said he planned to call the 32 injured victims as witnesses during the Article 32 hearing.

Pohl said that while authorities have not decided whether to seek the death penalty, he was asked to investigate whether Hasan’s case had any aggravating factors — which are only relevant in death penalty cases. Pohl said he then asked prosecutors about it, which is why they sent a notice last month to defense attorney John Galligan outlining one aggravating factor: multiple deaths in the same incident.

If convicted, Hasan could be sentenced to death only if the military jurors determine there is an aggravating factor, according to military law.

Hasan is awaiting a mental evaluation, to be conducted sometime after the Article 32 hearing. Doctors will determine whether Hasan had a severe mental illness at the time of the shooting. If so, they will offer a clinical psychological diagnosis and determine whether it prevented Hasan from knowing his alleged actions were wrong at the time, and if he is competent to stand trial, according to military law.

While Tuesday’s hearing was the second for Hasan, it was the first time he’d appeared in a Fort Hood courtroom. His initial hearing — two



PAT LOPEZ / WFAA

This courtroom sketch shows Maj. Nidal Hasan, left, seated in a wheelchair during a pre-trial hearing in Fort Hood, Texas. The psychiatrist accused of gunning down 13 people at Fort Hood made his first courtroom appearance Tuesday and won a delay in his case.

weeks after the shootings — was held in his hospital room at San Antonio’s Brooke Army Medical Center.

Hasan was treated at the San Antonio facility until his April transfer to the Bell County Jail, which houses military suspects for nearby Fort Hood. The military justice system does not have bail for defendants.

NATIONAL

Koppel's son found dead in N.Y.

NEW YORK — The 40-year-old son of former ABC News anchor Ted Koppel was found dead in an apartment in Upper Manhattan after a day of bar-hopping with Russell Wimberly, a man he met at a watering hole, a law-enforcement official said Tuesday.

Wimberly said Koppel drank whiskey and that neither man had anything to eat all day.

Andrew Koppel was declared dead around 1:30 a.m. Monday in the apartment in the Washington Heights neighborhood, Detective John Sweeney said. The cause of death has not been determined.

N.Y. bomb figure fights deportation

BOSTON — A lawyer for a Pakistani man arrested on an immigration violation during the investigation into the failed Times Square bombing says deporting him would pose an "extreme and unusual" hardship for his American wife.

Pir Khan, of Watertown, Mass. was one of three men arrested May 13 as authorities investigated Faisal Shahzad, who's accused of trying to set off a car bomb in New York City on May 1.

Authorities have said the men may have given money to Shahzad through a network used by immigrants without knowing how the money would be used.

Boy pulls gun at middle school

BLAUVELT, N.Y. — A 14-year-old boy pulled a pellet gun at a suburban New York middle school on Tuesday and pointed it at a teacher, then waved it at passing cars outside until a retired police officer wrestled it away, police said.

It was the second gun scare at the school in less than a year.

Orangetown Police Chief Kevin Nulty said the boy was taken into custody and no one was injured.

Border scuffle kills Mexican

SAN DIEGO — The Mexican government said a man from Mexico died when U.S. Border Patrol agents shocked him with a stun gun during a confrontation at a California border crossing.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Department said Anastasio Hernandez died Monday at a hospital, days after he was shocked at San Isidro.

A U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokeswoman said Hernandez became combative Friday with agents who were preparing to hand him over to Mexican officials in Tijuana after he entered the United States illegally.

She said he ignored repeated orders to stop fighting, but the incident is under investigation.

Moon rocks missing in Colo.

DENVER — Colorado, we have a problem. The moon rocks are missing.

The rocks, given to the state in 1974, are valued at \$5 million on the black market and few realized they existed until a college student began searching for them as part of an assignment.

Another set of moon rocks collected in 1969 was found in storage at the state history museum about a decade ago and are on display on the state Capitol's third floor.

Neither the history museum nor the Denver Museum of Nature & Science has the second set of rocks and the governor's office doesn't know where they are.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

HIGH-TECH WARFARE

US military suffers major malfunction in GPS units



HENRY SELZER/U.S. ARMY PHOTO-ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pvt. Corey Rodriguez participates in the first firing of the U.S. Army's GPS-guided Excalibur artillery round in 2008. A software incompatibility disabled as many as 8,000 of the military's GPS units, demonstrating a potential vulnerability posed by the U.S. military's reliance on the network for military operations.

Software incompatibility blamed in shutdown of thousands of receivers

DAN ELLIOTT
Associated Press

DENVER — A problem that rendered as many as 8,000 U.S. military GPS receivers useless for days is a warning to safeguard a system that enemies would love to disrupt, a defense expert says.

The Air Force has not said how many weapons, planes or other systems were affected or whether any were in use in Iraq or Afghanistan. But the problem, blamed on incompatible software, highlights the military's reliance on the Global Positioning System and the need to protect technology that has become essential for protecting troops, tracking vehicles and targeting weapons.

"Everything that moves uses it," said John Pike, director of Globalsecurity.org, which tracks military and homeland security news. "It is so central to the American style of war that you just couldn't leave home without it."

At least 100 U.S. defense systems rely on GPS, including aircraft, ships, armored vehicles, bombs and artillery shells.

The military needs fewer warheads and personnel to take out targets, because GPS increases weapon accuracy, but a GPS-dependent military becomes dangerously vulnerable if the technology is knocked out.

James Lewis, a senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the glitch was a warning "in the context where people are every day trying to figure out how to disrupt GPS."

The problem occurred when new software was installed in ground control systems for GPS satellites on Jan. 11, the Air Force said.

Officials said 8,000 to 10,000 receivers could have been affected, out of more than 800,000 in use across the military.

In a series of e-mails, the Air Force initially blamed a contractor for defective software in the affected receivers but later said it was a compatibility issue rather than a defect. The Air Force didn't immediately respond to a request for clarification.

The Air Force said it hadn't tested the affected receivers before installing the new software in the ground control system.

An Air Force document said the Navy's X-47B, a jet-powered, carrier-based drone under development, was interrupted by the glitch. Air Force officials would not comment beyond that on what systems were affected.

Navy spokeswoman Jamie Cosgrove confirmed the X-47B's receivers were affected but said it caused no program delays.

The Air Force said it took less than two weeks for the military to identify the cause and begin devising and installing a temporary fix.

All the affected receivers were manufactured by a division of Trimble Navigation Ltd. of Sunnyvale, Calif., according to the Air Force.

The military said it ran tests on some types of receivers before it upgraded ground control systems with the new software in January, but the tests didn't include the receivers that had problems.

Trimble said it had no problems when it tested the receivers using Air Force specifications, before the ground-



ED ANDRIESKI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The glitch that disrupted military GPS units did not affect commercial devices.

control system software was updated.

Civilian receivers use different signals and had no problems.

Defense industry consultant James Hasik said it's not shocking that some receivers weren't tested. GPS started as a military system in the 1970s but has exploded into a huge commercial market.

"It's hard to track everything," said Hasik, co-author of "The Precision Revolution: GPS and the Future of Aerial Warfare."

The Air Force said the software upgrade was to accommodate a new generation of GPS satellites, the first of which was launched Thursday.

Space and Missile Systems Center spokesman Joe Davidson said in an e-mail that the system is safe from hackers or enemy attack.

"We are extremely confident in the safety and security of the GPS system from enemy attack," he said, noting that control rooms are on secure military bases and communications are heavily encrypted.

The skills required to jam GPS over a broad area are beyond the reach of groups like the Taliban and most Third World nations, Hasik said.

"The harder you try to mess with it, the more energy you need. And the more energy you use, the easier it is for me to find your jammer," Hasik said.

BUSINESS

Hewlett-Packard to lay off 9,000

BARBARA ORTUTAY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Hewlett-Packard Co., plans to lay off about 9,000 employees as it tries to cut costs in its back-office computing centers and deepens its use of software, rather than people, to do some of the work that those hubs require.

The changes to these data centers, which are clusters of computers that run websites and process information for HP's corporate customers, will be made over about three years, the company said Tuesday. The layoffs amount to about 3 percent of HP's global work force, which had 304,000 employees as of October.

HP said it will take \$1 billion in accounting charges, part of which will be used for the laid-off workers' severance pay.

But it also said it plans to replace two-thirds of the jobs elsewhere in the company by hiring 6,000 people to boost its global sales and delivery staff.

The company has more than 100 centers that it operates for its customers and plans to cut that number roughly in half.

Computer services companies such as IBM and HP have used geographic location as a way to cut costs, hiring workers in lower-cost areas such as India and Eastern Europe to replace higher-paid labor in the U.S. and Western Europe.

Now HP says the next phase of cost-cutting may come from a sharper focus on how technology is used. Although HP would not specify the automation it expects to deploy, much of the work inside data centers, such as monitoring for trouble and determining which servers should be provisioned for certain tasks, can be handled by sophisticated

HP layoffs in brief

- ✓ **THE CUTS:** About 9,000 people, roughly 3 percent of HP's global work force, with plans to replace two-thirds of those jobs with sales and other staff.
- ✓ **THE REASON:** Automation and productivity increases in HP's data centers, the clusters of computers that run websites and process information.

software rather than humans.

"We think the next five to 10 years is going to be about who can best use technology to automate the delivery of services," said Ann Livermore, executive vice president for HP Enterprise Business, during a conference call with analysts.

One analyst called the company's emphasis on technology in Tuesday's announcement a "red herring" that diverts attention from the larger issue, which is that HP is cutting expenses as a way to stimulate profit.

"It's not about automation. It's about costs and profit," said analyst Bob Djurdjevic, president of Annex Research.

HP said it will see savings of about \$500 million to \$700 million a year from the changes, once they are completed. Investors largely shrugged at the news, sending HP shares down 4 cents to \$45.97 in afternoon trading Tuesday.

Additionally, HP is reducing the number of its data centers by using more powerful servers to handle more work.

HP's moves can also show its customers how to cut their own information-technology costs, said Charles King, principal analyst at Pund-IT Inc.

POLITICS

Al, Tipper Gore part after 40 years

ERIK SCHELZIG
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Former Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, are separating after 40 years of marriage that included a White House run when their sunny relationship offered a counterpoint to President Bill Clinton's philandering.

According to an e-mail circulated among the couple's associates Tuesday, the Gores said it was "a mutual and mutually supportive decision that we have made together following a process of long and careful consideration."

Gore spokeswoman Kalee Kreider confirmed the statement came from the Gores, but declined to comment further.

The Gores were telling friends they "grew apart" after 40 years of marriage and that there was no affair involved, according to two close as-

sociates and family friends, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because it was a personal matter.

The associates said the Gores had carved out separate lives over time, with the former vice president on the road frequently.

"Their lives had gotten more and more separated," one of their associates said.

The Gores crafted an image as a happily married couple during his eight-year stint as vice president in the 1990s and a presidential candidate in 2000. The couple famously exchanged a long kiss during the 2000 Democratic National Convention.

At the time, Al Gore said his wife was "someone I've loved with my whole heart since the night of my high school senior prom."

The Gores have four adult children, Karenna, Kristin, Sarah and Albert III.



STEPHEN SAVOIA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Vice President Al Gore kisses his wife, Tipper, at the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. "Their lives had gotten more and more separated," one of their associates said Tuesday.

BURNET SHOOTING

Family survives shotgun attack

Shooting sends girl to hospital

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BURNET — A 7-year-old girl was in intensive care after she and two family members were shot by a relative in their home hours after the man warned them he planned to kill them, police said Tuesday.

The victims were hospitalized

in the Austin area. Burnet police Chief Paul Nelson said the two adults were released, but the girl remains in the intensive care unit.

She was hit in the stomach, chest, face and arms by a shotgun blast, Nelson said, and is expected to survive.

The shooting happened early Monday in Burnet. The shooting victims were Denise Longoria, whose age was unknown, her 21-year-old son, Hector Molina, and her 7-year-old daughter,

Nelson said.

Nelson said police know the girl because the police station is across the street from her home. “She’s an awesome little girl,” he said. “We see her all the time.”

Ishmael Rodriguez, 33, Longoria’s nephew, remained in the Burnet County Jail on Tuesday on three counts of felony aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. His bonds total \$450,000. He was arrested without incident Monday about two hours after the shooting.

She’s an awesome little girl. We see her all the time.

— Paul Nelson, Burnet police chief

A jailer had no information on whether he had an attorney. Nelson said Rodriguez asked for an attorney during his interroga-

tion and likely will be assigned a public defender later.

Rodriguez warned his relatives after a family argument that “by morning, they’d be dead,” Nelson said.

According to Nelson, Rodriguez told police that he was going after his aunt and did not mean to injure the little girl.

Police said the suspect likely fired his shotgun at the home from the street before walking up to an open kitchen window and firing inside.

DALLAS COWBOYS’ ROOKIE SPEAKS UP

Prize catch

Dez Bryant balances expectations on the football field — and off

JAIME ARON
Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Dez Bryant sat at his locker Monday afternoon talking about his day — about making a diving catch of a pass from Tony Romo, about cartwheeling into the end zone at the end of a punt return, and about being wooed by shoe companies eager to have him wearing their gear.

Then came a big smile, and a big understatement.

“I’m having a lot of fun out there,” he said. “I’m having a lot of fun with everything.”

Bryant is the Dallas Cowboys’ prized rookie, a receiver they thought was among the best available in the draft but were able to snag with the 24th pick because of questions about his maturity and background.

The Cowboys did their homework and came away convinced everyone else had him pegged wrong.

They traded up to get him, then team owner Jerry Jones added to the hype by giving him No. 88, the jersey Hall of Famers Michael Irvin and Drew Pearson wore.

So far, Bryant is living up to expectations.

He’s already working out with the first team, getting passes thrown his way in a three-receiver alignment alongside Miles Austin and Roy Williams, plus star tight end Jason Witten.

“It’s crazy — just a lot of weapons at one time on the field,” Bryant said. “I felt like coach put me out there for a reason. They’re trying to get me

They’re trying to get me to learn everything as soon as possible.

—Dez Bryant

to learn everything as soon as possible.”

He’s got plenty to learn, and he knows it. Like that diving catch he made; he had to leave his feet because he was in the wrong place.

“(Romo) said, ‘Good catch,’ but I ran the route a little deep,” Bryant said. “He just told me to flatten it down. If he wants me to go deeper, he’ll put the ball out there for me to go deep.”

Bryant rarely has problems on the field. It’s away that trouble usually surfaces.

At Oklahoma State, he missed most of his junior year for lying to the NCAA about time he’d spent with Deion Sanders. Then there have been questions about people he chooses to surround himself and his mother’s lifestyle that bubble up every so often.

“It is surprising,” he said of all the interest surrounding his every move. “But it’s all right, it’s cool. That’s how it is.”

So he’s OK with it?

“It’s something that’s not even on my mind,” he said. “It’s not even the last thing — it’s off my mind.”

Besides, he has other things to think about, from learning the playbook to deciding which shoe company to represent.



MIKE FUENTES / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dallas Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant makes a catch during practice at the teams’ football training facility on Tuesday in Irving, Texas. Bryant’s blemished record off the field had teams hesitant to draft him, but Dallas already has the rookie working out with the first team and getting passes thrown his way alongside receivers Miles Austin and Roy Williams.

BORDER WATERS

Gunmen bully fishermen along U.S.-Mexico border

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

ZAPATA — The waters of Falcon Lake normally beckon boaters with waterskiing and world-record bass fishing. However, fishermen on the waters that straddle the U.S.-Mexico border are on the lookout for something more sinister: pirates.

Twice in recent weeks, marauders from rival Mexican drug gangs have robbed fishermen at gunpoint.

Boaters are concerned about their safety, and the president of the local Chamber of Commerce is trying to assure them everything’s fine on the U.S. side of the lake.

At the fishing camp his family has owned for 50 years, Jack Cox now sleeps with a loaded shotgun at his feet and a handgun within reach.

In the American waters, Cox said, “you’re safer, but you’re not safe.” Mexican commercial fishermen regularly cross to set their nets illegally; why wouldn’t gunmen do the same? he asked.

Two weeks ago, the Texas Department of Public Safety warned boaters to avoid the international boundary zig-zagging through the 25-mile-long lake, which is 3 miles across at its widest point.

Since the warning was issued, most boats have stayed on the American side.

“That’s a good indication. It means they’re getting the



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Violence on the Mexican side of Falcon Lake has been climbing for several months. Zapata County Sheriff Sigifredo Gonzalez Jr. thinks it is now spilling over into American waters.

message,” said Texas Parks and Wildlife Capt. Fernando Cervantes.

The border is marked by 14 partially submerged concrete towers that mark the Rio Grande’s path before the lake was created in 1954.

Game wardens and the U.S. Border Patrol watch over the lake but do not cross into Mexican waters, and no Mexican law enforcement is visible.

Men armed with assault rifles robbed fishermen on the Mexican side of Falcon Lake on April 30 and May 6. They

traveled in low-slung Mexican fishing boats, asked for money, drugs and guns, and took what cash was available. No one was hurt.

A third incident happened a couple of days before the warning was issued, but Cervantes said the fishermen escaped.

“To me, this is spillover violence,” Zapata County Sheriff Sigifredo Gonzalez Jr. said.

Still, the sheriff says, boaters should be safe on the U.S. side.

NCAA

Big 12 sweating Texas, Missouri, Nebraska as conference urges unity

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Amid speculation about Missouri and Nebraska being targets for possible Big Ten expansion, Commissioner Dan Beebe opened the Big 12’s spring meetings Tuesday with a plea for staying together.

“I want to talk frankly about

whether there’s a date certain that our institutions can commit to the conference so that we know who’s on board as we go forward,” Beebe told a news conference.

He said he hopes to get long-term commitments from members before the meetings close Friday.

The Big Ten has indicated it is looking into adding teams and said in December it would take 12-18 months for the conference to decide what it is going to do.

Last year, Big 12 schools divided between \$7 million and \$12 million, depending on how many appearances they made on regional and national TV.

Texas usually pockets the biggest share, with the likes of Missouri lagging behind.

Meanwhile, Big Ten schools

share equally and came away with more than \$20 million each.

Also, Colorado reportedly could be looking at the Pac-10 and Texas might be checking other options.

Texas, the richest and most powerful Big 12 member, remains the league’s lynchpin. The other 10 schools could probably work something out if Nebraska and Missouri left. But if Texas does, it could devastate the league.

“I’m not waiting to see what other people are going to do,” Texas Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds said. “My hope is that the Big 12 survives and you and I retire knowing it’s a great conference.”

Dodds noted that Texas was not the one that started realignment talk.

“If we need to finish it, we’ll finish it,” he said. “We’re going to be a player in whatever happens.”

Beebe will need to know what schools make up the Big 12 when he opens negotiations next April on a new television agreement with Fox.

He’s hopeful he’ll be able to greatly increase the league’s revenue.

BIG 12 AND TEXAS

✓ The Big 12 Conference began playing the 1996-1997 season.

✓ Since joining, Texas sports teams have won 12 national championships in five different sports.

TEXAS

Dallas-area man faces execution

LIVINGSTON — Authorities linked 36-year-old George Jones to numerous carjackings in the Dallas area, and Jones has acknowledged he dealt drugs around the city.

However, Jones faces execution Wednesday evening in Huntsville for the April 1993 slaying of Forest Hall, 22.

Hall’s body was found with two bullet wounds to the head near Lancaster, about 15 miles south of Dallas, but Jones insisted innocence in the fatal shooting and carjacking.

Jones’ appeals are exhausted, his lawyer said. The lethal injection would be the 12th this year in Texas, the nation’s most active capital punishment state.

Phony doctor dupes Medicare

HOUSTON — A 51-year-old Houston man has plead guilty to receiving nearly \$1 million from the federal government for counseling services he was not licensed or qualified to provide.

Edward Birts, owner of the Courage to Change center, admitted in U.S. District Court on Tuesday that he accepted nearly \$970,000 from Medicaid and Medicare for services from 2003 to 2006.

The U.S. Attorney’s Office said Birts advertised himself as a doctor of psychology after purchasing a doctoral degree online.

Birts faces up to 22 years in prison for health care fraud, conspiracy and aggravated identity theft when he is sentenced in November.

Dallas gets housing grant

DALLAS — The Department of Housing and Urban Development awarded a Dallas housing group a \$22 million grant to rebuild a demolished public housing project.

The grant will help transform the demolished Turner Courts projects into a new community called Buckeye Trail Commons. The development will have 334 units.

HUD officials announced nearly \$114 million in grants for six housing authorities Tuesday. All the housing authorities have pledged to use the money to turn down-trodden public housing projects into mixed-income communities.

Officer charged in minor’s rape

BASTROP — A former Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission officer has been indicted, accused of raping a 16-year-old who helped him with a sting operation.

The state attorney general’s office says 41-year-old Joe Chavez was indicted Tuesday on two counts of sexual assault of a child and related charges.

Authorities say the teen reported being sexually assaulted in Chavez’s state-issued vehicle last year while Chavez was on duty. The officer later resigned.

A jail official says Chavez was arrested Friday and is in the Bastrop County Jail with bonds totaling \$125,000. If convicted, Chavez would face up to 20 years in prison on each sexual assault charge.

Texas passes on education funds

Texas is again refusing to apply for federal “Race to the Top” education funds.

The state could be eligible for up to \$700 million in this second round of funding through the U.S. Department of Education. However, Gov. Rick Perry said Tuesday he doesn’t want to abandon state educational standards in favor of adopting national standards and the costs that go with them.

Perry says adopting national standards would cost \$3 billion, and insists Texas is doing fine in college and career readiness.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

AFGHAN PEACE CONFERENCE

Talks to proceed despite threats

Israel maintains naval embargo, rebuffs criticism

KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban dismissed this week's national peace conference in Afghanistan even before it had begun Tuesday, threatening death to the 1,600 delegates in cassette messages distributed by the insurgent leadership.

The three-day meeting, which begins today in a giant tent at Kabul Polytechnic University, will discuss how to reconcile with the fighters — even as the U.S. ramps up the nearly nine-year war.

President Hamid Karzai will use the conference, known as a



MUSADEQ SADEQ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Afghan security vehicle patrols near the peace talks site. The Taliban claims the talks don't represent Afghan interests.

“peace jirga,” to seek endorsement of his plan to offer economic incentives to Taliban and other insurgent fighters willing to leave the battlefield.

On the eve of the conference, the Taliban said in a statement to news organiza-

tions that the jirga does not represent the Afghan people and was aimed at “securing the interest of foreigners.”

It said the participants “are on the payroll of the invaders and work for their interests.”

To reinforce the message,

the Taliban's underground government circulated a cassette recording last week, in which the chairman of the Taliban council, Mullah Abdul Ghani, warned, “The punishment for participating in the jirga is death.”

A Taliban member whose information has proven reliable provided information about the cassette to The Associated Press.

Another major insurgent group, Hizb-i-Islami, called the peace conference “a useless exercise” because “only hand-picked people” were invited.

One of the delegates told the AP that he took the Taliban threat seriously, though he still planned to attend. He refused to allow his name to be published, explaining that “if

they know that I am attending, there will be a suicide bomber outside my door.”

“This is a positive first step because everybody realizes war is not the solution,” said Hamid Gailani, a prominent lawmaker from southern Afghanistan.

Abdul Salam Zaeef, a former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, said he doubted any peace plan that calls for paying Taliban fighters to quit the war will succeed, insisting that solving issues should be left to Afghans.

“Mostly they are fighting for their freedom,” said Zaeef, who is not a delegate.

“The people who are fighting are fighting for ideological reasons,” he said. “They want the foreigners to leave their country.”

INTERNATIONAL

Cancun mayor charged

MEXICO CITY — The mayor of Cancun was charged with drug trafficking ties Tuesday, forcing him to end his campaign for governor.

A federal judge indicted Gregorio Sanchez on charges of organized crime and money laundering a week after he was arrested in Mexico's most important tourist resort. Prosecutors say he protected two of Mexico's most brutal drug gangs and lived beyond his means.

The formal charges bar Sanchez from participating in politics, ending his run for governor of the coastal state of Quintana Roo.

Pilots told of fog, recordings show

WARSAW, Poland — Poland published cockpit conversations Tuesday of the final minutes before the April plane crash that killed President Lech Kaczynski, revealing that pilots decided to land in heavy fog despite warnings about visibility.

A transcript shows that a Foreign Ministry official entered the cockpit and made remarks indicating that the president was involved in deciding whether to make the landing.

Some have speculated that Kaczynski might have pressured the pilot and co-pilot to risk a dangerous landing to keep from being late to a memorial ceremony.

Investigators have not drawn final conclusions about what caused the crash that killed Kaczynski and 95 others, but evidence has pointed to pilot error and bad weather conditions, and the recordings seem to support that theory.

Germany seeks new president

BERLIN — Germany's labor minister is an early favorite for the presidential nomination, a day after President Horst Koehler's surprise resignation, according to an official quoted by a local news agency Tuesday.

Ursula von der Leyen would become the country's first female president if nominated by Chancellor Angela Merkel's coalition government and then approved by lawmakers.

Merkel launched a fast-track process to find a candidate. The new head of state must be elected by June 30.

Death toll rises in Agatha's wake

GUATEMALA CITY — Rural villagers used hoes and pick axes to hunt for victims of landslides that have killed at least 179 people in Central America while officials in Guatemala's capital tried to cope with a vast sinkhole that swallowed a clothing factory.

Authorities estimate the hole is 65 feet deep and say it was caused by water from Tropical Storm Agatha.

Nearly 125,000 people were evacuated in Guatemala, and thousands fled their homes in neighboring Honduras, where the death toll rose to 17.

In El Salvador, 11,000 people were evacuated. The death toll rose to 10 and two others were missing, President Mauricio Funes said Monday night.

US predicts 4% rise in emissions

UNITED NATIONS — In its first major climate report to the United Nations in four years, the United States projected Tuesday that its climate-warming greenhouse gases will grow by 4 percent through 2020.

U.S. warming gases rose 17 percent from 1990 through 2007. The U.S. accounts for about a fifth of all emissions worldwide, behind only China.

Some 37 industrial nations have been modestly cutting back on emissions from 1990 levels under the 13-year-old Kyoto Protocol that the U.S. rejected.

IRAQI ELECTIONS

Sunnis win court ruling

ADAM SCHRECK
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A Sunni-backed secular alliance that challenged Iraq's top Shiite leadership in parliamentary elections won a ruling Tuesday in the Iraqi supreme court sealing a narrow edge over its closest rival.

The court order, which cannot be appealed, begins a 15-day countdown for seating the legislature nearly three months after its members were elected in the March 7 vote.

Following a barrage of legal challenges, the court's review concluded initial election results awarding 91 seats to the secular Iraqiya alliance were “reliable,” Chief Judge Midhat al-Mahmoud told a news conference Tuesday.

Iraqiya is led by Ayad Al-lawi, a former prime minister and secular Shiite, and is heavily backed by Iraq's once-dominant Sunni Arab minority. It won two more seats than the State of Law coalition led by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

None of Iraq's political co-

alitions captured an outright majority in the 325-seat legislature, leaving the country without a clear winner. That set off scrambling by al-Maliki and Iraq's other politicians to join forces with competing alliances and secure enough seats to control parliament and, in turn, the government.

Negotiations likely will stall the government for at least another six weeks, and possibly for months more, said Anthony Cordesman, an Iraq war expert at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies.

“This is not going to be quick,” Cordesman said. “Given the politics involved, an awful lot of the positions are likely to change. ... It's easy to talk about a national unity government. The real question is whether you can actually build one.”

Iraqi President Jalal Talabani now has 15 days to call parliament to its first session to elect a speaker and a new president. The new president will task the legislature's largest political bloc with forming the new government.

NO LOVE FOR FEDERER



CHRISTOPHE ENA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roger Federer trudges off court at dusk Tuesday, his French Open reign suddenly over, amid his record streak of 23 consecutive Grand Slam semifinals done, too. The top-seeded Federer succumbed to No. 5 Robin Soderling of Sweden in pouring rain at the French Open quarterfinals. Soderling

stunned four-time champion Rafael Nadal in the French Open's fourth round last year, before losing to Federer in the final. This marks the first time in six years Federer has bowed out before the semifinals at a major tennis tournament, breaking his 117-game winning streak.

JAPAN

Leader quits over broken promise

MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama said today he was resigning over his broken campaign promise to move a U.S. Marine base off the southern island of Okinawa.

Hatoyama had faced growing pressure from within his own party to resign. His approval ratings had plummeted over his bungled handling of the relocation of the Marine Air Station Futenma, reinforcing his public image as an indecisive leader.

Hatoyama is the fourth Japanese prime minister to resign in four years.

Last week, he said he would go along with the 2006 agreement to move the base to a northern part of Okinawa, infuriating residents who want it off the island entirely.

Okinawa alone houses more than half of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan under a bilateral security alliance.

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MIDDLE EAST



HATEM MOUSSA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Palestinians protested Israel's raid Tuesday in Gaza City, calling for a general strike and “day of wrath.”

Egypt to open Gaza Strip border

Israel promises to halt more ships, holds 50 activists

JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel and Egypt signaled a temporary easing of the Gaza Strip blockade Tuesday following international condemnation of the deadly Israeli raid on an aid flotilla en route to the sealed-off Palestinian territory.

Egypt said it was freely opening its border with Gaza for the first time in more than a year to allow in humanitarian aid, setting off a mad rush to the crossing, while an Is-

raeli official said there is an “ongoing dialogue” with the international community on how to expand the amount of goods entering the area.

At the same time, Israel began deporting the 700 activists it detained from the aid ships but said it would hold 50 for investigation into their role in the violence at sea.

Israel pledged to halt a new attempt by pro-Palestinian groups to sail more ships into Gaza and claimed some of the arrested activists carried weapons and large quantities of cash.

Worldwide condemnation has been flooding in since Israeli naval commandos halted the aid flotilla in international waters overnight

Monday, setting off a melee that left nine activists dead and dozens wounded. Turkey, an unofficial backer of the flotilla, has led the criticism, accusing Israel of committing a “massacre,” and the U.N. Security Council demanded an impartial investigation.

There were signs, however, that the long-term strategic partnership between Israel and Turkey — the Jewish state's most important Muslim ally — would endure.

Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak and his Turkish counterpart agreed Tuesday the raid wouldn't affect weapons deals, defense officials said. The flotilla was meant to draw attention to the Is-

raeli and Egyptian blockade of Gaza, imposed three years ago after Hamas militants violently seized power. Israel says the blockade prevents Hamas from building up its arsenal. Critics claim the closure only damages Gaza's already weak economy.

Late Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected world criticism, telling top security officials Israel must prevent Gaza's militant Hamas rulers from rearming.

“In Gaza, there is a terrorist state under Iranian sponsorship,” he said. “Opening a sea route to Gaza would present a grave danger to our citizens. Therefore we are maintaining our policy of a naval blockade.”

ENTERTAINMENT

‘Avenue Q’ Coleman role to stay

NEW YORK – The team behind “Avenue Q,” an award-winning play featuring a character based on Gary Coleman, is planning to keep that character, even after the actor’s death.

The Coleman character is a child star who now works as a building superintendent.

“Avenue Q” is a show about twentysomething New Yorkers, featuring both humans and puppets.



Coleman

Dunst testifies in theft case

NEW YORK – “Spider-Man” star Kirsten Dunst testified against a mechanic charged with helping steal her purse from a Manhattan hotel suite in 2007.

Her assistant’s bag and co-star Simon Pegg’s cell phone and other possessions also were taken from the room.

Jurors deadlocked on a burglary charge for James Jimenez. Defense lawyer Robert Parker said Jimenez, 36, just tagged along with a co-defendant he believed had permission to be there.

‘Goodfellas’ to reunite on Spike

NEW YORK – Spike TV will bring together Robert De Niro and Ray Liotta to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the mob classic “Goodfellas.”

The two stars will be at Spike’s fourth annual “Guy’s Choice” awards, to be televised June 20.

Spike is still working on getting cast member Joe Pesci to attend.

Filmmaker Martin Scorsese will be in Europe and won’t be at the show’s Saturday taping in Culver City, Calif.

Arrest ordered for TV producer

CANCUN, Mexico – Francisco Alor, the attorney general for Mexico’s Quintana Roo state, said prosecutors seek to return TV producer Bruce Beresford-Redman from the United States on suspicion of killing his wife while vacationing in Cancun.

Beresford-Redman has denied any involvement in the death last month of his wife, Monica Beresford-Redman.

Richard Hirsch, Beresford-Redman’s attorney, said his client is innocent and prepared to defend himself in court.

Prosecutors said Beresford-Redman told them he last saw her after she left the resort to go shopping and never returned, and say he reported her missing two days before her body was found.



Beresford-Redman

‘Shrek’ maintains box-office lead

LOS ANGELES – DreamWorks Animation’s “Shrek Forever After” was No. 1 for a second-straight weekend, making \$55.7 million over the Memorial Day holiday and raising its 10-day domestic total to \$145.5 million.

Based on studio estimates Monday for the four-day weekend, Disney’s “Prince of Persia” debuted at No. 2 with \$37.8 million, slightly ahead of the \$37.1 million for “Sex and the City 2.”

Box-office analysts expected “Prince of Persia” to finish the weekend behind “Shrek Forever After” and “Sex and the City 2.” While “Prince of Persia” trailed those movies for most of the weekend, it held up well enough Monday to slide into the No. 2 spot.

SERVING THEIR COUNTRY

Duty calls for blind soldiers



MIKE GROLL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Capt. Scott Smiley, right, greets Col. Michael Tarsa before giving a tour of his staff’s offices in West Point, N.Y. Smiley, one of a few blind soldiers remaining on active duty since fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, cannot return to his old infantry duties. But he has thrived in the state-side assignment, commanding the Warrior Transition Unit for ailing or wounded soldiers at West Point, where he graduated in 2003.

Combat not possible, but wounded warriors stay to assist comrades

MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — Since a car bomb blinded Army Capt. Scott Smiley in Iraq, he has skied Vail, climbed Mount Rainier, earned his MBA, raised two young boys with his wife, won an Espy award and pulled himself up from faith-shaking depths.

Smiley, 30, has snagged attention for his big accomplishments. But the daily ones are telling, too, including the recent tour he gave of his staff’s offices at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Unable to see the path around the workers’ cubicles, Smiley stepped forward with a joke to the camouflage-clad officers he was showing around: “I walk around, and when I hit things, I move,” he said.

An aide trailing him said softly, “Turn right, sir,” at a doorway. Smiley turned.

Smiley, of Pasco, Wash., is one of a handful of soldiers who chose to remain on active duty after being blinded by fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, a practice that’s rare but one that military officials say benefits both parties.

Smiley cannot return to his old infantry duties in Iraq. The 2003 West Point graduate has thrived, however, in stateside postings such as his latest at West Point. He now

commands the Warrior Transition Unit at West Point for ailing or wounded soldiers.

Voice software allows Smiley to listen to e-mails, books and pamphlets. Aides help him navigate and tell him what order he’s signing. It’s a little like changing his son’s diapers at home: He’s fine as long as he knows where everything is.

His resiliency and energy helped him earn the 2007 Soldier of the

“Why should I stop that?”

Smiley was injured April 6, 2005, six months into a deployment to Iraq.

He led patrols through Mosul, a dangerous city where the enemy blended in with the populace.

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Branham, a squad leader under Smiley, said his fellow serviceman was a topflight officer.

Smiley was leading a patrol in

Smiley struggled with his fate. He had vowed at his wedding to take care of his wife, Tiffany, and there she was, taking care of him. He received his Purple Heart on his hospital bed.

“When I got to the hospital and I finally realized what happened, what my life was going to be like, I didn’t believe in God. I questioned my faith. I questioned everything that was ever said to me before,” Smiley said.

Smiley credits his wife, family and faith for helping him accept his condition.

Ultimately, he didn’t want to be like the Lt. Dan character played by Gary Sinise in “Forrest Gump,” the officer who wants to be left to die when he loses his legs in Vietnam.

The Army says at least four other totally or partially blind combat soldiers are on active duty.

Capt. Ivan Castro, 42, lost his sight and suffered other serious injuries in a 2006 mortar attack in Iraq and is now stationed at Fort Bragg, N.C., with the Special Operations Recruiting Battalion.

Castro’s commander, Lt. Col. Fredrick Dummar, said the continued service by blind soldiers fits with the military philosophy that everyone has unique abilities and that “there’s always somebody on the team that can accomplish a mission.”

In terms of getting an MBA, climbing Mount Rainier, it’s what I always wanted to do. Why should I stop that?

— CAPT. SCOTT SMILEY

Year commendation from the publication Army Times, as well as an ESPN Espy award in 2008 for best outdoor athlete.

He earned his master’s of business administration at Duke University and has spoken to the Olympic and Duke teams coached by Mike Krzyzewski, a fellow West Point alum. He has a memoir coming out this year titled “Hope Unseen.”

Smiley said he’s not trying to prove anything with his exploits.

“In terms of getting an MBA, climbing Mount Rainier, it’s what I always wanted to do,” he said.

an armored Stryker vehicle when, from his perch in the forward hatch, he spotted a silver Opel that matched intelligence descriptions of a potential car bomb. Smiley fired warning shots when it looked as if the driver was going to pull forward.

When the driver raised his hands, the car went up in a fireball.

Smiley was left permanently blinded and temporarily paralyzed on his right side when shrapnel tore through his left eye and lodged in his frontal brain lobe; another fragment the size of a pencil lead pierced his right eye.

HEALTH

Employee pot bellies paid to go away

Incentives to slim down are a weighty issue for companies

MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

ATLANTA — How much money would it take to get you to lose some serious weight? \$100? \$500?

Many employers are betting they can find your price. At least a third of U.S. companies offer financial incentives, or are planning to introduce them, to get their employees to lose weight or get healthier in other ways.

OhioHealth, a hospital chain whose workforce is mostly overweight, last year embarked on a program that paid employees to wear pedometers and get paid for walking. The more they walk, the more they win — up to \$500 a year.

But will this kind of effort really put a permanent dent in American’s seemingly intractable obesity problem? Not likely.

“It’s probably a waste of time,” said Kelly Brownell, director of Yale University’s Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity.

Only about 15 to 20 U.S. studies have tried to evaluate the effect of financial incentives on weight loss. Most of those studies were small and didn’t look at whether such measures worked beyond a few months. None could make conclusions about how much money it takes to make a lasting difference for most people.

Perhaps the largest effort to date was an observational study by Cornell University. It looked at seven employer programs and the results were depressing: The average weight loss in most was little more than

a pound.

One problem: “Food is more difficult than tobacco,” said Steven Kelder, an epidemiology professor at the University of Texas School of Public Health.

While cigarettes can be addictive, people don’t need to smoke to live. People must eat, and sugary drinks and fatty snacks are everywhere, Kelder and others said.

Some experts are fascinated by the idea of using economics to get people to eat better and exercise. Sales taxes have been used to drive up the cost of cigarettes and drive down smoking rates, and Brownell and others are pushing for similar taxes on soda.

Companies tend to be more interested in incentives than disincentives like taxes, but the perks they attach to wellness programs come in a variety of forms and sizes.

Some reward employees just for having a health evaluation or simply enrolling in a class — whether they complete it or not. Others require measurable weight loss or exercise achievement, sometimes structuring it similar to “The Biggest Loser” TV show.

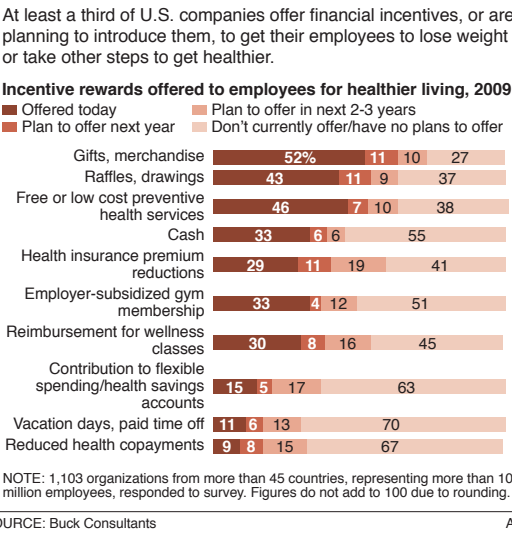
Reward values can range from measly to thousands of dollars, with financial incentives driven by hunches and human resources budgets. OhioHealth set the maximum reward for its step-counting program at \$500.

“It just sounded right to us. We thought that would be a big enough number to help people think twice,” said Lisa Meddock, OhioHealth’s benefits manager.

If companies asked the experts, they might be counseled to make their incentives more dramatic — more cash or a bigger penalty in premium costs.

Psychologists say people are more motivated by the risk of losing their own money than by a chance they’ll win somebody else’s. Applying that idea to

Bonuses offered for a healthier employee



weight loss, some studies allowed volunteers to sign a contract agreeing to lose a certain amount of weight by a certain date or they forfeit their deposited money.

A 2008 University of Pennsylvania study found that after 16 weeks people who put their own money on the line lost about a pound more, on average, than people who got cash from others.

Such programs are voluntary, but some employers worry that if they go too far, it may seem coercive and even grounds for a lawsuit.

“They’re very nervous about doing anything that might seem invasive,” said Helen Darling, president of the National Business Group on Health.

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

Still no oil relief for Gulf



Top, Mary Smith of Theodore, Ala., watches over her grandchildren as a crew of cleanup workers walk along the beach in Dauphin Island, Ala., on Tuesday. **Above left**, Mississippi first lady Marsha Barbour holds a tar ball found on the beach at Petit

Pois Island off the Mississippi coast on Wednesday. **Above right**, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries biologist Shane Granier looks at an area impacted by the the Deepwater Horizon oil spill at Pass a Loutre, La., on Wednesday.

Stuck saw blade halts containment effort

BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press

PORT FOURCHON, La. — As the crude oil crept closer to Florida, the risky effort to contain the nation's worst oil spill hit a snag Wednesday when a diamond-edged saw became stuck in a thick pipe on a blown-out well at the bottom of the Gulf.

Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen said the goal was to free the saw and finish the cut later in the day. This is the latest attempt to contain — not plug — the gusher. The best chance at stopping the leak is a relief well, which is at least two months from completion.

"I don't think the issue is whether or not we can make the second cut. It's about how fine we can make it, how smooth we can make it," Allen said.

If the cut is not as smooth as engineers would like, they would be forced to put a looser fitting cap on top of the oil spewing out. This cut-and-cap effort could temporarily increase the flow of oil by as much as 20 percent, though Allen said officials wouldn't know whether that had happened until the cut could be completed.

Engineers may have to bring in a second saw that is waiting on a boat, but it was not immediately clear how long that could delay the operation. Live video showed oil spewing out of the new cut, and crews were shooting chemicals to try to disperse the crude oil. The cap could be placed over the spill as early as Wednesday of next week.

The effort underwater was going on as oil drifted close to the Florida Panhandle's white sand beaches for the first time and investors ran from BP's stock for a second day, reacting to the company's weekend failure to plug the leak by shooting mud and cement into the well, known as the top kill.

Meanwhile, President Barack Obama said it was time to roll back billions of dollars in tax breaks for oil companies and use the money for clean energy research and development. He said the catastrophic Gulf oil spill shows the country must move toward clean energy, tapping natural gas and nuclear power and eliminating tax breaks for big oil.

The Justice Department also has announced it started criminal and civil probes into the spill, although the department did not name specific targets for prosecution.

Shares in British-based BP PLC were down 3 percent early Wednesday before recovering in London trading, a day after a 13 percent fall. BP has lost \$75 billion in market value since the spill started with an April 20 oil rig explosion, and analysts expect damage claims to total billions more.

In Florida, oil was about seven miles south of Pensacola Beach, Allen said.

Thunderstorms were making it difficult to track the slick, said John Dosh, Escambia County emergency director. Officials hoped the weather would clear so they could get an aerial view.

It was raining and cloudy at the beach off

More inside

- ✓ **Obama urges Congress to roll back billions in tax breaks for oil, page 2**
- ✓ **Hurricane season could affect spill cleanup, page 4**

and on. The four pirate flags on top of Peg Leg Pete's Oyster Bar on the beach were flapping eastward, which could send the oil closer to shore. Peg Leg Pete's is a beach institution frequented by boaters who pull up behind the restaurant in a cove off Pensacola Bay.

It was a slow Memorial Day weekend. Hundreds of tourists enjoyed the turquoise waters, but it wasn't as busy as usual.

"We are looking at a Wednesday to Friday shoreline impact, but there is a line of uncertainty that depends on the wave action and the winds," Dosh said.

"Today we are in a monitoring mode."

Emergency crews began scouring the beaches for oil and shoring up miles of boom, though choppy waters from thunderstorms could send the oil over the protective lines. County officials are using the boom to block oil from reaching inland waterways but plan to leave beaches unprotected because they are easier to clean up.

"It's inevitable that we will see it on the beaches," said Keith Wilkins, deputy chief

Please see OIL, Page 2

TARGETED KILLINGS

Terrorist strategy criticized

U.N. committee calls for governments to 'come clean' on use of drones

FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press

GENEVA — Governments must come clean on their methods for killing suspected terrorists and insurgents — especially when using unmanned drones — because they may be committing war crimes, a U.N. human rights expert said Wednesday.

Philip Alston, the independent U.N. investigator on extrajudicial killings, called on countries to lay out the rules and safeguards they use when carrying out so-called targeted killings, publish figures on civilian casualties and prove they have attempted to capture or incapacitate suspects without killing them.

His 29-page report to the U.N. Human Rights Council will put unwanted scrutiny on intelligence operations of the United States, Israel and Russia, who Alston says are all credibly reported to have used drones to kill alleged terrorists and insurgents.

Alston, a New York University law professor,

Please see DRONES, Page 2

INTERNATIONAL RACING

Taxpayers will foot fee for F1 track

ASSOCIATED PRESS

State taxpayers will put up the first \$25 million to attract the new Formula One U.S. Grand Prix to Austin — money state officials previously said would be used to reimburse local governments for costs incurred by hosting large sporting events.

The money, which will be deposited in Texas' Major Event Trust Fund, will pay the sanctioning fee charged by the London-based Formula One Group for the first of 10 annual races planned for Austin starting in 2012, the Austin American-Statesman reported Wednesday.

The fund had previously been used to cover costs for hosting the Super Bowl and all-star games. The Legislature, however, authorized the use of general revenue funds for F1 in the last budget.

After the first year, the fee would be paid each year with proceeds from the previous event. The fund should break even at the end of the 10-year contract, officials say.

"It's going to be wonderful for the state," said Texas Comptroller Susan Combs.

Backers of the event say the \$25 million is an investment that will be repaid as race fans flock to Austin. Construction of the track is expected to run \$250 million, but Combs said no public money would be used.

"The state is not building the facility," she said, saying it's up to race backers to show they can get it done. "The proof is in the pudding."

CELLULAR SERVICE PROVIDERS

AT&T: Limited data plan saves you cash

Subscribers who hog data will pay the price

PETER SVENSSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Just in time for the release of a new iPhone, AT&T will stop letting new customers sign up for its unlimited Internet data plan for smart phones and iPads and charge more for users who hog the most bandwidth.

AT&T hopes to ease congestion on its network, which has drawn complaints, particularly in big cities. But the approach could confuse customers unfamiliar with how much data it takes to watch a YouTube video or fire up a favorite app.

Current subscribers will be able to keep their \$30-per-month unlimited plans, even if they renew their contracts. But

starting Monday, new customers will have to choose one of two new data plans for all smart phones, including iPhones and BlackBerrys.

Subscribers who use little data — such as those who may get dozens of e-mails a day but don't watch much video — will pay slightly less than they do now, while heavy users will have higher bills.

The move takes effect in time for the expected unveiling of Apple's new iPhone next week. Analysts expect other phone companies to follow. With no caps on consumption, data use could swamp wireless networks while revenue for the operators remains flat.

Verizon Wireless, the largest wireless carrier and AT&T's chief rival, had no immediate comment on AT&T's move. There has been much speculation about Verizon selling its own version of the iPhone, but that prospect still appears distant.

One of the new AT&T plans will cost \$25 per month and offer 2 gigabytes of data per month, which AT&T says will be enough for 98 percent of its smart phone customers. Additional gigabytes, which equal about 1,000 megabytes, will cost \$10 each.

A second plan will cost \$15 per month for 200 megabytes of data, which AT&T says is enough for 65 percent of its smart phone customers. If they go over, they'll pay another \$15 for 200 more megabytes.

A gigabyte is enough for hundreds of e-mails and Web pages, but it's quickly eaten up by Internet video and videoconferencing. The 200 megabytes offered under the \$15 plan is enough for more than 1,000 e-mails, hundreds of Web pages and about 20 minutes of streaming video, AT&T says.

With the smaller plan and voice service, a

Please see DATA, Page 2

PAUL GETS POPULAR



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama presented Paul McCartney with the third Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song on Tuesday. The ex-Beatle confessed he was "slightly nervous" for Wednesday's concert at the White House.

Southwest Journalist goes digital

Ten college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships on daily newspapers and online news services after completing eight days of intensive preparation work at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a select group of 84 placed in internships in copy editing, business reporting and online journalism as part of a national, competitive program funded by the News Fund, a foundation of the Dow Jones Company, and participating newspapers.

The School of Journalism at UT Austin, one of five pre-internship training sites for copy editors and designers, has been part of the News Fund program for 13 years.

Participants in the UT workshop were involved in newspaper copy editing, design and production assignments as well as launching swjournalist.com, a venture into online journalism. Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated sessions.

The UT-News Fund interns will report for internships of 10-14 weeks. In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online product. The Austin American-Statesman provided printing services for the newspaper.

Participants in the UT Austin workshop, in-

cluding their universities and host newspapers, are:

Samantha Borger, University of Texas at Austin-The Beaumont Enterprise; Austin Fast, Miami University of Ohio-California Watch; Ryan Fernandez, San Jose State University-The Sacramento Bee; Allie Grasgreen, University of Oregon-The Oregonian; Inyoung Kang, New York University-San Luis (Calif.) Obispo Tribune; Kiera Manion-Fischer, Kent State University-San Francisco Chronicle; Liz Martinez, Lehigh University-The Dallas Morning News; Gabrielle Muñoz, University of Texas at Austin-Austin American-Statesman; Hannah Ritchie, University of Missouri-The Denver Post; and Chad Uddstrom, Penn State University-California Bay Area Newspapers.

Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating newspapers cover the cost of the workshops, including instruction, housing, meals and transportation for the participants.

Participating newspapers in turn pay interns a weekly wage for their work during the internship. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the Newspaper Fund.

Directing the UT workshop were S. Griffin Singer, director; George Sylvie, assistant director; and Sonia Reyes-Krempin, administrative



The 2010 Dow Jones News Fund workshop participants and staff.

assistant of the UT School of Journalism.

Faculty included Beth Butler, assistant workshop director from Kent State University; Amy Zerba, CNN.com, Atlanta; Richard Holden, executive director of the Newspaper Fund; and Bradley Wilson, Coordinator of Student Media Advising, North Carolina State University. Drew Marcks, assistant managing editor of the Austin American-Statesman, coordinated the interns' visit to that newspaper.

OIL: Spill stalls fishing industry, tourism



Workers collect oil that washed ashore Fourchon Beach Port in Fourchon, La., on Tuesday. Oil has polluted about 125 miles of Louisiana coastline and has been reported near barrier islands in Alabama and Mississippi.

PATRICK SEMANSKY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

—Continued from Page 1

of neighborhood and community services for Escambia County.

The oil has been spreading in the Gulf since the Deepwater Horizon rig exploded six weeks ago, killing 11 workers and eventually sinking. The rig was being operated for BP, the largest oil and gas producer in the Gulf.

Crude oil has already been reported along barrier islands in Alabama and Mississippi, and it has polluted some 125 miles of Louisiana coastline.

Some 2,000 feet above the Chandeleur islands off the Louisiana coast, vast stretches of sheen meandered through the water, some reflecting pale rainbow colors — from pale, barely detectable streams to rust-rimmed blue and purple patches that looked like giant bruises.

"The problem is this oil now is really like a collection of smaller spills," Allen said during flight in a C-144.

Allen, the national incident commander for the spill, said the threat of oil hitting the coast

was shifting east and skimmer vessels would be working offshore to intercept as much crude oil as possible.

Earlier this week, BP officials said they were concentrating cleanup efforts in Louisiana because they did not expect oil to reach other states.

The company has set up floating hotels on barges to house cleanup crews closer to the Louisiana shores.

In Venice, La., hundreds of oil response workers were grounded by storms and many local fishermen hired in the so-called vessels of opportunity program were sent home early. Venice is a major staging center for the oil response, with nearly 1,500 workers and dozens of boats in this small town in the marshes.

BP spokesman Mike Abendoff said he hopes to start putting some workers there early by next week.

More federal fishing waters were closed — another setback for one of the region's most important industries — and more than one-third of federal waters were off-limits for fishing.

DATA: AT&T's Wi-Fi networks to remain untouched by change

—Continued from Page 1

smart phone could cost as little as \$55 per month before taxes and add-on fees, down from \$70 now. Ralph de la Vega, head of AT&T's consumer business, said smart phones would become accessible to more people.

"Customers are getting a good deal, and if they can un-

derstand their usage, they can save some money," de la Vega said in an interview.

Figuring out which plan to choose may not be easy, because many people have only a hazy notion of the size of a gigabyte and how many they use now. By contrast, a minute spent talking on the phone is easy to understand, and many people have learned roughly

how many minutes they use every month.

The limits will apply only to AT&T's cellular networks. Data usage over Wi-Fi networks, including AT&T's public Wi-Fi "hot spots," will not count toward the limits.

De la Vega noted that AT&T lets customers track their usage online. The iPhone also has a built-in usage tracking tool. And the carrier will also text subscribers to let them know they're getting close to their limits.

Jason Prance, an iPhone 3G user in Atlanta, said his first reaction to the end of unlimited usage was to be "ticked off."

"If you're taking the ability to go unlimited away from people, you immediately get defensive," he said.

But then he checked his data consumption on his iPhone for the first time and found he had never used more than 200 megabytes in a month. That surprised him, he said, because he sends and receives a lot of e-mail and watches online video now and then.

Now he figures he can save \$30 per month by switching himself and his wife to the \$15 plan.

For the iPad, the new \$25-per-month plan will replace the \$30 unlimited plan. iPad owners can keep their plan as long as they keep paying \$30 per month, AT&T said.

DRONES: CIA says targets are precise

—Continued from Page 1

said the use of unmanned aerial vehicles by intelligence agencies such as the CIA to carry out targeted killings in Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere is particularly fraught because of the secrecy surrounding such operations.

"In a situation in which there is no disclosure of who has been killed, for what reason, and whether innocent civilians have died, the legal principle of international accountability is, by definition, comprehensively violated," Alston said.

Although not illegal as such, CIA drone strikes are also more likely to breach the rules of war than similar operations carried out by armed forces, who are more familiar with international law and can resort to non-lethal means because they have troops on the ground, Alston said.

"Unlike a state's armed forces, its intelligence agents do not generally operate within a framework which places appropriate emphasis upon ensuring compliance with international humanitarian law, rendering violations more likely and causing a higher risk of prosecution both for war crimes and for violations of the laws of the state in which any killing occurs," he wrote.

In a March speech, U.S. State Department legal adviser Harold Koh said the administration's procedures for identifying lawful targets were "extremely robust, and advanced technologies have helped to make our targeting even more precise."

The CIA claims that all of its operations are lawful.

A U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of intelligence matters, said drones were an effective and legal means to target members of al-Qaida and the Taliban in areas where the United States or its allies have no military presence.

He cited Pakistan, which officially condemns drone strikes but is widely believed to share intelligence with Washington.

There was no evidence to prove large numbers of innocent lives have been lost in drone strikes, the U.S. official said.

This view has been challenged by human rights groups.

"The point is that innocent people have been killed," said Louise Doswald-Beck, a professor at the Geneva Graduate Institute.

"If you don't have enough personnel on the ground, the chances of your having false information is actually quite huge," she said.

A recommendation in Alston's report is that governments disclose measures in place to provide public investigations of alleged law violations.

Doing so could threatened counter-terror operations, said Michael Boyle of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland.

He said the drones program is effective, ingetting terrorist operatives in places where access is limited.

Alston says more than 40 countries have drone technology,

AT&T's new smart phone data plans

Starting Monday, AT&T Inc. phases out its unlimited wireless data for \$30 per month. Current customer can keep that plan. New customers must pick one of two new plans:

- **DataPlus** — provides 200 megabytes of data for \$15 per month. Go over and you pay another \$15 for 200 more megabytes. AT&T says the plan works for people who surf the Web, send e-mail and use applications like Facebook.

- **DataPro**: provides 2 gigabytes of data per month (10 times more than DataPlus) for \$25 per month. Go over and you pay another \$10 for one more gigabyte. AT&T says 98 percent of smart phone users use less than 2 gigabytes.

- **"Tether"** your phone to a laptop to give the computer Internet access through AT&T's network will cost another \$20 per month, down from the current \$30. iPhones will be able to tether starting this summer after a software upgrade. Prices are in addition to the voice part of the plan, which costs at least \$40 per month, plus taxes and fees that vary by jurisdiction. Data use over Wi-Fi does not count towards the limits.

Source: Associated Press

NATIONAL

Stars honor Hopper in N.M. rite

RANCHOS DE TAOS, N.M. — Jack Nicholson, Val Kilmer and Dean Stockwell were among the actors who mixed Wednesday in New Mexico with dozens of Dennis Hopper's relatives, friends and Taos locals to remember the two-time Oscar nominee at a memorial Mass.



Hopper

Hopper's simple wooden coffin was ushered into the adobe chapel at historic San Francisco de Asis church in Ranchos de Taos.

Hopper, who was twice nominated for Oscars and earned a star this year on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, died Saturday at age 74 at his home in Los Angeles. He was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2009.

Lightning strikes 9 at Old Faithful

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. — A lightning strike in Yellowstone National Park injured nine people waiting to see Old Faithful geyser erupt around 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash says one man hit by the bolt is expected to be released from the hospital Wednesday evening. The others suffered minor injuries.

He says a 57-year-old man, whose name was not released, was taken to Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Nash says some bystanders performed CPR on him before rangers arrived.

W.Va. explosion site explored

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Two teams of Massey Energy and government employees have resumed exploring a West Virginia mine where 29 men died in an explosion last month.

Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration spokeswoman Amy Louviere says the teams got about 1,000 feet into the mine on the first try. They left when handheld meters registered potentially elevated levels of carbon monoxide and methane gas.

Terror suspect to lose Conn. home

SHELTON, Conn. —The suspect in last month's failed Times Square bombing is slated to lose his Connecticut home to foreclosure under a court order.

A notice of judgment filed Tuesday in Milford Superior Court orders Faisal Shahzad to repay more than \$200,000 to Chase Home Finance LLC on his Shelton home by July 31 or lose it to foreclosure.

Shahzad is in federal custody on terrorism charges for allegedly trying to set off a car bomb in New York on May 1.

N.J. soda pooper gets probation

CAMDEN, N.J. — His lawyer calls it a foolish prank, but a judge isn't laughing. A 17-year-old high school student from Haddon Township admitted in family court Thursday that he defecated in a classmate's soda during a auto-shop class.

Prosecutors dropped an aggravated assault charge in exchange for the boy's guilty plea to a charge of tampering with a food product.

Authorities said the victim sipped the soda on March 29, then spit it out as his classmates laughed.

A judge ordered the boy to serve probation, serve 200 hours of community service, write a letter to the victim to apologize and write a 1,000-word report on why it's unhealthy to ingest fecal matter.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

GANGS

Curfew helps police clean up streets

Injunctions help reduce gang crime; innocent feel targeted

THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — College student Christian Rodriguez was heading home from his girlfriend's house when two police officers threw him face-down on the ground, clapped him in handcuffs and arrested him.

His offense? Being out past 10 p.m.

Police said the 20-year-old is a gang member and subject to a sweeping court injunction cover-

ing the housing project where he lives. The injunction lets police enforce a nighttime curfew and arrest people for hanging out in public and wearing gang colors.

The soft-spoken Rodriguez has no adult criminal record and claims he was never in a gang, though police say he was an active member in his early teens.

Like dozens of other young men who dispute their gang label, he faces an uphill task trying to clear his name.

Authorities are increasing the use of injunctions, saying they help reduce gang crimes. But civil rights groups insist police are casting too wide a net and

snagging innocent people.

"They see me out there and say I'm out there gang-banging, but I'm not," said Rodriguez, a straight-A student at an alternative high school who also attends college classes and recently won a scholarship to study for an associate's degree.

In Los Angeles alone, 43 injunctions covering 71 gangs and about 5,500 alleged gang members are in place. Authorities say dropping crime rates are proof that injunctions work.

Officials credit an injunction for transforming MacArthur Park from a place where killings and drug deals were common to a

popular recreation area.

"It's been a big part of why gang crime has dropped," said Lt. Nicholas Sinibaldi, who oversees area gang operations.

Since the injunction was implemented, some residents say they have been wrongly identified as gang members and unfairly subjected to the injunction. They say they have lost basic freedoms like the ability to visit relatives in certain neighborhoods. Individuals convicted of violating terms of an injunction can face up to six months in jail, as well as a \$1,000 fine. Still, in many neighborhoods where injunctions have been imple-

IN LOS ANGELES

✓ 43 injunctions

✓ 71 gangs

✓ 5,500 alleged gang members

mented, the sense of improvement is palpable. In MacArthur Park, kids play soccer and families use an outdoor gym where gangs once sold fake green cards and attacked park users.

"Before, people couldn't go in there," cook Eduardo Osorio, who works at a chicken grill next to the park, said in Spanish. "Now it's much calmer."

BIRTH CONTROL

More teens use rhythm method, says CDC

Survey finds more teenagers accepting of unmarried moms

MIKE STOBBE
Associated Press

ATLANTA — A growing number of teen girls in America say they use the rhythm method for birth control, and more teens also think it's OK for an unmarried female to have a baby, according to a government survey released Wednesday.

Overall, teenage use of birth control and attitudes toward pregnancy have remained about the same since a similar survey was done in 2002, with some notable exceptions.

In the survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 17 percent of sexually experienced teen girls say they had used the rhythm method, timing their sex to avoid fertile days to prevent getting pregnant. That's up from 11 percent in 2002.

They may have been using another form of birth control at the same time, but the increase is considered worrisome because the rhythm method doesn't work about 25 percent of the time, said Joyce Abma, the report's lead author.

The survey results were based on face-to-face interviews with nearly 2,800 teens ages 15 to 19 at their homes in the years 2006 through 2008.

It found that about 42 percent of never-married teens had had sex at least once in their life. Of those, 98 percent said they'd used birth control at least once, with condoms being the most common choice.

The increase in the rhythm method and teen attitudes may help explain recent trends in the teen birth rate. The teen birth rate declined steadily from 1991 through 2005, but rose from 2005 to 2007.

"We've known the decline in childbearing stalled out. This report kind of fills in the why," said Bill Albert, a spokesman for the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.

Nearly 64 percent of teen boys said it's OK for an unmarried female to have a child, up from 50 percent in 2002. More than 70 percent of teen girls agreed, up from 65 percent.

The survey was conducted at a time of some highly publicized pregnancies of unmarried teens, including Bristol Palin, the daughter of former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin.

HOCKEY FEVER



NAM Y. HUH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Chicago Blackhawks fan stands with his imitation Stanley Cup in front of the statue of former Chicago Bulls basketball player Michael Jordan before Game 2 of the Stanley Cup NHL hockey finals between the Blackhawks and the Philadelphia Flyers on Monday. The Jordan statue is among

a collection of famous statues in the city now donning Blackhawks gear, including the bronze lions that guard the entrance to Chicago's Art Institute, as hockey fever returns to the city that hasn't won a Stanley Cup championship since 1961. Chicago leads the seven-game series 2-1.

POLITICAL ANALYSIS

Purists toss out moderates in primary

Polarized stance could alienate centrist voters in fall elections

CHARLES BABINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two more members of Congress have fallen victim to strategies that worked before: switching parties to avoid defeat and edging to the political center in the early going.

This year, it was political purists in Alabama who tossed out lawmakers from both parties in primary elections, which often are dominated by highly motivated and ideological voters.

As in Utah, Pennsylvania, Florida and other states, these voters are demanding party fealty, making the political center look slippery — at least for now.

While energizing spring primary campaigns, their passions might cause headaches for both parties in November, when independent and moderate voters will be much more plentiful.

In Alabama, Democrat-turned-Republican Rep. Parker Griffith got clobbered in the GOP primary by Mo Brooks, who was backed by Tea Party activists.

Meanwhile, in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, Rep. Artur Davis lost badly after running a campaign that seemed aimed mainly at the November general election. Davis, who is black, paid dearly for opposing President Barack Obama's health-care



DAVE MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican gubernatorial candidate Bradley Byrne celebrates at his campaign party in Montgomery, Ala. Tuesday's primary election secured Byrne a spot in the July 13 runoff.

groups.

Alabama Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks, who is white, easily defeated Davis by running a more liberal campaign. He endorsed the health-care bill and won the support of the state's major black political groups.

Davis ran on the hope that Alabama primary voters would agree that their state will not elect a governor in November who campaigned as a mainstream national Democrat.

And Griffith, who had voted in Congress against Obama's health bill, economic stimulus and "cap and trade" plan for carbon emissions, assumed his district's Republican activists would embrace a conservative who switched to the GOP.

Both men underestimated the intensity of their parties' most ideological voters, who want party purity even if it complicates matters this fall. These voters show no sympathy for politicians who appear to shift their principles to stay in office.

"You have a polarization happening on both the left and the right," Washington-based GOP consultant Ron Bonjean said. "They're going to have to capture the center" to win in November.

For now, that seems of little concern to primary voters of either party. Earlier this year, Utah Republicans rejected conservative Sen. Bob Bennett in favor of Tea Party activists who are even more conservative and libertarian-leaning.

If Alabama voters are trendsetters, then other primary voters will care more about ideological intensity than temperate appeals to centrists.

It's a great laboratory for political junkies, and it will offer fascinating choices for voters this fall.

TELEVISION

Networks rely on syndication for profit

RYAN NAKASHIMA
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — If you looked at the finances of the broadcast TV networks, you might not be optimistic about the future of free TV.

Each year, ABC, NBC and Fox contribute a smaller share of the profits reaped by their parent companies. Meanwhile cable channels gain viewers and get growing chunks of the advertising pie.

So why are networks spending tens of millions of dollars more on prime-time dramas and comedies for next season than they did in last year?

An analysis of the business suggests a few answers:

Spending money on new

programs helps sister divisions such as TV production studios, which will own the rights to shows in perpetuity and can sell them in other countries, to other channels and on home video.

That's partly why NBC is investing 40 percent more in new shows this year than in the 2009-10 season and backtracked from its move last year to replace new shows with a daily dose of Jay Leno at 10 p.m. Its 13 new shows are more than double the number it made last year.

The mantra of new spending at NBC has been backed by Brian Roberts, CEO of Comcast Corp., which is set to take control of the media company

from General Electric Co. in a \$13.75 billion deal expected to close late this year.

"If you have a few years where you don't invest in your programming, three or four years down the line that stream of revenue is going to take a huge dip," said Jeff Gaspin, chairman of NBC Universal Television Entertainment. "We need to start to seed those new hits."

It's partly history and partly economics, but cable networks anchor their programming with reruns of shows that were once broadcast. That helps fill their 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week schedule.

"If you look at USA Network, it's driven by 'House.' If

you look at Turner (TNT), it's driven by 'Law & Order,'" said Bruce Rosenblum, president of the Warner Bros. Television Group, which makes shows for all the networks.

Audiences tend to decrease for reruns, so it's better to start big on broadcast. To be sure, some original cable shows are popular and cable channel owners continue to spend on new programs. But even the season premiere of AMC's highly regarded "Mad Men" was watched by fewer people last fall than a recent rerun of CBS's "NCIS" on USA.

The benefit of hitting a home run outweighs the cost of a few strikeouts.

Mega-hits like "CSI" or

"Lost" can be sold around the world and generate hundreds of millions of dollars in licensing fees for reruns. A failed show might have cost \$1 million-plus per episode to produce, but much of that cost is covered by advertising revenue.

"If a show doesn't work after a couple of airings, you've limited your costs to maybe two or three or at most nine episodes and you go on to the next one," said Fred Reynolds, former chief financial officer for CBS Corp., which still gets most of its profit from broadcast. "You're always trying to come up with the show that's going to beat the incumbent. That's good."

MEXICO

Police halt huge weapons shipment

Cache is largest in Laredo area for last decade

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MCALLEN — Laredo police said they made one of their largest weapons seizures in years after pulling over a truck laden with brand-new assault rifles, bayonets and ammunition. The seizure Saturday afternoon came less than two weeks after Mexican President Felipe Calderon asked the U.S. Congress to help stem the flow of guns from the U.S. into Mexico.

Acting on a tip from the Webb County Sheriff's Office, Laredo police stopped a vehicle containing 147 brand-new, boxed assault rifles, 200 high-capacity magazines, 53 bayonets and 10,000 rounds of ammunition. One of the two men in the vehicle tried to flee but was apprehended, said Laredo Police Investigator Joe Baeza.

Baeza said when authorities laid out the cache in a conference room, it covered half the floor. He said it was the largest weapons seizure in a decade in the area around Laredo, which is 145 miles south of San Antonio along the U.S.-Mexico border.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives are investigating the seizure, but Baeza said the presumption is the vehicle was heading to Mexico.

"Two Joe Blows aren't going to buy a bunch of weapons and it stops there," Baeza said. "We're pretty positive it was headed to Mexico." He declined to release the names of the two men in custody.

Mexico has long complained that its violent drug war is fueled by weapons smuggled from the U.S.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forensic experts and federal police examine the body of a man who was killed by gunmen along with his 3 year-old daughter in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico on Tuesday. Drug cartels, the source

of much of the violence, smuggle billions of dollars in cash out of the U.S. each year. Half of that never goes through a bank, according to a recent study.

Following Mexican money trails

Study tracks smuggled cash in hopes of finding clues to apprehend drug lords

MARTHA MENDOZA
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — A first-ever study targeting the exorbitant wealth of Mexico's drug lords shows more than half the money smuggled out of the U.S. each year is cash that never passes through a bank, making it nearly invisible to law enforcement.

That cash is either stashed away or directly spent in Mexico, where 75 percent of business is done in cash. Drug moguls can buy real estate, cars, airline tickets and just about everything else in cash, allowing their powerful businesses to easily launder the estimated \$19 billion to \$29 billion they earn each year selling cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana in the U.S.

Considering how big the cash-based economy is in Mexico, "we can see why it's going to be important for Mexico have restrictions on how cash can be used, or to require that large purchases are accompanied with notary certificates reported to the Treasury," said the U.S. ambassador to Mexico Carlos Pascual.

In the U.S. just 20 percent of all transactions are conducted in cash.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Secretary John Morton said neither country has done enough to target the cash supporting drug cartels

"Simply arresting people won't be a complete solution. We have to undermine the organizations and businesses, we have to identify, seize and forfeit their profits," he said.

The study, which was conducted by U.S. and Mexican government agencies, suggests law enforcement agents interested in breaking up drug gangs should target cartel treasurers in Mexico who supervise the movement of the cash from street dealers in U.S. cities to safe houses in Mexico.

The study says that smaller dealers throughout the U.S. send cash to consolidators in five cities. It is then trucked overland to four secondary hubs — Phoenix, El Paso, Dallas and Houston — to be broken into smaller amounts and prepared for smuggling across the border. The most common border crossings for cash smugglers include the Texas cities of McAllen, Laredo and Brownsville, according to the report.

FINANCIAL EXPERTS ON CARTEL FUNDS:

- ✓ Less than half the money smuggled out of the U.S. each year ends up in a bank.
- ✓ They say the rest is either stashed or directly spent in Mexico.
- ✓ Between \$19 billion and \$29 billion are smuggled out of the U.S. each year.
- ✓ More than 22,700 people have been killed since 2006 in drug-gang violence.

TEXAS EXECUTION

Jones appealed until the end

MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — Condemned Texas prisoner George Jones headed to the death chamber Wednesday, having exhausted his court appeals.

Jones, 36, was convicted of the fatal shooting of a Dallas man during a carjacking 17 years ago. His lawyer made no last-day attempts to block the lethal injection — the 12th this year in the nation's busiest death penalty state.

"I can't cry and complain," Jones said recently from a visiting cage outside death row. "That's not going to stop anything."

Jones was arrested at his parents' home about five months after the body of Forrest Hall, 22, was found in April 1993 along a rural road near Lancaster, about 15 miles south of Dallas. The employee at Dallas' Parkland Memorial



MICHAEL GRACZYK/ASSOCIATED PRESS
George Jones

Hospital had been shot twice in the head after he was abducted and his car was taken from a Dallas shopping mall.

Jones acknowledged being a drug dealer but said prosecutors were wrong when they tied him to 21 crimes, including Hall's slaying and another killing before he was arrested.

"They were putting cases on me in places I never was," he said. "If I do something, I own up to it."

"How can I feel sorry for nothing I had to do with?"

Greg Davis, one of the prosecutors at Jones' capital murder trial, said there was "absolutely no doubt" authorities had the right man.

Five years ago, Jones got within two days of execution before the Court of Criminal Appeals halted the punishment to review claims he was mentally impaired and ineligible for execution.

That appeal was eventually rejected.

Two more executions are scheduled for Texas this month. Next is David Powell, 59, condemned for fatally shooting an Austin police officer, Ralph Albanedo, in 1978. Powell's execution June 15 would come nearly 32 years after he arrived on death row.

below the surface, dispersing the spill and spreading damage along a wider swath, he said. Gray doesn't think the presence of the oil will hamper storms from moving across the Gulf.

According to Gray and his colleagues, there's a 51 percent chance of a major hurricane hitting the Gulf Coast — the long-term average is 30 percent.

Gray said there are some similarities between the lead-up to this hurricane season and other big hurricane years, including 2005 when Hurricane Katrina hit.

Last week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicted 14 to 23 tropical storms, with up to seven major hurricanes.

canes, because of much warmer tropical Atlantic surface temperatures and cooling Pacific conditions.

Researcher William Gray said storms in the Gulf of Mexico could help or hurt efforts to keep oil away from the coast, depending on their courses and how soon the flow of oil is stopped. Hurricane season started Tuesday, but major storms aren't likely for a few months.

If a storm develops to the west of the spill, the storm's counterclockwise rotation could drive the oil toward beaches, Gray said. However, a storm developing to the east could help drive oil away from the coast.

Storms could also cause the oil to sink

TEXAS

US trade official injured

GRAND PRAIRIE — U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk was injured Wednesday when a metal ladder crashed through the windshield of the vehicle he was driving, striking him in the left arm, police said.

Grand Prairie police said Kirk, a former Dallas mayor, was taken to a hospital after the accident on Interstate 30 just west of Dallas. Kirk's office says he was treated for minor injuries and released.

His office said he remains in Dallas and has canceled his immediate schedule.

A vehicle ahead of Kirk's Mercedes struck the ladder that had fallen onto the interstate, causing it to fly into Kirk's car, police said.

Perry: EPA must stop 'power grab'

DEER PARK, Texas — Texas Gov. Rick Perry says the state should not be threatened with a takeover of its air quality program but instead be lauded as the poster child for regulating pollution.

At a news conference Wednesday in the Houston suburb, Perry said the federal government should stop what he called a "power grab" by the Environmental Protection Agency. Last week, the EPA's regional director threatened to remove Texas' regulatory authority if the state fails to comply with the Clean Air Act.

Perry said the Texas program for permitting pollutants from petrochemical plants has helped improve air quality.

Texas death cues baby sling recall

WASHINGTON — The death of a 10-day-old boy in Texas prompted the recall of some handmade baby slings.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission urged parents to stop using the infant slings from Sprout Stuff in Austin — saying the slings pose a suffocation risk.

The boy died in Round Rock in 2007, the agency said.

The agency has investigated at least 13 deaths associated with sling-style infant carriers over the last 20 years. Consumers can contact Sprout Stuff at 877-319-3103 to return the sling for a full refund.

Cold case finally goes to court

DALLAS — The trial began Wednesday for a prison inmate charged in the 1984 killing of a Southern Methodist University student.

Donald Andrew Bess, 61, was serving a life sentence when charged with capital murder for the death of Angela Samota two years ago. If convicted, Bess could face the death penalty.

Samota was 20 when she was found dead. More than 20 years later, authorities said they were able to match DNA evidence to Bess using technology that wasn't available when she was killed. Bess is serving a life sentence for three unrelated sexual assaults.

UT announces plan for layoffs

The University of Texas System is laying off some more employees.

UT System Chancellor Francisco G. Cigarroa announced the cuts Wednesday. He says in the current economic climate, the UT System must implement savings, wear programs that have fulfilled their purpose and look to the future.

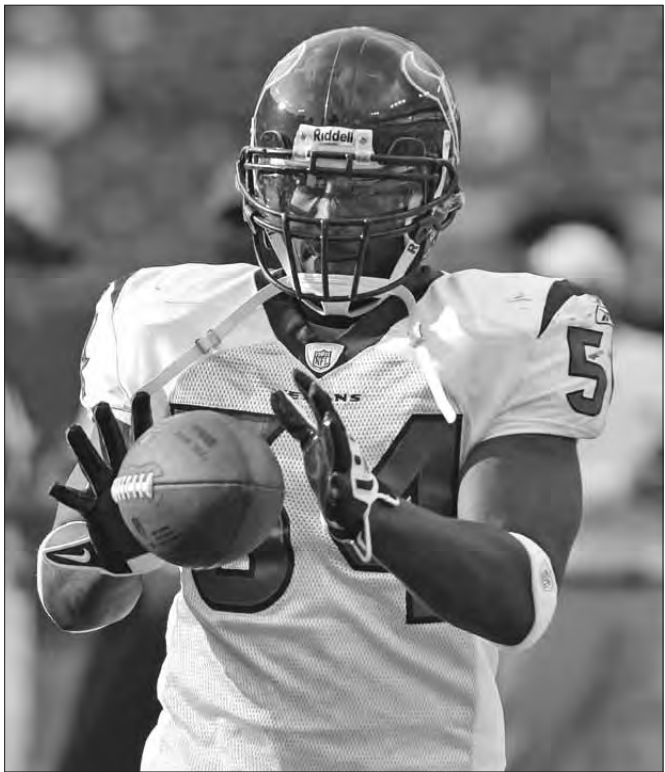
Nineteen full-time positions will be cut, including some executive offices and positions.

The reduction is in addition to other changes in organization within the university.

The realignment of personnel and offices will be effective Sept. 1.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

CATCHING A BREAK



CHRIS O'MEARA/ ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Houston Texans linebacker Zac Diles is on his way to having a great career despite breaking a leg in 2008, according to his coach. "I think he's on the verge of becoming a Pro Bowl linebacker," Coach Gary Kubiak said.

2010 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

Researchers: Tropical storms are wild cards in Gulf oil cleanup

COLLEEN SLEVIN
Associated Press

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — Colorado State University forecasters are predicting an active hurricane season that could complicate efforts to contain the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

The researchers said Wednesday they expect 18 named storms to develop in the Atlantic, including 10 hurricanes. Five are expected to be major, with sustained winds of at least 111 mph, and there's an above-average probability of a major storm striking the United States or Caribbean.

In April, CSU researchers predicted 15 named storms, including eight hurri-

BRITAIN

12 perish in shooting spree

Taxi driver’s rampage stuns country that bans handguns

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press Writer

SEASCALE, England — A taxi driver drove his vehicle on a shooting spree across a tranquil stretch of northwest England on Wednesday, methodically killing 12 people and wounding 25 others before turning the gun on himself, officials said.

The rampage in the county of Cumbria was Britain's deadliest mass shooting since 1996, jolting a country where handguns are banned and multiple shootings rare.

The body of the suspected gunman, 52-year-old Derrick Bird, was found in woods near Boot, a hamlet popular with hikers and vacationers in England's hilly, scenic Lake District.

Police said two weapons were recovered from the scene.

Police said it was too early to say what Bird's motive was or whether the shootings had been random. Some reports said he had quarreled with fellow cab drivers the night before.

Peter Leder, a taxi driver who knew Bird, said he had seen the suspect Tuesday and

didn't notice anything that was obviously amiss. But he was struck by Bird's departing words.

"When he left he said, 'See you Peter, but I won't see you again,'" Leder said.

The first shootings were reported in the coastal town of Whitehaven, about 350 miles (560 kilometers) northwest of London.

Witnesses said the dead there included two of Bird's fellow cab drivers.

Police warned residents to stay indoors as they tracked the suspect's progress across the county. Witnesses described seeing the gunman driving around, shooting from the window of his car.

Deputy Chief Constable Stuart Hyde said there were 30 separate crime scenes.

Many bodies remained on the ground late Wednesday, covered with sheets, awaiting the region's small and overstretched force



SOURCE: ESRI

said people in the quiet area were in shock.

"This kind of thing doesn't happen in our part of the world," he told the BBC. "We have got one of the lowest, if not the lowest, crime rates in the country."

Glenda Pears, who runs L&G Taxis in Whitehaven, said one of the victims was another taxi driver who was a friend of Bird's.

"They used to stand together having a (laugh) on the rank," she said. "He was friends with everybody and used to stand and joke on Duke Street."

Sue Matthews, who works at A2B Taxis in Whitehaven, said Bird was self-employed, quiet and lived alone.

"I would say he was fairly popular. I would see him once a week out and about. He was known as 'Birdy,'" she said. "I can't believe he would do that — he was a quiet little fellow."

Rod Davies, landlord of Gosforth Hall Inn near one of the crime scenes, said residents were not used to this sort of thing.

"There's a lot of fear. A lot of people are expecting to hear names of people they know," he said.

Emergency services were still working late Wednesday to identify all the dead and inform their families.

BANGLADESH



PAVEL RAHMAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue workers search for survivors at the site of a building collapse in Dhaka as local residents look on. Debris buried nearby shanties when a four-story apartment building crumbled, killing at least 20 people, authorities said Wednesday. Still more are trapped in the rubble and feared dead.

Building collapse kills 20 in Dhaka

FARID HOSSAIN
Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh — A four-story apartment building collapsed in Bangladesh's capital, burying nearby shanties and killing at least 20 people, authorities said Wednesday.

Fire official Abdus Salam said six people had been rescued and were taken to a hospital, but others were still trapped in the rubble and feared dead.

"We see more people crushed under the debris," Salam said from the accident site in Dhaka's central Tejgaon district. "So the death toll is likely to go up."

Twenty bodies had been recovered, with army troops joining the rescue work, he said.

Salam said the four-story building was built on what was once a canal, and the owner

had been adding another story to the building.

Local media said the owner had not sought permission from the city for the additional floor. They cited officials from the Capital Development Authority, which oversees building construction in Dhaka.

Another fire official, Ataur Rahman, said it was not known how many people were inside the building at the time of the accident.

Jahangir Kabir Nanak, the cabinet minister in charge of overseeing local governments, said the government ordered an investigation into the collapse.

Dhaka is a teeming city of more than 10 million people. Many of its buildings are constructed without proper design and with poor materials.

JAPAN

Political chaos could follow resignation

ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

TOKYO — The departure of Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama after eight months in office could paralyze Japanese politics or force the creation of a new ruling coalition, with key elections looming, analysts said Wednesday.

Hatoyama's Democratic Party, which will name a new chief Friday, moved quickly to keep the resignation from creating political chaos in the world's second-largest economy.

Several names emerged as possible candidates to succeed Hatoyama, including Finance Minister Naoto Kan, a seasoned progressive veteran, and Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada. Kan said he intends to run.

Hatoyama's resignation comes just ahead of an election next month for half of the seats in parliament's upper house that could test its now-fragile voter mandate.

Some analysts saw Hatoyama's resignation as a pre-emptive bid to help the party — his Cabinet has garnered so little support in public opinion polls that he is seen by many as an election liability. But if the party, an eclectic mix of progressives and former ruling party rebels, does poorly, Hatoyama's successor could have the same fate — creating further uncertainty.

Opposition leaders said the resignation proves the Democrats aren't fit to govern.

"He quit without solving anything," said Sadaaki Tanigaki, the head of the Liberal Democratic Party, which ruled Japan for most of the post-World War II era before Hatoyama toppled it.

Tanigaki said he would seek snap elections in the lower house as well. But it was not clear how well the Liberal Democrats would do at the polls — they had similar problems before the Democrats took over. Hatoyama is Japan's fourth prime minister in four years.



ITSUO INOUE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

TV sets broadcast Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama's decision to step down as an employee makes his rounds at an electronics shop in Tokyo's Shimbashi district.

CHINA



GREG BAKER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ding Zilin, co-founder of Tiananmen Mothers, a group representing families of those who died, stands in front of a shrine to her son in her Beijing apartment on June 4, 2008. As the anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown approaches on Friday, the aging mothers of those who were killed say they fear history will die with them.

Tiananmen memories live on

Families of victims band together, demand recognition

CARA ANNA
Associated Press

BEIJING — The man was in his 80s and dying. The woman was 73 and held his hand. They each lost a son in the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown and fought for decades to get China to acknowledge the deaths.

But Duan Hongbing wouldn't live to see that day.

"I held his hand and told him that I won't give up," the woman, Zhang Xianling, said she told Duan on a visit to his Beijing hospital bed after that promise was made.

As the 21st Tiananmen anniversary approaches Friday, the parents of victims fear their cause will die with them. The oldest of the Tiananmen Mothers, as the group is called, is 94 years old. The group's leader, retired professor Ding Zilin, says more members die each year.

"Can it be that you really want to wear us all down or wait for our deaths so that the problem will naturally disappear?" the group wrote in an essay addressed to the Chinese government and made public this week through the New York-based group Human Rights in China.

China's government has never fully disclosed what happened when the military crushed the weeks-long, student-led protests on the night of June 3-4, 1989, possibly killing thousands of students, activists and ordinary citizens.

Authorities try to stifle any public activities that remember those who died. That has long caused friction with the victims' families as they demand recognition and compensation.

"You have posted guards and sentries in front of the home of each victim's family, followed us closely, watched us, eavesdropped on our phone conversations, interfered with our computer communications, and opened and confiscated our mail," the essay says. "You have even arbitrarily detained us, arrested us, searched our homes and confiscated our possessions, frozen donations to us, and deprived the freedom of movement of relatives of the victims."

Now the passage of time is setting limits of its own.

"I'm in my 80s and my husband is in

The authorities want to pull us down until we're all dead, but even if the tree is dead, its seed will grow eventually.

—Zhang Xianling

his 90s, and we're the oldest parents," said Li Xuewen, whose son was a 28-year-old graduate student planning to go abroad when the crackdown occurred.

Her voice was calm and firm as she spoke by phone Wednesday. "Although we're getting old and suffering from illness, we are clear in mind and we will hold on."

Young people in China know little about the Tiananmen events, but it is clear the issue shimmers below the surface.

One of China's most assertive state-controlled newspapers published a cartoon Tuesday that showed a little boy drawing a line of tanks on a blackboard, with what looked like a soldier standing in front.

It was part of a package for International

Children's Day, but the image was quickly passed around online with comments about the crackdown — then quickly removed from the paper's website.

As authorities again put pressure on people inside China to prevent Tiananmen-related events, those in exile are choosing to mark the day on the latest popular online community — Twitter.

The student leader who topped the most-wanted list after the crackdown, Wang Dan, said in an e-mailed statement Wednesday that he would be Tweeting along with the second most-wanted, Wu'er Kaixi, and fellow student organizer Chen Ziming.

The goal, Wang said, is to "express our determination that we will never forget Tiananmen."

In Beijing, the victims' parents are running out of time to remember.

Ding, the co-founder of Tiananmen Mothers, said she makes a point of visiting relatives when a member of the group dies. Other members also visit or talk quietly.

"But it's hard for us to have any kind of ceremony for them because of the situation in China," Ding said. She spoke by phone Wednesday, which would have been her son's 48th birthday.

Zhang said some of the parents have been privately approached by young people in China who say they secretly support their cause.

"That makes us feel a little relieved," she said. "The authorities want to pull us down until we're all dead, but even if a tree is dead, its seed will grow eventually."

RELATIONSHIPS

When couples grow apart

JOCELYN NOVECK
Associated Press

There was no salacious sex scandal, no prostitution ring, no mysterious trip to Argentina.

Al and Tipper Gore are a famous political couple, but their split after 40 years of marriage stemmed from a more mundane cause, according to friends: They simply grew apart.

And in that, experts say, they're no different from many Americans. Such splits late in a marriage are more common than we think.

"We tend to mistakenly believe that once people reach a certain point in marriage, they just stop splitting up," says Betsey Stevenson, an economist at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School who studies family trends. "But that's simply not true."

In fact, she says, though marriages are more likely to fail in the first 10 years, once couples get past that, "the percentage of those divorcing each year is very similar throughout the years of marriage."

Of course, there's no getting around the shock factor surrounding the Gores' separation announcement, which came in an e-mail Tuesday to friends. Unlike many political couples, they'd spoken openly of their feelings for each other and seemed to share an easy affection, not to mention four children and three grandchildren.

That affection was apparent even without The Kiss—the go-for-broke liplock between the vice president and his wife at the 2000 Democratic convention that made so many blush. Was it impulsive or calculated? Either way, it was still quite a kiss.

But now the Gores are parting, and many are asking not only, "Why THEM?" but, "Why NOW?"

Talk to relationship experts, though, and they point to a host of reasons why a couple at such a late stage might find themselves in the same position.

Perhaps the most obvious: After 40 years, children are well into adulthood, often with children of their own. Before then, even when children are teens or young adults, parenting can be virtually

wed.)

The two are now 61 and 62, seemingly with decades of health ahead of them. "The idea used to be that by our 60s, life was pretty much over anyway," Coontz says. "But today, people who reach 65 are likely to have another 20 years ahead. So it makes the calculus of living in an unhappy marriage even harder to take."

Plus, with longer life expectancies, there are more potential new partners out there — "what we call a thicker remarriage market," Coontz says. A 2004 study on divorce conducted by AARP seemed to bear that out, finding that three-quarters of women in their 50s and more than 80 percent of men reported having a serious relationship after their divorce — often within two years.

The U.S. Census Bureau does not



SUSAN WALSH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Vice President Al Gore and his wife, Tipper, are separating after a 40-year marriage. Such splits late in a marriage may be more common than many people think. Here, they listen to President Barack Obama's inauguration.

tabulate divorce rates for specific age groups. But Stevenson points to its 2008 American Community Survey, which asked people if they had divorced in the past year. Among those who said they had, a quarter had married more than 20 years earlier.

After losing the 2000 presidential race, Al Gore carved out a post-politics career that has taken him around the globe. His campaign to draw attention to climate change led to a 2007 Nobel Peace Prize and an Oscar for the documentary "An Inconvenient Truth." During those years, Tipper Gore has been said to have focused on her photography.

Despite the apparent divergence in the Gores' lifestyles, some might ask whether a marriage that lasted 40 years can ever be called a failure.

Stevenson, of the Wharton School, is one of them. "People see this as sad, but I don't see how we can look at a 40-year marriage and say it's a failure," she says. "It's really tough to make it to 70 years! The Gores obviously had a lot of successes."

Still, some were asking, how could a marriage be troubled and appear so outwardly successful? And what about that kiss? Maybe, as the cynics said at the time, it was a smacker calculated to paint as broad a contrast as possible between the Gores and the Clintons, whose marriage was tainted in the public eye by the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Or maybe it tells us nothing at all. "It's possible they could have been growing apart by then and just have been feeling that exhilaration of the moment," Coontz says. "Or, they could have started growing apart after that."

Whatever made the Gores drift apart, the silver lining may be that at this stage in life, splits are often much more amicable.

"I've seen couples at 40 years who are quite gracious with each other," Katz says. "They realize they just don't have that intimate partnership anymore — or maybe they realize they never had it. But it can be a very respectful parting of ways. As people get older, their capacity for reflection grows."

Which means we may never see the uncomfortable Oprah interview, as in the John and Elizabeth Edwards marriage, or the cringe-worthy public ramblings of a Gov. Mark Sanford.

Which is a good thing.

We tend to mistakenly believe that once people reach a certain point in marriage, they just stop splitting up.

—Betsey Stevenson, University of Pennsylvania

a permanent distraction from one's own marriage.

Compounding the normal stresses and demands of raising four children, the Gores went through a painful ordeal when their then-6-year-old son, Albert, was nearly killed in a car accident.

"Even with older children, the demands are quite intense," says Elana Katz, a family therapist and divorce mediator at New York's Ackerman Institute for the Family. "That can be distracting, or it can create a strong bond. But when that chapter is done, people face each other across the kitchen table and say, 'Can this be the relationship that's my primary source of enjoyment as we go forward?'"

Also, says Katz, older people have expectations for their relationships now that previous generations may not have had. "Even a couple of decades ago, people didn't have the same expectations of love and intimacy at a later age," she says.

It's significant that Al and Tipper Gore married in 1970, says Stephanie Coontz, author of "Marriage, A History," and professor of family studies at Evergreen State College in

Olympia, Wash. Marriages in the late '60s and '70s are marked by higher divorce rates than those of later years, she says.

Why? Partly because people still married very young. (Tipper Gore was 21 and Al Gore 22 when they



TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Education funding fuels Round 2

Medicaid, redistricting also on special agenda

CHRISTOMLINSON
The Associated Press

The Texas Legislature convened for a special session Tuesday and has 30 days to pass bills that would make drastic cuts to public-school funding during the next two years.

Legislators failed to agree on a bill before the regular session ended.

Gov. Rick Perry recalled the Legislature for a special session as soon as the regular session adjourned Monday night because a lawmaker used a filibuster to kill a bill that would have let the state pay public schools \$4 billion less than under law. Without the bill, the state could not distribute about \$37 billion to public schools.

"This special session is going to be about putting the finishing touches on what we already see as a truly historic legislative session," Perry said Tuesday at a joint press conference with Speak-

er of the House Joe Straus and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.

The governor also wants lawmakers to pass proposed changes to Medicaid, the government's health-insurance program for the poor. The bill would save money by expanding privatization of Medicaid services in Texas and creating incentives to improve the quality of care, Republicans said.

On Tuesday night, Perry added congressional redistricting to the special

Please see FUNDS, Page 2

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 5

- ✓ The Legislature ended its regular session with a variety of new environmental rules
- ✓ Perry vetoed a bill requiring more Internet retailers to collect sale tax
- ✓ Map proposed by Republican lawmakers would add districts in Austin and San Antonio areas

HOUSING MARKET

Texas bubble set to burst

Price declines moving to Dallas, other cities previously spared

ALEXVEIGA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even cities that weathered the housing market crash with relatively little damage are suffering.

Severe price declines have spread to Dallas, Denver, Minneapolis and Cleveland, which had mostly withstood the bust in housing since 2006. The damage has now gone well beyond cities hit hardest by unemployment and foreclosures, such as Phoenix and Las Vegas.

"We didn't enjoy the highs and the lows like other cities," said Kay Weeks, a real estate agent with Ebby Halliday in Dallas, where prices fell nearly 1 percent in March and are expected to keep falling. "But when we get bad news nationally, people take notice and cut back on spending and buying homes."

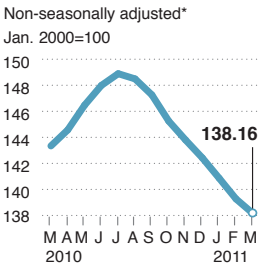
Home prices in big metro areas have sunk to their lowest since 2002, the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city monthly index showed Tuesday. Since the bubble burst in

Please see HOUSES, Page 2

Home prices fall

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller home 20-city housing index fell 0.8 percent in March.

Composite 20-city index



*Standard & Poor's is temporarily using non-seasonally adjusted figures because the surge in foreclosures appears to have magnified the seasonal factors in S&P's computer model, making them less reliable.

SOURCE: Standard & Poor's AP



MAVERICKS MELT UNDER HEAT'S SECOND-HALF ATTACK



LYNNE SLADKY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (41) takes a break during Game 1 of the NBA Finals basketball game against the Miami Heat on Tuesday night in Miami.

MORE ONLINE: For complete recap and analysis of the Mavericks' Game 1 loss, visit SWJournalist.com

U.S. CONGRESS

House defeats debt-limit increase

Republican voted down own proposal in theatrical gambit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — House Republicans defeated their own proposal for a \$2.4 trillion increase in the nation's debt limit Tuesday, a political gambit designed to reinforce a demand for spending cuts to accompany any increase in government borrowing.

The vote was lopsided, with just 97 in favor of the measure and 318 against.

House Democrats accused the GOP of political demagoguery, while the Obama administration maneuvered to avoid taking sides — or giving offense to Republicans.

The debate set a standard of sorts for public theater, particularly at a time when private negotiations contin-

Please see DEBT, Page 2

MISSOURI RIVER FLOOD

Emergency levees built to protect threatened cities

Residents fortify homes, evacuate

CHET BROKAW
Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. — Crews raced approaching floodwaters Tuesday to complete emergency levees aimed at protecting South Dakota's capital city and two other towns as the swollen Missouri River rolled downstream from the Northern Plains. Meanwhile, the mayor of Minot, N.D., ordered a quarter of the city's residents to evacuate areas along the flooding Souris River.

Residents of the upscale community of Dakota Dunes in southeastern South Dakota, below the final dam on the river, have been told to move their possessions to higher ground and be ready to leave their homes by Thursday, a day before releases from the dams are set to increase again.

Several thousand people in Pierre, the state capital, and neighboring Fort Pierre have been working day and night since late last week to lay sandbags around their homes and move to safety.

Those forced to leave their homes may not be able to return for two months or more.



SOURCE: cia.gov

No evacuation orders had been issued Tuesday in South Dakota, but many people in the three cities had already moved to safer places.

"We're going to fight this flood with every fiber of our beings, and we'll do everything we can to minimize its effects," Gov. Dennis Daugaard said.

In Minot, N.D., Mayor Curt Zimbelman said the evacuation order affects about 10,000 residents who live along a 4-mile stretch of the Souris, which has risen with rain, snowmelt and discharges from Lake Darling. Zimbelman said residents are expected to be out of their homes by tonight, in

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part to give construction crews room to raise and reinforce earthen dikes in the area. The Souris is part of a different river system than the Missouri.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is increasing releases from the six dams on the Missouri River to drain water from record rains of up to 8 inches that fell in eastern Montana and Wyoming and western North Dakota and South Dakota in the past two weeks.



TIM HYNDY / SIOUX CITY JOURNAL

Volunteer Bernie Ketelsen hands a sandbag to homeowner Julie Hainfield while working Tuesday to protect her home from rising Missouri River floodwaters. About 100 volunteers, including numerous high school students, worked to build a sandbag levee around the home, which is located along the Missouri River in rural Sloan, Iowa.

Heavy runoff from melting snow in the northern Rocky Mountains is expected to add to the problem soon.

Flooding in Montana has damaged at least 200 homes on the Crow Indian Reservation and many more homes and businesses in other areas.

In the three South Dakota cities, streets were busy with National Guard trucks, pickups carrying sandbags and

large trucks carrying clay to build the levees. Many homes had already been surrounded with walls of sandbags that were up to 6 feet high.

The governor said no deaths had been reported from flooding, and for now, the concern is about saving property.

"In the end, we must remember these things are just things," Daugaard said.

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan names bin Laden commission

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's prime minister has named members to the commission tasked with investigating the circumstances surrounding the May 2 U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

Pakistan was embarrassed by both the al-Qaida chief's discovery in a northwest garrison city and the Americans' ability to carry out the operation and leave without detection.

Led by a judge, the five-member panel's mandate includes establishing the "full facts" regarding bin Laden's presence in Pakistan, a statement Tuesday said.

Journalist found dead in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — A Pakistani journalist who investigated al-Qaida's alleged infiltration of the navy and told a rights activist he'd been threatened by the country's intelligence agencies was found dead Tuesday. Police said his body showed signs of torture.

Syed Saleem Shahzad's death underscores the dangers of reporting in Pakistan, where eight media workers were killed in 2010.

Shahzad, a correspondent for the Asia Times Online and the Italian news agency Adn Kronos International, went missing Sunday from Islamabad.

A senior Pakistani intelligence official denied allegations that the agency had anything to do with Shahzad's death.

Syrian president grants amnesty to prisoners

BEIRUT —Syrian President Bashar Assad issued a general amnesty Tuesday for prisoners, including those deemed to have committed political "crimes," as pressure built from a 10-week-old uprising that his regime has failed to quell.

Syrian state television said the amnesty covers crimes committed before May 31 and reduces criminal sentences for felony convictions in half unless a personal lawsuit is involved.

The amnesty could affect some 10,000 people Syrian activists say have been rounded up since the protests against the Assad regime broke out in mid-March.

More than 1,000 civilians have been killed since protests broke out.

Assad's move was the latest in a series of reforms — including lifting a 40-year-old state of emergency and granting citizenship to stateless Kurds in eastern Syria — aimed at addressing the grievances of protesters.

'Titanic' anniversary in Belfast

DUBLIN — The people of Belfast commemorated Tuesday the 100th anniversary of the launching of the supposedly unsinkable Titanic. The Northern Ireland capital celebrated with cheers from schoolchildren in Edwardian period costumes, the tooting of foghorns and a hymn-singing dockside choir.

Titanic launched into Belfast Lough on May 31, 1911. Ten months later, more than 1,500 of its 2,200 passengers and crew drowned or froze to death after it struck an iceberg and sank on its maiden voyage to New York City.

Behind Tuesday's celebrations is a determined decade-long push to transform the former shipyards from an industrial wasteland into Belfast's sharpest new residential and tourist district, a \$1.65 billion project.

A new Titanic Quarter visitors center expected to open before next year's 100th anniversary of the ship's sinking will focus on the liner's 1909-12 construction.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

E. COLI SCARE

Bacteria outbreak spreads

Two cases reported in U.S.

DAVID RISING
Associated Press

BERLIN — Sixteen people are dead and more than 1,000 sick in the unprecedented foodborne bacterial outbreak that has plagued Germany and other European nations. Nearly 400 people are suffering severe and potentially fatal symptoms. But several days into the health threat, scientists remain unsure what produce — and what country — is responsible.

European investigators were frantically trying to determine the scope of the contamination. Vegetables from Spain, while contaminated, did not cause the outbreak.

In Germany, where the vast majority of deaths and severe illnesses have been reported, officials said investigations have shown that people were likely infected by eating raw cucumbers, tomatoes or lettuce. They are warning consumers to avoid those vegetables, and Russia has banned imports of those vegetables from Spain or Germany.

In its most severe form, the

infection can attack the kidneys, causing seizures, strokes and comas.

"There has not been such an outbreak before that we know of in the history of public health," said Dr. Robert Tauxe, a foodborne disease expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

He added that the strain of E. coli in the European outbreak has not been seen previously in the United States. The CDC said two cases have been reported in the U.S.— though the states remain unknown—and both had recently traveled to Hamburg, Germany.

There's little precedent in the U.S. or Europe for such high death tolls in foodborne outbreaks. In 1996, an E. coli outbreak in the United Kingdom caused 216 cases and 11 deaths.

E. coli is found in the digestive systems of humans, cows and other mammals. In most cases, the infection causes diarrhea and other non-lethal stomach ailments.

But the bacteria involved in the latest outbreak, enterohaemorrhagic E. coli, causes more severe symptoms, ranging from bloody diarrhea to hemolytic uremic syndrome — the rare kidney condition suffered in the most severe



SERGIO TORRES / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A farm worker shows a cucumber cut in half in a greenhouse in Algarrobo, near Malaga, in southern Spain. Spanish farmers whose produce has been cited as a possible source of the deadly bacterial infection in Europe are angry as machines grind their suddenly unwanted fruit and vegetables into compost.

cases. At least 373 people in Germany and 15 in Sweden have come down with the syndrome, which kills roughly 5 percent of patients.

Total cases, including less severe EHEC infections, top 1,150 in Germany alone. Other infections have been reported in Denmark, France, the Czech Republic, the U.K., the Netherlands and Switzerland. Many

patients in those cases had recently traveled to Germany.

New evidence suggests that German vegetables may have been contaminated by at least two strains of EHEC.

European Union officials said Germany identified cucumbers from the Spanish regions of Almeria and Malaga as possible sources of contamination, and a third suspect

HEALTH

Cellphones, cancer possibly linked

MARIA CHENG
Associated Press

LONDON — A respected international panel of experts says cellphones are possible cancer-causing agents, putting them in the same category as the pesticide DDT, gasoline engine exhaust and coffee.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer — an arm of the World Health Organization — issued the classification Tuesday in Lyon, France, after a review of dozens of published studies. The assessment now goes to WHO and national health agencies for possible guidance on cellphone use.

"Possibly carcinogenic" classification doesn't mean they automatically cause cancer and some experts said the ruling shouldn't change people's cellphone habits.

"Anything is a possible carcinogen," said Donald Berry, a professor of biostatistics at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. "This is not something I worry about and it will not in any way change how I use my cellphone," he said.

After a weeklong meeting, the panel found limited evidence cellphone use was linked to two types of brain tumors and inadequate evidence to draw conclusions for other cancers.

"We found some threads of evidence telling us how cancers might occur, but there were acknowledged gaps and uncertainties," said Jonathan Samet, the panel's chairman.

batch, originating either in the Netherlands or in Denmark and sold in Germany, was also under investigation.

On Tuesday, however, officials said they had found a slightly different type of EHEC on the cucumbers than the strain detected in the feces of German victims.

BOSNIA



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Mladic pats Izudin Alic on the head in 1995.



ALMIR ALIC / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Izudin Alic visits his father's gravestone.

'He killed my father'

Boy in video recalls chilling encounter with Mladic and finds solace in his capture

ALMIRALIC
Associated Press

PROHICI, Bosnia-Herzegovina — The video horrified the world: a grinning Ratko Mladic patting a young Muslim boy on the head and assuring him everyone in the Srebrenica area would be safe — just hours before overseeing the murder of 8,000 men and boys.

The boy in the video is now a 24-year-old man. He clearly recalls the sunny day in July 1995 when he met the Bosnian Serb military commander who gave him chocolate.

"I was 8 and I didn't know what was going on or who Ratko Mladic was," Izudin Alic told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview Tuesday.

Mladic, 69, was captured last week by Serbian intelligence agents after 16 years on the run, and the U.N. war crimes tribunal in The Hague plans to try him on charges of genocide. Mladic was flown Tuesday to the Netherlands after judges rejected his appeal to block extradition.

In 1995, Alic was among thousands of Bosnian Muslims who fled to the Srebrenica area seeking U.N. troops' protection. That July evening, he joined other kids flocking to a field

where they heard an important soldier was handing out chocolate.

"I went there with other children and took that chocolate bar from Ratko Mladic," said Alic, a lanky man with sunken eyes. "He asked me what my name was and I said 'Izudin.' I was not afraid. I was just focused on the chocolate."

Alic's grandfather had forbidden him to go, but he sneaked out of the factory where the family was hiding because he couldn't resist the lure of chocolate.

He was devouring it with gratitude while his father, Sahzet, was being hunted down by Mladic's men in the nearby woods. His father

had fled the night before along with 15,000 other Srebrenica men. "He was found years ago in one of the mass graves," Alic said, flipping through a photo album showing the family in a garden in front of their home.

The video that captured Mladic patting Alic on the head generated worldwide revulsion because of the contrast between the military commander's feigned benevolence and the reality of the massacre to come.

Mladic paraded among Bosnian refugees, promising evacuation with his soldiers and handing out chocolate to kids.

In the video, Mladic asked Alic his age, and Alic responded, "Twelve." He says he lied to appear older, not realizing the risks. The youngest known Srebrenica victim was 14.

He should get the biggest sentence possible. He killed my father, my uncle and so many of our people.
—Izudin Alic

NATO

Afghan president seeks end to airstrikes

HEIDIVOGT
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan's president on Tuesday ordered NATO to stop bombing homes, citing the risk of civilian casualties, and put himself on a collision course with his Western protectors who insist the attacks are an essential weapon and will continue.

Hamid Karzai's strongest-ever statement against alliance airstrikes further complicated a difficult relationship with an Obama administration preparing to drawdown troops in the increasingly unpopular war.

Karzai's remarks were prompted by a recent air attack that mistakenly killed a group of children and women

in southern Helmand province. NATO said at least nine civilians were killed in Saturday's airstrike in Helmand province. Afghan officials have said 14 were killed, including at least 10 children and two women.

NATO officials apologized for the Helmand province strike, launched in response to an insurgent attack on a coalition patrol that killed a U.S. Marine. Five insurgents occupied a family compound and continued to attack troops, who then called in the airstrike.

"From this moment, airstrikes on the houses of people are not allowed," Karzai told reporters in Kabul. NATO officials said airstrikes cannot be avoided as long as insurgents



MUSADEQ SADEQ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said during a press conference that he will no longer allow NATO airstrikes on houses, issuing his strongest statement yet against Western military strikes.

use civilians as shields.

In Brussels, NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu insisted the alliance takes Karzai's concerns very seriously and would continue to make every

effort to avoid civilian casualties, including coordination with Afghan forces. Lungescu refused to comment on the recent raid.

Karzai's spokesman Waheed

Omar said the president plans to stand firm on this issue, regardless of the fallout with NATO.

"The president was very clear today about the fact that bombardments on Afghan homes and Afghan civilians are unacceptable and must be stopped. There is no room for back and forth on this," Omar said, adding the the Afghan government would act "unilaterally" if the strikes continued.

Karzai did not explain his threat of "unilateral action" but said he plans to discuss it with NATO officials in a meeting next week.

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS RAHIM FAIEZ IN KABUL AND DON MELVIN IN BRUSSELS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

POLITICS

GOP potentials mull their odds

Early campaigning slower than in 2008

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sarah Palin draws crowds with her hide-and-seek bus tour. Michele Bachmann says Palin's plans won't dissuade her from her likely presidential bid. Iowa GOP activists travel to New Jersey to implore Gov. Chris Christie to run, and

Texas Gov. Rick Perry weighs a campaign. The Republican presidential field is far less settled than it seemed just a week ago, and it shows few signs of jelling soon. With campaigning off to a slow start in early-voting states, half a dozen potential candidates are mulling whether to jump in. The stepped-up interest follows decisions by three prominent Republicans —

Haley Barbour, Mike Huckabee and Mitch Daniels — to forgo a campaign, making the field less crowded than some had expected. Meanwhile, GOP activists don't appear ready to start narrowing their choices. They seem unconcerned that an important Iowa straw poll is 74 days away and President Barack Obama's re-election team is setting up shop in dozens of states. In Iowa, which holds the

nation's first caucus, campaign traffic had reached deeply into the 99 counties at this stage four years ago. Now, it has barely scratched the surface, said Crawford County GOP Chairwoman Gwen Ecklund. Carl Forti, a Republican strategist and fundraiser, said the hoopla surrounding Palin's tour and the entreaties to Christie and Perry to enter the race may be footnotes in the 2012 election story.

"Only a small percentage of the Republican primary electorate is paying attention," Forti said. "I don't think what is happening now has much impact." For all the talk of new faces, Forti said, Romney "has a good shot to win the nomination" and to give Obama a strong challenge. The election will turn on jobs and the economy, he said, "and that is Romney's bread and butter."

NATION

Bus in Va. overturns, killing four

BOWLING GREEN, Va. — A bus run by a company with a record of safety problems overturned on a Virginia highway early Tuesday, killing four people and injuring several others. The driver faces a reckless driving charge and police say fatigue was a factor in the crash along Interstate 95. The company — which offers cheap fares — over the last two years has been involved in several accidents. It also has been cited for 46 violations of drivers being fatigued over that same time. Fifty-four people were taken to area hospitals and were treated for minor to severe injuries.

Blagojevich says he's innocent

CHICAGO — Former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich told jurors Tuesday that he never withheld money from a children's hospital in exchange for campaign cash, and he denied ever trying to shake down a politically connected road builder for \$500,000 in donations. Blagojevich, in his third day on the witness stand, still hasn't addressed the most explosive allegation again him — that he tried to sell or trade President Barack Obama's vacated U.S. Senate seat. The former governor faces 20 criminal counts, including attempted extortion, conspiracy to commit bribery and wire fraud. If convicted on all counts, the maximum penalty is a 350-year prison term. In his first trial last year, Blagojevich was convicted of lying to the FBI.

Ashcroft won't be sued, judges say

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday threw out damage claims against former Attorney General John Ashcroft over an American Muslim's arrest, but four justices said the case raises serious questions about post-9/11 detentions under a federal law intended to make sure witnesses testify. The justices were unanimous, 8-0, in holding that Ashcroft cannot be personally sued over his role in the arrest of Abdullah al-Kidd in 2003. The court sets a high bar for suing high-ranking officials, and all the justices agreed al-Kidd did not meet it. Al-Kidd contended that his arrest under the material witness statute had a more sinister motive that violated his constitutional rights — federal authorities suspected him of ties to terrorism but lacked evidence that he committed or was planning a crime. But the high court has said that an official must be tied directly to a violation of constitutional rights and must have clearly understood the action crossed that line to be held liable. No attorney general has ever been held personally liable for official actions.

Edwards argues over money origin

WASHINGTON — Former presidential candidate John Edwards and federal prosecutors are arguing over whether money used to cover up his extramarital affair at the height of the 2008 Democratic nominating campaign was a campaign contribution or just a gift from longtime friends. An indictment of Edwards appears imminent, but some people on both sides are hoping for a last-minute plea deal. The prosecutors have decided after a two-year investigation that the hundreds of thousands of dollars that two Edwards donors gave to help keep his mistress in hiding were contributions that should have been reported publicly by his campaign fund. But Edwards' lawyers have argued the funds were gifts intended to keep the affair a secret from his wife, Elizabeth, who died of cancer in December.

PONY EXPRESS

Horse virus throws riders



CoCo WALTERS / ST. JOSEPH NEWS-PRESS

Justin Rother, who took off last year from St. Louis in the Pony Express ride re-enactment, will be in for a delay this year. For the first time in its 32-year history, the National Pony Express Association is postponing its famous ride from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento, Calif. because of an outbreak of the equine herpes virus EHV-1.

Re-enactors still face perils like days of old

SCOTT SONNER
Associated Press

RENO, Nev. — Neither rain, nor sleet, nor dark of night could keep Pony Express riders from their appointed rounds, so the story goes. But a deadly horse virus is another matter. For the first time in its 32-year history, the National Pony Express

Association is postponing its annual reenactment of the famous ride from St. Joseph, Mo., to Sacramento this summer after an outbreak of the equine herpes virus EHV-1. The 10-day ride is being pushed from June to August. "It is kind of ironic," Jim Swigart, the group's president, said Tuesday. "All these things they dealt with in the 1860s we still deal with on the re-ride today — hard rains, floods, all the natural disasters Mother Nature can throw at you."

The highly contagious virus poses no risk to humans. "Those letters will be delayed, but they are going to be delivered," Swigart said. "That's the important part." "It's just too bad," said Utah division president Mark Jenkins, who lives in South Salt Lake City. Gary Nezos, president of the Nevada division, said some riders in his state had raised concerns about the virus. "I think the chances of being exposed were minimal, but if there was an even a slight chance we could

spread it, we thought it made sense to err on the side of safety," Nezos said. The Pony Express operated for less than two years, from April 3, 1860, to late 1861. Riders switched to fresh horses every 10 to 15 miles, handing off to a new rider every 75 miles or so to complete the route. The route west out of St. Joseph mostly followed the Oregon Trail from Kansas through what is now Nebraska and Wyoming.

JUSTICE

Navajo murder case untried

Many Native American cases never go to court

FELICIA FONSECA
Associated Press

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — A Navajo mother said she accidentally rolled onto her daughter in bed, smothering her. The medical examiner concluded the child was beaten, declaring her death a homicide. Kiara Harvey was living in the Navajo Nation where only federal prosecutions yield serious penalties for major crimes for Native Americans.

Kiara's case was one of 37 that federal prosecutors declined during a 9-months last year, an AP review found. The analysis cited poor evidence, reluctant witnesses and jurisdictional issues. Under the Tribal Law and Order Act, prosecutors must explain declinations and provide evidence that could be used in tribal court to prosecute the case. Tribal prosecutors in Arizona say they agree with the reasons for declining cases but don't have resources to investigate themselves.

Tribal Law and Order Act

- ✓ Seeks to give tribes more authority and resources to combat reservation crime and sexual violence against women
- ✓ Establishes an Indian Law and Order Commission to study criminal justice within native tribes
- ✓ Provides law enforcement officials training on the National Criminal Information Center database

WEATHER

Hurricane forecast gets less predictable

BY TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Forecasting what hurricane season will look like could be even more difficult this year. That's because meteorologists won't be able to rely on the relatively predictable forces known as El Nino and La Nina. The National Hurricane Center in Miami predicts a busier season than normal, with as many as 18 named

tropical storms, three to six of them major hurricanes. The season starts today and ends in late November. El Nino and La Nina — ocean warming and cooling trends that can rev up or suppress hurricanes — are expected to be neutral, which complicates predictions. The last time temperatures were neutral was 2005, when hurricanes Katrina and Rita hammered the Gulf Coast.

ECONOMY

Recession, competition contribute to Atlantic City casino decline

By WAYNE PARRY
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Four years ago, some Atlantic City casino customers were shelling out \$1,000 for a brownie sprinkled with edible gold dust in a Baccarat crystal they could take home. Nowadays, some wait until 11 p.m. to eat so they can get a steak dinner for \$2.99. Atlantic City for years was the only place to play slots, cards, dice or roulette in the eastern half of the United States. Now, battered by competition from casinos all around it, including some in Pennsylvania and New York, Atlantic City is in a fight for its very survival.

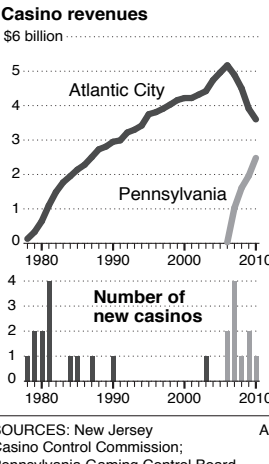
The resort is trying to remake itself into a vacation destination that happens to have gambling but with no guarantee it has a winning hand even as threats loom, including the possible expansion of casinos. Atlantic City missed numerous opportunities to diversify its offerings, widen its customer base and fend off competition that clearly was on its way even 20 years ago. In the 1980s and 1990s, disaster struck the nation's second-largest gambling market. A perfect storm of competition right on its doorstep, coupled with the recession, pummeled Atlantic City worse than any other casino market. In four

years, a billion and a half dollars vanished, along with thousands of jobs and tourists. A look back reveals many missteps and lost opportunities. The most obvious: a failure to reinvent the resort as a place to go for more than gambling, Atlantic City belatedly jumped on the bandwagon, adding non-gambling amenities over the past eight years like celebrity restaurants, spas, shopping and top-name entertainment. But back then, anything customers couldn't bet on was seen as a waste of money. There's plenty of blame to go around. Casino owners focused only on their own properties, a habit that Atlantic City

is only recently shaking off. The \$30 million in annual payments that the casinos had to pony up to the horse racing industry in return for keeping slots out of the tracks, will be used to market Atlantic City nationally. The state rewrote many strict regulations for casinos, removing, among other things, minimum staffing requirements. They allowed casinos to keep some jackpots that had built up on slot machine games they decide to cancel. State-mandated economic redevelopment funds collected from each casino will be used for projects within Atlantic City; before, the money was spread around the state.

A.C. in decline

Atlantic City, the second-largest gambling market in the U.S., has been battered by the economy and new competition nearby.



STATE

Police kill man after officer hit

A police officer fatally shot a suspected car thief and wounded another in downtown Austin after the suspects drove into his partner as they approached the suspects' car, police said.

The bicycle patrol officers were on foot Monday when they saw the two men in a vehicle they'd earlier suspected was being used to case cars, Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo told the Austin American-Statesman. He said he didn't know whether the suspects' car was stolen.

As the officers approached, the suspects drove toward one officer, hitting him, Acevedo said. The other officer, fearing his partner would be dragged underneath the suspects' vehicle, fired on the car, which drove off. The car was found several blocks away about 10 minutes later and the passenger was declared dead at the scene. The driver was then found in a parking lot with a gunshot wound to the arm. He was arrested and taken to a hospital.

Police did not release the identities of the officers or the suspects.

The officer who was struck by the car suffered a ruptured Achilles' tendon and was treated at a hospital.

Per standard procedure, the officer who fired the shots was placed on administrative leave, Acevedo said.

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EL PASO, Texas — Customs officials say cocaine seizures at the El Paso border crossings have more than doubled over the same period last year, and marijuana busts are up as well.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Roger Maier told The Associated Press on Tuesday that agents intercepted 491 pounds of cocaine from Jan. 1 to May 23. That's an increase from 221 pounds during the same period in 2010.

Maier says agents have collected more than 32,000 pounds of marijuana, up from slightly more than 25,000 pounds a year ago.

Drug Enforcement Administration and El Paso police tell the El Paso Times that their cocaine seizures are down this year.

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LA MARQUE, Texas — A 14-year-old boy was arrested and charged with murder Tuesday in the stabbing death of an 84-year-old woman in the small southeast Texas town of La Marque over the weekend.

Vaneeda Wright's body was discovered by relatives Sunday at her home in the town with a population of about 14,000, about 40 miles southeast of Houston. Authorities said they found no sign of forced entry. Parts of the house were ransacked.

"We don't know what might have been stolen. The (victim's) family is checking on that," said La Marque police Sgt. Shawn Spruill.

Jennifer Dunn, chief of the Galveston County district attorney's family division, said the teen was already detained as a runaway when the murder charge was filed. If convicted as a juvenile, the youth could be sentenced to a Texas Youth Commission facility until he turns 18.

Dunn told the Houston Chronicle that the charge could be upgraded to an offense that would mean time in an adult prison. She also said the teen may be certified to stand trial as an adult.

Wright's next-door neighbor, Charles Dougherty, said he knew something was wrong when Wright's daughter came beating on his door.

"I rushed out and went over there and went in and saw her lying there. I knew she was passed away," Dougherty told The Galveston County Daily News.

PROUD TO HAVE SERVED

'There aren't many of us left'



G.J. MCCARTHY / DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Martin Jacobson was a member of the Naval Combat Demolition Unit and Underwater Demolition Team during World War II. The elite groups were formed to destroy enemy obstacles before American troops landed on the coast in Europe.

ERIC AASEN
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Like many Americans, Martin Jacobson was overjoyed that Navy SEALs had captured and killed Osama bin Laden.

But the Dallas resident felt a deeper connection to the men who hunted down the mastermind of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Decades ago, he was one of them.

During World War II, Jacobson was part of elite groups that were predecessors to the SEALs. The secretive force is used to staying out of the spotlight, but it's back in the headlines following the bin Laden killing.

"I'm just proud of the SEALs," said Jacobson, 89. "You can't beat what they've done."

In the early 1940s, Jacobson was a member of both the Naval Combat Demolition Unit and Underwater Demolition Team, two of a handful of beach reconnaissance groups formed to destroy enemy obstacles before American troops landed on the shoreline in Europe and the Pacific.

Jacobson swam along the coast of Guam to place explosives on wire-fence obstacles filled with crushed coral designed to slow down or damage American ships.

Like many veterans, Jacobson is matter-of-fact about his work.

"It's like anybody going to war," he said. "They follow orders about what they're told to do. That's what they're supposed to do."

In 1943, just weeks after graduating with a civil engineering degree, Jacobson was sent to Camp Peary in Virginia. There, Navy recruiters told him about a new secretive group that would require weeks of training.

Jacobson was intrigued. Plus, the training would be in Florida, and Jacobson wanted to go someplace warmer.

"It was different and challenging," he said. "At that age, we were

all indestructible."

The Navy SEALs, which stands for SEa, Air, and Land Teams, were formed in 1962 after President John F. Kennedy wanted the military to develop unconventional warfare methods.

The SEALs are known for their demanding physical and mental tests. Even in the '40s, training was intense.

There were calisthenics and an obstacle course. Wearing full uniform and heavy shoes, the troops would run in the sand.

Near Guam, Jacobson and his colleagues paddled in on boats, jumped into the water and looked for booby traps. Japanese soldiers shot at them.

Jacobson dived under obstacles and attached explosives.

One time, as team members hopped on boats to race back to their ship, Jacobson and two of his colleagues were left alone.

"We were just unlucky," he said.

Jacobson blew air into a pair of jungle pants to act as a life preserver. He found a tree limb floating in the water.

For six hours, Jacobson floated.

As the sun rose, an American ship spotted Jacobson and the other two men and brought them aboard.

Jacobson got a shot of "medicinal" brandy.

"That worked pretty well," he said.

Recently, Jacobson shared war stories while stretched out in recliner in his home at the Edgemere, a retirement center in North Dallas.

He held a knife he used and showed off a picture of him on a ship, wearing a helmet and binoculars, preparing for a reconnaissance mission. He was taking his pulse, which was twice the normal rate.

After the war, Jacobson, a Montana native, moved to Dallas, where he joined McFadden & Miller, a general contractor, becoming owner at one point. He still goes to work each day.

Jacobson remains close to his Navy brethren. But most team members have died.

"There aren't many of us left," he said.

In the '40s, Jacobson had no inkling that he was part of a group that would become an elite military force.

"We just wanted to get the war over," he said.

Following bin Laden's killing, one of Jacobson's sons asked him, if he were younger, could he get through today's Navy SEALs training?

"If I were into it, I'd sure want to try," he said. "Whether I would be the right standard, I don't know."



Jacobson was preparing for a reconnaissance mission with an elite military team similar to today's Navy SEALs when this picture was taken in the early 1940s.

STATE GOVERNMENT

Capitol keeps busy
Lawmakers focus on issues other than budget

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Texas Legislature ended its regular session Monday and went directly into a special session Tuesday to take up budget issues.

Even with budget troubles taking priority, lawmakers have found other matters to discuss

between their biennial meetings.

The regular session saw the passage of several environmental rules involving oil and gas.

Gov. Rick Perry gave his first veto of the year Monday to a bill affecting the state sales tax.

Republicans proposed a controversial map of new congressional districts Tuesday.

ENVIRONMENT

- ✓ Require oil and gas companies to publicly disclose chemicals used to break up dense rock to extract minerals
- ✓ Delay stronger air permitting rules for the oil and gas industry
- ✓ A dozen bills will reduce the need for new power plants, lower consumer energy costs and result in fewer air pollutants
- ✓ Texas Commission on Environmental Quality can fine companies up to \$25,000 a day, up from \$10,000
- ✓ Easing installation and use of solar energy by adding exceptions
- ✓ Low-level nuclear waste can be brought from 36 states — increased from two states and the federal government

VETO

- ✓ Would require more Internet retailers to collect Texas' state sales tax
- ✓ Would generate more money for the state from outside contracts
- ✓ Would extend federal law that requires companies physically present in state to collect taxes
- ✓ Amazon.com threatened to cut off relationships with Texas marketers if the bill became law
- ✓ Advocates hope bill could survive in the special session because of the need to balance the state budget
- ✓ Four states passed similar laws and 13 are considering them

REDISTRICTING

- ✓ Texas adds four new congressional seats to districts around Austin, San Antonio and Dallas-Forth Worth
- ✓ Districts reorganized to be narrower in urban areas, where there are more African-American and Hispanic voters, and fan out in rural areas, where there are more Republican voters
- ✓ Democrats, other critics fear redistricting could lead to an even more Republican-dominated state government
- ✓ Redistricting not part of special session agenda, but governor added it
- ✓ Map will require federal approval under the Voting Rights Act and critics may bring a federal lawsuit

PRISON SEX SCANDAL

Former prisoner settles civil lawsuit

Complaint led to prison reform

BETSY BLANEY
Associated Press

LUBBOCK — A former prisoner at a West Texas youth facility has settled a civil lawsuit against an ex-prison school principal who was acquitted on sexual abuse charges, the former inmate's lawyer said.

Attorney Scott Medlock said Tuesday his 26-year-old client's settlement for \$2,000 doesn't include an admission of wrongdoing by former West Texas State School Principal John Paul Hernandez, but it includes a "vague" letter of apology from Hernandez.

The former inmate said he was happy the suit was over.

"I've never been the same since what Mr. Hernandez did to me," the alleged victim said in a news release. "This case was never about the money for me — it was about holding Mr. Hernandez accountable. Now I can try to move on with my life."

The Associated Press generally doesn't identify alleged victims of sexual abuse.

"I'm sorry that you and I

found ourselves in this situation," the letter from Hernandez reads. "My best wishes to you and your family now and in the future."

Hernandez did not immediately return a call seeking comment. Albert G. Valadez, Hernandez's attorney in the criminal and civil proceedings, said Medlock and his client initially sought \$500,000.

"We're glad the case is finally at an end," Valadez said.

Medlock said the money was all Hernandez had after paying attorney's fees in his criminal trial.

"We're happy to have gotten this measure of justice," he said. "It does send a message that there's going to be accountability in cases like these."

In February, Hernandez was found not guilty of sexually abusing five inmates at the West Texas State School in Pyote in 2004 and 2005.

A 2005 report from Texas Rangers investigators said Hernandez summoned young male inmates for sexual encounters.

The case upended the Texas Youth Commission. Lawmakers eventually ordered an overhaul of the system.

COOL EATS

Eating outdoors is one of the best parts of summer. Delicious burgers, hot dogs, grilled steaks, potato salad, baked beans and homemade ice cream are enough to make you want to over-indulge then relax and soak up the sunshine. But if you're not careful, summer may suddenly seem like a minefield of guilty pleasures. Avoiding the temptations of the season without adding on the pounds simply requires a little planning.

TIPS FOR SMART SUMMER EATING:

- Enjoy a wide variety of different foods, everything from ice cream to watermelon, including foods you may only be able to get during the summer, but be aware of portion size. As author and holistic pharmacist Sherry Torkos said, "Take very small portions of high fat, processed or sugary foods, and fill your plate with complex carbohydrates, whole grains, fresh fruits or vegetables." Even the most stringent summer diet can accommodate a reasonably sized slice of cake.
- Take advantage of the season's fresh fruits in your recipes. Mangos, peaches, berries, grapes and pears are a great way to satisfy a sweet craving. Fruits are low in the glycemic index, making them better choices for hunger control and weight management. Even adding fresh fruit to a low-fat ice cream sundae can help make it more fulfilling.
- Alternate your alcohol consumption with non-alcoholic beverages, preferably water, to cut down on calories. Leave out the rum when you make the Mango Colada ice cream to make it just a little bit healthier.

By following these simple steps and making some common sense choices, you can indulge in your favorite summer fare without adding extra inches to your waistline. With an eating game plan, you can eat what you like and still be a few pounds lighter by the time fall arrives.

INFORMATION AND PHOTOS FROM LIVESOWELL.COM, SHERRY TORKOS AND ASSOCIATED PRESS.



HOT FUDGE SAUCE
3/4 cup heavy cream
1/4 cup corn syrup
8 ounces semisweet chocolate bits

In a microwave-safe bowl, combine the heavy cream and corn syrup. Microwave on high until hot and bubbling. Add the chocolate bits and let sit for 2 minutes. Gently stir until the chocolate is completely melted and combined with the cream. Cover to keep warm.

Visit SWJournalist.com for more topping recipes to make your own sundae bar.

MANGO COLADA ICE CREAM
1 cup very ripe mango, cubed
1/4 cup sugar
15-ounce can sweetened coconut cream
1 cup heavy cream
2 tbsp rum

In a blender, puree the mango and the sugar until completely smooth. In a medium bowl, whisk together the mango puree, coconut cream, heavy cream and rum. Process with an ice cream maker according to the product's directions. After the ice cream is churned and soft frozen, transfer to a container with a tight-fitting lid and freeze until completely hardened, 1 to 2 hours.

ICE CREAM CAKE
Two 1 1/2 quart containers of ice cream in complementary flavors
12 chocolate sandwich cookies, crushed
1 cup jarred hot fudge sauce
Half of an 8-ounce tub frozen whipped topping, thawed
1/4 cups purchased caramel sauce
12 cups chopped toasted almonds, divided
Maraschino cherries, to serve

Wrap the outside of a 9-inch springform pan with foil. Allow 1 container of ice cream to sit at room temperature for 10 to 15 minutes, or until slightly softened.

In a medium bowl, mix all but 1/4 cup of the chocolate sandwich cookies and the hot fudge sauce. In another bowl, stir together the whipped topping, caramel and 1/4 cup of almonds.

ICE CREAM CAKE, CONTINUED
Spread the full container of softened ice cream into the bottom of the prepared pan so that it is flat, even and has no air bubbles. Top with the hot fudge mixture, then freeze for 15 minutes.

While the cake freezes, allow the second container of ice cream to soften at room temperature.

Spread the second flavor of ice cream over the hot fudge. Spoon and spread the caramel-nut topping over the second flavor of ice cream. Sprinkle the top with the reserved cookies and almonds. Decorate with maraschino cherries and freeze until firm, at least 2 hours.

To serve, remove the sides and bottom of the springform pan.

Iron Chef says great salads are ‘more than just greens’

J.M. HIRSCH
Associated Press

For Michael D. Symon, a James Beard Foundation Award-winning American chef, Iron Chef, restaurateur and author, great salads go far beyond a pile of greens. And they need to earn their keep. "For me, a great salad is much more than just greens. It should be something that really highlights the season and the vegetables that are at their peak at that time," Symon said in an email interview. Just don't include iceberg lettuce. "I can't stand iceberg," he said. "It has no flavor or personality. It's like eating chopped green ice." Symon, who also favors sharply



Symon

acidic dressings like his mom used on her tomato salads, relies on salads to play a specific role in his cooking. "Since I tend to cook with a lot of fattier proteins, I like to serve them topped with or accompanied by a salad, as opposed to a heavier starch," he said. "It keeps things crisp and fresh and helps cut through the richness of the protein." In this recipe, Symon offers a simple salad inspired by what grows in his home garden and dressed with a spicy jalapeno-yogurt blend. "I know I'm going to be grilling out a lot, so I want to create a salad that goes great with a big piece of grilled meat," he said. "I love serving this either with a grilled half of a chicken, grilled lamb chops or a rib eye."

Michael Symon's Summer Salad
1 clove garlic, minced
1 jalapeno pepper, minced (remove seeds for less heat)
1 tbsp plain Greek yogurt
2 tbsp red wine vinegar
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 tbsp chopped fresh mint
1 tbsp chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
2 cups arugula
1 pound assorted heirloom tomatoes, sliced
1 cup diced cucumber
4 scallions, grilled and cut into 1-inch pieces
1 cup chopped marcona almonds
2 cups cooked faro

To make the dressing, combine the garlic, jalapeno, yogurt and vinegar in a small bowl. Slowly whisk in the olive oil, then stir in the mint and parsley. Set aside.

For salad, combine remaining ingredients in a large bowl. Drizzle with the dressing, tossing gently to coat evenly. Serves 6.

BUSINESS

U.S. auto sales skid during May

Ford, GM still expect annual sales figures to reach about 13 million

DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

DETROIT — U.S. auto sales cooled in May as dealers started running short on fuel-efficient models and buyers were turned off by lower incentives. Deals aren't likely to come back until the end of this summer, so experts are advising people to delay their purchases. "If you don't have to buy, wait until fall. If you lease a car, extend it," Edmunds.com auto sales site

chief Jeremy Anwyl said. Consumers heard that message in May, when auto sales were expected to be about 1 million, down about 90,000 from April. Toyota Motor Corp., Honda Motor Co. and Nissan Motor Co. had the biggest sales declines, with Toyota down 33 percent, Honda off 23 percent and Nissan off 9 percent compared with May 2010. General Motors Corp. sales dropped 1.2 percent, as falling pickup-truck sales offset strong sales of more fuel-efficient cars and crossovers. It was the same story at Ford Motor Co., which

saw sales fall 2.4 percent for the month. Pickup sales dropped more than 10 percent at both companies. Small-, compact- and mid-size-car sales were up and truck sales were down because of high gas prices. Despite a raft of bad economic data, automakers generally said they were still optimistic for the year, with Ford and GM sticking with annual forecasts of about 13 million in U.S. sales. That's short of the 2000 peak of 17.3 million, but better than the 10.4 million of sales in 2009.

Please see AUTO, Page 2



U.S. auto sales fell 3.7 percent in May, hurt by a lack of deals, high gas prices and shortages of some models. Fuel-efficient cars were in short supply as buyers continued a shift to smaller vehicles.

CARLOS OSORIO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

GULF OF MEXICO OIL LEAK

Turtle population on path to recovery



TODD YATES / CALLER-TIMES

William Botts, Padre Island National seashore park ranger, gives visitors a closeup look at the Kemp's ridley hatchlings before they make their way into the Gulf of

Mexico on May 26 near Padre Island. Scientists are gathering data to determine how the 2010 Deepwater Horizon explosion has affected the turtle species.



Tiny turtles give clues to Gulf oil leak's impact

RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
Associated Press

Nearly hidden by sand, the sea turtle digging a hole to lay her eggs wasn't aware of the excitement she was generating among the scientists, volunteers and beach-goers watching from a distance. They included Donna Shaver, who has worked for more than two decades to save the Kemp's ridley, an endangered species. Each spring, she counts their nests and collects eggs for safe incubation before releasing the turtles' tiny offspring into the sea. Shaver knows this year that each nest she spots has added significance: The turtle that created it survived the largest offshore oil leak in U.S. history. While scientists are studying the Gulf oil leak's effects on other sea turtles, the Kemp's ridley have been of particular concern. The Deepwater Horizon explosion April 20, 2010, happened when they would have been in the area. At the peak of nesting season, their numbers looked good. As of May 24, 155 nests had been spotted on Texas shores. But because sea turtles don't reach reproductive age for at least a decade, the full effects of the oil leak might

not be known for years. "There is fear that some of the turtles that took the year off from nesting or after the turtles were done nesting during the 2010 year, that they entered the waters where the oil had been present," said Shaver, explaining the reptiles often forage off the hard-hit Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi coasts before or after nesting along the Texas Gulf Coast. "There is concern that perhaps those turtles have been impacted from the oil and could then have problems with their reproduction," she said. The nesting season has long been used to estimate population, and recovery plans for species are based on numbers tallied when females come ashore to lay their eggs. The goal for the Kemp's ridleys is to have 10,000 nesters a season by 2020. At that point, the sea turtle could be upgraded from endangered to threatened. Shaver has patrolled the Texas beaches since 1980, collecting turtle eggs and bringing them to the National Park Service's lab at Padre Island National Seashore. When hatching begins, Shaver sleeps on a cot in her office, caring for the tiny turtles as if they were her babies, making sure to release them into the sea at

SEE MORE ONLINE

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exactly the right moment. The turtles' population has long been on the path to recovery. Monitored incubation protects the eggs from predators, and netting covering the silver-dollar-sized hatchlings as they make their way from the beach to the water keeps them safe from birds. The program has been so successful, some believed the 2020 goal could be reached early. And so, the oil leak and its potential effects have been even more heart-wrenching, Shaver said. To get an idea of what may come, scientists are collecting extra information this year. Along with counting nests, they're gathering blood and tissue samples, and sampling hatchlings to see whether oil contamination is being passed from the mother. Toxicologists and contaminant experts will help biologists analyze the information. Scientists also are keeping tabs on the turtles' habitat, noting that if the crabs or herring they

Please see TURTLES, Page 2

It takes 20 years for them to reach sexual maturity. It may take that long to determine whether the population has been affected

—ROGER ZIMMERMAN, NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES

ECONOMY

Stocks tumble as doubts rise

Upcoming job figures expected to be worse

DAVID K. RANDALL
Associated Press

NEWYORK — Fears that the economy is stalling sent the Dow Jones industrial average down 280 points Wednesday, erasing more than a quarter of the stock market's 2011 gains. Treasury-bond yields fell to 2.95 percent — their lowest level since December — as traders put a higher value on safer investments. Bond yields fall when prices rise. Doubts that built in May about the economy's strength were compounded by weaker-than-expected reports on manufacturing and jobs. The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index fell to 53.5 in May from 60.4 in April. An index of more than 50 indicates the manufacturing industry is growing, but it had been as high as 61.4 in February. Private employers added 38,000 jobs in May, down from 177,000 in April, according to payroll processor ADP. Analysts had expected 180,000 new jobs. "It looks like this recovery has hit its second 'soft patch,' which for a recovery that is less than two years old is troubling," said Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist for Capi-

tal Economics. The manufacturing and jobs reports led several economists to lower their expectations for the year. JP Morgan was among a handful of investment banks that lowered its estimate for GDP growth in the second quarter to 2 percent. The downgrade followed one the bank issued last week. The latest reports on retail sales, first-time applications for unemployment benefits and factory orders will be released today, and analysts say any additional signs of economic weakness could push the market even lower. On the heels of those readings, the Labor Department's more comprehensive jobs report, including hiring by private employers and the government, will be released Friday. Analysts already are expecting those figures to be worse than they anticipated a few weeks ago. "As far as we can tell, employers have hugely overreacted to the surge in oil prices, which has slowed but not killed consumption," said Ian Shepherdson, chief U.S. economist for High Frequency Economics. The weak ADP results pushed him to cut his forecast for overall job growth

Please see STOCKS, Page 2

FOREIGN POLICY

U.S., Pakistan form counterterror team

Cooperative efforts to boost diplomacy

KIMBERLY DOZIER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and Pakistan are building a joint intelligence team to go after top militant targets inside Pakistan. The team marks a step toward restoring trust blown on both sides when U.S. forces killed Osama bin Laden during a secret raid in May, U.S. and Pakistani officials said. The move comes after Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton presented the Pakistanis with the U.S. list of most-wanted terrorism targets, U.S. and Pakistani officials said Wednesday. All those interviewed spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss matters of intelligence. The investigative team will be made up mainly of intelligence officers from both

nations, U.S. and Pakistani officials said. The team will use intelligence from CIA analysis of computer and written files the Navy SEALs gathered during their raid on bin Laden's hideout in Abbottabad. It also will use Pakistani intelligence from interrogations of those who frequented or lived near the bin Laden compound. The formation of the team marks a return to counterterrorism cooperation that has led to the capture of al-Qaida militants, such as the joint arrest of Khaled Sheikh Mohammed in 2003. The U.S. and Pakistan have been diplomatically at odds since the May 2 raid on bin Laden's compound. The Pakistanis considered the unilateral action as an affront to their sovereignty, and the Americans were angry to find that bin Laden had been hiding for more than five years

Please see TEAM, Page 2

AUTO: Analysts blame decline on inventory shortages

—Continued from Page 1

There was good economic news with the bad, including gas-price moderation, low interest rates and better loan availability, said Ellen Hughes-Cromwick, Ford's chief economist. The company increased third-quarter production by more than 8 percent last year.

"We caution against reading too much into the monthly data," Hughes-Cromwick said.

Consumers are taking a wait-and-see approach as gas prices fluctuate around \$4 per gallon, said Don Johnson, GM's vice president of sales.

Even so, long-term consumer confidence remains strong, and sales are expected to rise toward the end of the summer, Johnson said.

"All things considered, we continue to believe the recovery remains on track," he said.

THE STATE OF THE AUTO INDUSTRY

- ✓ **MAY SALES:** U.S. auto sales fell 3.7 percent, hurt by a lack of deals, high gas prices and shortages of some models. Fuel-efficient cars were in short supply for the month as buyers continued a shift to smaller vehicles.
- ✓ **TOP SELLERS:** Kia Motors America sales were up 53 percent, Hyundai sales rose 21 percent and Volkswagen sales rose 28 percent.
- ✓ **WHAT'S NEXT:** Automakers cut back on incentives and raised prices last month, which is expected to continue into June and possibly July.

Automakers usually use the warmer months to cut deals and clear out old inventory to make way for new models in the fall. But this year, they don't have many of last year's models sitting around.

Shortages are the biggest reason. Information Handling Services Automotive estimates the U.S. has about 400,000

fewer cars in inventory than it should have at the sales pace. Toyota began May with only enough Prius hybrids for 10 days of sales. A 60-day supply is considered healthy.

As a result, the Prius is now selling for 2 percent above the manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$23,250, a \$5,000 premium, according to Kelley



KOJI SASAHARA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Toyota Motor Corp. employee cleans a vehicle in Tokyo. Toyota announced Wednesday that its May U.S. auto sales fell 33 percent compared to the same time last year.

Blue Book.

Even some fuel-efficient small cars are in tight supply. GM said it has only a 37-day supply of the Chevrolet Cruze small car.

Alec Gutierrez, Kelley Blue Book manager of vehicle val-

ation, expects prices to be high into the fall.

Then a likely drop in gas prices and increases in production should bring them back to more normal levels.

Honda Motor Co. said last week that its North

American production will return to near-normal levels in August. But production of the fuel-efficient Civic will take longer to recover.

Car companies and consumers are heading into a tussle about prices in the second half of the year, said Paul Ballew, a former GM chief economist who is now at insurance firm Nationwide.

Buyers remain hesitant as they try to decipher conflicting economic news, while automakers are trying to increase prices and cut incentives.

He also suggested waiting until late summer to buy, and said Japanese automakers are likely to raise incentives in an effort to fight off competitors like Hyundai Motor Co.

"Hyundai is the competitor that has kept Toyota up at night for the last decade," he said.

TEAM: Diplomatic relationship strengthens

—Continued from Page 1

in a military town 35 miles from the capital, Islamabad.

The United States deliberately hid the operation from Pakistan because officials feared it would leak to militants.

A series of high-level U.S. visits has aimed to take the edge off. Marc Grossman, the special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, and CIA Deputy Director Mike Morell met with intelligence chief Lt. Gen. Ahmed Shuja Pasha last month. Clinton and chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Adm. Mike Mullen, met with top Pakistani military and civilian officials last week.

Among the confidence-building measures was a visit by the CIA to re-examine the bin Laden compound last Friday.

Pakistan also returned the tail section of the U.S. stealth Blackhawk helicopter that broke off when the SEALs blew up the aircraft to destroy its secret noise- and radar-deadening technology.

The joint intelligence team will go after five top targets, including al-Qaida No. 3 Ayman al-Zawahri and al-Qaida operations chief Atiyah Abdel Rahman, as well as Taliban leaders such as Mullah Omar.

U.S. intelligence officials believe all five targets are hiding in Pakistan.

One official said a final target on the preliminary list is Mohammad Ilyas Kashmiri, leader of a group called Harakat-ul-Jihad al-Islami.

The State Department blames the group for several attacks in India and Pakistan, including a 2006 suicide bombing against the U.S. consulate in Karachi, which killed four people.

The CIA-led teams will use intelligence from bin Laden's compound, said U.S. officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity about the now-classified bin Laden files.

Analysts have reviewed more than 60 percent of the computer files and written material from the compound in the month since the raid.

Still, they have found nothing "actionable," a term describing intelligence that leads to a strike or operation against a new al-Qaida target.

STOCKS: Reports concern brokers

—Continued from Page 1

in May to 75,000. He earlier had forecast Friday's report to show growth of 175,000 jobs.

Stock losses came across the market, with all 10 industry groups that make up the Standard and Poor's 500 index losing more than 1 percent.

Companies that have benefited from expectations

of worldwide growth were especially hard hit. Caterpillar, Alcoa, and Boeing all lost more than 3 percent.

The reports join a host of other news that has dampened hopes for a strong economic recovery and helped knock the S&P 500 down 1.4 percent in May.

Still-high gas prices, a continued housing market decline, weaker-than-expected

GDP and tepid consumer confidence — along with concerns about debt problems in Europe and the debt ceiling in the U.S. — have weighed on markets.

Five stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume came to 4.4 billion shares. The Dow still is up 6.2 percent for the year, the S&P 500 4.5 percent.

STOCKS IN DECLINE

- ✓ **The Dow Jones industrial average dropped 279.65 points, or 2.2 percent**
- ✓ **S&P index dropped 30.65 points, or 2.3 percent**
- ✓ **Nasdaq dropped 66.11 points, or 2.3 percent**

DRESS CODE

Sagging pants banned on buses

Driver can deny violators access

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT WORTH — Bus riders who wear sagging pants have the choice of pulling them up before boarding or finding another way to get around the city.

The Fort Worth Transportation Authority's updated dress code lets bus drivers turn away passengers whose pants sag below the waist.

It's about respecting everyone who chooses to ride city buses, said Joan Hunter, a spokeswoman for the system.

"It's not like they have to go home," Hunter said. "They can just pull it up. It's to be respectful of other riders."

Posters are being placed on buses and billboards to let riders know saggy pants are not acceptable, the Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Tuesday.

The no-saggy pants campaign began August 2008, but the transportation system recently made an administrative change to its dress code, giving bus drivers authority to deny boarding to violators, Hunter said.

The policy change took effect May 12, and that day drivers asked about 50 riders to pull up their pants before boarding, Hunter said. All complied, she said.

Cory Shelby, a tattoo artist who rides city buses, said the transportation system is going too far.

"They'll mess with our freedom," Shelby said. "Pretty soon they're going to ban dreadlocks, too."

A bus driver told Shelby to pull up his pants before boarding, even though his black cargo shorts were not drooping enough to be distasteful, he said.

The saggy-pants look hurts young people's opportunity to land jobs, City Councilman Frank Moss has said.

"This shows we have taken the overall concept of pulling them up to a new level," Moss said during a recent council meeting.

TURTLES: Scientists must collect extra data

—Continued from Page 1

consume are harmed by the oil, it will in turn hurt the turtles.

Blair Witherington, a marine biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, noted such effects may be so subtle, they go undetected for years.

"We don't know though what the long-term impact of the oil will be," she said.

While scientists are collecting information about nesting turtles, they said it's difficult to assess the total population because the animals are hard to track at sea and some of them, such as juveniles, rarely come ashore.

"It takes 20 years for them to reach sexual maturity. It may take that long to determine whether the popula-

tion has been affected," said Roger Zimmerman, director of the National Marine Fisheries Service laboratory in Galveston.

The oil-covered turtles found last year were cleaned and rehabilitated. A group of some 30 young ones was released off a boat in late May in an area about 50 nautical miles south of Venice, La. — right around where they were found swimming in oil, Witherington said. Others still are being cared for.

Andre Landry, director of the Sea Turtle and Fisheries Ecology Research Lab at Texas A&M in Galveston, worries about the juveniles he knows were foraging, living and playing in Grand Isle, La., just as oil was washing ashore.

Their fate has yet to be determined — or researched.



PAT SULLIVAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donna Shaver, chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at Padre Island National Seashore National Park, measures a nesting Kemp's ridley sea turtle.

HEALTH

GOP questions federal nutrition policies

Bill makes cuts to food programs

MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans are pushing back against President Barack Obama's efforts to promote healthier lunches, saying the Agriculture Department should rewrite rules it issued in January meant to make school meals healthier.

The Republicans say the new rules are too costly.

The House Appropriations Committee approved a bill late Tuesday that questions a government proposal to curb marketing of unhealthy foods to children and urges the Food and Drug Administration to

limit rules requiring calorie counts be posted on menus.

Republicans are concerned about the cost of many of the Obama administration proposals, which they regard as overregulation, said Chris Crawford, a spokesman for Rep. Jack Kingston, R-Ga., the Appropriations Committee's agriculture subcommittee chairman.

The marketing guidelines, released last month, are "classic nanny-state overreach," Crawford said. Though the guidelines — which would restrict which foods could be marketed to children — are voluntary, many companies are concerned they will be penalized if they don't follow them. The bill questions whether the Agriculture Department should spend mon-

ey to be part of the marketing effort.

"Our concern is those voluntary guidelines are backdoor regulation," he said, exploring the fact that kids can watch shows that depict sex and drugs on MTV, but "you cannot see an advertisement for Tony the Tiger during the commercial break."

The school-lunch guidelines are the first major nutritional overhaul of students' meals in 15 years. Under the guidelines, schools would have to cut sodium in subsidized meals by more than half, use more whole grains and serve low-fat milk. They also would limit kids to only one cup of starchy vegetables per week, so schools couldn't offer french fries every day.

The starchy-vegetable pro-

posal has been criticized by conservatives who think it goes too far and Congress members who represent potato-growers. They say potatoes are a low-cost food that provides fiber and other nutrients.

The Republican spending bill also encourages the FDA to limit new guidelines that require calories to be posted on menus to restaurants, asking that grocery stores, convenience stores and other places whose primary purpose is not to sell food be excluded from the rules.

The effort would dial back many of first lady Michelle Obama's priorities in her "Let's Move" campaign to curb childhood obesity and hunger.

"This shows a very clear trend in trying to undermine some of the important gains in



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INTERNATIONAL

Bail set for suspect in sex case

NEW YORK — An Egyptian businessman was charged with sexually abusing a maid at a luxury Manhattan hotel. Mahmoud Abdel Salam Omar is being held on \$25,000 bail and has been ordered to hand over his passport because he is considered a flight risk. Omar was arraigned on two counts of sexual abuse and forcible touching just before midnight Tuesday. Authorities said the married, 72-year-old man attacked a maid at The Pierre hotel on the Upper East Side. Omar's lawyer, Liz Beal, said he expects to post bail as quickly as possible and told the court her client "denies the charges against him."

Trial date set for Mubarak, sons

CAIRO — Former President Hosni Mubarak, who held absolute power in Egypt for nearly 30 years, goes on trial Aug. 3, charged with corruption and intentionally killing protesters, a court official said Wednesday. The ousted leader's two sons will be tried at the same time on charges of corruption. The Middle East News Agency said Abdel-Aziz Omar, head of the Court of Appeals, set the trial date. Since Mubarak's ouster, ongoing revolts have swept Yemen, Libya and Syria. Mubarak could face the death penalty if convicted. At least 846 protesters were killed during the 18-day revolt.

Ex-official's orgy claim investigated

PARIS — The French prosecutor's office opened a preliminary investigation Wednesday after former Education Minister Luc Ferry alleged during a television show that another ex-minister had participated in an orgy with young boys in Morocco. A judicial official said the preliminary investigation is aimed at seeking more precise information from Ferry. She spoke on condition of anonymity since she wasn't authorized to speak publicly. In France, a preliminary investigation is conducted to see if a case should be pursued.

Afghan unrest hurts peace effort

KABUL, Afghanistan — As thousands paid their respects this week to a slain northern Afghanistan police commander, a top lawmaker sounded an ominous warning: He and three other minority faction leaders are on a Taliban hit list and could be next. But rising ethnic tension is jeopardizing efforts to make peace with the Taliban after nearly 10 years of war. Gen. Daud Daud, an ethnic Tajik, was the fifth minority leader slain by militants in recent months. He was killed Saturday in one of a series of high-profile bombings insurgents have been carrying out.

Cyber czar says current law OK

LONDON — International law and cooperation — not another treaty — are enough to tackle cybersecurity issues for now, America's new cyber czar said Wednesday. Christopher Painter, coordinator for cyber issues for the State Department, declined to comment on a Wall Street Journal report suggesting the Pentagon was considering a policy to classify some cyberattacks coming from outside the country as acts of war. He said most of the reports were based on "things that are not released, haven't been released or haven't been discussed." He did, however, say President Barack Obama's recent cybersecurity strategy covered aspects ranging from international freedoms to governance issues.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

WAR CRIMES

Living in peace together at UN jail

Former Serbian general, other inmates discard earlier ethnic hatreds as they reside behind bars

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Once they were enemies, commanding armies locked in deadly struggles. But together behind bars as war-crimes suspects, ethnic hatreds largely evaporate among the men whom Ratko Mladic has joined at a high-security U.N. jail to await his trial on genocide charges. There's table tennis and group classes in English or computing at the detention unit within the jail on the outskirts of The Hague, according

to a former detainee and a one-time employee. Mladic was kept in isolation Wednesday while authorities monitor how he adjusts to life in the unit, said John Hocking, the Yugoslav war-crimes tribunal's top administrative official. The former general charged with orchestrating Serb atrocities in Bosnia's 1992-1995 war underwent medical checks



Mladic

after being flown to the Netherlands on Tuesday night, Hocking said, and there will be more tests in coming days. Mladic will make his first public appearance since being arrested when he goes to court early Friday to confirm his identity. Like his old ally and political boss Radovan Karadzic three years ago, Mladic may decline to enter pleas at his first appearance, opting to delay a response by up to a month. While detainees whose cases are linked are often kept apart, there is no segregation along ethnic or religious lines at the detention unit. "Inside the unit, you saw no trace of the battles they

fought outside that landed them there," said the former detention unit employee, who agreed to talk to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of speaking about the closed unit. The energetic can play soccer and volleyball in a gym or even pump iron in a weight room — although many of the detainees prefer more sedentary pursuits, such as chess and cooking. For those in ill health, the unit has its own medical center and doctor as well as access to a hospital in the jail and nearby civilian hospitals. Nonetheless, several inmates have died during their trials or

while waiting for them to start. A panel of Swedish experts reviewed the functioning of the unit after Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic died from a heart attack in his cell and another key figure in the Balkan wars, Bosnian Serb regional leader Milan Babic, committed suicide a week earlier. It concluded life there was more relaxed than in normal prisons, and inmates had few complaints about treatment. Because many are awaiting trial or are on trial, they are presumed innocent and treated that way. The tribunal said the medical regime is so good many get healthier while in custody.

TERRORISM



LETERIS PITARAKIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Reformed extremist Hanif Qadir founded a program in London to combat the spread of terrorism as al-Qaida youth increasingly find renewed appeal in rising al-Qaida figures.

New voices of al-Qaida
Terrorism youth look for strong, outspoken leadership

DAVID STRINGER
Associated Press

LONDON — A young generation of would-be terrorists is turning to a new breed of brash, violent and charismatic ideologues in the wake of Osama bin Laden's death. "For those who are 16 to 25 now, they've grown up with a different world view," said Aaron Zelin, who runs the Jihadology website tracking extremist activity online. One such figure is Abu Yahya al-Libi who brings "youthful energy and a fresh perspective" to al-Qaida, said Jarret Brachman, a terrorism expert who monitors al-Qaida's media operations and advises the U.S. government. The sharp tone of the new clerics resonates with young people, attracted to discussion of contemporary issues such as burqa bans in Europe, said Hanif Qadir, a reformed extremist who runs a de-

They feel there is someone there who is standing up to the West, standing up for what they believe, being blatant — not talking softly, but actually talking their language.
—HANIF QADIR

radicalization program in London. "They feel there is someone there who is standing up to the West, standing up for what they believe, being blatant — not talking softly, but actually talking their language," he said. Qadir's project, the Active Change Foundation, works with young people flagged as a risk by parents and teachers and with people who have served jail terms on terrorism offenses.

Youngsters swap DVDs and clips of beheadings stored on their cell phones, and text or tweet to trade addresses for jihadist websites, Qadir said. Fewer youngsters are being recruited face-to-face, suggesting that the Internet plays an increasingly important role. Mina Al-Lami, who researches extremism at the London School of Economics, said there is an increasingly aggressive tone in on-line forums. Al-Lami has recently identified at least 30 people who have carried out terrorist attacks directly after heated exchanges on Arabic-language jihadist forums. Young extremists crave a permanent successor to bin Laden with the same fearless tone used by Al-Libi, Al-Lami said. They demand someone who will "threaten the West and warn that all hell will break loose in the days to come."

SPORTS

FIFA re-elects president amid corruption

Sepp Blatter has been leader of soccer's worldwide governing body since 1998

RAF CASERT
Associated Press

ZURICH — FIFA re-elected Sepp Blatter as president Wednesday after a bribery scandal left him as the only candidate to deal with a wave of corruption allegations. The 75-year-old Swiss executive has been in office since 1998. FIFA's congress elected Blatter to his final four-year term as the head of soccer's governing body in a 186-17 vote. After a dramatic, controversial week regarding his unchallenged candidacy, Blatter was beaming as he entered the congress hall to a standing ovation after the result was announced. The election went ahead, although England called for a postponement of the unopposed "coronation" amid the ethics crisis.

"I am happy we are able to bring this solidarity, this unity in FIFA," Blatter said. He immediately worked toward major reform by proposing to have future World Cup hosts selected by all 208 federations instead of the 24-man executive committee. He also turned to former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger to help investigate problems within world soccer's governing body. The congress endorsed his plans for the ethics committee to bring in more transparency. He also plans to appoint a woman to the executive committee. FIFA will meet later this year to formally adopt the measures. "We will need some time," Blatter said. "We cannot do it from one day to the next."

Allegations of soccer's misdeeds:

- ✓ **Sepp Blatter's sole challenger withdrew from the race after allegations of bribing Caribbean voters during the campaign.**
- ✓ **The FIFA secretary general admitted Monday that he had written in an email that Qatar "bought" the 2022 World Cup. The general says he was referring to Qatar's financial clout rather than buying votes.**
- ✓ **Blatter's 17 years in addition to his predecessor's 24 means the sport has been governed by just two men in four decades.**

To make sure his legacy would not be seen as one of a leader who let the rot of corruption take over the world's premier game, Blatter promised to improve openness and decision-making in FIFA. "Reforms will be made and not just touchups but radical decisions," Blatter said in his speech. He insisted that reform should come from within the FIFA family, snubbing calls for independent oversight that many crit-

ics had insisted on and he himself had promised. Just ahead of the election, FIFA's financial officers highlighted the importance of the sport's showcase tournament. FIFA made a \$631 million profit in the four years leading up to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. The four-year financial cycle showed income of \$4.19 billion from broadcast and commercial deals, with 87 percent tied directly to the World Cup.

E. COLI OUTBREAK

Search on for tainted vegetables

German illness toll rises; health officials fear source may not be found

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BERLIN — European health officials tracking one of the worst E. coli outbreaks on record might never know where it came from. It's a sad fact in food poisoning cases: There often is no smoking gun. The germ has sickened more than 1,500 people. Most patients interviewed said they ate lettuce, tomatoes or cucumbers, but officials testing produce across the continent have yet to find any vegetables with the particular strain involved. Illnesses can occur days after tainted food is eaten and leftovers thrown out, so "the trail gets cold pretty quick," said Bill Marler, a Seattle attorney who specializes in food poisoning cases. "They might never find the cause of the outbreak," said Paul Hunter of England's University of East Anglia. A dangerous E. coli germ has sickened more than 1,530 people in Germany, including 17 dead and 470 suffering from a kidney failure complication, Germany's national health agency said Wednesday. The outbreak has hit nine European countries. Virtually all of the sick live in Germany or recently traveled there. The outbreak is considered the third-largest involving E. coli in recent history. It may be the deadliest. Twelve people died in a 1996 Japanese outbreak with a reported 12,000 sickened, and seven died in a 2000 Canadian outbreak that made thousands ill. Nearly all of the current cases are linked to northern Germany, but the exposure source has not been found, said Dr. Hilde Kruse, the World Health Organization's food safety program manager for Europe.

CIVIL UNREST AT A GLANCE

41 perish in Yemen clash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Government forces and tribal fighters exchanged gun and artillery fire in San'a, Yemen's capital, Wednesday. At least 41 people were killed in gunfire that cracked and boomed over the city. The fighting spread with tribesmen from the powerful Hasid confederation seizing buildings in the city's south and northwest. The urban battles over the last week posed a new threat to President Ali Abdullah Saleh's 33-year rule. For nearly four months, thousands of Yemenis have filled the streets daily, calling for democratic reforms and Saleh's ouster. Violence continued elsewhere.

Car explodes in de facto Libyan capital

A car exploded next to a hotel in Benghazi where foreign diplomats stayed, a rare attack in the Libyan rebels' de facto capital. The blast caused no injuries. Rebels assumed it was carried out by loyalists to Libyan ruler Moammar Gadhafi. His regime took another blow when his oil minister appeared in Rome and confirmed his defection.

Political prisoners freed in Syria

The Syrian government freed hundreds of political prisoners. It promised to investigate the death of a 13-year-old boy whose apparent torture and mutilation turned him into a symbol of the uprising calling for an end to President Bashar Assad's regime. In its latest attempt to blunt the 10-week revolt, the government also formed a committee to lay the groundwork for Syrians to discuss their political future.

BACK IN THE ATMOSPHERE



ASSOCIATED PRESS

The space shuttle Endeavour prepares to land at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Wednesday after completing its final flight. Endeavour's six-person crew returned to Earth after more than two weeks in space. A few miles away, NASA's 30-year shuttle program inched closer to the end,

moving the shuttle Atlantis to the launch pad for next month's final flight. Endeavour commander Mark Kelly — whose wife, wounded Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, remained behind at her rehab center in Houston — brought Endeavour to a stop before hundreds of onlookers that included the Atlantis astronauts.

TECHNOLOGY

Tenn. bill bans sharing logins

Industry wants Netflix, music protection

LUCAS L. JOHNSON II
Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — State lawmakers in country music's capital have passed a measure that would make it a crime to use a friend's login to listen to songs or watch movies from services such as Netflix or Rhapsody. Recording industry officials pushed the bill, which is now awaiting the governor's signature, to try to stop the loss of billions of dollars to illegal music sharing. Gov. Bill Haslam said Tuesday that he hasn't yet reviewed the bill but expressed support for steps to reduce music piracy. The legislation was aimed at hackers and thieves who sell passwords in bulk. While those who share their subscriptions with a spouse or family members under the

same roof almost certainly have nothing to fear, blatant offenders could get in trouble. "What becomes not legal is if you send your user name and password to all your friends so they can get free subscriptions," said the bill's House sponsor, Rep. Gerald McCormick. Under the measure, download services that believe they are getting ripped off can go to law enforcement authorities and press charges. The bill expands an existing law, adding "entertainment subscription service" to its list of protected services. Tennessee would be the first state to update its theft-of-cable laws and address the trend toward Internet delivery of entertainment, according to the Recording Industry Association of America. Stealing \$500 or less of entertainment would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a fine of \$2,500. Theft with a higher price tag would be a felony, with heavier penalties.

GAY RIGHTS

Couples gain legal status

Illinois law allows civil unions

JIM SUHR
Associated Press

BELLEVILLE, Ill. — For being first in line, Sarah Baldwin and Heather Sowell got loving applause and smiles from behind the clerk's counter. Hundreds of miles away in Chicago, Lakeesha Harris and Janean Watkins won a stay at a hotel and a cheesecake for every one of their anniversaries. The couples were among scores of same-sex partners across the state who began celebrating before dawn Wednesday as they lined up to apply for civil union licenses under a new Illinois law that gives gay and lesbian couples, and straight ones who choose civil unions, many of the rights and legal protections already afforded in traditional marriage. Those include the power to decide medical treatment for an ailing partner and the right to inherit a partner's property. The law, signed in January, Gov. Pat Quinn said, makes Illinois "a place of tolerance and welcoming to all." Wednesday's turnout, while unpredictable, was spotty. In Cook County, the clerk's office



M. SPENCER GREEN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Janean Watkins and Lakeesha Harris are brought to tears as they obtain a civil union license Wednesday in Chicago. Illinois now grants legal status to same-sex couples and unmarried heterosexual couples, including the right to inherit property and make medical decisions for a partner. by late afternoon had doled out more than 150 licenses, at least two of them to heterosexual couples. For many couples, it was worth the wait. Partners for a decade, Harris, 36, and Watkins, 37, had waited since midnight Tuesday for the office at the Cook County building in downtown Chicago to open at 7:30 a.m. When the two finally got their license, Harris couldn't hold back the tears. Other waiting couples and workers at the clerk's office couldn't hold back the cheers. "We are so excited. We're overwhelmed," said Watkins, who until getting the license had fretted with Harris about the futures of their six children, if something should ever happen to either partner. Now, "this is legally binding, this is official, we're a family unit and our family is now recognized by the greater society."

SEE MORE ONLINE
✓ For more coverage, visit SWJournalist.com

SPELLING BEE

Can you use it in a sentence?



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arvind Mahankali and Miles Shebar wait their turns at the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday. The final round takes place today.

275 spellers — ages 8 to 15 — tackled the 84th Scripps National Spelling Bee and the oddities of the English language.

- ✓ **Usufructuary (n.):** one having the use or enjoyment of something
- ✓ **Febrifugal (adj.):** mitigating or removing fever
- ✓ **Ineluctable (adj.):** not to be avoided, changed or resisted
- ✓ **Melange (n.):** a mixture
- often of incongruous elements
- ✓ **Equinoctial (adj.):** relating to an equinox, a state or the time of equal day and night
- ✓ **Deceptious (adj.):** tending to deceive

DISASTER RELIEF

FEMA might ask for money back

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — As hurricane season began Wednesday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency was working to determine how much it overpaid victims of the 2005 hurricane season. The agency is reviewing more than \$600 million given to roughly 154,000 victims of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma and is poised to demand that some of them return money. Under pressure to help residents after Katrina, FEMA relaxed its safeguards and paid millions so victims could pay for food, clothing and more. That allowed thousands of improper payments. While hundreds have been convicted of hurricane-related fraud, FEMA employees also awarded money without interviewing applicants or inspecting property and made errors such as recording incorrect banking information or failing to check whether insurance had already covered damage, according to congressional testimony. The 154,000 cases under review account for less than 10 percent of the \$7 billion that FEMA has given to victims of

the 2005 hurricanes. Some payments will be deemed proper, and some will be referred for fraud investigations. The rest of the victims will get letters telling them to pay back improper payments caused by human error, according to FEMA spokeswoman Rachel Racusen. FEMA's attempts to collect Katrina and Rita overpayments already have sputtered once. Residents who lost homes filed a class-action lawsuit in 2007 challenging the denial of their housing aid and the recoupment process. A judge ordered the agency to suspend the debt collection in 2007, while the lawsuit was pending. FEMA responded by withdrawing all debt notices sent to Katrina and Rita victims and drawing up new guidelines that the agency says will give victims clearer explanations and more opportunities to appeal. With those guidelines approved this year, FEMA started reviewing its backlog of potentially improper payments. RYAN FOLEY CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY FROM CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA. ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS MITCH WEISS IN CHARLOTTE, N.C., AND JENNIFER KAY IN MIAMI ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

NATIONAL

Gmail accounts hacked

SAN FRANCISCO — Computer hackers in China broke into the Gmail accounts of several hundred people, including senior U.S. government officials, military personnel and political activists, Google Inc. said Wednesday. The latest duplicity appeared to rely on so-called "phishing" scams and other underhanded behavior that hackers frequently use to obtain passwords from people and websites. All the victims have been notified and their Gmail accounts secured, according to the company. Google wouldn't say what parts of the U.S. government were targeted or whether confidential information may have been contained in the breached Gmail accounts.

N.Y. rep denies sending photo

WASHINGTON — New York Rep. Anthony Weiner on Wednesday denied he sent a lewd photo from his Twitter account to a female college student but said he couldn't say "with certitude" that the man in the photo wasn't him. The Democratic lawmaker spent Wednesday in a series of media interviews trying to explain the situation. Weiner said he had hired a private security firm to investigate the alleged hacking and an attorney to advise him on what civil or criminal actions should be taken.

Time to evacuate in S.D. flooding

PIERRE, S.D. — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard is asking residents in threatened areas of Pierre and Fort Pierre to evacuate their homes by 8 p.m. today, because of rising Missouri River waters. Daugaard said it is not a mandatory evacuation and the announcement is not in response to new information. Meanwhile, officials say progress is being made on levees being built to protect Dakota Dunes, Pierre and Fort Pierre.

FAA levies fines for laser abuse

WASHINGTON — People who point powerful lasers at planes and helicopters — which can temporarily blind pilots — could face fines as high as \$11,000 per violation, the head of the Federal Aviation Administration said Wednesday. The FAA is using a new legal interpretation of existing regulations that prohibit interference with the operation of aircrafts to levy the fines, Randy Babbitt, the agency's administrator, said at a news conference. Pilots have reported more than 1,100 such incidents in the U.S. so far this year, and officials said they are concerned that eventually an air crash will result.

Military court laws questioned

ARLINGTON, Va. — The first civilian convicted by a military court in more than 40 years is arguing that the Constitution forbids military justice for civilians. Former Army translator Alaa "Alex" Mohammad Ali, an Iraqi-Canadian, was prosecuted by the military after an altercation in Iraq during which he allegedly stole a U.S. soldier's knife and used it to stab another translator. He pleaded guilty to lesser charges. The case is the first under a 2006 law making it easier to bring criminal charges against civilians working for the U.S. military. Defendants have fewer rights in military than in U.S. civilian courts. Army Capt. Tiffany Dwell, Ali's lawyer, said Congress overstepped its authority when it left open the possibility that almost anyone accompanying U.S. forces in combat could be tried by a court martial for crimes committed in the field. —ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS

Fourth prisoner executed

HUNTSVILLE – Convicted killer Gayland Bradford was executed by lethal injection Wednesday for the \$7 robbery and slaying of a Dallas grocery store security guard almost 23 years ago.

Bradford was arrested for gunning down 29-year-old Brian Williams four days after Christmas in 1988.

The U.S. Supreme Court last week refused to reconsider an appeal it had rejected earlier, clearing the way for Bradford to become the fourth Texas prisoner executed this year. Three more lethal injections are set for this month in the nation’s busiest capital punishment state.

Houston day care owner indicted

HOUSTON – A grand jury has indicted a woman on felony murder charges in the deaths of four children in a fire at her home day care.

Jessica Tata had already been charged with murder for the Feb. 24 fire that also injured three children. A Houston grand jury followed the prosecution’s recommendation Wednesday and indicted her on the four murder counts.

The 23-year-old was previously indicted on two counts of reckless injury to a child and three counts of abandoning a child.

Authorities believe she left the children in her care alone while she went shopping and the fire was ignited by a stove-top burner left on.

Electric co-op lawyer sentenced

BOERNE – An attorney has been sentenced to 100 days in jail each year for five years after a jury found him guilty of felony theft from a Central Texas electric cooperative.

A Kendall County jury sentenced Walter Demond to 10 years of probation and fined him \$10,000.

State District Judge Dan Mills assessed the unusual jail sentence after jurors found Demond guilty Tuesday of stealing while working for the Pedernales Electric Cooperative. He also must pay \$212,000 in restitution.

The case involves about \$700,000 in Pedernales funds, with allegations of inflated legal bills and money being diverted to relatives of co-op executives.

Marathon Oil buys gas fields

NEW YORK – Marathon Oil will spend \$3.5 billion in cash to snap up oil and natural gas fields in Texas as the company boosts exploration and production in a highly targeted and energy-rich region.

The Houston company said Wednesday that it has reached an agreement with the owner, Hilcorp Resources Holdings, a partnership that includes Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co.

Marathon will get about 141,000 acres in the Eagle Ford shale formation, which overlaps Atascosa, Karnes, Gonzales and DeWitt counties in southern Texas. Marathon plans to add new wells and produce 80,000 barrels per day by 2016.

Attorney general appeals ruling

SAN ANTONIO – Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott is helping a South Texas school district appeal a federal judge’s ruling that would ban public prayer at a high school graduation this weekend.

A federal judge this week granted an order forbidding public prayer at Saturday’s ceremony after a lawsuit was filed by the agnostic parents of a graduating senior.

Abbott said the suit goes to the “unraveling of moral values in this country today.”

The school district planned to file the appeal today, and a ruling is expected quickly.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPECIAL SESSION



Elizabeth Carneiro, a Round Rock Independent School District teacher, holds a sign in protest outside the House chambers in Austin. Teachers across the state hope to have their voice heard before billions of dollars are cut from public education. Legislators are scheduled to discuss school finance today during the special session.

TROOPS

No end date set for Guard border tour

Deployment may be extended

MARTHA MENDOZA
Associated Press

GRANJENO — A nervous man with a duffle bag of marijuana. A pack of snorting feral pigs. A fluttering, rustling plastic bag. There’s plenty for a National Guardsman to look at on a quiet South Texas night.

The National Guard troops have augmented the Border Patrol’s 21,000 agents by almost 6 percent since July 2010.

The one-year, 1,200 troop deployment on the border was set to expire June 30, but the Obama administration is asking Congress to reprogram \$30 million to keep soldiers there at least through September.

Anticipating the end of their deployment, some units had already started moving out, said Matthew Benson, a spokesman for Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer, who has repeatedly asked the administration for more law enforcement along the border. Those departures have stopped.

Arizona Sens. John McCain and fellow Republican Jon Kyl

have introduced a bill calling for a five-year deployment of 6,000 National Guard troops on the border, a cost of \$600 million.

During the past year’s deployment, each soldier cost taxpayers about \$96,000, comparable to Customs and Border Protection agents, according to their respective budgets.

Though the troops are not directly involved in law enforcement activities, they act as lookouts and are credited with helping to arrest 17,000 illegal immigrants, almost 6 percent of those caught, according to Customs and Border Protection.

The only drug that the National Guard has helped to seize has been marijuana: 51,000 pounds since July 2010, or 2.6 percent of the almost 2 million pounds of marijuana seized by the Border Patrol during that time, CBP said.

But the troops’ presence on the border is about more than arrests, seizures and security, said David Shirk, director of the University of San Diego’s Trans-Border Institute.

“Symbolism and signaling does matter in politics, and the Obama administration



A Texas National Guardsman surveys the terrain in Hidalgo. President Barack Obama wants to extend the troops’ deployment at the border at least until September.

is making an effort to clearly demonstrate to the public that the U.S. border is more heavily fortified than at any point in its history, since for many

voters securing the border is an important first step prior to any conversation about reforming U.S. immigration policy,” he said.

What’sNEXT

The Texas House of Representatives will convene at 10 a.m. today for the first day of the special legislative session.

Education

- ✓ Public hearing today on education funding
- ✓ Democrats hope to organize protests before the bill comes up

Immigration

- ✓ Rep. Burt Solomons introduced new ‘sanctuary cities’ bill
- ✓ Discourages police from asking detainees about immigration status
- ✓ Not yet added to agenda, but likely to pass if added

Abortion

- ✓ Sen. Dan Patrick reintroduced bill to restrict use of abortion-inducing medications
- ✓ Not yet added to agenda

WILDERNESS

Lands lose promise of protection

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Under pressure from Congress, the Obama administration is backing away from a plan to make millions of acres of undeveloped land in the West eligible for federal wilderness protection.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said in a memo Wednesday that his agency will not designate any of those public lands as “wild lands.”

Instead Salazar said officials will work with Congress to develop recommendations for managing millions of acres of undeveloped land.

“The protection of America’s wilderness for hunting, fishing and backcountry recreation should be a unifying issue that mobilizes us to a common purpose,” Salazar said. “We will focus our effort on building consensus around locally supported initiatives.”

Salazar’s decision reverses an order issued in December to restore eligibility for wilderness protection to millions of acres of public lands.

That policy overturned a Bush-era approach that opened up some Western lands to commercial development.

A budget deal approved by Congress prevented the Interior Department from spending money to implement the wilderness policy. GOP lawmakers complained that the plan would circumvent Congress’ authority and could be used to declare a vast swath of public land off-limits to oil and gas drilling.

Republican governors in Utah, Alaska and Wyoming, filed suit to block the plan, saying it would hurt their state’s economies by making federal lands unavailable for mineral production and other uses.

The measure blocking implementation of the wild lands policy was included in a budget bill for the fiscal year that ends Sept. 30.

HEALTH

Old approach, new nose for burn victim

JEREMY SCHWARTZ
AustinAmerican-Statesman

Jacqui Saburido could soon have a new nose, thanks to an ancient procedure performed by Brazil’s most famous plastic surgeon.

Saburido, 32, who was badly burned when riding in a car-struck by a drunken driver near Lake Travis in 1999, has become the face of worldwide campaigns against drunken driving. She is undergoing a procedure to turn a flap of her skin into a new nose.

Dr. Ivo Pitanguy, a legend in his native Brazil, and his team will attach the flap sometime this summer. Pitanguy is per-

forming a procedure that was developed during World War I and has roots going back thousands of years.

“She was a very severe case, and we have many limitations, but we are doing the best we can,” Pitanguy said from Rio de Janeiro. “It’s a little heroic thing, but we hope it will work well.”

Saburido, whose nose, eyelids, ears and lips were burned away in the accident, is cautiously optimistic about

the latest procedure.

“Let’s hope it works,” she said in a phone interview shortly before returning to her native Venezuela. “It’s been a tough time, but we keep going little by little.”

Saburido was a student studying in Austin when the car in which she was riding burst into flames after a head-on collision on RM 2222. She burned for nearly a minute before paramedics put out the fire. Saburido suf-

fered severe burns to nearly her entire body.

Saburido lent her burned face to a Texas Department of Transportation campaign against drunken driving that has been taught in Texas schools for the past decade.

She has undergone more than 120 surgeries, but none has had a significant impact on her face.

In the latest procedure, skin taken from below Saburido’s chest will be molded into a nose. Usually, skin from the forehead is used, but because Saburido’s body was burned so extensively, Pitanguy had to search farther away.

DOPING ALLEGATION

Armstrong’s lawyers want apology from ‘60 Minutes’

GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Attorneys for Lance Armstrong have demanded an on-air apology from “60 Minutes” after the show aired a segment alleging the Tour de France winner tested positive for performance enhancing drugs at the 2001 cycling competition.

In a letter sent Wednesday to “60

Minutes” executive producer Jeff Fager, lawyer Elliot Peters said the May 22 segment about Armstrong was built on a series of falsehoods.

“In the cold light of morning, your story was either extraordinarily shoddy, to the point of being reckless and unprofessional, or a vicious hit-and-run job,” Peters wrote. “In either case, a categorical on-air apology is required.”

CBS News spokesman Kevin Tedesco said Wednesday he couldn’t immediately comment on the letter, but added: “We consider this the most thorough investigation into doping in the sport of cycling ever done.”

Former teammate Tyler Hamilton alleged in the piece that Armstrong talked about using the banned blood-booster EPO to pre-

pare for his third Tour de France in 2001 and that cycling’s governing body, the International Cycling Union, helped him hide a positive test at the Swiss event.

The head of Switzerland’s anti-doping laboratory, Martial Saugy, denied allegations Armstrong tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs during the 2001 Tour de Suisse.



Armstrong

‘Gloria’

Artists: Jennifer Allora and Guillermo Calzadilla

A man runs on a treadmill on an overturned tank in the United States' Biennale exhibit.

LUIGI COSTANTINI / ASSOCIATED PRESS



‘Establishing a Critical Corpus’

Artist: Thomas Hirschhorn

In the Switzerland pavilion, photos, sculptures and other art are displayed.

LUIGI COSTANTINI / ASSOCIATED PRESS



LUIGI COSTANTINI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wheeled gondola

Adding to the color of the exhibit, workers pull a wheeled gondola, part of Switzerland's pavilion.

the art of freedom

Venice’s ‘Biennale’ is an outlet for artists all over the world

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

Outside the U.S. Pavilion, a runner pounds a treadmill on an overturned 60-ton military tank. The exhibit at the 54th Biennale contemporary art exhibit in Venice, Italy, reverberates — loudly.

At the Danish Pavilion, a contemplative exhibition that explores free speech issues is periodically disturbed by rumbles. The juxtaposition of the booming Americans and the quiet Danes wasn't meant to make an artistic point — but the friction perfectly captures one of the main themes of this year's Venice Biennale: artistic freedom and its boundaries.

"It's a matter of negotiation," said artist Kobe Matthys, whose exhibit in the Danish pavilion is near where the old army tank rests. "I don't mind the tank because it's in the background. But it seems that all the videos pump up the volume to compete. The more silent works, they have to also manifest themselves."

Every second year since 1895, the contemporary art world converges on Venice to bask in its latest creations in an exhibition that requires patient navigation of the canals to reach the national pavilions, a main exhibit and dozens of side events. The event lasts from June 4 to Nov. 27.

This year, 89 countries have pavilions, including for the first time Saudi Arabia, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Malaysia and tiny Andorra.



LUIGI COSTANTINI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

‘Pervasion’

Artist: Yuan Gong

China's installations at the event portray different scents. Gong's is meant to represent the smell of incense.

Just as telling, however, is who did not come. Bahrain and Lebanon withdrew because of unrest at home. The impact of the uprisings sweeping the Middle East resonates strongly in Venice.

The Egyptian Pavilion presents the work of Ahmed Basiony, a new media and sound artist who was killed in the uprising in Cairo's Tahir Square.

"He was that movement, that symbol of the majority," curator Aida Eltorie said. "He was one of those people killed for the repression happening in Cairo for 30 years, maybe longer."

At some pavilions, artists spend months installing their works, but Basiony's friends won the Egyptian government's consent to feature his works just at the end of March. Although grateful for the opportunity to share his work beyond Cairo, they are not yet convinced this signifies a new era of openness.

"There are no guarantees right now. We are in a transition now," Eltorie said.

Back at the U.S. Pavilion, a runner hops on the tank treadmill for a 15-minute jog every hour.

Organizers worried it would be perceived as "typically American" because of the "loud and obnoxious" noise.

"In fact," curator Lisa Freiman said, "people love it."

Outside the Danish Pavilion, curator Katerina Gregos laughs as the treadmill starts up. She gathered artists from 11 countries to explore freedom of speech in an exhibit titled "Speech Matters." She also wanted to challenge the Biennale's concept of one nation, one artist.

"I think it is so important to discuss this now," Gregos said. "We have long since entered a period of counterenlightenment, when hard-won civil liberties are under threat."

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITORS

UNITED STATES

The pavilion features a treadmill on an overturned military tank in the courtyard, where a runner jogs for 15 minutes every hour. The U.S. exhibition is meant to evoke the ideas of the glory of God, and the glory of military battle, the curator said.

DENMARK

The Danish Pavilion shows an exhibition that delves into free speech issues. The pavilion showcases artists from 11 countries. The curator said she wanted to challenge the Biennale's concept of one nation, one artist.

SWITZERLAND

The main theme of the Biennale, "IllumiNations," seeks to integrate all countries. Switzerland features 83 artists from the 89 countries there. The curator said light is an old theme of art, which played into her decision of naming the exhibit.

EGYPT

Egypt's Pavilion plays five videos recorded by an artist who was killed while filming a sniper during the political uprising in Cairo. The exhibit is about the artist's state of mind and what he felt about being an Egyptian, the curator said.



OUTBREAK

‘Super-toxic’ E. coli infects Europe

Scientists report new germ strain causing illness

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Scientists on Thursday blamed Europe’s worst recorded food-poisoning outbreak on a possibly new “super-toxic” strain of E. coli bacteria.

Though suspicion has fallen on raw tomatoes, cucumbers and lettuce as the source of the germ, researchers have been unable to pinpoint the food responsible for the frightening illness, which has killed at least 18 people, sickened more

than 1,600 and spread to least 10 European countries.

An alarmingly large number of victims — about 500 — have developed potentially deadly kidney complications. Chinese and German scientists analyzed the DNA of the E. coli bacteria and determined that the strain containing several antibiotic-resistant genes caused the outbreak, according to the China-based laboratory BGI. It said the strain appeared to be a combination of two types of E. coli.

“This is a unique strain that has never been isolated from patients before,” said Hilde Kruse, a food safety expert at the World Health Organiza-

tion. The new strain has “various characteristics that make it more virulent and toxin-producing” than the many E. coli strains people naturally carry in their intestines.

However, Dr. Robert Tauxe, a foodborne-disease expert at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, questioned whether the strain is truly new, saying it caused a single case in Korea in the 1990s. He said genetic fingerprints may vary from specimen to specimen, but that is not necessarily enough to constitute a new strain.

Russia extended a ban on vegetables from Spain and Germany to the entire Europe-

an Union to try to stop the outbreak spreading east, a move the EU quickly called disproportionate and Italy’s farmers denounced as “absurd.” No deaths or infections have been reported in Russia.

Previous E. coli outbreaks have mainly hit children and the elderly, but this one is disproportionately affecting adults, especially women. Kruse said there might be something particular about the bacteria strain that makes it more dangerous for adults. Other experts said women tend to eat more produce.

Nearly all the sick either live



ROBERT SOLSONA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spanish farmers dump their produce outside the German consulate, protesting German accusations they say have unnecessarily damaged their reputation.

Please see E. COLI, Page 2

HEALTH

Plate guide debuts

USDA’s food pyramid trashed

MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There’s a new U.S. symbol for healthful eating. The Agriculture Department unveiled “My Plate” on Thursday, abandoning the food pyramid that guided many Americans but merely confused others.

Fruits and vegetables take up half the space in the new guide, and grains and protein make up the remainder.

Gone are the old pyramid’s references to sugars, fats or oils. What was once a category called “meat and beans” is now simply “proteins,” making way for seafood and vegetarian options like tofu. Next to the plate is a blue circle for dairy, which could be a glass of milk or a food such as cheese or yogurt.

Some critics, including congressional Republicans, have accused the Obama administration of overreaching on regulation, especially

Please see FOOD, Page 2

WAR ON CANCER

Money snares talent

Funding OK’d by Texas voters lures researchers

TODD ACKERMAN
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — Houston is loading up on superstar cancer scientists, bankrolled in part by a generously funded state program that’s transforming Texas into the nation’s research center on the deadly disease.

Three weeks after an internationally renowned Harvard geneticist was selected as the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center’s next president, Rice University and the Methodist Hospital Research Institute lured five more heavyweights. Four were recruited through the Cancer

Please see CANCER Page 2

AIDS IN AMERICA

Hope for cure after 30 years



BEN MARGOT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A red ribbon rests upon San Francisco’s Twin Peaks on May 22 to honor those who have died from AIDS. More than 25 million people have died of the disease since the first cases were reported in Los Angeles in 1981.

AIDS patient’s cure an inspiration to all

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Medical Writer

Sunday marks 30 years since the first AIDS cases were reported in the United States. This anniversary brings fresh hope for something many had come to think was impossible: finding a cure.

The example is Timothy Ray Brown of San Francisco, the first person in the world apparently cured of AIDS. His treatment isn’t practical for wide use, but there are encouraging signs that other approaches might someday lead to a cure, or at least allow some people to control HIV without needing daily medication.

“I want to pull out all the stops to go for it,” though cure is still a very difficult goal, said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.



Brown

For now, the focus remains on preventing new infections. With recent progress on novel ways to do that and a partially effective vaccine, “we’re starting to get the feel that we can really get our arms around this pandemic,” Fauci said.

More than 33 million people have HIV now, including more than 1 million in the United States.

About 2 million people die of the disease each year, mostly in poor countries that lack treatment. In the U.S., newly diagnosed patients have a life expectancy only a few months shorter than people without HIV. Modern drugs are much easier to take, and many patients get by on a single pill a day.

But it wasn’t that way in 1995, when Brown learned he had HIV. He went on and off medicines because of side effects but was holding his own until 2006, when he was diagnosed with leukemia, a problem unrelated to HIV. Dr. Gero Huetter, a blood cancer expert at the University of Berlin, knew that a transplant of blood stem cells (doctors previously used bone marrow) was the best hope for curing Brown’s cancer. But he aimed even higher.

“I remembered something I had read in a 1996 report from a study of people who were exposed to HIV but didn’t get infected,” Huetter said.

These people had gene mutations that provide natural resistance

Please see AIDS, Page 2

ELECTION 2012

Romney announces GOP presidential bid

HOLLY RAMER
Associated Press

STRATHAM, N.H. — Just as Mitt Romney declared Thursday that he’s in, it suddenly looks like he’ll have more company in his campaign for the Republican presidential nomination.

While Romney made his candidacy official in New Hampshire, political heavyweights Sarah Palin and Rudy Giuliani caused a stir of their own with visits to the first-in-the-nation primary state. And rumblings from Texas Gov. Rick Perry, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota further undercut Romney’s standing as the closest thing the GOP has to a front-runner.

Romney previewed a campaign message focused on the economic woes that top

voters’ concerns: rising gas prices, stubbornly high unemployment and persistent foreclosures.

It’s a pitch tailored to conservatives with great sway in picking the GOP’s presidential nominee in Iowa and South Carolina and the independents who are the largest political bloc in New Hampshire. It is as much a statement on his viability as an indictment of Obama’s leadership.

“Barack Obama has failed America,” Romney said as he began his second White House bid.

Romney said Obama has spent his first three years in office apologizing to the world for the United States’ greatness, undercutting Israel and borrowing European-style economic policies. He cast Obama as beholden to

Democratic interest groups and indifferent to out-of-work Americans.

He said Obama’s policy in Afghanistan was wrong, his spending too high and his administration sought power through regulation and fiat.

“This president’s first answer to every problem is to take power from you,” Romney said.

Romney’s strengths are substantial: He’s well-known, and he’s an experienced campaigner. He has a personal fortune and an existing network of donors. He has a successful businessman’s record.

But his challenges are big, too. They include a record of changing positions on social issues including abortion and gay rights, shifts that have left conservatives questioning his sincerity.



JIM COLE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, accompanied by his wife Ann, arrives to announce his 2012 candidacy for president June 2 in Stratham, N.H. Romney’s campaign focuses on economic problems relevant to voters. The former business executive’s record of changing positions on social issues have made conservatives skeptical of his sincerity.

LAW & ORDER

Rapist gets life for 18-year kidnapping



RICH PEDRONCELLI/ ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nancy Garrido stands at the hearing for Jaycee Dugard's kidnapping as her husband, Phillip Garrido, looks on in the background. Phillip Garrido was on parole for a rape at the time of Dugard's abduction in 1991.

Victim forced to live in shed

LISA LEFF
Associated Press

PLACERVILLE, Calif. — A serial sex offender was ordered Thursday to spend the rest of his life in prison after the California woman he kidnapped, raped and held captive for 18 years said he and his wife stole her life.

Victim Jaycee Dugard was 11 when she was abducted by Phillip and Nancy Garrido. She gave birth to two daughters fathered by Garrido while he held her in a secret backyard compound.

El Dorado County Superior Judge Douglas Phimister imposed the maximum possible

sentence of 431 years to life on 60-year-old Phillip Garrido, calling his treatment of Dugard evil and reprehensible.

Phillip Garrido pleaded guilty to kidnapping and 13 sexual assault charges, including six counts of rape and seven counts of committing lewd acts captured on video.

His plea was part of a deal with prosecutors that saw Nancy Garrido, 55, sentenced to 36 years to life after pleading guilty to kidnapping and rape.

The deal was designed, in part, to spare Dugard and her children from having to testify at a trial.

Dugard has strived to preserve her privacy since she was identified during a chance

meeting with Phillip Garrido's parole officer.

The defendants were arrested in August 2009 after Phillip Garrido inexplicably brought his ragtag clan to a meeting with his parole officer, who had no idea the convicted rapist had been living with a young woman and two girls he described as his nieces.

Her reappearance proved a costly embarrassment for California parole officials. The state last year paid Dugard a \$20 million settlement under which officials acknowledged repeated mistakes were made by parole agents responsible for monitoring Garrido. California has since increased monitoring of sex offenders.

CANCER:
New hires nationally recognized

—Continued from Page 1
Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (CPRIT), the \$3 billion initiative voters approved in 2007.

All five of the hires are members of the National Academy of Sciences, the nation's most distinguished organization of scientists. Their addition increases Houston's total to 17, and the state's to 61.

Less than two years into the 10-year program, the Texas cancer institute has recruited 24 cancer researchers, a mix of powerhouse scientists, "rising stars" and first-time faculty. It provided \$25 million of the four new recruits' packages — institutions match the funding — drawing from a war chest one recruit calls "game-changing." "It's a strong shot in the arm," said Dr. Ronald DePinho, incoming M.D. Anderson president. He said the program is one of several factors that convinced him to leave Boston for Houston. "It's already garnered a significant amount of attention, and you ain't seen nothing yet."

Mouse geneticists Neal Copeland and Nancy Jenkins have identified genes associated with numerous diseases.

CPRIT expects to add as many as half a dozen more recruits by July, then fare better in the program's second biennium. At that time, its allocation grows from \$450 million for the past two years to the full \$600 million authorized by voters. The money comes from bonds and is unaffected by the state's revenue shortfall.

CPRIT has provided more than \$350 million in grants to Texas scientists since 2009.

AIDS: Scientists test gene-therapy treatment

—Continued from Page 1

to the virus. About 1 percent of whites have them, and Huetter proposed searching for a person who also was a tissue match for Brown.

But transplants are grueling. Many cancer patients die from such attempts and Brown wasn't willing to risk it.

Months later, the return of leukemia changed his mind.

Brown discussed the transplant with his boss "and she said, 'wow, this is amazing. Because you have leukemia, you could be cured of HIV.'"

A registry turned up more than 200 possible donors and Huetter started testing them for the HIV resistance gene. He hit pay dirt at No. 61 — a German man living in the United States, around 25 years old.

A year after Brown's 2007 transplant, his leukemia returned but HIV did not. He had a second transplant in March 2008 from the same donor.

Now 45, Brown needs no medicines. "He's now four years off his antiretroviral therapy and we have no evidence of HIV in any tissue or blood that we have tested," even places where the virus can lie dormant for many years,

Huetter said.

Brown's success inspired scientists to try a similar but less harsh tactic: modifying some of a patient's infection-fighting blood cells to contain the mutation and resist HIV.

In theory, this would strengthen the immune system enough that people would no longer need to take HIV drugs to keep the virus suppressed.

Scientists recently tried this gene therapy in a couple dozen patients, including Matthew Sharp of suburban San Francisco. More than six months later, the number of his infection-fighting blood cells is "still significantly higher than baseline," he said.

It will take more time to know if gene therapy works and is safe. Experiments on dozens of patients are under way, including some where patients go off their HIV medicines and doctors watch to see if the modified cells control the virus.

The results so far on the cell counts "are all wonderful findings but they could all amount to nothing" unless HIV stays suppressed, said Dr. Jacob Lalezari, director of Quest Clinical Research in San Francisco who is leading one of the studies.



ERIC RISBERG / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Timothy Ray Brown is the only man ever known to have been apparently cured of AIDS. He stands with his dog, Jack, on Treasure Island in San Francisco.

The approach also is not practical for poor countries.

"I wouldn't want people to think that gene therapy is going to be something you can do on 33 million people," said Fauci. Other promising approaches to

a cure try new ways to attack the dormant virus problem, he said.

"There are paths forward now" to a day when people with AIDS might be cured, said Dr. Michael Horberg, president of the HIV Medicine Association.

FOOD:
New guide offered as eating plan

—Continued from Page 1
when it comes to new rules that tell schools what children can eat on campus.

But the plate is supposed to be a suggestion, not a direction, said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack.

"We are not telling people what to eat, we are giving them a guide," he said.

Vilsack said the new round chart shows that nutrition doesn't have to be complicated. Obesity rates have skyrocketed after almost 20 years of leaders preaching good eating through a food pyramid the department now says was overly complex. He showed off the new plate with first lady Michelle Obama, who has made healthful diets for children a priority.



SUSAN WALSH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new USDA plate is divided into four sections of slightly different sizes. The vegetable and grains are the largest.

dren a priority.

The servings don't have to be proportional, say officials who developed the symbol. Every person has different nutritional needs, based on age, health and other factors.

The graphic is based on new department dietary guidelines released in January, which are revised every five years. Those

guidelines tell people to drastically reduce salt and continue limiting saturated fats.

Marion Nestle, professor of nutrition, food studies, and public health at New York University, said there are already a lot of symbols out there telling people what to eat.

"This brings it all together," she said.

E. COLI: Women hit hard

—Continued from Page 1
in Germany or recently traveled there.

The WHO recommends that to avoid food-borne illnesses, people wash their hands, keep raw meat separate from other foods, thoroughly cook their food, and wash fruits and vegetables, especially if eaten raw. Experts also recommend peeling raw fruits and vegetables if possible.

Paul Hunter, a professor of health protection at the University of England of East Anglia said the number of new cases would probably slow to a trickle in the next few days. The incubation period for this type of E. coli is about three to eight days. "Salads have a relatively short shelf life and it's likely the contaminated food would have been consumed in one to two weeks," Hunter said.

Hunter warned the outbreak could continue if there

is secondary transmission of the disease, which often happens when children are infected. E. coli is present in feces and can be spread by sloppy bathroom habits, such as failure to wash one's hands.

Meanwhile, Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero slammed the European Commission and Germany for singling out the country's produce early on as a possible source of the outbreak and said the government would demand "conclusive explanations and sufficient reparations."

The outbreak is already considered the third-largest involving E. coli in recent world history, and it may be the deadliest. Twelve people died in a 1996 Japanese outbreak that reportedly sickened more than 9,000, and seven died in a Canadian outbreak in 2000.

IS EUROPEAN
E. COLI HEADING
FOR THE U.S.?

- ✓ Authorities don't know the source of the European infection yet, but cucumbers, tomatoes and leafy lettuce grown there are suspected.
- ✓ There's no reason to stop eating fresh vegetables in the United States at this point.
- ✓ It's impossible to test for every illness-causing strain of E. coli, even ones we know about.
- ✓ Different strains known as "the other E. coli" were sickening people well before the European bug emerged.

DOW JONES WORKSHOP

Students finish News Fund pre-internship training at UT

Eleven college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships on daily newspapers and an online news service after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at the University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a select group of 81 undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, business reporting and online journalism. They are part of a competitive national program funded by the News Fund, a foundation of the Dow Jones Company, and participating newspapers. More than 600 students applied for the program.

The School of Journalism at UT Austin, one of five pre-internship training sites for copy editors and designers, has been part of the News Fund program since 1997.

Participants in the UT workshop were involved in newspaper copy editing, design and production assignments and online journalism. Newspa-

per professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a live, model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, and a companion online product, swjournalist.com. The Austin American-Statesman provided printing services for the newspaper.

The UT-News Fund interns will serve internships of 10-14 weeks.

Participants in the UT Austin workshop, including their universities and host news organizations, are Kelly Belton, Louisiana Tech University-The El Paso Times; Kenneth Contrata, University of Arizona-The Denver Post; Celia Darrough, University of Oregon-The Record of Stockton-San Joaquin, Calif.; Geoffrey DeCanio, University of Texas at Austin-California Watch; Carol Fan, UCLA-San Francisco Chronicle; Katie Goodwin, University of Nevada-San

Francisco Chronicle; Leslie Hansen, University of Texas at Austin-The Beaumont Enterprise; Margaux Henquinet, University of Missouri-The Tribune, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Nicole Hill, University of Oklahoma-Austin American-Statesman; Chris Lusk, University of Oklahoma-The Dallas Morning News; and Nora Simon, University of Oregon-The Oregonian, Portland.

Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating newspapers cover the cost of the workshops, including instruction, housing, meals and transportation for participants.

Participating newspapers in turn pay interns a weekly wage for their work during the internship. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the News Fund.

Directing the UT workshop were S. Griffin Singer, director; Beth Butler and George Sylvie, assistant directors; and Sonia



BRADLEY WILSON

Interns from the Dow Jones News Fund copy editing workshop underwent intensive training at University of Texas at Austin before heading to internships at various news organizations.

Reyes-Krempin, administrative assistant of the UT School of Journalism.

Faculty included Amy Zerba of the University of Florida, formerly with CNN.com, Atlanta, Ga. and the Austin American-Statesman; Richard Holden, executive director

of the Newspaper Fund; and Bradley Wilson, coordinator of student media advising at North Carolina State University. Drew Marcks, assistant managing editor of the Austin American-Statesman, coordinated the interns' visit to that newspaper.

Similar Newspaper Fund pre-internship training centers for copy editors and designers are at the University of Missouri, the University of Nebraska, Penn State University and Temple University. An online editing program is at Western Kentucky University.

INTERNATIONAL

Mladic has cancer, says his lawyer

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Ratko Mladic's lawyer says he can prove the war-crimes suspect has been battling cancer. Serbian deputy war crimes prosecutor Bruno Vekaric has called it a hoax.

The lawyer showed a doctors' diagnosis saying that Mladic was in a Serbia hospital between April 20 and July 18, 2009.

The document does not disclose the names of the hospital and the doctors who allegedly treated Mladic, and his name appears only at the top of the certificate.

The lawyer gave a copy of the letter to a judge and prosecutors in Serbia hours before his unsuccessful bid Tuesday to prevent Mladic's extradition to The Hague for war crimes prosecution.

Teens accused of selling babies

LAGOS, Nigeria — At least 32 pregnant teenagers were arrested at an illegal clinic after being accused of planning to sell their babies into the growing child trafficking trade.

Police also arrested the clinic's director and accused him of buying the babies from the young mothers and selling them for a generous profit to childless couples.

"One of the girls told us that mothers sell their babies for \$160 to \$190," police chief Bala Hassan said.

An anti-trafficking agency spokesman said that the babies can then be resold for up to \$6,400, depending on gender. Child trafficking carries a penalty of 14 years to life imprisonment.

Original Nazi sign retired from gate

WARSAW, Poland — The notorious sign that once spanned Auschwitz's main gate will not return to its original spot after being repaired from the damage it suffered during a 2009 theft.

The sign bearing the Nazis' cynical slogan "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work Sets You Free) will instead be displayed in a planned exhibition hall at the site of the death camp.

The sign was stolen in December 2009 and was cut into several pieces. Now welded back together and otherwise restored almost to its previous state, the sign was presented last month.

A replica of the sign now hangs in its place.

UK cheese truck has a meltdown

LONDON — British fire crews say a truck carrying a 24-ton cargo of cheese burst into flames on a rural southwest England road.

Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue service said the fire spread rapidly through the truck and set its consignment of cheese alight.

The fire department believes the blaze was caused by a vehicle fault.

The driver had been headed for a mechanic to have a problem fixed. No one was reported hurt in the incident.

Tweets resolve defamation case

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Fahmi Fadzil, a Malaysian social activist, is apologizing on Twitter in an unusual settlement with Blulnc Media in a defamation case.

Fadzil claimed on Twitter in January that his pregnant friend had been poorly treated by her employers at a magazine run by Blulnc Media.

The company's lawyers sent him a letter demanding financial damages and an apology in major newspapers.

Syahredzan said Fahmi settled the case by agreeing to apologize 100 times in three days on Twitter. He has more than 4,200 followers.

"I've DEFAMED Blu Inc Media and Female Magazine. My tweets on their policies are untrue. I retract those words and hereby apologize," Fahmi tweeted.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

YEMEN

Tribesmen join fight as rivals clash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN'A, Yemen — Thousands of tribesmen threatened to descend on Yemen's capital, San'a, to join the battle against forces loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh as the country slid deeper into an all-out fight for power.

Government forces in San'a unleashed some of the heaviest shelling yet against their tribal rivals in a dramatic esca-

lation of the conflict.

For months, youth-led protesters have tried to drive out Saleh peacefully. But their campaign has been overtaken and transformed into an armed showdown between Yemen's two most powerful families, the president's and the al-Ahmar clan.

The al-Ahmar family heads the country's strongest tribal confederation, which has vowed to topple Saleh after 33

years in power.

Their nearly two-week battle in San'a raises the dangerous potential that tribal fighting could spread. Tribes hold deep loyalty among Yemen's 25 million people. A member's death can easily draw relatives into a spiral of violence.

Tribesmen attacked security forces in the city of Taiz, south of the capital. Saleh's security forces have cracked down on street protesters, killing more

than 100 since February. Until now, tribal fighters had stayed out of the fray. Thursday's attack suggests other tribes may be joining the fighting between Saleh and al-Ahmar.

The hundreds of thousands who have been holding daily protests in the capital and other cities had taken their inspiration from peaceful uprisings that toppled the leaders of Egypt and Tunisia.

Amid maneuvering by the

country's power players, the youth activists leading the protests were trying to adhere to their strategy, a peaceful campaign for democratic change.

Organizers confirmed their commitment to "peaceful protest and peaceful revolution until the regime falls," said activist Bushra al-Muktari.

As for the armed men clashing in the city with security forces, "we know nothing about them," she said.

RELIGION



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli soldiers and Orthodox Jewish men pray at Joseph's Tomb in the Arab-controlled West Bank city of Nablus during their monthly pilgrimage on Monday. A month ago, a Jewish man was killed by Palestinian police.

The area underscores religious and political tension between Israelis and Palestinians. Israelis view it as their right to visit their holy lands, and Palestinians view the pilgrimage as an attempt to gain political power.

Act of faith, politics in West Bank

Monthly Israeli pilgrimage to Arab city highlights conflict

MATTI FRIEDMAN
Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank — Just after midnight Monday, convoys of buses carrying 1,600 Jewish worshippers drove into the Arab city of Nablus for prayers at Joseph's Tomb. Escorted by army jeeps and ground troops, it was the biggest group to reach the site since the military began regularly allowing visits four years ago.

The lead bus was crammed with Orthodox Jews in long black coats, settler teens in jeans and girls in long skirts. When the buses moved into Nablus, 40 miles north of Jerusalem, Israeli soldiers in battle gear were securing the route.

The organizers see visits to the holy gravesite of the biblical Joseph as a mix of religious duty, assertion of ownership and show of force. For many observant Jews, Nablus is part of the biblical land promised to the Jews by God.

"These are our roots," said Gilad Levanon, a 22-year-old Jewish seminary student who visited this week. "We have a strong belief that this is our role in this world — to continue the path of our fathers, despite momentary interference."



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rabbi Eliezer Berland leaves after praying at Joseph's Tomb in Nablus. The monthly Jewish pilgrimage draws thousands of worshippers.

Joseph's Tomb, a modest stone building holy to Jews in the midst of this Arab city, is becoming an increasingly volatile friction point, drawing growing numbers of pilgrims on nighttime prayer visits, unnerving Palestinian residents and putting Israel's military into conflict with some of the worshippers it is meant to protect.

Monthly trips by religious Jews to this largely hostile city, coordinated with Palestinian secu-

rity forces, emphasize the complexity of the Holy Land's religious landscape and the sometimes deadly intersection of the sacred and the political.

Palestinians view the pilgrimages as an attempt by Israeli extremists to create a foothold inside the city, one of the main autonomous zones established by the interim peace accords of the 1990s. The Palestinians hope to make the entire West Bank, captured by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, part of a future independent state.

"If a believer wants to worship God, he can do that from any place," said Zuheir Dubei, 58, a Nablus mosque preacher, "not only from a place like Joseph's Tomb where blood can be shed."

Palestinian security forces leave the streets when the worshippers go in to avoid clashes with the Israelis.

The first to leap out when the bus pulled up outside the domed tomb was a young man with red sidelocks who wore the long black gabardine of the Bratslav Hasidic sect. He sprinted for the tomb, joined by streams of worshippers who poured out of the buses, ran through the gate and pressed ecstatically into the small room that houses the grave marker to chant psalms. Some visitors openly lamented how they could not freely access the tomb.

"We're still coming at night, like dogs," one bearded man said.

JOB SEARCH

Champion of the Irish unemployed

Dublin man uses billboard to promote self for interviews

SHAWN POGATCHNIK
Associated Press

DUBLIN — Tens of thousands of Irish people are leaving their debt-shattered land because they can't find work. But one frustrated job hunter, 26-year-old Feilim Mac An Iomaire, has refused — and captured the nation's imagination with an inventive PR stunt highlighting his plight.

"SAVE ME FROM EMIGRATION," reads Mac An Iomaire's Dublin billboard, the focal point for a social media-driven campaign that advertises his 10-month search for work and desire to stay in Ireland.

The effort cost him about \$2,900 and gave him a priceless global spotlight for his skills as a marketer.

Two days after rebranding himself as an Irish everyman named "Jobless Paddy," Mac An Iomaire (pronounced mac uh-o-mora) appears to have achieved his goal of landing a good job, most likely in Dub-

lin, by the end of the month.

Between calls, tweets and Facebook posts from well-wishers and tipsters, Mac An Iomaire put on his best jacket Thursday for the first of potentially dozens of job interviews.

After working for a year in a Sydney hostel, Mac An Iomaire returned to Ireland in August, full of optimism. He had a few thousand dollars set aside as he started a conventional job search in marketing.

More than 100 applications yielded only two interviews, typical in a country suffering nearly 15 percent unemployment and experiencing its biggest emigration wave since the 1980s. More than 50,000 people, mostly 20-something university graduates, may leave by the end of the year.

The billboard, placed strategically on Merrion Road — Dublin's Beverly Hills — piqued media interest and set the Internet alight. Commuters slow down to see the ad.

"That's a work of genius. Exactly the kind of brains we need to keep in Ireland. There's an army of out-of-work Paddies, but only one Jobless



PETER MORRISON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feilim Mac An Iomaire marketed himself as the unemployed Irish everyman on the verge of leaving the country. He's already gotten a few interviews from his well-placed billboard.

Paddy," said accountant David Daly, 39, who stopped to photograph the billboard.

"It's so professional, it makes you want to find out who's behind it. ... He's got guts," said secretary Maire Quinn, 32, who snapped a photo of the billboard on her cell phone.

Mac An Iomaire acknowledges his pitch was calculated, in part, to appeal to Ireland's

hurt national pride. He included the Gaelic hurling stick because it's a symbol of nationalism for any Irishman.

"I just love this country. Being away for a year in Australia really brought home to me how special Ireland is, what a massive village it is," he said. "This is my home. If I had to leave again, it would be with a heavy heart."

SOUTH AMERICA

Environmental activist killed over logging

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIO DE JANEIRO — Another rural activist was found shot to death in the Amazon on Thursday, just three days after Brazil's leaders discussed how to stop the region's deadly disputes over logging and protect those whose lives are threatened.

More than 1,150 rural activists have been slain in Brazil over the past 20 years.

Two witnesses tried to take the wounded activist to a hospital but were stopped by gunmen in another car who got out and finished off the victim, the police chief of southeastern Para told Globo TV's G1 website. The victim was identified only by his first name, Marcos.

Hired gunmen carry out most of the killings on behalf of loggers, ranchers and farmers who want to silence protests over land rights and illegal logging in the environmentally sensitive region.

SEVERE WEATHER

Tornadoes stun East Coast, kill 3

STEPHEN SINGER
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — The Rev. Bob Marrone was pained to see the steeple of his 137-year-old church shattered and strewn on the grass in the Massachusetts town of Monson. But, he knows he's more fortunate than some of his neighbors who lost their homes after tornadoes tore through the state, killing at least three people and injuring about 200.

"I can see the plywood of roofs and see houses where most of the house is gone," said Marrone, pastor of The First Church of Monson. "The road that runs up in front of my house," he said, "There's so many trees down, it's completely impassable."

Residents of 18 communities in central and western Massachusetts woke to widespread damage Thursday, a day after at least two late-afternoon tornadoes shocked emergency officials with their suddenness and violence and caused the state's first tornado-related deaths in 16 years.

"You have to see it to believe it," Gov. Deval Patrick said after a tour of Monson, a town of fewer than 10,000 residents near the Connecticut border. "Houses have been lifted up off their foundations and in some cases totally destroyed or moved several feet."

Two people were killed in West Springfield and another in Brimfield, authorities said. One death in West Springfield was a woman who used her body to shield her 15-year-old daughter in a bathtub in their apartment, Patrick said. The daughter survived.

One tornado was dramatically captured on a mounted video camera as it tore through Springfield, a city of more than 150,000 about 90 miles west of Boston.

The storm pulverized and sheared off the tops of roofs on Main Street in Springfield. A debris-filled funnel swept into downtown, then swirled across the Connecticut River.

District Attorney Mark Mastroianni said he and other staff members narrowly escaped injury when plate glass windows shattered and blew into his



RICK CINCLAIR / WORCESTER TELEGRAM & GAZETTE

Ron Weston, right, comforts his daughter Heather Dickinson as Devin Dickinson tries to help on Thursday, the day after a tornado touched down in Brimfield, Mass. The tornado struck 18 communities in central and western Massachusetts.

office. He heard screams to get away from the windows, and he and the other workers ran away just in time.

The governor declared a state of emergency and called 1,000 National Guardsmen after the storms, which brought scenes of devastation more familiar in the South and Midwest to a part of the country where such violent weather isn't a way of life.

Experts planned to assess damage by air and land Thursday to determine the number and strength of the tornadoes, National Weather Service meteorologist Benjamin Sipprell said.

The last killer tornado in Massachusetts was on May 29, 1995, when three people died in Great Barrington, a town

along the New York state border.

Severe thunderstorms in Massachusetts are not unusual, but strong tornadoes ripping a path through cities the size of Springfield are, said Peter Judge of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

"We'd been monitoring the weather all day and by early afternoon, nobody was overly concerned," Judge said.

The storm hit as workers were starting the evening commute home. Police closed some highway ramps leading into Springfield.

Bob Pashko, of West Springfield, said he was returning from his doctor's office when the storm started and he went to a downtown bar to wait for a ride.

"The next thing you know, the TV says a tornado hit the railroad bridge in West Springfield," Pashko said. "It's the

baddest I've seen."

At the bar, Pashko said, the owner told people to get away from the window as patrons saw the storm on TV.

"To see it live on TV when I'm five football fields away is better than being outside," Pashko said.

BY THE NUMBERS

- ✓ **3 people killed**
- ✓ **200 people injured**
- ✓ **16 years since the last tornado-related death in Massachusetts**
- ✓ **18 communities affected**
- ✓ **3 years since the last tornado in the state**

BUSINESS



KATHY WILLENS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Keith Armstrong, left, 6, Markquis, 11, and their sister, Teyonce, 7, play by a Harlem Deal\$ store in New York while waiting for their grandmother to exit on May 29. Deal\$ stores are owned by Dollar Tree, which sells a variety of items for \$1. Dollar stores pose the biggest threat to Walmart, which is building new express stores and adding new inventory to compete.

Walmart revamps stores

Chain attempts return to top after losing customers

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. is in a race against time to give the people what they want before they get comfortable shopping elsewhere.

Shoppers who switched to other stores when Walmart decided to ditch best-selling toothbrush brands, craft supplies and bolts of fabric may be hard to win back.

The company has taken nine months to restore thousands of grocery items it dumped from its shelves two years ago. The idea was to tidy up stores for the wealthier customers it had won during the recession.

Walmart says it will take until the end of the year to restock the rest of the store with items that were removed. That will go toward restoring Walmart's ability to provide one-stop shopping, which could be a

plus as shoppers make fewer trips to save on gasoline.

"The customer, for the most part, is still in the store shopping, but they started doing some more shopping elsewhere, and we want to bring them back," said Wal-Mart Stores Inc.'s chief financial officer Charles Holley during a Citi Global Consumer Conference last week.

Walmart is increasingly "caught in the middle" between dollar stores and more expensive stores, Wall Street Strategies analyst Brian Sozzi said. "Now, it's trying to return to its roots, but it's facing old competitors — the dollar stores — that are getting much better."

Shares of Walmart have tracked closer to its profits than its domestic sales this past year, and its international business has propped up revenue and profits. Walmart shares are up 7 over the past

12 months. Walmart stores account for 62 percent of the company's revenue; international makes up 26 percent.

While not committing to a specific time frame for turning around its domestic revenue, Wal-Mart has said it expects results to continue to improve as the year goes on.

To address the increasing threat of dollar stores, Walmart will open the first of up to 20 Walmart Express stores planned for this year. These stores are a tenth the size of a supercenter, or about the size of a typical drug store. Walmart Express is aimed at taking out one of dollar stores' advantages: proximity to where people live. High gas prices have made that even more important.

"They're looking for value. We have value. They're looking for convenience. We are certainly convenient," President and CEO Bob Sasser said.

The customer, for the most part, is still in the store shopping, but they started doing some more shopping elsewhere, and we want to bring them back.

—CHARLES HOLLEY, WALMART CFO

TWITTER SCANDAL

Weiner frank in photo explanation

ANDREW MIGA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Anthony Weiner's pun-laden media blitz aimed at ending the furor over a lewd photo



Weiner

sent from his Twitter account seemed to have done half the job. He may have convinced the public that he didn't send the photo, but

his uncertainty and humor attempts regarding whether the picture was of him is keeping the scandal alive.

Media outlets including the New York Daily News said his refusal to let law enforcement investigate was suspicious.

Weiner said he had hired a private security firm to inves-

tigate the alleged hacking and an attorney to advise him on what actions should be taken.

"If it turns out there's something larger going on here, we'll take the requisite steps," he said.

The sexually suggestive photo was posted Friday and sent to a female college student, Gennette Cordova, in Seattle. Cordova said the photo was sent from a hacker who has "harassed me many times after the congressman followed me on Twitter a month or so ago."

Weiner said he misjudged the furor the photo would cause and has declared he will not talk about it anymore.

Democrats are upset over the situation, calling it a distraction.

Some residents have said they regret voting for Weiner.

SCIENCE

More states allow the liquefying of corpses

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — When the 91-year-old World War II veteran died in February after a cancer battle, Hal Shrimp's body tissue was dissolved using heat and lye, turning it into a liquid that could be poured down a drain and a dry bone residue given to relatives, who plan to scatter it in his honor.

His family in Ohio saw it as a more environmentally friendly option than cremation.

Ohio is the only state where the method, alkaline hydrolysis, has been used in the funeral industry, but others are increasingly allowing for it, spurred by a push from interested crematories and equipment manufacturers or by a desire to have regulations ready if the process comes to their regions.

Proponents say it has lower operating costs and is greener because it does not cause incineration emissions. Skeptics question the social implications of sending someone's remains down the drain, and whether it's safe for the environment and public health.

Changes taking effect this year will allow alkaline hydrolysis in Kansas, Maryland and Colorado. It was already legal in Florida, Maine, Minnesota and Oregon. New York and California are considering allowing it.



Hal Shrimp

NATIONAL

Flooding spreads westward

GRAND COULEE DAM, Wash. — The giant concrete dams of the Pacific Northwest are overflowing with water.

States across the West are bracing for major flooding once a record mountain snowpack starts melting. Warmer temperatures could send water gushing into rivers, streams and low-lying communities. Such an event can overload Northern California's extensive system of dams and flood bypasses.

Sacramento is the city at greatest risk of flooding in California.

The National Weather Service predicts this will be one of the top five water years in history in the Pacific Northwest, said Gina Baltrush of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Auction ends for Unabomber items

SAN FRANCISCO — An unusual weeks-long auction of the Unabomber's property meant to benefit his victims ended Thursday.

U.S. District Court Judge Garland Burrell Jr. ordered the online auction of Ted Kaczynski's personal items such as his hooded sweat shirt, sunglasses and handwritten "manifesto" railing against technology.

The judge ordered Kaczynski to pay \$15 million to his bombing victims in addition to serving life without parole. The auction proceeds will contribute to that total.

The 69-year-old pleaded guilty in 1998 to setting 16 explosions that killed three people, including two in Sacramento, Calif., and injured 23 others in various parts of the country.

S.D. residents asked to evacuate

DAKOTA DUNES, S.D. — South Dakota Gov. Dennis Daugaard asked residents in threatened areas in the state capital as well as residents of Dakota Dunes to evacuate by Thursday night because of a prolonged period of Missouri River flooding. The evacuation is voluntary.

Daugaard said 800 of the 1,100 homes in Dakota Dunes could be subject to flooding. About 2,000 people and 800 homes and businesses are threatened by flooding far upstream in Pierre, with several hundred more people in Fort Pierre's flood zone.

Arizona gunman kills 5, then self

YUMA, Ariz. — Authorities have confirmed that one of the people killed Thursday in a southwest Arizona shooting spree was a Yuma attorney.

Yuma Police Chief Jerry Geier said the gunman walked into the law office of Jerrold Shelley in the downtown area and shot and killed Shelley sometime Thursday morning.

Police earlier identified the suspected shooter as 73-year-old Carey Hal Dyess.

Authorities say Dyess killed four other people elsewhere in Yuma County and wounded one person before fatally shooting himself. The wounded person was flown to a Phoenix-area hospital. The other victims' names were not released.

NY Times names first woman editor

NEW YORK — The executive editor of The New York Times, Bill Keller, will step down this summer after eight years on the job. Managing editor Jill Abramson will replace Keller. She is the first woman to hold the newspaper's top editing post.

Abramson, 57, joined the Times in 1997 after working for nearly a decade at The Wall Street Journal. She was the Times' Washington editor and bureau chief before Keller picked her to become the managing editor in 2003.

She said in a statement that she was grateful for the opportunity to lead the paper, calling it "a dream job."

The changes are effective Sept. 6.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS

Clements' memory honored

DALLAS — Friends and supporters of former Texas Gov. Bill Clements gathered at a public memorial service Thursday to pay tribute to the state's first Republican governor since Reconstruction.

The man whom Gov. Rick Perry has called the father of the modern-day Texas Republican Party died Sunday at the age of 94 after a long illness.

Inaugurated in 1979, Clements served two terms as governor despite losing his first re-election bid. The oilman ran Texas under the belief that state government should operate like a big business.

Dems seek power in new districts

AUSTIN — Republican lawmakers listened Thursday as Democrats and minority activists complained about a draft of the congressional redistricting map they say will diminish the power of minority voters.

Texas will add four new congressional seats next year because of rapid population growth, giving the state 36 seats in the U.S. House.

Republicans Rep. Burt Solomons and Sen. Kel Seliger have produced a map to ensure the GOP will continue to dominate the Texas congressional delegation.

A Democratic proposal would give two seats to Latino communities and one to an African-American community.

State gas prices down 7 cents

IRVING, Texas — Retail gasoline prices in Texas have fallen for a third straight week, slipping 7 cents to average \$3.63 a gallon.

AAA Texas on Thursday reported the average price per gallon nationally is down 3 cents, reaching \$3.78 this week.

The association said the declines are because of a recent drop in crude oil prices, plus lower wholesale gasoline prices.

The cheapest price at the pump in Texas is \$3.54 a gallon in Beaumont. El Paso has the state's most expensive gasoline, averaging \$3.68 a gallon.

Girl electrocuted after swimming

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — An 8-year-old girl in South Texas has died after touching an exposed electrical wire shortly after swimming at a neighbor's pool.

Cameron County Sheriff Omar Lucio said Anali Alamillo was still wet from swimming when found unconscious by her older brother outside their Brownsville home.

Lucio said the girl was declared dead Tuesday night after being transported to Valley Regional Medical Center.

Lucio said the Alamillo family had a washing machine in the yard, and the girl came in contact with some loose electrical wires. He said the death appears to have been an accident. An autopsy has been ordered.

Prison guard caught with drugs

HOUSTON — A Texas prison guard is facing a federal drug charge after being arrested during an undercover sting operation.

Prosecutors said Alejandro Smith was arrested Wednesday after receiving a duffel bag containing a kilo of heroin from an undercover officer at a parking lot in Huntsville, north of Houston.

Authorities said they began investigating the 21-year-old after getting a tip from a confidential source that he was providing contraband to prisoners.

Smith is a guard at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice's Eastham Unit in Lovelady, located about 100 miles north of Houston.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

ACROSS THE BORDER

Mexican drug war death toll debated

Government still quiet on numbers

E. EDUARDO CASTILLO
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — The debate over how many people have died in Mexico's 4 1/2-year-old drug war is intensifying as the government remains silent over the death total.

The last official count, more than 34,600 dead, came almost six months ago, and the number of lives lost is undoubtedly far higher, with daily reports of slayings and shootouts in drug hot spots, many not far from the Texas border.

Some Mexican news media are reporting that their counts show the death toll has risen past 40,000, a number that includes rival gang members killed in turf battles, as well as innocent bystanders, extortion victims, police and soldiers.

The most recent official count came in January, when the government released a database of drug-related deaths as a gesture of openness about President Felipe Calderon's military assault on drug cartels, which began as he took office in December 2006.

Government officials also had occasionally released updated numbers in past years when pressed by the news media. But they have not given or updated any figures since the database was released.

The government also has cut back on the public dialogues with activists and non-



BERNANDINO HERNANDEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A soldier investigates a car where two men were killed after a gun-battle with federal police in Acapulco, Mexico, on May 29. The Mexican government has not released an official count of how many people have died in the country's drug war since January, when numbers were more than 34,600. Some think the death toll may have already risen past 40,000.

governmental organizations it started last year. Mass graves holding more than 400 corpses were discovered in two northern Mexico states in April and May, and thousands of people have protested against the violence in several Mexican cities.

Anti-crime activist Francisco Torres said Wednesday that the lack of openness on the issue only increases Mexicans' insecurity.

"Transparency, and the chance that it will eventually create accountability, is fundamental for making the public feel we live in a nation of laws," said Torres, who heads the group Mexico United Against Crime.

But Mexico's federal security spokesman, Alejandro Poiré, refused to confirm or deny the updated figures or to release a new count when asked earlier this week.

Security consultant Eduardo Guerrero Gutierrez wrote in the June issue of Nexos maga-

NASA

Shuttle era to end soon

SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — And now there is only one.

The final crew of the space shuttle Endeavour has arrived home to a cheering crowd of hundreds of co-workers and families. It was Endeavour's final flight after 19 years.

Just one more space shuttle flight remains, putting an end to 30 years of Florida shuttle launches and more than 535 million miles of orbits controlled at Houston's Johnson Space Center. Now a sense of melancholy has permeated the community that calls itself "the space shuttle family."

George Mueller, the man considered "the father of the space shuttle," explained why he's not going to watch the final launch next month.

"It's like going to a funeral. I'm never enthusiastic about funerals," said Mueller, who at 92 is still flying cross-country to talk about space. But he's not going to Cape Canaveral, Fla., to watch the liftoff of Atlantis on July 8.

In regions that identify so closely with the space program — cities like Houston and Cape Canaveral — the end of the shuttle era is an emotional punch in the gut.

From orbit Monday, Endeavour Commander Mark Kelly, pilot Gregory Johnson and astronaut Drew Feustel all used the word "bittersweet" to describe their feelings.

"It'll be sad to see it retired," Kelly said. "But we are looking forward to new spacecraft, new destinations. We're all ex-

cited about the future."

Some people are trying to bask in the remarkable achievements of the shuttle program, like launching and fixing the Hubble Space Telescope and building the International Space Station.

Rice University scholar Neal Lane, who was President Bill Clinton's science adviser, said the shuttle's impending retirement "marks the end of an era. It's an example of one of America's greatest peacetime accomplishments. It's a sad time for many, but it's a time to celebrate and remember."

Some of NASA's old-timers



CHRIS O'MEARA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The space shuttle Atlantis sits on Kennedy Space Center's Launch Pad 39-A June 1 in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Atlantis is being prepared for a July 8 mission that will bring a close to the space shuttle program.

FINANCE

Need china? Alleged Ponzi schemer might be of help

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Hundreds of items from the Houston office of disgraced financier R. Allen Stanford, including a Baccarat crystal eagle that retails for \$55,000, will be auctioned as part of efforts to recoup some of the billions of dollars he is accused of bilking in a Ponzi scheme.

The spoils to be auctioned Saturday by Seth Worstell Auction Co. also include a more than century-old Victorian-style personal desk and more than two dozen handguns

intended to arm a personal security force, the Houston Chronicle reported Thursday. A preview is scheduled today at the company's warehouse in an industrial part of Houston.

Stanford is accused of cheating investors out of \$7 billion and faces several federal charges, including mail fraud, wire fraud and conspiracy. He remains in custody and is scheduled to stand trial in September in Houston.

As of Jan. 31, a court-appointed receiver had retrieved \$188 million from Stanford

bank accounts and through the sale of his investments and real estate, the newspaper said. The proceeds will help pay lawyers and investors.

"(Stanford) was clever, a very clever promoter," said Harry Worstell, the auctioneer's father who has spent decades in the sales business.

Other auction items include a mahogany conference table with a matching set of 10 leather chairs, a lectern bearing the eagle logo of Stanford's company, computer equipment and about 1,150 bottles of wine, champagne and spir-

its, with an estimated \$60,000 to \$70,000 retail value.

"There's boxes and boxes of Baccarat china," the younger Worstell said. "Every glass would cost \$100 to replace."

The auction list also includes about 100 company coffee mugs.

Harry Worstell said he understands the public interest in having something once owned by Stanford, which could become a good investment.

"Anybody who wants to own a piece of Stanford should be here," he said.

LANDMARKS

No Daughters left for Alamo?

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — A faction of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, a prominent women's legacy group, want to walk away from the Alamo, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

The group has cared for the San Antonio shrine to Texas independence for more than a century, and some members want to turn the responsibility over to the state and turn its focus to a new headquarters-museum complex in Austin.

"Some members are tired of operating the Alamo entirely (and) want to give it up and concentrate on DRT" and the museum project, the group's President General Karen Thompson wrote in an email to its 26-member board.

The email went out after the Legislature approved a bill that would put the Alamo under state control and have

Alamo activities subject to the supervision of the General Land Office. The bill awaits Gov. Rick Perry's action.

Under the law, the state would take over the Alamo if it cannot agree to a new arrangement with the 7,000-member group by Jan. 1 for the Alamo's management.

Kathleen Carter of San Antonio, one of the Daughters, told the Express-News that she's "dumbfounded" that a faction of 20 to 30 members from cities outside San Antonio was seriously proposing walking away from the Alamo.

"To give up the Alamo is to give up everything we've worked for," she said.

Meanwhile, Alamo staffers are excited about the "level of professionalism that will come" with state management and the DRT remaining as caretakers, said state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio.



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Some caretakers of the Alamo want to give it up to the state.

Items to be sold

- ✓ A 19th century Victorian-style personal desk
- ✓ A mahogany conference table with 10 matching hickory leather chairs
- ✓ 30 still-in-the-box Glock 9mm handguns
- ✓ A complete fine china set for 50 people
- ✓ A 2007 Chevrolet Suburban LTZ with less than 16,000 miles
- ✓ 100 or so company coffee mugs

Ode to hope



Nidalis Burgos keeps her eye on the conductor as she plays the violin during a rehearsal for the Lafayette Specialty School after-school orchestra May 5 in Chicago. The school's music program is funded by Merit School of Music, a Chicago nonprofit organization founded in 1979, but hard times have forced the organization to cut its financial support to Lafayette's orchestra program from covering 70 percent of the cost to 60 percent. To make up for the lost funding, Lafayette's principal has turned to fundraising — asking donors to contribute enough money to make the program self-sustaining.

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inner-city Chicago school fights to save music program

BY MARTHA IRVINE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The violin isn't pretty, but its scratched frame has been well-loved by the girl who cradles it now, and those who played it before her. Her mother calls it her daughter's "soul mate."

Nidalis Burgos doesn't own the instrument. It is on loan from her school, where the seventh-grader packs the violin up each weekday to bring it home.

The 13-year-old practices anywhere she can — in her bedroom, in the kitchen, on her back porch so she can hear the sound reverberate off the brick apartment buildings that line the alley. Usually, she warms up with "Ode to Joy," her mother's favorite song, and a fitting theme for a girl who truly seems to love playing.

"Music brings a little peace to the mind," Nidalis said.

Her frame is so tiny that she plays a violin three-quarters the standard size. But when she plays it, she feels big.

That is a common feeling among the 85 students who play in the after-school string orchestras at the Lafayette Specialty School, a public school in Chicago's Humboldt Park, where more than 90 percent of the students come from poverty.

This is a place where it's not always easy to be a kid, where gang members often are seen on street corners, and where too many students are witnesses to violence.

"They live in one of the wealthiest cities and wealthiest nations in the world, and some of these students have barely anything," Principal Trisha Shrode said. "Some of them don't have clean clothes. They don't have items for school."

Here, a music program is not just a music program. For many students, it is a way out of the neighborhood, to a better high school and, in some cases, a better life.

That is why Shrode and her staff are working so hard to save it, but it remains to be seen whether they can do that.



These are difficult times for arts programs. Across the country, music programs often are seen as expendable.

In wealthier Colts Neck, N.J., for instance, the high school is losing its choral program.

"It's very discouraging," said Debra Nemeth-Tarby, a teacher in the district who is all too used to the economic cycles that often imperil the arts before other subjects.

Some districts already have laid off music teachers. More teachers are waiting for school budgets to be finalized to see if they'll still have jobs in the fall. Some districts have delayed the start of instrumental-music classes to fifth or sixth grade, instead of fourth.

"It's a gentler way to cut — but it's still a cut," said Mary Leuhrsen, executive director of the National Association of Music Merchants' philanthropic foundation.

In Chicago at the Lafayette school, Shrode and her staff have had their own share of budget pain. In recent years, she has circulated a survey to ask teachers which programs they most wanted to keep. Each time, the after-school orchestra program has come up first or second on the list. So she has cut programs such as full-day kindergarten instead.

But now there are new funding challenges.

The nonprofit Merit School of Music, which started Lafayette's after-school orchestra program a decade ago, notified Shrode that it would have to cut its financial support, from covering about 70 percent of the annual cost to covering 60 percent. Duffie Adelson, Merit's president, blamed a fundraising climate that is difficult at best.

Next year, Lafayette must spend about \$46,000, which partly covers pay for teachers and instrument upkeep and replacement. That's an increase of more than \$10,000 in the school's cost from the previous year.

A lot of principals have resigned themselves to the constant struggles their arts programs face. But Shrode has decided to try something different, something creative.

The school always had bake sales and sold concert tickets, CDs and T-shirts to raise money for the program. But what if they and their students could get donors to give enough money to make the program self-sustaining?

Some call it a crazy idea, especially in a low-income neighborhood where people have little to give to a program like this.

But Shrode wants to try. She wants the music program to not only survive, but to grow to accommodate the many students on the program's waiting list.



At 3 p.m. each school day, orchestra students head to a large classroom for practice. At first, the room is a mix of stringed instruments being tuned and rowdy students coming down from the dramas of the day.

Then music teacher Arturs Weible stands before them, his voice booming orders to sit down and settle in.

Weible is one of four instructors who run the after-school orchestras of students ranging from third- to eighth-graders. Though not all are friends, they understand they are part of a group — something that rarely happens during the school day, he said.

"It's at that after-school part of the day where the kids all come together and really make a wonderful experience," Weible said.

When he begins conducting, discord slowly turns to harmony. Weible shouts and smiles when he likes something his students play together. His enthusiasm is infectious with his students. When he is around, they're more likely to sit up a bit straighter and to keep one another in check.

"Nobody works harder than Mr. Weible," said Nidalis, who is well aware that her teacher also has second and third jobs, giving private music lessons at his home and teaching university classes on weekends.

On Fridays, Weible is often at the school until 5 p.m. with a group of "all stars," students who have become orchestra leaders. Nidalis is one of them.



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music teacher Arturs Weible, background, plays along with students during a rehearsal for an after-school orchestra in Chicago. Weible is one of four instructors who runs the after-school orchestras.

"Knowing how hard he works makes me want to work harder, too," she said.

Her mom, Rousemary Vega, marvels at the difference the Merit music program has made at the school. It's the reason she has her children stay there, she said.

Vega said she has big dreams for Nidalis, her oldest child. But first things first — Nidalis will likely be concertmistress for the advanced after-school orchestra in the fall, making her the student leader and teacher assistant.

It will be yet another accomplishment for a girl whose room already is lined with awards — for honor roll, the science fair, pompom squad and perfect attendance.

They are the kind of honors that help students get into some of the more highly sought-after public high schools in Chicago.

Nidalis said she hopes to get into Lane Tech High School on Chicago's North Side. She'd like to play in the orchestra there. Eventually, she'd like to go to law school.



So far, the Lafayette school's fundraisers have brought in more than \$6,000, while a neighborhood nonprofit called Reason to Give is well over halfway to its goal of raising another \$5,000 for the music program, Shrode said.

That will cover the cuts made in the Merit budget — but Shrode eventually would like to raise enough money to cover the entire cost to the school.

For the young musicians at Lafayette, all that matters is that there is enough money so they can keep playing, as they did in May at a Merit festival at Chicago's downtown Orchestra Hall.

The morning of the concert, students rushed onto yellow school buses with their instruments, eager for their chance to play on the big stage.

Some of the youngest students, on their first visit to Orchestra Hall, stared up at the ornate ceiling as they waited to play. Others fidgeted. One accidentally plucked a string.

Nidalis played with an advanced group that included students from other schools with Merit programs. When the group finished its three songs, all of the students proudly took a bow.

"We rock!" Nidalis shouted, as they walked backstage and out of the auditorium.

She removed her shoes and skipped giddily through the hallways, the sound of applause and whistles still echoing behind her.



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Janaye Moore holds her violin during a rehearsal for the after-school orchestra at Lafayette Specialty School on May 5 in Chicago. Moore is one of 85 students who play in the school's orchestra located in inner-city Chicago.



ELECTION 2012

Mitt Romney secures presidential nomination



MARY ALTAFFER / CONTRIBUTOR

Mitt Romney secured the Republican presidential nomination, winning at least 88 delegates in the Texas primary Tuesday. He now has the 1,144 needed to clinch the nomination at the Aug. 22 Republican National Convention.

Texas primaries give candidate needed push

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mitt Romney clinched the Republican presidential nomination Tuesday with a win in the Texas primary, a triumph of endurance for a candidate who came up short four years ago and had to fight hard this year as voters flirted with a carousel of GOP rivals.

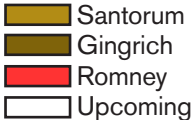
According to the Associated Press count, Romney surpassed the 1,144 delegates needed to win the nomination by winning at least 88 delegates in the Texas primary.

The former Massachusetts governor has reached the nomination milestone with a steady message of concern about the U.S. economy, a campaign organization that dwarfed those of his GOP foes and a fundraising operation second only to that of his Democratic opponent in the general election, President Barack Obama.

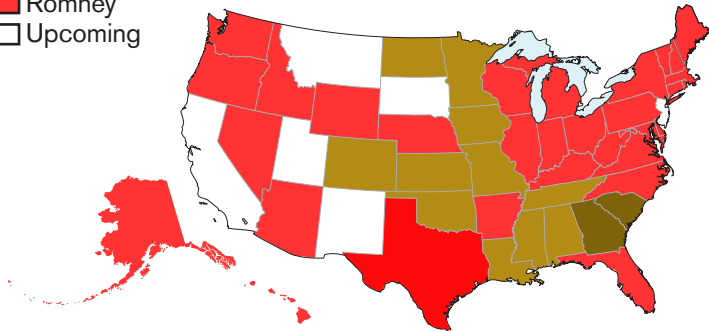
"I am honored that Americans across the country have given their support to my candidacy, and I am humbled to have won enough delegates to become the Republican Party's 2012 presidential nominee," Romney said in a statement.

Romney said his party has united with the goal of putting the failures of the last three-and-a-half years behind itself.

"I have no illusions about the difficulties of the task before us," he said. "But whatever challenges lie ahead, we will settle for nothing less than



GOP candidates' victories by state



JOSE D. ENRIQUEZ III / SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

Romney secured 31 out 50 states, in addition to a few a U.S. territories. Six more states have not held their primaries.

HISPANIC VOTE ON THE RISE

- ✓ For more election coverage, visit www.swjournalist.com
- ✓ Despite a rapidly growing population, Hispanics don't see themselves reflected in elections. [Read more on page 5.](#)

getting America back on the path to full employment and prosperity."

Romney must now fire up conservatives who still doubt him while persuading swing voters that he can do a better job of fixing the nation's struggling economy than Obama. In Obama, he faces a well-funded candidate with a proven campaign team in an election that will be heavily influenced by the economy.

"It's these economic indicators that will more or less trump any good or bad that Romney potentially got out of primary season," said Josh Putnam, a Davidson College political science assistant professor.

Romney spent Tuesday evening at a Las Vegas fundraiser with Don-

ald Trump, who has been renewing discredited suggestions that Obama wasn't born in the United States. Romney said he believes Obama was born in America but has yet to condemn Trump's repeated insinuations to the contrary.

"If Mitt Romney lacks the backbone to stand up to a charlatan like Donald Trump because he's so concerned about lining his campaign's pockets, what does that say about the kind of president he would be?" Obama's deputy campaign manager, Stephanie Cutter, said in a statement.

"I don't agree with all the people who support me," Romney said when asked Monday about Trump's contentions. "And my guess is they don't all agree with everything I believe in."

Trump told CNN in an interview Tuesday that he and Romney talk about other issues — jobs, China, oil and more — and not about Obama's place of birth or the validity of his birth certificate.

Please see ROMNEY, Page 2

Democratic Proposals

45% reporting

Proposition 1:

Texas high school graduates who lived in state for three years and lived here continuously for the last year should be eligible for in-state tuition at public universities and gain legal status through higher education or military service

For: 86%

Against: 14%

Proposition 2:

Texas Legislature should fund colleges so tuition and fees are affordable to Texans

For: 92%

Against: 8%

Proposition 3:

Texas Legislature should allow Texans to vote to legalize casino gambling with funds going to education

For: 74%

Against: 26%

Republican Proposals

45% reporting

Proposition 1:

State should fund education by allowing parents to choose their child's school and save taxpayer dollars.

For: 84%

Against: 16%

Proposition 2:

Congress should repeal Obamacare and reject government health care and intrude upon the doctor-patient relationship.

For: 91%

Against: 9%

Proposition 3:

Government should not restrict the content of public prayer.

For: 93%

Against: 7%

Proposition 4:

Out of control spending should be stopped at all levels of federal and state government.

For: 94%

Against: 6%

Proposition 5:

Texas Legislature should redraw lines for Congress and Legislative districts in its upcoming session.

For: 76%

Against: 24%

Doggett sweeps district primary

Wealthy incumbent criticized for funding gap as Texas congressional candidates compete for new seats

ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett won the Democratic primary in the newly created 35th Congressional District, where the nine-term congressman sought re-election after his former district was redrawn to favor Republicans.

Doggett defeated two Hispanic challengers in a solidly Hispanic district that stretches from Austin to San Antonio. His opponents criticized the lawyer for not running elsewhere and taking on Republicans with his \$3 million in campaign funds. Doggett defeated Sylvia Romo, a former state

Please see DOGGETT, Page 2

Dewhurst may face a runoff

Primary results roll in; contentious race may continue to second round

MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press

DALLAS — Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst grabbed a double-digit percentage lead Tuesday evening over eight other challengers as early results rolled in for the state's contentious Republican primary to replace retiring Texas U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

The Senate race, the most watched among hundreds of races, was shaping up to be a two-man contest between mainstream Republican Dewhurst, who counted Gov. Rick Perry among his backers, and fiery attorney and tea party favorite Ted Cruz, a former Texas solicitor general.

Despite the early lead, Dewhurst could be headed for a runoff. He was still shy of the majority needed to avoid another contest for the nomination in July.

The secretary of state's office said more than 13 million Texans were registered to vote, but several polling places indicated voters stayed away, perhaps because of the heat, the confusion about a rescheduled primary date, and Memorial Day weekend travels that kept some folks away from home.

"We're all trying to find where the voters are," Ellen Rusch, whose husband was seeking nomination for a judge's position, lamented from a suburban Dallas polling place.

Polling officials reported seeing just dozens of people out of thousands registered to vote.

Please see PRIMARY, Page 2

Deals with banks pack punch to college students' wallets

Report shows schools, banks rake in millions from hefty card fees

DANIEL WAGNER
Associated Press

It took Mario Parker-Milligan less than a semester to decide he was paying too many fees to Higher One, the company hired by his college to pay out students' financial aid on debit cards.

Four years after he opted out, his classmates still face more than a dozen fees — for replacement cards, using the cards as all-purpose debit cards and using an ATM other than the two on-campus kiosks owned by the company.

"They sold it as a faster, cheaper way for the college to get students their money," said Parker-Milligan, 23, Lane Community College student body president in Eugene, Ore.

As many as 900 colleges are pushing students into using payment cards that carry hefty costs, sometimes even to get to their financial aid money, according to a report to be released Wednesday by the U.S. Public Interest Research Group Higher Education Fund.

Colleges and banks rake in millions from the fees, often through secretive deals and sometimes in apparent violation of federal law, according

to the report.

More than two out of five U.S. higher-education students attend schools that have deals with financial companies, according to the report.

The fees add to the mountain of debt many students already take on to get a diploma. U.S. student debt tops \$1 trillion, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Student loans have sur-

passed credit cards as the biggest source of unsecured debt in America, according to the bureau.

Among the fees charged by Higher One, according to its website, is a \$50 "lack of documentation fee" for students who fail to submit certain paperwork. The Education Department called the charging of such fees "unallowable" in guidance to financial aid officers issued last month.

Higher One founder and Chief Operating Officer Miles Lasater said in an emailed statement the company takes compliance with the government's rules "very seriously."

"We are committed to providing good value accounts that are designed for college students," he said, and students must review the company's fee list when they sign

Please see CARDS, Page 2

Unprecedented cyberattack rocks Middle East

Suspicion cast on Israel as possible originator of sophisticated virus

AMY TEIBEL
Associated Press

LONDON — A computer virus that can eavesdrop on computer users and their co-workers and filch information from nearby cellphones hit Iran and other Middle East countries, experts said Tuesday, and fingers pointed to Israel.

The Russian Internet security firm Kaspersky Lab ZAO

said the “Flame” virus is unprecedented in size, complexity and versatility.

“It can be used to spy on everything that a user is doing,” researcher Roel Schouwenberg said.

The virus has particularly affected computers in Iran, and Kaspersky’s conclusion that it was crafted at the behest of a national government fueled speculation it could be part of an Israeli-backed sabotage campaign against Iran.

Schouwenberg said evidence suggests the people behind Flame helped craft Stux-

THE VIRUS CAN:

- ✓ **Activate a computer’s audio system to listen in on Skype calls or office chatter**
- ✓ **Take screenshots**
- ✓ **Log keystrokes**
- ✓ **Steal data from Bluetooth enabled cell-phones**

net, a virus believed to have been created by Israel believed to attack nuclear centrifuges in Iran in 2010. Many suspect Stuxnet was the work of Israeli

intelligence.

A unit of the Iranian communications and information technology ministry said it has produced an anti-virus capable of removing Flame from its computers.

Israel’s vice premier did little to deflect suspicion about the country’s possible involvement in the attack.

“Whoever sees the Iranian threat as a significant threat is likely to take various steps, including these, to hobble it,” Moshe Yaalon told Army Radio.

Researchers not involved in

Flame’s discovery were more skeptical of its sophistication than Kaspersky.

Colorado-based Webroot said the virus wasn’t as complex or as stealthy as Stuxnet and was an easy threat to identify.

Udi Mokady, chief executive of Cyber-Ark, an Israeli information security developer, said he believes only Israel, the United States, China and Russia have the know-how to develop such a weapon.

It’s not clear exactly what the virus was targeting, but Kaspersky said it detected the

program in hundreds of computers, mainly in Iran but also in Israel, the Palestinian territories, Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Egypt.

The company said the victims range from individuals to state-related organizations and educational institutions.

As for Flame’s purpose, “maybe it’s just espionage,” Schouwenberg said. “Maybe it’s also sabotage.”

TEIBEL REPORTED FROM JERUSALEM. ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS DIAA HADID IN JERUSALEM AND LOLITA BALDOR IN WASHINGTON ALSO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

ROMNEY: Candidate ‘honored’ by support

—Continued from Page 1

Republicans won’t officially nominate Romney until late August at the GOP national convention in Tampa, Fla. Romney has 1,174 convention delegates.

The 152 delegates in Texas are awarded in proportion to the statewide vote.

Romney, 65, is clinching the presidential nomination later in the calendar than any recent Republican candidate — but not quite as late as Obama in 2008. Obama clinched the Democratic nomination on June 3, 2008, at the end of an epic primary battle with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Four years ago, John McCain reached the threshold on March 4, after Romney had dropped out of the race a month earlier.

This year’s primary fight was extended by a back-loaded primary calendar, new GOP rules that generally awarded fewer delegates for winning a state, and a Republican electorate that built up several other candidates before settling on Romney.

Rick Perry, Herman Cain, Newt Gingrich, Rick Santorum and Trump all sat atop the Republican field at some point. Minnesota Rep. Michelle Bachmann peaked for a short time, too. But Romney outlasted them all, even as some GOP voters and tea party backers questioned his conservative credentials.

The primary race started in January with Santorum, the former Pennsylvania senator, narrowly edging Romney in the Iowa caucuses. Romney rebounded with a big win in New Hampshire before Gingrich, the former House speaker, won South Carolina.

Romney responded with a barrage of negative ads against Gingrich in Florida and got a much-needed 14-point win.

Romney’s opponents fought back: Gingrich called him a liar, and Santorum said Romney was “the worst Republican in the country” to run against Obama.

Gingrich and Santorum assailed Romney’s work at Bain Capital, the private equity firm he co-founded, saying the firm sometimes made millions at the expense of workers and jobs. It is a line of attack that Obama has promised to carry all the way to November.

On Feb. 7 Santorum swept all three contests in Missouri, Colorado and Minnesota, raising questions about Romney’s status as the front-runner. After a 17-day break in the voting, Romney responded with wins in Arizona, Michigan and Washington state before essentially locking up the nomination on March 6, this year’s version of Super Tuesday.

Romney has been in general-election mode for weeks, raising money and focusing on Obama, largely ignoring the primaries since his competitors dropped out or stopped campaigning. Santorum suspended his campaign April 10, and Gingrich left the race weeks later.

Both initially offered tepid endorsements of Romney, but on Sunday Gingrich gave a full-throated defense of Romney’s campaign, saying on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that he was “totally committed to Romney’s election.”

Texas Rep. Ron Paul said on May 14 he would no longer compete in primaries, though his supporters are still working to gain national delegates at state conventions.

Rich Galen, a Republican strategist who has been unaligned in the 2012 race, said the long primary fight should help Romney fine-tune his campaign organization.

“Romney’s been running for president for six years. He is as good a candidate as he’s ever going to be,” Galen said. “Whatever you say about him, he was better than everybody else in the race.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER STEVE PEOPLES CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT FROM COLORADO.

PRIMARY: Turnout low despite high-profile races

—Continued from Page 1

Anette Fay, 50, of Richardson, a German immigrant who looked forward to voting for president for the first time, was taken aback when she arrived to vote.

“I thought there would be lines,” she said.

The presidential primary topped the Texas ticket, but the GOP U.S. Senate race drew the greatest attention in the weeks

leading up to election day. Also vying for the GOP senatorial nomination were former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, who billed himself as a fiscally conservative businessman, and ex-NFL running back and ESPN announcer Craig James, who struggled to gain traction.

Dewhurst has overseen the Texas Senate as lieutenant governor since 2003, but Cruz claimed Dewhurst was too moderate for sometimes

showing a willingness to compromise with Democratic state senators to ensure the flow of legislation.

Cruz drew support from former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint and national limited-government groups including the Club For Growth — support Dewhurst dismissed as outsiders meddling in state politics.

On the Democratic side, for-

mer state Rep. Paul Sadler led three opponents but was far from avoiding a runoff.

Texas’ booming population meant it added four new seats in Congress, while new redistricting maps drawn by the Republican-dominated state Legislature — and a subsequent legal fight over whether they fairly represented minority voters — reshaped many existing districts.



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Texas, center, holds a picture of a slice of pie as he participates in an art fair in San Antonio. The soaring Hispanic population in Texas may not help Hispanic congressional hopefuls in the state’s primary elections. Two of the new districts are predominately Hispanic.

DOGGETT: Minorities playing bigger role

— Continued from Page 1

lawmaker and tax assessor in Bexar County.

District 35 is one of four new U.S. House seats in Texas and was drawn to allow minorities to elect their preferred candidate, as the state saw an

increase in the Hispanic population. Doggett says there was no chance for a Democrat to win in four other Austin-area districts that lean Republican.

Longtime U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of District 30 also survived a primary challenge Tuesday, easily beating two Democratic challengers. Johnson’s victory was among the first congressional races called during a statewide primary that could change the face of Texas in Congress.

Along the Texas coast, Republican U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold beat three challengers in the GOP primary.

Farenthold will face an easier general election than in 2010, as the Republican-controlled Legislature gave Farenthold a more GOP-friendly district when redrawing the state’s political boundaries last summer.

Ron Paul will retire from Congress after more than 20 years, but the failed presidential candidate hasn’t endorsed any of the nine candidates vying for the GOP nomination in the South Texas district.

The crowded Republican field for Paul’s seat raises the likelihood of a July runoff. The likely Democratic nominee is

former U.S. Rep. Nick Lampson, whose candidacy could make the U.S. House race a rare general election toss-up in Texas.

Voters in the new 33rd Congressional District stretching across Dallas and Fort Worth will pick a winner with 15 Democrats vying for the open seat. Former state lawmaker Domingo Garcia and Mark Veasey, a black state lawmaker who won endorsement from The Dallas Morning News and Fort Worth Star-Telegram, have the most name recognition.

CARDS: Few pick other route

—Continued from Page 1

up for an account. Among the fees charged to students who open Higher One accounts are \$50 if an account is overdrawn for more than 45 days, \$10 per month if the student stops us-

ing his account for six months, \$29 to \$38 for overdrawing an account with a recurring bill payment and 50 cents to use a PIN instead of a signature system at a retail store.

Higher One has agreements with 520 campuses that enroll more than 4.3 million students, about one-fifth of the students enrolled in college nationwide, according to public filings. Wells Fargo and US Bank combined have deals with schools that enroll 3.7 million, the report said.

Lane Community College’s president, Mary Spilde, said the real problem is a “lack of adequate public funding.”

“Many institutions are looking at ways to streamline and to do things that we’re good at, which is education and learning, and not banking,” she said.

Programs like Higher One’s shift the cost of handing out financial aid money from universities to fee-paying students, said Rich Williams, the report’s lead author.

“For decades, student aid was distributed without fees,” Williams said.

“Now bank middlemen are making out like bandits using campus cards to siphon off millions of student aid dollars.”

Students can opt out of the programs and choose direct deposit or paper checks to receive their aid but few do.

In the end, students feel locked into accounts before they have a chance to shop for a better deal, Parker-Milligan


said. Many banks are willing to pay universities for the privilege.

Under its contract with Huntington Bank, Ohio State University will receive \$25 million over 15 years, plus a sweetener of \$100 million in loans and investments for the neighborhoods around campus, according to the report. Florida State receives a portion of every ATM fee paid by a student, according to the report.

It’s difficult to get a full picture of how much money the

schools are getting because most of them refuse to release their contracts with banks. Only a handful were available to the report’s authors.

Ohio State and Florida State didn’t immediately respond to requests for comment. The National Association of College and University Business Officers didn’t respond to requests for comment.



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INTERNATIONAL

Europeans
lose faith
in euro

LONDON — The debt crisis that has ravaged Europe for the best part of three years has exposed a dislike of a single currency but little desire to abandon it, the Pew Research Center reported Tuesday.

A survey across eight European Union countries indicated that the region's financial problems have triggered full-blown fears about the future of Europe as a political project.

Pew said the crisis of confidence is evident in the economy and in the euro, which was launched in 1999 and is now used by 17 countries.

Finding little appetite for abandoning the euro, the survey revealed a heavy skepticism over Europe's single currency. More people in France, Italy and Spain think the euro has been more damaging than beneficial.

Among the five euro countries surveyed there wasn't one more than 50 percent of those polled thought the currency has been beneficial.

British court to decide
Assange extradition case

LONDON — Britain's Supreme Court is expected to rule Wednesday on the possible extradition of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to Sweden.

Assange, 40, has spent the better part of two years fighting extradition attempts after two women accused him of molestation and rape in Sweden.

Assange denies wrongdoing, saying the sex was consensual, but has refused to go to Sweden, saying he doesn't think he'll get a fair trial there.

Assange's lawyers argue that the warrant was improperly filed.

Assange is best known for revealing hundreds of thousands of secret U.S. documents.

Danish brothers charged
with terrorism

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Two Danish brothers originally from Somalia were given four weeks of pre-trial detention Tuesday after they were arrested on suspicion of plotting a terror attack.

The PET security service said it suspected the older brother, 23, also received terror training from the Somali militant group al-Shabab. They were arrested late Monday.

Both men pleaded not guilty at a custody hearing Tuesday. The two brothers — who cannot be named under a court order — came to Denmark 16 years ago and are Danish citizens, the agency said. The investigation had been ongoing for a long time when authorities moved to arrest them.

PET said the men had been talking about methods, targets and different types of weapons and were believed to be "in the process of preparing an act of terror."

Nature reserve in works
in Dominican Republic

SAN FRANCISCO DE MACORIS, Dominican Republic — The elusive Bicknell's thrush songbird has inspired the creation of a nature reserve in the Dominican Republic.

The reserve is taking shape in an overgrown former cattle ranch of about 1,000 acres. Conservation-minded Dominican and U.S. investors have acquired the plot as a pilot project, hoping to protect what they say is a biodiversity hotspot that's home to many threatened species.

Among those species is the thrush, because it occupies a narrow range of habitat that's under pressure on both sides of its migratory route, said Chris Rimmer, an ornithologist at the Vermont Center for Ecostudies and expert on the Bicknell's thrush. He said the preserve will also protect other species. Rimmer contributed to the foundation of the nature reserve.

The country's environment minister will inaugurate the reserve project on June 5.

EUROPE



MARCO VASINI / ASSOCIATED PRESS
A woman holds an umbrella to make shade for an elderly woman who was evacuated from a nearby hospital in Mirandola, Italy Tuesday. A powerful earthquake rocked the city, leaving at least 16 dead and 200 injured. One person is listed as missing.

An Italian firefighter and a dog search the debris of a collapsed house in Cavezzo, Italy Tuesday. The 5.8 magnitude earthquake hit the region especially hard, as it was recovering from a previous earthquake that happened just nine days before. That earthquake left more than 14,000 people homeless. The region had not been hit with an earthquake of high magnitude since 1501 and scientists do not know why the region was hit with two large earthquakes in such a short period.



Italian workers killed in quake

ALBERTO ARSIE
Associated Press

SAN FELICE SUL PANARO, Italy — Workers at the small machinery company had just returned for their first shift following Italy's powerful and deadly quake earlier this month when another one struck Tuesday morning, collapsing the roof.

At least three employees at the factory — two immigrants and an Italian engineer checking the building's stability — were among those killed in the second quake in nine days to strike a region of Italy that hadn't considered itself quake prone.

By late Tuesday, the death toll stood at 16, with one person missing. Some 350 people also were injured in the 5.8 magnitude quake north of Bologna in Emilia Romagna, one of Italy's more productive regions, agri-

culturally and industrially. Factories, barns and churches fell, dealing a second blow to a region where thousands remained homeless from the May 20 temblor, much stronger in intensity, at 6.0 magnitude.

The two quakes struck one of the most productive regions in Italy at a particularly crucial moment, as the country faces enormous pressure to grow its economy to stave off the continent's debt crisis.

The area encompassing the cities of Modena, Mantua and Bologna is prized for its super car production,

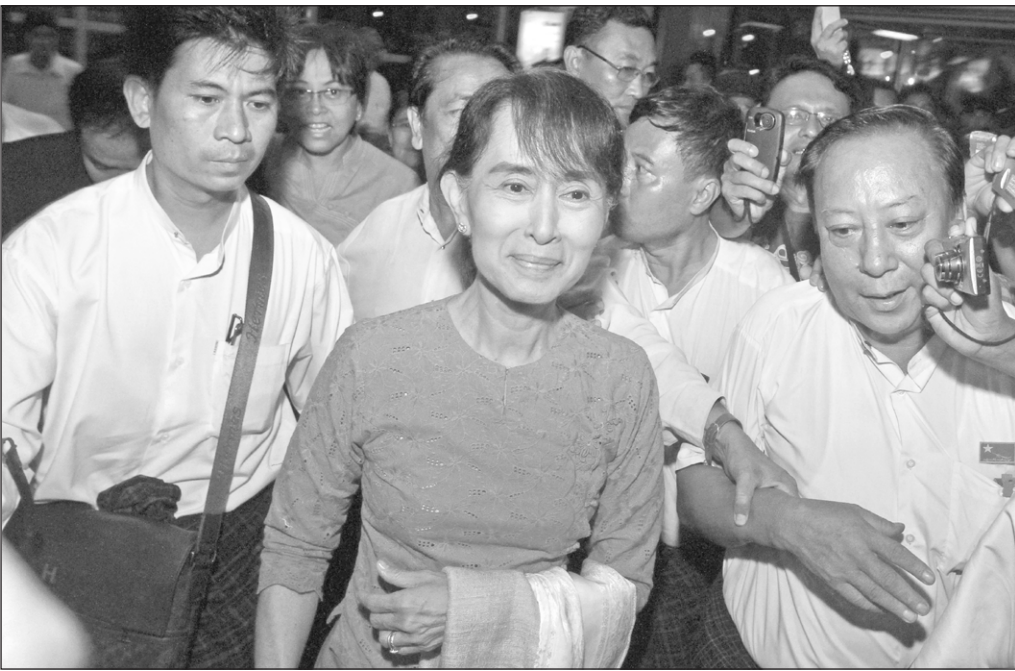
churning out Ferraris, Maseratis and Lamborghinis; its world-famous Parmesan cheese, and less well-known but critical to the economy: machinery companies.

Like the May 20 quake, many of the dead in Tuesday's temblor were workers inside huge warehouses, many of them prefabricated, that house factories. Inspectors have been determining which are safe to re-enter, but economic pressure has sped up renewed production — perhaps prematurely.

Seven people were killed in the



ASIA



KHIN MAUNG WIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at Yangon International Airport in Myanmar to depart for Bangkok Tuesday. This is her first trip out of Myanmar in 24 years. She is free to travel now that her party has entered parliament.

Myanmar activist free to travel

Democracy advocate
to travel West after
24 years in homeland

JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

BANGKOK — Myanmar democracy activist and longtime political prisoner 66-year-old Aung San Suu Kyi is resuming world travels, arriving Tuesday night in neighboring Thailand after 24 years in confinement.

With the installation of an elected government last year and her party's entrance into parliament this year, she can claim at least partial success for her long fight and feel the freedom to explore the world.

Suu Kyi is to spend several days in Thailand, meeting

with poor migrant workers and war refugees from her homeland, as well as international movers and shakers at the World Economic Forum on East Asia.

She'll return to Myanmar briefly and head to Europe in mid-June, with stops including Geneva and Oslo — to formally accept the Nobel Peace Prize she won 21 years ago.

In Dublin, she'll share a stage with U2 frontman Bono, a staunch Suu Kyi supporter, at a concert in her honor, according to Irish media. In England, she has been given the rare honor of addressing both houses of Parliament. France's Foreign Ministry says she also plans to stop in Paris.

The tour marks Suu Kyi's latest step in a stunning trajec-

ry from housewife to political prisoner to opposition leader in Parliament, as Myanmar opens to the outside world and sheds a half century of military rule, with President Thein Sein getting her back for an ambitious program of reforms. Earlier Tuesday, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met with Suu Kyi in Yangon, saying her "life and her struggle, her determination has inspired millions of people all over the world" and inviting her to visit his country.

The last time Suu Kyi flew abroad was in April 1988, when she traveled from London to Myanmar to nurse her dying mother. She became a political prisoner after protesting the nation's military regime.

MIDDLE EAST

Gunmen targeted
vulnerable, poor
in Syrian massacre

Victims shot
at close range

ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Eyewitness accounts from the Syrian massacre emerged Tuesday, describing shadowy gunmen slaughtering whole families in their homes and targeting the most vulnerable in poor farming villages. Western nations expelled Syrian diplomats in a coordinated move against President Bashar Assad's regime over the killing of more than 100 people.

Survivors of the Houla massacre blamed pro-regime gunmen for at least some of the carnage.

"It's very hard for me to describe what I saw, the images were incredibly disturbing," a Houla resident who hid in his home during the massacre told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "Women, children without heads, their brains or stomachs spilling out."

He said the pro-regime gunmen, known as shabiha, targeted the most vulnerable in the farming villages that make up Houla, a poor area in Homs province. "They went after the women, children and elderly," he said, asking that his name not be used out

of fear of reprisals.

Assad's government often deploys militias that carry out military-style attacks. They frequently work closely with soldiers and security forces, but the regime never acknowledges their existence, allowing it to deny responsibility for their actions. On Tuesday, the U.N.'s human rights office said most of the 108 victims of the Houla massacre were shot at close range. The U.N. report indicated that most of the dead were killed execution-style, with fewer than 20 people cut down by regime shelling.

Deaths from heavy artillery can be blamed on regime forces with relative confidence because rebel fighters do not have such weapons. But it is more difficult to determine who is behind the close-range killings — particularly as Syria sharply restricts media access.

On Tuesday, the U.N.'s human rights office said most of the 108 victims of the Houla massacre were shot at close range. The U.N. report indicated that most of the dead were killed execution-style-down by regime shelling.

"At this point, it looks like entire families were shot in their houses," said Rupert Colville, a U.N. spokesperson.

They went after the women, children and elderly."
— ANONYMOUS RESIDENT HOULA, SYRIA

BUSINESS

Market losing faith

MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Americans grew gloomier about the economy in May, causing consumer confidence to suffer its biggest decline in eight months and ending a period of steady optimism.

Worries about jobs and housing rattled consumers, even though gas prices are falling. The numbers suggest Americans will need to see more encouraging economic signs before their concerns start to dissipate.

The Conference Board, a private research group, reported Tuesday that its Consumer Confidence Index fell to 64.9, down from a revised 68.7 in April. Analysts had expected the index to climb to 70.

The May figure, which represents the biggest drop since a 6-point October decline, is now at its lowest level since January.

Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo, said May's reading is disappointing but consistent with the sluggish recovery so far.

"In some ways, it's a microcosm of the whole economic recovery," he said.

A clearer picture of the jobs market will emerge Friday, when May employment figures are due. The unemployment rate is expected to stay at 8.1 percent for May according to FactSet. Mark Olwick, a designer at Microsoft in Seattle, said he still has concerns about the economy.

"I'm cautiously more confident," he said, "but there is still significant work to be done, especially around banking reform, job creation and gas price speculation."

WORD WHIZ

Tadpoles and spelling bees

Virginia 6-year-old waltzes into spotlight

JOSEPH WHITE
Associated Press

McLEAN, Va. — The youngest person ever to qualify for the National Spelling Bee was running around in a stream, hunting for rocks. Suddenly, she charged up the bank and headed for her mother.

"Hold on to that basalt," Lori Anne Madison said.

Her mother, Sorina Madison, held onto the rock and soon was carrying more basalt and a hunk of quartz. "I can't carry the entire park," she eventually told her daughter.

Never mind. By then Lori Anne had joined up with more friends and taken on a different quest, searching for snails, slugs, tadpoles, water striders, baby snakes and more as they splashed in the waters on a sunny day.

"A water worm! It's alive," Lori Anne said, her shoes soaked from more than an hour of exploring. "I need it in my collection. It's wonderful."

In the last few weeks, she has won major awards in swimming and math, but one accomplishment has made her an overnight national celebrity.

This week, the precocious girl from Lake Ridge, Va., will be onstage with youngsters more than twice her age and size as one of 278 spellers who has qualified for the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

She hit milestones early, walking and talking well before others in her playgroup. She was reading before she was 2. She swims four times a week, keeping pace with 10-year-old boys, and wants to be in the Olympics.

When her mother tried to enroll her in a private school



Six-year-old National Spelling Bee finalist Lori Anne Madison searches for tadpoles Friday in Virginia. Lori Anne is the youngest finalist ever. The 2012 finals begin today.

for the gifted, the headmaster said Lori Anne was too advanced to accommodate.

"Once she started reading, that's when people started looking strange at us, in libraries, everywhere, she's actually fluently reading at 2, and at 2 and a half she was reading chapter books," Sorina said.

Lori Anne now studies at home, mastering topics other kids her age won't touch. She wants to be an astrobiologist, a combination of her two favorite subjects.

And she speaks quickly, with well-formed diction and a touch of know-it-all confidence.

"She out-argues both of us, and my husband is a trial lawyer," Sorina said with a laugh.

Now there's another wrinkle: Spelling bee fame. When Lori Anne spelled "vaquero" to win the regional bee, she set a new standard in the national bee's 87-year history.

"It was shocking," Sorina said. "I didn't expect all the media attention. We're private people. We're regular people. It was intimidating."

It was intimidating. But I'm happy for her. She loves it and she does it because it's a passion.

— SORINA MADISON

'TANGLED UP' IN GOLD



Charles Dharapak / Associated Press

President Barack Obama presents musician Bob Dylan with a Medal of Freedom Tuesday during a ceremony at the White House. The award is given every year to people who have contributed to the country's national interests. John Glenn and author Toni Morrison were also honored.

CRIME

Witness recounts man eating another's face

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — A witness says a naked man chewing on the face of another naked man on a downtown highway ramp kept eating and growled at a police officer who fatally shot him to stop the attack.

Larry Vega told WSVN-TV in Miami that he was riding his bicycle Saturday afternoon off the causeway that connects downtown Miami with Miami Beach when he saw the attack at the bridge's off-ramp.

"The guy was, like, tearing him to pieces with his mouth, so I told him, 'Get off!'" Vega said.

"The guy just kept eating the other guy away, like, ripping his skin."

The slain man was identified by the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner's

office as Rudy Eugene, 31, Miami television station WFOR reported.

Vega flagged down a police officer, who he said repeatedly ordered the attacker to get off the victim. The attacker picked up his head and growled at the officer, Vega said.

As the attack continued, Vega said, the officer shot the attacker, who continued chewing the victim's face. The officer fired again, killing the attacker.

Miami police have released few details about the attack, other than confirming that there was a fatal officer-involved shooting. The name of the victim had not been immediately determined by authorities, said Detective William Moreno.

Vega said the victim appeared gravely injured.

HEALTH SCIENCE

Snakebots meet surgery

Doctors can now perform intricate inner operations with tiny tethered robots

KEVIN BEGOS
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Imagine a tiny snake robot crawling through your body, helping a surgeon identify diseases and perform operations.

It's not science fiction. Scientists and doctors are using the creeping metallic tools to perform surgery on prostate cancer as well as hearts and other diseased organs. The snakebots carry tiny cameras, scissors and forceps, and even more advanced sensors are in the works. For now, they're powered by tethers that humans control. But experts say the day is coming when some robots will roam the body on their own.

"It won't be very long before we have robots that are nanobots, meaning they will actually be inside the body without tethers," said Dr. Michael Argenziano, the Chief of Adult Cardiac Surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University Medical Center in New York.

Argenziano was involved with some of the first U.S. Food and Drug Administration clinical trials on robotic heart surgery more than 10 years ago. Now he says snake robots have become a commonly used tool that gives surgeons a whole new perspective.

"It's like the ability to have little hands inside the patients, as if the surgeon had been shrunk, and was working on the heart valve," he said.

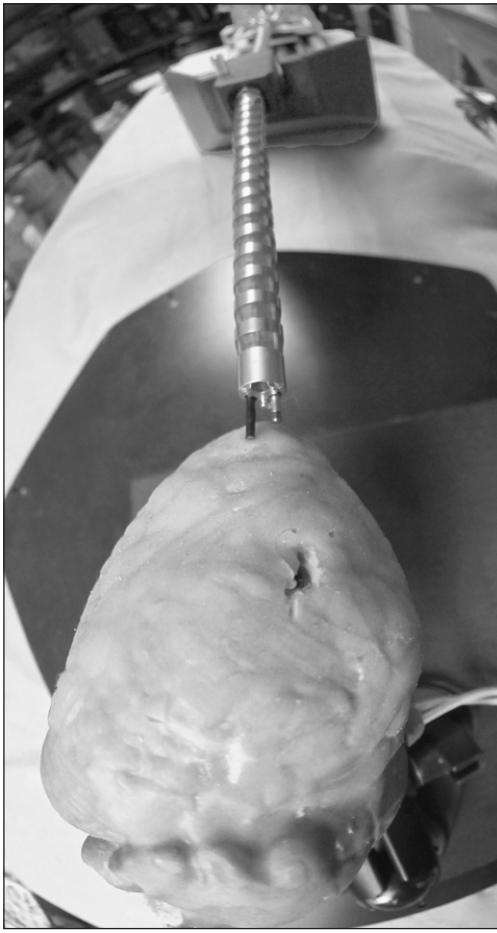
But Argenziano and experts in robotics say the new creations work best when they're designed for very specific tasks. "The robot is a tool. It is no different in that sense than a scalpel. It's really a master-slave device," he said.

Howie Choset has been researching and building robots, particularly snake robots, at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University for years.

Choset thinks his snake robot and others similar to it help reduce medical costs by making complex surgeries faster and easier. Choset says his new design is smaller and more flexible than earlier models: The diameter of the head is smaller than a dime.

The size of surgical robots allows surgeons to operate with far less damage to the body, helping the patient heal faster. For example, instead of opening the entire chest during heart surgery, a small incision is made and the robot crawls inside to the proper spot.

Dr. Ashutosh Tewari of Weill Cornell Medical College in New York has used robotic



Keith Srakocic / Associated Press

Scientists and doctors are using the snake robots' creeping metallic tools to perform surgery on hearts, as shown on this model at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University.

tools to perform thousands of prostate operations. He said the precision of the tiny robotic tool is vital to cutting out cancerous tumors, as well as to seeing exactly what nerves to leave intact.

Argenziano noted that robots aren't a magic cure. "The robot is good at certain things and it's not good at other things," he said. Studies have found that the cost effectiveness of surgical robots varies greatly.

Choset also has built larger snakebots designed for search and rescue or exploration. They can climb poles or trees and then look around through a camera in the head, and slither through places humans can't reach.

"We sent our snake robots into these caves off the coast of the Red Sea to look for evidence of ancient Egyptian ships," he said. "To me archaeology is like search and rescue, but everyone's been dead for 5,000 years."



The new snakebots being developed by doctors can test blood and examine nerves.

NATIONAL

US court declines Taser case

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court has decided it will not review the appropriateness of stun guns used by police on suspects.

The high court on Tuesday refused to hear appeals from police in Hawaii and Washington or people who got stun-gunned by officers.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said officers could not be sued in federal court. But judges also said the officers used excessive force by using stun guns.

High-end retail group reports significant profits

DALLAS — Upscale retailer Neiman Marcus Inc. said Tuesday its third-quarter profit grew 35 percent as stronger consumer demand allowed it to cut back on discounts.

For the quarter ending April 28, the privately held company earned \$62.6 million, up from \$46.2 million in the same quarter last year. Sales rose 7.5 percent to \$1.06 billion from \$983.8 million.

Dallas-based Neiman Marcus, which operates websites and stores under its namesake as well as one Bergdorf Goodman location in New York, said its revenue at stores open at least a year increased 6.7 percent.

Court sentences former star for non-payment

ORANGE, Calif. — Former NBA star Dennis Rodman was sentenced in family court Tuesday to 104 hours of community service on four counts of contempt for failing to pay child support.

Court Commissioner Barry Michaelson also placed Rodman on three years of informal probation. The sentence includes the condition that Rodman pay current child and spousal support obligations.

The sentencing put an end to one of the disputes in the long-running case.

On Tuesday, the towering former star rebounder said he'd do whatever community service was required near his home in Florida, possibly working with children, and did not begrudge his former wife.

'Malcolm X' biographer's son wants valued letter

ALBANY, N.Y. — The son of Malcolm X's biographer is asking Syracuse University to hand over a letter in which the slain activist writes about his shifting views on race relations, saying his family is the rightful owner.

Malcolm X wrote to Alex Haley, his collaborator for "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," from Saudi Arabia in April 1964, about 10 months before he was gunned down at a New York City hotel ballroom. The publisher of the autobiography later gave the letter to Syracuse University as part of a larger cache of papers to be used by researchers.

But Haley's son, William Haley, said the publisher never had legal title to the letter and could not give it away. His lawyer said Tuesday he plans to make a legal demand this week for the letter, which he thinks is worth at least \$650,000.

Corruption trial continues as judge, attorneys meet

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The jury in the John Edwards campaign corruption trial deliberated for a seventh day after a judge gave the panel a warning not to talk about the case over the weekend.

Jurors reconvened Tuesday morning. The judge met in a closed courtroom Friday with attorneys to talk about a problem with a juror, but she did not elaborate.

The judge again met with the attorneys behind closed doors Tuesday, but discussions were not made public.

Some alternate jurors wore matching shirts last week, and one was said to be flirting with Edwards.

Edwards faces six charges involving money provided by two wealthy donors to help hide his pregnant mistress.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS

2 charges dismissed for Clemens

WASHINGTON — The judge in the Roger Clemens perjury trial has dismissed two of the obstructive acts in the charges against the former pitcher.

Clemens remains charged with two counts of perjury and three counts of making false statements before Congress, along with 13 other obstructive acts.

All relate to Clemens' testimony at a 2008 hearing and his deposition that preceded it. The deposition was part of a probe into steroid usage in professional baseball.

One of the statements dismissed was Clemens' contention that he had "no idea" that former Sen. George Mitchell wanted to talk with him in preparation for the 2007 Mitchell Report on drugs in baseball.

Prosecutors rested their case Monday. The judge ruled against Clemens' request for a dismissal of all charges.

Judge grants police access to Manson files

PLANO, Texas — A state judge has ruled that Los Angeles police are entitled to recordings of conversations between a Manson family member and his attorney.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Brenda T. Rhoades granted the request Tuesday, allowing officers to obtain eight audio tapes of talks between Charles "Tex" Watson and attorney Bill Boyd.

Watson is serving a life sentence for his role in the 1969 Tate-La Bianca murders. He made the tapes available to his co-author for the 1978 book, "Will You Die for Me?"

Now, police want to see whether Watson described any unsolved killings in the conversations.

Rhoades' ruling came despite an objection from Watson's current attorney, who argued Watson didn't waive attorney-client privilege when making the book deal.

After 14-hour standoff, man plunges to death

DALLAS — A man who threatened to shoot officers during a 14-hour standoff in a construction crane was unarmed, police said Tuesday.

Lee Thomas Jr., 44, of Dallas, fell to his death early Tuesday, about 14 hours after he climbed into the crane towering over the Southern Methodist University campus.

Thomas said he was armed and threatened to shoot anyone who approached him, police said. Assistant Chief Thomas Lawrence said no weapon was found.

Thomas was "a person of interest" in the hijacking Monday of a truck, but he hadn't been conclusively linked, Lawrence said.

The truck was found near the crane, Deputy Chief Randall Blankenbaker said. About midday Monday, Thomas scrambled up the crane and into its cab.

"I don't know if anyone can say why he went up there," Blankenbaker said. "It might make sense that he was trying to elude capture," but no determination has been made.

Thousands lose power after late-night storms

DALLAS — Utility officials say Monday night storms in Texas have left more than 6,700 homes and businesses without electricity.

Crews from Dallas-based Oncor Electric worked Tuesday afternoon to restore power in a stretch as far north as Wichita Falls, south to Waco and west to Midland-Odessa.

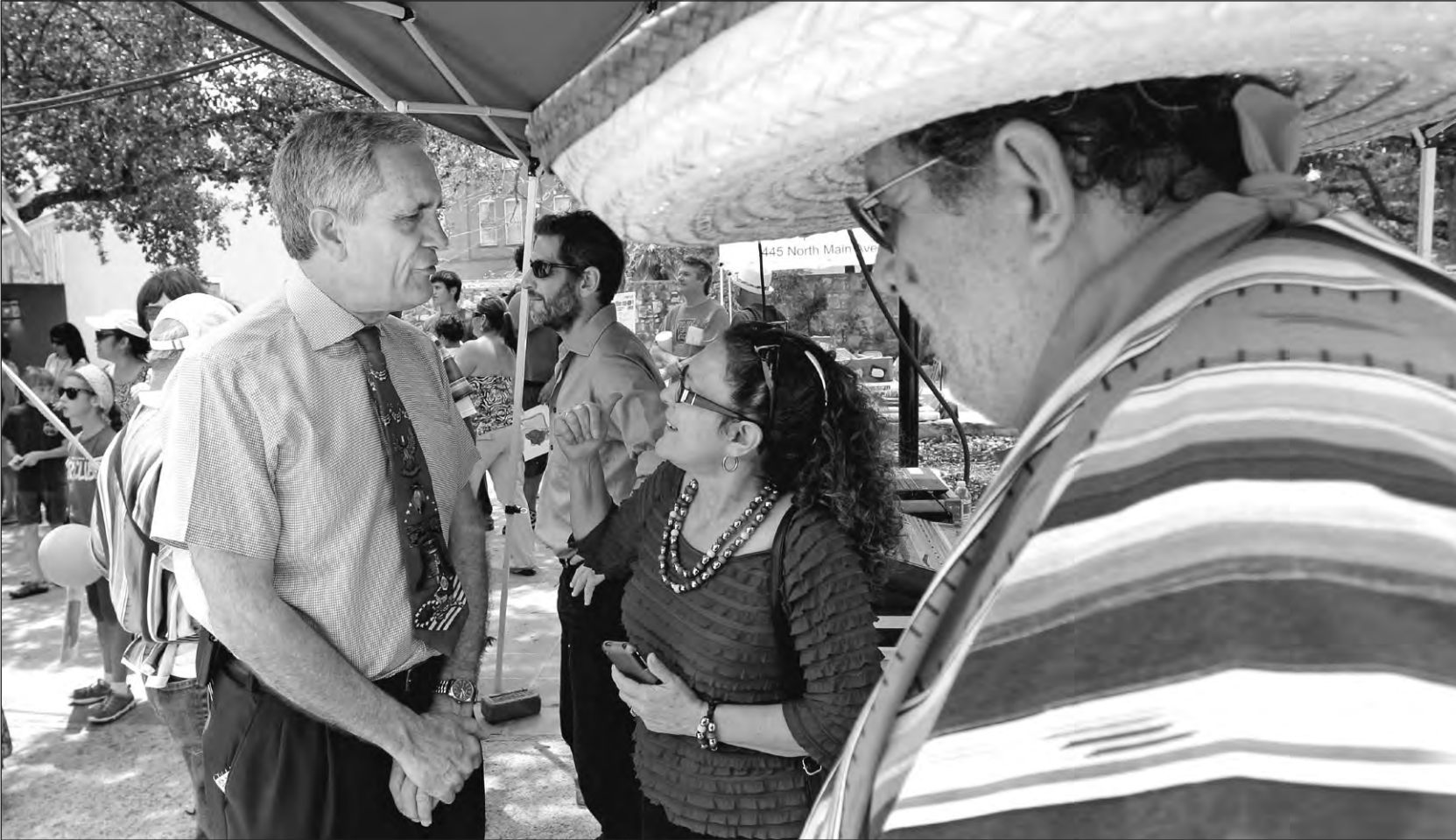
Most of the sites without electricity, which at one point left as many as 17,000 customers without power, are in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Authorities say some homes in the Brownwood area suffered roof damage, downed trees and power lines. No injuries were immediately reported.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

POLITICAL FRUSTRATION

Hispanic population boom a bust



ERIC GAY / AP PHOTO

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, left, who handily won renomination Tuesday, took one of four new congressional districts that are predominantly

Hispanic. Results were undecided late Tuesday in a second district. Hispanics had hoped to exert more political muscle with growing numbers.

Redistricting blamed for continued lack of representation

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — One is a black real estate agent and the other a white millionaire. One won nomination and the other is in a battle to go to Congress for the two new districts created to reflect Texas' soaring Hispanic population.

That's not exactly what Hispanic leaders pictured, and some are disheartened after incumbent U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett won easily.

The number of Hispanics in Texas grew by 2.8 million in the last decade — second only to California — and drove a population boom that rewarded the state with a total of four new U.S. House seats. Yet in Tuesday's primaries, Texas voters likely put no more Hispanics on the path to Congress than the six the state has sent since 1997.

The reasons illustrate why more population doesn't necessarily mean more political power in an ethnically diverse state. In this case, the way the new districts were mapped by a Republican-controlled legislature, combined with the natural advantages enjoyed by political veterans who already are well established, has left a group of eager Hispanic candidates facing formidable opponents from other races.

"Cheated. We're cheated. Are we going to wait another 10 years?" said Sylvia Romo, a Hispanic former state lawmaker running against the wealthy Rep. Lloyd Doggett.

After Doggett's victory Tuesday, some Hispanic leaders already are beginning to look toward the next election cycle, when they hope pending legal challenges will bring about helpful changes in the district maps.

Between 2000 and 2010, Hispanics accounted for three out of every five new Texas residents. Nearly 38 percent of the state's population is now Hispanic.

Population gains have been reflected in the number of Hispanic officeholders elected in down-ballot races from the legislature to school boards — up 46 percent to about 2,500 between 1996 and 2010.

Yet gains on Capitol Hill have not kept pace. The six Hispanic members represent about a fifth of the state's 32 congressional seats.

Low voter registration and turnout among Hispanic residents has long played a part in sapping Hispanic representation.

But Hispanic Democrats had expected the new congressional districts, which were based on the 2010 Census, to help them flex more demographic muscle.

Two of the four new districts were drawn as minority-opportunity seats, touching on four major cities with large Latino populations: Fort Worth, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin. About 60 percent of the voting-age population in both districts is Hispanic.

Domingo Garcia, who was attempting to become the first Hispanic elected to Congress from Dallas, said

BY THE NUMBERS

- ✓ 2.8 million Hispanics added to Texas population in the last decade
- ✓ 4 new Texas seats in the U.S. House, resulting from state's population boom
- ✓ 38 percent of state's current population is Hispanic
- ✓ 20 percent of registered voters are Hispanic
- ✓ 6 Hispanics account for a fifth of the state's 32 congressional seats

the elections were a key test of Latino voting power in 2012. "It would be breaking that glass barrier in terms of what Texas really looks like."

But the boundaries set up races with two strong Democrats — Doggett, 65, who has served in Congress since 1995, and Mark Veasey, a black state lawmaker and real estate agent, who has a solid political base and the endorsement of both major newspapers in the district, The Dallas Morning News and Fort Worth Star-Telegram. His state House district overlaps about a third of the new congressional district where his biggest challenger is Garcia.

Doggett had a campaign treasury of \$2.8 million. Romo didn't announce her candidacy until February and started with only \$20,000.

Doggett advertised and campaigned actively in the district, arguing he must be doing something right for Republicans to try to remap him out of office.

The Hispanic candidates did not openly woo voters with their ethnici-

ty. And some voters say they wouldn't vote on that basis anyway.

"To me, what difference does it make?" said teacher Diana Ramirez, 32, who met Doggett this month in San Antonio's downtown La Villita district, where he was campaigning at an art fair.

Doggett said he did not cost Texas another Hispanic face in Congress by competing in the predominantly Hispanic district rather than in a neighboring GOP-friendly one drawn by the Legislature.

Luis Vera, an attorney for the League of United Latin American Citizens, which was among the groups that sued the state over the redistricting maps, said Hispanics were "stabbed in the back" by how blacks and Latinos wound up with a single district in North Texas instead of having one for each.

But Vera also said Hispanics must improve their low voter turnout to shape elections. Hispanics account for only 20 percent of registered voters.

AUTISM

Training for transitions

Houston school offers the autistic a path to college

JEANNIE KEVER
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON — Riley Simpson could have become a statistic, one of the growing number of people with autism who leave school only to discover the next step toward independence remains just beyond their grasp.

Instead, Simpson has found something entirely different: Dinner parties. Job interview tips. Freedom.

"When anyone laughs, it's because we understand each other," he said as he shared dinner with friends. "We have the same experiences in life."

Simpson, 18, will graduate this spring from the Monarch School, a therapeutic day school in west Houston.

Monarch serves students with attention deficit disorder, Tourette Syndrome, traumatic brain injury, and mood, anxiety and seizure disorders transition from prekindergarten through high school and offers a post-graduate program with internships, help finding jobs and, for some students, the transition to college. It has



MELISSA PHILLIP / HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Riley Simpson and 27-year-old artist Kate Matthiesen, left, are part of the Monarch School's transitional living program.

a cluster of homes near campus where students live with a house parent.

Early diagnosis and intervention of autism have eased the hallmark behaviors of some children, said Linda Holloway, who chairs the department of rehabilitation, social work and addictions at the University of North Texas. Too often, she said, progress ends when students leave school.

"We talk about this black hole after graduation," she said. "Too many ... don't know about the resources out there."

Unemployment and underemployment among adults with autism is as high as 90

percent, according to Lisa Goring, vice president for family services at the advocacy group Autism Speaks.

That helps to explain why lifetime costs to care for a person with autism are \$1.4 million, according to the University of Pennsylvania and the London School of Economics. The cost rises to \$2.3 million for those who also have a cognitive disability.

Simpson had his first job interview last month. And while he didn't get the job, he felt good about applying.

"They liked me," he said. "They wanted to go full time. I did really good, though."

INVENTION

Dallas teen builds 'sweet' launcher

School pep rally inspires design of candy cannon

ERIC AASEN
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — As he sat at a pep rally in 2009, Aden Shank got tired of seeing the cheerleaders toss candy weakly into the crowds. The goodies only reached the first few rows.

Aden didn't get any treats. Aden was annoyed.

So Aden thought "I want to make something that will launch candy."

"I get ideas like this all the time," he said.

First, he concocted a device of PVC pipes, rubber bands and hot glue. Over time, he's transformed it into a glossy crossbow called the Cheer Launcher. Candy is stuffed into a paper tube and placed onto the contraption. Pull back a large latex band, let it go and watch the candy soar.

Woodrow's cheerleaders have begun using the Cheer Launcher — now, the candy flies with ease.

But the Cheer Launcher has gained attention beyond the

East Dallas school. Aden, who created a business plan for his invention, was honored last month in New York with a teen entrepreneurial award from the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. Last October, he competed at the network's National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge.

Aden, 17, says he's applied for a patent.

"Cheerleaders, crossbows, candy, money — it doesn't get any better than that," he said.

But to take his invention to the next level, he needs help. He wants to talk with a manufacturer to figure out how to mass-produce the device. He'd like advice from an engineer, too.

"We either go big or go home," he said.

Aden has sold five to 10 Cheer Launchers for \$99.99 each. "Sounds better than \$100," he said.

He says they're ideal for high schools or floats at parades.

No matter what happens with his invention, Aden said, the Cheer Launcher will play a prominent role in his college applications.

"I plan to leverage this — a lot."



MICHAEL PENN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In her new kayak, Misty Butler takes her dog, Bridger, on Mendenhall Lake in Juneau, Alaska. Chunks of ice from Mendenhall Glacier float in the water.

Discover Denali

Navigating the Alaskan landscape

BY BECKY BOHRER ASSOCIATED PRESS

This is an enchanting but unforgiving landscape, where adventurers far more experienced than I have gotten lost or hurt. The dangers — weather and bears among them — can even be deadly.

So it's not surprising that my plans to hike solo here led to raised eyebrows — and admonitions to please be careful.

While I'm no novice to back country trips, Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska is different, namely in that there are virtually no marked trails here. I had no interest in doing anything dangerous; I just wanted to go on some challenging hikes and enjoy my surroundings.

I planned to stick to day hikes, as my camping skills aren't great, and I came up with a list of places to explore from two prior, brief trips here, conversations with park workers and bus drivers, and a study of maps: Thorofare Pass, Polychrome Mountain, Stony Dome, Cathedral Mountain and Mount Healy. Throughout the summer tourist season, shuttle buses provide the primary means of access to the park, with the 92-mile road closed to most personal vehicles past mile 15. One of the most popular ways to see the park beyond mile 15 is by bus, where you can view wildlife through the windows and with stops to experience the park through

short walks. You can also hop on and off the green buses, going off on your own to explore before catching a later bus back.

I would advise reservations, as buses can fill up fast.

I carried a bus schedule with me, so I knew when the last buses of the day would run. In my backpack, I also had rain pants, water and energy bars, additional supplies and a whistle, in case I needed to make noise to announce my presence to wildlife.

For my first day I planned to go to Thorofare Pass, which meant a four-hour bus ride into Denali. Rain drizzled down, but it cleared up as the bus moved deeper into the park. We saw five bears — including three right beside the dirt road, as opposed to farther off in the distance — and a fantastic view of Mount McKinley, North America's tallest peak.

Thorofare Pass isn't a technically challenging hike — none of my hikes were. But it was a fun hike up and a welcome workout for my antsy legs after the ride in. The best part was running the ridge line and drinking in views of the mountain before it was partially obscured by clouds. Unfortunately, I encountered a group of loud hikers on my way down. I hike for the solitude and fellowship with nature. This was a buzzkill.

I knew I didn't want nearly as long a bus ride the next day. I was eager to run off on my own and spend as much time outside as possible. The bus trip started off agonizingly slow with people yelling "Stop!" to glimpse birds that seemed microscopic without high-powered binoculars. I rolled my eyes in frustration.

My attitude turned around fast, though, when the next "Stop!" was called out for a lynx sauntering across a sandbar.

I decided to bolt at Polychrome, a routine stop for the buses. It wasn't long before the sound of traffic melted away, and I was all alone. It was incredible: vistas drenched in the colors of fall — yellow, orange, brown, rust — and more ridge line to run. The wind in the area, though, was quite strong, literally clearing my nostrils.

As the day wore on, I found walking the road to be a great pleasure and had no problem catching a bus when I was finally ready to do so.

I drove on my third day from the motel I was staying at about a mile outside of the park to Savage River. The area is as far inside the park as most cars can go. There is a mountain and ridge line behind the rangers' station that I was interested in trying, so I started up in sometimes spongy, uneven terrain. It looked pretty straightforward, but the higher I got, the higher the brambles and thicker got. Soon I was among vegetation taller than I, branches clawing at my skin and clothes. I grew claustrophobic and frustrated, and decided to cut my losses, descending to a social trail — a path worn away by hikers — along the river. I'd been that way before with my boyfriend and felt comfortable pressing on, even as the trail grew faint. It was beautiful, and I hadn't seen anyone since I set out.

On the way back, I wound up on a trail that led to large boulders jutting out into the river. This wasn't right; I'd taken the wrong fork in the trail as I picked it back up. I backtracked, moving higher in hopes of picking up the trail. No luck, just a ledge with a decent drop. Higher still, same result.

My heart had started to beat fast as I scrambled higher still, wondering how I could have been so stupid. When I picked

the path back up, I was so relieved I practically skipped.

I got one last hike in on my last day before the four-hour drive to Anchorage to catch my flight. I decided on going to Mount Healy.

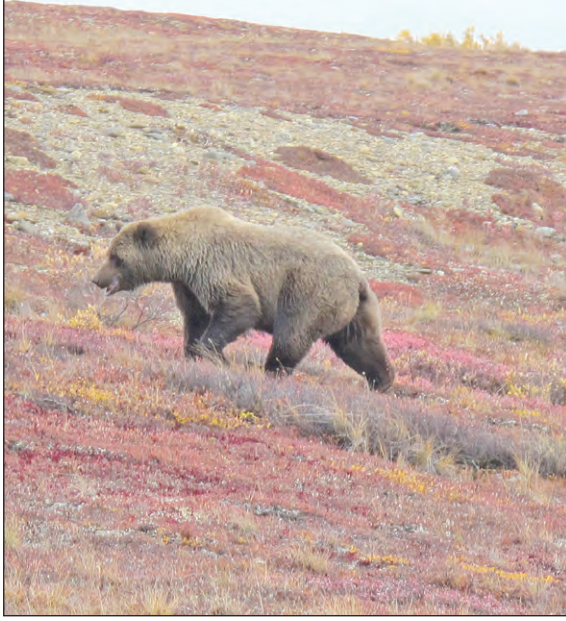
Noisy traffic accompanies the trail, which is near the park entrance. But I had the place virtually to myself, and after a bit of a scramble near the ridge line, I caught sight of a group of Dall sheep.

I accomplished what I'd hoped to accomplish — leaving tired and smiling — and couldn't help but think about all the things I wanted to do on my next journey through the Alaskan wilderness.



BECKY BOHRER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bald eagle perches atop a buoy where sea lions are resting, near Auke Bay, Alaska, about 20 minutes from the capital city of Juneau.



BECKY BOHRER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A bear walks across the tundra at Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska. Hundreds of bears make their homes in the 9,000 miles of park terrain.

IF YOU GO ...

LOCATION



LOCATION

Shuttle buses begin running to the Eielson Visitor Center on June 1. The entire park road will be open to buses, conditions permitting, starting June 8. Shuttle buses are scheduled to run through Sept. 13. Ticket prices and terms vary. See details at <http://www.reservedenali.com>.

FOOD

Morino Grill is the only restaurant near Denali's entrance. The National Park Service says Riley Creek Mercantile sells pre-packaged food, and the Wilderness Access Center sells snacks. There are restaurants and other stores along Highway 3, outside of the park.

SUPPLIES

For off-trail hikers, the park recommends:

- carrying adequate food and water, and a way to treat water
- wearing appropriate clothing
- preparing for bad weather
- avoiding high ridges and exposed areas in a storm
- packing rescue supplies

Thursday, May 31, 2012



Parties ready for congressional fight

Conservative groups
clash over candidates
chosen to represent GOP

CHRISTOMLINSON
Associated Press

DALLAS — Two groups will continue to dominate Texas politics next year: the conservatives and the more conservatives.

A little more than 10 percent of the electorate voted in the Republican primary Tuesday, sending a clear signal that they

ELECTION 2012

expect Texas to remain on the rightward course set 33 years ago when Bill Clements became the first Republican governor in 109 years.

In the race to replace U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, Republican operatives in Austin thought Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst was a shoo-in, but GOP voters clearly said “not so fast” and forced the long-serving

politician into a runoff with Ted Cruz.

Dewhurst must dig deeper into his \$250 million personal fortune to finance the continuation his campaign. National activists will go back to supporters to make sure Cruz has enough money to keep up.

Both campaigns will struggle to get supporters to the polls since turnout is normally

more dismal for runoffs than primaries. Turnout is important because hardcore voters always show up to polls, and in Texas that means the more conservative activists. High turnout dilutes their influence, while low turnout magnifies it.

FreedomWorks, a national tea party group, was key to getting out the conservative vote for Cruz, training 100,000 activists in Texas.

“This is an incremental but

Please see ANALYSIS, Page 2

O’Rourke ousts Reyes, despite rocky past

JUAN CARLOS LLORCA
Associated Press

EL PASO — A guitar-playing, twice-arrested former city councilman who advocates legalizing marijuana ousted a powerful Democrat in a doozy of an election-night stunner.

Beto O’Rourke kept a low profile Wednesday after defeating U.S. Rep. Silvestre Reyes. Reyes released

a statement congratulating O’Rourke on the victory and pledged to work with him to ensure a smooth transition.

Reyes, an eight-term congressman, was criticized by O’Rourke for becoming too cozy and ineffective to stay in Congress.

At least that was the message. Reyes released

Please see CONGRESS, Page 2

Obama to Romney: Good luck

After well wishes,
both return to issues

KASIE HUNT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Wednesday congratulated Mitt Romney on securing the Republican presidential nomination, but the gesture was coupled with a new line of attack that portrays his economic record as a failure as governor of Massachusetts.

In his call, the president told Romney “he looked forward to an important and healthy debate about America’s future,” Obama campaign spokesman Ben LaBolt said.

Romney’s primary win in Texas on Tuesday pushed him past the 1,144-delegate threshold he needed to claim the nomination.

Obama took the formal

step of congratulating his opponent even as his team looked to shift to the Massachusetts story under Romney. In a five-page memorandum from senior Obama campaign adviser David Axelrod, the Obama camp cast Romney as poor steward of the Massachusetts economy during his 2003-2007 tenure as governor. “When it comes to Mitt Romney and his economic philosophy the facts are clear — it didn’t work then, and it won’t work now,” Axelrod wrote.

Romney’s campaign, meanwhile, was bringing attention to failed stimulus projects under Obama and federal money given to green energy companies like Solyn-dra, a solar firm that received hundreds of millions of dol-

Please see CAMPAIGN Page 2

Campaigns going digital

Presidential races
monitor web data
to target their ads

BETH FOUHY
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Voters who click on President Barack Obama’s campaign website are likely to start seeing display ads promoting his reelection bid on their Facebook pages and other sites they visit.

Voters searching Google for Mitt Romney may notice a 15-second ad promoting the Republican presidential hopeful the next time they watch a video online.

The 2012 election could be decided by which campaign is best at exploiting voters’ Internet data.

The Romney and Obama campaigns continue to spend heavily on television ads and other traditional tools to convey their messages. But strategists say the most important breakthrough this year is the use of online data to raise money, share information and persuade supporters to vote.

The practice, known as “microtargeting,” has been a staple of product marketing. Now it’s facing the greatest test of its political impact in the race

for the White House.

“The story of this presidential campaign will be how both sides are using data and algorithms and personalization and math in their marketing,” said Adam Berke, president of the digital retargeting company AdRoll.

Officials in both campaigns declined to discuss their digital strategies, but a review of their most recent Federal Election Commission reports shows the Romney team spent nearly \$1 million on digital consulting in April and Obama at least \$300,000.

The Obama team is using microtargeting to enhance its voter turnout program. Romney’s campaign will likely receive a digital assist from the Republican National Committee and conservative-leaning independent groups.

Television advertising continues to be one of a campaign’s largest budget items, but a TV ad hits a large number of people at one time — many of whom won’t vote or don’t support the candidate buying the ads.

Online microtargeting, by comparison, is far less costly and touches only those the campaign wants to reach.

“It’s used to prevent cam-

Please see DIGITAL, Page 2

RED RIVER RIVALRY



VS.



ERIC GAY/ ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Oklahoma City Thunder have struggled to corral point guard Tony Parker (9) and the San Antonio Spurs offense who are clicking on all cylinders during a 20-game winning streak, the longest an NBA team has been able to maintain into the playoffs. Oklahoma City is in an 0-2 hole as the series shifts to Oklahoma for Game 3 at 8 tonight on TNT.

Game 1: Spurs

101

98

San Antonio’s Manu Ginobili led the Spurs in a late rally, scoring 11 points on 3 for 3 shooting and finishing with a team-high 26 points. Oklahoma City star Kevin Durant paced the Thunder with 27 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks but shot the ball poorly (8 of 19 from the field, 0 of 2 in the fourth) and was practically a nonfactor in the final frame.

Game 2: Spurs

120

111

San Antonio’s NBA-record 20th consecutive win bridging the regular season and playoffs came in dominant fashion Tuesday night, as the Spurs’ Big Three (Tim Duncan, Tony Parker and Ginobili) combined for 65 points and shot 24 of 43 from the field. The Thunder made a futile late run, narrowing the gap to six as the Spurs went cold in the waning minutes.

Game 3: 8 tonight

Oklahoma City plays host to San Antonio tonight in front of the Thunder faithful. No NBA team has ever overcome a 3-0 deficit, making this a virtual must-win for Durant, Westbrook and Co. The Spurs and head coach Gregg Popovich look to continue moving the ball and using their 10-man rotation to wear down the Thunder.

Finding dark matter underground

Scientists to study
unknown particles in
former mining town

AMBER HUNT
Associated Press

LEAD, S.D. — Nearly 5,000 feet beneath the earth in the gold boom town of Lead, S.D., is a lab that could help scientists answer some pretty heavy questions about life, its origins and the universe.

Looking around the rustic town, there are far more nods to its mining past than to its scientific future. But on Wednesday, when part of the closed Homestake Gold Mine officially becomes an underground campus, Lead’s name will be known in scientific circles as the place where the elusive stuff called dark matter might finally be detected.

“This year, 2012, is going to be a very significant year because we get to turn the ... detector on and know very soon whether we have actually found dark matter or not,” said Rick Gaitskill, a scientist who has worked alongside dozens of scientists over the past few years to move forward with the Large Underground Xenon experiment — or LUX — the



ERIC GAY/ ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Oklahoma City Thunder have struggled to corral point guard Tony Parker (9) and the San Antonio Spurs offense who are clicking on all cylinders during a 20-game winning streak, the longest an NBA team has been able to maintain into the playoffs. Oklahoma City is in an 0-2 hole as the series shifts to Oklahoma for Game 3 at 8 tonight on TNT.

world’s most sensitive dark-matter detector.

For Gaitskill and scientists like him, dark matter is the mystery meat of existence, it makes up a huge amount of the universe.

They know it’s there by its gravitational pull but so far it’s undetectable. Gaitskill and his colleagues know only that it could explain why the universe isn’t made up equally of matter and antimatter. That,

in turn, could explain how the world came to be.

Regular matter — people and planets, for example —

Please see DARK MATTER, Page 2

Oil prices expected to decline

European financial crisis playing global role with demands for crude oil

CHRIS KAHN
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The price of oil is headed for its biggest monthly decline since December 2008.

Benchmark U.S. crude has dropped nearly 16 percent so far in May. There are growing expectations the world

won't use as much oil this year as previously expected. On Wednesday, the futures contract fell \$2.99, or 3.3 percent, to \$87.78 as global stock markets sank.

Europe's financial crisis is the most immediate concern, but there have been plenty of signs of weaker demand.

Analysts point to weak U.S. jobs numbers and a slowdown in China's manufacturing sector.

Earlier this year, energy

economists mostly agreed world oil demand would hit a new record in 2012, probably around 89 million barrels per day, but with demand not growing in China and declining in the U.S., those expectations are starting to change.

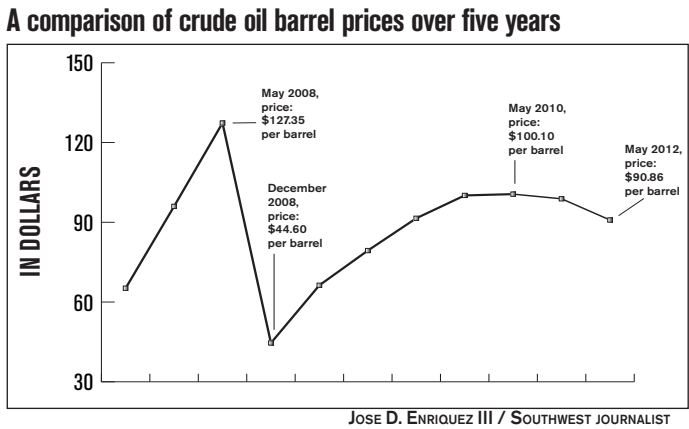
"I wouldn't be surprised if demand was lower this year," said Michael Lynch, Strategic Energy & Economic Research president.

Experts are concerned by a banking crisis in Europe that

may pull the eurozone into recession. The European Commission reported economic confidence plummeted this month to the lowest level in two and a half years.

Fears about Europe's financial stability sent ripples through world markets. Major stock indexes slipped 1 percent to 2 percent.

The euro fell near a two-year low against the dollar, helping to push oil prices lower. Oil tends to fall as the dollar rises.



The highest oil price per barrel was May 2008 at \$127.35. The lowest was \$44.60 in December 2008. The price of oil is headed for its biggest monthly decline since December of 2008.

No LUCK FOR THE DUCKS



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Above, servers at Sent Sovi in Saratoga, Calif., serve foie gras dishes on May 11. This is not a good time to be a duck in California. As a July 1 deadline looms for foie gras nears, renegade chefs across the state are loading their menus with the fatty duck liver and even holding secret dinners to avoid protesters, who say that force-feeding ducks is cruel.

CAMPAIGN: President ready to start ‘healthy debate’

—Continued from Page 1

lars from the government only to go bankrupt.

The competing attack-lines came as Romney pivoted from a long primary slog to the Republican nomination and a new summertime window to sway voters who have not yet fully tuned into the presidential campaign.

Romney hopes to present himself as a worthy replacement for Obama who can help revitalize a slow-moving economy, the most important issue for voters.

For months, Obama and his allies have signaled plans to target Romney's Massachusetts record, with advisers noting that the state's economy lagged in job creation and saw

an increase in debt while he was governor.

Axelrod sought to link Romney's Bain record with his Massachusetts experience by noting that Romney ran for governor on the basis of his private-sector background. Republicans contend that Obama's critique of the Bain record will backfire because it will give voters the impression that he is anti-business. The focus on Obama's green energy record, including Energy Department funding for companies like Solyndra, gives Romney a chance to rebut Bain because Republicans say Obama essentially played the role of venture capitalist by investing government money in green energy companies.

On Tuesday, Romney raised money in Las Vegas with Donald Trump, the real estate mogul who has stoked doubts about whether Obama was born in America.

It was the start of a week-long push to raise millions of dollars during a West Coast trip designed to help Romney bring in as much cash as possible ahead of a ramped-up campaign schedule later this summer.

According to the Associated Press count, Romney surpassed the 1,144 delegates needed to win the nomination by winning 105 delegates in the Texas primary, pushing his total to 1,191 delegates.

HUNT REPORTED FROM HILLSBOROUGH, CALIF.

Ex-Liberian leader gets 50 years in jail

Sierra Leoneans view sentencing, recall brutality of rebels

ANDREW DRAKE
Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — People maimed by rebels gathered in Sierra Leone's capital Wednesday to watch the proceedings of the Charles Taylor trial via a live feed from The Hague and rejoiced when judges in The Netherlands announced a 50-year sentence.

In a landmark ruling by the Special Court, Taylor became the first former head of state since the aftermath of World War II to be convicted.

Taylor, 64, was found guilty on 11 counts of aiding and abetting the Revolutionary

United Front rebels in Sierra Leone, who murdered and mutilated tens of thousands of people during this country's 11-year brutal civil war, which ended in 2002.

"That makes me the happiest person on earth," said Alimami Kanu, whose right hand was hacked off by the rebels when he was 11 years old.

Siah Lebby, whose left leg was butchered by the rebels, said the tough sentence sends a strong signal.

But even the toughest sentence can't take away the deformities that people are now forced to live with, or their suffering.

Over the weekend in the town of Makeni, three women whose arms were amputated by the rebels called for Taylor

to be given no leniency.

"He has done bad things to us," 22-year-old amputee Sen-to Thoronka said of Taylor. She was attempting to cut weeds using only her right arm. Her left arm was hacked off. "There is nothing someone can say to me that will ever make me forget what he did, because when I look at myself I look odd. I'll never feel fine about that," she said.

Taylor is an ex-warlord whose rebel forces invaded Liberia in 1989, marking the start of that country's vicious civil war. He eventually ran and was elected president, before being forced out by another rebel group. In Liberia, which shares a border with Sierra Leone, the irony has always been that Taylor is being

tried for crimes he aided and abetted, rather than the ones that he is accused of directly carrying out in his own country.

In the Liberian capital of Monrovia, Suzanah Vaye watched the proceedings and hailed the sentence. Her husband was killed during the last days of Taylor's government in 2003. He was last seen in the hands of the ex-president's security force.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. once said that justice in one place is justice everywhere,"



Charles Taylor

said Vaye. "Had Taylor not been so cruel to his own people here, he would not have taken it elsewhere. Today, I join Sierra Leoneans in saying this should be a lesson to people that God has his own way of bringing judgment ... Let this be a lesson to leaders that no one is bigger than God."

Still, Taylor also remains popular in Liberia among his former supporters, and among his extended family.

"The sentence is outrageous," Arthur Saye, Taylor's brother-in-law, said in Monrovia. "How can you give a man 50 years for only aiding and abetting?"

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT FROM MONROVIA, LIBERIA.

DIGITAL: Retargeting offers leads to potential supporters

—Continued from Page 1

paings from wasting time and money on people who won't vote for them anyway," said Jeff Coleman, a digital developer and former field organizer for Obama's 2008 campaign.

Retargeting, or reaching out to someone who has indicated an interest in a candidate online but has not yet taken an action, is another way campaigns use display ads to reach potential supporters. People who have visited a candidate's website but left the site without signing up or donating might start seeing display ads from the campaign urging them.

Google's video-sharing site YouTube is popular for campaign advertising.

A voter who has indicated an interest in a candidate and then views a video on YouTube may see a 15- or 30-second campaign ad pop up.

JACK GILLUM AND RESEARCHER JENNIFER FARRAR OF THE AP CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

CONGRESS: Only incumbent to be forced out

—Continued from Page 1

sage in public. Behind the scenes, O'Rourke was embroiled in one of the nastiest U.S. House races nationwide this season.

The super PAC, the Campaign for Primary Accountability, spent \$240,000 on ads that played up Reyes' ties to a company that gave him contributions after it was awarded a \$200 million contract. Reyes shot back with TV spots of

O'Rourke being arrested for drunken driving and showing a cellphone video of O'Rourke rolling around on a barroom floor.

Campaign officials for both O'Rourke and Reyes did not respond to interview requests Wednesday.

Reyes, 67, was the only congressional incumbent in Texas to lose in the primary. Others easily survived, including Democrat Lloyd Doggett winning in a new and pre-

dominantly Hispanic district. O'Rourke is unlikely to face much of a threat from the GOP nominee in the heavily Democratic district this November.

He was an unconventional candidate for being such a serious threat to an establishment incumbent like Reyes.

According to the El Paso Times, O'Rourke has supported the idea of legalizing marijuana as a way of making a dent in the drug war being waged directly across the

border from El Paso in Ciudad Juarez. O'Rourke, however, said during his campaign that he would not press for legalization in Congress because it wasn't a priority to this district.

He's also a former guitarist in an El Paso rock band that included members who now play in the Grammy Award-winning act The Mars Volta. He was arrested in the 1990s on charges of burglary and drunken driving and has called his public service a way

for atoning for those mistakes. O'Rourke told the El Paso Times that the burglary arrest happened after he tripped an alarm while jumping a fence at the University of Texas at El Paso in 1995 but prosecutors declined the case.

Gregg Rocha, a political science professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, said voters care less about the mistakes in O'Rourke's life than the corruption scandal that has been weighing on the city.

DARK MATTER: Community excited about spotlight

—Continued from Page 1

make up about 4 percent of the total mass-energy of the universe, he said. Dark matter makes up about 25 percent.

The Homestake mine opened during the Black Hills' gold rush in 1876 and outlasted many others. It shuttered for good in 2003.

The science community

seized on the closure. Dark matter is too sensitive to detect in normal labs, but one so far underground would help shield it from pesky cosmic radiation. About 70 former mine workers now work for the lab. Greg King said, "As the property closed and people left, a lot of employees left. Now, there's a lot of excitement in town. People are very thrilled ..."

Have you heard of dark matter?

- ✓ So far, it's undetectable. It makes up about 25 percent of the total mass-energy of the universe. People and planets, for example, make up 4 percent.
- ✓ It could give clues to the universe's formation.
- ✓ The lab in Lead, S.D., is buried 4,850 feet beneath the surface.

ANALYSIS: GOP ranks split

—Continued from Page 1

important victory for the limited-government grassroots movement in Texas," said Ryan Hecker, the group's chief operating officer. The group said it will continue to help Cruz and other tea party candidates across the country.

That activism flowed down the ticket into legislative races, with at least 40 new members headed to the 150-seat Texas

House. Those races saw voters choose the more conservative candidate in many races, and three committee chairs lost their seats while a fourth is in a runoff.

Empower Texans, a statewide conservative group, crowed about their victories in a perennial battle with Speaker Joe Straus, whom they've targeted for being too moderate. The group's primary challenger to Straus lost, but tea party

favorite Rep. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, announced Tuesday he will run for speaker. No Democrat has held a statewide office in Texas since 1998, and Republicans will almost surely control both houses next year.

Straus has come to personify a pro-business, establishment that leans toward pragmatism. The fact that many of his allies retired will force Straus to compromise with the more conservative wing.

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Tax credit hasn't met expectations

Small payoff, difficult forms deter applicants

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A health insurance tax credit for small businesses, part of President Barack Obama's health care law that gets strong support in public opinion polls, has become a disappointment.

Time-consuming to apply for and lacking enough financial reward to make it attractive, the credit was claimed by

only 170,300 businesses out of the estimated 4 million potentially eligible companies in 2010.

That's put the Obama administration in the awkward position of asking Congress to help fix the problems by allowing more businesses to qualify and making it simpler to apply.

But House Republicans say they want to repeal what they call "Obamacare," not change it.

"They completely missed the target on this thing," Rep. Sam Graves, R-Mo., said of the tax credit. "I don't think expanding it is going to make

any difference whatsoever." Graves chairs the House Small Business Committee.

Small businesses represent the crumbling edge of the nation's system of employer-based health care. Only about 30 percent of companies with fewer than 10 workers offer health coverage, and they often pay more for insurance than large businesses. The credit, which had support in principle from lawmakers of both parties, was supposed to help businesses providing coverage afford the premiums. And maybe it would entice some to start.

However, a recent report by Congress' nonpartisan Government Accountability Office identified several issues with the credit.

To begin with, the GAO said the tax credit is structured so its biggest benefits go to very small companies paying low wages. About four of five such businesses don't offer coverage, and the tax credit is not enough to encourage them to start.

"Small employers do not likely view the credit as a big enough incentive to begin offering health insurance," the report stated.

The average credit claimed in 2010 was about \$2,700, although some companies qualified for much more.

Many small firms did not qualify because they paid fairly decent wages. Complexity has been another obstacle. IRS Form 8941, which employers must complete to claim the credit, has 25 lines and seven worksheets, the GAO said. Some tax preparers told the agency it took clients up to eight hours to gather supporting information and tax professionals another three to five hours to calculate the credit.

Illinois couples sue for marriage

ACLU, Lambda Legal say civil union not enough

SOPHIA TAREEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Building on the momentum of President Barack Obama's recent support of gay marriage, two major civil rights groups filed lawsuits in his home state today with hopes of legalizing same-sex marriage in Illinois.

The two lawsuits — brought by the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois and the New York-based Lambda Legal — represent 25 couples statewide. Both challenge a state law that defines marriage as between a man and woman, arguing that the Illinois Constitution guarantees the right for same-sex couples to marry under due process and equality clauses.

John Knight, director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Project of the ACLU of Illinois, said Obama's comments, as well as Gov. Pat Quinn's backing of gay marriage earlier this month and nationwide polls showing increasing public support for same-sex marriage set the stage.

The filings come a year after Illinois enacted civil unions, but many couples in the lawsuits said civil unions made them feel like second-class citizens. Civil unions do not give partners the right to inherit property or make medical decisions for their partner and the couples want these rights.

The 25 couples in both lawsuits tried to apply for marriage licenses in Cook County, but were denied.

The defendant named in the case, Cook County Clerk David Orr, is personally in favor of gay marriage. Currently, the District of Columbia and six states — Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont — have legalized gay marriage. Courts decided for gay marriage in Massachusetts, Connecticut and Iowa. A lawsuit, filed by Lambda Legal, challenging an Iowa law that barred gay marriage prompted the Iowa Supreme Court to legalize it in 2009.

Legislation to eliminate language that prohibits gay marriage is pending in Illinois, but a vote isn't expected before the session is scheduled to end this week.

Gun violence rattles two cities



GERALD HERBERT / AP

Family and friends hold hands and pray at the scene where a 5-year-old girl was shot to death Tuesday in New Orleans. Her

10-year-old cousin and two older male relatives were wounded. Police say they believe the men were the intended targets.

New Orleans family mourns loss of young girl

MARY FOSTER
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Family members sat on a porch Wednesday where 5-year-old Brianna Allen and her 10-year-old cousin, Kenard Allen, were shot by a trio of gunmen at Kenard's birthday party the evening before.

The shootings were part of a string of violence that rocked New Orleans on Tuesday, leaving four people dead and several others injured.

Police Superintendent Ronal Serpas said Leo Riles, 18, of New Orleans, turned himself in Wednesday morning as police closed in on him.

He was arrested on two counts of first-degree murder.

Authorities are still searching for the other two suspects.

Two men were also injured in the shooting, but their injuries were not life-threatening. "I can't take any more," sobbed Esther Anderson, the blood of her granddaughter still staining her ankle.

"I'm not going to wash it off. It's all I have left of our baby."

Doctors were unable to save her. Police say they believe the two men wounded in the shooting, a 25-year-old man and 19-year-old man, were targets of the shooting.

The men were related to the children shot, but Serpas said they were not cooperating in the investigation.

A woman, the mother of three, who was driving near the party, was also killed when a bullet smashed through her windshield and hit her in the face.

In other shootings, a man was fatally shot in the head and another man sitting on his steps was shot in the stomach during an armed robbery attempt.



PHOTO BY ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Police surround a house in the University district in Seattle near a cafe where a gunman killed three people Wednesday. Three nearby schools were locked down while police searched for the gunman.

Gunfire claims four lives in Seattle

GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A gunman killed four people in Seattle on Wednesday — three at a cafe and another in a carjacking — before he apparently shot himself as officers closed in following a citywide manhunt, authorities said.

He was listed in critical condition at a local hospital.

Police searching for the suspect also had to respond to another fatal shooting near the city's downtown. They say a man killed a woman in an apparent carjacking and fled in a black SUV.

"At this time, we feel pretty confident that we have the suspect," said Assistant Seattle Police Chief Nick Metz.

The latest spasm of deadly gun violence to hit the city worried Seattle's leaders and prompted police to consider increasing patrols in high-crime areas. The deaths bring the number of homicides to 19 this year, compared to 21 in all of last year.

Gunfire erupted late Wednesday

morning at Cafe Racer, a restaurant and music venue north of the University of Washington. The gunman was described as a man in his 30s wearing dark clothing.

Two men died at the scene. A woman from the cafe died at a hospital.

On a street corner across from the cafe, friends of the victims gathered by the ivy-covered wall of an apartment building. Some collapsed in grief.

Searching for the gunman, units of police officers marched by with rifles and shotguns, knocking on doors and checking driveways and yards.

In the second shooting, the SUV the gunman fled in was found, but the suspect remained at large, police said.

In the last month, there have been two random killings in the city.

Last week, a man died when a stray bullet struck him as he and his family drove down a Seattle street. In late April, a woman died of injuries suffered in an apparently random drive-by shooting near downtown.

NATIONAL

Fla. victim has long recovery

MIAMI — A homeless man whose face was mostly chewed off in a bizarre, vicious attack faces a bigger threat from infection, according to experts on facial reconstruction.

He will require months of treatment to rebuild his features and be permanently disfigured.

Such severe facial injuries are generally not life threatening.

But the most serious risk to Ronald Poppo as he remained hospitalized Wednesday were germs that may have been introduced by the bites from the naked man who attacked him alongside a busy highway Saturday.

Poppo has been in critical condition in recent days, but police did not give an update on his condition Wednesday.

Surgeons said Poppo's face will be rebuilt in stages after doctors try to keep his wounds clean through skin grafts, salvage viable tissue and determine a plan for skin grafts.

Poppo's lifestyle and health before the attack could determine how doctors proceed and whether they eventually consider a facial transplant, plastic surgeons said.

9/11 memorial honors cleanup workers

NEW YORK — The National September 11 Memorial and Museum has marked the 10th anniversary of the end of cleanup operations at the site with a tribute to recovery workers and first responders.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, elected officials and union leaders attended the event Wednesday night at the Sept. 11 memorial plaza at the World Trade Center site.

The formal end of that operation was May 30, 2002, and was marked with the removal of the last standing column of steel. Those at the site removed about 1.8 million tons of steel and concrete.

Judge: Barriers needed at Sea World

ORLANDO — An administrative law judge ruled that Sea World needs to install physical barriers between trainers and killer whales.

Judge Ken Welsch issued the decision Wednesday in response to the theme park's appeal of two citations issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for the death of trainer Dawn Brancheau in 2010.

The order could prevent trainers from performing with killer whales in the water during shows, a move Sea World and its trainers have opposed.

The judge also reduced OSHA's fine against Sea World Orlando to \$12,000 from \$75,000 and changed a "willful" citation to "serious."

Brancheau, a 40-year-old veteran trainer, had just finished a show on Feb. 24, 2010, when a 22-foot male whale named Tilikum grabbed her ponytail in his jaws and pulled her in.

An autopsy showed she died of drowning and blunt-force trauma to her head, neck and torso.

SC man makes false bomb threats on plane

TUCSON — A South Carolina man was arrested after making false statements about a bomb aboard a commercial flight in Tucson, Ariz., authorities said.

24-year-old Ivan Bugakov of Jacksonville is accused of giving false information and threats involving aircraft.

Bugakov was on a US Airways flight that was scheduled to depart Tucson International Airport on Monday when he reportedly became loud, unruly and belligerent.

Authorities allege that Bugakov told airport police he had a bomb in his carry-on luggage.

No explosive devices were found during screens.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP: Data analysis shows EPA tougher during Bush tenure

DINA CAPIELLO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Since President Barack Obama took office, Republicans have made the Environmental Protection Agency a lightning rod for complaints his administration is too tough on oil and gas producers.

But an Associated Press analysis of enforcement data during the past decade finds

the EPA went after producers more often in the years of Republican President George W. Bush than under Obama.

Also, the agency's enforcement actions have declined overall since 2002, the review found.

Accusations of EPA overzealousness peaked in April after a video surfaced in which Al Armendariz, a regional administrator, compared enforcement

of oil and gas regulations with how the Romans used to conquer villages, by finding "the first five guys they saw and they'd crucify them."

Presidential contender Mitt Romney said last year that the agency, "is a tool in the hands of the president to crush the private enterprise system, to crush our ability to — to have energy, whether it's oil, gas, coal, nuclear."

Actually, the U.S. produced more oil in 2010 than it has since 2003, and all forms of energy production have increased under Obama, but he can't take credit for all of it.

Armendariz's territory, has more oil and gas wells than any of EPA's nine other regions. But the number of enforcement cases against companies working those wells has been lower every year under Obama

than any year under Bush.

That trend extends to the rest of the country, where the number of enforcement actions against oil and gas producers dropped by 61 percent over the past decade, from 224 in 2002 to 87 last year, despite an increase in the number of producing wells and despite the EPA's listing of energy extraction as an enforcement priority under Obama.

TEXAS

Agents seize \$6.3 million in pot bust

EDINBURG — U.S. Border Patrol agents in South Texas seized nearly 4 tons of marijuana during Memorial Day weekend. Investigators say two abandoned drug-hauling vehicles led to more than \$6.3 million worth of marijuana confiscated. The largest seizure happened Friday near La Casitas. Agents saw a truck being loaded with marijuana off the Rio Grande. The driver jumped out as agents intercepted the vehicle. The border patrol reported agents recovered more than 1,500 pounds of marijuana Tuesday. Another seizure involved a chase and an SUV abandoned along the Rio Grande near La Casita Friday. Officers confiscated about 1,200 pounds of marijuana.

Training jet crashes; neither pilot injured

KINGSVILLE — A Navy training jet crashed on a remote South Texas ranch, but not before occupants of the two-seat jet ejected. A Navy statement reports the single-engine T-45C Goshawk went down around 3:30 p.m. Wednesday about 45 miles southwest of the airfield, or about 75 miles southwest of Corpus Christi. Navy Lt. John Supple said the aircraft from Training Squadron 22 at Naval Air Station-Kingsville was on a routine training flight when it crashed. He said he had no reports on the well-being of the instructor and student, but they were taken to a hospital for examination. The Navy is withholding the pilots' identities.

Judge denies petition to remove prosecutor

BROWNSVILLE — A state judge dismissed a citizen's attempt to remove Armando Villalobos, a South Texas district attorney, under federal indictment for corruption charges Wednesday, but suggested the prosecutor step down temporarily. Villalobos was being targeted under a Texas law that allows residents to submit a petition seeking to remove an elected official. Federal prosecutors indicted Villalobos earlier this month. Visiting Senior Judge J. Manuel Banales told attorney Juan Angel Guerra on Wednesday that his client's petition failed to meet requirements. Banales rejected the petition without prejudice. Villalobos is accused of taking more than \$100,000 in bribes and kickbacks. The federal investigation netted guilty pleas from former state District Judge Abel Limas and other court officials. Villalobos denied all charges.

Teammates defend Clemens in perjury trial

WASHINGTON — Former catcher Charlie O'Brien was on the stand Wednesday for the defense at the Clemens perjury trial. O'Brien could not come up with the real name for the player known as "El Duque" and slighted the 1997 Toronto Blue Jays medical staff. He was sure of one thing: Clemens was not a cheater. Clemens is on trial for perjury for testifying before Congress that he never used steroids, and he also told congressional representatives he was never at a party where steroids were used. His friends and former teammates defended his character during cross-examination.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fighting words in Senate runoff

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Republican primary battle for the U.S. Senate seat has already been nasty and expensive — and now it's just getting started. Establishment GOP favorite Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst beat tea party candidate and former state solicitor general Ted Cruz by 10 percentage points Tuesday, but fell short of the 50 percent margin of votes needed to avoid a runoff. The pair emerged from a nine-candidate Republican field and will compete in a runoff July 31. A victory by Cruz could mirror Richard Mourdock's surprise ousting of 36-year Senate veteran Richard Lugar in Indiana. None of the four Democratic candidates won a majority, setting up a runoff between former state Rep. Paul Sadler and perennial candidate Grady Yarbrough of San Antonio. Texas hasn't elected a Democrat to the U.S. Senate since Lloyd Bentsen in 1988, so the winner of the Republican primary is expected to win November's general election. Dewhurst won the endorse-



PAT SULLIVAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABOUT TED CRUZ

- ✓ Tea party-backed
- ✓ Former solicitor general
- ✓ Houston attorney
- ✓ Harvard Law School graduate
- ✓ Son of a Cuban immigrant



CODY DUTY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABOUT DAVID DEWHURST

- ✓ Texas native
- ✓ Businessman, rancher
- ✓ Fiscal conservative
- ✓ Former land commissioner
- ✓ Air Force vet

ment of Gov. Rick Perry and poured \$15 million of his own money into his campaign. Cruz spent \$470,000 from his personal funds. He did get millions in support from national grassroots groups, including the anti-tax, Washington-based Club For Growth.

Cruz was endorsed by former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint, who called the runoff "a major victory for the conservative movement." Cruz has branded Dewhurst as a moderate willing to compromise on key is-

sues. Dewhurst has attacked his opponent for his law firm representing a Chinese tire manufacturer in an intellectual property dispute with an American company and implied that Cruz supports amnesty for illegal immigrants. "The voters of Texas want

a leader who will be a strong conservative and a fighter, and the lieutenant governor's record has not been conservative," Cruz told The Associated Press, after celebrating Tuesday's results in Houston. Dewhurst held his own party in Houston. "Tonight is a clear message to Washington special interests: Don't mess with Texas. Texans want to elect their own United States senator," Dewhurst said. "Today, Republican voters made a choice between a conservative Texas businessman and Washington special interests." Cruz brushed off criticism that he was too reliant on out-of-state backers. "I am honored to have earned the support from conservatives all over the country," he said. "This has been a victory for conservatives throughout Texas and nationally because the Senate is a national battleground." Dewhurst said his record overseeing the Texas Senate during his years as lieutenant governor speaks for itself, and he is a key reason Texas has become one of the most conservative states in the country.

Few losses for education board

All 15 positions on the board are on the ballot this year

JAMIE STENGLE
Associated Press

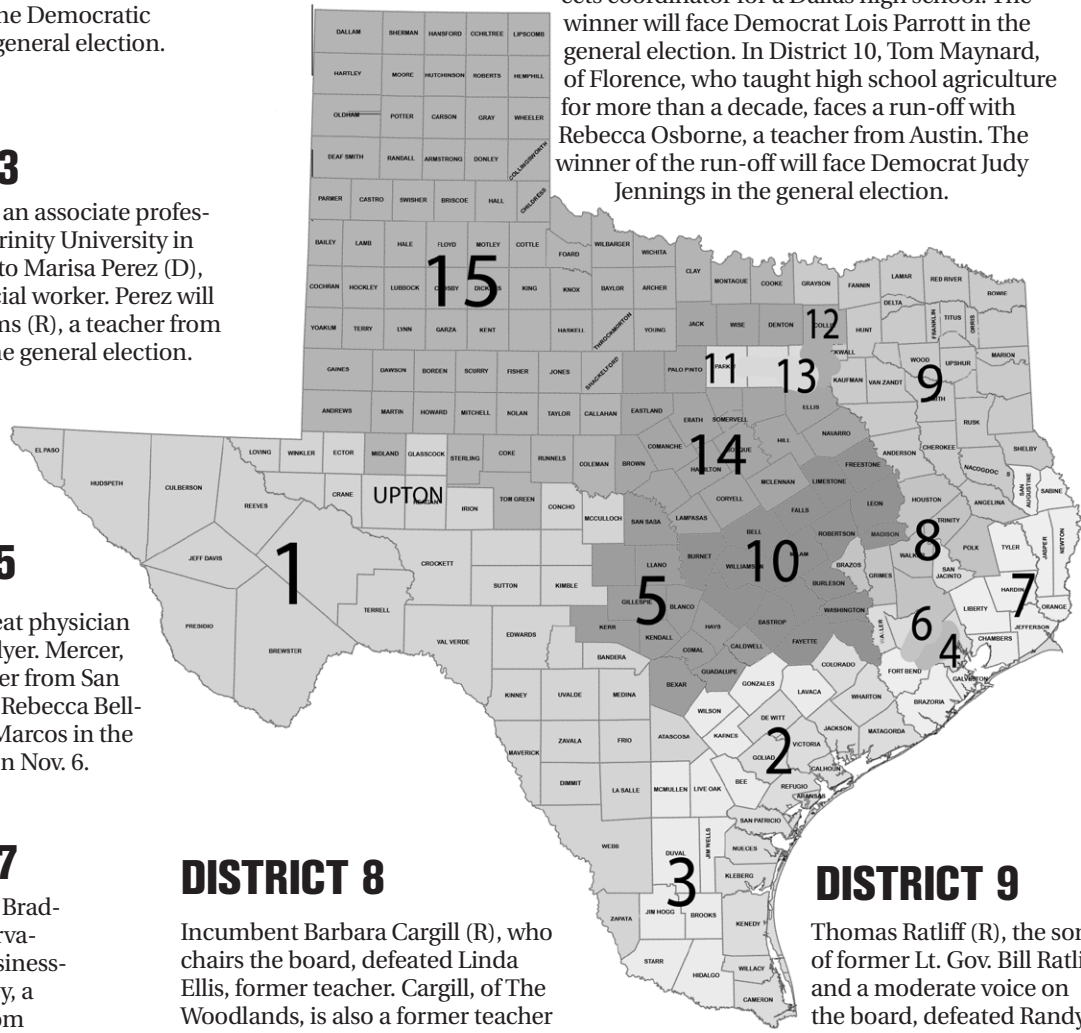
DALLAS — Several incumbents on the State Board of Education retained their positions despite challenges in Tuesday's primary. With all 15 spots up for re-election

this year because of redistricting, there is a possibility that the face of the board could change. A fight over evolution and intelligent design theory in science curricula put a national spotlight on the board in 2009 when it adopted standards encouraging schools to scrutinize "all sides" of scientific theory. There are four Democrats and 11 Republicans on the board, with six of

those Republicans considered part of the social conservative bloc. The positions are among hundreds of races Texas voters cast ballots in during the state's primary. The positions hold significant influence. The board has responsibility for establishing the state's curriculum, approving textbooks and managing the state's permanent school fund.

RUNOFFS

In District 12, Geraldine "Tincy" Miller and Gail Spurlock advance to a runoff, resulting in the current incumbent, George M. Clayton, losing his spot. Miller, of Dallas, first began serving on the state board in 1984. She was defeated in the primary in 2010 by the Clayton, a special projects coordinator for a Dallas high school. The winner will face Democrat Lois Parrott in the general election. In District 10, Tom Maynard, of Florence, who taught high school agriculture for more than a decade, faces a run-off with Rebecca Osborne, a teacher from Austin. The winner of the run-off will face Democrat Judy Jennings in the general election.



MAP / TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE / PASHTANA USUFZY

DISTRICT 2

Middle school teacher Laurie Turner (R) defeated high school teacher Veronica Anzaldua. The winner will face the Democratic candidate in the general election.

DISTRICT 3

Michael Soto (D), an associate professor of English at Trinity University in San Antonio, lost to Marisa Perez (D), a San Antonio social worker. Perez will face David Williams (R), a teacher from San Antonio, in the general election.

DISTRICT 5

Ken Mercer (R) beat physician assistant Steve Salyer. Mercer, a software engineer from San Antonio, will face Rebecca Bell-Metereau of San Marcos in the general election on Nov. 6.

DISTRICT 7

Incumbent David Bradley, a social conservatives, defeated businesswoman Rita Ashley, a former teacher from Beaumont. There is no Democratic candidate.

DISTRICT 8

Incumbent Barbara Cargill (R), who chairs the board, defeated Linda Ellis, former teacher. Cargill, of The Woodlands, is also a former teacher and founder and director of a science camp. She will face Dexter Smith (D).

DISTRICT 9

Thomas Ratliff (R), the son of former Lt. Gov. Bill Ratliff and a moderate voice on the board, defeated Randy Stevenson, a financial adviser from Tyler.

Exxon's income increases

Rising oil prices push company's revenue to best year since '08

DAVID KOENIG
Associated Press

DALLAS — Exxon Mobil Corp.'s CEO had a good year in 2011 — he got compensation valued at \$25.2 million. Shareholders also had a good year, so today they gave their approval to the oil giant's executive pay program. Investors at Exxon's annual meeting cast about 78 percent of their shares in favor of the compensation-setting system, ignoring critics who said executive pay was too high. Rising oil prices helped boost Exxon's net income by 35 percent to \$41 billion in 2011, the company's best year since 2008. The stock rose by 16 percent. Exxon's board boosted Chairman and CEO Rex W. Tillerson to the 16th highest paid executive among publicly traded U.S. companies last year, according to an analysis by The Associated Press. Shareholder consultant ISS Proxy Advisory Services recommended that investors vote against Exxon's executive compensation, which it called excessive. ISS said Exxon failed to tie CEO pay to specific financial goals, "resulting in higher than justified rewards." Another firm, Glass, Lewis & Co., said Exxon allowed the board too much discretion in setting compensation. That "has left shareholders in the dark, unable to see a direct link between pay and performance."

Largest wildfire in state history burns in New Mexico

RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A massive wildfire burned more than 265 square miles in the Gila National Forest, becoming the largest fire in New Mexico history, officials confirmed Wednesday. The blaze grew overnight Tuesday to more than 170,000 acres, surpassing a blaze last year that burned 156,593 acres in Los Conchas and threatening the nation's premier nuclear facility. Experts say the fire may be a preview of what's to come in part of the western United States after months of drought. The Gila fire formed last week when two lightning-sparked blazes merged in an

BY THE NUMBERS

- ✓ 265: Square miles burned
- ✓ 170,000: Acres charred
- ✓ 1,200: Firefighters working to contain blaze
- ✓ 170: Miles from Albuquerque
- ✓ 12: Cabins destroyed

isolated mountainous area in southwestern New Mexico, where it has destroyed about a dozen homes. It has prompted evacuations of nearby towns and health alerts for some of the state's largest cities. Fire information officer Jerry Perry said about 1,200 fire-

fighters are battling the blaze. "We're still facing adverse weather conditions that are posing a challenge," Perry said. "We're doing a lot of burnout operations, and yesterday we had to deal with a lot of spot fires." The fire has not been contained. State officials issued air quality alerts for cities as far as Albuquerque, nearly 170 miles away last weekend. The wildfire has burned for about two weeks and has destroyed 12 cabins and seven small outbuildings. Windy conditions forced crews to the sidelines last week as the fire rapidly spread in an isolated area and charred homes in the community of Willow Creek, which remains under evacuation.



U.S. FOREST SERVICE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two wildfires merged in Gila National Forest, creating the largest wildfire in New Mexico history, officials said Wednesday. The fire has burned 265 square miles.

New leash on life



RALPH BARRERA / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

The Hard Luck Hounds Concierge helps problem dogs like Sunnie find homes. The shelter has found owners for almost 100 dogs since September.

Program saves ‘Hard Luck’ hounds

PATRICK BEACH
Austin American-Statesman

Sunnie is a 4- or 5-year-old pit bull mix, heartworm-positive and a little on the shy side, not the kind of dog likely to make the short list when prospective adopters come looking for a pet at the Austin Animal Center and exactly the type of dog David Pasztor sees as a prime candidate to be a Hard Luck Hound.

“This dog could go into any household right now,” Pasztor said as he visited Sunnie.

Pasztor and a small group of volunteers identify dogs at the shelter that are most likely to be passed over or most likely to be euthanized and put them in the Hard Luck Hounds program, which aims to get dogs with two strikes another chance.

The shelter, which must give permission for dogs to be placed in the program, waives the adoption fees and the Hard Luck Hounds, which is a program of Friends of the Austin Animal Center, donates a dog crate and sometimes

was just me with a T-shirt” and 10 information sheets on the animals, he said. “The first day, we adopted out Jake, the longest-stay dog at the shelter that day.”

The waiving of the standard fees acts as an incentive for prospective dog adopters, and the group does also provide new owners with a crate for

It takes a real concentrated effort to get these dogs in good homes. It's a small niche, and right now we're the only ones addressing it.

— DAVID PASZTOR,
FOUNDER, HARD LUCK HOUNDS

the animals from a city surplus that's now dwindled to about 10. If training is indeed necessary, the city may provide the new owner with a voucher. Ultimately, costs are low. Pasztor estimates he and his fellow volunteers have chipped in a few thousand dollars.

In less than a year, the program is closing in on their 100th adoption. Pasztor plans to wear a tuxedo for the event.

And yes, they take donations, at hardluckhounds.com

“They're not the same as other rescue organizations,” said Amber Rowland, the behavior program manager at the shelter. “Their efforts augment what we're able to provide. They try to choose the dogs that have been there for the longest time. Sometimes the shelter has to nudge them into picking some that haven't been there for so long and aren't so hard to place. You have to be pragmatic at some point. You have to understand limited resources and an overabundance of animals.”

“It's definitely a point where reasonable people can disagree,” Pasztor said. “We gravitate to the harder-to-adopt dogs because that's what we set out to do. ... They have institutional pressures they have to deal with. We are trying to do everything we can to pick off



RALPH BARRERA / AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Hard Luck Hounds founder David Pasztor said he was inspired to help homeless dogs after learning that between 40 and 60 percent were being euthanized before Austin passed its “no-kill” policy in 2010.

those dogs that get crunched by those institutional pressures.”

Pasztor said that returns of Hard Luck dogs are probably higher than the

BUDDY



Volunteers say Buddy is “friendly, curious and loves to give people kisses.” He's lived at the shelter since his owner passed away.

normal shelter average. Sometimes it takes a dog two or three adoptions before the right match is made.

One of them is King, who lives in Pflugerville with his humans. He's maybe 7 years old, black, described as an American Staffordshire, and he'd been in and out of shelters since at least 2009. When Shauna Kepler and her three children, ages 2, 7 and 9, first saw him, he'd fouled his cage.

“It was just gross,” Kepler said. “It was all over him and his paws. Still, something pulled us to him.”

Pasztor cleaned King up and the family met with him, then paired him with their 5-pound toy terrier mix. He

played nice with everybody, although he was withdrawn, which Kepler attributes to having been locked up for some time. They took him home, and he immediately began opening up.

“He is a completely different dog,” Kepler said. “His personality is perfect. He's well-behaved, knows a bunch of commands. He is at my side and at my feet no matter where I go. I can't believe he was on the euthanasia list. He is the best dog I have ever owned my entire life.”

While Hard Luck Hounds is working to provide Austin's unwanted with homes, Pasztor said more widespread efforts need to be made across the city.

“It takes a real concentrated effort to get these dogs in good homes,” he said. “It's a small niche, and right now we're the only ones addressing it.”

SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST REPORTER VINNY VELLA CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY

DOLORES



Three-year-old Dolores isn't crazy about being around other dogs, according to shelter volunteers, but loves going on long walks.

MELODY



Melody is an American Bulldog mix that loves to meet other dogs and is friendly to everyone she meets, according to the shelter.

obedience training for dogs that need it.

These dogs didn't have much of a chance before the City Council voted in 2010 to make Austin the first major no-kill city in Texas and before the new, \$12 million facility with room for roughly 280 cats and 280 dogs. No-kill means no more than 10 percent of the animals at the shelter can be euthanized. At the old shelter along Lady Bird Lake, Pasztor said, that number was often more like 40 to 60 percent.

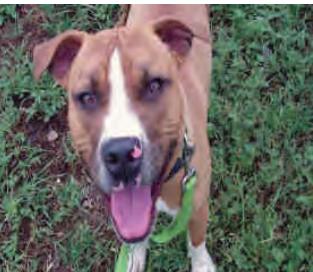
And the old shelter is where the idea for Hounds started. Volunteers, including Pasztor, get to know animals in their care for months at a time.

In May 2011, two dogs, Emily and Diamond, were put down suddenly.

“We knew they were adoptable dogs,” Pasztor said. “It caught us by surprise and made a lot of us very, very angry.” So Pasztor put together a plan.

“We launched the first week of last September,” said Pasztor, a former staffer for the American-Statesman and editor of the Texas Observer. “It

MAXWELL



Hard Luck Hounds calls 2-year-old Maxwell a “sweet dog” that finds shelter life too stressful. He loves playing tug of war and needs a good family to play with him.



ENVIRONMENTAL

Keystone pipeline to avoid wetlands

RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
Associated Press

HOUSTON — A Canadian company seeking to build a pipeline to transport crude oil from Canada to the Gulf Coast submitted a new application to avoid sensitive Texas wetlands.

TransCanada submitted the application after the Environmental Protection Agency raised concerns about the effect the original plan would have on wetlands along the Texas Gulf Coast.

Under the new plan, the company would drill under the wetlands rather than run across them.

The permit is for the southern portion of a pipeline that will eventually meet up with the larger Keystone XL pipeline. When it's complete, it will be able to move 1.4 million barrels of crude oil a day.

TransCanada said it believes it will have permits in place for construction by summer, company spokesman Terry Cunha said.

PIPELINE LAWSUIT

✓ Nebraska Supreme Court rejects landowners' challenge to state law regarding pipeline placement. See page 2 for the story.

WHITE HOUSE

Portrait of Bush unveiled

BEN FELLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama shared the stage with former President George W. Bush, the predecessor he often inveighs against, in a friendly White House welcome for the unveiling of the 43rd president's official portrait.



George W. Bush

Obama told Bush and

Please see UNVEIL, Page 2

102 THUNDER 82 SAN ANTONIO SPURS

SPARKING A SERIES IN OKC



SUE OGROCKI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kevin Durant (35) and the Oklahoma City Thunder remained undefeated on their home court in the playoffs and put the jam on the San Antonio Spurs in front of a raucous crowd Thursday night, cutting the series deficit to 2-1. The Thunder overcame a subpar shooting night from point guard Russell Westbrook (5 of 15 from the floor, 10 points) by forcing the Spurs into an uncharacteristic 21 turnovers and receiving a well-rounded performance from defense-minded swingman Thabo Sefolosha. Sefolosha added career highs in points and steals (19 and six, respectively) to six boards and a block in 36 minutes of play.

FOR COMPLETE GAME COVERAGE, VISIT SWJOURNALIST.COM

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

Court rules on benefits for couples

Panel says denying federal benefits to married gays is unconstitutional

DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

BOSTON — A battle over the Defense of Marriage Act, which defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman, appears to be headed for the Supreme Court after an appeals court ruled Thursday that denying benefits to married gay couples is unconstitutional.

In a unanimous decision, the three-judge panel of the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston said the 1996 law deprives gay couples of the rights and privileges granted to heterosexual couples.

The court didn't rule on the law's more politically combustible provision — that states without same-sex marriage cannot be forced to recognize gay unions performed in states where it's legal. The court also wasn't asked to address whether gay couples have a constitutional right to marry.

The law passed at a time when it appeared Hawaii would legalize gay marriage. Since then, many states have instituted their own bans on gay marriage, while eight states have approved the practice, led by Massachusetts in 2004.

The court, the first federal appeals panel to rule against the benefits section of the law, agreed with a lower court judge, who in 2010 concluded that the law interferes with the right of a state to define marriage and denies married gay couples federal benefits given to heterosexual married couples, including the ability to file joint tax returns.

The ruling came in two lawsuits, one filed by the Boston-based legal group Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders

and the other by state Attorney General Martha Coakley.

"For me, it's more just about having equality and not having a system of first- and second-class marriages," said plaintiff Jonathan Knight, a Harvard Medical School financial associate, who married Marlin Nabors in 2006.

Knight said DOMA costs the couple an extra \$1,000 a year because they cannot file a joint tax return.

Opponents of gay marriage blasted the decision.

"This ruling that a state can mandate to the federal government the definition of marriage for the sake of receiving federal benefits, we find really bizarre, rather arrogant, if I may say so," Kris Mineau, the Massachusetts Family Institute president, said.

One virtue of federalism is that it permits this diversity of governance based on local choice, but this applies as well to the states that have chosen to legalize same-sex marriage.

— JUDGE MICHAEL BOUDIN

Since Congress passed the law, eight states and the District of Columbia have approved gay marriage. The states are Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Iowa, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland and Washington. Maryland and Washington's laws are not yet in effect.

Last year, President Barack Obama announced that the Department of Justice would no longer defend the constitutionality of the law. After that, House Speaker John Boehner convened the Bipartisan Legal Advisory Group to defend it. The legal group argued the case before the appeals court.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the appeals court ruling is "in concert with the president's views." Obama, who once opposed gay marriage, declared his

Please see BENEFIT, Page 2

TECH LIFE

Texting blurs communication skills in teens



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anna Schiferl sends a text to her mother, Joanna, in their LaGrange, Ill., home. A recent study from the Pew Internet & American Life Project indicates that 63 percent of teens prefer to send texts to communicate every day.

MARTHA IRVINE
Associated Press

Anna Schiferl, a suburban Chicago teen, hadn't even rolled out of bed when she reached for her cellphone and sent a text to her mom. Mom was downstairs in the kitchen. The text? Anna wanted cinnamon rolls for breakfast. Soon after, the 13-year-old could hear mom's voice echo through the house.

"Anna," Joanna Schiferl called, "if you want to talk to me, you come downstairs and see me!"

Anna laughs about it now. "I was kind of being lazy," she said. "I know that sounds horrible."

Statistics from the Pew In-

ternet & American Life Project report that many people with cellphones prefer texting over making a phone call. It's not always young people, though the data indicate that the younger you are, the more likely you are to prefer texting.

That's creating a communication divide, of sorts — the talkers versus the texters.

Many experts say the most successful communicators will, of course, have the ability to do both, talk or text, and know the most appropriate times to use those skills. They fear more of us are losing our ability to have traditional face-to-face conversations that are vital in the workplace and personal relationships.

"It is an art that's becoming as valuable as good writing," said Janet Sternberg, Fordham

University, New York, communication and media studies assistant professor. Sternberg is also a linguist.

In the most extreme cases, she's noticed more students don't look her in the eye and have trouble with the basics of direct conversation — habits, she said, will not serve them well as they enter a world where many of their elders still expect an in-person conversation, or, at the very least, a phone call.

On today's college campuses, the dynamic is often different. Forget about things like "office hours," for instance. Many professors said they rarely see students outside of class.

"I sit in my office hours

Please see TALK, Page 2

TALK: Experts say texts are less deep

—Continued from Page 1

lonely now because if students have a question, they email, often late at night,” Renee Houston, University of Puget Sound, Washington state, communication studies associate professor, said. “And they never call, ever.”

As Anna sees it: “There are people you’ll text but won’t call. It’s just awkward that way. It’s not about anything important — just a way to stay in touch with each other.”

Experts say there is, of course, nothing wrong with casual conversation and fun between friends. One could argue that the constant banter — scores of texts each day — keep people more connected. The problem, some communication experts report, is that the conversation isn’t particularly deep — and therein lies the problem, said Joseph Grenny — “Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes are High” co-author.

“The core problem has existed since we’ve had telephones — probably since the time of a telegraph,” Grenny said. “We loathe having crucial conversations. We are paralyzed and do what we can to avoid them.”

That applies to any generation, he said. Texting is just the latest way to do that.

Though they may not always be so good at deep

conversations themselves, Grenny suggests that parents model the behavior for their children and put down their own mobile devices. He said they also should set limits, as Anna’s mom did when she enforced the “no texting to people under the same roof” rule.

Mary Ann Allison, Hofstra University, New York, media studies assistant professor, has her students keep a log of their own communication habits.

“By paying attention to it, they say, ‘Wow, it’s a really different conversation when you’re talking with someone and listening to them,’” Allison said. They key in on body language, facial expressions and tone of voice — all cues you lose when you can’t see or hear someone.

Sternberg asked her students to give up one form of electronic communication to see what kind of difference it makes in their lives.

She also has them practice simple tasks such as standing up in a room full of people and introducing themselves. Many of them hate the drill, she said, but later tell her how useful it was, especially in the workplace.

Interestingly, Anna’s mom, Joanna Schiferl, is more worried about the effect texting is having on her daughter’s writing skills than the effect

SOCIAL SKILLS

Based on a nationally representative sample of 799 teens ages 12 to 17 years old and their parents living in the United States.

- ✓ **63% text to communicate every day.**
- ✓ **39% make and receive voice calls on cell-phones every day.**
- ✓ **35% socialize with others in person daily.**

SOURCE: PEW INTERNET AND AMERICAN LIFE PROJECT

on her social skills. Anna tends to rush her writing and pays less attention to grammar, or uses abbreviations she’d use in a text.

So the key, experts report, is to recognize your weak point and work on developing a wide range of communication skills.

“People with a more flexible style, whether they’re communicators in person or through technology, will have an easier time adapting,” Houston said — and will help bridge the communication gap, generational or otherwise.

That’s not always easy in a world where modes of communication are ever-evolving — though young people will often adapt with ease.

SPELLBOUND



ALEX BRANDON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Snigdha Nandipati, 14, of San Diego, is joined by her father, Krishnarao Nandipati, and brother, Sujan Nandipati, after winning the 85th Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Md., on Thursday. The eighth-grader’s extended family flew from India to see her compete. She won in the 13th round, correctly spelling “guetapens,” which means “ambush.”

Neb. court nixes oil law challenge

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. — The Nebraska Supreme Court has refused to hear a challenge to the state’s new pipeline siting law.

On Wednesday, the court dismissed efforts by opponents of the TransCanada Keystone XL pipeline who hoped the court would use its power of original jurisdiction.

The lawsuits were filed May 23 by three Nebraska landowners along the proposed pipeline route.

The challengers objected to the part of the law that puts the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality in charge of reviewing the pipeline project.

The landowners who filed the lawsuit also say they’re concerned about the provisions of the law that could allow a pipeline company to seize land without the owners’ consent.

A spokeswoman for the Nebraska attorney general’s office didn’t immediately return a call Thursday from The Associated Press. The office represents the state and the officials named in the suit.



CHARLES DHARAPAK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former President George W. Bush and former first lady Laura Bush unveil their portraits Thursday in the East Room at the White House. Bush was last at the White House in January 2010 to help out with Haiti humanitarian relief.

UNVEIL: Staff members, family join Bush at event

—Continued from Page 1

an assembly of former Bush aides and Cabinet members: “We may have our differences politically, but the presidency transcends those differences.”

Bush lightheartedly saluted artist John Howard Sanden for “a fine job with a challenging subject.”

The occasion was a rare public appearance for the

former president, who was joined by his wife, Laura, and other family members, including his father, former President George H.W. Bush, and his mother, former first lady Barbara Bush.

Obama thanked Bush for his service to the country and said it takes someone who has served as president to understand the challenges that face the White House occupant.

DOW JONES WORKSHOP

15th UT residency ends; interns to disperse

Eleven college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships at daily newspapers after 10 days of intensive preparation at The University of Texas at Austin. One professional joined the students to gain skills for a new position.

The interns are among a select group of 81 undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, business reporting and online journalism as part of a competitive national program funded by the News Fund, a foundation of Dow Jones & Co. and participating newspapers. More than 600 students applied for the program.

The School of Journalism at UT Austin, one of five pre-internship training sites for copy editors and designers, has been part of the News Fund program since 1997.

Participants in the UT workshop were involved in newspaper copy editing, design and production assignments as well as online journalism.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 15th residency program at UT Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a live, model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist and a companion online product, swjournalist.com. The Austin American-Statesman provided printing for the newspaper.

The interns will serve internships of 10 to 14 weeks.

Participants in the UT workshop, including their universities and host news organizations, are Matthew Bryan Bastible, the University of Texas at Arlington-Beaumont Enterprise; Kristina Bui, University of Arizona-The Los Angeles Times; Benjamin Diaz, Long Beach City College-San Francisco Chronicle; Bryan Scott Dugan Jr., University of Oklahoma-The Tribune, San Luis Obispo, Calif.; Jose D. Enriquez III, the University of Texas at Arlington-The Dallas Morning

News; Tor N. Haugan, University of Montana-Missoula-California Bay Area News Group; Jennifer Killin, The Del Rio News-Herald; Thomas Kyle-Milward, the University of Oregon-The Oregonian, Portland; Emily Tate, Purdue University-Austin American-Statesman; Regan Templeton, the University of Texas at Austin-Idaho Falls Post Register; Pashtana Usufzy, the University of Nevada-Las Vegas-San Francisco Chronicle; Vinny Vella, La Salle University-The Denver Post.

Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating newspapers cover the cost of the workshops.

Participating newspapers pay interns a weekly wage for their work during the internship. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the News Fund.

Directing the UT workshop were S. Griffin Singer, director; George Sylvie, assistant director; and Sonia Reyes-Krempin,



BRADLEY WILSON / THE SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

Interns from the Dow Jones News Fund workshop spent 10 days honing their skills at UT Austin. Similar pre-internship training programs for copy editors and designers took place at the University of Missouri, the University of Nebraska, Penn State University and Temple University.

administrative assistant of the UT School of Journalism.

Faculty included Beth Butler, assistant workshop director, from Kent State University; Amy Zerba of the University of Florida, formerly with CNN.

com, Atlanta, Ga., and the Austin American-Statesman; Linda Shockley, deputy director of the News Fund, Princeton, N.J.; and Bradley Wilson, former coordinator of student media advising at North Caro-

lina State University and editor of Communication: Journalism Education Today.

Drew Marcks, senior editor of the Austin American-Statesman, coordinated the interns’ visit to that newspaper.

INTERNATIONAL

Myanmar activist defends migrants

MAHACHAI, Thailand — Myanmar democracy advocate Aung San Suu Kyi has used her first foreign trip in 24 years to fight for her countrymen suffering abroad — economic migrants unable to work at home but vulnerable to exploitation elsewhere.

She pressed her concerns about the millions of Myanmar migrants living in Thailand in a meeting with the country's deputy prime minister on Thursday.

"She can't force the Thai government to do anything, but she can speak on our behalf better than anybody else," said Win Aung, who lost his hand in an accident at a Thai-run shoe factory and is fighting to get employer compensation a year and a half later.

"She's the best hope we have for things to change," he said.

Ethics committee queries minister on Murdoch ties

LONDON — Prime Minister David Cameron's handling of Britain's tabloid phone hacking scandal faces new criticism after a minister assigned to make an impartial decision on a takeover deal by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. said his cozy ties to the tycoon's media empire were well known to the British leader.

Culture, Media and Sport Secretary Jeremy Hunt appeared Thursday before the country's press ethics inquiry amid questions over his conduct in deliberating on whether Murdoch's bid for a lucrative pay-TV provider should be approved.

Cameron's former communications chief was arrested and charged Wednesday.

Cameron is expected to appear before the ethics panel in the coming weeks.

\$31 million terminal planned for Olympians

LONDON — A new terminal will cost Heathrow Airport 20 million pounds — \$31 million — process 37,000 bags and deal with 10,000 or so athletes. But after three days, it will disappear.

Why build an expensive terminal whose only goal is to send Olympians on their way home? Athletes filter in over time, arriving for training and acclimation sometimes months before the games. But the bulk of them leave Aug. 13, the day after the closing ceremony.

Foremost on the minds of organizers is the needs of the athletes. "Athletes are at the top of their professions," said aviation industry consultant Chris Yates. "Do they really want to be hanging out with you and I?"

"It's not just about the athletes," said Nick Cole, who's heading the Olympic project for the airport. "We want everyone using it to have a fantastic experience."

Ireland holds referendum on debt-fighting treaty

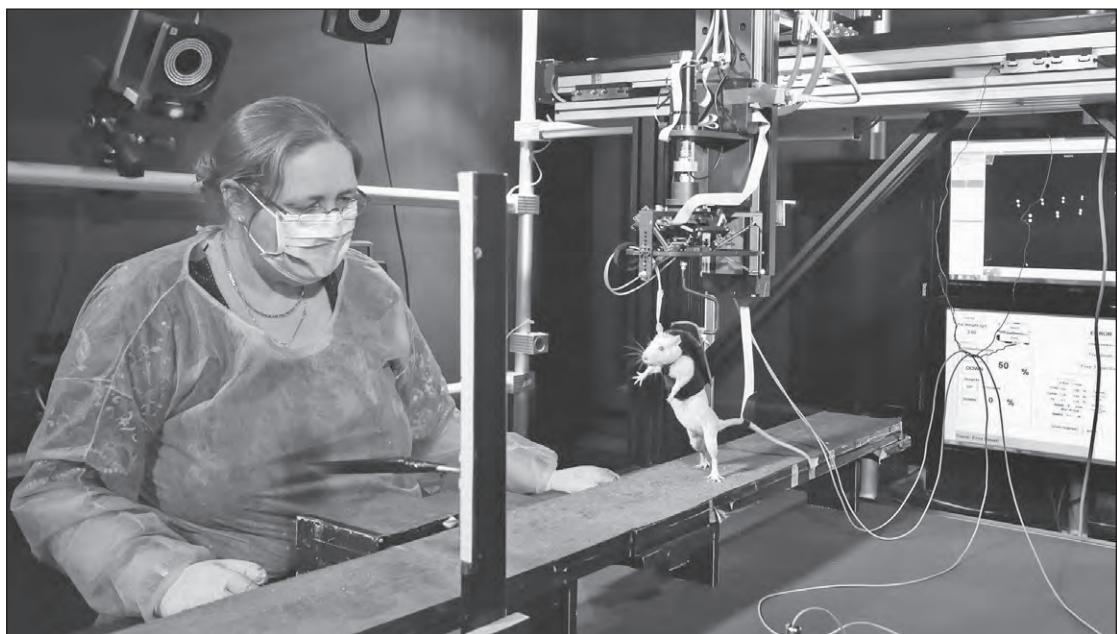
DUBLIN — Ireland's debt-burdened voters decided in a referendum Thursday whether to ratify the European Union's deficit-fighting treaty. Pro-treaty forces led by Prime Minister Enda Kenny stress that Ireland could lose its access to European bailout loans next year unless the treaty passes. Opponents say it would be better to pursue a showdown with EU partners now and demand better debt-reduction terms at the risk of triggering a worse eurozone crisis, rather than commit to new rules requiring deficit targets Ireland can't meet.

Many voters said they were swayed to vote no by campaigners' predictions that the treaty would require Ireland to keep cutting spending and raising taxes until 2020 and beyond.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK AND SWITZERLAND

Rodent REHAB



ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FEDERALE DE LAUSANNE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A previously paralyzed rat fitted in a special harness for balance now walks and climbs steps voluntarily after several weeks of rehabilitation. Doctors at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne in Switzerland implanted electrodes, plus injections of a chemical mix, and physical training to help rodents overcome paralysis. Scientists use chocolate as a reward to encourage rats to walk.

New experiment shows promise to reverse paralysis in more than rats

MALCOLM RITTER
Associated Press

Scientists are working on treatments to help people with spinal cord injuries walk. Now there's a striking new demonstration of how one approach might work: Spinal nerve stimulation helped rats in a Swiss lab overcome paralysis to walk and climb stairs.

That may sound impressive, but similar progress has been made in people, too.

The difference this time is the technique used.

"It's a natural extension of exciting work that's been done by many groups," said Dr. John McDonald, director of the International Center for Spinal Cord Injury at Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore. He wasn't involved in the research.

In the new experiment, reported in Friday's issue of the journal Science, researchers stimulated spinal nerve circuits and used physical training.

The stimulation was electrical current from implanted electrodes plus injections of a chemical mix.

To do the training, the rats were placed in a harness so that only their hind legs reached the ground.

Then they were placed on a treadmill, which produced only reflexive stepping, and on stationary ground, where they had to choose to make their legs move if they wanted to reach a piece of chocolate.

They took their first voluntary steps about two to three weeks after the training began, the researchers said. The rats still needed the harness later to keep their balance.

The treatment produced an

extensive rewiring in the brain and spinal cord, and the lead researcher said that more than 100 rats have regained walking ability to varying degrees.

"This kind of approach will not cure spinal cord injury" but it might someday help some patients recover more ability to move around, lead researcher Gregoire Courtine said.

Only human studies will show how much the technique might help, said Courtine, of the University of Zurich and the technical university Ecole Polytechnique Federale in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Last year, other researchers reported that a paralyzed Oregon man was able to stand and move his legs with a surgically implanted electrical stimulator.

McDonald said the new paper would spur great interest among spinal cord researchers, in part because the techniques it used could be readily applied to people. The electrical stimulation could be given through the skin rather than from implanted electrodes, he said.

But he and W. Dalton Dietrich, University of Miami scientific director of the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis, noted that the rats had been given a spinal injury that differs from what is normally seen in people. So more studies are needed involving injuries more typical of humans, McDonald said.



SUMMERS FAMILY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rob Summers, paralyzed after a 2006 auto accident, now stands and moves after doctors implanted an electrical stimulator onto his spinal cord in 2010. He continues physical therapy in Louisville, Ky.

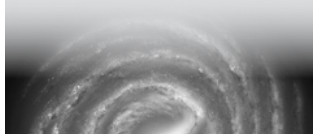
FAST FACTS

- ✓ The spine is comprised of 31 bones called vertebrae
- ✓ 16% of injuries are caused by violence
- ✓ About 200,000 people live with spinal cord injuries in the U.S.
- ✓ Males account for 80% of spinal cord injury patients
- ✓ 46% of spinal cord injuries occur from auto accidents
- ✓ 22% of injuries occur from falls
- ✓ Alcohol is involved in 25% of injuries

SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL

GALACTIC COLLISION

NASA has calculated our Milky Way galaxy will crash into a neighboring galaxy with a head on hit in 4 billion years. Scientists say the sun and Earth will survive the 1.2 million mile per hour galactic merger, but likely will be in a different place in the cosmos.



Cargo spacecraft returns with a splash

MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The SpaceX Dragon capsule parachuted into the Pacific on Thursday to conclude the first private delivery to the International Space Station, demonstrating NASA's new travel approach.

"Welcome home, baby," SpaceX's elated chief, Elon Musk, said.

The unmanned supply ship splashed into the ocean about 500 miles off Mexico's Baja California before being towed to Los Angeles.

Thursday's dramatic arrival of the world's first commercial cargo carrier capped a nine-day test flight that was

virtually flawless.

The trip began with the May 22 launch aboard the SpaceX company's Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral, continuing through the space station docking three days later and the departure a scant six hours before hitting the water.

The returning bell-shaped Dragon resembled NASA's spacecraft of the 1960s and 1970s as its three red-and-white striped parachutes opened. Musk, the billionaire behind PayPal and Tesla Motors, said he hopes to launch the next supply mission in September under a steady contract with NASA.

SYRIA

Clinton: Russians must not back Syria

BRADLEY KLAPPER
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The U.S. is pushing Russia to change course and support international action in Syria, warning that Moscow's stance may lead to open civil war that could spill across the Middle East.

Speaking in Denmark on Thursday, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton derided Russia's government for continuing to support Syrian President Bashar Assad, even after last week's massacre of more than 100 people in the town of Houla. She said Russia's position "is going to help contribute to a civil war."

On the first stop of a European tour, Clinton said Russia and China would have to be on board before the U.S. and other nations might engage in what could become a protracted conflict in support of a disorganized rebel force.

Russia and China have twice vetoed U.N. Security Council sanctions against Syria. Russia is Syria's closest ally other than isolated Iran.

"The Russians keep telling us they want to do everything they can to avoid a civil war, because they believe that the violence would be catastrophic," Clinton said, noting that they are "vociferous in their claim that they are providing a stabilizing influence."

"I reject that," she said, arguing that Russia is propping up Assad as his government continues a 15-month crackdown on dissent in which some 13,000 people have died.

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS ANNE GEARAN, JAMAL HALABY AND MATTHEW LEE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

EUROPE

Leaders told euro currency unsustainable

Bank chief says new system a must to avert collapse

DAVID MCHUGH
Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — The setup of the 17-country euro currency union is unsustainable, the head of the European Central Bank has told EU leaders.

Mario Draghi warned leaders Thursday that they must quickly come up with a broad vision for the future to get the bloc through the current financial crisis. Draghi said the crisis had exposed the inadequacy of the financial and economic framework set up for the euro monetary union launched in 1999.

Draghi said the central bank had done what it could to fight the 2.5-year-old debt crisis by reducing interest rates and giving \$1.2 trillion in emergency loans to banks.

But it was now up to governments to chart a course by reducing deficits, carrying out sweeping reforms to spur growth and by strengthening

the euro's basic institutions.

The central bank cannot "fill the vacuum of the lack of action by national governments" in those areas. He said the next step "is for our leaders to clarify what is the vision ... what is the euro going to look like a certain number of years from now. The sooner this has been specified, the better it is."

The euro was set up as a currency with one central bank, the ECB, to issue the currency and set interest rates. But the different national governments continued to independently manage their widely different economies. The currency union was unable to prevent some countries from running up unsustainable debt burdens as their economies lagged behind.



Mario Draghi



NASA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The unmanned capsule delivered mostly food supplies to the International Space Station. The capsule returned Thursday with equipment and science samples.

POLITICAL SCANDAL

Edwards acquitted amid mistrial

Jury finds him innocent of accepting illegal funds

MICHAEL BIESECKER
Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — John Edwards' campaign finance fraud case ended in a mistrial Thursday when jurors acquitted him on one of six charges but were unable to decide whether he misused money from two wealthy donors to hide Rielle Hunter, his pregnant mistress, while he ran for president.

The trial exposed a sordid sex scandal that unfolded while Edwards' wife, Elizabeth, was dying of cancer. Prosecutors couldn't convince jurors that the ex-U.S. senator and 2004 vice presidential candidate masterminded a \$1 million cover-up of his affair.

"While I do not believe I did anything illegal, or ever thought I was doing anything illegal, I did an awful, awful lot that was wrong and there is no one else responsible for my sins," Edwards said on the courthouse steps.

He also said he had hope for his future.

"I don't think God's through with me," he said. "I really believe he thinks there's still some good things I can do."

Edwards would have faced up to 30 years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines if convicted of all charges. Neither Edwards nor Hunter testified during the trial.

Jurors acquitted him on a charge of accepting illegal campaign contributions, involving \$375,000 from elderly heiress Rachel "Bunny" Mellon in 2008. He had also been charged with illegally accepting \$350,000 from Mellon in 2007 as well as other donations from wealthy Texas attorney Fred Baron, filing false campaign finance reports and conspiracy.

The jurors, who deliberated nine days, did not talk to the media as they

left the courthouse. Several media organizations, including The Associated Press, filed a motion asking for the names to be released but the judge refused to release the information for at least a week.

Federal prosecutors are unlikely to retry the case, a law enforcement official told AP on the condition of anonymity because the decision will undergo review in the coming days.

The case was thrown into confusion earlier Thursday after observers filled the courtroom expecting to hear a verdict on all six counts. Jurors initially sent a note to U.S. District Court Judge Catherine Eagles reading, "We have finished our deliberations and have arrived at our decision on counts one through six." But when the jury came into court Thursday, the foreman said the jurors had a decision on only one count.

After Eagles sent them back for another hour of deliberation, the jurors sent another note saying they exhausted their discussions. In response, Eagles declared a mistrial and discharged the jury.

After hearing the decision, Edwards hugged his daughter, his parents and his attorneys. Later, he thanked the jury and his family, choked up when talking about the daughter he had with his mistress.

The trial recounted the most intimate details of Edwards' affair with Hunter, including reference to a sex tape of the two together that was later ordered destroyed and the drama of Edwards' wife, Elizabeth, tearing off her shirt in front of her husband in a rage about a tabloid report of the affair.

It also featured testimony that sometimes read like a political thriller, as aide Andrew Young described meeting Edwards on a secluded road, and Edwards warning him, "you can't



CHUCK BURTON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former vice presidential candidate John Edwards was found innocent of accepting illegal campaign contributions Thursday. The jurors, whose names won't be released to the media for at least another week, were unable to decide if Edwards used donations to hide a conspiracy.

hurt me" after Young promised to go public with his collected evidence of the cover-up. Young issued a statement in 2008 claiming to be the father of Hunter's child. Together with his wife Cheri, Young helped keep Hunter out of the public eye until she delivered her child, according to this evidence.

Prosecutors said Edwards knew of the roughly \$1 million being funneled to former aide Young and Hunter and was well aware of the \$2,300 legal limit on campaign donations.

Edwards' attorneys said prosecutors didn't prove that Edwards knew that taking the money violated campaign finance law. They said he shouldn't be convicted for lying, and even if he did know about some of the money, it was a gift, not a campaign contribution.

"This is a case that should define the difference between a wrong and a crime ... between a sin and a felony," attorney Abbe Lowell told the jury. "John Edwards has confessed his sins. He will serve a life sentence for those." They also said the money was used only to keep the affair hidden from his wife, not to influence his presidential bid.

Edwards met Hunter in a New York hotel bar in 2006 and arranged a \$250,000 contract for her to make a series of behind-the-scenes documentaries from the campaign trail, despite a lack of experience.

The affair was first leaked to the public in 2007 by a tabloid. Edwards announced he was the father of Hunter's daughter in January 2010, nearly two years after she was born and his candidacy ended.

CONCERNED PARTIES



SUSAN WALSH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elizabeth Edwards had an emotional reaction to the news of her husband's infidelity, tearing her shirt off at a private airplane hangar and confronting him. She died of breast cancer in December 2010.



JIM R. BOUNDS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rielle Hunter met Edwards in 2006 and he hid their relationship by hiring her as a campaign videographer. Andrew Young initially claimed to be the father of her child, but Edwards later admitted he was the father.



GERRY BROOME / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andrew Young was Edwards' top aide during his 2008 presidential campaign. After claiming to be the father of Hunter's baby, he later pressured Edwards to reveal the truth using evidence of the cover-up.



JIM R. BOUNDS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cheri Young agreed to participate in the cover-up with her husband. The couple helped keep Hunter out of the public eye during her pregnancy, and later provided documents implicating Edwards' involvement.

MAINE

Missing toddler believed dead

Ayla Reynolds has not been seen since December

GLENN ADAMS
Associated Press

WATERVILLE, Maine — Law enforcement officials said Thursday for the first time that they believe a toddler who disappeared in the days leading up to Christmas is no longer alive.

Officials pressed for more information that could lead to the Ayla Reynolds' whereabouts, announcing at a news conference that a \$30,000 reward for information on the case will expire June 30.

They appealed for anyone with information about the girl's whereabouts to contact police.

Reynolds was 20 months old when she was reported missing Dec. 17 from her father's home in Waterville. She was last seen wearing polka dot pajamas with the words "Daddy's Princess" on them. She had a cast on her left arm.

Steve McCausland, spokesman for the Maine Department of Public Safety, said investigators remain deter-

mined to solve the mystery of Reynold's disappearance.

Before the news conference, detectives called Reynolds' parents to deliver the news.

In Portland, Reynolds' mother, Trista, and her grandparents burst into tears while watching the news conference.

"Everybody broke down. I'm still crying. I'm still hurting now," said Ronald Reynolds, Ayla's grandfather, in Portland.

Justin DiPietro, the girl's father, has said he thinks

Reynolds was abducted, but police said there's no evidence of that and no arrests have been made.

State police confirmed that Reynolds' blood was found in DiPietro's house and said DiPietro, his girlfriend and his sister were there the night Ayla disappeared.

McCausland said he believes they know more than what they're telling police.

Neither DiPietro nor a lawyer hired by members of his family returned a call.



Reynolds

EAST COAST



DAVID KARP / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bus crashes — like this one on Interstate 95 in New York's Bronx borough in March 2011 — sparked a federal investigation that's led to the suspended licenses of 26 bus companies.

Violations stall bus operators

JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Twenty-six bus operations that transported more than 1,800 passengers a day along Interstate 95 between New York and Florida have been closed for safety violations in what federal officials said is the government's largest single safety crackdown of the motor coach industry.

The shutdowns are the culmination of a yearlong investigation by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that focused on three compa-

nies: Apex Bus Inc. and I-95 Coach Inc., both of New York, and New Century Travel Inc. of Philadelphia. Each company oversaw a broad network of affiliated companies operating under different names that are also under investigation, officials said.

Federal investigators found all of the carriers had multiple safety violations, including a pattern of using drivers who didn't have valid commercial driver's licenses and failing to administer alcohol and drug tests to drivers, according to the safety administration.

The companies also operated buses that had not been regularly inspected and repaired. Their drivers were also violating work schedule requirements and didn't have proper qualifications, officials said.

"These businesses have been doing all they can to operate far below the accepted level of safety," said Dan Ronan, a spokesman for the American Bus Association.

Thirteen of the companies cited had been operating without licenses after earlier orders to cease service.

NATIONAL

Obama, Romney spend big on TV ads

NEW YORK — President Barack Obama, Republican Mitt Romney and their allies already have spent \$86 million on TV ads in the nine most hotly contested states.

It's an early and unprecedented level of spending for a close general election race that's just weeks old.

The Obama campaign has been the largest single advertiser so far, pouring \$31 million into commercials.

Romney's campaign has spent slightly more than \$5 million on ads.

But deep-pocketed, conservative-leaning independent groups have more than made up the difference by spending \$42 million to date on ads to defeat Obama.

Independent groups interested in seeing Obama get re-elected have spent nearly \$9 million on campaign ads.

Payments end for former Wisconsin priests

MILWAUKEE — A top official with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee says it has ended the practice of paying priests who voluntarily leave the priesthood.

Payments went to some priests accused of sexual abuse, and in a letter sent Thursday to church members, the archbishop's chief of staff, Jerry Topczewski, responded to allegations from an abuse victims' group that the payments were a "payoff."

He said it made sense at the height of the clergy sex abuse scandal to "move these men out of the priesthood as quickly as possible" and the money helped the men with the transition. Some priests received \$20,000.

But Topczewski said the archdiocese is no longer providing payments, and diocese representatives said it made its last payments to nine priests in 2010.

Ohio poultry blamed for bacteria outbreak

ATLANTA — A new salmonella outbreak that sickened nearly 100 people has been traced to mail-order chicks from Ohio.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday that 93 cases have been reported in 23 states since March. Eighteen people were hospitalized and one death is being investigated to see if it was caused by the infection.

Investigators interviewed dozens of the patients and most said they had touched chicks or ducklings before they got sick. They were able to trace the birds to the mail-order hatchery in Ohio.

This outbreak is different from one reported Wednesday in a medical journal that involved more than 300 cases of a different salmonella strain over eight years. That earlier outbreak has been traced to a different hatchery.

Dead man's loot belongs to his kin, court rules

PHOENIX — An Arizona court decided a man's heirs are entitled to \$500,000's worth of goods found in the walls of his home years after he died.

The Court of Appeals' ruling Thursday upholds a judge's decision that the stocks, bonds, cash and gold stashed in ammunition cans inside the walls, belongs to the estate of Robert Spann. He died in 2001.

According to the ruling, Spann's daughters found the hidden loot in his suburban Phoenix home before they sold it seven years later.

The couple who bought the home found the cash in the walls while remodeling their bedrooms and kitchen and laid claim to it.

The court ruled that legally, the money was only mislaid, not abandoned, and still belonged to Spann's estate.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS

Committee plans JFK anniversary

DALLAS — A committee of Dallas community members are planning how the city will commemorate next year's 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings formed the 21-member unit, which held its first meeting at City Hall this week.

"We started by introducing ourselves, and many members shared where they were on Nov. 22, 1963, and what it meant to them," Rawlings said. "There were several moments when there were a lot of tears in the room."

Kennedy's motorcade was on a parade route through downtown when he was assassinated while passing the Texas School Book Depository. Lee Harvey Oswald was arrested that day and killed two days later by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald acted alone.

United Airlines to cut 1,300 jobs in Houston

HOUSTON — United Airlines will cut 1,300 jobs and reduce flying in Houston after it lost a fight to keep Southwest Airlines Inc. from adding international flights there.

United warned of the job cuts if the city council voted to let Southwest add international flights at Houston's Hobby Airport. The council voted Wednesday for a plan under which Southwest will pay the \$100 million cost of adding international gates and a customs facility at Hobby.

United is the world's biggest airline and Houston's Bush Intercontinental Airport is its biggest hub. United had argued that adding international flights at Hobby would hurt connecting traffic at Bush airport.

United says it must cut Houston flying 10 percent starting this fall and won't need as many local workers. Southwest says its international flights from Houston won't start until 2015.

Parent company United Continental Holdings Inc. was formed in 2010 when United acquired Continental, which had long been based in Houston. The combined airline is based in United's hometown of Chicago.

Battery recycling plant to close for \$45 million

FRISCO — A battery recycling plant in a Dallas suburb will close by the end of the year after reaching a \$45 million deal to end disputes over lead emissions and ground contamination, officials said Thursday.

The agreement ends years of wrangling between Exide Technologies and city officials who refused to give the plant the permits needed to meet state and federal air pollution rules.

While Exide spokeswoman Susan Jaramillo said the company was willing to fight the city to get the building permits, Frisco's monetary offer was too good to refuse. So the company will cease its Frisco operations by Dec. 31. About 134 people will lose their jobs, she said.

Fort Worth girl killed by father's discharged gun

FORT WORTH — Police said a shooting in North Texas has left a 9-year-old girl dead after a gun being handled by her father discharged.

Fort Worth police said the apparent accidental shooting happened Wednesday night at a home.

Sgt. Pedro Criado said the father was removing the gun from a bag when it fired.

Police said the girl was transported to a hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Her name was not immediately released.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

GOP SENATE PRIMARY RUNOFF

Former rival endorses Dewhurst

Ex-NFL back's vote goes to lieutenant governor; Leppert uncommitted

DANNY ROBBINS
Associated Press

DALLAS — Ex-NFL running back and ESPN announcer Craig James on Thursday endorsed former opponent Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst in the Republican nomination runoff battle to fill Texas' open U.S. Senate seat.

James was one of four major GOP candidates vying to

replace retiring U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison.

He struggled to gain much traction and finished a distant fourth in Tuesday's primary, winning only about 3.5 percent of the ballots cast.

Dewhurst, who has held the lieutenant governorship since 2003, finished first but fell well short of the majority needed to avoid a July 31 runoff with Ted Cruz, a tea party favorite and former state solicitor general.

"I am a voter now. I am no longer in the race. My vote will be cast for Lt. Gov. Dewhurst," James said at an event with



James



Dewhurst

Dewhurst at Dallas County Republican Party headquarters.

James also said he "traded phone calls" with Cruz before deciding on his endorsement — but never actually spoke

to him. Former Dallas Mayor Tom Leppert, who finished third in the Republican primary, has yet to endorse anyone. Dewhurst said he had spoken to Leppert but preferred not to discuss what was said.

Dewhurst said the runoff is "between a slick lawyer funded and beholden to Washington special interests and a lifelong Texas businessman."

Dewhurst amassed a personal fortune worth more than \$200 million running his own energy company.

Several national, limited-government groups, including

the Washington-based Club For Growth, backed Cruz.

The Cruz camp dismissed the endorsement.

In a statement to The Associated Press, spokesman James Bernsen said, "Congratulations to Lt. Gov. Dewhurst."

Even James himself, a polarizing figure across most of Texas, acknowledged there was some irony in his announcement.

"I know a lot of people beyond the 4 percent in votes I got were looking at what I'm going to do," he said.

AGRICULTURE

North Texas rancher a rare breed

Man, 28, lassoes cash despite industry pain

BARRY SHLACHTER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

ERA — Daniel Bowles is bucking a trend.

He's a young rancher trying to grow a cattle operation while many producers are hanging up their spurs.

But in Era, an unincorporated community in Cooke County, about 60 miles north of Fort Worth, Bowles, 28, believes he's the right kind of cattle producer at the right time.

Texas cattle country is in crisis. Prolonged drought, expensive feed and other factors reduced the state's beef cow herd by 13 percent last year.

It's been a two-decade slide, with the decline sharply accelerating last year, said Ron Gill, an extension service cattle expert.

That's when 660,000 head disappeared from Texas, according to the U.S. Agriculture Department.

They included seed stock shipped as far north as Montana. Many more were sold to out-of-state producers or sent to slaughter.

About 15 percent of ranchers surveyed last summer by the Fort Worth-based Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association said they were closing their operations. Another estimate put the figure at 25 percent.

Ranchers retiring

Kevin Good, senior market analyst with Denver-based CattleFax, believes that continued good cattle prices will eventually provide enough incentive to restock in Texas.

Asked whether there could be a recovery in two years, he said,

"Probably not."

"With the cow herd at such a critically low level, Texas will start to lose infrastructure if cow numbers do not increase soon," Gill said.

Starting small

Bowles has built a herd of 1,000 yearlings and a smaller cow-calf operation with 50 breeding cows of unknown bloodlines and a spotted Charolais bull. His calving rate is an enviable 90 percent, meaning 9 in 10 cows produce an offspring yearly.

He also works auction barns three days a week, both as an hourly ring hand and as an independent livestock buyer for other producers. He also hires out to do a range of cattle chores for other producers.

The various revenue streams translated last year into a six-figure income, with about 40 percent

coming from his own cattle, Bowles said.

Bowles' mother was a nurse, and his father worked at the Peterbilt truck plant in Denton.

The family rarely had more than 30 cows.

But he learned cattle raising from his father and a local farmer, Jack House, for whom he worked as a teenager.

His operation is called Three Cattle Co. because, he explained, "I started with three."

"I had the 'want to' and the 'will,' but I didn't have all the knowledge," he said. He hoped to attend Texas Christian University's ranch management program but didn't have the money.

A wealthy Dallasite, whose horses Bowles exercised and cared for, offered him a zero-interest loan of \$10,000 toward tuition and expenses, to be repaid in five years.

"I paid him back in three years."

‘A big step’

While he was working at a cattle auction, two ex-dairy farmers recognized Bowles' ability to judge livestock and asked him to buy 400 as a



U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The massive blaze in the Gila National Forest had grown to nearly 300 square miles as of Thursday.

custom-order buyer. It was his first custom-buying assignment. (Such work pays about \$3 a head, and he can earn \$200 or more a day.)

Bowles agreed — with one condition: They had to allow him to graze his own animals on their land. He bought 74 calves, weighing an average 522 pounds. He sold them at 750 pounds, at no cost to him for the weight gain — in return for minding the landowners' herd for six months. The deal netted him

nearly \$16,000 on a \$39,400 original investment for the cattle, aside from his buying commission.

Bowles plans to marry a nursing student this month. What's more, Bowles is waiting to buy a good number of cattle at the right price — say, \$1.60 a pound for an animal 300 pounds or more. Healthy ones are fetching \$1.90 now.

"Right now," he said, "I think we're fixing to buy a whole lot of fat, bawling, sucking calves."

NEW MEXICO

Region likely to see more wildfires

Wind, dry weather could start more fires in neighboring states

RUSSELL CONTRERAS
Associated Press

REVERE, N.M. — The largest wildfire in New Mexico's history continued to spread Thursday. Experts said it's likely a preview of things to come as western states face wind, low humidity and tinder-dry fuels.

The Gila National Forest blaze grew to nearly 300 square miles and is 5 percent contained. More than 1,200 firefighters are near the Arizona border, fire information officer Iris Estes said.

Experts said drought and shifts in firefighting strategies mean more fires in the region.

"We've been in a long drought cycle for the last 20 years, and conditions now are great for these type of fires,"



U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The massive blaze in the Gila National Forest had grown to nearly 300 square miles as of Thursday.

said Steve Pyne, a life science Arizona State University professor.

A dry climate is expected to prolong drought conditions across the Great Basin and central Rockies, according to the National Weather Service. Some of Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico will remain under drought conditions.

A lack of moisture means fewer fuels to burn in some areas, but unburned vegetation could pose a problem since states received little snow or rain.

In New Mexico, a lack of snow failed to push down grass, which worsened the fire danger, said Jeremy Sullens, a

wildland fire analyst at the National Interagency Fire Center.

Western states will also see more fires this season because agencies changed strategies, Pyne said.

"In the last 20 years or so, agencies have generally been reluctant to put firefighters at risk in remote areas," Pyne said.

Instead, agencies focused attention on burnout operations until conditions are safe to begin containment.

Not that those practices are bad things, Pyne said. For example, the Gila wilderness is a target for controlled burns.

"So maybe," Pyne said, "this is how it's supposed to happen."

NEW MEXICO

Neiman Marcus refuses refund; lawsuit follows

Wife says spouse bought gifts with lover's discount

LINDA STEWART BALL
Associated Press

DALLAS — A Dallas woman said Neiman Marcus wouldn't let her return \$1.4 million worth of items — many of them gifts her husband purchased from a store employee with whom he was allegedly having an affair.

Patricia Walker is suing Neiman Marcus, claiming fraud. The lawsuit alleges many of the items were presented as gifts to Walker from her husband, bought with Walker's credit from her long-time personal shopper, who received a hefty commission from the sales.

Neiman Marcus spokeswoman Ginger Reeder said corporate policy prevents her from commenting on litigation. The return policy states customers may return, for credit, any items with which

they "are not completely satisfied."

Most of the items Walker's husband, Bobby Tennison, 65, purchased were gifts for Walker, who was seriously injured in a car accident in 2007. She was homebound into 2010, Mark Ticer, Walker's attorney, said Thursday.

The gifts included jewelry, glass sculptures, furs, handbags and other items the lawsuit says he bought from Neiman Marcus employee Favi Lo.

"Adding insult to injury ... it's getting charged to her Neiman's account. The bill is getting paid with her money."

— MARK TICER, WIFE'S ATTORNEY

The lawsuit alleges the store knew of the illicit arrangement but did nothing to stop it because Neiman Marcus "directly profited from Lo's conduct and deceit."

Tennison and Lo did not return calls.

Walker realized what was allegedly going on when Tennison filed for divorce in 2010.



EMILY TATE / SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

Ban targets sugary drinks

NYC mayor proposes outlawing sizely sweet beverages

SAMANTHA GROSS
Associated Press

Want to super-size that soda? Sorry, but in New York City you could be out of luck.

In his latest effort to fight obesity, Mayor Michael Bloomberg is proposing an unprecedented ban on large servings of sugary drinks at restaurants, delis, sports arenas and movie theaters.

Drinks would be limited to 16 ounces, which is considered a small serving at many fast-food joints.

"The percentage of the population that is obese is skyrocketing," Bloomberg said Thursday on MSNBC. He added: "We've got to do something."

It is the first time an American city has directly attempted to limit soda portion sizes, and the soft-drink industry and others accused the three-term mayor of creating a "nanny state."

"The people of New York City are much smarter than the New York City Health Department believes," Coca-Cola Co. said in a statement. "New Yorkers expect and deserve better than this."

The ban is expected to win approval from the Bloomberg-appointed Board of Health and take effect as soon as spring of next year.

It would apply only to sweetened drinks over 16 ounces that contain more than 25 calories per 8 ounces.

A 12-ounce can of Coke has about 140 calories. Plastic bottles of Coke and other soft drinks often contain 20 ounces.

It would not affect diet soda, any drink that's at least 70 percent juice, or one that is at least half milk or milk substitute. Nor would it apply to drinks sold in many supermarkets. Businesses would face fines of \$200 per failed inspection.

City officials said some calorie-heavy drinks such as Starbucks Frappuccinos would probably be exempted because of their dairy content, while Slurpees and Big Gulp drinks at 7-Eleven wouldn't be

affected because the convenience stores are regulated as groceries.

Bloomberg said people would still be free to order more than one drink, but restricting servings to 16 ounces each could help curb consumption.

"You tend to eat all of the food in the container. If it's bigger, you eat more. If somebody put a smaller glass or plate or bowl in front of you, you would eat less," the mayor said.

Health officials cited research linking sugary drinks to rising rates of obesity. At the same time, City Health Commissioner Thomas Farley said the city has no intention of reducing portion sizes of solid foods.

"Sugar drinks are not the entire obesity epidemic, but they are uniquely, strongly associated with this rise in obesity over the last 30 years," Farley said.

Kelly Brownell, director of the Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University, said he believes the ban would be effective: "Soft drinks are the single greatest source of added sugar in the American diet."

But Stefan Friedman, spokesman for the New York City Beverage Association, pointed to federal data showing that calories from sugary drinks are a declining portion of American diets even as obesity increases.

Legal experts said the soft drink industry may mount a challenge to the new rule by arguing that it's arbitrary or internally inconsistent.

Given that you can't buy a 32-ounce serving but you can buy two 16-ounce ones, "a court might say that all it does is help the cup industry by making people buy more cups," said John Humbach, a professor at Pace Law School. But he called that approach "a long shot."

Mark Kalinowski, an analyst with Janney Capital Markets who covers companies such as McDonald's, predicted an uproar.

"Folks who want to buy Big Gulps and Frappuccinos, a lot of those customers, you're only going to be able to take it away from them by prying it out of their cold, dead hands," he said.

If the ban goes into effect, he said, customers will probably just respond by ordering two drinks.

"Maybe the mayor can outlaw all soft drinks and outlaw all fun while he's at it," Kalinowski said.

AP FOOD INDUSTRY WRITER CANDICE CHOI AND WRITERS KAREN MATTHEWS AND VERENA DOBNIK CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

THE PROPOSAL

What: New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg wants to ban selling large servings of sugary beverages.

Where: The ban would apply to restaurants, delis and movie theaters.

... but not: Grocery and convenience stores, which would be exempt from the ban because their products are not meant to be consumed immediately.

Also excluded: Certain types of drinks, such as dairy- and juice-based ones, as well as Slurpee-type concoctions, would not be included in the ban.

Previous efforts: Bloomberg previously has restricted trans fat in french fries, required fast food establishments to post nutritional information and banned smoking in restaurants and parks to promote healthy behavior.

What's next: The Board of Health must approve the proposal for it to take effect. Bloomberg appointed all members of the board, so the proposal is likely to pass.

What's banned?

The proposal would apply to 16-ounce or larger sweetened drinks containing at least 25 calories per 8 ounces. Milk-based and fruit-based drinks are exempt.

BANNED:
Coke: 26 grams of sugar per 8 ounces

NOT BANNED:
Simply Lemonade: 29 grams of sugar/8 ounces

Nesquik fat-free chocolate milk: 27 grams of sugar/8 ounces.

V8 Fusion vegetable fruit juice: 15.6 grams of sugar/8 ounces

Diet soda: No sugar
STATISTICS FROM WEBMD: 'SUGAR SHOCKERS'



RICHARD DREW / ASSOCIATED PRESS



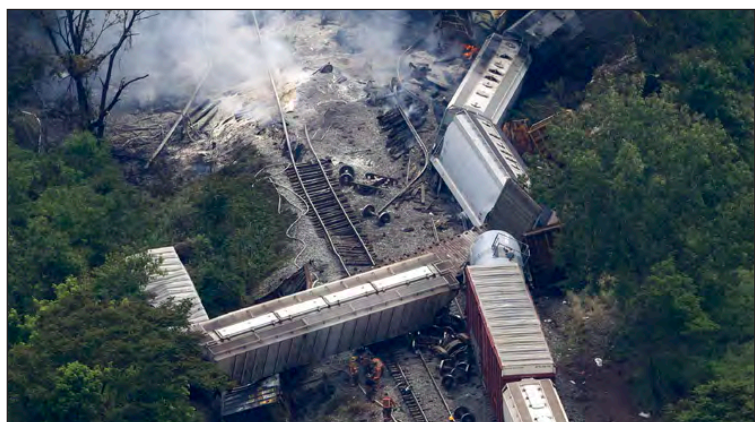
RICHARD DREW / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Various sized cups and sugar cubes are displayed at a press conference about New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg's proposed ban on the sale of large sodas and other sugary drinks. The ban is an expansion of his administration's efforts to encourage healthy behavior, and it follows earlier efforts to limit trans fats in french fries and other restaurant foods as well as a move to ban smoking in restaurants and parks.

New York City Health Commissioner Thomas Farley, center, accompanied by Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Linda Gibbs and Howard Wolfson, Counselor to Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Bloomberg is proposing a ban on the sale of large sodas and other sugary drinks in the city's restaurants and movie theaters to combat obesity, an expansion of his administration's efforts to encourage healthy behavior.

CSX CRASH

Train hits truck, derails



PATRICK SEMANSKY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A fire burns at the site of a CSX freight train derailment on Tuesday, May 28, in Rosedale, Md., where fire officials say the train crashed into a trash truck, causing an explosion that rattled homes at least a half-mile away and collapsed nearby buildings, setting them on fire.

Collision, explosion cause building damage and hazmat response

BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

ROSEDALE, Md. — A freight train crashed into a trash truck and derailed Tuesday in a Baltimore suburb. The explosion rattled houses and sent a plume of smoke into the air that could be seen for miles, officials and witnesses said.

The CSX train went off the tracks at about 2 p.m. in Rosedale, a Baltimore suburb. Hazardous material teams were on the scene, but Baltimore County

Executive Kevin Kamenetz said no toxic inhalants were burning and officials did not order an evacuation. The truck driver was taken to the hospital in serious condition, but the two CSX workers aboard were not hurt, fire officials said.

About an hour after the blast, the black smoke drifted to Baltimore and covered the eastern part of the city. The face of one warehouse near the train tracks had blown off.

Fire Chief John Hohman said the explosion damaged two warehouses and harmed other buildings, but none collapsed.

Please see TRAIN, Page 2

LEGISLATURE

District maps likely to stand

GOP legislators now want court-drawn districts to become permanent

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas Republicans are ready to accept the once hotly disputed maps a federal court redrew.

After an election cycle thrown into tumult by legal wrangling over redistricting maps, Republicans in the Legislature began a 30-day special session Tuesday with the goal of making the court-drawn voting maps permanent ahead of 2014 campaigns.

Now that he has called lawmakers back, Gov. Rick Perry is expected to give them more to do than simply hammer out voting maps, though he said he hasn't decided whether to add anything to the special session's agenda.

"I'm not going to anticipate anything until we've had a chance to look at all the pieces of legislation," he said. "The (legislators) are here,

Please see SPECIAL, Page 2

SYRIA

EU allows missiles for rebels

Russia renews promise to provide weapons to Assad's government

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Russia on Tuesday criticized the European Union's decision to allow the arming of Syrian rebels, saying it undercuts international efforts to negotiate an end to the civil war. A rebel general said he is "very disappointed" weapons will not arrive fast enough to help opposition fighters defend a strategic Syrian town.

The EU's decision, coupled with Russia's renewed pledge to supply Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime with advanced missiles, could transform the civil war into an East-West proxy fight. Meanwhile, Israel threatened to strike such air defense missile systems if delivered to Syria, portraying them as a threat to the Jewish state and raising the risk of regional conflict.

The possibility of an arms race in Syria overshadowed attempts by the United States and Russia to bring representatives of the Assad regime and Syria's political oppo-

Please see SYRIA, Page 2

Giraffe twins born in Texas ranch

Talk about a rare pair. Twin giraffes were born at Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch earlier this month, making them the second reported set of living twins born in the United States, according to Laurie Bingaman Lackey, giraffe pedigree tracker for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Weighing 95 pounds and standing 4.5 feet tall, Wasswa, a female, was born first on May 10. Her brother, Nakato, weighing 125 pounds and standing 5.5 feet tall, followed soon after.

The giraffes, the 19th and 20th born at the 400-acre ranch in New Braunfels, are reportedly doing well. Because of concerns that the mother would not be able to produce enough milk for both, staffers will hand-feed Nakato to ensure he receives adequate nutrition. Their mother, Carol, was born at the ranch in 2005. This is the third time she has given birth.

Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch is currently home to eight giraffes, including the twins' 10-year-old father Marshall.

Giraffe twins are extremely rare. Three-quarters of twin pregnancies abort early or are stillborn. Wasswa and Nakato are only the ninth set of living twins born in zoos around the world, Lackey said.

—Associated Press



TIFFANY SOECHTING / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nakato, a male twin giraffe, gets his mom Carol's attention shortly after birth in New Braunfels, Texas. Officials with the Natural Bridge Wildlife Ranch say twin giraffes have been born, marking just the second time such a birth has occurred in the United States. Female calf Wasswa was born first on May 10, followed by brother Nakato.

ECONOMY

Working mothers fill breadwinner role

Study finds trend driven by more women with degrees and in workforce

HOPEYEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A record number of American women are now the sole or primary breadwinners in their families, a sign of the rising influence of working mothers, a study finds. Mothers now keep finances afloat in 40 percent of households with children, up from 11 percent in 1960.

While most of these families are headed by single mothers, a growing number are married mothers who bring in more income than

their husbands, according to a study released Wednesday by the Pew Research Center.

But as the numbers have shifted public attitudes have remained mixed regarding working mothers' effects on families.

Kim Parker, associate director with the Pew Social and Demographic Trends Project, said the change is another milestone for the transformation of family structure and family dynamics.

"The rise of breadwinner moms highlights the fact that, not only

are more mothers balancing work and family these days," she said, "but the economic contributions mothers are making to their households have grown immensely."

The economic contributions mothers are making to their households have grown immensely.

KIM PARKER

participation dating back to the 1960s women's movement. Today, women are more likely than men to hold bachelor's degrees and make up 47 percent of the American workforce.

Changes in the economy have played a role. The jump in working mothers increased from 37 percent in 1968 to 65 percent in 2011, reflecting in part increases for those looking for jobs to lift family income after the recession.

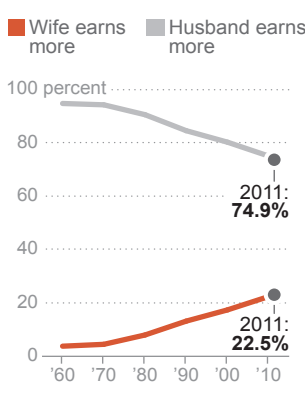
In all, 13.7 million U.S. households with children under 18 now include mothers who are the main breadwinners. Of those, 5.1 million, or 37 percent, are married and 8.6 million, or 63 percent, are single.

Among all U.S. households with children, the share of married breadwinner moms has jumped from 4 percent in 1960 to 15 percent in 2011. For single mothers,

Please see INCOME, Page 2

Breadwinner moms

Wives out-earn husbands in more than one in five married households with children:



SOURCE: Pew Research Ctr. AP

TRAIN: No unsafe chemicals burn

—Continued from Page 1

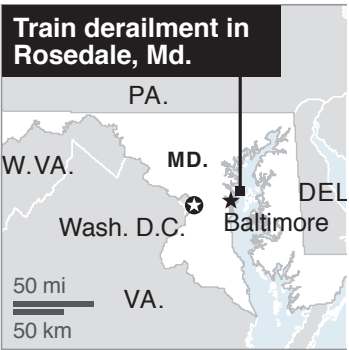
CSX spokesman Gary Sease said in an email that sodium chlorate is on one of the trains, which the Department of Transportation classifies as a hazardous material. But Hohman said the chemical is not in one of the cars that was still burning into the evening.

Photos showed at least a dozen train cars off the tracks, including at least one tanker car. Sease said four of the cars that derailed carried terephthalic acid, which is used to make plastics and polyester and is not hazardous.

Kevin Lindemann, 29, a salesman for an industrial pipe supplier near the tracks, said he and about 10 co-workers felt the ground shake, ran to a window and saw several cars on their sides and flames, he said, were 50 feet high.

"We kind of panicked pretty quick," he said. "We didn't wait around to see what was happening. So as soon as we saw the flames, I took a quick picture and got in my truck and drove away. I wasn't sticking around for the explosion."

Hohman said firefighters had considered letting the flames burn out but later decided to hose them down. Firefighters were informing residents of



about 70 nearby homes that they could leave and take provided shelter. But no one was being forced to evacuate.

Tawan Rai, a worker at a nearby Dunkin' Donuts, said he saw a fire and flames by the railroad tracks at first, then felt a thundering blast that sent smoke pouring into the sky.

"The whole building shook, and there was just dust everywhere," Rai said, adding that no windows broke.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Railroad Administration plan to send teams to investigate.

Bertha Pressley and her husband, Tom Brown, said their town home about five miles away shook and they initially feared a bomb or other disaster.

"We felt that big boom," Brown said. "I felt the house shake."

SPECIAL: Perry could add tasks to agenda

—Continued from Page 1

and if there are some things that need to be tweaked, we'll address those as we can."

But even if they focus only on redistricting, it will still be a dramatic departure for lawmakers who paid no attention to the issue during the regular session.

Political boundaries are drawn every decade based on updated U.S. Census Bureau data. The 2010 count revealed a booming Texas population driven almost entirely by minorities.

Redistricting maps drawn in 2011 created only one minority seat of the four congressional seats added. Minority rights groups said that typified discrimination in new state House and Senate boundaries.

A three-judge federal panel in San Antonio ultimately threw out

the Republican-drawn maps and made its own for last year's elections. The court is scheduled to bring state and minority rights groups back together today for the first time in months.

Now, though, state officials have shifted their position and want to see the court-drawn maps adopted so that future legal battles won't affect upcoming elections. Dewhurst said adopting the court-drawn map does not mean the 2011 Republican-drawn maps were flawed.

But Dewhurst conceded that the GOP risks getting less favorable maps if Republicans don't take the one on the table now.

As state Sen. Kirk Watson, head of the Senate Democrats, put it, "Texas does not have an enviable history when it comes to these things."

SYRIA: Rebels want weapons before talks

—Continued from Page 1

sition to peace talks at an international conference in Geneva next month to end the two-year conflict.

In Syria, the commander of the main Western-backed group of rebel brigades told The Associated Press he needs Western missiles to prevent further regime gains on the battlefield. He said the rebels' weapons are no match for the Syrian regime's modern tanks and warplanes.

"We are very disappointed," said Gen. Salim Idris, the Free Syrian Army chief of staff, of the EU's decision not to send weapons, if at all, until after the Geneva conference.

The opposition's willingness to attend the talks is linked to receiving weapons from Europe right away if the Geneva process breaks down. Opposition leaders also said they will participate in talks only if Assad's departure from power tops the agenda. Assad's regime has provided no sign of any intent to cede power in Syria.

William Hague, Great Britain's secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, said peace talks are a priority and that "as we work for the Geneva conference, we are not taking any decision to send arms to anyone."

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov denounced the EU's decision to lift the embargo, saying supplying weapons to nongovernmental groups "goes against all norms of international law."

Lavrov's deputy affirmed Tuesday that



Russia will not abandon plans to send long-range air defense missiles to Syria. It is not clear if Russia has already sent some of the missiles, which would be a major boost for Syria's defense, including against neighboring countries that oppose Assad's regime.

U.S. State Department spokesman Patrick Ventrell said Washington welcomes the EU decision as a show of support for the Syrian opposition. He said the Obama administration will continue to provide non-lethal assistance to the rebels and has not made a decision on whether to arm them.

Further raising the risk of a regional war, Israel warned that it was prepared to attack any such missile shipments. Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said Israel believes the Russian missiles have not yet been shipped but that the Israeli military "will know what to do" if they are delivered.

Earlier this month, Israeli airstrikes hit suspected shipments of advanced Iranian missiles near Damascus that were purportedly intended for Hezbollah, the Lebanese militia fighting alongside Syrian regime forces.

ECONOMY



RICHARD DREW / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday. Stocks surged in early trading following a three-day weekend after U.S. home prices rose the most in seven years.

High-income consumers hopeful about economy

Improvements in employment, housing market show recovery

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

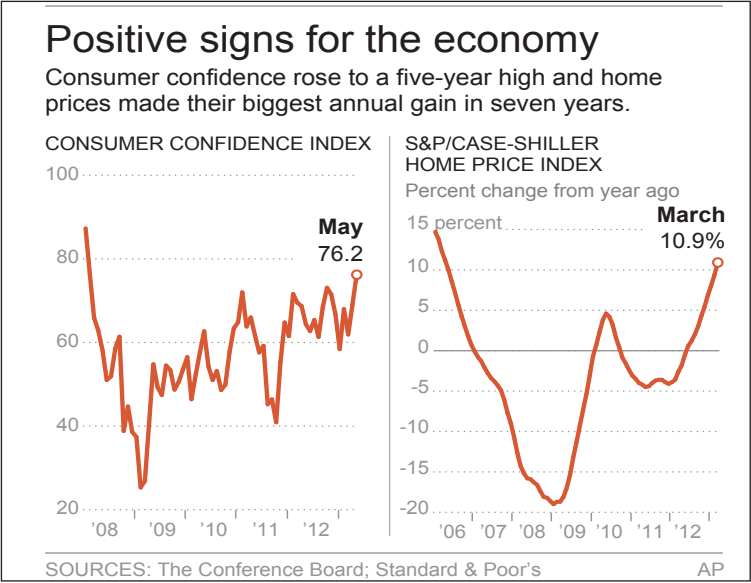
WASHINGTON — Home prices are surging, job growth is strengthening and stocks are setting record highs. All of which explains why some Americans are more hopeful about the economy than at any other point in five years.

Investors on Tuesday celebrated the latest reports on consumer confidence and housing prices, which together suggest that growth could accelerate in the second half of 2013.

Greater confidence could spur people to spend more and help offset tax increases and federal spending cuts. And the fastest rise in home prices in seven years might lead more Americans to put houses on the market, easing supply shortages that have kept the housing recovery from taking off.

Surging stock prices and steady home-price increases have allowed Americans to regain the \$16 trillion in wealth they lost to the Great Recession.

Higher wealth tends to embolden people to spend more. Some economists have said the increase in home prices alone could boost



consumer spending enough to offset a Social Security tax increase that has reduced paychecks for most Americans this year.

The Conference Board survey said consumers are also more optimistic about the next six months. That should translate into greater consumer spending, substantial growth in hiring and faster economic growth in the second half of 2013, said Thomas Feltmate, an economist with TD Economics.

The Conference Board found that optimism is growing mostly among those earning more than the median household income

of roughly \$50,000. For those households, the confidence index jumped to 95.1 from 85.3.

Michael Quintos, head of a Chicago advertising agency that helps small businesses market themselves through social media, sees more optimism at work and among friends and relatives.

"A year ago, I had more friends asking me if I knew anybody who was hiring," Quintos said. "Now I have more people who are hiring asking me if I know anyone looking for a job."

INCOME: Study finds working mothers bring home bacon

—Continued from Page 1

the share has increased from 7 percent to 25 percent.

Though roughly 79 percent of Americans reject the notion that women should return to their traditional roles, only 21 percent of those polled said more mothers of young children working outside the home is a good thing for society, according to the Pew survey.

Andrew Cherlin, a professor of sociology and public policy at Johns Hopkins University, said public attitudes toward working mothers have changed little throughout the years. He predicts the growing numbers will lead to more women in favor of family-friendly work policies and safety net policies, such as paid family leave and child-care support.

"Many of our workplaces and schools still follow a male-breadwinner model, assuming that the wives are at home to take care of child-care needs," he said. "Until we realize that the breadwinner-homemaker marriage will never again be the norm, we won't provide working parents with the support they need."

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Southwest Journalist
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Center for Editing Excellence
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INTERNATIONAL

Chinese baby found in public restroom sewer

BEIJING — A newborn’s cries from a public restroom in a residential building in eastern China led a tenant to a startling discovery: a baby boy trapped in a sewage pipe beneath a squat toilet. Firefighters, unable to pull the baby out, ended up sawing away an L-shaped section of the pipe and carrying it to a hospital, where it was delicately pried apart to save the infant. Video of the two-hour rescue of Baby No. 59 — so named because of his incubator number in the hospital in the Puijiang area of the city of Jinhua — has gone viral online and across other media.

The baby, who weighed about 6 pounds, had a low heart rate and some minor abrasions on his head and limbs, but was mostly unhurt, according to Zhejiang Online, the province’s official news site. The placenta was still attached.

It was unclear how the baby ended up in the toilet, but police said they were treating the case as an attempted homicide. The Puijiang county police bureau said on its official microblog account that the boy’s mother has been located and that an investigation was underway, but it gave no further details.

Polio vaccine program suspended after attack

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistani authorities suspended a four-day polio vaccination program Tuesday after gunmen killed a female polio worker and wounded another, officials said. The two women were attacked Tuesday in Kaggawala village on the outskirts of the main northwest city of Peshawar, police officer Mushtaq Khan said. Senior police official Shafiullah Khan said two attackers on foot fired a pistol at the workers. Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari blasted what he called a “cowardly” attack and resolved that “the government will not permit militants to deprive our children of basic health care.”

EU: Google searches need changes to avoid monopoly

BERLIN — The European Union’s antitrust chief said Tuesday that Google will have to offer more changes to the way it displays search results to settle a pending case. Google’s search engine enjoys a near-monopoly in Europe with a market share of above 90 percent. The EU Commission, the 27-nation bloc’s antitrust authority, has been investigating whether Google is abusing its dominant market position. Google Inc. has offered to more clearly label search results stemming from its own services, such as its news, maps, shopping and flight search functions. It also agreed to display some search results from its competitors and links to their services, the EU Commission said last month.

Costa Rica hackers indicted for money laundering

NEW YORK — The founder of an online currency transfer business was indicted in the United States along with six other people in a \$6 billion money-laundering scheme, authorities said Tuesday. Arthur Budovsky is the founder of Liberty Reserve, a Costa Rica-based website long favored by cybercrime scammers. Authorities say the network processed at least 55 million illegal transactions worldwide for 1 million users, including 200,000 in the United States. They call the money-laundering case the largest ever. “The scope of the defendants’ unlawful conduct is staggering,” according to an indictment unsealed in federal court in Manhattan. In announcing the case, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara said the network “became the bank of choice for the criminal underworld.” Its digital currency service was designed to shield the identity of users seeking to launder ill-gotten gains, he said. In a statement, Costa Rica police confirmed that Budovsky had been arrested in Spain on money-laundering charges and that several premises linked to his company had been raided. The indictment calls the network “one of the principal means by which cyber criminals around the world distribute, store and launder proceeds of their illegal activity ... including credit-card fraud, identity theft, investment fraud, computer hacking, child pornography and narcotics trafficking.” —ASSOCIATED PRESS



Bharara

SOUTH AFRICA



STILL FROM VIDEO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this May 24, 2013, image made from AP Video, former South African President Nelson Mandela’s daughter Makaziwe Mandela speaks to the Associated Press, in Johannesburg, South Africa. Nelson Mandela’s failing health has kept him from speaking much lately. She says, however, that he communicates in other ways, such as hand-holding. Makaziwe Mandela also complained that journalists are swarming the house trying to be the first to know he has died. “It’s not right,” she said. “You will get the news ... at the right time.”

HISTORIC LEGACY
Mandela remains inspiration to South Africa

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — Nelson Mandela, in the twilight of life, doesn’t talk much anymore, his eldest daughter says. But the former South African president, who wrote of his regret at being unable to devote himself to his family during the fight against apartheid and afterward, reaches out in another way.

“It’s the hand that he stretches out. It is the touching of the hand that speaks volumes for me. And for me, if you ask me what I would treasure, it is this moment that I treasure with my father,” said Makaziwe Mandela, the oldest of Mandela’s three surviving children, all daughters. “It means, ‘My child, I’m here.’ It means to me that, ‘I’m here. I love you. I care.’”

Mandela is a larger-than-life figure, revered for his sacrifice during 27 years as a prisoner of apartheid and his peacemaking role in South Africa’s shift to a democracy inclusive of all races.

“My dad has not been in good, perfect health over the past month. And he has good days and he has bad days,” Makaziwe Man-

dela said May 24 in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press in her home.

One of those bad days was April 29, when state television broadcast footage of a visit by President Jacob Zuma and other leaders of the ruling African National Congress to Mandela, who had helmed the ANC, at his Johannesburg home. Zuma said Mandela was in good shape, but the footage — the first public images of Mandela in nearly a year — showed him silent and unresponsive, even when Zuma tried to hold his hand.

The broadcasting of the video was unfortunate, she said. Crit-

ics allege the ANC was trying to score political points by its association with Mandela. The party fiercely denies it.

Makaziwe said the “dignity and privacy” of her father, also a father to the na-

tion, is sometimes under threat. She complained that 20 journalists one day in May converged on her father’s home, where he receives medical treatment, after an ambulance left to fetch medicine from a hospital.

“This is really utter madness,”



FILE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Jan. 6, 2005, file photo, former South African President Nelson Mandela talks at a news conference, accompanied by his daughter Makaziwe.

she said. “This thing that everybody has got to be the first one to hear when Nelson Mandela goes — it’s not right. All of you will have your opportunity. You will get the news from the presidency at the right time.”

During Mandela’s recent hospitalization for pneumonia, which ended April 6, Zuma’s office issued brief, regular updates on his health. On past occasions, conflicting reports from the government contributed to mistrust between authorities and the media.

South Africa has held peaceful elections and is a major economic force in Africa, but struggles with high unemployment, crime and corruption. Mandela embodies a morality and unity of purpose that makes South Africans nostalgic for an earlier era

of promise.

“He has something that people gravitate to, that they can hold to, that gives them hope,” said Makaziwe Mandela, comparing him to Mother Teresa. “That’s what Nelson Mandela has done, is to give people a better hope that, ‘I can be somebody. Life today can be better than yesterday.’”

In his autobiography “Long Walk to Freedom,” Nelson Mandela wrote wistfully of his inability to fulfill his role as a husband to Winnie Mandela during his incarceration, which ended in 1990. The couple divorced in 1996.

“When your life is the struggle, as mine was, there is little room left for family. That has always been my greatest regret, and the most painful aspect of the choice I made,” Mandela wrote.

TERRORISM

Renegade al-Qaida fighter reprimanded

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — After years of trying to discipline him, the leaders of al-Qaida’s North African branch sent one final letter to their most difficult employee. In page after scathing page, they described how he didn’t answer his phone when they called, failed to turn in his expense reports, ignored meetings and refused time and again to carry out orders.

The employee, international terrorist Moktar Belmoktar, quit and formed his own group, which would compete directly with his former employer. Within months, he carried out two lethal operations that killed 101 people in all: one of the largest hostage-takings in history at a BP-operated gas plant in Algeria in January, and simultaneous bombings at a military base and a French uranium mine in Niger May 23.

Rudolph Atallah, the former head of counterterrorism for Africa at the Pentagon and one of three experts who authenticated the 10-page letter dated Oct. 3, said it helps explain what happened in Algeria and Niger.

“He’s sending a message directly north to his former bosses in Algeria saying, ‘I’m a jihadi. I deserve to be separate from you.’ And he’s also sending a message to al-Qaida, saying, ‘See, those bozos in the north are incompetent. You can talk to me directly.’ And in these attacks, he drew a lot of attention to himself,” said Atallah, who recently testified before Congress on Belmoktar’s tactics.

The letter shows Belmoktar stayed loyal to al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb until last year, and traces the history of their difficult relationship.

Signed by the group’s 14-mem-

ber Shura Council, or governing body, the letter describes the council’s relationship with Belmoktar as “a bleeding wound” and criticizes his proposal in a recent letter to resign and start his own group.

They then begin enumerating their complaints against Belmoktar in 30 successive bullet points.

“Abu Abbas is not willing to follow anyone,” they add, referring to him by his nom de guerre, Khaled Abu Abbas. “He is only willing to be followed and obeyed.”

First and foremost, they quibble about the amount of money raised by the 2008 kidnapping of Canadian diplomat Robert Fowler, the highest-ranking United Nations official in Niger, and his colleague. Belmoktar’s men held both for four months, and in a book he later published, Fowler said he did not know if a ransom was paid.

The letter suggests that a; Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, initially considered one of the group’s weaker wings, rose to prominence by bankrolling its operation with an estimated \$89 million raised by kidnapping foreign aid workers and tourists.

The list of slights is long: He would not take their phone calls.

He refused to send administrative and financial reports. He ignored a meeting in Timbuktu, calling it “useless.” He even ordered his men to refuse to meet with al-Qaida emissaries. And he aired the organization’s dirty laundry in online jihadist forums, even while refusing to communicate with the chapter via the Internet, claiming it was not secure.

The sharpest blow in the letter was the accusation that, despite this history, Belmoktar and his unit had not pulled off any attack worthy of mention in the Sahara.



Moktar Belmoktar

(Belmoktar) is not willing to follow anyone. He is only willing to be followed and obeyed.

AL-QAIDA’S SHURA COUNCIL

ASIA



AP PHOTO/KYOTO NEWS

South Korean former sex slaves Kim Bok-dong, center left, and Kil Won-ok, center right, arrive for a meeting with supporters in Osaka, western Japan, Saturday, May 25. Kim and Kil, along with other former “comfort women,” want an apology from the Japanese government for its treatment of them during and after World War II.

WWII sex slaves ask Japan to apologize

MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

OSAKA, Japan — More than 70 years ago, at age 14, Kim Bok-dong was ordered to work by Korea’s Japanese occupiers. She was told she was going to a military uniform factory, but ended up at a Japanese military-run brothel in southern China.

She had to take an average of 15 soldiers per day during the week, and dozens over the weekend. At the end of the day she would be bleeding and could not even stand because of the pain. She and other girls were closely watched by guards and could not escape. It was a secret she carried for decades; the man she later married died without ever knowing.

Tens of thousands of women had similar stories to tell, or to hide, from Japan’s occupation of much of Asia before and during World War II. Many are no longer living, and those who remain are still waiting for Japan to offer reparations and a more complete apology than it has so far delivered.

“I’m here today, not because I wanted to but because I had to,” Kim, now 87, told a packed audience of mostly Japanese at a community center in Osaka

May 25. “I came here to ask Japan to settle its past wrongdoing. I hope the Japanese government resolves the problem as soon as possible while we elderly women are still alive.”

The issue of Japan’s use of Korean, Chinese and Southeast Asian women and girls as sex slaves — euphemistically called “comfort women” — continues to alienate Tokyo from its neighbors nearly 70 years after the war’s end. It is a wound that was made fresh this month when the co-head of an emerging nationalist party, Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto, said “comfort women” had been necessary to maintain military discipline and give respite to battle-weary troops.

His comments drew outrage from South Korea and China, as well as from the U.S. State Department, which called them “outrageous and offensive.”

Hashimoto provided no evidence but insisted that Tokyo has been unfairly singled out for its World War II behavior regarding women, saying some other armies at the time had military brothels. None of them, however, has been accused of the kind of widespread, organized sexual slavery that has been linked to Japan’s military.

CRUISE SHIP FIRE



MARC BELL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Passengers aboard the Royal Caribbean's Grandeur of the Seas cruise ship (at left) gather at sunrise after a fire broke out during the ship's voyage from Baltimore to the Bahamas. Royal Caribbean said the fire occurred early Monday and was extinguished after about two hours. All 2,224 guests and 796 crew were safe. The fire-damaged ship (below) is docked in Freeport, Bahamas, on Monday.



JENNEVA RUSSELL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fire cuts cruise voyage in half

Royal Caribbean impresses passengers with its preparedness

BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Passengers aboard the Royal Caribbean's Grandeur of the Seas cruise that was cut short by an onboard fire began arriving back to Baltimore on charter flights from the Bahamas on Tuesday afternoon. Many are praising the response of the company and crew.

"I'll never go on any other cruise line," said Craig Dzubak, 26, of Pittsburgh, who was on his first cruise. "They couldn't have handled it any better." He said he and his wife, Chelsea, were planning their next cruise while on the flight home.

Robert Alexander of Hamilton, N.J., said he was impressed by how well-prepared everyone on board was for emergencies. An actor from the ship's theater made announcements to passengers after they were evacuated from their rooms, he said.

"It just shows the training they do," Alexander said. "Our head waiter at our dinner table was one of the first responders" to the fire.

Meanwhile, Reuben Byrd, the vice president of the Grand Bahama Shipyard said the cause of the fire is unknown and the ship would be repaired at his facility, though a full assessment of damage had not been done yet.

The fire began at 2:50 a.m. Monday and was extinguished about two hours later, with

no injuries reported. Photos show a substantial area of the stern burned on several decks of the ship, the length of about three football fields.

The ship, which left Baltimore on Friday for a seven-night cruise, was headed originally to CocoCay, Bahamas. Royal Caribbean said the ship never lost power and was able to sail into port in Freeport, Bahamas, on Monday afternoon. The ship launched in 1996 and was refurbished last year.

Carnival Corp., also had trouble with fire aboard a ship earlier this year.

The Triumph was disabled during a February cruise by an engine room fire in the Gulf of Mexico, leaving thousands of passengers to endure cold food, unsanitary conditions and power outages while the ship was towed to Mobile, Ala.

Fran Golden, a blogger for the cruise magazine Porthole, said the two incidents are different.

"I think it's easier to make people happy when they're not stuck on a ship for four days without toilets," she said.

Still, she applauded Royal Caribbean's

public relations efforts after the fire. She said sending CEO Goldstein to meet with passengers was a "brilliant move." The company also tweeted a picture of one meeting.

"It shows that you're a responsible company. It shows that you care. It's not just, 'oh well, this incident happened,'" she said. She noted that the head of Royal Caribbean's Azamara Club Cruises line, Larry Pimentel, also met with passengers in early 2012 after a fire aboard the Azamara Quest disabled one of its engines during a cruise in Asia.

Mike Driscoll, editor of the Illinois-based publication Cruise Week, said Royal Caribbean had the benefit of hindsight and could use lessons from the recent Triumph fire in its response. He said company took charge of the response on social media, sending out photos and updates. He likened it to the company saying, "Hey, we're not hiding anything."

ROBERT ALEXANDER

"It just shows the training they do. Our head waiter at our dinner table was one of the first responders to the fire."

Associated Press writers Kasey Jones in Baltimore and Jessica Gresko in Washington contributed to this report. Jeff Todd reported from Nassau, Bahamas.

RUTGERS SCANDAL

New AD musters support

TOM CANAVAN
Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — A high-ranking official at the University of Tennessee has voiced her support for Rutgers' incoming athletic director Julie Hermann, who is facing allegations she verbally abused players while volleyball coach with the Volunteers.

Joan Cronan, women's athletic director emeritus at Tennessee, said in a statement released Tuesday she holds Hermann in high regard and that while the ex-coach's tenure in the 1990s "was a very frustrating time for everyone connected with the volleyball program, I do not recall it being an abusive situation."

Hermann said Monday she has not considered resigning following a report that, 16 years ago, she humiliated Tennessee players. She denied having knowledge of a letter players say they submitted to the school. Hermann, 49, acknowledged she made mistakes but said she has matured and believes she is qualified to lead Rutgers, an athletic program mired in scandal.

"I believe she is well-prepared for her new role at Rutgers University," Cronan wrote. Athletic directors at two prominent Big Ten schools said the recent problems at Rutgers should not derail the university's entry into the league in 2014.

Michigan's Dave Brandon and Ohio State's Gene Smith each said while there is concern after Rutgers fired men's basketball coach Mike Rice for physical and verbal abuse, then forced former athletic director Tim Pernetti to resign before the Hermann situation arose, they believe the state university of New Jersey should not be judged solely on those problems.

The Rutgers board of governors is the only group that can fire Hermann.



Hermann

TORNADO AFTERMATH

Tall debris thwarts Moore

400 workers, 250 pieces of equipment help remove rubble

TIM TALLEY
Associated Press

MOORE, Okla. — Before residents of Moore can rebuild, they'll have to deal with the debris from the deadly tornado that devastated the Oklahoma City suburb: crushed wood, mangled siding and battered belongings that could make a pile reaching more than a mile into the sky.

"I could be sad about it, but it's not going to make anything come back. It's just a house. It's just stuff. We have each other," Jessie Childs said as backhoe operators reduced her house near the Plaza Towers Elementary School to a 10-foot pile of rubble.

The school was destroyed in the tornado that carved a 17-mile path of destruction on May 20. In all, 24 people were killed, including seven children in the school.

With each load of debris, Moore moves a step closer to recovering from the storm that damaged or destroyed 4,000 homes and businesses. Against a cacophony of snapping lumber and crunch-



CHARLIE RIEDEL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

ing metal, Clayton Powell sorted through the remains of his home.

"You're sifting through rubble piles trying to find that one photo, memories you can't restore," Powell said. "I'm sure there are a few things I haven't even thought of and won't miss."

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation brought in 400 of its workers and 250 pieces of equipment, including dump trucks and front-end loaders, to help with the process, said Transportation Secretary Gary Ridley.

As residents pick through the remains of their homes for the few surviving personal treasures, they've developed a way for crews to know when it's OK to take stuff away. "If it's out on the curb, anybody can come out and get it," said Charlie Baker of Blanchard.

TAX LAWS

IRS scandal may fuel tax reform

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The storm engulfing the Internal Revenue Service could provide a boost for lawmakers who want to simplify U.S. tax laws — a code that is so complicated most Americans buy commercial software to help them or simply hire someone else to do it all.

Members of Congress from both political parties say the current uproar — over the targeting of conservative political groups — underscores that overly complex tax provisions have given the IRS too much discretion in interpreting and enforcing the law.

"This is the perfect example of why we need tax reform," said Rep. Tim Griffin, R-Ark., a member of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. "If you

want to diminish and limit the power of the IRS, you have got to reduce the complexity of the tax code and take them out of it."

There are still formidable obstacles to completing a major tax overhaul this year or next. Democrats and Republicans start off with opposite views on whether the government should levy more taxes and on who should pay what share. The two sides also don't trust one another, making it difficult to envision agreement on which popular tax breaks to keep and which to scrap.

"If you want to diminish and limit the power of the IRS, you have got to reduce the complexity of the tax code...."

REP. TIM GRIFFIN

In a report earlier this year, national taxpayer advocate Nina E. Olson ranked complexity as the most serious problem facing both taxpayers and the IRS. People simply trying to comply with the rules often make inadvertent errors and overpay or underpay, she said, while others "often find loopholes that enable them to reduce or eliminate their tax liabilities."

The IRS scandal has little, if anything, to do with most everyday taxpayers, yet some lawmakers hope the attention will help galvanize support for the first major tax overhaul since 1986.

NATIONAL

Man puts on comedy show for Newtown

Less than six months after a gunman killed 20 first-graders and six educators inside Sandy Hook Elementary School, Treehouse Comedy Productions plans to put on a show at the Edmond Town Hall in Newtown, Conn., to benefit those affected by the massacre. The event, "Stand up for Newtown," will be held June 7.

Treehouse founder Brad Axelrod said he has produced about a dozen shows in Newtown during the years. He thought about doing a benefit immediately after the Dec. 14 shooting, but he decided to give the community time to heal.

Bob Schmidt, a Sandy Hook resident and mental health counselor, said that time is now.

"Laughter is a great therapy," he said. "And after something like this, we don't feel like laughing, but we really need to laugh and enjoy ourselves again."

Judge: No mention of drugs in George Zimmerman trial

SANFORD, Fla. — Attorneys won't be able to mention Trayvon Martin's drug use, suspension from school and past fighting during opening statements at the trial of a former neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot the teen, a judge ruled Tuesday.

However, Circuit Judge Debra Nelson left open the possibility that the defense could try again later during the trial if it could show relevance.

George Zimmerman is charged with second-degree murder in the 17-year-old's killing and has pleaded not guilty, saying he acted in self-defense. He did not attend Tuesday's hearing.

Obama, Gov. Christie unite to remember Superstorm Sandy

ASBURY PARK, N.J. — President Barack Obama tried his hand at arcade football and joked Tuesday with Gov. Chris Christie, declaring the Jersey Shore is back seven months after Superstorm Sandy bore down on its famed boardwalks and seaside towns.

The job of repairing the \$38 billion in damage inflicted by the storm is not over, Obama said, but when all is said and done, the Jersey Shore will be better and more resilient than it was before.

Politically, the visit plays well for both men. Christie, seeking re-election this year, was able to stand shoulder to shoulder with a president popular among Democrats in a Democratic-leaning state. And Obama, dueling with congressional Republicans on a number of fronts, got to display common cause with a popular GOP stalwart.

Catholic teacher fired for pregnancy, breaking contract

CINCINNATI — A Roman Catholic archdiocese and two of its schools violated the civil rights of a teacher who was fired after she became pregnant through artificial insemination, her attorney told jurors Tuesday.

Christa Dias lost her job for being pregnant and unmarried, and it is illegal to fire an employee for being pregnant, her attorney Robert Klingler told federal jurors during opening statements of the trial.

Dias, who is not Catholic, did not know that artificial insemination would be considered a violation of her contract and Catholic doctrine, he said.

Steven Goodin, representing the archdiocese and the schools, said there was no discrimination. He said Dias was fired "for intentionally violating a contract."

Obama could nominate 3 to court of appeals in D.C.

WASHINGTON — A partisan showdown is looming over what is known as the nation's second-highest court, with President Barack Obama poised to nominate as many as three choices for the understaffed U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington in the face of a Republican proposal to distribute its vacancies to other parts of the country.

The District of Columbia Circuit has been at the center of years of wrangling between the White House and the Senate because its judges have so much influence over national and even international matters.

Many cases relate to the balance of power in Washington and review of actions by federal agencies that affect health, safety and the environment for all Americans. The White House is planning to pair Obama's nominations with an aggressive push to get them confirmed despite a GOP bill to trim the number of judges on the D.C. circuit.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

San Antonio dumpster fire strands six

SAN ANTONIO — A fire that began in a dumpster and spread to a nearby apartment building has left six San Antonio families without homes.

The San Antonio Express-News reports the fire started Monday evening in the dumpster before consuming four vehicles and then moving to the building.

Authorities said it is not clear how the fire started but explained wind gusts helped push the flames.

The building was evacuated, and no injuries were reported. Firefighters rescued three pets along with a hedgehog and two reptiles.

A second building was evacuated as a precaution but was not damaged.

Gang rape suspects found, arrested after three months

MADISONVILLE — All but one of the people suspected of raping a 16-year-old girl have been arrested, in an apparently drug-fueled attack in East Texas that the local police chief described as a “hideous crime.”

Madisonville Police Chief Chuck May said officers had detained 10 of 11 suspects in the March attack. Police began making arrests late last week, three months after the reported gang rape inside a trailer.

May said the girl was given methamphetamine and then assaulted by several of the people charged.

“We just took it one day at a time until we had enough to get indictments,” May said.

The defendants were being held on \$100,000 bond each, May said.

Fourth Dallas schools admin leaves, faces federal charges

DALLAS — The chief of staff for the superintendent of the Dallas school district has resigned in anticipation of being named in a federal indictment.

Jerome Oberlton becomes the fourth high-level administrator to leave during the year-long tenure of Superintendent Mike Miles. Miles said on Tuesday he was told a day earlier by Oberlton that he is expecting to be indicted for work as chief information officer for Atlanta Public Schools from 2004 to 2007. Oberlton joined the Dallas district in January.

Miles said he was “profoundly shocked” when told of the possible indictment and asked for Oberlton’s resignation. Miles said he has asked district trustees to OK an audit of Oberlton’s work.

He said the district conducted a background check on Oberlton prior to his hire and expressed anger that he was not told of the investigation until Monday.

Police looking for ‘Big Daddy,’ suspected of double murder

DALLAS — Police are searching for a 25-year-old man they say shot and killed two half-brothers during a confrontation at a night-club.

An arrest warrant affidavit released Tuesday shows Jerome Bernard Deamus is facing a charge of capital murder. He pulled a handgun during the dispute early Sunday morning with 22-year-old Christopher Ferguson and shot him multiple times, according to the affidavit. Deamus was then rushed by 39-year-old Cecil Ferguson, who was shot once in the chest. The affidavit says Cecil Ferguson died at the scene and his half-brother later died at a hospital.

The Dallas Morning News reports Deamus is a convicted felon and authorities said his nickname is “Big Daddy.” He has a back tattoo that reads “Dixon.”

New NMSU president seeks former competitor for job

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — New Mexico State University President-designate Garrey Carruthers may hire one of the other finalists for president of the university as its next top academic administrator.

The Las Cruces Sun-News reports that the NMSU Faculty Senate will consider if Carruthers can waive normal procedures and hire a finalists as provost.

Faculty Senate Chair Dennis Clason said the finalists were carefully vetted during the presidential search process.

Carruthers was named NMSU president May 6 and officially begins those duties June 1.

The other finalists were former Texas Tech University President Guy Bailey, former University of Nevada-Las Vegas President David Ashley, former Texas A&M University President Elsa Murano and University of Colorado-Denver Dean Daniel Howard.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN CONNECTION

Hacker guilty of swiping files

Chicago man got \$700,000 in data heist

TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A self-described anarchist and “hactivist” from Chicago pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges he illegally accessed computer systems of law enforcement agencies and government contractors.

One company he hacked was Austin-based Strategic Forecasting Inc., also known as Stratfor, a

publisher of geopolitical information.

“For each of these hacks, I knew what I was doing was wrong,” Jeremy Hammond told a judge in federal court in Manhattan.

Prosecutors had alleged the cyber-attacks were carried out by Anonymous, the loosely organized worldwide hacking group that stole confidential information, defaced websites and temporarily put some victims out of business.

Hammond was caught last year with the help of Hector Xavier Monsegur, a famous hacker known as Sabu who later helped law enforcement infiltrate Anonymous.

A criminal complaint had accused Hammond of pilfering information of more than 850,000 people via his attack on Stratfor. He also was accused of using the credit card numbers of Stratfor clients to make charges of at least \$700,000. He allegedly bragged he even snared the personal data of a former U.S. vice president and one-time CIA director.

During his guilty plea, Hammond admitted he “took confidential information” from law enforcement agencies and contractors in several states.

Hammond, 28, once rallied against plans to hold the 2016 Olympics in Chicago because he felt it would hurt low-income people;

another time, he protested against neo-Nazi groups.

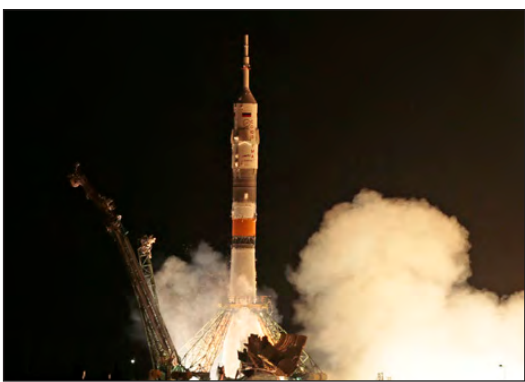
In a 2005 feature article about Hammond’s hacking skills, he told the Chicago Reader he could program video games before he was 10. A website for supporters, freejeremy.net, described Hammond as “one of the few true electronic Robin Hoods.”

But prosecutors called him a menace. Hammond used online aliases such as “credible threat” and “yohoho.”

Hammond faces a maximum sentence of more than 15 years at sentencing on Sept. 6.

Secret-spilling group WikiLeaks published much of the material Hammond is accused of stealing.

UT GRAD GOES BACK TO SPACE



MIKHAIL METZEL / ASSOCIATED PRESS



NASA

The Soyuz rocket lifts off, the crew waves goodbye as they head inside the rocket on Tuesday, (from top: Fyodor Yurchikhin, Luca Parmitano, and Karen Nyberg), and Karen Nyberg, a University of Texas-Austin grad, floats in the space shuttle Discovery during a 2008 mission.



KIRIL KUDRYAVTSEV / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Shooting for the stars

NASA astronaut Karen Nyberg, a University of Texas at Austin graduate, blasted into space for the second time early Tuesday, part of an international crew bound for the International Space Station.

The Soyuz space ship carrying Nyberg and two other crew members launched from a base in Kazakhstan for the six-hour trip to the ISS, the Associated Press reported. The new crew will spend six months conducting a variety of experiments.

At UT-Austin, Nyberg earned her Master’s degree in mechanical engineering in 1996 and a doctorate in 1998. She previously was aboard the space shuttle Discovery on its 123rd flight in 2008, when she spent two weeks in space.

On that trip, she became the 50th woman to enter space.

The cramped capsule carrying Nyberg, Russian cosmonaut Fyodor Yurchikhin and Italy’s Luca Parmitano orbited the Earth four times before docking with the space station less than six hours after liftoff.

Nyberg, a mechanical engineer by training, served in various engineering roles at NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston prior to being selected as an astronaut in 2000.

A native of Vining, Minn., Nyberg earned an undergraduate degree from the University of North Dakota. Her graduate research was at UT-Austin’s BioHeat Transfer Laboratory, where she investigated human thermoregulation and experimental metabolic testing and control, specifically related to the control of thermal neutrality in space suits.

LIVESTRONG FOUNDATION

Nike parts with cancer foundation

JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

Nike, which helped build Lance Armstrong’s Livestrong cancer charity into a global brand and introduced its familiar yellow wristband, is cutting ties with the foundation in the latest fallout from the former cyclist’s doping scandal.

The move by the sports shoe and clothing company ends a relationship that began in 2004 and helped the foundation raise more than \$100 million, making the charity’s bracelet an international symbol for cancer survivors.

But the relationship soured with revelations of performance-enhancing drug use by Armstrong and members of his U.S. Postal Service team.

Nike it will stop making its Livestrong line of apparel after the 2013 holiday season.

Foundation and company officials said Nike will honor the financial terms of its contract until it expires in 2014. Those terms were not disclosed.

Officials at Livestrong, which announced the split Tuesday, said the foundation remains strong and committed to helping cancer patients worldwide.

“This news will prompt some to jump to negative conclusions about the foundation’s future,” the foundation said. “We see things quite differently. We expected and planned for changes like this and are therefore in a good position to adjust swiftly and move forward with our patient-focused work.”



MARK LENNIHAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lance Armstrong, cyclist and Livestrong founder, attends the Clinton Global Initiative in New York in 2010, wearing an iconic yellow Livestrong bracelet, the symbol of the cancer research foundation he founded in 1997 that once bore his name.

The Livestrong Foundation after Armstrong, Nike

- ✓ **Armstrong was pushed off the board of directors in October and the organization later changed its name to Livestrong.**
- ✓ **Foundation officials say Livestrong is still on solid financial ground.**
- ✓ **Nike’s contract with Livestrong will continue until 2014, but the details of the contract were not disclosed.**
- ✓ **Livestrong reduced its budget nearly 11 percent in 2013 to \$38.4 million, but said Tuesday that revenue is already 2.5 percent ahead of projections.**
- ✓ **Last month, Livestrong received a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, which evaluates charities based on financial health, accountability and transparency.**

CENTRAL TEXAS SCHOOLS

Administrators get big checks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

The number of Central Texas school employees with salaries in excess of \$100,000 has grown dramatically over for the last five years.

The Austin American-Statesman analyzed salaries at eight school districts, including Austin, Hays and Round Rock, and reported Tuesday a 78 percent increase in the number of administrators earning more than \$100,000.

Those earning six figures grew at least twice as fast as the rise in enrollment and school budgets since the 2008-2009 school year.

Most of the earners are administrators and make more than double the average pay for teachers, whose salaries range from about \$45,600 to \$50,200. Superintendents consistently make between three and five times the average teacher salary.

For the current school year, the average salaries for principals in the Central Texas school districts analyzed ranged from \$98,407 to \$128,961, the newspaper said.

“Our first financial investment should be with our teachers and our school employees,” said Ken Zarifis, co-president of Education Austin, a labor group representing employees in the Austin school district. “They’re the ones working with our kids day to day, and we need to find a way to pay them before anyone else.”

Austin’s operating budget dropped by 16 percent and its total number of employees grew by 3 percent. Much of the increase in those earning more than \$100,000 was driven by last year’s pay raises.

Susan Holley, associate executive director for the Texas Association of School Administrators, said support personnel were the first to be laid off during budget cuts. Administrators were left doing the work of two or three people “There may be few administrator positions, and they have more responsibility and complexity than before,” Holley said.

Bret Champion, superintendent for the Leander school district, said salaries are “market-driven.” He said his district competes with high-tech companies for employees.



MATTHEW MEAD / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Greek-style turkey burger with pepperoncini sauce is a healthy alternative to normally fatty beef burgers for summertime grilling.

LEAN ON MEAT

Turkey burgers cut fat, not flavor

SARA MOULTON

Associated Press

Summertime is burger time. Nothing beats throwing a few beef patties on the grill. Not much is required in the way of embellishment, yet you still receive a big return.

What's the magic ingredient? Fat, of course. Beef burgers are high in fat, which guarantees flavor and juiciness. And because fat enhances flavor, it also makes anything else you put in or on the burger taste better, too.

Heartbreakingly, as you decrease the fat content in a burger, its flavor tends to wane, too. This is a real problem if you want to dig into a delicious burger but still want the blood to continue sailing through your arteries. The solution? Turkey.

I know, I know. You've tried turkey burgers and it was like eating wet cardboard. But you haven't tried my turkey burgers.

Let's start with the basic ingredient — ground turkey. While researching this recipe, I discovered that the labels on ground turkey can be quite confusing. You'd figure that a package labeled "lean" would mean what it

says. Weirdly, it turns out that the calories and fat in a 4-ounce portion of "lean" ground turkey can range from 120 calories with 1 percent fat to 160 calories with 12 percent fat (which is as rich as a lean beef burger).

As always, it's best to read labels and not rely on words such as "lean" or "white meat" when looking for healthy choices.

Or better yet, grind your own turkey. Start by buying a small package of turkey tenderloins, the flap of meat that lies just under the breast. As little as a 1 ½ pounds of turkey tenderloins can be ground to produce six burgers.

Cut the tenderloins into 1-inch cubes and freeze them for 30 minutes. Pop them in a food processor and pulse until they achieve a medium-grind consistency.

Now we come to the crucial part of the recipe, the part I call Turkey Helper. As the blandest and driest of white meats, turkey cries out for flavor and moisture.

Any number of vegetables can answer this call, including sauteed onions, bell peppers or mushrooms, shredded raw Napa cabbage, or carrots.

But I wanted to give these burgers the Greek treatment, so I moistened them with spinach,

garlic and onions, then seasoned them with crumbled feta and fresh oregano.

A staple of Greek cuisine, the goat or sheep milk cheese called feta is so packed with flavor and saltiness that a little goes a long way. And if you're not a fan of oregano, you can swap in dill or basil instead.

In search of an agreeable sauce, I built one out of pepperoncini. Also known as Tuscan pickled peppers, pepperoncini are the little green hot peppers that have spiced up every Greek salad you've ever eaten.

They're briny, too, which is why I added some of their pickling liquid to the yogurt-mayo base.

This creamy sauce comprises the last splash of our Turkey Helper. Nobody in my house cries "Where's the beef?" when we pull these burgers off the grill.



For the Greek-style turkey burger with pepperoncini sauce recipe visit the Southwest Journalist at swjournalist.com.

Some thoughts on healthy living from Carol Gooch, Associated Press columnist.

People who have good emotional health are aware of their thoughts, feelings and behaviors. They have learned healthy ways to cope with the stress and problems that are a normal part of life.

To have good emotional health, it's important to take care of your body by having a regular routine for eating healthy meals, getting enough sleep and exercising to relieve pent-up tension.

Sorting out the causes of sadness, stress and anxiety in your life can help you manage your emotional health.

When you are feeling stressed, anxious or upset, you may not take care of your health as well as you should. You may not feel like exercising, eating nutritious foods or taking medicine that your doctor prescribes.

Poor emotional health can weaken your body's immune system, making you more likely to get colds and other infections during emotionally difficult times.

Longhorn genes ideal for Texas, taste

MICHAEL GRACZYK

Associated Press

PONTOTOC, Texas — A new genetic study of Texas longhorns shows the cattle breed — a state symbol as recognizable as the Alamo and cowboy hats — has maintained a distinct Spanish ancestry that dates centuries.

The breed has become a favorite for consumers willing to pay a premium for low-fat beef from grass-fed animals.

"The animals are very lean by nature of their evolution," says Debbie Davis, whose family raises longhorns in Bandera County about 75 miles northwest of San Antonio. "It's a healthier product and people on a high-protein, low-starch diet seek out this beef."

The longhorn's roots trace back thousands of years, and the animal's direct descendants crossed the Atlantic with Christopher Columbus. They grew longer horns to protect against New World predators and even rebounded from a



MICHAEL GRACZYK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Texas longhorn stands at the Double Helix Ranch near Pontotoc, Texas. Research shows the breed's DNA dates back centuries.

post-Civil War beef demand that decimated herds.

"I think Texans admire a lot of the characteristics they see in Texas longhorns because it's some of

the same characteristics humans had to have to thrive in Texas," said David Hillis, a University of Texas biologist and geneticist involved in the longhorn DNA study.

The study's authors said the cattle's genes create a hardy breed, independent and well adapted to the land.

"The ones that had the long horns were better able to defend their calves and were able to survive the best," Hillis said.

Horns now grow 70 inches long from tip to tip, the result of ranchers selectively breeding cattle with the best physical characteristics.

Ranchers like Davis and Hillis, who herds about 50 at his Texas Hill Country ranch, carefully manage the legendary bovines. Longhorns graze on whatever the rocky ground and minimal rain allow to grow.

Researchers confirmed the longhorns of today are direct descendants of Spanish cattle brought by Columbus to Hispaniola in 1493.

"Longhorns are unusual in being an ancient breed," Hillis said. "There's not many of those left in the world."

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ECONOMY

Smartphone to be made in US

Motorola to build new cellphone plant in Fort Worth, create 2,000 jobs

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

Cellphone pioneer Motorola announced Wednesday that it is opening a Texas manufacturing facility that will create 2,000 jobs and produce its new flagship device, Moto X, the first smartphone ever assembled in the U.S.

The formal announcement came at online publication AllThingsD's conference in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., from Motorola CEO Dennis

Woodside.

The company has already begun hiring for the Fort Worth plant.

The site was once used by fellow phone manufacturer Nokia, said Will Moss, a spokesman for Motorola Mobility, which is owned by Google.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry's office administers a pair of special state incentive funds meant to help attract job-creating businesses to the state,

but Moss said the governor did not distribute any money to close this deal.

Moss said the Moto X will go on sale this summer. He said he could provide few details.

"It's obviously our major market so, for us, having manufacturing here gets us much closer to our key customers and partners as well as our end users," Moss said. "It makes for much leaner, more efficient operations."

The factory will be owned and run by Flextronics International Ltd., a Singapore-based manufacturer that also runs Motorola's factories in China and Brazil.

In December, Apple Inc. said it would move manufacturing of one of its existing lines of computers to the U.S. this year.

Other manufacturers, such as Hewlett-Packard Co., have kept some assembly operations in the U.S.

HEALTH INSURANCE

New law cancels subpar policies

Change comes 4 years after Obama's promise to protect existing plans

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Many people who buy their own health insurance could get surprises in the mail this fall: cancellation notices because their current policies aren't up to the basic standards of the Affordable Care Act, President Barack Obama's health care law.

These people, along with some small businesses, will have to find replacement plans. That has some state insurance officials worried about consumer confusion.

New insurance markets called exchanges are expected to open in every state this fall. Middle-class consumers who don't get coverage on the job will be able to pick private health plans, while low-income people will be steered to an expanded version of Medicaid in states that accept it. The goal is to cover most of the nation's nearly 50 million uninsured.

State insurance commissioners are generally giving insurers the option of canceling existing plans that do not meet minimum requirements or changing them to comply with new federal requirements.

Large employer plans that cover most workers and their families are unlikely to be affected.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners said it is hearing that many carriers will



CLAUDE PARIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bruno Boileau and Vincent Autin kiss during their wedding at Montpellier City Hall in France on Wednesday. The Parisian newlyweds are the first same-sex couple to marry in France since the French government legalized same-sex marriage earlier this month. In the U.S., Minnesota, Delaware and Rhode Island all legalized same-sex marriage this month, joining nine other states and the District of Columbia. Delaware's law will go into effect July 1.

EDUCATION

Classes move online at warp speed

Major colleges see shift as way to meet student needs, stretch funds

JUSTIN POPE
Associated Press

The movement of "Massive Online Open Courses," which began with elite universities making their courses available online to the masses, is rapidly moving into

the halls of public higher education.

On Thursday, 10 large public university systems, including the University of Houston, will announce plans to incorporate online courses offered by for-profit Coursera, called MOOCs, into their own teaching.

The plans vary widely. Some institutions will focus on improving prep courses for students coming into the system, others on matriculated students both online and on-campus. Still others will be develop their own MOOCs to teach students at other institutions in

their states. The state system of Tennessee, similar to schools around the country, plans to compare results of students who take in-person and online versions of the same course.

The announcement is the latest ramping up of higher education's MOOC experiment, launched in earnest a year ago. But it is now tangibly affecting the large public institutions that do much of the heavy lifting of American higher education. The latest batch of partners includes the universities of Georgia, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Mexico and West Virginia.

"We noticed the vast majority of our students were people who already had degrees and wanted to continue their education," said Coursera co-founder Daphne Koller. "We really wanted to move



Zimpher

the needle on fundamental educational problems" of access and affordability.

Because Coursera does not produce its own content or administer degree courses, "you have to work within the framework of the institutions that are actually good at that," she said.

The announcement also shows the appeal of the MOOCs and the platforms that are built for cash-strapped university leaders. They offer an irresistible promise of doing more with less — to scale up education and help students move more efficiently toward a degree.

"It's been a challenge in reduced financial capacity to offer all the courses all the time that every student needs to complete a degree," said SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher. "That's what slows students down — our inability to provide degree-required courses students need at exactly the speed they want them."

Please see MOOC, Page 2



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A study released Wednesday found that decontaminating all intensive care patients reduced infections from germs methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, commonly known as MRSA.

Hospital infections prompt new strategy

LINDSEY TANNER
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Infections in U.S. hospitals kill tens of thousands of people each year, and many institutions attempt to fight back by screening new patients to see if they carry a dangerous germ and isolating those who do.

But a study published online Wednesday suggests a far more effective approach: Decontaminating every patient in intensive care.

Washing everyone with antiseptic wipes and giving them antibiotic nose ointment reduced bloodstream infections dramatically in the study at more than 40 U.S. hospitals.

The practice could prove controversial, because

Please see INFECTIONS, Page 2



VAHID SALEMI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Translators set their earphones at the start of an international conference on the civil war in Syria in Tehran, Iran, on Wednesday. The U.S. and Russia are hoping to launch peace talks over how to address the war that has killed more than 70,000 people, but Iran may not be included in the talks.

MIDDLE EAST

Diplomacy sought to end Syrian war

KARIN LAUB
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syria's foreign minister laid out a hard line Wednesday, saying Bashar Assad will remain president at least until elections in 2014 and might seek another term, conditions that will make it difficult for the opposition to agree to U.N.-sponsored talks on ending the civil war.

Any deal reached in such talks would have to be put to a referendum, Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem added in a TV interview, introducing a new condition that could complicate efforts by the U.S. and Russia to bring both sides

together at an international conference in Geneva, possibly next month.

Drawing a tough line of its own, the main exile-based political group, the Syrian National Coalition, reiterated that any negotiations require "the head of the regime, security and military leadership to step down and be excluded from the political process."

While the Assad regime has agreed in principle to attend peace talks, the opposition has not, insisting it first get international guarantees on the agenda and timetable. The coalition has been meeting for the past week in Tur-

key but spent most of that time arguing about membership issues, rather than making a decision about Geneva.

In his wide-ranging comments, al-Moallem, an Assad stalwart with decades in top positions, reflected a new confidence by the government. The regime had seemed near collapse during a rebel offensive last summer but has scored a number of battlefield successes in recent weeks.

"Our armed forces have regained the momentum," he told the Lebanese station Al-Mayadeen, suggesting that the regime is digging

in. Asked when the civil war might end, he said: "That depends on when the patience of those conspiring against Syria will run out."

The uprising against Assad began in March 2011, turned into an armed insurgency in response to a harsh regime crackdown, and escalated into a civil war. The fighting has killed more than 70,000 people, uprooted more than 5 million and devastated large areas of the country.

The conflict has taken on strong sectarian overtones — most of the armed rebels are

Please see SYRIA, Page 2

HEALTH CARE: Insurance companies to offer replacement plans

—Continued from Page 1

simply cancel policies and issue new ones because it will be easier than changing existing plans.

“The impending changes ... have the potential to cause policyholder confusion,” wrote the Iowa insurance commissioner, Nick Gerhart, in a recent memo to insurers.

A considerable number of people could be affected by cancellations. In Washington state, the changes will affect more than 400,000 people, said Stephanie Marquis, spokeswoman for Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler. Marquis said she expects the premiums for replacement plans to be similar to current ones, but with better coverage.

BROKEN PROMISE

The discontinuing of insurance plans doesn't seem to square with one of the president's best known promises about his health care overhaul, said to the American Medical Association in June of 2009: “If you like your health care



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The cancellation of insurance policies that do not meet new standards could affect 400,000 people in Washington state alone. This challenges President Barack Obama's promise at the 2009 American Medical Association annual meeting in Chicago, shown above.

plan, you'll be able to keep your health care plan, period. No one will take it away, no matter what.”

Democrats in Congress devised a complicated system called “grandfathering” to shield plans from many of the law's require-

ments, provided the plans themselves change little. But state officials said it has proven impractical for insurers to “grandfather” plans sold to individuals.

Supporters of the overhaul are betting that consumers won't ob-

ject once they realize coverage under the new law is superior to current bare-bones insurance. For example, insurers will no longer be able to turn people down because of medical problems.

The new coverage includes better preventive care and, in many cases, improves prescription coverage. It also covers copayments and other out-of-pocket costs to \$6,400 a year for individuals.

But this is not always what consumers want to pay for, said Bob Laszewski, a health care industry consultant from Washington, D.C.

“You're going to be forcibly upgraded,” he said. “It's like showing up at the airline counter and being told, ‘You have no choice, \$300 please. You're getting a first-class ticket, why are you complaining?’”

State regulators in Virginia said most carriers are expected to file new policies “given the extensive amount of changes resulting from state and federal laws.” The Washington state insurance department said plans must mail their discontinuation and replacement notices to consumers by Sept. 15.

MOOC: SUNY grows online

—Continued from Page 1

In recent weeks, however, faculty at Duke and Amherst voted against expanding MOOCs on their campuses, and 58 Harvard faculty members last week called for a committee to consider ethical issues related to Harvard's participation in a MOOC-producing consortium.

Tennessee will compare results from traditional and online courses. University officials said it would be up to the campuses to work out how to select students and whether they would have a choice of majors.

At SUNY, Zimpher said the 64-campus system, which already has 150 online degree programs, would work with Coursera and others to expand its online program by 100,000 students.

“That is a brave new world into which we are all entering, and we want to play in that space,” Zimpher said.

BABY BOOMER EMPLOYMENT

After career, back to work part time

If profitable, more companies may offer ‘phased retirement’

MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press

MUSCATINE, Iowa — There is an oft-told story about what happens when a worker at the Stanley Consultants engineering firm decides to retire.

“They say you have the retirement party one day and you come back to work the next,” said Mary Jo Finchum, spokeswoman for the Muscatine, Iowa-based company.

Stanley is among the U.S. employers that have offered workers a softer landing into retirement, allowing them to scale back hours as they prepare to take the enter retirement and move into part-time positions once it is official.

“It's really the best of all worlds,” said John Sayles, a 79-year-old planner at Stanley who cut his hours before formally retiring in 2003, but who has continued to work part time in the decade since. “I'll probably do it as long as the company would like me to help out.”

Those who take part in Stanley's phased retirement program before officially resigning must work at least 20 hours to maintain their health benefits. Once they have officially retired, workers can cash in shares through the company profit-sharing plan and make 401(k) withdrawals, even if they continue to work part time.

Phased retirement lets employees maximize their retirement savings and the company retains highly experienced workers who have close ties with clients,

said human resources director Dale Sweere.

It also slows losses of costs and productivity tied to turnover and responds to a desire from employees who want to remain somewhat engaged in work.

The phased retirement idea was born in Sweden in the 1970s and gained a foothold in the U.S. soon after. A 2010 study by AARP and the Society for Human Resource Management found that 20 percent of employers had phased retirement programs in place or planned to start them.

The idea gained a significant boost when Congress passed a law last year allowing some federal employees to participate in phased retirement, with an eye toward baby boomer workers. The Congressional Budget Office estimated

phased retirement would cut federal spending by \$427 million over 10 years and increase revenues by \$24 million because workers would collect pensions for shorter periods and earn taxable wages longer.

At Stanley Consultants, phased retirees speak passionately of what the program has allowed them to do. Hank Mann, a 72-year-old engineer, cut back to 30 hours a week in the months leading up to his formal retirement last year, and has worked fewer hours since.

He relishes being called upon to help with projects, but also enjoys being able to turn them down if he's not interested.

“Now I work on my schedule,” he said. “Not the company's.”

“It's really the best of all worlds. I'll probably do it as long as the company would like me to help out.”

JOHN SAYLES



MATT SEDENSKY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

John Sayles, 79, a planner at Stanley Consultants, reviews a map from a project he worked on at the company's headquarters in Muscatine, Iowa. Sayles officially retired in 2003.

SYRIA: Chances slim

—Continued from Page 1

Sunni Muslims, a majority in Syria, while Assad has retained core support among the country's minorities, including his own Alawite sect.

Chances of success seem slim, with a host of issues remaining open, including a detailed agenda, the list of participants and a mechanism for implementing an agreement.

The West, including the United States, has repeatedly called for Assad to step down. Al-Moallem said that “Americans have no business in deciding who will run Syria,” adding that this “would be a precedent in international relations that we must not allow.”

It was not clear if the opposition would make a decision on whether to attend the Geneva talks.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki was asked if Iran should be invited to

the Geneva conference. She said the final decision would have to be made with other international partners and the United Nations.

She said Iran has not played a constructive role in regard to Syria.

“They have sent weapons. They have sent money. They have provided fighters. They have financed Hezbollah. And we have no reason to believe that Iran wants a peaceful transition,” she said.

Earlier, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said there are concerns an Iranian presence would be counterproductive.

On Wednesday, the U.N. Human Rights Council called for an urgent investigation into alleged abuses by regime troops and Hezbollah fighters in Qusair. The resolution, backed by the U.S., Turkey and Qatar, also condemned the presence of foreign fighters supporting Assad.

80-year-old reconquers Everest

ELAINE KURTENBACH
Associated Press

TOKYO — An 80-year-old Japanese mountaineer who became the oldest person to reach the top of Mount Everest last week said he has no plans to climb of the world's highest peak again, although he said he hopes to do plenty of skiing.

Yuichiro Miura, who also conquered the 29,035-foot peak when he was 70 and 75, returned to Japan on Wednesday looking triumphant but ready for a rest.

He beat the record of Nepalese mountaineer Min Bahadur Sherchan, who climbed Everest in 2008 at age 76. Sherchan is now 81 years old.

“I still have a few more years to make my attempts. I will try until I reach 84 and then quit,” Sherchan said.

Miura and his son Gota, who has climbed Everest twice, said things went well during their expedition because they carefully



Yuichiro Miura, center, the oldest person to reach the top of Mount Everest, said he almost died during his descent.

SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

paced themselves. But Miura said he was dangerously weak at the beginning of his descent.

Helped down by Gota and others, Miura revived after having some food and water at their base camp at 27,887-feet.

He traveled another 2 1/2 hours that day.

Miura skied down Everest's South Col in 1970, using a parachute to brake his descent. He also has skied down Mount Fuji.

“When my father was 99 years

old, we went skiing on Mount Blanc,” he said. “I hope to go skiing with three or four more generations of my family.”

Miura's advice for his fellow elders?

“It isn't just about staying healthy, but it's about having goals,” he said.

“You don't need to climb Mount Fuji or travel overseas. Just get out of the house. Enjoy good food. Those are the things we should do,” said Miura.

INFECTIONS: Study looked at contamination of high-risk patients

—Continued from Page 1

it would involve uninfected patients and because experts say it could lead to germs becoming more resistant to antibiotics. But it worked better than the screening methods that are now required in nine states.

The study focused on the MRSA germ, which can live on the skin or in the nose without causing symptoms but can be life-threatening

when it reaches the bloodstream or vital organs.

The study targeted ICU patients, who tend to be older, sicker, weaker and most likely to be infected with dangerous bacteria, including drug-resistant staph germs.

“We've definitively shown that it is better to target high-risk people,” not high-risk germs, said the study's lead author Susan Huang, a researcher and infectious-dis-

ease specialist at the University of California, Irvine.

In the year before the experiment began, hospitals reported 950 bloodstream infections in intensive care patients. The results suggest that more than 400 of those could have been prevented if all hospitals had used the decontamination method.

About a decade ago, hospital-linked invasive infections led to roughly 20,000 deaths per year in

the United States.

The recommended measures would require that 54 patients would need to be treated to prevent one bloodstream infection.

The findings are “very dramatic” and will lead to changes in practice and probably new laws, said William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University infectious-disease specialist who was not involved in the research. Some hospitals are already on board.

REDUCING INFECTION

- ✓ A decade ago, hospital-linked invasive infections led to about 20,000 deaths per year in the U.S.
- ✓ More than 40 hospitals in the study reported 950 bloodstream infections in intensive care patients.
- ✓ The results suggest that more than 400 of those could have been prevented if they had decontaminated all intensive care patients.



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BUSINESS

China bites into US food industry

American pork producer agrees to a takeover

MICHAEL FELBERBAUM
AP Business Writer

RICHMOND, Va. — The ham sandwich you had for lunch is the latest example of China's growing appetite for U.S. investment. Smithfield Foods Inc., one of the biggest pork producers in the U.S., on Wednesday agreed to be bought by Shuanghui International Holdings Ltd., the majority shareholder in China's largest meat processor, for about \$4.72 billion.

The deal still faces a federal regulatory review and Smithfield shareholder approval. The acquisition is likely to face hefty U.S. scrutiny because it comes at a time when China has had serious food safety concerns, some of which have included Smithfield's suitor, Hong Kong-based Shuanghui.

Larry Pope, Smithfield's CEO, said in a conference call Wednesday that the transaction "preserves the same old Smithfield, only with more opportunities and new markets and new frontiers."

"People have this belief ... that everything in America is made in China," he said. "Open your refrigerator door; look inside. Nothing in there is made in China because American agriculture is the most competitive and efficient in the world."

Risks to the U.S. food supply "enter everybody's mind," said Paul Mariani, director at Variant Capital Advisors in Chicago, who previously worked at a food and agribusiness boutique investment bank. But he said he believes Smithfield will continue to operate as usual.

Smithfield said the deal is not about importing Chinese pork into the U.S. but is a chance to export into new markets with its brands, such as Smithfield, Armour and Farmland.

EGYPT

Political drama plays on Cairo's opera stage

AYA BATRAWY
Associated Press

CAIRO — The Cairo Opera House has become a new battleground between supporters and opponents of Egypt's Islamist president, this time fighting over the direction of the Middle East's oldest music institution.

The new culture minister fired the head of the opera house, part of a campaign he said is aimed at injecting "new blood" across art and culture programs he says were stagnant and corrupt.

But staffers are refusing any other boss to replace Enas Abdel-Dayem. Tuesday night, they protested outside her office, accusing the minister of bending to pressure from Islamists, and some held a sit-in overnight to prevent any replacement from entering.

"In a stand against a detailed plan to destroy culture and fine arts in Egypt, we decided as artists and management to abstain from performing tonight's opera Aida," conductor Nayer Nagi announced from the stage Tuesday. He vowed the halt would go on until the culture minister, Alaa Abdel-Aziz, is removed.

Staffers have also closed the curtain on all performances. For the first time in the opera

NORTH KOREA

Aid groups have trouble getting cash into country

MARGIE MASON
Associated Press

PYONGYANG — New international sanctions aimed at thwarting North Korea's nuclear weapons program are having unintended consequences: halting money transfers by foreign humanitarian groups working to help those most in need.

Much of the aid group difficulties are linked to the state-run Bank of China's decision earlier this month to follow Washington's lead and sever ties with the North's Foreign Trade Bank, the main money transfer route for most foreign organizations, U.N. agencies and embassies in Pyongyang. Aid workers in North Korea say they are left with few options to receive foreign currency for expenses including rent, bills and salaries for local staff.

Though sanctions are not supposed to affect humanitarian aid, six Pyongyang-based aid organi-

SOUTHEAST ASIA



GEMUNU AMARASINGHE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of Buddhists riding motorcycles patrol the streets of Lashio, Myanmar, on Wednesday. Sectarian violence spread after reports that a Muslim man had set fire to a Buddhist woman. Anti-Muslim sentiment is closely tied to nationalism, so leaders have been reluctant to speak up for the minority Muslims.

Buddhists retaliate Muslim minority attacked

TODD PITMAN
Associated Press

LASHIO, Myanmar — Imagine hundreds of angry, armed men on motorcycles advancing up a dusty street with no one to stop them.

Shouting at the top of their lungs, clutching machetes and iron pipes and long bamboo poles, they thrust their fists into the air.

The object of their rage: Myanmar's embattled minority Muslim community.

The violence over the past two days in Lashio is casting doubt over whether President Thein Sein's government can contain the racial and religious intolerance plaguing a nation still struggling to emerge from a half-century of military rule. Muslims have been the main victims of the violence since it began last year, but so far most criminal trials have involved prosecutions of Muslims, not members of the Buddhist majority.

Ma Wal, a 48-year-old Bud-

dhist shopkeeper, said she saw the crowd arrive. They had knives and stones, and came in two waves.

"I couldn't look," she said, recounting how she had shut the doors of her shop. "We were terrified."

The rioting started Tuesday after reports that a Muslim man had splashed gasoline on a Buddhist woman and set her on fire. The man was arrested. The woman was hospitalized with burns on her chest, back and hands.

Mobs took revenge by burning down several Muslim shops and one of the city's main mosques, along with an Islamic orphanage, said Min Thein, a resident contacted by telephone.

On Wednesday fires still smoldered at the mosque, where a dozen charred motorcycles lay on the sidewalks. Army troops stood guard, and most Muslims hid in their homes. The government, which came to power in 2011 promising a new era of democrat-

ic rule, appealed for calm.

"Damaging religious buildings and creating religious riots is inappropriate for the democratic society we are trying to create," presidential spokesman Ye Htut said on his Facebook page.

National police said nine people were arrested for involvement in the two days of violence but did not state their religion.

After nightfall, authorities used loudspeakers across the city to remind residents a dusk-to-dawn curfew was in effect.

Myanmar's sectarian violence first flared in western Rakhine state last year, when hundreds of people died in clashes between Buddhists and Muslims that drove about 140,000 people, mostly Muslims, from their homes. Most are still living in refugee camps.

Associated Press writers Aye Aye Win in Yangon and Jocelyn Gecker and Grant Peck in Bangkok contributed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL

Mother of baby found in pipe comes forward

BEIJING — The mother of the Chinese newborn pulled from a sewer pipe was present for the entire two-hour rescue but did not admit giving birth until confronted by police, reports said Wednesday.

Police became suspicious when they found baby toys and blood-stained toilet paper in the 22-year-old woman's rented room in the building where Saturday's rescue occurred in eastern China.

The woman, whose name was not revealed in state media reports, confessed to police when they asked her to undergo a medical checkup.

The woman told police she could not afford an abortion and secretly delivered the child Saturday afternoon in the toilet. She said that she tried to catch the baby, but he slipped into the sewer line. It was not clear whether the mother would face criminal charges.

Seven Red Cross workers saved after insurgent attack

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two insurgents attacked a compound housing the International Committee of the Red Cross in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, killing an Afghan guard before security forces rescued seven foreigners.

It was a striking escalation of attacks targeting international organizations.

The Red Cross has rarely been hit in the more than 12 years since the Afghan war began in late 2001. The Red Cross has good relations with all parties to the conflict, including the Taliban, who allow them to operate in areas under their control.

While attacks have grown more frequent in many parts of Afghanistan, Wednesday's violence was notable because it took place in a normally peaceful area that was the heart of the anti-Taliban resistance until the U.S. invasion in late 2001.



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM UNIVERSITA' DI BOLOGNA

Few scrolls survive as long as this one because damaged Torahs must be buried or stored in a closed room in a synagogue.

Oldest complete Torah scroll found in plain sight in library

ROME — An Italian expert in Hebrew manuscripts said Wednesday he has discovered the oldest known complete Torah scroll, a sheepskin document dating from 1155-1225.

It was right under his nose, in the University of Bologna library, where it had been mistakenly catalogued a century ago as dating from the 17th century.

The find is not the oldest Torah text in the world: The Leningrad and the Aleppo bibles pre-date the Bologna scroll by more than 200 years. But this is the oldest Torah scroll of the Pentateuch, the five books of Moses.

Two separate carbon-dating tests confirmed the revised dating.

Such scrolls — this one is 40 yards long and 25 inches high — are brought out in synagogues on the Sabbath and holidays, and portions are read aloud in public.

Pakistani officials: U.S. drone killed Taliban commander

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — A suspected U.S. drone strike killed the No. 2 commander of the Pakistani Taliban on Wednesday, Pakistani intelligence officials said, although the militant group denied he was dead.

If confirmed, the death of Waliur Rehman would be a strong blow to the militant group responsible for hundreds of bombings and shootings across Pakistan.

The United States has a \$5 million bounty out on Rehman, whom Washington has accused of involvement in the 2009 suicide attack on a U.S. base in Afghanistan that killed seven Americans working for the CIA.

Missiles fired by a U.S. drone slammed into a house early Wednesday in Miran Shah, the main town of the North Waziristan tribal region, killing five people including Rehman, Pakistani officials said.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS



HASSAN AMMAR / ASSOCIATED PRESS

An employee offers her support to Enas Abdel-Dayem, right, who is at the center of a cultural battle in Egypt after being fired as head of the Cairo Opera House.

house's history, the opera Aida — composed by Giuseppe Verdi and debuted to the world in 1871 in Cairo — was canceled in protest.

The dispute has opened a new front in the politically divided country, with performing artists joining a chorus of others who say they are fighting attempts by the Muslim Brother-

hood and other Islamist allies of President Mohammed Morsi to impose their control.

The Brotherhood, from which Morsi hails, denies trying to monopolize power for itself or other Islamists, illustrating an entrenched problem in reform since autocrat Hosni Mubarak was ousted in 2011 and Islamists rose to power. In the case of the Opera House, those fears were fueled by comments by an ultraconservative lawmaker in parliament this week. Nour Party member Gamal Hamid called for the abolition of ballet performances in Egypt-describing it as "immoral" and "nude art."

But Abdel-Aziz has said he is trying to clean up the ministry, which is in charge of arts and culture programs, after years of stagnation and corruption under Mubarak. Already, he has removed the head of the state book agency and the head of the fine arts department.

"The culture ministry is in shambles," Abdel-Aziz said.

Abdel-Dayem, who was appointed about 15 months ago, several months before Morsi's election, said she was given no reason for her removal.

"There is a particular policy he's using to eradicate Egyptian identity and culture," she said of the new culture minister.



DAVID GUTTENFELDER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

North Korean nurses said goodbye Monday to representatives from foreign humanitarian agencies at a nursery school in Pyongyang, North Korea on Child Health Day.

ent, to be open to all sides, and now we're more or less forced to do something that doesn't really look very proper because people who carry a lot of cash are somehow suspect," said Uhrmacher, who is based in Germany and

has worked in North Korea for the past 10 years. Some analysts said aid groups were simply "collateral damage" and that they will find a way to work around the sanctions as they have had to do in other countries.

ECONOMY

Banks' earnings hit record

Fees, fewer bad loans help increase in profits

MARCY GORDON
AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. banks earned more from January through March than during any quarter on record, buoyed by greater income from fees and fewer losses from bad loans.

The banking industry earned \$40.3 billion in the first quarter, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. said Wednesday, the highest for a single quarter and up 15.8 percent from the first quarter of 2012, when the industry's profits were \$34.8 billion.

Record profits show banks have come a long way from the 2008

financial crisis. But the report offered a reminder that the industry is still struggling to help the broader economy recover from the Great Recession.

Only about half of U.S. banks reported improved earnings from a year earlier, the lowest proportion since 2009. That shows the industry's growth is being driven by a narrower group of the nation's largest banks.

Those banks include Bank of America Corp., Citigroup Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. Most of them have recovered with help from federal bailout money and record-low borrowing rates.

Bank lending declined from the October to December quarter, although that followed several quarters of increases.

And bank profits from interest charged fell 2.2 percent to \$104 billion. The industry's average interest income as a percentage of total loans on its books fell from 3.35 percent to 3.27 percent. That is the lowest portion of total loans in nearly seven years.

That has forced banks to see more revenue from fees, despite complaints from customers and consumer advocates.

FDIC Chairman Martin Gruenberg said the banking industry "is in much stronger shape today than it was three years ago." But he added that "it's a fairly tricky environment for the industry" because of narrowing profit margins from charging interest and relatively weak demand for loans.

Income earned from interest on loans is falling in part because in-

terest rates have been near record lows. The Federal Reserve's aggressive stimulus programs since the crisis have exerted downward pressure on short- and long-term interest rates, making mortgages and other loans less expensive. The Fed's low interest-rate policies are intended to boost borrowing and spending to accelerate overall economic growth.

Still, many banks have adopted stricter lending standards since the financial crisis, requiring higher credit scores, larger down payments and proof of employment. Fewer banks are at risk of failure, another sign of the industry's health. Only 13 banks have failed so far this year. That follows 51 closures last year, 92 in 2011 and 157 in 2010.

POLITICS

TEA PARTY

Bachmann announces departure from office

Tea party conservative says federal inquiries not related to her decision

BRIAN BAKST
Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Michele Bachmann, the Minnesota congresswoman whose sharply conservative views on social and fiscal issues elevated her to a leader of the tea party movement, announced Wednesday she will not seek a fifth term but insisted the decision was unrelated to ethics inquiries or her near-loss last fall.

Bachmann was in Russia as part of a congressional delegation and was not available for interviews. In a lengthy video message to supporters, she said her decision "was not influenced by any concerns about my being re-elected."

Ron Carey, a former chief of staff to Bachmann, said he suspects she was anticipating a tough battle ahead and seemed to be stuck in place in Congress.

"This is a great chance to exit stage right rather than have a knockdown, drag-out re-election fight," said Carey, also a former Minnesota GOP chairman. "The reality also set in that she is not a favorite of Republican leadership, so she is not going to be rising up to a committee chair or rising up in leadership."

Bachmann's departure next year is part of a larger shift involving the leading personalities of the tea party. Major players like former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, former Florida Rep. Allen West and former South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint have left elected office to move into conservative organizations and commentary roles.

Bachmann also said her decision "was not impacted in any way by the recent inquiries into the activities of my former presidential campaign" last year.

In January, a former Bachmann aide filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission, claiming the candidate made improper payments to an Iowa state senator who was the state chairman of her 2012 presidential run.



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama speaks during a fundraiser for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee in Chicago on Wednesday. "Washington is not broken," Obama said Wednesday. "It's broken right now for a particular reason, but it's not permanently broken. It can be fixed."

'Broken' politics face Obama

President contests strong opposition, little success with Washington legislators

JULIE PACE
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — For President Barack Obama, the opening months of his second term have been a frustrating reminder of the limits of presidential power and the durability of the Washington political apparatus.

Obama has yet to achieve a significant second term legislative victory, a task that will only get harder as the calendar inches closer to next year's midterm elections. A trio of controversies in Washington have emboldened Republicans eager to gain an advantage over the president and revealed a Democratic establishment willing to publicly second-guess the White House. And Obama, who ran for office as an outsider pledging to overcome Washington's bitter partisan divide, acknowledges he has made little progress on that front.

"What's blocking us right now is the sort of hyper-partisanship in Washington that, frankly, I was hoping to overcome in 2008," Obama told donors at a Demo-

cratic fundraiser last week.

Obama's frustration with the ways of Washington has become increasingly evident as the White House grapples with separate controversies: a resurgent GOP investigation into the attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya; the targeting of conservative political groups by the Internal Revenue Service; and the Justice Department's seizure of phone records from journalists at The Associated Press and, in another case, reading the emails of Fox News reporter James Rosen.

The typically even-keeled Obama became visibly angry recently when discussing the Benghazi investigations, casting the Republican effort as a "sideshow" and a "political circus." White House senior adviser Dan Pfeiffer took to Sunday talk shows to accuse Republicans of trying to drag Washington into "a swamp of partisan fishing expeditions."

Driving at least part of the White House's response to the controversies is its well-known contempt for "establishment"

Washington, including the cadre of political strategists in both parties that are quick to offer up analysis or a provocative quote and a fast-moving media culture that can quickly turn a problem into a scandal.

"It's clear to him and everyone at the White House the difference between a legitimate issue and something that's ginned up for political purposes," said former Obama aide Ben LaBolt, noting the White House's particular displeasure for those "who want to come up with explosive quotes that get them in the news cycle."

New chief of staff Denis McDonough has been a driving force behind Obama's recent dinners with Republican and Democratic lawmakers, outings that were unheard of during his first term.

Obama has had mixed results turning public support into legislative victories.

But perhaps most important to the White House are polls suggesting the controversies have done little damage to the president's standing with the public. A CNN/Opinion Research Corp. poll published earlier this month showed 53 percent of Americans approve of the job Obama is doing — virtually the same as his approval rating before the controversies erupted.

NATIONAL

Rail accidents, derailments on the decline

OMAHA, Neb. — The nation's railroads are safer than ever, despite recent high-profile accidents like this week's fiery derailment in Maryland, according to data from the Federal Railroad Administration.

Derailments and crossing accidents have steadily declined nationwide even as businesses have come to increasingly rely on trains to move their raw materials and products.

The number of train accidents fell 43 percent to 1,712 between 2003 and 2012, while the number of incidents at rail crossings declined 34 percent to 1,960. An FRA spokesman said last year was the safest on record for the industry.

To improve safety, railroads have invested in their equipment, tracks, employee training and technological tools to help detect problems before they can derail a train.

Environmentalists sue landowners of old mines

MORGANTOWN, W. Va. — Environmental activists say three reclaimed mountaintop removal mining sites are still polluting West Virginia waterways and they are suing the current landowners in an attempt to stop it.

The lawsuits filed in U.S. District Court in Huntington say state and federal regulators are doing nothing to end water pollution from old surface mines after they have been cleaned up, graded and replanted with vegetation, so the landowners must be held accountable.

The litigation signals a new strategy from the environmental community, which has long sued coal companies over pollution but rarely sued after their operations are reclaimed and released from bonding and permit requirements.

Sierra Club attorney Peter Morgan said his group is looking at the "full life cycle" of mines to dispel the myth that they no longer threaten the environment when they are done producing coal.

The cases, filed Friday and late Tuesday, target three landowners: David L. Francis, Trust of Huntington and Pocahontas Land Corp.

None of the defendants immediately commented.

Larry King returns to TV



King

NEW YORK — Larry King is returning to TV with a political talk show beginning next month.

The RT America network, a global English-language channel based in

Russia, announced Wednesday it will air the new program "Politics With Larry King." No premiere date or broadcast schedule was specified.

RT America said it will also telecast "Larry King Now," which debuted online on Hulu and Ora.TV last summer.

"I have always been passionate about government and issues that impact the public," King said. "I appreciate the importance of providing a platform with real alternative visions for our country's future."

Oklahoma musicians play benefit concert for Moore

OKLAHOMA CITY — Donations are pouring into Oklahoma as people around the country look to help residents affected by last week's violent tornado outbreak, but charities also are receiving plenty of items they do not need — tons of used clothes, shoes and stuffed animals take up valuable warehouse space and clog distribution networks.

Charity organizers say monetary donations are far more flexible and useful, and many organizations are expected to see an influx of cash donations after a benefit concert Wednesday night in Oklahoma City featuring country music stars with Oklahoma ties, including Blake Shelton, Vince Gill and Reba McEntire.

Charities involved in helping displaced residents hosted "Healing in the Heartland: Relief Benefit Concert" at the Chesapeake Energy Arena in downtown Oklahoma City. The money raised through the telethon will go to the United Way of Central Oklahoma, which will distribute funding to partner agencies directly engaged in helping in relief and recovery efforts for those affected by the May 20 tornado, said Karla Bradshaw, a spokeswoman for the United Way of Central Oklahoma.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

ENVIRONMENT

Burning trash inches closer to nuclear landfill



ROLAND KLOSE / ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

Work began at Republic Services' landfill in Bridgeton, Mo., on Wednesday in preparation to install a cap to alleviate odors.

JIM SALTER
Associated Press

BRIDGETON, Mo. — Just below the surface of the Bridgeton Landfill, a layer of trash has been burning since at least 2010, fueled by an underground reaction of decomposing waste. The smoldering causes a noxious odor so overpowering that people in surrounding neighborhoods are reluctant to come out of their homes.

But the smell is just the most immediate concern. Environmentalists are alarmed by the possibility that the fire could someday reach the nuclear waste dating back to the Manhattan Project in the neighboring West Lake Landfill, just 1,200 feet away, owned by a subsidiary of Republic Services.

"I think what we're seeing is the possibility of a slow-moving disaster right before our eyes," said

Ed Smith of the Missouri Coalition for the Environment.

Officials at Republic Services, the Phoenix-based owner of Bridgeton, said the risk is remote and they have a plan approved by state regulators, just in case.

At its current rate of movement, the underground smoldering would take more than 10 years to reach the edge of the West Lake landfill, Republic Services spokesman Richard Callow said. He said interceptor wells — underground structures that capture below-surface gases — are already in place.

Missouri health officials and the state's Department of Natural Resources are monitoring the smoldering closely, Callow said, adding that the federal Environmental Protection Agency has repeatedly stated that the fire poses no threat to the nuclear waste.

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Judge delays ruling on major’s request

FORT HOOD – The Army psychiatrist charged in the deadly 2009 Fort Hood shooting rampage has the mental capacity to represent himself at his murder trial, but more information is needed about his physical condition, said a judge on Wednesday.

At a pretrial hearing, Maj. Nidal Hasan did not say why he wants to cut ties with his attorneys, a request he made last week. If granted, he could personally question the almost three dozen soldiers he is accused of wounding in the Nov. 5, 2009, attack on the Texas Army post.

The military judge, Col. Tara Osborn, said she will not decide on Hasan’s request until his doctor examines him and testifies at a hearing Monday. Hasan is paralyzed from the waist down after being shot by police the day of the rampage.

Hasan is charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder and 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder. He would face the death penalty or life in prison without parole if convicted. Military law allows defendants to represent themselves.

Midland has nation’s lowest unemployment rate

WASHINGTON – Stronger hiring has helped unemployment rates fall in almost all large U.S. cities in April as the job market improves throughout the country.

The Labor Department said Wednesday that jobless rates declined in 344 of the 372 largest metro areas. Rates rose in 17 cities and went unchanged in 11.

Midland, Texas, posted the nation’s lowest rate at 3 percent.

The U.S. unemployment rate dropped in April to a four-year low of 7.5 percent, down from 7.6 percent in March. In the past six months, employers added an average of 208,000 jobs each month.

The broader trend across cities improved the past year. Overall, 48 cities (compared with 32 in 2012) had rates of less than 5 percent.

Hospital, living center could lose funding due to incidents

Two state facilities face June deadlines to reform hazardous conditions or lose millions of dollars in Medicaid money.

The Austin American-Statesman reports that Terrell State Hospital faces a June 4 deadline to implement reforms or lose Medicare funding. After patient Ann Simmons died in February 2012, Medicare investigators found the hospital had nursing and patient rights problems.

The Statesman reports the Austin State Supported Living Center also could lose Medicaid funding if it does not make improvements. That is after incidents that left one resident dead and two severely injured.

Exxon defeats resolution to ban discrimination of gays

By a 4-to-1 ratio, Exxon Mobil Corp. shareholders defeated a resolution to ban discrimination against gays. The board argued the company already banned discrimination and didn’t need to add language regarding gays.

The vote was a repeat of recent years in which shareholders rejected anti-bias resolutions.

The ban on bias based on sexual orientation was proposed by a retirement fund for New York state employees. George Wong, an official for the New York comptroller’s office, said the lack of specific protection for gays hurt the company’s ability to recruit employees from the widest pool of talent.

Wong said Exxon discriminates by refusing to extend spousal benefits to employees who marry a gay partner in New York.

Merger forms largest funeral home, cemetery service

HOUSTON – Two companies merged to form the country’s largest funeral home and cemetery service.

Service Corp. International plans to buy Stewart Enterprises Inc. in a \$1.13 billion cash deal.

Houston-based and top-ranking company Service Corp. said Wednesday it will pay \$13.25 for each share of second-ranked Stewart, based in Jefferson, La. That’s a 36 percent premium over Stewart’s closing price Tuesday.

Service Corp. said the purchase adds 218 funeral homes and 141 cemeteries to bring its operations to 1,653 funeral homes and 515 cemeteries in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. A company spokeswoman said that would give Service Corp. about a 13 percent market share in a highly fragmented industry.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEGISLATURE

Groups voice map concerns

Minorities, Democrats push to redistrict

PAUL J. WEBER

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Texas Democrats signaled Wednesday that a two-year fight over disputed political boundaries won’t end if Gov. Rick Perry gets the Legislature to permanently adopt federal court-drawn voting maps made for the 2012 elections.

But state attorneys suggested to the same judges who drew those lines that a lengthy, expensive court case could end if the GOP-controlled Legislature ratifies those maps into law.

Some lawmakers predict legislative approval in the next two weeks.

“I think that’s the result,” David Mattax, representing the Texas attorney general’s office, said when the three-judge panel asked whether legislative adoption renders an ongoing redistricting lawsuit moot.

A coalition of minority rights groups and Democrats sued the state in 2011 after the GOP pushed newly drawn political boundaries through the statehouse. A San Antonio federal court threw out those maps,

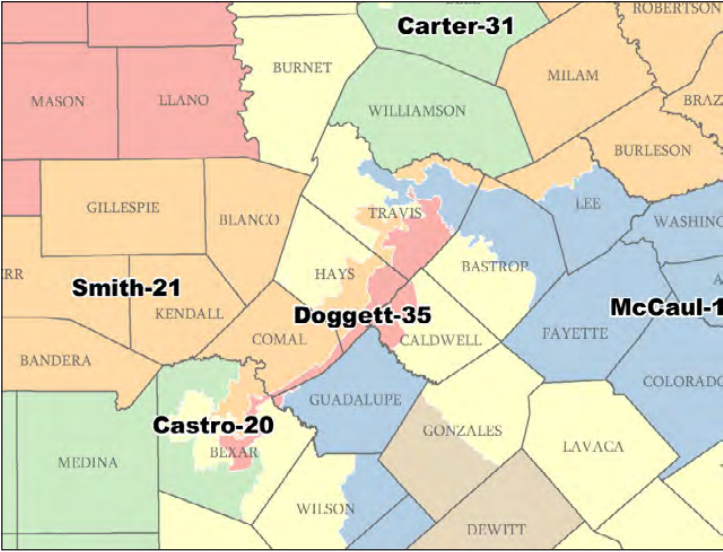
which a separate federal court in Washington later found to discriminate.

Texas Republicans have since all but abandoned their maps, and want to permanently adopt the San Antonio court’s boundaries to get through last November’s elections.

Under those maps, Republicans still preserved solid majorities, holding 95 of 150 seats in the House, 12 of 31 seats in the Senate and 24 of 36 seats in Congress.

Perry has made adopting the maps the only order of business so far in a 30-day special legislative session, which began immediately after the regular 140-day session adjourned Monday. A Texas House redistricting committee scheduled its first hearings Friday and Saturday.

Minority rights groups complained Wednesday to judges that Perry’s narrow mandate only allows the Legislature to approve the interim maps and not consider changes. They say they believe Texas’ shifting demographics demand at least two more congressional seats that minorities would safely determine.



TEXAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A federal court redrew districts just before the 2012 elections. In a special 30-day session, the Gov. Rick Perry and the 83rd Texas Legislature are looking to make the voting maps permanent.

Overall, minorities constituted nearly nine in 10 new Texas residents the last decade. “If the Legislature does not open up its process and do a traditional redistricting, we will find ourselves challenging the map once again and potentially putting the 2014

election in jeopardy,” said Democratic state Rep. Trey Martinez Fischer, a redistricting committee member.

The past year’s redistricting fight delayed party primaries into summer and wreaked havoc on political races

ELECTIONS

Comptroller will not seek re-election

After 20 years in Texas politics, Susan Combs announces no desire to hold elected position in 2014

CHRISTOMLINSON

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Susan Combs announced Wednesday that she will not seek election to any office in 2014, including her current one.

Combs was considered a potential candidate for lieutenant governor once David Dewhurst vacated the office. But last year he lost a U.S. Senate bid to Ted Cruz and is running for re-election against at least two challengers in the March Republican primary.



Combs

Hours after Combs’ announcement, three potential candidates issued announcements. State Sen. Glenn Hegar, R-Katy, said he will plan a campaign to replace her. He said the office needed someone “who understands the importance of keeping Texas as an economic engine.” In an interview, he pointed to his role this past legislative session of being the Senate’s fiscal matters policy point person who oversaw and shepherded the governor’s push for tax relief.

Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, also issued a statement thanking Combs for her service and said he was assembling a statewide campaign team. Stopping short of formally announcing his candidacy, he said he is considering one. He cited “many Texans” who asked him to consider the job, adding he will have a formal political announcement soon. As chair of the Ways and Means Committee, Hilderbran was one of the state’s chief tax policy writers.

Tea party activist Debra Medina posted online Wednesday that she was also considering running to replace Combs and asked for donations.

Combs began as an elected official 20 years ago as a state representative from Austin.

SUSAN COMBS’ SERVICE

✓ Combs was elected as comptroller in 2006 and re-elected in 2010.

✓ In 2012, the Texas government received the top ranking for spending transparency in an annual report by the U.S. Public Interest Group. Combs developed and maintained the transparency website.

SPELLING BEE



CLIFF OWEN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Samuel Yeager, 14, lost in the second round of the National Spelling Bee preliminaries after misspelling “yannigan,” a member of a baseball team in which teammates play as individuals. He was one of two students from Arizona to compete.

Three Texas girls compete in National Spelling Bee

TRISH CHOATE

Associated Press

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – Kerri Lu of Wichita Falls took command of “commandante” to survive on the battlefield of the Scripps National Spelling Bee Wednesday morning.

The 10-year-old sixth-grader at Fowler Elementary School spelled the word after asking for the definition, an officer in control of a place or military group. Then she quietly walked back to take her place as speller No. 252 on the stage.

She is among 266 spellers who advanced to the next round of oral spelling Wednesday, at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center outside Washington, D.C. The competition began with 281 spellers.

Meanwhile, 12-year-old Gabrielle Rubio of Midland advanced after correctly spelling “kishke” – a beef intestine stuffed with a seasoned filling – onstage during round two.

Only 15 of the competition’s 281 spellers were knocked out Wednesday morning after misspelling their round-two word during the onstage competition.

Rubio, speller No. 246, will spell during round three.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Five former officers plead guilty to drug charges

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN

Associated Press

MCALEN — Five former South Texas law enforcement officers, including the son of a local sheriff, pleaded guilty Wednesday to drug charges in McAllen.

Four of the men were part of the now-dissolved Panama Unit, a joint task force between the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office and Mission Police Department targeting street-level drug trafficking in Mission.

Prosecutors alleged that the unit members sold seized drugs to another trafficker and escorted drug loads moving through the area.

The former Panama Unit members, including former Mission Police Officer Jonathan Trevino, son of the Hidalgo County Sheriff Lupe Trevino, pleaded guilty to one count of a drug conspiracy. Gerardo Mendoza Duran, a former sheriff’s deputy, pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting cocaine possession charge for escorting drug loads.

The first indictment came in December. In January, Sheriff Lupe Trevino disbanded the unit.

They will face sentences between 10 years and life in prison. U.S. District Judge Randy Crane allowed them to remain on bond pending their sentencing, tentatively set for September.

The men allegedly stole the drugs for Fernando Guerra Sr. who, with his son, is expected to plead guilty, but received a continuance Wednesday.

According to documents filed in Guerra’s case, a confidential source told federal agents in August 2012 that he heads a drug trafficking organization known to steal drugs from other traffickers with the help of corrupt law enforcement officers.

Guerra told the informant that corrupt police officers would stop and arrest whoever delivered the cocaine to him at the predetermined location. Case

documents quoted Guerra Sr. and Fernando Guerra Jr. as saying the driver would be charged with only a portion of the narcotics and the rest would be given to Guerra Sr. and Guerra Jr. by the corrupt law enforcement officials. The elder Guerra would then sell the stolen cocaine and give the confidential informant 30 percent of the proceeds.

“Nobody’s above the law,” Trevino said after watching his son plead guilty.

“You must be held accountable for your actions,” he said after watching his son and four former deputies plead guilty. “You must accept responsibility and he did.”

HURRICANE SEASON

Predicting Landfall

“The state of operational U.S. numerical weather prediction is an embarrassment to the nation and it does not have to be this way.”

CLIFF MAAS
PROFESSOR OF ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



NOAA

The National Weather Service was slower than the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting by four days in predicting the landfall of Superstorm Sandy, above, in 2012.



TYSON TRISH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Contractors remove the Jet Star Roller Coaster from the Seaside Heights water on Tuesday, more than six months after Superstorm Sandy dropped it there.



MARK LENNIHAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Steeplechase Pier, damaged by Sandy, undergoes repairs at Coney Island on Thursday in Brooklyn.



NOAA

Mexico hurricane hits land

Hurricane Barbara made landfall on Mexico's southern Pacific coast Wednesday in the second-earliest landfall since reliable record-keeping began in 1966. At least two people were killed. By evening, Barbara had weakened to a tropical storm while moving inland, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said. Read more online at swjournalist.com.

US lags behind EU in storm predictions

NATIONAL HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WEEK

- ✓ Began Sunday and ends Saturday
- ✓ Emphasizes education and preparedness via instructional YouTube videos and guides
- ✓ For more information, visit www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare

TAMARA LUSH
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — When forecasters from the National Weather Service track a hurricane, they use models from several different supercomputers located around the world to create their predictions. During Hurricane Sandy last October, the model from the European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting in the United Kingdom predicted eight days before landfall that the storm would hit the East Coast, while the American supercomputer model showed Sandy drifting out to sea. The American model predicted Sandy's landfall four days before the storm hit, which revealed a potential weakness in the American computer as compared to the European system. “Let me be blunt: the state of operational U.S. numerical weather prediction is an embarrassment to the nation and it does not have to be this way,” wrote Cliff Maas, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the

University of Washington on his weather blog. Meteorologists agree the two American supercomputers that provide storm models are underpowered — which is why the National Weather Service plans on upgrading those computers in the next two years. The two main forecasting computers — one in Orlando, Fla. and the other in Reston, Va., — will receive \$25 million in upgrades as part of the Hurricane Sandy supplemental bill recently approved by Congress. “This will improve weather forecasting across the board,” said Christopher Vaccaro, a spokesman for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He said the European model has been able to pick up larger high-impact extreme weather events. Jeff Masters, meteorology director at the online forecasting

service Weather Underground, said other than Hurricane Sandy, the American model outperformed the European model during the 2012 hurricane season, but across a three-year period, the European model performs better. Still, with hurricane season starting Saturday, forecasters said the average person living in a coastal area should not worry about the capability gap between the computers. “I really could care less which is the better model because we have access to them both,” said James Franklin, branch chief of the hurricane specialist unit. Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami use both American and European models — and other models — then average them together for a storm's projected path. The computers take data from weath-

er satellites, observations and weather balloons, then plug the data into complex algorithms. “If you just bought a bigger computer, it will help but it will not solve the problem. There are many other aspects that need to be addressed,” said Richard Rood, a professor at the University of Michigan's Department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Space Science. Rood said that the meteorologists who run the European computer have invested time, effort and money into developing algorithms. Another issue, he said, is the long-term maintenance of the satellites run by NASA and NOAA. “If they fail to continue to deliver the observations, then our forecast is going to be less good,” he said “We all use the same set of raw data. For the most part, we all start from the same observations. If there is a threat to safety and property and people, it is far more related to the state of the observing system than it is to any deficiencies or any gap we might have with the Europeans on the predictive model.”

THIS YEAR'S ATLANTIC OCEAN HURRICANE NAMES:

- ✓ Andrea
- ✓ Barry
- ✓ Chantal
- ✓ Dorian
- ✓ Erin
- ✓ Ferdinand
- ✓ Gabrielle
- ✓ Humberto
- ✓ Ingrid
- ✓ Jerry
- ✓ Karen
- ✓ Lorenzo
- ✓ Melissa
- ✓ Nestor
- ✓ Olga
- ✓ Pablo
- ✓ Rebekah
- ✓ Sebastien
- ✓ Tanya
- ✓ Van
- ✓ Wendy

PALEONTOLOGY

Study: dinosaur fossil is from bird lineage

ALICIA CHANG
Associated Press Science Writer

LOS ANGELES — A raven-sized creature that lived about 150 million years ago is back on its perch, a new study shows. The latest evidence suggesting the Archaeopteryx, pegged as the earliest known bird, had more in common with birds than dinosaurs comes from the discovery of an intact, well-preserved skeleton of a previously unknown dinosaur dubbed Aurornis xui. It lived during the middle to late Jurassic era in China's Liaoning province where many early birds and feathered dinosaurs roamed. Belgian researcher Pascal Godefroit and his team led by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences said Archaeopteryx (ahr-kee-AHP'-teh-rihx) should indeed be considered a bird. The team compared the anatomy of the Aurornis xui to a variety of birds and dinosaurs to determine their relationship. The



THIERRY HUBIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS
Aurornis xui

analysis, published in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature, classifies Archaeopteryx back in the bird category. Archaeopteryx's status was called into question two years ago by Chinese scientists who proposed moving it to a closely related lineage of birdlike dinosaurs. The famed fossil, discovered in 1861 in Germany, became an evolutionary icon. Archaeopteryx possessed part-bird, part-reptile

traits, sported broad wings and feathers like a bird, and also had three-fingered claws, sharp teeth and a long bony tail similar to a dinosaur. Fossil discoveries of feathered dinosaurs in north-eastern China during the past two decades challenged Archaeopteryx's place in bird evolution. Lawrence Witmer, a bird evolution expert at Ohio University, called the analysis compelling. But he said it is still tough to tease apart that segment of the family tree. “All of these little feathered species running and flapping around ... were all very similar,” Witmer, who had no role in the research, wrote in an email.

THE ARCHAEOPTERYX
NAME MEANS: “Ancient wing”
LIVED DURING: Late Jurassic period
LENGTH: 2 feet
WING SPREAD: 2 feet
SIZE: Specimens range from blue jay to large chicken
PHYSICAL TRAITS: Sharp teeth, clawed fingers on its black wings, long tail with bony core

— BRITANNICA

SEE THE DINOSAURS

- ✓ Get a look at dinosaur replicas at nearby Dinosaur Park in Cedar Creek.
- ✓ Times: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays
- ✓ Address: 893 Union Chapel Road Cedar Creek, 78612
- ✓ Cost: \$7 per person, children 2 years and younger are free; parking is free
- ✓ Contact: 512-321-6262
- ✓ Website: www.thedinopark.com

Friday, May 31, 2013



SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

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STORMS WRACK THE MIDWEST



CHARLIE RIEDEL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tina Taylor salvages items at her brother-in-law's tornado-ravaged home Saturday in Moore, Okla. On Thursday, less than two weeks after the Moore tornado killed 24 people, the National Weather Service reported three tornadoes in Oklahoma, one in Tulsa, another near Perkins and a third near Ripley. Another tornado touched ground

near Oden, Ark., where nine people were reported injured. Thursday's tornadoes were much less dangerous than the EF5 storm that struck Moore. The U.S. averages more than 1,200 tornadoes a year, but top-of-the-scale storms like the one in Moore — with winds of more than 200 mph — happen only about once a year.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE

Falling deficit could delay faceoff

Frequently asked questions reveal projections for the economy

TOM RAUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As the U.S. recovery slowly gathers steam, federal deficits are finally coming down from their \$1-trillion-plus heights. That will postpone a new budget showdown between Congress and the White House until fall, and also probably will delay the days of reckoning, feared by millions of aging Americans, when Social Security and Medicare become insolvent.

Why does it matter? Because if those programs' money dries up, benefits must

be reduced.

Some answers on future financial prospects should come today when trustees overseeing the two programs issue their annual report. Last year, they projected that Medicare funds would run dry in 2024 and Social Security's would follow in 2033.

The trustees have steadily been moving those dates closer, as almost 10,000 baby boomers a day have been reaching retirement age and qualifying for benefits.

What next? Ahead of the report, here are some questions and answers about the outlook for the two biggest federal programs.

Q: Will Friday's report show an improvement in light of the government's budget advances?

A: Probably only a small one, given continued general weakness in the economy. "The relatively good news on the budget front could well translate into at least slightly better projections," said Paul Van de Water, an analyst with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal-leaning think tank. "There are so many moving parts to these projections that I never want to go out on a limb. But there is certainly some reason to be slightly optimistic."

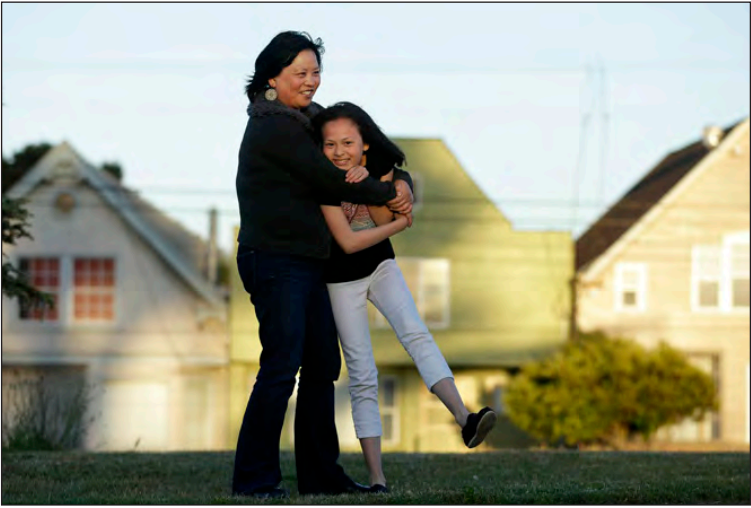
In the meantime, the economy is far from healed, with sluggish growth and a 7.5 percent unemployment rate still way above pre-recession levels of about 5 percent.

Q: With the army of retiring baby boomers, what are the future prospects for Social Security and Medicare?

A: "The real problem starts about 2017 or 2018, when the deficits start going up again," veteran budget analyst Stanley Colander said. Few fixes are under serious

Please see DEFICIT, Page 2

MODERN FAMILIES



JEFF CHIU / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joyce Chen, a single mother and occupational therapist who lives in San Francisco, credits a network of friends from church with helping her as she raises her daughter, Kathryn, 10. But she says she believes a single mother can do just as good a job raising a child as two parents can.

More women opting for single motherhood, according to survey

JENNIFER AGIESTA
Associated Press

As Christy Everson neared age 40, she made a decision: She was single and wanted to raise a child, even if it meant doing it all alone. Her daughter, conceived via an anonymous sperm donor, is now 2 1/2 years old, and Everson hopes to have a second child.

"Was it worthwhile? Well, I'm thinking of doing it again, aren't I?" she said.

Everson and women like her are part of a shift in American society. An Associated Press-WE TV poll of people younger than 50 found 42 percent of unmarried women would consider having a child without a partner. Of those,

37 percent would also consider adopting solo.

A U.S. Census Bureau report shows that single motherhood is on the rise. Of the 4.1 million women who gave birth in 2011, 36 percent were unmarried at the time, an increase from 31 percent in 2005. Among mothers 20 to 24, the figure was 62 percent.

The AP-WE TV poll also found that only 26 percent of Americans think the growing variety of family arrangements is bad for society. However, many have some qualms about single mothers, with about two-thirds — or 64 percent — saying single women

Please see FAMILIES, Page 2

BOSTON BOMBING

Tsarnaevs profess innocence

Bombing suspect continues recovery, talks to parents for first time since arrest

MAX SEDDON
Associated Press

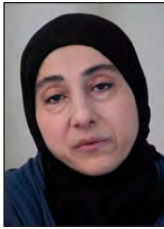
MAKHACHKALA, Russia — The remaining living suspect in the Boston Marathon bombings has recovered enough to walk and assured his parents in a phone conversation that he and his slain brother were innocent, their mother told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19, walked without a wheelchair to speak to his mother last week for the first and only phone conversation they have had since he has been in custody. Zubeidat Tsarnaeva told the AP.

In a rare glimpse at his state of mind, the young man told his mother he was getting better and



Tsarnaev



Tsarnaeva

that he had a very good doctor, but was struggling to understand what happened, she said.

"He didn't hold back his emotions either, as if he were screaming to the whole world: 'What is this? What's happening?'" she said.

His older brother, 26-year-old Tamerlan Tsarnaev, was killed

in a shootout with police, and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev remains in a prison hospital after being badly wounded.

"I could just feel that he was being driven crazy by the unfairness that happened to us, that they killed our innocent Tamerlan," their mother said, standing by the family's insistence that their sons are innocent.

The suspects' parents met the AP in their new apartment in a 14-story building in a well-to-do area of Makhachkala, the capital of the restive Caucasus province of Dagestan.

Anzor Tsarnaev, the suspects' father, said they bought it for Ta-

Please see BOMBING, Page 2

CHEMICAL HAZARDS

Facilities under scrutiny nationwide

DINA CAPIELLO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fears of terrorism have made it harder than ever for citizens to find out what dangerous chemicals lurk in their backyards, The Associated Press has found. Secrecy and shoddy record-keeping has kept the public and emergency workers in the dark about stockpiles of explosive material.

A monthlong reporting effort by the AP, drawing upon public records in 28 states, found more than 120 facilities within a potentially devastating blast zone of schoolchildren, the elderly and the sick. But how many others ex-

ist nationwide is a mystery, as other states refused to provide data.

People living near these facilities who want to know what hazardous materials they store would also have to request the information from state environmental agencies or emergency management offices. County emergency management officials would also have it. The federal government does not have a central database, and while the Homeland Security Department has a list of ammonium nitrate facilities, it does not share it because of security concerns.

Until the fertilizer company in West blew up last month and de-

molished scores of homes, many in that town didn't know what chemicals were stored alongside the railroad tracks or how dangerous they were. Even some of the rescue workers did not know what they were up against.

"We never thought of an explosive potential," said Dr. George Smith, the EMS director who responded to the factory fire.

It is a peculiarity of the post-9/11 age that Americans are more likely to be hurt from chemical or industrial accidents, such as the one in Texas, than from terrorist attacks, such as the one in Boston.

Please see CHEMICALS, Page 2

Dow Jones interns spread their wings

Eleven college students and recent graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships on daily newspapers after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a select group of undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, sports copy editing, business reporting and digital journalism.

The Dow Jones News Fund, a foundation of the Dow Jones Company, and participating newspapers and new media services work together to fund the competitive national program.

More than 600 students applied for the program. Applicants were required to take a test and complete an extensive application before being considered.

The School of Journalism at UT Austin, one of five pre-internship training sites for print and online copy editors and designers, has been part of the News Fund program since 1998. Participants in the UT workshop were involved in newspaper copy editing, design and production assignments and operated a parallel online news operation.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 16th residency program at UT Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants

produced three issues of a live, model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online product, swjournalist.com. The Austin American-Statesman provided printing services for the newspaper.

Participants in the UT Austin workshop, including universities and host news organizations, are:

- Carrie Blazina, Kent State University, The Denver Post
- Samantha Clark, San Jose State University, San Francisco Chronicle
- Ashley Rene Davis, Baylor University, The Beaumont Enterprise
- Brooks Johnson, the University of Montana, Idaho Falls Post Register
- Danae Lenz, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The Dallas Morning News
- Laurence Leveille, Syracuse University, The Oregonian
- Maribel Molina, the University of Texas at Austin, Austin American-Statesman
- Forrest Roth, the University of Oregon, Bay Area News Group
- Emily Siner, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Los Angeles Times
- Rachel Stella, Lewis University, The Tribune, San Luis Obispo, Calif.
- Natalie Webster, the University of Texas at Arlington, Alabama Media Group



BRADLEY WILSON/SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

Dow Jones News Fund interns spent 10 days honing their skills at the University of Texas workshop. Front row: Maribel Molina, Laurence Leveille and Samantha Clark. Second row: Emily Siner, Rachel Stella, Griff Singer (faculty), Natalie Webster and George Sylvie (faculty). Third row: Bradley Wilson, Beth Butler, Amy Zerba (all faculty), Danae Lenz, Carrie Blazina and Forrest Roth. Back: Brooks Johnson and Ashley Rene Davis.

They will serve internships of 10-14 weeks. Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating newspapers cover the cost of the participants' pre-internship training, to include housing, meals, transportation and instruction.

Participating newspapers also pay interns a weekly wage for their work during the internship. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the News Fund.

Leading the UT workshop were S. Griffin Singer, director; George Sylvie, assistant director; and Lourdes Jones and Sonia Reyes-Krempin, administrative associates of the School of Journalism.

Faculty included Beth Butler, assistant workshop director, from Kent State University; Bradley Wilson, assistant professor of journalism at Midwestern State University; Amy Zerba, a staff editor of The New York Times; Linda Shockley, deputy director of the News Fund, Princeton, N.J.

Drew Marcks, senior editor of the Austin American-Statesman, coordinated the interns' visit to that newspaper. Other newspaper training centers were at Temple University, the University of Missouri, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Nebraska. Digital journalism workshops were held at Arizona State University and Western Kentucky University, and a business reporting workshop was conducted at New York University.



CHARLIE RIEDEL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The West Fertilizer Company's plant was reduced to mangled debris by an explosion of ammonium nitrate on April 17. Residents were largely unaware of the danger, and information on facilities such as the one in West is difficult or impossible to obtain.

CHEMICALS: Terrorism worries fueled secretive record-keeping practices

—Continued from Page 1

Yet information intended to keep people safe is concealed in the name of keeping people safe.

At least 60 facilities around the country reported to state regulators as having about as much or more ammonium nitrate than the 540,000 pounds West Fertilizer Co. said it had at some point last year. The AP contacted 20 of the facilities individually to confirm the information, and three companies disputed the records.

More than half a dozen states,

including Ohio, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho and South Carolina refused to provide such information to the AP, citing the risk of terrorist attacks and their interpretations of federal law.

In the states that provided verifiable data, the AP's analysis found more than 600,000 people who live within a quarter-mile of a facility, a potential blast zone if as little as 190 tons of ammonium nitrate is detonated. More often than not, census data show, the danger zones are middle-class or poor neighborhoods.

In the western Michigan farming town of Shelby, state records show that the town's branch of the Helena Chemical Co. reported storing as much as 1 million pounds of ammonium nitrate last year.

Tim Horton, a real estate agent who sits on the local hospital board and the Shelby Area Chamber of Commerce, did not know how much ammonium nitrate the factory holds.

"I would say people don't know and don't care," he said. "Ignorance is bliss."

BOMBING: Father of suspect's friend says FBI executed son

—Continued from Page 1

merlan Tsarnaev, his wife, and their young daughter in the expectation that they would move to Makhachkala later this year.

He added that they planned to turn their old home into a dentist's office, so that his younger son, a dental hygiene student, could work out of it after completing his studies.

Meanwhile, the father of a Chechen immigrant killed in Florida while being interrogated by the FBI about his ties to Dzhokhar's slain brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, maintained that the U.S. agents killed his son "execution-style."

At a news conference in Moscow, Abdul-Baki Todashev, the

father of 27-year-old Ibragim Todashev accused agents of being "bandits" who executed his son.

The FBI says Ibragim Todashev was being questioned by an FBI agent and two Massachusetts state troopers about his ties to Tamerlan Tsarnaev, as well as a 2011 triple slaying in Massachusetts.

Abdul-Baki Todashev showed journalists 16 photographs that he said were of his son in a Florida morgue. He said his son had six gunshot wounds to his torso and one to the back of his head.

The pictures were taken by Ibragim's friend, Khusen Taramov. It was not immediately possible to authenticate the photographs.

Three law enforcement officials said initially that Ibragim Todashev had lunged at the FBI agent with a knife, although two

of them later said it was no longer clear what had happened.

The FBI wouldn't comment on the claims made by Todashev's father.

Todashev's father said his son moved to the U.S. in 2008 on a study exchange program and met the older Tsarnaev brother at a boxing gym in Boston in 2011.

He said the two were "not particularly close friends."

Abdul-Baki Todashev said his son told him he thought Tamerlan Tsarnaev had been set up to take the blame for the bombings.

Seddon reported from Moscow. Associated Press writer Denise Lavoie in Boston and Kyle Hightower in Orlando contributed.

DEFICIT: Secure benefits may suffer from inactive Congress

—Continued from Page 1

consideration in Congress.

House Budget Committee Chairman Paul Ryan, R-Wis., has proposed major revisions to the structure of Medicare. And President Barack Obama wants to alter the formula for automatic cost-of-living Social Security increases that would result in lower future benefit increases. But neither proposal has gained much traction.

Q: What if no agreement is reached between the White House and Congress to guarantee the future solvency of Social Security and Medicare?

A: If funds are exhausted, the two programs will find themselves collecting only enough money in payroll taxes to pay partial benefits to the millions of American recipients. Payroll taxes are in addition to — and collected along with — your federal income taxes.

Q: What will forced reductions mean in dollar terms for those receiving benefits?

A: The Social Security trustees have suggested that once the reserves are gone, incoming payroll taxes will cover about 75 percent of the program's promised benefits. That could mean an immediate 25 percent cut in benefits. That

would reduce the average monthly Social Security check, now \$1,266, to roughly \$950 a month. Medicare's giant hospital fund could pay only 87 percent of costs.

Q: How likely is this to happen?

A: Such deep mandatory cuts seem highly unlikely, given the political heat that would be sure to rise if the deadline were nearing and the White House and Congress were failing to act. A compromise to avoid a cut in benefits seems inevitable. But as recent events have shown, finding common ground is increasingly difficult in Washington.

Q: Won't any improvement in Social Security and Medicare finances just let Congress "kick the can down the road" again?

A: Today's Congress does have a history of procrastinating. Its inability to find common ground on spending cuts by the March 1 deadline resulted in the "sequester" of automatic spending cuts that are trimming \$42 billion from government programs through Oct. 1. Social Security and Medicare were exempted.

Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldívar and Martin Crutsinger contributed.

FAMILIES: Women weigh effects of motherhood on their careers

—Continued from Page 1

having children is bad for society.

The poll found broad gender gaps on many issues. One example: Women were more apt than men to say having children has negatively impacted their career.

But for Joyce Chen, a hospital occupational therapist in San Francisco, it is a question of what kind of career she wants. Chen, 41, a single mother, is happy to have a career that she enjoys and one that she can balance easily with caring for her 10-year-old daughter.

"I've been blessed," she said. "I have a decent income. I don't feel like I need to climb the ladder."

But Chen feels that a single mom can do just as good a job of raising a child as two parents can. The poll found decidedly mixed results on that question: Thirty

percent of respondents said yes, 27 percent said no, and 43 percent said "it depends."

In the poll, 76 percent of women without children said it was important for them to reach certain career goals before starting a family. At 26, Jacqueline Encinias is at a much less established point in her career. A married mother of a month-old baby in Albuquerque, N.M., she aims to go back to school. For now, though, she said she is "just looking for something to get me by."

Encinias said she would probably not have made the choice to be a mother alone.

"I wouldn't want my child to grow up with just one parent," she said.

AP News Survey Specialist Dennis Junius contributed to this report.



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2013 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

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INTERNATIONAL

Indian issues intensify in Chile

VILCUN, Chile — The arson deaths of an elderly couple in their ranch home on land claimed by Mapuche Indians have cast a cold light on the indigenous group's struggle in southern Chile's Araucania region.

Chile's government has spent decades trying to appease Mapuche demands, but violence has only increased. Many blame Mapuche extremists and police overreaction for the current impasse.

In the past five years, reported acts of violence from the Mapuche struggle have escalated 10 times over, prompting a police response that the indigenous group says has been heavy-handed and abusive.

Now, Chile's government is at an impasse about how to ease tensions. In the last three years, it has returned 25,000 acres to the Mapuche and encouraged timber companies and other landowners to let people till small plots.

Sunni-Shiite violence resurgence worries officials

BAGHDAD — Officials in Iraq are growing increasingly concerned about an unabated spike in violence that claimed at least another 33 lives Thursday and is reviving fears of a return to widespread sectarian fighting.

Authorities announced plans to impose a sweeping ban on many cars across the Iraqi capital starting early Friday in an apparent effort to thwart car bombings, as the United Nations envoy to Iraq warned that "systemic violence is ready to explode."

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, meanwhile, was shown on state television visiting security checkpoints around Baghdad the previous night as part of a three-hour inspection tour, underscoring the government's efforts to show it is acting to curtail the bloodshed.

Iraqi security forces are struggling to contain the country's most relentless round of violence since the 2011 U.S. military withdrawal.

The rise in violence follows months of protests against the Shiite-led government by Iraq's Sunni minority, many of whom say they have been marginalized and unfairly treated since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Pope walks in procession, unlike predecessors

ROME — Pope Francis has again broken with the practice of his predecessors, walking the full length of the annual 1-mile procession from one Roman basilica to another.

The 76-year-old Francis, who walks with a slight limp because of apparent lower back pain, paused several times in prayer during the 45-minute nighttime walk between St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major.

Thousands of pilgrims holding candles lined the route on a chilly spring evening.

During his nearly eight-year pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI would make the annual Corpus Domini procession riding on a specially outfitted flat-top pickup truck, kneeling in prayer. Pope John Paul II did the same in his final years.

On Thursday, two priests knelt on the truck in prayer before the Eucharist while Francis walked behind them.

Taliban backs off talks after drone kills deputy leader

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — The Pakistani Taliban withdrew their offer of peace talks Thursday following the death of the group's deputy leader in an American drone attack, a spokesman for the group said. The withdrawal is a blow to the incoming government of Nawaz Sharif that was elected partly on promises to restore security after years of deadly attacks.

The death of Waliur Rehman, wanted by the U.S. for a 2009 attack in Afghanistan that killed seven people working for the CIA, also focuses attention on the controversial U.S. drone program.

Despite President Barack Obama's sweeping promise last week of new transparency, Wednesday's strike against a longtime American target shows that the CIA will still launch attacks on militants without having to explain them publicly.

The announcement by the Pakistani Taliban came amid conflicting reports about whether the Islamic militant movement had selected a replacement for Rehman, who was killed Wednesday.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYRIA

Confident Assad sees victory

Retaliation promised if Israel attacks; Russia missile sale protested

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian President Bashar Assad said in an interview broadcast Thursday that he is "confident in victory" in his country's civil war, and he warned that Damascus would retaliate for any future Israeli airstrike on his territory.

Assad also told the Lebanese TV station Al-Manar that Russia has fulfilled some of its weapons contracts recently, but he was vague

on whether this included advanced S-300 air defense systems.

The comments were in line with a forceful message the regime has been sending in recent days, even as the international community attempts to launch a peace conference in Geneva, possibly next month.

Syria indicated it is ready to attend a conference in principle, but the opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, said earlier Thursday that it would not attend.

An animated Assad said he has been confident since conflict started two years ago that he would be able to defeat his opponents.

"Regarding my confidence about victory, had we not had this confidence, we wouldn't have been able to fight in this battle for two years, facing an international attack," he said.

He warned that Syria would strike back against any future Israeli airstrike.

When Israel struck near Damascus earlier this month, Syria did not respond.

Russia's S-300 missiles would significantly boost Syria's air defenses and are seen as a game-changer, but Assad was unclear whether Syria had received a first shipment.

He said Russia's weapons ship-

ments are not linked to the Syrian conflict.

"We have been negotiating with them about different types of weapons for years, and Russia is committed to Syria to implement these contracts," he said.

Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said Israel considered the S-300s in Syrian hands a threat and signaled it was prepared to use force to stop delivery.

Russia rejected U.S. and Israel requests to cancel the sale. The coalition's decision not to attend the talks could torpedo the only peace plan the international community has been able to rally behind.

EGYPT



HASSAN AMMAR / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Farhan Amir, 70, father of Romani Farhan Amir, listens as a Catholic priest leads a recent prayer service for the soul of his son in the family home 180 miles south of Cairo. Police say Amir jumped to his death in Assiut on May 11, minutes before he was to be questioned about the stabbing of his estranged wife, Azza Willia, who fled, then reappeared, declaring she had converted to Islam.

Conversion sensitivities

Religious intolerance rises under new regime

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

ASSIUT, Egypt — In one case, an Egyptian Christian man stabs his wife after she converts to Islam with the support of hard-line Islamists. After surrendering to police, he dies in mysterious circumstances.

At about the same time, a Muslim woman in another village converts to Christianity and elopes with a Christian man. A crowd of Muslims attacks the local church in outrage. Police arrest the Christian man's family.

The two instances illustrate the sensitivities around conversions in Egypt, but they also demonstrate discrepancies in how the cases are treated.

Christians say powerful Islamist hard-liners have stepped up efforts to get Christians to embrace Islam. Meanwhile, the rare cases of Muslims turning to Christianity often bring violence against the community.

That has heightened Christians' sense of siege amid the increasing influence of Islamists

since the 2011 ouster of autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Ibram Louiz, an activist who tracks conversions and disappearances of Christian women, estimated about 500 conversions since Mubarak's fall.

Public conversions to Christianity are far rarer. Technically, it is not illegal for a Muslim to become Christian, but converts have been imprisoned for insulting religion, threatening national security or other charges.

Romani Farhan Amir, an impoverished Christian day laborer, had little choice but to accept when his wife marched into a police station in Assiut, accompanied by members of the hard-line Gamaa Islamiya, and registered her conversion to Islam in February.

His family says Amir told police that he did not want her near their children.

When she showed up at the school of one of their sons, he stabbed her.

Amir surrendered. While waiting to be questioned, he fell from

a fourth-story window. Police say he committed suicide.

The other conversion story provides a telling contrast.

A 22-year-old Muslim woman, Rana el-Shenawi, is believed to have converted, fleeing with a Coptic Christian.

In retaliation, Muslim mobs attacked the Mar Girgis Church in her hometown of Wasta.

Police detained the father, mother and cousin of Ibram Andrews, the Christian with whom el-Shenawi allegedly eloped. Salafi groups drummed up a nationwide uproar, warning of a plot to convert Muslims.

In Wasta, the priest of Mar Girgis church, Father Angelos, said he didn't understand why his church was blamed for el-Shenawi's disappearance, because Andrews never attended services there.

"Attacks on churches continue . . . because the culprits act with impunity," he said. "Generally, we suffered as Christians under Mubarak, but nowhere near what is happening to us now."

EUROPEAN UNION

Deal reached to protect Atlantic fish stocks

BARRY HATTON
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Half a century ago, a cook would chop a cod in half because it was simply too big to fit in the oven. Today, most fit easily in the frying pan.

Blame the shrinking dinner plate on industrial overfishing of Europe's formerly full waters.

On Thursday, though, the European Union backed landmark legislation that could prevent the commercial extinction of some of the continent's favorite fish.

European parliamentarian Chris Davies did not have to think twice about whether this was the best news for fish in decades.

"Unquestionably yes. It is a complete change of thought," he said.

Environmental groups have not been as upbeat in years.

"This is a historic deal. It has a commitment to rebuild fish stocks and a legally binding target to end overfishing," said Uta Bellion of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

The plan compels the fishing industry to respect scientific advice on overfishing, to vastly reduce the amount of healthy fish thrown back into the sea and to protect sensitive areas at sea.

"If we carried on, potentially 90 percent of all fish stocks would be unsustainable and at risk within the next decade," said Davies, a



FRANCISCO SECO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Food store employee Jose Martins shows a piece of dried cod to a customer in downtown Lisbon, Portugal, on Thursday. The European Union recently backed legislation that could prevent the overfishing of fish like cod and sole.

British Liberal Democrat who led the push for change.

North Sea stocks of cod, the emblematic fish in the Atlantic EU waters, have declined by roughly 75 percent over three decades.

A few decades ago, cod could be caught in abundance just off the Belgian coast, and it would be trucked into Brussels fish market within a day.

"Most of my cod is no longer from Belgium, nor from the North

Sea for that matter," said Sylvie Vandercruys, who runs the Vimar fish restaurant close to where the breakthrough deal was brokered in Brussels. "We get a lot from Norway now."

Portugal, too, gets a lot from Norway, though the Portuguese once had a major fleet that went far beyond EU waters. And on Lisbon supermarket shelves these days, shoppers will find cod from the Pacific, too.

It has been such a staple for the Portuguese that they call dried, salted cod their "faithful friend."

Despite the far-flung origins, cod's place at the table has not diminished.

"We don't have any cod near us, but nobody cooks cod like us," said Joao Oliveira, the Grand Master of the Gastronomic Brotherhood of Cod, a group of enthusiasts in northern Portugal.

In Britain, cod has a place in people's hearts as part of the classic fish and chips combination.

Nowadays, underneath the sizzling batter may be fish brought from half a world away.

"The central problem is not the fishermen, but the regulators," said Mark Kurlansky, author of the classic "Cod: A Biography of the Fish that Changed the World."

But under the new plan, overfishing should end by 2015 for most species and by 2020 for all stocks, with a ban on approving catch quotas that are not in line with scientific advice.

"The next generation will have stocks to fish that are in a better state than that they are now," Irish Marine Minister Simon Coveney said.

The plan still needs the approval of the member states and the European Parliament.

UK

Slaying suspect appears in court

Police ban protest march in brutal death of soldier

CASSANDRA VINOGRAD
Associated Press

LONDON — A prime suspect in the vicious slaying of a British soldier sat in court Thursday, allowed not to stand due to wounds received when he was shot by police.

Michael Adebowale, 22, is one of two men suspected of attacking Lee Rigby near a military barracks in southeast London. The other suspect, 28-year-old Michael Adebolajo, remains hospitalized and will not be charged until he recovers enough to be released from the hospital.

The attack on Rigby by two men wielding knives and meat cleavers has created tensions in Britain, especially since Adebolajo — carrying bloody weapons — invited onlookers to film him after the killing as he ranted about the British government's presence in Muslim lands. There has been a surge in anti-Muslim protests and attacks on mosques since the killing, and far-right groups have mobilized.

London police Thursday barred a planned march by the far-right British National Party from the scene of the attack to a nearby Islamic center because of the threat of "serious disorder."

The al-Qaida-linked magazine Inspire expressed support for the soldier's slaying.

Security was extremely tight for Adebowale's first court appearance. He is scheduled to return to court Monday for another hearing and remains in custody.

Autopsy results made public Wednesday indicated that Rigby, 25, was first struck by a car and then attacked. He died of multiple stab wounds, the report said.

Both suspects were shot by police who arrived on the scene minutes after the attack on the soldier.

ARIZONA

Group fails to oust sheriff

Organizers do not receive enough voter signatures to push lawman out

JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press

PHOENIX — A campaign to force a recall election against the polarizing sheriff of metropolitan Phoenix failed Thursday after recall organizers said they could not collect enough voter signatures to put the lawman on the ballot again.

Organizers of the recall effort against Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio needed to turn in more than 335,000 valid voter signatures by 5 p.m. Thursday to force a recall election.



Arpaio

"It is a sad day," said recall campaign manager Lilia Alvarez. "It is a disappointment."

Recall organizers will not reveal the number of signatures they gathered. The last update they gave on their numbers five weeks ago was 200,000 signatures.

"The count at this point doesn't matter," Alvarez said.

Arpaio issued a statement suggesting that recall organizers are not revealing the number of signatures they gathered because they are embarrassed by the level of their failure.

"This effort failed because the good people of Maricopa County, whom I'm honored to serve, rejected the wrong-headed idea of overturning an election," Arpaio said.

Arpaio supporters say the sheriff won re-election in November



MATT YORK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Susan Islas collects a signature in an effort to recall Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The recall campaign said late Thursday it did not get the 335,000 signatures needed to have the recall election.

fair and square and that recall organizers should not have been allowed to contest the election simply because they did not like the outcome.

The recall effort began just weeks after the 80-year-old Re-

publican sheriff started his sixth term in January. His November re-election race marked the second-closest contest in his 20-year political career. He beat the closest candidate by 6 percentage points.

Joshua Spivak, a recall expert

and senior fellow at Wagner College in New York, said the Arpaio recall effort suffered from too little fundraising, having to collect an unusually high number of voter signatures for a county race and not having an alternative candidate to vote for.

"They are running against Joe Arpaio," Spivak said. "But who are they electing?"

Arpaio critics had argued that the sheriff should be booted because his office has failed to adequately investigate more than 400 sex-crimes cases, has cost the county \$25 million in legal settlements about treatment in county jails and his office was found by a federal judge to have systematically racially profiled Latinos in his signature immigration patrols. Critics say the sheriff is too focused on getting publicity for himself.

In the past, the sheriff has apologized for the bungled sex-crimes investigations and said his office has moved to clear up the cases and has taken steps to prevent a repeat of the problem. He also has denied allegations that his deputies racially profiled people in traffic patrols targeting immigrants who are not authorized to be in the country.

Recall organizers had hoped last week's racial-profiling ruling would pump new life into their cause.

"I wish from the bottom of my heart that this ruling would have come out a month earlier," said Democratic state Rep. Martin Quezada of Avondale, a supporter of the Arpaio recall effort.

"Had this ruling come out a month earlier, who knows how many signatures we would have gotten," he said.

SPORTS

OSU president blasted for jokes

Gee called Notre Dame 'those damn Catholics' who cannot be trusted

ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The president of Ohio State University said Notre Dame was never invited to join the Big Ten because the university's priests are not good partners, joking that "those damn Catholics" cannot be trusted, according to a recording of a meeting he attended late last year.

Gordon Gee also took shots at schools in the Southeastern Conference and the University of Louisville, according to the recording of the December meeting of the school's Athletic Council that The Associated Press obtained under a public records request.

The university called the statements inappropriate and said Gee is undergoing a "remediation plan" because of the remarks.

Gee was on a long-planned family vacation and not available for comment, Ohio State spokeswoman Gayle Saunders said. He apologized in a statement.

"The comments I made were just plain wrong, and in no way do they reflect what the

university stands for," he said in the statement. "They were a poor attempt at humor and entirely inappropriate. There is no excuse for this, and I am deeply sorry."

Gee, who has taken heat before for uncouth remarks, told members of the council that he negotiated with Notre Dame officials during his first term at Ohio State, which began more than two decades ago.

"The fathers are holy on Sunday, and they're holy hell on the rest of the week," Gee said to laughs at the Dec. 5 meeting attended by Athletic Director Gene Smith, other athletic department members, professors and students.

"These statements were inappropriate, were not presidential in nature and do not comport with the core values of the university," trustee Robert Schottenstein said in a statement.

The Big Ten had for years courted Notre Dame, but the school resisted as it sought to retain its independent status in college football. In September, the school announced that it would join the Atlantic Coast Conference in all sports except football but would play five football games each year against ACC teams.

Associated Press writers John Seewer in Toledo, Tom Coyne in South Bend, Ind., Janet Cappiello in Louisville, Ky., and Stephen Hawkins in Irving, Texas, contributed to this report.



CAROLYN KASTER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

OSU president Gordon Gee told a university committee last December that Notre Dame was not invited to join the Big Ten because they are not good partners.

"The comments I made were just plain wrong, and in no way do they reflect what the university stands for. There is no excuse for this, and I am deeply sorry."

OSU PRESIDENT GORDON GEE

NATIONAL

More tornadoes hit Oklahoma, Arkansas

OKLAHOMA CITY — At least three tornadoes touched down in Oklahoma and two more hit Arkansas on Thursday as a powerful storm system moved through the middle of the country, injuring at least nine people.

The National Weather Service reported at least one tornado in the suburb of Broken Arrow; two tornadoes on the ground near Perkins and Ripley in north central Oklahoma; and one west of Oden, Ark. All nine of the injured were in Arkansas; two of the injuries were attributed to a lightning strike in Rogers. Lightning was also said to have started a fire that destroyed two floors of a condominium building in northwestern Indiana.

Motorcycle injuries up with weaker laws in Michigan

WASHINGTON — The average medical claim from a motorcycle crash rose by more than one-fifth last year in Michigan after the state stopped requiring all riders to wear helmets, according to an insurance industry study.

Some states have sought to mitigate the repeal or loosening of mandatory helmet laws by setting minimum medical insurance requirements, but "that doesn't even come close to covering the lifelong care of somebody who is severely brain-injured and who cannot work and who is going to be on Medicaid," said Jackie Gillan, president of Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety.

Jeff Hennie, vice president of the Motorcycle Riders Foundation, looked at it differently.

"This (the Michigan helmet law change) doesn't make helmets illegal. ... No one is forcing anyone to ride without a helmet," he said.

Penn State ex-players, faculty join suit against NCAA

BELLEFONTE, Pa. — Nineteen people, from former players to faculty members, a mini-cross section of the Penn State community has partnered with the late head coach Joe Paterno's family in suing the NCAA to overturn the landmark sanctions against the school for the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse scandal. They seek a jury trial to reverse what they call the NCAA's swift and unlawful punishment of the storied football program.

Paul Kelly, an attorney representing trustees, faculty, and former players and coaches, said the action affected "the entire Penn State community."

NCAA president Mark Emmert — named as a defendant in the lawsuit — said he had not reviewed the filing and declined comment Thursday on individual cases.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASA wants to use the Orion space capule, shown above, for deep space missions.

High radiation levels pose risk for manned trips to Mars

LOS ANGELES — Astronauts traveling to and from Mars would be bombarded with as much radiation as they could get from a full-body CT scan about once a week for a year, researchers reported Thursday.

That dose would, in some cases, exceed NASA's standards and is enough to raise an astronaut's cancer risk by 3 percent.

NASA aims to send a crew to orbit the red planet by the mid-2030s, and despite the potential health risks, Norm Thagard, the first American to fly on the Russian space station Mir, said there likely won't be a shortage of astronauts willing to hop on a Mars flight.

Bank-owned homes reach lowest level since 2008

LOS ANGELES — The nation's foreclosure woes may be easing as the U.S. housing market recovery gains momentum.

Between January and March, sales of bank-owned homes fell 16 percent from the previous three months and were down 23 percent versus the first quarter of 2012, according to foreclosure tracker RealtyTrac Inc.

Sales of bank-owned homes have not been this low since the first quarter of 2008, the firm said.

Sales of previously occupied homes have risen nearly 10 percent during the past 12 months.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

FBI

Former Bush attorney likely to get director job

DONNA CASSATA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans said Thursday they see no major obstacles to Senate confirmation of James Comey, the former deputy attorney general in the Bush administration who is expected to be nominated by President Barack Obama as the next FBI director.

Comey, who would replace Robert Mueller as head of the national security organization, is certain to face tough questions about his work as a counsel for a major hedge fund and his ties to Wall Street as well as how he would handle current, high-profile FBI investigations.

But Republicans and Democrats said the former prosecutor's strong credentials and sterling reputation suggest his path to confirmation should be relatively smooth.

Comey "is an extraordinary individual, and I don't know why you wouldn't want a per-

son like this," said former Attorney General John Ashcroft, a Missouri Republican who served in the Senate from 1994-2000, of his onetime deputy.

Former Solicitor General Theodore Olson, who served with Comey at the Justice Department, said Comey is "very smart. He's a very straight shooter. He's the FBI's kind of person."

Several Democratic senators, including Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy of Vermont, had no immediate comment as they awaited official word from the White House.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest on Thursday declined to comment on Comey's impending nomination, nor would he discuss the timing of any announcement.

Associated Press writers Pete Yost, Mark Sherman, Alan Fram and Nedra Pickler contributed to this report.



Comey

ECONOMY

First-quarter growth rate rises less than expected

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy grew at a modest 2.4 percent annual rate from January through March, slightly slower than initially estimated. Consumer spending was stronger than first thought, but businesses restocked more slowly and state and local government spending cuts were deeper.

The Commerce Department said Thursday that economic growth in the first quarter was only marginally below the 2.5 percent annual rate the government had estimated last month. That is still much faster than the 0.4 percent growth during the October-December quarter.

Most economists think growth is slowing to around a 2 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter as the economy adjusts to federal spending cuts, higher taxes and further global weakness. Still, many say the decline may not be as severe as once thought. Solid hiring, surging home prices and record stock gains should keep consumers spending.

Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets, said the small revision to first-quarter

U.S. ECONOMY FACTS

- ✓ First-quarter growth rate: 2.4 percent
- ✓ First-quarter consumer-spending rate: 3.4 percent
- ✓ 2013 predicted annual growth rate : 2.2 percent
- ✓ Consumer spending: 70 percent of economic activity

growth supported her view that the economy will grow a moderate 2.2 percent for the year, the same as last year.

Still, Lee expects growth to improve to 3.2 percent in 2014, as the job market accelerates and consumers grow more confident in the economy.

Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity as measured by the gross domestic product. GDP is the economy's total output of goods and services, from haircuts and computers to trucks and aircraft carriers.

The government's second look at first-quarter growth showed that consumer spending roared ahead at a 3.4 percent annual rate, the fastest spending growth in more than two years.

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Minorities call for revamped redistricting

Texas minority groups blasted the state's process of considering new political district maps as state officials try to rush to a solution in hopes of avoiding a federal court defeat.

Minority advocates said Thursday that Texas lawmakers are denying poor people outside Austin the chance to testify and that the map versions under consideration would discriminate against minorities.

Minority senators, all Democrats, opposed adopting interim, federal court-drawn maps because the maps did not guarantee that minorities would have a fair say in the 2014 elections. They said the maps do not reflect, in terms of voting power, that 89 percent of new Texans since 2000 are minorities.

Republican Sen. Kel Seliger, who chairs the Senate Redistricting Committee, contested the discrimination argument, but advocated a public and transparent process for adopting a map and promised to consider amending the interim maps to make them "more legal." He said he would reject changes solely for political or personal purposes.



Seliger

2-year-old fatally shoots self in face with 9 mm pistol

RUSK — A 2-year-old East Texas boy has died after shooting himself in the face.

The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office stated in a news release that the boy's great-great-grandmother called 911 on Wednesday afternoon.

Details, including how the toddler found the gun, are still under investigation.

According to officials, the boy, who would have turned 3 in July, shot himself with a 9 mm pistol.

Man gets 50-year sentence after \$35 rib theft, robbery

WACO — A Waco man discovered ribs cost more than money.

Willie Smith Ward, 43, was convicted and sentenced Wednesday to 50 years in prison on robbery charges in connection with the theft of \$35 rack of pork ribs.

Ward's theft became a robbery after he threatened a grocery store employee, who said Ward threatened him with a knife after the employee tried to stop him.

The jury recommended Ward be sentenced as a habitual criminal. He has prior convictions for burglary, attempted robbery, aggravated assault, leaving the scene of an accident and possession of cocaine.

He must serve at least 12.5 years before he is eligible for parole.

Decomposed dogs found under Central Texas bridge

BASTROP — Sheriff's officials are investigating the deaths of at least six decomposed dogs found under a bridge in Red Rock.

Sgt. Tom Neely of the Bastrop County Sheriff's Department said it is difficult to tell what happened. Officials do not know if the animals were killed or how they died.

He also said they were too decomposed to determine the cause of death.

Ellie Farmer, the owner of one of the dead dogs, found the dogs May 22 after getting a tip from a man who found them. Farmer identified her dog, a Great Pyrenees named Chazak, because of his black collar. Farmer said she thinks the dog, missing since April 18, was stolen.

Alamo may replace Cotton as top Big 12 bowl

IRVING — The Alamo Bowl is close to being top choice for the best Big 12 teams that will not play for the national championship.

Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said Wednesday the league's future bowl lineup is not complete but sounded confident the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio would replace Dallas' Cotton Bowl as first destination for teams not in the four-team College Football Playoff in 2014.

Bowlsby said the league had agreed in principle with most slots after current agreements expire following the 2013 season, including a new alliance with a Florida bowl.

The Big 12 also voted Wednesday to become the first conference with an eight-person officiating crew, expanding by one. The extra official would be opposite the referee on the offensive side of the ball.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

OIL INDUSTRY



BRENNAN LINSLEY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Workers tend to a wellhead during a hydraulic fracturing operation outside Rifle, Colo., in March. The oil and gas industry in Colorado made up 2.25 percent of the state's GDP as of 2010. The two largest oil and gas lobbyists in recent years were Pioneer Natural Resources and Nobel Engery Inc., both Texas companies.

Lobbies sway Colorado policy

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER — The two largest lobbying spenders in the oil and gas industry in Colorado were Texas companies, Pioneer Natural Resources and Noble Energy Inc. The generous political spending of oil and gas companies might exert an outsize influence on Colorado politics, suggests a left-leaning watchdog group report out Thursday.

Colorado Ethics Watch reviewed state lobbying disclosures and political donations from oil and gas companies, industry associations and their employees.

The group concluded the industry spent nearly \$5 million lobbying Colorado officials between 2007 and 2012. That is more than twice what other mining businesses spent, and more than five times what the agriculture industry spent over the same period.

The two Texas companies did not immediately return calls and emails for comment Thursday.

The Colorado Oil and Gas Association, an industry group also mentioned in the report, was reviewing the report and did not have an immediate response.

The oil and gas companies and their employees also were generous campaign donors, distributing more than \$800,000 to 113 Republican and 82 Democratic candidates.

Ethics Watch does not accuse the oil and gas industry of wrongdoing but suggests the industry benefits from spending so freely to influence politicians.

"The oil and gas industry

punches above its weight when it comes to influence on Colorado politics," the report states.

Ethics Watch notes that the industry still spends much less in Colorado than the health care industry, which dwarfed lobbyist spending by all other industries during the period in question at nearly \$17 million.

The watchdog group does suggest, though, that political spending by the oil and gas industry helps explain why state drilling regulations are so difficult for policymakers to tighten.

The latest legislative session featured several big wins by the industry, including the defeat of

a bill to impose new conflict-of-interest restrictions on oil and gas regulators. Lawmakers also declined to hike drilling fines that have not changed since the 1950s. The oil and gas industry also helped block measures to increase drill inspections and water-testing requirements in northern Colorado.

"We knew that there would be a lot of money spent on oil and gas, but they took it up a notch this session, and I think it had an effect," said Sen. Matt Jones, D-Louisville, sponsor of some of the failed oil and gas measures.

The head of Colorado Ethics Watch, Luis Toro, said the report is designed to raise public awareness, not castigate legal lobbying and political activity.

"But when people think that their vote counts less than the influence of lobbyists, that's bad for democracy," Toro said.

MEXICO



EDUARDO VERDUGO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man asks for help finding a relative during a Mexico City protest Thursday. The sign reads in Spanish: "Help us find him. Rafael Rojas Marines. Disappeared in the after-hours (club) Heaven. Asking for your support!!"

11 young adults missing from Mexico City club

MARK STEVENSON
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Eleven young people went missing in broad daylight Sunday from a Mexico City bar.

The suspected mass abduction was particularly brazen, even by Mexico City standards, happening in daytime just off the Paseo de la Reforma, the city's main boulevard, and 1½ blocks from the U.S. Embassy.

The bar where the youths disappeared also is a few blocks from the city's main police headquarters.

"How could so many people have disappeared, just like that, in broad daylight?" said Josefina Garcia, mother of missing Said Sanchez Garcia, 19, her only son. "The police say they don't have them, so what, the Earth just opened up and swallowed them?" She said her son was not involved in any criminal activity and



GRAPHIC BY EMILY SENER

worked at a market stall selling beauty products.

The known missing include six men, most in their 20s, a 16-year-old boy and four young women.

While no clear motives had been revealed in the attack, residents of the downtown neighborhood of Tepito said a wave of abductions of young people has occurred in recent months that could be related to organized crime activities. Tepito is the center of black market activities in the city,

where guns, drugs, stolen goods and contraband are sold.

Relatives said they believe the youths were at the club around midmorning Sunday, when waiters and bar employees herded them out to the street and armed men bundled them into waiting vehicles and spirited them away.

"We aren't sure what exactly occurred," said Rodolfo Rios, Mexico City's chief prosecutor. "No witness has come forward to say anything about any armed gang."

The disappearances are the latest incident in Mexico City's largely unregulated bar scene.

Officials allow bars of questionable character to continue operating, although they may sell drugs and frequently violate rules governing closing times, parking and serving alcohol to minors.

NATIONAL

Texan to serve 25 years for ambassador murder plot

TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A U.S. citizen-turned-covert Iranian operative was sentenced to 25 years in prison Thursday for plotting to kill the Saudi Arabian ambassador to the United States.

Manssor Arbabsiar, 58, a former used car salesman from Corpus Christi, pleaded guilty in October to two conspiracy charges and a murder-for-hire count. He alleged he was directed by Iran's Quds Force, a branch of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, to hire a Mexican drug cartel to carry out the assassination. U.S. agents disrupted the plot.

U.S. District Judge John Keenan cited evidence that Arbabsiar had transferred nearly \$100,000 to an FBI bank account in 2011, believing it was a down payment for the killing. He also cited secret recordings in which Arbabsiar told a confidential informant that the risk that the explosion could kill innocent bystanders, including U.S. senators, was "no problem" and "no big deal."

Arbabsiar went to Mexico in the summer of 2011 and approached someone he thought was a member of the Mexican narco-terror group, Los Zetas, for help with an attack on a Saudi embassy in Washington. The man was an informant for U.S. drug agents who began recording their conversations.

In a statement following the sentence, U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara described Arbabsiar as "an enemy among us — the key conduit for, and facilitator of, a nefarious international plot concocted by members of the Iranian military to assassinate the Saudi ambassador to the United States and as many innocent bystanders as necessary to get the job done."



Arbabsiar

SPELLING BEE

Missed words

Three Texas middle school students competed in the Scripps National Spelling Bee semifinals Thursday. Shobha Dasari was eliminated in round 6.

Chetan Reddy, who tied for 22nd last year, and Syamantak Payra were eliminated in round 10, tying for seventh place.

These are the words that bested the semifinalists, first with their attempt and then with the correct spelling.

Chetan Reddy, Plano

caburri kaburi

noun

land crab common to mangrove swamps from the West Indies to southern Brazil

Syamantak Payra, Friendswood

cipolino cipollino

noun

fictional character from a 20th-century Italian children's story; also, a type of marble first used in ancient Greece

Shobha Dasari, Houston

bouurret bourrée

noun

17th-century lively French dance, usually in quick duple time beginning with an upbeat

Cover or original?

Streaming sites are changing the way we listen to music. Some record labels are opting out while cover bands are profiting.

RYAN NAKASHIMA
Associated Press

There are about 600 versions of Adele's Oscar-winning song "Skyfall" on the Spotify subscription music service. Not one of them features Adele.

Adele's label, XL Recordings, keeps her music off the all-you-can-listen subscription plans until download sales peter out. In the meantime, copycat artists fill the void, racking up royalty revenue, often before customers realize they have been listening to someone else.

Alice Bonde Nissen found that out the hard way. She once paid \$17 a month for Spotify's premium service in Denmark. Nissen found a version of "Skyfall" and mistakenly clicked on a "follow" button to become a fan of GM-Presents and Jocelyn Scofield, a cover-song specialist with some 4,600 Spotify followers. Scofield, has the most listened-to cover of "Skyfall" on the service.

"When I found out ... that I couldn't find the original 'Skyfall' (and some other hits), I decided to quit Spotify," Nissen said.

Thousands of cover songs crowd digital music services such as Spotify and Rhapsody and listeners are getting annoyed. The phenomenon threatens the growth of these services — which have millions of paying subscribers — and could hold back the tepid recovery of a music industry still reeling from the decline of the CD.

Cover songs are legal in the U.S. and have a long tradition in the music industry. Some covers are even more famous than the originals. Which do you think of first, Aretha Franklin's soaring 1967 version of "Respect," or Otis Redding's original from two years earlier? How about Jimi Hendrix's funky 1968 rendition of "All Along the Watchtower"? Does anyone even remember that Bob Dylan wrote and sang it in a release six months before?

Spotify's head of development and analysis, Sachin Doshi, acknowledged that finding covers instead of originals can be frustrating.

"We recognize it's a problem we haven't fully solved yet," Doshi said.

Obtaining a license to record a cover is easy and inexpensive. Services such as Google Inc.'s Limelight, which launched in late 2009, offer commercial song licenses to anyone who fills out a form. For each song they cover, artists pay a \$15 fee. By law, Limelight also charges \$9.10 in advance for every 100 downloads the artists may sell. TuneCore, which launched in 2006, distributes songs on outlets like iTunes for \$10 per track. Selling a couple hundred



CHRIS PIZZELLO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds of copycat versions of Adele's Oscar-winning song "Skyfall" appear on Spotify's subscription service. XL Recordings keeps her music off of streaming services until the download sales slow. Cover artists collect royalty revenue, often before customers realize they were listening to someone else.

tracks — because of consumer confusion or otherwise — can earn cover artists enough money to make a living.

The hurdle is so low for the average amateur that once a hit song comes out, it is covered quickly. Take "Suit & Tie," a Justin Timberlake song released by RCA Records in January.

There are already about 180 covers on Spotify.

Since Adele's "Skyfall" was released in October, it has sold more than 1.9 million copies in the United States. Cover artists sold more than 54,000 copies, according to Nielsen SoundScan. The top-selling cover was produced by Movie Sounds Unlimited, a subsidiary of German music publisher BMG, and sold more than 9,800 units.

While some people make covers to get discovered, others seem to be in it to trick buyers and make a fast buck. A search for popular artists on Spotify reveals plenty of me-too bands who pick deceptive artist names such as the "Bruno Mars Tributators" or song names such as "Firework (As Made Famous By Katy Perry)." The artwork and graphics used for their songs are sometimes a mirror image of the originals.

It is a big business, with millions of dollars invested, and Movie Sounds' parent Countdown Media has a catalog of more than 50,000 covers. Digital music stores have made knockoffs profitable in a way that would not be possible with physical stores.


Brian Felsen, the president of CDBaby, another independent song distributor, said that while a gray area exists today, the deluge of covers cannot really be stopped.


"Everybody polices it as much as you can," he said, adding that his staff attempts to prevent knockoffs that copy cover art and use other deceptive practices from being distributed. He said that having so many covers isn't good for consumers.


"It may not be illegal or immoral, but it may not be the best thing for society at large either."

BRIAN FELSEN

Music Streaming Services

 Spotify.com — Music streaming, social media application

 Last.fm — Online radio, music recommendation service

 Rhapsody.com — Paid subscription to online music library.



JOHN MARSHALL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

About 180 covers of Justin Timberlake's song "Suit & Tie" have been uploaded to Spotify.

"It may not be illegal or immoral, but it may not be the best thing for society at large either."

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's 75!

MATT MOORE
Associated Press

What to get Superman for his 75th birthday? DC Entertainment's starting with a new logo.

The company, part of Warner Bros. Entertainment, unveiled the new logo Thursday in honor of Superman's 75th anniversary. It ties in the iconic character's familiar red and blue colors, along with his ever-present cape, and the words "75 Years."

Comic book "Superman Unchained" by DC co-publisher Jim Lee and writer Scott Snyder will be the first to feature the new logo on its June 12 cover. Portions of a new animated short being produced by "300" and "Man of Steel" director Zack Snyder will be

All things Superman

- ✓ First appeared in Action Comics No. 1, 1938.
- ✓ Doomsday killed Superman in 1992, but the caped hero quickly returned.
- ✓ Neil DeGrasse Tyson estimated Krypton was 27 light-years from Earth.
- ✓ "Man of Steel" opens in theaters June 14

shown at San Diego Comic-Con in July.. Snyder's finished version will debut in full this summer.

Warner Bros. CEO Kevin Tsujihara said Thursday the new logo is part of a yearlong celebration of what he called the "first

super hero" whose exploits have jumped from the pages of comic books to radio, television, movies (the latest incarnation, "Man of Steel," opens June 14) and video games.

"We are proud to commemorate this milestone with exciting entertainment across the entire studio and across the globe, ensuring this enduring icon reaches new generations of audiences," he said of the character created in Cleveland by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster in June 1938.

Diane Nelson, president of DC Entertainment, called Superman "undeniably the greatest super hero in the world and likely the most influential comic book character of all time."



In celebration of his 75th anniversary, comic book hero Superman is getting a reworked logo from DC Entertainment.



Tea party wins big



PAT SULLIVAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS



CODY DUTY / ASSOCIATED PRESS



SMILEY N. POOL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

State Sen. Dan Patrick, at top, ended the political career of David Dewhurst, who has been lieutenant governor since 2003, in Tuesday's Republican primary runoff. Dewhurst, above right, said before the contest that this would be his final campaign.

Patrick unseats Dewhurst in lieutenant governor runoff

JIM VERTUNO
Associated Press

Republican voters appeared ready to push Texas even further to the right Tuesday by backing tea party favorites over establishment candidates, casting out Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst in favor of a state senator who sharpened his policy and debating skills as a firebrand radio talk show host.

Dan Patrick, who emerged as the front-runner from the first round of voting, easily beat Dewhurst in the primary runoff, ending the political career of a multimillionaire energy businessman who has been lieutenant governor since 2003. Dewhurst had said this would be his final campaign.

With Texas Democrats again the underdogs in November, many tea party-aligned candidates who won Tuesday are

poised to pursue an aggressively conservative agenda that would likely include further spending cuts, expanded gun rights and more restrictions on abortion and illegal immigration.

Tuesday's Republican runoffs settled nominations for four major offices and nearly a dozen state-house seats.

In the GOP campaign for attorney general between two state legislators, tea party-backed Ken Paxton beat Dan Branch, who is a member of the House leadership team.

Sid Miller won the nod for agriculture commissioner over his colleague in the Legislature, Tommy Merritt, whom he accused of being too moderate.

Tea party-backed candidates have also admonished the Republican-controlled

"David Dewhurst hasn't taken control. He wouldn't get in the middle of anything. ... I think we need some changes."

ROBERT WILKERSON

CEOs earn 257 times more than employees

KEN SWEET
Associated Press

NEW YORK — They're the \$10 million men and women.

Propelled by a soaring stock market, the median pay package for a CEO rose to more than eight figures for the first time last year. The head of a typical large public company earned a record \$10.5 million, up from \$9.6 million in 2012, according to an Associated Press/Equilar pay study.

Last year was the fourth straight year that CEO compensation in-

creased, following a decline during the Great Recession. The median CEO pay package climbed more than 50 percent over that stretch. A chief executive now makes about 257 times the average worker's salary, up sharply from 181 times in 2009.

The best-paid CEO last year led an oilfield-services company. The highest-paid female CEO was Carol Meyrowitz of discount retail giant TJX, owner of T.J. Maxx and

Please see CEO, Page 2

Troops to exit Afghanistan by end of 2016 under US plan

JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Charting an end to America's longest war, President Barack Obama announced plans Tuesday for keeping nearly 10,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan after this year, then withdrawing virtually all by the close of 2016 and the conclusion of his presidency.

The drawdown would allow Obama to bring America's military engagement in Afghanistan to an end while seeking to protect the gains made in a war in which he significantly intensified U.S. involvement.

"We have to recognize that Afghanistan will not be a perfect place, and it is not America's responsibility to make it one," Obama declared during an appearance in the White House Rose Garden.

President Obama credited American forces, which were first deployed by President George W. Bush within a month of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, with striking significant blows against al-Qaeda's leadership, eliminating Osama bin Laden and preventing Afghanistan from being used as a base for strikes against the U.S. "Now we're finishing the job we've started," he said.

The withdrawal blueprint is contingent on Afghanistan's government signing a stalled bilateral security agreement. While current Afghan President Hamid Karzai has refused to sign the accord, U.S. officials say they're confident that either of the candidates running to replace him will finalize the deal.

The size and scope of the residual U.S. force largely mirrors what Pentagon officials had sought, which appeared to give Obama cover with some Republicans, including House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio. But some of the president's harshest critics on foreign policy — Sens. John McCain of Arizona, Lindsey Gra-

Please see AFGHANISTAN, Page 2

States must use more than IQ in death-row eligibility cases

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Twelve years after barring execution of the mentally disabled, the Supreme Court on Tuesday prohibited states in borderline cases from relying only on intelligence test scores to determine whether a death row inmate is eligible to be executed.

In a 5-4 decision, the court said that states must look beyond IQ scores when inmates test in the range of 70 to 75. IQ tests have a margin of error, and those inmates whose scores fall within the margin must be allowed to present other evidence of mental disability, Justice Anthony Kennedy said in his majority opinion.

A score of 70 is widely accepted as a marker of mental disability, but medical professionals say people who score as high as 75 can be considered intellectually disabled because of the test's margin of error.

Until Tuesday, the justices left the determination of who is mentally disabled to the states.

Kennedy said the finality of capital punishment requires giving inmates the chance to present evidence of mental disability in borderline cases.

"The states are laboratories for experimentation, but those experiments may not deny the basic dignity the Constitution protects," Kennedy said in his opinion.

At most, nine states employ a similar cutoff of 70, Kennedy said.



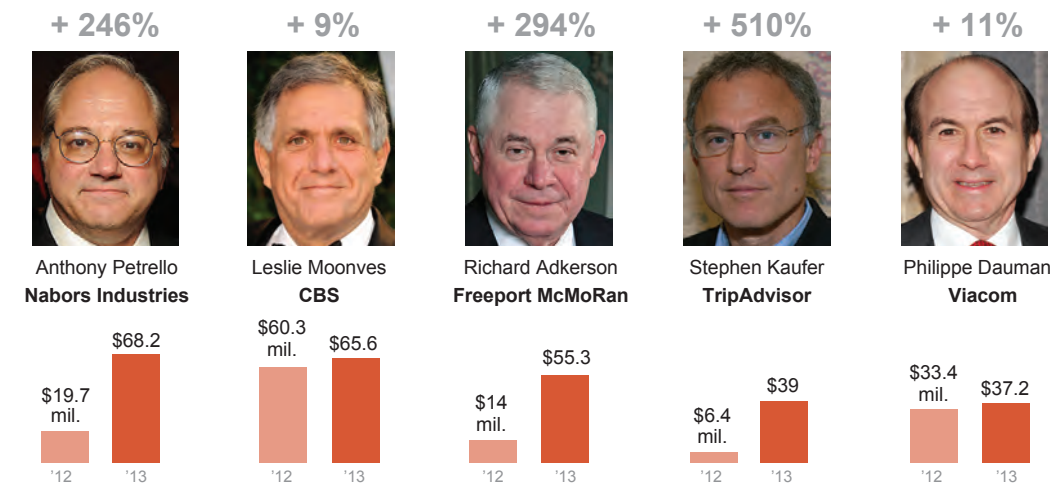
Hall

Please see ELECTION, Page 2

Please see COURT, Page 2

Highest-Paid CEOs

Anthony Petrello of Nabors Industries was the highest-paid of 337 CEOs at S&P 500 companies in 2013, according to data compiled by the AP and Equilar, an executive research firm.



NOTE: To calculate CEO pay, Equilar adds salary, bonus, perks, stock awards, stock option awards and other pay components.

SOURCES: TripAdvisor; Anthony Petrello image: Dave Rossman/For the Chronicle

AP



SMILEY N. POOL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

State Sen. Dan Patrick greets voters outside a polling place at Cypress Top Park as he campaigns in the Republican primary runoff election for lieutenant governor on Tuesday in Cypress. Patrick faces incumbent Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst in their runoff campaign to claim the Republican spot on the ballot in November against Democratic state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte.

ELECTION: New faces in statewide offices

—Continued from Page 1

general election against Democrat Leticia Van de Putte, a state senator from San Antonio. Patrick's victory Tuesday also means that a new face will occupy every major statewide office in Texas next year when Gov. Rick Perry steps aside. The Dewhurst-Patrick battle for lieutenant governor was a lightning rod of a campaign as both candidates exchanged bitter personal attacks. The campaign took

a nasty turn in the final weeks as the debate veered away from policy and into Patrick's personal history after records released by a Dewhurst ally, Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, revealed Patrick had been treated for depression and an apparent suicide attempt in the 1980s. "David Dewhurst hasn't taken control," Robert Wilkerson, a 65-year-old handyman in Aledo said just after the polls opened. "He wouldn't get in the middle of anything. He would just kind of

go along with the status quo, and I think we need some changes." The runoff was less lively for Democrats, who nominated former major Republican donor David Alameel over Keshia Rogers for U.S. Senate. The Democratic Party implored voters not to support Rogers, who wants to impeach President Barack Obama. Alameel will now face Republican Sen. John Cornyn, who is favored to win his third term in November.

COURT: Death row inmates must have chance to prove mental illness

—Continued from Page 1

In dissent, Justice Samuel Alito said the court has no evidence that relying on test scores just above 70 is unreasonable and so should not be held unconstitutional. Tuesday's decision came in the case of 68-year-old Freddie Lee Hall. Lawyers for Hall said there is ample evidence to show that he is mentally disabled, even though most of his multiple IQ tests have yielded scores topping 70. Hall has been on death row for more than 35 years since being convicted of murdering a pregnant 21-year-old woman in 1978. In nine tests administered between 1968 and 2008, Hall scored

as low as 60 and as high as 80, with his most recent scores between 69 and 74, according to the state. A judge in an earlier phase of the case concluded Hall "had been mentally retarded his entire life." Psychiatrists and other medical professionals who examined him said he is mentally disabled. As far back as the 1950s, Hall was considered "mentally retarded" — then the commonly accepted term for mental disability — according to school records submitted to the Supreme Court. Kennedy relied on legal briefs filed by psychiatrists and psychologists who supported Hall to undergird his opinion. Beyond the test score, the groups said there's

a consensus among the mental health professions that an accurate diagnosis also must include evaluating an individual's ability to function in society, along with finding that the mental disability began in childhood. Alito called Kennedy's reliance misplaced. In earlier death penalty cases, Alito noted that the court took account of changing standards in American society to bolster decisions limiting executions. "Now, however, the court strikes down a state law based on the evolving standards of professional societies," Alito said. The case is Hall v. Florida, 12-10882.

Science fares well for kids at Capitol

JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama confessed to feeling a little bit unaccomplished. There was the catapult-armed mannequin that shot three-point baskets, the 18-year-old cancer researcher and the Brownies from Tulsa, Oklahoma, with their Lego "flood-proof" bridge design. "I'm such an underachiever," Obama said after chatting with Eric Chen at Tuesday's annual White House Science Fair. Chen, a Harvard-bound San Diego, California, high school senior, won grand prizes at the 2013 Google Science Fair and the Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology for identifying new drug candidates for the treatment of influenza. It's an annual self-deprecating routine for the Harvard-trained lawyer and 44th president of the United States, who happily recounts his personal challenges in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

"One year I accidentally killed some plants that were part of my experiment," he told Tuesday's White House Science Fair audience. "Another time a bunch of mice escaped in my grandmother's apartment. These experiments did not take me straight to the White House." This year, Obama drew special attention to the science and engineering achievements of girls and young women, noting that men outnumber women studying and working in engineering and computer science. "Half our team we're not even putting on the field," he said. "We've got to change those numbers." Obama announced a new \$35 million Education Department competition to train the best math and science teachers. He also announced an expansion of AmeriCorps to help teach science and math to 18,000 low-income students this summer, and national science and math mentoring projects around the country.



SUSAN WALSH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama looks over the "flood-proof" bridge design by a group of Brownies from Tulsa, Oklahoma, as he tours the science fair exhibits on display in the State Dining Room of the White House on Tuesday. Obama was celebrating the student winners of a broad range of science, technology, engineering and math competitions from across the country.

CEO: Executives still seeing biggest raises

—Continued from Page 1

Marshalls. And the head of Monster Beverage Corporation got a monster of a raise. Over the last several years, companies' boards of directors have tweaked executive compensation to answer critics' calls for CEO pay to be more attuned to performance. Boards of directors have placed more emphasis on paying CEOs in stock instead of cash and stock options. The change became a boon for CEOs last year because of a surge in stocks that drove the Standard & Poor's 500 index up 30 percent. The stock component of pay packages rose 17 percent to \$4.5 million. More than two-thirds of CEOs at S&P 500 companies received a raise last year, according to the AP/Equilar study, because of the bigger profits and higher stock prices. CEO pay remains a divisive issue in the U.S. Large investors and boards of directors argue that they need to offer big pay packages to attract talented men and women who can run multibillion-dollar businesses. "If you have a good CEO at a company, the wealth he might generate for shareholders could be in the billions," said Dan Mitchell, a senior fellow at the Cato In-

stitute, a libertarian think tank. "It might be worth paying these guys millions for doing this type of work." CEOs are still getting much bigger raises than the average U.S. worker. The Bureau of Labor Statistics said average weekly wages for U.S. workers rose 1.3 percent in 2013. At that rate, an employee would have to work 257 years to make what a typical S&P 500 CEO makes in a year. "There's this unbalanced approach, where there's all this energy put into how to reward executives, but little energy being put into ensuring the rest of the workforce is engaged, productive and paid appropriately," said Richard Clayton, research director at Change to Win Investment Group, which works with labor union-affiliated pension funds. Investors have become increasingly vocal about executive pay since the recession, which has led to an increasing number of public spat between boards of directors, who propose pay packages, and shareholders, who own the company. These fights become public during "say on pay" votes, in which shareholders have an opportunity to show they approve or do not approve of pay packages.

AFGHANISTAN: Republicans say setting date to exit is mistake

—Continued from Page 1

ham of South Carolina, and Kelly Ayotte of New Hampshire — called the decision short-sighted and warned that the decision would embolden America's enemies. "The president's decision to set an arbitrary date for the full withdrawal of U.S. troops in Afghanistan is a monumental mistake and a triumph of politics over strategy," the three Republicans said in a joint statement. There are currently about 32,000 U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. Under Obama's plan, that number would be reduced to 9,800 by the start of 2015. Over the course of the next year, the number would be cut in half and consolidated in the capital of Kabul and at Bagram Air Field, the main U.S. base in Afghanistan. Remaining forces would largely be withdrawn by the end of 2016, with fewer than 1,000 remaining to train security forces and launch counterterrorism missions. The American forces would probably be bolstered by a few thousand NATO troops.

Noting the complexity of his drawdown plan, Obama said, "It's harder to end wars than to begin them." During a commencement address Wednesday at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Obama is expected to make the case for an approach to global problems that relies on international consensus. The president is seeking to avoid a similar scenario in Afghanistan, for both security and political purposes. While Obama long opposed the Iraq war, he oversaw a surge of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, giving him greater responsibility for the mission's success or failure. Obama struck an optimistic tone during a surprise visit to Afghanistan on Sunday, telling military commanders that the process of turning over security responsibilities has gone "better than I might have expected just a year ago." Associated Press writers Lolita C. Baldor, Ken Dilanian and Donna Cassata in Washington and Amir Shah in Kabul, Afghanistan, contributed to this report.



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INTERNATIONAL

Smoke from South Korean hospital fire kills 21

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korean officials say 20 patients and a nurse have died in a fire at a hospital in the southwestern city of Jangseong.

An officer with the Jangseong Fire Department says that most of the victims were elderly patients and that the victims died after suffocating on poisonous gas.

The officer says there were 33 patients and a nurse on duty when the fire broke out on the second floor of an annex of Hyosarang Hospital early Wednesday morning. Seven people were injured.

The fire was put out after about seven minutes. The cause was not immediately known.

After long wait, Malaysia releases jet's satellite data

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Nearly three months after the Malaysian jetliner disappeared, the government on Tuesday released reams of raw satellite data that determined that the flight ended in the southern Indian Ocean.

But experts say it's unlikely to solve the mystery.

The release of the information came as the underwater hunt for the jet is poised to pause until later in the summer while new, powerful sonar equipment is obtained, a sign of just how difficult it will be to locate the jet and finally get some answers on how it went missing with 239 people on board.

An international investigation team led by Malaysia has concluded that the jet flew south after it was last spotted on Malaysian military radar to the west of peninsular Malaysia and ended up in the southern Indian Ocean off western Australia. The conclusion is based on complex calculations derived largely from brief hourly transmissions or "handshakes" between the plane and a communications satellite operated by Britain's Inmarsat company.

Egypt election extended because of low turnout

CAIRO — Egypt extended its presidential election on Tuesday to a third day in a drive to raise voter turnout and avoid an embarrassingly meager show of support for former Army Chief Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi.

The head of the election commission told the MBC-Misr TV station that early estimates put turnout at 35 percent of the nearly 54 million voters in the first two days of voting.

The election commission portrayed its decision as a response to demands by would-be voters after receiving complaints about the extreme heat and about migrant workers prevented from voting because of rules that make it difficult to cast ballots away from one's hometown.

Opponents of el-Sissi said the turnout showed the depth of discontent with el-Sissi.

El-Sissi's opponent, leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi's campaign protested the extension, saying it raised questions about the election's integrity and seemed aimed at "interfering in numbers and participation rates."

EU summit hopes for apathy cure after voters stay home

BRUSSELS, Belgium — British Prime Minister David Cameron's recurring complaint that the European Union is "too big, too bossy, too interfering" gained traction at an EU summit on Tuesday after election results that underscored voter apathy and hostility forced government leaders across the bloc to consider profound change.

Protest voters turned out in droves while more than half the 28-nation bloc's electorate failed to muster enough interest to go to their polling stations for European Parliament elections, giving a massive thumbs-down to how the EU functions. The anti-EU UK Independence Party topped the polls in Britain, and in France the extreme-right National Front overwhelmed all its rivals.

Perhaps the tipping point turning the electorate against the EU came last year, when it was unable to address record unemployment crippling some member nations hit by the financial crisis while at the same time trying to ban refillable olive oil jugs from restaurant tables. The olive oil measure was quickly pulled back, yet it became emblematic to many for how the EU meddles in minor issues while losing sight of the big picture.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tensions amplified after Ukraine assault

PETER LEONARD
Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Following a day and night of the heaviest and most sustained assault by Ukrainian government forces to date, the pro-Russia separatist movement finds itself facing an emboldened and resolute national leadership.

The fight for eastern Ukraine seems to have taken a ferocious turn, as both sides step up their attacks after the rebellious regions mostly boycotted a presidential election that delivered a decisive winner. Donetsk Mayor Alexander Lukyanchenko said 40 people, including two civilians, were killed in fighting. Baranov said up to 100 rebels were probably killed in combat.

The Ukrainian government's anti-insurgent operation has kicked into a higher gear, with the military unleashing fighter jets,

helicopter gunships and heavy artillery. Government opponents insist they have taken up arms to defend eastern Ukraine's Russian-speaking population and have appealed to Moscow for assistance. Kiev condemns the insurgents as "terrorists" bent on tearing the country apart.

With Sunday's election of billionaire Petro Poroshenko to the presidency, Kiev has received grudging and tentatively positive diplomatic overtures from Russia.

After Poroshenko claimed victory in the election, hopes were raised of a peaceful end to the insurgency and unification in the deeply divided nation. But he also compared the separatists to lawless "Somali pirates" and promised he would stop them from sowing more chaos.

Russia has kept pushing for Ukraine to decentralize its government, which would allow Mos-



ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hundreds are dead after a Ukrainian anti-insurgent operation, including this man who was killed by shrapnel following a shelling on Monday.

cow to keep eastern Ukraine in its sphere of influence.
Laura Mills and Nataliya

Vasilyeva in Kiev, Ukraine, and Vladimir Isachenkov in Moscow contributed to this report.

Troops detain ex-Cabinet official

Former minister emerged from hiding to voice opposition to Thai coup

TODD PITMAN
Associated Press

BANGKOK — Armed troops detained a Thai Cabinet minister who defiantly emerged from hiding Tuesday to condemn last week's military coup and urge a return to civilian rule, in the first public appearance by any member of the ousted government.

About half a dozen soldiers took former Education Minister Chaturon Chaisang into custody in a chaotic scene at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand, where he had just finished giving a surprise news conference.

The junta, which seized power last Thursday, already had detained most top members of the Southeast Asian country's ousted elected government and ordered the rest to surrender.

Chaturon called for elections and warned that resistance to the army's power grab could grow, which could lead to "a disaster for this country."

When his news conference was finished and Chaturon was being interviewed by a group of Thai journalists, soldiers entered the room, surrounded him and escorted him out through a crowd of reporters. He was calm and smiled as he was taken away.

"I'm not afraid. If I was afraid, I wouldn't be here," Chaturon said, before being hustled into an elevator.

The military coup, Thailand's second in eight years, deposed an elected government that had insisted for months that the nation's fragile democracy was under attack from protesters, the courts and finally the army.

"Coup d'etat is not a solution to the problems or conflicts in Thai society, but will make the conflicts even worse," Chaturon said.

Army Chief Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, who was endorsed Monday



WASON WANICHAKORN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holding roses that people brought to greet them, Thai soldiers guard the area near Victory Monument in Bangkok on Tuesday. Armed troops detained a Thai Cabinet minister who emerged from hiding on Tuesday to urge a return to civilian rule in the first public appearance by a member of the ousted government.

by the king as the nation's new head of government, has warned opponents not to criticize or protest, saying Thailand could revert to the "old days" of turmoil and street violence if they did.

Still, several hundred people gathered Tuesday around Bangkok's Victory Monument to protest the coup.

Despite the political upheaval that has left the nation's elected leadership in tatters, life has continued largely as normal in most of the country, with tourists still relaxing at beach resorts and strolling through Buddhist temples. However, a curfew remains in effect, hotel bookings are being canceled and American singer-songwriter Taylor Swift on Tuesday canceled a sold-out concert that had been scheduled for June 9.

I'm not afraid. If I was afraid, I wouldn't be here.

CHATURON CHAISANG

The junta has ordered more than 260 people to report to the authorities so far.

It is unclear how many are still in custody, but some have been released, including former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who had already been forced from power by a court ruling before the coup.

Others are being detained daily. Human rights groups describe a chilling atmosphere with some people in hiding, others fleeing and soldiers visiting the homes of perceived critics and taking them away in the night.

On Tuesday, the military summoned two Thai journalists who had asked "inappropriate" questions to Prayuth during a news conference a day earlier.

The reporters, from the Thai-rath and Bangkok Post dailies, had queried the junta leader about when and whether he would appoint a prime minister and organize elections. Prayuth gave no definitive answers, and abruptly walked away from the podium. The reporters were not detained and left freely.

Chaturon earlier called the detentions "absurd" and said "they are taking people who have done nothing wrong just because they might resist the coup."

"The problem is, we don't know how long they are going to be detained," he said. "We don't know what happened to them. We don't really know."

He warned that "from now on there will be more and more resistance. ... It will be a disaster for this country."

Associated Press writers Kay Johnson and Grant Peck contributed to this report.

China tactics aim to silence

DIDI TANG
Associated Press

BEIJING — In prosecuting the country's political and social activists, an image-conscious Beijing is shifting its tactics.

Beijing is increasingly using public disorder charges to lock up those it considers nuisances or threats to its rule, rather than filing charges of inciting state subversion that amount to political prosecution and draw international condemnations.

"The scheme is craftier and crueler," said dissident Hu Jia. He spent three and a half years in prison after a 2008 conviction of inciting state subversion.

In June 2013, a directive by China's national prosecutor's office asked local prosecutors to pursue activists harboring political intentions by using charges of disrupting public order.

"You must deftly combine political wisdom with criminal policies in striving to achieve legal, political and social purposes in unison," the directive said.

A U.S.-based prison research group, the Dui Hua Foundation, said its analysis of official data showed 830 Chinese people were indicted in 2013 on charges such as subversion, separatism and incitement in China, the smallest number since 2007. At the same time, the number of people indicted with impairing social order has been rising, from barely 160,000 in 2005 to more than 355,000 last year, the organization reported.

John Kamm, executive director



ALEXANDER F. YUAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A paramilitary policeman patrols on Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China on Tuesday. In prosecuting the country's political and social activists, an image-conscious Beijing is shifting its tactics.

of Dui Hua, said the public disorder category includes computer-related offenses that are becoming increasingly common.

"The decrease in indictments (for charges of endangering state security) may signal a change in tactics: Political dissidents appear to be increasingly charged with non-ESS crimes, thereby obscuring the political nature of their contested acts," a Dui Hua statement said.

Most notably, Beijing authorities have jailed members of the New Citizens movement on the charge of gathering crowds to disrupt public order, which stemmed mainly from holding rallies in front of a government building and unfurling banners calling for

disclosure of government officials' assets.

The use of the tactic is not entirely new, but the national directive signaled a centralized decision, and the use of public disorder charges may also have gotten a boost after China closed its labor camps last year, eliminating a tool that allowed police to detain people for up to four years without going to court.

Critics also say Communist authorities are seeking to discredit and obscure human rights and other activists by prosecuting them on charges that lump them in with bar brawlers, hecklers, petty gangsters and other common criminals.

Father, family stone daughter to death to maintain 'honor'

K.M. CHAUDHRY
Associated Press

LAHORE, Pakistan — A pregnant woman was stoned to death Tuesday by her own family outside a courthouse in the Pakistani city of Lahore for marrying the man she loved.

Farzana Parveen, 25, was killed while on her way to court to contest an abduction case her family had filed against her husband, Mohammad Iqbal, 45. Her father was promptly arrested on murder charges, police investigator Rana Mujahid said. "I killed my daughter as she had insulted all of our family by marrying a man without our consent, and I have no regret over it," Mujahid, the police investigator, quoted the father, Mohammad Azeem as saying.

Arranged marriages are the norm among conservative Pakistanis. Stonings in public settings, however, are extremely rare. Tuesday's attack took place in front of a crowd of onlookers in broad daylight.

Nearly 20 members of Parveen's extended family, including her father and brothers, had waited outside the Lahore courthouse. As the couple approached, the relatives fired shots and tried to snatch her from Iqbal.

When she resisted, her father, brothers and other relatives attacked, eventually pelting her with bricks, according to Iqbal, the slain woman's husband.

"We were in love," he told the Associated Press.

Force to assist veteran needs

Legislators propose group to monitor treatment delays

ALEXA URA
The Texas Tribune

Amid recent allegations of excessive wait times for veterans at several Department of Veterans Affairs clinics across the nation, the quality of care at VA medical centers in Texas is getting extra attention.

And while the state is limited in what it can do at the federal facilities, legislators are still seeking ways to help curb wait times.

“While our reality is that this is a federally run and funded agency that serves Texas residents, that does not mean that Texas cannot ensure that our veterans are taken care of in the honorable way they deserve and have earned,” said state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, who chairs the Texas Senate Veteran Affairs and Military Installations Committee. “It should not take a whistleblower and numerous deaths to raise the flag on issues like these.”

It should not take a whistleblower and numerous deaths to raise the flag on issues like these.

SEN. LETICIA VAN DE PUTTE

The strike force team was created in 2012 as part of the Texas Veterans Commission in response to a massive backlog in the federal system of disability claims for Texas veterans and the proposal would expand the mission and staffing of the strike force team to gather veterans’ complaints.

The state’s oversight group could provide local, independent oversight of the VA’s medical facilities in the state while serving as an advocate for Texas veterans by pointing out problematic facilities to the VA and holding the department accountable, Menéndez said.

The lawmakers intend to hold hearings on the issue, including a Senate hearing on June 12 in Houston, to obtain information

NATIONAL

Fed hacker gets no more time in prison

NEW YORK — A computer hacker who helped the government disrupt hundreds of cyber-attacks on Congress, NASA and other sensitive targets and cripple the hacktivist crew known as Anonymous got a hero’s welcome Tuesday at his sentencing in federal court.

A federal judge cited Hector Xavier Monsegur’s “extraordinary cooperation” before saying he will not serve more than the seven months he spent in prison two years ago. Federal guidelines had called for more than 20 years in prison.

Prosecutors said he cooperated with the FBI, helping disrupt or prevent hacks against divisions of the U.S. government, international intergovernmental organizations and several private companies, including a television network, a security firm, a video game maker and an electronics conglomerate.

Starting in early 2011 and using the alias Sabu, Monsegur led an Anonymous splinter group called Lulz Security, or LulzSec, which hacked the computer systems of Fox television, Nintendo, PayPal and other businesses, stole private information and bragged about its exploits online.



Monsegur

Pa. power plant to clean up its act

DINA CAPIELLO
Associated Press

HOMER CITY, Pa. — Three years ago, the operators of one of the nation’s dirtiest coal-fired power plants warned of “immediate and devastating” consequences from the Obama administration’s push to clean up coal pollution.

Now, the massive western Pennsylvania power plant is expected to turn from one of the worst polluters in the country to a model for how coal-fired power plants can slash pollution.

The Homer City plant reflects the precarious position of older coal-fired plants, squeezed between cheap, plentiful natural gas and environmental rules the Obama administration has targeted at coal.

Homer City also shows how political and economic rhetoric sometimes don’t match reality. Despite claims by Republicans and industry critics that the Obama administration’s regulations will shut down coal-fired power plants, Homer City survived.

“If there is a war on coal, that plant won,” said Eric Schaeffer, the executive director of the Environmental Integrity Project.

The owners of the massive western Pennsylvania power plant have committed to install \$750 million worth of pollution control equipment by 2016.

Last month, the Supreme Court

upheld the EPA’s rule in the case initiated by Homer City Generating Station.

GE Energy Financial Services, the plant’s majority owner, now says it can do it without electricity bills increasing for the two million households it serves.

“We believe in the plant’s long-term value, and that installing equipment will enable it to comply with environmental regulations,” said Andy Katell, a GE spokesman.

Last year, the facility released 114,245 tons of sulfur dioxide, more than all of the power plants in neighboring New York combined.

“It is an emblem, a poster child of the challenge of interstate air pollution,” said Lem Srolovic, the head of the environmental protection bureau for the New York Attorney General’s office.

New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and the EPA sued Homer City in 2011, arguing it was operating in violation of the Clean Air Act by not installing pollution control technology in the 1990s.

A federal judge dismissed the case, arguing it fell outside the statute of limitations.

But U.S. District Judge Terrence McVerry in his opinion said he appreciated the frustration “that society at large continues to bear the brunt of significant sulfur dioxide emissions from that grand-



KEITH SRAKOCIC / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Homer City Generating Station in Homer City, Pennsylvania, shown in this May 5 photo, is expected to reverse its reputation as one of the worst plants in the country to a model plant as it works to install \$750 million of pollution control equipment by 2016.

fathered facility.”

A class-action lawsuit filed by local citizens to get the plant to clean up its pollution also failed.

The Sierra Club appealed the plant’s plans to control sulfur dioxide, securing a settlement in 2012 that requires the plant to show that it will not exceed sulfur dioxide limits.

“It should be the new standard for coal plant permits in the country,” said Tom Schuster, who heads the Sierra Club’s Beyond Coal campaign in Pennsylvania. “When coal-fired power plants are held responsible, the health and quality of life benefits far outweigh any cost.”

The EPA estimates that about 30 percent of the coal-fired units in the U.S. are operating without scrubbers, pollution control equipment that controls for sulfur dioxide and mercury.

All must install them soon, or be retired, to meet new EPA rules. Homer City received a year-long extension on the deadline from Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection.

For Homer City’s 1,687 residents, many are relieved that the plant’s 255 jobs are staying for now. The plant in the future will likely have to reduce smog-forming nitrogen oxides further to comply with the rule the Supreme Court revived last month.

“I’m all in favor of saving the environment,” said Rob Nymick, the borough manager. “But it’s also important to have jobs in this area.”

“We lose the power plant, we’re in trouble.”

— ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER KEVIN BEGOS CONTRIBUTED REPORTING FROM HOMER CITY. CAPIELLO REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

‘Squushy’ spellers socialize

JOSEPH WHITE
Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. — Under the shady trees near the barbecue line at the annual spellers’ picnic, one contestant in this year’s Scripps National Spelling Bee was inducted into The Order of the Squushy Carrots.

Kate Miller and Katharine Wang asked Sriram Hathwar a couple of nonsensical questions, then Kate held her thumbs and forefingers up to Sriram’s forehead and said, “Ding!”

Kate and Katherine sang, in two-part harmony, the group’s theme song: “The Order of the Squushy Carrots; at least we don’t have hair like parrots. Every day we walk the earth forever alone; no one in the Order plays the sousaphone.”

The Order came into being several years ago — it even has its own logo — and has become one of the more popular social media groups that helps spellers stay in touch during the 51 weeks of the year when they aren’t at the bee.

Kate and Katharine, both at the nationals for the third time, have become best buds even though Kate, 14, lives in Abilene, Texas, and Katharine, 12, now lives in Morristown, New Jersey, after representing China the last two years.

They are among 281 contestants ages 8 to 15 vying this week for the title of top speller in the English language.

The bee began Tuesday morning with a computerized spelling and vocabulary test, with onstage rounds starting Wednesday on the way to Thursday’s prime-time fi-



CLIFF OWEN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sriram Hathwar, 13, of Painted Post, N.Y., spells “flâneur” during the semifinal round of the 2013 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Md.

als.

The competition is a social experience, and groups like the Squushy Carrots help make those relationships last.

“This is a place where we can really connect and stay in touch, and rejoice through happy times and help each other in the hard times,” Kate said.

Another group is the “Ghetto-pens” — whose name is “something only spelling geeks would get,” said member Jae Canetti of Reston, Virginia. It’s actually a play on “guetapens” (pronounced GEHT’-uh-pahns), the winning word from the 2012 national bee. About seven people are in the group, and they keep in touch about school, friends, family — and sometimes about spelling.

Vanya Shivashankar, 12, of Olathe, Kansas, is both a Ghetto-pen and a Squushy Carrot.

“It’s just really fun meeting all the people who are there,” Vanya said, “and just having fun with your friends.”

Pope’s visit aimed at eliminating abuse

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

Pope Francis said his plan to meet with a group of sex abuse victims is part of an effort to move forward with “zero tolerance” in confronting and preventing clergy abuse, but the head of a U.S. victims’ group has dismissed the upcoming session as a meaningless gesture.

Cardinal Sean O’Malley, the archbishop of Boston, is organizing the meeting with a half-dozen victims. It will mark the first such encounter for the pope, who has been criticized by victims for not expressing personal solidarity with them when he has reached out to other people who suffer.

“On this issue we must go forward, forward. Zero tolerance,” Francis said, calling abuse of children an ugly crime that betrays God.

He said the meeting and a Mass at the Vatican hotel where he lives would take place early next month.

The Archdiocese of Boston said in a statement that the details of the meeting haven’t been finalized yet, and that O’Malley “looks forward to supporting this effort by Pope Francis in whatever manner will be most helpful.”

The archdiocese said the meeting was expected to take place “in the coming months.”

O’Malley was instrumental in setting up a meeting six years ago between clergy sex-abuse victims and Francis’ predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI.

In April 2008, Benedict and O’Malley met for about 25 minutes with about a half-dozen victims, all adults from O’Malley’s archdiocese who had been molested when they were minors.

David Clohessy, executive director of the main U.S. victims’ group, Survivors Network of Those Abused by Priests, or SNAP, said Pope Francis has shown himself to be capable of making real change in other areas such as church governance and finance but has not done so in dealing with sexual abuse by Catholic clergy.

“The simple truth is this is another gesture, another public relations coup, another nice bit of symbolism that will leave no child better off and bring no real reform to a continuing, scandal-ridden church hierarchy,” he said.

Clohessy said the meeting “is just utterly, utterly meaningless.”

A lawyer who represents clergy abuse victims said he hoped the meeting would be “substantive and meaningful” rather than for cosmetic purposes.

Boston attorney Mitchell Garabedian said “meeting directly with victims is the most powerful tool that the pope can use in understanding the ugliness and horror of clergy sexual abuse and why it must be stopped or prevented.”

He added that there should be more than one such meeting.

The pope also revealed that three bishops are currently under investigation by the Vatican for abuse-related reasons. It was not clear if they were accused of committing abuse itself or of having covered it up.

“There are no privileges,” Francis told reporters en route back to Rome from Jerusalem.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER DEEPTI HAJELA REPORTED FROM NEW YORK. ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER JOSH CORNFIELD IN PHILADELPHIA CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

Californians seeking money stashed by ‘Hidden Cash’

SAN FRANCISCO — Someone’s dropping envelopes full of cash across San Francisco, causing a social media frenzy.

The mysterious person with the Twitter handle @HiddenCash has been hiding money throughout the city since Friday. His Twitter following has exploded from a few hundred on Friday to more than 75,000 and counting by Tuesday.

Hidden Cash’s creator said his giveaways are a “social experiment for good.” He claims to make his money off San Francisco’s real estate market and hopes that winners also pay it forward.

Adam Wenger, a 27-year-old web producer, said he won \$200, finding two envelopes Friday in the city’s South of Market District.

First lady responds to schools meal critics

WASHINGTON — First lady Michelle Obama is striking back at House Republicans who are trying to weaken new school meal standards, saying any effort to roll back the guidelines is “unacceptable.”

The rules set by Congress and the administration over the last several years require more fruits, vegetables and whole grains in the lunch line and set limits on sodium, sugar and fat. The first lady met Tuesday with school nutrition officials who said the guidelines are working in their schools.

The first lady suggested that the conversation should be focused on helping schools rather than rolling back some of the standards completely.

The Agriculture Department has tweaked rules to try to help schools that have concerns. The department scrapped limits on the amount of proteins and grains that kids could eat after students complained they were hungry.

A spending bill approved by a House subcommittee last week would allow schools to waive the standards if they have a net loss on school food programs for a six-month period.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

3-car wreck
near Refugio
kills 4 people

CORPUS CHRISTI — Officials say four people have died in a three-vehicle wreck after an SUV hydroplaned near Refugio.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Cpl. Charlie Ramirez said a Chevrolet Suburban traveling south on U.S. 77 lost control Monday evening on the wet highway, going into the northbound lane, where it struck a Ford Mustang. A Nissan Altima then struck the Mustang.

Ramirez told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times two people in the Suburban and two people in the Mustang died.

He said 12 people total were in the three vehicles. Other passengers suffered injuries that were not considered life threatening.

Ramirez said the Suburban was traveling to the Rio Grande Valley. The other cars were headed to the Houston area.

George W. Bush has surgery
for partial knee replacement

DALLAS — Former President George W. Bush has successfully had a partial knee replacement in Chicago.

Bush spokesman Freddy Ford said Bush had the procedure Saturday and returned home to Dallas Monday. Ford said in an email Tuesday that Bush was “doing great” and was able to “get up, walk around and go up and down stairs just a couple hours after the procedure.”

Ford said he wouldn’t release further details.

Bush is known as a fitness buff. Since leaving the White House, the 67-year-old has hosted an annual 100-kilometer mountain bike ride in which he rides along with those injured in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He participated in the ride earlier this month at his Crawford ranch.

He had a heart procedure to ease a blocked artery in August.

Woman eats 2 72-ounce steaks
in fewer than 15 minutes

AMARILLO — A competitive eater from Nebraska has set a record by quickly devouring a 72-ounce steak at an Amarillo steakhouse, and then chasing it down with another 72 ounces.

The Amarillo Globe-News and the Twitter page for the Big Texan Steak Ranch said on Monday Molly Schuyler downed the 4 1/2-pound slab of beef in 4 minutes, 58 seconds.

She then took a more pedestrian time of 9:59 to finish the second.

The restaurant rewards anyone with a free meal if they eat not just the 72-ounce steak, but also a baked potato, shrimp, a salad and bread roll in less than an hour.

The previous record was 8:52.

In February, Schuyler, a 5-foot-7, 125-pound mother from Bellevue, Nebraska, ate 363 chicken wings in 30 minutes to set a record.

Jimmy Dean Museum plans
to break ground in June

PLAINVIEW — A museum dedicated to the country singer and sausage mogul Jimmy Dean plans to break ground next month.

Wayland Baptist University and the Museum of the Llano Estacado will break ground June 24 on the Jimmy Dean Museum addition to the museum on the Wayland campus in Plainview, Dean’s hometown.

The Dean family contributed \$1 million to the university in 2008 in what is the largest cash gift in school history. The museum will cost about \$5 million to complete and will house memorabilia from Jimmy Dean’s personal collection. It will depict Dean’s life from its beginnings in northeastern Plainview to his career in music, television and business.

A bronze statue of Dean will be delivered this week and will be moved to the museum entrance.

Work from Islamic collection
on view in Dallas museum

DALLAS — The Dallas Museum of Art is displaying the first item from a rarely-shown Islamic art collection that it recently got on long-term loan.

The carved crystal pitcher went on display Tuesday at the museum. The ewer from late 10th- to 11th-century Egypt was cut from a single piece of rock crystal.

It is part of the Keir Collection, which is one of the largest private holdings of Islamic art. The museum announced earlier this year that the collection of almost 2,000 works was coming to Dallas as part of a 15-year renewable loan.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS



Congressman Ralph Hall leaves a Rockwall polling station Tuesday after voting. In his bid for an 18th term, the oldest-ever congressman, lost to a Republican challenger half his age. The 91-year-old Hall lost to 48-year-old John Ratcliffe in Tuesday’s primary runoff.

Representative loses 18th bid

91-year-old
lost to man
half his age

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

A 91-year-old Texas congressman who first won his seat when Jimmy Carter was president faced the toughest test of his political career Tuesday from a Republican primary challenger half his age.

Ralph Hall, who first ran for political office in 1950 and is the oldest-ever member of the U.S. House, has promised that should he win an 18th term, it’ll be his last. But his opponent, John Ratcliffe, 48, was seeking to oust him in a primary runoff — claiming he’s the stronger conservative.

And in Tuesday’s primary, Hall lost to Ratcliffe.

With no Democratic candidate, Ratcliffe will run unopposed in November.

Hall’s district stretches from

suburban Dallas to the Louisiana and Oklahoma borders and features an airport, expressway and man-made lake project named after him.

In the March primary, Hall won 45 percent of the vote compared to Ratcliffe’s nearly 29 percent, but since no one won a majority in a six-way race, Hall was forced into the first runoff of his congressional career. Second rounds of voting often feature low turnout — especially following a holiday weekend.

A former U.S. attorney, Ratcliffe has used modern analytics to better target would-be voters. He also has won the support of powerful national conservative groups with strong tea party ties, including the Club for Growth and Senate Conservatives Fund.

Hall has relied on more-traditional campaign tactics, using direct mailings and walking the district, interacting with voters and

handing out pennies fitted with bands bearing his name. Since 2010 alone, campaign finance records show Hall spent more than \$34,000 on hams from Honey-Baked Hams — which aides said were gifts for constituents.

As an indication of how seriously Hall is taking Ratcliffe, the congressman recently loaned his campaign \$100,000, the first such loan in at least a decade.

Hall, though, bristles at the notion that he’s not conservative enough. He’s been endorsed by tea party favorite Rep. Michele Bachmann of Minnesota and leading Christian conservative voice and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

Last week, U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas praised Hall’s courage while presenting him with an award for his military service. Hall is the only World War II veteran left in Congress seeking re-election.

“He’s running against my birth

certificate,” Hall said of Ratcliffe.

Shortly after leaving a polling site Tuesday in the Dallas suburb of Celina, Joe Stalling said that Hall’s World War II service is a primary reason the 59-year-old attorney voted to re-elect Hall.

“He’s never voted in any way I’ve disagreed with,” Stalling said.

But Stalling also said he didn’t notice much in their campaign platforms that separates the two candidates.

“There’s not a dime’s worth of difference between those two, it’s just one is older than the other,” Stalling said.

Ratcliffe has said repeatedly he hasn’t made age an issue, arguing instead that Hall has become too cozy with the GOP establishment after 34 years in office. He conceded though, that in addition to Hall’s record or wanting to send an anti-incumbency message, some voters “specifically cite his age.”

“I think it’s fair to consider that,” Ratcliffe said. “They’re raising it as a reason.”

New rules follow pipeline defects

IOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Safety regulators have placed two extra conditions on construction of TransCanada Corp.’s Keystone XL oil pipeline after learning of potentially dangerous construction defects involving the southern leg of the Canada-to-Texas project.

The defects — high rates of bad welds, dented pipe and damaged pipeline coating — have been fixed. But the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration wants to make sure similar problems don’t occur during construction of the pipeline’s controversial northern segment, which is on hold pending the Obama administration’s decision.

One condition requires TransCanada to hire a third-party contractor chosen by the pipeline safety agency to monitor construction and report to the U.S. government on whether the work is sound.

The second requires TransCanada to adopt a quality management program to ensure “this pipeline is — from the beginning — built to the highest standards by both Keystone personnel and its many contractors.”

The conditions are buried near the end of the 26 appendices in a voluminous environmental impact statement on Keystone XL released by the State Department on Jan. 31.

Most of Appendix Z is devoted to 57 “special conditions” that TransCanada agreed to three years ago. But conditions 58 and 59 are listed on an additional page.

The new conditions were added four months after the pipeline safety agency sent TransCanada two warning letters last year about defects and other construction problems on the Keystone Gulf Coast Pipeline, which extends from Oklahoma to the Texas Gulf Coast.

“From the start of welding, TransCanada experienced a high weld rejection rate,” said one let-



TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal authorities have ordered new construction requirements for the Keystone XL oil pipeline after regulators learned of potentially dangerous defects in its southern leg. Large sections of pipe are shown in the northeast Texas town of Sumner near the Oklahoma border.

ter dated Sept. 26. More than 72 percent of welds required repairs during one week.

The safety agency found TransCanada wasn’t using approved welding procedures to connect

Another letter, dated Sept. 10, said a government inspector witnessed TransCanada officials investigating dents in pipeline that had been laid without first sufficiently clearing rock from trenches or from soil used as backfill. The same letter said coating that protects pipeline from corrosion was damaged by weld splatter because a contractor hadn’t followed welding procedures.

Dents and damaged coatings are serious defects because they can weaken pipes and lead to failures, Bea said.

Damon Hill, a spokesman for the pipeline safety agency, said the additional conditions were the result of observations in the field during projects from pipeline operators over the past few years, as well as the agency’s general knowledge and experience.

The level of defects is indeed cause for alarm and indicative of something that is going on in the Keystone organization that isn’t satisfactory.

ROBERT BEA

Biofuel
plant
ablaze

The area was briefly
evacuated, fire put out

IUAN CARLOS LLORCA
Associated Press

ANTHONY, N.M. — A New Mexico biofuel facility caught fire Tuesday, sending a giant column of black smoke into the air and prompting authorities to briefly evacuate an area that includes about 350 homes.

A series of small explosions was reported at the Rio Valley Biofuels plant near the town of Anthony, but there was no immediate word of any injuries, Dona Ana County spokesman Jess Williams said. Operations manager Jed Smith said he believed all five employees who work at the plant were OK.

County officials activated their emergency operations center and declared a hazardous materials emergency, Williams said. The immediate area was evacuated, but residents were allowed back in to their homes by early afternoon.

Anthony is on the New Mexico-Texas border between Las Cruces, New Mexico, and El Paso, Texas.

Witnesses described hearing loud explosions and seeing large flames as fire trucks and emergency responders rushed to the scene.

The fire was first reported shortly after 9 a.m. Crews were still dousing the site with water several hours after the accident.

Williams and Smith both said the cause was not yet known.

County hazardous-materials specialists plan to inspect the site further to determine what chemicals may have been affected or released in the fire.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER PAUL DAVENPORT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT FROM PHOENIX.



GERALD HERBERT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Visitors line up to tour the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 'Hurricane Hunter' in New Orleans, May 21, as part of a five-day Gulf Coast tour. The plane also earlier visited Corpus Christi and Houston, and later Tallahassee, Fla. and Tampa, Fla.

Drones in forecast for research

Federally funded project to allow scientists to gather data about hurricane intensity using unmanned aircraft

JENNIFER KAY
Associated Press

The point where the roiling ocean meets the fury of a hurricane's winds may hold the key to improving storm intensity forecasts, but it's nearly impossible for scientists to see.

That may change this summer, thanks to post-Hurricane Sandy federal funding and winged drones that can spend hours spiraling in a hurricane's dark places, transmitting data that could help forecasters understand what makes some storms fizzle while others strengthen into monsters. Knowing that information while a storm is still far offshore could help emergency managers better plan for evacuations or storm surge risks.

A hurricane is like an engine, and warm ocean water is its fuel. One secret, scientists say, is getting a better understanding of how the warm water transfers energy to tropical storms.

"We really need to get a better idea of what's going on down there before we even look to improve our intensity forecast," said Joe Cione, who studies how storms interact with the ocean at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hurricane Research Division in Miami.

Hurricane hunter aircraft typically don't fly below 5,000 feet and can't descend below 1,500 feet, and real-time radar doesn't provide information about the thermodynamics at work inside a storm's cloudy core. Canisters stuffed with electronics dropped from the planes transmit data about a storm's pressure, temperature, winds and moisture as they fall to the ocean, but they remain airborne for only a few minutes.

The kind of drone that Cione plans to launch from the hurricane hunters will spend hours descending slowly, cruising on the air currents spinning through a storm, possibly even orbiting a hurricane's eyewall. The amount of data the 3-foot, 7-pound drone — the Coyote, shaped like a thin missile with retractable wings — could collect



J PAT CARTER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joe Cione displays a research drone he hopes to use this hurricane season. Researchers plan to test five or six drones that will transmit data that could help forecasters understand what makes some storms fizzle while others strengthen into monsters.

in the lowest parts of a hurricane would give researchers a movie compared to the snapshots sent back by the canisters, Cione said.

The drones have propellers and are controlled by someone in the hurricane hunter aircraft, but they are designed to float on air currents, not fly against strong winds. The small drones are disposable — once they hit the water, they won't be recovered.

Hurricane forecasters have gotten good at predicting where a storm will hit, and the so-called cone of uncertainty that shows a storm's likely path will shrink again this year. Improvements in predicting changes in the intensity of storms, though, have lagged.

Several factors can alter a storm's intensity, such as cold water from the ocean's depths mixing with warm water at the surface, wind shear, the cyclical rebuilding of the wall of clouds that ring a hurricane's eye or a change in the energy a storm is pulling from the ocean. That last variable is what Cione calls a data void region, and it's where the drones will aim.

"There's a reason you don't have hurricanes over land — they need the water, they need that evaporation and condensation, which is the source of their energy. So, how does that happen?" Cione said. "If we can't sample this region very well, very accurately, all the time, we could have the potential to miss how much energy is coming out of the ocean by a third or a half."

Cione plans to test five or six drones in the peak of hurricane season, and possibly next year, to see how well they communicate data in real time. The \$1.25 million project is among other National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration hurricane research funded by last year's Sandy supplemental appropriations bill that authorized \$50.7 billion for disaster relief agencies.

The potential for the data collected by the drones is priceless, Cione said.

"A lot of people talk about first responders, and I have the utmost respect for that, but we're sort of like pre-first-responders," Cione said. "Imagine these type of things out there 12 hours before landfall, and it's a category higher than we think. Maybe that's the difference between evacuating people and not evacuating people."

It's the kind of information forecasters would have liked to have had when Hurricane Charley suddenly strengthened to Category 4 as it sped into southwest Florida in 2004.

Forecasters knew where it was going, and they warned coastal residents to prepare for a possibly major hurricane. But they couldn't see that it would intensify into a monster even as it approached land — forecasters still can't explain what's behind that rapid intensification process.

"At the 11th hour, having the intensity information is good, yes. It helps me to tell people, 'Stay where you are, don't go outside because you're now putting yourself at far greater risk of injury from flying debris,'" said Wayne Sallade, Charlotte County Emergency Management director, who is still chief almost a decade after Charley's landfall.

However, it would be even more helpful to know more about whether a hurricane might continue strengthening when it's 36 hours or more from landfall, Sallade said. That would help determine the risk of storm surge, the dangerous water rise created by tropical storms.

Intensity forecasts may just need a little tweaking, not a complete overhaul, to improve dramatically, said Florida International University hurricane expert Hugh Willoughby, who led National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Hurricane Research Division from 1995 until 2002.

"I think the problem is we're not getting enough of the details right," Willoughby said. "It's not something where there's going to be a huge breakthrough."

DEADLIEST TEXAS HURRICANES SINCE 2000

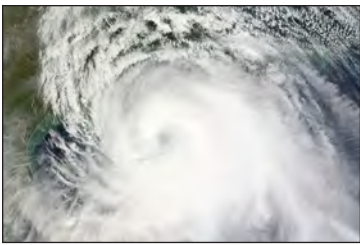


PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Ike was a Category 4 hurricane, but it made Texas landfall as a Category 3 on Sept. 13, 2008, resulting in **84** Texas deaths and \$29.5 billion in total damages.



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Rita was a Category 5 hurricane, but it made Texas landfall as a Category 3 on Sept. 24, 2005, resulting in **59** Texas deaths and \$12 billion in total damages.



PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Tropical storm Allison made Texas landfall on June 7, 2001, resulting in **23** Texas deaths and \$9 billion in total damages.

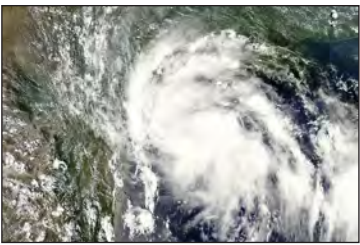


PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Tropical storm Erin made Texas landfall on Aug. 16, 2007, resulting in **9** Texas deaths and \$66.8 million in total damages.

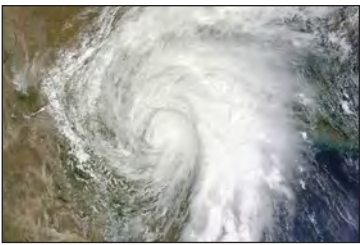


PHOTO COURTESY NASA

Tropical storm Hermine made Texas landfall Sept. 7, 2010, resulting in **5** Texas deaths and \$740 million in total damages.

SOURCE: NOAA

N.D. TORNADO



JILL HELMUTH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A tornado touches down on a ranch before heading towards Watford City, N.D. on Monday. Authorities say the twister injured several oil workers and damaged more than a dozen trailers when it tore through a workers' camp.

Freak tornado injures 9; topples N.D. trailer park

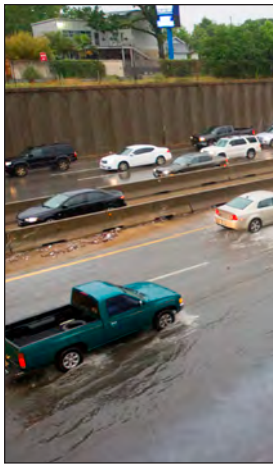
JOSH WOOD
Associated Press

WATFORD CITY, N.D. — A rare North Dakota tornado that critically injured a 15-year-old girl and hurt eight other people at a workers' camp in the heart of the state's booming oil fields measured winds that peaked at 120 mph, the National Weather Service said Tuesday.

The twister touched down Monday night at 7:50 p.m. at a camp just south of Watford City, about 50 miles southeast of Williston, and damaged or destroyed 15 trailers. The 15-year-old, who was from out of state and visiting an aunt and uncle, was flown to a hospital in Minot. She was in an intensive-care unit with a head injury but expected to survive, McKenzie County Emergency Manager Jerry Samuelson said Tuesday.

Samuelson did not release the girl's name. Eight other people were treated at a Watford City hospital for less serious injuries. The American Red Cross said eight residents spent the night at a shelter in Watford and that several families were among the dispossessed.

TEXAS FLOOD



CODY DUTY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vehicles make their way through high water on the North Freeway Tuesday, May 13 in Houston. CenterPoint Energy had about 2,800 power outages Tuesday afternoon as crews worked to restore power following rain that slowed Houston-area traffic.

Severe thunderstorms kill 1, hospitalize 12

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — A woman was killed and 12 construction workers were injured Tuesday in two separate incidents related to the thunderstorms that swept across Texas.

Fire crews responded to an emergency in northeast Houston and found a dead woman lying in a puddle next to fallen branches and power lines, Houston fire department spokesman Kenyatta Parker said. They could not immediately determine her cause of death.

In an email, a contractor said 12 construction workers were hospitalized after a tent collapsed on them while they took shelter from the weather in La Porte, southeast of Houston.

National Weather Service forecaster Brian Kyle said the storms produced winds from 35 to 50 mph and up to an inch of rain over the Houston metro area.

Mark Wiley, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Dallas, said the area between Austin and Houston received about eight inches of rain.



Obama pushing House on immigration

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has asked his Homeland Security chief to hold off on completing a review of U.S. deportation policies until the end of the summer, senior White House officials said Tuesday, in a move aimed at salvaging any hopes for Congress to act on immigration this year.

In March, Obama directed the government to examine whether deportation practices can be made more humane, seeking to pacify frustrated immigration advocates. That step emboldened House republicans to argue they cannot trust Obama to enforce the law, and that bypassing lawmakers through executive action would deliver a death knell to the broader immigration overhaul that Obama and democrats seek.

Reform window closing as August recess nears

Caught in the middle, Obama is seeking to preserve what the White House sees as a narrow window in June and July in which Congress could conceivably act before Washington's focus becomes consumed by the November midterm elections.

"The president really wants to maximize the opportunity to get a permanent solution enacted, which requires Congress," said Cecilia Munoz, the director of the White House's Domestic Policy Council.

The delay defuses an emerging split

among traditional Obama allies that emerged after the president commissioned the deportation review.

Some immigration advocates and democrats urged Obama to take immediate executive action in the face of congressional procrastination. But others insisted the focus should remain on pressuring House republicans to act while there is still a chance, however slim, to pass a bill that could provide a path to citizenship for the 11.5 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

"We've got maybe a window of two, three months to get the ball rolling in the House of Representatives."

PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

"We've got maybe a window of two, three months to get the ball rolling in the House of Representatives," Obama said earlier this month.

That window, White House officials said, has opened now that primary elections have wrapped up in many states where Republican incumbents are being challenged by tea party candidates who oppose an immigration overhaul. But a make-or-break deadline comes when lawmakers leave Washington for a monthlong August recess to focus on campaigning.

On Tuesday, Vice President Joe Biden made similar remarks about Republican opposition to immigration reform and reluctance to deal with legislation during campaigns.

Please see Immigration, Page 2

SIGH OF RELIEF



SUSAN WALSH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of the 2014 graduating class of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in West Point, New York, toss their hats during their graduation ceremony on Wednesday. President Barack Obama delivered the commencement address and talked about his

Afghanistan plan and told the graduates that they are the first class since 9/11 that might not be sent into combat in Afghanistan or Iraq.

For the full story, please see Page 4.

Houston passes anti-bias measure

The ordinance gives LGBT residents more protections

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston leaders on Wednesday approved expanded anti-bias protections for gay and transgender residents in a measure critics argued would impede their religious liberties.

The ordinance consolidates city bans on discrimination based on sex, race, age, religion and other categories and increases protections for gay and transgender residents. It takes effect in 30 days.

The Houston City Council voted 11-6 in favor of the ordinance to loud cheers inside its chambers. Fewer than 30 people spoke against the measure during a public hearing that lasted more than seven hours. The council chambers and an overflow room were packed for Wednesday's hearing, and more than 200 people spoke.

Supporters, including Mayor Annise Parker, said the measure is

Please see Houston, Page 2



ANDRE PENNER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

People fish at the Jaguari dam on May 14. The dam is part of the Cantareira System, responsible for providing water to the Sao Paulo metropolitan area, in Braganca Paulista, Brazil.

Paulistanos say water rations made to avoid cuts for rich

ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
Associated Press

SAO PAULO — As if Brazil did not have enough to deal with as the World Cup approaches, the worst drought in more than 80 years is hitting the country's largest city just as it prepares for the tens of thousands of foreigners expected at the tournament opener.

The hotel industry says tourist areas at Sao Paulo's lower elevations should not be affected by the water shortage. Many places where Cup visitors will stay have contracts with private companies to supply water if cuts occur, said Bruno Hideo Omori, president of

the Brazilian Hotel Industry Association in Sao Paulo state.

"They have contingency plans and are very prepared to deal with emergencies," he said.

But residents of Sao Paulo's poorer neighborhoods are convinced that the government is rationing their water to ensure that cuts are not made in the wealthier areas expecting a flood of visitors for the June 12 open of international soccer's premier tournament.

The poorer areas, many on the city outskirts or at higher eleva-

Please see Brazil, Page 2

BP must pay claims in settlement dispute

Oil giant appealing rule that businesses don't need to prove damage from spill

JANET McCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — BP must resume paying claims while it asks the U.S. Supreme Court to review its settlement with businesses over the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill, a federal appeals court panel said Wednesday.

The 2-1 judgment said the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will not stop payments while BP appeals the court's earlier ruling that businesses do not have to prove they were directly harmed by the spill to collect money.

The oil company will ask the Supreme Court to review Wednesday's ruling, company spokesman Geoff Morrell wrote in an email.

The four-sentence judgment does not include detailed reasons for an order handed down a day earlier or for the dissent by Judge Edith Brown Clement, who also disagreed in the court's March 3 ruling. She wrote then that whatever BP agreed to in its settlement, courts should make sure that payments go only to people who can

prove the spill caused their losses.

The claims fund was set up after a BP well off the Louisiana coast blew out in April 2010 and spewed oil for nearly three months.

BP initially estimated about \$7.8 billion would cover all claims. It later said the administrator was misinterpreting the settlement in ways that could add billions of dollars in bogus or inflated claims.

There has been no dispute that some Gulf Coast businesses, including tourism and fisheries lost money because of oil on beaches or the closure of fishing waters.

However, BP argues that the claims administrator wrongly interpreted the settlement to mean that businesses must only show losses during and after the spill without providing a direct link. Examples cited by the oil giant and in Clement's strongly worded dissent include a wireless telephone company that burned to the ground and an RV park that closed before the spill.

The company said it has paid out more than \$12 billion in claims to people, businesses and government entities. A trial scheduled for January in New Orleans is part of the litigation that will determine how much BP owes in federal Clean Water Act penalties.

BP claims payments
\$11.1 billion: individuals, businesses
\$1.5 billion: government
\$331.1 million: other
TOTAL: \$13 million

SOURCE: BP OIL



FELIPE DANA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A group of drug users gather to eat food donated by members of the God's Love rehabilitation center in Rio de Janeiro. As visitors head to the World Cup, they will likely not see the hundreds of crack cocaine addicts that lie on the sidewalks of the Jacarezinho slum, also known as the 'cracklands,' late at night.

A minister for addicts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RIO DE JANEIRO — The evangelical preachers head out to work when night falls. They journey through the gloom into the “cracklands” where addicts consume crack cocaine in open-air dens, areas hidden from the eyes of tourists heading to Rio de Janeiro for the World Cup.

After midnight, hundreds of addicts lie on the sidewalks of the Jacarezinho slum.

Rifle-toting police watch as the preachers calmly mingle amid the the users.

Not long ago, many of the preachers were crack addicts themselves. Now they are here to preach the Gospel. They hope to rescue souls from the crack epidemic that has swept Brazil in recent years.

Brazil consumes 18 percent of the world's yearly supply of cocaine, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Pastor Celio Ricardo, who leads the team of street preachers, has had hit-and-miss success in persuading users to at least try quitting.

He offers them a roof in a makeshift shelter in a nearby neighborhood and relies on donations and handouts from local supermarkets to feed those he is trying to heal.

Ricardo says the first challenge is taking care of their physical needs and then can they go on to tackle spiritual issues.

“At first they need to rest because this drug leaves them hallucinated,” he said. “They lose hunger, they lose the will to live. They want to drug themselves to death, and here we try to reverse that situation.”



A member of the God's Love rehabilitation center in Rio de Janeiro caresses the head of a drug addict as he prays for him. Brazil consumes 18 percent of the world's yearly supply of cocaine, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Street preachers in the Jacarezinho neighborhood are hoping to reduce the drug epidemic.



A former drug user reads the Bible at the rehabilitation center. Pastor Celio Ricardo offers users a roof in a makeshift shelter in a nearby neighborhood, a simple structure next to his Love of God evangelical church. Ricardo said the first challenge is taking care of the addicts' physical needs and then tackling their spiritual issues.

BRAZIL: Low rainfall causes drought, water rationing

—Continued from Page 1

tions, are unquestionably the most affected when Sao Paulo state's local water company reduces water pressure as a conservation method throughout the system during off-peak hours, between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

“Water stops running when night falls. There's a lack of water, and the government won't admit it,” said Luis Henrique Oseliero, who manages and lives in an apartment building in a working-class neighborhood in west Sao Paulo. “They are doing it in these areas because they know it's not where tourists will stay.”

The state government's water utility denies the suspicions of people living in poorer neighborhoods that their water is being rationed.

“There is no rationing or restriction of water consumption in any of the 365 municipalities

served by our company,” the Basic Sanitation Company of the State of Sao Paulo said in an emailed statement. “(The Basic Sanitation Company) invested heavily in measures to increase the security of water supply in the metropolitan region of Sao Paulo, and these investments are more than enough to meet the extra demand during the World Cup.”

Sao Paulo's water shortage is the result of insufficient rain this year, with nine inches falling during the December to February wet season — only a third of the usual.

The sanitation company recently started pumping water from underneath the gates of the reservoir's dams, which they say should provide a four-month supply. The state is also diverting water from other basins around Sao Paulo.

Experts say what Sao Paulo really needs is rain, and without it rationing will be necessary.

IMMIGRATION: GOP leadership seems unwilling to enact reform

—Continued from Page 1

“They've got their chance now,” Biden said. “Most of the primaries are over.”

Obama informed Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson of his decision to delay the review during a White House meeting last week in which Johnson updated the president on the review's progress, a senior White House official said. Homeland Security will continue working on the review but will not release the results until the window for congressional action has closed, said the official, who was not authorized to comment by name.

Obama's announcement comes the same day a coalition of groups backing an immigration overhaul asked Obama to hold off in order to “give the House leadership all of the space they may need.” Among the groups urging Obama to delay

were the National Immigration Forum, the Service Employees International Union and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

On the congressional front, the Senate last year passed a comprehensive bill with bipartisan support that Obama said meets his criteria for what an immigration fix must include. Republicans have refused to take up that bill, saying they preferred their own piecemeal approach. But House GOP leadership has made no move to bring legislation to a vote. Last week, GOP leaders blocked any votes on immigration legislation — including one offered as an amendment by a

republican — in yet another ominous sign for immigration's prospects.

Johnson has offered few details about what potential policy changes he's considering or what the timeline for acting might be. But Obama has previously taken modest executive steps to ease deportation. Two years ago, he offered protection from deportation and extended work permits to some immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Johnson has said he's reviewing a possible expansion of that program, but he and Obama have both cautioned that the government is constrained in what it can do without Congress.

“The president really wants to maximize the opportunity to get a permanent solution enacted, which requires Congress.”

CECILIA MUNOZ



ANDRE PENNER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A lone plant has sprouted through a piece of parched, cracked earth in the Jaguari dam, which is part of the Cantareira System, in this May 14 photo. The dam is responsible for providing water to Sao Paulo.

HOUSTON: Objectors say measure affects their rights

—Continued from Page 1

about offering protections at the local level against all forms of discrimination in housing, employment and services provided by private businesses, such as hotels and restaurants. Debate about the measure focused on provisions regarding rights for LGBT citizens.

Parker, who is gay, said passing the measure was the “most personally meaningful thing I will do as mayor.”

Those who protested the ordinance said it is unconstitutional and would infringe on their right

“If Houston wants to be considered a community that values all of its citizens, this ordinance should be passed today.”

ROBERT BREWER

to speak against homosexuality.

“I believe this ordinance is really about stepping on some people's freedoms,” resident Stephanie McHugh told the council.

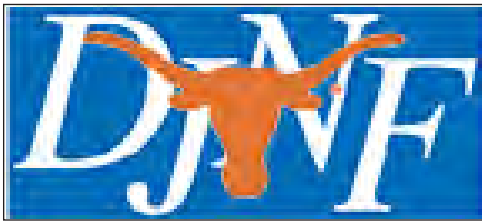
She said businesses and church-

es would be forced to recognize ideas against their beliefs, though officials said religious institutions would be exempt from the law.

Most who spoke in favor of the ordinance highlighted protections it would offer to the LGBT community, telling stories of discrimination they have suffered.

“If Houston wants to be considered a community that values all of its citizens, this ordinance should be passed today,” said Robert Brewer, a Houston attorney who identified himself as gay.

Houston is the last major city in Texas to adopt such an ordinance.



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The Oregonian, Portland

KATIE BAST
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INTERNATIONAL

Chinese court sentences 55 in front of crowd

BEIJING — In a stadium filled with 7,000 people, a Chinese court announced guilty verdicts for 55 people on charges of terrorism, separatism and murder as the government tries to display its determination to combat unrest in the troubled region.

The public event was a show of force in Xinjiang after 43 people were killed last week in an attack at a vegetable market in the capital, Urumqi.

Last week, a special one-year security crackdown focusing on suspected terrorists, religious extremist groups, illegal weapons makers and terrorist training camps was announced.

At least one convict received a death sentence at the event Tuesday, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

The report gave few details about the cases, but defendants whose names were reported all appeared to be Uighurs, members of the region's biggest Muslim ethnic minority group.

Among the cases, three defendants were convicted of using unspecified "extremely cruel methods" to kill four people, including a 3-year-old girl, according to Xinhua.

Egypt's early voting results show military chief in front

CAIRO — Partial results of Egypt's presidential election show the nation's military chief comfortably ahead of his rival after votes from 2,000 polling stations were counted.

The results announced late Wednesday by the campaign of retired field marshal Abdel Fattah el-Sissi show him winning 4.2 million votes, with opponent Hamdeen Sabahi taking 133,548.

El-Sissi's win was never in doubt, but the 59-year-old career infantry officer also wished for a strong turnout to bestow legitimacy on his ouster last July of Egypt's first freely elected president Mohammed Morsi.

Combatants make border primary Ukrainian battle front

DONETSK, Ukraine — As separatists conceded that militants from Russia's province of Chechnya had joined the rebellion, a Ukrainian government official cautioned Wednesday that its borders had become a front line in the crisis.

Reports circulate almost daily of truckloads of gunmen crossing from Russia, and authorities believe they are a vital reinforcement to the armed rebel force that has repeatedly thwarted government security operations. Ukrainian border service head Mykola Lytvyn said he has deployed all reserves to the eastern and southern frontiers.

"Our border, especially in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, has become a front line that various terrorists are trying to break through," Lytvyn said at a news conference in Kiev. "Daily fighting with terrorists and groups of criminals near the Ukrainian and Russian border have become our routine reality."

Russia denies mass border crossings are taking place, although separatist leaders of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic now admit their ragtag army has many foreigners, including some from the Russian province of Chechnya.

The Chechen group has caused the most alarm in Ukraine.

Convalescent home resident a suspect in deadly fire

SEOUL, South Korea — A fire believed to be set by an 81-year-old dementia patient blazed through a hospital ward for the elderly Wednesday and killed 21 people in southern South Korea, mostly from smoke inhalation, police and fire officials said.

"These are the incidents that wretchedly show the dangerous foundation on which our country is established," the Seoul-based Hankyoreh newspaper said in an editorial.

Security video showed the suspect entering the room where the blaze began.

The remains of a lighter were also found in that room, police station chief Noh Kyu-ho said in a televised briefing. Noh said the man, who was identified only by his surname, Kim, denied responsibility.

Kim Jeong-bae, one of the firefighters who entered the building, said none of the bodies that he and his colleagues retrieved were burned and that they apparently were already dead when firefighters entered the hospital while it was engulfed in black smoke.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trading voices for freedom



APICHART WEERAWONG / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Protesters hold signs during an anti-coup demonstration outside a shopping complex in Bangkok on Saturday. Thailand's army seized control of the country last week, overthrowing a popularly elected administration that had won a landslide vote three years earlier.

Nearly 130 detainees freed under censorship agreement

TODD PITMAN

Associated Press

BANGKOK — Thailand's ruling junta has found a new way of controlling its opponents and forcing them into silence: releasing them from custody only if they sign a form promising not to do anything provocative.

Those who go back on the agreement face two years in jail.

The army, which is still holding top officials in the ousted government, summoned 253 people, mostly politicians, scholars, journalists and activists seen as critical of the regime. Roughly 70 are still in custody, 53 have failed to show up, and about 130 have been released, said Col. Weerachon Sukhondhapatipak, a spokesman for the junta.

Weerachon confirmed the conditions of release Wednesday, saying anyone who supports political activities or violates the other conditions can be prosecuted.

The most prominent of those released Wednesday was Jatuporn Prompan, who was seized last Thursday when the coup unfolded.

Jatuporn was featured in an army-ordered broadcast on all stations. The junta said the video, in which five detainees can be seen talking to army officers, was meant to prove that detainees are being treated well.

Pro-democracy demonstrators have taken to Bangkok's streets daily in mostly leaderless protests. Hundreds gathered Wednesday at the city's Victory Monument, where scuffles broke out between protesters and soldiers.



WASON WANICHAKORN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A protester displays how his rights were violated during an anti-coup demonstration in Bangkok on Wednesday.

Others freed Wednesday included five leaders of the Red Shirt movement, which supported the government ousted in the coup and threatened to act if the military seized power.

The signed forms may explain why those who have been released have made no public statements since.

Syrian refugees cast ballots abroad

Displaced residents flood embassies to vote in election

BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

YARZE, Lebanon — Tens of thousands of supporters of Syrian President Bashar Assad voted Wednesday at embassies abroad, clogging city streets for hours and clashing with soldiers overwhelmed by their sheer numbers a week before national election.

But reflecting the schism within Syrian society, many of the estimated 2.5 million refugees scattered across neighboring countries were either excluded or abstained from the balloting.

In Sweden, which has received some 30,000 Syrian asylum seekers since 2011, Syrians from opposing sides of the conflict gathered outside the embassy in Stockholm to express their views and cast their ballots.

Police stood between the two groups as emotions ran high, with pro-Assad Syrians outnumbering



HANI MOHAMMED / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Syrian woman casts her ballot at the embassy in Yemen on Wednesday. Both supporters and opponents of Bashar Assad came out in great numbers, causing chaos in some countries.

those opposing him.

Tens of thousands of Assad supporters flocked to cast their ballots at the embassy in Yarze, a town southeast of the Lebanese capital, Beirut. The ensuing chaos snarled traffic, trapping schoolchildren in buses for hours and forcing some schools to cancel scheduled exams.

Syrian authorities have said that only those who entered Lebanon legally could vote, effectively ruling out tens of thousands of refugees who crossed through unofficial border posts for fear of authorities.

Clashes outside the embassy compound in Yarze broke out when Syrian voters started push-

ing against the Lebanese soldiers in their desperation to get into the building. Soldiers beat the voters back with batons and sticks.

Pandemonium ensued inside the embassies as well. In Amman, Jordan, where the government supports the rebels, Syrians lined up outside their embassy to vote. But dozens gathered outside to protest, some carrying placards that read, "Anyone who votes has no morals."

At Jordan's sprawling Zaatari camp, refugees bitterly scoffed at the election.

"We will never accept such elections because they are fake elections, and we call upon all the Arab countries to expel Syrian ambassadors," said Ali al-Faouri, who fled the southern Syrian city of Daraa.

Long lines formed at embassies in Iraq and Iran and in some European capitals. But a few countries, including France and Germany, barred voting, citing an international convention that gives the host government the authority to decide whether to allow an embassy to conduct elections.

Female soldiers force culture shift

Despite opposition, women serve in Somali military

ABDIGOULED

Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — With an AK-47 automatic rifle slung over her shoulder, Naeemo Abdi frisked people coming into a Mogadishu police station.

When she held back a man who tried to enter unchecked, she scowled at her and barked, "Woman and soldier?"

She did not respond but directed the man to the security checkpoint.

It is unusual to see a female in the military in traditionally conservative Somali society, where women's duties are generally at home and limited to family chores. But Abdi and other determined women are breaking down those barriers. About 1,500 females are now in the military of 20,000, according to estimates.

Two years ago, Abdi, 25, moved from a conventional domestic role as a wife and mother to work in the army, despite massive opposition from her spouse and family.

"It was difficult, but I must do this to serve my country unreservedly," she said.

Somali army officials report that female army recruits have increased since the 2011 ouster of the Islamic extremist rebels of al-Shabab from Mogadishu, the capital.

After more than 20 years of civil unrest, Somali forces pushed al-Shabab extremists out of the capital with the help of the United Nations and the African Union, and now control Mogadishu, most other cities and large parts of the countryside.

However, the militants are still a danger, killing government employees, including soldiers. For protection, the women in the Somali army hide their identities out of the workplace by covering their faces



FARAH ABDI WARSAMEH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A female Somali soldier searches a civilian woman before she enters a police station in Mogadishu, Somalia, on March 30. Women in Somalia are usually relegated to more traditional roles.

and bodies with hijabs.

Sadiya Nur, another female soldier, takes a circuitous route home to avoid being followed by possible extremists. Inside the bus, she chooses a back seat to avoid getting ambushed by assassins.

"My senses tell me to be suspicious because they don't want to see me helping my country," said Nur, a soft-spoken but resolute 28 year old. "My husband, family and everyone wanted me to stay at home. It didn't work for me."

Other female soldiers say their dedication to the army cost them their marriage and some family relations.

In spite of their progress, women complain of discrimination and inequality in the army, saying they are restricted to menial jobs.

"The only problem is women get relegated and don't get promoted to higher roles," said female soldier Shukri Hassan.

Officials said some female trainees want to serve as combat soldiers battling al-Qaida-linked militants in Somalia, but most of them are deployed to police stations to help provide security.

New Zealand's clean image fading away

NICK PERRY

Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — If any country has a squeaky-clean image, it is New Zealand. It is a place where police officers won't even accept freebies from burger joints. It has been ranked the world's least corrupt nation for eight years straight by the watchdog group Transparency International.

But recent scandals in business, politics and sports may put that reputation under threat.

Perhaps the biggest blow to the national psyche comes from bribery allegations against several top cricket players.

Former New Zealand team player Lou Vincent was charged last week with 14 offenses under the England Cricket Board's anti-corruption code for allegedly fixing two matches.

In politics, lawmaker John Banks is on trial for allegedly failing to properly report donations.

Bill Hodge, associate professor of law at the University of Auckland, said part of the problem may be that New Zealand has opened up trade and sporting ties to other countries, exposing people to corrupt practices from abroad.

"It may be a sign of New Zealand's naivete and a wake-up call," he said.

West Point grads’ roles changing

Obama tells new officers they are first since 9/11 not facing combat deployment

MICHAEL HILL
Associated Press

WEST POINT, N.Y. — With combat in Afghanistan winding down, members of the U.S. Military Academy’s Class of 2014 insist they’re equally prepared for the alliance-building future outlined by President Barack Obama at their graduation ceremony Wednesday.

And some of their mothers are breathing easier.

“We are relieved, but because they serve in the military I think there’s always a cloud of ‘What if?’ and ‘What’s next?’” said Lynn Sheree Lesmeister of Anoka, Minnesota. She was flanked by two of her sons, Michael and Jeffrey, minutes after they graduated from West Point. “But at this point it’s nice to think that some things are not an option.”

Obama told the 1,064 graduating cadets that they were the first West Point class since the 9/11 attacks that might not be sent into combat in Iraq or Afghanistan.

While stressing that the world was still a dangerous place, the president used the speech to call for a higher “threshold for military action.”

He called for partnering with countries where terrorist net-

works seek a foothold.

For the new second lieutenants, that could mean working with diplomats instead of firing artillery. But the graduates — drilled for four years on duty, honor and country — said they were ready for whatever is ahead.

“We always know that something will happen somewhere,” Michael Lesmeister said. His older brother, Jeffrey Lesmeister, said he was simply looking forward to leading soldiers and will follow the commander-in-chief’s foreign policy.

The new officers have graduated as the Army is downsizing from 570,000 during the peak war years to 450,000 by 2017.

Graduate Jessica Wagner of Plymouth, Massachusetts, said she believes her class could go to the Pacific or Africa on more humanitarian-oriented missions. She said some points in Obama’s speech about the evolving mission have been known here.

She said she had been preparing whether or not war loomed.

Her mother, in the stands during Obama’s speech, called out, “Woo hoo!” when the president mentioned Afghanistan being a less likely assignment.



Mike Groll / Associated Press

Graduating U.S. Military Academy cadets celebrate at the end of their commissioning ceremony Wednesday in West Point, N.Y.

NATIONAL

‘Man up,’ Kerry tells Snowden

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State John Kerry on Wednesday called National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden a fugitive and challenged him to “man up and come back to the United States.”

Kerry was asked about Snowden in a nationally broadcast interview in the wake of an interview in which Snowden said he never intended to be holed up in Russia but was forced to go there because his passport was revoked.

Snowden, a former NSA contract systems analyst, leaked a massive volume of NSA documents to the media.

“If Mr. Snowden wants to come back to the United States,” Kerry said, “we’ll have him on a flight today.” Kerry said Snowden should “stand up in the United States and make his case to the American people.”

In his interview with NBC anchor Brian Williams, a portion of which was broadcast Tuesday, Snowden said he was “trained as a spy” and argued that he had a much larger role in U.S. intelligence than the government has acknowledged.

“I was trained as a spy in sort of the traditional sense of the word, in that I lived and worked undercover overseas,” he said.

National Security Adviser Susan Rice said in a CNN interview that Snowden never worked undercover.

JOHNSTOWN FLOOD ANNIVERSARY



UNCREDTED / ASSOCIATED PRESS

People stand atop houses among ruins after disastrous flooding in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in this 1889 photograph. The flood killed 2,209 and led to the growth of the Red Cross.



ANONYMOUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo from May 31, 1889, released by the Johnstown Flood Museum shows the destruction along Main Street following the collapse of the South Fork Dam.



ANONYMOUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Survivors of the Johnstown Flood stand by homes devastated by flooding after the South Fork Dam collapsed in Johnstown, Pennsylvania in this 1889 photo.



KEITH SRAKOCIC / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Sept. 12, 2005, file photo, the city of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, is seen below a placard describing the flood of 1889 at an observation deck on a mountain above the town.

Johnstown disaster: 125 years later

Catastrophe, triggered by a wall of water 60 feet high, still ranks as third worst in U.S.

KEVIN BEGOS
Associated Press

A dam collapsed in western Pennsylvania 125 years ago on May 31, unleashing a flood that killed 2,209 people. The terrible stories from the Johnstown Flood of 1889 are still part of lore because of the gruesome nature of many of the deaths and the role it played in the rise of the American Red Cross. Here is some of what is known about the flood, the third worst natural disaster in U.S. history, according to LiveScience.

Whose Dam Was It?

The dam and the large lake behind it were the private property of an exclusive vacation retreat for 19th-century industrial barons, including Andrew Carnegie, Henry Clay Frick and Andrew Mellon. Warnings about the safety of the dam had been ignored.

What Happened?

The dam collapsed around 3 p.m. after heavy rains and runoff from hillsides that had been cut

clear of timber raised the water level of the lake. The dam was about 15 miles upstream from Johnstown, Pennsylvania, a steel mill town of more than 30,000 people. The collapse sent a surge of water more than 60 feet high down the Little Conemaugh River Valley, sweeping away smaller communities, 1,600 homes, people and locomotives. About four square miles of downtown Johnstown were destroyed.

Tales Of Survival

Some people survived by clinging to the tops of barns and homes. Then 6-year-old Gertrude Quinn Slattery floated through the wreckage on a roof, and when it came close to the shore, a man tossed her through the air to others on land, who caught her.

Where The Bodies Ended Up

The body of one victim was found more than 100 miles away in Steubenville, Ohio. Bodies filled morgues in Johnstown and river towns downstream until relatives came to identify them.

Horror Stories

Anna Fenn Maxwell’s husband was washed away by the flood; she was trapped in the family home with her seven children as the water rose. Maxwell survived, but all of her children drowned. “What I suffered, with the bodies of my seven children floating around me in the gloom, can never be told,” she later said.

Flaming Debris Pile

The floating houses and barns caused a tide of debris to back up at a downtown stone bridge, creating a 30-acre pile. Then the debris caught fire, burning some of the flood survivors there to death.

Red Cross Rising

The flood was the first major natural disaster in which the American Red Cross played a major role. Clara Barton, nurse and founder of the American Red Cross, arrived in Johnstown along with five workers on June 5, 1889, less than a week after the devastating flood.

What New Research Shows

University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown researchers have used ground-penetrating radar and computers to analyze the dam site and the volume and speed of floodwaters that hit Johnstown at 4:07 p.m., an hour after the break. Richard Burkert, president of the Johnstown Area Heritage Association, said the research suggests the dam was more damaged than previously known. It suggests the dam was designed with two spillways to handle periods of heavy rain, but only one was in use.

Not Johnstown’s Last Disaster

Despite extensive flood control measures, about 24 people died in a March 1936 flood, and 85 died in a July 1977 flood that caused more than \$300 million in property damage. The fear of big floods still remains in the town. University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown professor Paul Douglas Newman describes the city as a giant drain that sits at the bottom of several watersheds, all prone to flooding.

Health officials urge caution as tick season begins

OKLAHOMA CITY — State health officials and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday urged Oklahoma residents to be vigilant about checking for ticks after the death of a man who acquired the Heartland virus.

Oklahoma’s health department has released few details about the death, noting only that the patient was a man over 65 from Delaware County in rural Oklahoma. The man died from complications of the virus, which is found in the lone star tick and spread through tick bites.

The man is among 10 people known to have acquired the little-known virus. Reported symptoms include fever, fatigue, headaches, muscle aches, appetite loss, nausea, bruising easily and diarrhea. There is no vaccine or drug to prevent or treat the illness.

In guidance for health care workers, the CDC said that, as of March, all human Heartland cases involved men age 50 or over.

It said the men failed to respond to an antibiotic targeting ehrlichiosis, another tick-borne disease, but that with “supportive care” most fully recovered.

Other cases of Heartland virus have been diagnosed in Missouri and Tennessee.

Astronaut twins tapped for pioneer NASA study

MARCIA DUNN
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — When astronaut Scott Kelly embarks on a one-year space station stint next spring, his twin brother will be offering more than his usual moral support.

Retired astronaut Mark Kelly will be joining from Earth, undergoing medical testing before, during and after his brother’s American-record-setting flight.

It is part of an unprecedented study of identical twins, courtesy of the Kellys and NASA. Researchers said they hope to better understand the effects of prolonged weightlessness by comparing the space twin with the ground twin.

The Earthbound Kelly draws the line, though, at mimicking his brother’s extreme exercise in orbit or eating “crappy space station food.”

“It’s not bad when you’re in space,” Mark said. But he will not be carrying around “a can of Rus-

sian lamb and potatoes when I’m out to eat with my friends.”

This is the genetic double of the 50-year-old astronaut who has volunteered to spend an entire year aboard the International Space Station beginning next March, with Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko, a former paratrooper.

Scott knows what he is getting into: He spent five months on the orbiting lab in 2010-2011.

Eager to explore new medical territory, Scott offered to have a pressure sensor drilled into his skull to study the impaired vision experienced by some long-term space fliers.

He has also volunteered for spinal taps in orbit.

“As a test pilot, I like to push the envelope on things and, in this case, I feel like I’m maybe trying to push the envelope on data collection as well,” said Scott, a retired Navy captain.

NASA scientists insist there is no



UNCREDTED / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mark Kelly, right, will stay on Earth as his brother Scott Kelly spends a year on the International Space Station as part of a NASA study.

compelling need for implants and spinal taps. They said they admire his gung-ho attitude, though.

NASA has selected 10 proposals for the twin study, involving the immune system among other things. The researchers will receive \$1.5 million from NASA over three years.

“No one really knows what happens to the immune system in space for a long period of time

and, sooner or later, people are going to need to confront this issue,” Emmanuel Mignot, Stanford University sleep specialist and immunologist, said.

That is the whole point of Kelly and Kornienko’s one-year mission: to identify physical challenges that need to be overcome before astronauts venture to Mars and beyond.

Man gets life for tossing daughter into creek

FREEHOLD, N.J. — A man who tossed his 2-year-old daughter into a creek while she was strapped into her car seat apologized Wednesday — but not for murdering the child.

Instead, just before he was sentenced to life in prison, Arthur Morgan III apologized to the child’s mother, Imani Benton, for how their relationship ended.

Morgan was found guilty last month of murdering Tierra Morgan-Glover in November 2011.

“I don’t understand why she was taken from me,” Benton said. “It does give me peace to know that she is in heaven with God, and (Morgan) will pay for what he did to her, to me and to everyone else. No good will come to him.”

—ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Man gets 8 years in Texas cartel shooting

EDINBURG — A 20-year-old man was sentenced to eight years in prison in the South Texas slaying of a man who hired him to move drugs for the Gulf Cartel.

The Monitor in McAllen reports Juan Carlos Morin was sentenced Tuesday in Hidalgo County Auxiliary Court in the 2012 murder of Marco Antonio Reyes Moreno. Morin pleaded guilty to the murder in April.

Vicente Espinoza, who also pleaded guilty to murder in February in the slaying, was sentenced to 25 years.

Officials said the two were hired by Reyes Moreno to move methamphetamine from the Rio Grande Valley to Corpus Christi for the Gulf Cartel. But they kept the drugs instead.

Reyes Moreno was killed after telling them to return the drugs, pay for them or prove they were seized.

New rail hub opens along New Mexico border

SANTA TERESA, N.M. — A sprawling, \$400 million railroad hub opened Wednesday in southern New Mexico with the promise of transforming the border area into an international industrial trade zone.

The hub is one of the largest of its kind in the U.S. and is expected to spur development on both sides of the border with Mexico. Because the area has been designated a foreign trade zone, freight from overseas can be loaded directly onto trains from West Coast ports for processing and shipment to Mexican factories and for distribution by rail across the U.S.

The hub spans 2,200 acres and includes fueling facilities and crew-change buildings. It's located minutes away from the Santa Teresa Port of Entry, which was recently upgraded to handle commercial traffic from industrial parks in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

By the time the hub reaches capacity in 2025, it will provide hundreds of permanent jobs — a much-needed boost as federal statistics show New Mexico continues to trail the rest of the U.S. in job growth, despite an oil and gas boom in southeastern New Mexico.

"This brings more jobs, 600 permanent Union Pacific jobs," said Susana Martinez, governor of New Mexico.

UT-Brownsville president to direct UT Americas Institute

McALLEN — Juliet Garcia, president of the University of Texas at Brownsville, has been selected to lead the newly formed University of Texas Institute for the Americas. Both the formation of the institute and Garcia's appointment were announced by University of Texas System Chancellor Francisco Cigarroa.

"Because of the incredible role that Texas is playing as a national leader in bicultural and binational studies, we need a person with exceptional leadership skills and a record of advanced achievements in higher education to help us create a presence centered in this region of our state," Cigarroa said.

Texas death row inmate loses Supreme Court race appeal

HOUSTON — The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected an appeal from Texas inmate Duane Buck, whose supporters contend his death sentence decided by a Houston jury 17 years ago was unfairly based on race.

The ruling was an appeal of a similar rejection in November from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Buck, 50, was convicted of capital murder and sent to death row for the slaying of his ex-girlfriend and a man at her Houston apartment in July 1995. During the punishment phase of Buck's 1997 trial, psychologist Walter Quijano testified under cross-examination by a Harris County prosecutor that black people were more likely to commit violence.

Advocates for Buck, who is black, say that unfairly influenced jurors. Quijano, called as a defense witness, had testified earlier that Buck's personality and the nature of his crime, committed during rage, indicated he would be less of a future danger. Buck was convicted of gunning down Debra Gardner, 32, and Kenneth Butler, 33, a week after Buck and Gardner broke up.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tea party thrives in Texas Movement struggles nationally

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

SALADO — Scoffing at climate change was easy, but tea party favorite Dan Patrick also did not miss the chance to savage the White House's purported efforts to slow it — working the conservative crowd into a frenzy.

"I understand why Obama thinks he can change the weather," the millionaire radio talk show host bellowed over rising applause, "because he thinks he's God."



Cruz

From Texas, which made firebrand Ted Cruz a political celebrity and remains America's franchise state for the tea party movement, comes another rising grassroots star. Patrick's victory Tuesday in the Republican primary for lieutenant governor, a position that holds a unique amount of power in Texas, over 11-year incumbent David Dewhurst has the potential to push a deeply red state even further to the right at a time when tea party contenders are struggling elsewhere.

Patrick, like Cruz, has "a spirit for real reform but also a fighter mentality," said JoAnn Fleming, executive director of Grassroots America We the People, a conservative activist group based in East Texas. "Dan Patrick, he's going to make people in both parties very unhappy, just like we've seen with Senator Cruz."

The movement's strength in Texas is further magnified in primary and runoff elections, where turnout is low and the most motivated voters have the greatest sway.

Twenty years Cruz's senior, Patrick has the same fast-on-his-feet oratorical prowess as Cruz,



BRADLEY WILSON/SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

Gubernatorial candidate Greg Abbott spoke at the 8th Street Coffee House in Wichita Falls. Democrats, such as gubernatorial candidate Wendy Davis, want to associate Abbott and other Republicans with the tea party to contrast the differences between the candidates of both parties.

Texas Democrats embrace, fear tea party candidates

AMAN BATHEJA
The Texas Tribune

As the results of Republican primary runoffs rolled in Tuesday night, Texas Democrats realized they were getting exactly what they wanted — and exactly what they feared.

Dan Patrick's and Ken Paxton's victories were the highest-profile examples of Republican races in which the more conservative candidate won.

"You really can't have a competitive election that voters pay attention to unless you have a clear contrast between the nominees," Texas Democratic consultant Harold Cook said.

In the race for governor, Democrat Wendy Davis was quick to link Greg Abbott, the Republican candidate, with Patrick as a unified campaign.

"It looks like we'll be seeing a lot of @GregAbbott_TX & @DanPatrick together in the coming months," Davis tweeted Tuesday night. Her campaign suggested Abbott was hesitant to appear in public with Patrick, fearing that an affiliation with Patrick will alienate voters, particularly Hispanics.

A statement released by Abbott's campaign Tuesday evening pushed back against this notion.

"Texas voters have continued to demonstrate their steadfast commitment to the conservative values and initiatives that have and will continue to keep our state on the pathway toward greater opportunity," Abbott said. "I look forward to working with all Republican nominees as we seek to take Texas to greater heights, and declare victory in November."

who was an Ivy League debating champion. Patrick has a more abrasive style that critics call bullying — but also has been known to weep in public over issues close to his heart.

Patrick brags that he was the first grassroots sensation elected in Texas when he won a Houston-based state Senate seat in 2006. He founded the legislature's tea party caucus, and his lieutenant governor bid won strong support from state grassroots groups, as

well as national figures like former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee. Both Patrick and Cruz toppled Dewhurst, the Texas mainstream GOP-backed opponent, who ran for the U.S. Senate in 2012.

"Tea party folks love America, they love the Constitution, they love (free) markets, they love the Second Amendment and they love Texas," Patrick said during his victory party Tuesday. "If you love America, welcome to the grassroots of the Republican Party."

"What we're trying to do is take back America," said Irene Dykemn, a 78-year-old retired artist, who saw Patrick at a recent tea party debate in Salado, north of Austin.

Despite their political affinity, Patrick and Cruz have feuded publicly. When Patrick backed Dewhurst's 2012 Senate bid, Cruz accused him of lying during a heated radio appearance.

Patrick still must beat a Democratic challenger in November.

Waste lingers despite healthy eats

Study: diet rules do not change food waste amounts

LISA GRAY
Houston Chronicle

The big plastic trash can at Briscoe Elementary got a workout during lunch on a recent school day as kindergartners plopped more than a third of their lunches into the bin.

"Plate waste," that uneaten food is called, and on that day, Briscoe students actually discarded far less than most schools.

According to a recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health, 65 to 75 percent of vegetables served with school lunches are thrown out, along with 40 percent of the fruit.

Figures like those lie at the heart of the war heating up between first lady Michelle Obama and congressional Republicans over whether schools should be allowed to opt out of nutritional requirements imposed by federal law.

Supporters say it is reasonable to require that schools in the federally subsidized program serve every student at least one fruit or vegetable, and that meals be heavy on whole grains and light on sodium. They note that the Harvard study shows children are consuming more fruits and vegetables since the requirements were enacted in 2012, and that the waste is no higher than before.

"Food Services recognizes that it's not enough to put healthy food on the tray," Jennifer Lengyel, a nutrition educator and dietitian for Houston schools, said as vol-

- **Nearly 38 percent of grain products purchased in the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand were wasted in 2011.**
- **Almost half of the seafood and 52 percent of fruits and vegetables bought in those four countries went to waste during the same year.**
- **Source: Natural Resources Defense Council, August 2012 study.**

the cafeteria thrummed with activity. At the papaya table, children tossed toy vegetables onto a tic-tac-toe game; at the cauliflower station, they played veggie bingo. Most tables offered taste tests of foods like Asian pears, or shredded Brussels sprouts tossed in olive oil and salt. And the kids happily ate them all.

"It takes 10 to 20 tastings for a child to decide that they like a food," Lengyel said.

That trying-out period and the need for food education pose a problem for schools, noted Houston-based blogger Bettina Siegel, a nationally known figure in the world of school lunch reform.

When introducing kids to healthy foods, she said, "There'll be an inevitable period of waste and loss." But the nutritional requirements did not come with a financial cushion to help schools.

unteers set up "Veggie Fest" in the cafeteria. "Kids have to know what these foods are, and why they're good for them, so that they can enjoy them."

At Veggie Fest, volunteers set up stations with labels such as "Edamame from Japan" and "Jicama from Mexico."

Once the children poured in,

Celebrate splitting up Divorce parties mark new beginnings, offer closure

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Divorce, it seems, has turned into a party — special cakes and all.

Event planners, bakers, lawyers and academics note the rise of "divorce parties" over the last several years, many with cakes featuring weapon-wielding brides or gloomy black frosting on inverted tiers.

"I've taken to naming them freedom fests, as you aren't celebrating the end of the marriage but the freedom you have chosen in your life," said Richard O'Malley, a New York-area event planner who organized one divorce blowout that cost a woman about \$25,000.

Michal Ann Strahilevitz, a marketing professor at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, has been to a few such parties and said she sees them as part of a larger trend in celebrations.

"People are also celebrating 'coming out' to their parents or co-workers, and the birthdays of their pets. Cancer survivors are celebrating relevant milestones of being

cancer-free," she said.

So why not a divorce, asked Steve Wolf, who lives outside Austin. He marked his amicable split with a party co-hosted by his ex that included a gluten-free cake she baked herself in lemon, a favorite flavor for both of them.



CHARM CITY CAKES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A divorce cake example

Wolf, the father of three boys, said he considers the end of his marriage a "conscious uncoupling." Yes, like Gwyneth Paltrow. The party, he said, offered closure, especially important because children were involved.

"We wanted to do something that expressed the fact that we were doing the divorce not so much as an end of our relationship, but as us moving into things like co-parenting and co-business management," said Wolf, whose ex-wife works for him in his special effects and stunt business serving the film industry.

"We cut the cake together like we did the wedding cake 10 years before. When life gives you lemons, make lemon cake," he joked, noting the sentiment she wrote in the icing.

Fort Worth sued for third mistaken home demolition

EMILY SCHMALL
Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Jorge Rodriguez was hoping for an early retirement to Aguascalientes in his native Mexico.

Instead, the 56-year-old concrete pourer is seeking \$50,000 from the city of Fort Worth for allegedly wrongfully tearing down a house he planned to fix up and sell.

The suit marks the third time in a year city contractor Garrett Demolition is accused of mistakenly tearing down a home.

"The city contracted us to demolish that property, just like they hired us to demolish the other two, whether they were the right ones or not. As a contractor that does work for the city, obviously, we do the work they tell us to do," said April Collmar, the demolition company's operations manager.

Rodriguez purchased the property for \$17,000 in October 2012. Rodriguez had fixed the house's foundation, but was otherwise just using it to store tools and equipment when it was razed, according to his son, Isaac Rodriguez.

City spokesman Bill Begley said he could not comment on the case while litigation is pending.

“I’m a woman
Phenomenally.
Phenomenal woman,
That’s me.”

Maya Angelou

1928 – 2014



REED SAXON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

On

HILLEL ITALIE
Associated Press

Maya Angelou’s story awed millions. A childhood victim of rape, she broke through silence and shame to tell her tale in one of the most widely read memoirs of the 20th century. A black woman born into poverty and segregation, she recited the most popular presidential inaugural poem in history.

“I’m not modest,” she told the Associated Press in 2013. “I have no modesty. Modesty is a learned behavior. But I do pray for humility because humility comes from the inside out.”

Angelou, a renaissance woman and cultural pioneer, died Wednesday at her home in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She was 86.

“She lived a life as a teacher, activist, artist and human being. She was a warrior for equality, tolerance and peace,” said her son, Guy B. Johnson.

Tall and regal with a deep, majestic voice, she was unforgettable whether encountered in person, through sound or the printed word. She made a brave and sensational debut as an author in 1969 with “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” which became standard (and occasionally censored) reading and made Angelou one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream literary success.

She called herself a poet, in love with the “sound of language,” as she explained to the AP in 2013. But she lived so many lives. She was a wonder to Toni Morrison, who marveled at Angelou’s freedom from inhibition, her willingness to celebrate her own achievements. She was a mentor to Oprah Winfrey, whom she befriended when Winfrey was still a local television reporter, and often appeared on her friend’s talk show. She mastered several languages and published not just poetry but advice books, cookbooks and children’s stories. She wrote music, plays and screenplays, received an Emmy nomination

for her acting in “Roots,” and never lost her passion for dance, the art she considered closest to poetry.

Her very name was a reinvention. Angelou was born Marguerite Johnson in St. Louis and raised in Stamps, Arkansas, and San Francisco, moving back and forth between her parents and her grandmother. She was smart and fresh to the point of danger, packed off by her family to California after sassing a white store clerk in Arkansas. Other times, she didn’t speak at all. At age 7, she was raped by her mother’s boyfriend and didn’t talk for years. She learned by reading and listening.

At age 9, she was writing poetry. By 17, she was a single mother. In her early 20s, she danced at a strip joint, ran a brothel, got married and then divorced. But by her mid-20s, she was performing at the Purple Onion in San Francisco, where she shared billing with another future star, Phyllis Diller. She also spent a few days with Billie Holiday, who was kind enough to sing a lullaby to Angelou’s son, surly enough to heckle her off the stage and astute enough to tell her: “You’re going to be famous. But it won’t be for singing.”

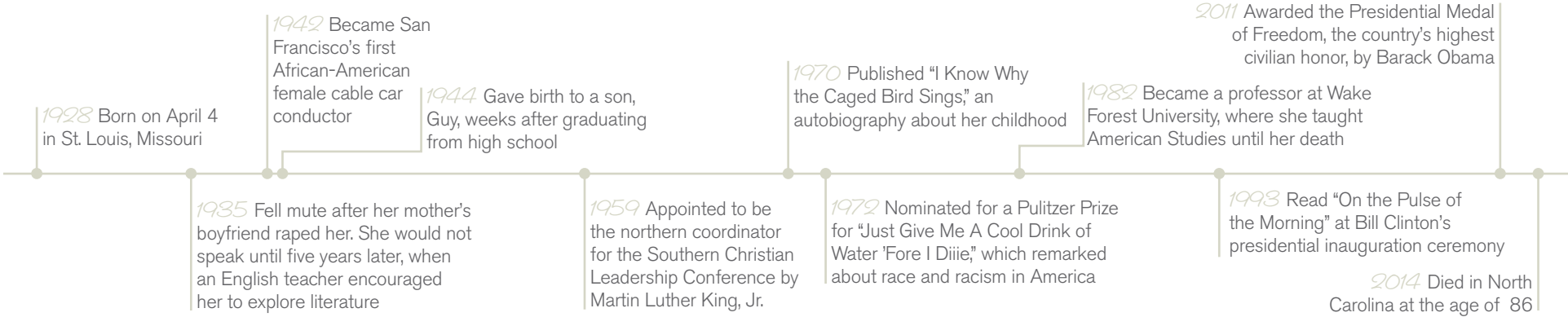
Angelou was little known outside the theatrical community until “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings,” which might not have happened if writer James Baldwin hadn’t persuaded Angelou to attend a party at the home of Jules Feiffer, a cartoonist and writer. Feiffer was so taken by Angelou that he mentioned her to Random House editor Bob Loomis, who persuaded her to write a book by daring her into it, saying that it was “nearly impossible to write autobiography as literature.”

“Well, maybe I will try it,” Angelou responded. “I don’t know how it will turn out. But I can try.”

FOR MORE ON MAYA:
Visit www.swjournalist.com to view photos and learn more about Angelou’s life

“Listen to yourself and in that quietude
you might hear the voice of God.”

📱 ANGELOU’S FINAL TWEET, MAY 23





US: Russia backing off Ukraine border

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

ABOARD A U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT — U.S. defense officials said Thursday that Russia has pulled most of its forces away from the Ukraine border, a withdrawal the U.S. has been demanding for weeks.

They said about seven battalions remained, amounting to a couple of thousand troops. U.S.

officials estimated that as many as 40,000 Russian forces had massed along the border with eastern Ukraine that has been wracked with violence between government security forces and pro-Russian separatists.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told reporters traveling with him at the start of an overseas trip that thousands of Russian troops are moving away from the border but

that others remained.

“They are not where they need to be and won’t be until all of their troops that they positioned along that border a couple of months ago are gone,” he said.

The U.S. has called on Russia repeatedly to help de-escalate tensions in Ukraine, including withdrawing troops stationed near the border.

Hagel was among Obama ad-

ministration officials who expressed new concerns Thursday about rising violence in eastern Ukraine, including the destruction of a military helicopter by pro-Russian rebels in Slovyansk that killed 12.

The White House and State Department both said a de-escalation of the crisis was imperative and called on Russia to exert pressure on the separatists to get them

to end the fighting and release a group of international monitors who have been detained in eastern Ukraine since earlier this week.

Before the incident, Secretary of State John Kerry spoke to his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, on Wednesday to reiterate concerns about the deteriorating situation in Ukraine, the State Department said.

Egyptians elect new president



AMR NABIL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters of newly elected President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi celebrate on Thursday at Tahrir Square in Cairo. El-Sissi easily triumphed over his opponent Hamdeen Sabahi, winning more than 92 percent of the vote, according to his campaign. But low turnout and public skepticism cast a shadow on what el-Sissi had hoped would be a more resounding victory.

Tepid turnout makes for bittersweet victory

HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

CAIRO — The election of Egypt’s former military chief to the presidency may be remembered for its central irony: He won in a historic landslide, only to shatter his image of invulnerability in the process.

Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi’s win was never in doubt, but what the retired 59-year-old field marshal wanted was an overwhelming turnout that would give legitimacy to his July ouster of Egypt’s first freely elected president, Mohamed Morsi, and show critics at home and abroad that his action reflected the will of the people. In his last interview before polls opened, he told Egyptians he wanted more than 40 million of the nearly 54 million registered voters to turn out.



AMR NABIL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Defeated presidential hopeful Hamdeen Sabahi, center, is cheered on by his supporters during a press conference.

The reality was more tepid. According to unofficial results announced by his campaign early Thursday, el-Sissi won more than 92 percent of the vote, resoundingly beating his sole rival, leftist politician Hamdeen Sabahi.

However, turnout nationwide was around 46 percent, according to Adly Mansour, interim president — not the

worst of the multiple elections held the past three years, but below the nearly 52 percent turnout in the 2012 election that Morsi won.

The victory was tainted by the extraordinary means used by the military-backed government to get even that many voters to the polls. After signs that the turnout Monday, the first of two scheduled days of voting, was as low as 15 percent, the government declared the next day a national holiday to free people to go to polls.

The election commission threatened to slap fines of \$70, a hefty sum for most Egyptians, on those who did not vote.

When Tuesday polling still seemed low, the commission abruptly extended the elec-

Please see EGYPT, Page 2

Google not up to par on diversity

Of 26,600 Google employees, 61 percent are white and 70 percent are male.

MARTHA MENDOZA
Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Google has had more trouble diversifying its workforce than its computer scientists have had writing programs that respond to search requests in the blink of an eye or designing cars that can navigate traffic without a human behind the wheel.

That seemed to be the conclusion when the Silicon Valley giant issued a gender and ethnic breakdown of its workforce this week that showed that of its 26,600 U.S. employees nearly two-thirds were white and only one-third were women. Blacks and Hispanics make up about 30 percent of the nation’s population.

“Google is miles from where we want to be,” said Laszlo Bock, head of personnel at Google.

He said the biggest factor in the diversity disparity is a shortage of students majoring in computer science or other technical fields in college.

“There is an absolute pipeline problem,” he said in an interview Wednesday with “PBS NewsHour.”

Google said that in one year there were just two black people with new doctorates in computer science on the job market. The company hired one of them, and Microsoft hired the other, Bock said.

But the educational choices of some minorities do not entirely account for the lack of diversity at technology companies.

Google sells \$50 billion in advertising annually, a task that required more than 2,900 salespeople in the U.S. as of August. Just 79 of them, or less than 3 percent, were black. A total of 127, about 4 percent, were Hispanic. More than 2,000, or nearly 70 percent, were white.

Google attributes the racial gap to “unconscious biases” that have historically favored white people.

To address the issue, Google has put more than 20,000 employees through 90-minute training sessions during the past year to help them become more aware of biases.

Please see GOOGLE, Page 2

Rocket site in South Texas nears approval

Federal review determines wildlife will not be harmed

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MCALLEN — Building and operating a private rocket launch site along the coast in the southernmost tip of Texas is unlikely to jeopardize the existence of protected animal species and would create few unavoidable impacts, according to a final federal environmental review.

The Federal Aviation Administration released the statement for California-based SpaceX on Thursday. It does not guarantee that the FAA would issue launch licenses there, but it is an essential step in that direction.

SpaceX has proposed launching 12 rockets a year from the site but did not make any promises Thursday. If built, it would be the first commercial orbital launch site.

SpaceX spokeswoman Hannah Post said several more steps have to be cleared.

“While the timing of some of these critical steps is not within SpaceX’s control, we are hopeful that these will be complete in the near future,” she said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service raised concerns about possible impact on habitat for some endangered species, but concluded “the project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any listed or proposed-to-be-listed species nor adversely modify piping plover critical habitat.”

But wildlife officials don’t expect the project to be harmless. They anticipate that several miles of beachfront used by nesting sea turtles could be disturbed by security vehicles.

SpaceX has agreed to a list of measures aimed at minimizing the environmental impact including educating workers about threatened and endangered animals. It also plans to adopt a 3-mile section of the beach and participate in beach cleanups and educational programs.

The Texas launches would create unavoidable noise in a nearby neighborhood and alter the landscape of sand dunes, wetlands and grasses, but other environmental impacts can be mitigated, the report said.

Deal reached in Clippers sale, insider says

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — An individual with knowledge of negotiations to sell the Los Angeles Clippers said Shelly Sterling has reached an agreement to sell the team to former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer for \$2 billion.

The individual, who was not authorized to speak publicly, told The Associated Press on Thursday that Ballmer and the Sterling Family Trust have a binding agreement. The deal must be presented to the NBA.

Shelly Sterling negotiated the sale after her husband, Donald, made racist remarks that were made public. Donald Sterling must also approve the final agreement as a 50 percent owner. His attorneys said that will not happen.

Ballmer is said to have beat out bids by Guggenheim Partners and a group including former NBA All-Star Grant Hill.

It is unclear if the deal will go through. The individual said that though Donald Sterling was not involved in the negotiations, “at the end of the day, he has to sign off on the final process. They’re not going to sell his 50 percent without him agreeing to it.”

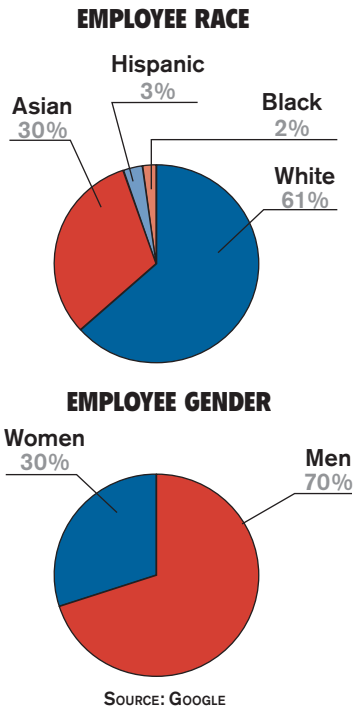
That is despite a May 22 letter obtained by The Associated Press and written by another one of Sterling’s attorneys that said “Donald T. Sterling authorizes Rochelle Sterling to negotiate with the National Basketball Association regarding all issues in connection with a sale of the Los Angeles Clippers team.”

It included the line “read and approved” and Don-



Ballmer

Please see CLIPPERS, Page 2



Dow Jones interns head for newsrooms

Thirteen college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships on daily newspapers after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a select group of undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, sports copy editing, business reporting and digital journalism.

The highly competitive national program is funded by the News Fund, a foundation of the Dow Jones Co.; and participating newspapers and digital media services. More than 700 students applied for the program. Applicants were required to take a test and complete an extensive application before being considered.

The School of Journalism at UT Austin, one of five pre-internship training sites for newspaper print and online copy editors and designers, has been part of the News Fund program since 1998.

Participants in the UT workshop were involved in newspaper copy editing, design and production assignments and operated a parallel online news operation.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 17th residency program at UT Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a live, model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online product, swjournalist.com.

The UT-News Fund interns serve internships of 10 to 14 weeks.

Participants in the UT Austin workshop, including their universities and host news

organizations, are as follows:

- Alicia Balog, Kent State University, The (Portland) Oregonian.
- Katie V. Bast, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, The Sacramento Bee.
- Tara Bryant, University of Kansas, Bay Area News Group-East Bay, Pleasanton, California.
- Chloe McCall Gonzales, University of Texas at Arlington, Austin American-Statesman.
- Casey Hutchins, University of Kansas, Corpus Christi Scripps newspapers production center.
- Ethan Metcalf, Midwestern State University, Corpus Christi Scripps newspapers production center.
- Lyndsey Ruble Nuckols, Harding University, Orange County Register.
- Elizabeth Robinson, University of Texas at Austin, The Beaumont Enterprise.
- Jordan Shapiro, University of Missouri, The Los Angeles Times.
- Zane S. Sparling, Willamette University, Houston Chronicle.
- Frannie Sprouls, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The Denver Post.
- Bill Hall, Cal State University-Chico, San Francisco Chronicle.
- Rebekah Wahlberg, California Baptist University, Alabama Media Group, Birmingham.

Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating newspapers cover the participants' pre-internship training, including housing, meals, transportation and instruction.

Participating newspapers also pay interns a weekly wage for their internship work. Students returning to their universities af-



BRADLEY WILSON / SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

Dow Jones News Fund interns spent 10 days sharpening their skills at the University of Texas workshop. Seated: Katie Bast. Ethan Metcalf, Frannie Sprouls, Elizabeth Robinson and Bradley Wilson (faculty). Standing: Zane Sparling, Lyndsey Nuckols, Rebekah Wahlberg, Bill Hall, Tara Bryant, Jordan Shapiro, Casey Hutchins, Alicia Balog, Chloe Gonzales, Griff Singer (faculty), Beth Butler (faculty) and Amy Zerba (faculty).

ter the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the News Fund.

Directing the UT workshop were S. Griffin Singer, director; George Sylvie, assistant director; and Lourdes Jones, senior administrative associate of the UT School of Journalism.

Faculty included Beth Butler, assistant workshop director, from Kent State University; Bradley Wilson, assistant professor of journalism at Midwestern State University; Amy Zerba, a senior staff editor of The New York Times; Linda Shockley, deputy director of the News Fund, Princeton, New Jersey;

and Dan Cunningham, deputy managing editor of the Houston Chronicle.

Kathy Blackwell, a senior editor of the Austin American-Statesman, coordinated the interns' visit to that newspaper.

Other newspaper training centers were at Temple University, the University of Missouri, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Nebraska. A digital journalism workshop was held at Arizona State, and a business reporting workshop was conducted at New York University.

LAST BOAT FLOATING



TORIN HALSEY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andy Lopez, left, and Josh Cook prepare to go down with their ship during the annual Zundy Junior High Cardboard Boat Float at Plum Lake in Wichita Falls on Thursday. The eighth-grade class studied a variety of principles on how to construct boats using only cardboard, masking tape, caulk and paint before piloting them across a section of the lake.

EGYPT: Lukewarm voter turnout at polls taints landslide victory

—Continued from Page 1

tion to a third day. The state made bus and train travel free to allow migrants to return to home districts to vote. To many, it was clear the state was trying to help its favored candidate, reminiscent of machinations during the 29-year-rule of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, toppled in a 2011 pro-democracy uprising.

And el-Sissi was not supposed to need a boost.

For the past 10 months, the government and the media have made him the object of relentless adulation, describing him as efficient, empathetic, manly and handsome, insisting he is the sole figure able to lead.

"The popular hero didn't find the masses marching to the ballot boxes to lift him to the palace," Egyptian columnist Wael Abdel-Fattah wrote in the Lebanese daily As-Safir. "The shock here is in the state's need to use its old tools to defend its nominee."

"The popular hero didn't find the masses marching to the ballot boxes to lift him to the palace. The shock here is the state's need to use its old tools to defend its nominee."

Wael Abdel-Fattah

El-Sissi can genuinely claim he comes into office with an impressive tally of votes. His campaign said he won 23.38 million votes. Official results are expected in early June.

That is more than the 13 million that Morsi won, and even more than the around 18 million votes that went to Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood and allied parties in the first post-Mubarak parliamentary elections, the Islamists' most resounding electoral showing.

But the puncturing of his image is no small blow.

The boycott by the Brotherhood, which has the country's strongest get-out-the-vote machine, heavily gouged the turnout numbers.

Many others who declined to vote, and even some who voted for el-Sissi, said he seemed to take Egyptians for granted and lacked solutions for millions living in poverty. They were struck by how he showed little tolerance for dissent, was dismissive of freedoms and rights and was backed by former members of Mubarak's ruling party, all fueling concerns that he would bring back Mubarak's autocratic ways.

"This man will seal the gates of democracy behind him with a lock and chain. It will be our last elections and it is a farce," said Ramadan Salem, a 57-year-old boycotter who was sitting among fellow taxi drivers.

"When he fails, it will be us failing, not him," he said.

GOOGLE: Firm looks for more minority hires

—Continued from Page 1

The firm is also trying to do more recruiting at colleges with large minority enrollments. During the past year, Google has dispatched a specialist to work with historically black Howard University on a curriculum that will give its graduates a better chance of competing for technology jobs. The program will be extended to five other campuses this fall.

Google is one of many high-tech companies pledging to diversify their workforces this spring under pressure from the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who made a similar effort 15 years ago.

"I'm disappointed. For the most part they have not improved," Jackson said Thursday. "Look at their board of directors and their c-suites. There's a culture of exclusion."

Google's attempts come amid a renewed bout of advocacy from Jackson and Rainbow PUSH Coalition, which have been leading delegations to shareholder meetings this spring at such companies as Google, Facebook, eBay Inc. and Hewlett-Packard.

In 1999, when Jackson launched his first Silicon Valley initiative, 89 percent of Silicon Valley chairmen and CEOs were white, while the white-collar workforce was about 60 percent white and 31 percent Asian. Those figures have barely budged.

"Silicon Valley moves at a pace that is unbelievable. It is a breakneck marketplace. So when you're adding people, you don't take time to cast a wider net," said Russell Hancock, president of Joint Venture Silicon Valley, an organization focused on the local economy.

CLIPPERS: Bid will not be OK'd, attorney says

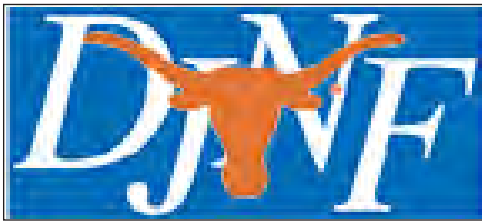
—Continued from Page 1

ald Sterling's signature.

Donald Sterling's attorney, Bobby Samini, said Sterling has had a change of heart primarily because of "the conduct of the NBA." He said NBA Commissioner Adam Silver acted as a "judge, jury and executioner" when he decided to ban Sterling for life, fine him \$2.5 million and try to oust him as an owner.

"They're telling me he should stand back and let them take his team because his opinion on that particular day was not good, was not popular?" Samini said. "That his team should be stripped from him? It doesn't make sense. He's going to fight."

The person with knowledge of the deal said that any buyer would have to ensure the team remains in Los Angeles and be someone with whom Shelly Sterling could work if she decides to retain a small stake. An attorney representing Shelly Sterling declined to comment.



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Workshop Director
UT Austin School of Journalism

GEORGE SYLVIE
Assistant Workshop Director
UT Austin School of Journalism

BETH BUTLER
Assistant Workshop Director
Kent State University

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The New York Times

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SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST

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Center for Editing Excellence
School of Journalism
The University of Texas at Austin

2014 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

ALICIA BALOG
Kent State University
The Oregonian, Portland

KATIE BAST
University of Wisconsin
Eau Claire
The Sacramento Bee

TARA BRYANT
University of Kansas
Bay Area News Group-East

CHLOE M. GONZALES
University of Texas-Arlington
Austin American-Statesman

BILL HALL
Cal State University-Chico
San Francisco Chronicle

CASEY HUTCHINS
University of Kansas
Scripps Production Center
Corpus Christi

ETHAN METCALF
Midwestern State University
Scripps Production Center
Corpus Christi

LYNDESE RUBLE NUCKOLS
Harding University
Orange County Register

ELIZABETH ROBINSON
University of Texas-Austin
The Beaumont Enterprise

JORDAN SHAPIRO
University of Missouri
The Los Angeles Times

ZANE S. SPARLING
Willamette University
Houston Chronicle

FRANNIE SPROULS
University of Nebraska
The Denver Post

REBEKAH WALBERG
California Baptist University
Alabama Media Group,
Birmingham

INTERNATIONAL

Turkish court: YouTube ban violates rights

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey’s highest court on Thursday ruled that the country’s two month-old ban on YouTube violates constitutional rights to freedom of expression, a setback for Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who wanted the website shut down.

The Constitutional Court said it would order telecommunications authorities to ensure that the rights violation is removed, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Restrictions on YouTube were imposed in late March after the leak of an audio recording of a government security meeting. In the recording, senior officials appeared to be discussing a possible military intervention in Syria.

A lawyer representing YouTube, the Turkish Bar Association and legislators from Turkey’s main opposition party appealed to the high court, seeking to overturn the ban.

Erdogan said his government would comply, even though it did not respect the decision.

CIA winds down drone strike program in Pakistan

WASHINGTON — The CIA’s targeted killing program in Pakistan is winding down.

American officials say opportunities for drone attacks will dwindle further as the CIA and the military leave Afghanistan. Obama announced this week a plan to pull nearly all American troops out of Afghanistan by the end of 2016.

The targeted killing program in Pakistan relies on drones flown from, and intelligence gathered in, U.S. bases in Afghanistan that would then be closed.

In a major foreign policy speech at the U.S. Military Academy, Obama said the U.S. would continue to carry out occasional drone strikes against terrorist targets. Armed drones are still flying over Pakistan’s tribal areas, and CIA targeting officers are still nominating militants to the kill list, according to anonymous U.S. officials.

For as long as they are able to fly over Pakistan, CIA drones will hunt for senior al-Qaida figures, U.S. officials say.

China preps for more babies after one-child plan change

BEIJING — China is preparing for 2 million extra babies a year as a result of a loosening of its one child birth limits, health officials said Thursday.

The party in power announced in November that couples in which one parent was an only child would be allowed to have a second baby in some areas. Previously, both parents had to be an only child to qualify for this exemption.

Local authorities have been told to build more health facilities for women and children and add maternity beds, said Zhang Shikun, an official with the commission in charge of women and children’s health.

The ruling Communist Party introduced birth limits in 1980 to curb population growth and demand for resources. China had 18.5 million births in 2013, according to UNICEF. The forecast increase would be almost 11 percent of that.

The figure of 2 million additional births is at the top end of forecasts by experts based on the less restrictive policy. Some say the figure might be lower due to the growing acceptance in China of smaller families.

Thailand's junta bans all anti-coup protests

BANGKOK — More than 1,000 Thai troops and police sealed off one of Bangkok’s busiest intersections Thursday to prevent a planned protest, as authorities said they would no longer allow any demonstrations against last week’s military coup.

The anti-coup demonstrations have been generally small and mostly leaderless, but protesters had planned to gather Thursday and called for a mass rally on Sunday.

Gen. Somyot Poompanmoung, the deputy national police chief, said the small protests would no longer be allowed.

“We know their rally is mainly for symbolic reasons, but it’s against the law,” he said.

Last week, the army seized power, overthrowing a government that won a landslide election victory three years earlier. The army says it had to act to restore order after seven months of increasingly violent political turbulence.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peru ghost town fights to survive



RODRIGO ABD/ ASSOCIATED PRESS

A miner arrives for work in Huetpetuhe after the Peruvian government’s crackdown on illegal mining in the Madre de Dios region. The government pledged to find work for the affected miners, but the town’s mayor said no such assistance has arrived. Those who remain now mine using rudimentary gold extraction including buckets, shovels and pickaxes.



Before being reduced to working with shovels, the miners were able to extract \$7 billion in gold over the last decade, a total of 159 million metric tons.



Mining equipment stands idle after it was destroyed as part of the mining restrictions. More than 22,000 have fled the area as a result.

RODRIGO ABD
Associated Press

HUEPETUHE, Peru — This nearly half-century-old Amazon boomtown has gone bust with the government’s recent restriction on illegal gold mining.

Mayor Marco Ortega estimates more than 22,000 people have left Huetpetuhe since the government halted gasoline shipments in April and sent troops to destroy heavy machinery used in mining that it deemed illegal.

He said only about 3,000 people remain.

“The gold buyers, the hardware stores, hostels and all kinds of businesses have shut down. We are nearly a town without people,” Ortega said.

The government officials overseeing the crackdown has said authorities plan to provide work for miners rendered jobless, but Ortega said no assistance has arrived.

According to official figures, illegal miners have extracted 159 million metric tons of gold worth \$7 billion over the past decade from the Madre de Dios in southeastern Peru region that includes Huetpetuhe.

The environmental cost of the mining has been high, with scars gouged out of the rainforest that are visible from outer space and tons of mercury , a toxin used to bind mined gold flecks, released into the environment that contaminated the food supply.

SEE MORE ONLINE
For an expanded photo gallery of the Madre de Dios region and Peruvian mining towns visit swjournalist.com.

Aches won’t deter royal D-Day trip

GREGORY KATZ
Associated Press

LONDON — The queen’s joints are creaky and her husband has recently battled serious illness, but the royal couple won’t let aches and pains keep them away from a grand overseas commemoration: the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion.

Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip have for the most part stopped traveling abroad, but next week they intend to be in Normandy for ceremonies to honor those who sacrificed their lives to liberate Europe from the Nazi grip.

The perils of World War II directly shaped the lives of Elizabeth, 88, and Philip, 92.

Historian Anthony Beevor, a renowned chronicler of World War II, said Elizabeth and Philip want to show their solidarity with the remaining veterans, including those still strong enough to attend the events next week.

“I think it will mean a huge amount to the veterans,” Beevor said. “The queen and Philip are both well aware that this is the last time a reasonable number of veterans will be able to attend. So it’s very important to both of them.”

The queen was a teenager during the war. She joined the Women’s Auxiliary Territorial Service, serving as a driver and mechanic. Philip was on active duty in the Royal Navy.



ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

A younger Queen visits the British Cemetery in Bayeux, France, on D-Day’s 50th anniversary in 1994.

Many believe that this may be the final overseas trip for the queen, whose stamina and mobility have lately been affected by joint pain, Beevor said.

The monarch has recently ceded more of her duties to Prince Charles in what has been characterized as a partial transition.

The queen is also relying increasingly on the younger generation of royals, led by Prince William and his wife Kate.

The queen does plan, however, to attend a remembrance service and to meet personally with veterans in addition to taking part in the main ceremony at Sword Beach, one of the landing spots where Allied Forces faced fire from entrenched German troops and tanks.

After events in Normandy, the queen and Philip will attend a state banquet Friday at the Elysee Palace hosted by French President Francois Hollande.

The next morning she and Philip plan to fly home in time to attend the Derby at Epsom Downs Racecourse.

Rape, killing of girls stirs Indian protest

BISWAJEET BANERJEE
Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India — Two teenage sisters in rural India were raped and killed by attackers who hung their bodies from a mango tree, which became the scene of a silent protest by villagers angry about alleged police inaction in the case.

Two of the four men arrested so far are police officers.

Villagers found the girls’ bodies hanging from the tree early Wednesday, hours after they disappeared from fields near their home in Katra village in Uttar Pradesh state, police Superintendent Atul Saxena said.

The girls, who were 14 and 15, had gone into the fields because there was no toilet in their home.

Hundreds of angry villagers stayed next to the tree throughout Wednesday.

Indian TV footage showed the villagers sitting under the girls’ bodies as they swung in the wind, and preventing authorities from taking them down until the suspects were arrested.

Police arrested two police officers and two men from the village later Wednesday and were searching for three more suspects.

Autopsies confirmed the girls had been raped and strangled before being hanged, Saxena said.

The villagers accused the chief of the local police station of ignoring a report by the girls’ father on Tuesday night that the girls were missing.

The station chief in Katra, 180 miles southwest of the state capital, Lucknow, has since been suspended.

The family belongs to the Dalit

community, also called “untouchables” and considered the lowest rung in India’s age-old caste system.

Records show a rape is committed every 22 minutes in India, a nation of 1.2 billion people.

Activists say that number is low because of an entrenched culture of tolerance for sexual violence, which leads many cases to go unreported.

Women are often pressed by family or police to stay quiet about sexual assault, and those who do report it are often subjected to public ridicule or social stigma.

India tightened its anti-rape laws last year, making gang rape punishable by the death penalty, even when the victim survives. The new laws came after the fatal gang rape of a 23-year-old woman on a bus in New Delhi that triggered nationwide protests.

Health workers, police and women’s rights activists say women and girls face the risk of rape and harassment when they go out into fields or bushes because of the lack of toilets in their homes.

More than a half-billion Indians lack access to toilets. A recent study said about 30 percent of women from poor families faced violent sexual assaults every year because they did not have access to a safe toilet.

Last month, the head of Uttar Pradesh state’s governing party, the regionally prominent Samajwadi Party, told an election rally the party opposes the law calling for gang rapists to be executed.

“Boys will be boys,” Mulayam Singh Yadav said. “They make mistakes.”

Earth on verge of 6th extinction, study says

SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Species of plants and animals are becoming extinct at least 1,000 times faster than they did before humans arrived on the scene, and the world is on the brink of a sixth great extinction, a new study says.

The study, published by the journal Science on Thursday, looks at past and present rates of extinction and finds a lower rate in the past than scientists had thought. Species are now disappearing from Earth about 10 times faster than biologists had believed, said study lead author noted biologist Stuart Pimm of Duke University.

“We are on the verge of the sixth extinction,” Pimm said from research at the Dry Tortugas, a small group of islands at the end of the Florida Keys. “Whether we avoid it or not will depend on our actions.”

Pimm’s study focused on the rate, not the number, of species



STUART PIMM / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The buffy-tufted-ear marmoset’s habitat is shrinking because of development in Brazil and a competing marmoset species. Habitat loss is the No. 1 factor contributing to species disappearing.

disappearing, and found a death rate of how many species out of 1 million species become extinct annually. The death rate is about 100 to 1,000, Pimm said.

Numerous factors are combining to make species disappear much faster than before, said Pimm and co-author Clinton Jenkins of the Institute of Ecological

Research in Brazil. The No. 1 issue is habitat loss as more places are built up and altered by humans. Other factors are invasive species crowding out native species, climate change affecting where species can survive, and overfishing, Pimm said.

The buffy-tufted-ear marmoset is a good example, Jenkins said. Its habitat has shrunk because of development in Brazil, and a competing marmoset has taken over where it lives. Now, it is on the international vulnerable list.

Pimm and Jenkins said there is hope. Both said the use of smartphones and applications such as iNaturalist will help ordinary people and biologists find species in trouble. Once biologists know where endangered species are they can try to save habitats and use captive breeding and other techniques to save the species, they said.

Pressure mounts on VA head after report

Lawmakers facing re-election urge Shinseki to resign

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Support for Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki eroded quickly Thursday, especially among congressional Democrats facing tough re-election campaigns.

Shinseki spoke privately with lawmakers and met with nearly two dozen veterans groups, assuring them that he takes the reports of improper care seriously and is moving swiftly to fix problems. On Friday, he will address the National Coalition on Homeless Veterans, outlining his plan for corrections.

A federal investigation earlier this week of operations in the troubled Phoenix VA Health Care System found that about 1,700 veterans in need of care were at risk of being lost or forgotten after being kept off an official waiting list. While initially focused on Phoenix, the investigation found broad problems in the sprawling health care system, which provides medical care to about 6.5 million veterans annually.

A VA representative said Shinseki told the veterans groups that the findings in the report were reprehensible, and that he has directed the agency to immediately contact each of the veterans waiting for primary care appointments in Phoenix.

The report confirmed earlier allegations of excessive waiting times for care in Phoenix, with an

average 115-day wait for a first appointment for those on the waiting list — nearly five times as long as the 24-day average the hospital had reported.

House Speaker John Boehner and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said they were reserving judgment about Shinseki. But with the situation threatening to affect congressional elections in November, the chorus of lawmakers calling for his departure grew by the hour.

Democratic Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine of Virginia, Mary Landrieu of Louisiana, Jeff Merkley of Oregon and New Mexico's Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich all urged Shinseki to step aside. Eleven Senate Democrats have called for Shinseki's resignation since the inspector general report came out. All but Heinrich are on

the ballot this fall.

White House press secretary Jay Carney declined to say whether President Barack Obama still has full confidence in Shinseki, who has led the VA since the start of the Obama administration. The president is waiting for a full investigation before deciding who should be held accountable, Carney said.

The American Legion and dozens of Republicans have called for Shinseki to resign, including Jeff Miller of Florida, chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, and Richard Burr of North Carolina, the senior Republican on the Senate veterans panel. Arizona's two Republican senators also have called for Shinseki to step down.

Shinseki is expected to release results Friday of a system-wide audit of scheduling practices.

Altered portraits ignite backlash

Utah high school modifies clothing in yearbook photos

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SALT LAKE CITY — A group of Utah high school students said they were stunned and upset to discover their school yearbook photos were digitally altered, with sleeves and higher necklines drawn on to cover up bare skin.

Several students at Wasatch High School in Heber City, about 45 miles east of Salt Lake City, say their outfits followed the public school's dress code and they have worn them on campus many times.



RICK BOWMER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wasatch High School sophomore Kimberly Montoya, 16, who found her sleeveless top changed to a short-sleeved shirt, is among a group of high school students upset to discover alterations to their original yearbook photos.

"I feel like they're trying to shame you of your body," said sophomore Shelby Baum, who discovered that a high, square neckline had been drawn on her black, V-neck T-shirt.

Baum told the Salt Lake Tribune she was upset to learn that a tattoo on her collarbone had been erased from her photo. She said she consulted the school dress code before getting the tattoo, a line of script that reads "I am enough the way I am."

"I was shocked," said Kimberly Montoya, a sophomore who found that her sleeveless top had been converted into a short-sleeved shirt. Students said the standards were not uniformly applied.

The Wasatch County School District said in a statement that students were warned when yearbook photos were taken last fall that images might be altered if

students violated dress standards.

"When the yearbook comes out in the spring, students are always excited to see their pictures and are concerned with how they look in the yearbook, so it is understandable that students in violation of the dress code could forget that they received warnings about inappropriate dress," the statement said. The district plans to evaluate the policy of altering photos in the future.

Superintendent Terry Shoemaker declined to comment further.

An estimated two-thirds of Utah

residents belong to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which encourages its members to practice modesty in their dress. For women, that includes covering shoulders and avoiding low-cut shirts and short skirts and shorts.

"The fashions of the world will change, but the Lord's standards will not change," reads a pamphlet distributed to youth members of the faith.

The Wasatch School District dress code says: "Clothing will be modest, neat, clean, in good repair. Modesty includes covering

shoulders, midriff, back, underwear and cleavage at all times."

Most of the eight high schools in the Granite School District, one of the largest in the state, also ban bare shoulders, district spokesman Ben Horsley said.

Legally, schools have a lot of leeway with dress codes, and legal challenges usually are unsuccessful, said John Mejia, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Utah. Schools open themselves up to problems when the policy is not being implemented uniformly or when students are not given proper notice, he said.



ELAINE THOMPSON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yeni Sleidi, known as the "Weed Fairy," right, buys marijuana in Seattle's Capitol Hill neighborhood on Wednesday. Sleidi began distributing free marijuana in New York during the government shutdown as a way to distract people from stress.

Spirits fly high in Seattle after visit from 'Weed Fairy'

MANUEL VALDES
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A woman who calls herself the "Weed Fairy" distributed free nuggets of marijuana to people in Seattle over Memorial Day weekend, taping the free pot on 50 fliers around a city neighborhood.

The woman, 23-year-old Yeni Sleidi, said she does it to give people a break from everyday stress.

"People mostly laughed," Sleidi said.

The woman said she first came up with the idea in New York, where she lived during the government shutdown, because several of her friends were affected by it.

She wanted to distract them from the stress. Passing out the pot in the Big Apple drew plenty of coverage from the media.

"I'm not sure what the thought process

was, but I thought people would be amused by it," she said.

The fliers posted in Seattle came with the message: "These are tough times. Take this weed. And keep your spirits high."

Sleidi posted her free marijuana in Capitol Hill, a Seattle neighborhood known for its nightlife and counterculture.

Washington and Colorado legalized recreational marijuana in 2012.

Sleidi said it was the first time she felt comfortable with attaching her name to her deeds.

"I felt so relaxed about it ... I wouldn't feel comfortable doing it elsewhere in the country," she said.

A call to the Seattle Police Department to ask about the pot distribution effort was not immediately returned.

Guard in cell death formerly punished for similar offense

IAKE PEARSON
Associated Press

NEWYORK — A Rikers Island jail guard who left her post without permission before a mentally ill inmate died in his 101-degree cell in February had been disciplined four years earlier for similar misconduct, according to public records.

Carol Lackner was accused in 2010 of leaving the prison entirely without permission while working, according to the documents.

That charge was settled, her attorney says, when Lackner gave up five vacation days. More recently, Lackner was suspended for 30 days following the Feb. 15 death of Jerome Murdough. An investigation found she abandoned her post 20 minutes before he was discovered unresponsive.

Murdough "basically baked to death" when he was left unchecked for at least four hours in a part of the jail with a malfunctioning heater, a city official said.

Murdough suffered from bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, according to his family. He was on psychotropic medication, which experts say can make people more sensitive to heat. The medical examiner's office said more tests are needed to determine exactly how he died, but said he appeared to have died from hyperthermia.

The logbook indicates Lackner toured the area every half-hour as required, but she is not seen on video doing so, according to another city official. Lackner's attorney denied the accusations. He said she was brought in as a relief guard after effectively working three straight shifts and was not given any information about complaints of excessive heat.

He said multiple factors contributed to Murdough's death, including his sentence to Rikers in the first place.

Murdough's mother is planning to sue the city.

"Had the city properly supervised this officer, who had a history of abandoning her post, Jerome might still be alive," lawyer Derek Sells said.

The documents also reveal that correction officials brought charges against Lackner in 2011 for failing to report that she had been arrested.

NATIONAL

Sergeant faces sexual assault accusations

ST. LOUIS — A Missouri-based Army drill sergeant has been accused of sexually assaulting 12 female soldiers during the past three years, including several while he was deployed in Afghanistan.

Staff Sgt. Angel M. Sanchez appeared at a pretrial hearing at Fort Leonard Wood this week.

He is accused of sexually assaulting four women and inappropriately touching eight others, said Tiffany Wood, a Fort Leonard Wood spokeswoman.

Military court records indicate that Sanchez is accused of using his supervisory position as a drill sergeant with the 14th Military Police Brigade to threaten some of the women he is accused of assaulting.

The Pentagon's first formal report on sex assaults in its ranks shows that in the vast majority of the cases, the victim was a young, lower-ranking woman and the offender a senior enlisted male service member, often in the same unit.

Sanchez has been assigned an office job with his unit as his legal case unfolds.

Britain's delayed Iraq report due at end of 2014

LONDON — British Prime Minister David Cameron said a long-delayed report on the Iraq war should be published by the end of 2014 — five years after the inquiry began.

Cameron told Sky News that the delay was frustrating, and the public was eager to see the answers.

The inquiry, led by retired civil servant John Chilcot, was set up to examine mistakes made before and after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. It held public hearings between 2009 and 2011.

Its report has been delayed by negotiations with top civil servants over the inclusion of classified material including conversations between then-Prime Minister Tony Blair and then-President George W. Bush.

On Friday, the House of Commons Public Administration Committee said the long delay was very serious.

Police officer on trial for killing town's favorite elk

BOULDER, Colo. — When Mapleton Hill residents learned a police officer killed a bull elk named "Big Boy," they led marches, wrote songs, held prayer vigils and hatched plans for a permanent memorial.

Now jurors must decide whether to convict the former officer on felony charges that could send him to prison.

Sam Carter was charged with attempting to influence a public official, forgery and tampering with evidence after he shot the elk while on duty Jan. 1, 2013.

Carter's attorney, Marc Colin, said the elk had become dangerously domesticated and aggressive, frightening local dogs.

Prosecutors said Carter called another officer, Brent Cumow, to come cart away the body in his pickup truck, and together they butchered the animal for its meat. Cumow pleaded guilty last year to tampering with evidence and other charges and is expected to testify against Carter.

"He was not a pet, but he was a fixture of Mapleton," Withers said about the elk. "He had been there for years."

Brad Pitt assailant has history of getting too close

LOS ANGELES — A man who was arrested after police said he rushed and touched Brad Pitt at the premiere of the movie "Maleficent" is no stranger in Hollywood.

Vitalii Sediuk was jailed Wednesday on suspicion of misdemeanor battery and was held on \$20,000 bail, police said.

Sediuk has previously crossed the line with celebrities, most recently rushing America Ferrara on a red carpet and crawling under her dress.

He crashed the 2013 Grammys and was arrested after he went onstage and grabbed a microphone before Adele accepted an award. He remains on probation for the incident. In 2012, Will Smith slapped Sediuk after he tried to kiss Smith, and he drew Madonna's anger a year earlier by presenting her with flowers.

Attorney Anthony Willoughby, who represented Sediuk in the Grammy trespassing case, said he will likely represent the former journalist if new charges are filed.

The latest incident might constitute a violation of Sediuk's probation, the lawyer said.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Man entering school with gun arrested

ABILENE — Abilene police arrested a man after he was reported carrying a gun and walking into an elementary school. Police received a 911 call Thursday morning that a man with a gun in his waistband had entered Jane Long Elementary School. The school was placed on lockdown but police were not able to find the intruder. Police Sgt. Lynn Beard said a man was arrested in the incident and was also involved in a child custody disagreement. District Superintendent Heath Burns said he is confident there was no immediate threat to students or staff on the campus. School officials also allowed parents to retrieve their children if they felt it was necessary.

Lawyer: Stealing Wendy Davis’ car cost client

The attorney of a man who broke into the house of Texas gubernatorial hopeful Wendy Davis said Thursday she believes her client would have gotten a lighter sentence if the homeowner was not a public figure. Davis was at her Fort Worth home in April 2013 when an intruder entered and stole her car. Donnell Dickerson pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced to eight years in prison. Davis testified during a short sentencing trial in January, three months after launching her campaign.

Fort Worth attorney Mamie Johnson said Dickerson had no idea last spring whose home he was breaking into, but that ultimately the owner’s status affected how much time her client will serve. “When it was all said and done, he ended up with an extra year or two because it’s a public official,” Johnson said. “Not because it was Wendy Davis, but because it was a public official.” Dickerson had a past criminal record that jurors were allowed to consider, she said, and although she couldn’t recall his previous arrests she said none were felonies. A Davis spokesman said the Democrat was grateful to police but referred questions about Dickerson’s sentence to prosecutors. Tarrant County District Attorney Joe Shannon said his office handled the case like any other burglary.

Despite being sentenced to eight years, Dickerson could be eligible for parole much sooner, Johnson said. She described her client as being satisfied with the sentence even though she believes it could have been shorter.

Sex offender accused in plot to kill judge

WACO — A convicted sex offender was indicted on attempted capital murder charges for what prosecutors said was a \$30,000 offer to have a Waco judge killed. William Ray Phillips was indicted Wednesday by a McLennan County grand jury. Prosecutors said the 63-year-old Phillips was plotting the murder-for-hire scheme against State District Judge Matt Johnson. Phillips has been in custody since February and Johnson presided over two of his previous trials. A 10-month investigation showed Phillips also had McLennan County District Attorney Abel Reyna and U.S. District Judge Walter Smith on his hit list but was willing to pay only for Johnson to be killed. Conviction on the attempted capital murder charge could get Phillips a life sentence.

3 relatives ousted from South Texas school board

PROGRESO — Two brothers and the wife of one were removed from the school board in a small South Texas town in a fallout over conspiracy and bribery schemes. Omar and Orlando Vela and Orlando Vela’s wife, Ana, were all unanimously voted off the Progreso school board. Omar Vela was Progreso’s mayor and the school district head of truancy. He is awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty to federal conspiracy and bribery charges. Orlando Vela was school district risk manager and former city mayor pro tem. He has pleaded guilty to stealing money for buying supplies that were not sold. Ana Vela has not been charged but was the school district’s business manager. Trustee Juan Garcia said she should not have signed off on fraudulent payments.

— ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas shields execution drug origin, maker

NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

DALLAS — Texas’ prison system does not have to reveal where it gets its execution drugs, the attorney general said Thursday. Attorney General Greg Abbott, the Republican nominee for governor in the nation’s busiest death penalty state, rebuffed three previous attempts by Texas prison officials to shield the source of the drug. But he switched course Thursday after state prison officials said their supplier would be in danger if identified. Texas is among a group of execution states that contend compounding pharmacies that provide them with drugs should remain secret to protect the suppliers from threats of violence. Lawyers for death row inmates said they need the information to verify the drugs’ potency and protect inmates from cruel and unusual punishment.

The U.S. Supreme Court has yet to halt an execution based on a state’s refusal to reveal its drug supplier. The secrecy argument also was used ahead of a bungled execution last month in Oklahoma, though that inmate’s faulty veins, not the execution drug, were cited as the likely culprit. The opinion from Abbott’s office cites a threat assessment that prison officials submitted from the Texas Department of Public Safety that said drug suppliers face a substantial threat of physical harm. However, state agencies did not make the assessment available publicly Thursday. It said that “in this instance and when analyzing the probability of harm, this office must defer to the representations of DPS, the law enforcement experts charged with assessing threats to public safety.” A Houston-area compounding pharmacy was previously identified as the state’s execution supplier. State and local law enforcement said last month that they were not investigating any threats against that pharmacy, although the pharmacy’s owner complained of “constant inquiries from the press, the hate mail and messages.” Unlike some states, Texas law does not specifically say whether prison officials must disclose where they get their lethal injection drugs. Abbott’s latest decision stems from an open records request filed before the April executions of serial killer Tommy Lynn Sells and convicted murderer Ramiro Hernandez-Llanas. Texas prison officials used a new supply of pentobarbital, a powerful sedative, but refused to name the supplier. The inmates’ attorneys said that violated their rights. Defense attorney Maurie Levin, called Abbott’s decision deeply disturbing and said serious questions surround his change of heart.

SPUR DOWN FOR WHAT?



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Antonio Spurs’ Manu Ginobili (20) shoots over Oklahoma City Thunder’s Kevin Durant (35) during the first half of Game 5 of the Western Conference finals NBA basketball playoff series yesterday in San Antonio. The Spurs defeated the Thunder 117 to 89. For full coverage of the game, visit swjournalist.com.

Explosion levels house; baby survives



KATHLEEN DUNCAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A ranger from the Department of Public Safety navigates through the debris after an explosion destroyed a two-story home in Victoria, Texas. Officials are investigating to find the cause of the May 28 blast.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

VICTORIA, Texas — A woman was killed but her 4-month-old infant appears to have escaped serious injury in an explosion that leveled their home. Officials are investigating to find the cause of the blast Wednesday that killed 26-year-old Haley Singer, Victoria County Sheriff T. Michael O’Connor said. Firefighters found her daughter, Parker, alive in the debris. The child was being treated at a hospital in San Antonio, about 100 miles to the northwest. Authorities said firefighters found Singer’s body in what had been the kitchen area. Her infant was recovered between two mattresses that were buried under lumber and other wreckage. “When we arrived on there and

just saw rubble, I mean literally rubble, there was no remnants of a house whatsoever,” O’Connor said. Firefighters heard cries and began digging, then brought in air bags and jacks to assist in removing the debris. “The fact that the child survived is incredible,” O’Connor said. Fire Marshal Ron Pray said Singer’s husband had left for work shortly before the explosion ripped their two-story home. The explosion damaged nearly a dozen homes in the area. A woman in the house next door was buried under broken drywall, but authorities said she was not seriously hurt. Propane gas was an energy source in the home but officials would not immediately say if it was a source for the explosion.

Restored water supply to slake North Texas’ thirst

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A water district in North Texas is turning once again to a critical water source to serve 1.6 million thirsty customers living north and east of Dallas. Lake Texoma was an important source of water for the North Texas Municipal Water District for nearly two decades before invasive zebra mussels were discovered in the lake in 2009. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cut the flow of water from Texoma, which borders Oklahoma, in an effort to prevent the mussels from spreading south into the Trinity River basin. That meant more than 27.3 billion gallons of Texoma water could no longer be delivered to customers, The Dallas Morning News reports. The district undertook a \$300 million project to build treatment plants and a delivery system that sends Texoma water to Lavon Lake in Collin County. The mussels later made it into the Trinity River

Weekend rains ease drought

Rains that fell across much of Texas over the Memorial Day weekend have improved drought conditions in some of the driest parts of the state. The U.S. Drought Monitor map released Thursday shows the driest designations in West and Southwest Texas improved one stage to extreme drought. The rains provided short-term relief to the Panhandle and South Plains regions, which are in their fourth year of drought. The most rain fell around San Angelo, where some locations got as much as 11 inches, according to the National Weather Service.

anyway, probably as stowaways on a boat taken from Texoma to Lake Ray Roberts without proper cleaning. District officials said Texoma water could once again be serving customers within the next week, and the supply should gradually grow over the next month or two. “Once we get our blending facilities up and running, we’ll use about 75 million gallons a day on average,” Mike Rickman, deputy director of the district, told the Morning News. “The range is 30 million to 40 million gallons a day in

the winter to 120 million gallons a day in the summer.” Restoring the Texoma supply comes at an important time. Lake levels in the region are dropping precipitously because of the lingering drought and hotter-than-normal summers. The water district, which includes some of the fastest-growing cities in the country, has imposed tough water restrictions. Rickman cautions that the flow of water from Texoma will not change those restrictions anytime soon.

Southwest Airlines fined for airing false advertisement

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Southwest Airlines is being fined \$200,000 for advertising a fare sale too good to be true. The U.S. Department of Transportation said Thursday that in television commercials last October the airline promised flights from Atlanta to New York, Chicago and Los Angeles for just \$59 — but did not make any seats available at that price. The government said that Southwest’s ads were deceptive and violated advertising rules. It added that airlines have long known that rules governing fare advertising stipulate that they must have a “reasonable number” of seats available at the advertised price. In October, Southwest ran ads in Atlanta which told viewers, “Discover amazing low sale fares” of \$59 “to places like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago.” The department said it checked and found that Southwest had no seats for \$59 to those three cities on any of the travel dates listed in the ad. The Dallas-based air carrier was also required to pay an extra \$100,000 that had been suspended after a similar offense last year. Southwest said that those three cities were never intended to be part of the Atlanta fare sale but wound up in the advertisement after a flawed review of the ad copy. “As soon as we became aware of our mistake, we pulled all incorrect advertisements off the air,” said spokesman Brad Hawkins. The airline added that it honored the \$59 fare to the three cities for consumers who called its reservations center and asked for that price.

Feuil·le·ton

n., a part of a European newspaper or magazine devoted to material designed to entertain the general reader. The last word the co-champion had to spell.



EVAN VUCCI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ansun Sujoe, 13, of Fort Worth and Sriram Hathwar, 14, of Painted Post, New York, were named co-champions of the National Spelling Bee, on Thursday in Oxon Hill, Maryland. Ansun correctly spelled feuil·le·ton, which drained the list of championship words and earned him the co-title.

CO-CHAMPION



ANSUN SUJOE, 13

School: Bethesda Christian School
Hometown: Fort Worth
Finals word: **Augenphilologie**
n. (aw-jen-phil-ol-o-gy): linguistics that misrepresents the realities of speech because of overemphasis on writing.

TEXAS FINALIST



KATE MILLER, 14

School: Big Country Home Educators
Hometown: Abilene
Last word: **Exochorion**
n. (ex-o-kor-e-on): the outer of the two layers that form the hardened covering of an insect egg.

SOURCES: SPELLINGBEE.COM AND MERRIAM-WEBSTER.COM

Texas teen co-champ at Scripps National Spelling Bee

BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. — For the first time in 52 years, two spellers were declared co-champions of the Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday.

Sriram Hathwar of Painted Post, New York, and Ansun Sujoe of Fort Worth, Texas, shared the title after a riveting final-round duel in which they nearly exhausted the 25 designated championship words. After they spelled a dozen words correctly in a row, they both were named champions.

Earlier, 14-year-old Sriram opened the door to an upset by 13-year-old Ansun after he misspelled “corps-bruder,” a close comrade. But Ansun was unable to take the title because he got “antegropelos,” which means waterproof leggings, wrong.

Sriram entered the final round as the favorite after finishing in third place last year. Ansun just missed the semifinals last year.

They become the fourth co-champions in the bee’s 89-year history and the first since 1962.

“The competition was against the dictionary, not against each other,” Sriram said after both were showered with confetti onstage. “I’m happy to share this trophy with him.”

Sriram backed up his status as the favorite by rarely looking flustered on stage, nodding confidently as he outlasted 10 other spellers to set up the one-on-one duel with Ansun. The younger boy was more nervous and demonstrative, no more so than on the word that gave him a share of the title: “feuil·le·ton,” the features section of a European newspaper or magazine.

“Ah, whatever!” Ansun said before beginning to spell the word as the stage lights turned red, signaling that he had 30 seconds left.

Although they hoisted a single trophy together onstage, each will get one to take home, and each gets the champion’s haul of more than \$33,000 in cash and prizes.

Both champions are Indian-American. The past eight winners and 13 of the past 17 have been of Indian descent, a run that began in 1999 after Nupur Lala’s victory, which was later featured in the documentary “Spellbound.”

FOUR MEMORABLE MOMENTS:

Jae Canetti of Falls Church, Virginia, making his third appearance in the bee, was eliminated from the semifinals immediately after ESPN2 profiled him and his family. His mother was diagnosed with cancer just two months before last year’s bee, which he said affected his preparation and concentration, and he missed the semifinals by one point. She has since recovered and was in the audience Thursday.

Jae received a standing ovation after he misspelled “parseval,” a non-rigid airship.

“That show of support really has comforted me,” Jae said afterward in a televised interview.

Normally calm onstage, Jae squinted and fidgeted as he tried to guess the word. The 12-year-old seventh-grader has one year of eligibility remaining.

“The one word I didn’t know, pretty much,” Jae said. “I’ve just got to study more German.”

Meghana Kamineni of Lockport, Illinois, correctly spelled “cachinnate,” which means to laugh loudly. Two spellers later, given the word “epixylous,” Lucas Urbanski of Crystal Lake, Illinois, got the biggest laugh of the semifinal round with a question for pronouncer Jacques Bailly.

“Can you make me cachinnate with a sentence?” Lucas said.

At 5-foot-10, finalist **Kate Miller** of Abilene, Texas, is accustomed to towering over her fellow spellers. She also has the longest hair, which reaches below her waist. A dancer and an aspiring writer, her hobbies include film analysis, knitting Rodentia and “crafting irreverent travesties of pop songs,” according to her official spelling bee biography.

“I’m not the tallest speller, but I’m the tallest finalist,” Kate said. “When I competed in sixth grade, I was 5-8, and when I competed in seventh grade, I was 5-9, and in eighth grade, fittingly, I’m 5-10.”

Kate smiled throughout her time onstage and leaned over to speak into the microphone. She said she enjoys being nervous, and she admitted her first semifinal word, “duello,” was “a complete guess.”

“I feel more alive when I’m nervous. I think that a bit of nervous energy, not debilitating to the point where you can’t remember what you’ve learned, but a certain amount of nervousness really does help you,” she said. “It helps you remember why you’re there.”

It rarely happens in the semifinal round of the National Spelling Bee, but sometimes, a word is spelled exactly like it sounds.

Finalist **Ansun Sujoe** of Fort Worth, Texas, was momentarily flummoxed when asked to spell “laulau,” a Hawaiian-derived word for meat or fish wrapped in leaves and baked or steamed.

“What does this mean?” he asked incredulously.

After getting the definition and other context from Bailly, he was resigned to guess.



Jennifer M. Tennant, 13, of Father Andrew White S.J. School, Leonardtown, Maryland

PAST TEXAS WINNERS

- 1942: Richard Earnhart, El Paso
Sacrilegious
- 1962: Nettie Crawford*, El Paso
Esquamulose
- 1966: Robert A Wake, Houston
Ratoon
- 1969: Susan Yoachum, Dallas
Interlocutory
- 1972: Robin Kral, Lubbock
Macerate
- 1973: Barrie Trinkle, Fort Worth
Vouchsafe
- 1981: Paige Pipkin, El Paso
Sarcophagus
- 1983: Blake Giddens, El Paso
Purim
- 2003: Sai R. Gunturi, Dallas
Pocourante

*Co-champion

THE PROCESS

- Preliminaries round 1:** Spellers complete a computer-based test.
- A. Spell 24 words
 - B. Answer 24 multiple-choice vocabulary questions
 - C. One vocabulary word
 - D. One vocabulary word
- Preliminaries rounds 2 and 3:** Spellers verbally spell words and are rewarded points in each round. The top 50 move to the semifinals.
- Semifinals round 4:** Spellers complete another computer-based test.
- A. Spell 12 words
 - B. Answer 12 multiple-choice vocabulary questions
 - C. One vocabulary word
 - D. One vocabulary word
- Semifinals rounds 5 and 6:** The top 12 advance to the finals.
- Championship finals:** Spellers are eliminated as they misspell words. The final speller must correctly spell his or her word and a championship word.

ORIGIN OF “BEE”

The word bee, as used in spelling bee, is one of those language puzzles that has never been satisfactorily accounted for. A fairly old and widely-used word, it refers to a community social gathering at which friends and neighbors join together in a single activity (sewing, quilting, barn raising, etc.) usually to help one person or family.

SOURCE: SPELLINGBEE.COM

WHERE THEY WENT WRONG



Mary Horton Misspelled *shibuichi*



Alia Abiad Misspelled *irbis*



Jacob Williamson Misspelled *kabaragoya*



Tajau Gibbison Misspelled *chartula*



89°/66°
Sunny

FROM TERRORISM TO TOURISM

With Cuban-American travel relations improving, Americans are gaining more permissions for access. Cubans are investing to prepare for an influx of tourists. **Page 6**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE

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■ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2015



FBI surveillance worries citizens

JACK GILLUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Scores of low-flying planes circling numerous American cities, including Houston, are part of a civilian air force operated by the FBI and obscured behind fictitious companies, The Associated Press has learned.

The AP traced at least 50 aircraft back to the FBI and identified more than 100 flights in 11 states over a 30-day period since late April, orbiting both major cities and rural areas. At least 115 planes, including 90 Cessna air-

craft, were mentioned in a federal budget document from 2009.

For decades, the planes have provided support to FBI surveillance operations on the ground. But now the aircraft are equipped with high-tech cameras, and in rare circumstances, technology capable of tracking thousands of cellphones, raising questions about how these surveillance flights affect Americans' privacy.

The FBI said the planes are not equipped or used for bulk collection activities or mass surveillance. The surveillance equipment is used for ongoing

MORE ON SURVEILLANCE

■ Congress passes bill to renew phone surveillance measures. **Page 4**

investigations and generally without a judge's approval.

The FBI confirmed for the first time the wide-scale use of the aircraft, which the AP traced to at least 13 fake companies, such as FVX Research, KQM Aviation, NBR Aviation and PXW Services.

"The FBI's aviation program is not secret," spokesman Christo-

pher Allen said in a statement.

The front companies are used to protect the safety of the pilots, the agency said. That setup also shields the identity of the aircraft so that suspects on the ground don't know they're being followed.

One of the FBI's fake companies shares a post office box with the Justice Department, creating a link between the companies and the FBI through publicly available Federal Aviation Administration records.

Basic aspects of the FBI's program are withheld from the public in censored versions of official

reports from the Justice Department's inspector general, and the FBI also has been careful not to reveal its surveillance flights in court documents.

The planes are equipped with technology that can capture video of unrelated criminal activity on the ground that could be handed over to prosecutions. One of the planes, photographed in flight last week by the AP in northern Virginia, bristled with unusual antennas under its fuselage and a camera on its left side.

■ FBI, **Page 2**

Long-time FIFA leader quits group

ZURICH The end for Sepp Blatter came suddenly, just days after he had seemingly solidified his hold on FIFA.

The 79-year-old leader of the world's most popular sport defied global animosity last week to win four more years in office.



Blatter

But his re-election only increased the pressure for Blatter to step down as FIFA's president.

At a hastily arranged news conference Tuesday, Blatter announced he would leave office within months and called for a fresh election to appoint a successor.

Blatter could still be a target of U.S. investigators delving into decades of corruption and bribery accusations against FIFA officials.

After generations under Blatter and his mentor, Joao Havelange, the announcement left

■ FIFA, **Page 2**

TRAGIC FLOODS EVOLVE TO RIVER RAFTING FUN



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rafters navigate rapid waters along the Guadalupe River in New Braunfels on Tuesday, taking advantage of high and swift water. Before torrential rains over the past two weeks — in some areas exceeding 12 inches — most Texas streams were a mere trickle, keeping kayakers and rafters from the water. At least eight people died in area flash floods and

three still are missing. More than 1,200 residents were left homeless in adjoining Hays County, where the Blanco River rose from drought levels to 40 feet in 30 minutes the night of May 22. It was the highest Blanco River level in the town of Wimberley since 1924. Four members of one family drowned when the riverside home they were in was swept away.

Over 400 tourists still missing

Boat carrying elderly Chinese citizens capsizes in storm; five known dead

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

JIANLI, China As the Eastern Star cruise ship listed heavily amid pounding rain on the Yangtze River, tour guide Zhang Hui told a colleague, "Looks like we are in trouble."

The vessel capsized in the storm Monday night with 458 people aboard, touching off a frantic rescue effort. At least 15 people were brought to safety, including three pulled from the overturned hull Tuesday, and five people were confirmed dead, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The vessel was carrying mostly elderly tourists from Nanjing to the southwestern city of Chongqing when it overturned in China's Hubei Province.

Divers rescued a 65-year-old woman and, later, two men who had been trapped, state broadcaster CCTV reported. It said more people had been found and were being rescued, but did not say whether they were still inside the overturned hull.

"We will do everything we can to rescue everyone trapped in there, no matter they're still alive or not, and we will treat them as our own families," Hubei military region commander Chen Shoumin said at a news conference shown live on CCTV.

The survivors included the ship's captain and chief engineer, both of whom were taken into police custody, CCTV said. Relatives who gathered in Shanghai, where many of the tourists started their journey by bus, questioned whether the captain did enough to ensure the passengers' safety and demanded answers from local officials in unruly scenes that drew a heavy police response.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescuers carry a survivor pulled from the capsized cruise ship on the Yangtze River in Jianli in central China's Hubei province Tuesday. Divers pulled survivors from inside the overturned cruise ship, state media said, giving some small hope to an apparently massive tragedy with well over 400 people still missing.

The Communist Party-run People's Daily said the ship sank within two minutes.

Zhang, the tour guide, said in an interview with Xinhua from his hospital bed that he grabbed a life jacket with seconds to spare as the ship listed in the storm.

The 43-year-old Zhang said he drifted in the Yangtze all night despite not being able to swim, reaching shore as dawn approached.

"The raindrops hitting my face felt like hailstones," he said. "Just hang in there a little longer," I told myself," he added.

Some survivors swam ashore, but others were rescued after search teams climbed on the upside-down hull and heard people yelling for help from within more than 12 hours after the ship overturned.

The 65-year-old woman was rescued by divers who took an extra breathing apparatus up into the bowels of the ship and spent about five minutes teaching her how to use it before bringing her out to safety, Chen said.

"That old woman had a very strong will and learned very fast, and after 20

■ China, **Page 2**

Speak softly, carry big gavel

Diminutive Texas lawmaker breaks six during session

EVA RUTH MORAVEC
Associated Press

At 5 feet 5 inches tall, Texas Rep. Kenneth Sheets is one of the smallest members of the Texas Legislature.

But he's often called to the House dais to preside over the chamber, where he's broken six solid, walnut gavels, crafted by Texas prison inmates, in this past 140-day session alone.

None of the chamber's other 149 members even House Speaker Joe Straus, who wields them far more often, have broken any.

"I'm just passionate," said Sheets, a Dallas Republican.

Three of the fragmented gavels were sent back to the East Texas prisoners who make them to evaluate why they failed. Wear-and-tear, namely, repeatedly pounding a piece of wood against a steel plate — caused the other three to chip, separate and crack.

About 1,150 of the gavels were sold to the House and Senate this year at \$38 each, with the money going to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

They're among the items made by 4,800 men and women in Texas lockups that are sold to lawmakers and public agencies, schools and hospitals for about \$5 million a year total, no doubt a lucrative business that helps the system.

The gavels are available to counties but are purchased almost exclusively by the Legislature. They're used to mark the beginning and end of meetings, get the attention of legislators and signify the end of a vote. Lawmakers hand out gavels ceremoniously, as they recently did on "John Wayne Day" to relatives of the late movie star.

The sales by Texas Correctional Industries are swallowed by the program's \$68 million budget.

■ Gavel, **Page 2**

Boston shooting under investigation

DENISE LAVOIE
AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON A man who was known to have extremist views and was under 24-hour surveillance by terrorism investigators lunged with a knife at a police officer and an FBI agent outside a pharmacy on Tuesday and was shot and killed, authorities said.

Police Commissioner Williams Evans said members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force approached Usaama Rahim in the city's Roslindale neighborhood on Tuesday morning to question him about "terrorist-related information" they had received when he went at officers with a large military-style knife.

Evans said officers repeatedly ordered Rahim to drop the knife but he continued to move toward them with it. He said task force members fired their guns, hitting Rahim once in the torso and once in the abdomen. Rahim, 26, was taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Neither Evans nor the special agent in charge of the Boston FBI office, Vincent Lisi, would say why Rahim was under surveillance, but Evans said a "level of alarm" prompted authorities to try to question him.

"Obviously, there was enough information there where we thought it was appropriate to question him about his doings," Evans said. "He was someone we

were watching for quite a time."

Evans said the officers didn't have their guns drawn when they approached Rahim. He said police have video showing Rahim "coming at officers" while they are backing away.

That account differs from one given by Rahim's brother Ibrahim Rahim, who said in a Facebook posting that his youngest brother was killed while waiting at a bus stop to go to his job.

"He was confronted by three Boston Police officers and subsequently shot in the back three times," he wrote. "He was on his cell phone with my dear father during the confrontation needing a witness."

Ibrahim Rahim, a former assis-

tant imam at a Boston mosque, could not immediately be reached for more comment Tuesday.

The Suffolk district attorney's office and the FBI said they will investigate Rahim's shooting, a routine procedure for shootings involving police.

The Council of American-Islamic Relations will monitor the investigation, spokesman Ibrahim Hooper said.

"We have a number of questions," Hooper said. "Why exactly was he being followed? What was the probable cause for this particular stop? Were there any video cameras or body cameras of the incident? How do you reconcile the two versions of the story?"

Boston voter registration re-

cords for Usaama Rahim list him as a student. Records indicate that as recently as two years ago he was licensed as a security officer in Miami but don't specify in what capacity.

On Tuesday afternoon, authorities raided a home in suburban Everett in connection with the case. Everett police confirmed they assisted the FBI in taking a man into custody but said he was taken to Boston, a 10-minute drive away.

Authorities also were searching a home in Warwick, Rhode Island, but would not confirm that was linked to the Boston shooting.

Lisi said authorities "don't think there's any concern for public safety out there right now."

Fragile gavels to be improved

■ Gavel, from Page 1

State correctional industries across the U.S. had net sales last year of \$2 billion, according to the National Correctional Industries Association.

Texas, Georgia and Arkansas are the only three U.S. states that don't pay inmates for work.

Jason Clark, Texas' corrections department spokesman, said workers receive "marketable job skills." He added, "Woodworking is a trade that they can use out in the free world."

But Alex Friedman, managing editor of Prison Legal News, wonders how useful such skills are to former inmates.

"How many private companies are making gavels? You would expect Texas Correctional Industries pretty much has a monopoly on that market," said Friedman, whose publication is run by the prison advocacy group the Human Rights Defense Center.

While most prison-made products are purchased by public agencies, less than 1 percent of sales are to lawmakers, Clark said. The



ERIC GAY/AP PHOTO

Texas Rep. Kenneth Sheets, R-Dallas, displays three of the six gavels he broke while presiding during meetings of the Texas House during the session that ended earlier this week. At 5-feet-5-inches, Sheets is one of the shortest members of the Legislature, but he outpaced other lawmakers in busting gavels that are crafted by Texas prison inmates.

acquisitions, though seldom made, often make headlines.

Rep. Debbie Riddle was scrutinized in 2011 for giving campaign

donors gifts made by inmates, such as replicas of Texas Capitol furniture.

In 2003, Sen. Eddie Lucio spent

\$6,319 furnishing his dining room and a private chapel with inmate-made products.

FIFA charges lead to change

■ FIFA from Page 1

FIFA without a leader and without a clear course forward.

It sets off a global power struggle for control of the organization as a criminal investigation intensifies.

A federal indictment last week detailed apparent bribes from a FIFA account totaling \$10 million to senior officials for voting South Africa as the 2010 World Cup host.

The South African angle threatens to tarnish memories of a bid campaign that brought Nelson Mandela to Zurich for the winning vote in 2004.

At risk also is the legacy of a World Cup that was an organizational triumph for FIFA and South Africa and bolstered Blatter's reputation as a friend of Africa, whose loyalty stood firm in Friday's election.

Blatter's vigor in acclaiming his election victory — a 133-73 win over Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan — was gone by Tuesday.

Elections for his replacement are expected to take place sometime between December and March.

"I am at the disposal of all the national associations who want a change, including all of those who were afraid to make a change," Prince Ali said.

Michel Platini, the president of European body UEFA, had called for Blatter's resignation last week before the vote.

On Tuesday, Platini praised Blatter's decision to go.

"It was a difficult decision, a brave decision, and the right decision," said Platini, a former protege who planned a strategy meeting of UEFA members to dis-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joao Havelange's departure leaves FIFA without veteran leadership. Elections are expected later this year.

MORE ON FIFA

■ After devoting half his life to FIFA, Blatter leaves soccer behind. Page 3

cuss anti-Blatter tactics.

Blatter again directed blame for FIFA's reputation at his executive colleagues who have repeatedly been implicated in bribery and corruption.

Blatter is also a member of the International Olympic Committee.

Blatter joined FIFA in 1975 as technical director for development projects, was promoted to general secretary in 1981 and spent 17 years as right-hand man to Havelange of Brazil before being elected to lead world soccer.

The new election will be overseen by Domenico Scala, chairman of FIFA's audit and compliance committee, who praised Blatter's "difficult and courageous" decision.

"This is the most responsible way to ensure an orderly transition," Scala said.

FBI says rules followed

■ FBI from Page 1

Some of the aircraft can also be equipped with technology that can identify thousands of people below through the cellphones they carry, even if they're not making a call or in public. Officials said that practice, which mimics cell towers and gets phones to reveal basic subscriber information, is used in only limited situations.

"These are not your grandparents' surveillance aircraft," said Jay Stanley, a senior policy analyst with the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Justice Department recently published a privacy policy for its agencies' use of drones and

unmanned aircraft systems. But that policy does not apply to piloted aircraft. An FBI spokesman said the FBI's flights comply with agency rules.

Those rules, which are heavily redacted in publicly available documents, limit the types of equipment the agency can use, as well as the justifications and duration of the surveillance.

Evolving technology can record higher-quality video from long distances, even at night, and can capture certain identifying information from cellphones using a device known as a "cell-site simulator" — or Stingray, to use one of the product's brand names.

These can trick pinpointed cellphones into revealing identification numbers of subscribers, including those not suspected of a crime.

Recently, independent journal-

ists and websites have cited companies traced to post office boxes in Virginia, including one shared with the Justice Department.

Included on most aircraft registrations is a mysterious name, Robert Lindley.

He is listed as chief executive and has at least three distinct signatures among the companies. Two documents include a signature for Robert Taylor, which is strikingly similar to one of Lindley's three handwriting patterns.

Law enforcement officials said Justice Department lawyers approved the decision to create fictitious companies and that the Federal Aviation Administration was aware of the practice.

The FBI has been doing this since at least the late 1980s, according to a 1990 report by the then-General Accounting Office.

Search for people ongoing

■ China from Page 1

minutes she surfaced to the water and was rescued," he added.

The overturned ship had drifted about 2 miles downstream before coming to rest close to shore, where fast currents made the rescue difficult.

The fact that the capsized ship drifted downstream was a good sign for rescuers because it meant there was enough air inside to give it buoyancy, and could mean there were enough air pockets for survivors, said Chi-Mo Park, a professor of naval architecture and ocean engineering at South Korea's Ulsan University.

CCTV said the vessel had been carrying 406 Chinese passengers, five travel agency employees and



SOURCE: MAPS4NEWS.COM/HERE, ASSOCIATED PRESS

a crew of 47. The broadcaster said most of the passengers were 50 to 80 years old.

Many of the passengers took a bus from Shanghai to Nanjing for the departure to Chongqing. Their relatives gathered in Shanghai at a travel agency that had booked many of the trips, and later went to a government office to

demand more information about the accident before police broke up the gatherings.

The ship sank in the Damazhou waterway section, where the river is 50 feet deep. The Yangtze is the world's third-longest river and sometimes floods during the summer monsoon season.



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INTERNATIONAL

Matterhorn closes for 150th anniversary

Switzerland's most famous mountain, the Matterhorn, will be closed on July 14 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the first ascent of its summit.

The Alpine resort of Zermatt said the 24-hour shutdown is being imposed "out of respect for the mountain" and in memory of more than 500 climbers who have died on the Matterhorn, starting with four of the seven-man team that first reached the summit in 1865.

The town council said people defying the order banning climbing on the mountain that day could be fined up to 5,000 francs (\$5,300) plus the cost of being airlifted off the slopes by helicopter.

Switzerland shares the 4,478-meter (14,692-foot) peak with Italy. The Swiss statement said landowners on the Italian side also will enforce the ban.

British roller coaster crashes, harms passengers

One roller coaster car slammed into another on Tuesday on one of Britain's biggest amusement park rides, leaving four teenagers seriously injured and stranding passengers 25 feet in the air, officials said.

A car on the Smiler ride carrying 16 people crashed into an empty, stationary car at Alton Towers amusement park a little after 2 p.m., the West Midlands Ambulance Service said.

The ambulance service said four teenagers who suffered serious leg injuries were being treated at the scene and would be transported to trauma centers by helicopter. The other 12 people aboard were not believed to be seriously hurt.

The park said there would be "a full investigation once all the guests have been evacuated, which is our priority."

Spanish royal couple pays delayed visit to Paris

Spanish flags are lining Paris avenues as the French capital hosts King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia for a state visit that was delayed because of a deadly plane crash in March involving dozens of Spanish victims.

The royal couple attended a state dinner Tuesday with President Francois Hollande at the Elysee Palace after visiting a Velasquez exhibit at the Grand Palais.

Felipe also gave a special award to emergency officials who cleared the wreckage of a Germanwings plane that crashed on March 24 in the French Alps en route from Barcelona to Duesseldorf. All 150 people aboard were killed.

Felipe took power after his father, Juan Carlos, abdicated a year ago Tuesday. Felipe has pledged a more moderate monarchy and sought to boost the royal family's image after recent scandals.

Decline of elephants in Tanzania is 'catastrophic'

The sharp decline of the elephant population in Tanzania, most likely because of poaching, is catastrophic, a wildlife conservation group said Tuesday.

The Tanzanian government on Monday estimated that 65,721 elephants have died in the country in the last five years. The report showed the number of elephants plummeting from an estimated 109,051 in 2009 to 43,330 in 2014.

Steve Broad, the executive director of wildlife conservation group TRAFFIC, said it's incredible that poaching on such an industrial scale hadn't been identified and addressed.

The Tanzanian government said it has added 1,000 rangers to protect wildlife, but Broad said, "There is a real risk that it could be a case of too little too late for some elephant populations."

Russian opposition leader regains consciousness

The wife of a prominent Russian opposition figure who has been hospitalized for a week with a mysterious illness said he has regained consciousness. Evgenia Kara-Murza said her husband "has opened his eyes and recognized his relatives," according to the Open Russia organization.

Vladimir Kara-Murza, a journalist and a close associate of the murdered opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, was hospitalized in grave condition last week after suddenly falling ill. He reportedly was suffering kidney failure.

No cause for the illness has been determined. But in light of the fatal poisoning of defector Alexander Litvinenko and the mysterious deaths of other Russian opposition figures, some worry Kara-Murza could have been poisoned.

France awaits Vatican word on gay ambassador

The French government is expecting the Vatican to decide within days whether to approve the nomination of a diplomat, who is said to be gay, to be the French ambassador to the Holy See.

Paris is hoping Laurent Stefanini wins approval five months after the French presidential palace submitted his nomination. The French government is awaiting a response via Vatican diplomatic channels within a week to 10 days, a French official told The Associated Press.

The Vatican spokesman declined to comment.

Gay rights groups have accused the Vatican of delaying a decision because of Stefanini's sexual orientation. Decisions normally take a few weeks.

The No. 2 official at the Vatican, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, said the dialogue is still open, and "we hope that it might conclude in a positive light."

The Vatican traditionally doesn't approve ambassadors in "nontraditional" family situations.

Associated Press

Relatives demand answers

Families of China boat passengers direct anger to government

JACK CHANG
Associated Press

SHANGHAI Huang Jing rushed to the office of the Shanghai Xiehe Travel Agency as soon as he heard about the sinking of a riverboat cruise with his brother- and father-in-law and 456 other people on board.

He demanded an official passenger list from the travel company that had arranged the cruise along China's famed Yangtze River. When the agency didn't respond, he and other relatives turned to the local government, storming city district offices and cornering officials to ask that they force the cruise company to help. Police were called in to keep the peace.

"The government must meet its responsibility," Huang said by phone from a government office where he and other relatives were being kept away from the media. "We need to learn what happened to our loved ones."

Few of the people on the cruise ship have been rescued.

In an authoritarian country where transparency and friendly public service are rare, everyday Chinese learn to assume officials are hiding something. But when the fates of mothers, husbands and children are at stake, tolerance for the routine breaks down, said Shi Sushi, an independent Beijing-based commentator.

"These emotions are just waiting to explode," Shi said. "And when these episodes happen, even when it's something small, all these feelings come out. The government hasn't been able to solve some basic everyday problems, and people are ready to be-

The government must meet its responsibility. We need to learn what happened to our loved ones.

HUANG JING



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Relatives of passengers on board a capsized cruise ship in central China attempt to storm a government office in Shanghai on Tuesday. The families demanded action after the tourist agency that organized the tour failed to help them.

lieve the worst."

Although an apparent boat passenger list had been circulating on social media, Huang said it included only the names and government ID numbers of passengers who had purchased travel insurance. He said his relatives weren't on the list.

Dozens of police arrived when relatives confronted city officials and shouted, "Are we asking too much? No, we just want information!"

Similar scenes followed the stampede deaths of 36 people on Shanghai's Bund riverfront on New Year's Eve, when grieving relatives demanding to learn the fate of fallen revelers blocked city streets and were taken by officials to hidden rooms. Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 relatives have been fighting their battle for more than a year as they await word

about their loved ones aboard the still-missing plane. Police have beaten some family members after they criticized the Chinese government's response to the accident.

Chinese officials have tried to defuse such suspicions by blending coverage of such disasters with positive stories of government officials jumping into action.

On Tuesday, China Central Television paired updates on the boat sinking with footage of Premier Li Keqiang appearing to direct the rescue effort from the river site as well as with quotes from President Xi Jinping calling for an all-out rescue effort. The relatives didn't appear on state media reports about the disaster, which instead described the rescue in extensive detail.

Huang said he still didn't know whether his relatives were alive or dead.

"Nobody has told us anything," he said. "This is something we can't accept."

Greece submits bailout proposal

ELENA BECATOROS
Associated Press

Greece submitted a proposal to its bailout lenders, the country's prime minister said Tuesday, in the hope of getting needed rescue money — but its creditors were quick to say much work remained to be done.

Alexis Tsipras said his government had made compromises in the negotiations, and it was now up to the leaders of Europe, Greece's main creditors, to accept a deal or risk consequences for the region.

"It is a misunderstanding that we have to meet one another halfway," Tsipras said. "That is not our intention."



Tsipras

Without the rescue loans, Greece could default on its debts this month and eventually even drop out of Europe's currency bloc, a step that would push the global economy into uncharted territory.

Once both sides agree, creditors will unlock the 7.2 billion euros' worth of loans remaining in the current bailout program.

If there's no deal by the end of the month and the bailout expires, those funds will no longer be available for Greece.

Tsipras said the proposal, for which he gave no specifics, was submitted Monday night to the European Central Bank, International Monetary Fund and European Commission, the EU's executive.

That same night, the leaders of Germany, France, the IMF, ECB and EC held an emergency meeting in Berlin about Greece.

"We are nowhere near far enough," said Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem, who heads the eurozone finance ministers' meetings known as the eurogroup. "Time is pressing."

Greece must repay a total of about 1.6 billion euros (\$1.8 billion) to the IMF this month, with the first installment of just over 300 million euros due Friday.

Dijsselbloem said it was almost impossible to reach a deal that would unlock the entire 7.2 billion euros in time for Friday.

There have been suggestions Greece could seek to bundle all repayments due to the IMF this month into one payment on June 30 — an option permitted under IMF rules but rarely used. Greece's administrative reform minister, Giorgos Katrougalos, said Greece intended to honor its debt commitments and expects to reach an agreement with its creditors soon.

He said Greece's creditors were preparing a counterproposal to Greece's 47-page plan.

WITH FLYING COLORS



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

The 'Freccia Tricolori' Italian Air Force aerobatic squad flies over Rome on Tuesday during the Republic Day parade that celebrates the anniversary of the birth of the Italian Republic in 1946.

Blatter leaves legacy after 17 years

FIFA president weathered storms, now says soccer association needs restructuring

GRAHAM DUNBAR
Associated Press

GENEVA For years, nothing could touch Sepp Blatter.

Under his 17-year rule, soccer's governing body survived and thrived through allegations of bribery, vote-buying and World Cup ticket scams. He built a base of support by bolstering the sport in developing countries and brought the first World Cup to Africa.

But after a tumultuous week of indictments and investigations, the pressure from all sides proved to be too much for the 79-year-old.

The world's largest soccer nations were rebelling and discussing an alternate tournament to the World Cup. Sponsors were re-examining their relationship with FIFA. And fans seemed to want someone else to run the sport.

Blatter announced Tuesday he would resign after a successor could be elected, saying FIFA needed "profound restructuring."

On May 27, U.S. prosecutors issued indictments against 14 current or former soccer officials as well as a Swiss criminal investigation into the votes awarding the World Cup tournaments to Russia in 2018 and to Qatar in 2022.

Even though Blatter wasn't implicated in those investigations, he faced calls for his resignation that came from some of his harshest critics in soccer as well as political leaders.

Even when scandals tainted FIFA's prestige and image, most of the officials stood by Blatter, particularly those from Africa, Asia and small nations.

Blatter came to embody FIFA and its reputation — that was tarnished as equally as its

prize asset, the World Cup — was celebrated as a commercial and popular success.

"People like a scapegoat, of course, but how could things have become so twisted?" Blatter asked an audience of students in England in 2013, deploying his charm to try to win over a tough audience.

"As you can see, I'm not some overbearing bully who can intimidate my critics with one look and strong-arm governments to my will."

Blatter devoted more than half his life to working at FIFA, as technical director, chief executive and, since 1998, as elected president.

He mastered the politics of soccer and reveled in the access and media attention it gave him. He mixed easily with heads of state lured by the commercial and popular power of the World Cup.

GLOBAL REACTION TO BLATTER'S RESIGNATION

“The announcement today by President Blatter represents an exceptional and immediate opportunity for positive change within FIFA. I commend him for making a decision that puts FIFA and the sport we love above all other interests.”

— SUNIL GULATI, U.S. SOCCER PRESIDENT

“Michel Platini “suits the role of president of FIFA better than anyone else ... (He is) a more prepared and experienced person.”

— NIKITA SIMONYAN, RUSSIAN FOOTBALL UNION ACTING PRESIDENT

“I want the full facts around the bidding to be known. If there was fairness and transparency, then good, well done. If it is found there was improper behavior in any way, they must have a look at whether they should reopen the processes.”

— SIMON JOHNSON, MEMBER OF ENGLAND'S TEAM

“It is a good afternoon. I think it's brilliant for world football. This is the start of something new.”

— GREG DYKE, ENGLAND'S FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN

Congress OKs surveillance bill

President expected to sign bill days after NSA program that collected Americans' phone records expired

ERICA WERNER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Congress approved sweeping changes Tuesday to surveillance laws enacted after 9/11, eliminating the National Security Agency's disputed bulk phone-records collection program and replacing it with a more restrictive measure to keep the records in phone companies' hands.

Two days after Congress let the phone-records and several other anti-terror programs expire, the Senate's 67-32 vote sent the legislation to President Barack Obama, who planned to sign it promptly.

The legislation will revive most of the programs the Senate had allowed to lapse in a dizzying collision of presidential politics and national security policy. But the authorization will undergo major changes, the legacy of agency contractor Edward Snowden's explosive revelations two years ago about domestic spying by the government.

In an unusual shifting of alliances, the legislation passed with the support of Obama and House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, but over the strong opposition of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. McConnell failed to persuade the Senate to extend the current law unchanged, and came up short in a last-ditch effort Tuesday to amend the House version as nearly a dozen of his own Republicans abandoned him in a series of votes.

"This is a step in the wrong direction," a frustrated McConnell said on the Senate floor ahead of the Senate's final vote to approve the House version, dubbed the USA Freedom Act. He said the legislation "does not enhance the privacy protections of American citizens. And it surely undermines American security by taking one more tool from our warfighters at exactly the wrong time."

The legislation remakes the most controversial aspect of the USA Patriot Act — the oncesecret bulk collection program that allows the NSA to sweep up Americans' phone records and comb through them for ties to international terrorists. Over six months the NSA would lose the power to collect and store those records, but the government still could gain court orders to obtain data connected to specific numbers from the phone companies.

It would also continue other post-9/11 surveillance provisions that lapsed Sunday night and are considered more effective than the phone-data collection program. Those provisions include the FBI's authority to gather business records in terrorism and espionage investigations and to more easily eavesdrop on suspects who are discarding cellphones to avoid surveillance.

"This legislation is critical to keeping Americans safe from terrorism and protecting their civil liberties," said Boehner. "I applaud the Senate for renewing our nation's foreign intelligence capabilities, and I'm pleased this measure will now head to the president's desk for his signature."

Expired surveillance provisions

Congress is scrambling to restore three key surveillance powers the government says are crucial to prevent terrorist acts, but privacy advocates worry are intrusive.

Phone and business records (Patriot Act Section 215)

Allows the National Security Agency to collect **domestic telephone records** such as number called, time and duration of call. It also allows the FBI to obtain **business records** related to a terrorism investigation.

Roving wiretaps (Patriot Act Section 206)

Authorizes the FBI to target a suspect who may use and discard **multiple phones** to dodge surveillance, rather than an individual communications device, common with wiretaps.

'Lone wolf' tracking (Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act Section 6001)

Allows the FBI to **eavesdrop on a non-U.S. person suspected of terrorist activity** but who is not affiliated with a foreign terror group or power. It has never been used.

SOURCE: U.S. Senate

AP

The outcome capped a series of events on Capitol Hill that saw a presidential candidate, GOP Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, defy fellow Republicans and singlehandedly force the existing law to lapse Sunday at midnight.

The suspense continued Tuesday as McConnell tried to get the Senate to agree to three amendments he said would make the House bill more palatable. But House leaders warned that if presented with the changes the House might not be able to approve them. The Senate denied McConnell's attempts, an embarrassment for the leader six months after Republicans retook Senate control.

California drought still an upstream fight

State reducing water use but is far from level mandated by governor

FENIT NIRAPPIL
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO Californians are using less water, but they'll have to conserve a lot more to reach the mandatory drought cuts taking effect this month, according to the latest numbers released Tuesday.

California residents reduced overall water use by 13.5 percent in April compared to the same month in the benchmark year of 2013, water officials said.

That's the second-best conservation achievement since state officials started closely tracking water use more than a year ago, but it fell short of the 25 percent cut that Gov. Jerry Brown made mandatory for cities and towns by June 1.

"Local communities are stepping up in a way they weren't before, and I'm hoping that's why we are starting to see the uptick" in conservation, said Felicia Marcus, chairwoman of the state Water Resources Control Board.

"The real challenge is, we really have to step it up for the summer months," Marcus said. "If we miss the summer, we are toast."

This year's Sierra Nevada snowpack, which feeds the state's rivers, was the lowest on record — a grim image that served as Brown's backdrop as he announced unprecedented conservation measures on April 1.

April's best conservers included Santa Rosa, a city of 170,000 people north of San Francisco, which reported a 32 percent drop in April compared to April 2013. The city offered a host of programs to achieve savings such as paying residents to reduce 52 football fields' worth of lawn and giving away 50,000 low-flush toilets since 2007.

"Fifty thousand toilets? Really? We don't have that kind of money," said Alan Tandy, city manager of Bakersfield, where water use increased by 1 percent in the latest state tally.

The Southern California coast, which includes Los Angeles and San Diego, cut just 9 percent in April, compared to a 20 percent reduction in the San Francisco Bay Area and 24 percent in the Sacramento area.



MINDY SCHAUER/THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

JW Landscape employees work on removing 300,000 square feet of turf at Suzuki headquarters in Brea, California, on Monday. The grass will be replaced with drought-tolerant plants and is expected to save the company 700,000 gallons of water a month, said R.F. Taitano, administrative services manager.

Starting this month, each community has a mandatory water reduction target, with some ordered to cut back as much as 36 percent.

Water districts missing their targets face potential fines of up to \$10,000 a day once June numbers are in, although a far more likely outcome will be state-ordered changes in local regulations, like toughening limits on lawn-watering.

The shift to mandatory conservation followed lackluster savings through a voluntary effort.

As more wells and streams run dry, California's farmers are expected to increase by one-third the fields they fallow this year.

The drought's impact on agriculture alone will cost California \$500 million more than last year, for a total economic hit of \$2.7 billion in 2015, according to a new study by the University of California at Davis.

Roughly 200 farmers in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta east of San Francisco have submitted plans for voluntarily reducing water use by 25 percent to avoid deeper mandatory cuts later this year.

Seniors struggle to recover from housing bubble

PAUL WISEMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Al and Sandra Karp have found an unconventional way to raise money and help save their Miami-area home from foreclosure: They're lining up gigs for their family jazz band.

They enjoy performing, but it isn't exactly how Al, an 86-year-old Korean War vet, or Sandra, 76, had expected to spend their retirement.

Of all the financial threats facing Americans of retirement age — outliving savings, falling for scams, paying for long-term care — housing isn't supposed to be one. But after a home-price collapse, the worst recession since the 1930s and some calamitous decisions to turn homes into cash machines, millions are straining to make house payments.

The consequences can be severe. Retirees who use retirement money to pay housing costs can face disaster if their health deteriorates or their savings run short.

"It's a big problem coming off the housing bubble," said Cary Sternberg, who advises seniors on housing issues in The Villages, a Florida retirement community. "A growing number of seniors are struggling with what to do about their home and their mortgage and their retirement."

Baby boomers were already facing a retirement crunch: Over the past two decades, employers have largely eliminated traditional pensions, forcing workers



ALAN DIAZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sandra Karp embraces her husband, Al — who suffers from Alzheimer's disease — after a rehearsal at their home in North Miami Beach, Florida, on May 11. The Karp family band, along with their son, Larry, perform old standards as the Karp Family band to help stave off foreclosure of the home they bought in 1980.

to manage their retirement savings. Many boomers didn't save enough, invested badly or raided their retirement accounts.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Office for Older Americans says 30 percent of homeowners 65 and older, or 6.5 million people, were paying a mortgage in 2013, up from 22 percent in 2001. The median mortgage held by Americans 65 and older has more than doubled since 2001 — to \$88,000 from \$43,400, according to the CFPB.

Hundreds of thousands of older Americans have lost homes to foreclosure. A 2012 study by the AARP found that 1.5 million Americans 50 and older lost

homes between 2007 and 2011.

Seniors fell into housing trouble in varying ways. Some lost jobs. Some overpaid for homes during the housing boom, incorrectly thinking they could cash in later.

Some made unwise decisions to refinance mortgages and pull cash out of their homes to meet unexpected costs, help their children or go on spending sprees.

Jim, 67, and LaRue Carnes, 63, moved to Sacramento, California, in 1978 and bought a house for \$54,000. For 33 years, Jim worked as a newspaper reporter and editor. They refinanced their mortgage several times and pulled money out of the house and took on higher mortgage payments.

"Foolishly, like so many Americans, we used the house as a bank," LaRue says.

In 2011, Jim was laid off, and the couple fell behind on mortgage payments. They dipped into retirement savings three times to fend off foreclosure. Eventually, with a \$25,000 grant from a state program, Keep Your Home California, they negotiated a new mortgage they could afford.

The couple is still struggling. Once a month, they eat free breakfast at a church, bringing home bagels and fruit.

Al and Sandra Karp bought their three-bedroom home in North Miami Beach, Florida, for \$77,000 in 1980. They refinanced, partly to pay down credit-card debt, and their mortgage swelled to \$288,000.

Al kept working as a tax accountant into his late 70s before Alzheimer's disease forced him into retirement.

The couple is getting by on about \$2,500 a month in Social Security and Veterans Affairs benefits, plus food stamps and help from their two sons. They stopped paying the mortgage and are fighting foreclosure in court.

To ease the stress and earn some cash, they perform old musical standards as the Karp Family — Sandra on vocals, Al on sax, son Larry on keyboards.

"I'm trying desperately to stay here," Sandra says. As for Al: "He thinks the mortgage is paid. He hasn't got a clue."

NATIONAL

Boston bomber's friend sentenced to 6 years in jail

BOSTON A college friend of Boston

Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was sentenced Tuesday to six years in prison after he apologized to the victims and their families for not calling police when he recognized photos of Tsarnaev as a suspect.

Dias Kadyrbayev, 21, pleaded guilty last year to obstruction of justice and conspiracy charges for removing items from Tsarnaev's dorm room after recognizing his friend in photos released by the FBI days after the bombing.

He will get credit for the 26 months he's been in custody and will be deported to his native Kazakhstan when his prison term is up.

Three people were killed and more than 260 were injured in the bombing April 15, 2013, near the marathon's finish line.

A jury last month sentenced Tsarnaev to death for the attack. The two friends who went to Tsarnaev's dorm room with Kadyrbayev are scheduled to be sentenced Friday.

Feds: Threats against flights do not appear credible

PHILADELPHIA Federal authorities say threats against several commercial airline flights do not appear to be credible.

One of the threats Tuesday claimed multiple explosive devices were planted on US Airways Flight 648 from San Diego to Philadelphia.

The Airbus A320 carrying 88 passengers and five crew members was held on a taxiway after landing safely around 6:15 a.m. at Philadelphia International Airport.

Federal authorities would not identify the other flights involved.

The FBI says K-9 units and a bomb squad searched Flight 648. The incident did not affect airport operations.

Aurora gunman says he called crisis hotline before shooting

CENTENNIAL, Colo. Aurora theater gunman James Holmes said he called a mental health hotline minutes before the 2012 massacre, thinking someone might be able to talk him out of killing people watching a movie.

In a videotape played for jurors on Tuesday, Holmes says the phone call was disconnected before anyone answered.

Holmes said he lingered outside a moment, then walked into the theater, threw a tear gas canister and began firing into the crowd.

The videotape is from a psychiatrist's sanity evaluation of Holmes conducted last year. Holmes pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to charges of killing 12 people and injuring 70.

At least 9 hurt in collision involving bus, cars

CHICAGO Authorities say a collision between a Chicago Transit Authority bus and several other vehicles has left at least nine people injured, two of them critically.

The accident occurred around 6 p.m. Tuesday in the city's downtown business district.

Authorities say the bus was turning onto Michigan Avenue when it collided with several other vehicles. The bus went onto the sidewalk and a pedestrian was pinned underneath.

Authorities say the bus driver was the only person aboard the bus at the time of the crash, which involved at least three other vehicles.

Authorities say the cause of the crash hasn't been determined.

Bison injures 2nd tourist at Yellowstone in 3 weeks

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, Wyo. For the second time in three weeks, a bison has seriously injured an tourist in Yellowstone National Park.

Officials say injuries to the 62-year-old Australian aren't life-threatening though the bison tossed him several times into the air Tuesday.

The unidentified man was flown by helicopter for medical treatment.

Yellowstone officials say several people crowded the bison as it lay near a sidewalk not far from the famous Old Faithful Geyser. They say the bison charged after the man was taking photos from just a few feet away.

Bison can weigh as much as a full-size sedan and run three times faster than a person.

A bison in the Old Faithful area gored a 16-year-old girl from Taiwan as she posed for a picture near the animal May 16.

Man's red underwear leads to burglary arrest

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. The blue sneakers were the subject of the crime, but police say it was a Long Island man's red underwear that led to his arrest.

Police say 18-year-old Taykim Ross stole \$200, electronics and Air Jordan sneakers from an apartment Monday and stopped to try them on. That's when a neighbor snapped a photo of the suspect with red boxers visible above his jeans.

Hempstead Village Officer Russell Harris was returning after a canvass of the neighborhood when he noticed someone taking garbage out, bent over with "bright red underwear."

The officer acknowledged that young men in Hempstead are often seen not wearing belts with pants hanging low.

"If he would have gone home and put a belt on, I probably wouldn't have noticed him," Harris said.

Ross was arraigned on a burglary charge Tuesday in district court and conditionally released to probation.

Associated Press

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Final missing person found

JOHNSON CITY Authorities have found safe a man reported as missing from the Texas floods.

A statement issued by Blanco County officials say Bruce Conklin was the final person to be accounted for from its list of flood-related missing persons.

The statement does not specify where Conklin was found Tuesday. The county statement says that of 18 persons reported missing in Blanco County after the flood, 15 were found safe while three were found dead.

Earlier Tuesday, Hays County officials used medical and dental records to identify 81-year-old Kenneth Reissig, whose body was found Thursday near the Blanco River near the line separating Blanco and Hays counties.

Traffic stop turns into chase, 3 taken into custody

HOUSTON Three suspects have been taken into custody after a car chase in Houston.

Media outlets reported the chase started about 4 p.m. Monday during a traffic stop. Houston Police Sgt. Robert Tamayo said the vehicle had paper license plates that were unreadable.

A car chase ensued. Two suspects left the car in the middle of traffic and took off on foot across traffic on the Eastex Freeway and disappeared into the woods. Houston police found and arrested a 20-year-old and a 15-year-old about an hour and a half later.

Police say the two will face evading charges. Authorities say a 19-year-old also was in the vehicle, but did not flee and will not face charges.

Man treated for burns after vehicle explodes

Two Austin police officers and a driver were hurt when a parked vehicle ignited and exploded. The Austin Fire Department said the incident happened before dawn Tuesday in a convenience store parking lot.

Division Chief Palmer Buck said investigators are trying to determine what led to the car catching fire. Buck said the vehicle is a total loss.

The officers were treated for minor burns suffered while pulling the driver from the burning vehicle. Authorities say the driver suffered serious burns and was being treated at a hospital.

Further details weren't immediately available.

Steady rain eases farmers' worry of aphid infestation

HARLINGEN Researchers suspect steady rains and other factors may be responsible for a drop in a bug's infestation of a grain crop so far this year.

Farmers in the Rio Grande Valley had feared the aphid would again invade their sorghum crop following experts' predictions they would come back after an increase in population across the region, the Valley Morning Star reported.

The pests had swarmed the Valley's sorghum fields, gnawing away at the plants in 2014. The bugs also infested crops from Mississippi to southern Oklahoma while devastating Mexico's sorghum crop, according to researchers.

They had warned that sorghum growers in the Valley who didn't take preventive measures by spraying their fields with insecticide would face heavy crop losses. But they think rains and humidity may have helped stop the insect from attacking the crops.

Kitten avoids flood by hitching ride under hood

ROSHARON A Houston-area woman named her new kitten Lucky after it rode under the hood of her SUV to escape Central Texas flooding.

KHOU-TV reports Pat Jablonski on May 24 was in San Marcos when the weather turned violent.

Jablonski said mandatory evacuations forced her to leave a vacation cabin and drive home to Rosharon, about 170 miles away.

Jablonski said Monday she remembers driving in the rain and thinking she heard a kitten meowing. The next day, she heard more mews, lifted the hood of her SUV and found the cat unharmed on the engine.

A cat at the San Marcos campground where Jablonski was staying recently had kittens. Jablonski said she thinks Lucky is from that litter.

Man won't be prosecuted after shooting, killing dog

HOUSTON A Houston-area man who was facing a charge of animal cruelty after he shot and killed a Staffordshire bull terrier at a dog park will not be prosecuted.

A Harris County grand jury declined to indict 27-year-old Joseph Potts on Monday.

Potts, a concealed handgun license owner, shot the 2-year-old dog named Diesel at the Bay Area Dog Park in January, authorities said. Potts told police that the dog was aggressive toward him, his wife and their two pets.

Potts shot the dog three times, authorities said. Diesel's owner Karey Wilson said her dog posed no danger.

Aquarium fish capacity expected full by month end

CORPUS CHRISTI The Texas State Aquarium is nearly full of fish again after a chemical accident in April killed hundreds of creatures.

Aquarium President Tom Schmid told the Corpus Christi Caller-Times that, as of Monday, the fish collection topped 95 percent.

Nearly 400 fish died when a mislabeled container led aquarium personnel to put a poisonous chemical in the water.

California spill cleanup draws wide criticism

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The leader overseeing a massive oil cleanup along the California coast defended the initial response, saying workers were on the ground after the spill.

The first wave of workers deployed booms in the water to corral the oil slick and placed them along the shoreline to protect ecologically sensitive habitats. Others vacuumed up oil from the site of the underground pipeline that ruptured May 19, sending up to 101,000 gallons of crude oil down a culvert and onto the beach north of Santa Barbara. An estimated 21,000 gallons escaped into the Pacific Ocean and quickly spread.

As more crews arrived the next day, they began raking oily sand and cleaning rocks on the beach — an exercise that continues more than a week after one of the largest coastal oil spills in California in 25 years.

“We had people on the ground on day zero — people who were actually physically doing things to prevent the worsening of the spill,” Coast Guard Capt. Jennifer Williams said Friday.

The early response has come under scrutiny in recent days by environmentalists and witnesses who felt little on-the-ground cleanup was done the first day.

California's U.S. senators issued a statement Thursday calling the response insufficient and demanding Plains All American Pipeline explain what it did, and when, after firefighters discovered the leak from the company's underground 24-inch pipe. A diverse range of government agencies converged on the site after the spill was discovered, but it took some time to get ramped up.



JAE C. HONG / AP

In this May 21, 2015, file photo, a worker removes oil from sand at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif. An underground pipe, owned by Plains All American Pipeline, spewed oil down a culvert and into the Pacific Ocean on May 19 before it was shut off. Democratic U.S. Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein say the response to the oil spill mile slick on the ocean was “insufficient.”



JAE C. HONG / AP

On oil-covered bird flaps its wings at Refugio State Beach, north of Goleta, Calif.

President appoints first black judge to Texas court



Hanks

ERIN HEFFERNAN
The Galveston County Daily News

GALVESTON Judge George Hanks Jr. stood in his new workplace: Galveston's historic federal court

The Galveston County Daily News reports the room gives the sense of history behind Hanks' role on the Galveston bench, the oldest federal judgeship in Texas. He's the first African-American judge to preside over the court and will serve with life tenure. President Barack Obama nominated Hanks in September.

Hanks has been a judge for more than 15 years, and also is an accomplished and scuba diver.

“When I was a kid growing up in small-town Louisiana, my dad told me, ‘Always treat people with dignity and respect,’” Hanks said.

Then-Gov. Rick Perry appointed Hanks to the Texas 1st Court of Appeals in 2003, before joining the federal bench in 2010.

Hanks replaced Judge Gregg

Costa in the Galveston Federal Courthouse.

Galveston court's first judicial officer Judge John Watrous was one of only two judges serving in states joining the Confederacy to resign from the bench rather than serving as a Confederate judge.

“There is a lot of history to this role,” Hanks said. “So that is something that I feel every day coming into this job.”

Although Hanks has made his career in judge's robes, he lights up with the mention of his other life passion: the ocean. Hanks has gone on more than 500 open-water scuba dives.

Hanks said his interest began on his honeymoon to Hawaii

“The sun was blocked out by a stingray right over my head,” he said. “And from that moment it became something I was always interested in. The law is my life's work, but that really is my passion.”

Second-longest-serving prisoner to be put to death

MICHAEL GRACZYK
Associated Press Writer

LIVINGSTON Lester Bower Jr. said he's the same mild-mannered person he was 31 years ago when he arrived on death row — not bitter, not angry and not the killer of four men.

“I'm a little wiser, and a little older,” Bower says.

Bower is set for lethal injection Wednesday in Huntsville for the fatal shooting of four men in 1983 at an airplane hangar on a ranch outside Sherman.

At 67, he'd be the oldest inmate executed in Texas since the state resumed carrying out the death penalty in 1982. He'd also be the second-longest-serving Texas prisoner put to death.

His attorneys had appeals before the U.S. Supreme Court, which declined to review his case — though three justices, Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor, said they would have thrown out his death sentence.

Bower was arrested and charged with capital murder after the men were found Oct. 8, 1983, on the B&B Ranch about 60 miles north of Dallas.

His appeals attorneys argued that Grayson County jurors didn't have the opportunity to fully consider



Not cooperating with authorities was the biggest mistake, and I paid for it with my life.

LESTER BOWER JR.

that Bower had no previous criminal record.

The men killed were building contractor and ranch owner Bob Tate, 51; Grayson County Sheriff's Deputy Philip Good, 29, who sold ultralights and was trying to sell one owned by Tate; Jerry Brown, 52, a Sherman interior designer; and Ronald Mayes, 39, a former Sherman police officer.

Prosecutors built a circumstantial case that Bower stole the aircraft and shot the victims as they showed up where Bower was to complete the purchase and where the victims had planned to watch the Texas-Oklahoma football game on TV. Parts of the plane later were found at Bower's home.

“They can't prove it was stolen, and I can't prove I bought it.” Bower said.

Defense lawyers suggested men involved in a failed drug deal were responsible for the carnage.

Bower's name surfaced in Good's telephone call records. Bower lied to his wife, who didn't want him to purchase the ultralight plane, and to investigators about his efforts to buy it.

“Not cooperating with authorities was the biggest mistake, and I paid for it with my life,” he said.

Trial to determine adequacy of former exec's estimations

KEVIN MCGILL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS A former BP executive manipulated early estimates of the amount of oil spewing into the Gulf of Mexico after a 2010 rig explosion to conform to a low government estimate, then lied about it to federal agents, a prosecutor told jurors Tuesday.

Defense attorneys countered that David Rainey's estimates were the best he could do as he and other BP officials worked to shut down the flow of oil after the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster, and he had no reason to lie a year later when questioned about his calculations.

Rainey is on trial on a single count of making a false statement. Another charge, obstructing a congressional investigation, was tossed out Monday by U.S. District Judge Kurt Engelhardt, although federal prosecutors urged him in papers filed Tuesday to reinstate it.

In Tuesday's opening statements, federal prosecutor Leo Tsao said the oil flow rate was important information for those working to stop a flow that lasted for 87 days — the nation's worst offshore oil disaster.

“How big a problem BP had on its hands depended on how much oil was flowing,” Tsao said. He said an early government estimate of 1,000 barrels a day was soon upped to 5,000. It was that second figure that Rainey, a geologist who the government said had no experience calculating flow rates, allegedly tried to match rather than come up with an independent assessment.

Ultimately, a federal judge ruled that roughly 3.19 million barrels spilled before the damaged well was capped after 87 days.

Fence-jumper may face 21 months in prison

JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Federal prosecutors say a judge should sentence a knife-carrying U.S. Army veteran who got over the White House fence and inside to almost 21 months in prison.

Omar Gonzalez, who has a history of mental health problems, had been set to be sentenced June 8, but his attorney asked Tuesday in a court document that it be delayed.

“The defendant's actions needlessly endangered White House occupants, Secret Service officers and civilians in the vicinity of the crime. Moreover, the defendant was aware for years before the crime that he needed treatment to address his PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), paranoia and hallucinations, but did not make sufficient efforts to consistently obtain that treatment,” prosecutors wrote in asking for the sentence.

Prosecutors also said, about a month before Gonzalez got into the White House, he was stopped Aug. 25 outside the home because he had a hatchet tucked into the rear waistband of his pants. He told officers it was for camping, agreed to put it in his car and was not arrested.

Gonzalez's attorney, David Bos, did not immediately return a telephone message Tuesday requesting comment.

After Gonzalez's arrest for entering the White House, investigators found rounds of ammunition, a machete and tomahawks in his car. When arrested, he was carrying a knife in his pocket with a blade longer than 3.5 inches, the sentencing document said. Gonzalez told a Secret Service agent after his arrest he wanted to tell the president the atmosphere was collapsing.

Gonzalez, 43, pleaded guilty in March to entering or remaining in a restricted building or grounds while carrying a deadly or dangerous weapon and assaulting, resisting or impeding a Secret Service officer. President Barack Obama and his daughters had just left the White House when Gonzalez got inside. The first lady was not home.



Travel experts and upscale magazines are urging travel to Cuba before it changes. But visitors envisioning salsa in the streets and glamorous vintage cars should also be prepared to manage without American essentials such as ATMs, credit cards, Wi-Fi, air-conditioning, seat belts or toilet paper. ■ TOP LEFT In this December 2014 file photo, a street entertainer waits for tourists in Old Havana, Cuba. ■ TOP RIGHT A vendor sells Ernesto “Che” Guevara T-shirts and souvenirs in Old Havana, June 2015. ■ BOTTOM LEFT In this January 2015 photo, the driver of a collective taxi steers his classic American car through Havana. ■ BOTTOM RIGHT In this May 2015 photo, a message believed to have been written by late U.S. novelist Ernest Hemingway, hangs framed at the bar inside La Bodeguita del Medio in Old Havana, Cuba. The writing reads: “My mojito in La Bodeguita, my daiquiri in El Floridita.”

DESMOND BOYLAN / AP PHOTO

FROM TERRORISM TO TOURISM

BETH J. HARPAZ
AP Travel Editor

The thawing of U.S.-Cuba relations has inspired many Cubans to think big. Local Cubans report American visits increased between January and early May compared to the same period a year ago, as well as international arrivals. That surge is likely to continue as interest in the destination grows and it gets easier for Americans to travel there.

Here's a look at three Cubans, part of a small class of entrepreneurs, often highly educated and well connected, who see increased tourism as the key to their dreams.

HIGHLIGHTING AMERICAN CONNECTIONS

Mario Otero, 25, is a waiter at San Cristobal, one of Havana's best privately owned restaurants. Whipping out his phone, he shows pictures of himself with some of the restaurant's famous guests such as Beyoncé and Jay Z and with Democratic Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the former speaker of the House.

Otero is renovating a house he hopes to rent to tourists, and he also works as a private guide, with a goal of opening his own tourism agency. He has friends with vintage 1950s cars who serve as chauffeurs.

Otero speaks excellent English, as well as French, and his knowledge of both Cuban and American culture makes tourism a natural fit for him. Showing a visitor around Ernest Hemingway's Havana estate at Finca Vigia amid crowds of tourists, he said, "Hemingway is like King Midas. Everything he touched here turned to gold."

He learned about Americans firsthand working odd jobs during a vacation from school spent in Tampa, Florida, but he's eager to learn new English terms he hears: What is a millennial? What is a hipster?

"American tourists are the most loved here," he said, and not just because they're good tippers, but because "they want to have fun." He adds, "I really enjoy showing the most beautiful places of my country."

Otero, who earned his tourism degree from the University of Havana, said he is very hopeful for the industry.

"Tourism has been my life," he says. "I truly think that I was born for this."

A TWIST TO TRADITIONAL CUISINE

In a country where many people lack Internet access, Alain Gutierrez, 40, is making his mark online. As a Cuban food blogger with a website called ATasteofCuba.org, he's passionate about promoting traditional Cuban cuisine, and his dreams could be fueled if the island's evolving restaurant scene makes it a destination for foodies.

Gutierrez takes photos, makes videos and writes about Cuban food — restaurants, chefs, recipes,

culinary traditions. He contributes to a bimonthly magazine, OnCuba, that's available online and even in print in a few places in Florida. But he dreams of launching a digital magazine devoted to Cuban food that could potentially be supported by advertising from the culinary world.

An American food and culture writer, Anne Katata, wants him to shoot photos for a book she's planning on "paladares," privately run Cuban restaurants. They'd also like to lead Cuban food tours, and Gutierrez said he hopes to study food styling in America.

At a restaurant he likes, Cafe Ajiaco in Cojimar, near Havana, he points to dishes like fritters made from meat, sweet potatoes and corn, and Monteria, shredded pork with vegetables.

"I'm trying to contribute to the rescue of the roots of my food and my culture," he said. "I come from a really poor family. But my mom cooked really good."

INVESTING IN FUTURE VISITORS

Majel Reyes, 38, studied English language and literature at the University of Havana and worked as a government translator before carving a path in the Cuban film industry. With an MBA and experience in filmmaking, she assists foreign film crews shooting commercials and movies in Cuba.

But she's got another project she said she hopes will pay off. Reyes, who lives in her brother's house, bought a small apartment in Old Havana consisting of several tiny rooms and transformed it into a stylish one-room studio with soothing colors and handmade stone tiles. She even had an electronic tank system set up to ensure continuous water supply despite the neighborhood's sometimes unreliable flow.

The renovation, she said, cost three times the original estimate and took seven months, instead of the 45 days the contractor promised, but she's thrilled with the result. She rents it to visitors on Airbnb and other sites, and so far, she's gotten rave reviews.

"I used seven years of savings," she said. "It will take me a few years to see the investment back, but it's worth it. It will be a steady income in the future."

TIP 1: IF YOU NEED IT, BRING IT

Street vendors sell Che Guevara T-shirts and tropical fruit, but good luck buying sunscreen or Band-Aids. Fancy hotels sell some items in shops onsite, but Havana doesn't have many stores. Public bathrooms aren't bad, but it's wise to bring along a roll of toilet paper.

TIP 2: BE WARY OF LOCAL INTERACTIONS

Conversations with overly friendly strangers often turn into shakedowns. Some want to sell cigars or try to exchange dollars, others want money for drinks or for their children. Violent crime in Havana is rare, but hassling is common.

TIP 3: DON'T EXPECT TO USE WI-FI

Cuba's offline culture makes going online difficult. Hotels sell Internet cards for lobby Wi-Fi, but even then the Wi-Fi may not work. A paper map is essential; drivers don't have GPS and there's no Googling an address on the fly.

TIP 4: PICK BETWEEN COMFORT AND COST

Cuba's vintage cars seem picturesque until you're in one with no seat belts, no air-conditioning, and broken windows. Havana's official, government-owned taxis seem to be in better condition than privately owned cars, but tourists are routinely overcharged. Meters supposedly exist, but you never see one.

TIP 5: LEAVE CARDS AT HOME

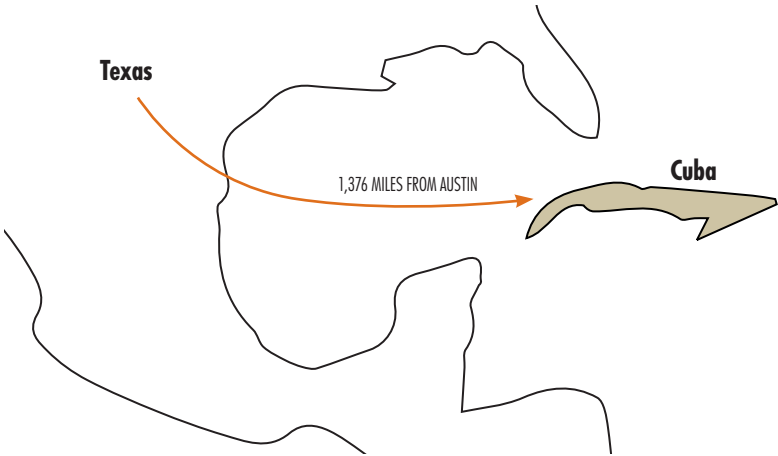
Bring cash to convert into pesos, also known as CUCs (not CUPs, the currency used by locals). Budget carefully: There are only a handful of ATMs in Havana and U.S. bank cards aren't accepted. MasterCard, Visa and American Express cards couldn't be authorized for use in Cuba in May. Even when the rules change (or if your card is from a non-U.S. bank), businesses rarely accept plastic.

TIP 6: FIND THE "PALADARES"

Avoid government-run cafeterias in public places like museums and stick to "paladares" — privately owned restaurants (you'll need reservations for the best). Prices are moderate but not cheap; food is good but not outstanding. A safe bet in most eateries is a ham and cheese sandwich — called a Cuban in the U.S., but jamón y queso there. Café con leche is uniformly superb, as is tropical fruit.

TIP 7: BALANCE TOURIST HOT SPOTS

Havana's best attractions include the waterfront promenade known as the Malecón, Old Havana, and Hemingway's estate at Finca Vigia. The stunning Cuban collection at the Museo Nacional de Bellas Artes ranges from colonial portraits to 20th century political pop art. Instead of pricey Tropicana shows, try the music scene at Casa de la Musica in Central Havana.

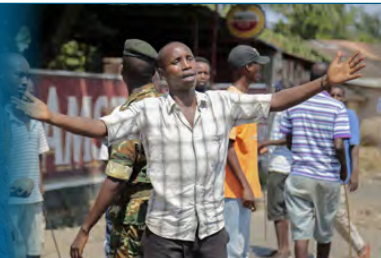




90°/69°
Mostly Sunny

BATTLE IN BURUNDI

Political tensions rise as as demonstrators oppose President Pierre Nkurunziza running for a third term. **INTERNATIONAL, 3**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2015



May storms damage 12,000 trees

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WIMBERLEY Landowners and arborists face a challenge of removing and replanting trees damaged when the Blanco River flooded Memorial Day weekend.

Sustainable forestry specialist Paul Johnson with the Texas A&M Forest Service said up to 12,000 trees were damaged or destroyed in the flood between Blanco and San Marcos, the Austin American-Statesman reported.

Forestry experts are trying to get the word out about the proper disposal of the dead or damaged trees as homeowners work to clean up their properties.

"Sometimes there's a rush to clean up too quickly," said Susan Nenny, a Hays County master naturalist. "We want people to focus on their homes and the trees right around their home — but leave the river bank below alone."

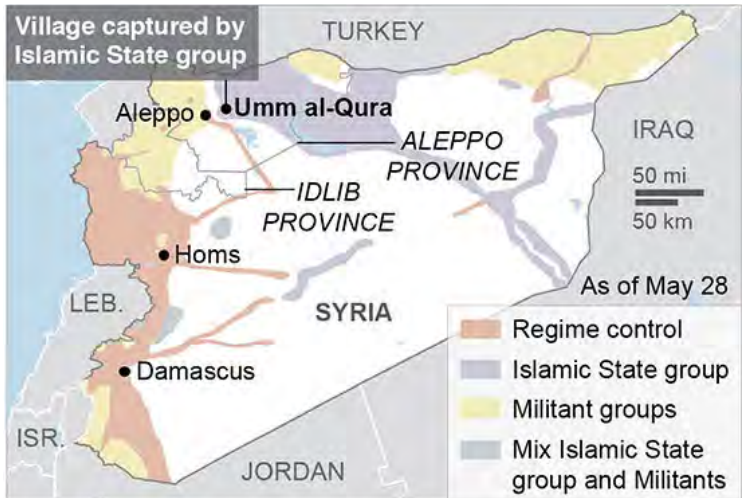
Nenny said downed trees should be left by the river where they are, because they help hold soil in place, will serve as nurseries for new plants to return and help stabilize the river.



ERIC GAY / AP PHOTO

A man walks along the Blanco River where sweeping flood waters overturned vehicles and knocked down trees, Tuesday, May 26, 2015, in Wimberley, Texas.

Punishing rains have destroyed or damaged more than 12,000 trees, some hundreds of years old, that must now be tended to or left alone to prompt new growth.



Islamic State death toll released; 10,000 killed

BASSEM MROUE

Associated Press

BEIRUT A U.S. official said Wednesday that more than 10,000 Islamic State fighters have been killed by American-led airstrikes in Iraq and Syria in nine months, offering a body count for a campaign that has yet to blunt their advance.

Deputy Secretary of State Tony Blinken's figure came after a Paris conference on how to stop the extremists ended without any new strategy to halt their campaign. It also comes months after the Pentagon dismissed such counts as "simply not a relevant figure" in the fight against the Islamic State group.

Meanwhile, the Islamic State group launched a major attack on the predominantly Kurdish city of Hassakeh in northeastern Syria, according to activists and Syrian state media.

Speaking Wednesday to France Inter Radio a day after the Paris conference, Blinken said the airstrikes have been effective.

"We have seen enormous losses for Daesh," Blinken said, using an Arabic acronym for the group. "More than 10,000 since the beginning of this campaign. That will end up having an effect."

Blinken did not offer any figure for civilian casualties.

In September, the CIA said that Islamic State group has up to 31,500 fighters, meaning that could represent a loss of a third of its forces. Despite that, the extremists continue to attract more recruits from around the world who come to fight with the group to expand its self-declared caliphate, a form of Islamic government, in Syria and Iraq.

It's not clear why Blinken offered the figure, as the U.S. mili-

■ Islamic State, Page 2

DOJ: Requests, backlog for public records grow

STEPHEN OHLEMACHER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON Federal agencies are struggling to keep up with the growing number of requests for public information, raising questions in Congress about the Obama administration's dedication to transparency.

The backlog of unfulfilled requests for documents has doubled since President Barack Obama took office in 2009, according to a recent report by the Justice Department. The number of requests also has spiked.

"The president has committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in government," said Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. "But that's not the case"

in filling requests under the Freedom of Information Act.

Chaffetz cited examples of people waiting years for documents only to have their requests denied. In other cases, federal agencies blacked out information that was public elsewhere.

His committee wrapped up two days of hearings on the FOIA on Wednesday with some Republican members chastising federal officials responsible for disclosing public information.

Officials from the departments of State, Justice, Homeland Secu-

rity and Treasury testified, along with an official from the IRS.

Several Democrats came to their defense, noting that budget cuts have left fewer workers to process information requests.

"Logic tells you that when you have less people and you've got more demand, you're going to have problems," said Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, the committee's top Democrat.

Governmentwide, the backlog of requests went from 77,000 in 2009 to nearly 160,000 in 2014, ac-

■ Records Requests, Page 2

REQUESTS BY YEAR: 2009: 558,000; 2014: 714,000

BACKLOG BY YEAR: 2009: 77,000; 2014: 160,000

STAFF DECREASE: 2011: 4,400; 2014: 3,800

Logic tells you that when you have less people and you've got more demand, you're going to have problems.

REP. ELIJAH CUMMINGS D-MD

Uber drivers can be insured

MARLEY JAY

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Allstate will start insuring drivers who pick up passengers through ride-hailing apps such as Uber and Lyft.

The insurer said Wednesday that the Ride for Hire policy will cost \$15 to \$20 a year on average and will provide coverage for drivers who get into accidents while they are on the way to pick up new fares. It said it can also help

deal with gaps in coverage between their own auto insurance and policies offered by the ride-hailing companies.

Allstate Corp. will offer Ride for Hire coverage in Colorado, Illinois, Texas and Virginia in 2015 and said it plans to offer coverage in other major markets in 2016. Companies including Farmers, Geico, and USAA started offering ride-hailing insurance in a few states earlier this year.

Apps like Uber, Lyft and Summon can be used to book a ride from a nearby driver. The drivers don't work for the companies directly, however. Some work for car services or use their personal vehicles to make extra cash.

Uber and Lyft both provide insurance for drivers while they are carrying passengers, and varying levels of coverage for drivers who have turned on their app, mean-

■ Uber, Page 2

Health care case raises question about scope of court's scrutiny

MARK SHERMAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Supreme Court could wipe away health insurance for millions of Americans when it resolves the latest fight over President Barack Obama's healthcare overhaul. But would the court take away a benefit from so many people? Should the justices even consider such consequences?

By month's end, the court is expected to decide a challenge to the way subsidies, in the form of tax credits, are given to people who get their insurance through the Affordable Care Act. The legal issue is whether Congress authorized payments regardless of

where people live, or only to residents of states that established their own insurance exchanges.

The distinction is potentially momentous, since more than two-thirds of the states did not set up their own exchanges. In those states, people sign up for "Obamacare" on the federal www.healthcare.gov site. The financial benefits are substantial, covering nearly three-fourths of insurance premiums on average.

If the court rules the subsidies can't be given to people who enrolled on the site, 7 million to 9 million Americans would quickly lose their insurance, said Nicholas Bagley, a health law expert at

the University of Michigan and a supporter of the law.

The current dispute focuses on the meaning of four words — "established by the state" — in a law of more than 900 pages.

One school of thought holds that the court should look only at what Congress wrote into the law, not what it might have intended.

"When the court is interpreting a text like it's doing in this case, then it really is not in the business of looking at consequences," said



Scalia



Breyer

Ronald Cass, the former dean of the Boston University law school. "If you have a result that seems to be a bad one, that's for the political branches to say, not for the court."

The idea that Congress never would have created a system that was essentially designed to fail, by making health insurance unaffordable to so many people the law presumably was intended to help, is irrelevant, Cass said.

Justice Antonin Scalia is the

most voluble proponent of the view that it's not his job to correct Congress' bad work. "Garbage in, garbage out," he has said.

Justice Stephen Breyer, on the other hand, has said Scalia's approach is too limiting because a law's words sometimes are not clear enough to resolve a case, especially when read in isolation. Context matters, and the real-world consequences of a law are part of that context, Breyer has said.

Since the New Deal was enacted in the 1930s, the Supreme Court has almost always upheld major new government programs and

■ Supreme Court, Page 2



A tank with Islamic State group fighters clashes with Syrian government forces on a road between Homs and Palmyra, Syria in this picture the Islamic State group released on its website Wednesday, May 20. Islamic State militants overran the famed archaeological site at Palmyra early Thursday, just hours after seizing the central Syrian town, activists and officials said, raising concerns that the extremists might destroy some of the priceless ruins as they have done in neighboring Iraq. American-led airstrikes have yet to blunt the rebel group's advance, despite killing a reported 10,000 militants.

FROM THE WEBSITE OF ISLAMIC STATE MILITANTS

ISIS death toll hits 10,000

■ Continued from Page 1

tary in conflicts since the Vietnam War has been either hesitant to provide such figures or has discounted them as indicators of success. Adm. John Kirby, a Pentagon spokesman, declined to offer them in January when asked by a reporter.

"The less of these guys that are out there, certainly that's the better, but the goal is to degrade and destroy their capabilities," Kirby said at the time. He added: "It's simply not a relevant figure."

White House spokesman Josh Earnest, later asked about Blinken's figure, said he had "no reason to believe" the number was inaccurate, saying 1,000 Islamic State fighters were killed in the fight for

the Syrian border town of Kobani alone.

Meanwhile Wednesday, the Islamic State group targeted Hasakeh in an apparent attempt to reverse some of the advances made recently by Kurdish fighters in the northeastern Syrian province.

Kurdish fighters have captured dozens of towns and villages there with the help of U.S.-led airstrikes and are getting close to Tel Abyad, a major Islamic State-held border town near Turkey.

The extremists launched the push on the city of Hassakeh, which is split between government forces and Kurdish defenders, on Tuesday night.

Syrian state television said extremists are battling for control of a juvenile prison still under construction on Hassakeh's southern edge and have so far attacked it with five suicide car bombs.

Heavy rainfall threatens Texas wineries

BY JOHN AUSTIN
CNHI Texas Reporter

Add the state's growing wine industry to the list of agricultural collateral damage from record rains that poured on Memorial Day weekend.

As wheat producers near Fort Worth and Austin are unable to get into their soggy fields to harvest, wineries that dot the Hill Country have their own problems.

Gary Elliott, winemaker and owner of Driftwood Estate Winery in Hays County, south of Austin, said he counts on drier, warmer weather this time of year.

Instead he counted five inches of rain over the weekend and now notices yellowing in his leaves, which makes him fear rotting roots, he said.

"When the ground gets wet, there's no oxygen in the soil," he said. "If it keeps going like this, it's going to create a lot of disease pressure. I could lose this year's crop."

A vintner with no crop shoulders the cost of buying grapes elsewhere. That can mean big problems for Texas, now the country's fifth-largest wine producer, where the in-state yield of winemaking grapes already

falls behind demand.

In 2013, more than 300 Texas wineries made a \$1.88 billion impact on the state's economy, according to a February report by the Texas Wine and Grape Growers Association.

The Hill Country alone is home to nearly five dozen wineries, said January Weise, executive director of the Texas Hill Country Wine Trail.

The area is internationally known. Wine Enthusiast Magazine last year listed the Hill Country as one of the world's top 10 wine travel regions.

But the region wasn't looking so bountiful this weekend, when Elliott closed his tasting room early and sent tourists packing due to threatened floods.

"This time of year is when next year's crop is determined, because dormant buds in the vine need lots of sunlight on them," he said. "Water is something that vines need very little of."

Raging water that coursed through Hill Country creeks and crossings also cut off a nearby winery and knocked down a pair of big oaks.

"We had the road blocked half a day," Elliott said. "Both our chainsaws wouldn't work."

Flat Creek Winery in Travis County, about an hour west of Austin, wasn't flooded, however. According to Flat Creek co-owner Madelyn Naber, 20 acres of vines were looking good going into the weekend.

But the rains didn't do them any good.

"Mold and mildew continue to be a problem," said Naber, who produced about 8,500 cases of wine last year despite the drought, thanks to irrigation and well water.

"No crop needs this much rain day after day."

Naber said the challenge now is to control the canopy in the vineyard and focus on the health of the grapes.

Still, she said, there's plenty of time for the sun to come out before harvest in mid-July.

After 15 years in business, she's some-

what philosophical.

"If the gods give us water, we should make rosé," she said.

Those facing floodwaters couldn't manage as much equanimity.

Benjamin Calais had just opened his new winery Saturday in Hye, a town in Blanco County about 60 miles west of Austin.

Calais moved his winery from Dallas and is still clearing his land of mesquite for planting. He said torrential rains created a river on the property, which was especially problematic because

his building is underground.

"The pumps just can't keep up," he said.

That underground structure came in handy, however, when a tornado hit Tuesday.

"He built a cave," Weise said. "We're all going there during the next tornado."

Court revives healthcare fight

■ Continued from Page 1

legislation as allowable under the Constitution. That was the case with Social Security in the 1930s, the civil rights legislation of the 1960s and, most recently, the health care law in 2012.

But the healthcare law is different. It remains a bitter partisan fight, continuing to play out in the courts after efforts to replace Obama in the White House and repeal the law in Congress failed.

Another factor that may be at work is the effect a decision could have on the court's reputation, said Thomas Keck, a political science professor at Syracuse University.

That kind of institutional concern seemed to affect Chief Justice John Roberts' decision to cast the deciding vote to uphold the health law in 2012, Keck said. Had that case gone the other way, it would have "pulled the court even further into political conflict," he said. In that scenario, five Republican-appointed justices would have struck down the Democratic president's signature domestic achievement during his re-election campaign.

The unrelenting lawsuits from Republican opponents should put the court on notice that its reputation could be at stake again in a political fight, Keck said.

No one knows how these considerations are weighing on the justices in the back-and-forth of

majority and dissenting opinions now making their way around the courthouse. But there are few comparable examples in recent history where the court has taken away a benefit from so many people.

Fifteen years ago, the Supreme Court confronted a case involving what Justice Sandra Day O'Connor called "perhaps the single most significant threat to public health in the United States."

The issue was whether the Food and Drug Administration had the authority to regulate cigarettes as a means to reduce tobacco use among children, as the Clinton administration asserted in regulations it issued in the mid-1990s.

Tobacco companies said the regulations exceeded the FDA's power. The court divided sharply, 5 to 4, and O'Connor wrote the majority opinion agreeing with the companies. Despite the seriousness of the problem, she wrote, Congress never granted the FDA the power the administration claimed.

Nine years and two presidents later, Congress gave FDA the explicit authority in 2009 that the court said was missing in 2000.

The analogy is imprecise, but the case and its consequences pose similar questions, Bagley said.

"Do you draw from that story that the democratic process worked," Bagley asked, "or that we could have saved a lot of lives in the meantime if the court had allowed the rule to go into effect?"

companies' insurance sometimes has a higher deductible than a personal policy.

Last month Uber temporarily pulled out of Kansas in a dispute over insurance coverage and background checks for drivers. Uber also suspended operations in Portland, Oregon, for several months during a dispute over the same issues and has fought against similar laws in other states.

ALL IS WELL FOR RESCUED BULL



JOHN SPINK/AP

Animal rescue crews help a bull that was trapped inside a well on Wednesday in Fairburn, Ga. The 1,500-pound bull named Boy fell through rotten wood that was covering the well on his property south of Atlanta. Crews used a backhoe to dig a bigger hole so the animal could walk out.

Backlog of FOI requests continues to grow

■ Continued from Page 1

cording to the Justice Department report.

The increase coincided with a jump in requests. In 2009, the federal government received almost 558,000 requests for information. In 2014, the number increased to more than 714,000.

At the same time, the number of staff working full time on information requests dropped from a high of 4,400 in 2011 to about 3,800 in 2014.

Melanie Ann Pustay, director of the Justice Department's office of information policy, said the administration has improved training and made progress.

"First, the majority of agencies — 72 out of 100 — were able to maintain low backlogs of fewer than 100 requests," Pustay said. "Notably, 59 of these agencies had a backlog of less than 20 requests, including 29 that reported having no backlog at all."

Agencies with backlog of more than 1,000 requests were required to come up with a plan to reduce

them, she said.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest chided Congress for exempting congressional records from the law.

"In the last fiscal year, the administration processed 647,000 FOIA requests that we received from the public," Earnest said. "I would note that that is 647,000 more FOIA requests than were processed by the United States Congress."

The IRS set up a special team to handle a surge in information requests in 2013 after the agency disclosed that agents had inappropriately singled out conservative political groups for extra scrutiny when they applied for tax-exempt status, said Mary Howard, director of the agency's disclosure division.

In addition to public requests, the IRS team produced more than 1 million pages of documents to investigators from four congressional committees, the IRS inspector general and the Justice Department — at a cost of about \$20 million, Howard said.

Chaffetz issued a subpoena for Howard to appear at Wednesday's hearing after IRS officials said they would rather send Commissioner John Koskinen.

Chaffetz said he wanted to hear from the agency's expert on responding to information requests.



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INTERNATIONAL

Students create art exhibit made of trash

RIO DE JANEIRO Forget pricey imported oil paints and exorbitant blocks of marble. Art students at a Brazilian university have taken advantage of one material they have in endless and free supply — trash — to create an exhibition that aims to draw attention to the fetid state of Rio de Janeiro’s Guanabara Bay, where Olympic sailing events are to be held next year.

Around 30 students at the Rio de Janeiro Federal University used plastic bottles, tires, old flip flops, plastic helmets, scratched CDs, old tubes and plastic supermarket bags they plucked off a nearby shore to make sculptures of ocean fauna including an octopus and dolphins.

The campus, on Fundao Island in the filthy bay near the international airport, is at the epicenter of Rio’s pollution problem.

Mexico ruling party ahead despite dissatisfaction

MEXICO CITY Mexico’s ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party appears poised to retain its leading position in Congress, but may lose some governor seats in Sunday’s elections.

The last polls to be released before Sunday’s midterm elections show surprisingly resilient support for the ruling party known as the PRI, despite Mexicans’ general dissatisfaction with politics and a lackluster economy.

A poll by the GEAHSA companies suggests the PRI would get about 27 percent of votes for the lower house of Congress, possibly making the race a statistical tie with its closest competitor, the conservative National Action Party, at 21 percent. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Dutch firebrand will show Muhammad cartoons

THE HAGUE, Netherlands Dutch anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders said Wednesday he plans to show cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad on Dutch television after Parliament refused to display them.

Wilders said he would show the cartoons during television airtime reserved for political parties, in a move likely to offend Muslims since Islamic tradition holds that any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad is blasphemous.

Political parties in the Netherlands get a small amount of airtime each year and broadcasting authorities have no say in what the parties show. Wilders said the broadcast would likely take place in the next few weeks, but an exact date has yet to be determined.

High lead noodles ordered off India’s shelves

NEW DELHI Indian shopkeepers withdrew a popular brand of Nestle instant noodles from their shelves Wednesday after tests revealed the snack contained unsafe levels of lead.

India’s states have either ordered the withdrawal of Maggi noodles from shops or are carrying out further tests on noodle samples before taking action in conjunction with the federal government.

Maggi sales have plunged in India since laboratory tests showed the noodles contained lead at levels far higher than the legal maximum. The tests also detected the chemical flavor enhancer monosodium glutamate, or MSG, which is not mentioned in the product’s list of ingredients.

On Tuesday, the Delhi city government said it had conducted tests on 13 samples of Maggi noodles and 10 were found to be unsafe with lead exceeding the allowable level. Earlier tests showed that samples contained 17.2 parts per million of lead, many times the allowable limits which range between 0.01 and 2.5 ppm.

Bomb blast rocks northeast Nigerian city

LAGOS, Nigeria Witnesses say an explosion has rocked a busy commercial area in the city Maiduguri in Nigeria’s northeast, the latest of daily attacks blamed on Boko Haram extremists.

The witnesses said soldiers fired into the air, adding to fear and confusion on the busy Baga Road at rush hour as commuters were rushing for tricycle taxis and hawkers were vending their wares.

Maiduguri has suffered attacks that have killed more than 50 people since the weekend. There have been bombs, rocket-propelled grenades fired into suburbs and attempts to breach the defenses of the city where Boko Haram was created. The attacks started after newly inaugurated President Muhammadu Buhari announced he is moving the command center for the war to Maiduguri.

Afghan pro-government militias running amok

KABUL Afghanistan is increasingly relying on a “cheap but dangerous” national militia of some 30,000 fighters, some of whom have committed serious abuses in the communities they are supposed to protect, an international research group said Thursday.

The International Crisis Group said members of the militia force, known as the Afghan Local Police, have killed civilians and committed fraud, theft, rape, kidnapping, drugs trafficking and extortion.

The government has come to rely on the ALP and other local militias as it struggles to fend off Taliban attacks. The insurgents launched their annual spring offensive in April – the first since U.S. and NATO forces formally concluded their combat mission at the end of last year.

The ALP is a pro-government militia which emerged from U.S. efforts to mobilize rural communities against the Taliban. Today the militiamen fight on the front lines, losing men at three to six times the rate of soldiers and police.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



HANI MOHAMMED / AP

A man shows fragments of a bomb from the rubble of houses destroyed by a Saudi-led airstrike on the outskirts of Sanaa, Yemen, Wednesday. The Saudi-led coalition launched new strikes on Houthi positions in Sanaa, rocking residential areas. The strikes have caused food, water and medicine shortages.

Top Yemen Shiite rebel welcomes UN peace talks

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen The second-in-command of Yemen’s Shiite rebels on Wednesday assailed the Saudi-led airstrikes pounding his group’s positions and allied forces, insisting his group is ready to travel to Geneva for U.N.-mediated peace talks on ending the country’s civil war.

Mohammed al-Houthi, who heads the Houthi rebels’ powerful Revolutionary Council, also said that exiled President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi derailed negotiations by demanding the rebels withdraw from territory they captured.

The Geneva talks had been postponed; however, Yemen’s ambassador to the U.N., Khaled Alyemany, said they would begin June 14 and that an official announcement was expected shortly.

“They are putting pre-conditions to obstruct any talks that could lead the Yemeni people to a solution,” al-Houthi said, saying the Saudis refused to stop their air campaign to allow for peace talks.

“Dialogue is the principle to us. There are no objections to

Dialogue is the principle to us. There are no objections to talks. What is happening today is the opposite.

MOHAMMED AL-HOUTHY

talks,” al-Houthi said, but added: “What is happening today is the opposite. The coalition is the one that rejects the talks and work on foiling it.”

The Houthis began their advance in September, sweeping into the Yemeni capital, Sanaa, and taking over government ministries. They held top officials under house arrest. Hadi and others later fled for Saudi Arabia as the rebels advanced, backed by forces loyal to former leader President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The Saudi-led coalition began its airstrikes March 26. The airstrikes have killed more than 1,000 civilians and displaced more than a million people, the spokesman for the U.N. Secretary-General, Stephane Dujarric, said.

The offensive has failed to force the Houthis to withdraw

from any territory in Yemen.

The Saudis and Western powers accuse the Houthis of receiving military support from Shiite power Iran as part of a war between the Sunni kingdom and the Islamic Republic. Tehran and the rebels deny the allegation, though Iran openly has sent humanitarian aid.

“There is no Iranian intervention in Yemen and the Saudis can inspect the missiles (we fire) and see if these are made in Iran, Russia or America,” al-Houthi said. “We say that they are purely Yemeni-made.”

When asked whether Iranian or Hezbollah forces fight alongside Houthi forces, al-Houthi dismissed the claims as a means to “scare others.”

“We reject any sort of foreign intervention either by the Saudis, the American, the Egyptians or the Iranians,” he said.

Heavy airstrikes also targeted the northern Houthi heartland of Saada, the eastern province of Marib, the western city of Taiz and the city of Aden.

“The 69-day assault has pushed the country to disaster,” al-Houthi said. “Yemen is facing a real genocide.”

BURUNDI POLITICAL TENSIONS



GILDAS NINGIRO / AP

An opposition demonstrator holds a sign in French reading “No to a third term” next to a burning barricade set by protesters in the Ngagara neighborhood of the capital Bujumbura, Burundi on Wednesday. Demonstrators opposed to President Pierre Nkurunziza running for a third term tried to march but were prevented by police and soldiers firing tear gas, so erected a burning barricade in their neighborhood instead.

■ **MORE ON BURUNDI:** visit swjournalist.com for a photo gallery



GILDAS NINGIRO / AP

An opposition demonstrator points a mock gun made from wood towards soldiers and tells them it is shameful to shoot on people who cannot defend themselves, in the Ngagara neighborhood of the capital Bujumbura, in Burundi on Wednesday. Burundi’s electoral commission is considering alternative dates for national elections amid growing calls for the polls to be postponed because of political unrest.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Why did Blatter resign and what now?

Q: Why did Sepp Blatter change his mind and resign, just four days after he was elected to a fifth term in a 133-73 vote over Prince Ali bin al-Hussein of Jordan?

A: Blatter’s explanation was he did not “have a mandate from the entire world of football — the fans, the players, the clubs, the people who live, breathe and love football.”

Blatter defiantly brushed aside any criticism when he was re-elected Friday, amid the gravest crisis in FIFA’s history.

Q: What does Blatter expect to come out of the criminal investigations?

A: U.S. authorities say additional charges against soccer officials can be expected.

The New York Times and ABC News reported Blatter himself was under investigation by the FBI.

Q: Will Blatter’s resignation impact the next World Cups hosts?

A: A Swiss investigation is looking into the bidding process that saw Russia awarded the 2018 World Cup and Qatar voted the 2022 host in a contentious dual decision in 2010.

The Qatari bid has attracted the most criticism, with accusations the wealthy tiny Gulf nation bribed its way to victory.



“I do not feel that I have a mandate from the entire world of football . . .”

SEPP BLATTER

Q: When will Blatter’s successor be announced?

A: Domenico Scala, chairman of FIFA’s audit and compliance committee, announced the presidential election is likely to “take place anytime from December of this year to March of next year” at an extraordinary FIFA congress.

Q: Who are the candidates likely to be?

A: The favorite will be 59-year-old Michel Platini, the former French national team captain and the president of European soccer’s governing body since 2007. Platini decided not to take on former ally Blatter in last week’s election. Prince Ali hinted Tuesday he may have another shot at the presidency.

Q: What will FIFA look like without Blatter?

A: It will probably be more open about the running of the sport. Scala said he will seek to make public the compensation of the president and executive committee members. Blatter called for term limits.

Q: How much input will Blatter have in reform proposals?

A: How lame a duck he will be will be determined by the executive committee, which likely will set up mechanisms to make proposals and will approve items put on the agenda for the extraordinary congress.

China escalates effort to recover missing people

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

JIANLI, China Authorities deployed more divers and a large crane as they escalated efforts to recover more than 410 people believed to be trapped inside an overturned river cruise ship.

The capsizing late Monday of the multi-decked Eastern Star in the Yangtze River is on track to become one of the country’s deadliest maritime disaster. Chinese authorities have launched a high-profile response while tightly controlling media coverage.

Premier Li Keqiang, the country’s No. 2 political leader, traveled to the disaster site in the Hubei province county of Jianli where he urged 24-7 efforts.

Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said the bodies of 26 victims were pulled from the boat. Fourteen people survived, some of them by swimming ashore and three by being pulled out of the ship by rescuers on Tuesday.

The vast majority of the 456 people on board remain missing. Many were elderly tourists taking in the scenic vistas of the Yangtze on a cruise from Nanjing to Chongqing.

Records from a maritime agency show the capsized ship was cited for safety violations two years ago. Authorities in Nanjing held the ship and five other Yangtze cruise vessels after they found them violating standards during a safety inspection campaign in 2013, according to a report on the city’s Maritime Safety website.

It didn’t specify the Eastern Star’s violations.

The shallow-draft boat, which was not designed to withstand heavy winds as an ocean-going vessel can, overturned in what Chinese weather authorities have called a cyclone with winds up to 80 mph.

“The river ships tend to have a lower standard on wind-resistance and wave-resistance than ocean ships,” Zhong Shoudao, president of the Chongqing Boat Design Institute, said. “Under the special circumstance of cyclone, the pressure on the one side of the boat went beyond the standard it was designed for, resulting in the overturning of the boat.

“The boat had lifejackets and life-boats, but due to the sudden capsizing, there was not enough time for people to put on lifejackets or for the signals to be sent out,” Zhong said.

The squad of 13 navy divers who searched the boat Tuesday was expanded Wednesday to 202, including 45 from civilian rescue services.

With 26 confirmed dead and more than 410 still missing, the Eastern Star disaster could become China’s deadliest since the sinking of the SS Kiangya off Shanghai in 1948.

Voters doubt Clinton's empathy

JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Hillary Rodham Clinton plans to spend the summer building a case that Republicans are out of touch with the public. But polls suggest many people aren't convinced she empathizes with them, either, a potential early warning sign.

Clinton's approach to defining the Republican field echoes a strategy President Barack Obama used successfully in the 2012 campaign against GOP rival Mitt Romney, a rich man who at times struggled to connect with the public.

Yet, average Americans appear to be split on whether Clinton can relate to them, in the face of scrutiny about her family finances and the Republican argument that she and husband Bill, the former president, play by different rules and have amassed wealth in ways that are inconceivable for most people.

About 47 percent of Americans said Clinton cares about people like them in a CNN/ORC poll released Tuesday. That is down from 53 percent in the same poll last summer. An ABC News/Washington Post poll released the same day also found a slight decline in the past year on a similar question, with 49 percent saying Clinton "understands the problems of people like you" and 46 percent saying she doesn't.

The dip in Clinton's ratings on attributes like empathy coincides with a decline in her overall favorability from the time she was Obama's secretary of state. Dan Pfeiffer, a longtime Obama ad-



In this May 22, 2015 file photo, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks in Hampton, New Hampshire. She plans to spend the summer building a case that Republicans are out of touch with the public. But many people aren't convinced she empathizes with them, either, polls suggest, in a potential early warning sign for the Democratic front-runner as she looks ahead to the general election.

viser who left the White House this spring, said it's too early for the numbers to cause anxiety in Clinton's Brooklyn campaign headquarters. But said that "if this trend doesn't reverse itself over the next many months, it should be a cause of concern."

Clinton campaign officials say they care less about how Clinton is viewed in isolation on the question of empathy and more about how she is compared with specific

Republican challengers. No major polls have done such a comparison, but a Quinnipiac survey last week found large numbers of Americans undecided on whether Republican presidential hopefuls care about their needs.

Clinton will use a June 13 rally to argue that the GOP field as a whole is out of touch on gay rights, immigration, climate change and more. She has also been highlighting her differences with Republicans on

economic issues, financial reform and budget priorities.

Her early campaign strategy suggests Clinton and her advisers are aware of the need to present herself as relatable to Americans. While her failed 2008 White House bid emphasized her toughness and experience, the first months of this campaign have highlighted her family background and early work on women's and family issues.

Boston cops release video of shooting

DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

BOSTON A man killed by terror investigators who had him under surveillance was confronted because he had bought knives and talked of an imminent attack on "boys in blue," the FBI said Wednesday.

Usaama Rahim plotted to attack police for at least a week, the FBI said in a complaint against a family member, who was arrested Tuesday, the day Rahim was shot to death. On Wednesday, the relative, David Wright, was ordered held on a charge of conspiracy with intent to obstruct a federal investigation.



The FBI said Rahim, who had previously discussed beatings, bought three fighting knives and a sharpener on or before May 26 and he told Wright on Tuesday he would begin trying to randomly kill police officers.

An anti-terror task force of FBI agents and Boston police, faced with an imminent threat, confronted Rahim on a sidewalk and fatally shot him when he refused to drop his knife, authorities said.

On Wednesday, authorities moved to manage perceptions of the shooting by showing the video to black and Muslim community leaders.

Ibrahim Rahim, Rahim's older brother and a scholar known for preaching against violence as anti-Islamic after the Boston marathon bombings, initially posted a message on Facebook alleging police repeatedly shot his brother in the back while he was on a cellphone calling their father for help. But his version unraveled Wednesday with the police videos.

The images clearly show Usaama Rahim "was not on a cellphone and was not shot in the back," Police Commissioner William Evans said. The video, which was not made available publicly, shows Rahim menacing officers with a large military-style knife. The officers initially backed away before shooting him when he refused to drop it, police said.

Usaama Rahim was under investigation after spreading Islamic State propaganda online and communicating about it, said U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul of Texas, who chairs the House Homeland Security Committee.

Rahim's shooting is being investigated by the Suffolk district attorney's office and the FBI, routine for shootings involving police.

POLICE PICK UP THE PIECES IN THE POCONOS



A charter bus taking Italian tourists to Niagara Falls collided with a tractor-trailer Wednesday on an eastern Pennsylvania highway, killing the bus driver and two others on the bus and leaving four people in critical condition, authorities said.

The crash occurred shortly after 10 a.m. on Interstate 380 in the Pocono Mountain region as the bus, which departed from the New York metro area, was about a quarter of the way to its destination.

Jenner's transition helps community

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The handsome, muscular Bruce Jenner, whose picture appeared on the Wheaties cereal box the year after he won the Olympic gold medal, is on the cover of Vanity Fair this week, only now as Caitlyn Jenner, an attractive woman in a strapless, white corset.

Although not the first celebrity to transition in the public eye, Jenner lit up online media Monday when she tweeted a photo of the magazine cover along with the declaration that, at age 65, she's finally "living my true self."

Twitter accounts, ranging from the one held by the White House to those of transgender advocates, sociologists and regular folks, quickly retweeted the cover photo taken by photographer Annie Leibovitz, most often with positive comments.

Eden Lane, an anchor and producer for Denver PBS television station KBDI and a transgender woman, said Jenner's transition has had a positive impact on the transgender movement.

"When you know someone, it's easier to leave room in your heart and mind for them. To just be without fear of them or without hatred of them," she said. And pretty much everyone feels they know Jenner, Lane added.

Jenner's transition played out in public over the past several months and included a high-profile interview with ABC's Diane Sawyer last April, in which Jenner said, "Yes, for all intents and purposes, I am a woman."

Lane said even though there has been positive reaction to Jenner's transition, other transgender people are not so lucky.

"We can't forget that there are so many transgender people who don't have this environment, who are fearful just to step out of their homes or go to the grocery store or walk down the street every single day," Lane said.

Aside from violence, there's also the emotional toll. Jenner told Sawyer she had contemplated suicide during the decades she struggled with her sexual identity.

"To think she waited 65 years to come out, if you will, is a tragedy in itself," University of Southern California sociologist Julie Albright said. "Keeping a secret like that for so many years is bound to take a psychological and even a physical toll on you."



This file photo taken by Annie Leibovitz exclusively for Vanity Fair shows the cover of the magazine's July 2015 issue featuring Bruce Jenner debuting as a transgender woman named Caitlyn Jenner. Jenner made her public debut on the cover of Vanity Fair, but legal requirements await her before she can officially leave Bruce Jenner behind.

Encrypted communication presents threat

WASHINGTON U.S. law enforcement officials expressed concern Wednesday about the growing use of encrypted communication and private messaging by supporters of the Islamic State, saying the technology was complicating efforts to monitor terror suspects and extremists.

The officials, appearing before the House Homeland Security Committee, said even as thousands of Islamic State supporters around the world share communication in public view on Twitter, some are exploiting social media platforms that allow them to shield their messages from law enforcement.

Michael Steinbach, head of the FBI's counterterrorism division, said he was concerned evolving technologies were outpacing laws that allow law enforcement to intercept communications by suspects.

"We are striving to ensure appropriate, lawful collection remains available," Steinbach said in his prepared remarks.

USDA says bird flu vaccine not protective enough

MINNEAPOLIS A bird flu vaccine doesn't work well enough to approve it for emergency use against the current outbreak that's shaken the Midwest poultry industry, the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Wednesday.

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said in a statement that the current vaccine is not well matched against the highly pathogenic H5N2 virus and doesn't provide enough protection.

By the USDA's count, bird flu has cost chicken and turkey producers more than 45 million birds since early March, mostly in Iowa and Minnesota.

The USDA said it will continue to support efforts to develop more effective vaccines, and will re-evaluate its decision as those become ready for use. The agency said it will carefully consider both the efficacy of any new vaccine and the potential foreign trade losses.

Missing Alaskan family found, ruled murder-suicide

ANCHORAGE, Alaska An Alaska man shot and killed his girlfriend, her two young daughters and the family dog in 2014 before turning a gun on himself in the woods near the family's home, authorities said Wednesday.

The determination came a year after the family disappeared in Kenai, a fishing community southwest of Anchorage, prompting a massive search.

The bodies were finally found on March 21 when a person spotted human remains while driving a vehicle on a trail through wooded land less than a half-mile northwest from the family home. Investigators with Kenai police, the FBI and medical examiner concluded that Brandon Jividen, 38, killed Rebecca Adams, 23, Michelle Hundley, 6, and Jaracca Hundley, 3, in late May 2014.

A motive for the shooting was not determined, police said in a prepared statement.

LA close to approving \$15 minimum wage

LOS ANGELES The City Council voted 13-1 on Wednesday to raise the minimum wage in Los Angeles to \$15 an hour by 2020, but a second vote is required for final approval because the tally was not unanimous.

Council President Herb Wesson stressed to the cheering crowd that the outcome was not certain.

Mayor Eric Garcetti also endorses the ordinance.

The increases would begin with a \$10.50 wage in July 2016, followed by annual increases to \$12, \$13.25, \$14.25 and then \$15. Small businesses and nonprofits would follow a year behind.

Los Angeles would join Seattle and San Francisco as some of the largest cities in the nation with phased-in minimum wage laws that eventually require annual pay of about \$31,200 for a full-time job.

Last year, Chicago passed a phased-in minimum wage increase to \$13 an hour.

Airline retirees angered by change in travel benefits

American Airlines' CEO Doug Parker is facing heat from retirees who are angry the company reduced their travel perks.

After merging with US Airways, American Airlines put retirees behind current employees of both carriers in claiming open seats on stand-by basis.

Some retirees are livid about the change. They have picketed company events and spoke up during Wednesday's annual shareholder meeting in New York.

Parker said the airline won't go back to the old policy because it would anger current employees.

Near-death hiker rescued in Arizona wilderness

PHOENIX A lost hiker who spent three days without food or water in the Arizona wilderness was in critical condition when rescuers found him.

Search and rescue crews found the 58-year-old hiker Tuesday morning in steep terrain about 12 miles west of the central Arizona town of Payson. The Tucson man was released from a Payson hospital Wednesday, department spokesman Bart Graves said.

A Flagstaff-based Department of Public Safety helicopter spotted the man about 45 minutes into its search.

According to the Department of Public Safety, the man started hiking less than two weeks ago from Roosevelt Lake, about 110 miles northeast of Phoenix.

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Ben Bradlee’s archive donated to UT Austin

Late Washington Post Editor Ben Bradlee’s archive has been donated to the University of Texas at Austin.

Harry Ransom Center, a top literary archive, announced Wednesday.

The archive documents Bradlee’s career, who’s editorial tenure at the Post ran from 1965 to 1991.

Bradlee placed his papers at the Ransom Center in 2012, pledging to donate them upon his death. He died in October 2014 at age 93.

Bradlee presided over the Post first as managing editor and then as executive editor. He led the paper through the publication of the Pentagon Papers and coverage of the Watergate scandal.

The archive will reside alongside Watergate reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein’s papers.

Two suspects dead after standoff with police

ITALY, Texas Police officers fatally shot an armed man who stole a police car during a traffic stop in Central Texas, and a second suspect was found dead inside the stolen vehicle, Texas Authorities said.

The Texas Department of Public Safety officials said the two suspects assaulted an officer Tuesday evening as the officer tried to arrest them in Italy, 50 miles south of Dallas. The department officials said the pair stole his patrol car and a chase ensued. The suspects stopped on Interstate 35 but refused requests to surrender.

The department said in a news release that officers heard a gunshot inside the police vehicle, then shot the driver who emerged carrying a firearm. The second suspect was found dead inside the patrol car.

The assaulted officer is being treated at a hospital.

5 relatives arrested after teen beaten to abort baby

DALLAS A teenage girl who says she was raped and impregnated by a relative three years ago also was beaten by four other family members to induce an abortion, Dallas police said Wednesday.

Four relatives were arrested Tuesday on charges of engaging in organized criminal activity and a fifth was arrested on a charge of aggravated sexual assault of a child, police said. Deputy Chief Gil Garza said more charges are possible.

The teenager, now 16, is in Texas Child Protective Services custody.

At about eight months pregnant, the girl was given multiple doses of birth control pills, emergency conception pills and cinnamon tablets to abort the baby. Because that didn’t work, she said the suspects beat her for six hours to abort the baby. She ended up giving birth to a stillborn child.

The affidavit says the relatives tried to burn the baby’s body in a charcoal grill, but the remains were not destroyed. Two days later, one of the beating suspects paid another \$25 to “take care of the rest of it,” documents say.

Man gets prison for shining laser at DPS helicopter

DALLAS A federal judge has sentenced a 23-year-old former suburban Dallas man to eight months in prison for aiming a laser pointer at a Texas Department of Public Safety helicopter.

A U.S. attorney’s statement said Steven Alexander Chavez, who now lives in Lubbock, was sentenced Wednesday in Dallas for his February guilty plea to aiming a laser pointer at an aircraft. He could have been sentenced to up to five years in federal prison and fined up to \$250,000.

FBI agents arrested Chavez in August 2013.

Still no word from Hardy, but teammates impressed

IRVING After missing practice for an illness, there’s still no word from Dallas Cowboys’ player Greg Hardy, who is facing a 10-game suspension to start the season for his role in a domestic violence case.

It’s the second time in less than a week that Hardy has missed an offseason workout. He was in Washington last week for the hearing on his suspension appeal.

Hardy first declined to speak with reporters during the team’s annual golf tournament last month. He was a smiling presence in the locker room after the first workout that was open to the media last week, but a member of the public relations staff kept reporters away.

New UT president supports beer sale at football games

Longhorns fan may soon have beer at football games after University of Texas President Greg Fennes vouched his support for sales.

Fennes said he is in favor of allowing beer sales at football games to enhance the fan experience.

Texas began selling beer at other athletic events at the urging of athletic director Steve Patterson in 2014, but it was not allowed at football games.

Fennes took over the presidency Wednesday. In his first news conference, Fennes said school officials have studied beer sales and found no security problems at other events.

The plan would still need approval by University of Texas System Chancellor William McRaven, and it would likely be voted on by the board of regents. McRaven’s predecessor, Francisco Cigarroa, had opposed beer sales.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abbott also recruiting business

New governor keeping Rick Perry’s world-tour plan

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who spent his first months on the job dismantling legacies of Rick Perry, revealed Wednesday he is reviving a famous hallmark of his predecessor: traveling the U.S. and world to recruit businesses to Texas.

Doing so Abbott could raise his national political profile after taking office in January and immediately presiding over the Legislature, which adjourned this week until 2017, after delivering on his orders to cut taxes and boost border security spending.

Abbott would not reveal his first destinations, but he said he would go only where there’s a deal to make.

“We are not going to go wandering around just hoping that we find gold,” Abbott said.

In a wide-ranging interview with reporters outside his office in the Texas Capitol, Abbott defended legalizing guns on college campuses and withheld judgment on whether oil and gas wells are to blame for earthquakes in North Texas.

Perry, who is expected to formally announce a second run for the White House today, spent years using economic development trips to promote the Texas economy and his own political

ambitions. He cast himself as a boardroom deal-closer who kept the “Texas Miracle” economy humming by poaching frustrated companies from overbearing states.

Critics question how much credit Perry’s trips deserve.

One of Perry’s last deals was giving Toyota \$40 million in taxpayer funds to leave California in 2014, but executives of the automaker have cited being closer to their manufacturing base in the South as a primary factor for moving.

Abbott will continue to use hundreds of millions of state dollars in the Texas Enterprise Fund — started by Perry — as bait for businesses. But other economic programs founded under Perry haven’t survived, such as a program Abbott scratched that gave \$200 million to risky startups.

Abbott’s post-session takes also included:

Campus Carry — Abbott said academic leaders who urged the Legislature not to let guns in college classrooms have nothing to worry about.

“The hand-wringing (by school administrators) going on about this right now is identical to the hand-wringing that went on when concealed carry passed,” he said.

Earthquakes — As small earthquakes rumble North Texas, Ab-



ERIC GAY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gov. Greg Abbott, right, told news reporters during a Wednesday round table in his Capitol office that he will continue Rick Perry’s business recruitment program.

bott said he is waiting on research from state officials before making pronouncements about the impact of oil and gas wells.

Oklahoma officials embraced research showing wastewater wells likely caused earthquakes there. “I think it’s important that we make our decision based upon science,” he said, noting he wants the Railroad Commission and the state to determine if there is a scientific cause-and-effect.

Medicaid Expansion — Abbott said he has met with federal health officials to discuss Medicaid expansion but gave no indication that a breakthrough was

ahead in the long standoff Texas and the Obama administration.

“They would like to find a way that Texas would be able to expand Medicaid, and I made clear where Texas stood with regard to expansion of Obamacare,” Abbott said.

Agency changes — Abbott would not discuss the future of Health and Human Services Commissioner Kyle Janek, whose agency has spent months embroiled in a contracting scandal that is the target of criminal investigations. He said he would evaluate leadership at all agencies this summer.

Who’s it going to be, GOP?

Meet the Republicans who are vying for the 2016 nomination

ALMOST IN:

RICK PERRY
The former Texas governor is expected to announce his presidential bid today at an airfield outside Dallas, surrounded by prominent veterans — including the widow of Chris Kyle of “American Sniper” fame.



PHILAN M. EBENHACK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks during Rick Scott’s Economic Growth Summit in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., on Tuesday. Perry is expected to announce his presidential bid today.

WAITING FOR THEIR MOMENT:



Jeb Bush
The former Florida governor created a political action committee and super PAC and raised millions for the groups expected to support his likely candidacy.



Donald Trump
The real estate mogul and reality TV star launched a presidential exploratory committee, but hasn’t yet decided to join the race.



Chris Christie
The New Jersey governor hasn’t decided if he’s running but has made many trips to early-voting states to deliver policy speeches and raise money.



John Kasich
The Ohio governor hinted his candidacy to voters. His political organization, New Day for America, announced Monday his plans to travel to Iowa later this month.



Scott Walker
The Wisconsin governor says he will announce his decision after signing the state budget. He already created a nonprofit group to help promote his expected candidacy.

IN THE RACE:

TED CRUZ
Texas senator

RAND PAUL
Kentucky senator

MARCO RUBIO
Florida senator

CARLY FIORINA
Former tech executive

BEN CARSON
Retired pediatric neurosurgeon

MIKE HUCKABEE
Former Arkansas governor

RICK SANTORUM
Former Pennsylvania senator

GEORGE PATAKI
Former New York governor

LINDSEY GRAHAM
South Carolina senator

Houston man files lawsuit after flood washes away wife’s casket

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON A Houston-area man has filed a lawsuit after his wife’s casket was unearthed and carried away by recent floodwaters and deposited along a trail where it was discovered by people on a morning walk.

Richard Lee, of Richmond, said in his lawsuit that his late wife’s casket floated away because of “improper burial” and caused him emotional and physical stress.

Carolyn Lee’s casket floated from Riceville Cemetery last week after 11 inches of rain fell in some parts of the Houston area, resulting in flooding that damaged thousands of homes and other structures.

The rains swelled Keegans Bayou, which consumed the adjacent cemetery that’s owned by Riceville Mt. Olive Baptist Church.

“Bodies aren’t supposed to come out of the ground,” Richard Lee’s lawyer Annie McAdams said.

It’s not uncommon for floods and hurricanes to wash away caskets. After Hurricane Rita struck the Gulf Coast in 2005,

more than 300 bodies were missing from cemeteries in Cameron Parish, Louisiana. Flood waters carried some caskets about 20 miles from where they were buried.

Days after Hurricane Irene came ashore in 2011, floodwaters coursed through a Vermont cemetery, pulled coffins from the ground and scattered remains for miles.

Lucy McCann, the director of the Louisiana Cemetery Board, said past hurricanes haven’t resulted in any regulatory changes for burials.

Above-ground burial sites are occasionally breached by rising water but seldom are underground ones, McCann said. Carolyn Lee’s casket was in a concrete vault.

Neither the Robinson Funeral Home, which is named as the defendant in the case, nor the Riceville Mt. Olive Baptist Church, which owns and operates the cemetery, responded to calls seeking comment about the lawsuit.

Carolyn Lee’s body is being kept at another Houston funeral home that offered a new casket, vault and services for reburial, McAdams said.

32 years on death row comes to end; murderer executed

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUNTSVILLE A 67-year-old man convicted of killing four men more than three decades ago was executed Wednesday, making him the oldest of the 526 Texas prisoners put to death since the state resumed carrying out capital punishment in 1982.



Bower

Lester Bower Jr. was convicted of the 1983 fatal shootings at an airplane hangar

on a ranch near Sherman, about 60 miles north of Dallas. Prosecutors say he killed the four after stealing an airplane he tried to buy from one of his victims.

“Much has been said about this case. Much has been written about this case. Not all of it has been the truth,” said Bower, on the death chamber gurney. “But the time for discerning truth is over, and it’s time to move on.”

The execution was carried out after the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a last-ditch appeal.



Rethink the drink

1 in 12 adults suffers from alcohol abuse or dependence

LINDSEY TANNER
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO Alcohol problems affect almost 33 million adults and most have never sought treatment, according to a government survey that suggests rates have increased in recent years. The study is the first national estimate based on a new term, “alcohol use disorder,” in a widely used psychiatric handbook that was updated in 2013.

Five things about the recent research by the Journal of the American Medical Association Psychiatry:

1

DEFINING ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

The revised handbook, the DSM-5, defines problem drinkers or those with the disorder as people with at least two of 11 symptoms, including drinking that harms performance at work, school or home; frequent hangovers; and failed attempts to limit drinking. Mild problems involve two to three symptoms; severe involve at least six symptoms. The new handbook combined alcohol abuse and dependence, which had been separate disorders, added craving as one symptom and eliminated alcohol-related legal problems as another.

2

THE NUMBERS

Researchers from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism asked 36,000 adults during 2012 and 2013 about lifetime drinking habits. About 14 percent of adults were current or recent problem drinkers, or nearly 33 million nationally, and 30 percent — almost 69 million — had been at some point in their lives. Mild drinking problems were the most common, while 14 percent had experienced severe drinking problems. Using the old definition, the rates were 13 percent for current or recent problem drinking and 44 percent for lifetime prevalence — up from 9 percent and 30 percent in the agency’s 2001-02 survey.

3

HEAVY DRINKING

Nearly 40 percent of adults surveyed said they had engaged in binge drinking — having at least five drinks in a day — at least once in the past year, up from 31 percent in the earlier survey. Even heavier drinking also increased but was less common.

4

WHO’S DRINKING

Drinking problems were most prevalent among men, whites and Native Americans. Low-income adults, those younger than 30 and those who never married also had relatively high rates. Problem drinking also was more common among city dwellers than those in rural areas, while the West and Midwest had higher rates than other regions.

5

STIGMA & DENIAL

George Koob, director of the federal agency that did the survey, said it’s unclear why problem drinking has increased but that many people underestimate the dangers of excessive alcohol. Many won’t seek help because of “stigma and denial,” and many don’t realize that medications and behavior treatments can help.

“There’s a lore that there’s only Alcoholics Anonymous out there and that’s not true,” he said.

Symptoms of alcohol abuse

- Drinking more or longer than intended.
- Failure to limit or eliminate drinking.
- Long time spent drinking or becoming ill from aftereffects.
- Craving or having a strong need to drink.
- Interference with performance at work, home or school.
- Continuing to drink, despite trouble with family or friends.
- Giving up other (important) activities to drink.
- Engaging in risky activities, such as driving or having unsafe sex, while or after drinking.
- Continuing to drink despite feeling depressed or anxious or after blacking out.
- Finding that the usual number of drinks had much less effect than before.
- Having withdrawal symptoms, such as trouble sleeping, anxiety, depression or nausea, while effects of alcohol were wearing off.

SOURCE: NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON ALCOHOL ABUSE AND ALCOHOLISM

LOCAL RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH ALCOHOL PROBLEMS

KEY	  Español	  Español	  Español
 HOTLINE AVAILABLE	Hill Country Intergroup ■ 24-hour hotline: 512-444-0071 ■ Business: 512-448-9017 ■ Site: www.austinaa.org	Oficina Intergruppal Hispana Alcoholics Anonymous ■ Hotline: 512-619-2458 ■ Main: 512-832-6767 ■ Site: www.aaastinhispano.org	Austin Travis County Integral Care ■ Crisis hotline: 512-472-4357 ■ Tollfree: 844-398-8252 ■ Site: www.integralcare.org
 MEETINGS AVAILABLE	  Español	  Español	
 SPANISH-SPEAKING	Central Service Office, San Antonio ■ Helpline: 210-828-6235 ■ Main: 210-821-6325 ■ Spanish hotline: 210-409-8524 ■ Site: www.aasanantonio.org	Oficina Intergruppal Hispana, San Antonio ■ Main: 210-533-9770	Christian Farms-Treehouse residential treatment facility, Temple ■ Main: 254-933-9400 ■ Site: www.cfth.org



90°/68°
Partly cloudy

HEAD STRONG

Texas doctors perform world's first skull-scalp transplant with a human donor. The patient also received a pancreas and a kidney transplant. **FEATURES, 6**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2015



US suspects Chinese hackers in data breach

KEN DILANIAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON China-based hackers are suspected of breaking into the computer networks of the U.S. government personnel office and stealing identifying information of at least 4 million federal workers, American officials said Thursday.

The Department of Homeland Security said in a statement that data from the Office of Personnel Management and the Interior Department had been compromised.

"The FBI is conducting an investigation to identify how and why this occurred," the statement said.

The hackers were believed to be based in China, said Sen. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican.

Collins, a member of the Senate intelligence committee, said the breach was "yet another indication of a foreign power probing successfully and focusing on what appears to be data that would identify people with security clearances."

A U.S. official, who declined to be named because he wasn't authorized to publicly discuss the breach, said it could potentially affect every federal agency. One key question is whether intelligence agency employee information was stolen. Former government employees are affected as well.

"This is an attack against the nation," said Ken Ammon, chief strategy officer of Xceedium. He said the attack fits the pattern of those carried out by nation states for the purpose of espionage. The information stolen could be used to impersonate or blackmail federal employees with access to sensitive information, he said.

The Office of Personnel Management is the human resources department for the federal government and conducts background checks for security clearances. The OPM conducts more than 90 percent of federal background investigations, according to its website.

The agency said it is offering credit monitoring and identity theft insurance for 18 months to individuals potentially affected. The National Treasury Employees Union, which represents workers in 31 federal agencies, said it is encouraging members to sign up for the monitoring as soon as possible.

In November, a former DHS contractor disclosed

■ **BREACH**, Page 2



KIN CHEUNG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A customer tries on an Apple Watch at an Apple Store in Hong Kong on April 10.

Apple Watch to hit retail stores

BRANDON BAILEY
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Soon you'll be able to buy an Apple Watch the same way you'd buy most other watches — in a store.

Two months after Apple began taking online orders for its newest product, the company said Thursday it plans to begin selling some models in its retail stores in two weeks. Apple also said it is cutting through a backlog of online orders, with most watches ordered by end of May shipping within two weeks.

The smartwatch has been on display in Apple stores in the United States and eight other countries, where customers could examine and try them on. But they couldn't buy one and wear it out the door. Apple said that was because supplies were limited.

Just how many watches Apple has sold is up for debate. The Cupertino, California, company hasn't released any sales figures, prompting some industry analysts to speculate demand was lower than expected. Others cite reports of manufacturing problems in Asia as evidence that supplies were unexpectedly constrained.

Apple also said Thursday that it will begin selling the watch in more countries later this month, adding Italy, Mexico, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland and Taiwan.

In a statement Thursday, Apple Senior Vice President Jeff Williams said "the response to Apple Watch has surpassed our expectations in every way." He did not offer details.



TIM SHARP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks to supporters after announcing the launch of his presidential campaign for the 2016 elections, Thursday in Addison, Texas. Perry opened his second bid for the Republican presidential nomination pledging to "end an era of failed leadership" and hoping this campaign will go better than his last one.

Perry announces campaign

Former Texas governor makes 2016 presidential bid, back in the running

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

ADDISON Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry opened his second bid for the Republican presidential nomination Thursday, pledging to "end an era of failed leadership" and hoping this campaign will go better than his last.

Perry announced his candidacy in an airport hangar in the company of fellow veterans and a hulking C-130 the cargo plane, like one he flew for the Air Force. He is one of the few veterans in a Republican field short on military experience.

With Perry in the contest and confirmation early Thursday that former Florida Jeb Bush will run, 11 major candidates now are vying for the GOP and still more are expected to join.

For Perry, it is a re-do of a 2012 effort that went poorly

as he tumbled from flavor-of-the-month front-runner after some gaffes. He's still trying to live down the "oops" he uttered in a brain-freeze moment during a debate in the 2012 race.

Perry brings a strong economic record in Texas to the contest, as he did four years ago, and his speech underscored the ability of governors past and present to point to achievements in office, not just votes and rhetoric of those in Congress.

"Leadership is not a speech on the Senate floor," he said. "It's not what you say. It's what you do."

That was an indirect swipe

at Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio and other rivals with little to no executive experience.

"Let's give them real leadership," he said of Americans. He told supporters "we have the power" to project American strength again and grow the economy, and "that is exactly why today I am running for the presidency."

He's been in motion for months in the early voting states of Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina, but starts from a more distant position than four years ago.

"It's going to be hard to make a first impression a second time," said Ford O'Connell, a Republican

strategist in Washington.

Perry made his announcement in front of prominent veterans, including six retired Navy SEALs. One of them, Marcus Luttrell, is a longtime Perry friend and only survivor of a four-man team attacked in Afghanistan and featured in the 2013 film "Lone Survivor." Also in the audience was Taya Kyle, widow of Chris Kyle of "American Sniper" fame.

Despite his brain freeze on a Michigan debate stage in November 2011 — when he forgot the third federal agency he promised to close if elected, then muttered, "Oops" — Perry still has the policy record that made him an early force last election.

Perry left office in January after a record 14 years as governor. Under him, the

■ **PERRY**, Page 2

Leadership is not a speech on the Senate floor. It's not what you say. It's what you do.

RICK PERRY

MORE ELECTION COVERAGE

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JEB BUSH SAYS HE WILL ANNOUNCE PRESIDENTIAL BID PAGE 4
KEY THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT PERRY PAGE 5

VISIT SWJOURNALIST.COM FOR MORE ELECTION CONTENT.

US may deploy missiles to counter Russia

ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Obama administration is weighing a range of responses to Russia's alleged violation of a Cold War-era nuclear treaty, including deploying land-based missiles in Europe that could pre-emptively destroy the Russian weapons.

This "counterforce" option is among possibilities the administration is considering as it reviews its entire policy toward Russia in light of Moscow's military intervention in Ukraine, its annexation of Crimea and other actions the U.S. deems confrontational.

It all has a certain Cold War ring, even if the White House ultimately decides to continue tolerating Russia's alleged flight-testing of a ground-launched cruise missile with a range prohibited by the treaty.

Russia denies violating the treaty and has, in turn, claimed violations by the United States in erecting missile defenses.

It's unclear whether Russia has actually deployed the suspect missile or whether Washington would make any military move if the Russians stopped short of deployment. For now, administration officials said they prefer to continue trying to talk Moscow into treaty compliance.

The Obama administration is considering three options for responding militarily to Russian missile treaty viola-



ANONYMOUS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soldiers prepare to destroy a ballistic SS-19 missile in the yard of the largest former Soviet military rocket base in Vakulenchuk, Ukraine on Dec. 24, 1997. The Obama administration is weighing a range of aggressive responses to Russia's alleged violation of a Cold War-era nuclear missile treaty, including deploying land-based missiles in Europe that could pre-emptively destroy the Russian weapons.

tions: defenses to stop a treaty-violating missile, the "counterforce" option to attack a missile preemptively and the "countervailing strike capabilities" option that implies the potential use of nuclear forces.

In public, administration officials have used terms such as "counterforce"

and "countervailing strike capabilities" to describe two of its military response options, possibly hoping to buy time for diplomacy.

The Pentagon declined to make a senior defense policy official available to

■ **WORLD**, Page 2

Dow Jones interns head for newsrooms

Thirteen college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships on daily newspapers after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a select group of undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, sports copy editing, business reporting and digital journalism.

The highly competitive national program is funded by the Dow Jones News Fund, and participating newspapers and digital media services. More than 700 students applied for the program. Applicants were required to take a test and complete an extensive application before being considered.

The School of Journalism at UT Austin, one of five pre-internship training sites for print and online copy editors and designers, has been part of the News Fund program since 1998.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 18th residency program at UT Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a live model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online product, swjournalist.com.

The UT-News Fund interns serve internships of 10 to 14 weeks.

Participants in the UT Austin workshop, including their universities and host news organizations, are as follows:

- Daniella Abinum, Florida State University, The Sacramento Bee
- Erin Davoran, Ohio University, Journal Media Group in Corpus Christi, Texas
- Gregory Dewar, University of Oregon, Grand Forks Herald
- Emily Dreher, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, The Denver Post
- Audrey Fletcher, Kent State University, The Beaumont Enterprise
- Alexandra Graff, Washington State University, Gatehouse Media Center for News & Design in Austin
- Paighen Harkins, University of Oklahoma, Austin American-Statesman
- Jordan Huesers, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Journal Media Group in Corpus Christi, Texas
- Nicholas Ibarra, San Jose State University, Bay Area News Group
- Julian Lim, San Francisco State University, Gatehouse Media Center for News & Design in Austin
- Maggie McVey, SUNY Plattsburgh, Journal Media Group in Corpus Christi, Texas



PHOTO BY GABRIEL PEREZ

Front row: Griff Singer (faculty), Paighen Harkins, Audrey Fletcher, Daniella Abinum, Emily Dreher, Maggie McVey, Rebekah Tomlin, Beth Butler (faculty). Second row: Mark Grabowski (faculty), Bradley Wilson (faculty), Nicholas Ibarra, Julian Lim, Jordan Huesers, George Sylvie (faculty), Alexandra Graff, Erin Davoran, Nicholas Niedzwadek, Gregory Dewar.

- Nicholas Niedzwadek, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Houston Chronicle
- Rebekah Tomlin, University of Texas at Arlington, The Los Angeles Times

Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating newspapers cover the participants' pre-internship training, including housing, meals, transportation and instruction.

Participating newspapers also pay interns a weekly wage for their internship work. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the News Fund.

Directing the UT workshop were Beth Butler and Bradley Wilson, co-directors; George Sylvie, assistant director; and Lourdes Jones, senior administrative associate of the UT

School of Journalism.

Faculty included Griff Singer, retired senior lecturer from The University of Texas at Austin; Mark Grabowski, assistant professor at Adelphi University; and Heather Taylor, manager of digital media and programs at the News Fund, Princeton, New Jersey.

Managing Editor John Bridges and Sports Editor Jason Jarrett of the Austin American-Statesman coordinated the interns' visit to that newspaper.

Other newspaper training centers were at Temple University, the University of Missouri, Pennsylvania State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. A digital journalism workshop was held at Arizona State, and a business reporting workshop was conducted at New York University.

Breach exposes 4 million people

■ Continued from Page 1

another cyberbreach that compromised the private files of more than 25,000 DHS workers and thousands of other federal employees.

Cyber-security experts also said the OPM was targeted a year ago in a cyber-attack that was suspected of originating in China. In that case, authorities reported no personal information was stolen.

One expert said it is possible that hackers could use information from government personnel files for financial gain. In a recent case disclosed by the IRS, hackers appear to have obtained tax return information by posing as taxpayers, using personal information gleaned from previous commercial breaches, said Rick Holland, an information security analyst at Forrester Research.

"Given what OPM does around security clearances and the level of detail they acquire when doing these investigations, both on the subjects of the investigations and their contacts and references, it would be a vast amount of information," Holland added.

DHS said its intrusion detection system, known as EINSTEIN, which screens federal Internet traffic to identify potential cyber threats, identified the hack of OPM's systems and the Interior Department's data center, which is shared by other federal agencies.

It was unclear why the EINSTEIN system didn't detect the breach right away.

"DHS is continuing to monitor federal networks for any suspicious activity and is working aggressively with the affected agencies to conduct investigative analysis to assess the extent of this alleged intrusion," the statement said.

Ammon said federal agencies are rushing to install two-factor authentication with smart cards, a system designed to make it harder for intruders to access networks. But implementing that technology takes time.

CHASING THE CROWN



GARRY JONES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Exercise rider Jorge Alvarez gallops Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes winner American Pharoah at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York on Thursday. American Pharoah is attempting to be the first Triple Crown winner in 37 years on Saturday in the Belmont Stakes horse race.

World leaders discuss Russian aggression

■ Continued from Page 1

discuss the issue. A spokesman, Lt. Col. Joe Sowers, said, "All the options under consideration are designed to ensure that Russia gains no significant military advantage from their violation."

At his Senate confirmation hearing in February, Defense Secretary Ash Carter expressed his concern about Russia's alleged violation of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces, or INF, treaty. He said disregard for treaty limitations was a "two-way street" opening the way for the U.S. to respond in kind.

The standoff speaks volumes about the depths to which U.S.-Russia relations have fallen. And that poses problems for both the Obama administration and the NATO alliance, whose members in eastern Europe are especially leery of allowing Russian provocations to go unanswered.

Western leaders are meeting Sunday and Monday for a G-7 summit — from which Russian President Vladimir Putin has been excluded — where Russian aggression will be a key topic. On Friday, Carter plans to meet in Germany with American defense and diplomatic officials to map out a counterstrategy to Russia's military intervention in Ukraine and to reassure allies worried about Moscow.

The U.S. and its Western partners have tried

to use economic and diplomatic leverage against Putin on a range of conflicts, including Ukraine. But they also recognize Moscow still plays an important role in international affairs, including the nuclear talks with Iran that are among President Barack Obama's highest foreign policy priorities.

One of Carter's nuclear policy aides, Robert Scher, testified in April that "counterforce" means "we could go about and actually attack that missile where it is in Russia."

Scher said another option would involve "not simply attacking" the Russian missile but seeing "what things we can hold at risk within Russia itself." Hans Kristensen, a nuclear weapons expert at the Federation of American Scientists, said this could mean further improving the ability of U.S. nuclear or conventional forces to destroy Russian military targets in addition to missiles deemed to violate the INF treaty.

Kristensen said the public discussion of these options amounts to "one hell of a gamble" that Putin will back down on INF.

The Obama administration has been relatively gentle in poking Moscow publicly on the INF issue. The State Department's top arms control official, Rose Gottemoeller, has called the alleged Russian violations a "very grave concern." In December she argued against declaring the treaty dead, saying America's allies

Perry fights indictment as campaign begins

■ Continued from Page 1

state generated more than a third of America's new private-sector jobs since 2001.

While an oil and gas boom fueled much of that economic growth, Perry credits lower taxes, restrained regulation and limits on civil litigation damages. He also pushed economic incentives to lure top employers to Texas.

His effort may be complicated this time by a felony indictment on abuse of power and coercion charges, from when he threatened — then carried out — a veto of state funding for public corruption prosecutors. That came when the unit's Democratic head rebuffed Perry's demands that she resign following a drunken driving conviction.

Perry calls the case against him a political "witch hunt," but his repeated efforts to get it tossed on constitutional grounds have so far been unsuccessful. That raises the prospect he'll have to leave the campaign trail to head to court in Texas.

Perry cited lingering pain from back surgery in the summer of 2011 for part of the reason he performed poorly in the 2012 campaign.

also are opposed to that approach.

The State Department said last July Russia had tested a missile in violation of the treaty, which bans indefinitely the possession, production and flight-testing of missiles — both nuclear and conventional — with ranges between 310 and 3,410 miles.

The administration hasn't said whether it believes the Russian missile is nuclear or conventional. However, Carter said, in responses for his confirmation hearing, "Russia's INF treaty violation is consistent with its strategy of relying on nuclear weapons to offset U.S. and NATO conventional superiority."

Much about the subject is classified, including a Pentagon assessment of the threat posed by Russian violations.

The Associated Press was given an unclassified portion of a report written by the office of Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that examines weapons the U.S. could develop and deploy if freed from INF treaty constraints.

It identified four such weapons that "could assist in closing ... a capability gap."

Among the four are ground-launched cruise missiles deployed in Europe or Asia, and ground-launched intermediate-range ballistic missiles equipped with technology that adjusts the trajectory of a warhead after it re-enters Earth's atmosphere and heads for its target.

All the options under consideration are designed to ensure that Russia gains no significant military advantage from their violation.

LT. COL. JOE SOWERS



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INTERNATIONAL

Britain willing to host World Cup if Qatar out

The British government says England is ready to step in and host the 2022 World Cup if the tournament is stripped from Qatar amid the corruption scandal engulfing FIFA.

“Obviously if FIFA came forward and asked us to consider hosting it, we have the facilities in this country and of course we did mount a very impressive, if unsuccessful bid to host the 2018 World Cup,” culture secretary John Whittingdale told the House of Commons.

However, Whittingdale acknowledged that “it does seem very unlikely that another European country would host it in 2022” because Russia is due to stage the World Cup in 2018.

Swiss authorities are investigating the bidding contests for the 2018 and 2022 World Cup tournaments, and have seized documents at FIFA headquarters as part of their corruption probe.

G-7 leaders expected to admonish Russia

A summit of President Obama and other Western leaders this weekend in Germany is expected to produce new condemnation — but not more punishment — of Russia for its suspected role in the escalating violence in Ukraine.

Ukraine is pleading for a response from the Group of 7 leaders meeting Sunday and Monday in the Bavarian Alps, a year after the world’s largest industrialized democracies booted Russian President Vladimir Putin from their ranks in protest over the crisis that has now killed more than 6,400 people. Yet Ukraine and pro-Russian separatists are engaging in their most violent battle in months, despite economic sanctions against Moscow and a four-month-old cease-fire agreement.

“I don’t think we can kid ourselves that the policy, and right now the actions on the ground, are producing the results we want,” said Heather Conley, director of the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. She said European leaders will be assessing Obama’s next steps as they deliberate later this summer about prolonging their sanctions.

“Russia has not changed its behavior,” she said. “If anything, President Putin, I think, is doubling down on multiple fronts, and the cohesiveness feels like it’s not there. People don’t know what’s next.”

Richard Fontaine, president of the Center for a New American Security, said there’s been less unity in the G-7 now than last year when the member nations came to the summit trying to isolate Russia.

Muslims, Catholics eager for impending Pope Francis visit

For centuries, Sarajevo was known as “Europe’s Jerusalem,” where Christianity, Islam and Judaism lived in harmony. In the 1990s, the city became synonymous with religious enmity, as its Christian Orthodox Serbs and Muslim Bosniaks plunged into a calamitous cycle of warfare.

Pope Francis hopes to restore some of the earlier legacy Saturday during his visit to this city that, two decades ago, seared itself on the world’s imagination with images of Serbian sniper fire and bombs killing innocent civilians.

The majority-Muslim city is gearing up to give the pontiff an ecstatic embrace. Francis teacups are being sold at souvenir stands next to a statue of St. John Paul II on the main square. Muslim carpenters have crafted a wooden throne for the pope to sit on and Catholic craftsmen made an altar for the Mass he will perform. In Srebrenica, the scene of Europe’s worst carnage since World War II, a mixed choir of Muslim and Christian Orthodox children is practicing a song of love they will sing to the pope.

The city’s mosque, synagogue, Roman Catholic cathedral and Eastern Orthodox Church stand less than 100 meters (yards) away from one another. But that interfaith harmony was blown apart by the Bosnian War fought between the country’s ethnic Serbs, Croats and Bosniaks from 1992 to 1995. The conflict left 100,000 dead and displaced half of the population.

Two decades later, the wounds still fester, and the problems remain unsolved. Bosnia’s Christian Orthodox Serbs want a breakaway state; Muslim Bosniaks want a unified country; and Roman Catholic Croats want their own autonomous region.

North Korea developing second observation satellite

North Korean space agency officials say the country is developing a more advanced Earth observation satellite and are defending their right to conduct rocket launches whenever they see fit, despite protests by the United States and others that the launches are aimed primarily at honing military-use technologies.

The North launched its first and only satellite in 2012. The claim that it is working on another, made in an interview last week with an AP Television crew in Pyongyang, comes amid a flurry of attention to the country’s fledgling space agency, including a visit by leader Kim Jong Un to a new satellite control center that was repeatedly broadcast on North Korean TV early month.

“We are developing a more advanced Earth observation satellite and when it’s complete, before launching it, we will inform international organizations and other countries,” Paek Chang Ho, vice director of the scientific research and development department of the North’s space agency, said in the interview.

Paek did not provide further details about what the satellite will do, when development began or when the next launch might be.

Speculation the North may be planning a rocket launch to mark the 70th anniversary this October of the ruling Korean Workers Party heated up after the release of recent satellite imagery at North Korea’s Sohae rocket launch site. Analysts at the U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies say the images show significant new construction.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dehydration as a weapon

Islamic State uses dams and locks in war of attrition

SAMEER N. YACCOUB

Associated Press

BAGHDAD Islamic State militants have reduced the amount of water flowing to government-held areas in Iraq’s western Anbar province, officials said Thursday, a move that highlights the use of water as a weapon of war and puts more pressure on Iraqi forces struggling to reclaim the Sunni heartland.

The development is not the first time that water has been used as a weapon in Mideast conflicts and in Iraq. On Wednesday, IS militants closed the locks on a militant-held dam on the Euphrates River near Ramadi, Anbar’s provincial capital west of Baghdad, reducing the flow downstream and threatening irri-

gation systems and water treatment plants in nearby areas controlled by troops and tribes opposed to the extremist group. Earlier this year, the Islamic State group reduced the flow through a lock outside the militant-held town of Fallujah, also in Anbar province, but reopened it after criticism from residents.

Last summer, IS militants took control of the Mosul Dam, the largest in Iraq, and threatened to flood Baghdad and other major cities, but Iraqi and Kurdish forces, backed by U.S. airstrikes, later recaptured the facility.

The battle for the dam followed the Islamic State’s blitz across much of western and northern



AP

Iraq earlier last year, an advance that captured key Anbar cities and also Mosul, Iraq’s second-largest city that lies to the north of Baghdad. The Islamic State group also gained large swaths of land in neighboring Syria and proclaimed a self-

styled caliphate on the territory it controls, imposing its harsh interpretation of Islamic law, or Sharia.

Last month, the IS captured Ramadi, marking its most significant victory since a U.S.-led coalition began an air campaign against the extremists last August.

Anbar councilman, Taha Abdul-Ghani, said the move could pose a threat to the security forces

fighting to recapture Ramadi. If water levels drop significantly, he said, the extremists could cross the Euphrates River on foot and attack the nearby Habbaniya military base—used for Iraqi troops and allied Shiite militias.

Thousands of people in government-held towns of Khalidiya and Habbaniya are already suffering from shortages of drinking water because purification plants along the Euphrates have all but shut down due to low water levels due to summer weather. The residents of the towns get only two hours a day of water through their pipes, he said.

“With the summer heat and lack of water, the lives of these people are in danger and some are thinking of leaving their homes,” added Abdul-Ghani, and urged the government to use the air force to bomb some of the gates of al-Warar dam and release the water.

RELATIVES, NEIGHBORS JOIN IN PRAYER FOR DEAD AND MISSING IN SHIP DISASTER



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prayers and a candle light vigil are conducted by residents of Jianli County and relatives of the missing and dead passengers aboard the capsized Eastern Star.

JIANLI, China Disaster teams that have recovered 77 bodies from a capsized cruise ship in the Yangtze River, moved late Thursday to pull it upright to quicken the search for more than 360 other victims who could be trapped inside.

The operation to right the Eastern Star shifted from finding survivors more than 72 hours after it overturned to salvaging the vessel and retrieving bodies.

Transport Ministry spokesman Xu Chengguang said divers would put steel bars underneath the ship, which would then be lifted by two 500-ton cranes. A huge net was placed near the cranes and another one a few yards downstream to catch any bodies.

Chinese authorities said 14 people survived Monday night’s capsizing in a severe storm, some by jumping from the ship during the early moments and swimming or drifting ashore. Three were pulled by divers from air pockets inside the overturned hull Tuesday after rescuers heard yells for help coming from inside.

Xu said no further signs of life had been found and the chance of finding anyone else alive was “very slim.” Earlier Thursday, rescuers cut three holes into the overturned hull in unsuccessful attempts to find more survivors.

More than 200 divers have worked to search the ship’s cabins one by one.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former FIFA VP: Hero or villain?

TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad Contradictions are a constant for Jack Warner, who grew up with almost nothing in Trinidad and Tobago, and became a rich and powerful vice president of FIFA, world soccer’s governing body before being forced out in an ethics scandal four years ago.

Now, his empire seems on the verge of crumbling.

Indicted last week by the U.S. on charges of racketeering, wire fraud and money-laundering, Warner insists he’s done nothing wrong.

In Trinidad, many residents say if Warner amassed riches without taking it from them, they’re fine with the arrangement.

The 72-year-old Warner is now a member of Parliament, known for getting what he wants, but also for personally arranging whatever help — doctors, food, anything — his constituents need.

“If he didn’t live so long, he would have died a hero,” said Sunity Maharaj, a journalist who has long followed Warner. “He would have been the story of the little boy who grew up to be FIFA vice president.”

He acknowledges that his future is uncertain. The charges that revolve around allegations of bribery are the most serious he has faced. He insists they are trumped up.

Warner maintains Americans are still upset that FIFA, which he left in disgrace in 2011 after being implicated in an earlier bribery scandal, awarded the 2022 World Cup to Qatar and not the U.S.

“Nobody, no contractor, alive or dead, can say he gave me a kickback,” Warner said. “Everything I have now, I had before politics. But there are some guys in politics now who had nothing before. Now come nobody is concerned with that?”

U.S. prosecutors allege South Africa paid \$10 million in 2008 to Warner and two other FIFA executive committee members for supporting the nation’s successful bid to host the 2010 World Cup. Warner’s supporters say the charges are meant to embarrass him ahead of elections this year,

with Liberal Independent Party Chairman Rekha Ramjith calling them “political manipulation to the highest extent.”

Simply saying the name “Jack” to hotel workers, waiters, lawmakers and others elicits a reaction, often accompanied by an eye roll. Some, including top soccer officials, refused to talk about him.

“I take no pleasure in Mr. Warner’s sufferings and his family’s pain,” said opposition party leader Keith Rowley. “I trust that he will be the subject of free and fair judicial processes in Trinidad and Tobago and outside. Let the law take its course.”

If he didn’t live so long, he would have died a hero. He would have been the story of the little boy who grew up to be FIFA vice president.

SUNITY MAHARAJ



CHRISTIAN THOMPSON / AP PHOTO

Little remains of a gas station after it exploded in Accra Thursday. Flooding in Ghana’s capital swept stored fuel in the station into a nearby fire, setting off a huge explosion that killed dozens and set alight neighboring buildings.

Gas station explodes in Ghana, killing 150

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ACCRA, Ghana The death toll from a huge gas station explosion and flooding in Ghana’s capital has more than doubled to 150 people, the president said Thursday.

Dozens of people sought shelter at the gas station and in nearby shops in central Accra to escape the torrential rains at the time of Wednesday night’s blast. Flooding swept fuel being stored at the station into a nearby fire, triggering the explosion that also set ablaze neighboring buildings, officials said.

The West African nation will observe three days of mourning and the government will allocate about \$12 million for relief operations and to repair damaged infrastructure, President John Dramani Mahama told journalists.

Before Mahama’s announcement, the death toll stood at 73. The president didn’t give a breakdown, but the new figure appears

to include people killed in the explosion, others who drowned at the blast site trying to escape the flames and still more who drowned elsewhere in the city.

TV footage showed corpses piled into the back of a pickup truck and other charred bodies trapped amid the debris. Floodwaters hampered rescue and recovery efforts.

Officials at a nearby military hospital said its morgue was full.

“Steps will be taken to ensure that disastrous floods and their attendant deaths do not occur again,” Mahama said.

A witness said many people had taken shelter under a shed at the station from the rain and were hit by the explosion.

Heavy rains in June are not unusual — yet drainage systems in Accra remain inadequate.

The city also is grappling with a continuing energy crisis resulting in blackouts lasting as long as 48 hours.

Dutch Muslims ‘no longer easy to offend’

MIKE CORDER

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands Moderate Dutch Muslims on Thursday called lawmaker Geert Wilders’ plan to broadcast cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad on national television a provocation.

There were no signs of outrage or unrest, the day after Wilders announced his plan to use airtime granted to political parties to show cartoons from a contest in Garland, Texas, last month that

was targeted by two armed attackers. Wilders spoke at the contest, but left before the foiled attack that left both gunmen dead.

Islamic tradition holds that any physical depiction of the Prophet Muhammad is blasphemous. It appears that Muslims in the Netherlands may be growing accustomed to Wilders’ fierce criticism of their faith.

Muslims in the Netherlands “are no longer easy to offend,” said lawyer Ejder Kose, who once

represented a Muslim organization that tried unsuccessfully to ban a short film made by Wilders.

Wilders established and leads the Freedom Party that holds 12 of the 150 seats in parliament’s lower house.

Wilders’ anti-Islam rhetoric has sparked outrage and prompted death threats that have led to him living under round-the-clock protection.

“It is provocation from Mr. Wilders that we have been used

to for years,” said Yassin Elforkani, spokesman of the Contact Group for Muslims and Government, in a telephone interview.

Wilders denied he was being provocative for the sake of it and said in an emailed reaction that he wants to show the cartoons to support freedom of expressions and demonstrate to extremists that their violence won’t silence him.

A date has not been set for Wilders’ broadcast.

Study shows steady rate of warming

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON Global warming has not stopped or even slowed in the past 18 years, according to a new federal study that rebuts doubters who've claimed that that heating trends have paused. Scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration readjusted thousands of weather data points to account for different measuring techniques through the decades. Their calculations show that since 1998, the rate of warming is about the same as it has been since 1950: about two-tenths of a degree Fahrenheit a decade. "The reality is that there is no hiatus," said Tom Karl, director of the National Centers for Environ-

Study sees no pause in global warming

A new analysis of temperature data from around the world shows no sign of a recent warming "hiatus."



mental Information in Asheville, North Carolina. He is the lead author of a study published Thursday in the peer-reviewed journal Science. One key to claims of a hiatus

is the start date: 1998. That year there was a big temperature spike; some of the following years were not as hot, though even hotter years followed in 2005, 2010 and 2014, according to NOAA,

NASA and temperature records kept in England and Japan. This year is on pace to break last year's global heat record. Scientists keep updating the way they measure Earth's temperatures. This study focuses on the effects of the way ocean temperatures are taken. The old way, going back generations, is with ships. Sometimes people would dip a bucket in the water; other times they'd measure water that came into the engine. They also did it at various times of day. A few years ago NOAA made similar adjustments to make land temperatures more comparable decade-to-decade. Several outside scientists contacted by The Associated Press said the adjustments are sound.

More candidates step up

Clinton no fan of new voting law

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

HOUSTON Hillary Rodham Clinton is calling for an expansion of early voting and pushing back against Republican-led efforts to restrict voting access, laying down a marker on voting rights at the start of her presidential campaign.



Clinton

The Democratic presidential candidate used a Thursday speech at historically black Texas Southern University to denounce voting restrictions and to encourage states to adopt a new national standard of no fewer than 20 days of early in-person voting, including weekend and evening voting. Clinton is plunging into a partisan debate in many statehouses, which have pitted Democrats who contend restricting voter registration aims to suppress turnout among minority and low-income voters against Republicans, who say the steps are needed to prevent voter fraud.

The issue is closely watched by black voters, who supported President Barack Obama in large numbers and will be an important constituency as Clinton seeks to rebuild Obama's coalition. Clinton will also urge Congress to take steps to address a 2013 Supreme Court ruling striking down a portion of the Voting Rights Act. Clinton said at the time of the decision that the court had "struck at the heart" of the landmark law and warned that it would make it difficult for the poor, elderly, minorities and working people to vote. Raising the voting issues allow Clinton to draw sharp distinctions with the potential Republican presidential field. The former secretary of state has been actively raising money for her campaign and the speech is part of a two-day trip.

Jeb Bush announcing campaign

STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Jeb Bush stepped into the Republican race for president Thursday, finally taking his place — after months of hints and relentless fundraising — amid an unwieldy field of GOP candidates unlike any in recent memory. The former Florida governor has the rank of front-runner and the donors to match. He now has eight months before the first votes are cast in the Iowa caucuses to prove he's worthy of both.

The son of George H.W. Bush and younger brother of George W. Bush, he is a favorite of the Republican establishment, the experienced and well-connected party, who have showered the 62-year-old with money, staffing talent and encouragement in recent months.

Senior aides confirmed that Bush, who left the Florida governor's mansion in 2007, will enter the race June 15. "I want to be the guy to beat," Bush said while campaigning in Florida earlier this week.



CARLOS OSORIO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush speaks in Lansing, Michigan, in this file photo. Bush steps into the Republican race for president, cementing his place at the head of an unwieldy GOP field. Bush has the name of a front-runner and donors to match.

The GOP contest now features candidates of different generations, races and genders, whose policy prescriptions are far from monolithic and whose personalities often clash. There are more to come: four sitting governors — Wisconsin's Scott Walker and New Jersey's Chris Christie, among them — are likely to join the race before the GOP's first presidential debate in August. Eight current and former

governors could ultimately be in the race, along with five current and former senators, a former neurosurgeon and two business executives. The only woman in the Republican field, Carly Fiorina, has never held elected office, yet the former technology executive appears to be gaining momentum as she campaigns across early voting states including New Hampshire and South Carolina.

KEY JEB BUSH CAMPAIGN ISSUES

■ IMMIGRATION

Bush supports a system that would allow immigrants in the country illegally to stay, if they plead guilty to illegal entry, pay penalties and past-due taxes, learn English and perform community service.

■ FOREIGN POLICY

Bush says the U.S. "needs to regain its position militarily in Iraq to bring some order to the Iraqi military." He hasn't said whether he thinks the U.S. should add more troops. Bush opposed removing Cuba from the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism.

■ BUDGET & ENTITLEMENT PROGRAMS

As a White House contender, Bush says he would support raising the age to qualify for full Social Security benefits for future retirees, over time.

■ EDUCATION

Bush stands out as a supporter of Common Core education standards. Bush con-

tinues to urge states to adopt higher reading, math and language arts standards than they have, assessed with regular testing. But he doesn't support additional testing or federal intervention in creation of the standards.

■ SOCIAL ISSUES

As governor, Bush signed legislation requiring parental consent for abortions for minors and opposes abortion rights except when women are victims of rape or incest or when the woman's life is endangered by continued pregnancy. He says he opposes gay marriage yet same-sex couples "making lifetime commitments to each other" deserve respect.

■ CLIMATE CHANGE

Bush accepts the scientific premise that the climate is changing and calls examining the causes a priority. He also supports carbon energy production by hydraulic fracking.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

YELLOW PAINT ROAD



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In a Maryland State Highway Administration-provided photo, gallons of white and yellow paint coat parts of Interstate 68 near Hancock, Maryland, Wednesday after a tractor-trailer overturned. Police have charged the driver with using a handheld cellphone while driving. Officials say cleanup will take several days, and areas of the highway will be blocked off.

Being self-employed means bigger payday

JOSEPH PISANI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK If you want an income, or you're an employer looking for help, it may be time to scrap the idea of the traditional 9-to-5 arrangement. For workers, it's become easier and less risky to go solo. Affordable health insurance plans, which kept many workers shackled to traditional jobs, are more accessible because of the Affordable Care Act, and companies are increasingly open to hiring freelancers and independent contractors. Many say independent workers bring fresh ideas without the commitment. In 2013, 23 million people were self-employed, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. That's up 1.2 percent from the year before and up about 24 percent from 2003. That number doesn't count self-employed people who may also hire employees. "This isn't going away," says Brooke Borgen, co-owner of

Canopy Advisory Group, a hiring company for freelancers in Denver. She started the business five years ago with co-owner Griffen O'Shaughnessy. They observed that companies needed a way to access independent workers while friends and colleagues were telling them they wanted to find ways to balance their work and personal lives. "More and more people want to have ownership over their career," Borgen says. Most have a master's degree and at least 10 years working experience, she says. Companies weren't always so thrilled about hiring freelancers, says Allison Hemming, CEO of staffing company The Hired Guns. When she started the company 15 years ago, companies would say, "if they were that good, they would have a job," said Hemming. That has changed. "The concept of freelancers as slackers is completely over," Hemming says.

NATIONAL

Charter bus crashes, killing driver, 2 others

TOBYHANNA, Pa. A charter bus taking Italian tourists to Niagara Falls collided with a tractor-trailer that had crossed into oncoming traffic on a highway on Wednesday, killing the bus driver and two other people on the bus, police said. Four people were critically injured. The crash occurred on Interstate 380 in the Pocono Mountains region in eastern Pennsylvania as the bus, which departed from New York, was about a quarter of the way to its first destination. The mangled front end of the bus was upright on the highway but wedged into the side of the tractor-trailer, which was sheared in half. The cab of the truck came to rest on its side in the woods next to the road, one of its axles torn off. Italian tour operator Viaggidea said there were 16 people on the bus: 14 passengers, a tour guide and the driver. Police said the driver, Alfredo Telemaco, of New York City, died at the scene along with two passengers.

Deliberations near in ex-BP exec's oil spill trial

NEW ORLEANS Closing arguments have been scheduled in the case of David Rainey, the former BP executive charged with lying to federal investigators about the 2010 BP oil spill. Attorneys will make their final statements to jurors Friday morning and the jury is expected to begin deliberations by noon. The trial centers on calculations Rainey made about the rate at which oil was flowing from BP's Macondo well following the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon offshore rig. Prosecutors say Rainey manipulated early estimates to match low government estimates. He's charged with lying about it to federal agents a year later. Rainey denies it. His attorneys say he had no reason to lie.

California advancing right-to-die legislation

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California lawmakers advanced a right-to-die bill Thursday, giving hope to those who want the nation's most populous state to allow terminally ill patients to end their lives under doctor's care. The state Senate passed the measure on a 23-14 vote ahead of a legislative deadline. Opponents of such legislation in California and elsewhere say suicide is against God's will and that some patients may feel pressured to kill themselves so they don't burden family members. The year's bill, SB128, from Democratic Sens. Bill Monning of Carmel and Lois Wolk of Davis, would protect physicians from prosecution if they give terminally ill adults the option of medical aid in their deaths.

State Farm CEO stepping down after 30 years

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. State Farm Insurance Cos. announced Thursday that Chief Operating Officer Michael Tipsord will become its next chief executive, succeeding Ed Rust Jr., who has led the private company since the mid-1980s. The Bloomington-based insurance and financial company said in a news release that Tipsord will take over in September from Rust, who has held the post since 1985. Rust, 64, will remain chairman of the company's board. Tipsord joined the company in 1988. He became a vice president in 2002 and chief financial officer in 2004 before taking his current job in 2011. Rust credited Tipsord for working with him as a partner leading the company. Tipsord, the release said, called the time he's spent working with Rust "a privilege."

Former LA police officer charged with killing man

LOS ANGELES Henry Solis, a former Los Angeles police officer charged with killing a man while off-duty, was returned Thursday to California from Texas and was escorted by detectives and booked into Pomona's jail, authorities said. Henry Solis was arrested last week in Mexico after evading authorities for more than two months. He was sought in the shooting death of 23-year-old Salome Rodriguez following a dispute at a nightclub in March. In an FBI interview, Victor Manuel Solis said his son said he had five vacation days and wanted to go to El Paso. When he arrived in El Paso, the elder Solis said, he dropped his son off at a bus station and his son did not tell him where he was going. Victor Manuel Solis told the agent he later crossed a pedestrian border bridge alone into Mexico and returned to El Paso in the evening. Surveillance video captured him crossing with his son, according to the affidavit.

Man shot in Boston was planning to kill woman

BOSTON Usama Rahim, a Boston man shot to death by the terror investigators who were surveilling him, had talked about beheading blogger Pamela Geller before deciding to target police officers, Boston police said Thursday. "There was some mention of that name," said Police Commissioner William Evans, who dismissed it as "wishful thinking" while speaking on the "Today" show. Geller said she wasn't surprised that she may have been a target. She's a combative personality known for provoking Muslims by campaigning against a mosque near the World Trade Center site in New York, sponsoring inflammatory advertisements. The FBI said Rahim plotted to commit some kind of attack, and ordered three large knives on Amazon.com a week before his death.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS/SOUTHWEST

Texas brothers get probation in dolphin’s death

BEAUMONT Two Southeast Texas brothers who admitted they killed a bottlenose dolphin with an arrow have each been sentenced to a year of probation, including a ban on hunting and fishing.

The Beaumont Enterprise reports that 23-year-old Cory James Moseley and 18-year-old Cade Ryan Moseley were sentenced in federal court Wednesday. The brothers also must pay about \$7,300 in restitution and perform community service.

The brothers pleaded guilty in February to taking a marine mammal from U.S. waters. Federal law defines “taking” in this case as anything from harassment to killing.

Evidence presented at court showed the brothers were fishing on Cow Bayou, near Bridge City, in 2014, when they shot at two dolphins with a compound bow, fatally striking one.

Woman charged with killing spouse gets life

LLANO A Central Texas woman accused of killing her husband after texting her plans to a friend hours before the shooting has been sentenced to life in prison.

Austin media outlets report 44-year-old Karra Trichele Allen of Bertram was convicted and sentenced Tuesday.

The Burnet County Sheriff’s Office says the body of Brian Allen was found at the couple’s home after his wife called authorities to say she shot her spouse on July 1, 2013.

A transcript indicates Allen told a dispatcher she fired in self-defense during an argument.

Court records indicate Allen sent text messages to a friend threatening to shoot and dismember her husband.

Texas man accused in lottery scheme due in court

DES MOINES, Iowa A Texas man accused of helping a lottery security official try to claim a rigged \$14 million jackpot is scheduled to appear in court Thursday.

Robert Rhodes is expected to contest his extradition to Iowa during the hearing in Texas.

The Sugar Land businessman was arrested in March and is free on bond. Prosecutors say he worked with an Iowa friend, Eddie Tipton, and others in an attempt to claim the Hot Lotto jackpot that Tipton had rigged.

Prosecutors allege that Tipton inserted a software program into the random number generator for Hot Lotto that allowed him to manipulate the winning combination. They say Tipton purchased the winning ticket and later passed it on to Rhodes and others.

Man fatally shot by police suspected in burglaries

DALLAS Houston police say a man fatally shot by officers after leading them on a chase was pursued because he was suspected in car burglaries.

Police said Thursday that the 15-minute pursuit Wednesday morning ended when the suspect’s vehicle struck a curb and became disabled.

Police say the suspect was then uncooperative and kept getting into and out of his vehicle.

A police dog then grabbed the suspect’s leg and the officer handling the dog confronted the suspect. Two officers then saw the suspect pull a large knife from behind his back and raise it up. Police say that fearing for the K-9 officer’s life, the two officers fired. The suspect was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police say numerous stolen items were found in the suspect’s vehicle.

Failed pumps leave small Texas town without water

BARTLETT The mayor of a small Central Texas town says the city will be without water for up to three days after two water pumps failed.

The Temple Daily Telegraph reports that Bartlett Mayor Norris Ivy made the announcement Wednesday. Meanwhile, Bell County Commissioners Court Judge Jon Burrows declared the town of 2,000 people located about 50 miles northeast of Austin to be in a local state of emergency.

Both the main pump for the ground storage tank and the city’s backup water well failed.

The city was making bottled water and non-potable water available.

3 bodies recovered after minivan swept off road

LEON JUNCTION Authorities have recovered the bodies of an 11-year-old girl, her grandmother and great-grandmother after their minivan was swept off a flooded road.

Coryell County Sheriff Johnny Burks says the bodies of the relatives from Gatesville were found Wednesday as receding water revealed the vehicle swept away Sunday about 30 miles southwest of Waco.

Additionally, Wichita Falls police said Wednesday that a man whose body was found Sunday in floodwaters near the Wichita River has been identified as 44-year-old Brent Allen of Wichita Falls. He’d been reported missing from a nearby motel on May 25.

The number of storm-related deaths in Texas since Memorial Day weekend is now at 32.

Those found in the minivan were 11-year-old Holi Elizabeth Morgan; 63-year-old Lynn McLaughlin Grubb; and 84-year-old Bobbie Correne McLaughlin.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Perry’s 30 years in politics

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry is entering the 2016 race for the Republican presidential nomination Thursday—here’s a look at where he’s been

BACKGROUND

The longest-serving governor in Texas history, Perry was a Democrat who became a Republican and an early adopter of tea party conservatism. He donned his signature cowboy boots, and strode into the 2012 presidential race late, bragging about his state’s strong job-creation record.

He became a front-runner nearly overnight then saw his campaign collapse almost as quickly, thanks to gaffes that he blamed on hubris and lingering pain from back surgery.

Will voters give him a second chance? “It’s easier to judge someone by how they get up from a failure,” he told The Associated Press last year. He’s 65.



CAROLYN KASTER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry speaks during the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in National Harbor, Md., Friday, Feb. 27, 2015.

PERSONAL STORY

The son of tenant cotton farmers, Perry was born in a cabin without running water in Paint Creek, a West Texas town with no stoplights. He was part of a 13-student high school graduating class and met his wife, Anita Thigpen, at a piano recital when he was 8 and she 6. At Texas A&M, Perry was elected yell leader, a coveted male cheerleader position.

He worked as a door-to-door Bible reference book salesman in the summers before flying Air Force C-130 cargo planes. He returned to the farm but was recruited to run for the state Legislature at 33. Perry further solidified his cowboy cred in 2010, when he used a laser-sighted .380 Ruger to kill a coyote while jogging in a rural corner of Austin.

13

Students in Perry’s high school graduating class

1989

Perry switches parties from Democrat to Republican

1

Number of elections Perry has lost in three decades of politics

Cruz apologizes for Biden jab

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON Republican presidential candidate Ted Cruz apologized for cracking a joke at Vice President Joe Biden’s expense even as Biden mourns the death of his son.

During an appearance Wednesday in Howell, Michigan, Cruz rattled off a Biden line he’s been using in speeches on the stump.

“Vice President Joe Biden. You know the nice thing? You don’t need a punchline,” Cruz said, prompting laughter from the audience.

By Thursday morning, Cruz used his Facebook account to say he was sorry.

In his post, the Texas senator says, “It was a mistake to use an old joke about Joe Biden during his time of grief, and I sincerely apologize.”

Questioned about the remark when he arrived for a Senate vote on Thursday, Cruz declined to answer a reporter’s question.

A funeral Mass will be held in Delaware Saturday for 46-year-old Beau Biden.



PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vice President Joe Biden, center, pauses alongside his family as they prepare to enter a visitation for his son, former Delaware Attorney General Beau Biden, on Thursday at Legislative Hall in Dover, Del. Standing with Biden are his granddaughter Natalie, daughter-in-law Hallie, grandson Hunter and wife Jill. Beau Biden died of brain cancer Saturday at age 46.

Flood flushes out snakes

ROBERT CADWALLADER
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH Buster Tuggle was atop his house, reaching into the long branches of a cottonwood with a trimmer, unaware of a water moccasin wrapped around a nearby branch.

Tuggle, 61, owner of Hare’s Nursery in Arlington, also didn’t see the snake when he sawed it in two, along with an armful of tree limbs.

The almost 17 inches of rain last month have caused a lot of people to find an array of critters in their yards, garages and homes that have never visited before.

Summer could bring its own menacing, pesky problems as North Texas dries out. No rain is in the Dallas-Fort Worth forecast for the next week or so, and temperatures are expected to climb into the 90s.

Turtles, frogs, earthworms, rabbits and many others, along with the predators that follow them, snakes, bobcats, coyotes, have been unusually close to homeowners.

Experts say the appearance of snakes and other wildlife will be temporary. Of course, be cautious, they say, but it’s not a Planet of the Snakes invasion due to deep-sea atomic testing.

“When floodwaters rise, you’re going to see a lot of animals,” Misty Wellner, a former naturalist with the River Legacy Living Science Center, said. “When you have a disaster like this, they’re going to move to dry land, just like we are.”



ASSOCIATED PRESS/JOYCE MARSHALL

Dr. Keto Trivedi shows some of the snake bite venom available from unwanted visitors encroaching on human habitats after recent rain.

Residential areas are typically well drained with modern storm sewer systems, and animals may look for temporary homes in those areas while their usual habitat is under water, said Derek Broman, biologist, based at Joe Pool Lake.

“This is a 500-year flood, so none of the current generation of animals is used to this,” he said. “As things start to recede, a lot of the animals should go back into hiding.”

The animal services department “is answering about four snake calls a day in the three-city area,” Colleyville spokeswoman Mona Gandy said. “Typically they would get two a day.”

Even if bitten by a harmless snake, go to an emergency room to have the wound cleaned and to get antibiotics, as well as a tetanus shot. The snake’s teeth and your skin have bacteria that can cause infection.

EPA: Fracking not widespread threat to water

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Hydraulic fracturing to drill for oil and natural gas has not caused widespread harm to drinking water in the United States, the Environmental Protection Agency said Thursday in a report that also warned of potential contamination of water supplies if safeguards are not maintained.

A draft study issued by the agency found specific instances where poorly constructed drilling wells or improper wastewater management affected drinking water, but said the number of cases was small compared to

the large number of wells that use hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking.

The EPA assessment tracked water used throughout the fracking process, from acquiring the water to mixing chemicals at the well site and injecting so-called “fracking fluids” into wells, to collection of wastewater, wastewater treatment and disposal.

The report identified several vulnerabilities to drinking water resources, including fracking’s effect on drought-stricken areas; inadequately cased or cemented wells resulting in below-ground migration of gases and liquids; inadequately treated wastewater

discharged into drinking water resources; and spills of hydraulic fluids and wastewater.

Congress ordered the long-awaited report in 2010, as a surge in fracking fueled a nationwide boom in production of oil and natural gas. Fracking rigs have sprouted up in recent years in states from California to Pennsylvania, as energy companies take advantage of improved technology to gain access to vast stores of oil and natural gas underneath much of the continental U.S.

Fracking involves pumping huge volumes of water, sand and chemicals underground to split open rock formations so oil

and gas will flow. The practice has spurred an ongoing energy boom but has raised widespread concerns that it might lead to groundwater contamination and increased air pollution.

An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 new wells were drilled annually from 2011 to 2014, the report said. While fracking took place in at least 25 states, most of the activity occurred in four states: Texas, Colorado, Pennsylvania and North Dakota.

About 6,800 public drinking water sources serving more than 8.6 million people were located within 1 mile of a fracked well.

RÉSUMÉ

Perry was elected to the Texas Legislature as a conservative Democrat in 1984, but GOP kingmaker Karl Rove helped persuade him to switch parties five years later. In 1998, he was elected lieutenant governor and replaced Gov. George W. Bush in December 2000.

Perry erased any suggestion he was an accidental governor the following summer, vetoing 78 bills. Perry won three more terms and could have sought a fourth, but didn’t and left office in January.

He is facing felony indictments in Austin for coercion and abuse of power. He is accused of threatening — then carrying out — a 2013 veto of state funding for public corruption prosecutors.

The Democratic head of the unit had rebuffed the governor’s calls to resign following her conviction and jailing for drunken driving. Perry calls the case a “political witch hunt,” but his attempts to get it quashed have failed.

Head Strong

Texas doctors perform world's first skull-scalp transplant

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer



Opening a new frontier in transplant surgery, Texas doctors have done the world's first partial skull and scalp transplant to help a man who suffered a large head wound from cancer treatment.

Doctors from Houston Methodist Hospital and MD Anderson Cancer Center did the operation two weeks ago.

The recipient — Jim Boysen, a 55-year-old software developer from Austin — was expected to leave the hospital Thursday with a new kidney and pancreas along with the scalp and skull grafts. He said he was stunned at how well doctors matched him to a donor with similar skin and hair coloring.

"It's kind of shocking, really, how good they got it. I will have way more hair than when I was 21," Boysen joked.

Last year, doctors in the Netherlands said they replaced most of a woman's skull with a 3-D printed plastic one. The Texas operation is thought to be the first skull-scalp transplant from a human donor, as opposed to an artificial implant or a simple bone graft.

A RARE CANCER

Boysen had a kidney-pancreas transplant in 1992 to treat diabetes he has had since age 5 and has been on medication to prevent organ rejection. The immune-suppression drugs raise the risk of cancer, and he developed a rare type — leiomyosarcoma.

It can affect many types of smooth muscles, but in his case, it was the ones under the scalp that make your hair stand on end when something gives you the creeps.

Radiation therapy for the cancer destroyed part of his head, immune suppression drugs kept his body from repairing the damage, and his transplanted organs were starting to fail — "a perfect storm that made the wound not heal," Boysen said.

Yet doctors could not perform a new kidney-pancreas transplant as long as he had an open wound. That's when Dr. Jesse Selber, a reconstructive plastic surgeon at MD Anderson, thought of giving him a new partial skull and scalp at the same time as new organs as a solution to all of his problems.

THE OPERATION

Houston Methodist, which has transplant expertise, partnered on the venture. It took 18 months for the organ-procurement organization, LifeGift, to find the right donor, who provided all organs for Boysen and was not identified.

Boysen's wound extended through his skull to his brain, Selber said.

In a 15-hour operation by about a dozen doctors and 40 other health workers, Boysen was given a cap-shaped, 10-by-10-inch skull graft, and a 15-inch-wide scalp graft starting above his forehead, extending across the top of his head and over its crown.

Any surgery around the brain is difficult, and this one required delicate work to remove and replace a large part of the skull and re-establish a blood supply to keep the transplant viable.

"We had to connect small blood vessels about one-sixteenth of an inch thick. It's done under an operating microscope with little stitches about half the thickness of



PAT SULLIVAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas man Jim Boysen received the world's first skull and scalp transplant from a human donor at Houston Methodist Hospital on Thursday. Boysen underwent the transplant to help heal a large head wound from cancer.

a human hair, using tools like a jeweler would use to make a fine Swiss watch," said Dr. Michael Klebuc, who led the Houston Methodist plastic surgery team.

The pancreas and kidney were transplanted after the head surgery was done.

"It's a very ingenious solution" to the patient's problems, said one independent expert, Dr. Bohdan Pomahac, a reconstructive surgeon at Harvard-affiliated Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. His hospital has done seven face transplants and three double-hand transplants and has plans to do arm and leg ones in the future.

IN WORKING ORDER

Boysen said he already has sensation in the new scalp.

"That kind of shocked the doctor. He was doing a test yesterday and I said, 'Ouch, I feel that.' He kind of jumped back," Boysen said.

The new scalp also was sweating in the hot room — another surprise so soon after the operation, he said.

"I'm still kind of in awe of it," Boysen said Thursday at a news conference at Houston Methodist. He will remain in Houston for two to three weeks for follow-up. He will need to keep his head covered because sunlight increases the chance of rejection, his doctors said.

"I'm glad the donor family had the generosity and insight to approve us doing this ... to get through their grief and approve the donation of this tissue besides the organs," said Dr. A. Osama Gaber, transplant chief at Houston Methodist.

Over the last decade, transplants once considered impossible have become a reality. More than two dozen face transplants have been done since the first one

in France in 2005; the first one in the U.S. was done in Cleveland in 2008.

More than 70 hand transplants have been done around the world.

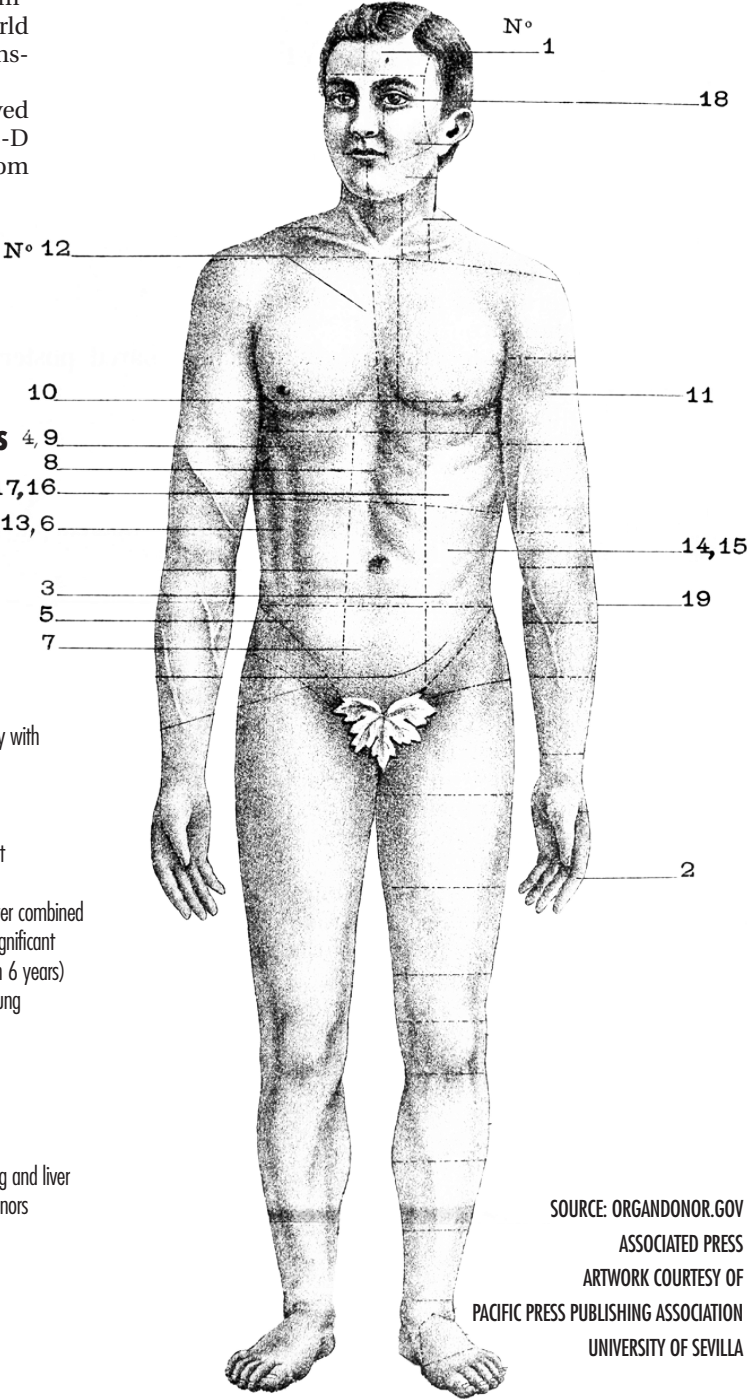
Last October, a Swedish woman became the first in the world to give birth after a womb transplant.

A host of patients have received transplants or implants of 3-D printed body parts, ranging from blood vessels to windpipes.

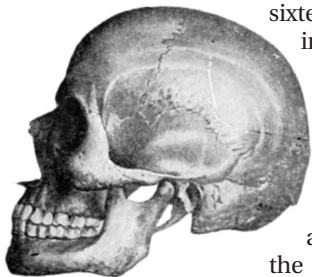
Timeline of Historical Firsts in Organ Transplants

Doctors in Houston have done the world's first scalp-skull transplant. The May 22 operation was to help a cancer patient with a large head wound. Here's a look at some other dates for first successful transplants:

- 2015 — Skull/scalp
- 1998 — Hand
- 1995 — Living donor kidney with improved surgical technique
- 1990 — Living donor lung
- 1989 — Small intestine
- 1988 — Split-liver transplant
- 1987 — Intestine
- 1986 — Lung, heart and liver combined
- 1983 — Single lung with significant recipient survival (more than 6 years)
- 1981 — Combined heart/lung
- 1968 — Bone marrow
- 1967 — Heart
- 1967 — Liver
- 1966 — Kidney/pancreas
- 1966 — Pancreas
- 1962/1963 — Kidney, lung and liver recovered from deceased donors
- 1954 — Kidney
- 1906 — Cornea
- 1869 — Skin transplant



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UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLA





81°/70°
Thunderstorms

BAD NEWS BEARS

Baylor looks ahead to a new era as former Wake Forest head football coach Jim Grobe comes in to replace Art Briles in the wake of a sexual assault scandal. **FEATURES, 6**



Southwest Journalist

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Iraqis fight for Fallujah



OSAMA SAMI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi counterterrorism forces face off with Islamic State militants on the southern edge of Fallujah, Iraq on Tuesday, a day after launching an operation to take back the militant-held city with the help of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes. Humanitarian groups have called upon both sides to open safe corridors out of the city for the estimated 50,000 civilians still inside.

Operation endangers thousands of civilians

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

CAMP TARIQ, Iraq — As Iraqi forces pressed an offensive Tuesday to dislodge Islamic State militants from Fallujah, conditions are worsening for tens of thousands of civilians trapped in the city, and a leading aid group raised alarm over an unfolding “human catastrophe.” IS fighters launched a fierce counter-attack on the southern edge of the city, slowing the progress of the elite Iraqi counterterrorism troops, and the militants reportedly corralled civilians into a single neighborhood for use as human shields.

With an estimated 50,000 civilians still inside Fallujah, humanitarian groups renewed calls on both sides to open safe corridors for noncombatants to flee — an action that seems unlikely because it would require negotiations between IS and the Iraqi forces to agree on a cessation of hostilities. Iraqi authorities also want to prevent IS fighters from escaping the city by melting into the fleeing civilian population.

Iraqi forces repelled the four-hour counter-attack a day after entering the southern part of Fallujah with the help of U.S.-led airstrikes.

The dawn attack unfolded in the Nuaimiya area, most of which was captured by Iraqi troops on Monday, two special forces officers told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

IS militants used tunnels and snipers and targeted Iraqi forces with six explosives-laden cars that were destroyed before they reached their targets, the officers said. Iraqi forces suffered casualties, but no details were given.

The clashes subsided by Tuesday afternoon, but the officers said progress was slowed by roadside bombs the militants left behind. The troops also paused to destroy tunnels in the area. Since Monday, 106 militants have been killed, the officers said.

The push into Nuaimiya, a sprawling agricultural area 40 miles (65 kilometers) west of Baghdad, was the first attempt by Iraqi forces to enter Fallujah, which fell to IS in 2014. In

recent days, Iraqi forces had focused on expelling the militants from outlying areas to tighten a siege on the city.

The Sunni majority city was the first in Iraq to fall to IS and is the last major urban area controlled by the extremist group in western

Iraq. The Sunni-led militants still control the country's second-largest city, Mosul, in the north.

The U.S.-led coalition and Iranian-backed Shiite militia forces are helping the Iraqi army in the offensive. The fight is expected to drag on because the militants have had more than two years to dig in, hidden bombs are believed to be strewn throughout the city and the presence of trapped civilians will limit the use of supporting airstrikes.

“A human catastrophe is unfolding in Fallujah,” said Jan Egeland, head of the Norwegian Refugee Council.

Only one family managed to escape the

“A human catastrophe is unfolding in Fallujah... Warring parties must guarantee civilians safe exit now.”

JAN EGELAND

■ IRAQ, Page 2

■ LGBT, Page 2

Poll shows voters want changes to primaries

CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Super-delegates. Closed-off primaries. Complicated caucuses. Many Americans are not happy with the way presidential candidates are chosen and have little faith in the fairness of either the Democratic or Republican system, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

According to the survey, the public prefers open primaries to those that are closed to all but party members. They like primaries instead of caucuses, and they oppose the party insiders known as superdelegates, who have a substantial say in the Democratic race.

“It’s kind of like a rigged election,” said Nayef Jaber, a 66-year-old Sanders supporter from San Rafael, California. “It’s supposed to be one man, one vote.”



DAMIAN DOVARGANES / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., speaks during a May 25 campaign rally in Cathedral City, Calif. Sanders is seeing broad support for changing the presidential nominating process.

Changing the primary process has become a rallying cry for Democrat Bernie Sanders.

Presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump has also criticized the system.

According to the poll, 38 percent of Americans say they have hardly any confidence that the Democratic Party’s process for selecting a presidential nominee is fair; 44 percent say the same of the Republican Party’s process.

Just 17 percent of Republicans and 31 percent of Democrats have a great deal of confidence in their own party’s system being fair.

Both parties have complex mechanisms for choosing nominees, with each state holding caucuses or primaries under different rules.

Candidates earn delegates to back them at the summer nominating conventions, with a certain number required to clinch the nomination.

Democrats embraced super-delegates in 1982 to make sure party leaders have a say in who is nominated.

By giving key insiders more

■ AP POLL, Page 2

Parents investigated after gorilla attack

DAN SEWELL
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Police said Tuesday they are investigating the parents of the 3-year-old boy who fell into a gorilla enclosure at the Cincinnati Zoo and had to be rescued by a team that shot the 400-pound animal to death.

Authorities said they will look at the parents’ actions leading up to the incident — not the operation of the zoo, which is overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Police will confer with prosecutors over whether to file charges, Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Detert said.

The incident has triggered a furor online, with some saying the boy’s mother should be charged with child endangering, while others want the zoo held responsible for the animal’s death.

USDA plans to explore the incident for any violations of the Animal Welfare Act.

Zoo authorities said the boy climbed over a 3-foot-high railing, walked through bushes and plunged about 15 feet into a shallow moat. The zoo’s dangerous-animal response team killed the gorilla as it dragged the boy through the water, authorities said. The boy had only minor scrapes on his head and knee, according to police.

Ohio State University criminal law professor Ric Simmons said he doubts a charge of child endangering could be proved in this instance, since the offense typically involves leaving a youngster unattended for an extended time, not a case of a child momentarily wandering off.

The boy’s family said he is “doing just fine” at home, and it had no further comment.

■ GORILLA, Page 2

TO SEE LOCAL TWITTER REACTION TO THE ZOO’S DECISION TO SHOOT THE GORILLA, VISIT SWJOURNALIST.COM

Counselor returns after San Bernardino loss

CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Crisis counselor Mandy Pifer has spent the last six years comforting people in the aftermath of death, including a woman whose sister killed herself with an electric chainsaw and an 8-year-old girl who found her mother shot to death on their couch.

Nearly six months ago, it was Pifer herself who was plunged deep into grief when her boyfriend was among 14 killed in the San Bernardino attack. She left counseling to mourn, retreating into her Koreatown apartment filled with the couple's photographs.

Last week, she drove to the Los Angeles Police Department to meet with crisis-team colleagues, many of whom she had not seen since the December shooting. She wanted to return to work but also wondered: Was she ready to go back behind the yellow tape?

Pifer first learned about the mayor's crisis team as a graduate student studying clinical psychology. A friend passed along a police bulletin seeking volunteers to respond to homicides, suicides and death notifications.

Soon enough, she had graduated from training and was crossing behind the tape at some of the city's grisliest crime scenes. Her job was to counsel those with



JAE C. HONG / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mandy Pifer is comforted by Rick Mogil, program director for Didi Hirsch suicide prevention and bereavement services, at a crisis response team meeting in Los Angeles. Nearly six months ago, her boyfriend, Shannon Johnson, was one of 14 people killed in the San Bernardino terrorist attack.

no relatives or friends to console them.

The first time she smelled death, the first time she had to walk around the block to compose herself, the first time she accompanied police on a death

notification — all linger in her memory.

Pifer awoke Dec. 2 to a text from Johnson.

"Have a great day," he wrote. "I love you."

Johnson worked as a health

inspector in San Bernardino, an expansive, mountainous county east of Los Angeles. He had left early to attend his department's holiday gathering.

The couple imagined moving out to the desert when Johnson retired in another 10 years or maybe returning to the South. On his computer that morning, Pifer found an internet browser opened to a page showing properties for sale in Georgia.

Pifer was meeting with clients when the first reports of an active shooter in San Bernardino came in.

As she was driving home, heard on the radio that the shooting had happened at a meeting of workers for a division of the San Bernardino County Public Health Department.

Pifer immediately pulled over. She knew.

In his last moments, Johnson huddled with a colleague under a table, shielding her from the bullets.

"I got you," he told 27-year-old Denise Peraza. The phrase quickly began to trend on social media.

The days that followed passed in a blur. There were interviews with reporters, calls from politicians and a hug from President Barack Obama.

She wanted to make sure the affected families were getting ser-

vices and arranged for therapeutic miniature horses to visit bereaved relatives.

Three months later, the anguish hit.

"Getting out of bed," she said, her voice trailing. "I just didn't do it."

It's now been another three months, and the pain might be letting up a bit. She wants to return to work.

Still, the grief comes in jarring waves of pain.

She made her way through the haze of Koreatown at sunset and climbed up the stairs to the police bureau, immediately spotting an old friend. Burnett Oliver wrapped her in a bear hug. Pifer wept.

Two days later, she was back on the roster for an overnight on-call shift from home. She still wasn't sure how she'd feel going out to a police scene, but something had changed.

"I realized that, you know, I need to go back, because a large part of my identity is helping others," she said. "I refuse to live in a world of fear."

As she got ready for bed, she kept her fully charged phone nearby. A photo of Johnson in a frame with the word "Love" rested on her nightstand.

She waited for the phone to ring.

'Deep concern' for safety of civilians

■ IRAQ from Page 1

town Monday, he said. Since the offensive began more than a week ago, 554 other families have fled areas surrounding Fallujah.

"Warring parties must guarantee civilians safe exit now, before it's too late and more lives are lost," Egeland added. A lack of food, medicine, safe drinking water and electricity is "pushing families to the brink of desperation," the NRC said.

At a briefing in Geneva, the spokesman

for the U.N. refugee agency, William Spindler, cited figures by Iraqi authorities that said 624 families — about 3,700 individuals — have fled in the past week.

The 56-nation Organization of Islamic Cooperation — the world's largest body of Muslim-majority countries — expressed "deep concern" about the safety of civilians in Fallujah.

Some Sunni lawmakers in Iraq have accused the security forces of using indiscriminate force and say the Shiite militias have committed abuses against civilians in mainly Sunni towns and cities. The security forces and the militias deny the accusations. The government-sanctioned group of mostly Shiite militia is not part of the push into Fallujah, officials said.

Debate over blame in gorilla incident

■ GORILLA from Page 1

A recent federal inspection by USDA found no problems with the exhibit, but earlier inspections detailed an incident in March in which polar bears escaped through an open den door into a behind-the-scenes hallway. No one was hurt, but an inspector warned that the public could have been "at great risk for injury, harm or death."



Maynard

Zoo director Thane Maynard said that using tranquilizers on the gorilla would not have knocked the animal out right

away, leaving the boy in danger. Maynard said 17-year-old Harambe was agitated by the commotion from the crowd and was extremely powerful, capable of crushing a coconut in one hand.

He said the zoo remains safe for its 1.6 million annual visitors, but a review is underway.

Jack Hanna, director emeritus of the Columbus Zoo, said the zoo made the right call by shooting the gorilla.

In an interview with Boston TV station WFXR, conservationist and television host Jeff Corwin suggested that the boy's family should shoulder some of the blame, saying: "Zoos aren't your baby sitter."

Both sides criticize nomination system

■ AP POLL from Page 1

voice, leaders hoped to avoid what some saw as a mistake in 1972, when George McGovern won the nomination but was a weak general election candidate.

Fifty-three percent of Americans say the Democrats' use of superdelegates is a bad idea, according to the polls, while just 17 percent say it's a good idea.

Among Democrats, 46 percent say it's a bad idea and only 25 percent say it's a good idea.

Sanders has also called for more open primaries, slamming states that won't allow independent voters to participate, as well as ones where people must register with a party in advance.

Americans generally also say that open primaries are more fair than closed primaries, 69 percent to 29 percent.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say open primaries are the most fair, 73 percent to 62 percent.

TO TRACK THE TIMELINE ON THE TRANSGENDER BATHROOM DEBATE IN TEXAS AND IN THE COURTS, PLEASE VISIT SWJOURNALIST.COM

the lawsuit, one in Texas and another in Arizona, have fewer than 600 students combined and no transgender students. Other states bringing the challenge are Oklahoma, Alabama, Wisconsin, West Virginia, Tennessee, Maine, Arizona, Louisiana, Utah and Georgia.

Patrick, a former conservative talk radio host, suggested that the Texas Legislature will take up school bathroom access in 2017. He has also asked Paxton to determine whether the Fort Worth school district — the sixth-largest in Texas — is breaking state education law with privacy rules that opponents say keeps conversations between transgender students and school officials from their parents.



RICHARD DREW / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump ripped the media Tuesday after he was questioned about his reported donations to 41 veteran organizations.

Trump blasts media over vet charity issues

JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Under pressure to account for money he claimed to raise for veterans, an irritated Donald

Trump lambasted the news media Tuesday for pressing the issue and listed charities he said have now received millions of dollars from a fundraiser he held in January.

Phone calls to all 41 of the groups by The Associated Press brought more than two-dozen responses Tuesday. About half reported checks from Trump within the past week, typically dated May 24, the day The

Washington Post published a story questioning whether he had distributed all of the money.

Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, told reporters at a testy news conference in New York that the fundraiser, held at the same time as a Fox News GOP debate he was boycotting, raised \$5.6 million. He previously had declined to disclose which charities had received the funds, and his campaign has gone back and forth about how much was raised.

"The money's all been sent," Trump said at the news conference at Trump Tower on Tuesday.

He repeatedly criticized the press for making the money an issue, saying reporters "should be ashamed of themselves" for asking where the money had gone.

Throughout the event, Trump slammed the media as "unbelievably dishonest" for

its treatment of the issue and dismissed an ABC reporter as "a sleaze."

"Instead of being like, 'Thank you very much, Mr. Trump,' or 'Trump did a good job,' everyone's saying, 'Who got it? Who got it? Who got it?' And you make me look very bad," Trump complained, taking on reporters in the room. "I have never received such bad publicity for doing such a good job."

The Trump campaign listed donations to 41 veterans groups, including one not yet been sent money due to a vetting issue. The Associated Press spoke or left messages Tuesday with each of the organizations.

Among the checks sent out on May 24 was \$1 million from Trump himself, sent to the Marine Corps-Law Enforcement that provides scholarships to the children of Marines and federal agents killed in the line of duty. Trump's campaign had previously told the newspaper that Trump's promised \$1 million donation had already been

distributed.

Trump's campaign manager Corey Lewandowski had originally told the Post that the event had raised about \$4.5 million — less than the \$6 million originally announced by Trump — because some had backed out of pledges.

Trump had claimed during the fundraiser that he had raised \$6 million through a combination of pledges from wealthy friends, the public and \$1 million from himself after the splashy telethon-style fundraiser he held in Iowa in January.

"... You make me look very bad. I have never received such bad publicity for doing such a good job."

DONALD TRUMP

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2016 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

INTERNATIONAL

U.N. issues new advice about Zika virus

GENEVA — The U.N. health agency says sexual transmission of Zika is more common than first thought. It is updating its advice to women who have been in areas hit by the virus, telling them to wait even longer to conceive.

The World Health Organization said Tuesday that couples or women planning pregnancy who live in or are returning from Zika-hit areas “are strongly recommended to wait at least eight weeks before trying to conceive” to ensure the virus has cleared their bodies.

Previously, WHO recommended a four-week minimum period before trying to conceive in such circumstances.

The current outbreak of Zika has been linked to microcephaly, a rare defect in which babies are born with abnormally small heads and brain damage, and an unusual paralyzing condition known as Guillain-Barre syndrome.

South Korea says North Korea missile likely failed

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korean militaries said a North Korean missile launch likely failed on Tuesday, the fourth in a series of high-profile failures that somewhat temper worries that the North is pushing toward its goal of a nuclear-tipped missile that can reach America’s mainland.

South Korea’s Yonhap news agency said the missile was a powerful intermediate-range Musudan that could potentially reach U.S. military bases in Asia and the Pacific. The report, if confirmed, suggests the missile may have even failed to lift off.

The U.S. Department of Defense said in a statement that its assessment also indicated the launch was a failure. It condemned the launch as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Despite the recent failures, there have been growing concerns about North Korea’s nuclear and missile activities this year, which have included a nuclear test in January and a rocket launch in February.

Kidnappers demanded big sum for soccer player

CIUDAD VICTORIA, Mexico — The men who kidnapped Mexican soccer player Alan Pulido demanded \$325,000, or 6 million pesos, from his family for his safe return.

In an interview Tuesday on Imagen Radio, his brother Armando Pulido said that minutes before he learned his brother had escaped, a kidnapper had warned that Alan Pulido would be dead by the following day if the family did not come up with the money.

Alan Pulido, a 25-year-old forward with Olympiakos in the Greek league, was abducted late Saturday by gunmen after leaving a party near Ciudad Victoria in the border state of Tamaulipas with his girlfriend.

According to an operator’s summary of three 911 calls obtained by The Associated Press, Alan Pulido jumped his guard, wrestled away his gun and cellphone and alerted authorities to his location. Within minutes police arrived to whisk him away.

Tamaulipas has been plagued with violence in recent years as the Gulf and Zetas drug cartels battle for control. Both organizations also are involved in theft, extortion and kidnappings.

According to government statistics, 41 kidnappings were reported in the state in the first four months of this year compared to 78 during the same period last year.

Amnesty says 1.2 million Afghans displaced

KABUL, Afghanistan — Amnesty International said Tuesday that more than 1.2 million Afghans have been forced to flee their homes due to violence in the past three years and urged the Kabul government and the international community to tackle the country’s growing crisis of refugees internally displaced by war.

The Taliban have been waging war on the Afghan government since their regime was toppled in the 2001 U.S. invasion. With the withdrawal of most international combat troops in 2014, the insurgency has stepped up — in 2015 alone, 11,002 civilians were killed or wounded, most of them by insurgents, according to the United Nations.

Afghanistan has one of the highest refugee populations in the world, estimated at 2.6 million people living outside its borders. Last year, some 178,000 Afghans risked their lives on the dangerous journeys to reach European shores and apply for asylum, Amnesty’s report said.

Israeli conference held to discuss BDS movement

UNITED NATIONS — Over 1,500 students filled the United Nations General Assembly on Tuesday for a conference sponsored by the Israeli mission on how best to combat a movement on many U.S. campuses calling for a boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign (BDS) against Israel over its treatment of the Palestinians.

The campaign seeks to ostracize Israel by lobbying corporations, artists and academic institutions to sever ties with the Jewish state. Supporters say the boycott is aimed at furthering Palestinian independence, while critics claim the campaign is aimed at delegitimizing Israel itself.

Gilad Skolnick, director of campus programming for the Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America, or CAMERA, said that of the 26 U.S. college campuses that voted on BDS resolutions last year, 12 were approved and 14 rejected.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Over 1,000 migrants dead

JAMEY KEATEN
Associated Press

GENEVA — The treacherous Mediterranean Sea crossing from Libya to Italy has claimed the lives of over 1,030 migrants in the last week, mostly as barely seaworthy smuggling boats foundered and sank despite calm seas and sunny skies, a migration agency said Tuesday, citing new accounts from survivors.

The staggering toll foreshadows more disasters ahead in the next few months as the region gears up for its traditional summer-fall spike in human trafficking as the weather improves and the seas grow warmer.

Making matters worse, the tally is only from capsizings or shipwrecks that are known to authorities, who readily admit they do not know how many people are being cheated by smugglers, jammed into obviously unsuitable vessels and swallowed up by the vast waters of the southern Mediterranean.

U.N. refugee spokesman William Spindler told reporters at a news conference in Geneva that this year is already proving to be “particularly deadly” on the Mediterranean, with some 2,510 lives lost compared to 1,855 in the same time span a year ago.

The International Organization for Migration, citing what could be a record weekly death toll on the Mediterranean by its count, said Tuesday that 62 people were confirmed dead and another 971 were missing and presumed dead in nine separate emergencies since May 25 on the Libya-to-Italy sea route.

The U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday it had tallied at least 880



CHRISTIAN BUTTNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Sea-Watch humanitarian organization crew member holds a drowned migrant baby during a rescue operation off the coasts of Libya. More than 1000 migrants are feared dead in the Mediterranean Sea shipwrecks in the past week, even as rescue ships saved thousands of others in daring operations.

deaths on the Mediterranean over the last week. Spindler noted such estimates are an inexact science and said his agency’s figures tend to be “conservative.”

Last week marks only the second time since January 2014 that 1,000 deaths or more on that route have been tallied in a single month — let alone a single week, said IOM spokesman Joel Millman.

He said up until last week, only 13 migrant crossing deaths had been recorded in May in the southern Mediterranean.

Spindler gave the following estimates: about 100 people died in a

shipwreck Wednesday; some 550 others died in another capsizing Thursday, the one that the two Eritreans survived; and a third sinking Friday left 170 others missing and presumed dead.

UNHCR said shipwreck survivors who landed in Augusta, Italy, over the weekend indicated that another 47 migrants were missing at sea after a raft carrying 125 migrants deflated. It said eight others were lost overboard from another boat and four deaths were reported after fire on a separate vessel.

A deal between the European Union and Turkey to return mi-

grants has dampened the key route into Europe from Turkey to Greece, which hundreds of thousands of people used last year.

“As of now, UNHCR has not seen evidence of a significant diversion of Syrians, Afghans or Iraqis from the Turkey-Greece route to the central Mediterranean one,” Spindler said.

He reiterated UNHCR’s appeal to the EU to allow for more legal pathways for refugees to reach Europe, calling it “shameful” that the 28-nation bloc had resettled fewer than 2,000 people under an EU plan announced last year to resettle 160,000.

Walmart expands horizons Global markets vital to success

ANNE D’INNOCENZIO
AP Business Writers

SHENZHEN, China — Zhong Guoyan sifted through piles of fish at a Wal-Mart in Shenzhen, one of China’s largest cities. She studied the fins, to make sure they were bright red and firm. She peered at the eyeballs — were they bulging?

“When I come here, I have a look,” she said. “If it’s good, then I will buy it. If it’s only cheap, I won’t buy it.”

In American Wal-Marts, customers don’t get to fondle their fish. But America is not China, as the world’s biggest retailer has learned. If the Arkansas-based company wants to win over foreign consumers, it has to shed some of its American ways and cater to different customs and conventions that are often fast moving.

Zhong eventually tossed a couple of fish into a plastic bag — a small victory in Wal-Mart’s struggle to build an international empire.

The stakes are high: The company can’t count on much growth in the U.S. — it’s facing challenges at home with intense competition from Amazon.com and dollar stores — so it is depending more on its operations overseas.

Wal-Mart landed in China in 1996, opening two stores in Shenzhen. It was the first foreign retailer to offer the big-box shopping experience, which offers everything from clothing to food. After investing in a Taiwanese-owned retail chain in 2007, it became China’s biggest super-sized store chain and expanded its lead for the next two years.

But local and regional competitors quickly closed the gap, some-



NG HAN GUAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Nov. 11, 2015, photo, a worker prepares cooked ducks for sale at a Wal-Mart in Shenzhen, in southern China’s Guangdong province. Wal-Mart is taking a global approach to its operations, and the fast-growing Chinese market — currently the largest in the world at over \$1 trillion in sales — is a major aspect of the company’s plans.

times undercutting Wal-Mart prices because they have closer ties to local suppliers and can negotiate better deals.

China is the ultimate prize. The Chinese grocery market, already over the world’s largest at \$1.1 trillion in sales a year, is expected to grow to \$1.5 trillion in just the next four years, according to IGD, a global consumer products research firm.

“China remains a strategic market for our future,” Doug McMillon, CEO of Wal-Mart Stores Inc. recently told investors.

The company has taken lumps trying to cross borders in food retailing. Overall international sales growth dropped 9.4 percent last year largely because of the strong dollar. And while Wal-Mart’s overseas business had a strong start to this year, it faces long-term challenges. Overseas, Wal-Mart lacks the scale to squeeze local suppli-

ers on price as it does in the U.S. It also faces nimble competitors and has struggled to duplicate its bedrock strategy of constant bargains.

But the corporation has learned over the years from its missteps. In Mexico, Canada and Japan, it’s won shoppers over time. In Chile, it launched a corporate culture campaign and worked closely with suppliers to coax them into its way of doing business. Last year, it announced plans to add 115 stores in China by 2017, bringing the store count to 530.

It’s concentrating in markets where it’s already established, including its stronghold in the south. And it has given up on about 30 lackluster stores.

“Wal-Mart,” said Bryan Roberts of London retail consultancy TCC Global, “is a very determined organization.”



THAILAND OUT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A sedated tiger lies in a cage at the “Tiger Temple” in Sai Yok district in Kanchanaburi province, west of Bangkok, Thailand, on Monday.

Thailand Tigers rescued from temple

JASON CORBEN
Associated Press

BANGKOK — Wildlife officials have removed more of the 137 tigers kept in a Buddhist temple that operated as an admission-charging zoo and is suspected of illegally trafficking in the animals, Thai authorities said Tuesday.

The director of Thailand’s Wildlife Conservation Office, Teunjai Noochdumrong, said 40 tigers were tranquilized and removed in two days. They are being taken to government shelters elsewhere in the country.

Teunjai said the temple in western Kanchanaburi province is still admitting tourists, but her personnel are warning visitors of the possible dangers of being present during the moving process. There are 300 government employees at the site, including 80 veterinarians.

Animal rights activists have long accused the temple of mistreating the tigers. The government suspects the monks have been involved in illegal breeding and trafficking of the animals.

The monks had turned back previous attempts to take the tigers away. They continued to resist Monday morning but relented in the afternoon after police obtained a court order to carry out the action.

OAS head calls for vote

FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — The head of the Organization of American States called Tuesday for an emergency meeting of regional governments to evaluate Venezuela’s respect for democracy, a move that could lead to the country’s suspension from the hemisphere body.

OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro said Venezuela had suffered “grave alterations of democratic order” and called for a vote in the coming weeks, possibly to coincide with the group’s annual meeting next month in the Dominican Republic.

Socialist-ruled Venezuela could

be suspended from the Washington-based OAS if two-thirds of its 34 member states voted that the country’s leadership has gravely undermined democracy. The last time that occurred was in 2009, when Honduras was suspended following the military’s removal of President Manuel Zelaya.

Tensions have been building in deeply polarized Venezuela as the economy continues to fall apart and the ruling party blocks the opposition from legislating in congress and holding marches in downtown Caracas.

The country saw weeks of bloody street protests in 2014 followed by formal talks between the two sides, which broke down and were never reinitiated.

PROTESTS IN CHILE



ESTEBAN FELIX / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman shouts slogans in favor of labor law reforms during a march organized by the workers union Central Unit Workers of Chile in Santiago, Chile, Tuesday. Unionized workers are demanding better state pensions, public health care and labor laws.

Profiling costs taxpayers

JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press

PHOENIX — A judge considering penalties against an Arizona sheriff for contempt-of-court violations involving a racial profiling case suggests taxpayers likely will foot the bill for the lawman's intentional disobedience.

U.S. District Judge Murray Snow was holding a hearing Tuesday to examine responses to the civil contempt violations of Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio that included letting his immigration patrols proceed 18 months after the judge ordered them to be stopped.

"I don't have confidence anymore in the direction of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office," Snow said.

The violations are expected to lead to greater court oversight of the sheriff's office and a possible criminal contempt case that could expose Arpaio to fines and jail time.

The judge says Latinos who were illegally detained in traffic stops after the 2011 order to stop



Protesters rally in front of Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Headquarters in Phoenix on Wednesday, May 25. A federal judge will hold a hearing Tuesday, May 31 to examine ways to address Sheriff Joe Arpaio's contempt-of-court violations in a racial profiling case.

the patrols can seek compensation from county government.

He also said damages could be sought by Latinos illegally detained in raids on businesses aimed at finding people who used fake or stolen IDs to obtain jobs in the United States.

Taxpayers have spent \$41 million in the case over the past eight years, covering legal fees, training for officers, a staff to monitor Arpaio's office on the judge's behalf and other costs. Another \$13 million is set aside for the coming year.

Cleveland says it's prepared for RNC

MARK GILLISPIE
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — City officials on Tuesday insisted that they're prepared to provide the security needed to keep people safe during the Republican National Convention in July.

Last week, police in Greensboro, North Carolina, rescinded an offer to send police officers to Cleveland because of concerns about the city's preparedness to host an event that is expected to draw as many as 50,000 people.

Officials in Cleveland briefed reporters on Tuesday about the city's security preparations. Police Chief Calvin Williams said the number of officers working outside the "hard" security zone surrounding the convention venue, Quicken Loans Arena, would be "in the thousands."

Mayor Frank Jackson said Cleveland officials have visited cities that have hosted a national political convention since 2004 to learn about best security practices.

The convention in Cleveland could be the most tumultuous in decades thanks to presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. Earlier, Trump predicted there would be riots in Cleveland if the Republican Party tried to take the nomination away. There are no indications that will happen, yet groups that support Trump and groups that oppose him are planning to stage rallies and marches during the convention.

Cleveland officials on Tuesday repeated earlier statements that anyone who wants to protest lawfully will be allowed to do so, but others will be punished.

"If anybody goes sideways and doesn't follow the law, there will be consequences," Deputy Police Chief Ed Tomba said.



Annette Page, left, and her sister Sharee Page, received a breast cancer diagnosis two weeks apart, a coincidence that doctors say is extremely rare, but has allowed them to go through the tolls of the disease together.

Sisters' dual diagnoses

HALLIE GOLDEN
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Two Utah sisters grew up in the same bedroom, went to the same college, worked for almost a decade at the same company and have visited over 50 countries side by side. Now every three weeks, they sit together in matching chairs as their bodies are pumped full of chemotherapy drugs.

Sharee Page, 34, and Annette Page, 36, were recently diagnosed with breast cancer within two weeks of each other, a coincidence that doctors say is extremely rare. But that coincidence has meant they can face the disease like they have nearly every other aspect of their lives — as a team.

"Talk about a huge blessing,"

said Annette Page. "Who gets to go through something so hard with their best friend, their sister?"

The "Page Sisters," as some of their friends like to call them, found out soon after their diagnosis that they have the BRCA2 gene, a mutation that puts a woman at much greater risk for breast and ovarian cancers.

Adam Cohen, a doctor at the University of Utah's Huntsman Cancer Institute, said the gene can increase the risk of breast cancer tenfold. But Cohen said he has never seen two siblings diagnosed within weeks of one another.

While it is possible that environmental factors played a role in their diagnosis, Cohen said the sisters' gene mutation likely had

more of an impact on their health.

In late March, after discovering a large lump in her left breast, Annette Page was diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer. The news prompted Sharee Page to get herself checked, and the same doctor soon diagnosed her with Stage 2 breast cancer.

"Had she not been diagnosed, I don't think I would have caught mine for six months to a year," Sharee Page said.

Every few weeks, the sisters meet at their mother's house so that she can drive them to their chemotherapy appointment.

But their nearly identical treatment plans may soon deviate. Annette Page's cancer has spread to her lymph nodes, so unlike her sister, she will have to undergo radiation therapy next.

Police officers rewarded for showing restraint

ERRIN HAINES WHACK
Associated Press

A few police agencies in the U.S. have begun rewarding officers for showing restraint in the line of duty, putting the tactic on par with bravery.

More than 40 Philadelphia officers have received awards since December for defusing conflicts without shooting, clubbing or otherwise using maximum force against anyone. The Los Angeles Police Department recently created a Preservation of Life award. And later this year, the U.S. Justice Department's Community Policing Awards will recognize officers who prevent tense situations from spinning out of control.

The awards reflect a growing emphasis on "de-escalation" in police work, a trend driven in part by the deadly shootings of blacks in such places as Ferguson, Missouri; Cleveland; Chicago; and North Charleston, South Carolina. The killings have given rise to accusations of excessive force by police officers.

"An officer going home is of paramount importance to us, but everybody should have an opportunity to go home if that presents itself," Philadelphia Police Commissioner Richard Ross said. "This is an effort to slow down situations for the sake of everybody

concerned."

Advocates say that encouraging de-escalation as part of police culture can help establish trust with the public and that such tactics can be especially useful in handling suspects who may be mentally ill or on drugs.

But critics warn that the emphasis on de-escalation could lead officers to hesitate in life-threatening situations.

Philadelphia officer Eric Tyler was recognized for using a stun gun instead of a firearm on a suspect who threatened to shoot Tyler's colleague in February. Tyler, who has never shot anyone in his 12-year career, said he considered using deadly force but made a split-second decision not to.

"I thought better of it, and our training took over," Tyler said. "With everything that's going on in policing, sometimes you have to think to de-escalate things. Somebody has to be a calming force."

The suspect turned out to be unarmed.

The Police Executive Research Forum, a law enforcement think tank, has found that officers receive significantly less training in de-escalation than in firearms or self-defense.

Increasingly, agencies are discussing and adopting de-escalation



MATT ROURKE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

"With everything that's going on in policing, sometimes you have to think to de-escalate things. Somebody has to be a calming force."

ERIC TYLER

tation tactics, including slowing down confrontations and using distance and cover to defuse situations.

The establishment of Philadelphia's award was one of the recommendations issued by the Justice Department after it investigated a 2013 increase in shootings by the city's police.

Ronald Davis, director of the Justice Department's Office of Community Oriented Policing

Services, said more local agencies should institute an award for showing restraint: "It says that force should be a last resort and that we value this."

The idea has met resistance from critics in law enforcement who fear officers might second-guess themselves with tragic consequences. The Los Angeles police union called the award "a terrible idea."

"It suggests that officers must go above and beyond their normal activities to avoid harm; or put another way, that officers will be penalized for resorting to an appropriate, lawful use of force," the Los Angeles Police Protective League's Board of Directors said in a blog post in November.

Rich Roberts, spokesman for the International Union of Police Associations, said his organization supports de-escalation techniques, provided they don't interfere with an officer's ability to make split-second decisions if those efforts don't work.

Tyler said his de-escalation training hasn't made him hesitate on the streets.

"I was put in a situation where I thought using a Taser was better," he said. "If a different situation arises ... I won't second-guess myself, because I have to protect myself and my fellow citizens."

NATIONAL

Federal court: Gender identity ruling stands

RICHMOND, Va. — A federal appeals court won't reconsider a three-judge panel's ruling that a transgender teen must be allowed to use the boys' restroom at school.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit denied the Gloucester County School Board's appeal on Tuesday.

The school board had asked for a full-court review after a three-judge panel said schools are bound by Department of Education guidelines, which say students must be allowed to use restrooms corresponding to their gender identity.

The sex discrimination claim was brought by Gloucester High School student Gavin Grimm, who was born female but identifies as male.

'The Shield' actor convicted in shooting death of wife

LOS ANGELES — A jury on Tuesday convicted "The Shield" actor Michael Jace of second-degree murder in the shooting death of his wife that was partially witnessed by their two young sons.

The verdict came after a weeklong trial in which Los Angeles jurors were told the actor shot his wife, April, in the back and then twice in the legs.

Jace, 53, told detectives soon after the attack that he had retrieved the gun to kill himself but couldn't do it. Instead, he planned to shoot his wife, an avid runner, in the leg so she would feel pain, Jace said in a recorded interview.

Deputy District Attorney Tannaz Mokayef said the potential sentence would be 40 years to life in prison when Jace is sentenced on June 10.

Stocks: Energy companies fall with price of oil

NEW YORK — U.S. stock indexes struggled to a mixed close Tuesday as energy companies fell with the price of oil, overcoming gains in utilities and phone companies.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 86.02 points, or 0.5 percent, to 17,787.20. Benchmark U.S. crude oil fell 23 cents to \$49.10 a barrel in New York.

The price of oil has almost doubled since early February. David Schiegeleit, managing director of investments for the private client reserve at U.S. Bank, said he thinks oil won't go much higher unless the global economy improves or major nations start spending more.

Woman bitten by shark, successfully given surgery

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — A 52-year-old woman was attacked by a shark in Southern California over the weekend.

Surgeons say they have repaired the very large single bite wound she received. Doctors at Orange County Global Medical Center said at a press conference that the wound extended from the victim's shoulder down to her pelvis. The woman, who was swimming in a wetsuit, was bleeding heavily after a lifeguard boat spotted her in distress. She's expected to survive.

Officials say the mother of three was training for a half-Iron Man competition when she was attacked Sunday off Corona Del Mar State Beach. The beach was closed to swimmers and surfers on Memorial Day after Sunday's attack and was still closed Tuesday.

Kinky 'Iron Man' uses sex toy to fake bomb, rob bank

PITTSBURGH — A Pittsburgh man who robbed a bank with a fake bomb made out of phone wires, duct tape and a sex toy has been sentenced to 1 1/2 to 3 years in prison.

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review reports an Allegheny County judge sentenced 36-year-old Aaron Stein on Tuesday after rejecting requests for leniency, including house arrest.

The judge says he couldn't tell the community Stein's case warranted only house arrest. He says, "It can't be that simple."

Stein pleaded guilty in March. He says he robbed the PNC Bank in Crafton last June because he was desperate after losing \$9,000 he'd invested to cover his approaching honeymoon.

His attorney says desperation drove him to don an Iron Man mask and used the fake bomb to threaten tellers.

Sheriff deputy sentenced to 4 years for manslaughter

TULSA, Okla. — A former Oklahoma volunteer sheriff's deputy who said he mistook his handgun for his stun gun when he fatally shot an unarmed suspect last year was sentenced Tuesday to four years in prison.

A judge gave Robert Bates, 74, the maximum penalty recommended by jurors who last month convicted the wealthy insurance executive of second-degree manslaughter.

Bates fatally shot Eric Harris on April 2, 2015, while working with Tulsa County sheriff's deputies during an illegal gun sales sting. Harris, who had run from deputies, was restrained and unarmed when he was shot.

The shooting, which was captured on video, sparked several investigations. Among other things, the investigations revealed an internal memo questioning Bates' qualifications as a volunteer deputy and showed that Bates, a close friend of the sheriff's, had donated thousands of dollars in cash, vehicles and equipment to the sheriff's office.

Bates was given credit for the time he has spent in county jail since being convicted. He must serve nine months of probation after his release.

Defense attorney Clark Brewster said he plans to appeal.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST

15 officers suspended over false reports

ARLINGTON — More than a dozen police officers in a Dallas suburb have been suspended for reporting traffic stops that they never conducted.

Arlington police said in a statement Tuesday that 15 officers are on paid leave pending the outcome of an internal investigation that could last two months.

Officials say the department conducts random reviews of officer activity in the field and supervisors identified several officers who claimed to have made traffic stops that never occurred.

Officers must submit traffic data as part of mandatory filings to prevent racial profiling.

Officials did not indicate why traffic reports were falsified.

Police Chief Will Johnson called the allegations “serious” and “not consistent with departmental expectations.”

Former Tech football player charged with burglary

LUBBOCK — An arrest affidavit says a Texas Tech football player who was kicked off the team earlier this month stole at least seven guns after burglarizing a home in December.

The affidavit says Robert James Castaneda told investigators he broke into the Lubbock home on Dec. 20 and took a safe with seven weapons. Investigators say they were led to Castaneda after one of the stolen weapons was found in a pawnshop.

Castaneda is free on bond after being arrested Friday on a charge of burglary of a habitation. A phone number listed for Castaneda was disconnected, and court records don’t list an attorney for him.

Lt. Ray Mendoza says Lubbock police are investigating the possible involvement of two other people and waiting to present their findings to a grand jury.

Family identifies Houston gunman as Army veteran

HOUSTON — A gunman who killed one person and wounded several others during a weekend attack that began at a Houston auto detail shop was an Army veteran from California who was haunted by his deployment in Afghanistan, his relatives said.

Six people were wounded, including two police officers and some people who were driving through the area. Patrol cars were riddled with bullets, and a police helicopter was hit by at least five shots.

Family members identified Dionisio Garza III, 25, of Rancho Cucamonga, California, as the man who opened fire Sunday morning, killing 56-year-old Eugene Linscomb, a customer who had arrived moments earlier at the shop. Police haven’t publicly identified Garza as the gunman. Police said they would release additional details at a news conference later Tuesday.

A police SWAT officer killed Garza about an hour after the shooting began.

He served two tours in Afghanistan, the first from December 2009 to November 2010 and the second from December 2012 to August 2013. Garza’s family told Houston television station KPRC that something snapped in him following the two tours in Afghanistan and that his condition worsened in the weeks before he traveled to Houston to visit an Army friend.

“Just in the last two weeks it progressively got worse,” said his father, Dionisio Garza. “It was not the same boy that we raised. Not the loving uncle, the loving brother. I know he did this, but it wasn’t him anymore. My son was broken.”

Murder suspect posts photo of dead girlfriend

PLANO — Police in suburban Dallas say a 45-year-old man has been charged with murder after posting a photo on social media showing his girlfriend’s lifeless body.

Kenneth Alan Amyx was being held Tuesday at the Collin County jail. Police say they forced their way into a Plano apartment after being called Sunday by the sister of 43-year-old Jennifer Lee Spears.

Officers found Spears dead from knife wounds. Amyx was bleeding from superficial wounds that appeared self-inflicted.

Police spokesman David Tilley said investigators don’t have a motive.

Amyx took a photo of himself, bloodied, that included Spears’ body and posted it on Facebook. Tilley says the post was obtained as evidence and the image has since been removed.

Highway signs hacked, show anti-Trump message

DALLAS — Electronic construction signs in the Dallas area appear to have been hacked, displaying messages calling Donald Trump a reptile.

The portable signs along Interstate 30 and elsewhere flashed messages early Tuesday including, “Donald Trump is a ... shape shifting lizard!” Another message read, “Bernie for president,” referring to Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders.

Another sign said: “Work is canceled. Go back home.”

The signs appear to be ones used by the Texas Department of Transportation.

A TxDOT spokesman told Dallas-Fort Worth broadcaster KRLD that there’s no humor in what the hackers did. The agency says the messages bumped warnings to motorists about nearby construction zones.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



JAY JANNER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Search and Rescue workers search for the body of a woman who was swept away when tubing on Barton Creek in Austin. The National Weather Service

predicted the Brazos River would crest Tuesday night. More than 1,000 people have been evacuated in Fort Bend County.

Drastic flooding leaves 6 dead

County officials fear that more rain will bring additional issues

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue crews in Austin recovered the body of a woman who was tubing with friends when she was swept into a culvert and trapped, said officials, who blame the death, in part, on recent rains.

During four days of torrential rain last week, six people died in floods along the Brazos River. Residents of rural southeastern Texas counties were bracing for flooding Tuesday along the river, just two years after drought.

The National Weather Service said the Brazos River reached nearly 54 feet Tuesday in Fort Bend County, which is southwest of Houston and home to many suburbs.

Large swaths of Fort Bend County were under water Sunday, and about 1,000 people had been evacuated from their homes there, the Houston Chronicle reported.

All 11 of the reservoirs fed by the river were at 95 to 100 percent capacity. An additional 1 to 3 inches of rain expected later this week could keep the Brazos in a major flood stage into the weekend.

Four of the six dead were recovered in Washington County, which is between Austin and Houston, County Judge John Brieden said Monday. Lake Somerville, one of

“The ditches are full. The river’s high. There’s nowhere else for that water to go.”

BETH WOLF

the Brazos reservoirs, was “gushing uncontrollably” over the spillway and threatening people downriver, he said.

Elsewhere, authorities continued searching for the body of an 11-year-old boy who fell into a creek in Wichita, Kansas, and is presumed dead. Relatives identified the boy as Devon Dean Cool-ey, who disappeared Friday night.

Devon’s family, in a statement Monday, thanked firefighters for their efforts to find the boy. In the Fort Bend County city of Rosen-

berg, about 150 households had been evacuated by Monday, and city officials were coordinating with the county’s office of emergency management to have rescue boats in place, city spokeswoman Jenny Pavlovich said Monday. In neighboring Richmond, a voluntary evacuation order was in place.

About 40 people were rescued Sunday and Monday from a flooded neighborhood of Simon-ton, a Fort Bend County community of about 800 residents. The county had set up a pumping system to divert water, but it was overpowered by the flooding, county spokeswoman Beth Wolf said Monday.

“The ditches are full. The river’s high. There’s nowhere else for that water to go,” she said.

FOR UPDATES AND VIDEOS ON THE FLOODS IN SOUTHEAST TEXAS, VISIT SWJOURNALIST.COM

Is Lundquist leaving? ‘Yes, sir!’

RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK – Verne Lundquist will call one more season of Southeastern Conference football for CBS before Brad Nessler takes over the sport’s highest-rated TV package.

“He’s going out on top,” CBS Sports Chairman Sean McManus told The Associated Press on Tuesday, “and everybody should be so lucky.”

Lundquist will still announce college basketball and golf after 2016, including the NCAA Tournament and the Masters.

“Now, it’s time to step back and take in the aroma of those tulips, those roses and those daffodils that friends have been telling me about for years,” Lundquist, 75, said in a release from CBS.

McManus recalled Lundquist’s disappointment 17 years ago when he told the announcer he was shifting off the NFL and onto the SEC for the 2000 season. It wound up being the perfect move for both Lundquist and CBS.

As the conference went on its run of national championships, Lundquist was the voice of many of college football’s biggest games and moments season after season. He now calls it “the most significant assignment I’ve been given in my more than five decades in this business.”

Nessler rejoins CBS after 24 years at ESPN. He had most recently been calling the Saturday night college football games on ESPN.

Before joining Gary Danielson in the booth in 2017, Nessler will announce some SEC games this fall in weeks when CBS airs two of the conference’s matchups.

He and Danielson had worked together previously for ESPN, and McManus said their established chemistry was one reason Nessler was CBS’s No. 1 choice once Lundquist decided to step down.

Hiring Nessler was “the perfect solution,” McManus said, and he expects a seamless transition.

“He’s got a big-time voice, and when you hear Brad’s voice, he’s one of those announcers that it



Verne Lundquist

seems like a big event,” McManus said.

Nessler and Lundquist have known each other for more than three decades.

“I am truly honored to carry on where he leaves off and work to maintain the standard of excellence he has set,” Nessler said.

Lundquist said he had always admired Nessler’s “work ethic and his on-air presence.”

“He shares the same passion for college football that I do,” Lundquist added.

But first, McManus said, Lundquist “wanted one more year to go out in style.”

DOJ asks judge to hold order

ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON – The Department of Justice pushed back Tuesday against a Texas judge’s demand that its lawyers attend an ethics course, saying the sanction is inappropriate and could cost millions of dollars.

U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen, who previously blocked President Barack Obama’s immigration executive action, ordered legal training this month after saying he was misled by department attorneys about whether the government had begun implementing one of its proposals.

The dispute centers on statements made by Justice Department attorneys to the court during a legal fight over Obama’s executive action on immigration, which would shield roughly 4 million people from deportation and make them eligible to work in the United States.

Hanen last year issued a preliminary injunction that halted those measures after Texas and more than two dozen other states sued.

On Tuesday, the department said it disagrees with Hanen that any of its lawyers acted with the intent to deceive.

The government asked the judge to put his order on hold so that federal lawyers can seek review of it.

Imposing educational requirements on 3,000 attorneys could cost \$1.5 million this year alone, the government said.

Before the injunction was issued, department attorneys told Hanen that one key part of Obama’s actions, an expansion of a program that protects young immigrants from deportation if they were brought to the U.S. illegally as children hadn’t taken effect.

Federal officials later revealed they had given more than 108,000 people three-year reprieves from deportation and granted them work permits under the program.

The Justice Department told Hanen on Tuesday that there’s insufficient evidence to show that the government withheld information or intentionally deceived the judge or the states.

SPRINGING TO A WIN



MATT YORK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Astros leadoff hitter George Springer fell a triple shy of the cycle in Houston’s 8-5 win over the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday. Springer doubled on the first pitch from Patrick Corbin (2-5), hit a three-run homer the next inning and added a run-scoring single in the fourth. His two runs complemented the Astros’ 12 total hits, which included Luis Valbuena’s solo homer in the fifth. Lance McCullers allowed 3 runs on 6 hits and 3 walks in five innings. Scott Feldman surrendered the Diamondbacks’ final two runs in two innings of relief before Michael Feliz allowed one walk in an otherwise perfect save.

BAD NEWS BEARS LOOK TO FUTURE

New Baylor coach is ‘the right leader’

RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

Scrambling to find a coach to lead its football program through a tumultuous time, Baylor hired a man known for turn-arounds and integrity.

Former Wake Forest coach Jim Grobe will replace Art Briles, Baylor announced Monday. A little more than an hour after Grobe's hiring was made official, Baylor announced that athletic director Ian McCaw had resigned, severing another tie with the sexual-assault scandal that has tarnished the school's reputation. Grobe was named acting coach, with no mention of how long of a contract he will receive.

Briles was ousted and McCaw placed on probation by Baylor last week after the release of a report commissioned by the Waco, Texas, school that accused university leadership of not responding to or inappropriately handling allegations of sexual assault, some by members of the football team.

Grobe, 64, spent 13 years with Wake Forest, leading the team to some of its best seasons. Grobe was 77-82, including an Atlantic Coast Conference title and Orange Bowl appearance in 2006.

The Demon Deacons had two winning seasons in the 12 years before Grobe took over and had gone to five Orange bowl games in program history. Under Grobe, Wake Forest played in five more bowl games.

"It is an honor for me to have the opportunity to join the Baylor football program during this important time," Grobe said in a statement released by the school. "I am looking forward to getting to know and working with the coaches and players in the coming days, and I have great respect for Baylor as an institution and its long-standing heritage.

Grobe is an active member of the American Football Coaches Association, headquartered in Waco. He served an eight-year term (2006-13) as chair of the organization's ethics committee.

"As a coach, winning is important. At the same time, I want to assure the Baylor family that every decision we will make in this football program will be made with Baylor University, her students and our student-athletes in mind," Grobe said in the statement.

This is a difficult time of the year to hire a football coach, especially at a university wracked by scandal reaching the president's office.

There was speculation and unconfirmed reports following the move to dismiss Briles that Baylor would promote defensive coordinator Phil Bennett to interim coach. Instead, the university decided to go outside the program for at least a temporary solution.

"Jim Grobe is the right leader at this time," McCaw said in a statement before announcing he was stepping down. "Coach Grobe enjoys an impeccable reputation within the intercollegiate athletics community and is a man of great integrity and faith."

"After much reflection and prayer, I have decided that a change in athletics department leadership is in Baylor University's best interest in order to promote the unity, healing and restoration that must occur in order to move forward," McCaw said in a statement.

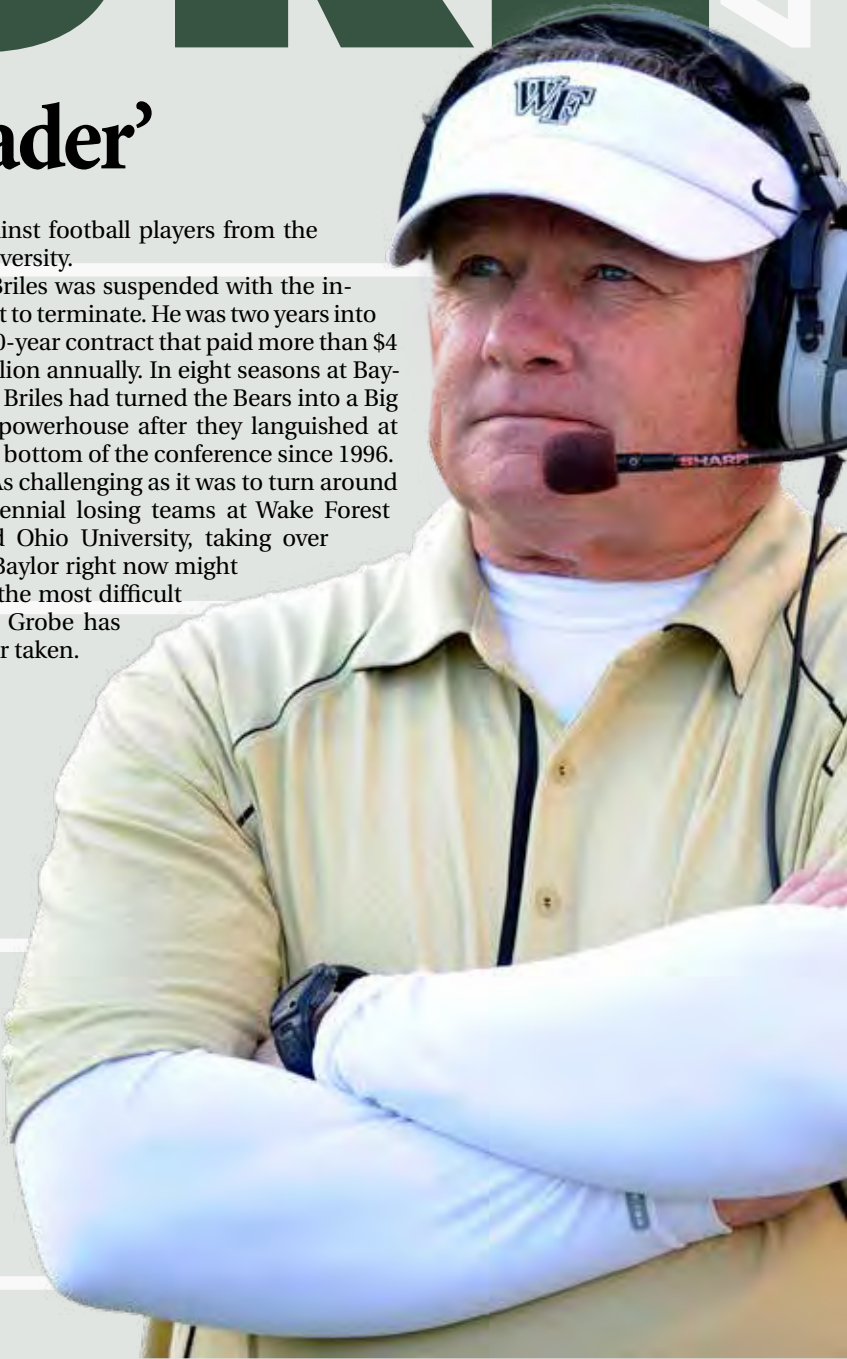
It is still unclear how much of the current staff will remain at Baylor for the upcoming season.

While the report by the Pepper Hamilton law firm did not give details and specific names of other coaches involved in wrongdoing, the fact finding stated staff members spoke directly to potential victims of sexual and violent crimes, discouraged them from reporting allegations and withheld information about allegations

against football players from the university.

Briles was suspended with the intent to terminate. He was two years into a 10-year contract that paid more than \$4 million annually. In eight seasons at Baylor, Briles had turned the Bears into a Big 12 powerhouse after they languished at the bottom of the conference since 1996.

As challenging as it was to turn around perennial losing teams at Wake Forest and Ohio University, taking over at Baylor right now might be the most difficult job Grobe has ever taken.



NICK WASS

In a 2010 file photo, Wake Forest head coach Jim Grobe watches from the sidelines during an NCAA college football game. Those who have worked and played for the new Baylor coach, say he believes in a hands-on approach, with a great deal of respect for the institution.

What went wrong in Waco?

2014

Jan. 23

Tevin Elliott, a 2011 Big 12 honorable mention as a sophomore defensive end for the Bears, convicted of two counts of sexual assault and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

2015

Aug. 23

Elliott's conviction appeared to receive little attention outside central Texas. Later, Sam Ukwuachu is convicted of sexually assaulting another student and later sentenced to six months in jail and probation. Ukwuachu was an All-American defensive end at Boise State before being dismissed from the team and transferring to Baylor. He never played for the Bears after being ruled ineligible in 2013 and suspended in 2014.

Chris Petersen, Boise State's coach at the time, says he "thoroughly apprised" Baylor coach Art Briles about disciplinary infractions that led to Ukwuachu's dismissal from Boise State. Briles contends he did not know the details about why the player left Boise State.

Aug. 26

The Big 12 announces that it would begin crafting a new policy requiring more diligence when looking into athletes' past disciplinary issues. Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby says the new rule will be structured like one implemented by the Southeastern Conference. The SEC prevents schools from accepting transfers who have been dismissed from another team for "serious misconduct," defined as sexual assault, domestic violence or other forms of sexual violence.

Feb. 12

Baylor announces new efforts to improve how it addresses sexual assault, part of a \$5 million commitment. The initiative includes adding another investigator to the school's Title IX office, improving case management systems and boosting services at the school's counseling center.

Feb. 18

Federal statistics show Baylor did not report a single instance of sexual assault from 2008 to 2011, a finding that stands in sharp contrast to other private and public schools that made multiple reports over the same period. Colleges and universities are required to report crime statistics to the U.S. Department of Education.

April 13

Shawn Oakman, a celebrated player once considered an NFL prospect, is accused of sexually assaulting a woman at his apartment.

May 26

Baylor's board of regents demoted Starr and fired the football coach, Briles, after the law firm's review revealed "a fundamental failure" in how the administration handled sexual assault allegations. Starr will vacate the presidency May 31 and stay on as chancellor. McCaw was placed on probation.

May 29

Baylor athletic director Ian McCaw resigned after he was put on probation for failure to properly respond to allegations of sexual assaults.

The announcement of McCaw's resignation came after Baylor hired Grobe to replace the ousted Briles. McCaw said in a statement he was stepping down. McCaw has been AD since 2003.



Changes in the chain of command Ken Starr, former president

- Before Baylor, Starr was the Solicitor General from 1989-1993 in the George H.W. Bush administration. He was also the special prosecutor for the Whitewater scandal, which investigated Bill and Hillary Clinton's real estate investments in the 1970s and 1980s.
- Baylor hired Starr to be president in 2010 and then, in 2013, the university also named him as the chancellor.

Ian McCaw, former AD

- Before he came to Baylor in 2003, McCaw was director of athletics at Northeastern University from 1997-2002 and at the University of Massachusetts for roughly a year.
- McCaw (left) hired Art Briles back in 2007. Under McCaw and Briles, the football program reached bowl games for five consecutive years.

Art Briles, former head coach

- From 2003-2007, Briles was the head coach at the University of Houston. The football team reached four bowls during his five years.
- Briles was hired as the head coach at Baylor in 2007, where he built up the football program.
- Briles' overall record at Baylor was 55-34 with two back-to-back Big 12 championships.



78°/64°
Thunderstorm

OBAMA'S 'MYTH-BUSTING' MISSION

Obama goes to Elkhart, Indiana, to undermine Republican arguments about the economy, working to persuade Democrats to embrace his policies ahead of the election. **NATIONAL, 4**



Southwest Journalist

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Health policy rate hikes loom

Rural Texans could bear brunt with 60% jump

RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The largest health insurer in Texas wants to raise its rates on individual policies by an average of nearly 60 percent, a new sign that President Barack Obama's overhaul hasn't solved the problem of price spikes.

Texas isn't alone. Citing financial losses under the health care law, many insurers around the country are requesting bigger premium increases for 2017. That's to account for lower-than-hoped

enrollment, sicker-than-expected customers and problems with the government's financial backstop for insurance markets.

The national picture will take weeks to fill in. With data available for about half the states, premium increases appear to be sharper, but there are also huge differences between states and among insurers because health insurance is priced locally.

Earlier this week, North Carolina's largest insurer said it will seek an average increase of 18.8 percent.

A recent analysis of nine states by the consulting firm Avalere Health found that average premium increases for the most popular kind of plan ranged from 5 percent in Washington state to 44 percent in Vermont.

Millions of customers will be shielded from price hikes by government subsidies, typically more than 70 percent of the premium. People who don't have access to a workplace plan can buy a policy directly on the health law's marketplaces.

But many consumers aren't eli-

gible for the income-based subsidies and get no such protection. Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas has about 603,000 individual policyholders and, unlike other insurers in the state,

"Regulators can request more information . . . but the federal government can't order Blue Cross Blue Shield to roll back the increases."

LARRY LEVITT

averaging from 57.3 percent to 59.4 percent across its individual market plans.

In a statement, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas said its request is based on strong financial prin-

ciples, science and data.

"It's also important to understand the magnitude of the losses (that was) experienced in the individual retail market over the past two years," the statement said. The company says it lost \$592 million last year and \$416 million in 2014.

Texas is the health care law's third-largest market, after Florida and California. Texas Department of Insurance

spokesman Ben Gonzalez said the Texas can withdraw approval if the request doesn't meet requirements and standards in Texas law.

Wichita Falls insurance broker Kelly Fristoe said the burden of premium increases will fall hardest on rural communities,

■ HEALTH, Page 2

2 dead in UCLA murder-suicide



L.A. police work at the scene of a murder-suicide at an engineering building on the UCLA campus Wednesday. After the campus was under

lockdown for about two hours, the police found two men dead in an office, along with a gun and what might have been a suicide note.

Police swarm campus to search for shooter

CHRISTOPHER WEBER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A murder-suicide at a UCLA engineering building Wednesday drew hundreds of heavily armed officers who swarmed the campus, where students barricaded themselves in classrooms as best they could before being evacuated with their hands up.

About two hours after the first 911 call came in around 10 a.m., with the center of campus still saturated with officers, LA Police Chief Charlie Beck declared the threat over. Two men were dead in an office, and authorities found a gun and what might be a suicide note, he said.

Authorities did not identify the men,

MORE ONLINE

■ Check out swjournalist.com for more coverage of the UCLA murder-suicide, including a Storify and timeline of events

and a motive was not immediately clear.

The response to the shooting was overwhelming: Teams of officers in helmets and bulletproof vests, who were looking for victims and suspects, ran across the normally tranquil campus tucked in the city's bustling west side. Some with high-powered rifles yelled for bystanders to evacuate. Groups of officers stormed into buildings that had been locked down and

cleared hallways as police helicopters hovered overhead.

Advised by university text alerts to turn out the lights and lock the doors where they were, many students let friends and family know they were safe in social media posts. Some described frantic evacuation scenes while others wrote that their doors weren't locking and posted photos of photocopiers and foosball tables they used as barricades.

Those locked down inside classrooms described a nervous calm. Some said they had to rig the doors closed with whatever was at hand because they would not lock.

Umar Rehman, 21, was in a hall ad-

■ CAMPUS, Page 2

Ken Starr resigns

'I willingly do accept responsibility'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO — Ken Starr resigned as Baylor University's chancellor on Wednesday, a week after the former prosecutor who led the investigation of the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky scandal was removed as the school's president over its handling of sexual assault complaints against football players.

Starr, who will continue to teach at the law school, told ESPN's "Outside the Lines" in an interview broadcast Wednesday that he didn't know about the sexual assault allegations involving members of Baylor's vaunted football program until media reports first surfaced in 2015 during a player's trial.

"I didn't know about what was happening, but I have to, and I willingly do accept responsibility," said Starr, who was hired as president in 2010.

The school hired Philadelphia law firm Pepper Hamilton to investigate the matter last year. It released its findings last week, determining that under Starr's leadership, Baylor did little to respond to accusations of sexual assault involving football players over several years.

School regents came under fire for allowing Starr to stay on as chancellor for external fundraising. Starr told ESPN that he resigned the position Wednesday morning, effective immediately, "with sorrow" and "as a matter of conscience."

"We need to heal Baylor," Starr said. "We need to put this horrible situation behind us."

Baylor officials didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

The scandal has resulted in major



Starr

■ CAMPUS, Page 2

It's all about location when kids seek asylum

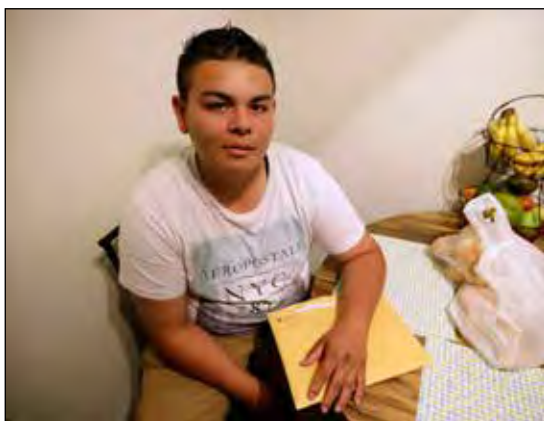
Texas applicants less likely to get approval at hearing

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — For unaccompanied immigrant children seeking asylum in the U.S., where they apply seems to make a world of difference.

Youngsters whose applications are handled by the U.S. government's regional offices in San Francisco and Los Angeles are far more likely to win approval from asylum officers than those applying in Chicago or Houston, according to data obtained by The Associated Press under a Freedom of Information Act request.

The figures offer a snapshot of



Jonathan Lopez of Des Moines, Iowa, gathered paperwork needed for his asylum application, but his efforts were not strong enough. Jonathan's dad, Alejandro Lopez, right photo, a gardener, said he knew it would be an uphill battle for his teenage son to gain asylum after coming to the U.S. in 2014. Lopez, 18, will make a final plea to remain in February.

how the government is handling the huge surge over the past two years in the number of Central American children arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border unac-

companied by adults. Tens of thousands of youngsters — many of them fleeing gang violence in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras — have overflowed U.S. shel-

ters and further clogged the nation's overwhelmed immigration courts.

Under federal law, these children can apply to remain in the



PHOTOS BY CHARLIE NEIBERGALL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

country in a process that involves an interview with an asylum officer from one of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' eight regional offices. To win their cases, they must show that they have been persecuted or are in danger of persecution.

As of January, asylum officers had rendered decisions in the cases of nearly 5,800 such children who arrived since May 2014, according to the figures obtained by the AP.

Overall, 37 percent were granted asylum. The rate varied dramatically, however, from 86 percent at the San Francisco office, which handles applications for a swath of the Pacific Northwest, to 15 percent in Chicago, which covers 15 states from Ohio to Idaho.

Los Angeles, which covers parts of California and Nevada,

ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL



JULIO CORTEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton laughs with Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., at Omar's Cafe while campaigning Wednesday in Newark, N.J.



TED S. WARREN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally in Spokane, Wash., on May 7.

Clinton counts on California volunteers

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

BURBANK, California — Sue LaVaccare is fighting “the California complacency”, a well-documented tendency of voters to skip on election days.

And Southern California, a base of support for Hillary Clinton, has a notoriously uneven record when it comes to voter turnout.

“What I think is our biggest challenge,” LaVaccare, 47, a health care consultant and political fundraiser who is organizing volunteers for Clinton in the fiercely contested 28th Congressional District in Los Angeles County, says, “is getting her supporters to actually vote.”

While Clinton needs a mere 71 delegates from several states voting on June 7 to claim the Democratic nomination, the fight against rival Bernie Sanders in California has grown increasingly contentious as the Vermont senator gains in polling. Both campaigns are counting on unher-

alded volunteers like LaVaccare to rouse their supporters.

Underscoring the stakes, Clinton has had LaVaccare and other volunteers at work in the district for months. Hollywood for Hillary, as it's known, has grown into a small army of up to 400 people, whose members have gathered at least 15 times to make phone calls and are knocking on doors in places like Los Angeles' Silver Lake neighborhood.

Campaigns employ a host of ways to reach voters — ads can be sent to Facebook pages, for example. They typically stockpile data to suss out voter preferences that can range from registration information to details on their last shopping trip, which can be clues to political leanings.

“It becomes very critical to not only convince voters to be for you, but also to do everything you can to get them to go to the polls,” says veteran Democratic consultant Bill Carrick, who is not aligned with either Clinton or Sanders. “That's a big deal.”

Trump University documents disclosed

JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The strategies that Donald Trump's now-defunct educational company used to woo customers have plenty of echoes of the presumptive Republican nominee's current pitch to voters, based on newly disclosed court documents about Trump University.

Hillary Clinton leapt on the parallels Wednesday, using them to cast Trump as a “fraud” who peddles false promises to Americans but cares only about his personal gain.

“He is trying to scam America the way he scammed all those people at Trump U,” Clinton said during a campaign stop in Newark, New Jersey. “It's important that we recognize what he has done because that's usually a pretty good indicator of what he will do.”

The new details about Trump University were revealed in documents released Tuesday as part of a trio of lawsuits accusing the

businessman of fleecing students with unfulfilled promises to provide secrets of real estate success. Plaintiffs contend the organization gave seminars and classes across the country that constantly pressured customers to buy more and more but failed to deliver on promises of financial success.

Trump vigorously maintains that customers were overwhelmingly pleased with the offerings, and the documents do include testimony from several satisfied customers. His campaign released a video Wednesday featuring several people speaking positively about their experiences.

As Trump steamrolled through the GOP primary, some of those rivals raised Trump University as a liability for the businessman, and at least five different outside groups mentioned the business in attack ads.

A case against Trump University in San Diego is scheduled to go to trial shortly after the November presidential election.

Migrant children: West Coast courts are more lenient

Continued from Page 1

Arizona and Hawaii, granted asylum in 53 percent of its cases while only 16 percent were approved by Houston which handles Texas, Colorado, New Mexico and other states. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services had no explanation for the disparities. Children who are turned down get a second chance to plead their cases before an immigration judge. If they fail at that stage, they can be deported. Immigration lawyers

said most of those children are still awaiting decisions on their applications because it can take months or years for their cases to be heard in court. Asylum officers are expected to make decisions in line with federal court rulings on immigration, and the appeals courts on the West Coast are more liberal. Also, California has funded immigration attorneys for children since the surge.

“For us, it is a puzzle, and we do find it baffling,” said Lisa Koop

of the National Immigrant Justice Center in Chicago.

Immigration lawyers in liberal San Francisco said asylum officers there take their time and use child-friendly language during interviews to draw details out of traumatized youngsters who often are reluctant to share their pasts with strangers. Where unaccompanied children apply for asylum is dictated by where they live, and most of them have little or no control over that. They are placed by the U.S. government with relatives already living in this country.

Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, a nonprofit organization in San Antonio.

The data obtained by the AP shows that more than 10,000 unaccompanied children who arrived in the U.S. since May 2014

By the numbers

37 percent of about 5,800 migrant children have been granted asylum by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services since May 2014.

16 percent of asylum cases that the Houston office granted.

43 percent of girls' and **33** percent of boys' applications have been approved

In Southern California, Jhona-

than Rivas said he was nervous heading for his interview, but the officer seemed relaxed as she asked him open-ended questions through an interpreter. Over 90 minutes, Rivas recounted how gang members harassed him on his way home from church in El Salvador, pressed him to join the gang and killed his cousin and uncle. Two weeks later, Rivas learned he can remain in the U.S.

Starr now just law professor

Continued from Page 1

upheaval at the university, which emerged to become one of the top football programs nationally.

The same day Baylor released its report, the regents fired head coach Art Briles and sanctioned athletic director Ian McCaw, who resigned on Monday after the school hired Jim Grobe to coach the 2016 season.

Starr called Briles “a very powerful father figure” who “wants the best for these young men.” Starr said he wasn't consulted before Briles was fired.

The report said school administrators discouraged students from reporting or participating in student conduct reviews of sexual assault complaints, and that they even contributed to or accommodated a “hostile” environment

against the alleged victims. In one case, the actions of administrators “constituted retaliation against a complainant for reporting sexual assault,” the report said.

University leaders were also slow to enact federally-required student conduct processes, and they failed to identify and eliminate the hostile environment toward victims, the report found.

Starr told ESPN that he didn't think the school had a problem until the August 2015 conviction of football player Sam Ukwuachu, who sexually assaulted another student. But Tevin Elliott, another football player, was convicted of sexual assault in 2014, and multiple women have said they notified school officials.

Starr said he considered campus to be a safe place for students.

“It's not happening on campus, to the best of my knowledge,” Starr said. “They are off-campus parties. These are (the) venues where those bad things have happened.”

“It's not happening on campus, to the best of my knowledge. ... (Off-campus parties) are (the) venues where those bad things have happened.”

KEN STARR

Campus under lockdown

Continued from Page 1

acent to the building where the shooting took place, called Engineering IV. The buildings are connected by walkway bridges near the center of the 419-acre campus.

“We kept our eye on the door. We knew that somebody eventually could come to the door,” he said, acknowledging the terror he felt.

Those in the room devised a plan to hold the door closed using a belt and crowbar and demand ID from anyone who tried to get in. When they eventually got word that the building had been cleared, they walked out.

Tanya Alam, 19, also was in a classroom in the math sciences building with 20 other students. She said she saw an alert on her phone that warned of police activity near Engineering IV. Then, several minutes later, an alert said there was an active shooter.

“I let that sink in. Then, I realized there was a shooter on cam-

pus and Engineering IV is right here! So, I said it out loud,” she said.

The teacher's assistant told students to shut their laptops, turned out all the lights and switched off the projector. They were ordered to be quiet and got under their desks. Sitting on the ground, Alam cried.

Students were told to put their phones away, too, but, in the darkened room, the glow of screens illuminated many faces, she said.

“On one hand, yes, this is an emergency. But on the other hand when your mother is calling from miles away ...” Alam said, trailing off.

Their entire classroom was finally allowed to leave. Students were greeted by a phalanx of SWAT team members but were not searched.

SWAT officers cleared occupants one by one at the mathematical sciences building. One man walked out with his hands up and was told to get on his knees. An armed officer searched him and his backpack and then sent him on his way with his hands still in the air.

Classes were canceled Wednesday but would resume Thursday.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students walk near Los Angeles Metro Police officers who were securing the UCLA campus near the scene of a murder-suicide on Wednesday.

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2016 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

Rallies for education in Croatia persist

ZAGREB, Croatia — More than 20,000 people rallied in Croatia to call for reform of the education system.

Rallies under the slogan “Croatia Can Do Better” were held Wednesday in the capital, Zagreb and around a dozen other towns.

Croatia has long planned an overhaul of its education system to bring it into line with the standards of other EU countries but has made little progress, although the country joined the European Union in 2013. The head of an expert team in charge of the overhaul recently resigned, complaining of pressure from the conservative government.

Protesters in Zagreb said that education is crucial for the country’s future. A student representative said students “don’t want to be hostages of an incompetent and irresponsible political elite.”

Mexican teachers have heads forcibly shaved

MEXICO CITY — A dissident faction of Mexico’s teachers’ union is under fire for publicly humiliating teachers and administrators who defied its strike of radical reforms.

Several school workers were seized in the southern town of Comitán on Tuesday. They were marched barefoot through town with signs hanging around their necks saying they were “traitors to the country.”

The hair was of several wasforcably cut while a crowd watched.

Education Secretary Aurelio Nuno says he’ll work with prosecutors to punish those responsible.

The leader of the faction appeared to defend the shaming on Tuesday, but as criticism mounted on Wednesday, he blamed it on government-planted infiltrators.

US says North Korea is ‘money laundering concern’

WASHINGTON — The United States proposed new restrictions to close off North Korea’s access to the international financial system and to prevent the country from using banks to launder money that could be used for its nuclear weapons program.

The Treasury Department declared North Korea a “primary money laundering concern.” U.S. banks are generally prohibited now from dealing with North Korea. The U.S. and South Korean militaries reported that North Korea conducted the latest in a series of failed ballistic missile launches on Tuesday.

China, however, remains North Korea’s biggest source of diplomatic support and economic help, but Beijing this year agreed to the new U.N. sanctions, and observers say trade exchanges between the two have declined dramatically.

No food in first aid convoy for Syrian town since 2012

BEIRUT — A humanitarian convoy reached a starved suburb of Syria’s capital for the first time since 2012 on Wednesday, but did not bring any food.

The joint U.N., International Committee of the Red Cross and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy that reached Daraya Wednesday contained medicines, vaccines, baby formula the ICRC said, but no food.

It was not clear why the shipment contained no food. The suburb last received aid in February, residents said.

The U.N. Security Council is set to meet Friday to discuss the possibility of starting humanitarian air drops to besieged areas.

Rain overflows Seine River banks in Paris

PARIS — Floods devastated regions across France on Wednesday. The Seine River overflowed its banks, one French town was evacuated, and travelers trapped on a submerged highway were rescued by soldiers.

Meteorologists said waters are expected to keep rising for days.

The French government pressed to rescue thousands of people trapped in homes or cars in provincial towns.

City authorities warned residents and visitors to be vigilant around river banks and said high river levels were expected to peak Friday.

Human rights question prompts China scolding

OTTAWA, Ontario — China’s visiting foreign minister publicly berated a Canadian journalist on Wednesday for asking a question about his country’s human rights record.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said it was “irresponsible” of a journalist from the web outlet IPolitics to ask about human rights and the jailing of a Canadian, Kevin Garratt, who is charged with espionage.

Wang appeared visibly angry as he delivered the scolding in the lobby of Global Affairs headquarters at a joint news conference with Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Stephane Dion.

“Your question is full of prejudice and against China. ... I don’t know where that comes from. This is totally unacceptable,” Wang said through a translator.

“Other people don’t know better than the Chinese people about the human rights condition in China and it is the Chinese people who are in the best situation, in the best position to have a say about China’s human rights situation,” he continued.

“So I would like to suggest to you that please don’t ask questions in such an irresponsible manner. We welcome goodwill suggestions but we reject groundless or unwarranted accusations.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forced labor in India lingers

Country contains 40 percent of world’s modern slaves, according to global index

BISWAJEET BANERJEE
Associated Press

LUCKNOW, India — Every day as Kamla dug through the mud and molded bricks for north Indian kiln, her two hungry children would cry out for food. The 200 rupees (\$3) she made for producing 1,000 bricks at a time wasn’t nearly enough to feed her family, and daughter, who died of malnutrition before she turned 4.

Kamla’s story, told to one of the many charities fighting forced labor in India, is common enough to explain how slavery persists in the country despite rapid development that has helped make India the world’s fastest-growing economy.

On Tuesday, the South Asian democracy topped a global slavery index counting some 18.35 million modern slaves — or 40 percent of a global total of 45.8 million.

The report, released by The Walk Free Foundation, included children and adults forced into labor, often to pay off a debt, as well as child brides, child soldiers and migrant workers in 167 countries.

“These poor and deprived people are forced to leave their homes because of poverty. This is clear reflection of the failure of the welfare state,” said Lenin Rghuvanshi of the People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights.

“Bonded labor is a contemporary type of slavery,” he said.

“The government, which is supposed to provide them basic necessities, has failed them.”

Officials with the Indian Labor Ministry declined to comment on the slavery index report.

North Korea was found to have the highest per capita rate of modern slavery, with 4.37 percent of its population.

The problem of slavery in India has long been a cause for shame. Just last week, the chairman of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee lambasted India’s record on human rights, asking how India could have so many slaves.

These poor and deprived people are forced to leave their homes because of poverty.

LENIN RGHUVANSHI

“I mean, seriously, do they have just zero prosecution abilities, zero law enforcement? I mean, how could this happen? It’s on that scale, it’s pretty incredible,” Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee said.

But child labor, the trafficking of sex workers, and bonded labor remains widespread, despite India’s rapid economic growth over the past decade. Laws meant to keep children in school and out of the workplace are routinely flouted, as millions are nevertheless forced into toxic jobs including rolling cigarettes, blowing glass, mining or dyeing leather.

Some activists blamed the government for maintaining a top-down economy where illegal labor can still flourish because of high unemployment and abject poverty in the countryside.

Amid rising criticism, the Indian government on Monday

published draft legislation to curb human trafficking without punishing victims. Still, some activists said the situation was improving in India thanks to public awareness, legal reforms and police-backed raids on factories employing workers illegally. Corker noted that India’s carpet industry used to employ 300,000 trafficked children just a decade ago, but that the number has come down to an estimated 5,000-10,000. India’s garment industry hub in the Indian capital has also eliminated child labor, but for those still mired in forced labor, the scourge can’t be ended soon enough. And with little recourse against abusive employers, they can only hope to be rescued by a charity intervening.

Radha, kidnapped from her family by a woman from her village and forced into bonded labor, told the People’s Vigilance Committee on Human Rights she was raped daily by the factory’s owner, and then was beaten when she tried to object.

“I was so scared,” she said. “I’m still in pain from the rapes.”



JASON FRANSON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Resident Kenny Gibbons looks through his demolished backyard in Fort McMurray, Canada, on Wednesday. Gibbons’ house was just one of 2,400 structures destroyed by a wildfire in the city. Residents started to return to the city in northern Alberta on Wednesday, but officials have warned that they should not expect everything to be running normally right away.

Weeks after wildfire, residents of Canadian city return home

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FORT MCMURRAY, Alberta — Residents who fled a massive wildfire at the start of May returned to their homes and property in this Canadian oil sands city Wednesday to begin cleaning up and seeing what’s left.

The fire destroyed 2,400 structures, or about 10 percent of the city, when it ripped through last month, forcing more than 80,000 residents to flee.

Officials expected thousands of evacuees to return to the city Wednesday, the first day of a staged re-entry. Residents in areas that were not damaged were asked to come first. Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said about 7,500 arrived in the city Wednesday.

One of Mike Maloney’s first

tasks was to mow the messy lawn in front of his home while his wife and three kids cleaned inside.

“It’s sad to see what did burn,” he said. “It’s tragic for those people. But I think, all in all, everybody will survive.”

Pilar Ramirez spent the night sleeping in the back of a truck in Anzac, Alberta about 40 minutes southeast of Fort McMurray.

People driving in on the only highway into the area found the forest on both sides blackened about half an hour out of town. The devastation is apparent from the road just inside city limits and a strong smell of smoke hangs in the air.

Billboards that read “Safe Resilient Together” and “We Are Here. We Are Strong” greeted people as they drove in. A huge Canadian flag hung between the extended

ladders of two fire trucks parked on a bridge over the road.

Bob Couture, director of emergency management for the regional emergency operations center, said everything has gone according to plan. The Red Cross was prepared to bus in as many as 2,000 residents who don’t own cars.

Returning residents were warned that it won’t be business as usual and to bring with them two weeks worth of food, water and prescription medication as crews continue to work to restore basic services.

Workers have been laboring to get critical businesses such as banks, grocery stores and pharmacies running again. Supplies of some items may be limited in the beginning, the government said, and some things may need to be



Farah Abdi Warsameh / ASSOCIATED PRESS
Men remove the body of a civilian killed in a bomb attack on a hotel in Mogadishu, Somalia on Wednesday. The rebel group al-Shabab has claimed responsibility.



Farah Abdi Warsameh / ASSOCIATED PRESS
Vehicles burn at the scene of a bomb attack in Mogadishu, Somalia on Wednesday. The attack took place on a hotel often frequented by government officials.

Somalian terrorists bomb hotel, kill 6

ABDI GULED
Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Somalia’s Islamic extremist rebels, al-Shabab, stormed a hotel in the capital Wednesday evening, killing at least six people and taking a number of hostages, police said.

The scene at the Ambassador Hotel, frequented by government officials, appeared to be at a standoff overnight.

“At least two gunmen are still holed up inside the building now,”

police Capt. Mohamed Hussein said.

Two members of parliament were among the dead, he said, and part of the hotel burned.

The attack began when a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-laden vehicle at the hotel’s gates. Fighters on foot then forced their way into the hotel.

The attack comes on the eve of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, during which extremists often step up attacks.

A body of a suspected extremist lay outside the hotel. Witness Yas-in Abdi said he saw security forces escorting people from the hotel.

Somalia’s elite forces used rocket-propelled grenades and machine guns to fight assailants who took positions on the hotel’s second floor.

The attack underlines challenges facing the Somali government and African Union forces that are struggling to secure the capital, which has seen a series of attacks

by al-Shabab.

An attack on another Mogadishu hotel and public garden in February killed at least nine civilians. A car bomb exploded outside a restaurant in the capital in April, killing at least five.

Also on Wednesday, the Pentagon said a U.S. drone strike on Friday targeted a senior military commander of al-Shabab in Somalia, Abdullahi Haji Da’ud. U.S. officials said they couldn’t confirm yet if he was killed.

Airport concerns persist



JOHN LOCHER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sign at McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas, Nevada warns against trespassing.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press

While intruders routinely breach the security fences protecting runways and planes at U.S. airports, the federal Transportation Security Administration is not keeping up with the threat or doing enough to help airports identify their vulnerabilities, according to a government report.

Congress asked the U.S. Government Accountability Office to investigate how often people get past airport perimeter security, and whether the TSA could do more to help prevent incidents.

Using TSA data, the accountability office identified over 2,500 security incidents in each of the past three years at the nation's roughly 440 commercial airports.

Those incidents ranged from people jumping fences to reach jets and passenger terminals to workers who forgot their security badges piggy-backing with a colleague through checkpoints.

The new federal report focused on October 2008 through October 2015. The accountability office did not give specific numbers, but a chart summarizing security incidents showed they have ranged between about 2,200 and about 2,800 annually, with the past three federal fiscal years being higher than the previous four.

The report's authors were not confident in drawing conclusions about trends in the nature or severity of the incidents because of how TSA keeps its data.

Airports are supposed to report any security incident to the TSA, but the database where the TSA logs incidents is not set up for analysis.

TSA cannot say, for example, whether high-profile breaches at larger airports—such as a teenager who jumped a fence at the airport in San Jose, California, in 2014 and stowed away in the wheel well of a Hawaii-bound plane—might be a bigger security threat than breaches at regional airports.

That makes no sense to Rep. William Keating, D-Mass., one of the lawmakers who requested the study.

"That information should all be system wide and available," he said. "But it's not there. And if it is there, it's not in a form that's useful to me as a congressman or to any official dealing with this."

The TSA said it was addressing the report's data analysis recommendation, as well as five others the authors made.

TSA spokeswoman Lucy P. Martinez said in a written statement that the agency was working "to mitigate risks by identifying enhanced methods of increasing security" for the nation's airports.

Black Missouri drivers pulled over at high rates

SUMMER BALLENTINE
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri — Black drivers in Missouri were nearly 70 percent more likely than whites to get stopped by the police last year, marking a slight improvement from the year before but showing there still are significant racial disparities in such stops.

State Attorney General Chris Koster's office released a report Wednesday showing that black motorists were 69 percent more likely than whites to be pulled over, based on their proportionate share of the driving-age population.

That rate was 75 percent in 2014, which was the highest since data collection began in 2000.

Furthermore, police continue to arrest and search black and Hispanic drivers at rates "significantly high-

er than white drivers, even though white drivers are more frequently found to have contraband," according to Koster's analysis.

The treatment of blacks by the police has gotten a lot of attention in Missouri and elsewhere since the August 2014 fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager, Michael Brown, by a white police officer in the St. Louis suburb of Ferguson.

Koster cautioned that there are holes in the data and said in a statement that the "statistical disproportion does not prove that law enforcement officers are making vehicle stops based on the perceived race or ethnicity of the driver."

For example, the data only deals with the driving-age population and not the population that actually drives. The disparities also

could be skewed if a major highway runs through a city or town, meaning police would likely pull over drivers from other cities or states.

Koster called on the Legislature to gather input from law enforcement, cities and others on how to improve the report and the data collected.

He said revisions could include strengthening penalties for departments that fail to report.

Fifteen agencies failed to meet the March 1 reporting deadline.

In Ferguson last year, blacks were again pulled over at a lower rate than the statewide average, but they were still more than four times as likely to be stopped as white drivers, according to the new data released by the attorney general's office.



DARRELL SAPP / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Plum High School teacher Jason Cooper leaves a preliminary court hearing in a Pittsburgh suburb in 2015.

Sex allegations rock high school

The Associated Press

PLUM, Pennsylvania — Two high school teachers in a Pittsburgh suburb have pleaded guilty to having sex with students, a third is awaiting trial and a fourth is charged with trying to intimidate one student victim by pointing her out in class.

Now, the atmosphere is so poisoned in the Plum Borough School District that the senior class president told the superintendent to stay away from the commencement ceremonies on Thursday.

"You don't deserve to be at my graduation," Plum High School senior Sylvia Ankrom told Superintendent Timothy Glasspool at a school board meeting last week.

The school board has placed Glasspool and Ryan Kociela, principal of the 4,100-student district's only high school, on paid leave.

The new internal investigation is fueled by a scathing grand jury report released May 19 by the Allegheny County district attorney's office.

The grand jury determined employees were more concerned about upholding the district's image than investigating misconduct.

When two employees came to Glasspool in 2014 to report an obscene Twitter comment that claimed teacher Joseph Ruggieri was having sex with a student, the superintendent asked them if the report was a case of "CYA," or "cover your ass," the report said.

The county prosecutor convened the grand jury after teachers Ruggieri, 41, and Jason Cooper, 39, were charged last year with having sexual relationships with students. Both have since pleaded guilty, with Ruggieri serving two to five years in prison and Cooper 1 1/2 to three.

The grand jury also uncovered alleged wrongdoing by Michael Cinefra, 30, a former part-time teacher and coach, who is awaiting trial on charges he had sexual contact with a student under 16 and provided her with alcohol, among other allegations. He has denied wrongdoing, along with Drew Zoldak, 41, the teacher awaiting trial on charges he pointed out Ruggieri's victim in class.

Zoldak is accused of telling his class he missed work "because two men in suits from the district attorney's office were asking me hundreds of questions," then pointing to the girl as the reason.

The grand jury investigated whether Glasspool, Kociela or any other district employees broke state law by not calling police or a child welfare hotline if they had "reasonable cause to suspect" teachers were having sex with students.

Obama touts economy

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

ELKHART, Indiana — President Barack Obama went on a "myth-busting" mission Wednesday aimed at undermining Republican arguments about the economy.

Obama came to this hardscrabble town in northern Indiana to illustrate how policies from the first days of his presidency helped to turn around the economy.

Yet his rally at a high school in Elkhart blurred the lines between governing and campaigning, marking the president's most aggressive and direct foray to date into the presidential campaign.

"The primary story that Republicans have been telling about the economy is not supported by the facts. It's just not," Obama said.

When Obama came to Elkhart seven years ago on his first major presidential trip, the unemployment rate was soaring.

Though the economy has improved measurably, Republicans have been reluctant to give Obama credit.

As Obama returned to Indiana, GOP Gov. Mike Pence said the state had recovered "in spite of Obama's policies."

And the Republican National Committee dismissed his visit as a "campaign trip" designed to help presidential candidate Hillary Clinton.

Obama and his aides have long signaled frustration that as the economy has improved, the public's perception of his decision-making hasn't tracked the same



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama gestures while speaking at Concord Community High School in Elkhart, Ind. Wednesday, June 1, 2016.

trajectory.

Obama said he had returned to Elkhart "precisely because this county votes Republican."

Muslim girl to attend hijab-friendly school

WILSON RING
Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vermont — A Muslim high school student from Florida who hopes to become a Navy officer is going to attend Norwich University after the Vermont military school said it would allow her to wear her headscarf beneath her uniform.

Sana Hamze had initially hoped to attend The Citadel, but the Charleston, South Carolina, school would not change its uni-

form policy to accommodate her headscarf. The 17-year-old from Sunrise, Florida, said she chose Norwich, which touts itself as the nation's oldest private military college and the birthplace of ROTC, after the school agreed to her request.

Sana said Wednesday she was caught off guard by media attention that followed her efforts to attend a military college while staying true to her Muslim faith.

"My goal is still to go to Norwich

and be an officer, a naval officer. It doesn't change anything," she said.

Sana's father, Nezar Hamze, said his daughter never sought publicity, but he felt she should publicly thank Norwich school for its decision.

"As a father I can't tell you the pressure that's off my shoulders that she's actually being accepted and they're letting her practice her faith," said Nezar Hamze.

Norwich, located in the town

of Northfield, has a total on-campus student body of about 2,250. About two-thirds of students are in the Corps of Cadets, its military program, while the rest are civilians who don't participate in military training.

Norwich officials said privacy rules prevented them from confirming that Sana had agreed to attend, though she showed The Associated Press some correspondence from Norwich that confirmed her plans.

NATIONAL

Baby born in US with defects tied to Zika

A Honduran woman infected with Zika gave birth in New Jersey to a baby girl with birth defects caused by the virus, her doctor said Wednesday.

Dr. Abdulla Al-Khan, the director of maternal-fetal medicine and surgery at Hackensack University Medical Center, said the 31-year-old mother was diagnosed with Zika in her native Central American country, where the virus has spread. Al-Khan said the mother had an ultrasound last week that showed birth defects, including microcephaly, in which the baby's head is smaller than expected because the brain hasn't developed properly.

Al-Khan said the prognosis for babies born with microcephaly, which also can signal underlying brain damage, is "generally very poor."

Ten countries have reported cases of microcephaly linked to Zika, which is spread primarily through mosquito bites and can also be transmitted through sex. The infant is the second born in the United States with birth defects from the mosquito-borne virus. The first was born in Hawaii to a woman who had lived in Brazil, where the Zika epidemic began in the Americas.

No charges for officers in shooting of black man

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota's U.S. attorney on Wednesday declined to file criminal civil rights charges against two white Minneapolis police officers in the November shooting death of a black man that sparked weeks of protests, citing insufficient evidence to support charges.

The two officers attempted to arrest Jamar Clark, 24, following a report that he was interfering with paramedics treating an assault victim. Clark was shot once in the head November 15 and died a day later.

A key issue was whether or not Clark was handcuffed when he was shot. The state's attorney, Andrew Luger, said at a news conference that evidence indicated Clark was not restrained at the time and added that his office "could not pursue this case based on a prosecution theory" that Clark was handcuffed.

The Justice Department is also reviewing how the city responded to the protests that followed Clark's death. One demonstration outside the 4th Precinct after the shooting included some skirmishes between officers and protesters.

Louisiana repeals century-old voter registration law

BATON ROUGE, Louisiana — Louisiana has repealed a century-old state law that required naturalized citizens to provide proof of their citizenship when they registered to vote.

Civil rights groups that sued last month to block the 142-year-old law's enforcement announced Wednesday that they will withdraw their federal lawsuit now that state lawmakers have removed it from the books.

Their suit claimed the old law discriminated against foreign-born, naturalized U.S. citizens by arbitrarily subjecting them to "heightened" voter registration requirements that didn't apply to native-born citizens.

The groups claimed many Louisiana residents wouldn't be able to vote in November's presidential and congressional elections if state and local officials continued to enforce the law.

The law's repeal was tucked into a broader elections bill that Gov. John Bel Edwards signed last Friday.

Teacher suspended for dubious test questions

MOBILE, Alabama — An Alabama teacher is on leave after giving middle school students a test with math questions about prostitutes, drugs and guns, a school official said Wednesday.

Rena Phillips, a spokeswoman for Mobile County's public schools, said the educator from Burns Middle School was placed on administrative leave after a parent complained. The teacher's name isn't being made public, Phillips said.

The 10-question quiz included questions about prostitution, drugs, drive-by shootings and spray paint graffiti. According to WALA-TV, one of the questions was: Leroy has 2 ounces of cocaine. If he sells an eight ball to Antonio for \$320 and 2 grams to Juan for \$85 per gram, what is the street value of the rest of his hold?

Phillips said the principal and a school police officer investigated after officials learned of the test Tuesday.

Redistricting forces GOP incumbents into primary

HOLLY SPRINGS, North Carolina — North Carolina's hastily redrawn congressional districts have set up an unusual battle in the only U.S. House race nationwide pitting incumbents against each other.

Republicans Renee Ellmers and George Holding are vying to win over what's likely to be a small Election Day crowd after court-ordered redistricting upended their territories, along with the primary calendar.

Ellmers and Holding have each already spent more than \$1 million on the upcoming primary.

The state's General Assembly was forced to quickly redraw the state's congressional districts after a federal court ruled that two were unconstitutionally race-based. Ellmers' 2nd District shifted north and east, while Holding's 13th District moved to a different part of the state.

The last time incumbents faced each other in congressional primaries was 2012, when there were seven such races nationwide between Democrats and four between Republicans.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST

Appeals court upholds Paxton's indictment

AUSTIN — A special prosecutor handling the criminal case against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton says an appeals court has upheld the indictment on securities fraud charges.

Special prosecutor Brian Wice said Wednesday night that the Dallas-based 5th Court of Appeals allowed the case against the state's top prosecutor to move forward. Paxton was indicted nearly a year ago on charges of defrauding wealthy investors in a tech startup.

His next and final chance of having the case dismissed rests with the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. The Republican-dominated court threw out criminal charges against GOP former Texas Gov. Rick Perry earlier this year.

Paxton attorney Bill Mateja says the defense will decide soon whether to go to the state's highest criminal court.

Paxton has pleaded not guilty.

Ex-border cop's wife flees, facing smuggling charges

EL PASO — Federal authorities are seeking a border officer's wife who failed to show up to trial in El Paso, where she and her husband faced charges related to a human smuggling scheme.

Odet Corchado was arrested last July with her 54-year-old husband, Lawrence, a former U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer, and was scheduled to go on trial last week with him.

A jury convicted him of smuggling and bribery charges. A federal judge has revoked her \$10,000 bond and a warrant has been issued for her arrest for failing to appear in court, reported the El Paso Times.

She is accused of taking payments of about \$2,000 each to direct people into a line at border bridges where her husband worked so they could get into the U.S. without immigration paperwork.

Second ex-Tech player charged with burglary

LUBBOCK — Jail records show that a second Texas Tech football player who was kicked off the team last month has been charged with burglary.

Records show that 18-year-old Trace Keaton Ellison was arrested Wednesday on a charge of burglary of a habitation, a second-degree felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

Jail records don't list attorney information for Ellison, who was released on \$5,000 bond. Details weren't immediately released.

Twenty-year-old Robert James Castaneda was arrested Friday on the same charge. He was released after paying \$5,000 bond.

Texas Tech coach Kliff Kingsbury kicked Castaneda and Ellison off the team May 5 for "failure to uphold student-athlete expectations."

Teacher impregnated by student, 13, turns self in

HOUSTON — A Houston-area teacher accused of having a sexual relationship with a 13-year-old boy who impregnated her has surrendered at a Montgomery County jail.

Authorities in adjacent Harris County had issued an arrest warrant for 24-year-old Alexandria Vera, an English teacher in the Aldine School District. She met the boy last summer.

Sheriff's spokesman Brady Fitzgerald said Vera posted a \$100,000 bond and was released.

Court documents show the boy's parents didn't object to the relationship. Vera told a school district investigator they were "very supportive and excited" when she disclosed her pregnancy. The court document said she aborted the pregnancy after a child welfare investigator questioned her.

School officials said Vera has been removed from her job.

Teenage boy charged with brutal slaying of girlfriend

HOUSTON — A teenage boy has been charged with killing his 15-year-old girlfriend whose body was found stuffed in a cabinet under a sink at an abandoned Houston-area apartment complex, said Harris County prosecutors.

The Houston Chronicle reported records read in court Wednesday show the boy used his cellphone to record the sounds of Karen Perez resisting as she was being raped and fatally choked. Searchers found her body Monday. She was reported missing when she failed to return home from school Friday.

Prosecutors said the boy's father was accompanying him in a search for Perez in their Houston neighborhood when the teen told him she was not alive. The father then notified police.

Mexican doctors convicted in insurance fraud scheme

MCALLEN — Two physicians from a family medicine clinic in Mexico have been convicted of conspiracy to commit wire fraud in a nearly \$2.6 million insurance claim scheme, said federal prosecutors.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth Magidson said 59-year-old Dr. Mayolo Melchor and 61-year-old Dr. Bertha Hernandez-Melchor, of Reynosa, Mexico, pleaded guilty Wednesday in McAllen to conspiring with policyholders of the American Family Life Assurance Co. to prepare and submit fraudulent claim forms and accident reports.

Prosecutors said forms listing fake accidents and injuries were delivered to the doctors' clinic in Mexico, then faxed to AFLAC headquarters.

They face up to 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine at their August sentencing.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



MICHAEL CIAGLO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jason Lucas; his wife, Eloise; and their daughter, Ava, paddle down Farm-to-Market 2759 to get to their home Wednesday in Booth, Texas. Residents are preparing for the effects of more rain expected to fall in the coming days.

To stay or to leave?

After floods, residents face decision

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

SIMONTON — In 18 years, Art Myrick says he's been ordered or asked to evacuate his home near the Brazos River about 20 times, but he didn't always do so and the house never flooded — until now.

Flooding comes with living in Simonton, a small town west of Houston. But since retiring four years ago, the 66-year-old has thought about moving to San Antonio, where he has land.

"We're gone. Getting too old to live with this," Myrick said while sitting on a cot Wednesday inside a Red Cross shelter in Brookshire.

Hundreds of residents remained evacuated from their homes as the Brazos River reached 54.7 feet in Fort Bend County, where Simonton is located, before finally beginning to slowly fall. But additional rain this week could mean it might take days or even weeks before the Brazos and other waterways drop to normal levels.

State climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon said the severe



BRANDON WADE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Homes along the Brazos River remained flooded Wednesday. Residents braced for more flooding as the river is expected to crest at record levels.

weather over the last year was exacerbated by El Niño, which is the natural warming of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather worldwide.

The El Niño period is dissipating, but Nielsen-Gammon said the frequency of heavy rains likely will continue.

Elevated water levels could continue through the weekend as forecasts call for more rain. The National Weather Service has issued a flash flood watch for the greater Houston region, where 8 to 10 inches could fall through Friday in some isolated locations. The Austin area is expected to receive 3 to 6 inches through Friday,

while North Texas is forecast to receive 3 to 5 inches.

While Myrick said he's relocating, Barbara Leach, who lives in Rosenberg, said she's not going anywhere. The Brazos flooded the mobile home where she and her husband have lived for 41 years, but Leach, 78, said she enjoys it too much to leave.

"This is Mother Nature, and I don't think they could have prepared for this. I don't care how many dams or dikes or whatever they have," she said. "I'm not blaming anybody for it. That's the way the world is. People have been hit harder than we have. So we'll come out OK."

Big 12 head pushes for decisions

STEPHEN HAWKINS
AP Sports Writer

IRVING — Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby said he's going to push conference leaders to make decisions one way or the other on the lingering issues of expansion, a football championship game and a league network by the end of the summer.

Athletic directors spent about 90 minutes during the league's spring meetings Wednesday in what were termed "philosophical discussions" about those topics.

The final decisions will be made by the 10-team league's board of directors made up of school presidents and chancellors.

That group, which includes three interim presidents, will join the conference meetings today and Friday and will have a significant amount of data to consider this week and into the summer.

Faculty athletic representatives deadlocked 5-5 regarding a change in a league rule that would have given former Texas Tech walk-on quarterback Baker Mayfield an extra season of eligibility at Oklahoma.

The conference also announced its television selections for the first three weeks of the season. Baylor's opening game, against Northwestern State, will be the first televised Big 12 game, airing Sept. 2 on FSN.

Big 12 Schools

- Baylor
- Iowa State
- Kansas
- Oklahoma
- Kansas State
- Oklahoma State
- Texas
- TCU
- Texas Tech
- West Virginia

Mascot animals, handlers make spirited teams

ERIC OLSON
AP College Football Writer

University of Texas announced that it has selected a new Bevo. Mascots like Bevo have long been part of college football's pageantry. Here's a look behind the scenes at four popular mascots: Bevo, Ralphie at University of Colorado, Cam the Ram at Colorado State University and Uga at University of Georgia.



Bevo

The new Bevo, known as Bevo XV, was selected from among 400-500 longhorn steers from across Texas and will make his home debut Sept. 4. Like his predecessors, Bevo XV is privately owned. He lives on a ranch near Austin, roams among his herd and dines on hay, grass and occasional "sweet feed" treats made of oats and molasses.

He'll be transported to games in a \$70,000 air-conditioned custom trailer and arrive at the stadium well before gates open. Four student handlers keep Bevo in place on the sidelines — a tough task considering Bevo XIV, who died of cancer in October, weighed 2,100 pounds and had a horn span of 80 inches from tip to tip.

In addition to home games, Bevo attends charity events, weddings and funerals. He also was on hand for President George W. Bush's inaugurations.



Ralphie

The 49-year tradition of a running Ralphie the buffalo leading the team onto the field is no small undertaking. She — yes, Ralphie is female — has 15 student handlers who train two hours a day, twice a week, lifting weights and doing speed work in addition to practice runs on other days.

Five "runners" hold lead ropes: the smallest, fastest in front; stronger runners in charge of steering in the middle; and a brakeman in back (not easy with a 1,200-pound buffalo). The other 10 handlers clear a path out front.

Ralphie V, entering her ninth year as mascot, lives on a ranch in the Denver area with her predecessor, Ralphie IV. Both buffaloes were donated by former media mogul Ted Turner.



Cam the Ram

Cam lives outside Fort Collins on a small farm owned by Kraig Peel, an associate professor in animal sciences who is in charge of about a dozen student handlers. Cam and his handlers run across the end zone after Rams touchdowns.

This Cam, No. 25, has been on the job for eight months. He's a manageable 230-240 pounds and 36-37 inches tall at the shoulder.

Peel is discriminating when he picks a ram to be Cam. "Structurally he's well-made, muscular (with) an attitude of pride, uprightness and just a boldness," he said.

Cam lives indoors in a deluxe horse stall and eats high-quality alfalfa and grain. Peel said Cam lives better than any sheep on the planet. "I tell people all the time that if I believed in reincarnation, I would want to come back as Cam," he said.



Uga

Uga X, who is about to start the second year of his reign, comes from the same bloodline as the nine white English bulldogs that previously served.

Charles Seiler took over as primary handler about nine years ago from his father, Sonny, who helped start the tradition when he was a student in the 1950s. Charles said he plans to have his 8-year-old son, Cecil, eventually assume Uga duties.

Uga hangs out in or around his air-conditioned doghouse at the 5-yard line, rides in a new fire-red SUV provided by a Chevrolet dealership, sits on the team plane, and has a two-bedroom suite at a campus hotel. He dons team jerseys and has a black tuxedo for formal events.

"Comparing a bulldog to other mascots, we're kind of lucky in that when he's not at a ballgame, he's just a family pet," Seiler said.

Severance pay from state halted

PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

State agencies must stop offering severance pay, Gov. Greg Abbott ordered Wednesday in light of reports that Attorney General Ken Paxton and Land Commissioner George P. Bush have quietly kept former employees on the payroll at a cost of hundreds of thousands of dollars to taxpayers.

Bush and Paxton, who have defended the arrangements as practical and legal, said they would comply even though the governor can't enforce such rules on other elected officials.

Abbott did not single out Paxton or Bush in a memo to agency leaders. But the directive essentially takes aim at how the two prominent Republicans continued paying former staffers long after they stopped coming to work, a fact that was revealed following investigations by The Dallas Morning News and Houston Chronicle.

The staffers included a former Paxton aide who left to help Republican Ted Cruz's presidential run and more than two dozen General Land Office employees whom Bush didn't retain after he took over in 2015. Bush's office has defended the settlement agreements, which amounted to at least \$383,000, as a way of sparing the state from potential lawsuits from fired employees.

Severance pay is not allowed in Texas government, but Paxton's office has said payments to former top aides were permissible under administrative leave policies. Abbott, however, made clear that such interpretations or workarounds going forward would not be allowed.

"The use of emergency leave, administrative leave or other mechanisms to continue paying state employees who have ceased to work will be prohibited," Abbott wrote.

Abbott said his order will remain in place until the issue is taken up next year by the Texas Legislature, which has already signaled a coming crackdown. Republican House Speaker Joe Straus told one of his committees Wednesday to delve into the issue before lawmakers return in 2017.

"The public should have confidence that state agencies are being cautious with taxpayer dollars," Straus wrote in a letter to the chair of the House General Investigating and Ethics Committee.

Bush spokeswoman Britany Eck said their agency will suspend the use of separation agreements until the Legislature provides clarification. On Tuesday, a left-leaning political group asked state investigators to look into whether the severance packages across state government were proper.



Abbott



Syrian refugees Abdullah Hamwi, wife Dania Rasheed and son Yazan Hamwi pose in Berlin, Germany.

“Until now I didn’t see anything good here. Everything is difficult, they want papers here, papers there; tell us to go here and go there — the treatment is bad, it’s not the life we used to live in Syria.” | Dania Rasheed



A growing number of

Syrian refugees

find themselves stuck in Europe while their families wait in Syria.

For many, legal travel back to Syria is out of the question.

KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
Associated Press

BERLIN — Nine months ago, after the Syrian army razed his neighborhood, Mohammed was desperate to make his way to Germany.

Now he is desperate to go back to Syria, where his wife and eight children are. But he fears the only way he can return is the same way he came — illegally.

Mohammed, a farm worker from the outskirts of Damascus, is one of at least hundreds of Syrian refugees who want to go home, but cannot.

While Afghan and Iraqi asylum seekers get state assistance to go home, the German government and the International Organization for Migration say they can’t send Syrians back to a war zone. There aren’t even flights from Germany to Syria, and neighboring countries that initially took in the bulk of the Syrian refugees have all but closed their doors.

That leaves little hope for the dozens of Syrians per week who have requested departures since the beginning of this year, according to travel agents and case workers at migrants’ return programs.

“I came here only for the future of my children,” said Mohammed, who did not want to give his last name because he is afraid the Syrian regime will harm his family. “If they’re not here, it makes no sense for me to be here.”

Mohammed, 45, got asylum in March. But his wife calls him every day, crying and begging him to come back home. She doesn’t have any money to feed their seven daughters, and their only son, 12-year-old Marwan, quit school to sell vegetables.

He bought a plane ticket to Beirut in April, but German security didn’t let him on the plane. Two weeks ago, he tried to go to Athens, but was again stopped. He pulled two crumpled tickets slowly from the pocket of his oversized coat, a worthless reminder of his futile efforts. Covering his face with his hands, he said he will try until he finally finds a way out.

While nobody has exact figures, interviews with government officials, case workers, travel agents and dozens of refugees themselves show that the number of Syrians leaving Germany is growing steadily.

Alaa Hadroos, who runs the Golf Reisen travel agency in Berlin, said between five and 10 people come by his office every day asking him for ways out of Germany. At the beginning of the year, it was more like 20, but many have realized he can’t help them.

“We are getting here a lot of Syrian refugees who want to go home, but it is very, very hard for them to actually get there in any way,” he said.

Hadroos said most Syrians now try to hire traffickers to eventually make it back home.

Several migrants told the AP they had plane tickets to Athens from traffickers in Berlin, even though they had no valid travel documents because German authorities hadn’t yet returned their passports. While Berlin and Athens are part of Europe’s passport-free zone, the airlines still need valid documents.

More than 420,000 Syrian refugees came to Germany last year, and the majority will eventually receive asylum. But the country is so overwhelmed that it is taking months, if not years, to process the requests, let alone the hundreds of thousands of applications for family reunions.

A spokesman for the German Foreign Office said the government has increased the staff at embassies in the Middle East to speed up the visa process for Syrian family members. The capacity of the German embassy in the Lebanese capital of Beirut to issue visas has gone up from 5,000 a year in 2012 to 30,000. But because of war, Germany no longer has an embassy in Damascus, which makes it difficult for many Syrian families to even apply for visas.

Many Syrians say the long separation from their children and wives is unbearable. Others can’t cope with life in cramped shelters. And yet others say they are simply too homesick.

“They are more or less trapped in Germany,” said Silvia Kostner, the spokeswoman for Berlin’s Lageso office, which organizes voluntary returns for migrants. “Of course, they can try to get out through different ways — and some are doing exactly this because they’re missing their families so badly — but we can’t take on the responsibility to help these people travel back to a war zone.”

Syrian refugee Abdullah Hamwi, a textile merchant who sold caftans at the old market in the city of Aleppo before it was destroyed, said he initially settled in Istanbul. But he moved to Germany in 2014 with his wife and baby son, hoping for a good education and better future.

After half a year in a shelter with 400 other migrants, no asylum, no work and the same three pieces of bread, butter and jam for breakfast every morning, they say they’ve had enough. They complain that they stand in line for days to pick up pocket money.

“Until now I didn’t see anything good here,” said Hamwi’s wife, Dania Rasheed, embracing her pregnant belly. “Everything is difficult, they want papers here, papers there; tell us to go here and go there — the treatment is bad, it’s not the life we used to live in Syria.”

The young couple goes days without heat in the middle of winter. They get by on 330 euros (\$368) per month and said security staff enter their room day and night. Hamwi, a pale, skinny man with dark circles under his eyes, takes his wife to the bathroom because he fears the strangers around.

Such grievances are not likely to be resolved quickly in any big German city where thousands suffer from a housing shortage. Hamwi has already looked into the smuggler’s rate to get to Istanbul: 300 euros (\$335) per person for Berlin to Athens and another 1,500 euros (\$1,678) to get them all into Turkey.

“As soon as our daughter is born, we will find a way to get out of here and back to Istanbul,” Hamwi said. “At least there we can live in dignity and work — here we are not getting any respect.”

Spiro Hadad, a journalist, is one of those who have successfully made it home to Syria. After losing his house, he left Syria in June last year for Austria. But he soon became frustrated, among other things, that he could not bring his mother in, so he asked the human rights office in Austria to allow him back home.

They eventually gave him a ticket to Lebanon, whichlet him in even though he had left illegally through Turkey, because he showed his press card. Then he drove to Damascus.

“I lost everything in Syria and I tried to improve my conditions. Unfortunately, I lost much more,” he said. “Most people prefer to return because they can’t stand it.”



MARKUS SCHREIBER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Abdullah Hamwi talks to the Associated Press in Berlin, Germany on Tuesday, May 24, 2016. Abdullah Hamwi and his wife Dania Rasheed no longer believe they can build up a bright future for themselves in Germany.

“They are more or less trapped in Germany. Of course, they can try to get out through different ways — and some are doing exactly this because they’re missing their families so badly — but we can’t take on the responsibility to help these people travel back to a war zone.”

SILVIA KOSTNER




MARKUS SCHREIBER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

“We are getting here a lot of Syrian refugees who want to go home, but it is very, very hard for them to actually get there in any way”


ALAA HADROOS, TRAVEL AGENCY OWNER

SEVERAL MIGRANTS CONFIRMED TO THE ASSOCIATED PRESS THE FOLLOWING PLAN TO RETURN TO SYRIA:



 Buy plane tickets from traffickers in Berlin and fly to Athens. A number of migrants still do not have their passports or valid travel documents, the latter of which are required for airline travel in both Berlin and Athens.



 Hire traffickers to illegally walk them across the Greece - Turkey border, then continue the trek through Syria.



MAPS FROM CIA WORLD FACTBOOK



76°/67°
Thunderstorms

CREEKS TURN INTO TORRENTS

Three Fort Hood soldiers die when an Army truck trying to navigate a low water crossing is swept into a raging creek near Lake Belton. Six were reported missing. An additional 10 inches of rain could hit Texas this weekend. See **TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST, 5**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



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FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2016



Political posturing Ryan endorses Trump

House speaker seeks to bring unity to GOP

STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

JANESVILLE, Wis. — House Speaker Paul Ryan endorsed Donald Trump on Thursday, ending an extraordinary public split between the GOP's presumptive presidential nominee and the nation's highest-ranking Republican office holder.

"I had friends wishing I wouldn't support him. I had friends wishing I would," Ryan said in an exclusive interview with The Associated Press. "I really didn't feel any pressure, other than my goal is to make sure that we're unified so that we're at full strength in the fall so we can win the election."

Ryan acknowledged he continues to have concerns about Trump's combative style.

"It is my hope the campaign improves its tone as we go forward and it's all a campaign we can be proud of," he said.

Ryan said the endorsement is not the product of any deal with the billionaire developer. Trump won his endorsement, Ryan said, based on "an understanding of our mutually agreed upon principles." Ryan said he specifically wanted to go over Trump's approach to executive power, judicial appointments, and his position on abortion.

"I feel much more comfortable that he's on the



ANDY MANIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

House Speaker Paul Ryan endorsed Donald Trump Thursday in Janesville, Wisconsin, ending a lengthy public split between the two.

same page with us. Most importantly, it is obvious that Hillary Clinton is not," Ryan said.

Ryan ended a weeks-long standoff with Trump by outlining his support for the New York billionaire in a column in his hometown newspaper.

Ryan's announcement marks a significant shift for a GOP desperately trying to come together ahead

■ RYAN, Page 2

Clinton crafting image

Emails show staff suggested event questions, intros

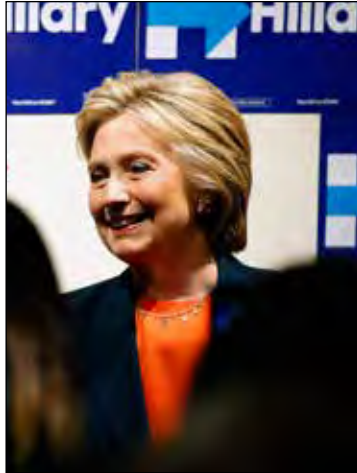
JACK GILLUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For Hillary Clinton, the presidential campaign has been about building an approachable image: She's often eschewed big arenas in favor of town halls, peppered her ads with personal stories and planned less-scripted gatherings with voters.

But emails obtained by The Associated Press reveal a careful effort to review introductory remarks for college presidents and students presenting the Democratic front-runner as a speaker, as well as suggesting questions that happened to align with her campaign platform.

While it's not unusual for campaigns to plan detailed appearances, the exchanges preview the kind of image-control apparatus that could be deployed in a Clinton White House, including attempts to steer conversations with her audiences.

Clinton spokesman Nick Mer-



JOHN LOCHER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hillary Clinton campaigns Thursday in San Diego. Emails showed a careful plan to control her public appearances.

rill said, "We take pride in Secretary Clinton's ability to answer tough questions. We do not screen questioners at events, nor do we script interactions."

The newly revealed exchanges, which surfaced in open-records requests, show the workings of a Clinton campaign that touts off-the-cuff moments, like the story of a little girl who asked Clinton: "If you're elected the girl presi-

dent, will you be paid the same as the boy president?" That line is a stump speech favorite.

But the campaign still injects itself into the minute details of the candidate's appearances down to the stemless glassware in her green room. That fixation on planning has sometimes pulled local officials uncomfortably into the political arena.

"They offered to write your introduction. I told them no," Becky Mann, the head of public relations for South Carolina's Greenville Technical College, wrote in an email to the college's president, Keith Miller.

Clinton's campaign also suggested questions that Miller could pose such as, "We have a number of students who have a financial need — what do we need to do to make college affordable?" College affordability is one of Clinton's campaign issues.

But Miller dismissed the suggestions, calling them "bad questions" and said he would develop his own.

Des Moines Area Community College's president, Robert Den-

■ CLINTON, Page 2

UCLA shooter killed Minn. woman, then drove to Los Angeles, police say

AMANDA LEE MYERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The investigation into a murder-suicide on the UCLA campus took a sinister turn Thursday when police announced they suspected the shooter earlier killed a woman in Minnesota, then drove to Los Angeles to confront a professor he believed had stolen his work.

Detectives also believe that Mainak Sarkar, a 38-year-old former engineering graduate student, intended to kill a second professor Wednesday morning, but could not find him on campus, Los Angeles police Chief Charlie Beck said.

In a search of Sarkar's St. Paul, Minnesota home, authorities found a "kill list" with at least three names, including 39-year-old professor William Klug, the woman found dead in Minneapolis and a second UCLA professor who was not harmed, Beck said.

Sarkar shot and killed Klug in a

"I never, ever thought Bill Klug would have been the person who was involved. It's beyond belief that someone did this."

CHARLES KNOBLER

UCLA engineering building, leading to a lockdown on the campus with more than 60,000 students and staff members. He then fatally shot himself.

He left a note at the scene of the killing that asked anyone who found it to check on a cat at his home in Minnesota, Beck told reporters. It was there that authorities found the "kill list," which led them to a nearby town, where they found the woman shot dead.

A law enforcement official said the woman was Ashley Hasti, who documents show married the gunman in 2011.

Beck said it appeared mental issues were involved and that Sarkar's dispute with Klug was tied to Sarkar thinking the professor released intellectual property that harmed Sarkar.

Someone identifying himself as Sarkar wrote a blog post in March claiming Klug stole his code.

Beck said UCLA asserts it was all in Sarkar's imagination.

Sarkar is listed on a UCLA website as a member of a computational biomechanics research group run by Klug.

Police were working Thursday to find the car Sarkar drove and sought the public's help.

Classes at UCLA resumed Thursday for most of the school, except for the engineering department, where students and faculty will return Monday.

Klug's colleagues and friends described him as a kind, devoted family man and teacher who

■ SHOOTING, Page 2



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Air Force Thunderbirds fly in formation during graduation ceremonies at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., on Thursday. President Barack Obama delivered the commencement address. A Thunderbirds jet crashed after a commencement flyover, but the pilot ejected to safety.

2 performance jets crash, 1 pilot dead

Air Force Thunderbird crashes in Colorado; Blue Angel wreck kills pilot in Tennessee

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two jets from different U.S. military elite air performance teams crashed Thursday, leaving one pilot dead.

A Blue Angels F/A-18 fighter jet crashed near Nashville, Tennessee, killing the pilot just days before a weekend air show that the team was practicing for, the Navy said.

A U.S. official said the pilot, Marine Capt. Jeff Kuss, did not eject when the aircraft crashed. Harry Gill, the town manager in Smyrna, just outside Nashville, said no civilians on the ground were hurt.

The pilot was beginning to take off during an afternoon practice session when the crash happened, according to a news release from the Navy. Five other

F/A-18 jets landed safely moments after the crash.

Kuss was a native of Durango, Colorado, and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Marines in 2006. He had previously served in Afghanistan before joining the Blue Angels. According to his official Blue Angels biography, he joined the elite acrobatics team in 2014 and accumulated more than 1,400 flight hours.

Earlier Thursday, the pilot of a U.S. Air Force Thunderbird ejected safely into a Colorado field, crashing the fighter jet moments after a flyover of a crowd watching President Barack Obama's commencement address for Air Force cadets.

A short helicopter ride later,

■ CRASHES, Page 2

'Be leaders,' Obama tells Air Force grads

President meets pilot who crashed after flyover

JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — President Barack Obama implored the next generation of U.S. military leaders Thursday not to give in to isolationism or pull back from U.S. leadership in the world, drawing a contrast with a foreign policy vision that's been laid out by Donald Trump.

Obama used his final commencement address as president

to reassure the military that it remains the world's dominant fighting force. He told graduates at the U.S. Air Force Academy they would be asked to strike a balance between realism and idealism, withdrawal and overreach.

"We can't be isolationists. It's not possible in this globalized, interconnected world," Obama said. "In these uncertain times, it's tempting sometimes to try to pull back and wash our hands from conflicts that seem intractable, let other countries fend of themselves."

The president addressed ca-

■ OBAMA, Page 2



The Air Force Thunderbirds fly overhead as graduating cadets celebrate with the “hat toss” after the 2016 class graduation ceremonies of the U.S. Air Force Academy on Thursday in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Thunderbird pilot ejected safely in Colorado

■ CRASHES from Page 1

the pilot found himself shaking hands with the president at a nearby air base.

“The president thanked the pilot for his service to the country and expressed his relief that the pilot was not seriously injured,” said White House spokesman Josh Earnest.

The Air Force identified the pilot as Maj. Alex Turner, of Chelmsford, Massachusetts. He has more than 270 combat hours over Libya and Iraq.

Turner ejected about 15 miles south of the Air Force Academy near Peterson, where Air Force One was waiting to take off.

There was no obvious sign of trouble with any of the jets during their commencement fly-bys.

Authorities quickly cordoned off the crash area, and a hazardous materials crew suited up to inspect the site, said nearby resident Justin Payne.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Alexander Rodriguez, a U.S. Air Force firefighter stationed in San Angelo, Texas, who was visiting with his family, said he raced from his brother’s house after hearing “a few loud bangs” and saw the plane gliding low before impact.

By then, first responders were arriving, he said.

Klug a ‘kind, gentle soul,’ colleagues say

■ SHOOTING from Page 1

didn’t appear to have conflicts with anyone.

“Bill was an absolutely wonderful man, just the nicest guy you would ever want to meet,” said UCLA professor Alan Garfinkel. The two worked together to build a computer model of the heart that could be used to test drugs.

Peter Gianusso, president of the El Segundo Little League and a friend of Klug’s, said Klug spent countless hours on the field coaching the boys and girls in the league.

“Just a great nice guy all around, and to meet his death in such a tragic and horrific manner, is just shocking and unbelievable,” Gianusso said.

Obama urges restraint in foreign policy

■ OBAMA from Page 1

dets in an outdoor ceremony that culminated in a dramatic Thunderbird flyover at the moment cadets toss their caps — a moment later marred by the news that one of the jets had crashed shortly after completing the maneuver. After returning to Peterson Air Force Base, Obama later met with the pilot, Maj. Alex Turner..

The president expressed relief that the pilot was not seriously injured,” a White House staffer said.

Obama didn’t mention any presidential candidates by name, but his target was clear. Trump has called repeatedly for putting “America first” by rethinking U.S. alliances, spending less to ensure other countries’ security and enacting strict tariffs.

“When we panic, we don’t make good decisions,” Obama told the graduates. He said that the U.S. had to engage with the world but must also be wary of overextending itself regard to.

“As we saw in Vietnam and the Iraq war, oftentimes the greatest damage to American credibility comes when we overreach, when we don’t think through the consequences of all of our actions,” he said.

He said he can’t imagine Klug having any problems with anyone after watching him interact with the children in the league.

Charles Knobler, a biology and chemistry professor at UCLA who said he knew Klug for 10 years, said he last saw Klug for lunch last week.

“I never, ever thought Bill Klug would have been the person who was involved,” he said. “It’s beyond belief that someone did this.”

Jim Gimzewski, another colleague at UCLA, was in tears talking about Klug, who he said was a “kind, gentle soul with a brilliant mind.”

Renjie Li, a 21-year-old engineering junior at UCLA, said Klug was one of his favorite professors.

“He was smart, very patient,” Li said. “I always went to his office hours and asked a bunch of questions, and he always answered with passion. He’s very approachable.

“He had such a bright future.”

Sanders pitches Puerto Rico bill

MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three days before Puerto Rico’s primary, Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders is digging in on his opposition to a House deal to rescue the U.S. territory from \$70 billion in debt.

Sanders said Thursday that he will introduce his own legislation to allow the Federal Reserve to give the territory emergency loans and provide broad bankruptcy protections, unlike legislation approved by a House committee last week that would create a control board to oversee limited debt restructuring. Sanders’ bill would also boost Medicaid and Medicare payments to the island and designate \$10.8 billion to rebuild the territory’s infrastructure.

The Vermont senator has said the existing House bill would make “a terrible situation even worse” and that it serves Wall Street bondholders over ordinary Puerto Ricans. The compromise bill is backed by House Speaker Paul Ryan, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi of California and the Obama administration. Puerto Rican officials are split.

“We have got to make it clear to these vulture funds that they can-

not have it all,” Sanders said in a statement. “The solution to Puerto Rico’s debt crisis is not more austerity. The solution is more economic development, more jobs and less poverty.”

The seven-member control board in the House bill would be primarily composed of members chosen by congressional Republicans, with some also chosen by congressional Democrats and the White House. Sanders’ legislation would create a seven-member “public corporation” that would mostly consist of representatives chosen by the legislature and governor of Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico, which has struggled to overcome a lengthy recession, has missed several payments to creditors and faces a \$2 billion installment, the largest yet, on July 1.

Sanders’ opposition could cause problems in the Senate, where one lawmaker can slow a bill’s progress. Senators have said they are waiting to see what happens in the House before they consider a bill to rescue the territory, so it could be weeks before the chamber takes up the issue. Sanders has been largely absent from Senate proceedings during his lengthy primary campaign.

Ryan marks shift for GOP

■ RYAN from Page 1

of a general election matchup against likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton. Some of the Republican Party’s best known leaders have vowed not to support Trump, including 2012 Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, who tapped Ryan as his running mate.

The day before Ryan’s announcement, Romney signaled support for a possible third-party candidate instead of the presumptive Republican nominee.

Yet as the GOP’s so-called “Never Trump” movement struggled to identify a viable alternative, many believed it was only a matter of time before Ryan fell in line.

“It’s no secret that he and I have our differences. I won’t pretend otherwise,” Ryan wrote in a column in the Janesville Gazette. “And when I feel the need to, I’ll continue to speak my mind.”

Ryan’s announcement was released as Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton was delivering a foreign policy speech excoriating Trump’s approach.

Clinton curates questions

■ CLINTON from Page 1

son, incorporated talking points sent by Clinton’s campaign into his August 2015 opening remarks ahead of her appearance. In an interview, Denson said the college was visited by several candidates including Clinton and presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump, and handled each campaign the same: reaching out for specific remarks ahead of time to incorporate into his usual introduction, which notes the school is nonpartisan and doesn’t favor any candidate.

“We did the same thing with Trump,” he said, adding that candidate visits at community colleges provide insight into what’s important and the opportunity to hear from future White House occupants who could shape the nation’s policies.

Merrill said the campaign at times assists people as part of an event, “especially those introducing Secretary Clinton, with the points on our campaign’s message. More often than not, it’s because they’ve asked.”

DJ News Fund interns headed to newsrooms

Eleven college students and recent college graduates are headed to paid copy editing internships on daily newspapers after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a group of undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, sports copy editing, business reporting and digital journalism.

The highly competitive national program is funded by the Dow Jones News Fund, and participating newspapers and digital media services. The 921 applicants were required to take a test and complete an extensive application before being considered.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 19th residency program at UT-Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online product, swjournalist.com.

The UT-News Fund interns serve internships of 10 to 14 weeks.

Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating newspapers cover the participants’ pre-internship training, including housing, meals, transportation and instruction.

Participating newspapers also pay interns a weekly wage for their internship work. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the News Fund.

Beth Butler and Bradley Wilson served as co-directors of the workshop with assistance from Lourdes Jones, senior administrative associate of the UT School of Journalism.



PHOTO BY GABRIEL PEREZ

Eleven college students and recent college graduates train at The University of Texas at Austin for 10 days before heading to internships at daily newspapers around the nation. This competitive program is funded by the Dow Jones News Fund. Sitting: Kate Shea, Andrea Platten, Paola Ruano and Beth Butler; standing: Bradley Wilson, Dani Malakoff, Meira Gebel, Zoe McDonald, Shane Graber, Greg Boyd, Jared Servantez, Mark Grabowski, Danielle Parenteau, Jack Heffernan, Edward Graham, Linda Shockley

Faculty included Griff Singer, retired senior lecturer from UT-Austin; Mark Grabowski, associate professor at Adelphi University; Shane Garber, a doctoral student at UT-Austin; and Linda Shockley, managing director of the News Fund in Princeton, New Jersey.

Students also had the opportunity to visit with staff and managers at the GateHouse Media Center for News and Design in Austin, Dan Cunningham, senior editor of the *Houston Chronicle*, R.B. Brenner, director of the UT School of Journalism.

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2016 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

INTERNATIONAL

Protests occur over Gambian human rights

DAKAR, Senegal — Gambian activists and politicians have called on West Africa’s economic body to take actions against Gambia for its brutal crackdown on rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly in the run-up to elections later in the year.

The group demands accountability for President Yahya Jammeh, who has been in power since 1994, for the arrest and beatings of peaceful protesters and bystanders in opposition protests this spring.

Gambia, a part of the Economic Community Of West African States, must observe and comply with its protocol on democracy and good governance, Amnesty International said, calling for its suspension from the body if no progress on human rights is made.

Prisoner tells of ‘mental torture’ in secret

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — A Somali prisoner at Guantanamo Bay told a military judge Thursday that he has experienced what he believes are intentional noises and vibrations inside the high-security section of the prison, Camp 7.

The testimony of Hassan Guleed, an alleged member of East Africa Al-Qaida, was intended to support allegations by Sept. 11 defendant Ramzi Binalshibh, who has alleged he has been subjected to intentional sleep deprivation.

Military officials have repeatedly denied these claims.

The judge, Army Col. James Pohl, earlier issued an order directing the military to cease any deliberate noises or vibrations without determining whether any had occurred. Binalshibh says it has continued despite that order.

Greek government amends austerity program

ATHENS, Greece — Greece’s parliament has approved a new batch of tweaks to its creditor-mandated austerity program, which it hopes will unlock a promised, vital loan installment.

The amendments include adjustments to some civil service salaries and non-performing loans.

Last month, Greece approved new sweeping tax hikes and other reforms aimed to reduce government spending.

Starting this week, the main sales tax rate increased from 23 to 24 percent. Taxes were also raised on services used heavily by Greeks forced to cut back on leisure activities because of the financial crisis.

Greece’s European creditors have agreed to unfreeze 10.3 billion euros (\$11.5 billion) in bailout funds, starting later this month, but demanded additions to the measures passed in May.

Hackers leaking identities of journalists in Ukraine

MOSCOW — Ambassadors to Ukraine from the Group of Seven countries are expressing concern about hackers publishing the names and contact information of journalists who have reported from rebel-controlled eastern Ukraine.

Hackers from a group called Mirotvorets (Peacekeeper) said they had gained access to computers used by the Russia-backed separatists to register journalists working in the conflict zone. They said they felt it was necessary to publish the list “because these journalists collaborate with fighters from terrorist organizations.”

The embassy of Japan, the current chair of the G-7, says the characterization “endangers the personal security of those affected and Ukraine’s hard-won media freedom.”

Shadow of jailed ex-leader hangs over Peru election

LIMA, Peru — The shadow of imprisoned former president Alberto Fujimori looms over Sunday’s Peru election, between his daughter, Keiko, and banker Pedro Pablo Kuczynski.

His daughter, a former congresswoman, is capitalizing on a well-funded campaign and those who remember her father fondly.

But tens of thousands have marched against the return of any Fujimori, due to the elder’s bloody crackdown on dissent and corrupt government, which have him serving 25 years in prison. Even leading politicians from the left have endorsed Kuczynski.

Recent polls showed Fujimori opening a small lead over Kuczynski, though within the margin of error and with a large number of voters still undecided.

Venezuela police repel protest of hungry citizens

CARACAS, Venezuela — A throng of protesters demanding food made a run for the Venezuelan presidential palace on Thursday in a rare, apparently spontaneous outburst of anger at the socialist administration.

They got within about a half dozen blocks of the presidential palace before police in riot gear headed them off and began firing tear gas.

The country has seen near-daily spontaneous protests in recent weeks over shortages of food and medicine, rolling blackouts, and poor access to running water.

Protesters said the incident began at a nearby supermarket when it appeared that people affiliated with the government were taking away food that people had been waiting all day to buy.

Protesters said they were neither members of the opposition nor supporters of the government, just people trying to feed themselves.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

France floods affect historic Paris sites

ANGELA CHARLTON
Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — The rising waters of the Seine overflowed riverbanks, roads and rail tracks across Paris on Thursday, forcing authorities at the Louvre to do something they have not done in generations: hurriedly move precious artworks to higher ground.

The Seine’s water levels are expected to peak Friday around noon. Paris police upgraded their flood warning Thursday to “orange” — the second-highest level — for areas near the Seine, which means they believe the floods could have “a significant impact” on buildings and people.

The Louvre Museum announced it will be closed Friday to remove artworks from rooms threatened by the rising waters, shifting them upstairs.

The Orsay museum, on the left bank of the Seine, will also be closed Friday to prepare for potential flooding.

A spokeswoman at the Louvre said the museum has not taken such precautions since its 1993 renovation. Some underground storerooms created during the



JEROME DELAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents evacuate their home in Nemours, south of Paris, on Thursday. Floods inundating parts of France and Germany have left five people dead and thousands trapped in homes or cars, as rivers have broken their banks from Paris to Bavaria.

renovation are particularly vulnerable to flood risks.

She spoke on condition of anonymity, in line with the museum’s policy.

The Louvre did move art to higher floors in the flood that devastated Paris in 1910. Authorities are still checking to see if similar actions have been taken from then to 1993.

About 200,000 artworks are lo-

cated in flood-risk areas, most in storerooms.

European rivers have burst their banks this week from Paris to the southern German state of Bavaria, killing six people, trapping thousands and forcing everything from subway lines to castles to museums to shut down.

France’s meteorological service said Thursday that severe flood watches remained in effect in



BEN CURTIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourist Stephen Fernandez, center-right, takes photos in 2015 of a male silverback mountain gorilla from a family of mountain gorillas in the dense forest on the slopes of Mount Bisoke volcano in Volcanoes National Park, northern Rwanda. In some parts of Africa, tourists and researchers routinely trek into the undergrowth to see gorillas in their natural habitat where there are no barriers or enclosures.

Tourists meet gorillas in the wild

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — In some parts of Africa, tourists and researchers routinely trek to see gorillas in their natural habitat. There are no barriers and no enclosures. The apes are often accustomed to people, sometimes moving casually past first-time visitors.

This delicate interaction usually happens without incident, overseen by guides who brief trekkers on rules designed to protect infection-prone gorillas from humans and to shield humans from hulking wild animals. It’s a very different situation to the tense events on May 28 at the

Cincinnati Zoo, where an animal response team shot and killed an endangered adult male gorilla named Harambe after a 3-year-old boy fell into an enclosure.

A key to studying gorillas in their habitats is to maintain a minimum distance and convey “a certain kind of feeling that they are not under too much pressure,” Thomas Breuer, a researcher with the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society, said in a telephone interview from the Republic of Congo.

Dominant male gorillas like Harambe can be more aggressive in limited spaces like zoos, than they would be in the wild, said Eva Maria Luef, a researcher with the Max Planck Institute for Orni-

thology in Germany.

The Cincinnati scenario was unpredictable. Video shows Harambe swiftly dragging the boy through the moat water, and pausing to touch the child in a way that some people viewed as protective.

Breuer has studied gorillas in Nouabale-Ndoki National Park in the Republic of Congo in a project partly supported by the Cincinnati Zoo. He said a popular image of gorillas as “gentle giants” is misleading, and that experienced Congolese guides would occasionally step forward with raised sticks to ward off aggressive animals.

“These are not pets,” Breuer said.

Germany calls out Turkish genocide

GEIR MOULSON
Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany’s parliament overwhelmingly voted Thursday to label the killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks a century ago as genocide, prompting Turkey to recall its ambassador assigned to Germany.

The vote heightened tensions between Germany and Turkey at a time when Ankara is playing a key role in stemming the flow of migrants to Europe.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim called the German decision a “historic error.” Yildirim said that Turkish people take pride in their past and that “there is no event in our past that would cause us to bow down our heads in embarrassment.”

Armenia’s president and foreign minister welcomed the vote.

Historians estimate that up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the time of World War I, an event viewed by many scholars as the 20th century’s first genocide.

Turkey denies that the killings that started in 1915 were genocide and contends the dead were victims of civil war and unrest, and that the death toll has been inflated.

Opening Thursday’s debate, German Parliament speaker Norbert Lammert acknowledged that addressing historical events can



MICHAEL SOHN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Christian Church of Armenia representatives attend a German Federal Parliament meeting at the Reichstag building in Berlin on Thursday. The German Parliament voted on Thursday to label the killings of Armenians by Ottoman Turks a century ago as genocide.

be painful.

“But we have also seen that an honest and self-critical appraisal of the past does not endanger relations with other countries,” he said. “In fact, it is a precondition for understanding, reconciliation and cooperation.”

When other countries have called the killings genocide it has led to diplomatic strife with Turkey, but not lasting damage.

Last year, Turkey temporarily recalled its ambassadors to Vienna and the Vatican after Austria and Pope Francis described the killings as genocide.

The motion stresses that Germany is aware of the “uniqueness” of the Nazi Holocaust and it “regrets the inglorious role” of Germany, the Ottoman Turks’ main military ally at the time of the Armenians’ killings.

Merkel said the German government hopes that Turkey and Armenia will work together on how to approach their history.

Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan sent telegrams to Merkel, Gauck and Lammert thanking them for the passage of resolution, describing it as a “historic step.”

one Paris-area region: Seine-et-Marne. Nine more regions in central France, including Paris, were facing flood warnings as well.

For the second day, emergency workers evacuated residents in Nemours, 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Paris, the hardest-hit site in France.

The situation improved somewhat late Thursday, yet about 21,000 homes were still without electricity.

Those killed amid the deluge include an 86-year-old woman who died in her flooded home in Souppes-sur-Loing, southeast of Paris. In southern Germany, five people were killed as floods swept Wednesday through the towns of Simbach am Inn and Triftern near the Austrian border.

French President Francois Hollande said a “natural disaster” will be formally declared next week for areas most affected by the flooding.

In Berlin, meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel promised continued help for flooded areas, telling reporters Thursday that she “mourns for those for whom the help has come too late, who lost their lives.”

Rio says ready for Olympics

STEPHEN WILSON
AP Sports Writer

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Seeking to allay myriad concerns as the games approach, Brazilian organizers assured IOC leaders on Thursday that final preparations for the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro would not be derailed by the Zika outbreak, a presidential impeachment or construction delays.

With South America’s first Olympics just over two months away, Rio organizers made their final presentation to the IOC executive board ahead of the Aug. 5 opening ceremony.

“We are confident the games will take place and will be very successful,” IOC spokesman Mark Adams told reporters.

IOC President Thomas Bach plans to visit Brazil from June 14-16 to check on Rio’s preparations. He will meet acting President Michel Temer, who took over last month after Dilma Rousseff was suspended pending a Senate impeachment trial.

Rio organizing chief Carlos Nuzman said the IOC had “no questions, no concerns” over the political crisis.

Last week, a group of 150 scientists suggested the Olympics should be postponed or moved because of the outbreak of Zika, a mosquito-borne virus linked to severe birth defects. But the World Health Organization said there was “no public health justification” to call off the Olympics, and the IOC has repeatedly said the games will go ahead.

Nuzman said the Zika threat diminishes dramatically during Brazil’s winter months.

Not one case of Zika was recorded during 44 test events, Rio spokesman Mario Andrada said.

Nuzman said leading athletes such as Usain Bolt, Rafael Nadal, Neymar and members of the U.S. basketball team have said they have no worries about going to Rio.

However, American cyclist Tejay van Garderen withdrew his name from consideration for the games amid concerns he may contract Zika and pass it along to his pregnant wife.

Brazil is also dealing with its worst economic recession since the 1930s. Brazilian organizers have sought financial help from the IOC, which is already contributing \$1.5 billion to Rio from TV and marketing revenues and could advance payments on that amount to relieve the pressure.

While most venues are ready, the \$43-million velodrome has faced serious construction delays. Union Cycliste Internationale President Brian Cookson said last week he remains “very, very concerned” about the venue.

Andrada said Rio Mayor Eduardo Paes gave assurances the velodrome would be “up and running” by the end of the month.

Andrada also said ticket sales are picking up — with 67 percent sold, or 4 million out of the 6 million available.

Regulators tackle payday loans

KEN SWEET
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — Federal regulators proposed a significant clamp-down on payday lenders and other high interest loans on Thursday, the first nationwide attempt to address an industry widely thought of as taking advantage of the poor and desperate.

The proposals, if enacted intact, are likely to cause a nationwide contraction and restructuring of the \$38 billion payday loan industry.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is proposing that lenders must conduct what's known as a "full-payment test." Because most payday loans are required to be paid in full when

they come due. There would also be restrictions on the number of times a borrower can renew the loan.

The CFPB would require that lenders give additional warnings before they attempt to debit a borrower's bank account, and also restrict the number of times they can attempt to debit the account. The aim is to lower the frequency of overdraft fees that are common with people who take out payday loans.

The agency is seeking comments from interested parties and the general public on the proposals before final regulations are issued. Comments are due by Sept. 14. The final rules are likely to go into effect early next year.



STEVE HELBER / ASSOCIATED PRESS
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Director Richard Cordray, center, listens to comments during a panel discussion in Richmond, Va.

Clinton on Trump: 'A historic mistake'

SAN DIEGO — In a full-throated general election attack, Hillary Clinton lambasted Donald Trump's foreign policy vision Thursday as one of war, international turmoil and economic crisis. She contrasted that with a portrayal of an optimistic, inclusive and diplomatic view of the world.

Electing Trump, she said, would be "a historic mistake."

During a speech in San Diego, the former secretary of state counted down reasons he is not qualified.

She predicted dire consequences if he is elected, saying a Trump presidency could lead the U.S. into war abroad, spark nuclear conflicts and ignite economic catastrophe at home.

"There's no risk of people losing their lives if you blow up a golf course deal, but it doesn't work like that in world affairs," Clinton said.

Clinton's robust assault on Trump was widely carried on television, a change for the leading Democratic candidate who's frequently struggled to break through coverage of Trump.

In Thursday's speech, she sought to prove that she is ready to rumble with the famously combative Trump. She offered a number of aggressive new attack lines, and she ran down a list of people he has insulted, including the pope.

"He has the gall to say prisoners of war like John McCain aren't heroes," Clinton said. "He says he has foreign policy experience because he ran the Miss Universe pageant."

Clinton said she would provide the steady diplomacy the country needs. The opponents offer starkly different visions of U.S. foreign policy. Clinton's proposals reflect the traditional approach of both major parties.

Trump's strong-man "America first" approach is short on details but appeals to the emotions of angry voters.

Trump accused Clinton of lying about his foreign policy plans at a rally at an airport hangar in Sacramento, California, Wednesday night.

Orozco takes baby steps through loss, injury

Gymnast John Orozco fought resiliently through hardship to compete at Olympics

WILL GRAVES
AP Sports Writer

There was a time in John Orozco's life when he'd see his phone buzz immediately after a meet and try not to roll his eyes.

Orozco always answered. Always. Because Damaris Orozco needed to check in. Needed to see how her son was doing. Needed to share in his joy when things went well and provide a pep talk when they did not.

Even now, more than 15 months following her death on Valentine's Day 2015, Orozco still waits almost reflexively for "Mom" to pop up on the screen. The call he occasionally dreaded is now the one he wishes he could take. He expects that feeling to resurface during the U.S. men's championships starting Friday in Hartford, Connecticut.

There'd be plenty to go over. The crushing grief he felt in the immediate aftermath of her passing. That terrifying day last June

when he tore the Achilles' heel in his right leg for a second time, an injury that doctors told him would take a year to recover from and a setback that seemed to put Orozco's chances of making a second U.S. Olympic team in serious jeopardy.

The ensuing surgery forced Orozco to slow down. His training limited to what he could do with his upper body.

"I was in a pretty dark place for a while," he said.

A national champion as a teenager in 2012, the thoughtful 23-year-old from the Bronx is a study in resilience. He aggressively attacked his rehabilitation the second time around, making it to competition in eight months. He'll walk onto the floor at the XL Center on Friday hoping to take another significant step toward making the five-man team that will head to Brazil for the 2016 Summer Games in August.

When Damaris' battle finally ended, Orozco wondered if

he should just call coach Vitaly Marinitch and tell him he was heading back home to New York to start the next chapter of his life.

"I wanted to," Orozco said. "But I knew in the back of my mind I was never going to let myself do that. I'd worked too hard. I'd put too many years in."

The breakthrough came last summer when doctors told him he could ditch the scooter he'd been using for a walking boot. He woke up in the middle of the night and made it — slowly — to the bathroom on his own.

"I took the smallest step and was like 'Yes!'" he said. "It was kind of like a bittersweet moment. I was missing my mom at the time."

Her unyielding belief in him is one of the reasons Orozco kept going. He competed at the Olympic Test Event in April, his third-place finish hardening his resolve to make a return trip this summer, even if he's no longer the star of the U.S. team. Orozco is simply happy to be a part of the mix. For



JAE C. HONG / ASSOCIATED PRESS
John Orozco competes on the parallel bars during the preliminary round of the men's Olympic gymnastics trials on June 28, 2012, in San Jose, Calif.

now, that's enough.

If he makes it, he knows the phone call he desperately wants to take will never come. That's OK. In some ways, his mother feels closer than ever.

NATIONAL

Weekend to bring high temps to West

LAS VEGAS — Parts of the Western U.S. are getting an early taste of scorching summer heat, forcing officials in California, Oregon and desert Southwest states to heed the warnings of dangerous, triple-digit temperatures in the first week of June.

The severity of the heat wave in the forecast is putting Southwest desert areas under an excessive heat warning. The life-threatening heat is expected to set in Friday morning through Sunday night, dangerously hot temperatures will peak Saturday, with highs between 105 and 110 in Sin City, 111 to 118 in Phoenix and 115 to 121 in Death Valley.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Clay Morgan said the heat impact level prompted the warning. Gradual temperatures help the body get acclimated, so a sudden upswing and a steep climb in a short period can exacerbate health risks and the potential for heat exhaustion, stroke and even death.

It's a particular concern in Las Vegas, which faced its first triple-digit day this year on Wednesday, a week later than average, and had highs in mid-May swinging from 99 to 75 in a matter of days.

Muhammad Ali in hospital for respiratory issue

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A spokesman for boxing great Muhammad Ali says the former heavyweight champion is being treated in a hospital for a respiratory issue.

Spokesman Bob Gunnell said Thursday that Ali is being treated by doctors as a precaution. He says that the 74-year-old is in fair condition, and that a brief hospital stay is expected.

He declined to say where Ali is hospitalized or when he was admitted.

Ali has battled Parkinson's disease for years.

Nonprofit starts search for problem solver

CHICAGO — A Chicago-based nonprofit is offering a \$100 million grant to a proposal designed solve a critical problem affecting people, places or the planet.

The MacArthur Foundation launched the new competition, called 1008Change, on Thursday. The foundation plans to name up to five finalists by next summer and announce a winner by early 2018.

The competition is seeking meaningful, verifiable, durable and feasible proposals. It's open to organizations working in any field of endeavor anywhere in the world. The applicants must be able to identify the problem and explain their solution.

The \$100 million prize is the MacArthur Foundation's biggest individual grant via a competition in the realms of public-spiritedness and altruism.

Fourth grade Science trip ends with sunken ship

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A boat that hit something under water and dunked a group of fourth graders into the Chesapeake Bay had ventured into a prohibited area, a U.S. Coast Guard official said Thursday. The U.S. Navy warns of unexploded bombs in the vicinity.

Everyone on board was rescued after the 40-foot Chesapeake Bay Foundation vessel sank near the mouth of the bay Wednesday evening, in water less than 5 feet deep.

The area is marked off-limits on nautical maps, Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class David Marin said.

Those obstructions could have explosive consequences.

The Navy used the Bloodsworth Island Range for live-ordnance training from 1942 to 1995, according to the Naval Air Station Patuxent River, which warns against trespassing too close to shore.

A Coast Guard investigation may determine just what the vessel hit.

The foundation said 23 people including 14 students were picked up by local boatsmen. Five people suffered bumps and bruises, and all were taken to hospitals as a precaution before being discharged, the foundation said.

The students from Kent School in Chestertown, Maryland, were on an annual science trip, said the school's admissions director, Tricia Cammerzell.

Suspect arrested in fatal shooting of 2 students

BATON ROUGE, La. — A man accused of starting a shootout that killed two Southern University students was arrested on murder charges Thursday.

But police don't believe he fired the deadly shots. Brandon Christopher Henderson, 25, of Baton Rouge told investigators that he fired the initial shots in the exchange of gunfire that killed 19-year-old students Lashunta Benton and Annette January at an off-campus party in April, a police report says.

Henderson, who was wounded in the April 10 shootout, was jailed on two counts of second-degree murder and one count of illegal use of a weapon. Another suspect — 22-year-old Ernest Bernard Felton, of Miami — was arrested within hours of the shooting on a charge of attempted second-degree murder in Henderson's shooting.

Felton, a former Southern football player, hasn't been charged in the women's deaths, but police said in a written statement Thursday that the case remains under investigation with "additional pending arrests."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST

Hurricane Ike’s damage persists in Galveston

GALVESTON — Almost eight years after Hurricane Ike, Galveston County is still dealing with damaged and abandoned property left behind.

About 500 homes qualified for grant money to be removed under a community development program, and a majority of the property owners have removed the hazardous structures.

County spokeswoman Brittany Rainville told The Galveston County Daily News that of the remaining 200 or so buildings, 34 have been taken down, and Galveston County commissioners have now approved razing another 15.

She says the tear-downs can take time because of such items as probate court and foreclosure proceedings. One demolition project was stalled to determine whether the home being razed had any historical significance.

Most of the homes or businesses still awaiting removal are in San Leon or on the Bolivar Peninsula.

Gas prices across Texas up 4 cents per gallon

COPPELL — Retail gasoline prices have climbed another 4 cents across Texas this week to an average of \$2.12 per gallon.

AAA Texas on Thursday reported the nationwide price at the pump also rose 2 cents this week to an average of \$2.33 per gallon.

The AAA survey found that Dallas and Fort Worth have the most expensive gasoline in Texas this week at \$2.19 per gallon. Corpus Christi has the cheapest gas statewide at \$2.04 per gallon.

AAA Texas says drivers in Texas are paying 39 cents less per gallon compared to the same time a year ago.

The auto club says the prices as the summer driving season gets under way are the cheapest in more than a decade.

North Texas firm wants church donations returned

FORT WORTH — A North Texas company is seeking the return of more than \$200,000 donated to a church by its former chief financial officer, who has been tied to a more than \$6 million embezzlement scheme.

Grapevine-based distribution company Raley Holdings is suing First Baptist Church of Carrollton, calling the donations from John Franklin Howard “blood money” and not his to give.

Howard in 2014 was sentenced to life in prison for the attempted capital murder of his wife for hiring men to try to kill her.

The Tarrant County lawsuit filed last week says he used the embezzled money for the murder plot and also gave misappropriated money to the church.

Man charged with DWI after child falls from his car

SPRING — A suburban Houston man with a history of drunken-driving convictions was jailed after one of two children riding with him tumbled from his car and fell onto the street, authorities said.

Montgomery County deputies said Matthew Killian, of Spring, was arrested and accused of driving while intoxicated. Records show he has three previous DWI convictions.

Authorities told the Houston Chronicle that a bystander saw a small child fall from the front passenger seat of his moving car Tuesday. They said Killian got out, retrieved the child and drove off with the door still open. Deputies tracked down the car and found Killian still in it with the kids.

The child who fell is hospitalized. Killian is also charged with injury to a child and endangering a child.

Woman wields knives to threaten Arlington police

ARLINGTON — Arlington police said a 28-year-old woman was jailed on one count of making a terroristic threat after she walked in the front doors of the police station, holding two knives over her head, and started swinging the knives toward the desk officer.

The desk officer called for help, and one of a number of other officers who responded used his electronic stun gun to subdue Patricia Sayan, of Arlington.

A video from the surveillance camera in the police station Tuesday night shows the officer telling Sayan to back away and drop the knives, her refusal and the arrival of the other officers. The video also shows Sayan collapsing after getting hit by the stun gun.

Police say no one was injured.

El Paso police say robberies up by 17 percent in 1 year

EL PASO — El Paso police say robberies in the far west Texas city so far this year are up 17 percent from the same period a year ago.

Police spokesman Robert Gomez told the El Paso Times that police in each of the city’s five regional commands are addressing the increase and that the robberies are not connected.

The 185 robberies include armed robberies and holdups where no weapon was used.

The sharpest jump, 50 percent, has been on the city’s west side.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



MARK MULLIGAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ranchers drive cattle west, away from the surging Brazos River, down Farm-to-Market 1462 in Brazoria County on Thursday. Parts of Texas have been inundated with rain in the past week, and more than half of the state is under flood watches or warnings, including the counties near Fort Hood, where three soldiers died and another six went missing Thursday.

3 soldiers die in flood 6 more missing in torrent near Fort Hood

JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON — Three soldiers were killed and six were missing after a military truck was swept away in a rain-swollen creek Thursday at Fort Hood, Army officials said.

Fort Hood spokesman John Miller said the truck, called a light medium tactical vehicle, was using the Owl Creek Tactical Crossing, a low-water creek crossing, when swift flood waters from two days of intermittent heavy rains swept it down the road.

The vehicle, which resembles a flatbed truck with a walled bed and is used to carry troops, was carrying 12 soldiers when it overturned in the current, according to a statement from Fort Hood.

Parts of Texas have been inundated with rain in the past week, and more than half of the state is under flood watches or warnings, including the counties near Fort Hood.

At least six people died in floods

last week in Central and South-east Texas.

The soldiers were performing routine training activities when they were swept from the road, post spokesman Chris Haug said. Army aircraft, canine search teams, swift-water rescue watercraft and heavy trucks were used in the search for the six missing soldiers. The Army has not yet released the names of the dead because it is still notifying relatives.

Three soldiers were rescued from the swift water and were in stable condition at Coryell Memorial Healthcare System in Gatesville.

Parts of Texas still recovering from heavy rainfall are watching a new batch of storms, which could dump up to 10 inches of rain between now and Sunday, worsening flooding caused by rivers and other waterways that have already risen to record levels.

A storm system that moved through the Houston area

Wednesday night and Thursday morning dumped nearly 8 inches of rain in some of the city’s northern suburbs. In Fort Bend County, southwest of Houston, about 1,400 homes have been affected by the Brazos River, swelling from heavy rainfall from last week.

The river reached 54.8 feet in Fort Bend County — 4 feet higher than the record set in 1994.

Depending on how much rain falls, the Brazos River could rise to up to 56 feet, said Fort Bend County Judge Robert Hebert.

Officials in Fort Bend have conducted nearly 560 water rescues since Sunday. Fort Bend County emergency management coordinator Jeff Braun said it could be at least a week before the flooding recedes and residents can go home.

Fort Bend is one of the 31 counties included in a disaster declaration by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

Cowboys stacked at running back

SCHUYLER DIXON Associated Press

IRVING — Ezekiel Elliott ran with the first team in offseason practices for the Dallas Cowboys this week.

That’s at least partly because Darren McFadden was out for personal reasons.

As for how the depth chart will look at running back in three months going into the opener against the New York Giants, the Cowboys are tiptoeing around the question in an age when No. 4 overall picks are almost always walk-in starters, regardless of position.

It’s an interesting issue in Dallas, because McFadden was fourth in the NFL in rushing last season, with 1,089 yards, even though he was the lead back for just 10 games.

At the same time, Elliott is saying all the right things: The job isn’t his, and he has plenty to learn.

But now it’s been almost a month since the star of the Buck-

eyes’ title game win two seasons ago first took the field.

McFadden was the fourth overall pick by Oakland eight years ago, so he knows something about the expectations Elliott faces now. Elliott wasn’t surprised they quickly developed a good relationship because, he said, McFadden reached out even before the Cowboys drafted him.

McFadden signed with Dallas last year. He was No. 2 behind Joseph Randle before Randle got hurt early in the sixth game against the Giants and McFadden filled in with the team’s season high of 152 yards.

Stephen Jones, executive vice president of personnel, doesn’t see McFadden simply handing the job to the rookie, though.

“As competitive as that room is, the great news is these are all not only good football players but they’re good people off the field.”

Elliott said he embraces the expectations. And those include becoming a starter.



TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dallas Cowboys running back Ezekiel Elliott prepares to run a drill during the team’s NFL football minicamp in Irving on May 7. Elliott was the fourth overall pick in the draft.

Video reveals details in Houston boy’s death

MICHAEL GRACZYK Associated Press

HOUSTON — A new surveillance video that shows a “person of interest” in the slaying of an 11-year-old Houston boy was released Thursday, more than two weeks after the stabbing.

“We have a very clear picture of this man’s face,” said police Sgt. Tommy Ruland, the lead investigator in the murder of Josue Flores. “Someone out there in the community knows who this person is. And we need this man’s identity.”

The sixth-grader was walking home from a science club meeting after school May 17 when he was attacked and fatally stabbed on a sidewalk a couple of blocks from his home just north of downtown Houston.

The 36-second video shows a black man running down a street not far from the scene. The man has a mustache and possible goatee, is 25 to 30 years old and about 6 feet tall, and weighs 180 to 200 pounds.

He’s wearing a green jacket with a partially



HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

This photo from a surveillance video shows a man that Houston police are calling a person of interest in the investigation of the slaying of Josue Flores.

obscured word containing the letters “LY-MEN” on the hood of the jacket.

“Somebody’s going to recognize that jacket or recognize what the significance is or the origination of that jacket,” Ruland said.

Briles says he never saw Baylor report

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO — Former Baylor coach Art Briles told a Waco television station that the report on the handling of sexual assault allegations commissioned by the school has not been shared with him and that he assumes it supports a conclusion already drawn by the Board of Regents.

KWTX-News 10 posted the statement on its website Thursday. It marks the first time that Briles has spoken publicly since being ousted by the board last week.

The board terminated Briles after he had served as coach of the Bears for eight years.

The report commissioned by the law firm Pepper Hamilton stated that school leadership, including Briles and his staff, inappropriately handled allegations of sexual violence made by students, some against football players.

Briles said his “heart goes out to the victims for the pain that they endured,” adding, “I have certainly made mistakes, and, in hindsight, I would have done certain things differently.



Briles

“Keep in mind, the complete scope of what happened here has not been disclosed and unfortunately at this time I am contractually obligated to remain silent on the matter,” he told News 10.

“The report prepared by Pepper Hamilton ... has not been shared with me directly, despite my full cooperation with the investigation. I can only assume that the report, which is not independent, supports the conclusions that the Board has already drawn.”

TO VIEW A TIMELINE OF SEXUAL ASSAULT ALLEGATIONS AT BAYLOR UNIVERSITY, VISIT SWJOURNALIST.COM.

Revolutionary ROADBLOCKS

"I realized that what I did was an individual political act, and I must take responsibility for it." — Wang Keming

DIDI TANG
Associated Press

May 16, 1966 — The Communist Party's decision-making Politburo calls an extended meeting at which four leading officials are purged and a document is issued announcing the start of what was formally known as the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

May 25, 1966 — Big character posters denouncing all those who opposed Chairman Mao Zedong and his revolution begin appearing, opening the floodgates to mass political movements at college campuses throughout the country. Soon after, classes in schools nationwide are suspended indefinitely.

June 16, 1966 — After swimming in the mighty Yangtze River to signal his readiness for ideological battle, Mao defeats an attempt to introduce work teams to calm the growing chaos in schools and factories.

August 5, 1966 — Mao issues his own big character poster proclaiming, "Bombard the headquarters," prompting the youthful Red Guards at the vanguard of the Cultural Revolution to step up their attacks on officials and rival factions.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this August 1966 file photo, Mao, center, waves as he meets with teachers and students from Beijing.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this file photo taken Aug. 10, 1966, a young woman identified only as "Ms. Zhou" calls out to embolden her fellow Red Guards in Beijing's Tiananmen Square at the start of the 1966-76 Chinese Cultural Revolution.

As a teenager, Wang Keming felt nothing but contempt for the older peasant his village singled out for collective persecution in 1970. Stirred by Mao Zedong's radical ideology and inured to the rampant violence of China's Cultural Revolution, he beat the man bloody and saw nothing wrong with it.

Decades later, Wang felt something that few of the millions of people who committed abuses have publicly acknowledged — guilt. He expressed remorse to his victim, and later he shared his apology in a national journal, in what is believed to be the first public apology by anyone for personal acts committed during the Cultural Revolution's violent decade.

"I realized that what I did was an individual political act, and I must take responsibility for it," the retired newspaper editor said in an interview at his suburban Beijing home. "Otherwise, my heart would be troubled for the rest of my life."

Since Wang's 2008 public apology, dozens of other participants have accepted responsibility and shown contrition. The vast majority have not, although an entire generation was almost wholly caught up in the events. About 1 million people were estimated to have died from execution, persecution, extreme humiliation, factional warfare and savage prison conditions — often in the hands of their fellow country people.

The Communist Party, which still rules China with an iron fist, also has yet to apologize five decades after Mao launched the movement to realize his radical communist vision.

The party closed the book on the era in 1981 without holding Mao responsible or apologizing to the nation. Last month's 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Cultural Revolution was met mostly with stony official silence.

Advocates of greater openness say that without an honest accounting, wounds will never heal and the movement's unaddressed history will impede China's political development.

'REVOLUTION IS VIOLENCE'

Wang was among millions of city youths sent to the countryside at the height of the Cultural Revolution in 1969.

By then, schools had been shut down and urban teenagers were wandering the streets with little to do but pick fights with one another. To prevent further rounds of chaos, Mao sent them to the vast countryside, ostensibly to spread the revolution and learn life lessons from the peasantry.

Wang found himself in Yujiagou in the northern Shaanxi province, a stark area of loess hills where he was forced to endure back-breaking work plowing fields on the arid slopes.

Wang was not allowed to participate in the revolution in Beijing, partly because his father had been labeled a "capitalist roader," one of Mao's worst class enemies. Now, he saw his chance.

"I really wanted to join the revolution. I thought it was a meaningful thing," Wang said.

He never had a second thought about using violence. "Revolution is violence," he said, citing a common saying from the Cultural Revolution years.

When the village picked peasant Gu Zhiyou to meet its quota of bad elements, Wang enthusiastically joined the farce of shaming the man, whose alleged counter-revolutionary crimes had included quoting an ancient Chinese proverb linking a weather pattern to mass deaths.

At an August 1970 denouncing session, Wang shouted slogans against Gu. The group took a break, and Gu sat on a grindstone in the shade of a tree — but Wang felt a need to continue hounding the man.

"I stepped forward, raised my right arm and slung it at him," Wang wrote in his public apology.

Gu was left splayed on the grindstone, his nose and mouth bleeding.

"I was a bit taken aback that I beat him to the point of bleeding, but then I told myself, 'He is an enemy, and I can beat him as long as he is an enemy.'"

TORTURE FOR THE FUTURE

Scholars say that by engineering the Cultural Revolution for mass participation, Mao unleashed destructive powers upturning the prevailing social order, distorting morals and setting free the ugliest side of human nature.

"Too many ordinary people were part of it, and they are unwilling to admit wrongs," said Wang Youqin, a University of Chicago lecturer.

The movement began with a document issued May 16, 1966, by the Communist Party's Politburo.

Widespread violence was not immediate, but that August and early September in Beijing alone, Wang said, an official document tallied 1,772 related deaths of people who were beaten, tortured or took their own lives.

Many of the victims were school teachers persecuted by their students, who were organized into Mao's bands of youthful revolutionary Red Guards.

Wang said the killing spree — intensified by Mao's encouragement of Red Guard violence — was one of the worst in Chinese history during peacetime.

"It should be called torture-killing," Wang wrote in a 2014 article.

BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS

Cheng Bi, a 93-year-old retired Beijing school administrator, was abused by many students but believes two students, whose names she still remembers, should have apologized for their particularly brutal acts against her during the Cultural Revolution. One is dead, and she does not expect the other to apologize.

She recalled how she was forced to kneel with her arms raised while one of the students beat her wrists repeatedly. The other whipped her 45 times, turning her body purple.

"They beat me with belts, slapped me in the face, forced me to perform labor and starved me," Cheng said. "The students threw away my pain medications, so I had to endure the physical pains."

But she survived. At her school, one teacher hanged herself after five rounds of savage beatings by students during a single night. Another young staffer was beaten to death by students wielding wooden training guns, belts and lead pipes.

Decades later, Cheng did receive an apology from an unexpected source. Shen Xiaoke, who as a student once harangued Cheng using the ideological language of the extreme left, sent her a letter in 2010.

"I was really surprised," Cheng said. "I didn't think he'd done anything bad to me and wondered why he needed to apologize."

Shen is happy that a national newspaper published his letter, though it was printed without his prior knowledge.

"It can serve to represent the classmates who are too ashamed or do not have guts to apologize yet," Shen said.

He noted that it's easier for students with no blood on their hands to say sorry than those who do, Shen said.

'ACCOMPLICES OF THE EVIL'

After attacking Gu, Wang remained in Yujiagou for several years and even worked alongside his victim. Gu was kind to him.

"I kept coming up with reasons for my act, but my inner conflicts only grew worse," Wang said.

In 1978, Wang returned to Beijing. He worked as a laborer, then landed a job at a newspaper.

He later devoted himself to studying the dialects and folk cultures of northern Shaanxi.

Wang came to realize the Cultural Revolution was a mistake and later concluded that he bore personal responsibility.

"When we put collective values ahead of individual values, there can be no place for human rights and no respect for humanity," Wang said. In 2004, Wang apologized to Gu, who died four years later.

"Hey, it was a political movement," Wang quoted Gu as saying in his public apology. "You were only a kid and didn't know anything."

In January 2008, Wang's apology appeared in a national journal.

The article prompted a book project spearheaded by Wang and other Chinese intellectuals to find more people willing to own up to their actions.

More than 30 agreed, including Zhang Hongbing, a Beijing lawyer who had informed on his own mother. She died during the course of her persecution.

"We were the accomplices of the evil," Zhang wrote.

July 27, 1968 — The military is dispatched to restore order, and urban youth are sent down to the countryside, ostensibly to spread the revolution and learn from the nation's peasantry. Over the next seven years, 12 million Chinese are rusticated — equivalent to about 10 percent of the urban population.

April 1-24, 1969 — The Communist Party elevates famed general Lin Biao as Mao's heir-apparent and "closest comrade in arms." The same year, a 15-year-old Xi Jinping, China's current leader, was sent to work in his father's home province of Shaanxi.

September 13, 1971 — Lin dies in a plane crash in Mongolia, along with close family members and aides, while apparently fleeing China. Mao is left without a successor while his wife, Jiang Qing, exerts ever greater influence on culture and politics as the leader of the "Gang of Four."



ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo, taken Aug. 29, 1966, drummers raise their sticks during a demonstration in front of the Soviet Embassy in Beijing.



MARK AVERY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

September 9, 1976 — Mao dies in Beijing at the age of 82.

October 6, 1976 — Jiang Qing and the Gang of Four are arrested in a revolt led by the military, ending the Cultural Revolution. All four were sentenced to prison and blamed for injustices that have been attributed to Mao.





88°/70°
Cloudy

WONDER WOMAN

Director discusses the message of female empowerment in her new film. **FEATURES, 6**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017



Tensions boil over at Texas Capitol

BY PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A Hispanic Texas lawmaker whom a Republican colleague threatened to shoot “in self-defense” after the Democrat pushed him said Tuesday that the altercation was a boiling point in a session where minority members were powerless to stop conservative legislation they say is discriminatory.

Tensions erupted on the floor of the Texas House of Representatives on Monday when Republican state Rep. Matt Rinaldi told

Democrats he had called U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents about demonstrators in the gallery holding signs that read, “I am illegal and here to stay.”

Hundreds of immigrant-rights activists — many of whom were Hispanic — had jammed the state Capitol on the final day before the Texas Legislature adjourned un-



Rinaldi



Nevarez

til 2019. Some came from as far as Arizona to protest a “sanctuary city” crackdown that will allow police, starting in September, to ask people during routine stops whether they’re in the U.S. legally.

Democratic state Rep. Poncho Nevarez did not deny pushing Rinaldi, who wrote on Facebook that he told Nevarez after being

threatened that “I would shoot him in self-defense.” Nevarez said he was “sick of” the attitudes toward Hispanics in the Legislature and was taking a stand.

“Another legislator sidled up to me yesterday and said, ‘Those aren’t Americans up there,’ said Nevarez, referring to the protesters in the gallery.

“I think there are some people in some moments that bring out racism. They want to believe that they’re not racist because when they deal with me I’m one of the ‘good’ ones. But I’m just one of the

folks up there,” he said of the protesters.

A phone message left at Rinaldi’s office was not returned Tuesday. Rinaldi wrote on Facebook that he was under the protection of state troopers.

“I think yesterday was the symptom of what’s been a difficult, challenging and emotional session. No one has totally clean hands but what happened on the floor with the physical attack on Matt was beyond the pale,” Re-

■ SANCTUARY, Page 2

Scripps Spelling Bee celebrates 90 years, new changes this year

BY BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

OXON HILL, Maryland — Shaheer Imam never thought it would take so long to get back to the National Spelling Bee.

The 13-year-old from Catonsville, Maryland, made his first appearance in 2012. Shaheer was just 8, and he spelled “capricious” and “quinzaine” correctly.

This year, he finally made it back and Tuesday morning, he took his place among 290 other spellers at a convention center outside Washington, D.C., as the 90th Scripps National Spelling Bee began with a written spelling and vocabulary test.

In a year when the bee is welcoming its youngest-ever participant, 6-year-old Edith Fuller, Shaheer is setting a more unusual record, for the longest gap — five years — between appearances. His frustrating wait shows just how tough it can be to emerge from a field of 11 million spellers in the U.S. and abroad.

Much has changed since Shaheer’s previous appearance in 2012. The bee added vocabulary to the written test, forcing spellers for the first time to learn the definitions of words, although the top spellers had been doing that for years. Then the secretive Scripps word team started struggling to dig out words tough enough to identify a single champion. The bee has ended in a tie for three consecutive years.

Last year, the bee made the championship rounds longer and the words tougher, but it still ended with two spellers sharing the title. This year, the bee added a second written and vocabulary test that the remaining spellers will take before the prime time finals on Thursday. The results will be used only if necessary to break a tie. Not everyone is happy about the latest change.

“It might need a couple tweaks. I don’t think there should be vocabulary in it,” said Jairam Hathwar, last year’s co-champion.

Competitors were asked to spell 12 words and identify the definitions of 14 more on Tuesday. On Wednesday, all 291 spellers will spell two words on stage, and those who miss will be eliminated. Among those who survive, the written test will determine who advances to the final day of competition on Thursday.

‘OPEN’ SEASON IN PARIS



CRISTOPHE ENA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain’s Andy Murray is to smash the ball as he plays Russia’s Andrey Kuznetsov during their first round match the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium on Tuesday in Paris. Murray progressed safely to the second round, defeating Kuznetsov of Russia 6-4, 4-6, 6-2, 6-0. In all, of the 11 men from the United States who entered the main draw at Roland Garros, only John Isner and No. 25 Steve Johnson remain in the tournament. It’s the first time since 2011 that as few as two Americans got to the second round in Paris.

US touts success in interceptor test

BY ROBERT BURNS
AP National Security Writer

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon scored an important success Tuesday in a test of its oft-criticized missile defense program, destroying a mock warhead over the Pacific Ocean with an interceptor that is key to protecting U.S. territory from a North Korean attack.

Vice Adm. Jim Syring, director of the Pentagon agency in charge of developing the missile defense system, called the test result “an incredible accomplishment” and a critical milestone for a program hampered by setbacks over the years.

“This system is vitally important to the defense of our homeland, and this test demonstrates that we have a capable, credible deterrent against a very real threat,” Syring said in a written statement announcing the test result.

Despite the success, the \$244 million test didn’t confirm that under wartime conditions the U.S. could intercept an intercontinental-range missile fired by North Korea. Pyongyang is understood to be moving closer to the capability of putting a nuclear warhead on such an ICBM and could develop decoys sophisticated enough to trick an interceptor into missing the real warhead.



LEN WOOD / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spectators watch an interceptor missile launch from an underground silo at Vandenberg Air Force Base on Harris Grade Road north of Lompoc, California.

Syring’s agency sounded a note of caution. “Initial indications are that the test met its primary objective, but program officials will continue to evaluate system performance

based upon telemetry and other data obtained during the test,” his statement said.

Philip E. Coyle, a former head of the Pentagon’s test and evaluation office and a senior fellow at the Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation, said Tuesday’s outcome was a significant success for a test that was three years in preparation, but he noted that it was only the second success in the last five intercept attempts since 2010.

“In several ways, this test was a \$244 million-dollar baby step, a baby step that took three years,” Coyle said.

The most recent intercept test, in June 2014, was successful, but the longer track record is spotty. Since the system was declared ready for potential combat use in 2004, only four of nine intercept attempts have been successful.

“This is part of a continuous learning curve,” said Navy Capt. Jeff Davis, a Pentagon spokesman, ahead of Tuesday’s test. The Pentagon is still incorporating engineering upgrades to its missile interceptor, which has yet to be fully tested in realistic conditions.

North Korea says its nuclear and missile programs are a defense against perceived

■ NORTH KOREA, Page 2

White House communications director announces resignation

BY JILL COLVIN AND CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A top communications aide to President Donald Trump is exiting the White House as the embattled president considers a broader shakeup amid rising anxiety over investigations into his campaign’s contacts with Russia.

Fresh off Trump’s first official trip abroad, White House communications director Michael Dubke announced his resigna-

tion Tuesday in what many inside and outside the White House see as the first shoe to drop. A wider overhaul is expected, aimed at more aggressively responding to allegations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and revelations of possible ties between Trump’s campaign and Moscow.

Dubke said in a statement it had been an honor to serve Trump and “my distinct pleasure to work side by side, day by day with the staff of the communica-

tions and press departments.”

However, Trump has privately and publicly pinned much of the blame for his administration’s woes on the communications effort.

“In terms of messaging, I would give myself a C or a C plus,” Trump said in an interview on Fox News Channel early in his term. “In terms of achievement, I think I’d give myself an A. Because I think I’ve done great things, but I don’t think I have —

I and my people — I don’t think we’ve explained it well enough to the American public.”

Trump has long believed that he is his most effective spokesperson and has groused about supporters and aides not defending him vigorously enough. At the same time, he often undermines his staffers, contradicting their public statements and derailing their efforts to stay on topic with inflammatory tweets.

White House spokesman Sean

Spicer pushed back Tuesday on the idea that a broader reorganization was imminent, but he acknowledged the president is frustrated with news stories “that are absolutely false, that are not based in fact. That is troubling.”

Spicer said he thinks the president “is very pleased with his team,” but he added, “Ultimately the best messenger is the president himself. He’s always proven that.”

■ TRUMP, Page 2

Amazon tops online market again

Company continues to dominate e-commerce

BY SPENCER SOPER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amazon.com Inc.'s shares topped \$1,000 for the first time, marking a new milestone for a company wooing investors by dominating online commerce and cloud computing, two industries expected to keep growing as shopping habits change and businesses rethink technology.

Amazon shares hit \$1,001.20 in New York Tuesday, up about 40 percent from a year ago and more than double the 15 percent gain of the S&P 500 Index in the same period. Investors are thinking about how much further Amazon can grow as it tries to replicate its U.S. success abroad.

The shares will likely push even higher since Amazon is growing so quickly in massive global industries that show no signs of slowing, said John Blackledge, analyst at Cowen and Company LLC, who

recently upped his Amazon price target to \$1,125 a share.

"The markets Amazon is playing in with global retail and cloud computing are just massive," he said.

The Seattle company's \$478 billion market value is double that of Walmart Stores Inc. even though the world's biggest retailer will have sales three times larger than Amazon's this year. Investors put more value in Amazon's web traffic and delivery network than they do in Wal-Mart's vast store presence because online spending will grow more than four times faster than overall retail spending this year as shoppers continue to shift from stores

to websites, according to EMarketer Inc.

The world's largest online retailer is dominating e-commerce with its \$99-a-year Amazon Prime subscription, which includes delivery discounts, music and video streaming and photo storage that keep shoppers engaged with the website.

Seattle-based Amazon had 80 million Prime subscribers in the U.S. as of March 31, an increase of 38 percent from a year earlier, according to Consumer Intelligence Research Partners. Prime memberships help lock in loyalty, which is critical as competitors such as Walmart enhance their e-commerce offerings

to slow Amazon's momentum.

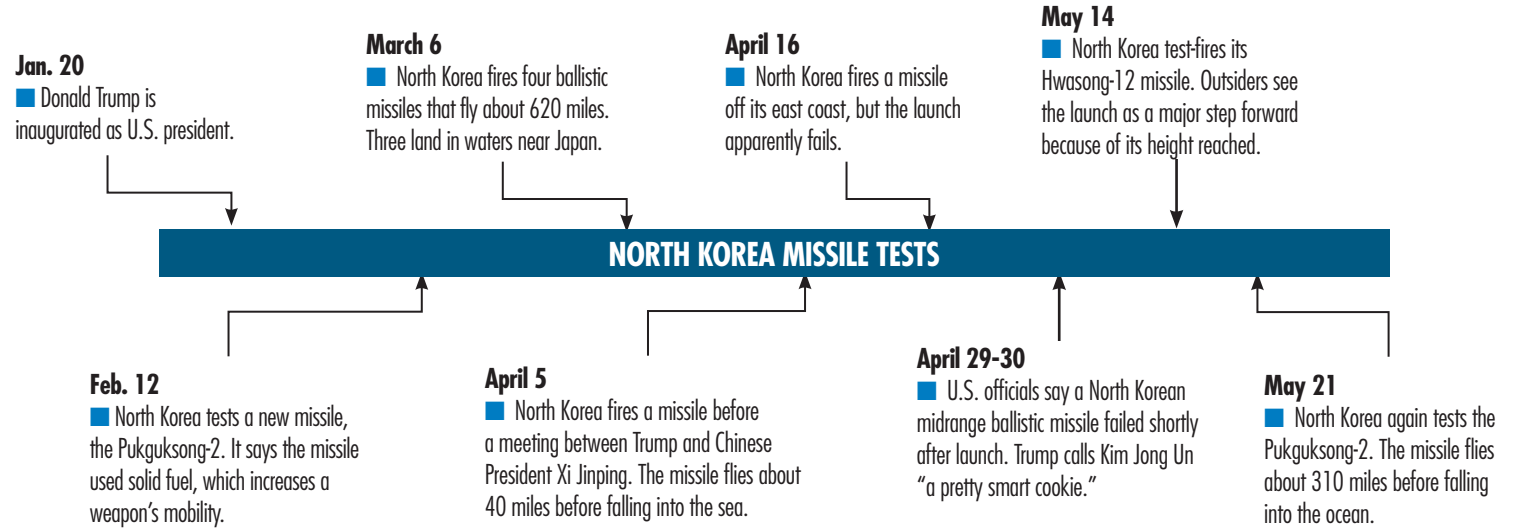
Amazon has been tackling retail one category at a time, disrupting bookstores and more recently pushing into apparel and groceries. Its rise has coincided with the decline of retail chains such as Macy's Inc. and Sears Holdings Corp., which have shuttered stores and laid off workers in response to declining sales.

Amazon's rise has made its founding CEO Jeff Bezos the world's second wealthiest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. His ascendancy has won praise from fellow self-made billionaire Mark Cuban.

"Consumers always want things at lower prices delivered faster," said Cuban, an Amazon investor. "Amazon uses data better than anyone to achieve those goals for everything it sells. They have a chance to be the most dominant company in the world."

"Amazon uses data better than anyone to achieve those goals for everything it sells. They have a chance to be the most dominant company in the world."

MARK CUBAN
BILLIONAIRE AND AMAZON INVESTOR



North Korea using solid fuel in rockets

■ Continued from Page 1

U.S. military threats. Its accelerating missile development has complicated Pentagon calculations, most recently by incorporating solid-fuel technology into its rockets. The step would mean even less launch warning time for the United States. Liquid fuel is less stable and rockets using it have to be fueled in the field, a process that takes longer and can be detected by satellites.

Underscoring its uninterrupted efforts, North Korea fired a short-range ballistic missile on Monday that landed in Japan's maritime economic zone.

In Tuesday's U.S. test, the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency launched an interceptor rocket from an underground silo at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. The target was an intercontinental-range missile fired from a test range on Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific.

According to the plan, a 5-foot-long "kill vehicle" released from atop the interceptor zeroed in on the ICBM-like target's mock warhead outside Earth's atmosphere and obliterated it by sheer force of impact, the Pentagon said. The "kill vehicle" carries no explosives in testing or in actual combat.

The target was a custom-made missile simulating an ICBM, meaning it flew faster than missiles used in previous intercept tests, according to Christopher Johnson, the Missile Defense Agency's spokesman. It was not a mock-up of an actual North Korean ICBM.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image made from video of an undated still image broadcasted in a news bulletin on Tuesday by North Korea's KRT shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and a missile launcher in North Korea. State television aired video of Kim apparently giving field guidance.

With congressional support, the Pentagon is increasing the number of deployed interceptors to 44 from 36, by the end of this year.

Laura Grego, senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists, which has criticized the missile defense program, called the inter-

ceptor an "advanced prototype," meaning it is not fully matured technologically even if it has been deployed and theoretically available for combat since 2004. A successful test Tuesday, she said, could demonstrate the Pentagon is on the right track with its latest technical fixes.

Sanctuary cities spark tension

■ Continued from Page 1

publican state Rep. Jeff Leach said.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who signed the "sanctuary ban" known as SB4 this month, has stayed quiet over the skirmish and a spokesman did not return messages Tuesday. Nevarez said he wanted Abbott to publicly say that Rinaldi calling immigration authorities was wrong.

A Democrat hasn't won a statewide office since 1994 — the nation's longest such political losing streak — frustrating a party that has seen the state's Hispanic population boom but hasn't had electoral fortunes change. About 43 percent of Texas residents are white, while whites make up the majority of legislators.

The tensions flared at the end of the divisive session in Texas in which race was invoked in debates over immigration, voting rights, border security and policing. Among the bills sent to Abbott's desk are changes to a voter ID law that a federal judge has ruled was intentionally discriminatory. Another was the "Sandra Bland Act," named for a black woman who died in a Texas jail in 2015 following a confrontational traffic stop with a white state trooper. Bland's family was disappointed after police accountability measures were removed.

Democrat state Rep. Helen Giddings, who was first elected in 1992 and heads Texas' black legislative caucus, blamed politics, not race, for the tone of the session.

"In my years in the Texas House I have never seen the kind of disrespect, intolerance, incivility that we are seeing in the Texas Legislature," Giddings said. "Intolerable, became acceptable. Behavior we had never thought of as acceptable became acceptable."

National Guardsman killed, 3 injured in California training

FORT IRWIN, California — One Mississippi National Guard member was killed and three others were injured when their tank rolled over during a training exercise in the California desert.

Investigators were trying to determine what caused the death and injuries Monday night at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, a remote facility in the High Mojave Desert between San Bernardino and Las Vegas.

A military helicopter flew the three injured soldiers to a hospital in Loma Linda. Two have been released, and one was in stable condition Tuesday. The names of all four are being withheld until 24 hours after their families are notified.

The members of the 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, based in Tupelo, Mississippi, were participating in a two-week training exercise, which focused this week on maneuvering tanks, said Kenneth Drylie, spokesman for the center.



SUSAN WALSH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

White House communications director Michael Dubke walks out of the West Wing of the White House in Washington on Tuesday. Dubke has resigned as communication director, but his last day has not yet been determined.

White House communications director resigns

■ Continued from Page 1

Rumors of impending shake-ups have come and gone in the Trump White House before. But numerous people close to the president and his team are expecting further changes this time amid the ongoing probe.

For example, Trump has entertained bringing his former campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, and former deputy campaign manager, David Bossie, more formally back into the fold.

Both Lewandowski and Bossie visited the White House on Monday night, according to two people familiar with the meeting, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Bossie told "Fox & Friends" that

the administration has reached out but hasn't offered him a job.

"They have talked to many people, including me," Bossie said.

Another person whose name has been raised as a possible addition to the president's team is David Urban, a prominent Republican lobbyist.

While overseas, Trump's longtime lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, joined a still-forming legal team to help the president shoulder the intensifying investigations into Russian interference in the election and Trump associates' potential involvement.

More attorneys with deep experience in Washington investigations are expected to be added.

The latest revelations to emerge last week involved Trump's son-in-law and top aide, Jared Kushner. Shortly after the election, Kushner is reported to have discussed setting up a secret communications channel with the Russian government to facilitate sensitive discussions about the conflict in Syria.

The intent was to connect Trump's chief national security adviser at the time, Michael Flynn, with Russian military leaders, a person familiar with the discussions told the AP.

Trump aides had been hoping to get through the trip before making staffing decisions.

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INTERNATIONAL

Coldplay, Bieber to join Manchester charity concert

NEW YORK — Justin Bieber, Coldplay and Katy Perry will join Ariana Grande at a charity concert in Manchester, England, on Sunday. Grande announced Tuesday that the “One Love Manchester” show will be held at the city’s Old Trafford cricket ground just under two weeks after a bomber killed 22 people at the pop singer’s concert in Manchester.

Other performers will include Pharrell Williams, Miley Cyrus, Usher and Niall Horan. Proceeds will go to an emergency fund set up by the city of Manchester and the British Red Cross.

Tickets go on sale Thursday. “Our response to this violence must be to come closer together, to help each other, to love more, to sing louder and to live more kindly and generously than we did before,” Grande said in a statement.

Retrieval of Everest bodies dangerous for climbers

KATHMANDU, Nepal — A Indian man wept as a helicopter landed in Kathmandu carrying the body of his brother, one of hundreds of climbers who have died while climbing Mount Everest.

The body had been left on the mountain for a year until last week, when a team of Sherpa climbers managed to recover it along with two others. But the high-risk expedition, financed with about \$92,000 from the Indian state of West Bengal, has sparked heated debate in the mountaineering community about the morality of risking more lives to retrieve bodies from one of the most unforgiving places on Earth.

Asking others to carry down the bodies, which are heavy because they are frozen and covered in ice, puts more people in danger, they said.

About 300 climbers have died since Everest was first conquered in 1953, and at least 100, maybe 200, corpses remain on the mountain. Most are hidden in deep crevasses or covered by snow and ice, but some are visible and have become macabre landmarks, earning nicknames for their plastic climbing boots, colorful parkas or final resting poses.

It is often Sherpas who are hired for retrieval expeditions. Climbers from the ethnic group have lived for centuries around Everest and rely on the pay they can earn during the three-month climbing season to carry their families through the year.

Gentiloni backs Merkel: Europe must claim future

MILAN — Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni says he shares German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s sentiment that Europeans must take their future into their own hands.

During a press conference Tuesday with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Gentiloni affirmed the importance of ties with the United States, but said: “We have fundamentally different goals which we cannot renounce, such as climate.”

Gentiloni was responding to a question about German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s weekend remark that “we Europeans must really take our destiny in our own hands.”

The comments underline the shift in the relationship between the United States and Europe following a NATO meeting in Brussels and Group of Seven summit in Sicily with President Donald Trump.

UN refugee agency cites 5 for fraud at Kenya camp

GENEVA — The U.N. refugee agency says it has turned to Kenyan police for possible criminal prosecution of three staffers for allegedly carrying out threats, intimidation and fraud against refugees and other personnel at a camp in Northwest Kenya.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees spokesman Babar Baloch says the move follows an internal investigation launched after allegations of wrongdoing involving those three and two more staffers at the Kakuma refugee camp emerged between April 2016 and January 2017.

Baloch said staff members allegedly sought payments of \$500 to \$2,500 from refugees for various services that should be free, threatened other workers and intimidated camp occupants.

As the allegations emerged, UNHCR said Tuesday it suspended normal resettlements from Kakuma, a 25-year-old camp now housing 172,000 refugees, mostly from South Sudan.

Goldman criticized for buying Venezuela bonds

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela opposition leaders are decrying Goldman Sachs Group Inc.’s purchase of bonds from the socialist government of President Nicolas Maduro, who has been targeted by almost two months of protests.

The Wall Street Journal reported Sunday that the bank bought \$2.8 billion in bonds from the state-run oil company PDVSA at a steeply discounted price — paying \$865 million, or roughly 31 cents on the dollar — according to unidentified sources.

Opposition leaders accused the bank of getting in bed with a deeply unpopular administration. Julio Borges, president of the opposition-led Congress, said Goldman Sachs is propping up a dictatorship and argued that the bond purchase violated the bank’s own code of conduct.

In a statement, Goldman Sachs acknowledged its purchase, but said the bonds were bought in the secondary market and not directly from the Venezuelan government.

About 20 people gathered outside the Goldman Sachs headquarters in Manhattan on Tuesday to protest the bank’s investment in PDVSA bonds, carrying signs that read “Goldman Sachs supports Maduro’s dictatorship.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baghdad bombings kill dozens

IS suspected after Iraq attacks

BY MURTADA FARAJ AND QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Two attacks by the Islamic State group, one a massive bombing outside a popular ice cream parlor in central Baghdad and the other a car bomb in a different downtown, killed at least 31 people Tuesday, Iraqi officials said.

Later in the day, bombings in and around the Iraqi capital killed seven more people.

The attacks come as IS militants are steadily losing territory to U.S.-backed Iraqi forces in the battle for Mosul, the country’s second-largest city. The Sunni extremists are increasingly turning to insurgency-style terror attacks to distract from their losses.

The nighttime attack outside the ice cream parlor in the bustling Karrada neighborhood killed 17 people and wounded 32, police and health officials said.

A closed-circuit camera captured a video of the explosion, showing cars driving down a busy downtown avenue when the blast strikes. A huge fireball engulfs a building, causing cars to scramble to get away. Other videos of the attack posted on social media show wounded and bloodied people crying for help on the sidewalk



KARIM KADIM / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civilians inspect the site of a deadly bomb attack in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday. Two attacks in the city killed 31, officials say.

outside the ice cream parlor.

In the second attack, a car bomb went off during rush hour near the state-run Public Pension Office in Baghdad’s busy Shawaka area, killing 14 and injuring at least 37, a police officer said.

In separate online statements, IS claimed responsibility for the two attacks, saying its suicide bombers targeted gatherings of Shiites. The Associated Press could not verify the authenticity of the statements but they were posted on a militant website commonly used by extremists.

Later Tuesday, seven people

died and 19 were wounded in four separate bombings in and around Baghdad, officials said. The attacks targeted commercial areas and a patrol of Sunni anti-IS tribal fighters. No group immediately claimed those attacks.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

The attacks came just days into the holy month of Ramadan when Muslims fast during daylight hours. After sundown, families break their fast, and Baghdad’s restaurants and cafes quickly fill up with people staying long into

the night.

During Ramadan last year, another section of Karrada was hit by a massive suicide bombing that killed almost 300 people, the deadliest single attack in the Iraqi capital in 13 years of war. IS also claimed that attack.

Iraqi troops are pushing IS fighters out of their last strongholds in Mosul. Iraqi commanders say the offensive, which recently entered its eighth month, will mark the end of the IS caliphate in Iraq, but concede the group will likely increase insurgent attacks in the wake of defeats.

Treating dementia with nostalgia

BY KIRSTEN GRIESHABER
Associated Press

BERLIN — Every weekday morning, white-haired women patiently line up before a door at a Dresden retirement home, step in, and quickly step back nearly six decades into their past in Communist East Germany.

Most of the women, in their late 70s or older, are suffering from severe dementia, but the reminders of the past trigger memories and skills once thought lost, and produce surprising levels of happiness and comfort.

They park their walkers next to a Kaufhalle sign from the former East German grocery chain, put on their colorfully patterned nylon aprons and start the day just like they did some 50 years ago. They prepare a popular Hungarian salad of their youth and wash dishes in an original 1960s sink.

It’s hard to imagine that many were, not so long ago, bedridden and unable to eat or use the bathroom on their own, said Gunter Wolfram, the director of the Alexa home in the former East German city of Dresden.

“From the first day on, this room has been a big success story,” Wolfram said. “The people are very happy to recognize things from the old times. They immediately feel comfortable.”

The 49-year-old, who grew up in East Germany himself, said it was sheer coincidence that he found out that Communist kitsch and other memorabilia brought comfort to some of his 130 residents.

The revelation came two years ago when he decided to decorate the home’s movie theater with a vintage flashy Troll scooter that was once very popular in East Germany.

“Instead of paying attention to the movie, these people got so excited about the motorcycle. They could all of a sudden remember how to start the ignition, and chatted with bright eyes about outings to the Baltic Sea on their own Trolls a long time ago. It was amazing,” Wolfram said.

Inspired by this, he created an



JENS MEYER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A resident reads a magazine in the Alexa Seniors’ Residence in Dresden, eastern Germany. The words read: “Good advice.” The retirement home has recreated the Communist era of the former German Democratic Republic in two living rooms to help residents with Alzheimer’s and dementia.

entire room in 1960s East German style.

The home’s residents were so eager to spend time in a place that felt like home they started coming in droves.

Soon Wolfram added a second room, this one designed in East German 1970s style, including psychedelic-patterned curtains and a bright-orange rotary dial phone.

After World War II, the Communist East frowned upon materialism and consumer goods were scarce. Since few brands were sold in the country’s Kaufhalle supermarkets, they have very high recognition value among former East Germans.

Herlind Megges, a gerontologist from Berlin’s Charite university hospital who is not involved in the Alexa home project, said, “Memory therapy is often used because it activates exactly what’s still there and still working well.”

Objects from earlier phases of a patient’s life that are connected to comfortable feelings can lead to physical and cognitive improvement, Megges said.

“The people are very happy to recognize things from the old times. They immediately feel comfortable.”

GUNTER WOLFRAM

Often patients can still retrieve memories from their childhood and early adulthood even when their short-term memory fails.

“We’re treating the symptoms, we currently cannot treat the causes of the disease,” Megges said.

For Gerda Noack, a 92-year-old retired hat maker born and raised in Dresden, the room has been a blessing.

Noack used to roam the hallways of the home all day, says Wolfram.

She was restless and frustrated, always looking for something she thought she had lost, until she started visiting the yesteryear room.

While standing in the room’s kitchen last week, she cleaned up dishes with an expression of contentment.

Asked if she was happy, she nodded cheerfully, waiting for the nurses to dish up the Hungarian salad she helped to prepare.

“It’s almost become like a job for them, where they spend the entire week here with a whole new sense of purpose,” said Wolfram.

Brexit takes back seat in snap election

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — After Britain voted to leave the European Union, Theresa May replaced David Cameron as prime minister and leader of the Conservative Party, and called a national election three years early. But Brexit hasn’t dominated the campaign as many in Britain expected.

Even before a bomb ripped through a concert arena in Manchester on May 22, halting the campaign for several days and bringing security issues to the fore, voters were showing a strong desire to move on.

“This is much more about what sort of Britain do you want to live in, rather than Brexit,” said Keir Starmer, Brexit spokesperson for the main opposition Labour Party, as he campaigned for re-election in north London.

Early campaign polls gave May a double-digit lead over the Labour Party, but the gap has narrowed as voters’ focus has shifted from Brexit to domestic issues such as education, health care and the impact of government spending cuts.

Brexit paled partly because of the Manchester tragedy. But it is also the result of Conservative missteps on social policies, including a platform launch that managed to alienate older voters, usually among the party’s staunchest supporters.

May is determined to put Brexit back on center stage as the campaign enters its final week. The problem is, neither May nor her opponents can spell out what delivering Brexit really means.

“There really is only a limited amount you can say about Brexit,” said Victoria Honeyman, a lecturer in politics at the University of Leeds. “It’s a vague term. We don’t really have any meat on the bones. It’s simply a slogan at the moment.”

Former Panamanian dictator dies at 83

BY JUAN ZAMORANO AND KATHIA MARTINEZ
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY — Former Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega, a onetime U.S. ally who was ousted by an American invasion in 1989, died late Monday at age 83.

Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela wrote in his Twitter account that “the death of Manuel A. Noriega closes a chapter in our history.”

Varela added, “His daughters and his relatives deserve to mourn in peace.”

Noriega ruled with an iron fist, ordering the deaths of those who opposed him and maintaining a murky, close and conflictive relationship with the United States.



Noriega

spent all but the last few months of his final years in a Panamanian prison for murder of political opponents during his 1983-89 regime.

He accused Washington of a conspiracy to keep him behind bars and attributed his legal troubles to his refusal to cooperate with a U.S. plan to topple Nicaragua’s leftist Sandinista government in the 1980s.

Ezra Angel, a lawyer for Noriega, said Tuesday there was no official word on what caused his death.

“We are asking for the family to be given space to say goodbye to their father in peace and tranquility,” Angel told The Associated Press.

In recent years Noriega suffered various ailments including high blood pressure and bronchitis.

In 2016, doctors detected the rapid growth of a benign brain tumor that had first been spotted four years earlier, and in January a court granted him house arrest to prepare for surgery on the tumor.

He is survived by his wife, Felicidad, and daughters Lorena, Thays and Sandra.

Following Noriega’s ouster, Panama underwent huge changes, taking over the Panama Canal from U.S. control in 1999, vastly expanding the waterway and enjoying a boom in tourism and real estate.

Today the Central American nation has little in common with the bombed-out neighborhoods where Noriega hid during the 1989 invasion, before being famously smoked out of his refuge at the Vatican Embassy by incessant, loud rock music blared by U.S. troops.

Known mockingly as “Pineapple Face” for his pockmarked complexion, Manuel Antonio Noriega was born poor in Panama City on Feb. 11, 1934.

TRANSGENDER STUDENT EARNS COURT WIN



TRANSGENDER LAW CENTER VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ashton Whitaker, right, hugs his mother, Melissa, in Kenosha, Wisconsin. A federal appeals court says Ashton, a transgender senior student who identifies as a male, should be able to use the boys' bathroom at at Kenosha's Tremper High School.

Police shootings spark debate Officer in Tamir Rice killing fired for unrelated reason

DAKE KANG
Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The police officer who shot and killed Tamir Rice was fired Tuesday for failing to disclose that he had been forced out of another department before Cleveland hired him.

Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams announced the discipline against officers Timothy Loehmann, who shot the boy, and Frank Garmback, who was driving the cruiser. Garmback was suspended for driving too close to the 12-year-old seconds before the boy was killed.

Tamir, who was black, was shot outside a recreation center in November 2014 as he held a pellet gun that the officers, who are white, mistook for a real firearm. The killing became part of a national outcry about police violence against black boys and men. The officers weren't charged criminally, but Tamir's mother settled a federal civil rights lawsuit with the city for \$6 million.

Loehmann was fired because the department concluded he wasn't truthful on his job application, failing to reveal that a suburban department had allowed him to resign instead of being fired at the end of a six-month probationary period. An evaluation in the suburban department's file said Loehmann had a "dismal" handgun performance, broke down in tears at the gun range and was emotionally immature.

Garmback was suspended for 10 days for violating a tactical rule for his driving that day, with a disciplinary letter saying he drove too close to Tamir. Video of the shooting shows the patrol car skidding to a stop just feet from the boy.

The officers' union said it was challenging the discipline, while Tamir's mother said both officers should have been fired.

The two officers had gone to the center after a man called 911 to report a "guy" was pointing a gun. He told the dispatcher that the person could be a juvenile and the gun might be a "fake," information that wasn't conveyed to the officers. Loehmann shot

Tamir within two seconds after the police cruiser stopped near the boy.

A county prosecutor announced in December 2015 that Loehmann and Garmback wouldn't be indicted. Then Williams ordered a committee to determine if the officers violated department rules.



JOSE LUIS MAGANA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tomiko Shine holds a sign with a photo of Tamir Rice while protesting a grand jury's decision not to indict police officer Darren Wilson in 2014 after the shooting death of Michael Brown. Cleveland Police Chief Calvin Williams announced Tuesday, that Timothy Loehmann, the police officer who shot and killed the 12-year-old boy, has been fired for inaccuracies on his job application.

have been a police officer," she said. But she said Garmback also should have been fired for driving so close to her son.

She and her attorney, Subodh Chandra, said Cleveland city agencies suffered from systematic problems and that they hope a Department of Justice investigation will lead to rare federal civil rights charges.

"Shame on the city of Cleveland for taking so long to deal with the situation," Rice said. "We still need accountability."

Two officers were disciplined in 2015 for failing to thoroughly check Loehmann's personnel file before he was hired.

Williams said the department now makes sure to read through all applicants' personnel files and employment history.

Earlier this year, the 911 operator who took the call about Tamir was suspended for eight days for failing to tell the radio dispatcher the caller had said Tamir could be a juvenile and the gun might be fake. Garmback could be back on patrol after his suspension. Cleveland police spokesperson Jennifer Ciacia said he would first have to go through a reintegration program.

"There's a 12-year-old kid, dead. People on both sides are going to say, 'It wasn't enough, it was too much,'" Williams said.

Stephen Loomis, president of the Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association, called the discipline "unjustified" and said the union filed grievances minutes after they were announced.

Loomis called Loehmann's firing a "joke," saying that officers haven't been fired in the past over job applications.

Tamir's mother, Samaria Rice, said she was relieved Loehmann was fired. "He should never

SCOTUS sides with officers

SAM HANANEL
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A unanimous Supreme Court on Tuesday sided with sheriff's deputies in a legal dispute stemming from 2010, when an innocent couple was shot while California deputies searched for a wanted man.

The justices overturned an award of \$4 million in damages to the couple and ordered a lower court to take another look at whether the deputies should be held liable for the shooting.

Deputies were searching for a parolee when they entered the backyard shack in Lancaster, north of Los Angeles.

Seeing an armed man, they fired shots that seriously wounded him and his pregnant girlfriend.

But the man wasn't the suspect they were searching for, and it turned out he was carrying a BB gun. A federal appeals court ruled that the deputies were liable because they provoked a violent confrontation by entering the shack without a warrant.

Justice Samuel Alito said such a "provocation rule" is not compatible with excessive force claims under the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable searches and seizures. If the officers were reasonable in using force to defend themselves, he said, a court should not go back in time to see whether the incident was provoked.

"We hold that the Fourth Amendment provides no basis for such a rule," Alito said.

Justice Neil Gorsuch did not take part in the case, which was argued before he joined the Supreme Court.

NATIONAL

Woods blames DUI on prescription drugs

Police found Tiger Woods asleep at the wheel on the side of a six-lane Florida road with his car's engine running and his right blinker flashing. His speech was slow and slurred, though there was no alcohol in his system.

In a statement Monday evening, Woods attributed his DUI arrest to an "unexpected reaction" to prescription medicine.

Woods had fusion surgery on his lower back, his fourth back surgery since 2014, on April 20 and told police he was taking several prescriptions. The affidavit listed four medications, including Vicodin, that Woods reported taking. The FDA warning for Vicodin says it "may impair the mental and/or physical abilities required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks such as driving a car or operating machinery; patients should be cautioned accordingly."

The report also said Woods changed his story about where he was coming from and where he was going. His car was parked in the opposite direction from his home.

"I didn't realize the mix of medications had affected me so strongly," Woods said in his statement. Woods is scheduled to be arraigned July 5 in Palm Beach County on the DUI charge.

Kansas lawmakers OK new abortion rule

TOPEKA, Kan. — Kansas legislators approved a new requirement for abortion providers Tuesday that calls for them to disclose doctors' histories to their patients and specifies that it be done on white paper in black, 12-point Times New Roman type.

The measure tightens the state's longstanding "Right to Know" law already requiring that 24 hours ahead of terminating a pregnancy, abortion providers give women the name of the doctor and information about the risks of the procedure and fetal development.

The new requirement for abortion providers is unusual for being so specific in state law, and supporters say it is justified because abortion is fundamentally different from other medical procedures.

"We need to give these women, who may be acting under coercion or ignorance, as much protection as possible," said Sen. Mary Pilscher-Cook, a conservative Shawnee Republican, one of the Legislature's most vocal abortion opponents.

But Sen. Lynn Rogers, a Wichita Democrat, described the measure as "simply harassment" of abortion providers. The Senate voted 25-15 in favor of the measure, and the House approved the bill last week.

US stock market hot streak comes to an end

A seven-day winning streak for stocks came to a quiet end Tuesday as banks, especially smaller ones, dropped along with bond yields and interest rates. Energy companies also sank. On Tuesday:

The Standard & Poor's 500 index sank 2.91 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,412.91. The Dow Jones industrial average gave up 50.81 points, or 0.2 percent, to 21,029.47. The Nasdaq composite slid 7 points, or 0.1 percent, to 6,203.19. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks skidded 11.05 points, or 0.8 percent, to 1,371.19.

For the year: The S&P 500 is up 174.08 points, or 7.8 percent. The Dow is up 1,266.87 points, or 6.4 percent. The Nasdaq is up 820.07 points, or 15.2 percent. The Russell 2000 is up 14.06 points, or 1 percent.

3 Mile Island owner might close ill-fated plant

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Three Mile Island's owner, Exelon Corp., announced Tuesday that the plant that was the site of a partial meltdown in 1979 will close in 2019 unless the state of Pennsylvania comes to its financial rescue.

Nuclear power plants around the U.S. have been struggling in recent years to compete with generating stations that burn natural gas to produce electricity.

The Chicago-based energy company's announcement came after what it called more than five years of losses.

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf has made no commitment to a bailout. In a statement Tuesday, Wolf said he is concerned about layoffs at Three Mile Island. Exelon employs 675 people at the plant.

In December, Illinois approved \$235 million a year for Exelon to prop up nuclear plants in the Quad Cities and Clinton, six months after the company threatened to shut them down.

Closing Three Mile Island would have little or no effect on electricity bills, analysts say. But the power may be replaced by electricity generated by carbon-emitting fuels such as coal or gas.

'Pink slime' defamation trial to start in SD

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — Jury selection is set to start in a defamation case over ABC news reports on a South Dakota meat producer's lean, finely textured beef product, which critics have dubbed "pink slime."

Dakota Dunes-based Beef Products Inc. sued the television network in 2012. It said ABC's coverage that year led to plant closures and hundreds of layoffs by misleading consumers into believing the product is unsafe. ABC and correspondent Jim Avila are defendants.

ABC argues that the network accurately presented views and information from knowledgeable sources on a matter of public interest. The actual damages BPI is seeking could be as high as \$1.9 billion, though ABC has disputed that figure.

Jury selection starts Wednesday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Miami mall to become largest in US

CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

MIAMI — Call it retail-tainment. Just don't call American Dream Miami a mall.

Developers are proposing a massive 6 million-square-foot project on the edge of the Everglades in bustling South Florida that would dwarf any other shopping mall in North America, including Minnesota's Mall of America.

Miami-Dade County officials could vote this fall to approve it, despite some criticism that it will worsen the region's traffic problem and might produce mostly low-paying jobs. In general, malls across the U.S. have been in a slow decline as shoppers flock to the internet.

Don Ghermezian, president of developer Triple Five Worldwide Group of Edmonton, Canada, which also built Mall of America, said this is not your father's shopping mall. In addition to millions of square feet of retail, the project would include an indoor ski slope, a water park, a submarine ride attraction, a skating rink, 2,000 hotel rooms, theaters, a performing arts center and places to eat and drink.

The idea, Ghermezian said at a recent public hearing, is to give millions of residents and tourists in the Miami area a family-friend-

ly alternative to Orlando attractions such as Disney World and Universal.

"We are not mall developers. That's not what we're trying to build," he said. "A lot of it is 'retail-tainment.' What we're trying to create is an economic engine."

Triple Five predicts American Dream would draw 300,000 visitors a day and create about 14,500 permanent jobs. Politicians are lining up in support.

"World-class cities have world-class facilities," said Dennis Moss, a Miami-Dade County commissioner. "All of the great things that

we have going in this community, a huge disadvantage is we don't have a lot of family entertainment and amusement activities. This is a game-changer."

Local resident Stuart Bloomberg said at the recent hearing that Miami needs something just like that.

"I am tired of hearing everybody say there's nothing south of I-4," Bloomberg said of the interstate that runs through Orlando. "It's about time Miami-Dade participated."

South Florida's existing malls, including the region's top tourist attraction Sawgrass Mills, are watching nervously. They say they are not opposed to American Dream but would not favor public tax dollars going to subsidize it.

GO ONLINE FOR FULL STORY

■ "I am tired of going to your malls and sitting in a little pit area and having nothing to do," Meryl Fixler, a Miami local, said.

TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST

Police officer forced off road, aided by passers-by

DALLAS — Dallas police are praising a group of people who helped a critically injured officer by scrambling down into a creek bed to stabilize the officer's patrol car after it was forced off the road by another vehicle.

At least 10 people went into the creek bed Monday after the car landed on its roof. Video posted to social media shows they pushed the car onto its side in an effort to free Senior Cpl. Dale Ordogne.

The heavily damaged car was then pushed onto its wheels, and Ordogne was pulled free. He was listed in stable condition.

Ordogne was responding to a call when a stolen pickup crossed an intersection and struck his patrol car, forcing it about 25 feet down into the creek. The suspects in the pickup fled.

Texas Girl Scouts rescued after stranded by storm

NATCHITOCHES, La. — Some Girl Scouts from Texas received help after becoming stranded by a thunderstorm while kayaking in Louisiana.

Multiple news outlets report that the troop is from Dallas.

Six girls and three adults set out Sunday evening from a boat launch in west central Louisiana. They were headed to a campground, but because of the storm, they retreated to the banks of Saline Bayou and used their kayaks for shelter.

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries said some of its agents worked with officers from the U.S. Forest Service and local law enforcement agencies to find the group. They were joined by a private citizen on an all-terrain vehicle.

After more than five hours, the group was found early Monday and was led to the campground, about a mile away.

Cowboys player suspected of DWI near party for him

DALLAS — Newly acquired Cowboys comeback Nolan Carroll has been arrested on suspicion of driving while intoxicated near a club that held a promotional event welcoming him to Dallas.

Dallas police say the 30-year-old Carroll was arrested early Monday after being stopped for a traffic violation. He was booked into the Dallas County jail and later posted bail.

The Dallas Morning News reports Carroll was arrested near a club in the Uptown neighborhood that hosted the promotion in his honor.

Carroll joined the Cowboys in March as a free agent from NFC East rival Philadelphia on a three-year, \$10 million deal.

The team issued a statement saying it's aware of his arrest and is "gathering information at this time."

Carroll is an eight-year NFL veteran who began his career in Miami.

Texas air base lockdown lifted, no danger revealed

SAN ANTONIO — Military officials say the lockdown of a U.S. Air Force base in Texas has been lifted after a preliminary search of a community center there did not reveal any danger.

Authorities at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland earlier Tuesday had warned of a "security incident" and directed personnel in some areas of the base to stay inside.

Base spokesman Oscar Balladares said security officers are continuing to search the area, and a post to the base's official Facebook page indicated the matter has been "resolved."

The lockdown appears to be the first to occur at the base since a shooting in April 2016, when a man killed his commanding officer before turning the gun on himself.

Purported Hendrix guitar withdrawn from auction

DALLAS — Heritage Auctions has halted the planned offering of a guitar purported to have been played by Jimi Hendrix at the 1967 Monterey Pop Festival amid concerns it's not that particular instrument.

Dallas-based Heritage on Tuesday announced the guitar, originally estimated to bring up to \$750,000, will no longer be up for sale on June 17.

A Heritage statement said auction house experts examined the instrument and cited concerns that it may not be the same guitar Hendrix played at the Monterey, California, event.

Heritage previously announced the Fender Stratocaster would be offered for sale in Beverly Hills, California, via a private collector from the United Kingdom.

Former 'Bachelorette' contestant, 31, found dead

AUSTIN — A former contestant on "The Bachelorette" has died after police found him unresponsive at a South Austin residence.

An Austin Police Department spokeswoman said officers were sent to the residence at 2:10 a.m. Monday in reference to a reported unresponsive man and found 31-year-old Michael Nance unconscious. He was pronounced dead shortly before 3 a.m.

Spokeswoman Anna Sabana said the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office will have to determine what caused Nance's death, but investigators do not consider the death suspicious.

Nance was a contestant in the eighth season of "The Bachelorette" in 2012 but was eliminated in the fourth of the season's 10 weeks.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas foster care puts children at risk

Audit says welfare cases failed to meet state, federal regulations

BY PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A federal audit released Tuesday heaped more criticism onto Texas' troubled child welfare system and warned of foster kids potentially put in jeopardy over missed deadlines during abuse and neglect investigations.

The report was published a day after the Texas Legislature ended a session in which lawmakers approved an extra \$500 million for a beleaguered system that a federal judge called unconstitutional and has worsened despite major shake-ups.

The findings by the inspector general of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are far from the scathing newspaper investigations or a ruling by U.S. District Judge Janis Graham Jack in December 2015 that ordered an independent overhaul of Texas' foster care agency.

But the 18-page report still points to bureaucratic lapses that could put children in danger.

The federal audit said 46 of 100 Texas child welfare cases reviewed by federal auditors did not comply with federal and state requirements, including investigators not discussing findings with

supervisors in a timely manner.

Those failures "undermines the State agency's internal controls for providing oversight of the investigation and could place foster care children at risk," the report read.

Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Commissioner Hank Whitman called the title of the audit "inflammatory" and sensationalized.

Whitman defended the thoroughness of his agency's investigations.

The audit said Texas didn't always ensure that allegations of abuse and neglect were investi-

gated in accordance with state and federal statutes.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott had declared additional child welfare spending and reforms a priority for the Texas Legislature.

State data last year showed the state was failing to check on thousands of children who are at the highest risk of abuse or neglect.

More recently, the number of Texas foster children staying in agency offices or alternate sites because of lack of placement more than doubled from February to March, according to state figures.

State legislative session leaves issues unresolved

BY PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN — A raucous end to a divisive Texas legislative session erupted Monday when a large protest over a "sanctuary cities" crackdown provoked a heated scuffle between lawmakers on the House floor, including a Republican lawmaker saying he told a Democratic colleague he would "shoot him in self-defense."

The animus was a fitting finish to a combative 140-day session splintered by tensions over immigration, transgender rights and an escalating power grab within the Texas GOP between uncompromising social conservatives and Republican moderates.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott signaled Monday he might quickly order lawmakers back to Austin for unfinished business instead of letting the Legislature adjourn until 2019 as scheduled. Abbott said he will announce a decision later this week.

These are the main issues to know as the Texas Legislature calls it quits for now:

Death of "bathroom bill"

Social conservatives who drive Texas politics fell short of placing North Carolina-style bathroom restrictions on transgender people. It was torpedoed by House Republicans, who heeded direct appeals from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, Apple CEO Tim Cook and others from companies that panned the proposed law as discriminatory and bad for business.

Abbott went against other GOP governors nationwide in calling for a "bathroom bill." But it's unclear whether he will put it on lawmakers' to-do list if he hauls them back for a special session.

Racial tension

Republican state Rep. Matt Rinaldi acknowledged on Facebook that he called federal immigration agents on some demonstrators in the Capitol protesting a "sanctuary cities" ban, which lets police inquire about immigration status during routine stops.

Rinaldi alleged he was "physically assaulted" by Democrat Ramon Romero over making the phone call and said he told Democratic state Rep. Pancho Nevarez that he would defend himself with a gun after Nevarez allegedly threatened him.

Democrats say the so-called sanctuary ban and commitment to a voter ID law was part of a racial undercurrent that marred the session. Republicans said they never tried to intentionally discriminate, despite rulings by judges over Texas voting rights laws, and defended the "sanctuary city" crackdown as necessary to keep communities safe.

Lean budget follows oil slump

A new \$217 billion budget better funds Texas' beleaguered child welfare system but puts little new money into public schools and doesn't fully restore Medicaid therapy cuts for disabled children. Republicans say a prolonged energy slump demanded tough choices and they refused to raid \$11 billion that is in Texas' emergency coffer.



MICHAEL CIAGLO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lalo Ojeda holds a photo he took of the seawall after Hurricane Ike in Galveston, Texas. Ojeda is watching the Atlantic hurricane season that begins Thursday with more concern than usual.

Heightened sea levels provoke Gulf flooding

BY HARVEY RICE
Houston Chronicle

GALVESTON — Lalo Ojeda has lived with hurricanes all his life.

The Houston Chronicle reports he was 14 when Hurricane Carla inundated Galveston Island in 1961. He evacuated as Hurricane Rita barreled toward the coast in 2005, then rode out the devastating Hurricane Ike in his Galveston home in 2008.

But Ojeda is watching the Atlantic hurricane season that begins Thursday with more concern than usual. The retired Coast Guard employee said he worries rising sea levels could make the next hurricane more destructive than those he's lived through.

"That's really scary to me," the 70-year-old said.

A study released in May shows rising sea levels threaten to make storm surges more dangerous, seemingly reinforcing Texas officials' push for federal funding for a storm-surge barrier, or Ike Dike, to protect Galveston.

Scientific studies have established an acceleration in sea-level rise because of a warming atmosphere. Coal and oil burning and the destruction of tropical forests have increased heat-trapping gases that have warmed the planet by 1.8 degrees since 1880. Earth has been losing 13,500 square miles of ice annually since 1979, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Sea levels are generally rising faster along the Texas Gulf Coast and the western Gulf than the average globally, according to a January study by NOAA.

"The western Gulf is experiencing some of the highest rates of relative levels of sea-level rise in the country," said William Sweet, NOAA oceanographer and lead author of the study. "The ocean is not rising like water would in a bathtub."

Sea-level rise is making storm surges larger, said John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas state climatolo-

gist at Texas A&M University in College Station.

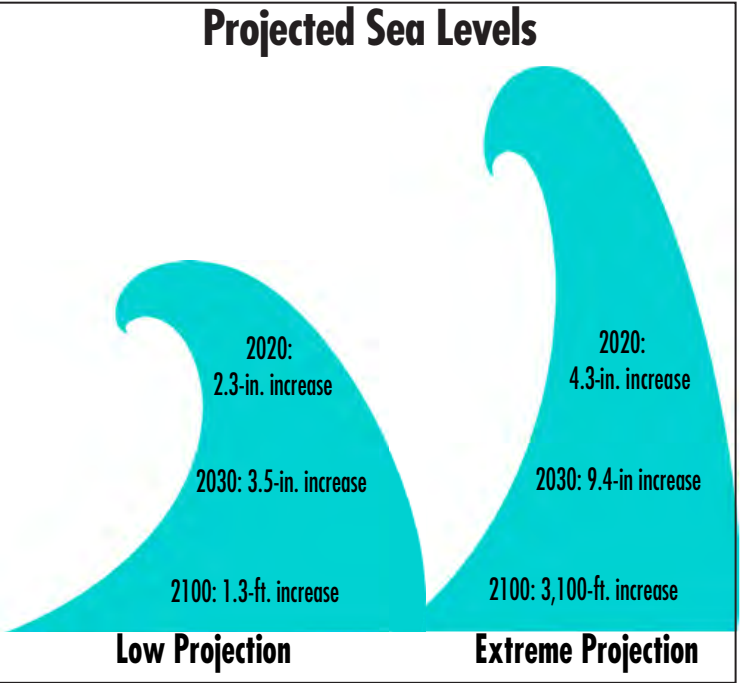
By 2100, sea level is expected to rise between 1.3 feet and 31 feet, the NOAA study predicts; Galveston Island and most of the Texas coast would be swallowed up under the latter scenario.

Sweet said the lower levels were more likely but added, "We ultimately don't know how much heating will occur."

The effects will be felt as far away as Austin, according to a recently released study by Mathew E. Hauer, who heads the Institute of Government's applied demography program at the University of Georgia. Hauer's study found that sea-level rise would force thousands from their homes along the Texas Gulf Coast as well as coastal areas nationwide. The study estimates Houston and Austin each would absorb 250,000 refugees from sea-level rise by 2100. The hardest hit would be Galveston County, where Hauer estimates 124,000 people could be forced from their homes. Rising water would force about 108,000 from their homes in Jefferson County, 42,000 in Brazoria County and 30,000 in Harris County, Hauer said.

Apart from sea-level rise, climate change is expected to cause hurricanes to be more intense and produce more rain, according to NOAA. The number of hurricanes each season would likely remain the same or decrease, the overview determined. NOAA is predicting 11 to 17 named storms this season, which runs from Thursday to Nov. 30.

Funding for efforts to slow or halt sea-level rise was slashed in a recently released President Donald Trump administration budget. Texas officials have asked Trump to put a proposed \$15 billion storm-surge barrier on his list of infrastructure improvements, but there is no guarantee Congress will fund the the barrier system.



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ASSOCIATION STUDY



RUSSELL CONTRERAS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flamenco performer Giovanna Hinojosa dances during a show at Tablao Flamenco in Albuquerque, N.M. An annual flamenco festival is celebrating its 30th anniversary in Albuquerque.

“When I was playing Wonder Woman (as a child), I was able to do incredible things and save the world.”
PATTY JENKINS,
DIRECTOR OF “Wonder Woman”

Wonder Woman



Gal Gadot plays princess Diana, better known as Wonder Woman, in the 2017 release of the DC movie.

Gal Gadot brings superheroine to life in ‘Wonder Woman.’ The film, directed by Patty Jenkins, opens in theaters June 2.

BY SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

In a world of only women, no phallic structures exist. At least that’s how Patty Jenkins imagined the island home of the Amazons and of their heroic princess Diana, who grows up to become Wonder Woman.

“Like columns? They didn’t make that much sense to me,” Jenkins said in a recent interview. “They felt like an imposition on landscape, which didn’t feel like something that women are jonesing to do.”

As the director of “Wonder Woman,” Jenkins is creating new worlds for women both onscreen and off. Not only did she help dream up the look of the Amazon island and hire scores of actresses to serve as its resident warriors, but she’s also the first woman to direct a major superhero movie, and her success could pave the way for others.

Wonder Woman inspired her as a child, and she described Lynda Carter’s portrayal on TV as “the embodiment of everything that I wanted to be as a woman.”

“When I was playing Wonder Woman, I was able to do incredible things and save the world,” the 45-year-old filmmaker said.

That’s the feeling she said she hopes to evoke with viewers of “Wonder Woman,” in theaters Friday. Gal Gadot plays the title character, who discovers her superpowers and fights for justice alongside humans after following a charming spy (Chris Pine) to London during World War I.

The Israeli-born Gadot didn’t grow up with Wonder Woman, but she said she was always on the lookout for powerful characters to play.

“Usually the women are the damsel in distress or the heartbroken woman or the sidekick, but in real life it’s not the case. In real life, we bring life. We have babies. We have careers. We are so many other things,” said Gadot, a 32-year-old married mother of two. “Wonder Woman symbolizes the magnificence of a woman and how amazing women are. And I think that it’s an important movie not only for women and girls, but it’s also great for boys and men. ... You can’t empower women if you don’t educate the men and you don’t teach the boys, so as much as it’s important for girls to be exposed and see this movie, it’s important for boys to have a strong female figure that they can look up to.”

Wonder Woman was created in 1941, yet this is her first solo feature film. Jenkins said she wanted to bring Wonder Woman to the big screen for more than a decade, but studios doubted the appeal of the lasso-wielding superheroine.

“I don’t understand why somebody who has had zero big blockbuster

representation for 75 years still has 15 little girls a minute coming to my door dressed as her every Halloween, like how does that not equal dollar signs?” Jenkins said.

Connie Nielsen, who plays Diana’s mother, Amazon queen Hippolyta, also didn’t grow up with Wonder Woman, but had myriad other models of powerful women as a child in Denmark.

“The Denmark I grew up in was a Denmark in which women were, in fact, fully liberated and the whole world had been opened up to us,” she said. “In the magazines in the early ‘80s, it was men who were photographed doing the vacuum cleaning in the ads for vacuum cleaners, and women were no longer posing on the Ford Mustang.”

So Nielsen said she felt entitled to question why, on an island populated by only women, her character would wear high heels. She and Gadot, both statuesque, wear wedges in the film.

“I actually had that conversation several times, and Patty was adamant,” Nielsen said. “She really felt like you stand a different way (in heels), and you do.”

The costumes, including the wedges, had to be considered during the physical training, which included horseback riding, archery and swords(wo)manship. For Robin Wright, who was raised on the “Wonder Woman” TV show, training and shooting with the Amazons was the best part.


“I think it was a little daunting for the men because it was very unusual. I think there were like 120 Amazons,” said Wright, who plays the warrior Antiope, Diana’s aunt and teacher. “That’s a different energy on the set, and great for us. We just felt like a team of women that had each other’s backs.”


She called Jenkins “the biggest cheerleader of them all.”

With the film’s arrival this week, Jenkins said she is thinking about what “Wonder Woman” might mean for a new generation of aspiring superheroes — and filmmakers.

“I am a filmmaker who wants to make successful films, of course. I want my film to be celebrated,” she said. “But there’s a whole other person in me who’s sitting and watching what’s happening right now who so hopes, not for me, that this movie defies expectation. Because I want to see the signal that that will send to the world.”

CRITICS' RATINGS

 **8.4/10**

 **96%**

Wonder Woman Throughout The Years



1942
Original “Wonder Woman” comic book debuts.



1973
“Super Friends”



1975
Lynda Carter and Hayden Rorke



2001
Justice League, Susan Eisenberg



2017
Gal Gadot



88°/70°
Partly cloudy

BRIMMING WITH OPTIMISM

Bollman Hat Co. moved its manufacturing of Kangol-brand hats from overseas to a factory in Pennsylvania. Bollman hopes to succeed despite higher costs. **SEE PAGE 6**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE

■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM

■ THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 2017



Trump to unveil climate decision

Critics: Pullout would result in lasting damage

JULIE PACE AND CATHERINE LUCEY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is expected to announce his decision on the Paris Accord Thursday.

On Wednesday, Trump tweeted “I will be announcing my decision on Paris Accord, Thursday at 3:00 P.M. The White House Rose Garden.”

He is expected to withdraw the United States from a landmark global climate agreement, a White House official said Wednesday.

Leaving the deal would fulfill a central campaign pledge, but would anger international allies who spent years in difficult negotiations to produce the accord, which aims to reduce carbon emissions.

Trump faced considerable pressure to hold to the deal during visits with European leaders and Pope Francis on his recent trip

abroad. The official, who insisted on anonymity, said the president and his aides were finalizing the details of a pullout and looking for “caveats in the language” related to the exit.

While Trump currently favors an exit, he has been known to change his thinking on major decisions, seeking counsel from a range of inside and outside advisers until the last minute.

A second White House official, who was not authorized to discuss private conversations and also insisted on anonymity, said Trump had not made a final decision on how to proceed.

Trump’s top aides have been divided on the accord.

He was to meet later Wednesday with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who has favored remaining in the agreement. Chief strategist Steve Bannon supports an exit, as does Scott Pruitt, administrator of



Climate change is undeniable. Climate change is unstoppable.

ANTONIO GUTERRES

Environmental Protection Agency. Senior adviser Jared Kushner regards the deal negatively, but would like to find a way to change U.S. emissions targets.

Trump’s daughter Ivanka Trump’s preference is to stay, but she made it a priority to establish a review process so her father heard from all sides.

Nearly 200 nations, including the United States under President Barack Obama’s administration, agreed in 2015 to voluntarily reduce their greenhouse gas emissions in an effort to combat climate change. Withdrawing would leave the United States aligned only with Russia among the world’s industrialized economies.

A senior European Union official said the EU and China would reaffirm their commitment to the pact regardless of what Trump did, and would spell out, during talks Friday in Brussels, how they plan to meet their obligations.

News of Trump’s expected decision drew swift reaction from the United Nations. The organization’s main Twitter page quoted Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as saying, “Climate change is undeniable. Climate change is unstoppable. Climate solutions provide opportunities

that are unmatched.”

Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, a leading national environmental organization, called the expected move a “historic mistake which our grandchildren will look back on with stunned dismay.”

The House Democratic leader, Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, referred to it as “a stunning abdication of American leadership and a grave threat to our planet’s future.”

Trump claimed before taking office that climate change was a “hoax” created by the Chinese to hurt the U.S. economy, an assertion that stands in defiance of broad scientific consensus.

But Trump’s chief White House economic adviser, Gary Cohn, told reporters during the trip abroad that Trump’s views on cli-

■ PARIS ACCORD, Page 2

Exxon Mobil to reveal climate info

DAVID KOENIG
AP Business Writer

DALLAS — Exxon Mobil investors voted Wednesday in favor of more disclosure around the impact of global policies aimed at limiting global warming. The vote is a defeat for Exxon and a victory for environmentalists and shareholder activists, who saw support for their proposal grow to 62 percent from 38 percent last year.

At the company’s annual meeting, shareholders pushed the company to publicize more information about whether regulations designed to reduce climate change will hurt the oil giant’s business.

Low crude prices have taken a toll on Exxon profit, which fell from \$32.5 billion in 2014 to \$16.2 billion in 2015 to \$7.8 billion in 2016. Last year, Exxon lost its AAA credit rating.

The climate-change resolution asked the company to analyze the impacts on Exxon’s oil and gas reserves and resources in case changes to climate policies cause a drop in fossil fuel demand.

CEO Darren Woods said Exxon believes that the risks related to climate change “are serious and warrant action, thoughtful action.” He suggested that the company is protecting shareholders by assuming a “proxy cost of carbon” when predicting energy demand and planning new projects.

“Our outlook assumes increasingly stringent climate policy,” Woods said. “It assumes growing energy demand through 2040 including substantial demand for oil and gas.”

Exxon officials did not disclose the votes of individual shareholders, but both sides had targeted major institutional investors including BlackRock, Vanguard and Fidelity. Critics have attacked Exxon for funding groups that try to dismiss climate science.

Eight other board-opposed resolutions were defeated, although four of them got at least 38 percent support, including one that asked Exxon to describe what it does to prevent methane emissions from hydraulic fracturing, or fracking.

Wednesday’s meeting was the first since Woods became CEO, replacing current Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. Tillerson set a different tone at Exxon by endorsing a carbon tax and the Paris Accord.



RAHMAT GUL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Afghan security official stands next to a crater left by a massive explosion in front of the German Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, killing 90 people.

Death toll rises to 90 in Afghan blast

Diplomatic quarter of Kabul struck by suicide bomber; 11 Americans injured

RAHIM FAIEZ AND KATHY GANNON
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide attacker struck the heart of the Afghan capital Wednesday, killing 90 people, wounding 400 and raising new fears about the government’s ability to protect its citizens.

The bomber drove into Kabul’s heavily guarded diplomatic quarter during the morning rush hour, leaving behind a bloody scene of chaos and destruction in one of the worst attacks since the reduction of foreign forces from Afghanistan in 2014.

Most of the casualties were civilians, including women and children, said Ismail Kawasi, spokesman of the public health ministry. The dead also included Afghan security guards, including those stationed at the U.S. Embassy. Eleven American contractors were wounded — none with life-threatening injuries — according to a U.S. State Department official.

“I have been to many attacks,

but I can say I have never seen such a horrible attack,” ambulance driver Alef Ahmadzai told The Associated Press. “Everywhere was on fire and so many people were in critical condition.”

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack, which came in the first week of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The Taliban condemned the attack, flatly denying any involvement.

The explosives were hidden in a tanker truck, said Najib Danish, deputy spokesman for the country’s interior ministry. The number of dead and wounded was provided by the Afghanistan government’s media center.

The blast gouged a crater about five meters (15 feet) deep near Zarnabq Square in the Wazir Akbar Khan District, where foreign embassies are protected by a battery of security personnel, Afghan police and National Security Forces. The nearby German Embassy was heavily damaged.

Also in the area is Afghanistan’s Foreign Ministry, the presidential

palace and its intelligence and security headquarters.

“The terrorists are not stopping the killing of our innocent people,” said President Ashraf Ghani.

Afghanistan’s war, the longest-ever involving U.S. troops, has shown no sign of letting up, and the introduction of an Islamic State affiliate has made the country only more volatile.

Although they are few in number, militants from the Islamic State in Khorasan — an ancient name for parts of Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia — have taken credit for several brazen assaults on the capital.

“Let’s be clear: This is an intelligence failure, as has been the case with so many other attacks in Kabul and beyond. There was a clear failure to anticipate a major security threat in a highly secured area,” said Michael Kugelman, Asia program deputy director and senior associate for South Asia at the U.S.-based Woodrow Wilson International Center.

“The fact that these intelligence

failures keep happening suggest that something isn’t working at the top, and major and urgent changes are needed in security policy,” he said.

Still, there are questions about whether a U.S. pledge to send more troops to Afghanistan will curb the violence.

“The sad reality is that more foreign troops would not necessarily ensure these attacks happen less,” Kugelman said. “But they could help by supplementing training programs meant to enhance Afghan intel collection capacities.”

There are currently 8,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan and the U.S. has promised that it will send more.

In regard to security in the region, Afghan lawmaker and analyst Nasrullah Sadeqizada said “The situation is deteriorating day by day.”

Gen. Mirza Mohammad Yarmand, former deputy interior minister, said more troops won’t

■ AFGHANISTAN, Page 2

REACTION:

I can say I have never seen such a horrible attack.

ALEF AHMAZAI, AFGHAN AMBULANCE DRIVER

We will lead the fight against terrorism, and we will win it.

ANGELA MERKEL, GERMAN CHANCELLOR

NASA probe will target inner region of sun

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A NASA spacecraft will aim straight for the sun next year and bear the name of the astrophysicist who predicted the existence of solar wind nearly 60 years ago.

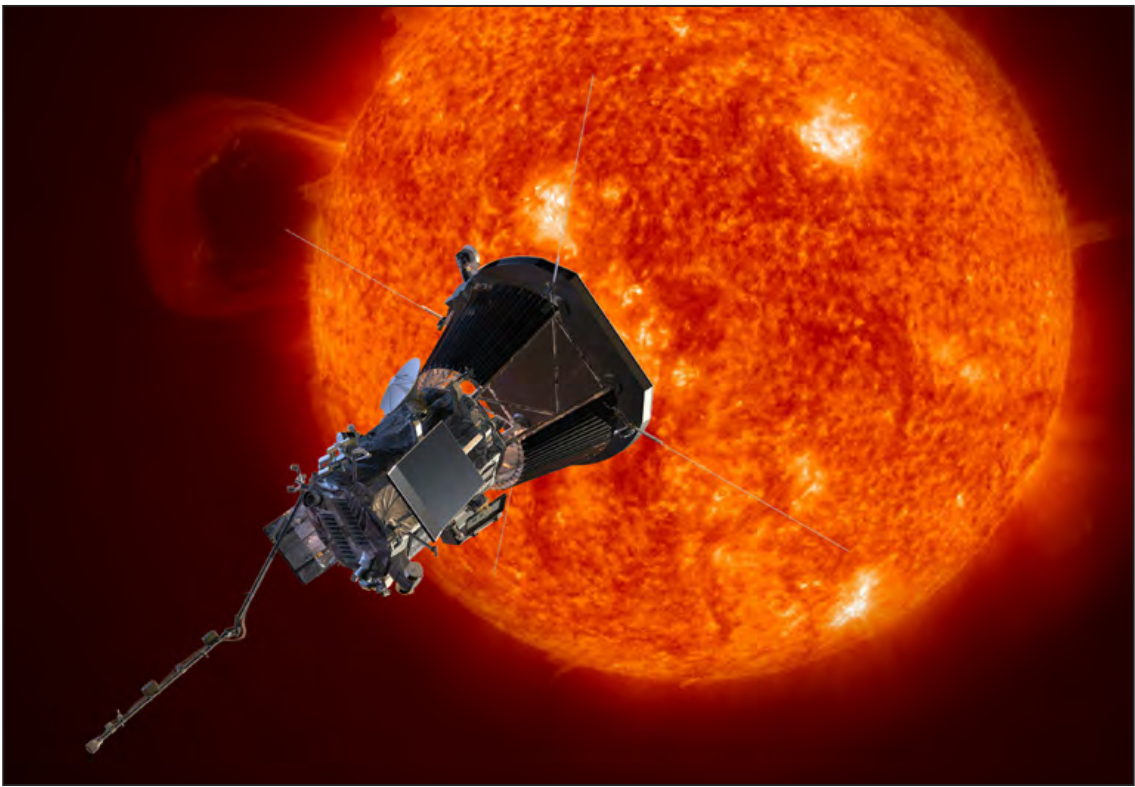
The space agency announced Wednesday that the red-hot mission would be named after Eugene Parker, professor emeritus at the University of Chicago. It's the first NASA spacecraft to be named after a researcher who is still alive.

The Parker Solar Probe will fly within 4 million miles of the sun's surface — right into the solar atmosphere — and is scheduled to launch next summer from Cape Canaveral. The spacecraft's proximity to the sun will subject it to brutal heat and radiation like no other man-made structure before. Until now, the necessary materials weren't available to undertake such a mission.

The purpose is to study the sun's outer atmosphere and better understand how stars like ours work.

NASA spacecraft have traveled inside the orbit of Mercury, the innermost planet.

"But until you actually go there and touch the sun, you really can't



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY APPLIED PHYSICS LABORATORY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image made available by the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory on Wednesday shows NASA's Parker Solar Probe approaching the sun.

answer these questions," said mission project scientist Nicola Fox of Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory.

Parker Solar Probe — formerly known as Solar Probe Plus — will venture seven times closer than any previous spacecraft, Fox said.

The announcement came during a University of Chicago ceremony honoring Parker, who turns 90 on June 10. Parker called it "a

heroic scientific space mission," referring to the temperatures and solar radiation to be endured by the spacecraft, and the extreme safeguards taken. The probe will be "ready to do battle with the solar elements as it divulges the secrets of the expanding corona," he said.

While 4 million miles may not sound that close, it is by solar standards, according to Fox. She urged the crowd to remember while viewing the total solar eclipse this August to remember that the spacecraft eventually will be "right in there."

The probe will travel at a blistering speed of 430,000 mph and zip through a region where the mercury hits 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit.

"Solar Probe is going to be the hottest, fastest mission. I like to call it the coolest, hottest mission under the sun," Fox said.

The spacecraft will carry a chip containing photos of Parker as well as a copy of his groundbreaking research paper from 1958.

Parker's prediction of solar wind — the intense flow of charged particles or plasma from the sun — was initially ridiculed, but confirmed a few years later.

Analysts: Withdrawal from Paris deal will not boost American jobs

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has declared that abandoning the Paris Accord would be a victory for the American economy.

Many economists have big doubts.

They say the agreement would likely help create about as many jobs in renewable energy as it might cost in polluting industries. Should the United States pull out of the pact and seek to protect old-school jobs in coal and oil, it would risk losing the chance to lead the world in developing environmentally friendly technology — and generate the jobs that come with it. Climate change

itself threatens to impose huge costs on the economy.

The Paris Accord has drawn surprising support from major companies, from oil giants like Exxon Mobil and Shell to other corporate giants like Walmart and Apple.

"We need a framework like that to address the challenge of climate change, the risk of climate change," said Darren Woods, CEO of Exxon Mobil.

The Paris Accord became one of President Barack Obama's signature achievements. But Trump campaigned on a promise to nix the deal, saying it would hobble the economy and cost jobs.

Economists say that leaving the Paris deal and easing efforts to

control emissions would hardly deliver a big payoff in jobs.

Polluting industries such as oil and coal are highly automated and are unlikely to embark on a major hiring spree even if the United States dropped out of the Paris agreement, experts say.

"The potential number of jobs you can create in fossil fuels is limited, while the potential number of jobs in green technologies — in principle the sky is the limit," said Bart van Ark, chief economist at the Conference Board, a business research group.

Already, the United States employs more people in solar energy (nearly 374,000) than in coal (a little over 160,000), according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

"The perception that we have to decide between creating jobs or tackling climate change is a false choice," said Dean Garfield, president of the tech trade group ITI. "It is not too late to for the president to stay the course and work with the tech industry to ensure that more clean energy jobs continue to go to Americans."

Many big companies say they must make long-term investment decisions based on the assumption that most countries will stiffen environmental standards.

"The business sector is moving ahead anyway," van Ark says. "Businesses that are into this are into it for the long haul. Not just for four years, the term of a president."



Paris Accord fate uncertain despite international pressure

Continued from Page 1

mate change were "evolving" following the president's discussions with European leaders.

Still, he said that the carbon levels agreed to by the prior administration "would be highly crippling to the U.S. economic growth," and that, if the president had to choose between limiting carbon and economic growth, the latter would win. Supporters say it's not an either-or choice.

The emissions goals are voluntary with no real consequences for countries that fail to meet them. That means the U.S. could stay in the accord and choose not

to hit its goals or stay in the pact but adjust its targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The U.S. has agreed to reduce its emissions by 2025 to 26 percent to 28 percent of 2005 levels.

Word of Trump's expected decision came a day after the president met with Pruitt. The EPA head has questioned the consensus of climate scientists that man-made emissions are to blame for the earth warming.

Trump and Pruitt have moved to delay or roll back federal regulations limiting greenhouse gas emissions while pledging to re-

vive struggling coal mines.

It is not yet clear whether Trump plans to initiate a formal withdrawal from the Paris Accord or exit the underlying U.N. climate change treaty on which the accord was based.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and 21 other Republicans sent Trump a letter last week urging him to follow through on his campaign pledge to pull out of the climate accord. Most of the senators who signed are from states that depend on the burning of coal, oil and gas.

Hundreds of high-profile busi-

nesses have spoken out in favor of the deal, including Apple, Google and Walmart. Even fossil fuel companies such as Exxon Mobil, BP and Shell say the United States should abide by the deal.

Forty Democratic senators sent Trump a letter saying withdrawal would hurt America's credibility and influence on the world stage.

Scientists say that the earth is likely to reach more dangerous levels of warming if the U.S. retreats from its pledge, given the United States' significant contribution to rising global temperatures.

Afghanistan explosion damages multiple embassies in capital

Continued from Page 1

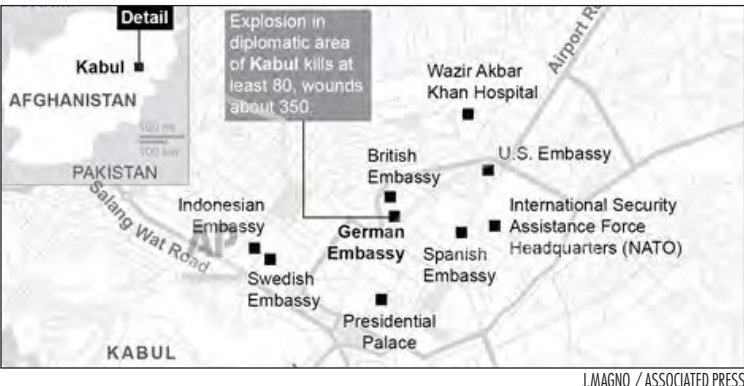
help, but urged the world to stay committed to Afghanistan.

"I don't think that more U.S. or NATO soldiers can solve the security problems in Afghanistan," he said.

The stricken neighborhood was considered Kabul's safest, as embassies are protected by dozens of 10-foot-high blast walls and guarded government offices.

"I've never seen such a powerful explosion in my life," said Mohammad Haroon, who owns a nearby sporting goods store. All the windows in his shop were shattered, he added.

Shocked residents soaked in blood stumbled in the streets before being taken to hospitals. Be-



J. MAGNO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The bombing took place in the diplomatic heart of Kabul, Afghanistan.

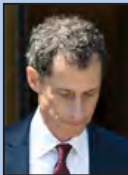
sides the German Embassy, damage was reported at the embassies of China, Turkey, France, India and Japan, according to officials

from those countries. Other nearby embassies include those of the U.S., Britain, Pakistan and Iran, as well as the NATO mission.

A BRIEF GUIDE TO POLITICAL TWITTER MISTAKES

Anthony Weiner

In May 2011, then-New York congressman Anthony Weiner accidentally posted a



Weiner

lewd picture of himself on his public page, rather than in a direct message as he'd intended.

Donald Trump

Last December, he condemned the alleged theft of a Navy drone by China as "unpresidential."

Ed Balls

In 2011, Ed Balls, then-finance spokesperson for the British Labour Party, tweeted just his own name. Every April 28, thousands tweet "Ed Balls" in celebration of "Ed Balls Day."

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INTERNATIONAL

Duterte, Chelsea Clinton spar over rape comments

MANILA, Philippines — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte denounced the daughter of former U.S. President Bill Clinton on Wednesday after she criticized a comment he made about rapes committed by soldiers.

In an expletive-laden speech at a navy event, Duterte asked Chelsea Clinton if she also criticized her father when he had an affair with Monica Lewinsky.

He said he was being sarcastic when he told troops last week that he would take responsibility for any crimes they commit while implementing martial law that he declared in the southern third of the country, even if they rape three women.

Chelsea Clinton, responding last week to a tweet about Duterte's rape comment, tweeted: "Not funny. Ever."

German labor market remains strong in May

BERLIN — Germany's labor market remained strong in May, with the unemployment rate falling again over the previous month to a new post-reunification low, in a likely boost to Chancellor Angela Merkel ahead of September's election.

The Federal Labor Agency said Wednesday the unemployment rate fell to 5.7 percent from 5.8 percent in April in figures adjusted for seasonal variations. In unadjusted terms, the rate fell to 5.6 percent with nearly 71,000 fewer people registered as jobless.

IHS Markit economist Timo Klein said there has been a downward trend in unemployment since 2009, and the labor force has received a boost in rising migration from other European countries as well as refugees from the Mideast.

UK police search property in Manchester investigation

LONDON — British police have asked the public to stay out of the area in southern Manchester while a property is searched for clues about the concert bombing that killed 22 people and wounded dozens of others.

Police said Wednesday a cordon has been placed around a property south of central Manchester.

There are 11 men in custody for possible connection to Britain's worst extremist attack in more than a decade. Suicide bomber Salman Abedi, a British-born man of Libyan descent, detonated a device minutes after the conclusion of an Ariana Grande concert at Manchester Arena on May 22.

Five other people have been questioned and released without facing charges.

The arrested suspects haven't been identified or charged.

Egypt: 3 officers, 1 soldier dead in western desert

CAIRO — Egypt's military said three officers and one soldier were killed when a suicide belt went off as forces were sweeping a militant hub in the Bahariya Oasis in Egypt's western desert.

Military spokesperson Tamer el-Refaie said on his Facebook page Wednesday that the incident took place during ongoing military operations in the western desert bordering Libya.

Egypt's western desert has been the scene of numerous terrorist attacks in recent years, including an attack on a border guard post in 2014 which left at least 21 troops dead. President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi blamed Libya-trained terrorists for the recent attack on a bus carrying Christians in Upper Egypt, which killed 29.

Malaysia Airlines jet diverted over bomb scare

CANBERRA, Australia — A Malaysia Airlines plane was forced to return to an Australian airport after a mentally ill passenger threatened to detonate a bomb and attempted to enter the cockpit, police said Thursday.

Flight MH128 was only a few minutes into a flight from Melbourne to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, late Wednesday when a 25-year-old Australian man attempted to enter the cockpit clutching an electronic device and created panic. Police Superintendent Tony Langdon and passengers said.

The man did not have a bomb and was restrained by passengers and crew. Police are not treating the incident as a terrorist act. There were no injuries.

"He was saying: 'I'm going to the blow the Fing plane up, I'm going to blow the plane up,'" passenger Andrew Leoncelli told Australian Broadcasting Corp. on Thursday

The plane returned to the airport about 30 minutes after takeoff. Police carrying semi-automatic assault rifles and wearing body armor took the man off the plane. He had yet to be charged on Thursday.

Mexico extends gillnet ban to save porpoise

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's agriculture and fisheries department says it is extending a ban on gillnets in much of the upper Gulf of California as part of an effort to save the endangered vaquita porpoise.

A Wednesday statement from the department says it will continue to provide monetary and other support for fishermen affected by the measure.

Despite Mexico's campaign to help the porpoise species, estimates of remaining vaquitas have dropped below 30.

Vaquitas are often caught in nets illegally set to catch totoaba fish, whose swim bladder is prized in China.

The World Wildlife Fund says the measure won't be enough to save the vaquita. It says a permanent ban and recovery efforts are needed.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



BULLIT MARQUEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Displaced residents of Marawi city wait for their other relatives after queueing up to receive relief and food supplies at an evacuation center in Balo-i township, Lanao del Norte province, southern Philippines on Wednesday.

A community displaced

Poor evacuation camp conditions add to difficult time in Marawi

JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARAWI, Philippines — At an evacuation center outside the besieged Philippine city of Marawi on Wednesday, the results of a week of misery — a week of violence, uncertainty, long nights and promises of better tomorrows — were evident in the faces and hearts of the displaced.

About 130 people have been killed in the violence in Marawi, which erupted last Tuesday after soldiers launched a raid to capture militant leader Isnilon Hapilon, who has been designated leader of the Islamic State group's Southeast Asia branch. But the operation went awry and Hapilon got away.

Fighters loyal to him surprised government forces with their firepower, fending off air strikes and house-to-house searches.

The unrest has raised fears that the Islamic State group's violent ideology is gaining a foothold in

the country's restive southern islands, where a Muslim separatist rebellion has raged for decades.

Military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said Hapilon is believed to still be in Marawi.

As the two sides battle it out, civilians have been caught in the crossfire.

Bilal Sulaiman, a 47-year-old carpenter, said his wife and three children evacuated to safety early in the conflict but he stayed behind to watch their house near the scene of the battle.

He said when the fighting became too fierce he ran for his life to a nearby mountain, where he waited without food and water until he decided to swim across a pond to safety.

He waited in an army-controlled area and was retrieved by government rescuers Wednesday.

"We did not eat for days," Sulaiman said as rescue workers handed out biscuits and water. "It was really scary. There were

explosions just two blocks from my house, but I couldn't leave our house because somebody might burn it. I later left when the fighting got too intense."

Frightened civilians crowded into schools, basketball courts and sports centers.

Villagers slept on floors and relied on government food and water rations and donations.

Amid the squalor and lack of privacy, Naima Dimangadap wept.

"Our homes got burned because of the bombings. We failed to save anything, including our cooking pots. It's so difficult to live in this evacuation camp," said Dimangadap, a single mother of five.

Philippine authorities said troops had cleared almost 90 percent of Marawi city.

Padilla said 960 civilians had been rescued and an estimated 1,000 residents remained trapped in the city.

N. Korea testing missiles at substantial pace

ANALYSIS

ERIC TALMADGE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Early one winter morning, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un stood at an observation post overlooking a valley of rice paddies near the Chinese border. Minutes later, four projectiles plunged into the sea off the Japanese coast.

North Korea had just run its first simulation of a nuclear attack on a U.S. military base.

North Korea, which is testing ballistic missiles faster than ever, is rapidly becoming a better-equipped and more formidable adversary.

Some experts believe it might be able to build missiles advanced enough to reach the United States in two to three years.

And that poses a game-changing problem for the U.S., which is also escalating, in successfully shooting down a mock target ICBM launched from a Pacific island with a California-based interceptor missile on Tuesday.

If North Korea launches a preemptive nuclear strike on an American military base in Asia, would the U.S. recoil and retreat? Would it strike back and risk losing Washington in a second wave of attacks?

In the March launch, North Korea sent four Scuds into the ocean 185 to 220 miles off Japan's coast.



WONG MAYE-E / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A missile that analysts believe could be the North Korean Hwasong 12 is paraded in Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang, North Korea on April 15. Many analysts believe the missile could be a stepping stone to the ICBM North Korea needs to attack the U.S. mainland.

Analyst Jeffrey Lewis and his colleagues at the Center for Non-proliferation Studies in Monterey, California, quickly realized the Scuds were on a trajectory that, with a southerly tweak, would have sent them raining onto Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, on the southern tip of Japan's main island.

Before the simulation, U.S. and South Korean forces were conducting joint military drills involving F-35 fighters based at Iwakuni, home to some 10,000 U.S. and Japanese personnel. The F-35s had reportedly trained for a "de-

capitation strike" on Kim Jong Un and his top lieutenants.

Kim, apparently, was practicing how to take them out first.

The Cold War concept of "mutually assured destruction" works when each side is convinced neither would survive. North Korea isn't likely to reach that stalemate level. If it succeeds in building nuclear-tipped ICBMs that can reach the U.S. mainland, the dynamic could be much more volatile.

On April 15, Kim Jong Un watched military units from his million-man armed forces march by, and then applauded at the most varied array of missiles and

Lebanon bans new Gadot film

'Wonder Woman' star served in Israeli military

SARAH EL DEEB
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIRUT — Lebanese authorities banned the new "Wonder Woman" movie Wednesday following a campaign against its lead actress, Gal Gadot, who served in the Israeli army, a security official and activists said.

Lebanon is officially at war with Israel and the two countries have been through a number of wars.

A particularly devastating 2006 war battered Lebanon's infrastructure and left hundreds of civilians killed.

The ban is in accordance with a decades-old law that boycotts Israeli products and bars Lebanese citizens from traveling to Israel or having contact with Israelis.

A premiere later Wednesday in Beirut was cancelled. An executive at the Grand Cinema chain said the company was planning to show the movie in 16 out of its 18 theaters around the country.

The security official said violators of the ban will have to face legal consequences, but he didn't specify.

He spoke on the condition of anonymity because the decision has not yet been published.

A campaigner against the movie, Rania Masri, hailed the decision to ban "Wonder Woman," saying it signaled respect for the law.

A similar campaign against another movie where Gadot played the role of Wonder Woman last year, "Batman v Superman," never turned into an outright ban. Masri said it was "different" this time because of a major media campaign against the movie that has helped push for the ban.

transport vehicles the North has ever displayed.

The message of this year's military parade was clear. North Korea is, or is nearly, able to strike pre-emptively against a regional target. It is preparing to withstand a retaliatory attack if it does, and it is building the arsenal it needs to then launch a second wave of strikes, this time at the U.S. mainland.

Its vision of a new "balance of terror" reached a crescendo as six submarine-launched missiles and their land-based cousin rumbled through the square.

Submarines are the ultimate stealth weapon, mobile and hard to find, and the land-launched missile version was also all about stealth.

It uses solid fuel, which means it can be stored, hidden and moved to rough terrain for a quick launch. Kim has ordered it be mass-produced.

The big reveal of the parade came next: the unveiling of the "Hwasong 12."

A month after the parade, it was sent about 1,240 miles in altitude and remained airborne for 30 minutes. The North's media said it can carry a "large-size heavy nuclear warhead."

Kim claimed it shows he has an "all-powerful means for retaliatory strike."

That's bravado. The missile's estimated striking range is 4,500 kilometers (2,800 miles), give or take. But, put another way, it's halfway to Chicago.

Mexican border museum is hidden gem

RUSSELL CONTRERAS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico — Towns along the U.S.-Mexico border are often stereotyped as enclaves for bar-hoppers, smoky factories, cheap souvenirs and long entry lines for cargo and trucks. They also are known for inexpensive tacos and a plethora of adult entertainment options.

Cultural sites, in particular on the Mexican side, rarely get much attention.

But within a 20-minute walk from the Stanton Street Port of Entry in El Paso, Texas, visitors to Ciudad Juarez can enjoy a different experience and get a better understanding of a moment in history that fundamentally changed Mexico and the United States.

El Museo de la Revolucion en La Frontera, or the Museum of the Revolution in the Border, tells the story of the Mexican Revolution and its aftermath still felt today.

The armed struggle, which lasted from 1910 to 1920, transformed Mexican society and sparked a massive migration of Mexicans to the United States that remade the demographics of cities in the American Southwest.



HIDECOMISO AN CHIHUAHUA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A man snaps a photo of an exhibit about photojournalism on display at the Museum of the Revolution in the Border in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Yes, the conflict gave rise to Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata as revolutionary heroes of the poor.

The war also spurred new movements in art, literature, journalism, photography and radical notions of land reform that spread across Latin America.

The museum guides visitors through the pre-revolutionary Mexico of dictator Porfirio Diaz and the intellectual movements opposing his rule.

Exhibits touch upon El Plan of San Luis Potosi, a call to remove Diaz and the re-establishment of democracy, and writers speaking out against what they described as colonial rule at the expense of the poor.

Newspaper accounts in the U.S. talked about the growing unrest south of the border and the museum explains in an easy-to-understand narrative how elite to middle-class political leaders joined efforts to remove Diaz. Using photographs, old documents and clothing, the museum goes through the short presidency of reformer Francisco Madero, followed by his overthrow and assassination at the hands of Gen. Victoriano Huerta.

Still, out of the chaos came artistic expression. Recorded songs depicted the suffering and separations caused by war. Art displayed shows images of revolution that inspired Diego Rivera's later work.

To visit: The museum is located at 16 de Septiembre Avenue in Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

Budget would cut refugee funds

MATTHEW LEE
AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is moving to significantly reduce the number of refugees allowed to enter the United States, even as his bid to temporarily suspend admissions is stalled in the courts. The latest effort comes through Trump's fed-

eral budget proposal, which calls for a 25 percent cut in funds for resettling refugees on American soil.

While officials said they couldn't predict the impact of Trump's proposed cuts to the refugee admissions program, they said it will almost certainly mean fewer refugees eventually accepted into the country. Trump must

determine the target for refugee admissions by the start of the next budget year on Oct. 1. His March immigration order that has been halted by the courts had capped the number at 50,000. That is less than half of the 110,000 target former President Barack Obama adopted last September.

With Trump's cap not yet coming into effect, the State Depart-

ment's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration on May 25 notified refugee advocacy groups that it would lift an admissions limit it imposed early this year because of budget uncertainties, officials said.

The bureau had limited admissions to 900 refugees per week, compared with an average of 2,000 admitted per week in 2016.

LITTLE BEE, BIG BUZZ



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Edith Fuller, 6, of Tulsa, Okla., center, the youngest speller ever in the National Bee, sits next to Marlene Schaff, 14, of Lake Forest, Illinois, as they wait to compete in the 90th Scripps National Spelling Bee's preliminary round in Oxon Hill, Maryland, on Wednesday. They had to spell two words each, and 40 spellers advanced to Thursday's finals.

Vietnam's prime minister visits White House

MATTHEW PENNINGTON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump welcomed Vietnam's prime minister to the White House on Wednesday to talk about the American trade deficit while the Southeast Asian country is still shaken by Trump's withdrawal from a regional commerce pact.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc is the first leader to visit the Trump White House from Southeast Asia, where the U.S. vies with China for influence. The two leaders said billions of dollars in U.S.-Vietnamese business deals were signed but gave no details.

Trump will travel to Vietnam to attend an Asia-Pacific economic summit in November, which Phuc said would be an opportunity for the U.S. to assert its positive role in the region.

As the two leaders sat down for formal talks, which also touched on North Korea, Trump was quick to raise the trade imbalance.

"We have a major trade deficit with Vietnam, which will hopefully balance out in a short period of time," Trump said. "We expect

to be able to do that."

Phuc said U.S.-Vietnam relations have "undergone significant upheaval, but today we have been able to become comprehensive partners." He said he has been impressed by Trump's friendliness and openness and was confident bilateral cooperation would be enhanced.

The U.S. and Vietnam normalized ties in 1995, two decades after the end of the Vietnam War. Diplomatic and security ties blossomed under President Barack Obama as Vietnam sought ways to counter China's island-building and vast claims to the disputed South China Sea.

However, the relationship is now on uncertain ground.

Vietnam would have been a prime beneficiary of the 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement negotiated under Obama. Within days of taking office, Trump withdrew the U.S. from the trade deal, saying it would hurt American workers.

At a dinner American business leaders hosted for Phuc late Tuesday, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said the annual trade

deficit with Vietnam — America's sixth-largest — increased over the last decade from \$7 billion to nearly \$32 billion, presenting new challenges for the countries' relationship.

Speaking at the Heritage Foundation think tank Wednesday, Phuc pushed back by saying that in trade, the U.S. and Vietnamese economies are "more complementary than competitive."

He said contracts for U.S. goods and services worth \$15 billion were signed during his visit.

GE Power Chief Executive Officer Steve Bolze said the company would sign \$6 billion in agreements.

Security cooperation between the countries has grown because of shared concern over China's assertive behavior in the South China Sea. The U.S. recently delivered six coastal patrol boats and a decommissioned Hamilton-class cutter to Vietnam's coast guard.

Phuc did not address last week's U.S. Navy's freedom of navigation operation in the South China Sea, the first since Trump took office, but said he welcomes U.S. support for freedom of navigation and overflight, compliance with international law and peaceful resolution of disputes.

Rampage spurs calls to ban cars from Times Square

KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The vehicle rampage in Times Square on May 18 has prompted conversations of whether the city should still be allowing cars, cabs and trucks to cruise down the Manhattan intersection.

Police said Richard Rojas, a Bronx man, was high on PCP when he took a U-turn off Seventh Avenue and plowed down sidewalks leading into Times Square for three blocks, killing a teenage tourist and injuring 22 others. Rojas, 26, was charged with murder and attempted murder.

Temporary concrete barriers were installed along the Seventh Avenue sidewalk after the carnage while city officials weigh a long-term solution. That could involve installing more steel posts like the ones that eventually halted the progress of Rojas' car.

City Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg said closing Seventh Avenue to cars in the Times Square area "is certainly one of the things that's being discussed." David C. Kelly, associate managing director of K2 Intelligence in New York City, said banning traffic is attractive from a security standpoint but would need to be carefully planned.

Kelly noted when the area around the New York Stock Exchange in lower Manhattan was closed to cars, a garage owner filed a lawsuit arguing his livelihood would suffer.

First Bundy backer sentenced

Judge hands down seven-year term for role in Nev. standoff

KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A judge sentenced a New Hampshire man Wednesday to more than seven years in prison for his role in organizing armed backers of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy after a standoff with U.S. agents in 2014.

Gerald "Jerry" DeLemus became the first person sentenced for his ties to the confrontation that occurred after Bundy and his backers tried to claim the right for Bundy's cattle to graze on government land. Eighteen others are in custody.

DeLemus has been jailed for almost 16 months, so the sentence means the 62-year-old former U.S. Marine will spend about six more years behind bars. His attorney, Dustin Marcello, said he will appeal.

DeLemus arrived at the Bundy ranch hours after the tense armed standoff that led to the release of the rancher's cattle and was hailed as a victory in a decades-long fight over government-owned land.

He then spent more than a month in an encampment organizing armed patrols and serving as an intermediary between a self-styled militia and local authorities.

He had been expected to get a six-year sentence after pleading guilty last August to conspiracy to commit an offense against the U.S. and to interstate travel in aid of extortion.

But Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro in Las Vegas added



KEN RITTER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gerald "Jerry" DeLemus, of Rochester, New Hampshire, sits with a group of self-described militia members camping on rancher Cliven Bundy's ranch near Bunkerville, Nevada, on April 16, 2014.

time after faulting DeLemus for trying to withdraw his pleas. She said she did not think he accepted responsibility for his actions.

"I have to say, Mr. DeLemus, that you unfortunately are blinded by the information you choose to believe," she said.

Navarro said DeLemus could have advised Bundy to abide by court orders to pay 20 years of overdue grazing fees or to let agents round up his cattle from public land.

Instead he became a "bully vigilante, threatening peacekeepers of the community," she said.

"I never heard you say you told Mr. Bundy ... to follow the law," she said.

DeLemus told the judge he traveled cross-country with weapons because he'd heard gov-

ernment snipers had surrounded the Bundy home.

He said he was willing to "take a bullet" to protect the family.

"My concern was that someone would get hurt," he said. "It wasn't the cows. I didn't want that family injured. God will know in the end."

DeLemus said he never would have shot at law enforcement. He cited a biblical passage that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.

"I may not have given it out there," he said of the standoff near Bunkerville, about 80 miles northeast of Las Vegas. "I'm giving it now, in jail."

Bundy, two of his sons and two other defendants are due for trial later this year. Six others may not be tried until early next year.

DeLemus became "a bully vigilante, threatening peacekeepers of the community."

GLORIA NAVARRO

NATIONAL

LeBron James' LA home sprayed with racial slur

LOS ANGELES — Police are investigating after someone spray-painted a racial slur on the front gate of LeBron James' home in Los Angeles on the eve of the NBA Finals, which begin Thursday night.

An unidentified person spray-painted the N-word on the front gate of James' home in the Brentwood neighborhood Wednesday morning, said Capt. Patricia Sandoval, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Police Department.

James wasn't at the home at the time, but the property manager told officers the incident might have been captured on surveillance video, Sandoval said. Police are investigating it as an act of vandalism and a possible hate crime.

CNN fires Kathy Griffin for Trump severed head video

NEW YORK — Kathy Griffin has lost a decade-long gig ringing in the new year for CNN as backlash builds over her video displaying a likeness of President Donald Trump's severed head.

CNN had called the images "disgusting and offensive" after Griffin posted the video Tuesday. The media outlet announced Wednesday it would not invite her back this year for the Times Square live New Year's Eve special she had co-hosted annually since 2007 with CNN's Anderson Cooper.

Griffin, a comic known for her abrasive style of humor, had apologized Tuesday, conceding the brief video, which she originally described as an "artsy-fartsy statement" mocking the commander in chief, was "too disturbing" and wasn't funny.

Jerry Garcia's guitar sells for \$1.9 million at auction

NEW YORK — A guitar that Jerry Garcia played everywhere from San Francisco's Winterland Ballroom to Egypt's Great Pyramids fetched more than \$1.9 million at an auction in New York.

Wolf, the Grateful Dead frontman's guitar, was purchased at a charity auction in Brooklyn on Wednesday night. The proceeds are earmarked for the Southern Poverty Law Center based in Montgomery, Alabama.

Devoted Deadhead Daniel Pritzker, a philanthropist, musician and film director, sold the guitar after having bought the instrument in 2002 for \$790,000.

Stanley Cup dead catfish toss charges to be dropped

PITTSBURGH — Prosecutors are dropping charges filed against a Tennessee man for throwing a catfish onto the rink in Pittsburgh during the opening of the Stanley Cup Final.

Jacob Waddell, 36, was charged in Allegheny County with disorderly conduct, possessing instruments of crime and disrupting meetings or processions after tossing the dead fish over the glass surrounding the rink Monday night during the Nashville Predators-Pittsburgh Penguins game.

District Attorney Stephen Zappala said in a Facebook post Wednesday that Waddell's actions "do not rise to the level of criminal charges," so the charges "will be withdrawn in a timely manner."

Nest security camera to use facial recognition tech

SAN FRANCISCO — Nest Labs is adding Google's facial recognition technology to a high-resolution home-security camera, offering a glimpse of a future in which increasingly intelligent, internet-connected computers can see and understand what's going on in people's homes.

The Nest Cam IQ, unveiled Wednesday, will be Nest's first device to draw upon the same human-like skills that Google has been programming into its computers — for instance, to identify people in images via its widely used photo app. Nest can tap into Google's expertise in artificial intelligence because the same parent company, Alphabet Inc., owns both companies.

Love for pizza gets student admitted to Ivy League

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. — A Tennessee teen's love for pizza has gotten her accepted to Yale University.

The Tennessean reports Ravenwood High School graduate Carolina Williams stood out to Yale admissions because of her answer to a short-essay prompt to write about something she loves to do: order pizza from Papa John's.

Williams will be the first in her family to go to college, but she will not attend Yale. She said she felt pursuing business at Auburn University would be a better fit.

Woman reports car stolen, finds girl with bag on head

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia police said a woman reported her son had stolen her vehicle, and then she stumbled upon her 7-year-old daughter with a plastic bag over her head.

The girl was unresponsive and has been taken to a hospital in critical condition, police said.

Police have yet to release the names of those involved in the call about 1 a.m. Wednesday in the city's Olney section. They also haven't said whether they believe the vehicle theft and the girl's condition are related.

Authorities found the vehicle crashed and abandoned several blocks away. They haven't found the 18-year-old who allegedly took it.

The mother reported the vehicle stolen before finding her daughter unresponsive when she went into the basement to retrieve the vehicle's registration.

TEXAS

Governor signs sweeping child welfare overhaul law

AUSTIN — Gov. Greg Abbott has signed a trio of new laws meant to improve Texas’ troubled foster care system.

The Republican endorsed the legislation, which is ringed by state lawmakers from both parties, at the headquarters of Texas’ family services department Wednesday.

Abbott declared more child welfare spending and reforms a priority for the state Legislature, which concluded its session Monday. Data last year showed Texas was failing to check on thousands of children at the highest risk of abuse or neglect.

A federal judge has separately declared that the foster care system violated youngsters’ constitutional rights and ordered sweeping changes.

Xcel’s wind power to double by 2021

PORTALES, New Mexico — A utility that serves parts of West Texas and eastern New Mexico says wind resources now make up more than one fifth of the sources used to generate electricity for its customers.

Xcel Energy says that percentage is expected to almost double to 43 percent by 2021.

A report released by the utility Tuesday details the growth in renewable energy across its service area in 2016. In the Southwest, renewable energy accounted for 23 percent of the power generated, with nearly all of that being derived from wind sources.

In March, the company announced plans to add 1,230 additional megawatts of wind energy to the Southwest regional grid over the next few years. Officials have said the cost will be below that of coal-fueled electricity.

Report details Texans WR Mumphery’s punishment

EAST LANSING, Michigan — Police documents say Houston Texans wide receiver Keith Mumphery was expelled from a Michigan State graduate studies program last year for a sexual misconduct violation.

The Detroit Free Press reported Wednesday that Mumphery was accused of sexually assaulting a student in March 2015. A campus police report says they agreed to meet in her dorm room, but contains conflicting accounts of what happened and whether it was consensual.

Prosecutors opted not to file charges and the woman didn’t return contact.

Mumphery has played two seasons with the Texans. The Texans declined comment in a statement to The Associated Press beyond saying team officials are “gathering information.” Mumphery’s agent, Kennard McGuire, declined comment.

Texas woman sentenced for selling designer drugs

TOPEKA, Kansas — Federal prosecutors say a Texas woman was sentenced to five years in federal prison for selling drugs manufactured in Kansas.

Thirty-seven-year-old Michelle Reulet, of Montgomery, Texas, was sentenced Tuesday and ordered to forfeit \$2 million in proceeds from the crime.

Federal prosecutors say Reulet and co-defendant Michael Myers owned a business in the Houston area called Bully Wholesale. They sold products they purchased from co-defendants Tracy Picanso and Roy Ehrett in Olathe, Kansas.

The drugs, called Pump It, Head trip, Black Arts and Grave Digger, were marketed as incense, potpourri and shoe deodorizer. Reulet admitted in her plea that she knew customers bought the products to get high.

Houston suburb curbs access to public information

PASADENA, Texas — A Houston suburb is being criticized for its lack of transparency and poor handling of public information requests.

The City of Pasadena has failed to respond to eight records requests from the Houston Chronicle in a timely manner. Requests were for information such as invoices and details of a tax collection contract held by Mayor Johnny Isbell’s longtime friend.

The newspaper filed a complaint with the Texas Attorney General’s office earlier this month.

Delays and excuses for not fulfilling public records requests are common in Pasadena, Councilman Ormado Ybarra said.

“This pattern of activity is clearly and strongly against the public interest and completely undermines the American tradition of democratic participation,” said attorney Joe Larsen, who serves on the board of the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas.

Kellogg shuts distribution centers

NEW YORK — Kellogg Co. is shuttering distribution centers around the nation and cutting more than 1,000 workers, as it follows through with a cost-cutting plan amid falling sales.

The maker of Frosted Flakes, Pop Tarts and Eggo waffles notified agencies in several states of the closures this week.

The company said it won’t disclose specifics on jobs cuts and the location of facilities slated to close, though it is required to notify various state agencies about facility closures.

The company will shut down a distribution center in Memphis and lay off 172 workers. It will close a center in Sharonsville, Ohio, and lay off nearly 250 employees. Other closings include centers in Houston and Fort Worth, Texas, affecting 420 workers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dealership shooting leaves 3 dead

Suspect, 2 bounty hunters killed

DAVID WARREN
Associated Press

DALLAS — Two bounty hunters and the fugitive they were tracking were shot dead in a hail of bullets that sent customers and employees fleeing for cover at a Texas car dealership.

The two men had pursued Ramon Michael Hutchinson, 49, of Minnesota to a Nissan dealership in Greenville, about 50 miles northeast of Dallas on Tuesday.

Stew Peters, a bail investigator with the private Minnesota-based company U.S. Fugitive Recovery and Extradition, said Hutchinson had been sought since March when he failed to appear for a

court hearing in Hennepin County, which includes Minneapolis.

It’s not clear what brought Hutchinson to Texas but Peters said he received a phone call Tuesday from Fidel Garcia Jr., a private investigator based in Corpus Christi to say Garcia and colleague Gabriel Bernal had tracked Hutchinson to the dealership. A woman associated with Hutchinson had her car there.

After an hourslong wait for Hutchinson to appear, the two bounty hunters approached Tuesday evening. Garcia and Bernal drew their weapons and Hutchinson responded by drawing his own pistol, which he dropped, according to a statement from Kathy Lucas, spokeswoman for the City of Greenville. The men fought as Hutchinson retrieved his weapon and began firing. The other two

fired as well, and Lucas said about 20 shots were fired in the span of six seconds. Customers and employees fled for cover.

“Mr. Garcia felt the defendant would ultimately appear at that dealership,” Peters said. “Unfortunately Mr. Hutchinson was more prepared for a gunfight.”

Hutchinson and the two investigators died at the scene. No one else was struck by the gunfire.

The owner of the dealership, Rick Ford, told The Associated Press by email Wednesday that the two men called the dealership earlier and identified themselves as federal agents. They later presented themselves to a receptionist and the general manager in the same way, Ford said.

Peters said he didn’t know Bernal, 33, but had been friends with Garcia for 10 years and said Garcia

wouldn’t misrepresent himself.

“He always performed his investigations with the utmost integrity,” Peters said, adding that Garcia commonly wore both audio and visual recording devices while working. It’s not known if he was wearing the devices Tuesday.

Garcia, 54, sat on the board of the Texas Association of Licensed Investigators.

Peters said private investigators registered in Texas are licensed through the state Department of Public Safety and added that bail-bond companies seeking fugitives in Texas are required to use registered investigators.

Hutchinson, listed in court records as a resident of St. Paul, Minnesota, was facing several charges that included assaulting a law enforcement officer.

Deportation waivers sought for witnesses

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Travis County officials are seeking to delay deportations of unauthorized immigrants who are crime victims or key witnesses.

The Austin American-Statesman reported that four individuals whom the district attorney’s office deem valuable to the prosecution of pending cases have received letters they can use to avoid deportation if they’re approached by law enforcement officers.

Travis County District Attorney Margaret Moore announced earlier this month that although the letters hold no legal authority, she is asking federal immigration officials to notify her office if they arrest someone in possession of one of the letters.

“Four might not sound like a lot, but it just launched,” said Mindy Montford, Moore’s lead assistant. “I can only imagine that’s going to be a much larger number within a month.”

The program doesn’t provide a recipient permanent status in the country but instead requests immigration officials to delay deportation until the criminal case is resolved.

The program is similar to the federal U Visa program, which aims to delay deportation of those who are living in the U.S. illegally who are victims or witnesses in criminal cases if they’re helpful with an investigation.

However, a letter from Moore’s office is more easily obtained than a U Visa, which has a lengthy application process and is capped at 10,000 visas a year.

Immigration experts hope the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency will honor Moore’s requests.

The agency released a statement that said all immigration cases are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.



Moore

GOING STREAKING



JIM MONE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Houston Astros left fielder Marwin Gonzalez slides to make a grab in the first inning against the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday in Minneapolis. With six home runs, the Astros won 17-6, putting their win streak at seven games.

Bill fails, but immigration centers still hold children past time limit

MEREDITH HOFFMAN
Associated Press

AUSTIN — Afghan asylum seeker Samira Hakimi and her family members — three of them young children — have spent six months inside a Texas immigration lockdown facility.

This week, state lawmakers adjourned without passing legislation to circumvent federal rules on housing minors at such facilities, leaving Hakimi’s fate up in the air.

The proposals that died in the legislative session would have licensed the immigrant detention facilities as childcare providers to avoid a requirement that stipulates minors can be held no longer than 20 days.

Immigrant welfare advocates celebrated the failure of the bills, which they said would have caused further physical and psychological harm to children. Still,

the federal government continues to hold some families long past the allotted time.

“The failure of the bill is good news as that is doesn’t seem to have done these families any good,” said Cristina Parker, immigration programs coordinator for the Austin-based nonprofit Grassroots Leadership.

Hakimi, her two young sons, sister-in-law and baby nephew are seeking political asylum from the Taliban. The family had operated schools in Afghanistan with a western-style curriculum, one of which was destroyed.

But the delay grew so distressing for Hakimi that three weeks ago she attempted suicide, wrapping her headscarf around her neck.

“She’s been very open about the fact that she was struggling with depression and that detention exacerbated it,” said Amy Fischer,

“She’s been very open about the fact that she was struggling with depression and the detention exacerbated it.”

AMY FISCHER

MORE ON Immigration

■ Read the remainder of this article on www.swjournalist.com

policy director of Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, which is working on the family’s release.

Denise Gilman, director of the University of Texas immigration law clinic, said the prolonged detentions are a clear violation of the law.

One bill, conceived by lobbyists for the for-profit prison company GEO Group, would have allowed the state’s health department to waive minimum childcare licensing standards for GEO’s 832-bed facility and a 2,400-bed one operated by another private company.

Republican state Rep. John Raney said his bill was not designed to prolong detention but rather “would have given Texas the ability to inspect and set safety standards for the federal immigration facilities that are already in operation.”

20-year-old Dallas cold case finally closed

Daughter uncovers truth, finds family in process

TASHA TSIAPERAS AND JULIE FANCHER
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Daisy Serrano learned about her mother in spurts, years after she was slain in their Dallas apartment.

Serrano was 10 when she found out the woman she thought was her mother wasn’t, and she was in her early teens when her father explained that her mom had been killed.

He died before he could share the details: Manuela Dominguez had been raped and strangled in the same room where baby Daisy slept in her playpen.

Over the years, she figured out that her father’s family had a darker secret to hide. Her uncle was suspected of being the killer.

Daisy never knew her mother’s family, but a long-lost cousin was determined to change that.

For years, Dulce Dominguez searched Facebook hoping to find her cousin — knowing only what she looked like as a baby.

As she scrolled through search

MORE ON Dallas cold case

■ Read the remainder of this article on www.swjournalist.com

results last May, Dominguez spotted a profile with an old photo of a man wearing a cowboy hat holding a familiar-looking baby with big ears.

It had been 20 years. Dulce sent a message. It seemed like a long shot.

“I think you’re my cousin. Can you send me a picture of your mother?”

Daisy responded to Dulce with a photo. Dulce knew it was her aunt.

The women met days later and went to Dallas police headquarters.

They wanted answers.

And just like Dulce found Daisy on Facebook, a Dallas homicide detective used the social media site to find the man suspected of killing Daisy’s mom.



LOUIS DELUCA/ THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS VIA AP

Daisy Serrano and her cousin Dulce Dominguez, whom she was reunited with recently, hold a photo of Serrano’s mother in Dallas. Serrano’s mother, Manuela Dominguez, was murdered in an unsolved case from January 1996. The Dallas Police Department’s Cold Case Unit recently matched DNA to a suspect in the case—Manuela’s brother-in-law.



MATT ROURKE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don Rongione, president and chief operating officer of Bollman Hat Company, poses at the knitting machine used in the manufacturing of Kangol hats at the Bollman Hat Company in Adamstown, Pennsylvania. The 149-year-old company behind Kangol says it’s losing money on every kangaroo-logo cap knitted at its factory in Adamstown. “It has been certainly a bigger challenge than what we could’ve ever dreamed,” said Rongione.

MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

Inside the Bollman Hat Co.’s 19th century, red-brick factory in Adamstown, Pennsylvania, Amaryllis Garman, 38, carefully places a piece of knitted fabric on a machine that joins both ends to form the familiar Kangol flat cap. She takes care to ensure a straight line. Her job requires patience and hand-eye coordination, and comes with a steep learning curve.

When Garman started, she could make 10 hats a day. She’s up to several times that now and hopes to become more efficient.

“I was ready to give up,” Garman said with a rueful laugh. “Very difficult, but once you accomplish it, it’s a good feeling.”

Garman’s job is new, with the famous hat brand worn by celebrities like Samuel L. Jackson, Brad Pitt and Gwen Stefani moving from China into a Pennsylvania factory only last year. Executives with Bollman billed it as an effort to create U.S. manufacturing jobs.

But Kangol is struggling to afford its pricey new U.S. digs, as labor costs went up and profits went down.

The 149-year-old company behind Kangol says it’s losing money on every kangaroo-logo cap knitted at its factory in Adamstown.

“It has been certainly a bigger challenge than what we

HATS

off for jobs

Kangol illustrate why the labor-intensive garment industry left the U.S. in the first place.

Bollman is betting it can succeed with U.S. workers by making Kangol, its most important brand, the old-fashioned way.

The employee-owned company raised more than \$100,000 through a Kickstarter campaign to ship dozens of knitting machines from China to Pennsylvania, then got to work refurbishing the ancient workhorses that have been knitting the fabric used in Kangol caps for nearly 80 years. American workers had to learn how to sew, shape and embroider the distinctive headwear.

Nearly a year later, Bollman’s overall cost per hat is still twice as high as it was in Asia, partly because the Pennsylvania crew can’t yet produce as many hats in a day as their more experienced counterparts at the now-shuttered factory in Panyu, in southern China. But the cost per hat was three times as high initially.

Bollman has spent more than \$1 million to shift production to Pennsylvania, putting a financial strain on a company whose brand lineup also includes Helen Kaminski women’s hats. There was no profit sharing in 2016, and, for the first time in 31 years, the company didn’t make a contribution to its employee stock ownership plan.

The Adamstown factory is responsible for about 20 percent of Kangol production, with the rest coming from plants in England, Italy, Taiwan, China and Vietnam.

Bollman has to start making money on its U.S.-made Kangol headwear or it’ll eventually have to ship production back overseas, Rongione said.

“This is not yet a success story,” Rongione said, “but we have great confidence we’re going to get there. ... This is near and dear to our hearts.”

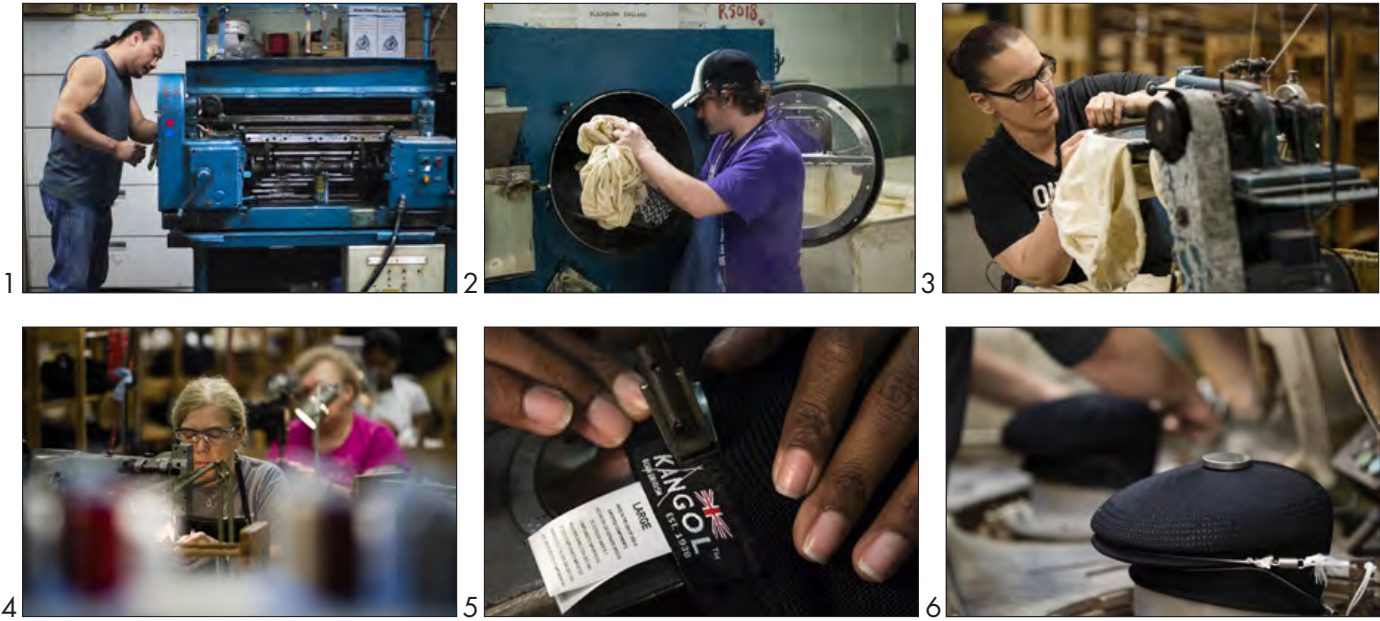


Kangol hats are displayed at the Bollman Hat Company in Adamstown. The nation’s oldest hatmaker expects a relatively quick turnaround once U.S. workers get better at making the popular caps.

could’ve ever dreamed,” said Don Rongione, Bollman’s president and CEO.

The nation’s oldest hatmaker expects a relatively quick turnaround once U.S. workers get better at making the popular Kangol caps. But Bollman’s early struggles with

A historic hat factory is struggling to break even. But the CEO is optimistic.



MATT ROURKE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

1) Hien Nguyen works on a knitting machine. 2) A worker treats fabric in a washing machine. 3) Amaryllis Garman cuts sections of fabric. 4) Workers sew hats together. 5) A worker embroiders a hat. 6) Hats are put on shaping blocks. 7) The final product.



7

Pennsylvania Bollman factory reflects worldwide trends in apparel manufacturing

MICHAEL RUBINKAM
Associated Press

Employment is down 85 percent since 1990 — the biggest decline of any manufacturing sector — as cost-cutting apparel companies shifted production to Asia in search of cheaper labor. Bollman Hat Co. spends about \$11 an hour per worker in Pennsylvania vs. \$2.60 in China.

In an industry where trends come and go quickly, “It’s incredibly important to incorporate speed into the delivery of the product,” said Bollman President and

Chief Operating Officer Don Rongione.

Other apparel companies are also trying to be more nimble. U.S. apparel production has increased 50 percent since 2009, according to the American Apparel & Footwear Association, as some footwear and clothing makers decided to accept higher labor costs in exchange for greater inventory control and proximity to U.S. customers.

“Obviously, if you have a plant in the United States, it’s much easier to respond to trends, produce small runs and get product to market really quickly,”

said Nate Herman, the trade group’s senior vice president of supply chain.

Last year, for the first time in decades, the number of manufacturing jobs created by U.S. companies that moved operations back to the nation and by foreign companies investing in America exceeded the number of jobs lost by companies moving overseas, according to the Reshoring Initiative, a nonprofit set up to bring factory jobs back to the United States.

Yet the U.S. garment industry’s production gains also show why President Donald Trump’s campaign

pledge to return manufacturing jobs to the U.S. could prove difficult. Increased automation is making it cheaper to sew and knit in the U.S. but requires fewer workers.

Moreover, more than 97 percent of America’s wardrobe still comes from abroad.

“It’s not going to be what it once was,” said Steven Frumkin, of the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. “We’re never going to employ as many people because of efficiencies and equipment.”



89°/71°
Partly cloudy

VETERAN REBELS

Fighters struggle to find allegiances in the battle for Syria's freedom as many players wage war in the volatile region. **FEATURES, PAGE 6**



National donut day:
Free donuts at Krispy Kreme
& Dunkin' Donuts today

Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017



Trump pulls out of climate pact

JULIE PACE

AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris climate accord sends an unmistakable message to the world: America First can mean America Alone.

Trump's move, announced in the White House Rose Garden on Thursday, immediately leaves the United States isolated on a paramount global concern. It's a bitter blow to stalwart European partners who launched an aggressive campaign to convince Trump that American leadership is central to combatting climate change. Even a direct appeal from the Vatican wasn't enough to persuade the president.

For anxious allies, Trump's rejection of the Paris pact is particularly jarring in the wake of his first international trip last

Analysis: 'America-First' rejection of Paris Climate Accord leaves US isolated

week. Standing in the heart of Europe, Trump publicly lectured NATO partners about their military commitments and offered no explicit endorsement for the collective defense agreement at the core of trans-Atlantic security for decades. His posture left the impression that for the new American president, the nation's long-standing obligations to allies are neither unshakable nor unbreakable.

Trump's supporters cheered the decision, which marked the fulfillment both of his campaign promise to scrap the climate accord and his broader pledge to put American interests above all else.

Trump's record of keeping

those promises is mixed: He moved swiftly to withdraw from the sweeping Pacific Rim trade pact the Obama administration negotiated, but has signaled to other nations that he plans to stay in the nuclear deal so long as Iran lives up to its obligations.

Trump is hardly the first American president to turn his back on a predecessor's international agreement. President George W. Bush provoked similar anger from European allies when he decided not to implement the 1997 Kyoto climate change treaty. Bush made a similar argument to Trump's, saying it put the U.S. at a disadvantage compared with major polluters like China and India.

Still, Bush made the broad and public case for U.S. leadership in international cooperation, even as his policies in Iraq and Afghanistan frayed some American alliances.

Trump's "America First" mantra has signaled a new strain of isolationism. On Thursday he declared its rejection to be "a reassertion of America's sovereignty."

Trump left open the prospect that he'll ultimately take a similar approach to the Paris pact, announcing Thursday that while the U.S. will immediately stop complying with the standards, his administration will begin negotiations to seek a better deal. It's unclear why the U.S. would need to start such negotiations given that the climate agreement gave each country the ability to set its own targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Nooses: an unwelcome display

Black history museum target of hate-crime

JESSE J. HOLLAND
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nooses have appeared recently around the nation's capital — including the Smithsonian's new African-American history museum — in a rash of incidents that experts say shows the growing use of hate symbols in the U.S. to try to intimidate minorities.

"We've seen a spike in the use of symbols of hate lately, and the noose is one more example," said Denison University professor Jack Shuler, who has studied lynching and noose imagery in the U.S.

Two nooses were found at Smithsonian museums in the past week, one outside the Hirshhorn Museum last Friday and one inside the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture on Wednesday.

Bananas tied to nooses were discovered at American University in Washington last month, while a noose was found at the University of Maryland and a suburban middle school in Crofton, Maryland.

Two 19-year-old white men were arrested and charged with hate crimes for allegedly hanging the noose at the Crofton school. No arrests have been made in the other cases.

The Southern Poverty Law Center said it has seen an increase in hate incidents in the U.S. since the election of President Donald Trump. Between Election Day and Feb. 1 it collected information on about 1,800 hate-related episodes from almost every state. "In the past, it would be a couple hundred at most, and that would be high," said Heidi Beirich, director of the Intelligence Project at the SPLC.

Loops of rope have long been used to intimidate African-Americans because they evoke images of lynchings. The non-profit Equal Justice Initiative said there were 4,075 lynchings of blacks in the South to spread racial terror between 1877 and 1950.

For blacks, the noose is "comparable in the emotions that it evokes to that of the swastika for Jews," the Anti-Defamation League said.

"I think we're in a situation right now where people who express hateful opinions are being allowed to speak freely and it's become OK again," said Shuler, author of "The Thirteenth Turn: A History of the Noose."

The noose didn't stop some visitors to the black history museum. Stephen Middleton, who brought his family to the museum Thursday said, "We're not going to be wavered and not going to be intimidated."

Spellers buzz to final round



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sohurm Sukhatankar, 11, of Allen, right, takes a moment during a break in competition at the 90th Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Maryland, Thursday. At left is Rohan Sachdev, 14, from Cary, North Carolina.

2 mature contestants stand out from crowd

BEN NUCKOLS

Associated Press

OXON HILL, Maryland — As the Scripps National Spelling Bee inched its way through the four grueling rounds that would determine the primetime finalists, two spellers seemed like young men among boys and girls.

Sitting on opposite sides of the stage, veteran spellers Tejas Muthusamy and Shourav Dasari, both 14, handled their time at the microphone with ease and flair. Both came into the bee with high

expectations and were among the 15 spellers competing Thursday night for a trophy and more than \$40,000 in cash and prizes.

Shourav, of Spring, Texas, the tallest speller on stage at 5 foot 11, kept his hands inside the pocket of his black Nike hoodie and went through the motions of asking a few questions — definition, language of origin — about words he clearly knew. In the spelling bee equivalent of a bat flip in baseball, he turned away and began walking toward his seat before he even

heard the words "you're correct" from a judge.

"I just knew that I got it right," Shourav said in his slight Texas drawl. "No need to stand around."

Shourav was highly touted ahead of last year's bee, having swept the two minor-league bees — the North South Foundation and the South Asian Spelling Bee — that serve as a proving ground for future champions. But he was eliminated just short of the primetime finals, continuing what some spellers refer to as the "Dasari family curse." His older sister, Shobha, competed in the bees three times and also suffered some tough eliminations.

No matter how he fares Thursday, the curse is over, he said.

"We've always gone out in the round before the night finals,"

Shourav said. "That's not an issue now."

Shourav has grown 4 inches in the past year. Tejas, too, has matured from a round-faced, slightly chubby kid into a lanky and elegant teenager with wispy facial hair.

Tejas, from Glen Allen, Virginia, finished in the top 10 in 2014 and 2015. But last year, he was eliminated before the finals. He started studying again the day he got home, aiming to be more confident on stage this year. So far, so good.

His goal has been to win, but he's come to a Zen-like understanding of what he called the "vicissitudes" of spelling bees. It hasn't come easily.

■ SCRIPPS, Page 2

Kids gain mobility with toy cars

VALERIE WIGGLESWORTH

The Dallas Morning News

FRISCO — Twelve students with severe disabilities took a test drive in shiny new "cars" complete with personal pit crews.

The young drivers came for the fun, but their parents and teachers know these motorized ride-on toy vehicles serve a more practical purpose. They give students the mobility to explore the world around them at the touch of a button.

The toy cars also spark greater cognitive gains and can help students qualify for a motorized wheelchair at an earlier age.

"Pure joy," Meggan Jackson said of her daughter's freedom to mo-

tor across the room in her mini Volkswagen bus.

Jackson's daughter was among the students at the Early Childhood School chosen for this unique effort in the Frisco Independent School District.

It was inspired by the University of Delaware's GoBabyGo program. The research lab developed the basics for modifying ride-on cars, then shared its manual online. Frisco ISD's test run last year with one vehicle and one student was a success.

"We just knew we had to make this bigger," said Lindsay Brittain, a teacher with the active learning class preschool program for children with disabilities.

She and physical therapist Jen-

nifer Cox received a \$1,300 grant through the Frisco Education Foundation to buy three vehicles. Further efforts raised another \$5,000 through the Frisco Sunrise Rotary Club to purchase eight more vehicles.

Increasing mobility is key for these students, Brittain said. "We know that when they play a part in that mobility that they then have that desire to move," she said.

The vehicles also boost social interactions.

"Our kids are a little bit hard to play with," Brittain said, noting many of the children are non-

■ CARS, Page 2



LOUIS DELUCA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Morgan Craig, 5, is all smiles as he takes his car for a spin.



BULLIT MARQUEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke rises from the Resorts World Manila complex early today in Manila, Philippines. Gunshots and explosions rang out early Friday at the mall amid an ongoing Muslim militant siege in the country's south.

Shots fired in robbery attempt at Filipino casino

BY JIM GOMEZ
Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — A gunman stormed a mall-casino complex in the Philippines, torched gambling tables and stuffed a backpack with casino chips before fleeing but was found dead of an apparent suicide in an adjacent hotel early Friday, authorities said.

The attack sent hundreds of people fleeing outside the Resorts World Manila complex and produced a claim of terrorism that police stressed had no evidence to support it. The violence unfolded as government forces were engaged in a second week of fighting against Muslim militants aligned with the Islamic State group in the southern city of Marawi.

"He would have shot all the people gambling there' if it had been terrorism," Ronald dela Rosa said. "But he did not hurt anyone."

Authorities suspect the motive was robbery. "It's either he lost in the casino and wanted to recoup his losses or he went totally nuts," Metropolitan Manila police chief Oscar Albayalde said. He said he saw no connection to the fighting in Marawi.

The gunman stole gambling chips, shot TV screens and set gambling tables ablaze by pouring gasoline on them, dela Rosa

said. It was not clear how the gunman smuggled gasoline and an assault rifle into the crowded casino, but the assailant did not fire at people he encountered.

More than 70 people suffered minor injuries in a stampede to escape.

Ronald Romualdo, a maintenance worker at Resorts World, said he and his colleagues heard gunshots and saw people smashing the windows on the second and third floor to escape.

"We took out a ladder to save them. We were able to save many of them," he said. "But one woman I was trying to save fell from the second floor. ... I could not carry her." He said the woman was not moving afterward, but he didn't know what happened to her.

About 90 minutes after the attack began, Resorts World Manila said on its Facebook page that it was on lockdown following reports of gunfire and was working to ensure the safety of guests and workers.

The national police chief said the gunman apparently barged into a room at the 5th floor of the Maxims hotel connected to the mall and casino, laid on the bed,

blanketed himself, doused himself with gasoline then set himself on fire. The bag of gambling chips worth 113 million pesos (\$226,000) was found in a toilet.

The suspect was English-speaking but had no identification cards. Dela Rosa described him as "white, with a mustache" and about 6 feet tall.

"He would have shot all the people gambling there' if it had been terrorism."

RONALD DELA ROSA

The SITE Intelligence Group, a U.S. terrorism monitor, said an Islamic State-linked Filipino operative who provides daily updates on the ongoing clashes in Marawi claimed "lone wolf soldiers" of the Islamic State group were responsible for the attack.

An English message by the operative was distributed across several pro-IS Telegram chat groups, SITE said. According to SITE, he wrote: "The lone wolf soldiers of Khilafah attack the heart of Kufar the city of Manila in Resort World." However police see no connection between the casino attack and Marawi.

Dela Rosa said the alert police response to the casino attack was not a cause for alarm. "We are just alert. ... We cannot attribute this to terrorism without concrete evidence."

The Finals

For full coverage of Game 1 of the NBA Finals, visit swjournalist.com



SCRIPPS

Continued from Page 1

"I'm a natural pessimist. Slowly I've understood that even champions who spell every word correctly don't know every word in the bee," Tejas said. "I've kind of accepted that."

Tejas said he knew every word he'd been given before he stepped up to the microphone and was given "bucatini," a pasta in the form of long, thin tubes. After making sure he got all the information about the word from pronouncer Jacques Bailly, he spelled it correctly and tipped his head back in relief.

While Shourav and Tejas survived, three previous top-10 finishers were eliminated: Siyona Mishra, Rutvik Gandharsi and Jashun Paluru. Siyona, the reigning South Asian Spelling Bee champion, went out on "corriedale," a large, hornless sheep from New Zealand.

"She got a really hard word," said Sylvie Lamontagne, who finished fourth last year and is now coaching younger spellers. "It always happens to someone."

The remaining spellers also

include Naysa Modi, already making her third appearance in the bee at age 11, and Rohan Sachdev, for whom spelling is a distraction from his first love, tennis. He's the top-ranked player in his age group in his home state of North Carolina.

Rounding out top 15: Shruthika Padhy, Ananya Vinay, Alex Iyer, Rohan Rajeev, Raksheet Kota, Alice Liu, Saketh Sundar, Sreeniketh Vogoti, Shrinidhi Gopal, Mira Dedhia, and Erin Howard.

No matter what happens later Thursday at a convention center outside Washington, it's all but certain that either Shourav or Tejas will leave disappointed. The bee has ended in a tie for three years running, but this year it added a written tiebreaker test in an attempt to identify a single champion.

As much as they might not admit it after thousands of hours of practice, luck remains a factor. "The dictionary is so vast," Tejas said. "A lot of spellers talk about conquering the dictionary. I don't think that's possible."

CARS

Continued from Page 1

verbal. "This way kids can come and actually interact with them because they have a really cool medium to play through."

Teachers Travis Volk and Ken Strong enlisted their second-year engineering students at Frisco ISD's Career and Technical Education Center to retrofit the cars.

The students removed the foot pedal and reconfigured the wiring to replace it with a power button. Most buttons are on the steering wheel. A few are strategically placed elsewhere — off to one side, behind the head — to play to a child's strength.

Engineering students also added a kill switch for parents, harnesses, seat belts, safety rails and other features, depending on each student's needs. They used 3D printers to create the parts they needed.

The reward came on a recent Wednesday night. Engineering students met with families of the youngsters at the CTE Center to explain each vehicle's features. The kids then got to test-drive them before taking the toy vehicles home. Once their child out-



LOUIS DELUCA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this May 24 photo, Advait Mudi-gonda, 5, shares a tender moment with Frisco student Caitlin Colston, who helped retrofit the toy vehicle to meet Advait's specific needs.

grows the car, families will return it to the district so it can be given to another child.

Fellow 10th-grader Colin Burden remembers the thrill he had years ago when he got his own ride-on toy Jeep. He volunteered to do the wiring for several of the modified toy cars.

"I knew this was going to make some kid happy," he said.

Did it ever.

DJ News Fund interns have promising futures

Eleven college students and recent college graduates are headed to copy editing internships after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a group of undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, sports copy editing, business reporting and digital journalism.

The highly competitive national program is operated by the Dow Jones News Fund. The more than 750 applicants had to take a test and complete an extensive application before being considered.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 20th residency program at UT-Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online product, swjournalist.com.

The UT-News Fund interns serve internships of 10 to 12 weeks.

Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating news organizations cover the participants' training, including housing, meals, transportation and instruction.

Participating newspapers also pay interns a weekly wage for their internship work. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the News Fund.

Beth Butler and Bradley Wilson served as co-directors of the workshop with assistance from Lourdes Jones, senior administrative associate of the UT School of Journalism.

Faculty included George Sylvie, associate professor at UT-Austin; Mark Grabowski, associate professor at Adelphi University; and Linda Shockley, managing director of the News Fund in Princeton, New Jersey.

Students also had the opportunity to visit with Dan Cunningham, senior editor of the Houston Chronicle; and Will Weisert, administrative correspondent at the Austin Bureau of the Associated Press.



PHOTO BY BRADLEY WILSON

Dow Jones News Fund students and faculty. (Standing) Linda Shockley, Dow Jones News Fund; Payton Potter, Louisiana Tech University, Beaumont Enterprise; Faith Miller, Arizona State University, Los Angeles Times; Corey Keenan, East Carolina University, The Denver Post; Orlaith McCaffrey, Binghamton University, Omaha World-Herald; Mariah Schaefer, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Houston Chronicle; Jon Allsop, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, BuzzFeed; Lily Stephens, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bay Area News Group; Beth Butler, Dow Jones News Fund; Bradley Wilson, Dow Jones News Fund; (Sitting) Lourdes Jones, University of Texas; Emma Freer, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, GateHouse Media; Charlotte Carroll, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, The Denver Post; Matthew Clough, University of Kansas, Kansas City Star; Kyle Brown, University of Missouri-Columbia, Kansas City Star.



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INTERNATIONAL

Philippine airstrike kills 11 soldiers in besieged city

MARAWI, Philippines — A Philippine bomber plane accidentally killed 11 soldiers and injured seven others, security officials said Thursday, as troops struggled to end a bloody siege by 500 Islamic State group-aligned extremists in a southern city.

The plane was making a bombing run over militant positions in Marawi on Wednesday when one bomb accidentally hit army troops locked in close battle with extremists who had taken cover in buildings and houses, military spokesman Brig. Gen. Restituto Padilla said. The plane had made three successful bombing runs before making the error, he said.

The military ran out of precision-guided bombs from earlier airstrikes and used conventional ones in Wednesday's bombing run, Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said in a news conference in Manila.

44 migrants die of thirst in Niger while crossing desert

NIAMEY, Niger — At least 44 migrants, including babies, have died of thirst after their vehicle broke down in the Sahara Desert as they were making their way to Libya, an official in Niger said Thursday.

Most of the dead migrants were from Ghana, said the prefect of Dirkou locality, Bachir Manzo. They included three babies, two children and 17 women. The official said six people survived, and are being cared for in the Dirkou migrant center.

West African migrants making their way toward Europe often pass through Niger, and some 300,000 migrants passed through the vast West African nation in 2016 alone, according to the International Organization for Migration.

The bodies were discovered just days after President Mahamadou Issoufou made a plea to the leaders of G-7 industrialized nations to address the migration crisis during a meeting in Taormina, Sicily.

Trump keeps US Embassy in Tel Aviv, for now

WASHINGTON — Stepping back from a campaign promise and incurring Israeli ire, President Donald Trump acted Thursday to keep the U.S. Embassy in Israel in Tel Aviv for now instead of moving it to Jerusalem, a cautious move aimed at bolstering prospects for an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

Trump avoided a step that threatened to inflame tensions across the Middle East and undermine a push for peace before it even started. Still, the White House insisted Trump was merely delaying, not abandoning, his oft-cited pledge to relocate the embassy.

Trump had faced a Thursday deadline to determine how to proceed. Under a 1990s law passed by Congress, the president must move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem or the State Department loses half its funding for overseas facilities. But the president can waive the law if asserting that a waiver is in U.S. national security interests.

Presidents have consistently renewed the waivers for six-month stretches — former President Barack Obama did so six months ago.

Trump's decision to keep the embassy in Tel Aviv showed just how far he has shifted from the unwavering support for Israel's policies that he expressed during the 2016 campaign. As president, Trump has proceeded cautiously, hoping to preserve his ability to mediate one of the world's most intractable conflicts.

IS news agency's founder killed in strike

BEIRUT — The founder of the Islamic State group news agency was reported killed with his daughter in an airstrike last week in eastern Syria, opposition activists said Thursday.

The militant group itself has not reported the death of the Amaq agency founder, Baraa Kadek. Activists said Kadek was close to the IS leadership, gaining their trust and reportedly meeting with the enigmatic leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

Kadek's brother, Hozafa, and former friends reported his death, saying he died when a suspected airstrike by the U.S.-led international coalition fighting IS hit his home in the town of Mayadeen in Deir el-Zour province.

Last week, the coalition told The Associated Press it had carried out a series of airstrikes on May 25 and 26 targeting IS media infrastructure and "propaganda facilities." It said at the time that targeting such facilities "degrades" the group's capabilities and its tools to inspire attacks on foreign lands.

At the time, activists said the coalition airstrikes killed at least 35 civilians, including family members of IS.

Scientists say Antarctic shelf about to lose iceberg

BERLIN — Scientists say a crack along a key floating ice shelf in Antarctica indicates that a vast iceberg is close to breaking off.

The process, known as calving, happens periodically but researchers are watching closely to see whether climate change is affecting the phenomenon.

Scientists at the University of Swansea in Britain said Thursday the rift in the Larsen C ice shelf grew by 17 kilometers (10.6 miles) in six days.

They say the break, when it comes, could produce one of the largest icebergs ever recorded.

University of Colorado scientist Ted Scambos says the shelf appears to be breaking further back than previously recorded calvings.

Scambos adds that "this berg is telling us something has changed, and not for the better. For now, though, the ice shelf will barely notice."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Venezuelan medics aid demonstrators

Volunteer team tends to anti-government protesters injured in clashes with police

FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela — As thousands of people fled tear gas at a recent anti-government protest, a young woman stood still, protected only by a gas mask and a white helmet with a green cross.

The woman took shelter under a bridge and attended to a person whose right ankle was bloody and injured. She splinted the leg and then took the man away on a motorcycle.

The rescuer belongs to the "Green Helmets," a group of about 200 medical students, dentists and doctors who attend the marches that have rocked the South American country daily for two months. Protesters applaud the so-called brigadiers as heroes and pose with them for selfies when they arrive at rallies marching in single file, waving a giant white flag and howling military-like cadences. It's part of a pre-protest ritual intended to steel the volunteers for another day at the frontline of violent clashes.

"When the police get aggressive, they go out to find people among the tear gas and stones, and they save them," said Patricia Colmenares, a 50-year-old psychiatrist, as she participated in a



ARIANA CUBILLOS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volunteer first responders from the "Green Helmets" move along the sidelines of an opposition protest during clashes with security forces in Caracas, Venezuela, on May 22. The priority of the group is to attend to injured protesters.

protest in Caracas.

The group was born out of anti-government demonstrations in 2014 and reactivated in April after a new wave of protests against President Nicolas Maduro began. Green Helmet chapters have sprung up in at least six of the country's 24 states, and students from at least 12 public and private higher education institutions have lent their support.

The group's director, Daniella Liendo, a 22-year-old medical student, said all volunteers re-

ceive advanced first-aid training. The group generally only sends about 30 people at a time to the hottest areas of protests while the rest tend to patients in small tents or inside ambulances.

Government supporters have attacked the group as part of a terrorist movement. A prominent presenter on state television called the rescue workers a "paramilitary group" and accused them of creating "false positives" to tarnish the image of Maduro's government.

While the group's priority is to look after injured protesters, members are not immune from serious risks themselves.

One Green Helmet volunteer, 24-year-old medical school student Paul Moreno, was killed in mid-May when a vehicle ran him over in the western city of Maracaibo while he was helping the wounded.

Soldiers and police too have been hurt in the demonstrations, but official ambulances generally care for them.



RAHMAT GUL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Afghans on Thursday bury a victim of Wednesday's massive bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan. The truck bomb killed at least 90 people and injured more than 450 in the capital city.

Afghans mourn after truck bombing kills 90

RAHIM FAIEZ AND AMIR SHAH
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghans on Thursday mourned the loss of family members, friends and colleagues, a day after a bomb hidden in a tanker truck exploded in the capital, killing at least 90 people and wounding more than 450 in one of the worst extremist attacks since the drawdown of foreign forces from the country in 2014.

In Wednesday's attack, the suicide truck bomber drove into Kabul's heavily guarded diplomatic quarter during the morning rush, leaving behind chaos and destruction. Most of the casualties were civilians, including women and children, but the dead also included Afghan security guards working around the many embassies in the area.

The blast gouged a crater about 15 feet deep near Zanbaq Square in the Wazir Akbar Khan district, where foreign embassies are protected by their own security personnel as well as Afghan police and National Security Forces. The nearby German Embassy was heavily damaged.

Also in the area is Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry, the Presidential Palace and its intelligence and security headquarters, guarded by soldiers trained by the U.S. and its coalition partners.

The city's acting mayor, Abdullah Habibzai, said the explosion was so strong that it damaged property as far as 2.5 miles from the blast site. He said an initial estimate put the total damage from the bombing at \$1.5 million, although that number could rise.

A CITY IN MOURNING

Scores of people waited in hospitals to learn the status of their family members and friends wounded in the attack. Funeral processions took place throughout Kabul on Thursday.

Hundreds gathered in a Kabul cemetery for the funeral of Zemarai Khan, a security guard who lost his life in the attack.

Jan Mohammad, Zemarai's brother, said Zemarai died alongside nine of his fellow guards who worked for a private security

company.

Mohammad said he saw news of the bombing on TV and tried to call his brother, who never answered his phone. "From that moment I realized that my brother is dead," he said.

He said transporting his brother's body home was the hardest thing he's ever done. "No one can imagine the moment that seven children of my brother realized that their father is not alive anymore," he said.

Meanwhile, some people were still missing and families were searching for news about loved ones in local hospitals.

Mohammad Sarwar stood crying behind the gate of an emergency hospital, looking for his nephew, who was missing. Sarwar said he had gone to all the hospitals in Kabul and still couldn't find him after two days.

NO CULPRIT YET

There was no claim of responsibility for the bombing, which came in the first week of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. The Taliban flatly denied any involvement in an email to news outlets and condemned all attacks against civilians.

Although they are small in number, militants from the Islamic State in Khorasan — an ancient name for parts of Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia — have taken credit for several brazen assaults on the capital.

In neighboring Pakistan, President Mamnoon Hussain said Pakistanis were saddened by Wednesday's attack. He said the people and the government of Pakistan will continue to support all efforts aimed at ensuring peace in Afghanistan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan have often traded accusations that each side harbors militants who stage attacks in the other country.

Also Thursday, the Afghan ambassador to Islamabad, Omar Zakhilwal, vowed in a tweet that the "heinous and cowardly crime will fail to break the spirit and morale of our nation." He noted the attack took place during Ramadan: A "day of fasting, worship and joy was turned into a bloody day of mourning."

Hacks threaten state relations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cyberspace is at risk of "permanent war" between states and criminal or extremist organizations because of increasingly destructive hacking attacks, the head of the French government's cybersecurity agency warned Thursday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Guillaume Poupard lamented the lack of agreed-upon rules to govern cyberspace. "We must work collectively, not just with two or three Western countries, but on a global scale," Poupard said.

"With what we see today — attacks that are criminal, from states, often for espionage or fraud but also more and more for sabotage or destruction — we are getting closer, clearly, to a state of war, a state of war that could be more complicated, probably, than those we've known until now," he said.

In recent years, hacking has emerged as a potential threat to Western democracies. U.S. intelligence agencies suspect that Russia has orchestrated hacks designed to interfere with elections in the United States and France.

Last summer hackers targeted the Democratic Party's emails. And on May 7, documents from French President Emmanuel Macron's campaign were leaked, two days before France held its runoff election.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has staunchly denied state involvement in both cases, but said Thursday in a meeting with leading international news agencies that some "patriotic" individuals may have engaged in hacking. He added it was "theoretically possible" that Russia-West tensions could have prompted individuals to launch cyberattacks.

"Hackers are free people, just like artists who wake up in the morning in a good mood and start painting," Putin said.

Even though U.S. intelligence agencies warned of "Russian activity" before Macron's win, Poupard said a French investigation found no trace to APT28 — identified by the U.S. government as a Russian intelligence outfit and blamed for hacking the U.S. election campaign, anti-doping agencies and other targets.

Poupard described the Macron campaign hack as "not very technological," saying: "The attack was so generic and simple that it could have been practically anyone."

Without ruling out the possibility that a state might have been involved, he said the attack's simplicity "means that we can imagine that it was a person who did this alone. They could be in any country."

Regardless of who the culprit of the Macron hacks might have been, Putin argued that hackers, wherever they come from, can't sway election outcomes because the public opinion isn't that easy to manipulate.

"No hackers can have a radical impact on an election campaign in another country," Putin said, adding: "No information can be imprinted in voters' minds, in the minds of a nation, and influence the final outcome and the final result. No hackers can influence election campaigns in any country of Europe, Asia or America."

But the French government is taking the threat of hacks seriously.

"Unfortunately, we now know the reality that we are going to live with forever, probably," Poupard said.



SERGEI SAVOSTYANOV / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vladimir Putin

Despite Trump, green energy blooms

MICHAEL BIESECKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump abandoned U.S. pledges to reduce carbon emissions that contribute to climate change, but his decision to do so seems unlikely to stall a widespread push to adopt cleaner forms of energy.

Around the world, coal-fired power plants are closing down as governments and private companies invest billions in wind turbines and solar farms.

Even in regions of the U.S. where coal is plentiful, electric utilities are increasingly shifting to cheaper, cleaner-burning natural gas. And in the absence of federal action on climate change, some left-leaning states such as California and New York are moving ahead with their own clean-energy policies.

On Thursday afternoon Trump announced his decision to pull the United States out of the Paris climate agreement, which was negotiated by President Barack Obama in 2015.

Reports of Trump's decision triggered statements of support for the climate accord from scores of world leaders. At a Group of Seven meeting in Sicily last week, only Trump refused to reaffirm his nation's continuing support for the Paris deal, which was signed by nearly 200 countries.

"A U.S. withdrawal from Paris will be a disappointment to the climate community, but it may also embolden other countries to fill the void left by the U.S.," said Glen Peters, a Norwegian scientist who tracks global carbon emissions.

Trump, a Republican who has claimed global warming is a hoax, has moved quickly since taking office to delay or block restrictions on the use of fossil fuels enacted by his predecessor. He claims the restrictions impede economic growth. The president has pledged to revive the coal mining industry, which now accounts for fewer than 75,000 U.S. jobs.

Nearly every other industrialized economy in the world is moving in the opposite direction. In April, Germany established a new national record for renewable energy use with 85 percent of all electricity produced in the country coming from renewable sources. That same month, Scotland produced an electricity surplus from its wind turbines.

Earlier this year, the Chinese government announced plans to invest at least \$360 billion in green-energy projects by 2020.

China is the largest global carbon emitter, but it also leads the world in total solar and wind capacity.

"President Trump is ceding the future to the Germans, the Chinese, the Indians, and other nations rather than having the United States continue to lead the world on clean-energy solutions," said Sen. Ed Markey, D-Mass.

THREE-PEAT: CAVS AND WARRIORS FACE OFF AGAIN



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James drives between Golden State Warriors forward Draymond Green and guard Stephen Curry during the first half of Game 1 of basketball's NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Thursday.

Investors choose Tesla over GM

TOM KRISHER AND DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

DETROIT — When General Motors Co. CEO Mary Barra introduced the Chevrolet Bolt at the CES gadget show last year, she took a shot at Tesla.

Chevrolet buyers can be confident because the company has 3,000 U.S. dealers to service the new electric vehicle, she said. The implication was that Tesla, with just 69 service centers nationwide, can make no such promise.

The uncharacteristic insult from Barra highlighted the difference between 108-year-old GM and Tesla, a disruptive teenager.

It also acknowledged a budding rivalry that could help determine whether Detroit or Silicon Valley sets the course for the auto industry's future.

An objective comparison favors GM. It has made billions in profits since returning to the public markets in 2010. GM got the Bolt, a \$36,000 electric car that goes 238 miles per charge, to market before Tesla's Model 3. Tesla, the 14-year-old company led by flamboyant CEO Elon Musk, has never posted an annual profit.

Yet as both CEOs face shareholders for an-



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla Motors Inc., introduces the Model X car at the company's headquarters in Fremont, California, Sept. 29, 2015.

nual meetings Tuesday, it is Barra who must explain to skeptical investors why GM's future is as bright as Tesla's.

GM's stock is trading around \$33, the price of its initial public offering seven years ago. During that time, Tesla shares have soared more than tenfold to \$335.

Tesla's electric cars are the envy of the industry, and its semi-autonomous technology is among the most advanced on the road. And

it's branching into areas with potential for bigger returns, including solar panels, energy storage and trucking.

Still, Musk can't risk any missteps as Tesla pivots from being a niche manufacturer of high-priced cars to a mass producer. The Model 3 sedan, Tesla's first mainstream car, is due out later this year, but previous launches have been plagued with delays. Tesla has yet to prove it can build high-volume vehicles with quality and reliability, as GM does. Musk aims to make 500,000 vehicles per year in 2018; GM made more than 10 million cars and trucks last year.

GM, too, is stretching into new areas. Its Maven car-sharing service has 35,000 members in 17 North American cities, and it's providing cars for ride-hailing services. GM is developing autonomous cars with Cruise Automation, a software company purchased last year.

GM knows the ups and downs of auto sales, but Tesla will have to learn to manage them. If the Model 3 is late and Tesla sales fall, its stock price could drop and reduce Tesla's access to cheap capital, Ramsey said.

"I don't think they're completely immune to economic cycles," he said.

Safety inspectors had reprimanded Wis. mill before deadly explosion

TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

MADISON, Wisconsin — A Wisconsin corn mill that exploded late Wednesday night had been reprimanded by federal inspectors six years ago for not taking safety precautions.

The blast at the Didion Milling Plant in Cambria, a rural village about 45 miles northeast of Madison, left at least one person dead. Emergency workers were still searching for two employees as of Thursday afternoon. A dozen other employees were taken to area hospitals. None of the workers have been identified.

The cause of the blast remained unknown as of Thursday afternoon, Didion officials said. U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration investigators were on the scene.

"The safety and security of our employees is our top priority," Didion Vice President of Operations Derrick Clark said in a news release.

The plant processes corn for ethanol and other uses. A review

of online OSHA records shows the plant was cited in January 2011 for exposing its workers to dust explosion hazards, as plant filters lacked a protective system.

The agency ordered the mill to correct the problem by April 2011. The records show Didion paid a \$3,465 fine and the case was closed in September 2013. OSHA hasn't cited the plant for anything since, the records show.

Dust explosions are a serious problem in handling grain, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There were five grain dust explosions in the U.S. last year; two of the incidents resulted in fatalities, Purdue University said in an annual report.

Such explosions occur when high concentrations of dust particles are suspended in the air in a confined space during grain handling and a spark from something like a cigarette butt ignites it, according to the USDA's website. Keeping facilities clean of dust and equipment in good working order is critical to preventing explosions.



JEFF LANGE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Firefighters work at the scene following an explosion and fire at the Didion Milling plant in Cambria, Wis., on Thursday.

Emails sent to several Didion officials Thursday and a voice-mail left for Vice President of Sales Jeff Dillon weren't immediately returned. A note posted on the company's website said the company would be closed until further notice.

Seventeen employees were working in the plant when the

blast was reported around 11 p.m. Wednesday, village officials said in a news release. Nearly two dozen fire departments and four police departments responded.

Cambria Village President Glen Williams said the fire was contained by early Thursday and there were no evacuations in the area.

NATIONAL

Mets mascot gives fan the finger, employee fired

NEW YORK — Even Mr. Met is frustrated with the team's disappointing start.

New York's funny-looking mascot flashed his "middle" finger at a fan during Wednesday night's 7-1 loss to the Milwaukee Brewers, and the team says the employee who did it won't work in the costume again.

A person tweeted video of the incident, which soon went viral online, and the club quickly issued a statement.

"We apologize for the inappropriate action of this employee," the Mets said in an email attributed to the organization. "We do not condone this type of behavior."

Mr. Met, known for an oversized head with baseball seams, is among the sport's most recognized mascots.

Expected to contend for a playoff spot, the Mets are 23-28, hurt by injuries to ace starter Noah Syndergaard, closer Jeurys Familia and slugger Yoenis Cespedes.

Trump's cellphone use worries security experts

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump, who blasted Hillary Clinton for using a personal email server, might be a walking magnet for eavesdropping and malware if he is using an unsecured cellphone to chat with foreign leaders.

Trump has been handing out his cellphone number to counterparts around the world, urging them to call him directly to avoid the red tape of diplomatic communications. The practice has raised concern about the security and secrecy of the U.S. commander-in-chief's communications.

In today's world of cyber espionage, cellphone security experts say such a policy is not only unorthodox, but dangerous. Voice calls can be intercepted. A cellphone's signals to nearby phone towers can give up its precise location. Even cellular networks are vulnerable. And knowing someone's number makes it easier to infect a phone with malware.

"Hillary Clinton's email server was like Fort Knox compared to Trump just carrying around a regular cellphone," said Andrew McLaughlin, former deputy chief technology officer for the Obama administration.

McLaughlin said it's possible the number that Trump is giving to world leaders rings to someone else's phone, who then transfers the call to the president, a system that could protect Trump from anyone trying to monitor his communications.

Gun-rights group opposes hearing aid legislation

PORTLAND, Maine — A proposal designed to make hearing aids more affordable has generated resistance from a gun rights group.

Gun Owners of America is organizing opposition against the bill, because it believes the measure would change the way certain hunting products are regulated.

A bipartisan group of senators introduced the measure. They have said the rule change would allow hearing aids intended to compensate for mild to moderate hearing impairment to be sold over the counter, rather than by prescription.

Gun Owners of America worries the legislation could include hearing enhancement devices that hunters use to better track game in its definition of an over-the-counter hearing aid, Pratt said. That could give the U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulatory authority over at least some aspects of hunting, he said.

Sen. Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican who introduced the bill with Warren, said the proposal wouldn't affect hunting tools in any way.

Ohio State attacker faulted 'moderate' Muslims

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A man responsible for a car-and-knife attack at Ohio State University last year left behind a torn-up note in which he urged his family to stop being "moderate" Muslims and said he was upset by fellow Muslims being oppressed in Myanmar.

Abdul Razak Ali Artan also wrote: "In the end, I would like to say that I pledge my allegiance to 'dawla,'" an Arabic word that means state or country and a likely reference to the Islamic State group. He concludes by saying he's leaving his property to his beloved "but yet 'moderate mother.'"

Artan's family was baffled by that note, which caused them a great deal of anguish, said Bob Fittrakis, a Columbus attorney representing the family.

The 18-year-old Artan was shot and killed by an Ohio State officer moments after driving into a crowd on Nov. 28 and then attacking people with a knife, leaving 13 injured.

US job market looks solid years after recession ended

WASHINGTON — Eight years after the Great Recession ended, the U.S. job market has settled into steady growth.

The 4.4 percent unemployment rate matches a decade low. Many people who had stopped looking for jobs are coming off the sidelines to find them. More part-timers are finding full-time work. About all that's still missing is a broad acceleration in pay.

On Friday, when the government releases the jobs report for May, that pattern is likely to extend itself. The consensus expectation of economists is that the Labor Department will report that employers added 176,000 jobs, according to a survey by FactSet, a data provider. That's right in line with the monthly average of 174,000 over the past three months.

Annual growth in average hourly earnings was a so-so 2.6 percent in April. For workers who aren't supervisors, average hourly pay has risen just 2.3 percent.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST

Gasoline prices up a penny in Texas, across the nation

COPPELL — Retail gasoline prices in Texas and across the rest of the country rose a penny this week.

AAA Texas on Thursday reported the statewide average price at the pump was \$2.20 per gallon. Drivers across the U.S. are paying an average \$2.38 per gallon.

The survey found Amarillo has the cheapest gasoline in Texas this week at an average \$2.10 per gallon, while drivers in Fort Worth face the highest gasoline prices statewide at an average \$2.25 per gallon.

Association experts say the market remains lukewarm after a late May meeting with OPEC and non-OPEC producers regarding an extension of production cuts, now planned through March 2018.

Texas man, 84, accused of killing 80-year-old neighbor

KILLEEN — Investigators say an 84-year-old Central Texas man has been accused of using a cane to beat an 80-year-old neighbor, then fatally shooting the victim during a years-long dispute.

Killeen police on Thursday announced Santiago Vasquez of Killeen was arrested on a murder charge, with bond set at \$1 million.

Police spokeswoman Ofelia Miramontez had no specifics on what she calls a neighborhood dispute going on for years and leading to Tuesday's death of John Wesley Seth Jr. of Killeen.

Miramontez says police believe a verbal argument between the two men turned physical and Seth was attacked. Officers responding to reports of shots fired located Seth's body on a road.

Former Texas coach Brown on Football Hall of Fame ballot

IRVING — Former University of Texas coach Mack Brown and longtime Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer, along with former players Charles Woodson, Ed Reed and Calvin Johnson, are among those making their first appearance on the College Football Hall of Fame ballot this year.

The ballot released Thursday by the National Football Foundation includes 75 players and six coaches who competed in the Football Bowl Subdivision of the NCAA. An additional 98 players and 31 coaches from lower divisions and NAIA are also up for consideration.

Beamer coached Virginia Tech from 1987-2015 and won 238 games. Brown won 158 games in 15 seasons with Texas, including a national title in 2005.

The newest Hall of Fame class will be announced Jan. 8 in Atlanta, the site of the College Football Playoff championship game.

2 drown in rescue attempt in water-filled Texas quarry

TERRELL — Authorities say two men drowned while trying to rescue others after a boat capsized in a water-filled quarry in North Texas.

Kaufman County sheriff's spokesperson Jolie Stewart says officials were called to the abandoned sand quarry just north of Terrell on Wednesday evening.

She says three adults and two children, ages 6 and 8, were on board a flat-bottomed boat in the quarry when it capsized.

She says 51-year-old Eric Knight and 32-year-old Brandon Stayton tried to help them, but both drowned. She says neither man was wearing a life jacket.

No one on the boat was injured. Stewart says the bodies of the two men have been transported to the Dallas County medical examiner.

Texas to study record maternal mortality

AUSTIN — Texas, where the rate of maternal mortality has spiked in recent years for reasons not fully understood, is poised to take an initial step toward examining the problem.

The state could soon be required to post guidelines for reporting pregnancy-related deaths. There's currently no uniform method of investigating maternal mortality, meaning some women's deaths might not have been properly referred to the medical examiner.

The proposal passed the state House on Monday, after already clearing the Senate. Under it, Texas' health department must prepare online guidelines about when maternal deaths should be investigated, how to complete death certificates, and when to perform toxicology screenings.

A study last year found that more than 600 Texas women died between 2010 and 2014 either while pregnant or within six weeks after giving birth.

North Texas officer accused of stabbing wife

MCKINNEY — A North Texas police officer is charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon after his wife accused him of stabbing her in the stomach.

Sgt. Audrey Lee Palmer is a 21-year veteran of the McKinney Police Department. He's free on \$50,000 bond. An arrest affidavit says he and his wife were on a date night when a text message arrived on Palmer's cellphone from a number unfamiliar to his wife. When his wife called the number, a woman answered by saying, "Hey, babe."

Palmer and his wife had begun to argue when, according to the affidavit, his wife picked up a steak knife in the kitchen "out of anger." A struggle ensued for the knife and the wife was wounded.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Under Trump, wealthy Mexicans flee Houston suburb immigration patterns see drastic shift

OLIVIA P. TALLEY
Houston Chronicle

THE WOODLANDS — A year ago, Perla Soto wrote a guidebook to help Mexicans coming to The Woodlands, a community 30 miles north of Houston, understand how things work in America. She explained why so many of her wealthy countrymen were drawn to it: large, beautiful homes, parks, good schools and few worries about crime.

Soto and "los woodlandeses," as they are called in Spanish, have boosted the area's economy, spending billions on homes and several hundred million more on new businesses, taxes, cars and other goods in the last 10 years. More than 10,000 Mexicans now live there — about 10 percent of the population.

But these days, the immigration pattern is reversing. Fewer Mexicans are coming to live in The Woodlands, and more are moving back to Mexico.

President Donald J. Trump's rhetoric and efforts to curb illegal immigration are not just affecting working-class communities and those without legal status. It's what Soto calls "The Trump factor."

Soto moved to The Woodlands



MARIE D. DE JESUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nicole Rojas, who is of Colombian origin, walks her one-year-old son Mason Rojas while she waits for lunch to be served at Fielding's Local Kitchen + Bar, Friday, May 26, 2017, in The Woodlands, Texas.

from Mexico City seven years ago with her husband, David Medina, and their kids, Diego, 11, and Paola, 9.

She and Medina saw business opportunities in the U.S., and they wanted their children to be bicultural and bilingual. More importantly, they wanted them to be safe. The family had been robbed at gunpoint back home.

"Mexicans like buying brand-new houses here," said Medina, a real-estate agent.

Some of those who came north

to live in The Woodlands became residents through EB-5 visas, which require an investment of at least \$1 million, or \$500,000 for special projects, in commercial enterprises that employ at least 10 U.S. citizens. That provides permanent residence to the holders.

Others have trader or investor visas for people who do business between the two countries under bilateral arrangements, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Jorge Cadena and his wife, Hei-

di Herfurth, obtained EB-5 status recently after living in The Woodlands for eight years.

But Trump, Cadena said, "is not making it any easier for me to convince people to come spend their money here."

Soto and others say The Woodlands feels different since Trump's election.

About 15 residents, including Soto, went to town hall meetings earlier this year to express concerns about a surge of discriminatory behaviors toward minorities. Woodlandeses feel that having a president who has repeatedly offended Mexicans, and immigrants in general, has given de facto permission to some people to act out on previously suppressed sentiments.

Soto said she and her husband no longer feel welcome, even though all of her family members became U.S. citizens last year, and they're not as worried about safety in Mexico.

Medina was moving back in May. Soto and the kids will follow at the end of the school year.

MORE ON THE WOODLANDS

■ Complete story available online at swjournalist.com.



CHELSEA PURGAHN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joel Enge has been raising butterflies for 16 years. The butterflies migrate through Texas but are not native to it. Through the fall and winter, the butterflies will fly from as far as Canada to migrate to Mexico. Enge typically does a butterfly release each year with either his students or his church.

Butterfly keeper delights kids, community

CHELSEA PURGAHN
Tyler Morning Telegraph

TYLER — "Look! Do you see it?" Joel Enge exclaims midconversation. He points to the sky as he stands in Kingdom Life Academy's budding garden, excitedly talking about the beauty of the monarch butterfly overhead.

He's been raising butterflies for 16 years.

"I started raising butterflies to give my elementary students an exciting experience with real life science, not just out of a textbook," Enge recalls of his first year raising painted lady butterflies in 2002 with his Austin Elementary School students.

The students loved the project,

so Enge continued ordering and raising painted ladies from California with them until he found out about monarch butterflies and ordered the caterpillars from a place in Texas.

By the time he decided to raise the monarchs in 2008, it had become a campuswide event, with each class at the school receiving 10 caterpillars so they could watch the metamorphosis.

Enge now searches for his own caterpillars and milkweed, and shares the butterflies with his congregation at Colonial Hills Baptist Church.

It was a tough season for the butterflies, Enge said. Ants and storms took almost 50 caterpillars



CHELSEA PURGAHN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joel Enge picks a milkweed bloom on the side of a county road in Tyler on April 19. Enge carries a mesh laundry basket along the sides of country highways to collect eggs and milkweed.

and butterflies before Monther's Day, when he wanted to release them. In the end, he was still able to bring nearly 50 butterflies to his church to release.

After a tour through the Sunday

school classes so kids could experience the butterflies, Enge and dozens of church members made their way to the front lawn after the service to release the butterflies into the sunny blue sky.

Galveston paves new roads for bikers

SAMANTHA KETTERER
The Galveston County Daily News

GALVESTON — Tim Tietjens, planning and development director for Galveston, has been a long-distance biker for several years. Now, he's using his love of the sport to form a better bike plan for the island.

Galveston's streets are already in an "X/Y grid," which is ideal for biking, Tietjens said. What the city is lacking is a comprehensive bike plan to make it safer for people to get around.

The city is now working on a bicycle network, with painted bike lanes going north-to-south across the island, and shared bike lanes going east-to-west. Many of the changes will be implemented as streets undergo major construction. The plan is expected to be complete in several years.

Galveston's Intermodal Transportation Committee is behind many of the planned changes.

"What we've seen is real enthusiasm from the city, and Tim is probably the single most enthu-

"Some just exercise, while others get out and try to make an outdoor adventure out of it."

TIM TIETJENS

siastic," committee member Jayson Levy said.

Tietjens said he has found the benefits of biking span wider than just exercise.

"Some just exercise, while others get out and try to make an outdoor adventure out of it," he said. "When you do that, you really open up the realm of what a city has to offer."

Tietjens said he hopes the city can develop a grid good enough for "biking tourism" to draw people to the island.

"The advantage of living in Southeast Texas is we have really decent weather year round," Tietjens said. "I could see kind of an industry cluster of bike tourism happening."



TOM STROMME / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Although the Dakota Access pipeline opened yesterday, it leaked 84 gallons of oil in northern South Dakota in April as the line was being prepared for service.

Dakota Access pipeline opened despite outcry from Native American tribes

BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

BISMARCK, North Dakota — Dallas-based Energy Transfer Partners announced the 1,200-mile Dakota Access pipeline began shipping oil for customers on Thursday.

Grow America's Infrastructure Now, a coalition of businesses,

trade associations and labor groups that benefit from infrastructure development, issued a statement saying such projects "are key components to unlocking our nation's economic potential and creating jobs."

Four Sioux tribes in the Dakotas are still trying to shut down the line, fearing water pollution.



Free Syrian Army fighters give the victory sign in Jarablus, Syria. Veteran Syrian rebels who have fought Assad for years are struggling to find a place in a bewildering battlefield where several wars are all being waged at once by international powers. Battered by defeats, they bounce from alliance to alliance, feeling abandoned by the U.S. who they feel has given its support to Syrian Kurds. The rebels are faced with choosing whether to ally with Turkey or al-Qaida.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

★★ REBELS WITHOUT A SIDE

Fighters struggle to find a place in ever-changing battlefield landscape

THE MIDDLE EAST



SARAH EL DEEB
Associated Press

GAZIANTEP, Turkey — They are veteran Syrian rebels who for years tried to bring down President Bashar Assad. Now they’re doing little fighting as they seek a place in Syria, where several wars are being waged. Battered by divisions, the rebels are trying to find allies they can trust as international powers look after their own agendas. Their options are limited. One is to line up behind Turkey, which is recruiting groups to fight its own war in Syria, primarily against Syrian Kurds. Another option is to ally with al-Qaida’s affiliate. Despite differences with the U.S., the rebel groups hope for support, but they feel the U.S. has abandoned them, throwing its weight behind the Syrian Kurds. The AP spoke to two veteran rebels, and found them desperate for resources but intent on fighting for years to come.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

In March 2011, protests broke out in Syria as part of the wider Arab Spring movement. President Bashar Assad cracked down violently, as civilians began defending themselves in what became a civil war. But it’s now a series of different conflicts with many players.

- KEY PLAYERS
- President Bashar Assad and the Syrian government
 - The rebels
 - Syria’s ethnic Kurdish minority
 - Islamic State group
 - Foreign entities (U.S., Russia, Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Britain, France)

- CONFLICTS
- Syrian government (president) vs. Syrian rebels
 - The Syrian government is backed by Russia, Iran and Hezbollah of Lebanon. The rebels are backed by a U.S.-led coalition, Turkey and Gulf States. This has all created a Proxy war.
 - Then there is fighting between Shiite and Sunni Muslims.
 - IS is there fighting for land for its caliphate state.



THE TATTOOED FIGHTER

Nothing blurs 39-year-old Tarek Muharram’s determination to fight Assad. Not the loss of his beloved city of Aleppo to government forces, nor the hours he and his comrades now spend in a small apartment in the southern Turkish city Gaziantep, watching TV and smoking, waiting for the next battle. Muharram quit his banking job in the Gulf to return home and join the rebellion in 2011. Over the years, he fought alongside several different rebel groups, including ones backed by the United States. The fall of Aleppo was a watershed moment. It cost the rebels their strongest base, their resources and their homes. “We had reached a dead end,” said Muharram. Now he and his group, Nouredine el-Zinki, have joined the alliance led by the al-Qaida-linked Hayat Tahrir al-Sham. The move caused many in his group to break away. But for Muharram, anything else would have required too many concessions, including accepting a role for Assad. Muharram says he has his personal differences with al-Qaida. He doesn’t always pray, for example, and he smokes. He sports a wolf-head tattoo on his arm, something militants frown upon. But he said the al-Qaida-led alliance has kept its weapons pointed in the right direction, against Assad. He said the alliance has resources and support to back it. “The revolution will end with a ballot box. There is no legitimacy for a new Syria without elections,” he said.



THE AL-QAIDA HUNTER

Lt. Col. Ahmed al-Saoud drives around the Turkish seaside city of Iskenderun with another car of Syrian bodyguards and aides behind him. He has been living almost permanently in Turkey since al-Qaida’s affiliate attacked him and his group, the U.S.-backed Division 13, in Syria last year. When he tried to return home in April, an ambush was waiting for him. He survived, but one of his commanders was killed. A defector from Assad’s military, al-Saoud has received Western aid from the start. His fight against the extremists, who tried to gain a foothold in his Idlib hometown of Maaret Numan, has been relentless. But he feels let down now that the U.S. is throwing its weight behind Syrian Kurdish militias. “We can’t be temporary allies for a certain stage and then they drop or back me as they please,” al-Saoud said. He fears U.S. support will only deepen the Kurds’ determination for self-rule, leading to the division of Syria, in the process boosting support among Sunni Arabs for al-Qaida. During a recent AP visit to his home in Turkey, al-Saoud was constantly on the phone with his commanders back home. Al-Saoud has also joined the Northern Front Operation Room. But he’s skeptical of its Islamist leadership, which would minimize the role of more secular groups like his and also deny him direct contacts with the Americans. “My aim is a Syria free of Assad and of terrorism,” he said.

In February 2016, the UN estimated that 400,000 have been killed in the conflict, but an accurate count has been impossible to record.



98° / 76°
Sunny

COFFEE AND A CHAT

Thousands of Starbucks stores close for implicit bias and racial sensitivity employee training.
PAGE 6.



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ HTTP://SWJOURNALIST.COM/ ■ WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2018



High court rejects challenge of Ark. abortion law

State allowed to enact restrictions similar to voided Texas law

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Tuesday allowed Arkansas to enforce restrictions on how so-called “abortion pills” can be administered while a legal challenge to the restrictions proceeds, which critics say effectively

ends that option for women in the state.

The justices didn’t comment in rejecting an appeal from the Planned Parenthood affiliate in Arkansas that asked the court to review an appeals court ruling and reinstate a lower court order that had blocked the law from taking effect.

The law says doctors who provide abortion pills must hold a contract with another physician who has admitting privileges at a hospital and who would agree

to handle complications — and Planned Parenthood says it has been unable to find any able to do so.

The law is similar to a provision in Texas law that the Supreme Court struck down in 2016. The Texas law provisions required doctors performing abortions to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals. It also raised the medical standards required of abortion clinics.

The 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals reversed the court order

barring enforcement of the law, but put its ruling on hold while Planned Parenthood appealed to the Supreme Court.

The legal fight over the restrictions isn’t over, but the state is now free to enforce them for the time being.

“As Attorney General, I have fully defended this law at every turn and applaud the Supreme Court’s decision against Planned Parenthood today,” Attorney General Leslie Rutledge, a Republican, said in a statement.

“Protecting the health and well-being of women and the unborn will always be a priority. We are a pro-life state and always will be as long as I am attorney general.”

Planned Parenthood had offered pills to end pregnancies at its clinics in Fayetteville and Little Rock, but it said Tuesday that it was notifying patients that it could no longer do so because of the ruling. It said it would move quickly for emergency relief in the

■ ARKANSAS, Page 2

Texans find strength in unity



MARIE D. DE JESUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Andi Lewis, director of the Kingwood High School Fillies dance team, brought team members to Santa Fe in support of Santa Fe High School

students who were returning to the school for their first day of classes Tuesday after a shooting that killed 10 people, in Santa Fe, Texas.

Classes resume at Santa Fe HS after shooting

JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

SANTA FE, Texas — Like some of her classmates, senior Brooke Williams had mixed emotions about returning Tuesday to classes at Santa Fe High School, where a student fatally shot 10 people and wounded 13 others on May 18.

“I’m not excited to go back to school. I’m actually pretty scared to, but I feel like that’s the reason why I need to go back. I don’t want to be scared of this the rest of my life,” Williams said.

Less than two weeks after the shooting, students at the school near Houston were greeted by more than 20 law enforcement vehicles and supporters holding signs saying “Santa Fe Strong” and “United We Stand.”

Students who had classes in the area of the shooting were the first allowed back in, followed by the rest about two hours later. The teens lined up in front of the school’s main entrance, which was the only approved entrance. They were not allowed to carry backpacks or large purses and were required to show an ID before entering.

All students then gathered for a two-hour assembly honoring the victims, and counselors were available for anyone who needed to talk about the slayings of eight students and two substitute teachers.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott visited the campus Tuesday, speaking with students, parents, teachers and staff privately and presenting first responders with an award for their actions.

Hailey Hubbard, another senior, was returning for her final week of high school.

“Honestly, I just want to go back so I can see my friends and not spend my last three days of senior year just being secluded in a

room,” Hubbard said. She said she did not want the shooting to be her last memory of high school.

Hubbard said some of her friends were more ambivalent about returning to campus and that she had to help calm down a friend who suffered a panic attack at the thought of going back to school.

She hopes returning to campus will also give her mother peace of mind because “she’s terrified of me going to school.” The teen had wanted to ride to campus on the school bus that she normally takes, but her mother said no because there’s no security on the bus.

Sheila Hubbard wasn’t reassured by the extra security at the school and planned to stay on campus all day Tuesday to make sure her daughter and son Nathan, also a senior, were both safe.

“I think them going back is best. It doesn’t make it easier for the parents ... We’re all scared our kids are going to come to harm,” the elder Hubbard, a 40-year-old nurse, said as she stood outside her home just before driving her kids to school.

Williams said some other seniors she spoke with won’t return to campus and plan to show up only for graduation on Friday “because they’re so terrified.”

Like Hailey Hubbard, she wanted to return to class in part so the shooting would not be her defining memory of her school.

“I hope by the end of the day today I’ll be able to look at the school and not cry, not feel hate ... not think of it in grief ... and also to find comfort in the people who are still here,” she said.

Authorities have charged Dimitrios Pagourtzis with capital murder in the attack. He’s accused of using a shotgun and pistol that belonged to his father. The 17-year-old remained jailed without bond in Galveston.

MORE ON SANTA FE

- Governor set to recommend school safety changes. Page 5.
- Justin Timberlake paid a visit to the Santa Fe community. Page 5.

Trump revives tariff threat against China

CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration has renewed its threat to place 25 percent tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese goods in retaliation for what it says are China’s unfair trade practices.

The White House said Tuesday that it would place new restrictions on Chinese investment into the United States and limit U.S. exports of high-tech goods to China.

The threats come just over a week after trade tensions between the world’s two largest economies had seemingly eased. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said May 20 that the trade conflict was “on hold.” Mnuchin’s comments followed a commitment by China to significantly increase its purchases of U.S. farm goods and energy products, such as natural gas.

The new tariffs will focus on technologies, including those that China has said it wants to dominate as part of its “Made in China 2025” program. Under that program, China aims to take a leading role in areas such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and electric cars.

China’s Ministry of Commerce responded in a mild fashion Tuesday. The ministry said the White House’s announcement “is contrary to the consensus the two sides have previously reached,” according to China’s official news agency, Xinhua. The statement did not reiterate China’s own previous threats to impose \$50 billion in retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods.

The list of imports subject to the duties will be announced by June 15, the White House said, and the tariffs will be imposed “shortly thereafter.” The list includes computer equipment, aerospace parts, medical devices, and industrial machinery.

“If Beijing was under the impression that Trump’s \$50 billion of tariffs were actually on hold, they may find this confusing,” Chad Bown, senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, said.

Trump has bemoaned the massive U.S. trade deficit with China — \$337 billion last year — as evidence that Beijing has been complicit in abusive trading practices. The White House and many American companies say that China forces U.S. firms to turn over technology as part of joint ventures with Chinese companies to gain access to its market. China also subsidizes many favored industries.

Trump has frequently focused on the trade deficit, urging China to boost its imports and lower the gap by \$200 billion, while China has refused to agree to any dollar amounts.

Many experts and U.S. companies, however, warn that China’s efforts to protect its high-tech industries and capture U.S. technology represent the larger threat.



Mnuchin

Study estimates thousands died post-Maria

Harvard research disputes official hurricane death toll

DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A new study contends that many more deaths than normal occurred in Puerto Rico in the three months after Hurricane Maria devastated the island on Sept. 20,

2017, mostly because of problems getting medicines or medical care.

Researchers led by Harvard University surveyed a small sample of neighborhoods, and from that estimated that up to 4,600 more deaths than usual occurred, far more than earlier studies have suggested. At least one independent expert questioned the methods and the number in the new study.

“This estimate could be off by thousands. Easily,” Donald Berry, a professor of biostatistics at the

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, told The Associated Press in an email.

The research was published online in the New England Journal of Medicine. It’s the latest study to analyze how many people died during or after the Category 4 storm that hit the U.S. territory, causing more than an estimated \$100 billion in damage. Researchers in the study called the official toll of 64 deaths a “substantial underestimate.”

Maria caused the longest black-

out in U.S. history, leaving the entire island of 3.3 million people without power, including those in hospitals and nursing homes who relied on respirators. Researchers surveyed 3,299 households earlier this year and used the findings to extrapolate to the whole island. They found that 31 percent reported disruptions in medical services, and more than 14 percent said they were unable to access medications.

■ RESEARCHERS, Page 2

Arkansas abortion restriction upheld by high court

Continued from Page 1

lower court, saying the ruling effectively makes Arkansas the first state in the country to ban medication abortions.

Planned Parenthood has said it's unable to find any Arkansas obstetricians willing to handle hospital admissions, saying many doctors cited fear of being harassed over an association with an abortion provider, objections from employers or a personal opposition to abortion.

The group has said that if the law stands, Arkansas would be the only state where women would not have access to a pair of drugs that end pregnancies: mifepristone, which makes it difficult for a fetus to attach to the uterine wall, and misoprostol, which causes

the body to expel it, similar to a miscarriage.

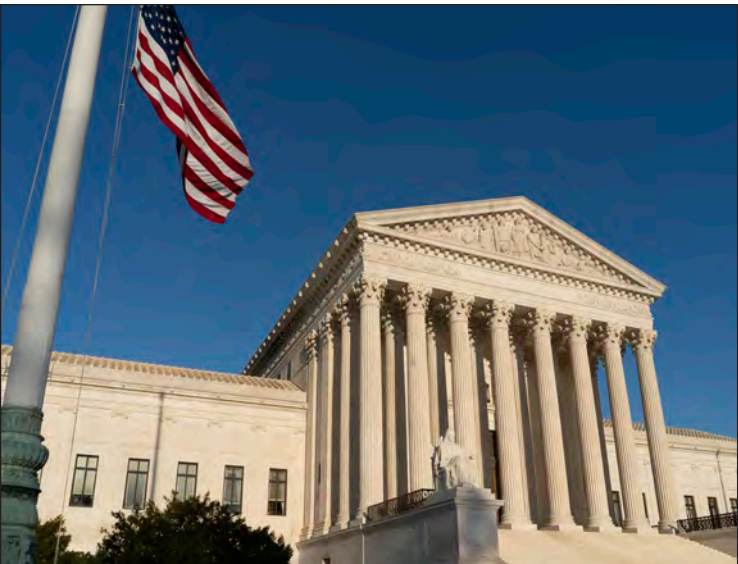
Planned Parenthood doesn't offer surgical abortions at its Arkansas health centers, but a third facility in Little Rock that isn't operated by the group does. The organization says preventing women from obtaining medication abortions creates an undue burden, which is the standard the Supreme Court has set to measure whether restrictions go too far in limiting women who want the procedure.

"This dangerous law also immediately ends access to safe, legal abortion at all but one health center in the state," Dawn Laguens, vice president of Planned Parenthood Federation

of America, said in a statement. "If that's not an undue burden, what is? This law cannot and must not stand. We will not stop fighting for every person's right to access safe, legal abortion."

The state had argued that the restriction was needed to protect women from any complications from the abortion pills. But Planned Parenthood argued that such complications are rare, and that those complications can be handled by hospitals without contacting the group's physicians.

The 2015 law is among several abortion restrictions the predominantly Republican state has enacted over the past several years that have been the subject of legal challenges.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this April 20 file photo, the Supreme Court is seen in Washington. The Supreme Court is allowing Arkansas to put in effect restrictions on how abortion pills are administered. Critics of a challenged state law say it could effectively end medication abortions in the state.

Supreme Court cases focus on LGBT rights

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A flood of lawsuits over LGBT rights is making its way through courts and will continue, no matter the outcome in the Supreme Court's decision in the case of a Colorado baker who would not create a wedding cake for a same-sex couple.

Courts are engaged in two types of cases on this issue, weighing whether sex discrimination laws apply to LGBT people and whether businesses can assert religious objections to avoid complying with anti-discrimination laws.

The outcome of baker Jack Phillips' fight at the Supreme Court could indicate how willing the justices are to carve out exceptions to anti-discrimination laws; that's something the court has refused to do in areas of race and sex.

However the justices rule, it won't be their last word.

Religious conservatives have

gotten a boost from the Trump administration, which has taken a more restrictive view of LGBT rights and intervened on their side in several cases.

Several legal disputes are pending over wedding services similar to the Phillips case, originating in the 21 states that have anti-discrimination laws that specifically include gay and lesbian people.

In California and Texas, courts are dealing with lawsuits over the refusal of hospitals, citing religious beliefs, to perform hysterectomies on people transitioning from female to male. In Michigan, the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit against the state's practice of allowing faith-based child placement agencies to reject same-sex couples.

The other category of cases concerns protections for LGBT people under civil rights law. One case expected to reach the court this summer involves a Michigan funeral home that fired an employee who disclosed that she was transitioning from male to female.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the firing constituted sex discrimination under federal civil rights law. That court is one of several that have applied anti-sex discrimination provisions to transgender people, but the Supreme Court has yet to take up a case.

In just the past week, two federal courts ruled in favor of transgender students who want to use school facilities that correspond

to their gender identity. Those cases turn on whether the prohibition on sex discrimination in education applies to transgender people. Appeals in both cases are possible.

In the past 13 months, federal appeals courts have ruled that gay and lesbian employees are entitled to protection from discrimination under Title VII. Those courts overruled earlier decisions. Title VII does not specifically mention sexual orientation, but the courts said it was covered under the ban on sex bias.

The Obama administration supported treating LGBT discrimination claims as sex discrimination, but the Trump administration has changed course. In the New York case, for instance, the Trump administration filed a legal brief arguing that Title VII was not intended to provide protections to gay workers. It also withdrew Obama-era guidance to treat

claims of transgender students as sex discrimination.

The trend in the lower courts has been in favor of extending civil rights protections to LGBT people. Their prospects at the Supreme Court may be harder to discern, not least because it's unclear whether the court's composition will change soon.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, 81, has been the subject of retirement speculation. When Justice Stephen Breyer turns 80 in August, he will join Kennedy and Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, 85, as octogenarians on the bench.

If President Donald Trump were to replace any justices, the court probably would be much less receptive to LGBT rights. Even the landmark gay marriage ruling in 2015 that Kennedy wrote was a 5-4 decision.

If President Donald Trump were to replace any justices, the court probably would be much less receptive to LGBT rights.

Serena's return to court inspires in play and in fashion

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Tennis Writer

PARIS — Serena Williams considers the black bodysuit she wore at the French Open much more than a fashion statement.

There's a practical reason for the full-length legs on the skin-tight outfit: to protect her because of past bouts with blood clots.

There also is a message she wanted to send about self-worth and feeling powerful as she returned to Grand Slam action with a first-round victory at Roland Garros on Tuesday, about nine months after giving birth to a daughter.

"It feels like this suit represents all the women that have been through a lot mentally, physically, with their body to come back and have confidence and to believe in themselves," Williams said after beating Kristyna Pliskova 7-6 (4), 6-4 at Court Philippe Chatrier. "I definitely feel like it is an opportunity for me to inspire a whole different group of amazing women and kids."

The outfit called to mind Williams' black "catsuit" that she wore at the 2002 U.S. Open. It also was reminiscent of the white bodysuit that American player Anne White wore in 1985.

Williams referred to what she wore Tuesday as the "catsuit — the new version, 2.0."



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serena Williams reacts on Tuesday during her first match back on the Grand Slam circuit after giving birth in September.

"I call it, like, my Wakanda-inspired catsuit," referring to the fictional nation in the film "Black Panther."

Williams said she feels "like a warrior princess, kind of," when she wears the outfit.

"I'm always living in a fan-

tasy world," she added. "I always wanted to be a superhero, and it's kind of my way of being a superhero."

Tuesday's match was the first at a major tournament for the 23-time Grand Slam champion in 16 months.

She gave birth on Sept. 1, then dealt with complications related to a pulmonary embolism.

"I had a lot of problems with my blood clots, and, God, I don't know how many I have had in the past 12 months. So it is definitely a little functionality to it."



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Serena Williams of the U.S. celebrates winning her first-round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Krystina Pliskova of the Czech Republic at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Tuesday.

I definitely feel like it is an opportunity for me to inspire a whole different group of amazing women and kids

SERENA WILLIAMS

Researchers say aftereffects of hurricane may have killed thousands

Continued from Page 1

"Indirect deaths resulting from worsening of chronic conditions or from delayed medical treatments may not be captured on death certificates," researchers said in the study.

They calculated 4,645 more people died in the three months after Maria compared with the same period in 2016. One of the researchers, Rafael Irizarry of Harvard University,

told the AP that the estimate is uncertain because of its limited size, but that the study still provides valuable information, including how some people died.

Previous studies have found that the number of direct and indirect hurricane-related deaths in Puerto Rico is higher than the official toll, including a 2017 report that there were nearly 500 more

deaths than usual on the island in September.

In late February, Puerto Rico's governor announced that a team of experts at George Washington University would lead an independent review to determine the number of deaths caused by Hurricane Maria amid ongoing accusations that the government undercounted the toll. A preliminary report was due in

May, but Puerto Rico officials announced last week that the team requested and was granted more time. The director of that study did not return messages for comment.

The government of Puerto Rico issued a statement Tuesday in response to the study saying that it welcomed the research and would analyze it.

"As the world knows, the magnitude of this tragic

disaster caused by Hurricane Maria resulted in many fatalities. We have always expected the number to be higher than what was previously reported," said Carlos Mercader, executive director of Puerto Rico's Federal Affairs Administration.

To read the full report from Harvard, visit the New England Journal of Medicine's website, www.nejm.org.

BY THE NUMBERS

4,645

estimated deaths from Sept. 20 to Dec. 31

84

average number of days without electricity

68

average number of days without water

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INTERNATIONAL

Russian journalist shot, killed in Ukrainian capital

KIEV, Ukraine — A Russian journalist harshly critical of the Kremlin was shot and killed in the Ukrainian capital Tuesday, and the national police said they are assuming he was targeted because of his work.

Ukrainian police said Arkady Babchenko's wife found him bleeding at their apartment building in Kiev and called an ambulance, but Babchenko died on the way to a hospital. Police said he had multiple gunshot wounds on his back. Babchenko, 41, was scathingly critical of the Kremlin's policies, assailing Moscow's annexation of Crimea, its support for separatist insurgents in eastern Ukraine and the Russian campaign in Syria.

Ukrainian and Russian officials immediately traded finger-pointing over his death.

Anton Geraschenko, a Ukrainian lawmaker who serves as an adviser to the interior minister, said on Facebook that investigators would be looking at "Russian spy agencies' efforts to get rid of those who are trying to tell the truth about what is going on in Russia and Ukraine." In Moscow, officials and lawmakers criticized Ukrainian authorities for their alleged failure to protect journalists. Another renowned journalist, Pavel Sheremet, a Belarus native who had worked for Russian outlets, was killed in a car bombing in central Kiev in July 2016. The case has remained unsolved.

Mexican reporter killed in northern border state

MEXICO CITY — A journalist with the national newspaper Excelsior has been killed in the Mexican border state of Tamaulipas, the state prosecutor's office said Tuesday.

The body of Hector Gonzalez Antonio was found Tuesday morning in Ciudad Victoria, the capital of the state that shares a border with Texas. Authorities responded to call about a dumped body and only identified Gonzalez later. He was beaten to death, according to a statement from prosecutors.

As the correspondent for a national outlet, Gonzalez's most recent stories reflected the violence and corruption present in Tamaulipas state. Prior to joining Excelsior, Gonzalez had worked for local newspapers in Ciudad Victoria.

More than 30 journalists have been killed in Mexico in the past 5 1/2 years. Gonzalez is the second journalist killed in Tamaulipas this year. On Jan. 13, independent journalist Carlos Dominguez Rodriguez was stabbed to death in Nuevo Laredo. Six people were arrested in that case and the judicial process was ongoing.

Tamaulipas includes lucrative drug and human smuggling routes, which have made its violence difficult to control.

Kenya charges 24 officials in \$79M corruption probe

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenyan authorities have charged 24 officials in what prosecutors call the first stage of investigations into a \$79 million corruption scandal that has pressured President Uhuru Kenyatta to crack down on graft.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecution has said 40 officials and 14 businessmen in all will be charged with corruption-related offenses related to alleged wrongdoing within the National Youth Service. The charges include abuse of office and conspiracy to commit fraud. All two dozen of the officials appeared in court on Tuesday and denied the charges.

Health officials 'cautiously optimistic' on Ebola

GENEVA — The World Health Organization said Tuesday it is "cautiously optimistic" about efforts to curb the spread of Ebola in an urban area in Congo, although the lethal virus is still reported in at least two remote areas.

There have been 35 confirmed cases, including 12 deaths. The U.N. health agency and partners have vaccinated more than 400 people with an experimental Ebola vaccine, the first time it has been used in an emerging outbreak.

WHO emergencies chief Peter Salama told reporters that the response has gone "quite smoothly" and that the agency's first priority had been to stop Ebola's spread in Mbandaka, a city of more than 1 million that sits on a river described as a "highway" connecting it to other regions. "We can't conclude we have safeguarded the city of Mbandaka, but so far there hasn't been an explosive increase in cases...This is a work in progress," Salama said.

He added that the next stage of the vaccination strategy would focus on the remote regions of Iboko and Bikoro, where most of the cases have been reported.

Missing-plane hunt leader hopes to search again

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The head of a U.S. technology company that scoured the Indian Ocean seabed for more than three months looking for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 said on Tuesday he was disappointed the hunt failed to find any wreckage and hoped to take part in a future search.

Malaysia said last week the search by Texas-based Ocean Infinity would end on Tuesday after Ocean Infinity chief executive Oliver Plunkett said the search would soon end after covering more than 112,000 square kilometers (43,000 square miles) of remote ocean floor — an area more than four times larger than the zone targeted by experts as the most likely crash site. The search received two extensions of the original 90-day time limit.

"I would firstly like to extend the thoughts of everyone at Ocean Infinity to the families of those who have lost loved ones on MH370. Part of our motivation for renewing the search was to try to provide some answers to those affected," Plunkett said in a statement. "It is therefore with a heavy heart that we end our current search without having achieved that aim," he added.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza militants strike Israeli border

Hamas claims rocket strike that wounds 3

OSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Palestinian militants bombarded southern Israel with dozens of rockets and mortar shells early Tuesday morning, while Israeli warplanes struck targets throughout the Gaza Strip in the largest flare-up of violence between the sides since a 2014 war.

The Israeli military said most of the projectiles were intercepted, but three soldiers were wounded, raising the chances of further Israeli retaliation. One mortar shell landed near a kindergarten shortly before it opened.

The sudden burst of violence follows weeks of mass Palestinian protests along the Gaza border with Israel. Over 110 Palestinians, many of them unarmed protesters, have been killed by Israeli fire in that time. Israel says it holds Gaza's Hamas rulers responsible for the bloodshed.

"Israel will exact a heavy price from those who seek to harm it, and we see Hamas as responsible for preventing such attacks," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said.

The Israeli military said it carried out over 35 airstrikes on seven sites across Gaza, including an unfinished tunnel near the southern city of Rafah that crossed under the border into Egypt and from there into Israeli territory. No Palestinian casualties were reported.

Palestinian militants continued to fire additional barrages toward southern Israel, setting off air raid sirens in the area throughout the day and into the evening.

Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad militant group issued a joint statement Tuesday, claiming shared responsibility for firing rock-



ARIEL SCHALIT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Israeli tank moves across the Gaza strip border Tuesday. Palestinian militants fired at least 50 rockets and mortar shells into civilian areas of Israel, including one that landed near a school. Israel retaliated with 35 airstrikes and promised further retaliation if Hamas continued to strike. No Palestinian casualties were reported.

ets and projectiles against Israeli communities near Gaza.

They said Israel "began this round of escalation" by targeting their installations in the past two days, killing four militants. It was the first time the armed wing of Hamas has claimed responsibility for rocket attacks out of Gaza since the 2014 war.

In southern Israel, angry residents complained about the renewed rocket fire. Adva Klein of Kibbutz Kfar Aza said she only got about two hours of sleep because of the frequent incoming fire and the warning sirens. Other residents reported machine-gun fire from Gaza. "It's been a really scary morning," said Adele Raemer of Kibbutz Nirim.

Regional councils near the Gaza border instructed residents to stay close to bomb shelters.

The European Union's foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, called for an immediate halt to the rocket and mortar fire. "Indiscriminate attacks against civilians are completely unacceptable under any circumstances," she said.

Israel has rejected the criticism of its response to the protests, saying it is defending its border and nearby communities. It accuses Hamas of trying to carry out attacks under the cover of protests and using civilian demonstrators as human shields. Hamas has vowed to continue the border rallies.



GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police try to calm a man who crossed over a police line at the scene of a shooting in Liege, Belgium, Tuesday. A gunman killed three people, including two female police officers and a 22-year-old teacher. Police later killed the attacker, and other officers were wounded in the shooting. The incident is being investigated as an act of terror.

Inmate on leave kills 3, rattling Belgium

Shooter was targeting police, chief said

RAF CASERT, LORNE COOK AND SYLVAIN PLAZY
Associated Press

LIEGE, Belgium — A knife-wielding prison inmate on a 48-hour leave stabbed two police officers Tuesday in the Belgian city of Liege, seized their service weapons and shot them and a bystander to death before being mowed down by a group of officers, setting off a major terror investigation into the country's most savage assault since 2016 suicide attacks.

Prime Minister Charles Michel acknowledged the assailant, who had a lengthy criminal record that included theft, assault and drug offenses, had appeared in three reports on radicalism but was still allowed to take a leave from prison.

"Is our system working when we see that these kind of people are running free?" asked Vice Premier Alexander De Croo, echoing the thoughts of many in a nation where armed police and soldiers still patrol streets in the wake of the March 2016 attacks that left 32 dead in Brussels.

Tuesday's attack happened outside a cafe in the eastern city of Liege when the assailant crept up on the two female officers from be-



ASSOCIATED PRESS

hind and stabbed them repeatedly.

"He then took their weapons. He used the weapons on the officers, who died," Liege prosecutor's spokesman Philippe Dulieu said. Dulieu said the attacker then shot and killed a 22-year-old teacher in a vehicle that was leaving a parking lot outside a nearby high school. He then took two women hostage inside the school before confronting police massed outside.

"He came out firing at police, wounding a number of them, notably in the legs. He was shot dead," the spokesman said, adding that the hostages escaped unharmed.

Justice Minister Koen Geens described the

assailant as a repeat offender who had been incarcerated since 2003 and was due for release in two years.

Police Chief Christian Beupere said the attacker's goal was to target the police. He identified the slain officers as 45-year-old Lucile Garcia and 53-year-old Soraya Belkacemi. He said Belkacemi was the mother of 13-year-old twin daughters who earlier lost their father, also a police officer. Four other officers were wounded in the attack, one seriously with a severed femoral artery.

Belgian media identified the suspect as Benjamin Herman, a Belgian national born in 1982, though authorities declined to confirm his identity.

Asked about a video from close to the scene in which someone appeared to be shouting "Allahu Akbar!" in the din, Interior Minister Jan Jambon said: "My reaction is that in many terror acts, it is the last thing they shout." But, he added, it is up to federal investigators to determine if Tuesday's attack was terrorism.

Michel said the suspect in Tuesday's attack was indirectly mentioned in state security reports on radicalization. But he was not on a list of suspects maintained by the main OCAD anti-terror assessment group.

Belgium's crisis center said the country's terror threat alert would not be raised and remained at level 2 out of 4.

Italian turmoil hits global markets; stocks plunge

MARLEY JAY
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK — Stocks in the U.S. and Europe sank Tuesday following political turmoil in Italy, which stoked fears of instability in the euro bloc.

Investors sold stocks and prices for U.S. government bonds surged as investors shifted money into lower-risk investments. Bond yields dropped, and with them, interest rates on mortgages and other kinds of loans. Banks plunged as Wall Street expected they would earn thinner profits.

Technology and industrial companies and big drug and medical device makers also skidded. Those companies depend on strong sales outside the U.S.

Investors dumped Italian government bonds, driving borrowing costs sharply higher for Italy and rekindling fears of financial strain for Europe's third-largest economy. They bought German and British government bonds instead, which are seen as more stable.

The political upheaval in Italy is likely to lead to new elections, and investors are interpreting the new vote

as a referendum and that Italy could move closer to abandoning the currency if populist parties win the election. If that happened, it would have major implications for the European financial system and its economy.

New jitters about the stability of the euro sent the currency's value against the dollar to its lowest level in almost a year. The euro sank to \$1.1531, its lowest since July, from \$1.1669. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 1.6 percent. In Europe, Italy's benchmark stock index plunged 2.7 percent.



RICHARD DREW / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trader Patrick Casey at the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday. U.S. stocks are opening lower, following sharp drops in Europe. Political uncertainty in Italy sent the euro's value against the dollar to its lowest level in almost a year.

Missouri governor to resign

Campaign finance and invasion of privacy scandals lead to downfall

DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, whose unconventional resume as a Rhodes Scholar and Navy SEAL officer made him a rising star in Republican politics, abruptly announced his resignation Tuesday after a scandal involving an affair with his former hairdresser led to a broader investigation by prosecutors and state legislators.

The 44-year-old governor made the announcement nearly 17 months after taking the oath as Missouri's chief executive with a pledge to root out "corrupt career politicians." The investigations of him widened to include questions about whether he had violated the law in financing the campaign.

Greitens said his resignation would take effect Friday.

"This ordeal has been designed to cause an incredible amount of strain on my family; millions



JEFF ROBERSON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this May 17, 2018 file photo, Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens looks on before an event in the state. Greitens, abruptly announced his resignation Tuesday, after a scandal involving an affair and a broader investigation.

of dollars of mounting legal bills, endless personal attacks designed to cause maximum damage to family and friends," he said in a brief statement to the media from his Jefferson City office.

A St. Louis grand jury indicted Greitens on Feb. 22 on one felony count of invasion of privacy for allegedly taking a photo of the woman without her consent at his home in 2015, before he was elected governor. The charge was dismissed during jury selection,

but a special prosecutor was considering whether to refile charges. Greitens admitted to having an affair but denied any criminal wrongdoing. He said the criminal case was politically motivated and called St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner, a Democrat, a "reckless liberal prosecutor."

In April, the local St. Louis prosecutor's office charged Greitens with another felony, alleging that he improperly used the donor list for a charity that he'd founded to

raise money for his 2016 campaign.

Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley also launched an inquiry into The Mission Continues, a veterans' charity Greitens founded. Federal law bars 501(c)(3) charities such as The Mission Continues, from intervening in political campaigns on behalf of candidates. The AP reported that Greitens raised about \$2 million from those who had previously given significant amounts to the charity.

A May 2 report from a special House investigatory committee indicated that Greitens himself received the donor list from the charity and later directed aides to use it to raise money for his gubernatorial campaign. A former campaign aide testified that he was duped into taking the fall when the campaign tried to explain how it had gotten the list.

Greitens entered the 2016 gubernatorial race as a brash outsider. He won an expensive Republican primary, then defeated Democratic Attorney General Chris Koster to give Republicans control of the governor's mansion for the first time in eight years. His departure elevates Lt. Gov. Mike Parson to the governor's office.

Indiana middle school reopens 5 days after shooting

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NOBLESVILLE, Ind. — A suburban Indianapolis middle school is set to reopen for classes today, five days after a male student allegedly shot and wounded a 13-year-old classmate and a teacher who was credited with disarming the assailant.

The middle school opened its doors Tuesday, but only to provide counseling for students and staff still shaken by last Friday's shooting and allow students to collect belongings they left behind, she said.

Noblesville police said officers have been posted at all the district's schools to "offer ... reassurance" for students finishing out the school year.

Prosecutors said Tuesday they must wait

until charges are filed in the shooting before releasing information about the student who allegedly opened fire last Friday inside a classroom in the city about 20 miles northeast of Indianapolis.

Science teacher Jason Seaman is credited with tackling the male student after he shot and seriously wounded classmate Ella Whistler last Friday morning. She remained hospitalized in Indianapolis in critical but stable condition.

Witnesses said Seaman, a 29-year-old former college football player, ran toward bullets as he tackled the armed student.

Seaman, who was shot but not seriously injured, said Monday that his swift decisions in disarming the student inside his classroom "were the only acceptable actions" to save his



MICHAEL CONROY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jason Seaman, a teacher at Noblesville Middle School, speaks during a press conference Monday. Seaman disarmed a student carrying a gun at the school on Friday.

seventh-grade students.

"I deeply care for my students and their well-being. That is why I did what I did that day," he said.

Alberto drops heavy rain on the South

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forecasters warn Alberto, a still-menacing depression after its Memorial Day landfall on the Gulf Coast, is scattering heavy rains around the South amid heightened risks of flash flooding.

The first named storm of the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season, Subtropical Storm Alberto lumbered ashore Monday afternoon in the Florida Panhandle and then weakened to a depression overnight as it trekked inland. The storm that formed in the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico was now a vast, soggy system as it headed inland, dumping heavy rains in bursts all around the region.

Though the storm had weakened, forecasters, warned it was capable of potentially life-threatening flash floods in the coming hours or days as the system spreads over Alabama and large areas of Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas.

Authorities did not directly attribute any deaths or injuries immediately to Alberto. But in North Carolina, the state's governor noted a television news anchor and a photojournalist were killed Monday while covering the fringes of the large system. A tree that became uprooted from rain-soaked ground toppled on their SUV, killing them instantly, authorities said.

Between four and eight inches of rain could soak the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, and western Georgia before the storm moves on. Isolated deluges of 12 inches also are possible in spots as the system heads toward the Tennessee Valley on Tuesday and later this week into the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes region.

Earlier Monday, Alberto rolled up big waves and tides along beaches of the northern Gulf Coast, as the storm disrupted long holiday weekend plans for millions.

The storm forced some Memorial Day tributes to be canceled across Florida's Panhandle. As Alberto's weakening center headed inland it was deprived of the warm Gulf waters that fuel tropical weather systems. As a subtropical storm, Alberto had a less defined and cooler center than a tropical storm, and its strongest winds were found farther from its center. Flooding possibilities still remain as the storm moves north and dissipates.



AHN YOUNG-JOON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A TV screen shows images of U.S. President Donald Trump, left, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news program in Seoul, South Korea, Tuesday. A team of American diplomats involved in preparatory discussions with North Korea left a hotel in Seoul on Tuesday amid speculation that the two countries are resuming the talks.

US steps toward summit

U.S. 'continues to actively prepare' for North Korea summit

CATHERINE LUCEY, ZEKE MILLER
AND KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. "continues to actively prepare" for an "expected summit" between President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un in Singapore, the White House said Tuesday.

Trump confirmed that a top North Korean official, Kim Yong Chol, is headed to New York for talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. It marks the latest sign that prospects for the summit are growing, just days after it was ostensibly called off by Trump.



Pompeo

In addition, teams of U.S. officials have arrived at the Korean demilitarized zone and in Singapore to prepare for the meeting. The summit had been scheduled for June 12 in Singapore, but Trump announced last week that he had decided to "terminate" the meeting following a provocative statement from the North and its decision to skip planning talks and ignore prepa-

ratory phone calls. White House officials have characterized the letter from the president to Kim as a negotiating tactic, designed to bring the North back to the table.

South Korean media had reported earlier that Kim Yong Chol, a former military intelligence chief and now a vice chairman of the North Korean ruling party's central committee, was on the passenger list for a flight Wednesday from Beijing to New York and U.S. officials familiar with planning said he was scheduled to meet with Pompeo on Thursday.

Pompeo has traveled to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, twice in recent weeks for meetings with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and has said there is a "shared understanding" between the two sides about what they hope to achieve.

Meanwhile, a team of American diplomats is holding preparatory discussions with North Korean officials at the DMZ. The White House emphasized that it has remained in close contact with South Korean and Japanese officials as preparations for the talks continue.

The secretary of state has traveled to North Korea twice and has said there is a "shared understanding" between the two sides about what they hope to achieve.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Washington and Pyongyang were engaging in "working-level" talks to arrange the possible summit, but said it couldn't confirm specifics.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has lobbied hard for nuclear negotiations between Trump and Kim Jong Un, held a surprise meeting with the North Korean leader Saturday in an effort to keep the summit alive.

In their second meeting in a month, Moon said Kim expressed a willingness to cooperate to end confrontation and work toward peace for the sake of a successful summit with Trump. But the North Korean leader also said he was unsure whether he could trust the US to end hostile policies against North Korea and provide security assurances if the country does abandon its nuclear weapons, according to Moon.

NATIONAL

Mayor defends police after NJ beach incident

WILDWOOD, N.J. — A Philadelphia woman seen on video being punched in the head by a police officer on a New Jersey beach said Tuesday she didn't spit at the officers before the weekend altercation. The mayor of the beach town vehemently defended the police and said the woman is no angel.

An attorney for 20-year-old Emily Weinman of Philadelphia told Philly.com the charges against Weinman are exaggerated. Wildwood, New Jersey, Mayor Ernie Troiano defended the police Tuesday, noting Weinman was "by far the aggressor here" and pointing out that women can be harder to subdue than men. Stephen Dicht, Weinman's attorney, called the mayor's comments "irresponsible."

Weinman told the reporter that she was spitting sand out of her mouth after being knocked to the ground, not spitting at the officers. She's facing two counts of aggravated assault on a police officer, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest and other charges, according to Wildwood police.

The video filmed by another beachgoer Saturday and posted to social media shows two officers trying to subdue Weinman, with one officer hitting her in the head twice with a closed fist. The beachgoer said she woke up to the altercation and began filming. The video does not show what led to it.

The officers have been reassigned to administrative duty during the investigation.

Injuries lead to Spam, other Hormel product recall

AUSTIN, Minn. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture is recalling more than 228,000 pounds of Spam and another product made by Minnesota-based Hormel after four consumers complained about metal objects in the food.

The USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service says the canned chicken and pork in question was produced in February at the company's plant in Fremont, Nebraska. The agency says "minor oral injuries" have been reported.

The recall covers 12-ounce metal cans containing "SPAM Classic" with a "Best By" date of February 2021.

The recall also includes 12-ounce metal cans of "Hormel Foods Black-Label Luncheon Loaf" with a "Best By" date of February 2021.

Falling tree kills 2 journalists in NC

TRYON, N.C. — Two broadcast journalists were killed by a falling tree in North Carolina as they reported on the severe weather associated with subtropical depression Alberto.

The television news anchor and a photojournalist colleague were killed Monday while covering the very fringes of the large system whose core made landfall away on the northern Gulf Coast. Authorities said a tree became uprooted from rain-soaked soil and toppled on the news team's SUV, killing the two instantly.

The dead were identified as workers from a station based in Greenville, South Carolina.

WYFF-TV Anchor Mike McCormick and photojournalist Aaron Smeltzer both had worked in the Greenville market for more than a decade. "Mike and Aaron were beloved members of our team — our family," anchor Carol Goldsmith said.

Body found; man who disappeared in flooding

ELLCOTT CITY, Md. — Searchers scouring a river Tuesday that runs alongside a Maryland town found the body of a man last seen being swept away by flood waters. Volunteers and crews with trained dogs had been looking for 39-year-old Edison Hermond who disappeared Sunday afternoon, following torrential rains that prompted destructive flash flooding in Ellicott City, Maryland.

On Tuesday afternoon, his body was located in the Patapsco River. He was the only person reported missing in Ellicott City.

"To have died helping somebody else is incredible," said Nicholas Johnson, owner of a store near the spot where Hermond vanished while trying to help a woman.

Hermond, of Severn, Maryland, was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and a sergeant in the Maryland Army National Guard. He was described by those who knew him as an affable, generous man.

Lawyer: Weinstein had relationship with accuser

NEW YORK — The woman who has accused Harvey Weinstein of rape in his criminal case was in a decade-long relationship with him that continued after the alleged attack in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013, a lawyer for the film producer said Tuesday.

Attorney Benjamin Braffman made the remark after meeting behind closed doors with prosecutors and a New York judge Tuesday.

The criminal case revolves around two women, only one of whom, the former actress Lucia Evans, has gone public with her story of being forced to perform oral sex on Weinstein at his office in 2004.

Prosecutors haven't identified the second accuser, who told investigators Weinstein confined her in a hotel room and raped her.

Braffman said he also wouldn't identify the woman by name, said she was "someone with whom he has had a 10-year consensual, sexual relationship."

Prosecutors left court without commenting. The Associated Press does not identify alleged victims of sexual assaults without their consent.

Weinstein, 66, surrendered last week and was led into court to face rape and criminal sex acts charges involving the two women.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

TEXAS AND SOUTHWEST

Cruz fundraising with faux ‘summons’ mailers

AUSTIN, Texas — Sen. Ted Cruz’s re-election campaign is sending fundraising letters in envelopes marked “Summons Enclosed — Open Immediately,” suggesting they could contain court appearance orders.

Instead, inside is a letter from the Texas Republican asking for support in his race against Democratic Rep. Beta O’Rourke.

The San Antonio Express News’ editorial board has criticized the mailer as looking “like a legal threat.”

Cruz spokeswoman Catherine Frazier confirmed that the letter came from the campaign, saying Tuesday that out of 50,000-plus San Antonio area mailers “there was one complaint that came not to us but to the local media.”

She called such mailers “effective and critical to identifying and engaging our supporters.”

The envelope also reads, “Ted Cruz for Senate 2018,” but in smaller print in the upper-left corner.

Report: Texas second in nation for credit card debt

ALBANY, N.Y. — The New York state comptroller’s office says the nation’s four most-populated states carry the highest total amount of credit card debt, with California leading the way, followed by Texas, Florida and New York.

Democratic Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli says in a report released Tuesday that Californians had racked up more than \$106.8 billion in credit card debt by the end of 2017.

The Lone Star State was No. 2 at \$67.3 billion, followed by Florida with \$59.2 billion and New York with \$58.1 billion.

Rounding out the top 10 are Pennsylvania, Illinois, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia and Georgia.

DiNapoli says the totals were based on statistics compiled in February by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Bail denied for church massacre finhatter

A federal judge today denied bail to a conspiracy theorist who claims the November mass shooting in which 26 people were killed at First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs never took place.

During a hearing today, testimony that agents found 10 guns and nearly 1,000 rounds of ammo at the Lockhart home of Robert Mikell Ussery after his arrest on May 23 helped sway U.S. Magistrate Judge Henry Bemporad to deny Ussery release on bail. The judge agreed with federal prosecutors that Ussery may be a danger to the community.

Ussery, 54, who refers to himself as “Side Thom Journalist,” and his girlfriend, Jodi Mann, known as “Conspiracy Granny,” were initially arrested March 5 on state charges of resisting arrest, trespassing and other counts after allegedly walking onto the church’s lawn and confronting Pastor Frank Pomeroy, whose daughter was among those killed by a gunman.

Special agent Kaitlyn O’Connell with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said the feds were called in by Texas Rangers after the incident.

“He was talking about the mass shooting,” O’Connell said. “He was saying it didn’t actually happen and that it was a hoax.”

Though the pair made bail on the state charges, the matter resulted in a restraining order being issued against them, according to testimony and court records.

During the incident, the pair had Go-Pro video recording equipment that recorded the encounter, which helped agents develop a federal case against him. When ATF agents reviewed the video, it showed Ussery handled a gun by the pickup the pair were in, placed it under a mat in the truck and told Mann that if there’s a question about the gun by police, Mann should claim ownership, O’Connell testified.

Border Patrol revises fatal Texas shooting description

RIO BRAVO, Texas — The U.S. Border Patrol has revised its description of an agent-involved shooting in Texas that killed a woman who was part of a group that illegally entered the country.

The agency initially said Wednesday that the lone agent fired his gun after being attacked “by multiple subjects using blunt objects.” But Border Patrol said Friday that the group ignored the agent’s demands to get on the ground and “rushed him.”

The first statement describes the woman killed as “one of the assailants,” while the second calls her “one member of the group.”

Agency spokeswoman Sara Melendez says she can’t address specific questions about the releases but notes they usually do a follow-up statement after the initial one.

Guatemala’s foreign ministry identifies the woman killed as Claudia Patricia Gomez Gonzalez.

Evangelist wants jet: ‘Jesus wouldn’t ride a donkey’

DESTREHAN, La. — A prosperity gospel televangelist is asking disciples to “pray about becoming a partner” to his mission of obtaining a \$54 million private jet.

The Louisiana-based ministry of Jesse Duplantis has already paid cash for three other private planes, but he says God told him, “I want you to believe in me for a Falcon 7X.”

NOIA.com/The Times-Picayune reports that Duplantis made the pitch to his followers in the May 21 edition of his weekly video address.

Duplantis says Jesus Christ “wouldn’t be riding a donkey” today — “he’d be in an airplane flying all over the world.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS



MARIE D. DE JESUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Santa Fe High School supporters gather by the school to wish student and staff well on their first day of classes Tuesday after a shooting that killed 10 people in Santa Fe, Texas. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott visited the school and is set to announce a school safety plan today in Dallas and San Marcos.

Santa Fe begins road to recovery

Governor visits high school, announces campus safety plan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA FE, Texas — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott will announce a school safety plan aimed at preventing more mass shootings like the one that killed eight students and two substitute teachers and injured 13 others at Santa Fe High School near Houston May 18.

Abbott has announcements scheduled for today in Dallas and San Marcos. The governor held three days of Capitol meetings last week and heard from law enforcement, educators, mental health experts and student survivors of the shooting at Santa Fe High School.

The Republican is a strong gun-rights advocate and is running for re-election. Abbott says he wants to protect the right to bear arms while also seeking more armed security in public schools and improving mental health screening for students. He has also suggested tougher gun-storage laws.

Abbott visited Santa Fe High School Tuesday, where students returned to class for the first time since the shooting. Before classes started, people stood along the road in front of Santa Fe High School holding up

signs that said, “Santa Fe Strong” and “United We Stand.”

Abbott spoke with students, parents, teachers and staff, and presented first responders with a commendation. Abbott tweeted photos of himself wearing a green Santa Fe T-shirt and addressing a school assembly to honor the victims held shortly after the school reopened.

The school now has enhanced security measures, such as a ban on backpacks and large purses. Students can only enter the school through the campus’ main entrance, and they cannot enter without a school ID or some form of identification. The classrooms where the shooting took place have been blocked off.

In a letter sent to parents and students last week, Santa Fe High School Principal Rachel Blundell said students can meet with friends and teachers, and speak with counselors.

Authorities have charged student Dimitrios Pagourtzis with capital murder in the attack. Investigators said Pagourtzis used a shotgun and pistol that belonged to his father.

Pagourtzis remains jailed without bond in Galveston.

Updates on shootings across the nation

- **Oklahoma City, Okla.:** The FBI said it was contacted twice, but took no action, about a YouTube channel associated with Alexander Tilghman, who wounded three people on Thursday.
- **Noblesville, Ind.:** A middle school is set to reopen for classes, five days after a male student allegedly shot a classmate and a teacher.
- **Parkland, Fla.:** David Hogg, a student at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, is leading an effort to register voters at 90 percent of U.S. high schools along with the organization HeadCount.

Justin Timberlake surprises shooting survivor in hospital

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA FE, Texas — Pop star Justin Timberlake made a surprise visit to a Texas school shooting survivor as she recovers from her wounds in a hospital.

Sarah Salazar was among the 13 wounded in the May 18 attack at Santa Fe High School. Her mother, Sonia Lopez-Puentes, shared on Facebook a photo that shows Timberlake wearing a medical gown and rubber gloves as he poses next to a smiling Salazar in her hospital room last Friday.

According to an online fundraiser for Salazar, the teenager suffered a broken jaw and will need shoulder replacement surgery after the shooting.

Timberlake performed two shows in nearby Houston last week as a part of his “Man of the Woods” tour.

Lawsuit tells Texas prison to cool down in summer

BY JOHN AUSTIN
CNHI State Reporter

AUSTIN — A Texas prison will install permanent air conditioning as the result of a recently settled federal lawsuit, but despite the agreement, thousands of state inmates still feel the heat.

Under terms of a settlement finalized earlier this month, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice will install permanent air conditioning in the Wallace Pack Unit, northwest of Houston, by May 1, 2020.

At least 14 inmates have died from heat-related causes since 2007, according to a report by the University of Texas School of Law Human Rights Clinic.

Under settlement terms, “subject to legislative approval,” the air conditioning “will keep the heat index at 88 degrees Fahrenheit or less in those housing areas.”

The agreement also requires the department to take appropriate precautions for inmates in 26 “heat-sensitive” classifications, according to the statement.

The agreement calls for temporary air conditioning from April 15 through Oct. 15.

Road to Wallace Pack settlement

- **June 2014:** Prisoners file class action lawsuit demanding lower temperatures for heat-sensitive inmates.
- **June 2016:** District judge rules it must provide water with lower levels of arsenic.
- **July 2017:** Same district judge issues temporary ruling, saying conditions are cruel and unusual. The state begins moving 1,000 heat-sensitive inmates to other prisons.
- **Feb. 2018:** State agrees to install A/C as part of settlement, ending the lawsuit.

After 27 missed threes in a row, Rockets lament loss to Warriors

BY KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets were up by 14 in the second quarter against the Golden State Warriors when they started missing from 3-point range. They shot themselves all the way from prime position to advance to the NBA Finals to the end of a solid season.

James Harden was the first to miss. Eric Gordon soon bricked one, and P.J. Tucker did the same.

It was miss after miss after miss as the cold streak stretched to nine by halftime. There were 14 more in the third quarter in a surprising performance for a team that relied on the 3 all season.

By the time Tucker connected with about 6 1/2 minutes left, the Rockets had missed an NBA-record 27 straight 3-pointers and the Warriors were on their way to a 101-92 victory.

Though Gordon believes the result would have been different if Houston had Chris Paul for the last two games of the Western Conference finals, saying: “if he was out there, we’d have been playing on Thursday,” the rest of the Rockets agreed that even the nine-time All-Star probably couldn’t have changed things on a night their shooting was historically bad.



DAVID PHILLIP / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry (30) and Houston Rockets forward P.J. Tucker (4) chase a loose ball during the second half of the Western Conference Championships in Game 7 on Monday.

halftime. Those same opportunities were there in the second half, we just didn’t make them. They made tough shots. That’s it pretty much.”

It was a bitter end to a sweet year for Houston.

“They were devastated ... we thought we were so close,” D’Antoni said. “We had it. We thought we had it. We had the first half ... tip your hat to them, but at the same time guys gave everything they’ve got, so it’s normal to be devastated. I think they’re still proud of the work we did, but at the same time, it hurts.”

Now the Rockets have to figure out what it will take to get over the hump next year. They have some big decisions to make with Paul,

Trevor Ariza and center Clint Capela eligible for free agency. Some believe Houston could make a run at LeBron James if he chooses to leave Cleveland, but the Rockets would have to make a lot of roster changes to be able to afford him.

D’Antoni didn’t want to get into what he thinks general manager Daryl Morey should do with the roster this offseason.

“It’s way too early. That’s Daryl’s department,” he said. “I love each guy. So it’s hard to even be objective, me to be objective. That’s the upstairs. That’s their job to be cold and objective, and do what they think is best for the team. Then once we get in the trenches, I’ll be happy with whoever we’ve got.”



‘Roseanne’ barred from ABC

Network cancels reboot after star’s racist tweet

BY DAVID BAUDER
Associated Press

NEW YORK — ABC canceled its hit reboot of “Roseanne” on Tuesday following star Roseanne Barr’s racist tweet that referred to former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett as a product of the Muslim Brotherhood and the “Planet of the Apes.”

ABC Entertainment President Channing Dungey said the comment “is abhorrent, repugnant and inconsistent with our values.” Barr had apologized and deleted her Monday-night tweet, calling it a “bad joke,” but the damage had already been done.

Barr was also dumped by her talent agency, ICM Partners.

The revival of the comedy was a surprise smash for ABC, owned by the Walt Disney Co., and was counted on to lead the network’s fortunes next season. Its first new episode in March was seen by more than 25 million people, with delayed viewing counted in, numbers that are increasingly rare in network television. ABC expected advertisers to pay millions of dollars for the chance to be seen during commercial breaks on television’s most popular comedy after “The Big Bang Theory.”

And it was all killed in a 53-character tweet.

One of the few network shows about a working-class family, “Roseanne” attracted considerable attention upon its return when Barr’s character supported President Donald Trump. That made the show popular with conservative viewers, and Trump himself suggested the character’s politics had a lot to do with the show’s success.

Barr herself has a history of diving into political conspiracy theories on her Twitter feed, and she ended her Memorial Day weekend with a series of statements. She criticized Democratic financier George Soros and tweeted that Chelsea Clinton was “Chelsea Soros Clinton,” implying she was married to a nephew of Soros. Donald Trump Jr. retweeted two of Barr’s statements about Soros, although not the remark about Jarrett.

Jarrett, who is black, was brought up in response to Twitter commentary that raised her name in relation to an Obama conspiracy theory. Barr tweeted: “muslim brotherhood & planet of the apes had a baby=vj.”

She later tweeted an apology to Jarrett.

A timeline of ‘Roseanne’

Oct. 18, 1988: The original “Roseanne,” starring Roseanne Barr, first airs on ABC. It quickly becomes one of the highest-rated shows on TV.

May 20, 1997: “Roseanne” airs its original series finale after nine seasons on the air.

March 27, 2018: A revival of “Roseanne” starring most of the original cast returns to ABC, with the first episode tackling the political divide between characters. The first episode reveals the character Roseanne voted for President Trump. The New York Times reported the reboot was part of ABC’s strategy to appeal to different parts of the country following Trump’s electoral victory.

March 30, 2018: The show was renewed for a second season based on ratings success. It was ABC’s highest-rated show of the season, and the premiere notched the highest rating for a network sitcom in four years.

May 28, 2018: Barr sends racially insensitive tweets about Valerie Jarrett and George Soros.

May 29, 2018: ABC cancels “Roseanne,” calling Barr’s comments “abhorrent” and “repugnant.”

“Forgive me,” she wrote. “My joke was in bad taste.”

Jarrett, who appeared at the taping of an MSNBC show about racism on Tuesday, said she hoped the incident could be turned into a teaching moment.

“I’m fine,” she said. “I’m worried about the people out there who don’t have a circle of friends and followers who come right to their defense.”

Barr was quickly condemned. Comic Wanda Sykes, a “Roseanne” writer, tweeted that she wouldn’t be returning to the show. Sara Gilbert, a co-star, also tweeted that the remark was abhorrent.

It was a quick decision at ABC for Dungey, who is the first African-American to serve as programming chief for one of the major broadcast networks, and her boss, network president Ben Sherwood. Disney chief executive Robert Iger tweeted his approval: “There was only one thing to do



JORDAN STRAUSS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roseanne Barr arrives at the Los Angeles premiere of the “Roseanne” reboot on March 23 in Burbank, Calif. After Barr sent a racist tweet, ABC canceled “Roseanne.”

here, and that was the right thing.”

Three weeks earlier, “Roseanne” was the toast of ABC’s annual presentation of its programming plans to advertisers. “Roseanne” earned an estimated \$45 million in advertising revenue for ABC through its nine episodes that started airing in March, according to Kantar Media. The firm estimates that the 13 episodes that had been ordered for next season would have brought in as much as \$60 million, with more through repeat episodes.

Hulu, TV Land and CMT said Tuesday they were pulling reruns of “Roseanne” from their networks.

The cancellation has no clear precedent in television history, said David Bianculli, professor at Rowan University in New Jersey. The closest analogy is CBS pulling the plug on the Smothers Brothers variety show due to their anti-war views in the late 1960s and the same network not renewing “Lou Grant,” which star Ed Asner always contended was due to his outspoken political beliefs.

“Roseanne Barr’s comments were appalling and reminiscent of horrific time in our history when racism was not only acceptable but promoted by Hollywood,” said Derrick Johnson, NAACP president and CEO. “We applaud ABC for taking a stand against racism by canceling ‘Roseanne.’”

Other stars who have lost their shows because of insensitive or inflammatory comments



CBS Radio canceled “Imus in the Morning” in 2007 after host **Don Imus** used sexist and racially charged language to describe the Rutgers women’s basketball team.



MSNBC canceled “Up Late with **Alec Baldwin**” in 2013 after Baldwin used a gay slur at a photographer who was outside his New York apartment.



In 2013, **Paula Deen** saw her Food Network shows and endorsement deals canceled amidst a lawsuit that alleged she racially discriminated against a former employee. In a deposition, Deen admitted to having used a racial slur in the past.

Starbucks closes stores for anti-bias training

Employee calling police on black men sparked protests

BY JOSEPH PISANI
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Starbucks closed thousands of stores Tuesday and asked employees to talk about when they noticed their racial identity, discuss what unconscious bias is and watch videos in which people of color describe feeling unwelcome in stores.

It was all part of the coffee chain’s anti-bias training, created after the arrest of two black men in a Philadelphia Starbucks six weeks ago. But whether the training, developed with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund and other groups, will prevent another embarrassing incident remains to be seen.

“This is not science. This is human behavior,” Starbucks Chairman Howard Schultz said. “This is just the first step of many that we’re going to take.”

The training was personal, asking workers to break into groups of three to five people to talk about their experiences with race. According to training materials provided by the company, they were asked to pair up with a co-worker and list all the ways they “are different from each other.” A guidebook reminds people to “listen respectfully” and tells them to stop any conversations that get derailed.

“I found out things about people that I’ve worked with a lot that I didn’t know,” said Carla Ruffin, a New York regional director at Starbucks, who took the training earlier Tuesday and was made available by the company to comment on it.

Ruffin, who is black, said everyone in her group said they first experienced bias in middle school. “I just thought that was pretty im-



ELAINE THOMPSON / ASSOCIATED PRESS

People are seen meeting inside the closed Starbucks Reserve at the company’s headquarters during employee anti-bias training Tuesday in Seattle.

What happened to spark this?

April 12: Rashon Nelson and Donte Robinson are taken out of a Philadelphia Starbucks in handcuffs. The manager called 911 after asking the men to leave because they hadn’t bought anything, but the men refused.

April 13: National outrage arose after a video of the incident went viral on Twitter.

April 15: A Black Lives Matter protester led a protest at the Philadelphia Starbucks. Protests continued for weeks.

April 16: Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson issued an apology and met with Nelson and Robinson.

April 17: Starbucks announced it would close its U.S. stores on the afternoon of May 29 for racial bias training.

May 2: Nelson and Robinson reached agreements with the city and with Starbucks. The city agreed to pay the men \$1 each and pay \$200,000 for a program for young entrepreneurs. Starbucks announced in a statement that an agreement for a financial settlement was reached with the two men.

May 29: Starbucks nationwide closed in the afternoon to conduct racial bias training with its employees.

pactful, that people from such diverse backgrounds, different ages, that it was all in middle school.”

She said the training and discussion is needed: “We’re never as human beings going to be per-

fect.”

Starbucks declined to specify how much the training is costing, but Schultz called it “quite expensive.”

“We’ve had certain sharehold-

ers call and say, ‘How much is this going to cost and how do you justify this?’ My answer to them was simply, we don’t view it as an expense. We view it as an investment in our people and the long-term cultural values of Starbucks.”

The company also lost sales from closing early, though the late-in-the-day training sessions meant no disruption to the busier morning hours.

At the company’s Pike Place Market location in Seattle, commonly referred to as the original Starbucks, the store stopped letting people in at 1 p.m.

The training was not mandatory, but Starbucks said it expected almost all of the 175,000 employees to participate. It said they will be paid for the full four hours. Executives took the same training last week in Seattle.

Training in unconscious, or implicit, bias is used by many corporations, police departments and other organizations. It is typically designed to get people to open up about prejudices and stereotypes — for example, the tendency

among some white people to see black people as potential criminals.

Many retailers, including Walmart and Target, say they offer some racial bias training.

In the Philadelphia incident, Rashon Nelson and Donte Robinson were asked to leave after one was denied access to the bathroom. They were arrested by police minutes after they sat down to await a business meeting.

The arrest was recorded by cellphone and triggered protests, boycott threats and debate over racial profiling, or what has been dubbed “retail racism.” It proved a major embarrassment for Starbucks, which has long cast itself as a company with a social conscience and had even encouraged dialogue about race before — to some mockery.

Nelson and Robinson settled with Starbucks for an undisclosed sum and an offer of a free college education. They also reached a deal with the city of Philadelphia for a symbolic \$1 each and a promise from officials to establish a \$200,000 program for young entrepreneurs.

Some black coffee shop owners in Philadelphia suggested black customers instead make a habit of patronizing their businesses. Amalgam Comics and Coffeehouse owner Ariell Johnson said she has called the police just once in the two years she has been open. She said that should happen only when there is a provocation or danger.

Calvin Lai, an assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences at Washington University in St. Louis, said that one afternoon of diversity training wouldn’t really be “moving the needle on the biases,” especially since Starbucks has so many employees and they may not stay very long.

Starbucks has said the instruction will become part of how it trains all its workers.



98° / 75°
Partly cloudy

FINAL FLY-IN

Former pilots for Braniff Airways gathered this week for their last annual fly-in.
Find out more about the 41-year pastel-colored tradition. **FEATURES, 6**



Southwest Journalist

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■ THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018



VERNON BRYANT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday called for schools to have more armed personnel and focus more on spotting student mental health problems.

Gov. Abbott pushes for more guns in schools

Following Santa Fe, Abbott detailed plan to prevent other shootings

BRANDON FORMBY AND EMMA PLATOFF
Associated Press

Less than two weeks after 10 people were killed in a Southeast Texas school shooting, Gov. Greg Abbott laid out a 40-page, 40-strategy plan for preventing future school shootings and left the door open to calling lawmakers back to Austin to pass some of those priorities. “If there is consensus on some laws that could be passed, I am open to calling [a special session],” Abbott said. A special session would be a dramatic move during an election year in which he, all top state officials and a majority of lawmakers are seeking new terms. Some lawmakers have demanded that Abbott, who has the sole authority to call and set agendas for special sessions, take such action. Most Texans responding to a poll taken before the Santa Fe shooting said they support stricter gun control laws.



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students, families and educators from the Santa Fe, Alpine and Sutherland Springs communities take part in a roundtable discussion on safety and security in schools with Gov. Greg Abbott on May 24.

The main points of Abbott’s plan:

- increase law enforcement presence at schools
- train and arm more school marshals who would respond in the event of a shooting
- provide mental health evaluations that identify students at risk of harming others and equipping them with resources and help

Much of the plan Abbott laid out Wednesday would require approval from the Texas Legislature, which will not reconvene until January 2019 unless Abbott intervenes.

Abbott’s announcement, made at the Dallas school district’s headquarters Wednesday, came one day after Santa Fe students returned to class for the first time following the deadly shootings. Thirteen people were also injured in the attack.

At the heart of the governor’s proposal is an expansion of the existing School Marshal Program, one of two existing systems for arming school personnel. More than 170 school districts of the 1,000-plus in Texas already have some type of system for arming educators and other staff.

Abbott also raised narrow, gun-related proposals, including the tightening of Texas’ safe gun storage and laws.

Suspected shooter Dimitrios Pagourtzis, a 17-year-old junior at the high school, has been in custody in Galveston County since the attack at Santa Fe High School. Authorities say he used his father’s guns.

Current Texas law holds parents ac-

■ GOVERNOR, Page 2

Journalist turns up alive after death hoax

DMYTRO VLASOV AND NATALIYA VASILYEVA
Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Russian journalist Arkady Babchenko walked into a news conference Wednesday, less than a day after police in the Ukrainian capital said he had been assassinated.



Babchenko

Authorities said his death was staged to foil a plot on his life by Moscow’s security services. One arrest was made. Russia denounced the faked killing as an outlandish attempt at defamation by its neighbor and foe.

Even Babchenko’s wife was unaware of the deception, and the 41-year-old Kremlin critic who fled to Ukraine 15 months ago apologized to her “for the hell she had to go through in the past two days. There was no choice there, either.”

Neither Babchenko nor Ukrainian Security Service chief Vasyl Gritsak gave details of the sting operation or how they made his wife believe he was dead.

Kiev Police Chief Andriy Krushchenko had announced Babchenko’s death Tuesday, saying that the journalist’s wife found him bleeding at their apartment building in Kiev but that he died en route to the hospital. Lawmaker Anton Gerashchenko, an

■ JOURNALIST, Page 2

Poll: More youths think they matter to politicians

STEVE PEOPLES AND EMILY SWANSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Don’t tell 20-year-old Nestor Aguilera he can’t effect change in politics.

The Indiana University business major protested outside President Donald Trump’s recent appearance in Aguilera’s home of Elkhart, Indiana. And while he says he didn’t vote in 2016, he’s promising to show up for this fall’s midterm elections.

“If young people decide to go out there and vote, we have the power to affect what the government does,” Aguilera said. “We could have a big impact.”

Aguilera is among a small, but significant, surge of young people who say they feel politically empowered in the latest Youth Political Pulse survey from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and MTV. A slim majority — 54 percent — of people aged 15 to 34, a group that is typically the least likely to vote, continue to believe they have little or no effect on government. But 46 percent of young people now believe they can have at least a moderate effect, a significant increase from two months earlier, when 37 percent said the same.

There’s also an uptick in the

■ YOUNG, Page 2

Summer may harm HS shooting survivors

Extra time may force students to relive the pain

KELLI KENNEDY AND TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

PARKLAND, Fla. — As students count down the days until summer vacation, concerned parents are scrambling to keep survivors of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre occupied so they don’t have extra time to relive the nightmare.

Community leaders and parents eager to prevent stress caused by time away from friends are organizing programs so students can socialize, play sports, create art or talk to therapists.

Michelle Siccone says she worries about what to do this summer with her 15-year-old daughter, Aria, who saw the terror-stricken face of a boy through a window as he pounded furiously on her classroom door just before being gunned down. When a SWAT team later led her out of the building, she saw three more bodies in the hallway.

Now, a knock on the door and other everyday events dredge up haunting memories and Siccone doesn’t want her daughter to be alone.

“We have no idea how we will



LYNNE SLADKY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Freshman Kacie Shatzkamer stands outside Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. As summer approaches, parents and community leaders worry that more downtime away from friends could trigger stress and depression among survivors of the school’s February massacre. Shatzkamer said being around other students who went through the February shooting helps her cope.

occupy her time. Every day is a concern,” Siccone said.

Freshman Kacie Shatzkamer said that she would likely participate in a setting where she could hang out with her friends and that being around other students who went through the February shooting helps her cope.

“Somehow, being at the school

when thinking about it makes me feel better as long as several of my friends are there,” said the teen, whose friend Alyssa Alhadeff was killed along with 16 others.

Alexis Grogan, on the other hand, can’t wait to be away from the school.

“I don’t really like coming to school much,” she said. “Things

that trigger me would have to be seeing the siblings or girlfriends or friends of the victims who were killed in the shooting.”

Grogan, who turns 16 in June, is planning to do the same thing she does every summer: hang at the beach with friends. “We all have each other’s back, and I’m sure no one will be alone during this time,” she said.

But community leaders recognize that the summer lull could be a danger zone for other students. Parkland Mayor Christine Hunschofsky said planning for summer began not long after the shooting.

“We really have a group that is coming together to make sure no one is falling through the cracks,” Hunschofsky said.

Craig Pugatch, a Fort Lauderdale lawyer and a leader of Mobilizing MSD Alumni, is helping organize the programs, particularly focusing on giving kids an outlet through creative arts.

“The idea is not to impose a program but to draw them out and give them a place to hang out with each other,” Pugatch said. “Drama for example, some have really gotten into improv comedy. We want to give them a space and not just a lounge and couches, but give them a chance to express

■ VICTIMS, Page 2

**Online now:
Full survey
results**

Check out all the numbers from the Youth Political Pulse survey at swjournalist.com.

And head over to @SWJournalist to catch the results of our own Twitter poll.



Students take part in the “March For Our Lives” rally on March 24 in Parkland, Florida, to advocate for tighter gun control regulations following the Majory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre. A new poll reveals a significant surge in the number of young people who feel politically empowered, a change that comes after the Parkland shooting elevated the voices of high school students in American politics.

Young people say their ideas are critical to politicians, poll finds

■ Continued from Page 1

number of young people who say politicians care what they think: 34 percent of 15- to 34-year-old people report that elected officials care at least a moderate amount about what they think, while just 25 percent said so two months ago.

At the same time, two-thirds say they think the government is not functioning well, and 52 percent say they rarely or never keep up with the midterm elections.

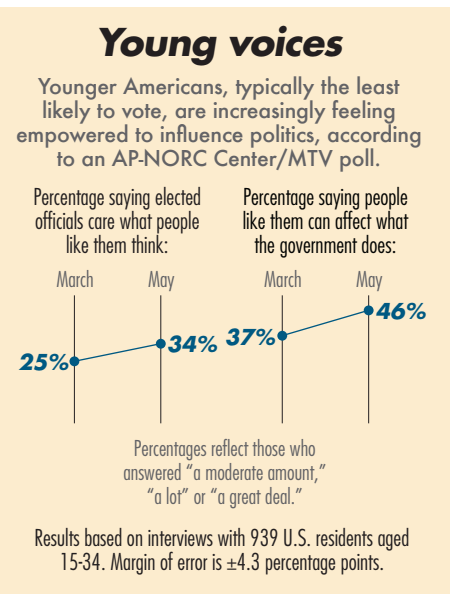
While many young people continue to feel powerless in the current political environment, the modest increases revealed in the poll could be further evidence of a Democratic wave building against the GOP this fall. Young people are far more likely to side with Democrats than Republicans. The new poll finds that they are also especially likely to have concerns about the Re-

publican president.

Just 30 percent of people aged 15 to 34 approve of Trump's job performance, the poll found. Forty percent said they approved of the president's work at the White House.

Despite the rise in engagement, it's far from certain that young people will reshape the political landscape this fall. Young voters, with few exceptions, have struggled to maintain interest in politics over the last half century. Just 15 percent of eligible voters ages 18 to 20 cast ballots in the last midterm election, for example.

“Do I feel like I could actually make a difference or influence things? Probably not,” said 23-year-old Charly Hyden. “I feel exhausted. I go out on protests and try to do things, but I feel like it doesn't matter. Maybe I'd feel differently if I were still in high school,” she said.



Journalist fakes death to evade hired Russian hit man, he says

■ Continued from Page 1

adviser to the interior minister, said the assailant had waited on a staircase in the building and shot Babchenko in the back as he was going to buy bread.

At the start of Wednesday's news conference, Babchenko, clad in a black sweatshirt, walked into the room as other reporters gasped and exclaimed their surprise, then broke into applause.

“I'm still alive,” an uneasy-looking Babchenko said with a straight face. Then he apologized for the deception. “I know that sickening feeling when you bury a colleague,” he added.

The news conference produced mixed emotions. “I was shocked. But then a feeling of happiness rose up,” said Serhii Nuzhenko, a freelance journalist.

Babchenko said he was not allowed to go into the details of his false death.

He said Ukraine's law enforcement had been aware of a contract on his head for two months. He said he was approached by the Ukrainian Security Service, or SBU, a month ago.

It also was unclear why authorities decided to go to such lengths to make it look as if Babchenko was dead.

Gritsak said investigators had identified a Ukrainian citizen who allegedly was paid \$40,000 by the Russian security service to organize and carry out the hit. The unidentified Ukrainian man in turn allegedly hired an acquaintance to be the gunman, he added.

The suspected organizer of the alleged hit plot was detained Wednesday, Gritsak said, suggesting the bogus killing was aimed at flushing him out, and he showed a video of the arrest.



Russian journalist Arkady Babchenko, right, was reported shot dead in Kiev, Ukraine, on Tuesday but showed up at a news conference the next day saying the security services faked his death.

Killing Babchenko was part of a larger alleged plot by Russian security services, Gritsak said. The Ukrainian man also was supposed to procure large quantities of weapons and explosives, including 300 AK-47 rifles and “hundreds of kilos of explosives,” to perpetrate acts of terror in Ukraine, he said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said the Ukrainian government was “fanning anti-Russian hysteria. We're confident our foreign partners and the relevant international agencies will draw correct conclusions from the whole situation.”

Reporters Without Borders director Christophe Deloire tweeted his “deepest indignation at the discovery of the ma-

nipulation of the Ukrainian secret services. It is always deeply dangerous for states to play with the facts.”

Babchenko fled the country in February 2017 because of threats against him and his family. He said his home address was published online. He also said he received threats by phone, email and social media.

The journalist was scathingly critical of Moscow's annexation of Crimea.

Several Russian lawmakers said that Babchenko should be stripped of his citizenship and Russian state media called him a traitor.

Confession clears name of man jailed for 15 years

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A man who spent 15 years in prison for the 2001 killing of a teenager was freed Wednesday after a judge ruled he didn't commit the crime.

Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson said Quintin Lee Alonzo, 38, was freed when the judge agreed with a petition from prosecutors declaring him innocent in the death of Santos Gauna, who was killed at a party for his high school graduation and decision to join the Marines.

Although Alonzo was freed because prosecutors and the judge believe he's innocent — due largely to the confession of a condemned man the day before that man's execution — Alonzo still needs the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to formally exonerate him to be eligible for state compensation for being falsely imprisoned. That ruling could take months.

Officials say an “exhaustive investigation” corroborated the 2015 confession that Licho Escamilla gave to investigators from the district attorney's office right before Escamilla was put to death for the killing of an off-duty Dallas police officer.

“He was facing execution the next day,” said Cynthia Garza, who heads the unit. “We believe he was doing this to make peace with God and make things right for him.”

Escamilla was a suspect in Gauna's killing. But a person identified Alonzo as the shooter from a photo lineup, and Johnson said the jury at his 2003 trial relied heavily on that identification to convict him.

Alonzo was sentenced to life in prison.

Escamilla was convicted in 2002 in the death of officer Christopher Kevin James, who was among four uniformed Dallas officers working off-duty security at a club when a brawl broke out and James was shot multiple times by Escamilla.

Prosecutors say Escamilla confessed to killing Gauna and also confessed later to his appellate attorneys. Johnson acknowledged that rumors circulated after the teen's death that Escamilla was responsible, but she said Alonzo's attorney argued this point at Alonzo's trial and jurors didn't buy it.

Victims may dig up trauma on time off

■ Continued from Page 1

themselves.”

In Washington state, community groups organized activities and the YMCA gave free memberships to students and staff. In Ohio, the community held dances and group yoga, and the school worked with a college where many graduating seniors were headed to set up a support group.

Frank DeAngelis, who was principal at Colorado's Columbine High School when 13 died in an April 1999 attack, said his community had few examples to draw on to plan the summer after their tragedy, so they improvised. A community theater opened its doors and allowed students to hang out. Churches and athletic teams held programs and counselors were available.

Those things helped, he said, but drug and alcohol use still increased among Columbine survivors.

“I asked some kids why and they said, ‘There are no guarantees in life,’” DeAngelis said. “It is important that the school let parents know that if their kids are struggling, they have a place to turn.”

In Parkland, an organization created by the parents of slain 14-year-old Alaina Petty will host a suicide prevention seminar before summer break.

“We've heard things from kids about feeling overwhelmed. We just want to make sure that they ... are able to identify the different feelings,” said Kelly Petty, Alaina's mother.

One of the biggest challenges may be getting students to access the services. Dozens interviewed by The Associated Press said they didn't want to share their feelings with a stranger, saying talking with friends was more helpful. That's why leaders focus on outlets like art and theater.

The number of students seeking counseling at the school “has dropped dramatically to a trickle,” said Cindy Arenberg Seltzer, president of the Children's Services Council of Broward County.

“There are services there where nobody's going, so it's hard to know, and we're trying to get at the root of it,” she said. “I keep struggling with why won't they go, and I think it is the stigma.”

Community leaders recognize that the summer lull could be a danger zone for other students.

Governor proposes new plan in response to Santa Fe shooting

■ Continued from Page 1


countable when their minor children — under the age of 17 — access their loaded weapons. Because Pagourtzis was 17, his family won't be liable under that law, though they are being sued under other, more general liability statutes. Abbott proposed raising that age to include 17-year-olds, a measure that would bring Texas in line with dozens of other states that have

stricter child-access prevention laws.

Abbott also proposed expanding a mental health screening program already operated through Texas Tech University. He said he hopes to “eventually” make that program — currently operational in 10 school districts — a statewide system, and said he recommends Texas fund it with \$20 million.

The Telemedicine Wellness, Intervention, Triage, and Referral Project at the Tex-

as Tech University Health Sciences Center, which aims to identify junior high and high school students at risk of committing school violence and intervene before tragedy occurs, has already had 25 students removed from school, 44 placed in alternative schools and 38 sent to a hospital. Abbott had praised that program just hours after the shooting, tweeting that “we want to use it across the state.”



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INTERNATIONAL

Brit sentenced over plot to attack gay pride event

LONDON — A British man who planned a neo-Nazi-inspired machete attack on a gay pride event has been sentenced to an indefinite stay in a psychiatric hospital.

Ethan Stables was arrested in June 2017 as he walked toward a pub in his hometown of Barrow-in-Furness, northwest England, on what prosecutors said was a reconnaissance trip. Police found an ax, a machete and a swastika flag at his home.

Prosecutors said Stables had posted on Facebook that he wanted to “slaughter every single one of the gay bastards.”

Defense lawyers said the 20-year-old, who has an autism spectrum disorder, had been influenced by right-wing extremists. But he was convicted in February of preparing an act of terrorism.

Passing sentence Wednesday, Judge Peter Collier said Stables posed “a very real risk to the public.”

Italian president resolute in face of economic crisis

ROME — Earlier this week, Luigi Di Maio, who leads the euro-skeptic 5-Star Movement, raised the specter of impeaching Italian President Sergio Mattarella. The threat came after the president refused to submit to populist demands to appoint, as economy minister, an advocate of a backup plan for Italy's exit from the euro currency.

Those who have followed Mattarella's career say his refusal to bow to pressure reflects his character and courage of convictions.

Mattarella is someone “with strong, deep values,” said Sergio Fabbini, director of the school of government at Rome's private LUISS University. “His family was a bourgeois family that stood up to the Mafia and refused to compromise” with the powerful organization based in Sicily.

Mattarella's willingness to accommodate different viewpoints — but also to draw lines he won't cross — ultimately played out in the current political crisis.

In rebuffing the populists' demands, Mattarella evoked a sense of justice, describing how the markets' turmoil was eroding Italians' savings and driving up business loan costs.

The populist narrative, Fabbini said, depicts institutions like the presidency as “the bastion of the elite” and the “enemy of the people.”

Prince Charles in Romania, promotes agriculture jobs

BUCHAREST, Romania — Britain's Prince Charles has arrived for his annual visit to Romania, where he charges his batteries and also promotes skills and training in rural Transylvania.

He met Romanian President Klaus Iohannis on Wednesday and later met Prime Minister Viorica Dancila in Bucharest, the capital. Later, he will travel to Transylvania, in the northwest.

He owns two properties in the deep, sparsely populated countryside where bears and other wildlife roam wild.

Three years ago, Charles set up the Prince of Wales Foundation Romania, which supports the Eastern European nation's heritage and rural life, and sustainable development.

Charles, who first visited Romania in 1998, will attend a theater festival in the central city of Sibiu next week.

Top North Korea official arrives in US for talks

WASHINGTON — A North Korean official has arrived in New York for talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ahead of what the White House says is an “expected” summit between President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

Kim Yong Chol is a former military intelligence chief and one of the North Korean leader's most trusted aides. He is the highest-level representative from the North to set foot in the United States since 2000.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that Kim landed shortly after 2 p.m. on an Air China flight from Beijing. Associated Press journalists saw the plane touch down at New York's JFK International Airport and the North Korean delegation get off the plane.

The visit comes ahead of a summit planned for June 12, which Trump canceled but now says may take place after all.

Afghan forces repel attack by Islamic State in Kabul

KABUL, Afghanistan — Islamic State militants, including two suicide bombers, dressed in military uniforms and riding in two armored vehicles, launched a surprise attack on the Interior Ministry in Kabul on Wednesday but Afghan forces managed to repel the assault, leaving all the attackers dead.

It was a rare victory for Afghan security forces, who have struggled to secure the capital in recent months amid relentless attacks by the Taliban and the IS affiliate in Afghanistan.

According to the ministry spokesman, Najib Danish, one policeman was killed and five were wounded in the assault.

Two of the attackers detonated their explosives, allowing eight others to pass through an outer gate at the ministry where they traded fire with security forces before they were eventually killed.

Gen. John Nicholson said the tactics used in the attack “track with” the tactics that the Haqqani faction has used in the past, and added: “We at this time do not believe it was an ISIS attack.”

The Islamic State group has since claimed responsibility for the attack.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gaza, Israel cease fire Israeli-Gaza violence reaches uneasy stillness

FARES AKRAM

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gaza's Hamas rulers said Wednesday they had agreed to a cease-fire with Israel to end the largest flare-up of violence between the two sides since a 2014 war.

Khalil al-Hayya, a senior Hamas official, said Egyptian mediators intervened “after the resistance succeeded in warding off the aggression.” He said militant groups in Gaza will commit to the cease-fire as long as Israel does.

Israeli Cabinet minister Arieה Deri told Israel's Army Radio that he expected calm to be restored.

“If it will be quiet, we will respond with quiet,” he said. “We've given Hamas a chance to prove that we can return to routine. ... There is a good chance that the routine will be restored after the blow the army unleashed on them.”

The Israeli military struck dozens of militant sites in Gaza overnight as rocket fire continued toward southern Israeli communities into early Wednesday

morning, setting off civil defense sirens in the area throughout the night.

The military said it hit drone storage facilities, military compounds, and rocket and munition workshops across the Gaza Strip. The overnight Hamas rocket fire reached the city of Netivot for the first time since the 2014 war, striking one home but causing no injuries.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel gave Palestinian militant groups in Gaza “the strongest blow dealt to them in years” and warned against renewed rocket fire.

“When they try us, they pay immediately. And if they continue to try us, they will pay a lot more,” Netanyahu said at a ceremony in Tel Aviv.

But neither Israel nor the Palestinian factions in Gaza attacked with full force, a sign that neither

side was interested in escalating hostilities. Militants in Gaza did not fire long-range rockets at Israel's major cities, as they did in 2014, and Israeli airstrikes zeroed in on only unmanned military targets.

With neither side appearing interested in a full-blown conflict, a tense calm appeared to be holding Wednesday as Israeli children went to school in the morning.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies and have fought three wars since the Islamic militant group seized control of Gaza in 2007.

The last war, in 2014, was especially devastating, with over 2,000 Palestinians killed, including hundreds of civilians, and widespread damage inflicted on Gaza's infrastructure in 50 days of fighting. Seventy-two people were killed on the Israeli side.

“When they try us, they pay immediately. And if they continue to try us, they will pay a lot more.”

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

IS takes credit for Belgian attack

RAF CASERT AND LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS — A Belgian prison inmate, who killed four people while on furlough, committed “terrorist murder” and likely intended to cause more harm, prosecutors said Wednesday. The Islamic State group has since claimed responsibility for the bloodshed.

The convict, later identified as Belgian native Benjamin Herman, stabbed two police officers in the city of Liege and used their handguns to kill them and a bystander. Belgian Interior Minister Jan Jambon noted that Herman killed a fourth person on Monday night away from the eastern industrial town.

IS said in a brief statement that Herman was a “soldier of the caliphate.”

Such wording is typical of the claims IS makes even when suspects have not been linked directly to the terror group. Belgian



GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A woman falls to tears as she approaches the site of mourning for the victims of the Belgian inmate attack Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

authorities have not said if they have evidence the inmate had vowed allegiance to IS or was acting on its orders.

Herman, 31, a convert to Islam, was known to local authorities as a repeat offender involved in petty crime and drugs. He spent most of his time in prison since 2003 and was on a two-day leave when he launched his attack. Police shot him dead not long after.

The attack has shaken Belgium.

GERMAN ZOO WELCOMES LION CUBS



MICHAEL PROBST / ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Frankfurt Zoo is showing off its first lion cubs in 15 years. The mother, Zarina, gave birth to triplets April 14, and kept a close eye on her offspring as they took their first steps in the zoo's lion enclosure on Wednesday. The father, 12-year-old Kumar, is being kept apart from 6-year-old Zarina and the cubs until zookeepers

are sure that the mother will tolerate his presence. The Asian lion cubs haven't yet been named, and keepers believe — but aren't yet sure — that two of them are male. Anni Fuchs, head of the big cats section at the Frankfurt Zoo, believes the cubs' father would love nothing more than to see them in a few weeks.

Racist chants on rise in Russia ahead of World Cup

JAMES ELLINGWORTH

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Racist and anti-gay chants have become more common in Russian soccer as the country prepares to host the World Cup, even as overall incidents of discrimination declined.

Nineteen incidents of abusive chants were recorded this season, according to an annual report from the anti-discrimination Fare Network and the Moscow-based Sovn Center released Wednesday. That compares to two cases the season before, and 10 the year before that.

Targets included players from the French national team, who were met with monkey chants during a game against Russia in March, and Liverpool youth player Bobby Adekanye, who was racially abused by Spartak Moscow supporters.

Russian national team goalkeeper Guilherme Marinato, a naturalized citizen who was born in Brazil, was twice targeted by Spartak fans calling him a monkey.

In another case, a regional governor told local media that the club his administration funds in the city of Vladivostok would not sign

any black players.

Last month, Nigeria defender Bryan Idowu, who was born and raised in Russia, told The Associated Press that some fans in the country viewed racist abuse as a tactic to distract opposing players, rather than as a statement of ideology.

“I think most of them do that to put pressure on a player psychologically, maybe so he doesn't want to keep playing,” he said. “It could just be because someone finds it funny.”

Overall, cases of discrimination in Russian soccer fell to 80, the lowest since the 2013-14 season, according to Fare.

Fare Executive Director Piara Powar said there is also a growing shift by far-right fan groups to racist chants because visual displays like banners are more easily tracked by surveillance cameras in stadiums.

The Fare Network, which helps FIFA and UEFA investigate racism cases, is planning to open two “Diversity Houses” in Moscow and St. Petersburg during the World Cup, where issues of discrimination in sports will be discussed.

“It's a celebration of diversity,” Powar said.



DENIS TYRIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

While Russia prepares to host the World Cup, abusive chants plague teams of all countries and ethnicities, even toward Russian-born player Guilherme Marinato.

“It showcases the rise of ethnic-minority players across the continent and looks at the growth of women's football, looks at issues associated with Russian football.”

Fare is also issuing a guide to Russia for visiting fans and operating a helpline for fans from minority groups to report harassment or attacks.

France warns against potential trade war

SYLVIE CORBET AND ANGELA CHARLTON

Associated Press

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron warned against trade wars in an impassioned speech about international cooperation Wednesday, a day or two before the Trump administration decides whether to hit Europe with new tariffs.



Macron

Top European officials were holding last-ditch talks in Paris with the U.S. commerce and trade chiefs on the steel and aluminum tariffs. However, they seem to be losing hope of winning an exemption from the charges.

European officials said they expect the United States to announce its final decision Thursday, but the U.S. plan has kindled fears of a global trade war — a prospect that is already weighing on investor confidence and could hinder the global economic upturn.

If the U.S. goes ahead with its tariffs, the EU has threatened to impose retaliatory tariffs on U.S. orange juice, peanut butter and other goods in return.

“Unilateral responses and threats over trade war will solve nothing of the serious imbalances in the world trade. Nothing,” Macron said in a speech at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris.

Besides the U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs, the Trump administration is also investigating limits on foreign cars in the name of U.S. national security. French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire pledged that the European response would be “united and firm.”

Gowdy: No evidence of FBI spy

Senior House Republican contradicts Trump's claim

ANNE FLAHERTY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There is no evidence that the FBI planted a “spy” on President Donald Trump’s 2016 campaign, a senior House Republican said Wednesday, directly contradicting Trump’s repeated insistence that the agency inserted a “spy for political reasons and to help Crooked Hillary win.”

Rep. Trey Gowdy, chairman of the House Oversight Committee and a longtime Trump supporter, was briefed last week by



Gowdy

the Justice Department and FBI following reports that investigators relied on a U.S. government informant in its investigation into Russian election meddling.

“I am even more convinced that the FBI did exactly what my fellow citizens would want them to do when they got the information they got and that it has nothing to do with Donald Trump,” Gowdy, a South Carolina Republican, told Fox News on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Gowdy said he had “never heard the term ‘spy’ used” and did not see evidence of that.

Gowdy’s comments are particularly striking because of his role as a powerful GOP watchdog who took on Democrat Hillary Clinton

in his committee’s investigation into the 2012 attacks on Americans in Benghazi, Libya, while she was secretary of state. The probe unearthed the existence of Clinton’s private email server, which triggered an FBI inquiry and crippled her 2016 presidential campaign against Trump.

Trump has zeroed in on, and at times embellished, reports on the informant, calling the matter “spygate” and tweeting that it was “starting to look like one of the biggest political scandals in U.S. history.” Trump has also rejected assertions by the U.S. intelligence agencies that the Russian government was trying to help him beat Clinton.

Trump’s legal team has asked

to review classified information about the origins of the FBI investigation to prepare the president for an interview with special counsel Robert Mueller, who is now leading the investigation into ties between Trump’s campaign and Russia.

Gowdy did, however, express support for Trump’s “frustration” with Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who recused himself in May 2017 from the Russia probe because of possible conflict of interest. The recusal of Sessions, an early backer of Trump’s presidential bid, followed the revelation that he had two previously undisclosed interactions during the 2016 campaign with the Russian ambassador.

“I am even more convinced that the FBI did exactly what my fellow citizens would want them to do.”

TREY GOWDY

Record 41 women to run for Senate

THOMAS BEAUMONT AND SCOTT BAUER
Associated Press

MADISON, Wisconsin — A record number of women are running for the U.S. Senate this year, and their stiff challenge is winning enough seats to dramatically diversify a chamber long dominated by men.

Many face uphill campaigns and two Democratic incumbents in particular among the 23 women in the Senate are seen as politically vulnerable in seeking re-election in November. When GOP state Sen. Leah Vukmir of Wisconsin filed petitions Wednesday, it meant 41 Republican and Democratic women have qualified to run for the Senate — the most ever, topping the 40 in 2016.

That’s according to an Associated Press analysis of data collected by the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers Univer-



MAT YORK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Rep. Martha McSally, R-Ariz., delivers her signatures to the Arizona Secretary of State’s office Tuesday, May 29, 2018, at the Capitol in Phoenix. McSally is one of a record number of female candidates running for the Senate this year.

sity and information released by states. For more than two centuries, men have dominated the Senate, which has seated only 52

female members in its history.

A potent force behind the surge in female participation is the #MeToo movement, ignited by

allegations of sexual misconduct by men in entertainment, politics, journalism and other sectors. There’s also the criticism of President Donald Trump’s policies and his alleged conduct toward women.

The biggest hurdle for female candidates is the electoral map. Of the 13 Democratic women seeking re-election, four are in states that Trump won in 2016 and where he is expected to weigh in heavily.

“The march toward gender equity in the Senate is inexorable,” former Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, an Illinois Democrat who in 1992 was the first African-American woman elected to the Senate. “It’s a matter of attitude and sends the message to young women they can do whatever they want or can.”

Sixers launch investigation of Colangelo

DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia 76ers are investigating whether team President Bryan Colangelo used a variety of Twitter accounts to anonymously trash some of his own players and fellow executives and defend himself against criticism from fans and the sports media.

The allegations, reported Tuesday by the sports website The Ringer, raised questions about Colangelo’s future and that of the NBA team itself, a rising franchise heading into an important summer as it tries to attract free agents to contend for championships.

The five Twitter accounts under suspicion took aim at Philadelphia players Joel Embiid and Markelle Fultz, former Sixers general manager Sam Hinkie, Toronto Raptors executive Masai Ujiri and former Sixers players Jahlil Okafor and Nerlens Noel, according to The Ringer.

Among other things, the user or users of the accounts complained that Embiid was “playing like a toddler having tantrums.” The user of one of the accounts claimed to know Colangelo and described him more than once as a “class act.” The tweets also raised the question of whether Colangelo used the anonymous accounts to divulge team strategy and details about players’ medical conditions.

Colangelo acknowledged using one of the accounts to monitor the NBA industry and other current events but said he wasn’t familiar with the four others.

“The allegations are serious and we have commenced an independent investigation into the matter,” the Sixers said Wednesday in a statement.

The Ringer said it had been monitoring the accounts since February, when it received an anonymous tip, and that it found numerous connections among the accounts that suggested the same person was behind them. The website also said it initially asked the Sixers about just two of the accounts, and the same day the three others were suddenly made private.



Colangelo

S-C-R-I-P-P-S: NATIONAL SPELLING BEE IN FULL SWING



CLIFF OWEN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Matthew Rodgers, 13, from Severance, Colorado, waits to spell his word during the third round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Maryland, on Wednesday. This year’s bee drew 516 entrants, a record high. The competition has gotten stiffer over the years: according to one speller’s father, who won the bee himself in 1985, a few decades ago contestants could win by memorizing about 10,000 words. Now, they must memorize between 40,000 and 80,000.

Conn. prison unit supports young inmates

Unit for 18- to 25-year-olds already seen as national model

PAT EATON-ROBB
Associated Press

CHESHIRE, Conn. — Demetriuse Geyer, who met his father while both were inmates inside a Connecticut prison, says he’s now getting the skills to give himself a better future, one outside the barbed wire.

The 22-year-old from Bridgeport is part of a prison program called TRUE (Truthfulness, Respect, Understanding and Elevating), which is designed specifically to address the needs of 18- to 25-year-old offenders.

It focuses on developing inmates as people through educational programs, family engagement and the mentorship of older inmates.

“I’m learning how to control my anger,” said Geyer, who is serving a five-year sentence for robbery. “I’m also learning how to write a resume, fill out a job application, handle my money — things I never learned in high school.”

It is based on a German prison, which Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and Correction Commissioner Scott Semple toured in 2015. Younger criminals often act on impulse and are better served by a nurturing, supportive environment, rather than one that is strictly punitive, Semple said.

Inmates apply for the program and are chosen by a committee. But Semple also said those in the unit have varying disciplinary records in an effort to get a realistic idea of whether the program works.

“We’re not bringing cupcakes into this,” he said. “We’re trying to bring in folks who will challenge us.”

Semple said he was wary of allowing the unit to include the older mentors, worried that those inmates might take advantage of the younger prisoners. Instead they have become invaluable, he said, treating



PAT EATON-ROBB / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inmates Festim Shyuqeriu, left, and Isschar Howard, center, tour Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy through their unit.

the inmates as younger versions of themselves and showing them how to avoid confrontations in prison and other pitfalls.

Family visits are encouraged, and inmates are able to have physical contact, which includes holding their children or reading to them.

There are team-building exercises, often including the guards, turning what is an adversarial relationship into a supportive one, officials said.

“Yesterday I was talking to a correction officer outside, and everyone was playing basketball ... and he looked at me and said, ‘I feel more like a camp counselor than a CO,’” said 24-year-old inmate Festim Shyuqeriu, who is serving time for robbery. “I said, ‘That’s a good thing.’”

Semple notes that disciplinary issues inside the TRUE unit are virtually nonexistent but that younger inmates account for about 25 percent of disciplinary incidents outside the unit. Several other prison systems, including those in South Carolina, Washington, D.C. and Massachusetts are starting programs based on the Connecticut model, he said.

NATIONAL

Weinstein indicted on rape and sex act charges

NEW YORK — Harvey Weinstein was indicted Wednesday on rape and criminal sex act charges, furthering the first criminal case to arise from a slate of sexual misconduct allegations against the former movie mogul.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said the indictment brings Weinstein “another step closer to accountability” for alleged attacks on two women in New York.

Weinstein’s lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said he would “vigorously defend” against the indictment and ask a court to dismiss it.

The indictment came hours after Weinstein’s lawyer said the film producer would decline to testify before the grand jury because there wasn’t enough time to prepare him and “political pressure” made an indictment unavoidable. Freed on \$1 million bail and under electronic monitoring, he is due back in court July 30, though that date may now be moved up in light of the indictment.

Beyond the two women involved in the case, dozens more women have accused Weinstein of sexual misconduct ranging from harassment to assault in various locales. He has denied all allegations.

Colon cancer screening should start at 45, not 50

NEW YORK — New guidelines released Wednesday recommend U.S. adults start colon cancer screening earlier, at age 45 instead of 50.

The American Cancer Society was influenced by its study, published last year, that found rising rates of colon cancer and deaths in people younger than 50. Experts aren’t sure why there has been a 50 percent increase in cases since 1994.

The guidelines are for men and women ages 45 to 75 of average risk for colon cancer; recommendations are different for people with certain conditions, like Crohn’s disease, or a family history of colon cancer. The group endorses six kinds of screening exams. Colon cancer, combined with rectal cancer, is the second leading cause of cancer death in the U.S.

Others argue that instead of lowering the age for routine screening, more effort should be put into getting more people tested. Only about two-thirds of people 50 and older have been following screening guidelines.

Prosecutor pleads guilty of trading sex for leniency

BEDFORD, Pa. — A former Pennsylvania district attorney accused of tipping off female drug dealers and giving them lenient treatment in exchange for sex has pleaded guilty to corruption charges.

Former Bedford County District Attorney William Higgins entered his plea Wednesday, according to Attorney General Josh Shapiro.

Higgins resigned in early April after the charges were filed, saying in a statement that he’d been accused of conduct “unbecoming of a district attorney” and “unbecoming of a husband and father.”

Police said Higgins also revealed the names of confidential informants to female drug dealers with whom he was having sex, or to their friends and associates. He pleaded guilty to 31 counts, including official oppression.

The 43-year-old Republican was sworn into office in 2004 as the state’s youngest district attorney.

Barr blames Ambien for tweet; drugmaker replies

NEW YORK — The maker of Ambien said Wednesday that “racism is not a known side effect” after Roseanne Barr cited the insomnia drug in explaining the tweet that led ABC to cancel her show.

Hours after ABC pulled the plug on “Roseanne” because of her offensive tweet about former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett — and quickly breaking a promise to stay off Twitter — the comedian was busy posting on the social media platform.

Barr tweeted that what she did was unforgivable and urged supporters not to defend her. She said of the Jarrett tweet, “It was 2 in the morning and I was ambien tweeting.”

“Roseanne” was an instant hit when it returned this spring after a two-decade hiatus. But after Barr’s tweet that likened Jarrett, who is black and was born in Iran, to a cross between the Muslim Brotherhood and the “Planet of the Apes,” ABC canceled the show.

Barr’s agent also dropped her, and several services pulled “Roseanne” reruns. Jarrett, who said she was “fine” after the slur, urged in an MSNBC special Tuesday about racism that the incident become a teaching moment.

Kim Kardashian West meets with Trump

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has met with reality TV star Kim Kardashian West as she visited the White House to advocate on behalf of a woman serving a life sentence for drug offenses.

Trump is confirming the meeting — as he often does — via Twitter, writing, “Great meeting with @KimKardashian today, talked about prison reform and sentencing.”

He included a picture of the two in the Oval Office.

Kardashian West has been urging Trump to pardon Alice Marie Johnson, 63, who has spent more than two decades behind bars and is not eligible for parole.

Kardashian West had also been expected to meet with Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, who is overseeing the administration’s push to overhaul the nation’s prison system.

TEXAS AND SW

Trump to meet with families of Sante Fe victims

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump will be meeting with the families of the victims of a Texas school shooting during a visit to the state Thursday.

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders made the announcement at the White House briefing Wednesday.

Eight students and two substitute teachers were killed during the shooting at Santa Fe High School on May 18.



Texas school district offers higher pay in Phoenix ads

PHOENIX — A Texas school district has placed advertisements on Phoenix billboards in an attempt to recruit teachers to a city with higher pay.

The Fort Worth Independent School District has rented five digital billboards in Phoenix that advertise a starting teacher salary of \$52,000. School district officials say the advertisements were placed in Arizona and Oklahoma to target teachers following the recent protests over pay in both states.

Arizona lawmakers approved a plan earlier this month to hike teacher salaries after a six-day walkout by educators that shut down most schools statewide.

Officials say the Fort Worth district has up to 800 job openings. The district has about 86,000 students and more than 10,000 employees.

The billboards went live Monday and will stay up for a month, officials said.

Ex-Dallas cop pleads guilty to shooting unarmed man

DALLAS — An ex-Dallas police officer will serve more than a year of probation after pleading guilty in the 2013 shooting of an unarmed black man.

WFAA-TV reports that Amy Wilburn pleaded guilty Tuesday to recklessly discharging a firearm at Kelvin Walker. Both Wilburn and Walker agreed to the plea deal. Wilburn was indicted on a felony aggravated assault by a public servant charge, which could have carried a sentence of up to life in prison.

Wilburn was pursuing a stolen vehicle in 2013 when she approached the car and shot Walker, who was unarmed in the passenger seat. Wilburn had alleged that Walker didn't put both of his hands up, but Walker and an independent witness said he did.

Wilburn's attorney declined to comment because of a pending multi-million dollar federal case. The trial is scheduled for August.

Warrant served for man killed by police

ARLINGTON, Texas — The mother of a man fatally shot by police last year said Wednesday that sheriff's deputies recently turned up at her mother's Arlington home to serve a warrant for the dead man's arrest.

Authorities say in February 2017, 23-year-old Tavis Crane ran over an Arlington police officer while attempting to flee a traffic stop. Another police officer entered Crane's car and shot him. A grand jury declined to take any action against that officer.

At the time of Crane's death, police said he had a felony warrant for evading arrest and multiple misdemeanor warrants.

Tarrant County Sheriff's Office spokesman David McClelland said Wednesday that records showed there were "several" warrants out for Crane's arrest, but not that he was dead. He said there was no policy that could be changed to prevent a similar incident from happening again.

"It's not our standard practice to check the death records if there are multiple active warrants out for somebody," McClelland said.

Crane's mother, Dee Crane, filed a harassment complaint with the sheriff's office, saying, "This was not a mistake."

Exxon Mobil aims to boost oil, gas production

DALLAS — Exxon Mobil Corp.'s CEO says the company can more than double its earnings by 2025 and will invest in new oil and gas production even if policymakers adopt rules to combat climate change.

Darren Woods told shareholders Wednesday that the world will need oil and gas for decades and that the company is responding to that demand while investing in technology to reduce carbon emissions. Last week, it promised to cut its emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

Environmentalists counter that Exxon Mobil's technology investments will not produce enough reductions to avoid the worst effects of climate change.

One of Exxon Mobil's most prominent critics, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, was forced from office by charges that he abused several women. He was investigating whether the company misled the public and investors by hiding what it knew about the link between burning oil and gas and climate change.

Schneiderman's interim replacement is continuing the investigation, an aide said. Voters will pick the next attorney general in November.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



BILLY CALZADA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Grower Russ Studebaker examines peaches on his Hill Country farm near Fredericksburg, Texas, on May 25. Much to the delight of growers, this year's crop is exceptionally flavorful because of the the winter's dry, cold winter.

Hill Country is just peachy

Texas Hill Country peach growers ready for plentiful crop

LYNN BREZOSKY
San Antonio Express-News

It was a long, cold winter — at least in Texas terms — and that's good news for this year's Hill Country peach harvest.

Unlike last year, the orchards got the "chill hours" necessary to nudge buds out of dormancy so they can blossom into the summer tree fruit. The spring came and went without the type of lingering late freeze that wiped out the region's crop five years ago. What's more, the relatively dry weather meant natural sugars weren't diluted by rain, making this year's fruit exceptionally flavorful.

"We're really happy with the crop. It's really nice, really tasty," grower Russ Studebaker said. "Everybody's got plenty of peaches."

Hill Country peaches are prized thanks to the region's soils, said to be rich with mineral deposits from when the area was blanketed by an ancient sea. Along with an exploding winery business and Fredericksburg's famed cluster of German restaurants and brew pubs, peaches and peach products (including ice cream, jams and pies) are a major driver of tourism.

Jamey Vogel, vice president of the Hill Country Fruit Council, said growers were picking clingstone

varieties, which are best for canning and preserving.

Freestone peaches, which bakers often prefer because the pit is easy to remove once the fruit is sliced, should be available starting in mid-June.

Clingstone, freestone or in between, the best way for peach lovers to get some of this year's crop is to take a road trip to the Hill Country.

"It's become a situation where the demand is such that we don't really have to wholesale to the commercial market anymore," Vogel said. "People will come just because they get them as fresh as possible that way."

With Texas weather notoriously fickle, there's never a guarantee that fans of peach stands will be toting home boxes or even bags full of bounty.

Last year's winter was a weakling. According to National Weather Service meteorologist Cory Van Pelt, Fredericksburg temperatures between November 2016 and April 2017 averaged an "unusually warm" 58 degrees. Many growers had less than a 10 percent crop.

This year's crop will be abundant in comparison -- the average temperature for the same period was 54.4 degrees, 3.6 degrees lower.

There were some scary frosts in March and April, Studebaker said, but those ended up killing off just enough blossoms to provide what remained abundant sunlight.

"We had a nice, almost like a California-type winter where we didn't have extremes," Studebaker said.

"Everybody's got plenty of peaches."
RUSS STUDEBAKER

Amazon extends Prime savings to Whole Foods in Texas, other states

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE & AUSTIN, Texas — Amazon Prime member savings are expanding to an additional 121 Whole Foods Market stores across 12 states — including Texas — plus all Whole Foods Market 365 stores nationwide. Prime members will receive an additional 10 percent off sale items, plus exclusive weekly deep discounts on select popular items.

"From delicious dinner options like shrimp or rotisserie chicken to fresh organic raspberries, we're offering savings on products customers love and can enjoy with their families," said A.C. Gallo, president and chief operating officer at Whole Foods Market. "Exclusive deals like the sustainably-caught halibut were a huge hit in Florida, and we're excited to partner with our suppliers to bring Prime members even more discounts on seasonal favorites and everyday staples."

These savings are currently available at Whole Foods in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Kansas City, Missouri, Louisiana, New Mexico, northern Nevada, northern California, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah and at Whole Foods Market 365 stores nationwide.

Customers also receive these exclusive Prime member savings when they have their groceries delivered from Whole Foods stores via Prime Now. Both Prime member savings and Prime Now grocery delivery are available in Austin, Dallas, Denver, Sacramento and San Francisco. Prime Now offers free two-hour delivery on orders over \$35. Delivery from Whole Foods will continue expanding throughout 2018.

To start saving, customers can download the Whole Foods Market app, sign in with their Amazon account and scan the app's Prime code at checkout. Or customers can opt in to use their phone number to save at checkout.

Prime offers for the stores:

- Organic raspberries, \$2.50 per 6 oz. container
- Responsibly Farmed tail-on white shrimp, 2 lb. bag for \$12.99, save \$5
- Back to Nature crackers and cookies, 2 for \$5
- 40 percent off all probiotic supplements (weekend sale, June 1 – June 3)

Teen, girlfriend charged in father's death

ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — The teen son of an Austin-area jeweler and his girlfriend were charged with hiring someone to kill his father, who was gunned down in March during a home break-in, authorities said.

Nicolas Patrick Shaughnessy and Jaclyn Alexa Edison, who are 19 years old and live together in College Station, were arrested Tuesday on a count of criminal solicitation to commit capital murder, Travis County sheriff's officials said.

According to investigators, Shaughnessy's mother, Corey Shaughnessy, called 911 early March 2 to report an intruder in the home of her and her husband, Theodore Shaughnessy. Deputies found Theodore Shaughnessy dead of multiple gunshot wounds. A family dog was also killed. Authorities say the plot called for Corey Shaughnessy to be killed as well, but she wasn't harmed.

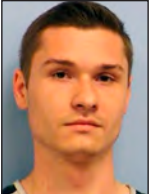
Theodore Shaughnessy was the owner of Gallerie Jewelers. In a Facebook post in late April, the company said, "We are happy to announce that Nicolas, Ted's son, will be carrying on his legacy here at Gallerie."

An obituary for the elder Shaughnessy published in the Austin American-Statesman said he was "a proud father to his son, Nicolas."

In the months before the shooting, Nicolas Shaughnessy asked multiple people if they were willing to be paid to kill someone, investigators said. He estimated that he'd receive some \$8 million from the life insurance policies for his parents, the sale of their home and sale of the jewelry store.

Authorities say they found ammunition in the defendants' home that matched casings found at the crime scene.

Nicolas Shaughnessy and Edison remained in jail Wednesday, with Shaughnessy's bond set at \$3 million and Edison's at \$1 million. The shooter hasn't been caught, officials said.



Shaughnessy



Edison



EDUARDO VERDUGO / ASSOCIATED PRESS (FILE)

Women carry a banner on Mother's Day in Mexico City to call attention to the cases of people who have gone missing and demand that authorities locate their loved ones. (Sign: "disappeared")

UN says people disappearing in northern Mexico border city

CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Jessica Molina hasn't seen or heard from her husband since March, when Mexican marines broke through their door in the Mexican border city of Nuevo Laredo and took him and a friend away.

Molina, a U.S. citizen, said her Mexican husband, Jose Daniel Trejo Garcia, is a mechanic with an established business in Laredo, Texas, where they live.

The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on Wednesday called on the Mexican government to "take urgent measures to stop the wave of forced disappearances in Nuevo Laredo and surrounding areas" and said "there are strong indications" they were committed "by a federal security force."

The U.N. office documented the disappearance of 23 people since the start of February in Nuevo Laredo and said there could be many more. The non-governmental Nuevo Laredo Human Rights Committee estimates 56 forced disappearances from Jan. 20 to May 21, and attributed the majority to navy special operations.

Tensions were high in Nuevo Laredo when Trejo disappeared. On March 25, marines had been ambushed three times by gunmen. During the third clash, a helicopter was called in. Shots hit a family's car driving through the area, and a mother and two children were killed.

The navy initially denied responsibility, but after an expert concluded the shots came from above, it admitted its helicopter accidentally killed the civilians.

Molina said the marines who interrogated her and her husband asked if they knew about what happened in the helicopter incident before he was taken without a search warrant or arrest order. She filed a report with the Attorney General's Office and the National Human Rights Commission and went to the marine base, but they denied knowing anything.

Now Molina has joined with other families to search for hidden graves along the dirt roads surrounding the city.

Among the cases documented by the U.N. were the disappearances of 21 males and two females, including at least five minors. According to the U.N., the disappearances typically occur at night while the victims are traveling on roads. Sometimes their burned and bullet-riddled vehicles are found on roadsides.

"Many of these people would have been detained arbitrarily and disappeared while going about their daily lives," said U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

According to Mexican governmental data, there have been more than 6,000 registered disappearances in Tamaulipas since 2006, more than any other state.

Last week, Molina and other families met with a navy captain who promised to help them in their search, but there hasn't been any follow-up, she said. The navy is the primary security presence in Nuevo Laredo, where an offshoot of the Zetas drug cartel dominates.

"If the navy is here to protect us," Molina said, "what are they doing to avoid these disappearances?"



ANDY JACOBSOHN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don Gieseke, second to left, jokes with Lanny Money, left, Dick Strohmeier, second from right, and Tom Naylor, right, all of whom were Braniff pilots, during the 41st annual Braniff International Airways pilots picnic at Denton Municipal Airport. The Monday event was the final such picnic, which also included a fly-in of the pilots' personal planes.

FLYING COLORS



Ex-Braniff pilots, staff gather in Texas for final fly-in

CONOR SHINE
The Dallas Morning News

It's been more than three decades since Braniff International Airways grounded its fleet of 62 brightly colored aircraft, bringing a sudden end to a Dallas icon and upending the lives of its 9,000 employees.

Every year since the carrier's 1982 demise, former pilots, whether they stayed in Dallas or moved across the country for work at another airline, have gathered at an airport in North Texas to grill, show off their personal planes and swap stories of an unforgettable time in their lives.

"I use the term family," said Bill Schoknecht, who joined Braniff in 1966 and is president of Braniff International Silver Eagles, the retired pilots' group. "In some cases, this is the only time we see them during the year. But if they need us or we needed them, we can always call on each other."

On Monday, the group held its 41st and final fly-in and picnic at the Denton Municipal Airport. The tradition started in the late 1970s as a gathering for retired pilots, but with Braniff's closure in 1982, all of its pilots became retired from the carrier in a sense, and the group was expanded.

With no new pilots entering the pipeline, a gathering that once drew hundreds has dwindled with each passing year, as the realities of life — be it personal, financial or mortal — have taken their toll. "We know it has to happen, because of the restraints and all. But we're really going to miss it," Schoknecht said.

Don Maynard joined Braniff Airways in 1951 as the carrier, founded in 1928, was preparing to make its ascent from an earlier generation of staid airlines that took cues from the military to a trailblazer of the Jet Age. "I left New Orleans, and everyone thought I was crazy," said Maynard, now 89, who joined the carrier at a time when it still flew unpressurized aircraft. "The day I got hired, when I was put on the seniority list, I was 258." Maynard describes it as a "wonderful time," with the airline hiring rapidly to fuel its expansion and pilots pioneering never-before-operated commercial routes into South America.

John J. Nance, a Braniff pilot from 1975 to 1982 who authored a book about the company, described Braniff as an innovative mold breaker, an identity typified by the Technicolor hues the airline painted its planes and the elements of design and fashion it incorporated into its plane interiors, crew uniforms and

lounges. "They were doing things that hadn't been done before," said Nance, author of "Splash of Colors: The Self-Destruction of Braniff International" and an aviation analyst for ABC.

Nance said the airline's glamour, boldness and ascendancy mirrored that of its hometown. "This was a very Texas airline," he said. "Dallas was a perfect location for Braniff. I think if it had been located in many other cities in the world, it wouldn't have the same level of panache and success."

The deregulation of the airline industry in 1978 created new opportunities for Braniff but also laid the groundwork for its ultimate demise. Faced with a newly open and rapidly changing

airline landscape, Braniff's executives decided the best course of action was to expand aggressively, adding 31 destinations over two years, according to the Texas State Historical Association.

But the planes weren't full enough and gas prices were rising, leading to increasing flows of red ink on the carrier's balance sheet year after year. In 1980, the airline lost \$131 million. On May 12, 1982, rumors started to spread about the carrier grounding its fleet, as pilots and crew were called and told their flights were canceled. By 6 p.m., it was national news. "The bankruptcy in 1982 was such a startling event," Maynard said.

Pilots, flight attendants and other employees found themselves scattering as they hurriedly searched for jobs post-bankruptcy. Schoknecht would end his career with Minnesota-based Northwest Airlines, Nance with Alaska Airlines. Maynard, further along in his career, didn't make it back into the cockpit but found work as a flight instructor at Fort Worth-based American Airlines.

Through it all, the fly-in picnic and the bond it represents have persevered. This year, the invitation list expanded to include flight attendants and other former employees, making for a large turnout for one final bash. "We're all proud of the other airlines we've worked for. We still say Braniff is the best," Schoknecht said.

Even without the annual picnic, the pilots plan to keep the Braniff name alive as long as possible. There will still be monthly lunches in Dallas and other former crew bases. The website with employee information will stay online. And the group's charity will continue to raise funds for aviation education.

"We had a nice run. We enjoy it and we enjoy each other's company. We'll still have meetings until the last guy dies, I guess."

DON MAYNARD



BILL LARKINS / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

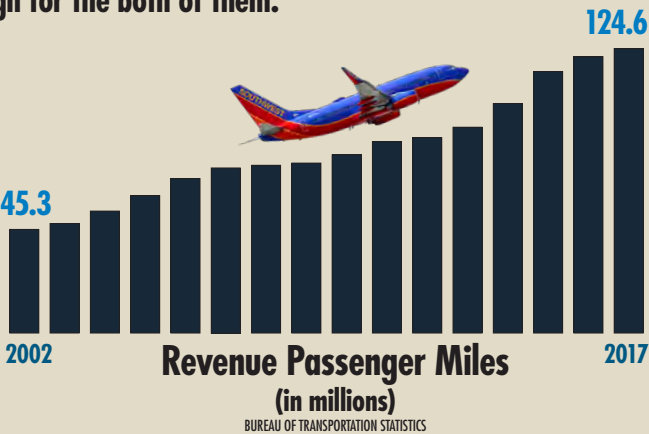
Braniff was known for bold colors and designs on its planes, uniforms and advertising. In 1975, it commissioned Alexander Calder to paint this Boeing 727 called "Flying Colors of the United States" in honor of the US Bicentennial.

With Braniff grounded, Southwest took off

Texas wasn't big enough for the both of them.

- Southwest Airlines was incorporated in Texas and commenced customer service on **June 18, 1971**, with three Boeing 737 aircraft serving three Texas cities—Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio—and grew to become a major airline in **1989** when it exceeded the billion-dollar revenue mark.
- In **1994**, Southwest became the first major airline to offer ticketless travel.
- In **1996**, Southwest became the first major airline to post a website with the launch of our "Home Gate."
- Southwest topped the monthly domestic originating passenger rankings for the first time in **May 2003**.
- In **July 2014**, Southwest became an international airline with its first flights to Nassau, Bahamas; Montego Bay, Jamaica; and Aruba, and continues to expand.

Data from Southwest Airlines





99°/75°
Partly cloudy

TRUMP VISITS SANTA FE

President Donald Trump met with the survivors of the Santa Fe shooting on the same day
Quinnipiac University released a poll of Texas voters and shifting stances on gun laws.
TEXAS, 5



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018



Poll: Parents split on arming teachers

EMMA PLATOFF
Texas Tribune

Fifty-four percent of Texas parents who have children in public schools support arming teachers and other school officials, according to polling numbers from Quinnipiac University released Thursday.

Meanwhile, 49 percent of registered voters support stricter gun laws, according to the poll. That number is down from 55 percent who said they favored stricter gun laws in a previous Quinnipiac poll on April 19. Forty-five percent of voters oppose stricter gun laws —

up from 41 percent in April.

The new polling was conducted after a deadly school shooting May 18 at Santa Fe High School, south of Houston, left 10 people dead and 13 more injured. The data were collected before Republican Gov. Greg Abbott rolled out a school safety plan in a pair of televised appearances Wednesday. Much of Abbott's plan revolves around bolstering an existing state program for arming some school staff.

Abbott compiled the plan after three days of roundtable discussions on the issue last week. It in-

Texas voters:

Do you support
stricter gun laws?

On April 19, 55 percent said yes.
On May 29, 49 percent said yes.

Quinnipiac conducted a poll surveying Texas voters' opinions on gun laws on April 19. Following the Santa Fe shooting, Quinnipiac conducted the same poll again. The poll was conducted from May 23 to May 29. The university surveyed 961 registered voters. The margin of error was 3.8 percent.

cludes a slate of measures aimed at "hardening" schools to make them less vulnerable targets, as well as bolstering mental health screening programs with upped state funding. But Abbott also proposed a short list of gun-related measures, including promoting safe storage practices and studying the viability of a "red flag" law that would allow a judge to temporarily take an individual's guns if that person was considered an imminent threat.

In the new poll, support for imposing background checks on all gun buyers hovered relatively un-

changed around 93 percent.

The Santa Fe shooting suspect, 17-year-old Dimitrios Pagourtzis, used his father's guns in the massacre, authorities say, but the family will likely not be held accountable.

"The tragedy at the Santa Fe school south of Houston changed few opinions among Texas voters about gun control. Support for gun control in general is down slightly, while support for background checks for all gun buyers is virtually unchanged," said Peter A. Brown, assistant director of the Quinnipiac Poll.

Titanic exhibit first of its kind

CARL HOOVER
Waco Tribune-Herald

WACO — The tragic 1912 sinking of the luxury ocean liner RMS Titanic with the loss of some 2,200 passengers is a story that still captivates modern-day imaginations.

Within that story are countless stories, inspired by the passengers on board and the items recovered from the ship's ruins, as visitors to the Mayborn Museum will discover beginning Saturday as the nationally touring "Titanic: The Artifacts Exhibition" opens a seven-month run.

The exhibit features more than 150 objects found during deep-sea expeditions to the wreck site in the north Atlantic Ocean, supplemented by replica items, rooms, a frozen iceberg wall, videos and displays.

Visitors will start with the construction of the ship. They will relive the short few days on the inaugural voyage from Southampton, England, to New York, then witness its fatal collision with an iceberg, followed by the sinking in which only a third of the passengers survived.

"It's a Greek tragedy . . . a timeless story," said Alexandra Klingelhofer, vice president of collections for Atlanta-based Premiere Exhibitions, Inc. "It affects people in different ways."

The exhibit, one of several Titanic-related shows mounted and operated by Premiere Exhibitions, Inc., may set the Mayborn Museum on a voyage of its own. Mayborn officials consider it their first blockbuster exhibit — a subject of national interest, whose anticipated audiences are

"It's a Greek
tragedy . . . a
timeless story"

ALEXANDRA KLINGELHOFFER

requiring new procedures of timed tickets, advance purchases, entry line management, overflow parking and the like.

Tickets for specific dates and times can be purchased online, but tickets also can be purchased on site for the next available time, with a waiting area for those needing to wait until entry.

Many of the Mayborn's past

■ ARTIFACTS, Page 2

TEXAS TAKES NATIONAL SPELLING BEE



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fourteen-year-old Karthik Nemmani of McKinney, Texas wins the Scripps National Spelling Bee, where more than \$42,000 in cash and prizes were up for grabs. The finals began with 41 contestants, with the number slowly dwindling over five rounds. But there was never a mass exodus from the stage. At one point in the second round, 21

consecutive competitors spelled their words correctly. A record number of spellers went into the prime-time finals, meaning a late-night finish to a longer-than-usual week. The size of this year's bee field nearly doubled from prior years because of a new wild-card program. See Page 6 for more.

Puerto Rico power grid 'fragile'

Longest black-out in US history continues, despite \$3.8B in repairs

MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN
Associated Press

CAIN ALTO, Puerto Rico — After months of darkness and stifling heat, Noe Pagan was overjoyed when power-line workers arrived to restore electricity to his home deep in the lush green mountains of western Puerto Rico. But to his dismay, instead of raising a power pole toppled by Hurricane Maria, the federal contractors bolted the new 220-volt line to the narrow trunk of a breadfruit tree — a safety code violation virtually guaranteed to leave Pagan and his neighbors blacked out in a future hurricane.

"I asked the contractors if they were going to connect the cable to the post and they just didn't answer," said Pagan, a 23-year-old garage worker.



CARLOS GIUSTI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

An electric power pole leans over the road in the Piedra Blanca area of Yabucoa, Puerto Rico. Most of those still without power live in this town, which was the first place in Puerto Rico struck by Hurricane Maria.

After an eight-month, \$3.8 billion federal effort to try to end the longest blackout in United States history, officials say Puerto Rico's public electrical authority, the nation's largest, is almost certain to collapse again when the next hurricane hits this island of 3.3 million people.

"It's a highly fragile and vulnerable system that really could suffer worse damage than it suffered with Maria in the face of another natural catastrophe," Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rossello said.

Federal forecasters say there's a 75 percent likelihood that the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins Friday, will produce between five and nine hurricanes. And there's a 70 percent chance that as many as four of those could be major Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricanes, with winds of 111 mph or higher.

Despite the billions plowed into the grid since Maria hit on Sept. 20, 2017, Puerto Rican officials warn that it could take far less than a Category 4 storm like Maria to cause a blackout like the one that persists today, with some 11,820 homes and businesses still without power.

"The grid is there, but the grid isn't there. It's teetering," said Hector Pes-

■ PUERTO RICO, Page 2

Census citizenship question sparks suit

ALEXA URA
Texas Tribune

The Mexican American Legislative Caucus and the Texas Senate Hispanic Caucus are suing the Trump administration in hopes of blocking the addition of a citizenship question to the once-a-decade census of every person living in the United States.

In a lawsuit filed Thursday in a Maryland-based federal court, the Texas-based groups allege that the addition of the controversial question is unconstitutional because it will lead to a disproportionate undercount of Latino and Asian residents,

non-citizens and their family members.

That undercount would endanger billions of dollars tied to social services funding and deprive those individuals of equal representation in the U.S. House and during the redrawing of political boundaries that follows each census count, the plaintiffs allege.

The lawsuit against the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Commerce comes about two months after the Bureau announced it would add a question about citizenship to the 2020 census questionnaire. Since then, demographers, local

officials and community organizers have been sounding the alarm about the role the question would play in depressing response rates among Texas immigrants and their families.

Massive both in size and population, The lawsuit was filed on behalf of more than a dozen plaintiffs — including several Texas-based nonprofits that advocate for Latino residents and legislative Latino caucuses out of multiple states — who say they are seeking to "preserve the integrity" of the census count.

The Trump administration's "inclusion of

a citizenship question in the 2020 Census is arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, and otherwise not in accordance with law," the plaintiffs wrote in their filing.

The citizenship question violates the Constitution's Equal Protection Clause, according to the suit, because it is "motivated by racial animus" toward Latinos, Asians, non-citizens and immigrants and would amount to a violation of the Enumerations and Apportionment Clauses.

Texas has long been a hard-to-count

■ LAWSUIT, Page 2

Puerto Rico ill-equipped for future catastrophes

Continued from Page 1

quera, Puerto Rico's commissioner of public safety. "Even if it's a (Category) 1, it is in such a state that I think we're going to lose power. I don't know for how long."

Federal officials and Puerto Rican leaders blame decades of mismanagement that left the island's power authority more than \$9 billion in debt after declaring bankruptcy last year. By the time Maria hit, wooden power poles were rotted, transmission towers had rusted through and overgrown trees menaced thousands of miles of power lines.

In many places across Puerto Rico, federal emergency funds allocated in the aftermath of the disaster made up for years of neglected maintenance, replacing decaying infrastructure with tens of thousands of new poles and hundreds of miles of power lines rushed from the U.S. mainland at a steep premium.

But in other areas, crews without adequate supplies patched together damaged poles and power lines in a desperate push to restore power. In the western highlands, power cables were spliced together and woven haphazardly through trees in blatant violation

of basic safety codes. In Pagan's town of Cain Alto and at least one other location, trees were used as makeshift power poles in the absence of proper equipment.

"We patched things up. We worked with the little material that was available and we recycled material," one power authority worker said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation from management. "We took the post that had fallen over or broken and we put it up somewhere else. A lot of the work is defective."

Fredyson Martinez, vice president of the power authority workers' union, said he estimates that roughly 10 to 15 percent of the repair work done during the last eight months did not meet basic quality standards.

Federal and Puerto Rican officials are preparing for another catastrophe. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is leaving some 600 generators installed in key sites such as hospitals and water pumping stations, more than six times the number before Maria. FEMA has stockpiled 5.4 million liters of water and more than 80,000 tarps, and is distrib-

uting them and other emergency supplies to towns across the island so they will be in place for the next disaster.

Power company director Walter Higgins said crews also are preparing to strengthen the power grid, a project he estimates will take years and could cost between \$5 billion to \$8 billion. He said within four months, crews in the nearby islands of Vieques and Culebra will start building the grid to modern standards.

"If a hurricane comes tomorrow it will leave the island completely without power again," said Juan Rosario, a community activist and former member of the power authority's board of directors.

The potential sale won't affect the federal government's decision to spend billions of dollars on repairing and improving the grid, said Byrne, the head of FEMA's operations in the Caribbean.

"I can't wait, because these are U.S. citizens that are at risk. U.S. citizens deserve every ounce of effort that I can bring to this, and that's what they're going to get," Byrne said.



RAMON ESPINOSA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

After an eight-month, \$3.8 billion federal effort to try to end the longest blackout in United States history, officials say the nation's largest public electrical authority is almost certain to collapse again when the next hurricane hits.



ROD AYDELOTTE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jeff Huckleby readies a replica of a First-Class state room at the Titanic exhibit at Baylor University's Mayborn Museum in Waco, Texas. The tragic 1912 sinking of the luxury ocean liner RMS Titanic is a story that still captivates people. The exhibit features more than 150 objects found during deep-sea expeditions to the wreck site in the north Atlantic Ocean, supplemented by replica items, rooms, a frozen iceberg wall, videos and displays.

Artifacts, tour bring Titanic to life in Waco

Continued from Page 1

touring exhibitions were set up within a week of their opening, but installing "Titanic: The Artifacts Exhibition" took its crew 17 days, four of which were spent on installing trusses and lighting.

The artifacts were chosen to show passengers' experience on the White Star Lines' luxury liner as well as individual stories connected with specific items. To make that connection to individual stories, exhibit tickets resembling boarding passes will have a passenger's name.

A wall of survivors' names at

exhibit's end will allow visitors to see if their passenger was one of the 705 who survived.

"It just brings all that home," said Klingelhofer, overseeing the Mayborn installation.

A reconstructed First Class cabin features a standard sized bed, desk and chair, sofa, wooden table and chairs with electric lights in wall sconces, all done in Dutch Modern interior with dark red walls.

Missing from all is the name Titanic — rather than brand items for each of its three luxury liners, the Olympic, the Titanic and the Britannic, the steamship company put its name and logo on everything. "Nothing says Titanic. They were ordering for three huge ships," Klingelhofer noted.

The exhibit runs through Jan. 6.

Lawsuit attempts to block citizenship question

Continued from Page 1

state because of the millions of Texans who fall into the categories of people who pose the biggest challenges for the headcount — immigrants, college students, and children younger than 5 years old, to name a few.

In announcing the addition of the citizenship question back in March, Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross indicated the citizenship-related data were necessary for "more effective enforcement" of the federal Voting Rights Act.

Those working toward an accurate count said they were already working from behind even before the Trump administration announced it would add the citizenship question to the questionnaire. They said they were bracing for challenges both practical — Hurricane Harvey displacement, internet accessibility and fewer funds with which to knock on doors — and political — namely anti-immigrant rhetoric and fears that people would be too afraid to respond to a government questionnaire — that would make Texas even tougher to count.

The census determines how many representatives Texas is entitled to elect to Congress and serves as a roadmap for the distribution of billions of federal dollars to the state and local communities, including funding for low-income housing, medical assistance and transportation projects.

As they embark on preparations for the 2020 count, local



MARJORIE KAWMS COTERA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

At the Texas Capitol, state Rep. César Blanco, D-El Paso, addresses the decision taken by the Trump Administration to add a citizenship question to the 2020 Census. A lawsuit against the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Commerce was filed Thursday in response to the proposed question.

officials have also stepped into the legal fight over the citizenship question in court. Earlier this month, three border counties — El Paso, Hidalgo and Cameron — joined a coalition of more than 30 states, cities and counties that has also sued to block the inclusion of the citizenship question.

Meanwhile, the state's Republican attorney general, Ken Paxton, has made clear he has no intention of fighting the question. In an op-ed published in March, Paxton chalked up concerns about the citizenship question as "partisan

uproar" that is not "being driven by the facts."

The Census Bureau is still waiting for congressional approval of the 2020 questionnaire that includes the citizenship

An accurate census is critical to the state.

question. The bureau has not asked all households about citizenship since the 1950 census, though it does ask about citizenship as part of annual surveys that only cover a sample of U.S. residents.

DJ News Fund interns have promising futures

Eleven college students and recent college graduates are headed to copy editing internships after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at The University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a group of undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, sports copy editing, business reporting and digital journalism.

The highly competitive national program is operated by the Dow Jones News Fund. The more than 750 applicants had to take a test and complete an extensive application.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 20th residency program at UT-Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a model newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online product, swjournalist.com.

The UT-News Fund interns serve internships of 10 to 12 weeks.

Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating news organizations cover the participants' training, including housing, meals, transportation and instruction.

Participating newspapers also pay interns a weekly wage for their internship work. Students returning to their universities after the internships are eligible for a \$1,000 scholarship provided by the News Fund.

Beth Butler and Bradley Wilson served as co-directors of the workshop with assistance from Boyle, administrative manager of the UT School of Journalism.

Faculty included George Sylvie, associate professor at UT-Austin; Mark Grabowski, associate professor at Adelphi University; and Linda Shockley, managing director of the News Fund in Princeton, New Jersey.

Students also had the oppor-



MARC SPEIR / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sorayah Zahir, Yelena Dzhanova, Isabelle D'Antonio, Laurel Foster, Anna Glavash; (middle) Emily McPherson, Brendan Wynne, Caroline Hurley, Noah Broder, Emily Burleson, George Roberson; (back) Bradley Wilson, Beth Butler, Heather Taylor

tunity to visit with John Cox and other staff members at Community Impact Newspaper in

Pflugerville, Corrie MacClaggan and staff at the Texas Tribune, Dan Cunningham, retired senior

editor of the Houston Chronicle; and Will Weisert, Associated Press Austin Bureau chief.



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INTERNATIONAL

Trudeau won't meet Trump after precondition set

TORONTO — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he offered to go Washington this week to complete talks on renegotiating the North American Free Trade Agreement, but that Vice President Mike Pence told him a meeting with President Trump would only happen if Trudeau agreed to put a sunset clause into the deal.

Trudeau said he refused to go because of the "totally unacceptable" precondition. He made the comment Thursday while outlining Canada's response to U.S. tariffs on steel and aluminum imports.

In a call to Trump May 25, Trudeau offered to meet because he felt they were close to an agreement.

Police: Nicaragua violence leaves 15 dead

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — More than a dozen people died in shootings that erupted around Mothers' Day protests in Nicaragua, but the government and human rights groups differed on who was to blame.

The Nicaraguan Center for Human Rights, which said it had members participating in Wednesday's march, said at least 11 people died when peaceful marches were attacked "by the repressive police and shock forces" loyal to President Daniel Ortega.

Francisco Diaz, the second in command of the national police, said there were 15 deaths nationwide, which he blamed on "criminal gangs." Foreign Minister Denis Moncada said the violence was generated by opposition political groups and denied government responsibility.

The marches were led by mothers of victims of earlier protests. But some ended with gunmen firing into crowds sending thousands of demonstrators running for cover.

The gunfire appeared to come from government supporters near the end of the march, but demonstrators armed with improvised bottle-rocket launchers also opened fire.

The country's Roman Catholic church hierarchy said in a statement the violence showed it couldn't yet resume a dialogue between protesters and Daniel Ortega's government.

Shortly before the attack, Ortega told supporters that he was committed to peace.

Protests began in mid-April in response to changes to the social security system, but expanded to call for Ortega's exit.

Africa's mountain gorilla population exceeds 1,000

KAMPALA, Uganda — A new survey shows the number of Africa's critically endangered mountain gorillas has exceeded 1,000 after conservation efforts, making them the only great ape in the world growing in number.

The World Wildlife Fund says the population increased to 604 from about 480 in 2010 in the Virunga Massif, an area encompassing parts of Rwanda, Uganda and Congo.

Combined with the latest published figures from the gorillas' other home, Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, the overall population is 1,004. Ugandan officials say they expect a rise in the Bwindi population when the results of a recent, separate survey there are released.

The mountain gorilla's population dropped sharply in the past century because of poaching, illness and human encroachment.

Women take abortion pills in Northern Ireland protest

LONDON — Abortion rights campaigners took what they said were abortion pills outside a Belfast court Thursday, as pressure grows to ease Northern Ireland's ban on terminating pregnancies.

Northern Ireland is the only part of the U.K. where abortion is illegal in all but exceptional cases. Last week, the neighboring Republic of Ireland voted to remove a ban on abortions, putting pressure on the north to follow suit.

Campaigners used a small robot to distribute pills, before three women flanked by others swallowed the tablets.

Police officers seized the pills and robot, and attempted to lead one woman away.

Organizers didn't say whether the women were pregnant, noting it would be illegal to take the pills if they were. The robot was operated from the Netherlands to avoid breaching the law.

Eleanor Crossey Malone, who swallowed a pill, said she acted "in defiance of the extremely outdated, medieval, anti-choice laws that exist in Northern Ireland."

Some British lawmakers are calling on Prime Minister Theresa May's government to change Northern Ireland's abortion law. The government says that is a matter for Northern Ireland's administration, which is currently suspended amid a dispute between parties.

'Burqa Ban': Denmark bans face-covering garments

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Denmark joined Austria, France and Belgium in deciding Thursday to ban garments that cover the face, including Islamic veils such as the niqab and burqa.

The government says the law, which was presented by the center-right governing coalition, is not aimed at any religions and does not ban headscarves, turbans or the Jewish skull cap.

However, the law is popularly known as the "Burqa Ban" and is mostly seen as being directed at the dress worn by some Muslim women.

Denmark's justice minister said it will be up to police to use their "common sense" when they see people violating the law. The law allows people to cover their face when there is a "recognizable purpose" like cold weather.

First-time offenders risk fines and repeat offenses could trigger jail sentences.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spain government poised to fall

ARITZ PARRA
Associated Press

MADRID — Spain's conservative government appears doomed to lose a no-confidence vote in parliament Friday, with the center-left Socialist party poised to take over.

A Basque nationalist party's announcement that it would vote in favor of the motion spelled the almost certain end of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and foretold the stunning collapse of his minority government.

The impending downfall of Rajoy's government after ruling for nearly eight years came days after the his party's reputation was damaged by a verdict that identified it as a beneficiary of a large kickbacks-for-contracts scheme.

The unexpected development injected a new element of tension into European Union politics and global financial markets, already unsettled by Italy's struggles to install a new government.

Under a law that prevents a power vacuum, Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez would immediately become the new leader of the eurozone's No. 4 economy and a prominent EU leader at a time when the bloc faces numerous challenges.

In the no-confidence debate, Sanchez called on Rajoy to step down over the kickbacks scandal.

"Are you ready to step down here and now? Resign and everything will end," Sanchez told the prime minister.



FRANCISCO SECO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spain's Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez addresses lawmakers during the first day of a motion of no-confidence session at the Spanish parliament in Madrid Thursday. Spain's opposition Socialists tried to persuade smaller parties to support a bid to oust Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's conservative government as parliament opened a tense debate.

Rajoy responded by accusing Sanchez of a power grab.

"Everybody knows that Pedro Sanchez is never going to win the elections, and this is the reason for his motion, his urgency," Rajoy told lawmakers, reminding them that the Socialists lost two general elections under Sanchez's leadership and warning that a Socialist government would endanger the country's financial stability.

Sanchez promised to abide by a national budget recently negotiated by Rajoy and vowed to open talks with separatists in the Catalan regional government over

their demands for independence, which has dogged Spain for the past eight months.

While in power, Rajoy successfully steered Spain out of its worst economic crisis in decades and achieved some of the strongest economic growth in Europe.

But the strong economy wasn't enough, and Rajoy was undone by the corruption scandal. Last week, judges delivered hefty prison sentences to 29 business people and Popular Party members, including some elected officials.

The coming months could be difficult for Sanchez to navigate

if he takes over, with a minority Socialist government needing to please numerous parties to pass legislation. Rajoy has labeled that prospect a "Frankenstein government," while critics refer to Rajoy's government as "zombies."

Ciudadanos leader Albert Rivera said his center-right party would vote against the no-confidence motion Friday.

"I don't want a corruption-marred 'zombie government' but neither a 'Frankenstein government' with those who want to break Spain apart," Rivera said.

Trump imposes tariffs on US allies

KEN THOMAS AND PAUL WISEMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration delivered a gut punch to America's closest allies Thursday, imposing tariffs on steel and aluminum from Europe, Mexico and Canada in a move that drew immediate vows of retaliation.

Stock prices slumped amid fears of a trade war, with the Dow Jones industrial average falling nearly 252 points, or 1 percent.

The import duties threaten to drive up prices for American consumers and companies and are likely to heighten economic uncertainty around the globe.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the tariffs — 25 percent on steel, 10 percent on aluminum — would take effect Friday.

President Donald Trump originally imposed the tariffs in March, saying a reliance on imported metals threatened national security. But he exempted Canada, Mexico and the European Union to buy time for negotiations — a reprieve set to expire at midnight Thursday.

Other countries, including Japan, are already paying the tariffs.

The administration's actions drew fire from Europe, Canada and Mexico, with promises to quickly retaliate.

French President Emmanuel Macron called the decision "illegal" and a "mistake."

The EU earlier threatened to counterpunch by targeting U.S. products, including bourbon, blue jeans and motorcycles. Mexico said it will penalize U.S. various imports.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced plans to slap tariffs on \$12.8 billion worth of U.S. products, ranging from steel to toilet paper.

"That Canada could be considered a national security threat to the United States is inconceivable," Trudeau said.

Trump campaigned for president on a promise to crack down on trading partners he said exploited poorly negotiated trade agreements.

The tariffs could complicate the administration's efforts to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, a pact Trump has condemned as a job-killing "disaster."

Trump offered Canada and Mexico a permanent exemption from the steel and aluminum tariffs if they agreed to U.S. demands on NAFTA, but the talks stalled.

Likewise, the Trump team tried to use the tariff threat to pressure Europe into reducing barriers to U.S. products, but the two sides couldn't reach an agreement.

Ross said negotiations with Mexico, Canada and the EU can continue even once the tariffs are in place.

"That Canada could be considered a national security threat to the United States is inconceivable."

JUSTIN TRUDEAU

The duties will give a boost to U.S. steel and aluminum makers by making foreign metals more expensive, but U.S. companies that use imported steel will face higher

costs. And the tariffs will allow domestic steel and aluminum producers to raise prices, squeezing companies — from automakers to can producers — that buy those metals.

Europe, Japan and other U.S. trading partners are contesting the tariffs with the World Trade Organization.

Critics say the tariffs would do little to address the real problem plaguing metals producers: massive overproduction by China that has flooded world markets.

House Speaker Paul Ryan was among several leading Republicans critical of Thursday's action. He said the decision "targets America's allies when we should be working with them to address the unfair trading practices of countries like China" and that he plans to work with Trump on "better options."



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Italian President Sergio Mattarella addresses journalists at the presidential palace at the end of the second day of political consultations in Rome on April 5.

Italy's president affirms populist pick for premier

COLLEEN BARRY
Associated Press

MILAN — Italy's anti-establishment 5-Star Movement and right-wing League succeeded Thursday in forming western Europe's first populist government, which will be headed by a political novice whose first try was rejected four days earlier as too risky.

What changed was the willingness of 5-Star leader Luigi Di Maio and League leader Matteo Salvini to shuffle the proposed roster of government ministers amid a financial market scare.

After the fits, starts and financial turbulence of recent days, the coalition government put its populist posture on full display in Salvini's first public remarks.

"I want to make Italy a protagonist in Europe again. With good manners and without creating confusion," Salvini said to cheers in his home region of Lombardy.

Just a short time earlier, President Sergio Mattarella's office announced that the new premier, University of Florence law professor Giuseppe Conte, and his ministers would be sworn in Friday.

It was a stunning comeback from Sunday, when Conte — the premier-designate at the time — left a meeting with Mattarella empty-handed.

Emerging from a similar meeting with a different ending Thursday night, Conte read his Cabinet list and pledged to "work with de-

termination to improve the quality of life of all Italians."

The proposed Cabinet includes Di Maio, architect of the government's proposed basic income for struggling Italians, and Salvini — who has pledged to expel hundreds of thousands of migrants.

An inconclusive parliamentary election in March produced months of stalemate before Italian political machinery went into overdrive this week. After rejecting Conte's first attempt, Mattarella tapped a former International Monetary Fund official to head a possible interim government to see Italy to an early election.

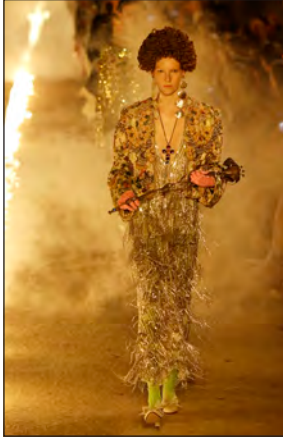
But investors, fearing the vote would be a referendum on the euro, revolted, sending Italian stocks plummeting. Just the prospect of a political government calmed markets Thursday.

Analysts have raised questions about the potentially tough role Conte would play with the 5-Star and League leaders.

Lorenzo Codogno, a former Treasury official and economic analyst, said he predicts "trench warfare" between the government and Mattarella.

"Still," Codogno said, "it is well possible that the near-term financial market reaction is positive, as [the] breakthrough reduced the uncertainty and at least provides Italy with a much-needed government."

DEATH AND GLITTER: GUCCI HOSTS FRANCE SHOW IN ROMAN RUINS



CLAUDE PARIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Models wear creations from Gucci's 2019 cruise fashion collection at the ancient site of Alyscamps in southern France Wednesday. Singer Elton John, rapper ASAP Rocky and actresses Salma Hayek and Saoirse Ronan were among the spectators at the Italian powerhouse's itinerant annual spectacle. Guests gasped as the show opened with coordinated bursts of fire and a line of flames that ignited all the way down the center of the 100-meter-long runway.



Famous chef mentor dies

JANET MCCONNAUGHEY
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Ella Brennan, who couldn't cook but played a major role in putting New Orleans on the world's culinary map, died Thursday. She was 92.

Brennan was credited with creating nouvelle Creole cuisine, was the matriarch of a family that owns nearly two dozen restaurants and, at Commander's Palace, cultivated many of the city's top chefs, including Paul Prudhomme and Emeril Lagasse. She won the James Beard Foundation's lifetime achievement award in 2009. "I had a barrel of fun and if anybody calls that work they're crazy," Brennan said in October 2015.

"She can't really boil water," Lagasse said that year. But, he said, "She's one of the greatest restaurateurs I've ever met. She has an incredible palate and an even more incredible mind."

Brennan started in the business as a high school kid working in the restaurant of her older brother Owen. Mostly, she taught herself, reading and asking questions of just about anyone else who crossed her path.

Her mentoring took many forms: weekly "foodie meetings," trips to New York and abroad to learn from restaurants, and notes. Lagasse recalled one handed to him during his early years at Commander's Palace: "When you come to work tomorrow, do me a favor and leave your ego at home." They'd often sit at her desk together on Saturdays to thumb through menus and cookbooks, discussing how to "creolize" dishes for Commander's customers.

The American Culinary Federation's New Orleans chapter named an annual award for her, stating, "Her talent for teaching and coaching young people with a passion for the restaurant business has led to a legion of chefs who named her as their mentor."



BEN MARGOT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James shoots against Golden State Warriors guard Klay Thompson and forward Draymond Green during the first half of Game 1 of the NBA Finals in Oakland, Calif., Thursday.

Cavs and Warriors meet in NBA Finals

BRIAN MAHONEY
Associated Press

As Round 4 of the record-setting rivalry begins Thursday night, has Warriors-Cavaliers become too much of a good thing?

"I don't think so," Golden State guard Klay Thompson said. "I think the rest of the NBA has got to get better. It's not our fault. The only people I hear saying that are fans from other teams, which is natural. I don't blame them. But as long as our fan base is happy, that's all that matters."

It's the first time in NBA, NFL, MLB or NHL history that the same teams are meeting four

straight times in the championship round, and intrigue in the teams hasn't waned yet. The NBA had its most-watched conference finals since 2012, as both teams had to rally from 3-2 deficits to win Game 7s on the road.

But if this series quickly becomes as lopsided as some fear — ABC analyst Jeff Van Gundy said he couldn't remember a bigger gap between finals teams and said any game the Cavs win is a huge upset — many of those people who have tuned in the last few years might be looking for something else to watch by the time the series switches to Cleveland.

"If James and the Cavaliers win Game 1, you know, the interest is going to skyrocket because they are going to have done what very few — except for them maybe — think they can do," Van Gundy said. "If they get blown out both games, it doesn't matter what we say. People aren't going to be as excited."

The players won't apologize for showing up again or worry that it hurts the NBA.

"I mean, it may not be as suspenseful as a lot of people want it to be or as drama-filled," Kevin Durant said, "but that's what you've got movies and music for."

1 dead in Va. as Alberto turns creeks into raging rivers

JEFFREY S. COLLINS AND SARAH RANKIN
Associated Press

Heavy rains generated by sub-tropical Storm Alberto unleashed flooding in Virginia that washed out bridges, damaged homes, closed schools and transformed a normally peaceful creek into a raging river that swept away cars with people still in them. At least one person was killed and rescuers were searching for others.

In Albemarle County, two cars were swept into Ivy Creek around 9:30 p.m. Wednesday. The occupant of one car was able to swim to a safe location, police said in a news release.

But witnesses saw a man and woman get swept away as they exited their Toyota Prius, Albemarle County Fire Rescue Chief Dan Eggleston said at a news conference.

Rescue crews searching in and around Ivy Creek Thursday found the body of one of two occupants. "Ivy Creek is normally a very doc-



ANDREW SHURTLEFF / ASSOCIATED PRESS

After heavy overnight rains, the Rivanna river flooded Thursday and covered the playground in Riverview Park near Charlottesville, Va. Connor Robins, 9, stands at the floodwaters' edge. Other rivers in the area flooded, sweeping away cars.

ile creek but with 8 to 10 inches (20 to 25 centimeters) of rain ... it turned into a swollen, raging river. And it just tossed and turned both of those vehicles," Eggleston said.

A search continued late in the afternoon for the second person, while farther north in Madison

County, the sheriff's office said rescuers were searching for a female reported missing in water the night before.

The storm, already blamed for at least four deaths in the U.S. earlier in the week, was pushing across the Great Lakes on Thurs-

day. But the National Weather Service said the potential for more rainfall and flash flooding would continue for the Southeast, the Ohio Valley and the mid-Atlantic through the end of the week.

Authorities also responded to at least 10 other water rescues and received reports of damage to homes, the extent of which wasn't immediately clear, Eggleston said.

Schools in the county were closed due to poor road conditions. Authorities throughout the region posted photos of washed-out roads and bridges, and they warned people to avoid unnecessary travel.

Eggleston warned of the possibility of more flooding as soon as Thursday evening, when there was a chance of additional rain. "Everything is just bubbling," he said. "The streams are overflowing right now. Everything's at full capacity, if not more. So any additional rain would just make them swell again."

Puff, puff, plunge for pot prices in Ore.

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — When Oregon lawmakers created the state's legal marijuana program, they had one goal in mind above all else: to convince illicit pot growers to leave the black market.

That meant low barriers for entering the industry that also targeted long-standing medical marijuana growers, whose product is not taxed. As a result, weed production boomed — with a bitter consequence.

Now, marijuana prices here are in freefall, and the craft cannabis farmers who put Oregon on the map decades before broad legalization say they are in peril of losing their now-legal businesses as the market adjusts.

Oregon's Liquor Control Commission on Wednesday announced they will stop processing new applications for marijuana licenses in two weeks to address a severe backlog and ask state lawmakers to take up the issue next year.

Experts say the dizzying evolution of Oregon's marijuana industry may well be a cautionary tale for California, where a similar regulatory structure could mean an oversupply on a much larger scale. "For the way the program is set up, the state (California) just wants to get as many people in as possible, and they make no bones about it," said Hilary Bricken, a Los Angeles-based attorney spe-

cializing in marijuana business law. "Most of these companies will fail as a result of oversaturation."

The oversupply can be traced largely to state lawmakers' and regulators' earliest decisions to shape the industry. They were acutely aware of Oregon's entrenched history of providing top-drawer pot to the black market nationwide, as well as a concentration of small farmers who had years of cultivation experience in the legal, but largely unregulated, medical pot program.

Getting those growers into the system was critical if a legitimate industry was to flourish, said Sen. Ginny Burdick, a Portland Democrat who co-chaired a committee created to implement the voter-approved legalization measure. To encourage this transition, lawmakers decided not to cap licenses; to allow businesses to apply for multiple licenses; and to implement relatively inexpensive licensing fees.

The decision to stop processing license applications comes after U.S. Attorney Billy Williams challenged state officials to address the oversupply. "In my view, and frankly in the view of those in the industry that I've heard from, it's a failing of the state for not stepping back and taking a look at where this industry is at following legalization," Williams told the AP in a phone interview.

Lawmakers also quickly back-

tracked on a rule requiring that marijuana businesses have a majority ownership by someone with Oregon residency after entrepreneurs complained it was hard to secure startup money. That change opened the door to deep-pocketed, out-of-state companies that could begin consolidating the industry.

Now, cannabis retail chains are emerging to take advantage of the shake-up. A company called Nectar has 13 stores around the state — with three more on tap — and says on its website it is buying up for-sale dispensaries too. Canada-based Golden Leaf Holdings bought the successful Oregon startup Chalice and has six stores around Portland, with another slated to open.

William Simpson, Chalice's founder and Golden Leaf Holdings CEO, is expanding into Northern California, Nevada and Canada. Simpson welcomes criticism that his business is to cannabis what Starbucks is to mass-market coffee. "If you take Chalice like Starbucks, it's a known quantity, it's a brand that people know and trust," he said.

Amy Margolis, the Oregon Cannabis Association's executive director, says capping licenses would only spur more consolidation in the long term. Margolis says, "I'm very interested to see ... how this market settles itself and (in) being able to do that from a little less of a reactionary place."

OREGON WEED BY THE NUMBERS

1,000,000
pounds of marijuana

4,000,000
Oregon residents

50%
lower wholesale prices

\$7
less per gram

1,001
licenses granted

950
licenses pending

NATIONAL

Trump pardons D'Souza, says more may come

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Thursday announced on Twitter that he is giving a full pardon to conservative provocateur Dinesh D'Souza and said he is considering action in two other cases, those of Martha Stewart and convicted former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich.

Early Thursday, Trump tweeted he would pardon D'Souza, saying, "He was treated very unfairly by our government!" D'Souza pleaded guilty in 2014 to campaign finance fraud, for which he claimed selective prosecution. The judge who presided over his case ruled he had produced no evidence to back up that assertion.

His case has been a cause for some conservatives, who say D'Souza was targeted for his caustic, sometimes racist, criticism of former President Barack Obama and his wife.

Later, Trump said he was also considering pardoning Stewart, who was convicted in an insider trade case in 2004. He also said he might move to limit Blagojevich's sentence, indicating that he thought it was excessive. Blagojevich, a Democrat, was convicted of corruption for seeking to benefit from making a Senate appointment to fill the vacancy left after former Sen. Barack Obama became president.



D'Souza

Opioid maker seeks dismissal of Alaska lawsuit

JUNEAU, Alaska — The maker of the prescription opioid painkiller OxyContin is asking a judge in Alaska to dismiss a lawsuit that lays blame with the company for the state's epidemic of opioid abuse. The state sued Purdue Pharma and its affiliates last year, alleging deceptive marketing practices and saying Purdue developed "a well-funded and deeply deceptive marketing scheme that targeted prescribers and prospective patients and caused a sea change in how opioids were perceived and prescribed."

Purdue and other drugmakers are facing hundreds of lawsuits from governments claiming the companies played a role in sparking opioid addiction and an overdose crisis that killed 42,000 Americans in 2016. Motions to dismiss have been filed by manufacturers in other cases, with rulings pending in several of the lawsuits.

In court filings in the Alaska case, Purdue attorneys say the state is trying to hold the company liable while disregarding factors such as a doctor's judgment, a patient's decision on how to use the drug, and the state's decision on whether to cover drug costs through Medicaid.

St. Paul archdiocese to pay \$210M to abuse victims

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis has agreed to a \$210 million settlement with 450 victims of clergy sexual abuse as part of its plan for bankruptcy reorganization, an attorney said Thursday, making it the second-largest U.S. payout in the priest sex abuse scandal.

Victims' attorney Jeff Anderson said the settlement was reached with the survivors and the archdiocese and includes accountability measures. The money, a total of \$210,290,724, will go into a pot to pay survivors, with the amount for each survivor to be determined.

Archbishop Bernard Hebda said he was grateful to victims who came forward. "I recognize that the abuse stole so much from you, your childhood, your innocence, your ability to trust ... your faith," he said, adding that he hopes the settlement brings closure to victims.

Nebraska officials fear grain tower will collapse

SOUTH SIOUX CITY, Neb. — Authorities have not let northeast Nebraska residents who live near a grain elevator damaged in an explosion return to their homes, fearing the structure could collapse at any moment.

Tuesday's blast blew a gaping hole into the Andersen Farms elevator in South Sioux City, injuring two people. City Police Chief Ed Mahon told the Sioux City (Iowa) Journal that inspectors haven't identified the cause of the explosion.

The structural integrity of the 230-foot tower also remains uncertain, Mahon said. Engineers hope to tear down the elevator in a controlled fashion before it falls on its own.

The evacuation zone has been reduced, so some residents living near the grain elevator have gone back to their homes. Residents who are still restricted from their homes were permitted to return briefly to retrieve belongings.

Calif. to invest in friendly future for electric vehicles

LOS ANGELES — California utilities will invest \$768 million to expand a network of charging stations and other infrastructure for electric vehicles as the state moves toward a goal of 5 million zero-emission cars on the roads by 2030.

The California Public Utilities Commission voted 5-0 Thursday to pay for programs statewide over the next five years, with an emphasis on establishing facilities in disadvantaged communities where traffic and air pollution are often heaviest. The funding includes \$136 million by San Diego Gas & Electric Co. to provide rebates for up to 60,000 customers to install home charging stations. Pacific Gas and Electric will build 230 direct current fast-charging stations, for a total of nearly \$22.5 million. And Southern California Edison will lay out \$343 million for the electrification of almost 8,500 medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.



Due to a new wild-card program that gave an alternative path for spellers who didn't win their highly competitive regions, this year's Scripps National Spelling Bee nearly doubled in size with 519 contestants, including these six. TOP: Aisha Randhawa, Ranitha Kumarasinghe and Adom Appiah react after spelling a word correctly. BOTTOM: Paul Hamrick, Tobi Shorunke and Natalie Lutz react after spelling a word incorrectly.

BEWUSSTSEINSLAGE

Misspelling German word, Frisco student places second

BY BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

Naysa Modi did attend the festive Memorial Day barbecue that kicks off the week for competitors in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. But she left on the first bus available to return to the convention center outside Washington where the bee is staged. She blew off that evening's opening ceremonies, too, feeling like she'd seen it all before.

For the record, the word Naysa missed means "a state of consciousness or a feeling devoid of sensory components."

Naysa, who first competed in the bee as a cherubic 9-year-old, is now a poised and accomplished speller in her fourth appearance, with a businesslike approach to match.

"I know what to expect now. I'm not that overwhelmed," said Naysa, whose outgoing personality masks a fierce competitive drive.

"I try not to think about it," she added, "but I know inside I have expectations for how I'm going to do."

The 12-year-old seventh-grader from Frisco, Texas, was one of 16 spellers who advanced to Thursday's prime-time finals after surviving five rounds that stretched over 4½ hours and were never quite difficult

enough for the unflappable group onstage. At the end of the night, she placed second.

Naysa was one of three spellers who finished in last year's top 10 who had a chance to equal or improve upon that feat. The others were 12-year-old Shuthrika Padhy of Cherry Hill, New Jersey, and 13-year-old Erin Howard of Huntsville, Alabama. All three are seventh-graders, which means they have one more year of eligibility.

That's not the case for this year's only five-time speller, Tara Singh of Louisville, Kentucky, who made the prime-time finals for the first time. The 13-year-old is in eighth grade and this was her last shot.

Five of the 16 finalists were in the bee for the first time, including the youngest remaining speller, 11-year-old Abhijay Kodali of Flower Mound, Texas.

Twelve-year-old Aisha Randhawa of Corona, California, has something in common with Jairam Hathwar, the champion from two years ago; both are avid golfers who find some common ground among the solitary pursuits of golf and spelling.

"You have to have focus and determination and enjoy yourself," Aisha said, "which are the same things you have to have as a speller."

Aisha was one of three finalists who got the highest score on the bee-opening spelling and vocabulary test, and her assessment of the morning finals shows how deep Scripps will need to dig in the dictionary to determine a champion. She said she only heard one word she didn't know.

Naysa never appeared rattled. Her focus only wavered during commercial breaks, when she chatted with fellow spellers on stage and accepted hugs from former competitors and her mom. She got big cheers every time she nailed a word, having formed close friendships over four years of competitive spelling.

"I just know there's people that are going to be with me even if I get that word wrong," Naysa said. "That takes away a lot of stress."

Thursday morning began with 41 finalists, and the only major surprise among those eliminated was another Texan, Sohum Sukhatankar. The Dallas native won last year's North South Foundation spelling bee — one of the highly competitive minor-league bees that serve as training grounds for the Indian-American kids who've come to dominate the Scripps stage.

This year's bee was bigger than ever, with 519 competitors, because Scripps launched a new wild-card program that provides an alternative path for spellers who didn't win their highly competitive regions. Four of the 16 remaining finalists were wild-card entrants.

The prime-time finals were larger than ever, too; Scripps tries to narrow the field to a dozen or fewer for the ESPN telecast. The previous record for the nighttime competition was 15, set last year.



Naysa Modi, 12, from Frisco, Texas, reacts to spelling a word correctly during the final round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Md., Thursday.



Rohan Raja, 12, from Irving, Texas, reacts to spelling a word correctly during the final round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Oxon Hill, Md., Thursday.

Who were the Texans in the final round?

- **Karthik Nemmani**, a 14-year-old from McKinney. This is his first Scripps National Spelling Bee. He is the 2018 champion.
- **Naysa Modi**, a 12-year-old from Frisco. This is her fourth Scripps National Spelling Bee. In 2017, she tied for seventh place.
- **Rohan Raja**, a 12-year-old from Irving. This is his first Scripps National Spelling Bee.
- **Abhijay Kodali**, an 11-year-old from Flower Mound. This is his first Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Who are some other Texans who won?

- **Nihar Saireddy Janga**, 2017 co-champion from Austin
- **Ansun Sujoe**, 2014 co-champion from Fort Worth
- **Sai Gunturi**, 2003 champion from Dallas
- **Blake Giddens**, 1983 champion from El Paso
- **Barrie Trinkle**, 1973 champion from Fort Worth
- **Robin Kral**, 1972 champion from Lubbock

All in: Kid spellers consider vocabulary a junior career

STRETCHED THIN

Some spellers devote years to studying the dictionary, word roots and language patterns. Then there's Rebekah Zeigler.

The 13-year-old from Polo, Illinois, is certainly an accomplished speller. She's competing for the fourth time, although she's never made the finals.

That may be because she also competes in tumbling, volleyball, soccer, softball, basketball, cheerleading, and track and field. Next month she'll be at the U.S. Trampoline and Tumbling Association national championships.

"I don't have a lot of free time," Rebekah said.

UNUSUAL REPRIEVE

Reagan Remmers of Missoula, Montana, was heading to lunch with her mom after she misspelled "balaklava."

Or so she thought.

"My mom got a phone call that told her I was reinstated," Reagan said. "I was like, 'Oh, sweet!'"

Turns out, the spelling Reagan gave — "Balaklava" — is a city in Ukraine. Since the judges didn't warn her that her word had a homonym and because Reagan didn't ask for the definition — a garment covering the head and neck except for parts of the face — her spelling was deemed correct after further review.

DEAD AIR

Considering how far he had to travel to get to the bee, Daniel Doudna can be forgiven for taking his time at the microphone.

Daniel lives in Fairbanks, Alaska, one of three spellers from the state. But the 4,100-mile trip to Washington is nothing new for the 14-year-old: This is his second time in the bee.

When Daniel starts spelling, he's more deliberate than most, pausing after each letter and letting silence hang in the air. His word on Wednesday was "quietude," and he created some.

"I made too many mistakes by going fast," he said. "After each letter, I mentally review the word to see what the next letter is."

What were the winning words in past Scripps National Spelling Bees?

2017: Marocain ■ 2016: Feldenkrais/Gesellschaft ■ 2015: Nunatak/Scherenschnitte ■ 2014: Feuilleton/Stichomythia ■ 2013: Knaidel ■ 2012: Guetapens ■ 2011: Cymotrichous ■ 2010: Stromuhr ■ 2009: Laodicean ■ 2008: Guerdon ■ 2007: Serrefine ■ 2006: Ursprache ■ 2005: Appoggiatura ■ 2004: Autochthonous ■ 2003: Pocourante ■ 2002: Prospicence ■ 2001: Succedaneum ■ 2000: Demarche ■ 1999: Logorhea ■ 1998: Chiaroscuro ■ 1997: Eponym ■ 1996: Vivisepulture ■ 1995: Xanthosis ■ 1994: Antediluvian ■ 1993: Kamikaze ■ 1992: Lyceum ■ 1991: Antipyretic ■ 1990: Fibranne



94°/73°
Partly cloudy

REDEMPTION

Liverpool beats Tottenham, 2-0, to take home Champions League soccer title in Madrid. Salah scores penalty kick in match's second minute. **SPORTS, 6**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019



12 dead, 4 wounded in Virginia



PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brittany Myers, right, embraces her husband, Ryan, during a vigil in response to a fatal shooting at a municipal building in Virginia Beach, Virginia, on Saturday. A longtime city employee opened fire at the building Friday before police shot and killed him, authorities said.

Mourners remember victims at somber vigil

BEN FINLEY
Associated Press

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The 12 people who were fatally shot in a Virginia Beach gov-

ernment building were remembered Saturday during a somber news conference and prayer vigil as officials sought to focus on those who died and not the gunman.

Police Chief James Cervera identified the assailant as DeWayne Craddock, who was employed for 15 years as an engineer with the city's utilities department. Cervera declined to comment on a motive for Friday's rampage, which ended with Craddock's death in a gun battle with police. City officials uttered his name just once and said they would not mention it again.

City Manager Dave Hansen said he had worked for years with many of the victims, 11 of whom were city employees. The 12th

was a contractor trying to get a permit.

Their names and photos were projected on a screen as Hansen read out biographical information that included their hometowns and years of service.

"They leave a void that we will never be able to fill," he said.

Chaplains and family assistance workers worked through the night to notify relatives — a job that Hansen described as "the most difficult task anyone will ever have to do."

■ VICTIMS, Page 2

More thirsty Texans raises need for water

DAVID WARREN
Associated Press

DALLAS — About 1,000 people arrive in Texas each day, drawn by jobs, newly built homes and other opportunities. But in a state where prolonged drought is a regular occurrence, officials are struggling to ensure they can sate everyone's thirst.

Water experts are trying to determine how "resilient" the state's water infrastructure is in keeping safe drinking water flowing through the taps.

There are indications that the system is more fragile than once thought: After Hurricane Harvey in 2017, more than 200 public water systems shut down or warned customers to boil their tap water.

Months later, 3,700 Texans still lacked access to safe drinking water. Before that



CEDAR ATTANASIO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this photo from May 2, water worker Hector Sepulveda gives a tour of a desalination plant in El Paso. With a rising population, Texas officials worry about long-term planning for water infrastructure.

storm, 30 towns in 2013 were within six months of running out of water as a drought continued to grip the state.

"The state is growing so fast that we're constantly playing catch-up when it comes to building resilient water supplies," said Robert Mace, director of The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State University. "The question is: When the bad times come will there be enough water for everybody?"

As the planet warms and weather patterns turn more extreme, droughts — as well as floods — in the state generally have worsened. Meanwhile, the state population is expected to double by 2050 to more

■ THIRSTING, Page 2



DANIEL BECERRIL / REUTERS

Tractor-trailers wait to cross into U.S. at the World Trade Bridge in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, on April 2.

Tariffs could hurt Texas trade

JULIÁN AGUILAR
Texas Tribune

With a looming trade war with Mexico on the horizon, Texas' proximity to its southern neighbor could spell economic trouble for the state's consumers and workforce. But it's the added dynamic of how this country trades with Mexico that could do far greater damage to the state and national economies than

President Donald Trump's current trade battles with China or Canada, analysts warn. Late Thursday, Trump announced he would begin imposing 5% tariffs on all products imported from Mexico on June 10 if that country didn't do more to curb the flow of unauthorized immigrants traveling through Mexico on their way to the United States. Trump said

he would increase it to as high as 25% by October if Mexico doesn't act. The tariff announcement comes as the Trump administration escalates its trade war with China, which has led both countries to impose billions in duties on goods imported to their respective countries.

But the impact from tar-

■ TARIFFS, Page 2

Levee breaches flood Midwestern communities

HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Crews were making a "last ditch effort" on Saturday to save low-lying parts of a small Arkansas city from floodwaters pouring through a breached levee. Downstream, authorities were warning people to leave a neighborhood that sits across the swollen river from the state capital.

In Iowa, a flood barrier along the Mississippi River failed Saturday, flooding four to six blocks of downtown Burlington, a city of about 25,000 people 170 miles southeast of Des Moines.

On Friday, the Arkansas River, which has been flooding communities for more than a week, tore a 40-foot hole in a levee in Dardanelle, a city of about 4,700 people roughly 100 miles upstream from Little Rock.

Dardanelle Mayor Jimmy Witt said Saturday that officials don't believe a temporary levee being constructed will stop the water from flooding the south side of the city, but he hopes it will buy time for residents of up to 800 threatened homes to prepare.

"We have started a last ditch effort to try and protect the southern borders of the city," he said at a news conference.

The river has been widening the levee breach and floodwaters have been slowly approaching homes, officials said. Water from some creeks and tributaries has already flooded some houses, they said. Yell County judge Mark Thone said flooding has surrounded about 25 people in a rural community a few miles south of Dardanelle, and several roads have closed due to high water.

Meanwhile in North Little Rock,



YELL COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

In this aerial image provided by Yell County Sheriff's Department water rushes through the levee along Arkansas River in Dardanelle, Arkansas, on Friday. Officials say the levee breached early Friday at Dardanelle, about 60 miles northwest of Little Rock.

which is just across the Arkansas River from Little Rock, officials were going door to door Saturday to tell people in the Dixie Addition neighborhood to consider leaving. The river isn't expected to crest in the Little Rock area until Tuesday, but North Little Rock

officials said on Facebook that they believe the river will back up storm drainage areas and cause roads to become inaccessible in and around Dixie Addition, possibly for more than a week.

■ FLOODS, Page 2

US visa applicants must now provide social media info

WASHINGTON — The State Department is now requiring nearly all U.S. visa applicants to submit their social media usernames, previous email addresses and phone numbers. It's a vast expansion of the Trump administration's enhanced screening of potential immigrants and visitors.

In a move that has just taken effect after approval of the revised application forms, department officials said they have updated its immigrant and non-immigrant visa forms to request the additional information, including "social media identifiers," from almost all U.S. applicants.

The change, which was proposed in March 2018, is ex-

■ US ADDS, Page 2



PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

People gather for a vigil on Saturday after a fatal shooting in Virginia Beach, Virginia. A city employee opened fire at a municipal building Friday before police shot and killed him, authorities said.

Victims of Va. shooting remembered

Continued from Page 1

One of the dead employees had worked for the city for 41 years. Six worked in the same department as Craddock, though authorities have declined to say if anyone was specifically targeted or if the suspect had issued threats before. The victims were found throughout the building, on three floors, police said. Authorities have said Craddock opened fire indiscriminately. Four other people were wounded, including a police officer whose bulletproof vest saved his life. The suspect was armed with a .45-caliber handgun with a noise suppressor, police said. Cervera said Saturday that more weapons were found at the scene and at his home. Virginia is

among 42 states that allow residents to purchase and possess suppressors, though some cities and towns, including Virginia Beach, prohibit them. Two law enforcement officials told The AP that the gunman made multiple legal firearm purchases recently, and the guns recovered at the scene were purchased legally. The officials were not authorized to discuss an ongoing investigation publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The building was open to the public, but security passes were required to enter inner offices, conference rooms and other work areas. As a current employee, Craddock would have had the pass to enter the inner offices, Hansen said. Craddock appeared to have had no felony record, which would have made him eligible to purchase guns. Around 200 people attended a Saturday prayer vigil for those killed. The crowd included city work-

We remember the Virginia Beach victims

- Tara Gallagher
- Mary Gayle
- Alexander Gusev
- Katherine Nixon
- Ryan Cox
- Joshua Hardy
- Michelle Langer
- Laquita Brown
- Robert Williams
- Richard Nettleton
- Christopher Rapp
- Herbert Snelling

ers, community leaders and residents who wanted to offer hugs and condolences. Many people sobbed or dabbed their eyes with tissues. Gov. Ralph Northam also attended. Craddock's neighbors said police swarmed the neighborhood of modest townhomes Friday in Virginia Beach. Some said he had lived there for at least 10 years. Visit swjournalist.com as we continue to cover the Virginia Beach shooting.

Thirsting for more water in Texas

Continued from Page 1

than 50 million people. Some Texas cities are seen as models in planning years in advance to keep supplies flowing to customers. El Paso, which has about 700,000 people living in a desert region that gets only 9 inches of rain annually, receives international groups wanting to learn more about innovative facilities like the largest inland desalination plant in the U.S. San Antonio launched its own desalination plant in 2017 and intends to begin importing water from a well field 140 miles away next year, giving the area a dozen different sources of water for some 2.5 million people. But the big-ticket projects in Texas and greater push for long-term planning — the state updates its water strategy every five years based on a 50-year outlook — smack head-on against infrastructure defined by aging water lines, outdated treatment plants and smaller utilities focused on their own interests rather than regional ones. These and other factors were at play in 2015 when Texas cities and utilities issued 1,550 boil-water advisories, up from about 1,100 in 2012 and 650 in 2008, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Such problems don't become easier when the rains wane. "We're actually falling more behind for the big one, the repeat of the drought of record," Mace said. In 2002, Texas was lagging by 2.4 million acre-feet in meeting water demands at the height of severe drought, he said, and now the state is 4.7 million acre-feet behind. An acre-foot amounts to 1 foot of water

across an acre of land. Smaller communities "are the ones really struggling," Mace said. Many don't have the customer base to afford a revamped water supply without a substantial increase in water bills. They're also home to utilities that experts say are risk-averse and reluctant to embrace new technology. Robert Paterson, an associate professor at the University of Texas with expertise in growth management and sustainable community development, said Texas trails other states when it comes to broad regional planning that incorporates water needs, land use and other aims. As Paterson notes, watersheds don't care about boundaries. "To have it all fragmented from city to city is really problematic and very wasteful," Paterson said. His sentiment isn't lost on the Texas Water Development Board. The agency, which coordinates water planning and strategy in Texas, recently altered its approach by no longer basing long-term strategy on political or city boundaries, according to Temple McKinnon, its director of water use, projections and planning. The focus now is on the needs and projections of water providers. "Converting to utility-based planning has been a herculean effort," McKinnon acknowledged. The work is no easier for water providers, which experts say must cobble together the money necessary to deliver a plentiful amount of safe, potable water — through conservation programs, groundwater and surface water supplies, reservoirs, water reuse and other means. "There's not a silver bullet, more like a silver machine gun, in the sense of many different strategies that can be employed to meet the state's demands," Mace said.

The state is growing so fast that we're constantly playing catch-up when it comes to building resilient water supplies

ROBERT MACE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MEADOWS CENTER FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT AT TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY

200

public water systems shut down after Hurricane Harvey in 2017

1,550

boil-water advisories in 2015, up from 1,100 in 2012

2.5 million

people who will depend on imported water in 2019

INFLATABLE TIANANMEN SQUARE



CHIANG YING-YING/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tourists walk past an inflatable man and tank at the Liberty Square of Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan on June 1. The larger-than-life balloon installation portrays a peaceful encounter between a Chinese civilian and the military tanks that contributed to a brutal shutdown of the demonstrations in Beijing on June 4, 1989.

Tariffs may impact Texans

Continued from Page 1

iffs on Mexican goods could have a deeper reach because of just how many U.S. products contain parts or labor supplied by both countries, said Shannon O'Neil, the vice president of the Council on Foreign Relations. "The way U.S. workers will be hit by this is very different. The imports coming in from Mexico have the highest percentage of U.S.-made products within them," she said. "On average, 40% of products are made in the U.S. so those American workers that are making that 40% are going to get hit as hard as their Mexican counterparts." Some industries — including

automakers — import and export products back and forth across the border more than once, which means those goods could be subject to multiple tariffs. For example, two of the top U.S. exports to Mexico are auto and computer parts, while two of the top imports from Mexico are auto parts and computers, according to trade data analyzed by WorldCity. The threat by the president comes after Mexico recently became the United States' largest trading partner — it has been Texas' top trade partner for several years. Through March, the U.S. exported \$63.95 billion worth of goods and imported \$86.63 bil-

lion worth of goods from Mexico. Texas' ports at Laredo and El Paso are the two busiest on the border, with \$55.8 and \$18.6 billion passing through those regions, respectively. That means the effect from tariffs will be felt first in border states, O'Neil said. "Many of those jobs in those regional supply chains where goods and parts come back and forth across the border, many of those jobs are in Texas," she said. "And the whole logistics industry, the people whose lives depend on trade that move things back and forth, all of those jobs will get hit as this trade gets more expensive."

Many of those jobs in those regional supply chains where goods and parts come back and forth across the border, many of those jobs are in Texas.

SHANNON O'NEIL

US adds visa requirements

Continued from Page 1

pected to affect about 15 million foreigners who apply for visas to enter the United States each year. Social media, email and phone number histories had only been sought in the past from applicants who were identified for extra scrutiny, such as people who had traveled to areas controlled by terrorist organizations. An estimated 65,000 applicants per year had fallen into that category. The department says collecting the additional information from more applicants "will strengthen our process for vetting these ap-

plicants and confirming their identity." When it filed its initial notice to make the change, department officials estimated it would affect 710,000 immigrant visa applicants and 14 million nonimmigrant visa applicants, including those who want to come to the U.S. for business or education. The new visa application forms list a number of social media platforms and require the applicant to provide any account names they may have had on them over the previous five years. They also give applicants the option to volunteer information about social media accounts on platforms not listed on the form. Only applicants for certain diplomatic and official visa types are exempted from the requirements.



MIKE SIMONS/TULSA WORLD

Billy Madison dismantles a homemade levee behind his home in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 31. His levee worked and kept water away from his home. Water has been breaching levees across the central Midwest.

Floods displace Midwesterners

Continued from Page 1

City spokesman Nathan Hamilton said there are about 150 homes covered by the evacuation recommendation. He said other homes also could be affected by flooding, but officials were currently focusing on only the most pressing neighborhood. The evacuation recommenda-

tion followed a false alarm overnight that a nearby levee had breached and that flash flooding was possible. Officials quickly reversed themselves, though, and said that it hadn't failed and wasn't in danger of doing so. Gov. Asa Hutchinson said Friday that officials were working to identify higher-risk spots in the Arkansas River's levee system. "The breach in Dardanelle is a sign that there could be more of these breaches that will happen as the pressure continues to mount in the coming days," Hutchinson said.

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2019 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

BRIEFS

Explosion at Russian TNT plant injures 79

MOSCOW — Russia’s health ministry says 79 people have been injured in an explosion in a plant manufacturing TNT.

The blast took place Saturday in Dzerzhinsk, 250 miles east of Moscow. The cause of the blast is being investigated.

The ministry said 38 plant employees and 41 local residents sought treatment after the blast. It said 15 were hospitalized, one in serious condition.

The blast broke windows in about 180 residential buildings near the plant, the state news agency Tass reported.

Italy’s Mount Etna erupts, oozes lava down side

CATANIA, Sicily — Mount Etna, Europe’s most active volcano, is spewing ash and lava once again, but officials say the activity is taking place at its summit and does not pose a risk to people.

Etna began a new phase of eruptions on Thursday as new cracks in the volcano opened up, sending lava down its flank.

The volcano previously erupted in December and sparked minor earthquakes that caused extensive damage to buildings in the vicinity.

Eugenio Privitera, the director in Catania of Italy’s National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology, says this eruption is taking place at the summit. He says it does not pose risks to local people but visitors to Etna will need to be kept away from the summit for their own safety.

Privitera says this new active phase could be over quickly or it could go on for months. The Italian news agency ANSA says the volcano’s activity has not yet caused problems for the nearby airport at the Sicilian city of Catania.

Explosions kill 10 at Syria’s northern city of Raqa

BEIRUT (AP) — Two explosions killed 10 people in Raqa Saturday in the latest attacks to hit the city in northern Syria, opposition activists reported.

The blasts occurred in two different locations in the city.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the first blast was a roadside bomb in the city center. It said the second blast was carried out by a suicide attacker driving a vehicle at a checkpoint of U.S.-backed fighters in the central Naim Square, killing five fighters and five civilians.

The Sound and Pictures activist collective that covers IS atrocities said 10 people were killed in the square. Another activist group also said that at least 10 people were killed in Naim Square.

74 migrants caught crossing English Channel

LONDON — Britain’s Border Force intercepted 74 people Saturday, including minors, on eight vessels crossing the English Channel.

French authorities stopped two more boats.

Authorities said that a criminal investigation was underway. The nationalities of the migrants are still being determined. Coastguard officials said the incidents stretched along Britain’s southeast coast, from the port of Dover to Winchelsea Beach near Hastings, 50 miles away.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said he would work with French border authorities to halt this rise in people trafficking across the Channel.

“Those who choose to make this dangerous journey across one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world are putting their lives in grave danger — and I will continue to do all I can to stop them,” he said in a statement Saturday night.

So far this year, over 21,300 migrants have crossed the Mediterranean Sea into Europe, and at least 519 others have died trying, according to the International Organization for Migration. Overall, migration into Europe is down substantially since over 1 million asylum-seekers and migrants came to the continent in 2015.

‘El Chapo’ family gets US visas to visit drug lord

MEXICO CITY — The mother of convicted drug kingpin Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán said Saturday that the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City granted her a visa to visit her son in prison.

Consuelo Loera said that she and two daughters were both approved Saturday for visas to travel to the United States.

“Thank God, the U.S. Embassy gave me the permission,” she said. Loera said she hasn’t seen her son in more than four years.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador lobbied for the visa to be issued after receiving a letter in February from Loera asking for assistance. In the letter, Loera described herself as “suffering and desperate” to see her son. The president said he intervened out of empathy.

Bomb attack kills soldier in northwest Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — The Pakistani military says one of its soldiers has been killed by a gun and bomb attack during a patrol in a northwestern region near the Afghan border.

The statement says a military vehicle was attacked Saturday in the Baya area of North Waziristan district.

Over the past month, the statement says five soldiers have been killed and 31 injured by militant attacks in North Waziristan.

The military has arrested parliament member Mahsin Dawar and another legislator, Ali Wazir, accusing them of leading an attack by protesters that set off a deadly shootout on Sunday. The two lawmakers represent a Pashtun group that denounces what it says is the military’s excessive use of force against local tribesmen.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian conflict escalates

BY ZEYNEP BILGINSOY
Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Ankara and Moscow are again facing an escalation of violence in Syria’s last rebel-held territory, a development that puts their cooperation to the test even as they support opposing sides in the eight-year war that has devastated Syria.

An offensive by Syrian government forces to capture Idlib in northwestern Syria from insurgents could cause an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, as the area is home to 3 million people. Turkey, which is already hosting more than 3.6 million Syrian refugees, is facing pressure from Syria, Iran and Russia to control the armed rebel factions in Idlib.

In September, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian President Vladimir Putin brokered a cease-fire for Idlib, preventing a bloody onslaught, despite the fact that Russia has firmly backed Assad and Turkey supports opposition forces. Nine months later, the truce has failed.

Syrian ground forces have been advancing from the south of the rebel stronghold under the cover of Syrian and Russian airstrikes.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said more than 291 civilians and 369 fighters have been killed since April 30 in the rebel stronghold. In the same period, 269 government troops and 22 civilians were killed in government areas by rebel fire. The United Nation’s children’s agency said more than 130 children have been killed. More than 200,000 people from the stronghold have been displaced, according to the U.N., with some seeking safety near the border with Turkey and others in crowded Syrian camps.

In late April, Putin said he would not rule out a large-scale assault but “together with our Syrian friends, we believe that this would not be advisable.”

Much of Idlib has come under



UGUR CAN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Sept. 14, 2018, file photo, protesters wave revolutionary Syrian and Turkish flags as they attend a demonstration against the Syrian government offensive in Idlib, in Maarat al-Numan, south of Idlib, Syria. The violence raging once again in the northwestern province of Idlib, Syria’s last rebel-held bastion, is putting Turkish-Russian relations to the test.

the control of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, or HTS, which Russia accuses of targeting its military base. HTS is considered a terrorist organization by the United States, Russia and Turkey, despite its claims it has disassociated from al-Qaida.

Erdogan and Putin agreed to work with the cease-fire agreement to prevent civilian deaths and a refugee flow. They also agreed to meet at next month’s

Group of 20 conference in Japan.

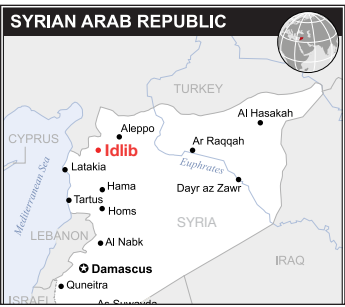
“Apart from this dialogue ... there is nothing on the ground that can prevent a catastrophe in Idlib,” Emre Ersan, an associate professor of international relations and political science at Istanbul’s Marmara University, says.

Erdogan is so far keeping his promise to buy Russian-made S-400 missiles despite U.S. warnings the system would jeopardize Turkey’s participation in the F-35

fighter jet program and compromise its safety.

Turkey and the U.S. are discussing a safe zone in northeastern Syria and asked the U.S. to end its military support for Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF. Erdogan will meet U.S. President Donald Trump at the G-20.

Ersan believes Russia may allow Turkey to grab the northern town of Tel Rifaat from the Kurdish fighters, the last town they control in western Syria. Russian support could help Turkey put pressure on the SDF and strengthen its hand in ongoing negotiations with the U.S. In exchange, he argues, Turkey could be open to some limited Syrian operation toward Idlib.



Pope preaches unity for Romanians at Mass

BY NICOLAE DUMITRACHE AND NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

MIERCUREA CIUC, Romania — Pope Francis braved a rain-soaked drive through the mountains of Transylvania on Saturday to visit Romania’s Sumuleu Ciuc shrine, urging Romanian and ethnic Hungarian faithful to work together.

Storms forced Francis to change his travel plans and add in a three-hour car ride through the Carpathian mountains that he had planned to traverse via helicopter. The steady rains doused the estimated 80,000-100,000 people who gathered for the Mass at the Sumuleu Ciuc shrine, which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The showers had let up, but the 82-year-old seemed unsteady after the long trip and held onto the arms of aides as he negotiated a mud-slicked path to get to the altar for Mass.

In his homily, Francis praised Romania’s multicultural tapestry and urged its people to put aside past divisions for the sake

of “journeying together.”

The rights of around 1.2 million ethnic Hungarians who live in Romania have been at the center of political disputes between the two countries for decades. Hungary lost Transylvania in the peace treaties after World War I. The region remains heavily Hungarian in culture and language.

“Complicated and sorrow-filled situations from the past must not be forgotten or denied, yet neither must they be an obstacle or an excuse standing in the way of our desire to live together as brothers and sisters,” Francis said.

After Mass, the Pope headed to the city of Iasi in the northeast, where he met with young Romanians and their families.

“It is a joy, it is a joy,” said 71-year old Elisabeta Balan, the mother of 11 children who was among those chosen to address the pope in Iasi. “We are very happy that he comes in Iasi and for this occasion we succeeded in bringing our big family together.”



ANDREW MEDICHINI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Francis greets two girls as he arrives for a meeting with young people and families, in Iasi, Romania, Saturday.

ANDREW MEDICHINI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pope Francis arrives to celebrate Mass at the Marian shrine, in Sumuleu Ciuc, Romania, Saturday. The Pope began a three-day pilgrimage to Romania on Friday.



Captain arrested for fatal wreck

BY PABLO GORONDI
Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary — A Hungarian judge on Saturday ordered the formal arrest of a captain whose Viking river cruise ship collided with a sightseeing boat on the Danube River, sinking the tourist boat and leaving seven dead and 21 other people missing.

Authorities said water levels in Budapest are expected to fall in the coming days, helping efforts to salvage the victims’ bodies.

The judge ordered the 64-year-old Ukrainian captain of the Viking Sigyn cruise ship formally arrested for 30 days. He said the captain could be released on bail, but prosecutors are appealing that decision.

The Viking ship collided Wednesday evening with a much smaller sightseeing boat carrying 35 people, most of them South Korean tourists, in Budapest. Seven people were rescued.

Divers have been unable to reach the tour boat wreckage due to strong currents and murky waters.

The captain is suspected of endangering water traffic causing a fatal mass disaster, which carries a sentence of 2 to 8 years.



LASZLO BALOGH / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rescue team members are seen on a barge floating on the Danube river where a sightseeing boat capsized in Budapest, Hungary, Saturday.

The captain, identified only as Yuriy C. in line with Hungarian laws, has been in custody since Thursday. His lawyers dispute that their client made any mistakes leading to the collision, which took place under a heavy rain and with restricted visibility.

Defense lawyer Gabor Elo said there are no grounds to consider his client a suspect in the case, arguing that the prosecution’s request for the arrest was motivated by the fact that the captain is a Ukrainian citizen.

Elo said his client “is very sorry that he was involved in such an accident in which so many people lost their lives or are missing.”

Hungarian police spokesman Kristof Gal said the seven confirmed victims, all South Koreans, have been identified with the help of South Korean authorities by using finger and palm prints and showing photos to relatives.

Victims’ relatives and friends on Saturday visited the site of the collision under the city’s Margit Bridge. Flowers tributes and candles have been placed along the bridge.

Polish doctors march for health funds

BY MONIKA SCISLOWSKA
Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland — Hundreds of doctors marched Saturday through Poland’s capital to demand health care funding.

Polish media say people have died waiting to be admitted to the hospital. Some wards are slated to be closed due to a shortage of doctors and nurses.

The protesters carried banners that read “We want to treat patients in Poland” and “Stop deaths in waiting lines” as they marched from the Health Ministry to parliament. They left a petition demanding that 6.8% of Poland’s gross national product be spent on health care. The conservative government aims to spend 6% by 2024, a plan that came after massive health care protests in 2017. The protesters say more efforts are needed.

“Patients are really dying waiting for treatment. We will continue our protests,” said Dr. Krzysztof Bukiel, head of a doctors union.

Missouri clinic to stay open

Abortion facility only one in state

JASON HANCOCK AND CRYSTAL THOMAS
The Kansas City Star (TNS)

A St. Louis judge has granted a temporary restraining order blocking the state from shutting down the last abortion clinic in Missouri.

St. Louis Circuit Court Judge Michael Stelzer ruled Friday afternoon that the state cannot revoke the license of the Planned Parenthood clinic in St. Louis at midnight as originally planned.

"Petitioner has demonstrated that immediate and irreparable injury will result if petitioner's license is allowed to expire," Stelzer wrote.

By granting the order, the judge said he was maintaining the status quo of the clinic's license so he could hear arguments on a preliminary injunction next week.

The crux of the litigation is a March inspection of the St. Louis Planned Parenthood clinic by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

The agency is demanding to interview seven physicians who have treated patients at the clinic in the last year. Without those interviews, the clinic will lose its license, the state agency said, leaving Missouri as the only state since abortion was legalized to have no clinics performing the procedure.

Planned Parenthood said it was initially told that the investigation was the result of "a patient com-



JEFF ROBERSON

Abortion-rights supporters protest Thursday in St. Louis. A St. Louis judge heard Planned Parenthood's request for a temporary restraining order that would keep the license for Missouri's only abortion clinic from lapsing at midnight Friday.

plaint," but court documents filed by the state said the inquiry began after a review of clinic medical records.

Planned Parenthood said that only two of the seven physicians in question are actually employees. They were interviewed by regulators this week.

The other five are under contract to Planned Parenthood and can't be compelled to speak with the state, according to an attorney for the organization.

Planned Parenthood said it has addressed two other issues the state has raised.

Gov. Mike Parson, in a state-

ment issued late Friday afternoon, said the court's ruling will give the state "the opportunity for a prompt legal review of our state health regulators' serious health and safety concerns regarding Planned Parenthood's abortion facility in St. Louis."

Hanging over the debate over Planned Parenthood's license is legislation signed last week by Parson criminalizing abortion after eight weeks of pregnancy. The ban goes into effect Aug. 28.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Missouri filed notice Tuesday that it will pursue a referendum to repeal the law. The

organization will need to collect more than 100,000 signatures to place the law on the ballot for an up-or-down vote in 2020.

Shortly after the judge's Friday ruling, David Humphreys — a Republican businessman who along with his family has donated \$15 million to GOP candidates and campaigns since 2015 — released a statement in support of a referendum repealing the law.

"With no consideration given to victims of rape and incest," he said, "this legislation's impact reflects bad public policy with negative consequences for Missourians."

WWII plane joins in D-Day anniversary

BY JAY REEVES
Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Filled with paratroopers, a U.S. warplane lumbered down an English runway in 1944 to spearhead the World War II D-Day invasion with a message for Adolf Hitler painted in bright yellow across its nose: "That's All, Brother."

Seventy-five years later, that plane is again bound for the French coast for what could be the last great commemoration of the Allied battle to include D-Day veterans, many of whom are now in their 90s.

The restored C-47 troop carrier that served as a lead aircraft of the main invasion force will join other vintage planes at 75th anniversary ceremonies in June. After flying over the Statue of Liberty in New York on Saturday, the plane embarked for Europe with other vintage aircraft along the same route U.S. aircraft traveled during the war. There, it and other flying military transports are expected to drop paratroop re-enactors along the French coast at Normandy. The twin-engine plane is now operated by the Texas-based Commemorative Air Force, which preserves military aircraft.

Air Force historian Matt Scales found the aircraft a few years ago while researching the late Lt. Col. John Donalson of Birmingham, who was credited with piloting the lead aircraft that dropped the main group of paratroopers along the French coast in preparation for the assault on June 6, 1944.

That's All, Brother was at the tip of about 900 planes that made the flight across the English Channel to drop some 13,000 paratroopers.

Donalson's plane was in the lead partly because it was equipped with an early form of radar, Scales said. The aircraft was sold on the civilian market in 1945 and had changed hands several times before Scales found it. At one point, it was painted in a camouflage scheme similar to C-47s that flew during the Vietnam War.

"It had never crashed; it had never been



JAY REEVES / ASSOCIATED PRESS

On April 9, 2019, Pilot Tom Travis sits in the cockpit of the World War II troop carrier That's All, Brother during a stop in Birmingham, Ala. The C-47 aircraft led the main Allied invasion of Europe on June 6, 1944.

damaged," Scales said. "All the dozen owners ... between the end of the war and when I found it had taken pretty good care of it."

Donalson, who retired with the rank of major general, died in 1987. But during a recent stop in Birmingham, two of his grandchildren were among those who climbed aboard the

resurrected aircraft. Granddaughter Denise Harris sat in one of the seats occupied by a paratrooper for the ride to France.

"It's unbelievable to think that all those men were in that plane also, and to hear the stories, and to know some of the people that came back," she said.

43-year-old murder case cracked

BY IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

LAKEWOOD, Wis. — Word of the arrest — via a friend's text message — hit Wayne Sankey like a thunderbolt.

"I said, 'You gotta be kidding me,'" Sankey recalled. "And then I told the wife and she couldn't believe it. 'There's no way,' she said. 'Ray down the road?'"



Vannieuwenhoven

Ray Vannieuwenhoven was his next-door neighbor — a helpful, 82-year-old handyman. The widower and father of five grown children had lived quietly for two decades among the 800 residents of Lakewood, a northern Wisconsin town surrounded by forests and small lakes.

Now authorities were saying this man was a cold-blooded killer. They had used genetic genealogy to crack a cold case that stretched back well into the 20th

century — a double murder 25 miles southwest of Lakewood.

David Schuldes and Ellen Matheys, engaged to be married, set up their campsite at a secluded spot in McClintock Park on Friday afternoon, July 9, 1976.

Schuldes was a 25-year-old part-timer in the circulation department of the Green Bay Press-Gazette; Matheys, 24, worked at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay library.

Two shots from a .30-caliber rifle shattered the quiet. One bullet struck Schuldes' neck from 50 feet away, killing him instantly. The other bullet lodged in a bathroom wall. Matheys ran, with the killer in pursuit, investigators say. He caught and raped her, then shot her twice in the chest.

Investigators were stumped. They didn't know why the couple was targeted, and leads were scant.

DNA profiling in the '90s brought new hope, but detectives got no matches when they submitted the semen from Matheys'

shorts to the FBI's database.

Last year, detectives contacted Virginia-based Parabon Nano-Labs, a DNA technology company. Parabon uploads DNA from crime scenes to GEDmatch, a free, public genealogy database with about 1.2 million profiles, all voluntarily submitted by people who've used consumer genealogy sites like Ancestry.com and 23andMe.

California law enforcement used GEDmatch to capture the alleged Golden State Killer last year by finding distant relatives.

Parabon's experts completed Vannieuwenhoven's family tree in late December. They'd found his parents, who had lived in the Green Bay area. Now detectives needed DNA samples from Vannieuwenhoven and his three brothers.

On March 6, two sheriff's deputies knocked on Vannieuwenhoven's door, pretending they wanted him to fill out a survey. They told him to put the survey in an envelope and seal it with his tongue.



IVAN MORENO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wayne Sankey, neighbor of Raymand Vannieuwenhoven, sits on the front steps of his Lakewood, Wis. home on April 10.

Eight days later, Vannieuwenhoven was in custody.

At Vannieuwenhoven's first court appearance, on March 22, bond was set at \$1 million.

"Not guilty, not guilty, not guilty," Vannieuwenhoven when the judge asked him if he understood the charges.

His next court date is June 19.

Kurt Schuldes, 68, a cousin of David Schuldes in Green Bay, welcomed the news of an arrest, but lamented the time it took:

"He just got away with it for way too long, unfortunately."

BRIEFS

Justice Dept. preparing antitrust probe of Google

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Justice Department is readying an investigation of Google's business practices and whether they violate antitrust law, according to news reports.

The search engine giant was fined a record \$2.72 billion by European regulators in 2017. In the U.S., the Federal Trade Commission opened an antitrust investigation of Google but closed it in 2013 without taking action. An FTC staff report that was released years later showed that the agency staff had urged the presidentially appointed commissioners to bring a lawsuit against Google. That never happened.

Now the Justice Department has undertaken an antitrust probe of the company's search and other businesses, according to reports by The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and Bloomberg News.

Justice Department spokesman Jeremy Edwards declined to comment Saturday. Google also declined any comment.

Google, owned by Alphabet Inc., has faced mounting scrutiny. In addition to the 2017 fine, European regulators also slapped a \$1.7 billion penalty on the company in March for barring websites from selling ads from rivals alongside some Google-served ads. Google says it has now ended that practice.

Biden forges own path for 2020 Democratic ticket

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The center of presidential politics this weekend is the California Democratic Convention, but Democrats' 2020 front-runner is almost 2,500 miles away, going it alone.

Biden will headline an LGBTQ civil rights gala Saturday evening in Columbus. Biden passed on the chance to address hundreds of Democratic activists gathered in San Francisco, where 14 of his rivals are spending the weekend. Biden sent aides in his place.

Biden is seemingly focused more on a general election matchup with President Donald Trump than on dispatching the 23 other Democrats chasing him in the nomination contest. He faces a fractious Democratic base, with many voters questioning both his moderate record and whether a 76-year-old white man is the best fit for the party.

After skipping California, Biden is expected to miss an Iowa state party dinner that will draw a gaggle of candidates next weekend. He's scheduled to be in the state two days later for his own itinerary. Biden's also expected to miss an upcoming South Carolina economic forum focused on the African American community, though he will be in the state the following weekend for the state party convention.

\$4.5M anonymous bid offered to dine with Buffett

OMAHA, Neb. — An anonymous bidder has offered more than \$4.5 million to have a private lunch with billionaire investor Warren Buffett, shattering the previous record of nearly \$3.5 million set in 2012 and 2016.

An online auction that raises money for the Glide Foundation's work to help the homeless in San Francisco ended Friday night on eBay with a winning bid of \$4,567,888.

It's the 20th year the Berkshire Hathaway CEO from Omaha has participated in the pricey lunch auction, giving the winner the chance to talk with the renowned investor and philanthropist. Buffett has raised nearly \$30 million for the charity over the years.

The winning bidder and up to seven friends get to dine with Buffett at Smith & Wollensky in New York City.

N. Carolina campus suspect may have recorded carnage

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The attacker who killed two students and wounded four others in a North Carolina university classroom may have recorded video of the classroom carnage on his cellphone, a Charlotte television station reported Saturday.

A new arrest warrant described former student Trystan Andrew Terrell telling police he recorded video at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte on April 30, WSOC reported.

A police spokeswoman said Saturday she would not provide a copy of the warrant filed in court, citing the ongoing investigation.

The arrest warrant indicates that the first officer on scene thought the accused shooter may be one of the victims and asked Terrell, 22, if he had been shot. He told the officer he was lying on the ground because he had been tackled, the warrant said.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney said last month that 21-year-old Riley Howell, who was killed, saved a number of lives by charging and tackling the gunman when he opened fire in a classroom in the school's Kennedy Building. Ellis Parlier, 19, was also killed inside a lecture hall.

Gator busts into home, breaks wine bottles

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Authorities say an 11-foot (3.4-meter) alligator busted through a kitchen window and broke several bottles of red wine in a Florida home before it was captured.

Police tweeted that the gator was removed from Mary Wischusen's Clearwater condominium early Friday. No one was injured.

Wischusen uses a walker. She told news outlets that the moment she saw the lumbering reptile, she moved into her bedroom, closed the door and called police. She says she played computer games while waiting for help to arrive.

Wischusen says it took two trappers and 10 police officers two hours to get the alligator out of the home, where she has lived for almost four decades.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIEFS

Pioneering rocker
Roky Erickson dies at 71

NEW YORK — Roky Erickson, the blue-eyed, dark-haired Texan who headed the Austin-based 13th Floor Elevators, a pioneering psychedelic rock band in the 1960s that scored with “You’re Gonna Miss Me,” has died. He was 71.

Erickson’s sinuous lead guitar and wailing vocals didn’t turn him into a chart topper, but they cemented his role as a musician’s musician. Fans included everyone from Lenny Kaye and the Swedish metal group Ghost — who covered his “If You Have Ghosts” — to ZZ Top’s Billy Gibbons.

A 1990 tribute album to Erickson, “Where the Pyramid Meets the Eye,” attracted the likes of R.E.M., T-Bone Burnett, The Jesus and Mary Chain, Julian Cope, The Mighty Lemon Drops, Primal Scream and ZZ Top.

After the trippy 13th Floor Elevators dissolved in the face of drug arrests and instability, Erickson in the early ’70s entered an insanity plea to a marijuana possession charge and ended up spending some time in an institution.

Erickson’s death on Friday was announced by his brother, Mikel Erickson, on Facebook and confirmed by his agent, Dave Kaplan. “It’s almost unfathomable to contemplate a world without Roky Erickson. He created his own musical galaxy and early on was a true inspiration,” Gibbons said in the statement.

Dallas adds homicide
detectives

DALLAS — Dallas police are shifting detectives to their homicide unit after the city recorded 40 homicides in May and a surge in violent crime compared to the start of last year.

WFAA-TV reported Friday that the Dallas Police Department will go from 14 detectives on the unit to 22.

According to WFAA, Dallas police reported a 150 percent increase in robberies between January and April compared to the first four months of 2018. Assaults went up 88 percent the same time, and forcible sex offenses went up 67 percent.

University of Texas at Dallas criminologist Alex Piquero said crime increases could be tied to a rise in population.

Dallas police kill dog that
injured 2 people

DALLAS — Dallas police said an officer shot and killed a dog that attacked and seriously injured two people.

Police spokesman DeMarquis Black says officers responded to emergency calls Saturday morning about “several” dogs that were attacking people. When they arrived, an officer shot and killed one of the dogs.

Black says another dog was injured and a third was captured.

The injured people, who have not been identified, were transported to a hospital. It’s not clear what their status is.

Terminal room named after
Fort Hood’s ‘hug lady’

KILLEEN, Texas — Fort Hood’s famous “hug lady” will have a room named after her at the terminal where she hugged thousands of soldiers deploying to war zones.

The Killeen Daily Herald reports that Elizabeth Laird will be honored inside the air terminal at Fort Hood, the U.S. Army post in Central Texas that’s one of the largest military bases in the world.

Laird died in December 2015 at 83. A recent online petition to rename the air terminal after Laird had surpassed 74,000 signatures as of Saturday.

The terminal is already named for Army Sgt. George Larkin, who flew in the famous Doolittle raid during World War II.

Texas woman allegedly
burns stepdaughter’s face

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — A suburban Dallas woman has been charged after police say she doused her 5-year-old stepdaughter’s face with rubbing alcohol and set it on fire.

A Grand Prairie police statement Friday said 20-year-old Dalia Jimenez is charged with felony injury to a child and free on \$20,000 bond.

Police said officers went to the family home May 13 after a child had been reported as burned and in need of medical treatment. Jimenez initially blamed the burns on an accident while lighting a candle. After detectives found inconsistencies in her account, however, Jimenez admitted that she burned the girl’s face as punishment for yelling.

Police said the child’s father wasn’t home at the time and isn’t considered a suspect. The child and a younger sibling have been placed with relatives.

Group of 116 Africans
arrested at border

EL PASO, Texas — Border officials in Texas said a group of 116 Africans was arrested Thursday after wading through the Rio Grande to enter the United States.

The migrants were from Angola, Cameroon and other African nations and include families with children and young people who were not with relatives.

This was the first large group that agents in the Del Rio sector have arrested, although big groups have been showing up every day in other areas of the southern border. Agents have encountered 182 large groups, or those with more than 100 people, since October.

It’s unclear if the migrants in Texas were seeking asylum, and the agency is still processing them.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Secretary of State gets new job

Tenure cut short after voter rolls controversy

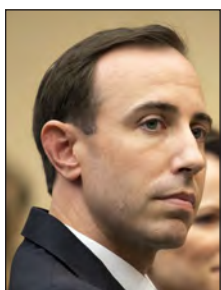
BY ALEXA URA
The Texas Tribune

Former Secretary of State David Whitley — who lost his job after presiding over a botched review of the citizenship of Texans on the voter rolls — is back to working at the governor’s office.

Whitley resigned from the post Monday just before he would have been kicked out of office without a state Senate confirmation vote, but he went straight back to Gov. Greg Abbott’s office where he was rehired on an \$205,000 annual salary, according to the state comptroller’s office.

The governor’s office did not respond to

a request for confirmation on Friday, but a spokesman for the comptroller’s office, which oversees state employees, said Whitley was hired by the governor’s office under the title



Whitley

tors blocked his confirmation over a bungled effort to review the voter rolls for noncitizens

of “deputy director II.” The Texas Tribune had filed a records request for personnel documents on Thursday.

A longtime aide to the governor, Whitley left that office in mid-December when Abbott appointed him to serve as secretary of state. But his tenure was cut short after Democratic senators blocked his confirmation over a bungled effort to review the voter rolls for noncitizens

that instead jeopardized the voting rights of tens of thousands of naturalized citizens.

A federal judge halted that review in late February over concerns that “perfectly legal naturalized Americans” were targeted in ways those born in the country were not. Whitley’s office eventually agreed to scrap the review to end the three federal lawsuits that were filed against the state. But the debacle left taxpayers on the hook for \$450,000 in costs and attorney fees for the lawyers of the naturalized citizens and civil rights groups that alleged the review was unconstitutional and violated federal protections for voters of color.

“[Whitley] definitely has no business continuing to draw a six-figure salary on the taxpayer dime in the governor’s office,” Texas Democratic Party executive director Manny Garcia said in a statement Friday.

Census question continues

Supreme Court weighing case

BY PAUL J. WEBER AND GEOFF MULVILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Computer files discovered in the home of a Republican operative who died last year contain a blueprint for how the GOP could extend its domination of legislatures in states where growing Latino populations favor Democrats and offer compelling context about a related case currently before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The files from North Carolina redistricting expert Tom Hofeller include detailed calculations that lay out gains Republicans would see in Texas by basing legislative districts on the number of voting-age citizens rather than the total population. But he said that would be possible only if the Census asked every household about its members’ immigration status for the first time since 1950.

The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on that question as early as next month. But Republicans who support adding the citizenship question have rarely acknowledged any partisan political motive. The emergence of the documents now could figure heavily in the case the court is considering.

To civil liberties lawyers suing to block the question, it’s now clear that partisan politics were at work all along. They asserted in court filings that Hofeller not only laid out the political benefit for the GOP but also ghost-wrote a U.S. Department of Justice letter calling on the Census Bureau to add an immigration question to next year’s survey.

The Justice Department denied the allegations in a statement Thursday, saying Hofeller’s Texas analysis “played no role in the Department’s December 2017 request to reinstate a citizenship question to the 2020 decennial census.” In that 2017 letter, the DOJ said it needed citizenship information to protect the voting rights of minorities.

The U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments on the citizenship question in April and is expected to rule by July whether it will be allowed.

Many of the state’s top Republicans, including Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, have publicly expressed support for a citizenship question on the Census.



WILLIAM LUTHER/SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

Russell Studebaker checks just-picked peaches May 22 in his Studebaker Farms orchard east of Fredericksburg, Texas. Virtually all Hill Country peach producers are reporting abundant crops of quality peaches.

Despite freeze, growers get bumper crop of peaches

Central Texas peaches appear to be in abundant supply this year despite the crop enduring early and late freezes, heavy rain and strong spring winds.

According to experts, most of the Hill Country fruit is ripening, but the best may be yet to come, the San Antonio Express-News reported.

Many anticipate some later-season varieties, such as red globes, will be plentiful.

Hill Country peaches are prized due to the region’s rich soil, elevation and location on the edge of an arid zone, which makes for higher sugar content.

James Vogel, who runs Vogel Orchard in Fredericksburg, said his family thought it was going to lose the crop in early March because of a late winter blast.

“We had three mornings that were in the 20s,” he said.

But this season’s crop is looking as good as the family’s last successful year in 2015, and it has the potential to match its strong crop of 2010, Vogel said. Vogel believes the rain that preceded the March



WILLIAM LUTHER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Samuel Studebaker unloads just-picked peaches May 22 at the family’s stand on U.S. 290 east of Fredericksburg, Texas.

freeze kept humidity levels high.

“When you really get the damage in the winter from a late freeze is when you have real low humidity,” he said.

Grower Don Eckhardt, 87, said his parents were among the region’s peach pioneers in the 1930s. The family started with about 7 acres (3 hectares) of peach trees,

and now has about 50 acres (20 hectares).

Eckhardt explained that the weather can wipe out their crop. The family once went seven years in a row without a crop.

“Something that looks very prosperous — in a moment’s time, we were through,” Eckhardt said.

Lawmakers boost special education funding

BY ALIYYA SWABY
Texas Tribune

As the legislative session came to a close Monday, lawmakers approved a budget that included around \$223 million in state funds to pay off a financial penalty to the federal government — and to allow the state to avoid future penalties — for illegally decreasing spending on special education and to prevent another spending issue this fiscal year.

And they made several changes to the way Texas spends money to educate kids with disabilities, including dyslexia, intended to avoid violating federal law in years to come.

However, they chose not to approve a provision that would have taken a closer look at how the state’s education officials are overhauling special education, which is still under a separate federal investigation. And advocates

lament that few bills passed that would impact students with disabilities in their classrooms.

“We did not get everything we wanted, but we understand, rarely do you always get 100% of what you request,” said Steven Aleman, lawyer at Disability Rights Texas. “Certainly, the Legislature did pay attention to special education in these critical bills, laying the foundation to us moving toward compliance.”

FIXING A SHORTFALL

The \$223 million comes after the U.S. Department of Education found last year that Texas had violated a federal law prohibiting states from reducing funding for kids with disabilities from year to year. The state challenged that finding in court, arguing the 2012 spending decrease happened because students just didn’t need services that cost as much as the

Special Education Budget

- \$33 million — 2012 federal violation
- \$74 million — 2017 and 2018 violations
- \$116 million — 2019 potential penalty, funding
- TOTAL: \$223 million

previous year. But the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the federal government’s decision, and found that Texas’ system “creates a perverse incentive for a state to escape its financial obligations merely by minimizing the special education needs of it students.”

Lawmakers included \$33 million in their supplemental budget, which covers immediate expenses to pay a federal penalty for the 2012 reduction. They also included \$74 million to settle violations for 2017 and 2018, and \$116 million to prevent another

penalty in 2019.

That \$116 million has to go toward reimbursing school districts for identifying students who need special education services and making up services for kids who were denied them in the past, in addition to boosting funding for all students in special education.

In addition, the legislature’s main school finance measure, House Bill 3, would require the state and districts to spend more on students with dyslexia or related learning disabilities, if they are covered under federal disability law and are being educated through a state-approved dyslexia program. “What we have now is bases loaded with great laws. But the game is far from over,” said Robbi Cooper, who leads the state chapter of advocacy group Decoding Dyslexia. Now, she said, it’s up to school district administrators and teachers to implement.



Liverpool’s Jordan Henderson celebrates with his teammates winning the Champions League final soccer match between Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool at the Wanda Metropolitano Stadium in Madrid.

CHAMPIONS CUP IN MADRID

Liverpool trips up Tottenham

2-0 victory erases pain of past finals losses

BY ROB HARRIS
Associated Press

No tears of pain this time, just redemption for Mohamed Salah.

Only 108 seconds were needed to banish the Champions League final heart-break of a year ago.

Once Salah dispatched his early penalty against Tottenham, Liverpool was on the path to a sixth European title with a 2-0 victory on Saturday.

And a year after defeat in the final to Real Madrid, Juergen Klopp has his first title after four years as Liverpool manager.

A shoulder injury forced Salah out of the Kiev

showpiece last year.

This time it was Tottenham midfielder Moussa Sissoko's arm that gifted Liverpool the early penalty opening — blocking Sadio Mane's shot after 21 seconds — and Salah converted from the spot after a video review.

"I have sacrificed a lot for my career," Salah said. "To come from a village, to go to Cairo, and to be an Egyptian at this level is unbelievable for me."

On a hot and humid night in Madrid, Tottenham came to life only in the final 20 minutes of its first European Cup final.

But Liverpool completed the job in the 87th minute thanks to one of its semifinal saviors.

Divock Origi had to accept a place back on the bench despite producing two goals while deputizing for the injured Salah last month. But the substitute had the final big say in the Spanish capital, rifling a left-footed shot inside the far post.

"Every single player fought hard today," Origi said. "So it's just special."

After two losing finals since triumphing in 2005, Liverpool finally rose to third in the all-time list of European champions behind 13-time winner Real Madrid and AC Milan on seven titles.

Few fans — even from Liverpool — will want to watch just how it was achieved.

Both sides had gone three weeks without playing. It showed.

The sharpness was deficient, as was the ability to string passes together.

"When we look back on tonight we aren't going to think it was a sluggish game," Liverpool-born defender Trent Alexander-Arnold said. "We are going to think we have just won the European Cup."

Tottenham will have only regrets as its luck run out after a season of great escapes.

Lucas Moura's goal in Barcelona in December carried Tottenham into the round of 16.

The Brazilian's hat trick last month then completed a turnaround against Ajax. The reward in Madrid was a watching brief from the bench for two thirds of the game.

Instead, Harry Kane was thrust into the starting lineup despite 53 days without a game since limping off with an ankle injury in the quarterfinal first leg against Manchester City.

Alisson Becker scooped up a spinning shot from Dele Alli and made a double-save from Son Heung-min and Moura with 10 minutes to go.

It was goalkeeping that made the difference, showing \$85 million was well spent by American owner John Henry after Loris Karius was banished for making costly mistakes in last year's final.

"You have a goalkeeper who makes difficult things look easy," Klopp said. "Thank you very much."

No wonder Klopp was relieved after six losing finals, stretching back to his spell at Borussia Dortmund.

"Did you ever see a team like this? Fighting with no fuel in the tank," the German said.



EMILIO MORENATTI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Players toss Coach Juergen Klopp after winning Champions League soccer match in Madrid Saturday.



MANU FERNANDEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Liverpool's Mohamed Salah celebrates winning the Champions League soccer match in Madrid Saturday.

Serena and Naomi Osaka bid early adieu at French

BY HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

PARIS — Maybe it was the daunting deficit Serena Williams faced in the French Open's third round. Maybe it was the way her 20-year-old American opponent, Sofia Kenin, was questioning line calls.

Either way, as Williams attempted to start a comeback Saturday with a three-ace game, she followed those big serves with some serious staredowns.

Outplayed from start to finish, Williams lost 6-2, 7-5 to the 35th-ranked Kenin, ending her latest bid for a 24th Grand Slam title with her earliest loss at a major tournament in five years.

"In that first set in particular, she hit pretty much inches from the line, and I haven't played anyone like that in a long time," the 37-year-old Williams said. "I just saw a player that was playing unbelievable."

It was the second significant surprise in a matter of hours: Earlier in the day, No. 1 seed Naomi Osaka was eliminated 6-4, 6-2 by 42nd-ranked Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic. That ended Osaka's 16-match Grand Slam winning streak, which included titles at the U.S. Open final in September — when she beat Williams in the final — and at the Australian Open in January.

Osaka was trying to become the first woman to win three consecutive major trophies since Steffi Graf's professional-era record of 22 Grand Slam singles championships. With 23, Williams stands one away from Margaret Court's mark for the most in tennis history; Court played in both the professional and amateur eras.

"Serena is such a tough player. I'm still trying to process what just happened," Kenin said, about an hour after the match ended with her covering her face with both hands. "She's a true champion and an

inspiration."

Kenin was born in Moscow and is fluent in Russian. Her family moved to New York when she was a baby, and she now is based in Florida.

"I'm proud to be an American," said Kenin, who wore a blue U.S. Fed Cup cap to her news conference. "I think it's great we moved to America for a better life for me."

She is appearing in the ninth major of her career and now is headed to her initial trip to the round of 16, where she'll meet No. 8 seed Ash Barty. Other women's fourth-round matchups established Saturday: defending champion Simona Halep vs. 18-year-old Iga Swiatek of Poland; No. 14 Madison Keys of the U.S. vs. Sinikakova; 17-year-old Amanda Anisimova of the U.S. vs. qualifier Aliona Bolsova of Spain.

Williams sat out four Slams in 2017-18 while she was off the tour to have a baby. Her first major back was last year's French Open, where she withdrew before a fourth-round match because of a chest muscle injury. She went on to reach the finals of Wimbledon and the U.S. Open before wasting match points during a quarterfinal loss at the Australian Open this January.

Williams came to Paris having played only four matches since then — she withdrew from two tournaments because of an injured left knee and another because of illness.

And she had said she considered not entering the French Open at all.

"I'm glad I came, at the end of the day," she said, "but it's been a really grueling season for me."

Asked whether a third-round appearance was satisfactory, given her issues, Williams not surprisingly said it was not.

"I wouldn't expect to have gotten only to the third round," she replied.

Williams couldn't control her shots, compiling 34 unforced errors, twice as many as Kenin's 17. Another key statistic: Kenin won four of Williams' 10 service games.



MICHEL EULER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Katerina Siniakova of the Czech Republic celebrates winning her third round match of the French Open tennis tournament against Japan's Naomi Osaka.



CHRISTOPHE ENA/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sofia Kenin of the U.S. resets after scoring a point against Serena Williams in the last game of the second set during their third-round match.



93°/72°
Partly cloudy

REMEMBERING D-DAY

Charles Shay was 19 when he landed on Omaha Beach with Allied forces on June 6, 1944. On Thursday, Shay will be back in Normandy for the 75th anniversary of D-Day. **NATIONAL, 3**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SWJOURNALIST.COM ■ MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019



China blames US for trade dispute

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

BEIJING — China issued a report Sunday blaming the United States for the trade dispute between the two countries and said it won't back down on "major issues of principle," but offered no clarification about what additional steps it might take.

The report from the Cabinet spokesman's office said China has kept its word throughout 11 rounds of talks and will honor its commitments if a trade agreement is reached. It accused the U.S. of backtracking three times during the talks by introducing new tariffs and other conditions beyond what was agreed on.

The report said "any agreement reached by the two sides must be based on equality and mutual benefit."

Over recent days, China has mobilized representatives abroad to sell its position with foreign audiences, while the country has been working overtime to convince the public of the righteousness of the government's stance.

Linda Lim, a professor at Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan, said the report reiterates the government's position in a clear and measured way that leaves the door open for negotiations.

She said the report is a public relations win for China's govern-

ment as President Donald Trump's trade policy is antagonizing other U.S. trade partners, most recently Mexico.

The U.S. has accused China of stealing trade secrets and forced technology transfers. The Trump administration has imposed 25% tariffs on \$250 billion in Chinese imports and is planning to tax the \$300 billion in imports that have so far been spared. The administration also put Chinese telecom giant Huawei on a blacklist that effectively bars U.S. companies from supplying it with computer chips, software and other components without government approval.

Beijing responded by imposing

tariffs on \$60 billion worth of U.S. products, which went into effect Saturday. It also retaliated against the U.S. blacklisting of Huawei by announcing it will establish its own list of "unreliable entities" consisting of foreign businesses, corporations and individuals.

Wang Shouwen, China's vice commerce minister and deputy international trade representative, said the unreliable entities list will be aimed at enterprises that "violated market principles" and cut supplies of components to Chinese businesses for non-commercial reasons.

Several leading U.S.-based

Joint Chinese-US Study

- 50% decline in soy bean exports to China
- U.S. auto sales have declined
- Average U.S. family will pay an additional \$831 for consumer items over tariffs
- 2.23 million U.S. jobs will be lost overall

■ US-CHINA, Page 2

SURVIVORS RECOUNT SHOOTING, FEEL LUCKY



PATRICK SEMANSKY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Volunteers prepare to place crosses for victims of a mass shooting at the municipal building in Virginia Beach, Virginia, at a nearby makeshift memorial on Sunday.

City employee thought shooting was a drill, made eye contact with gunman

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

CHESAPEAKE, Va. — Ned Carlstrom thought the shooting at the Virginia Beach government building where he works was a staged drill for employees. He crossed paths with the gunman three times — and survived.

Carlstrom saw a team of police officers outside pointing guns at the building dragging away a fatally wounded contractor and knew it wasn't a drill.

Carlstrom said he locked eyes with the shooter, DeWayne Craddock, twice during the rampage but didn't exchange words.

Carlstrom said he had light-hearted conversations with the

quiet Craddock, a civil engineer, as they walked into the office from the parking lot. He wonders if that's why Craddock let him live.

When Carlstrom heard popping noises and co-workers screaming, he and co-worker, Terry Inman, began an evacuation plan for an active-shooter drill.

He said he turned a corner on his way to a stairwell and came face-to-face with Craddock who looked at him briefly but never raised his gun. Carlstrom thought Craddock was pretending to be a shooter for a drill because the "obnoxious-looking gun" seemed to be a prop, and he didn't point it at him.

When Carlstrom went back to

his office for his phone, Craddock entered the room. Inman said he told Craddock to stop. Inman said Craddock "looked straight" at him, but didn't see him or raise his gun.

Carlstrom encountered Craddock a third time, when the gunman came to the window of an office where Carlstrom and other co-workers were hiding.

Carlstrom said he feels lucky to be alive, but he is grieving the loss of his friends.

"I don't think it will (sink in) until we go back to work, and we don't have these people anymore," he said.



MICHAEL KUNZELMAN/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ned Carlstrom at his home in Chesapeake, Va., Sunday.

LOOKING AHEAD: HURRICANE SEASON



DAVID J. PHILLIP/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gina Hadley walks through what's left of her home in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike in Galveston in 2008. Hurricane Ike devastated homes on the Texas island and wiped away beaches that were the lifeblood of its tourism economy.

ANALYSIS: TEXAS LEGISLATURE

Frugal lawmakers pass massive budget

BY ROSS RAMSEY
The Texas Tribune

It's amazing what lawmakers can do when there's a lot of money on hand.

Texas lawmakers passed a whopping \$250.7 billion two-year budget over the weekend — up 15.7% from the two-year spending plan approved two years ago.

That's from a Legislature that came in ranting and raving about wasteful local government spending and left after installing new 3.5% percent limits on local government property tax increases and 2.5% limits on school district property tax increases. Those governments can exceed those caps only with voter permission.

And that state budget number is

only part of the story — it doesn't include spending added to the old budget during the current session. For that, go to the so-called supplemental appropriations bill, which added \$9.9 billion to the budget approved two years ago to fill holes in Medicaid and other places, but also for a range of immediate spending targets that include Hurricane Harvey relief, teacher retirement funding and a bailout of the state's Texas Tomorrow Fund.

With that number folded in, the increase from the current budget to the next one drops to 10.7%.

If you confine your comparisons to general revenue spending — the part that comes from state taxes — the increase from

the current budget to the next one is 11.4%. When you count the spending that they added this year to the current budget, that increase comes to 4.9%.

You see the trick, don't you?

The Legislature passes an incomplete budget every two years and almost always passes a supplemental budget that increases their spending two years later.

In the 2017 session, they left Austin after approving a \$216.6 billion budget. This year's supplemental spending added another \$9.9 billion to that, making it a \$226.5 billion budget.

The budget approved over the weekend for the two years begin-

■ TEXAS, Page 2

Galveston residents prep for next hurricane

BY JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

It's been nearly 11 years since Hurricane Ike smashed Murdochs gift shop to splinters in Galveston while devastating homes on the Texas island and wiping away beaches that were the blood of its tourism economy. The shop was rebuilt on its stilts a year later and today is more successful than ever, co-owner Todd Flores said.

"It was hard, but we had a lot of people helping us," Flores said of the rebuilding. A loan from a local bank expedited the process when insurance money was slow to come in "We knew this is what we wanted to do."

The hurricane's 110 mph winds and 15-foot storm surge damaged 80% of Galveston's homes. Its population of 55,000 dropped by about 10,000.

The population has bounced back, but the demographics shifted. Many of those who lived in public housing that was destroyed in the hurricane never returned. That meant Galveston lost many African American families, changing the city's character, said Leon Phillips, president of the Galveston Coalition for Justice.

"When you displace that many people in one fell swoop, that leaves very little to ... keep the history of African Americans on this island," Phillips said.

Phillips has pushed for a full rebuilding of Galveston's four public housing complexes. He has

faced opposition from residents who say they are a haven for poverty. Only half of the lost units have been rebuilt, but the mayor is committed to finishing the job.

"In my mind, the city was too slow to respond to the underserved or those who couldn't raise Cain and get answers," Mayor Jim Yarbrough said.

Between 2008, when Ike hit, and 2015, Galveston's black population dropped 9%. But it has increased in the past few years.

Meanwhile, Galveston has spent more than \$200 million to largely restore its infrastructure, improving storm drainage and building a \$75 million wastewater treatment plant. Last year the Gulf Coast city had its best year on record, with 7.2 million visitors.

"The city is definitely doing really well," said Keith Bassett, who rebuilt and consolidated his two stores that were flooded in Galveston's historic downtown. "Based upon what happened after Hurricane Ike, you never would have believed we would be at this point."

The approach of hurricane season is a reminder that it's only a matter of time before the next one. A 1900 hurricane killed 6,000 Galveston residents. Murdochs has been rebuilt five times since it opened in 1910 inside a bathhouse.

"You don't really breathe until November," Flores said.



JOHN L. MONE AND /ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business owner Keith Bassett discusses his effort to renovate a building in the Strand, the Galveston, Texas, on May 19. The restoration of the historic building is part of a rebirth of downtown Galveston following the devastation the city suffered when Hurricane Ike made landfall in 2008. "The city is definitely doing really well," Bassett said.

Community activist Leon Phillips speaks about recovery after Hurricane Ike in Galveston, Texas on May 9. When public housing complexes were destroyed, many African-American families left the area, Phillips said.



EUGENE HOSHINO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump speaks to U.S. servicemen aboard the U.S. Navy multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Wasp at the U.S. Navy's Yokosuka base in Yokosuka, south of Tokyo, Tuesday.

Pentagon says 'stop politicizing military'

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The Pentagon told the White House to stop politicizing the military, amid the Trump administration's order to have the Navy ship named for the late Sen. John McCain hidden from view during President Donald Trump's recent visit to Japan.

Shanahan confirmed details about a Navy email that said the White House military office wanted the USS John McCain kept "out of sight" when Trump was in Japan about a week ago.

A U.S. defense official said Patrick Shanahan, Trump's acting defense chief, is considering sending out formal guidance to military units in the future.

Trump, who long feuded with McCain, has said he knew nothing about the request.

Shanahan told reporters traveling with him to South Korea on Sunday that he is not planning to seek an investigation by the Pentagon's internal watchdog into the matter "because there was nothing carried out" by the Navy.

According to Shanahan spokesman Lt. Col. Joseph Buccino, Shanahan told his chief of staff on Friday to speak with the White House military office "and reaffirm his mandate that the Department of Defense will not be politicized." Buccino said the chief of staff reported back that

he delivered the message.

Asked what he has learned about the incident so far, Shanahan said he was told that, despite the White House request, the Navy did not move the ship and that a barge in front of it was moved before Trump arrived. He said a tarp that had been draped over the ship's name was removed, but that it was put there for maintenance, not to obscure its identity.

A defense official said Shanahan is considering a clearer directive to the military about avoiding political situations. The goal would be to ensure there is less ambiguity about how the military should support VIP events and how service members should respond to such political requests, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The order to keep the Navy destroyer out of sight reflected what appeared to be an extraordinary White House effort to avoid offending an unpredictable president known for holding a grudge, including a particularly bitter one against McCain.

Trump's acting chief of staff, Mick Mulvaney, in appearances on Sunday news shows in the U.S., said he did not expect anyone working for the White House to face discipline.

US-China trade dispute continues

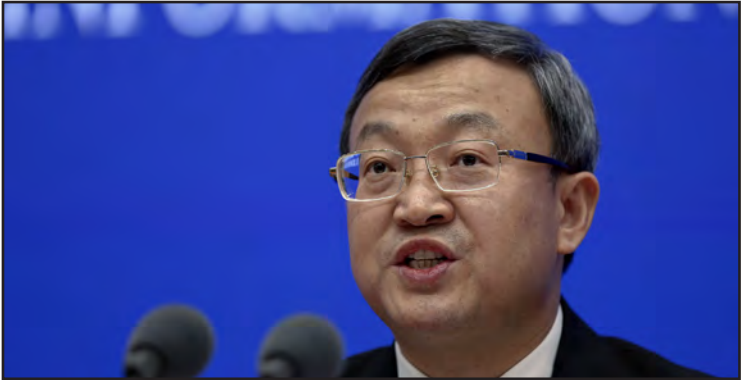
Continued from Page 1

global technology standards-setting groups announced restrictions on Huawei's participation in their activities under U.S. Commerce Department rules that bar the sale and transfer of U.S. technology to Huawei without government approval.

Wang also repeated suggestions that China could restrict the export of exotic minerals widely used in electric cars and cell-phones, including lithium. The threat to use China's rich supply of exotic minerals as leverage has contributed to sharp losses in U.S. stocks and sliding long-term bond yields.

Sunday's report lays out China's argument for blaming Washington for the frictions as well as the costs to both sides, and said China has room for fiscal policy changes to maintain the health of its economy amid the dispute.

Wang said the U.S. has made unacceptable demands that in-



ANDY WONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen speaks during a press conference about China-U.S. trade issues in Beijing on Sunday.

fringed on Chinese sovereignty. "You give them an inch, they take a yard," he said.

Trump has touted the tariff increases as a way of reducing China's trade surplus with the U.S., which hit a staggering \$379 billion last year. However, Wang questioned how much China was actually benefiting from its surplus, saying a joint Chinese-U.S. study showed the U.S. figure could be inflated by as much as 20%.

He also said many of those exports were produced by foreign companies operating in China, and that Chinese firms often pocketed only a relatively meager fee for assembling. Subtracting

the U.S. surplus in the services trade with China, the actual surplus came to just \$152.6 billion last year, Wang said.

The U.S. deficit with China has actually been worsening since tariffs were first imposed, Wang said, pointing to a 50% decline in soy bean exports to China and a drop-off in U.S. auto sales in the country. The average U.S. family, meanwhile, will pay an additional \$831 for consumer items over the year due to the higher tariffs, he said, while the dispute's impact on businesses could end up costing 2.23 million U.S. jobs overall.

"That shows that the deepening trade restrictions hurt U.S. workers," Wang said.

Texas sets \$250.7 billion budget

Continued from Page 1

ning in September totals \$250.7 billion — a preliminary amount that will change in the next few weeks with line-item vetoes from the governor and so on.

Another way to say it: Lawmakers spent more than \$260 billion this year when you include what they added to current spending and what they planned for the next two years. No telling what they'll do in a supplemental bill in 2021.

They did all of that without increasing taxes. In fact, they're touting a coming school property tax cut as part of an \$11.6 billion education package. That package accounts for less than half of the increase in spending from the previous budget. But they did put a serious dent in the state's sav-



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ JR./THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

State Rep. John Zerwas, R-Richmond, and State Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, talk during a budget conference at the Capitol on May 17.

ings account; the supplemental appropriations bill took \$6.1 billion from the rainy day fund.

That raid on savings is unusual, but supplemental spending isn't. The budget approved by lawmakers two years ago was only 3.5% bigger than the one approved in 2015. And in the 2017 session, they added \$2.5 billion in supplemental spending.

The numbers are never final until the state closes the books every other August. But it was clear when the 86th Legislature wrapped up its regular session that these lawmakers don't follow the same rules they laid out

for county commissioners, city council members and school board trustees.

Local government property tax revenues can't rise more than 3.5% without voter approval. Local school property taxes can't rise more than 2.5% unless voters say OK.

State spending, meanwhile, will go up 11.4% — assuming lawmakers add no supplemental spending two years from now.

Voters don't get a direct referendum on that — but they'll get a swing at legislators in the 2020 elections.



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2019 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

BRIEFS

North Korean official reappears days after purge

SEOUL, South Korea — A senior North Korean official who had been reported as purged over the failed nuclear summit with Washington was shown in state media enjoying a concert alongside leader Kim Jong Un.

North Korean publications on Monday showed Kim Yong Chol sitting near Kim Jong Un and other top officials during a musical performance by the wives of Korean People's Army officers.

Kim Yong Chol had been North Korea's top nuclear negotiator and met with President Donald Trump at the White House while setting up Trump's two summits with Kim Jong Un.

South Korean newspaper Chosun Ilbo last week cited an unnamed source to report that Kim Yong Chol was sentenced to hard labor.

Car bomb kills at least 13 in town in northern Syria

BEIRUT — A car bomb killed at least 13 people and wounded dozens Sunday night near a mosque in a northern Syrian town held by Turkey-backed fighters, Syrian opposition activists said.

The blast in the town of Azaz occurred Sunday as scores of people were leaving the mosque of Maytam, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory said the blast killed at least 14 people. It said the dead included four children.

The Azaz Media Center, a local activist collective, reported at least 13 deaths, along with many others wounded.

The blast occurred after the "iftar" meal that breaks a daylong fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Italian ship with rescued migrants docks in Genoa

GENOA, Italy — An Italian navy ship docked Sunday in the northern port city of Genoa carrying 100 migrants rescued from the Mediterranean Sea, where the number of migrant crossings has picked up in recent weeks.

The Italian news agency ANSA reported that 23 minors and 17 women, including a few who are pregnant, were among the migrants. They were rescued Thursday from a dinghy in distress off Libya's coast.

Italy's hard-line interior minister, Matteo Salvini, said the migrants would be transferred to five other European Union nations and taken in by the Vatican. Since taking office last year, Salvini has vowed to stop migrants from arriving in Italy.

The migrants who arrived in Genoa were from Libya, Cameroon, Somalia, the Ivory Coast, Mali and Nigeria, ANSA reported.

Paolo Cremonesi, the director of emergency services at the Galliera hospital, said the migrants described suffering while they were at sea for two days and that people on the dinghy with them died.

2 bodies found off Libya after migrant boat capsizes

CAIRO — At least two bodies were retrieved on Sunday off Libya's Mediterranean coast after a boat carrying dozens of Europe-bound migrants including women and children capsized, the U.N. migration agency said, as the search for survivors continues.

The International Organization for Migration said the boat was carrying over 95 migrants and floundered off the coast of the western town of Garaboli, 37 miles east of the capital, Tripoli.

Ayoub Gassim, a spokesman for Libya's coast guard, said the dead were a woman and a child.

He added that at least 73 migrants, including eight children and 25 women, have been rescued and taken to a refugee camp in Tripoli.

He said that between five and 25 migrants remain missing as search efforts continue.

Libya became a major conduit for African migrants and refugees fleeing to Europe after the 2011 uprising that ousted and killed dictator Muammar Gadhafi. No Libyan government has been able to successfully control the entirety of the North African country since.

Hungarians protest over Orban's planned seizure

BUDAPEST, Hungary — A few thousand academics and students held a protest march against a plan by Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government to seize control of the research network of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

Critics say the government plan threatens academic freedom and autonomous scientific research in Hungary, a "de facto nationalization of the academy's property," which would put scientific research under close government scrutiny.

The government, which held several rounds of unsuccessful talks with the academy, said its wants to improve innovation in scientific research and have publicly funded research projects that create "direct economic profit."

Canada stops operations at embassy in Venezuela

TORONTO — Canada is suspending operations at its embassy in Venezuela.

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said in a statement Sunday that Venezuelan President Nicholas Maduro's regime "has taken steps to limit the ability of foreign embassies to function in Venezuela" and at end of the month "Canadian diplomats in Venezuela will no longer be in a position to obtain diplomatic accreditation" as their visas will expire. She says they have no choice but to temporarily suspend operations immediately.

Freeland said Canada will continue to speak out against the Maduro regime.

Canada has led the push to recognize opposition lawmaker Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's rightful leader and seeks ways to remove Maduro.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 injured in Venice cruise ship crash

BY CAIN BURDEAU AND LUCA BRUNO

Associated Press

VENICE, Italy — A towering, out-of-control cruise ship rammed into a dock and a tourist riverboat on a busy Venice canal on Sunday morning, injuring five people, officials said. The collision sparked new calls for placing restrictions on cruise ships in the famed city.

The crash happened about 8:30 a.m. on the Giudecca Canal, a major thoroughfare that leads to St. Mark's Square in the northeastern Italian city.

The MSC Opera cruise ship, apparently unable to stop, blared its horn as it slammed into the much smaller River Countess boat and the dock as dozens of people ran away in panic.

Local officials said five women aboard the riverboat were injured. They said one was released immediately from a hospital, while four others were advised to remain under medical care for a few days.

Earlier, medical authorities said four of the women — an American, a New Zealander and two Australians between the ages of 67 and 72 — were injured falling or trying to run away when the cruise ship rammed into the River Countess.



LUCA BRUNO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A cruise ship passes by St. Mark's Square filled with tourists Sunday in Venice, Italy. Groups that want to ban cruise ships on Venice's busy canals say a collision that injured five tourists has served as a wake-up call.

The cruise ship's owner, MSC Cruises, said the vessel was about to dock at a passenger terminal in Venice when it had a mechanical problem. Two tugboats guiding the cruise ship into Venice tried to stop the MSC Opera, but they were unable to prevent it from ramming into the riverboat.

Davide Calderan, the president of a tugboat association in Venice, said the cruise ship's engine was locked when the captain called for help.

Italian media posted an audio clip of the MSC Opera's pilot telling emergency officials that the ship experienced a loss of con-

HONDURANS PROTEST PROPOSED LAYOFFS



ELMER MARTINEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators march during a protest against Honduras President Juan Orlando Hernández on Saturday in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Thousands of doctors and teachers have been marching through the streets of the city for the last three weeks, against presidential decrees they say would lead to massive public sector layoffs.

Bombings in Afghan capital kill 2

BY RAHIM FAIEZ

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Four explosions struck the Afghan capital on Sunday, killing at least two people and wounding 27 others, officials said.

Among the injured were two Afghan journalists, according to a local nongovernmental media organization.

The first bomb hit a bus carrying university students in a residential area of western Kabul. It was followed 20 minutes later by two further detonations at the same location, said Nasrat Rahimi, a spokesman for the interior ministry.

Wahidullah Mayar, a spokesman for the public health ministry, said the three successive attacks injured 24 people, including four women.

The first blast killed at least one person. Mayar added it was not immediately clear which explosion had caused the second death.

A wave of attacks has rocked the Afghan capital in the last week, where both the Islamic



RAHMAT GUL / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security police at the site of an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Sunday. Officials said four explosions hit the city, killing at least two.

State group and Taliban insurgents are active. The Taliban have rejected repeated demands for a cease-fire in the decades-long

civil war, demanding a U.S. and NATO troop withdraw from Afghanistan first.

In a statement, the Islamic State said it set off an improvised explosive device on a bus allegedly transporting minority Shiite Muslims. After security forces and journalists had gathered at the site, the group detonated two additional devices, it added.

Wounded in the secondary explosions were two Afghan journalists, Ahmad Jawed Kargar and Mohammad Faseh Mutawakil, according to Nai, a media organization that supports open media in Afghanistan.

Kargar, a photographer for the European Pressphoto Agency, confirmed he was injured in a video he posted to social media while being taken to the hospital.

Nai said the second journalist had been lightly wounded.

Late in the afternoon Sunday, a fourth blast wounded three people, Rahimi said.

A sticky bomb attached to a vehicle had exploded in southwest Kabul.



VIRGINIA MAYO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

D-Day veteran Charles Norman Shay poses on a dune in a revisit to Omaha Beach in Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, Normandy, France.

Island, Maine, Shay was barely 5 when the Great Depression hit.

He was trained to be a machinist but could not get a job because he was expected to be drafted into the Army.

So before he knew what life was really about, Shay found himself in a hammock in the hold of the RMS Queen Elizabeth. He was sailing from New York to England, his final destination unknown.

"I never had a sense of fear because I didn't know what I was getting into," Shay said.

4-year-old shooting victim’s road to recovery

BY ADAM KEALOHA CAUSEY AND JAKE BLEIBERG
Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — Asia Jacobs, affectionately known as “Mama’s little helper,” struggles to fill that role since police officers opened fire on her mother’s pickup truck outside an Oklahoma food bank and wounded the girl and two of her siblings.

Even as a prosecutor looks into the April shooting to determine whether to charge the officers, details have been scant. This much is clear, though: The children are expected to face a long and hard recovery.

“Emotionally, they’re not OK. Physically, they’re here,” their mother, 24-year-old Olivia Hill, said. “But there’s a lot that we’re going to have to go through in order for everything to be even close to OK.”

Hill left Asia and her three other children inside her teal 1993 Chevrolet Silverado on April 26 while she picked up vegetables at a food bank in Hugo, Okla. Two detectives looking for a suspect in a robbery that had

happened two weeks earlier showed up and began shooting at the truck. Police later said William Devaughn Smith, a friend of Hill’s who was in the vehicle with the children, was the man they were seeking in the April 11 holdup of a Pizza Hut.

Smith, 21, said he was facing backward in the front seat to fix a juice container for Hill’s 1-year-old daughter when the detectives approached the truck.

“Before I could even turn back all the way around in the vehicle, I was shot once,” Smith told the AP last week during a brief phone interview from the Choctaw County jail in Hugo, where he’s being held on a robbery charge after being treated at a hospital and released. “And after that I laid across the seat and gunshots were still being fired.”

The detectives fired at least 26 shots, said Damario Solomon-Simmons, a Tulsa civil rights attorney representing Hill.

READ THE REST OF ASIA’S STORY AT SWJOURNALIST.COM



SUE OGROCKI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Damario Solomon-Simmons, left, looks on as Olivia Hill wipes away tears as she speaks during an interview in Tulsa, Oklahoma, on May 24. Three of Hill’s children were injured when police officers opened fire on a pickup truck, wounding the three children and a man who authorities say was wanted in a robbery.

New cancer drugs boost survival

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

CHICAGO — Newer drugs are substantially improving the chances of survival for certain types of cancer, doctors reported at American Society of Clinical Oncology conference in Chicago Saturday and Sunday. Here are some highlights:

BREAST CANCER

In a study of 672 women with “hormone-positive, HER2-negative” cancers that had spread, adding the Novartis drug Kisqali to the usual hormone blockers as initial therapy helped more than hormone therapy alone.

After 3 1/2 years, 70% of women on Kisqali were alive, compared to 46% of the rest.

Side effects were more common with Kisqali.

PROSTATE

Two drugs have proven able to extend survival.

One study tested Xtandi, sold by Pfizer and Astellas Pharma Inc., in 1,125 men, half of whom also were getting chemo.

After three years, 80% of those given Xtandi plus standard treatments were alive, compared to 72% of men given the other treatments alone.

The other study involved 1,052 men who were given hormone therapy with or without the Janssen drug Erleada.

After two years, survival was 82% among those on Erleada and 74% among those who weren’t.



YELL COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPARTMENT VIA AP

In this aerial image provided by the Yell County Sheriff’s Department, water rushes through the levee along the Arkansas River on Friday in Dardanelle, Arkansas. Officials said the levee breached early Friday.

Arkansas flood risk decreases

BY HANNAH GRABENSTEIN
Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Officials from a small Arkansas city where a levee breached said the risk of widespread flooding has abated because the Arkansas River crested without inundating the city, though communities downriver aren’t out of danger yet.

Dardanelle Mayor Jimmy Witt said in a Facebook post Saturday night that he thought the city of about 4,700 people “will be OK” after the flow of water toward the community began to slow.

The river on Friday made a 40-foot hole in a levee in Dardanelle, which is roughly 100 miles upstream from Little Rock.

Nearby rural communities were flooded, though some residents

had already evacuated. Floodwaters turned a small community of about 25 people a few miles south of Dardanelle into a temporary island.

On Saturday, officials said they were constructing a temporary levee, calling it a “last-ditch effort” to shore up the city’s southern border and predicting up to 800 homes could be affected by creeping floodwaters.

The threat decreased hours later, as the flow of water through the busted levee slowed.

“The temporary levee is in place on the south end of town, and I believe it could really help,” Witt wrote. “I am confident in our preparation to this point.”

By Sunday morning, Dardanelle appeared to be safe. Yell

County Office of Emergency Management Director Jeff Gilkey said the river never reached the levee.

Floodwaters have crested in Dardanelle and levels should begin slowly dropping soon, though both Witt and Gilkey warned that more rain could reverse the city’s fortunes.

National Weather Service meteorologist Dennis Cavanaugh said that possible rain in Oklahoma would likely prolong flooding along the Arkansas River, though it probably wouldn’t raise water levels higher than where they crested. Most areas will see the threat of major flooding subside within a few weeks, although the river will likely stay very high through June, he said.

‘Queen of Creole,’ civil rights icon dies

BY REBECCA SANTANA
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — New Orleans chef and civil rights icon Leah Chase, who created the city’s first white-tablecloth restaurant for black patrons, broke the city’s segregation laws by seating white and black customers and introduced countless tourists to Southern Louisiana Creole cooking, died Saturday. She was 96.

Chase’s family released a statement to news outlets Saturday night saying the “believer in the Spirit of New Orleans” died surrounded by family.

“Her daily joy was not simply cooking, but preparing meals to bring people together,” the statement read. “One of her most prized contributions was advocating for the civil rights movement through feeding those on the front lines of the struggle for human dignity.”

Leah Chase transformed the Dooky Chase’s restaurant from a sandwich shop where black patrons bought lottery tickets to a refined restaurant where tourists, athletes, musicians and even presidents of all races dined on fare such as jambalaya and shrimp Clemenceau. The restaurant and Chase’s husband were both named after her father-in-law.

Chase’s determination propelled her from a small-town Louisiana upbringing to a celebrated chef who authored cookbooks, appeared on cooking shows and fed civil rights greats



BILL HABER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chef Leah Chase, owner of Dooky Chase’s prepares for lunch at her restaurant on Jan. 20, 2009, in New Orleans.

such as Thurgood Marshall and Martin Luther King Jr.

“I love people and I love serving people. It’s fun for me to serve people. Because sometimes people will come in and they’re tired. And just a little plate of food will make people happy,” she said during a 2015 interview with The Associated Press.

During the civil rights movement, Dooky Chase’s became known as a place where white and black activists could meet. Although Chase and her husband were breaking the law by allowing blacks and whites to eat together, the police never raided the restaurant. “When people come and ask about soul food, I ask them where is their soul. If your soul is in China, I can’t help you,” Chase said. “If your soul is in New Orleans, I know what to give you.”

Trump set to visit Europe amid unrest

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE AND KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is headed back to Europe. This time, he faces an ally in turmoil and a global call to renew democratic pacts.

The agenda for Trump’s week-long journey is both ceremonial and official: a state visit and an audience with Queen Elizabeth II in London; D-Day commemoration ceremonies on both sides of the English Channel; and his first presidential visit to Ireland, which will include a stay at his coastal golf club.

But the president will arrive at a precarious moment, as he faces

his visit to England last summer flooded the streets and flew an inflatable balloon depicting the president as a baby.

A year ago, Trump played the ungracious guest, blasting May in an interview just hours before Air Force One touched down in England. He has done it again, this time sparing May but praising her rival, prime minister hopeful Boris Johnson.

“I think Boris would do a very good job. I think he would be excellent,” Trump told The Sun, the same publication to which he gave an interview last summer. “I like him. I have always liked him. I don’t know that he is going to

be chosen, but I think he is a very good guy, a very talented person.”

Trump also used the interview to weigh in

on the American-born Duchess of Sussex. The former Meghan Markle, who gave birth in May and will not attend the week’s events, has been critical of Trump in the past, prompting the president to tell The Sun, “I didn’t know that she was nasty.”

Trump pushed back Sunday against reports that he had described Markle as “nasty,” tweeting: “I never called Meghan Markle ‘nasty.’ Made up by the Fake News Media, and they got caught cold!” The newspaper posted the audio of the interview on its website.

“I never called Meghan Markle ‘nasty.’ Made up by the Fake News Media!”

DONALD TRUMP

BRIEFS

Snapchat and YouTube users report global outages

Users of both Snapchat and YouTube experienced outages in the afternoon of June 2. The outages impacted people from across the globe. In the United States, users in several cities, including Dallas, Chicago, San Diego and Tampa, reported outages, according to a live outage map from downdetector.com. YouTube users also reported outages across the globe.

Both Snapchat and YouTube acknowledged the outages on their Twitter support accounts. Snapchat tweeted out that they were aware of the issue at 12:20 p.m. CST, while YouTube said they were “working to fix it” at 12:48 p.m. CST.

Dad, stepmom charged in starvation death of son

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — A man who carried his son’s lifeless body into an Indiana hospital has been charged with murder after an autopsy found that the 12-year-old had been abused and starved to death.

Luis Posso and the boy’s stepmother, Dayan Flores, were charged with murder and other crimes Friday in Bloomington, a week after the death of Eduardo Posso. They formerly lived in Myakka City, Florida, and were in Indiana to promote a circus.

The Herald-Times quotes Monroe County authorities as saying the boy was emaciated and had bruises on his body.

Sephora to close US stores for inclusion workshops

NEW YORK — Sephora says it will close all its U.S. stores on the morning of June 5 to host “inclusion workshops” for its employees. The move comes just over a month after the cosmetics company caught the internet’s eye, when singer SZA said she had security called on her while shopping at a California store.

Sephora posted notice of the closures on its Facebook page and elsewhere. It also included a link to its “We Belong to Something Beautiful” campaign, which says, “We will never stop building a community where diversity is expected, self-expression is honored, all are welcomed, and you are included.”

On April 30, SZA tweeted that a Sephora employee called security to make sure she wasn’t stealing. Sephora responded with an apologetic tweet, saying it takes such complaints seriously.

Former teacher pleads in prostitution case

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — A long-running Springfield prostitution case has ended.

Forty-one-year-old Laura Fiedler, a former Springfield teacher, pleaded guilty last week to a misdemeanor charge of running a sexually oriented business too close to a park.

Fiedler and her husband, Mark Fiedler, were charged in 2012 with promoting prostitution at their massage business in downtown Springfield.

The Springfield News-Leader reports Laura Fiedler maintained she didn’t know about the prostitution. She entered an Alford plea Thursday, meaning she did not admit guilt but admitted there was enough evidence to convict her. She was sentenced to two years of unsupervised probation and 60 hours of community service.

Fiedler, who had been on administrative leave from the Springfield school district since 2011, also must resign from the district.

Cougar killed after attempted attack on child

SEATTLE — Washington State Patrol officials say responders have killed a cougar that tried to attack a child in Leavenworth.

KING-TV reports the child escaped serious injury.

Officials said in a tweet that the attempted attack occurred in the Enchantment Park area around dusk Saturday.

The cougar was euthanized after it was found by Washington Department of Fish and Game agents early Sunday.

Chuck Hoskin Jr. elected Cherokee principal chief

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — Unofficial election results show that the Cherokee Nation’s former secretary of state, Chuck Hoskin Jr., has been elected to be the principal chief of the nation’s biggest tribe, winning almost 58% of the vote.

Cherokee Nation spokeswoman Julie Hubbard says the results of Saturday’s election aren’t expected to change much as the remaining challenge ballots are processed.

Principal Chief candidate Dick Lay received 27% of the vote, while a third candidate, David Walkingstick, was disqualified prior to the election.

Wade surprises graduates at Stoneman Douglas

SUNRISE, Fla. — Retired NBA star Dwyane Wade was a surprise guest speaker Sunday at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School’s graduation ceremony, leading cheers and recalling how nervous he was to meet students following the on-campus shootings last year that claimed 17 lives.

Wade called himself “part of this MSD family” and told graduates that it was understandable if they feel unsure about their futures — because in some ways, after 16 years in the NBA, he also is unsure exactly what his future entails.

“I’m so proud to say the words ‘MSD Strong,’” Wade said. “Today, you will close a chapter in your lives and embark on new experiences and journeys and memories. And it’s a time to celebrate and be proud of everything you’ve done to make it to this moment.”

BRIEFS

Texas governor signs ban on red-light cameras

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has signed a bill into law banning red-light traffic cameras in the state. Abbott tweeted Saturday that he signed off on the ban, which takes effect Sept. 1.

Such cameras take images of vehicles entering intersections when red stoplights are lit. Drivers are usually fined \$75.

Critics say red-light cameras are unconstitutional and contribute to traffic accidents. Supporters say red-light cameras help make streets safer and generate funds for cities and other government entities.

An amendment lets cities keep operating the cameras until their contracts with vendors expire, although some communities have begun negotiations to terminate the deals earlier. The law also prevents counties and Texas officials from refusing to register a vehicle amid unpaid red-light camera tickets.

Beto tours Okla. areas damaged by floods

SAND SPRINGS, Okla. — Democratic presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke toured some flood damage in Oklahoma as the waters began to recede and storm-weary residents gutted waterlogged homes.

O'Rourke said Sunday that if he is elected, he will direct federal grants to invest in communities before natural disasters strike because they are expected to get worse as the global climate warms.

In the Tulsa suburb of Sand Springs, residential streets covered in silt deposited by floodwaters are lined with trash bins full of soggy couches, carpet, drywall and insulation as the community addresses the damage.

Jamie Casto helped clean up her 65-year-old uncle's house, where a rust-colored line indicated floodwaters got about 4 feet high inside.

Casto said her uncle was told the house is in a 500-year flood plain and that he does not have flood insurance.

Police kill armed man during disturbance call

FORT WORTH — Police in North Texas have fatally shot a suspect who investigators say pointed a weapon at officers before barricading himself inside a home.

Fort Worth police say the shooting happened Saturday night as officers responded to a domestic disturbance call.

Tactical officers tried to negotiate with the barricaded suspect. Police say moments later the man came out of the home and again threatened officers. One officer shot the suspect, who died at the scene.

Officer Jimmy Pollozani on Sunday declined to identify the suspect's weapon amid the investigation. Pollozani says an autopsy has been ordered. The suspect's name wasn't immediately released. No officers were hurt.

The officer who opened fire has been put on administrative leave amid a review of the fatal shooting.

Further details weren't immediately released.

Feds accuse Harlingen man of having child porn

HARLINGEN — Federal prosecutors allege a 30-year-old Harlingen man collected 200 child pornography videos over a two-year period.

Genaro Torres Alejo Jr. appeared in front of U.S. Magistrate Judge Ronald Morgan on Friday morning to face child pornography charges.

According to a criminal complaint, Homeland Security Investigations began looking into an internet protocol address on April 25 that authorities allege possessed images and video files of child pornography.

HSI agents executed a search warrant Thursday at Alejo's Harlingen residence and arrested the man.

Alejo apparently told investigators that he had searched for and received child pornography for the past two years, according to the criminal complaint.

He faces a maximum 20-year sentence, possible restitution to the victims, as well as being required to register as a sex offender for life if convicted.

Alejo is being temporarily held without bond pending probable cause and detention hearings scheduled for Wednesday.

Rangers' Gallo will miss time with oblique strain

ARLINGTON — Texas Rangers slugger Joey Gallo hopes to be sidelined no more than two weeks because of a left oblique strain.

Gallo was placed on the 10-day injured list Sunday. He consulted with New York Yankees right fielder Aaron Judge, who has been out with a similar injury since April 20.

"I talked to Judge yesterday because I was concerned," Gallo said before Sunday's game against Kansas City. "I was trying to figure out what he felt, 'cause at the time I didn't have the MRI."

The strain is on the back side of Gallo's swing, while the injury to Judge is to his front side.

Gallo has 17 homers and was tied for second in the AL entering Sunday. His .653 slugging percentage topped the AL.

Rangers manager Chris Woodward said he thinks Gallo will miss about two weeks.

"He worries me just because he creates so much torque with his body, and he's so strong that we don't want him to come back too early," Woodward said.

Woodward said Gallo will probably be able to bat before he can return to the outfield.

Gallo left Saturday's game while batting with a full count in the fifth inning, an inning after hitting his second homer in two days.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cough meds not for minors, state says

ELIZABETH BYRNE
Texas Tribune

Starting in September, Texans under 18 years old will no longer be able to buy popular over-the-counter cough medicines like NyQuil and Robitussin under a bill Gov. Greg Abbott signed earlier this month.

House Bill 1518, by state Rep. Garnet Coleman (D-Houston), will prevent minors from buying products that contain dextromethorphan, a cough suppressant found in more than 100 over-the-counter cough medicines.

About 3% of teens in twelfth grade reported taking large doses of cough medicine to get high, according to a 2017 study from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.



JUAN FIGUEROA/TEXAS TRIBUNE

Minors in Texas won't be able to buy popular cough medicines as of September.

In large doses, dextromethorphan can cause hallucinations and is also known as "robotripping."

Coleman said he hopes the law will prevent teens from using cough medicine as a "gateway

drug" to more dangerous substances.

"We know that young people will find anything that will alter their states, and particularly substances that are legal, and when used inappropriately, they get high," Coleman said. "The first thing we need to do is crack down on the access to those types of legal over-the-counter drugs."

Texas joins 18 other states that have passed similar laws restricting access to the cough suppressant. In January, U.S. Reps. Doris Matsui, D-Calif., and Bill Johnson, R-Ohio, filed a bill that would prohibit selling dextromethorphan to minors nationwide. However, the bill has not moved since it was filed.



BRAD TOLLEFSON/LUBBOCK AVANTAGE-JOURNAL

Dallas Baptist's Ray Gaither (20) cheers for his team after ending an inning during Sunday's NCAA Regional game against Florida in Lubbock. The Patriots held on to win 9-8 and set up a meeting with Texas Tech.

Dallas Baptist ends Florida's CWS run

LUBBOCK — Jimmy Glowneke homered to cap a nine-run fourth inning and Dallas Baptist held on to beat Florida 9-8 in an NCAA regional elimination game Sunday, ending the Gators' run of four straight trips to the College World Series.

Florida had cut a seven-run deficit to one when Burl Carraway finished his sixth save by getting Jacob Young on a ground-out to second with the tying run at third base.

The Patriots (43-19) were set to face host Texas Tech later Sunday in their fifth straight trip to the final round of a regional. Dallas Baptist lost the previous four, including in Lubbock three years ago.

Glowneke's three-run shot gave the Patriots a 9-2 lead after solo homers from Bryce Ball and Andres Sosa earlier in the inning. Luke Bandy had a two-run single, Augie Isaacson hit an RBI double and Evan Sandmann had a sacrifice fly.

Wil Dalton connected on a two-run homer in a four-run fifth for the Gators (34-25), who were away from home in a regional for the first time since getting swept in Bloomington, Indiana, in 2013.

Florida went 1-2 in this regional. Jimmy Fouse allowed seven hits and six runs in five innings.

BLAUM'S WALK-OFF GRAND SLAM LEADS TEXAS A&M OVER WEST VIRGINIA

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Bryce Blaum's grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning lifted Texas A&M to an 11-10 victory over West Virginia in an NCAA Tournament elimination game Sunday.

Second-seeded Texas A&M (39-22-1) stormed back from a 9-1 deficit to earn a rematch with third-seeded Duke in the championship game later Sunday. The Aggies need two wins to advance to the super regionals. Duke beat Texas A&M 8-5 Friday.

Texas A&M's Logan Foster hit a grand slam during a six-run seventh to pull the Aggies within 9-7.

Foster hit a leadoff double in the ninth and West Virginia reliever Sam Kessler (4-3) allowed two walks to load the bases. With two out, Blaum hit a 3-2 pitch over the wall in left center field.

Kevin Brophy and Paul McIntosh each hit two-run homers for top-seeded West Virginia (38-22), which lost at its home ballpark.

Houston weighs major public transit project

Long-term plan set to cost \$7.5B still being modified

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Houston's proposed rail expansion could get bigger. Metropolitan Transit Authority officials are still modifying the agency's long-term plan that's projected to begin with \$7.5 billion in improvements, the Houston Chronicle reported. The enhancements would be used to develop 66 miles (105 kilometers) of bus rapid transit and at least 16 miles (25 kilometers) more of light rail.

Metro is still reviewing proposals that include a light rail extension to Hobby Airport. As metro officials finish the bus and rail plans, residents will have one last opportunity at a community meeting this month to shape them before the November ballot.

"We are headed in the right direction, based on all our community input," Metro chairwoman Carrin Patman said, citing the response from elected officials, community groups and commenters at dozens of meetings around the area. "I think we are moving toward a wonderful plan to take out to the voters."

A 0.2-mile expansion of the Green and Purple Lines is already included in the long-term plan, which would extend from the western end of the Theater Dis-

BY THE NUMBERS

\$7.5 billion
budgeted for a long-term improvement plan

66
miles of bus rapid transit

16
miles of light rail transit

trict to the Houston Municipal Courthouse.

"I would be really curious what the ridership models will show," said Metro board member Sanjay Ramabhadran.

Officials emphasized the proposal is still being assessed and not yet part of the plan.

"We're looking at it," Patman said.

With few details outlined, many residents applauded the possibility.

"I'd get rid of my car to ride it," said Paul Miles, 32, who lives nearby.

Metro board member Jim Robinson said all lines should offer parking at their ends to lure commuters.

"Regardless of how we get to Hobby, I think it is paramount we put a park-and-ride lot at the end of it," Robinson said.



YI-CHIN LEE/HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Houston's Metropolitan Transit Authority is reviewing a light rail extension to Hobby Airport as well as other proposals to amend the metro's expansion.

'Safety is at risk': After legislative impasse, Texas plumbers face uncertainty in licensing

ELIZABETH BYRNE
Texas Tribune

Plumbers in Texas will no longer be subject to state regulations after lawmakers this week flushed the state plumbing code and the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners, a state agency that employed dozens and generated \$5.2 million in revenue in 2017.

Soon, anyone can call themselves a plumber without completing the agency-required education and tests, said Roger Wakefield, master plumber and owner of Texas Green Plumbing in Richardson. Wakefield, who has been a plumber for 40 years, said the industry is now "completely unregulated," which will lead to more unqualified workers entering the workforce.

"We're going to put the safety of the homeowners and the public of Texas in jeopardy," he said. "Plumbers install medical gas. They install the potable drinking water that we have every day. If

they're not doing it right, people's safety is at risk."

Wakefield said he and other plumbers are calling Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and asking him to order lawmakers back to Austin for a special legislative session to remedy the situation. Abbott's press office did not respond to requests for comment, but the governor indicated on Twitter on Monday that he has no plans to reconvene legislators before the next regular session in 2021.

The state plumbing code will cease to exist on Sept. 1 while the state plumbing agency, which had 28 employees as of March, will have a "wind down" period to wrap up operations by September 2020. Several requests for comment left with the state board were not returned.

We're going to put the safety of the homeowners and the public of Texas in jeopardy.

ROGER WAKEFIELD
MASTER PLUMBER

That entity is responsible for licensing plumbers and enforcing the state plumbing code. The agency was up for what's known as the sunset review process, when lawmakers periodically assess how efficiently state entities are organized and whether they should continue to exist.

Senate Bill 621 received pushback from members of the plumbing industry because it would abolish the state board and move its duties under the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, a larger agency that oversees more than two dozen other professions. The bill failed 57-88. State Rep. Chris Paddie, R-Marshall, later tried to reconsider the vote, but he failed again, 68-76.

However, House members say Paddie had the power to save the plumbing board with House Bill 1550, a "sunset safety net bill." Lawmakers usually pass such a bill every session to keep a number of state agencies from shutting down by pushing their sunset review to the following session. Paddie had earlier called for a committee of lawmakers from the House and Senate to iron out the differences on the safety net bill, but they didn't issue a report by a key deadline. Thompson said from the House floor Sunday that if Paddie chose to discharge the committee and call a vote before the House gavelled out for the night, then both the safety net bill and the plumbing board bill could have been saved.

Paddie said the plumbing board operated with some inefficiencies, including that in order to take a plumbing exam, an applicant must come to Austin for the test.

A NATION OF TRAUMA

There’s a network of stricken survivors in the U.S.
A mass shooting can happen anytime and anywhere.

AT A HIGH SCHOOL



Parkland High School - Feb. 14, 2018

Your heart hurts every time a new tragedy happens. ... You don’t just get over it and move on.

STEPHANIE CINQUE
DIRECTOR, RESILIENCY CENTER OF NEWTOWN

AT A CONCERT



Route 91 Harvest Festival - Oct. 1, 2017

I find it very hard to talk to family members and give them bad news ... much more so than before.

DAVE MACINTYRE
LAS VEGAS TRAUMA SURGEON

AT A TEMPLE



Oak Creek Sikh Temple - Aug. 5, 2012

It’s not like I wake up and say, ‘I can’t believe this happened.’ It’s just life now.

BRIAN MURPHY
WISCONSIN POLICE OFFICER, FIRST ON SCENE AT THE SIKH TEMPLE SHOOTING

AT A NIGHTCLUB



Pulse nightclub - June 12, 2016

I felt like I was normal before Pulse. I was a very happy guy. ... Now I still deal with depression.

JIMMY REYES
ORLANDO FIREFIGHTER

AT A GOVERNMENT BUILDING



Virginia Beach - May 31, 2019

They leave a void that we will never be able to fill.

DAVE HANSEN
VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA, CITY MANAGER

AT AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Sandy Hook Elementary - Dec. 14, 2012

Mass shootings are a different type of trauma. ... It just rattles us to our core.

LAURA WILSON
PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

Mass shootings create a community of heartbreak

BY SHARON COHEN AND LINDSEY TANNER | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pardeep Singh Kaleka has surveyed the landscape of an America scarred by mass shootings.

Seven years ago, a white supremacist invaded a Sikh temple in Wisconsin and killed six worshippers — among them, Kaleka’s father. Now, whenever another gunman bloodies another town, Kaleka posts a supportive message on social media. Later, he may visit the community to shore up others who share his pain.

He’s been to Newtown, Connecticut. Charleston, South Carolina. Pittsburgh. “We’ve become kind of a family,” Kaleka says.

It’s true. The unending litany of mass shootings in recent years — the latest, on Friday, leaving 12 dead in Virginia Beach, Virginia — has built an unacknowledged community of heartbreak, touching and warping the lives of untold thousands.

All the survivors, none of them unscathed. Loved ones of the living and dead. Their neighbors, relatives and colleagues. The first responders, the health care workers, the elected officials.

The attacks have changed how America talks, prays and prepares for trouble. Today, the phrase “active shooter” needs no explanation. Schools hold “lockdown drills” to prepare students for the possibility of a shooter. Police and firefighters, tormented by memories of carnage they’ve witnessed, are treated for post-traumatic stress disorder. Healing centers have opened. Support groups of survivors have formed.

Mayors, doctors, police and other leaders who’ve endured these crises are paying it forward — offering mentoring and guidance to the next town that has to wrestle with the nightmare.

Former Oak Creek Mayor Stephen Scaffidi remembers the night of the 2012 Sikh temple shooting, when he got a call from the mayor of Aurora, Colorado, where 12 people had recently been killed at a movie theater. “He gave me the best advice ... ‘Be calm. Reassure your community. And only speak to what you know,’” Scaffidi recalls.

Last year, two days after the fatal shooting of 17 students

and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, Christine Hunschofsky, mayor of Parkland, Florida, met the mother of a 6-year-old killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. “She said at first it will seem like everyone comes together,” the mayor recalls. “Then it seems like a tsunami that hits the community. People become very divided. This is all normal after a mass trauma.”

Mass shootings account for a tiny percentage of homicides, but their scale sets them apart. In 1999, the Columbine shooting shocked the nation with its unforgettable images of teens running from the school with their hands up. Today, the public follows these unfolding events through live-streamed video or tweets.

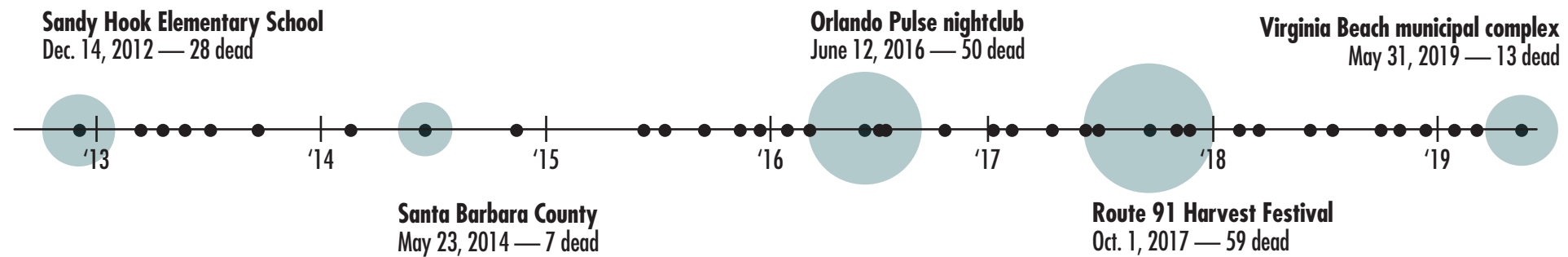
The National Center for PTSD estimates 28 percent of people who have witnessed a mass shooting develop post-traumatic stress disorder and about a third develop acute stress disorder.

Some first responders with PTSD have turned to UCF RESTORES, a clinic that helps military and civilian trauma victims.



KEVIN HIGLEY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

In this Tuesday, April 20, 1999, file photo, four unidentified young women head to a library near Columbine High School, where students and faculty members were evacuated after two student gunmen went on a shooting rampage in the school in the Denver suburb of Littleton, Colorado. The attack left 12 students and one teacher dead.





91°/74°
Isolated thunderstorms

TIANANMEN SQUARE

Thirty years after the protests in Beijing, China's political repression remains harsh. How did the Tiananmen Square massacre set the stage for the country's current state? **FEATURES, 6**



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SWJOURNALIST.COM ■ TUESDAY, JUNE 4, 2019



Trump gets relief bill from Congress

Final consensus reached on delayed aid for 2017 hurricane disasters

BY ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is finally shipping President Donald Trump a \$19.1 billion disaster aid bill, a measure stalled for months by infighting, misjudgment, and a presidential feud with Democrats.

The House is approving the measure in its first significant action as it returns from a 10-day recess. It is slated for a Monday evening vote in which Republicans whose home districts have been hit by hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and fires are set to join with majority Democrats to deliver a big vote for the measure.

Conservative Republicans had held up the bill during the recess, objecting on three occasions to efforts by Democratic leaders to pass the bill by a voice vote requiring unanimity.

They said the legislation —

which reflects an increasingly permissive attitude in Washington on spending to address disasters that sooner or later hit every region of the country — shouldn't be rushed through without a recorded vote.

Along the way, House and Senate old-timers have seemed to outmaneuver the White House, though Trump personally prevailed upon Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., to drop a bid to free up billions of dollars for dredging and other projects.

The Senate passed the bill by a sweeping 85-8 vote on its way out of Washington May 23, a margin that reflected a consensus that the bill is long overdue.

The measure was initially held up over a fight between Trump and Democrats over aid to Puerto Rico that seems long settled.

"Some in our government refused to assist our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico who are still recovering from a 2017 hurricane. I'm pleased we've moved past that," said House Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-N.Y. "Because when disaster strikes, we shouldn't let a

ZIP code dictate our response."

Funding will also aid victims of Hurricane Harvey and Irma in Texas in 2017.

The measure also faced delays amid failed talks on Trump's \$4 billion-plus request to care for thousands of mostly Central American migrants being held at the southern border.

The sides narrowed their differences but couldn't reach agreement in the rush to go on recess but everyone agrees that another bill will be needed almost immediately to refill nearly empty agency accounts to care for migrants.

The measure is largely the same as a version that passed the House last month that Republicans opposed for leaving out the border funding.

"We must work together quickly to pass a bill that addresses the surge of unaccompanied children crossing the border and provides law enforcement agencies with the funding they need," said top Appropriations Committee Republican Kay Granger of Texas. "The stakes are high. There are serious — life or death — repercussions if Congress does not act."

Among the reasons was a de-



DAVID CARSON / ST. LOUIS DISPATCH

Water from the Mississippi River floods Leonor K. Sullivan Boulevard on Saturday in St. Louis. The Mississippi River is expected to rise several feet by midweek.

mand by House liberals to block the Homeland Security Department from getting information from federal social welfare authorities to help track immigrants residing in the U.S. illegally who take refugee children into their homes.

As the measure languished, di-

sasters kept coming — with failed levees in Arkansas, Iowa and Missouri and tornadoes across Ohio just the most recent examples. The measure is supported by the bipartisan party leadership in both House and Senate.

■ Relief package, Page 2

PRESIDENT TRUMP VISITS THE QUEEN



DOMINIC LIPINSKI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

US President Donald Trump and Queen Elizabeth II toast during the state banquet at Buckingham Palace in London on Monday. Trump is on a three-day state visit to Britain. It was a whirlwind of pomp, circumstance and protest for Trump amid Britain's own uncertain future with Brexit. With the trip already at risk

of being overshadowed by Britain's Brexit turmoil, Trump unleashed a Twitter tirade after London's mayor said Trump was "one of the most egregious examples of a growing global threat" to liberal democracy from the far right. SEE RELATED STORY ON PAGE 4.

Contempt vote looms for AG

Commerce chief also under scrutiny

BY MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats are moving to hold Attorney General William Barr and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in contempt of Congress for failing to comply with subpoenas for documents related to the Trump administration's decision to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census.

Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland, chairman of the House Oversight Committee, said the panel will vote soon on contempt measures for both unless specific documents are received by Thursday.



Barr

A contempt vote by the committee would be an escalation of Democratic efforts to use their majority to aggressively investigate the inner workings of President Donald Trump's administration.

The House Judiciary Committee voted last month to hold Barr in contempt of Congress as part of a separate legal battle with the Trump administration over access to special counsel Robert Mueller's report on Russian interference in the 2016 election.

A vote by the full House would be required to hold Barr and Ross in contempt on the census issue. Such a finding would be a political blow but would not result in real punishment since the men are unlikely to go to jail or be arrested.

Cummings said in a statement the failure of Barr and Ross to respond to the Oversight subpoenas

was "part of a pattern" by the administration to engage in a "cover-up" and challenge the authority of Congress to conduct constitutionally required oversight.

"This cover-up is being directed from the top," Cummings said, noting that Trump has vowed to fight all subpoenas issued by Congress and refused to work on legislative priorities until Congress halts investigations of his administration.

While Trump has suggested that congressional subpoenas are partisan and somehow related to the Russia probe, neither claim is true, Cummings said. "The subpoenas in this investigation were adopted on a bipartisan basis, and this investigation has nothing to do with Russia," he said.

The committee approved the subpoenas on the census issue in April. Rep. Justin Amash of Michigan was the sole Republican to

join with Democrats in the 23-14 vote. Amash later said he supports an impeachment inquiry against Trump.

Democrats say they want specific documents to determine why Ross added the citizenship question to the 2020 census. They say the Trump administration has declined to provide the documents despite repeated requests.

Ross said the decision in March 2018 to add the question was based on a request to help it enforce the Voting Rights Act.

Cummings disputed that, citing documents unearthed last week suggesting that the real reason the administration sought to add the citizenship question was to help officials gerrymander legislative districts in overtly partisan and racist ways.

Democrats fear the question will reduce census participation in immigrant-heavy communities, harming representation and access to federal dollars.

Apple's future rests on services Plan to diversify makes waves

BY MICHAEL LIEDTKE
Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Apple executives previewed a large set of privacy and speed-focused changes to the company's phone and computer software Monday, some intended to help it diversify to offset eroding sales of its bedrock product, the iPhone.

Apple's keynote focused largely on minor feature updates to its flagship software, but hinted at its shift toward a services-focused company.

With plans for expansion on the way, Apple has already invested \$1 billion to build a new campus in North Austin, among other cities. The 133-acre campus will initially accommodate 5,000 additional employees, with the capacity to grow to 15,000, and is expected to make Apple the largest private employer in Austin.

Although still popular, the iPhone is no longer reliably driving Apple's profits the way it has for the past decade. Sales have fallen sharply for the past two quarters, and could suffer another blow if China's government targets the iPhone in retaliation for the trade war being waged by President Donald Trump.

Apple emphasized its privacy protections during the keynote — following along with Facebook, Google and other major tech companies' scripts this year.

In its new operating system iOS 13, the company is introducing "Sign in with Apple" to let users sign into apps without using similar sign-in services from Facebook and Google. The sign in will let you hide your actual email address if you choose. Apple is also making it easier to only show your location to apps once and not continually.

Another potential problem looms for Apple. Regulatory complaints and a consumer lawsuit both question whether Apple has been abusing the power of its iPhone app store to thwart competition and gouge smaller technology companies that rely

■ Apple unveils future plans, Page 2



Cook



(Front) Marlese Lessing, Cameron Hoover, Alex Nicoll; (Middle) Bradley Wilson, Griff Singer, Georgia Geen, Sidney Madden, Anh Nguyen; (Back) Mark Grabowski, Beth Butler, Theo DeRosa, Emma Swislow, Nora Smith

DJNF Class of 2019 is here

Nine college students and recent college graduates are headed to editing internships after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at the University of Texas at Austin.

The interns are among a group of undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, business reporting and digital journalism. The program is operated by the Dow Jones News Fund.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 22nd residency program at UT-Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a model daily newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online product, swjournalist.com.

The UT-News Fund interns serve internships of 10 to 12 weeks. Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating news organizations cover the participants' training, including housing, meals, transportation and instruction.

Beth Butler and Bradley Wilson served as co-directors of the workshop with assistance from Kathleen McElroy, director of the UT School of Journalism, and Alexis Chavez, administrative associate.

Faculty also included Mark Grabowski, associate professor at Adelphi University; Griff Singer, retired senior lecturer at the University of Texas School of Journalism and former director of the Center for Editing Excellence; Heather Taylor, manager of digital media and programs of the News Fund in Princeton, New Jersey.

The 2019 participants, their schools and their internship assignments are as follows:

- **Theo DeRosa**, University of Missouri, Omaha World-Herald
- **Georgia Geen**, Virginia Commonwealth University, Roanoke Times
- **Cameron Hoover**, Kent State University, Gatehouse News and Design Center
- **Marlese Lessing**, University of Connecticut, Central Connecticut Communications
- **Sidney Madden**, University of Illinois, BuzzFeed
- **Anh Nguyen**, Temple University, Los Angeles Times
- **Alex Nicoll**, University of Arkansas, Houston Chronicle
- **Nora Smith**, Appalachian State University Honors College, Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail
- **Emma Swislow**, Amherst College, Stars and Stripes

FDA lowers barriers to cancer trial drugs

BY MARILYNN MARCHIONE
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Sally Atwater's doctor spent two months on calls, messages and paperwork to get her an experimental drug he thinks can fight the lung cancer that has spread to her brain and spine.

Nancy Goodman begged eight companies to let her young son try experimental medicines for a brain tumor that ultimately killed him, and "only three of the companies even gave me a reason why they declined," she said.

Thousands of gravely ill cancer patients each year seek "compassionate use" access to treatments that are not yet on the market but have shown some promise in early testing and aren't available to them through a study.

Now the government wants to make this easier and give more heft to the requests. On Monday at a cancer conference in Chicago, the Food and Drug Administration announced a project to have the agency become the middleman.

Instead of making doctors plead their case first to companies and then to the FDA if the company agrees to provide the drug, the FDA will become the initial step and will assign a staffer to quickly do the paperwork. That way, when a company gets a request, it knows the FDA already considers it appropriate.

"We are here to help. We are not here to make a drug company

give a specific drug to a patient. We don't have that authority," said Dr. Richard Pazdur, the FDA official leading the effort. But the agency gets little information now on how many requests are turned down and why.

The current system also is cumbersome and sometimes unfair, he said. Patients in rural or inner city areas or at community hospitals that lack staff to work on special requests may be disadvantaged. Social media campaigns can add to the inequity.

"We do not want to have the situation where somebody who screams loudest gets the drug" and other worthy candidates don't, Pazdur said.

The project involves only drugs for cancer, not other diseases. It has nothing to do with the federal Right to Try law passed last year, which many have called "right to ask" because it only allows patients to request a drug from a company under certain circumstances and does not mandate that it be provided.

The new FDA project is "absolutely going to change things" and push more companies to say yes, Goodman said. She founded an advocacy group, Kids v Cancer, after her son Jacob Froman died in 2009 at age 10.

The FDA has not been the problem, she said. It keeps a website with links to companies' policies and contact information for patients, and has quickly approved most requests.

Sudan assaults pro-democracy protesters, kills 35

Violence signals end of tolerance

BY BASSAM HATOUM AND SAMY MAGDY
Associated Press

KHARTOUM, Sudan — Sudan's ruling military moved to crush the protest movement opposing its grip on power as security forces overran the main sit-in site in the capital early Monday, unleashing furious volleys of gunfire, burning down tents and killing at least 35 people, witnesses and protest leaders said.

With the assault, the generals signaled an end of their tolerance of the pro-democracy demonstrators, who for months have been camped outside the military's headquarters as the two sides negotiated over who would run the country after the April ouster of longtime strongman Omar al-Bashir.

After they succeeded in forcing the military to remove al-Bashir,

the protesters had stayed in the streets, demanding the generals move to the background and allow civilians to lead the transition.

The dispersal of the sit-in now risks escalating violence even further. Scattered by the bloody assault, protesters vowed to keep up their campaign, suspending talks and calling for a general strike and civil disobedience. They urged nighttime marches across the country.

"This is a critical point in our revolution. The military council has chosen escalation and confrontation," said Mohammed Yousef al-Mustafa, a spokesman for the Sudanese Professionals' Association, which has spearheaded the protests.

"Those are criminals who should have been treated like al-Bashir," he said. "Now the situation is either them or us, there is no other way."

The ruling military council said in a statement that security forces had been trying to clear an area adjacent to the protest camp

when those it was chasing fled into the sit-in site, leading to the shooting deaths and injuries.

But activists said the assault appeared to be a coordinated move, with other forces attacking similar sit-ins in Khartoum's sister city of Omdurman and the eastern city of al-Qadarif.

The attack came on the day before the Eid holiday that ends Ramadan, the holy month when Muslims fast during daylight hours. Large numbers of troops from the military, police and Rapid Support Forces — an elite unit that during the anti-al-Bashir protests had vowed to protect the sit-in — moved in on the gathering after overnight rains, activists said.

"They are surrounding the sit-in from all directions," one activist, Amal al-Zein, said early in the assault, in which the forces burned tents and arrested those trying to flee.

An Associated Press journalist heard gunshots and explosions, and saw buses and soldiers on



ASSOCIATED PRESS

A protester flashes the victory sign in front of burning tires and debris near Khartoum's army headquarters, in Khartoum, Sudan, on Monday. Sudanese protest leaders say at least 35 people have been killed Monday in the military's assault on the sit-in outside the military headquarters in Khartoum.

foot blocking roads leading to the protest site. In online videos, protesters were seen running and ducking as barrages of gunfire echoed. Smoke rose from tires set ablaze by the protesters.

"Wounded people are lying on the ground in the reception area

as there are not enough beds," said Dr. Azza al-Kamel of the Royal Care hospital.

Tens of thousands remained in place in Khartoum and other camps around the country, demanding a fast transition to civilian rule.

Congress passes relief package

■ Continued from Page 1

The legislation is also being driven by Florida and Georgia lawmakers steaming with frustration over delays in delivering help to farmers, towns and military bases slammed by hurricanes last fall. Flooding in Iowa and Nebraska this spring added to the coalition behind the measure, which delivers much of its help to regions where Trump supporters dominate.

The bill started out as a modest \$7.8 billion measure passed in the last days of House GOP control. A \$14 billion version advanced in the Pelosi-led chamber in January and had ballooned to \$19.1 billion by the time it emerged from the floor last month, fed by new funding for community rehabilitation projects, Army Corps of Engineers water and flood protection projects, and rebuilding funds for several military bases, including Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rep. John Rose, R-Tenn., a freshman from Cookeville, Tenn., speaks to reporters at the Capitol after he blocked a unanimous consent vote Thursday.

Apple unveils future plans

■ Continued from Page 1

on it to attract users and sell their services.

Apple is trying to adapt by squeezing money from digital services tailored for the more than 900 million iPhones currently in use.

Of course, the company hasn't totally abandoned the iPhone. The newest version of Apple's iPhone operating system, iOS 13, will feature a dark mode and faster tools. For instance, the company said a new version of its Face ID system will unlock your phone 30% faster.

The biggest remake of a single app is a makeover of Apple Maps, which will debut this fall. It includes more granular street and place data that Apple says it collected with street and aerial foot-

age — tactics its largest mobile app rival Google has used.

Apple also unveiled several new apps for its smartwatch, including independent apps that don't rely on the iPhone.

The App Store will be available on the watch, making it possible for people to find and download apps right on their watch — expanding the availability of purchases that generate commissions for Apple.

In its laptop and desktop businesses, Apple is breaking up its iTunes software for computers into three apps: Apple Music, Apple Podcasts and Apple TV.

Apple debuted iTunes 16 years ago to sell and manage digital music for the iPod, which paved the way for the iPhone.

Apple added 6,000 jobs to its American workforce in 2018 and now employs 90,000 people in all 50 states. As announced in January, the company is on track to create 20,000 U.S. jobs by 2023.



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2019 DOW JONES NEWS FUND INTERNS

BRIEFS

Italian PM threatens to quit over party fighting

ROME — Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte announced on live television Monday he would resign unless the two parties in the coalition government set aside their differences and continue working on the government program.

He was responding to increasing tensions between the right-wing League and the populist 5-Star Movement over a range of issues like taxes, security and a high-speed railway line to France.

Missing chess piece found, may fetch \$1M at auction

LONDON — A chess piece purchased for a few pounds in 1964 has been identified as one of the missing 900-year-old Lewis Chessmen.

Sottheby's auction house said Monday that the piece could bring in between \$670,000 and \$1.26 million at an auction July 2.

The Lewis Chessmen are intricate, expressive chess pieces in the form of Norse warriors, carved from walrus ivory in the 12th century.

The piece is the first of the five missing chessmen to be identified from a hoard of 93 that was discovered in 1831.

German pol found dead; police say no suspects

BERLIN — Walter Luebecke, a politician from Chancellor Angela Merkel's party, was found dead from a gunshot wound to the head outside his home in Hesse state, German authorities confirmed Monday.

Authorities launched a homicide investigation but have not identified suspects or a possible motive. Luebecke, who was in charge of the Kassel area regional administration, was found outside his home early Sunday morning by a relative and attempts to reanimate him were unsuccessful, said Hesse prosecutor Horst Streiff.

Body recovered from site of sunken tour boat

BUDAPEST, Hungary — Hungarian officials said divers recovered a body Monday near the sunken boat carrying South Korean tourists that capsized last week after colliding with a cruise ship.

The agency leading the salvage operations said that divers found a body in the water Monday morning during an inspection of the wreck.

Officials did not immediately release the identity of the victim, but if confirmed as one of the victims of Wednesday night's collision on the Danube River, 20 of the 35 others are still missing.

Groups meet at UN about Venezuela crisis

UNITED NATIONS — Two international groups trying to foster a solution to the political and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela want to get buy-in from countries supporting embattled President Nicolás Maduro.

The Lima Group and the International Contact Group met Monday at U.N. headquarters. Both groups consider opposition lawmaker Juan Guaidó Venezuela's rightful leader.

Peruvian Foreign Minister Néstor Popolizio says members decided to make overtures to nations backing Maduro's government and ask them to, in his words, "be part of the solution ... to get a transition" and new elections in Venezuela.

Semenya wins stay of new testosterone rule

Caster Semenya won a temporary victory in her fight against a new track federation rule after the Federal Supreme Court of Switzerland ordered Monday the rule be immediately suspended.

The International Association of Athletics Federation has until later this month to respond about the rule, which would force Semenya to take hormone-altering medication if she wants to continue racing.

In the meantime, Semenya may continue to race pending the Swiss court's final decision.

The IAAF wants to regulate the participation of Semenya and other female athletes who have "differences of sexual development," or DSD, meaning they have naturally occurring testosterone levels beyond the normal female range.

Mutation against HIV raises death rate

NEW YORK — People with a DNA mutation that reduces their chance of HIV infection may die sooner, according to a study that suggests tinkering with a gene to try to fix one problem may cause others.

The study found that participants with the mutation in both copies had a death rate about 20 percent higher than that of the others.

The gene is called CCR5. When it is working normally, it lets certain cells of the immune system display a protein on their surfaces. HIV has co-opted that protein to use as a doorway to infect those cells. The mutation prevents that protein from appearing, and so sharply reduces the risk of HIV infection.

Past studies have suggested that carrying the mutation has some drawbacks, including a heightened risk of death from flu.

The researchers were unable to get information on the causes of deaths, so they have no firm explanation for the difference in mortality, said Rasmus Nielsen, senior author of the paper.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Stepping on Sacred Grounds'

D-Day vets return to Normandy on anniversary of landings

BY JOHN LEICESTER AND RAF CASERT
Associated Press

OMAHA BEACH, France — They are back, some for the first time since war stole their innocence 75 years ago on Normandy's D-Day beaches.

For many, coming back for this week's anniversary of the June 6, 1944, invasion is a duty, a way to honor fallen comrades and fulfill promises they made as young men never to forget each other. Some buried their memories for decades but feel a compulsion to face their demons before going to their graves. The inevitability of all veterans of the 1939-1945 war being gone soon is acting as a clarion call. From across the globe, people are converging on Normandy to follow in the footsteps of, perhaps even rub shoulders with, the remaining men and women who made a military success of D-Day.

HALLOWED GROUND

The last time Leila Morrison saw Omaha Beach was when she landed on it in 1944, three months after D-Day, when she came to nurse soldiers injured in combat.

"I felt as though when I stepped on that sand I was stepping on sacred grounds because so many people had given their all for it. It was just plain sand," she recalls.

At the end of the war, she nursed survivors of the Buchenwald concentration camp.

"I want to tell the French and the whole world how great it is that we do have our freedom, and we have so many privileges in America that other places don't have," Morrison said.



RAFAEL YAGHOZBADEH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. World War II veterans salute as they assemble in front of Les Braves monument at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France, on Monday. France is preparing to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, which took place on June 6, 1944.



RAFAEL YAGHOZBADEH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. World War II veteran Leila Morrison, from Colorado, landed at Normandy three months after D-day as a nurse before going to the Buchenwald concentration camp to help survivors at the end of the war.

FACING RECOVERY

Russell Pickett, 94, has made several return visits to Normandy.

He said coming back helps him cope with the horrors he's lived with since he was a 19-year-old in the first wave of American troops aiming for Omaha Beach, the bloodiest of the D-Day landing zones.

"For a long time, I really didn't want to come back, and I kind of dreaded it," he said. "I can't say that I really enjoy the whole thing, you know? When I head back on the beach and all that kind of stuff, sometimes it does things to you. But like this, you can see kind of what we was fighting for and, you know, that makes a little difference."



RAFAEL YAGHOZBADEH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. World War II veteran Russell Pickett, from Tennessee, injured in the initial invasion at Omaha beach after an explosion tore into his landing craft. He blacked out and woke with no feelings in his legs.

Group blames EU officials for migrant abuses

Report: Bloc culpable for deaths, disappearances of thousands off Libyan coast

BY LORI HINNANT
Associated Press

PARIS — More than 40,000 people have been intercepted in the Mediterranean and taken to detention camps and torture houses under a European migration policy that is responsible for crimes against humanity, according to a legal document asking the International Criminal Court to take the case Monday.

The request filed with the ICC alleges that European Union officials are knowingly responsible for migrant deaths on land and at sea, as well as culpable for rapes and torture of migrants committed by members of the Libyan coast guard, which is funded and trained at the expense of European taxpayers.

The filing names no specific EU officials but cites an ongoing ICC investigation into the fate of migrants in Libya.

Officials with the European Union's executive commission, and the German and Spanish governments defended the EU's strategy to curb migration and



LUCA ZENNARO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Medical staff help migrants off a ship at the harbor in Genoa, Italy, on June 2.

efforts to help migrants in Libya. France dismissed the accusations as "senseless" and lacking "any legal foundations."

The legal document cites public EU documents, and statements from the French president, the German chancellor and other top officials from the bloc.

"We leave it to the prosecutor, if he dares, if she dares, to go into

the structures of power and to investigate at the heart of Brussels, of Paris, of Berlin and Rome and to see by searching in the archives of the meetings of the negotiations who was really behind the scenes trying to push for these policies that triggered the death of more than 14,000 people," said Juan Branco, a lawyer who co-wrote the report and shared it

with The Associated Press. He was referring to the deaths and disappearances at sea, which peaked in 2016 at more than 5,100, which come on top of the interceptions by the Libyan forces, according to figures from the International Organization for Migration.

The ICC is a court of last resort that handles cases of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide when other countries are unwilling or unable to prosecute. It is up to the prosecutor, who receives many such requests, to decide whether to investigate and ultimately bring a case.

The EU spokeswoman in charge of migration, Natasha Bertaud, declined to comment directly on the court filing but said the EU's overall approach to intercepting migrants was directed at saving lives.

Turmoil in Persian Gulf

■ Visit SWJournalist.com for photos of the USS Abraham, stationed to respond to threats.

Trade war hurts Chinese business

BY YANAN WANG
Associated Press

BEIJING — A report Monday on Chinese manufacturing suggested that Beijing's trade war with the Trump administration is causing domestic economic damage.

Surveys of manufacturers across Asia for May showed that business confidence has been shaken by the conflict over President Donald Trump's demands that Beijing change its industrial planning strategy and find other ways to redress its perennially huge trade surpluses.

A private survey, the Caixin manufacturing purchasing managers' index, or PMI, for China held steady at 50.2 in May, just above the 50 level that distinguishes between expansion and contraction. But business confidence slipped to its lowest level since the series began in April 2012. The official manufacturing PMI, issued Friday, sank to one of the lowest levels in three years.

China showed no signs of budging over the Trump administration's demands. It issued a report over the weekend saying it would not back down on "major issues of principle." Officials said Beijing had kept its word through 11 rounds of trade negotiations and accused Washington of back-



ANDY WONG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A U.S.-based group has lifted restrictions on Chinese tech giant, Huawei. Huawei has been marked as a possible U.S. security risk in the trade dispute.

tracking by introducing new tariffs and other conditions beyond what had been agreed to.

Most of Trump's ire over trade has been directed at China, given its lion-sized importance to global manufacturing and its growing technological prowess.

But in a move that could ratchet back some tensions, the world's largest association of technology professionals, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, said it is lifting a research cooperation restriction it had imposed on employees of Chinese tech giant Huawei. The organization will now allow Huawei employees to peer review or edit

articles published in its journals. The restriction had prompted an angry backlash among Chinese members of the 420,000-member organization, with some declaring they would quit. The ICC was among several leading U.S.-based global technology standards-setting groups that imposed restrictions on Huawei participation in their activities, including the Wi-Fi Alliance and the SD Association.

Huawei, which had no comment on the announcement, has borne the brunt of U.S. castigation in the U.S.-China trade dispute as a possible national security risk.

Assange escapes extradition

BY JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange should not be extradited to Sweden for a revived rape investigation, but should still be questioned in the case while he is imprisoned in Britain, a Swedish court ruled Monday.

The ruling by the Uppsala District Court doesn't mean the preliminary investigation must be abandoned, only that Assange doesn't face extradition to Sweden any time soon.

Eva-Marie Persson, Sweden's deputy director of public prosecutions, said she has not decided whether to appeal.

Assange's lawyer in Sweden, Per E. Samuelsson, said his client would "be happy, we are happy" to learn he won't be extradited to Sweden.

The rape allegation still could be prosecuted; the statute of limitations expires in August 2020. Assange faces a maximum of four years in prison in Sweden if he is convicted of rape.

Trump spars with London mayor

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE AND KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

LONDON — President Donald Trump embarked on his long-delayed state visit to Britain on Monday, belligerently insulting London's mayor but being feted with smiles by the royals at a time of turmoil for both nations in the deep, if recently strained, alliance.

It was a whirlwind of pomp, circumstance and protest for Trump, who had lunch with Queen Elizabeth and tea with Prince Charles before a grand state dinner at Buckingham Palace. Eager to flatter Trump, the British began his visit with a deafening royal gun salute as the president and first lady Melania Trump walked to the palace where a waiting queen greeted them with a smile.

Those were the images sought by a White House eager to showcase Trump as a statesman while, back home, the race to succeed him — and talk of impeaching him — heated up. Yet Trump, forever a counter puncher, immediately roiled diplomatic docility by tearing into London Mayor Sadiq Khan.

With the trip already at risk of being overshadowed by Britain's Brexit turmoil, Trump unleashed a Twitter tirade after a newspaper column in which London's mayor

said he did not deserve red-carpet treatment and was “one of the most egregious examples of a growing global threat” to liberal democracy from the far right.

The president said that Khan reminded him of the “terrible” leader of his hometown, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio though “only half his height.” De Blasio, a Democrat, is a longshot candidate in the 2020 presidential race. Khan supporters have previously accused Trump of being racist against London's first Muslim mayor.

The agenda for Trump's week-long European journey is mostly ceremonial:

Later this week, he'll attend D-Day commemoration ceremonies on both sides of the English Channel and his first presidential visit to Ireland. For most presidents, it would be a time to revel in the grandeur, building relations with heads of state.

But Trump has proven time and again he is not most presidents.

Trump's Visit

■ Check SWJournalist.com for a gallery of Trump's first day in London.



TOBY MELVILLE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Donald Trump attends a welcome ceremony with Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in the garden of Buckingham Palace, in London, on Monday on the first day of a three-day state visit to Britain.

US, Mexico officials to begin tariffs, border talks

BY LUIS ALONSO LUGO, LISA MASCARO AND HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Mexico launched a counteroffensive Monday against the threat of U.S. tariffs, warning not only that it would hurt the economies of both countries but also could cause a quarter-million more Central Americans to migrate north.

A high-level delegation from the Mexican government held a press conference at the embassy in Washington, making the case against the threat by President Donald Trump of imposing a 5% tariff on Mexican imports by June 10.

It is unclear what more Mexico

can do — and what will be enough — to satisfy the president.

“As a sign of good faith, Mexico should immediately stop the flow of people and drugs through their country and to our Southern Border. They can do it if they want!” Trump tweeted Monday from London.

Trump's Republican allies warn that tariffs on Mexican imports will hit consumers and harm the economy.

The president all but taunted negotiators for a quick resolution. “Mexico is sending a big delega-

tion to talk about the Border,” the president tweeted Sunday. “Problem is, they've been ‘talking’ for 25 years. We want action, not talk.”

But Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard replied Monday that both countries working together is “the best way to do it.”

Agriculture trade between the United States and Mexico was worth about \$130 million a day last year, according to Mexican Secretary of Agriculture Victor Vialobos. A 5% U.S. tariff would decrease that trade by \$3.8 million a day, he said.

Trump has been here before, issuing high-stakes threats, only to back off come crunch time.

Trump claims Mexico has taken

advantage of the United States for decades but that the abuse will end when he slaps tariffs on Mexican imports.

The president said last week that he will impose the tariffs to pressure the government of Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador to block Central American migrants from crossing the border into the U.S.

Trump said the import tax will increase by 5% every month through October, topping out at 25%. It swiftly refocused attention on the border issues.

Economists and business groups warned that tariffs will increase the costs of many Mexican goods that Americans rely on.



Ebrard

RESCUE CENTER FAWNS OVER NEW ARRIVAL



LEZLIE STERLING/ASSOCIATED PRESS

A 3-week-old rare albino fawn peers out from behind a shelter inside its enclosure Thursday at the Kindred Spirits Fawn Rescue in Loomis, California. A trucker found the fawn sitting in the middle of the road in Woodland, California, before delivering it to the rescue center.

Probes into big tech firms lead to stock slump

BY DAMIAN J. TROISE AND ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writers

Major U.S. stock indexes ended mostly lower Monday amid signs that the Trump administration is laying the groundwork to ratchet up scrutiny on some of the market's biggest names: Apple, Facebook, Amazon and Google.

Google's parent, Alphabet, lost 6.1% and Facebook sank 7.5%, pulling down communications sector stocks. Technology companies also took heavy losses, with Apple shedding 1% on the day that the iPhone seller kicked off its annual software showcase. Amazon, meanwhile, fell 4.6% as it led a slide in consumer discretionary stocks.

Investors reacted to media reports suggesting that government regulators are setting the stage for potential antitrust probes into each of the four technology gi-

ants.

The sell-off knocked the tech-heavy Nasdaq composite index into a correction, Wall Street speak for a drop of 10% or more from a peak. The Nasdaq hit its most recent all-time high early last month, before the trade dispute between the U.S. and China escalated, setting off a monthlong slide.

“We do have this trade uncertainty, and we now have some uncertainty with tech companies and government regulations,” said Karyn Cavanaugh, senior markets strategist at Voya Investment Management. “These are the go-to big names, and if they're vulnerable, that just makes investors a little bit nervous.”

Major stock indexes in Europe closed broadly higher.

U.S. stock indexes briefly headed higher, with technology

Mixed Reactions

- S&P 500 fell 0.3%
- Dow Jones Industrial Average added 0.1%
- The Nasdaq composite lost 1.6%
- The Russell 2000 rose 0.3%.

companies among the big gainers, in what appeared to be a budding rebound for the market after it closed out May with its first monthly decline this year.

But the slight gains evaporated as investors weighed the implications of a possible wave of heightened scrutiny on the market's biggest technology companies.

Alphabet tumbled as media reports suggested it faces an an-

titrust investigation by the Justice Department.

The company has faced a series of European regulatory investigations into its practices. In one instance last year, it was fined \$5 billion by European regulators over contracts dealing with smartphone makers and the search engine's apps.

The speculation over the latest investigation comes on top of a tough weekend for the company when high levels of network congestion caused outages for some of its services, including YouTube and Google Cloud.

The Federal Trade Commission will lead an antitrust investigation into Facebook and possible one into Amazon. The FTC is also already looking into Facebook over possible privacy violations.

Markets also responded to volatility of trade disputes.

BRIEFS

Video reveals fate of ‘Jeopardy!’ champion

NEW YORK — A video that circulated around the Internet on Monday showed the final minute of Monday's episode of “Jeopardy!” and the end of reigning champion James Holzhauer's historic run.

In the video, the professional sports gambler from Las Vegas is shown high-fiving the woman who beat him, Chicago librarian Emma Boettcher.

Holzhauer had won \$2,462,216 through Friday's episode after winning 32 times.

The game show's 32-time champion lost for the first time in an episode that aired Monday, falling short of records for total winnings and longest reign, but still making an argument that he's the best to ever play television's most popular game.

Jeopardy

■ Check out SWJournalist.com for a recap of Holzhauer's historic 32-game winning streak.

Pretrial hearing set for Capital Gazette shooter

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A judge has scheduled a hearing this month to resolve several pretrial matters for the man charged with killing five people at the Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland.

Anne Arundel County Circuit Court Judge Laura Ripken met privately with prosecutors and defense attorneys for Jarrod Ramos for nearly an hour Monday before saying they would return for a June 25 hearing on several pretrial motions.

Ramos is scheduled to be tried in November on first-degree murder charges in the June 2018 shooting attack on the Capital Gazette newsroom.

Judge rejects Congress' challenge of wall funding

WASHINGTON — A federal judge has denied a request by the House to prevent President Donald Trump from tapping Defense Department money for his proposed border wall with Mexico.

U.S. District Judge Trevor McFadden, a Trump appointee, ruled Monday that the House didn't have authority to sue over the president's decision to rely on Pentagon money for wall construction.

Trump's victory is muted by a federal ruling in California last month that blocked construction of key sections of the wall.

The administration plans to appeal.

School challenged over facial recognition system

LOCKPORT, N.Y. — A New York school district has finished installing a facial recognition system intended to spot potentially dangerous intruders, but state officials concerned about privacy say they want to know more before the technology is put into use.

Education Department spokeswoman Emily DeSantis said Monday that department employees plan to meet with Lockport City School officials about the system being tested this week. Lockport is preparing to bring its system online as cities elsewhere are considering reining in the technology's use.

The system is expected to be fully online on Sept. 1 and is designed to enable security officers to quickly respond to the appearance of expelled students, disgruntled employees, sex offenders or certain weapons the system is programmed to detect.

Only students seen as threats will be loaded into the database.

California sues opioid maker Purdue Pharma

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California on Monday became the latest state to sue the pharmaceutical company behind the painkiller OxyContin, alleging it falsely promoted the drug as not addictive even as it emerged as one of the most widely abused in the U.S.

State Attorney General Xavier Becerra accused Purdue and its former president, Dr. Richard Sackler, of stoking the crisis with irresponsible practices.

Purdue and other opioid manufacturers are facing lawsuits from state and local governments over the marketing and promotion of opioids.

In a statement Monday, Purdue Pharma and former directors of the company denied the allegations in the California lawsuit and vowed to defend against the “misleading attacks.”

Purdue stopped marketing OxyContin to doctors last year. It settled a lawsuit by the state of Oklahoma in March for \$270 million.

Kevin Spacey shows up for hearing in groping case

NANTUCKET, Mass. — Kevin Spacey made an unusual appearance Monday at a Massachusetts courthouse where his attorney asked for a swift trial in the groping case against the actor, saying Spacey is suffering as he awaits a chance to clear his name.

Spacey has stayed away from the courthouse except for his arraignment in January, which he tried to avoid.

The 59-year-old actor, who has pleaded not guilty to a charge of indecent assault and battery, faces up to 2½ years behind bars if convicted.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIEFS

Body found in Arkansas IDed as missing Texas girl

HOUSTON — The remains of a child found in Arkansas last week are those of a missing 4-year-old Texas girl, Maleah Davis, a medical examiner said Monday.

The Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences said it had positively identified the remains found in a garbage bag near a freeway outside the town of Hope, Arkansas, which is located about 30 miles northeast of the Texas-Arkansas border.

A Houston community activist, Quanell X, has said that Derion Vence, the man who had been arrested in connection with Maleah's disappearance, told him he had disposed of her body there.

Vence, the ex-fiance of Maleah's mother, remains jailed on a charge of tampering with evidence, specifically a human corpse. He's being held on a \$45,000 bond.

1 killed, 3 hurt during shooting at car wash

DALLAS — Police in Dallas said one person was killed and three others wounded after a shooting at a car wash late Sunday.

The shooting happened at Jim's Car Wash in south Dallas, which has long been blamed for crime in the area, reports The Dallas Morning News. Police said 56-year-old Sheila Sanders died in the shooting, and three men were also shot and wounded, but are in stable condition. Authorities said a fifth person was apparently trampled by a crowd and also injured.

No arrests have been made, authorities said.

Lawsuit says oil boom imperils national park

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — U.S. land managers violated environmental laws and their own regulations when issuing dozens of leases to drill in one of the nation's busiest oilfields, environmentalists claimed Monday in the latest lawsuit aimed at getting the federal government to consider the cumulative effects of oil and gas development.

WildEarth Guardians filed its complaint Monday in U.S. District Court, claiming the oil boom in southeastern New Mexico is a threat to Carlsbad Caverns National Park and the surrounding area's cave systems and desert slopes.

The group also is concerned about deteriorating air quality, arguing that the Bureau of Land Management failed to weigh the effects of more leases with the surge in development across the Permian Basin, which straddles west Texas and southeastern New Mexico. The leases in question cover more than 106 square miles in New Mexico. The Bureau of Land Management declined to comment on the lawsuit filed Monday and did not immediately provide details on the status of the pending resource management plan.

Coastal flooding strands endangered turtles

CORPUS CHRISTI — High tides and flooding associated with May storms that buffeted parts of Texas caused the stranding of about 100 young sea turtles along part of the Gulf coast, experts say.

Jesse Gilbert, Chief Operating Officer of the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi, said Monday that the juvenile green sea turtles "just couldn't beat the waves" and were tossed around along the shore. The turtles were caught in water pushed up against the dunes on Padre Island National Seashore, Gilbert said.

Wildlife officials helped gather and transport the green sea turtles, with the largest about the size of a dinner plate, to the aquarium, he said.

"They literally just looked exhausted. They were a little bit dehydrated," said Gilbert, describing the endangered turtles.

About 80 of the rested turtles were released into the Gulf of Mexico last Thursday. Most of the rest should be returned to the water this week, he said.

Tourists and other visitors should contact wildlife officials if they spot stranded turtles along the Texas coast, Gilbert said.

"Don't pick them up," Gilbert said, noting the green sea turtle is a protected species.

China donates huge rock to San Antonio museum

SAN ANTONIO — A museum in South Texas has welcomed a big boulder.

A crane was used to maneuver the more than 6-ton rock donated to the San Antonio Museum of Art from a sister city in China.

The San Antonio Express-News reports the limestone rock, which was unloaded Friday, is a gift from Wuxi in honor of San Antonio's Tricentennial.

The donation joins the San Antonio Museum of Art's collection of scholars' rocks and will be installed on campus in November.

Shawn Yuan, assistant curator of Asian art at the museum, says scholars' rocks have long been prized by elite members of Chinese society. Small ones are placed on tables as sources of inspiration representing nature. Larger pieces, like the new arrival, are typically displayed near water in gardens.

Rangers pick Texas Tech third baseman in MLB draft

SECAUCUS, N.J. — The Texas Rangers stayed in their home state for their first-round pick in the MLB draft on Monday, selecting Texas Tech third baseman Josh Jung, a San Antonio native, with the No. 8 overall pick. Jung, a junior, ranked 12th in the country with a .392 batting average in his sophomore season.

The Rangers will select again with the No. 41 and No. 50 picks later in the night.

ASSOCIATED PRESS AND STAFF REPORTS



ERIC GAY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Gravestones at the Eli Jackson Cemetery in San Juan date back to the early 19th century. After The Associated Press ran an article about how plans for the border wall might interfere with the cemetery, U.S. Customs and Border Protection issued a statement on Monday saying the U.S. won't build the wall on the site of the historic cemetery.

Cemetery saved from wall

BY NOMAAN MERCHANT
Associated Press

HOUSTON — The U.S. government said Monday that it won't build President Donald Trump's border wall on the site of a historic cemetery that might have required the exhumation of graves.

In a statement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said it would "avoid" the Eli Jackson Cemetery in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley while "still meeting Border Patrol's operational requirements for border wall."

"It has never been CBP's intent to disturb or relocate cemeteries that may lie within planned barrier alignment," the agency said. "Understanding the historical and cultural resources that may lie within planned barrier alignment has always been part of CBP's public and stakeholder outreach process."

CBP issued the statement in response to an Associated Press story about the cemetery, one of two 19th century burial sites established by Nathaniel Jackson's

sons. Jackson settled along the Rio Grande in 1857, nine years after the river became the U.S.-Mexico border following the Mexican-American War.

Congress has already funded construction in much of the Rio Grande Valley, where the government says it needs additional barriers to stop human and drug smuggling. Due to flooding concerns and land rights, much of the wall in the region would be built well north of the river and still leave area for people crossing illegally to reach the United States.

Jackson's descendants have sued the government and led a campaign to stop construction at the sites.

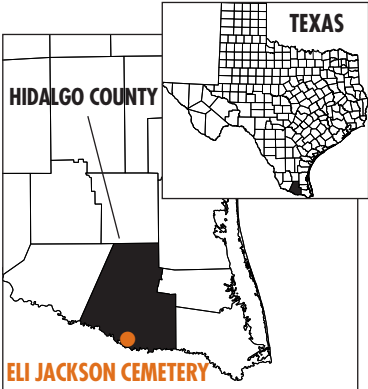
"It's a very good day for us as it relates to the Eli Jackson cemetery," said Sylvia Ramirez, one of Jackson's descendants who has helped lead her family's opposition to the wall.

Ramirez has previously met with Border Patrol agents, who she said indicated they would take her family's concerns into

account, but never directly promised that the wall wouldn't be built on the cemetery.

But Ramirez added that CBP's statement "doesn't answer all our questions by any means." She said she wanted to know if the family's other burial site, the Jackson Ranch cemetery, would be protected as well. She was also concerned CBP might still seek to build a wall nearby, which could still cause flooding or environmental damage.

"There are less destructive ways for the government to meet its security goals," she said.



Legislature reins in freestanding ERs

ELIZABETH BYRNE
The Texas Tribune

Ten years ago, Texas became the first state to allow licenses for independent freestanding emergency medical care facilities. Since then, just over 200 have opened their doors around Texas, according to state data. The facilities go by names like First Choice Emergency Room and Legacy Emergency Room. They resemble urgent care clinics, but some regularly charge patients hospital emergency room prices.

State lawmakers considered several bills this session aimed at addressing complaints that some freestanding emergency rooms overcharge patients and are not clear with consumers regarding pricing or insurance coverage.

One bill awaiting action by the governor will require freestanding emergency rooms to clearly disclose the in-network health plans they accept and the fees patients may be charged.

Freestanding emergency rooms are already required to display the health plans they accept on signs



GARY RHODES/TEXAS TRIBUNE

Two bills awaiting action by Gov. Greg Abbott will require freestanding emergency rooms to disclose more information to patients and control treatment prices.

around the facility, per state legislation passed in 2017. However, some say the signs can be confusing and include logos of health plans that the facility doesn't accept. State Rep. Tom Oliverson R-Cypress, said his bill, House Bill 2041, requires freestanding emergency rooms to give patients a printed-out disclosure

in English and Spanish that lists the in-network health plans and the average price a patient may be charged for a procedure, including facility fees. Patients can choose whether to sign it. Under the bill, freestanding emergency rooms will also be barred from advertising that it "takes" or "accepts" certain insurers or health

plans if the facility is not an in-network provider.

The disclosures will be required for both independent and hospital-affiliated freestanding emergency rooms. Lawmakers also took up the alleged issue of "price gouging" at freestanding emergency rooms. House Bill 1941 by state Rep. Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, will allow the Texas attorney general to take action against freestanding emergency rooms that charge "unconscionable" rates, which the bill defines as prices that are 200% more than the average hospital charge for a similar treatment.

Phelan said the bill would go after the "bad actors" in the freestanding emergency room field that take advantage of Texans in dire situations.

Both bills are now awaiting action by the governor, who can sign them, veto them or let them become law without his signature. If neither bill is vetoed, they will take effect September 1.

Woman dies in ICE custody

BY ROBERT MOORE
The Washington Post

EL PASO — A transgender woman from El Salvador died after falling ill at a private Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention center in New Mexico,



IVAN PIERRE AGUIRRE/TEXAS TRIBUNE

A transgender woman from El Salvador died Saturday in El Paso after being in ICE custody in New Mexico.

Johana Medina Leon, 25, died on Saturday at Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso, ICE officials said. She had been taken to the hospital after complaining of chest pains on Tuesday at facility. Earlier that day, she had requested an HIV test, which came back positive, officials said. In March, the American Civil Liberties Union and other groups sent a letter to ICE and the Department of Homeland Security complaining about the treatment of gay and transgender detainees at the southern New Mexico facility where Leon was held.

"ICE's practices at Otero have created an unsafe environment for transgender women and gay men who are detained there," the letter said. One of the complaints in the letter was that requests for medical care often didn't get responses for days or weeks.

Nathan Craig, a member of Advocate Visitors with Immigrants in Detention (AVID) in the Chihuahuan Desert, said he has been communicating for months with two of the four transgender women detained at Otero; he said they frequently complained about conditions at the facility. He did not meet with Leon, but he said another transgender woman told him May 24 that all four transgender women at the facility were sick and weren't given adequate medical attention.

Craig said he learned that Leon was not feeling well and that others had requested that staff give her intravenous fluids but that staff said they couldn't administer that kind of treatment.

Castro releases plan to end 'overaggressive policing'

BY PATRICK SVITEK
Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Julián Castro released a plan on Monday to overhaul policing in the United States, with an eye on preventing the police shootings of unarmed people of color that have prompted national outrage in recent years.

In the third policy proposal of his campaign, the former U.S. housing secretary and San Antonio mayor outlined his plan to end "overaggressive" policing that disproportionately targets racial minorities. It has three goals: end "over-aggressive policing" that disproportionately targets racial minorities, do more to hold cops accountable in such cases and begin to bridge the divide between communities and law enforcement.

Castro previewed the plan Saturday in San Francisco while appearing at the MoveOn Big



Castro

Ideas Forum. He questioned why Dylann Roof, a white supremacist who killed nine people in the 2015 Charleston church shooting, can be arrested without incident but people like Stephon Clark cannot. Last year, Sacramento police shot and killed Clark, a young black man, while responding to a vandalism complaint.

"How many of these videos do we have to watch?" Castro said.

Among other ideas, Castro's proposal would set up national standards for police departments that receive federal funding and limit the use of deadly force to when "there is an imminent threat to the life of another person, and all other reasonable alternatives have been exhausted." To increase police accountability, he would create a public national database of officers who have been decertified and collect better data on police stops.

Like his immigration plan, Castro's policing overhaul makes him the first 2020 contender to address the issue with a detailed platform.

TIANANMEN SQUARE: MORE QUESTIONS THAN ANSWERS



A Chinese man stands alone to block a line of tanks heading east on Beijing’s Changan Boulevard in Tiananmen Square on June 5, 1989. The man, calling for an end to the recent violence and bloodshed against pro-democracy demonstrators, was pulled away by bystanders, and the tanks continued on

their way. Over seven weeks in 1989, student-led, pro-democracy protests centered on Tiananmen Square became China’s greatest political upheaval since the end of the Cultural Revolution more than a decade earlier.

JEFF WIDENER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

It’s been 30 years. What’s changed?

Thirty years ago Tuesday, student-led, pro-democracy protests in China ended in tragedy. Chinese troops fired on demonstrators at Tiananmen Square in Beijing. The Chinese government has never released an official death toll. To this day, China is censoring information about the protests.

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
Associated Press

Thirty years since the Tiananmen Square protests, China’s economy has catapulted up the world rankings. Yet political repression is harsher than ever.

While hundreds of thousands of Muslims are held in reeducation camps without charge, student activists face relentless harassment, and leaders in the beleaguered dissident community have been locked up or simply vanished.

It’s a far cry from the hopes of the idealistic student demonstrators, and a level of control far beyond what many imagined possible, even after the army’s bloody crushing of the protests on the nights of June 3-4, 1989. Critics say the Tiananmen crackdown, which left hundreds, possibly thousands, dead, set the ruling Communist Party on its present course of ruthless suppression, summary incarceration and the frequent use of violence against opponents in the name of “stability maintenance.”

Chinese officials routinely re-



CHIANG YING-YING/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese tourists take a photo in front of an inflatable tank at the Liberty Square of the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan on Saturday. An artist erected the inflatable display in Taiwan’s capital to mark an iconic moment in the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy protests.

spond to questions about the suppression by pointing to the economic progress China has made. In the three decades since the protests, China has risen to become the world’s second-largest economy and is forging ahead in areas from high-speed rail to artificial intelligence and 5G mobile communications.

While the Tiananmen protests ushered in the era of new party leader Jiang Zemin under which the economy grew, corruption also became endemic and faith in communism was exhausted, essentially finishing off what the violent, radical Cultural Revolution had begun almost 20 years earlier, said Zhang Lifan, who was

a scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in 1989.

“The moment the government ordered its army to fire on its own people, it lost its legitimacy,” said Rowena Xiaoqing He, a former protester who created a course on Tiananmen at Harvard and is a current member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

Despite the setback it dealt to Chinese political reform, the Tiananmen crackdown may have had a salutary effect on events elsewhere, hurrying the peaceful fall of the Berlin Wall the same year and the dissolution of the Soviet Union soon after, said Zhang, the scholar.

“So even though the Chinese people didn’t benefit from it, the rest of the world felt the impact,” he said.

MORE COVERAGE

- Hear from the photographer who took the iconic image above.
- Hear from a reporter who covered the protests.

swjournalist.com



JEFF WIDENER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Students rest in the litter of Tiananmen Square on May 28, 1989, during the third week of a strike for government reform.



TERRIL JONES/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese troops keep a sharp eye out as their truck makes a momentary stop on Changan Boulevard on June 7, 1989.

32 million
contraband books seized
by Chinese government
as part of harsh censorship

26
years after the protests before
people with Tiananmen-related
sentences were released

1,000+
estimated death toll
has been estimated
as high as 10,000

?
official death toll
never released

Not much.



76°/67°
Thunderstorms

US FOOD PRICES JUMP

The cost of food bought to eat at home has skyrocketed by percentages not seen since 1974. The historic 2.6% increase is likely to stay. SWJOURNALIST.COM



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2020



AUSTIN PROTESTS

Hundreds gather at police headquarters, march on I-35 to protest police violence following the deaths of George Floyd and Michael Ramos. Gov. Abbott sends state troopers to Houston, Dallas and San Antonio.

2
protests in Austin

1,500
troopers

\$500,000
bond set for Derek Chauvin, fired officer

I-35
interstate connecting Austin and Minneapolis shut down in both cities

More than 1,500 Texas state troopers were sent Saturday to various cities by Gov. Greg Abbott to help control protests over the death of Houston native George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody.

"Texas and America mourn the senseless loss of George Floyd, and the actions that led to his death are reprehensible and should be condemned in the strongest terms possible," Abbott said in a news release. "As Texans exercise their First Amendment rights, it is imperative that order is maintained and private property is protected."

The troopers were being sent to Houston, Dallas, Austin and San Antonio, the governor said.

In Austin, hundreds of people gathered outside police headquarters, and many later marched peacefully along Interstate 35 as police shut down the interstate to traffic.

The rally was for both Floyd and Michael Ramos, a 42-year-old man fatally shot last month by Austin police.

In a statement to Austin media Ramos' mother, Brenda Ramos, issued a plea for calm.

"I am heartbroken over the terrible murder of George Floyd. I understand the anger. But I am pleading with the community please do not commit

"I understand the anger. But I am pleading with the community, please do not commit violence in my son Mike's name."

BRENDA RAMOS, MOTHER OF 42-YEAR-OLD MICHAEL RAMOS WHO WAS FATALLY SHOT LAST MONTH BY AUSTIN POLICE

violence in my son Mike's name," the statement said.

Leaders of the protest told the Associated Press they would return Sunday.

Houston Police Chief Art Acevedo said nearly 200 people were arrested Friday during a protest in which many blocked an Interstate 45 ramp and a highway.

Those arrested "participated in unlawful assemblies," Acevedo said Saturday on Twitter. "Most will be charged with obstructing a roadway."

Protesters also blocked a Dallas interstate, and one officer suffered non-life-threatening injuries, police said on Twitter.

Authorities in Dallas used tear gas and those in Houston used pepper spray to disperse crowds that numbered in the hundreds. Dallas Police Chief Renee Hall said officers were making sure the protest was peaceful when violence began.

"Then all of a sudden bricks start hailing, hitting our squad cars, hitting the officers ... I almost got hit with a brick," Hall said.

It was not clear how many were arrested in Dallas, and police did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment Saturday.

Protests have spread across the U.S., fueled by outrage over Floyd's death. On Friday, the white Minneapolis police officer who knelt on Floyd's neck was arrested and charged with murder.

AROUND THE NATION:

Protests brought on more issues and confrontations overnight Friday and Saturday.

SALT LAKE CITY

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert has activated the Utah National Guard after protesters angry over Floyd's death turned violent during a demonstration in Salt Lake City at which some

RICARDO B. BRAZZIELL

Two Austin Police officers arrest a protester as they shut down the southbound Interstate 35 freeway in Austin, Texas on May 30. Demonstrators were protesting the death of George Floyd, a black man who was killed in police custody in Minneapolis.

■ PROTESTS, Page 2



The SpaceX Falcon 9 and the Crew Dragon capsule, with NASA astronauts Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley onboard, lifts off May 30 at the Kennedy Space Center.

CHRIS O'MEARA

NASA, SpaceX launch successful

Two astronauts to arrive at International Space Station Sunday

BY MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A rocket ship built by Elon Musk's SpaceX company thundered away from Earth on Saturday, ushering in a new era in commercial space travel and putting the United States back in the business of launching astronauts into orbit from U.S. soil for the first time in nearly a decade.

NASA's Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken rode skyward aboard a white-and-black, bullet-shaped Dragon capsule on top of a Falcon 9 rocket, lifting off at 3:22 p.m. from the same launch pad used to send Apollo crews to the moon a half-century ago. Minutes later, they slipped safely into orbit.

"Let's light this candle," Hurley said just before ignition, borrowing the words used by Alan Shepard on America's first human spaceflight, in 1961.

The two men are scheduled to arrive Sunday at the International Space Station, 250 miles above Earth, to join three crew members already there. After a stay of up to four months, they will come home with a Right Stuff-style splashdown at sea, something the world hasn't witnessed since the 1970s.

Hurley, a 53-year-old retired Marine, and Behnken, 49, an Air Force colonel, are veterans of two space shuttle flights each. Hurley piloted the shuttle on the last launch of astronauts from Kennedy Space Center, on July

8, 2011.

The mission unfolded amid the gloom of the coronavirus outbreak, which has killed over 100,000 Americans, and racial unrest across the U.S. over the death of George Floyd, a black man, at the hands of Minneapolis police. NASA officials and others hoped the flight would lift American spirits and show the world what the U.S. can do.

Doug Marshburn, of Deltona, Florida, shouted, "USA! USA!" as he watched the 260-foot rocket climb skyward.

"I'm very proud of the United States. We are back in the game. It's very satisfying," he said.

SpaceX became the first private company to launch people into orbit, a feat achieved previ-

ously by only three governments: the U.S., Russia and China.

The flight also ended a nine-year launch drought for NASA. Ever since it retired the space shuttle in 2011, NASA has relied on Russian spaceships launched from Kazakhstan to take U.S. astronauts to and from the space station.

In the intervening years, NASA outsourced the job of designing and building its next generation of spaceships to SpaceX and Boeing, awarding them \$7 billion in contracts in a public-private partnership aimed at driving down costs and spurring innovation. Boeing's spaceship, the Starliner capsule, is not

■ SPACE, Page 2



Protestors stop Dallas Police officers responding to a confrontation at Young St. and S. Griffin St. in downtown Dallas May 29. People marched in protest of the in-custody death of George Floyd when they confronted Dallas Police tactical officers and tear gas was fired.

Texans begin demonstrating

■ PROTESTS from page 1

participants carried rifles.

Herbert says in a tweet that the Guard will help control “the escalating situation” in the downtown area following the unrest Saturday afternoon.

The protest started peacefully but degenerated into violence. A group of people flipped over a police car and lit it on fire. Some demonstrators smashed eggs and wrote graffiti on the walls of the Salt Lake City police station. Others marched through downtown to the state Capitol.

LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti imposed a downtown curfew for Saturday night after some protests turned violent.

With protesters back out Saturday, Garcetti said everyone must be off downtown streets by 8 p.m. and stay away until 5:30 a.m.

Several police cars were torched Saturday afternoon as some protesters

ignored authorities’ call for peaceful demonstrations.

That followed a night of violence during which people smashed windows, robbed stores and set fires. Los Angeles police reported arresting 533 people during the night.

MINNEAPOLIS

Several Minneapolis City Council members are asking Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz to appoint the state’s attorney general as a special prosecutor in the Floyd’s death.

Six of the council’s 13 members say they support a call from Floyd’s family for Attorney General Keith Ellison to handle the prosecution of the police officer who held his knee on Floyd’s neck Monday. The council members say they don’t think Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman has the public trust necessary for the job.

Freeman on Friday charged now-fired officer Derek Chauvin with third-degree murder in Floyd’s death. Chauvin is white; Floyd was black.

The council members say Freeman waited too long in bringing charges. They say Ellison, who is black, is best qualified to handle the case. They also cite a working group he helped lead.



Protesters shut down southbound Interstate 35 freeway in Austin, Texas May 30.

SpaceX gets second chance

■ SPACE from page 1

expected to fly astronauts until early 2021.

NASA hopes to rely in part on commercial partners as it pursues its next goals: sending astronauts back to the moon in the next few years and on to Mars in the 2030s.

Musk, the visionary also behind the Tesla electric car company, had no immediate comment on the successful liftoff.

At a rally a short time later at NASA’s massive 525-foot-high Vehicle Assembly Building, Vice President Mike Pence commended Musk for a “job well done.”

Pence said that as the nation deals with the coronavirus and the racial strife, “I believe with all my heart that millions of Americans today will find the same inspiration and unity of purpose that we found in those days in the 1960s” during Apollo.

The first launch attempt, on Wednesday, was called off because of lightning with less than 17 minutes to go in the countdown. On Saturday, stormy weather threatened another postponement for most of the day, but the skies began to clear just in the time.

The astronauts set out for the

launch pad in a gull-wing Tesla SUV after Behnken pantomimed a hug of his 6-year-old son, Theo, and said: “Are you going to listen to Mommy and make her life easy?” Hurley blew kisses to his 10-year-old son and wife.

Nine minutes after liftoff, the rocket’s first-stage booster landed, as designed, on a barge a few hundred miles off the Florida coast, to be reused on another flight.

“Thanks for the great ride to space,” Hurley told SpaceX ground control. His crewmate batted around a sparkly purplish toy, demonstrating that they had reached zero gravity.

SpaceX controllers at Hawthorne, California, cheered and applauded wildly.

NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine declared: “This is everything that America has to offer in its purest form.”

“It’s been nine years since we’ve launched American astronauts on American rockets from American soil — and now it’s done. We have done it. It’s been way too long,” he said.

Attendance inside Kennedy Space Center was strictly limited because of the coronavirus, and the crowd amounted to only a few thousand. By NASA’s count, over 3 million viewers tuned in online.

Despite NASA’s insistence that the public stay safe by staying home, spectators gathered along beaches and roads hours in advance.

Among them was Neil Wight, a machinist from Buffalo, New York, who staked out a view of the launch pad from a park in Titusville.

“With everything that’s going on in this country right now, it’s important that we do things extraordinary in life,” Wight said. “We’ve been bombarded with doom and gloom for the last six, eight weeks, whatever it is, and this is awesome. It brings a lot of people together.”

The astronauts were kept in quasi-quarantine for more than two months because of the coronavirus. The SpaceX technicians who helped them get into their spacesuits wore masks and gloves that made them look like black-clad ninjas. And at the launch center, the SpaceX controllers wore masks and were seated far apart.

In keeping with Musk’s penchant for futuristic flash, the astronauts wore angular white uniforms with black trim. Instead of the usual multitude of dials, knobs and switches, the Dragon capsule has three large touchscreens.

SpaceX has been launching cargo capsules to the space station since 2012. In preparation for Saturday’s flight, SpaceX sent up a Dragon capsule with only a test dummy aboard last year, and it docked smoothly at the orbiting outpost on autopilot, then returned to Earth in a splashdown.

Under the new, 21st-century corporate-public partnership, aerospace companies design, build, own and op-

erate the spaceships. NASA is essentially a paying customer on a list that could eventually include non-government researchers, artists and tourists. (Tom Cruise has already expressed interest.)

Saturday’s mission is technically considered by SpaceX and NASA to be a test flight. The next SpaceX voyage to the space station, set for the end of August, will have a full, four-person crew: one Japanese and three American astronauts.

The first flight was originally targeted for around 2015. But the project encountered bureaucratic delays and technical setbacks. A SpaceX capsule exploded on the test stand last year. Boeing’s first Starliner capsule ended up in the wrong orbit and was nearly destroyed during a test flight in December.

For SpaceX — and the future of public-corporate space exploration — the stakes were extraordinarily high, and Musk said he would take responsibility if anything went wrong. Just before liftoff, SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell said she was “super nervous — stomach in throat.”

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Mike Schneider in Cape Canaveral, Fla., contributed to this report.

day that too many protesters weren’t socially distancing or wearing masks after heeding the call to protest earlier in the week.

But many seemed undeterred. “It’s not OK that in the middle of a pandemic we have to be out here risking our lives,” Spence Ingram said Friday after marching with other protesters to the state Capitol in Atlanta. “But I have to protest for my life and fight for my life all the time.”

Ingram, 25, who was wearing a mask, said she has asthma and was worried about contracting the virus. But she said as a black woman, she always felt that her life was under threat from police and she needed to protest that.

The demonstrations over the killing of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis officer pressed a knee into his neck, are coming at a time when many cities were beginning to relax stay-at-home orders.

That’s especially worrisome for health experts who fear that silent car-

BRIEFS

Sheriff: Texas constable mistakenly killed by deputy

A Texas deputy mistakenly shot and killed another responding officer early Friday while searching a home after a neighbor reported a suspicious person in the area, authorities said.

The shooting happened in the Sienna Plantation subdivision in Missouri City, about 15 miles southwest of Houston.

Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls said a neighbor reported someone suspicious running in the area. County sheriff’s deputies and Deputy Constable Caleb Rule responded, he said.

Nehls said the 911 caller reported seeing the suspect through a security camera running into a house the caller knew was vacant.

Three deputies and the constable arrived at the scene within a minute of one another, Nehls said.

The deputies entered the home through an unlocked door, Nehls said. While searching it, a deputy fatally shot Rule, mistaking him for an intruder, Nehls said.

Rule is survived by his wife and their four teenage children, Nehls said.

The deputy, whose name has not been released, has more than 20 years of experience, Nehls said. The deputy was placed on leave, which is department policy in deputy-involved shootings. An investigation into the shooting is underway.

Maine Democrats’ virtual voting continues

AUGUSTA, Maine — The Maine Democratic Party is continuing remote elections for delegates to the Democratic National Convention this weekend.

Voting began Friday and wraps up Sunday with a virtual rally featuring Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and Sens. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. The event is happening on the weekend that Democrats were supposed to hold their state convention in Bangor.

The Democratic National Committee approved the plan for remote elections of delegates to August’s national convention in Milwaukee.

No news on rescheduled Olympics until fall

TOKYO — Olympics organizing CEO Toshiro Mutō said not to expect much solid news on progress toward next year’s rescheduled Tokyo games until planning reaches its “second phase” in the fall.

This includes who pays for the delay, estimated in Japan at \$2 billion to \$6 billion; deal-making to secure the same 43 venues and competition schedule; and how to keep fans, staff and athletes safe from the coronavirus.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach has suggested a possible quarantine for athletes, floated the possibility of little fan access, and has not ruled out empty stadiums.

“If you ask, are we just around the first corner of the 400-meter race, I cannot answer that question,” said Mutō, speaking through an interpreter during an online news conference. “But I can tell you this much. I do not feel we are late in our preparations. I do not feel we are being delayed in any way.”

Alaska tests travelers, extends quarantine

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Travelers coming to Alaska must be tested for coronavirus before boarding a plane to the state or submit to a 14-day quarantine upon arrival, Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy announced.

Out-of-state travelers will soon need to show proof of testing within 72 hours of boarding and fill out paperwork. If either test results or paperwork is lost, travelers will be subjected to another test at the airport or quarantine for two weeks.

Dunleavy also extended the 14-day quarantine policy until June 5. It was set to expire June 2. The new testing requirements are intended to replace the quarantine rule first implemented in March.

Some smaller communities with limited health care infrastructure could still restrict incoming nonessential travel, he said. State officials are scheduled to discuss overland travel from Canada or ferry travel protocols next week. Further policy changes are expected to be clarified on Monday.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowit’s administration has said it wants to fully analyze the new travel regulations before commenting on it, spokeswoman Carolyn Hall said.

“I am not planning on anything right now,” Berkowitz said. “We are going to wait and see what the state is going to do.”

For most people, the virus causes mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough that clear up in two to three weeks.

EXPERTS WORRY PROTESTS COULD FUEL VIRUS

BY BRIAN MELLEY AND JOHN SEEWER
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The massive protests sweeping across U.S. cities following the police killing of a handcuffed black man in Minnesota have elevated fears of a new surge in cases of the coronavirus.

Images showing thousands of screaming, unmasked protesters have sent shudders through the health community, which worries its calls for social distancing during the demonstrations are unlikely to be heard.

Leaders appealing for calm in places where crowds smashed storefronts and destroyed police cars in recent nights also have been handing out masks and warning protesters they were putting themselves at risk.

Minnesota’s governor said Satur-



The massive protests sweeping across U.S. cities following the police killing of a black man in Minnesota have elevated fears of a new surge in cases of the coronavirus. Images showing thousands of screaming, unmasked protesters have sent shudders through the health community, who worry their calls for social distancing during the demonstrations are unlikely to be heard.



77°/68°
Partly cloudy

SPACEX

After delaying launch earlier in the week, a rocket hosting two astronauts launched yesterday and successfully docked at the International Space Station on Sunday.
NEWS, 3



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SOUTHWESTJOURNALIST.COM ■ MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020



DALLAS — Protesters demonstrate police brutality in front of Dallas City Hall in downtown Dallas on May 30.



AUSTIN — Police stands guard as Austin Fire Department put out a car fire under Interstate 35 freeway on May 30.



HOUSTON — Protesters stop and chant “I can’t breathe” as they march northbound on 288 just south of Tuam Street on May 29.

Abbott declares disaster

DPS, National Guard deployed as protests spread

BY ALEX SAMUELS
Texas Tribune

Gov. Greg Abbott announced Sunday afternoon that the entire state of Texas will be placed under a disaster declaration in response to demonstrators in several Texas cities protesting the death of George Floyd, a black man who was killed Monday in Minneapolis police custody.

The declaration allowed Abbott to designate federal law enforcement officers to perform the duties of peace officers in Texas.

Thousands of protesters marched in Texas cities on Friday and Saturday, outraged after Floyd was filmed crying out for help as a white police officer pinned him to the ground with a knee to his neck. The officer, Derek Chauvin, was later arrested and charged with third-degree murder and manslaughter.

“Every Texan and every American has the right to protest and I encourage all Texans to exercise their First Amendment rights,” Abbott said in a statement. “However, violence against others and the destruction of property is unacceptable and counterproductive.”

His announcement comes a day after he activated the Texas National Guard “in response to protest violence” across the state. In several of the state’s large metropolitan areas — including Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio — protesters clashed with police who sometimes used rubber bullets and tear

Violence, vandalism and looting will not be tolerated in this state and those found in violation of the law will be arrested and prosecuted.

GOV. GREG ABBOTT

gas.

Abbott also sent state resources to Houston, Austin, Dallas and San Antonio on Saturday afternoon and said he’s spoken to the mayors of all four cities, as well as law enforcement officials. He said Sunday that he also increased those resources for cities throughout Texas and that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has deployed tactical teams to assist state and local law enforcement.

“Violence, vandalism and looting will not be tolerated in this state and those found in violation of the law will be arrested and prosecuted,” he said.

The Texas Department of Public Safety sent more than 1,500 troopers on Saturday to assist local police departments. On Sunday, Abbott ordered thousands more troopers to various Texas cities and more than 1,000 members of the National Guard to assist the Texas Department of Public Safety and law enforce-

ment in their efforts.

The governor has previously called Floyd’s death “horrific” and the “consequence of poor police work.”

His declaration Sunday comes as other local, statewide and national leaders have called for peaceful demonstrations.

“As protests have turned violent in various areas across the state, it is crucial that we maintain order, uphold public safety and protect against property damage or loss,” Abbott said in a statement Sunday announcing the statewide disaster declaration. “By authorizing additional federal agents to serve as Texas Peace Officers we will help protect people’s safety while ensuring that peaceful protesters can continue to make their voices heard.”

Prior to Abbott’s announcement, several Texas cities took measures into their own hands. On Saturday evening, the mayor of San Antonio imposed a curfew as a result of escalating tensions due to the protests.

In Dallas, where officials defended the use of tear gas at protests for Floyd, Dallas Police Chief René Hall said Sunday afternoon that a 7 p.m. curfew will go into effect Sunday and end at 6 a.m. “for the next several days,” The Dallas Morning News reported. Later in the day, Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson issued a local disaster declaration for the next week; it allows the city manager to impose curfews, along with other emergency measures.

“Texas Gov. Greg Abbott declares state of disaster after George Floyd protests” was first published at <https://www.texastribune.org/2020/05/31/texas-greg-abbott-state-disaster-george-floyd/>



A worker walks past boarded up windows at a Target store in Oakland, Calif., Saturday, May 30, that was damaged during protests over the death of George Floyd. Floyd died in Minneapolis police custody on May 25.

Target, CVS briefly close stores over protests

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
AP Business Writer

Target and CVS said Sunday they are temporarily closing certain locations, including some that were damaged during protests over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week.

Target said it has closed six stores for an extended period. It hopes to reopen its Lake Street store in Minneapolis by the end of this year. The store was near where Floyd was killed, and it was heavily damaged during last week’s protests. Another store in Minneapolis remains closed, along with stores in Oakland, California; Atlanta; Philadelphia and Chicago.

The company temporarily closed or adjusted hours at more than 200 stores over the weekend, but most were scheduled to reopen Sunday or

Monday.

“We are heartbroken by the death of George Floyd and the pain it is causing communities across the country,” Target said in a statement. “Our focus will remain on our team members’ safety and helping our community heal.”

Employees at closed stores will be paid for up to 14 days, including premiums they are earning because of the coronavirus pandemic, Target said. They will also be able to work at Target locations that remain open.

CVS didn’t say how many stores it had closed, but it said the shuttered locations are in more than 20 states and the District of Columbia. A spokeswoman for the company said pharmacies at closed stores will reroute customers to a nearby CVS so they can get prescriptions filled.

STORES CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE: Broadway Oakland, CA; Buckhead South Atlanta, GA; South Loop Chicago, IL; Lake Street Minneapolis, MN; Uptown Minneapolis, MN; Washington Square W Philadelphia, PA

States prepare for hurricane season

Coronavirus complicates shelter logistics

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science Writer

Officials across the U.S. South are still scrambling to adjust their hurricane plans to the coronavirus. The big unknown: Where will people fleeing storms go?

The Associated Press surveyed over 70 counties and states from Texas to Virginia, with more than 60% of coastal counties saying as of late May that they’re still solidifying plans for public hurricane shelters. They’re also altering preparations for dealing with the sick and elderly, protective equipment and cleanup costs.

Ty Poppell, Emergency Management Agency Director in Georgia’s McIntosh County, said evacuations during the pandemic would be a “nightmare.” He worried about social distancing at shelters and on buses.

“I’d love to be able to tell you we’ve got that answered right now,” Poppell said. “It’s a work in progress.”

Hurricane season officially starts Monday, though Tropical Storms Arthur and Bertha arrived early. Forecasters are expecting a busier-than-normal season.

“Everything that we do will be affected in one way or another, big and/or small, by COVID-19,” Florida Emergency Management Director Jared Moskowitz said.

Most counties surveyed said they’re still figuring out shelters.

While that may sound worrisome, it could be beneficial because emergency managers need to update plans as the pandemic changes, said Susan Cutter, University of South Carolina disaster expert.

“Disasters are not going to stop for COVID-19,” Brad Kieserman, an American Red Cross executive, told reporters in May. “Hope is not a plan. And we’ve got to plan for tens of thousands of people to evacuate in the face of hurricanes and wildfires and other disasters.”

Many counties are taking federal advice and hope to use hotels as smaller-scale shelters, while others plan to use more parts of schools besides large gymnasiums. Still others, especially in Louisiana, plan for big shelters with more social distancing.

Officials emphasize that shelters are last resorts, urging people to stay with friends or in hotels. But massive unemployment is making the expense of hotels less feasible.

Hope is not a plan. And we’ve got to plan for tens of thousands of people to evacuate in the face of hurricanes and wildfires and other disasters.

BRAD KIESERMAN, RED CROSS EXECUTIVE

“Our biggest change to our hurricane plan is sheltering. How are we going to shelter those that have to evacuate? How are we going to shelter those that are positive COVID patients? There are multiple ideas that we are considering right now,” Greg Michel, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency Director, said.

During tornadoes in April, the state used hotels as shelters, which was good practice for hurricane season, he said.

Some officials acknowledged they aren’t as ready for storm season as they were a year ago because of the virus.

“We feel the current rating of preparedness for Craven County is 50% or lower as we still have not finalized shelter options,” said Stanley Kite, emergency services director of the North Carolina county hit by 2018’s Hurricane Florence. “Before COVID-19, we would have estimated 90%.”

Shelters were the most mentioned worry, as having enough staff for shelters is a persistent problem locally and nationally, said Jeff Goldberg, Walton County, Florida’s emergency management chief. Comfort levels with other aspects of hurricane preparations varied, reflecting the difference in how states plan for disasters.

Protective equipment is the biggest shortfall in several North Carolina counties. Money is always an issue, with counties often waiting for federal reimbursement. Handling nursing homes, hospitals and COVID-19 patients “is one of the most difficult challenges and would require a larger state response,” said Jeffrey Johnson, fire chief in Newport News, Virginia.

Other places downplayed concerns. Orleans Parish Prison, located where 2005’s Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans, has added social distancing and protective equipment to a 10-year-old plan that’s otherwise “essentially unchanged. It’s a good plan,” said Collin Arnold, head of the city’s emergency preparedness office.

A year ago, officials in North Carolina’s Beaufort County would have rated their readiness going into hurricane season at a 95 on a 0-to-100 scale. With the virus, that’s down to 75. Brad Baker, emergency management director of Florida’s Santa Rosa County, gave the same numbers “because there’s a lot of unknowns with COVID.”

Dems convention to be online

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrats will begin their first large-scale virtual convention starting Monday in Texas as plans for a traditional national convention this summer remain unsettled because of the coronavirus.

Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi are among the scheduled speakers. Democrats in Minnesota had also planned on holding their state convention online this weekend but postponed amid unrest over the death of George Floyd, a handcuffed black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer used his knee to pin Floyd's neck down for several minutes.

Texas Democrats scrapped plans for an in-person convention in San Antonio because of the pandemic. Regardless, they hope the virtual gathering will serve as a springboard toward November, when Democrats have a rare shot at reclaiming power in Texas. Big gains in 2018 have put them within nine seats of flipping the Texas House for the first time in two decades.

The two Democrats in a July primary runoff to challenge Republican Sen. John Cornyn — Air Force veteran M.J. Hegar and state Sen. Royce

What

• Texas Democratic Convention?

When

• Monday, June 1

Who's speaking

- Former Vice President Joe Biden
- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi
- Former presidential candidate Julián Castro
- Former presidential candidate Beto O'Rourke
- Sen. Kamala Harris
- Sen. Elizabeth Warren
- Rep. Hakeem Jeffries

West — will also debate Saturday.

The Democratic National Convention postponed its convention from July until August, but Democratic leaders are open to the idea of it unfolding virtually.

Meanwhile, Texas Republicans are still planning to hold their state convention in person in July.



EVAN VUCCI

Former Vice President Joe Biden participates in a Democratic presidential primary debate at CNN Studios in Washington in this March 15 file photo. Biden will close out Texas Democrats' virtual convention today that was moved online over fears of the coronavirus. Big names that Texas Democrats have rounded up for their state convention include House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Sen. Kamala Harris of California and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts who will also speak at the weeklong event via video.



MATT DUNHAM

People gather in Trafalgar Square in central London on Sunday, May 31 to protest against the recent killing of George Floyd by police officers in Minneapolis that has led to protests across the U.S.

World alarmed by violence in US; thousands march in London

BY DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Nations around the world watched the civil unrest in the U.S. following the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white police officer pressed his knee on his neck until he stopped breathing.

Floyd's death on May 25 in Minneapolis was the latest in a series of police-related deaths of black men and women in the U.S.

Burning cars and riot police featured on newspaper front pages around the globe Sunday — bumping news of the COVID-19 pandemic to second-tier status in some places.

Protestors gathered in the U.S. Embassy in Berlin on Saturday under the motto: "Justice for George Floyd." Several hundred more people took to the streets Sunday in the capital's Kreuzberg area, carrying signs with slogans like "Silence is Violence," "Hold Cops Accountable," and "Who Do You Call When Police Murder?" No incidents were reported.

Thousands gathered in central London on Sunday to offer support for American demonstrators. Chanting "No justice! No peace!" and waving placards with the words "How many more?" at Trafalgar Square, the protesters ignored U.K. government rules banning crowds because of the pandemic. Police didn't stop them.

Demonstrators then marched to the U.S. Embassy, where a long line of officers surrounded the building, and several hundred crowded the street and waved placards.

Protesters in Denmark also converged on the U.S. Embassy on Sunday. Participants carried placards with messages such as "Stop Killing Black People."

Germany's top-selling Bild newspaper on Sunday carried the headline "This killer-cop set America ablaze" with an arrow pointing to a photo of former police officer Derek Chauvin, who has been charged with third-degree murder in Floyd's death, kneeling



MATT DUNHAM

Police officers on horseback stand next to demonstrators blocking the road outside the Houses of Parliament in central London on May 31.

ing on Floyd. The newspaper's story reported "scenes like out of a civil war."

In Italy, the Corriere della Sera newspaper's senior U.S. correspondent Massimo Gaggi wrote that the reaction to Floyd's killing was "different" than previous cases of black Americans killed by police.

"There are exasperated black movements that no longer preach nonviolent resistance," Gaggi wrote, noting the Minnesota governor's warning that "anarchist and white supremacy groups are trying to fuel the chaos."

In countries with authoritarian governments, state-controlled media have been highlighting the chaos and violence of the U.S. demonstrations, in part to undermine American officials' criticism of their own nations.

Hu Xijin, the editor of the state-owned Global Times newspaper in China, tweeted that U.S. officials can now see protests out their own windows: "I want to ask Speaker Pelosi and Secretary Pompeo: Should Beijing support protests in the U.S., like you glorified rioters in Hong Kong?"

Hua Chunying, a Chinese foreign

ministry spokeswoman, pointed out America's racial unrest by tweeting "I can't breathe," which Floyd said before his death.

In Iran, which has violently put down nationwide demonstrations by killing hundreds, arresting thousands and disrupting internet access to the outside world, state television has repeatedly aired images of the unrest. One TV anchor discussed "a horrible scene from New York, where police attacked protesters." Another state TV message accused police agencies in Washington of "setting fire to cars and attacking protesters," without offering any evidence.

Russia accused the U.S. of "systemic problems in the human rights sphere." It denounced Floyd's death as the latest in a series of police violence cases against African Americans.

"This incident is far from the first in a series of lawless conduct and unjustified violence from U.S. law enforcement," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement. "American police commit such high-profile crimes all too often."

States prepare for hurricanes

■ HURRICANE from Page 1

In the Corpus Christi, area which was swamped by 2017's Hurricane Harvey, officials said they were at a 95 going into hurricane season last year. Now, it's below 80, emergency management coordinator Melissa Munguia said. If another Harvey brings 50 inches of rain, she said the same reinforcements won't arrive because "everybody's been working their personnel for many hours for over 100 days."

Florida officials were far more upbeat.

"While COVID-19 complicates things and you have to plan around COVID-19, I think Florida is as prepared as ever before in response to a hurricane," said Moskowitz, the state emergency management chief.

In Louisiana, disaster officials said they're used to "overlapping emergencies, and you just have to plow through."

They anticipate making adjustments, "but it's hard to pin down what those changes will be," said Mike Steele, spokesperson for the state's emergency preparedness office. By August and September, typically the height of Louisiana's hurricane season, the number of infections and social distancing requirements may have changed, he said.

Coping with a hurricane is hard, and the coronavirus "is going to make it a little bit more difficult," Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Pete Gaynor told reporters in May. But he said FEMA has hired 500 people since March and has a record of nearly \$80 billion in its disaster fund.

Vice President Mike Pence told President Donald Trump on Thursday that the federal government

would ensure state and local authorities can handle hurricanes.

Academics who study disasters aren't so sure.

"I don't think they (federal officials) are doing the job they should be doing. I worry about their ability to handle a very large hurricane in addition to COVID-19," University of South Carolina's Cutter said.

She and others said mixed messages on the coronavirus mean some people aren't believing what they're hearing from Washington in an emergency.

"I think our lives are in danger now because we don't trust the federal government," Cutter said.

Between the pandemic, a crashing economy and patchy federal responses to three 2017 hurricanes, people should prepare for little help from the government, said Hans-Louis Charles, Virginia Commonwealth University professor.

Experts also worry that it could take longer to return to normal after a hurricane. Search and rescue teams, utility workers who restore power lines and volunteers who help clean up may be slowed or not respond at all because of concerns over virus exposure, experts said. That and other issues may mean a storm that in the past caused \$12 billion in insured damage, like 2018's Hurricane Michael, may cost 20% more, said Karen Clark, who does damage analysis for the insurance industry.

While many officials are still trying to figure out shelters, they said if people are told to evacuate in a hurricane, residents must go. Storm surge is more dangerous than the virus, officials said.

"In hurricane season, we can't have mixed messages. If you live in an evacuation zone, your plan is to evacuate if ordered to do so by local officials," former FEMA director Craig Fugate said. "This message will not change, COVID or no COVID."

Boy Scout victims' choice: Sue rashly, or wait and risk loss

BY MIKE CATALINI
Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Some victims of childhood sex abuse who are considering suing the Boy Scouts of America face a choice: They can rush to meet a deadline earlier than what lawmakers intended, or wait and sue local councils, perhaps putting them at greater risk of losing.

Attorneys for the Scouts, headquartered in Dallas, and victims agreed during federal bankruptcy proceedings this month to a Nov. 16 deadline, by which victims must come forward with a claim or be barred from bringing one later, with the victims' lawyers seeking a cutoff in late December and the Boy Scouts pushing for early October.

New Jersey, New York, California and a few other states loosened their statute of limitations last year.

Victims in New Jersey, which opened a two-year "window" for victims who were previously barred from suing, must decide whether to pursue their claim by the November date instead of the one specified in the law passed last year — in December 2021.

California opened a three-year window last year, while New York's Legislature voted to extend its one-year window, set to expire in August,

until August 2021 because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Other states with windows that end after the Nov. 16 date include Arizona, North Carolina and Vermont, which has a permanent window for those alleging abuse. Washington, D.C., would also be affected.

Victims would still be able to pursue cases against local councils, though, according to attorneys. The drawback, attorneys say, is that councils could defend themselves by deflecting blame to the national organization, which could not be included in suits after Nov. 16.

Advocates for victims and the lawmakers who wrote the laws giving victims longer to sue say the sped-up timeline defeats their purpose: to give victims time to confront abuse and decide on their own terms to come forward.

The bankruptcy process often leaves people who don't make claims by the deadline with a reduced chance for compensation, said Marci Hamilton, the chief executive of Child USA,

More than 12,000 boys have been molested by 7,800 abusers since the 1920s, according to Boy Scout files revealed in court papers.

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BRIEFS

Texas A&M plans for fall classes

Next fall, Texas A&M students may be assigned which days they're allowed to go to class and which days class they'll be asked to stay home and follow class along from their laptops.

If there are 50 people in a math class, for example, half of them would be allowed to show up Tuesday while the other half views online. On Thursday, the students would swap places.

This is one of several measures in a plan Texas A&M University System officials approved last week in an effort to create social distance in crowded classrooms. The guidance will apply to each of the system's 11 institutions. A&M is the first major university system in the state to formally adopt plans for the fall, although officials warned there is much more work to be done before classes begin in August. While some face-to-face classes will resume at A&M, many will be conducted in a hybrid model mixing in-person and online instruction. Certain courses will be prioritized for in-person instruction, such as speech, performance and clinical classes. Chancellor John Sharp said the campus experience is "invaluable."

"You can get a degree online, but it's very hard to become an Aggie online," Sharp said.

The federal stimulus program gave the A&M System \$76 million to be split between its campuses, covering revenue losses and providing financial aid for students.

Researchers find 246M-year-old fossil

It was Oct. 3, 2011, and German paleontologist Martin Sander and his team were nearing the end of a two-week expedition in an area that's a hotspot for ichthyosaur — or extinct aquatic reptiles similar to porpoises — fossils.

At an outcropping around 6,000 feet in elevation, he spotted what appeared to be fossilized remains of an ichthyosaur spine.

They returned in 2014 and excavated the rest. It was just one of two major ichthyosaur. Last month, they published a paper on the respective 246 and 249 million year old findings. The ichthyosaur was the second-oldest pregnant specimen ever found and it was of a species that had never before been identified.

Even more remarkable, it was just one of two major ichthyosaur findings at the location in the Augusta Mountains.

"It is an incredible place and there is new stuff coming out all the time," Sander said. "Everything we touch, new stuff is coming out of it."

Average US gas prices rose over 2 weeks

The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline rose 8 cents over the past two weeks, to \$2.05 per gallon.

Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg of the Lundberg Survey said Sunday the jump comes as crude oil costs rise and gasoline demand increases amid widespread easing of stay-at-home orders.

Lundberg says the current average price is down by 88 cents compared to a year ago.

The average price of diesel is \$2.55, up a penny.

Notre Dame forecourt opens to public after long cleanup

Grounds in front of Notre Dame reopen after cleanup
Notre Dame Cathedral's forecourt is being opened to the public for the first time since last year's fire.

The group overseeing the Gothic structure's restoration said Sunday the reopening was made possible after several deep clean operations took place to remove toxic lead dust from the large forecourt.

Dozens of tons of lead went up in flames during the fire, sending poisonous lead dust onto the surrounding ground.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo will join senior clergy on a visit to the area in the afternoon.

To protect public health, the site will continue to "be regularly cleaned and samples also taken" for monitoring and analysis.

The cathedral is still closed and will be for several years during renovations.

IS claims Afghan bus attack; civilians killed in clashes

The Islamic State group took responsibility Sunday for a deadly roadside bombing against a local TV station's bus in Kabul, while renewed fighting in nearby provinces killed at least seven civilians, including a woman and several children.

In a statement on an IS-affiliated website, the group said Saturday's attack in Kabul targeted a bus carrying employees of Khurshid TV, a station it described as "loyal to the Afghan apostate government."

Two employees were killed and four were wounded, said Marwa Amini, the Interior Ministry deputy spokeswoman. The Interior of the wounded were in critical condition Sunday, said Mohammad Rafi Sediqi, an official at the station.

US cities assess damage

Protests erupt, towns face unrest

TIM SULLIVAN AND MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — America's cities boarded up windows, swept up glass and covered graffiti Sunday as the country's most significant night of protests in a half-century promised to spill into another day of unrest fueled by killings of black people at the hands of police.

The turbulence sparked by the death of George Floyd — a black man who died after being pinned under the knee of a white Minneapolis police officer — shook not only the streets of Washington, D.C., New York and Los Angeles but also dozens of smaller communities such as Fargo, North Dakota, and Lincoln, Nebraska.

Peaceful protests on Saturday gave way, in some places, to rioting, looting and violence, with police vehicles torched, stores emptied and objects hurled at officers. The police response varied from restrained to aggressive. About 5,000 National Guard soldiers and airmen were activated in 15 states and Washington, D.C.

In Minneapolis, where the protests began, police, state troopers and National Guard members moved in soon after an 8 p.m. curfew took effect Saturday to break up demonstrations. The show of force came after three days in which police avoided engaging protesters and after the state poured more than 4,000 National Guard troops into Minneapolis.

Dozens of additional protests were underway or expected on Sunday, from Miami to Kansas City to San Francisco.

At the Minneapolis intersection where Floyd was killed, people gathered with brooms and flowers, saying it was important to protect what they called a "sacred



CAROLYN KASTER

Spray paint that reads "Yall Not Tired Yet?" is seen on the base of the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, early Sunday, May 31, the morning after protests over the death of George Floyd. Floyd died after being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on Memorial Day.

bat.

At least 13 police officers were injured in Philadelphia, and at least four police vehicles were set on fire. In New York, a video showed two police cruisers lurching into a crowd of demonstrators. Several people were knocked to the ground.

In Indianapolis, two people were reported dead in bursts of downtown violence, adding to deaths reported in Detroit and Minneapolis in recent days.

The protests of Floyd's killing have gripped many more cities, but the losses have yet to approach the staggering totals LA saw during five days of rioting in 1992, when more than 60 people died, 2,000-plus were injured, thousands were arrested and property damage topped \$1 billion.

The droves of people congregating in chanting demonstrations threatened to trigger new outbreaks, a fact overshadowed by the boiling tensions.

"We're sick of it. The cops are out of control," protester Olga Hall said in Washington, D.C. "They're wild. There's just been too many dead boys."

South Korean AI to aid with virus

KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — In a cramped office in eastern Seoul, Hwang Seungwon points a remote control toward a huge overhead screen stretching across one of the walls.

With each flick of the control, an array of pie charts, graphs and maps reveals the search habits of thousands of South Korean senior citizens being monitored by voice-enabled "smart" speakers, an experimental remote care service the company says is increasingly needed during the coronavirus crisis.

"We closely monitor for signs of danger, whether they are more frequently using search words that indicate rising states of loneliness or insecurity," said Hwang, director of a social enterprise that handles SK Telecom's services. TAs South Korea's government pushes to allow businesses to access personal information and to ease restrictions holding back telemedicine, tech firms could potentially find bigger markets for their artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

The drive, resisted for years by civil liberty advocates and medical professionals, has been reinvigorated by a technology-driven fight against COVID-19. It has so far allowed South Korea to emerge as a coronavirus success story but also raised worries that privacy is being sacrificed for epidemiological gains.

Armed with an infectious disease

law that was strengthened after a 2015 outbreak of a different coronavirus, MERS, health authorities have used credit-card records, surveillance videos and cellphone data to find and isolate potential virus carriers.

Locations where patients went before they were diagnosed are published on websites and released through cellphone alerts. Smartphone tracking apps monitor around 30,000 individuals quarantined at home.

Starting Monday, major South Korean cities will be required to register customers with smartphone QR codes so they can be located if needed. The requirement expands nationwide on June 10.

But there's a dark side.

People here have managed to trace back the online information to the virus carriers, exposing personal details and making them targets of public contempt.

In early May, local media described some Seoul nightclubs linked to hundreds of infections as catering to sexual minorities, triggering homophobic responses.

Officials reacted by expanding "anonymous testing," which allowed people to provide their phone numbers and not their names during tests. There was a subsequent increase in tests.

The past months have exposed a division about the best ways to make decisions when privacy concerns collide with public health needs, said Haksoo Ko, a Seoul National University law professor and co-director of the



LEE JIN-MAN

Hwang Seungwon, director of a social enterprise that handles SK Telecom's services, speaks in front of an electronic dashboard during an interview in Seoul, South Korea, May 13. Thousands of South Korean senior citizens being monitored by voice-enabled "smart" speakers, an experimental remote care service the company says is increasingly needed during the coronavirus crisis.

school's Artificial Intelligence Policy Initiative.

Around 3,200 people across the country, mostly older than 70 and living alone, have so far allowed the SK Telecom speakers to listen to them 24 hours a day since the service launched in April 2019.

The company expects users to double by the end of the year. The technology has reduced human contact in welfare services while still providing governments with a tool to prevent elderly residents from dying alone.

The speakers are built with an artificial intelligence called "Aria" and a lamp that turns blue when processing voice commands.

But it's difficult for SK Telecom's clients to use the information they collect without clear legal guidelines on health data on private networks.

Similar reasons may also impede domestic use of health technologies

developed by Samsung Electronics.

KT, SK Telecom's telecommunications rival, is focused on business customers, providing artificial intelligence devices such as speakers and service robots to hotels, offices and new apartments.

Officials are preparing regulations for revised data laws that lawmakers passed in January after months of wrangling. They aim to allow businesses freedom in collecting and analyzing anonymous personal data without seeking individual consent.

If they work as intended, optimists say the laws would allow artificial intelligence to truly take off and pave the way for highly customized financial and health care services after they start in August.

South Korea's anti-virus experience provides "lots of lessons and implications" as it steps toward a data-driven economy, Ko said.

SpaceX reaches station

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — SpaceX delivered two astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA on Sunday, following up a liftoff with a smooth docking in yet another first for Elon Musk's company.

With test pilots Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken poised to take over manual control if necessary, the SpaceX Dragon capsule pulled up to the station and docked automatically, with no assistance. The hatches swung open a few hours later, and the two Dragon riders floated into the orbiting lab and embraced the three station residents.

Unlike the SpaceX and NASA flight control rooms, where everyone was spaced well apart, there was no social distancing or masks needed in orbit.

Jim Bridenstine, NASA administra-

tor, called the mission "an inspiration to the world" in a call from Mission Control in Houston.

It was the first time a privately built and owned spacecraft carried astronauts to the space station. NASA considers this the opening volley in a business revolution encircling Earth and eventually stretching to the moon and Mars.

"NASA is not going to purchase, own and operate rockets and capsules the way we used to," Bridenstine said. "We're going to partner with commercial industry."

The docking occurred 19 hours after a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket blasted off Saturday afternoon from Florida's Kennedy Space Center. NASA said viewership online hit 10 million.

The achievement is expected to drive down launch costs so more people might be able to afford a ticket to space in the coming years.



DAVID J. PHILLIP

A SpaceX Falcon 9, with NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken in the Crew Dragon capsule, lifts off from Pad 39-A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Saturday, May 30. The two astronauts are on the SpaceX test flight to the International Space Station. For the first time in nearly a decade, astronauts blasted towards orbit aboard an American rocket from American soil, a first for a private company.

TESSA WEINBERG
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

FORT WORTH — When Archer County Judge Randy Jackson got the call about two weeks ago from the state offering to set up a pop-up mobile testing site, he declined.

While metro areas across Texas report hundreds of new cases of the coronavirus daily, Archer County just received its first confirmed case two weeks ago.

With a population of 8,500 near the Texas-Oklahoma border, the county

has developed its own system, screening residents for symptoms and sending them north to Wichita Falls or south to Olney to be tested, Jackson said.

"We're spread out more, and we don't have the industry like bigger urban areas do, so we kind of had to initiate our own protocol," Jackson said. "We're taking care of ourselves."

Archer County is one of more than 100 Texas counties that have five or fewer active COVID-19 cases. They have been approved by the Texas De-

partment of State Health Services to reopen their businesses at 50% capacity as a result — while the remaining counties are restricted to 25% capacity.

But in many North Texas counties like Archer permitted to reopen at double the capacity, fewer cases have been coupled with less testing. Their populations are a small fraction of Tarrant County's more than 2 million residents; some surrounding counties have as few as 9,000 people. State data shows many have conducted fewer tests per capita than some of the re-

gion's more populous counties.

And Archer County wasn't the only one to decline the state's offer of a mobile test site that could have boosted its testing capabilities.

Public health experts have warned sufficient testing is a key component to understanding the level of spread in a community. Without it, the virus may be spreading undetected. As of May 15, based on state data, Archer County had conducted 31 tests — or about 3.6 tests per 1,000 residents.



The Texas Democratic Convention will be held online over the week. Special guests such as Vice President Joe Biden and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will be in attendance. Read more at [swjournalist.com](https://www.swjournalist.com).



Southwest Journalist

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020



Protesters take a knee to demonstrate in front of Dallas City Hall in downtown Dallas, May 30. Protests across the country have escalated over the death of George Floyd who died after being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on Memorial Day. "We have the greatest country in the world," Trump declared in an address to the nation. "We're going to keep it safe."

Trump calls National Guard amid protests

Dallas begins making arrests as Texas riots continue

■ TRUMP, Page 2

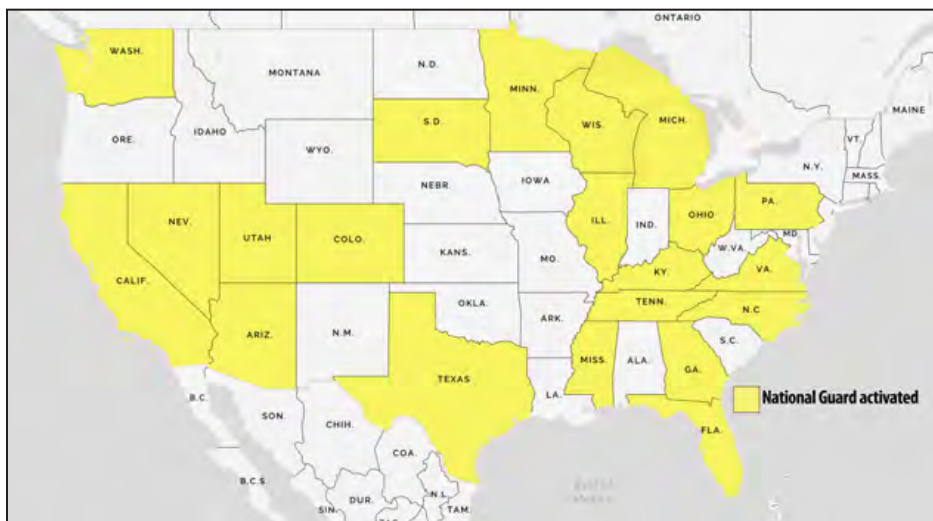
Floyd's family releases autopsy, pleads for peace

The crowd chanted, "What's his name? George

NATIONAL SECURITY



President Donald Trump holds a Bible as he visits outside St. John's Church across Lafayette Park from the White House, June 1, in Washington, D.C. Part of the church was set on fire during protests on Sunday night.



The National Guard was deployed to at least 23 states as of Monday morning, including Alaska and Washington, D.C. (not pictured). President Donald Trump has threatened to send in the military to quell protests.

Mexico president calls for ‘new normal’

BY DAN CHRISTIAN ROJAS
AND MARIA VERZA
Associated Press

CANCUN, Mexico — Amid a pandemic and the remnants of a tropical storm, Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador kicked off Mexico’s return to a “new normal” Monday.

He took his first road trip in two months as the nation began to gradually ease some virus-induced restrictions.

López Obrador said he’s taking all necessary precautions — he drove the 1,000 miles from Mexico City over the weekend rather than flying — on a trip to promote construction of one of his signature infrastructure projects, the Mayan Train, designed to whisk tourists from resort destinations like Cancun into the interior of the Yucatan Peninsula. It has been criticized as an environmental threat and faces opposition from indigenous communities, but he says it will create 80,000 jobs.

While the federal government’s nationwide social distancing rule formally ended Monday, it is urging people in so-called “red” zones to maintain most of those measures — and so many people are falling ill and dying each day that those zones cover nearly the whole country.

Mexico is nearing 100,000 confirmed infections and nearly 10,000 deaths, both considered to be undercounts.

Mexican officials said last week more than 5,000 companies had implemented protocols that would allow them to reopen this week. The federal government had cleared businesses in the mining, construction and auto-

manufacturing sectors to resume operations.

While in Cancun, the president was also discussing what local officials hope is the quick return of tourists. Mexico’s most popular beach destination officially plans to reopen next week — albeit with social distancing restrictions such as a ban on buffets. Gov. Carlos Manuel Joaquín González of the state of Quintana Roo, said reservations already are being received by Cancun hotels, but if there’s a new surge in infections, they’ll suspend the reopening.

But nothing appear normal yet around Cancun. The beaches have been mostly empty, and bars and restaurants remained closed. Cancun residents are wearing masks and traffic has light. The dramatic drop of international air travel and April 1 closure of Cancun’s beaches left thousands unemployed.

Some Cancun residents remain worried about the health dangers an early reopening could bring, while others are more concerned with facing unemployment.

In Mexico City, traffic has increased significantly in the past week. More people are out in the streets, though in some neighborhoods foot traffic has remained steady. Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum urged residents via Twitter on Monday to stay at home if it wasn’t absolutely necessary to go out.

Even when the federal government gave more than 300 remote “towns of hope” — places that didn’t have active infections — permission to reopen May 18, most declined.

On Monday, López Obrador high-



Fernando Llano
A restaurant worker cleans the sidewalk before opening for take-out orders only in Mexico City, June 1. While the federal government’s nationwide social distancing rule formally ended Monday, it is urging people in so-called “red” zones to maintain most of those measures — and so many people are falling ill and dying each day that those zones cover nearly the whole country.

lighted a couple of hot spots, including the Pacific Coast beach destination Acapulco and his home state of Tabasco.

“We’re going to carefully return to productive activities,” he said.

Mexico’s Social Security Institute said in April the country lost 550,000 jobs during the epidemic and López Obrador recently said another 400,000 were lost in May. Mexico’s central bank projected last week that the economy would shrink as much as 8.8% this year.

The president has faced criticism for his handling of the pandemic. He continued to travel the country a month after Mexico’s first confirmed case and has continually mixed mes-

sages of a need to take precautions with the country’s need to reactivate its economy.

On his way to Cancun, López Obrador stopped at his ranch in Chiapas state and recorded a video he shared on social networks. He tried to highlight positive economic signs, noting the peso has regained a bit of value against the dollar and the price of oil has risen slightly.

“I wanted to give you good news,” López Obrador said. “There is economic recovery. The model we are using is showing us results.”

Trump urges crackdown

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE,
ZEKE MILLER
AND ALAN SUDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Monday derided many governors as “weak” and demanded tougher crackdowns on burning and stealing in the aftermath of violent protests in dozens of American cities.

Trump spoke to governors on a video teleconference that also included law enforcement and national security officials, telling the state leaders they “have to get much tougher.”

“Most of you are weak,” Trump said. “You have to arrest people.”

The days of protests were triggered by the death of George Floyd, a black man who died when a white Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for several minutes. The demonstrations turned violent in several cities, some with fires, looting and clashes with local police.

The president urged the governors to deploy the National Guard, which he credited for helping calm the situation Sunday night in Minneapolis. He demanded similarly tough measures be taken in cities that also experienced violence, including New York, Phila-

delphia and Los Angeles.

“You’ve got to arrest people. You have to track people. You have to put them in jail for 10 years, and you’ll never see this stuff again,” Trump said. “We’re doing it in Washington, D.C. We’re going to do something that people haven’t seen before.”

The president told the governors they were making themselves “look like fools” for not calling up more of the National Guard as a show of force on city streets.

Attorney General Bill Barr, who was also on the call, told governors that a joint terrorist task force would be used to track agitators and urged local officials to “dominate” the streets and control -- not react to -- crowds. He urged the governors to “go after troublemakers.”

Trump’s angry exhortations at the nation’s governors came after a Sunday night of escalating violence. Images of fires, looting and sometimes-violent confrontations with police filled the nation’s airwaves and overshadowed the largely peaceful protests. The protests had grown so heated Friday night that the Secret Service rushed the president to an underground bunker previously used during terrorist attacks.

Trump calls National Guard

■ TRUMP from Page 1

in Dallas on Saturday. The video circulated widely on social media. One video posted to Twitter by a reporter for Blaze TV was viewed more than 33 million times.

Dallas police said the man was alive Sunday and in stable condition at a hospital. They said they don’t provide updates on victims unless they die.

Witnesses told investigators the attack began when the man “came to the protest wielding a large knife/machete at several protesters,” according to police Sgt. Warren Mitchell. He had the machete to “allegedly protect his neighborhood from protesters,” Mitchell said.

The video starts with protesters throwing things at a man carrying a long object. He then raises it, runs at a protester carrying a skateboard and someone is heard screaming.

No one has been charged in the incident. Neither the man who was carrying the machete nor the protester who was cut on the hand has filed a complaint, Mitchell said Monday.

Squad cars and police on foot quickly moved in to pick up anyone still on the downtown streets once the curfew started Sunday. Dallas police tweeted photos while making at least 70 arrests and noted “there is very little activity occurring in the downtown Dallas area.”

Police Chief U. Renee Hall said the curfew could be in effect “for the next several days” and that several suburban police departments had volunteered officers to help.

Several Texas cities braced for the possibility of unrest and established curfews to prevent a repeat of the violence over the death of George Floyd and police’s treatment of black people.

Austin had no curfew, but the state Capitol grounds were closed Sunday

after the grounds were vandalized Saturday. One group canceled a rally because it felt it couldn’t ensure the safety of African American protesters. But other protesters still gathered outside the Capitol and marched on City Hall and police headquarters. Some protesters also walked onto Interstate 35 and blocked traffic Sunday afternoon. Hundreds of demonstrators stayed on the streets between the Capitol building and police department after dark. Smoke billowed over the roadway as police cleared out the protesters and then formed a line to stop them from re-entering.

Austin Police Chief Brian Manley in a Monday press conference acknowledged that two people had been injured when hit by beanbag rounds fired by police.

One was a 16-year-old boy seriously injured when a beanbag round fired by police struck him. Brad Ayala had finished his shift at an Austin sandwich shop when he decided to join the protesters along I-35.

An unidentified 20-year-old man was hospitalized with serious injuries Saturday after a beanbag round struck him in the head.

Gov. Greg Abbott declared a statewide disaster on Sunday, allowing him to designate federal agents to do the work of local police. These moves come as some Texas organizers are calling off demonstrations and others said they planned to proceed.

“Every Texan and every American has the right to protest, and I encourage all Texans to exercise their First Amendment rights,” Abbott, a Republican, said in a statement. “However, violence against others and the destruction of property is unacceptable and counterproductive. As protests have turned violent in various areas across the state, it is crucial that we maintain order, uphold public safety, and protect against property damage or loss.”

Biden to address racism

BY ALEXANDRA JAFFE,
STEVE PEOPLES
AND WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Del. — Presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden vowed to address institutional racism in his first 100 days in office as he sought to elevate his voice Monday in the exploding national debate over racism and police brutality.

The former vice president offered emotional support and promised bold action during an in-person discussion with black leaders in Delaware and a subsequent virtual meeting with big-city mayors who are grappling with racial tensions and frustrated by a lack of federal support.

“Hate just hides. It doesn’t go away, and when you have somebody in power who breathes oxygen into the hate under the rocks, it comes out from under the rocks,” Biden told over a dozen African American leaders gathered at a church in downtown Wilmington.

Without offering specifics, he promised to “deal with institutional racism” and set up a police oversight body in his first 100 days in office, if elected. Biden also said he’d be releas-

ing an economic plan focused on education, housing and “access to capital” and investments, especially for minority Americans, later this month.

“I really do believe that the blinders have been taken off. I think this tidal wave is moving,” Biden told the mayors of Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles and St. Paul, Minnesota. “I realize we’ve got to do something big, we can do it, and everyone will benefit from it.”

Biden has struggled in recent weeks to be heard from his makeshift home TV studio over the noise of dueling national crises. But after another night of violent protests, he ventured out into public for the second time in two days and just the third time since the pandemic arrived in mid-March.

His hopeful and collaborative approach marked a contrast to that of President Donald Trump. The Republican president slammed governors as “weak” during a video teleconference on Monday and demanded tougher crackdowns on protesters.

Biden’s softer style may foreshadow how he presents himself in the five months before the presidential election, emphasizing calm and competence as a contrast to a more mercurial president.

CAPTURE THE FLAG



NASA
In this image taken from NASA video on Monday, June 1, NASA astronauts Robert L. Behnken, left, and Chris Cassidy right, listen as commander Douglas Hurley speaks about retrieving the American flag left behind at the International Space Station nearly a decade ago.

Floyd family pleads for peace

■ FLOYD from Page 1

Floyd!” and “One down, three to go!” in reference to the four officers involved in Floyd’s arrest.

“We are a country that is scared,” said Sam Page, county executive in St. Louis County, Missouri, where the city of Ferguson has been synonymous with the Black Lives Matter movement since 2014. “We are a country that is angry. And we are a country that is holding out for the promise of justice for all.”

The country has been beset by angry demonstrations for the past week in some of the most widespread racial unrest in the U.S. since the 1960s. Spurred in part by Floyd’s death, protesters have taken to the streets to decry the killings of black people by

police.

While most of the demonstrations have been peaceful, others have descended into violence, leaving neighborhoods in shambles, stores ransacked and cars burned, despite curfews around the country and the deployment of thousands of National Guard members in at least 15 states.

Trump told the nation’s governors in a video conference that they “look like fools” for not deploying even more National Guard members. “Most of you are weak,” he said.

He added: “You’ve got to arrest people, you have to track people, you have to put them in jail for 10 years and you’ll never see this stuff again.”

While police in some places tried to calm tensions by kneeling or marching in solidarity, officers elsewhere were accused of treating protesters with the same kind of heavy-handed tactics that contributed to the unrest in the first place.

BRIEFS

Congo faces 2nd Ebola outbreak

DAKAR, Senegal — Health officials have confirmed a second Ebola outbreak in Congo, the World Health Organization said Monday. The development adds yet another health crisis for a country already battling COVID-19 and the world’s largest measles outbreak.

Congo has yet to declare an official end to Ebola in its troubled east, where at least 2,243 people have died since an epidemic began there in August 2018.

Congolese health authorities have identified six cases including four fatalities in the north near Mbandaka, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said.

COVID-19 already has touched seven of Congo’s 25 provinces, with more than 3,000 confirmed cases and 72 deaths. However, like many African countries, Congo has conducted extremely limited testing, and observers fear the true toll may be far higher.

Measles has killed more Congolese than COVID-19 and Ebola combined. WHO said there have been 369,520 measles cases and 6,779 deaths since 2019.

Shooting leaves 2 dead at N.D. air base

GRAND FORKS, N.D. — A shooting early Monday has left two airmen dead at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota, the military said.

The base’s emergency services members responded to the shooting, which occurred at 4:30 a.m., a statement from the military said. Officials said there is no risk to other personnel, and the shooting remains under investigation.

The airmen are members of the 319th Reconnaissance Wing. Officials plan to withhold their names and units until 24 hours after family members are notified. Medical teams are providing disaster mental health services to help people who are affected, the base said.

Staff Sgt. Elijah Tiggs said the military alone is investigating. He would not say if anyone was in custody or was being sought in connection with the shooting.

Facebook employees snub Trump and Zuckerberg

OAKLAND, Calif. — Facebook employees are using Twitter to air their frustration over CEO Mark Zuckerberg’s decision to leave up President Donald Trump’s posts, which suggested protesters in Minneapolis could be shot.

While Twitter demoted and placed a warning on a tweet about the protests that read, in part, “when the looting starts the shooting starts,” Facebook has let it stand, with Zuckerberg laying out his reasoning in a post Friday.

“I know many people are upset that we’ve left the President’s posts up, but our position is that we should enable as much expression as possible unless it will cause imminent risk of specific harms or dangers spelled out in clear policies,” Zuckerberg wrote.

On Monday, Facebook employees staged a virtual “walkout” to protest the company’s hands-off approach to the Trump posts, according to a report in the New York Times, which cited anonymous senior employees at Facebook. The Times report says “dozens” of Facebook workers “took the day off by logging into Facebook’s systems and requesting time off to support protesters across the country.”

Boxing Hall of Fame champ dies at 82

DALLAS — Curtis Cokes, the Hall of Fame boxer who became Dallas’ first world champion in 1966, died on May 29. He was 82.

Erwin “Sparky” Sparks, Cokes’ partner at the Home of Champions Boxing Gym, told The Dallas Morning News that Cokes died Friday after a week of hospice care.

Cokes took the World Boxing Association welterweight title in 1966 with a unanimous decision over Manny Gonzalez in New Orleans. He added the World Boxing Council crown three months later with a unanimous decision over Jean Josselin at Dallas’ Memorial Auditorium.

Cokes was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2003.

Belarus opposition leader jailed for protesting

MINSK, Belarus — A leading Belarus opposition politician was jailed June 1 amid a crackdown on protesters who rallied against authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko’s re-election bid, rights activists said.

Lukashenko, who has relentlessly suppressed opposition and independent news media during more than a quarter-century in power, is seeking a new term in an election scheduled for Aug. 9.

Nikolai Statkevich, one of Belarus’ most prominent opposition figures, was handed a 15-day jail sentence Monday after taking part in Sunday’s protest in the capital, Minsk, according to the Viasna rights group. Statkevich served six years in prison for involvement in protests after the 2010 election.



82°/67°

Scattered thunderstorms

AUSTIN PRIDE IS HERE

Whether you identify as LGBTQ or an LGBTQ ally, Austin Pride has a month-long series of activities. NEWS, 2



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SWJOURNALIST.COM ■ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 2021



AP PHOTOS BY JOHN LOCHER AND EVAN VUCCI

Linda Porter kneels at a memorial for the Tulsa Race Massacre on Standpipe Hill near the historic Greenwood District during centennial commemorations of the massacre, on June 1 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. ■ Lady Freedom, center, of Birmingham, Alabama, cries as she holds hands with John Shafer as they speak at a memorial for the Tulsa Race Massacre near the Greenwood District during centennial commemorations of the massacre. ■ President Joe Biden walks with Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia Fudge as he arrives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Biden honors victims of Tulsa race massacre

Visit marks first presidential remembrance

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE
AND DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

TULSA, Oklahoma — President Joe Biden is leading Tuesday's remembrance of one of the nation's darkest — and largely forgotten — moments of racial violence, marking the 100th anniversary of the destruction of a thriving Black community in Tulsa.

Biden is helping commemorate the deaths of hundreds of Black people killed by a white mob a century ago, his visit coming amid a national reckoning on racial justice. It stands in stark contrast to former President Donald Trump's trip last year, which was greeted by protests.

Biden will be the first president to participate in remembrances of the destruction of what was known as "Black Wall Street." On May 31 and June 1, 1921, white Tulsa residents looted and burned the Greenwood district.

Historians say the massacre in Tulsa began after a local newspaper drummed up a furor over a Black man accused of stepping on a white girl's foot. When Black Tulsans showed up with guns to prevent the man's lynching, white residents responded with overwhelming force.

Up to 300 Black Tulsans were killed, and thousands of survivors were temporarily forced into internment camps overseen by the National Guard. Burned bricks and a fragment of a church basement are about all that survive today of the more than

30-block historically Black district.

Biden will meet privately with survivors of the massacre.

During Tuesday's meeting, Biden will "convey his heartfelt gratitude for their bravery in sharing the stories of the trauma and violence that was wrought on them and their families," said White House principal deputy press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

Biden also "will explain that we need to know our history from the original sin of slavery, through the Tulsa race massacre to racial discrimination and housing in order to build common ground, to truly repair and rebuild," Jean-Pierre said.

Hundreds stood around Greenwood Avenue in front of the historic Vernon African Methodist Episcopal Church awaiting Biden's arrival at the nearby Greenwood Cultural Center. Vendors were selling memorabilia, including Black Lives Matter hats, shirts and flags.

The names and pictures of Black men killed by police hung on a chain-link fence next to the church.

America's continuing struggle over race will continue to test Biden, whose presidency would have been impossible without overwhelming support from Black voters, both in primaries and the general election.

Biden has pledged to help combat racism in policing and other areas following nationwide protests after George Floyd's death a year ago that reignited a national conversation about race. Floyd, a Black

man, was killed by white Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin, who knelt on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes.

After Chauvin was convicted in April, Biden said the country's work was far from finished with the verdict, declaring, "We can't stop here."

He called on Congress to act swiftly to address policing reform. But he has also long projected himself as an ally of police, who are struggling with criticism about long-used tactics, training methods and difficulties in recruitment.

The Tulsa massacre has only recently entered the national discourse — and the presidential visit will put an even brighter spotlight on the event.

Eddie Glaude, chair of the Center for African American Studies at Princeton University said Biden's visit "has to be more than symbolic. To tell the truth is the precondition for reconciliation, and reconciliation is the basis for repair."

Biden is set to announce new measures to help narrow the wealth gap between Black and white Americans and reinvest in underserved communities by expanding access to homeownership and small-business ownership.

The White House said the administration will take steps to address disparities that result in Black-owned homes being appraised at tens of thousands of dollars less than comparable homes owned by

■ BIDEN, Page 2

TEXAS LEGISLATURE

House Speaker reacts to veto vow

BY CASSANDRA POLLOCK
The Texas Tribune

Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan said Tuesday he is concerned by Gov. Greg Abbott's recent vow to veto a section of the state budget that funds the Legislature, citing how the move to block such pay could impact staffers and legislative agencies.

"I understand the frustration the governor has in (lawmakers) not passing those emergency items. They were priorities of the governor, they were priorities of mine, priorities of many members of the Legislature," said Phelan, a Beaumont Republican in an interview with The Texas Tribune. "My only concern is how it impacts staff, especially those who live here in Austin, which is not an inexpensive place to live and raise your family and children."

Abbott's vow came after House Democrats walked out of the Legislature on Sunday, blocking the passage of Abbott's voting rights bill, Senate Bill 7.

"No pay for those who abandon their responsibilities," Abbott said in a tweet.



House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, speaks to fellow legislators. He has expressed concern over Gov. Greg Abbott's vow to veto on May 31, 2021.

Phelan also said he thinks that, under the Constitution, lawmakers would have to be paid even if Abbott carried out his veto. Lawmakers are paid \$600 a month in addition to \$221 every day the Legislature is in session, during both regular and special sessions.

The governor has said he will summon the Legislature back to Austin for an overtime round to pass the legislation, though he has not yet specified

when he plans to do so. Lawmakers are already expected to return this fall for a special session to redraw the state's political maps.

Phelan said if Abbott carries out the veto, which he has until June 20 to do, lawmakers could be back for an earlier-than-anticipated overtime round to deal with the issue, since the budget at issue covers the fiscal year starting Sept. 1.

staged a walkout and broke quorum, making it impossible to give final approval to Senate Bill 7, a massive GOP priority voting bill that would tighten the state's election laws, before the midnight deadline.

Abbott quickly made clear that the bill, along with other priority legislation that would have made it harder for people arrested to bond out of jail without cash, "STILL must pass" — and said that the two issues "will be

■ LEGISLATURE, Page 2

Houston upset over lack of flood funds

BY JUAN A. LOZANO
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Residents of the East Aldine neighborhood of Houston are tired of their homes flooding during hurricanes and of worrying about street and waterway drainage every time it rains.

Like the rest of the Houston area, East Aldine was hammered in 2017 by Hurricane Harvey, which caused an estimated \$125 billion in damage throughout Texas but nowhere more than in the nation's fourth-largest city and surrounding Harris County. East Aldine residents fled their homes through chest-high water, many carrying their children on their shoulders as they sought higher ground. The working-class, predominantly Latino neighborhood was flooded again two years later during Tropical Storm Imelda.

"Whether you flooded or not, whether you had to evacuate or not, you are traumatized by the fact that rain is coming and you don't know what's going to happen and you don't know how it's going to impact your family," Shirley Ronquillo, a community activist who grew up in East Aldine, said Thursday.

That's why she and many other Houston residents were outraged when a state agency recently announced that Houston wouldn't get a cent of the initial \$1 billion in federal funding that was promised to Texas following Harvey to help pay for flood mitigation projects, including drainage improvements and the widening of bayous. The Harris County government was also iced out, though four smaller cities in the county were awarded a total of \$90 million.

The awarding of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funding led to a rare show of solidarity by local Democratic and

Republican officials, who condemned the way the Texas General Land Office, or GLO, picked its winners and losers. Ronquillo called it a "slap in the face" to communities of color that have historically been denied assistance.

Some officials and residents accused the GLO of playing politics, given that Houston and Harris County are Democratic strongholds in a GOP-controlled state. The areas have been at odds with the state's Republican leaders since Harvey over recovery funding issues.

The land office said the competition for the initial distribution of funding was fair and not political, and that it used scoring criteria based on HUD guidance. But a HUD spokesman, Michael Burns, said the federal agency didn't require the criteria used by Texas and that it believes "all areas of the state, including Houston and Harris County, should receive the resources they need to recover from Hurricane Harvey."

Faced with the criticism, Land Commissioner George P. Bush — a Republican grandson of former President George H.W. Bush — said he would ask HUD to approve \$750 million for Harris County, though none of it would be given directly to Houston, and it's unknown whether HUD would approve that outlay.

Bush suggested that "red tape requirements and complex regulations" under President Joe Biden's administration were responsible for Houston and Harris County not being awarded any of the funds. During a news conference Thursday, some Democratic members of Houston's congressional delegation accused Bush of politicizing the awards process by criticizing the Biden administration even though

■ FLOOD, Page 2

State politicians finish 140-day session

BY CASSANDRA POLLOCK
AND SHAWN MULCAHY,
The Texas Tribune

The Texas Legislature closed out its regular 140-day session Monday with sniping among the state's top political leaders and lawmakers, who are already well aware they will be back this calendar year for an overtime round.

"We will be back — when, I don't know, but we will be back," House Speaker Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, told members from the speaker's dais. "There's a lot of work to be done, but

I look forward to doing it with every single one of you."

Talk of a special session — and questions about how soon one may happen or what additional issues Gov. Greg Abbott could task legislators with — has largely defined the last weekend of the Legislature's 140-day stretch after lawmakers left unfinished a number of GOP priorities and tensions between the two chambers escalated.

That drama reached new highs Sunday night when House Democrats

Border counties have high vaccination rates

BY KAREN BROOKS HARPER AND CARLA ASTUDILLO
The Texas Tribune

When Rio Grande Valley retiree Robert Chapa finally got his COVID-19 vaccine in March after months of trying to secure an appointment, it was a nearby school district that came through for him.

After a year of living in a national hot spot for the virus, where death rates were once among the highest in the nation, Chapa, 59, was eager to get the shot.

"I was at high risk, with one kidney," said Chapa, who lost the organ in a car accident decades ago. "I stood in line for three hours, I think. But if you gotta get it, you gotta get it."

Counties on the Texas-Mexico border that were among the hardest-hit by COVID-19 are now seeing some of the highest vaccination rates in the state. From El Paso to Brownsville, every county along the border is outpacing the state average for the percentage of residents fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Of the 39 Texas counties currently above the state average, more than a third of them are border counties, according to state numbers.

Statewide, 35% of the total population has been fully vaccinated. In the Rio Grande Valley, three of the four counties have already surpassed 40% of their total population fully vaccinated.

The biggest motivator for residents to show up in such large numbers for the shot, locals say, is that the region suffered so much death during COVID-19 surges. In El Paso County, more than 2,700 residents died from

the virus, and COVID-19 deaths were so frequent in the fall that inmates were used as labor to help deal with the bodies. Hidalgo County reported more than 2,800 deaths — at one point last summer, one in 10 COVID-19 deaths in Texas had happened in the county of nearly 900,000 people.

Border counties are home to some of the poorest communities in the country; lower-income Texans tend to have less access to vaccines.

"I'm proud, but more than anything else, I'm grateful," said Dr. Ivan Melendez, Hidalgo County Health Authority and a COVID survivor. "All the vaccine hype about how minorities were more hesitant to get the vaccine than the rest of the population hasn't really panned out."

The same culture that made distancing and isolation from families particularly difficult to bear as the virus was hammering border counties is now leading families to get vaccinated so they can safely see each other again, and adult children to push their family members to get vaccinated to avoid more deaths, said Frank Arredondo, a CVS pharmacist in Pharr and a COVID-19 survivor.

When Arredondo caught the virus last year, doctors twice told his wife that he was about to die, he said. Now that he's recovered, he tells that story to his patients — who pass that on to their families.

One man heard the story from his wife and told Arredondo, "I would hate for my family members to get that phone call."

Leveraging that bond in public health messages about the vaccine to



ELI HARTMAN

Amanda De Lara, 16, right, wincing as she receives the first dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine from National Guard Specialist Noah Vulpi during a vaccination clinic held by the National Guard on May 27, 2021 in Odessa, Texas.

younger generations was a vital part of the effort to convince the area's most vulnerable elderly residents to get the shot, said Dr. Antonio Falcón, a local doctor. Health officials modeled their "Starr County Strong" campaign after '80s ads that urged kids to push their parents to quit smoking. In Starr County alone, about 97% of residents 65 and older have gotten at least one shot.

"It was for the love of grandkids that the grandparents wanted to get vaccinated," Falcón said. "I think that was very effective, priming grandma and grandpa to get the vaccine when it came out. It helped to get the word out through the kids."

The participants — health workers for the state health department, Valley counties, the city of Laredo, the Texas Military Department, Texas A&M University and community volunteer organizations — provide free child immunizations, hearing and vision screenings, diabetes and blood pressure screenings, and physicals that draw nearly 10,000 people each year.

The success of the various vaccination efforts comes as a relief to Melendez, who recalls getting teary-eyed while watching older people gather in the waiting area of a mass vaccination clinic in Hidalgo County in January.

"For the first time in a year," he said, "I left with some hope."

"getting a lot worse."

Her home is near Greens Bayou, and the open drainage ditches that line her street are often clogged by debris and do little to remove water when it floods. Heavy rainfall last week made the roads leading to her home impassable.

Mendoza said, "People don't really understand what it really is like out here," making the GLO's funding decision unsurprising. "With the lack of support from the state, the fear is that once again, we're not going to get the funding that we need and therefore we will continue to flood," Ronquillo said.

It's a "slap in the face" to communities of color.

SHIRLEY RONQUILLO

which has experienced major flooding 14 times since 1989. Many of these families can't afford flood insurance and have little savings because they're focused on day-to-day survival, said Ronquillo, who co-founded the community group Houston Department of Transformation.

In the Allen Field subdivision north of East Aldine, houses and mobile homes are raised 6 to 8 feet off the ground because of perpetual flooding. But many residents, including Dolores Mendoza, are being forced to move because of a mandatory flood buyout program. Six generations of Mendoza's family have lived in the subdivision and she would rather stay, but the flooding is

Legislature wraps up

■ LEGISLATURE from Page 1

added to the special session agenda."

The governor has not yet specified whether he plans to order one ahead of an overtime round already planned for the fall to handle the redrawing of the state's political maps.

Before lawmakers adjourned, though, Abbott made clear he intends to reprimand the Legislature over its unfinished business by vetoing the section of the state budget that funds the legislative branch.

"No pay for those who abandon their responsibilities," he tweeted. "Stay tuned."

Shortly after lawmakers adjourned for the final time, Abbott released a lengthier statement in which he applauded the Legislature for pushing through a series of conservative victories, while doubling down on his demands that lawmakers pass voting and bail legislation.

House Democrats earlier this week successfully killed proposals that would've banned local governments from using taxpayer dollars to pay lobbyists, prohibited social media companies from blocking users because of their viewpoints and barred transgender students from playing on sports teams based on their gender identity. Abbott had previously said he would sign those bills.

"I expect legislators to have worked out their differences prior to arriving back at the Capitol so that they can hit the ground running to pass legislation related to these emergency items and other priority legislation," he said.

Thanks for standing up for the Texas House.

TODD HUNTER, R-Corpus Christi

Even before Sunday night's Democratic walkout, tension had been high in the Capitol.

Frustrated that the Senate had not moved fast enough on House leadership's priorities, the House recessed for several days of the session's home stretch.

Later, three of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's priority bills missed a key deadline in the House, leading Patrick to call for an immediate special session this summer. When the voting bill failed Sunday night, Patrick pointed the finger squarely at Phelan, saying, "Clock ran out on the House because it was managed poorly."

Mentions of an imminent special session were sprinkled into conversations throughout Monday in the House. Before Hunter asked the chamber to applaud Phelan, the lawmaker asked whether it was the last day of the regular session — and added that he had heard "we may be getting a coastal breeze in the fall."

Phelan during his speech also alluded to the special session, telling members that while he hoped the Legislature would not return until the fall, the decision was not his.

"Let's just have a restful, peaceful summer and hopefully be back here in the fall," Phelan said. "But that's not my decision. That's someone else's decision."

Phelan also emphasized abiding by legislative rules in an apparent dig at Patrick and the Senate, which moved in the early hours of Sunday morning to suspend its rules and jam through a series of last-minute additions to the expansive voting bill.

"No matter the external forces that tried to distract us or diminish the work of this body, we are the Texas

Austin Pride hosts many festivities

The coronavirus pandemic caused most Pride Month events to be moved online in 2020. This year, activities are a mix of online and in-person. Here are a few of the events taking place in Austin.

Sing Out: A Pride Musical Revue June 3

Austin Artists Project is collaborating with Ground Floor Theatre for a show in Austin on Thursday. It will feature six Tony and Grammy award winners and nominees as well as selections from musicals such as "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" and "The Color Purple," according to its website. Tickets from Ground Floor, at 979 Springdale Road, start at \$25 for a nine-person pod but are otherwise "pay what you can."

Pride Mini Film-A-Thon June 4-6

The All Genders, Lifestyles, and Identities Film Festival will hold a virtual Pride film-a-thon from Friday through Sunday. Among the weekend's offerings are four feature films with limited numbers of views, according to the festival's site.

Queer Artist Market June 6

Austin's Queer Artist Market will feature over 20 LGBTQ vendors, a prize wheel, and tacos, taking place at Garden Seventeen at 604 Williams St. from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

The Boiz of Austin June 8

Drag king group the Boiz of Austin will host a Pride show Tuesday at Elysium Austin, 705 Red River St. Doors open at 9 p.m. and there is a \$5 entry fee for people ages 21 and older. Adults under 21 must pay \$10, according to the event Facebook page.

(I'm)perfectly queer June 9

(I'm)perfectly Queer, a youth event hosted by Austin Black Pride will take place from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. June 9 at The Little Gay Shop at 828 Airport Blvd.

Capital City Ball: Coming to Austin Kiki Ball June 11

Capital City Ball and Austin Black Pride will hold an event for people 18 and older June 11 at Highland Lounge, 404 Colorado St. The ball will begin with a 9 p.m. red carpet. Tickets are \$15 for 18- to 20-year-olds and \$10 for ages 21 and up.

Trap Paint and Sip June 12

Austin Black Pride is selling \$25 tickets to its Trap Paint and Sip event taking place at Rain, 217 W. 4th St. from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. June 12. All attendees, who must be at least 21 years old, will receive food, supplies and a drink, according to the event page.

Drip Drop June 12

Austin Black Pride will host Drip Drop, a hip hop, bounce and trap party, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. June 12 at Elysium, 705 Red River St.

House," Phelan said. "In this House, we work hard — and our rules matter. Our rules matter."

Meanwhile, across the Capitol, senators slowly filled the chamber Monday morning — many with family members in tow — as they exchanged cordial handshakes and friendly smiles.

Clusters of bipartisan conversation presented a stark contrast to the late-night partisanship that largely defined a strange legislative session.

The first order of business as Patrick gavelled in the final regular session meeting of the upper chamber was the election of the body's president pro tempore during the interim — a largely ceremonial role reserved for the longest-serving senator who has not previously served in such a capacity. This year, that honor fell to state Sen. Donna Campbell, R-New Braunfels.

Members, each wearing a yellow rose in homage to Campbell, took turns commending her heart, perseverance and faith. "Many people consider her an iron first in a velvet glove, perhaps because of her firmness and her brevity," said state Sen. Judith Zaffirini, D-Laredo.

Campbell was flanked by her four daughters as she addressed her colleagues from the dais, the events from a tumultuous session seemingly weighing on her mind.

"We are chosen leaders of this great state of Texas at a time of great challenges," she said. "We came into our position, our position of leadership, for a time such as this."

After approving a series of memorial resolutions and technical changes to bills, the Senate prepared to gavel out for the final time this regular session. A hint at unfinished business rang out in Patrick's closing remarks.

"I normally say I'll see you in 18 months, but I might see you in 18 days or so," he said.



EVAN VUCCI

President Joe Biden listens to program coordinator Michelle Brown-Burdex during a tour of the Greenwood Cultural Center on June 1, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Biden honors victims

■ BIDEN from Page 1

white people as well as issue new federal rules to fight housing discrimination.

The administration is also setting a goal of increasing the share of federal contracts awarded to disadvantaged small businesses by 50% by 2026, funneling an estimated additional \$100 billion to such businesses over the five-year period, according to the White House.

Disagreements among Black leaders in Tulsa over the handling of commemorative events and millions of dollars in donations have led to two disparate groups planning separate slates of anniversary events.

Organizers called off a separate commemoration for the 100th anniversary of the Tulsa race massacre, saying no agreement could be reached over monetary payments to three survivors of the deadly attack. It highlights broader debates over reparations for racial injustice.

Reparations for Black Americans

whose ancestors were enslaved and for other racial discrimination have been debated in the U.S. since legal slavery ended in 1865.

Some of Tulsa's Black residents question whether the \$20 million spent to build the Greenwood Rising museum in an increasingly gentrified part of the city could have been better spent helping Black descendants of the massacre or residents of the city's predominantly Black north side miles away from Greenwood.

Biden, who was vice president to the nation's first Black president and who chose a Black woman as his own vice president, supports a study of reparations in Tulsa and more broadly but has not committed to supporting payments. He recently declared the need for America to confront its past, saying, "We must acknowledge that there can be no realization of the American dream without grappling with the original sin of slavery and the centuries-long campaign of violence, fear and trauma wrought upon African American people in this country."

He issued a proclamation designating Monday as a "day of remembrance" for the massacre.

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BRIEFS

OPEC to increase oil output as global economy recovers

FRANKFURT, Germany — The OPEC oil cartel and allied producing countries have confirmed plans to restore 2.1 million barrels per day of crude production. Energy ministers made the decision during an online meeting Tuesday.

During the worst of the pandemic, oil-producing countries made drastic cuts to support prices and must now judge how much additional oil the market needs as producers slowly add more production.

The cartel decided to stick with its previous decision to raise production by 2.1 million barrels per day from May to July. The group planned to add back 350,000 barrels per day in June and 440,000 barrels per day in July. At the same time, Saudi Arabia is gradually adding back 1 million barrels in voluntary cuts it made beyond its group commitment.

The combined OPEC Plus format of members led by Saudi Arabia and nonmembers, chief among them Russia, faces concerns that renewed COVID-19 outbreaks in countries such as India, a major oil consumer, will hurt global demand and weigh on prices.

Bombs in Afghan capital kill at least 10, wound 12

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three bombs rattled the Afghan capital, Kabul, late Tuesday, killing at least 10 people and plunging the city into darkness.

Two bombs exploded in quick succession in separate locations of a west Kabul neighborhood, killing at least 10 and wounding a dozen others, said deputy Interior Ministry spokesman Said Hamid Rushan. Those bombings both targeted minivans and happened in a mostly ethnic Hazara area of the capital, Rushan added.

A third bomb heavily damaged an electrical grid station in north Kabul, said Sangar Niazi, a spokesman for the government power supply department.

No one claimed responsibility for the bombings, but the Islamic State group affiliate operating in Afghanistan has previously declared war on minority Shiites, who make up roughly 20% of the majority Sunni Muslim nation of 36 million people.

The attacks come as the United States withdraws the last of its 2,500-3,500 troops along with 7,000 allied NATO forces. The last soldiers are to be gone by Sept. 11 at the latest, generating fears of increased chaos in an already deeply insecure country.

Foundation seeks to help LGBT movement in Poland

WARSAW, Poland — A Nobel laureate, a Netflix star and a fashion model are among the board members who helped launch an initiative Tuesday to raise money for LGBT rights groups in Poland, where LGBT face backlash from the country's conservative government and Catholic Church.

The Equaversty Foundation plans to seek international donations to fund organizations working in Poland. Activists say the help is needed to counter homophobic rhetoric from the highest levels of Poland's government and from Catholic leaders.

During an online conference Tuesday, several initiators described the foundation as a way to combat a rising tide of anti-LGBT discrimination.

Polish President Andrzej Duda said last year while running for reelection that the term "LGBT" is "not people" but an "ideology" more dangerous than communism.

Meanwhile, Catholic Church leaders have also used the term "rainbow plague" to describe the movement for LGBT.

The atmosphere has led some LGBT people to leave the country. Equaversty board member Holland said that 70% of LGBT youth in Poland have suicidal thoughts.

WHO grants emergency to 2nd Chinese vaccine

GENEVA — The World Health Organization has issued an emergency use listing for the COVID-19 vaccine made by Sinovac for adults 18 and over, the second such authorization it has granted to a Chinese company.

In a statement Tuesday, the U.N. health agency said data submitted to its experts showed that two doses of the vaccine prevented people from getting symptoms of COVID-19 in about half of those who got the vaccine. WHO said few older adults enrolled in the research, so it could not estimate how effective the vaccine was in people over 60.

Mexico report suggests sex abuse ring at some schools

MEXICO CITY — A study published Monday by a children's rights group in Mexico suggests a disturbing pattern at as many as 18 schools and childcare centers where multiple adult employees allegedly collaborated and used eerily similar practices to sexually abuse pupils between 3 and 7 years old.

The "11 offenders are accused of committing the abuse in a coordinated fashion," according to the report by the civic group Center for the Defense of Children's Rights. Children were forced to watch adults performing sexual acts or touch or abuse other kids. The legal team reviewed 37 cases found "to possibly match the criminal patterns we identified. Of these cases we were only able to attain greater detail as to the narratives of the children in 18 schools that confirmed similar patterns."

CHILDREN OF GAZA



JOHN MINCHILLO

Ibrahim Al-Masri, 10, sits for a portrait in his bedroom that was damaged when an airstrike destroyed the neighboring building prior to a cease-fire that halted an 11-day war between Gaza's Hamas rulers and Israel May 26 in Beit Hanoun, Gaza Strip.

Vatican outlaws adult abuse

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis has changed Catholic Church law to explicitly criminalize the sexual abuse of adults by priests who abuse their authority and to say that laypeople who hold church office also can be sanctioned for similar sex crimes. The new law is set to take effect on Dec. 8. A bishop can be removed from office for "culpable negligence," meaning he does not report sex crimes to church authorities. However, the canon law foresees no punishment for failing to report suspected crimes to the police.

The Vatican has long considered any sexual relations between a priest and an adult as sinful but consensual, believing that adults can offer or refuse consent purely by the nature of their age. Amid the #MeToo movement and scandals of seminarians and nuns being sexually abused by their superiors, the Vatican realizes that adults can be victimized if there is a power imbalance in the relationship.

According to the new law, priests who engage in sexual acts with anyone can be defrocked if they use "force, threats or abuse of his authority" to engage in sexual acts. Previously the Vatican only considered it a crime if



ANDREW MEDICINI/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mons. Filippo Iannone, right, and Mons. Juan Ignacio Arrieta Ochoa de Chinchetru hold a press conference to illustrate changes in the Church's Canon law, at the Vatican, June 1. Pope Francis has changed church law to explicitly criminalize the sexual abuse of adults by priests who abuse their authority and to say that laypeople who hold church office can be sanctioned for similar sex crimes.

the priest used force or threats and lumped the provision alongside sexual abuse of a minor.

The law doesn't explicitly define which adults are covered, saying only an adult who "habitually has an imperfect use of reason" or for "whom the law recognizes equal protection." Arrieta said the Vatican chose not to define precisely who is covered but noted that the Vatican previously de-

fined vulnerable adults as those who even occasionally are unable to understand or consent because of a physical or mental deficiency or are deprived of their personal liberty.

The Rev. Davide Cito, a canon lawyer at the Pontifical Holy Cross University, said the broadness of the law "allows it to protect many people" who might not necessarily fall under the strict definition of "vulnerable" but are

nevertheless deserving of protection.

But Kurt Martens, a canon lawyer, and professor at Catholic University of America, wondered how the church would enforce the payment of fines, suggesting the penalty might be an example of "wishful thinking" on the Vatican's part.

"You can have the most perfect legislation and the louisiest enforcement," Martens said in a phone interview. "Unlike civil authorities, what is the power of the church to enforce penalties she ultimately chooses to enforce?"

The need for such a lay-focused provision was made clear in the case of Luis Figari, the lay founder of the Peru-based Sodalitium Christianae Vitae, a conservative movement that has chapters throughout South America and the U.S. and 20,000 members.

An independent investigation concluded Figari was a paranoid narcissist obsessed with sex and watching his underlings endure pain and humiliation. But the Vatican and local church dithered for years on how to sanction him since he wasn't a priest and couldn't be defrocked — the worst penalty foreseen for sexual abusers.

Ultimately the Vatican decided to remove him from Peru.



OLIVIA ZHANG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mother of two, Yue Yan looks after one of her daughters at a park in Beijing May 20.

China faces strains as population ages

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — Yue Yan is glad to have two daughters but sees why fewer Chinese women are giving birth, even with the ruling Communist Party urging them to have more children.

Yue, 35, spends days looking after her 2-year-old and evenings helping her 10-year-old with homework. Yue quit a restaurant job to do that, so the family lives on her husband's salary, which many can't afford to do.

"If a young couple is busy working and their parents can't help take care of the children, they will not want kids," Yue said. "The pressure is just so heavy."

The Communist party is easing official limits on the number of children each couple can have, hoping to counter the rapid aging of Chinese society. But the number of births is falling. Couples are put off by costs, disruptions to jobs and the need to look after elderly parents.

On Monday, the ruling party announced it would ease birth restrictions to let all couples have three children instead of two. But its track

record suggests rule changes alone do little to change long-term trends.

Rules enforced since 1980 that limited most couples to one birth were changed in 2015 to allow two. After a brief uptick the next year, however, the number who had even one child fell, while the share of the population over age 65 rose.

China's population of 1.4 billion already was expected to peak later this decade and start to decline. Census data released May 11 suggest that is happening faster than expected, adding pressure to prepare for slower economic growth and do more to help the elderly. The rise in average age could disrupt ambitions to turn China into a technology leader and consumer-driven economy.

While a population decline might ease strains on resources, "this is not sustainable," said Song Jian, a professor at Beijing's Center for Population and Development at Renmin University.

China needs to "boost the willingness to have children," Song said. "We need to make people feel that having children or forming a family is attractive."

Meat company latest cyberattack victim

BY ROD MCGUIRK
Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — A ransomware attack on the world's largest meat processing company is disrupting production worldwide just weeks after a similar incident shut down a U.S. oil pipeline.

JBS S.A. of Brazil notified the U.S. of the ransom demand from a criminal organization likely based in Russia. JBS said the cyberattack affected servers supporting its operations in North America and Australia. JBS employs more than 66,000 people at 84 locations in the U.S. and has around 11,000 employees in Australia, where it is the country's largest meat and food processing company with 47 facilities.

The government minister said it might be days before production resumes. Last month, hackers shut

down operation of the Colonial Pipeline, the largest U.S. fuel pipeline, for nearly a week. The closure sparked long lines and panic buying at gas stations across the Southeast. Colonial Pipeline confirmed it paid \$4.4 million to the hackers.

Jason Crabtree, the co-founder of QOMPLX, an artificial intelligence company, said companies need to do a better job of rapidly detecting bad actors in their systems.

"A lot of organizations aren't able to find and fix different vulnerabilities faster than the adversaries that they're fighting," Crabtree said.

Crabtree said that President Biden's recent executive order on cybersecurity — which requires all federal agencies to use security measures, like multi-factor authentication — is a good start.

Travel restrictions increase U.S. drug trafficking

By SUMAN NAISHADHAM
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Authorities have apprehended an increasing number of American citizens trying to smuggle illegal drugs into the U.S. The closure of the border to nonessential traffic has sharply limited the number of foreign citizens entering the U.S. by land. In contrast, Mexican authorities have allowed most U.S. citizens to drive south across the border with ease.

Authorities apprehended U.S. citizens nearly seven times more often than Mexican citizens between October 2020 and March 2021 for attempting to smuggle drugs, U.S. Customs and Border Protection data shows.

In 2020, U.S. citizens had been apprehended about 2,400 times for drug

smuggling during inspections of vehicles crossing checkpoints. Just 361 such apprehensions during the same period involved Mexican citizens.

In March, a 24-year-old from Houston was arrested after an inspection at a port of entry in Laredo, Texas, uncovering nearly 127 pounds of liquid methamphetamine concealed in the gas tank of the SUV she was driving, court documents said.

Barboza told law enforcement officials that she agreed to drive the shipment to Houston in exchange for \$10,000. Abundio Rene Cantu, a lawyer representing Mendoza, estimates the number of cases he has handled of U.S. citizens facing drug smuggling charges has doubled since 2019, crediting the border policy.

Federer wins Grand Slam return

**BY JOHN LEICESTER AND
SAMUEL PETREQUIN**
AP Sports Writers

PARIS — They feted Roger Federer with as loud as applause gets from a crowd capped at 1,000 people in Court Philippe Chatrier when he walked out with a wave, when he hit one of his 48 winners, and even when he attempted a back-to-the-net 'tweener and hit the ball out.

The sunshine-bathed match Monday marked Federer's long-awaited return to the French Open and Grand Slam action, and he gave the excited fans the victory they wanted perhaps as much as he did.

Federer's first competition at any major tournament in 16 months ended with him on the right side of a 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 score against qualifier Denis Istomin at the French Open as fans chanted, "Ro-ger! Ro-ger!"

It was a case of many happy returns — and serves, forehands, backhands, volleys and drop shots, too.

"What a pleasure to be back," Federer said.

Federer showed no signs of rust or trouble with his right knee, which needed two operations last year. He produced over twice as many winners as his 20 unforced errors and never faced a break point while improving to 8-0 against Istomin over their careers.

"Always great to be on court with this legend. To play against him is always a big (deal)," Istomin said. "I was expecting all the spectators to cheer for him."

They sure did, with one voice from the stands shouting, "A delight, Roger! A delight!" as Federer went up 4-2 in the third set.

Federer, whose 40th birthday is Aug. 8, hadn't appeared on the Grand Slam stage since Jan. 30, 2020, when he lost to Novak Djokovic in the Australian Open semifinals.

This was only Federer's second trip to the French Open since 2015. In addition to last year's absence because of knee issues, he withdrew in 2016, citing a bad back, then sat out the clay-court circuit each of the next two years to focus on the grass-court portion of the season.

He acknowledged recently he has zero chance of claiming the trophy this time around in Paris; instead, he

Florida governor OKs limits on transgender student athletes

BY BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida's Republican governor signed a bill Tuesday barring transgender females from playing on public school teams that match their gender identity, plunging the state into a war over transgender rights.

"In Florida, girls are going to play girls sports and boys are going to play boys sports," Gov. Ron DeSantis said as he signed the bill in Jacksonville. The new law inflames discussion nationally.

Florida's measure takes effect July 1 and says a transgender student athlete can't participate without first showing a birth certificate identifying her as female at birth. The final wording of the "Fairness in Women's Sports Act" stripped away some of its most contentious elements, including a requirement that transgender athletes in high schools and colleges undergo testosterone or genetic testing and submit to having their genitalia examined.

But the legislation signed by the governor advances an underlying principle asserted by supporters: Biological differences between males and females make it unfair for athletes identified as boys at birth to compete on teams for girls and women.

Democrats and LGBTQ advocates said the law is discriminatory and will be challenged in court as unconstitutional. "This is yet another hate-driven attack from the governor and Republican legislators, and it's insulting that they've staged this morning's photo-op on the first day of Pride Month," said state Sen. Shevrin Jones."This bill is very simply about making sure that women can safely compete," said state Sen. Kelli Stargel, who championed the bill.

A Connecticut track athlete, Selina Soule, joined the Florida governor at the news conference to talk about how she failed to advance in competitions because she competed against transgender athletes.

"This is not out of need or necessity," said Orlando Gonzales, the executive director of SAVE, a South Florida LGBTQ rights advocacy group, during a news conference. "This is really just to throw red meat out there to really rally the base of people who are anti-LGBT."



DeSantis



THIBAUT CAMUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Switzerland's Roger Federer plays a return on day two of the French Open on Monday. This match marks his long-awaited comeback to the Paris tennis tournament and Grand Slam action.



THIBAUT CAMUS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Poland's Iga Swiatek plays a return to Slovenia's Kaja Juvan during their first round match on day two of the French Open tennis tournament.

is hoping to be ready to challenge for a championship at Wimbledon, where play begins in late June.

"In a way I like this situation — that I don't know what's next, how my next match will be. I don't even know who I play, to be honest," said Federer, whose second-round opponent will be 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic.

"I take it round by round, match by match."

After rhythmic clapping accompanied Federer's trot to the baseline for the match's opening point, he got off to the perfect start against Istomin, who is ranked 204th and is now the owner of a seven-match Grand Slam losing streak, but did upset Djokovic at the

Vaccines pushed pre-Olympics

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan is scrambling to catch up on a frustratingly slow vaccination drive less than two months before the scheduled start of the Summer Olympics, which were delayed by a year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The Olympics risk becoming an incubator for "a Tokyo variant," as 15,000 foreign athletes and tens of thousands of officials, sponsors, and journalists from about 200 countries descend on — and potentially mix with — a largely unvaccinated Japanese population, said physician Dr. Naoto Ueyama, head of the Japan Doctors Union.

With infections at high levels and hospitals already under strain treating serious cases, experts have warned there is little slack in the system.

Even if the country meets its goal of fully vaccinating all 36 million older adults by the end of July — already a week into the Games — about 70% of the population would not be inoculated. Many already view the target as overly optimistic.

To meet it, Japan is vowing to start administering 1 million doses daily. It is giving only 500,000 per day.

The International Olympic Committee says more than 80% of athletes and staff in the Olympic Village will be vaccinated — and they are expected to remain largely in a bubble.

On Tuesday, Japan started vaccinating athletes who will go to the Games, the Japanese Olympic Committee said.

But vaccination rates are not clear for foreign participants, including those from hard-hit regions, and experts warn that even strict rules won't prevent all mingling, especially among nonathletes. Spectators from overseas have been barred.

Prominent medical journals have questioned the wisdom of pushing ahead with the Tokyo Games. But the



KAZUSHI KURIHARA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Olympic torchbearers wearing face masks sit and wait for their turn in Kanazawa, central Japan on Monday. Japan, seriously behind in coronavirus vaccination efforts, is scrambling to boost daily shots as the July start of the Olympics.

government has said it's determined to push ahead, with the viability of Suga's leadership and geopolitical competition with rival Beijing, the next Olympics host on the line.

"By using a new weapon called vaccines and taking firm preventive measures, it is fully possible" to hold the Olympics safely, Suga told a parliamentary session Tuesday.

Dr. Shigeru Omi, former World Health Organization regional director and head of a government taskforce, said it is crucial to start inoculating younger people, who are seen as likely to spread the virus, as soon as possible.

More than three months into Japan's vaccination campaign, only 2.7% of the population has been fully vaccinated.

Inoculations for older adults, who are more likely to suffer serious problems when infected, started in mid-April, but were slowed by initial supply shortages, cumbersome reservation procedures and a lack of medical workers to give shots.

CRUCIAL MATCH UP



TONY GUTIERREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going into the fifth and final game in the Western Conference, the Dallas Mavericks and the Los Angeles Clippers are tied 2-2. Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard (2) and Terance Mann (14) defend as Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) drives to the basket in the first half in Game 4 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series in Dallas. The Mavericks travel to Los Angeles for Game 5 on Wednesday at 9 p.m. The Mavericks are 21-21 against all Western Conference opponents.

BRIEFS

Firefighter kills colleague, wounds another at station

SANTA CLARITA, California — An off-duty Los Angeles County firefighter fatally shot a fellow firefighter and wounded another at their small community fire station Tuesday before setting his nearby home on fire and apparently killing himself, authorities said.

A 44-year-old fire specialist died and a 54-year-old firefighter was shot when the gunman opened fire shortly before 11 a.m. at Fire Station 81, about 45 miles north of Los Angeles, Fire Chief Daryl Osby told reporters. The wounded man was in critical but stable condition at a hospital.

The shooter was a firefighter specialist and engineer, authorities said. The fire chief said he could not speak to the motive for the attack and doesn't know about any disciplinary actions.

Armed suspect killed in nightclub incident

HOUSTON — An off-duty deputy working security at a Houston nightclub fatally shot an armed suspect after gunfire at the club left one other person dead and wounded two more people, police said.

Shots were fired at about 1:15 a.m. Monday, and police said one person was pronounced dead at the scene. A second person was struck several times and is in critical condition, police said, while a third person was treated for a gunshot wound to the leg.

A Harris County deputy who was working security opened fire after the shooting, killing "an armed suspect," police said. Authorities were still working to determine whether anyone else opened fire at the nightclub. Police did confirm Monday that the "armed suspect" was among the two dead at the club.

Names of those involved had not been released Tuesday.

Boston cop who tackled Marathon bomber retires

WATERTOWN, Massachusetts — Watertown police Sgt. Jeffrey Pugliese, who became a national hero in 2013 when he tackled one of the Boston Marathon bombers, retired Monday after more than 41 years on the force.

He wanted to keep working but had reached the state's mandatory police retirement age of 65.

"The best part of being a police officer is getting out there and helping people, saving lives," Pugliese told WCVB-TV.

During the gunfight with the marathon bombers, Pugliese came face to face with Tamerlan Tsarnaev.

"We were just 6 feet, maybe 7 feet apart," he told WBZ-TV. "The only thing separating us was a four-foot chain link fence."

As Pugliese and two other officers held Tsarnaev down, his younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, sped toward them in an SUV.

Pugliese grabbed Tamerlan Tsarnaev by the belt to pull him out of harm's way.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev ran over and killed his older brother.

Justices reject J&J appeal of \$2B talc verdict

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court is leaving in place a \$2 billion verdict in favor of women who say they developed ovarian cancer from using Johnson & Johnson talc products.

The justices did not comment Tuesday in rejecting Johnson & Johnson's appeal. The company argued that it was not treated fairly in facing one trial involving 22 cancer sufferers who came from 12 states and different backgrounds.

A Missouri jury initially awarded the women \$4.7 billion, but a state appeals court dropped two women from the suit and reduced the award to \$2 billion. The jury found that the company's talc products contain asbestos and that asbestos-laced talc can cause ovarian cancer. The company disputes both points.

Johnson & Johnson has stopped selling its iconic talc-based Johnson's Baby Powder in the U.S. and Canada, though it remains on the market elsewhere.

The lead attorney for the women during the trial, Mark Lanier, praised the court's refusal to hear Johnson & Johnson's appeal.

Pelosi rules out having Biden create commission

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is ruling out a presidential commission to study the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol, telling House Democrats on Tuesday that having President Joe Biden appoint a panel is unworkable even after the Senate blocked an independent probe last week.

Pelosi laid out four possible options after Friday's Senate vote, in which Senate Republicans blocked legislation to investigate the siege by former President Donald Trump's supporters.

The first option, Pelosi said, is to give the Senate another chance to vote on the commission, which would be modeled after a highly respected panel that investigated the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The other three options all involve the House investigating the attack, meaning the probes would be inherently partisan. Pelosi suggested that she could appoint a new select committee or give the responsibility to a single committee. The fourth option would be for committees to simply push ahead with their own investigations.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



80°/67°
Thunderstorms

EYES WIDE OPEN

In a remote village in Romania, volunteers give children their first vision test ever.
INTERNATIONAL, 4



Southwest Journalist

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Judge upholds Lubbock abortion ban

BY SHANNON
NAJMABADI
The Texas Tribune

A federal district judge dismissed on Tuesday a lawsuit to block a voter-approved abortion ban from taking effect in Lubbock, saying Planned Parenthood did not have standing to sue the city.

The decision comes just weeks after Planned Parenthood filed a lawsuit to stop the Lubbock ordinance, which outlaws abortions and empowers “the unborn child’s mother, father, grandparents, siblings and half-siblings” to sue someone for damages if

they help others access an abortion.

In May, voters passed the “sanctuary city for the unborn” after it was shot down by City Council members who said it conflicted with state law and could be costly to defend. It took effect June 1.

Abortion rights advocates typically sue to prevent government officials from enforcing an unconstitutional abortion restriction. But the Lubbock ordinance is enforced solely by private citizens, not state or local actors. That enforcement structure has not been extensively tested in the courts, but the judge

said his rulings could not prevent private parties from filing civil lawsuits in state court.

“Because the ability to remedy a plaintiff’s injury through a favorable decision is a prerequisite to a plaintiff’s standing to sue — an ability absent here — the Court dismisses the case for lack of jurisdiction,” Judge James Wesley Hendrix wrote.

Almost 30 cities have sought to ban abortions by declaring themselves so-called sanctuaries for the unborn. Lubbock, with a population of about 259,000, is the largest city to do so and the first to have an abortion provider

within its city limits. Planned Parenthood opened a clinic to offer birth control and other services in Lubbock last year and began providing abortions this spring.

Ken Lambrecht, president of Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas, said the Lubbock clinic remains open for sexual and reproductive health care services.

He said the abortion ban “violates patients’ constitutional rights.”

“We will continue to stand up for (them) with all of our resources,” he said.

The city of Lubbock said in a news release it would con-

tinue to “vigorously defend the ordinance” if additional litigation is filed.

The ruling is a window into how courts may receive lawsuits about a newly passed state law that bans abortions as early as six weeks. It follows the same blueprint as the Lubbock ordinance by barring state officials from enforcing the law. But the state law is far broader, allowing anyone to sue those who assist with an abortion after a fetal heartbeat has been detected, such as by driving someone to a clinic or paying for the procedure.

■ ABORTION, Page 2

100+ LGBTQ MEXICANS RUN FOR OFFICE



FERNANDO LLANO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roshell Terranova sings during her campaign event for a seat on the national Congress in Mexico City on Saturday. Terranova will be one of more than 100 members of Mexico’s LGBTQ community participating in Sunday’s midterm elections that will fill the 500 seats of the lower chamber of the Congress, as well as state and local posts across the country.

Marven, a transgender woman from the state of Oaxaca, launches colorful smoke flares during her campaign event for a seat on Mexico City’s Congress, outside a restaurant in Mexico City on Saturday.

■ See MEXICAN ELECTIONS, Page 4

Duke’s Coach K to retire

BY AARON BEARD
AP Basketball Writer

Duke’s Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski will coach his final season with the Blue Devils in 2021-22, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The source said former Duke player and associate head coach Jon Scheyer will take over as Krzyzewski’s successor for the 2022-23 season.

The person spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the school has not commented publicly on the decision.

The sports news website Stadium first reported news of 74-year-old Krzyzewski’s final season with Duke. He has led the school to five national championships, most recently in 2015. With 1,170 victories, he is the winningest coach in men’s college basketball history, with 1,097 of them coming during his 41 years with the Blue Devils.

Krzyzewski led the Blue Devils to 12 Final Four appearances and a record 15 Atlantic Conference Tournament championships, while his teams spent a record 126 weeks ranked No. 1 in the AP men’s college basketball poll.

Hired at Duke in May 1980, “Coach K” won national championships in 1991, 1992, 2001, 2010 and 2015, while setting the men’s career coaching victories record in November 2011.

He has tailored his approach to adapt to the times and his personnel. He won the 2010 title with a senior-laden roster, then claimed the 2015 one after pivoting to more “one-and-



GERRY BROOME / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Head coach Mike Krzyzewski joined the Duke coaching staff in May 1980. After leading the school to five national championships, he will reportedly retire next year.

done” talent that headed to the NBA after a lone college season playing in Duke’s famously hostile Cameron Indoor Stadium.

His image became synonymous both with the elite private university in Durham, North Carolina, and the sport as a whole.

Along the way, he also took over the U.S. men’s national team — with NBA All-Star rosters featuring players such as LeBron James and the late Kobe Bryant — and led it to Olympic gold in Beijing in 2008, London in 2012 and Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Duke missed the NCAA Tournament this past season for the first

time since 1995, but the Blue Devils will welcome one of the nation’s top recruiting classes for the upcoming season.

Scheyer played for Krzyzewski from 2006 to 2010, with his last season delivering his mentor’s fourth NCAA title. Scheyer joined the Duke staff for the 2013-14 season and rose to his current role following the 2017-18 season.

Scheyer served as interim coach last year for Duke when Krzyzewski was sidelined for a January win against Boston College due to COVID-19 protocols. Scheyer has never been a college head coach.

Netanyahu faces removal as Israel’s PM

BY JOSEF FEDERMAN
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s opponents announced they have reached a deal to form a new governing coalition, paving the way for the ouster of the long-time Israeli leader.

Opposition leader Yair Lapid and his main coalition partner, Naftali Bennett, made the announcement moments before a midnight Wednesday deadline. The deal prevented the country from plunging into its fifth election in just over two years.

“This government will work for all the citizens of Israel, those that voted for it and those that didn’t. It will do everything to unite Israeli society,” Lapid said.

Netanyahu, desperate to remain in office while he fights corruption charges, is expected to do everything possible in the coming days to prevent the new coalition from taking power. If he fails, he will be pushed out.

The deal comes at a tumultuous time for Israel, which fought an 11-day war against Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip last month while also experiencing mob violence between Jews and Arabs in cities across the country. The country also is emerging from a coronavirus crisis that caused deep economic damage and exposed tensions between the secular majority and the ultra-Orthodox minority.

Under the agreement, Lapid and Bennett will split the job of prime

minister in a rotation. Bennett will serve the first two years, while Lapid will serve the final two years — though it is far from certain their fragile coalition will last that long.

The historic deal also includes a small Islamist party, the United Arab List, which would make it the first Arab party to be part of a governing coalition in Israel.

In the coming days, Netanyahu is expected to continue to put pressure on hard-liners in the emerging coalition to defect and join his religious and nationalist allies. Knesset Speaker

This government will work for all the citizens of Israel, those that voted for it and those that didn’t.

OPPOSITION LEADER
YAIR LAPID

Yariv Levin, a member of Netanyahu’s Likud party, may also use his influence to delay the required parliamentary vote.

Each of the past four elections was seen as a referendum on Netanyahu’s fitness to rule. And each ended in deadlock, with both Netanyahu’s supporters as well as his secular, Arab and dovish opponents falling short of a majority.

The new deal required a reshuffling of the Israeli political constellation. Three of the parties are led by hard-line former Netanyahu allies who had personal feuds with him, while the United Arab List made history as a kingmaker, using its leverage to seek benefits for the country’s Arab minority.

■ ISRAEL, Page 2

BY THE NUMBERS

1,170
total victories

41
years with the Blue Devils

126
weeks his teams ranked No. 1

15
Atlantic Conference Tournament championships

SOURCE: Associated Press

George P. Bush running for Texas AG



ERIC GAY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush arrives for a kickoff rally Wednesday in Austin with his wife, Amanda, to announce he will run for Texas attorney general.

BY PAUL J. WEBER
Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — George P. Bush on Wednesday launched his next political move: a run for Texas attorney general in 2022 that pits the scion of a Republican dynasty against a GOP incumbent shadowed by securities fraud charges and an FBI investigation.

Bush, who has served as the Texas land commissioner since 2015, is the son of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and the nephew and grandson of two former presidents. He is the last of the Bush family still in public office — and was the first to break with them over supporting former President Donald Trump, who has mocked the family that was once the face of the Republican Party.

Now he is launching the first major challenge against embattled Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who has spent six years in office under felony indictment over accusations of defrauding investors, and more recently was accused of bribery by his own former top aides.

“Here in Texas, we have a scandal that is plaguing one of our highest offices. And I believe conservatives should have a choice,” Bush said at a campaign kickoff rally in Austin.

His bid to move up Texas’ political ladder sets

up a potentially bruising primary that will test GOP voters’ appetite for the Bush name against the durability of a two-term attorney general who is embroiled in legal trouble.

On Tuesday, Trump endorsed Republican Gov. Greg Abbott for a third term but has not weighed in on the Texas attorney general race, which Bush had signaled for months he would enter.

Hours ahead of Bush’s announcement, Paxton’s office publicized a court brief that denies claims of impropriety leveled by top-level deputies who were fired after taking part in an extraordinary revolt against Paxton last fall.

Paxton called the accusations an “unsubstantiated smear campaign” and has separately pleaded not guilty in his securities fraud case that has languished since 2015.

Bush, meanwhile, enters the race at a moment of intense scrutiny and bipartisan outrage in Houston over his General Land Office announcing the city wouldn’t get a cent of the initial \$1 billion in federal funding that was promised to Texas following Hurricane Harvey.

The race is pivotal for Bush’s political future in Texas, where he has aligned himself with Trump, unlike his famous relatives.

Far-right groups cut ties after Jan. 6

Dozens of Proud Boys, Oath Keepers charged

BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN AND
ALANNA DURKIN RICHER
Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump’s lies about a stolen 2020 election united right-wing supporters, conspiracy theorists and militants on Jan. 6, but the aftermath of the insurrection is roiling two of the far-right extremist groups most prominent at the U.S. Capitol that day.

More than three dozen members and associates of the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers have been charged with crimes, including more than two dozen Proud Boys leaders, members or associates.

The Proud Boys, a group of self-described “Western chauvinists,” emerged from far-right fringes during the Trump administration to mainstream GOP circles, with allies like longtime Trump backer Roger Stone.

Some local chapters have cut ties with national leadership in the weeks after the deadly siege. The Proud Boys’ chairman called for a pause in the rallies that have led to clashes with anti-fascist activists.

Meanwhile, 16 members and associates of the Oath Keepers — a militia group founded in 2009 that recruits current and former military, police and first responders — have been charged with conspiring to block the certification of the vote.

An Oath Keepers member was the first defendant to plead guilty in the

riot. Jon Ryan Schaffer has also agreed to cooperate with the government’s investigation. The Justice Department has promised to consider putting him in the witness security program, suggesting it sees him as a valuable cooperator in the Jan. 6 probe.

Some extremism experts see parallels between the fallout from the Capitol riot and the schisms that divided far-right figures and groups after their violent clashes with counter-protesters at the “Unite the Right” white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017. The white supremacist “alt-right” movement fractured and ultimately faded from public view after violence erupted that weekend.

“I think something kind of like that is happening right now in the broader far-right movement, where the cohesive tissue that brought them all together — being the 2020 election — it’s kind of dissolved,” said Jared Holt, a resident fellow at the Atlantic Council’s Digital Forensic Research Lab.

“Like ‘Unite the Right,’ there is a huge disaster, a PR disaster, and now they’ve got the attention of the feds. And it’s even more intense now because they have the national security apparatus breathing down their necks,” he said.

But others believe President Joe Biden’s victory and the Jan. 6 investigation, the largest federal prosecution in history, might animate the militia movement — fueled by an anti-gov-



NOAH BERGER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Proud Boys chairman Enrique Tarrio rallies in Portland, Oregon, in 2019. Chapters have split with national leadership after the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

ernment anger.

“We’re already seeing a lot of this rhetoric being spewed in an effort to pull in people,” said Freddy Cruz, a Southern Poverty Law Center research analyst who studies anti-government groups. “It’s very possible that people will become energized and try to coordinate more activity given that we have a Democratic president in office.”

The insurrectionists who descended on the nation’s capital briefly disrupted the certification of Biden’s presidential win.

The crowd marched to the Capitol and broke through police barricades

and overwhelmed officers, shoving their way into the building to chants of “Hang Mike Pence” and “Stop the Steal.” Some came prepared with pepper spray, baseball bats and other weapons.

Members of the Proud Boys and the Oath Keepers make up just a small fraction of the more than 400 people charged so far. Prosecutors have narrowed in on the two extremist groups as they try to determine how much planning went into the attack, but authorities have said they’re intent on arresting anyone involved in the riot.



ODED BALILTY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid listens during a May 6 news conference.



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli left-wing protesters chant in Ramat Gan during a demonstration for forming a new government.



SEBASTIAN SCHEINER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli right-wing protesters chant in Ramat Gan during a demonstration against forming a new government.

Israel coalition moves to take control

Continued from Page 1

“This is the first time an Arab party is a partner in the formation of a government,” said the party’s leader, Mansour Abbas. “This agreement has a lot of things for the benefit of Arab society, and Israeli society in general.”

Among the concessions secured by Abbas were agreements for legal recognition of Bedouin villages in southern Israel, an economic plan for investing \$9.2 billion in Arab towns and cities, and a five-year plan for combating violent crime in Arab communities, according to Army Radio.

Lapid, 57, entered parliament in 2013 after a successful career as a newspaper columnist, TV anchor and author. His new Yesh Atid party ran a successful rookie campaign and Lapid won the powerful post of finance minister.

But he and Netanyahu did not get along, and the coalition quickly crumbled.

Bennett, 49, is a former top aide to Netanyahu whose small Yamina party caters to religious and nationalist hard-liners. Bennett was a successful high-tech entrepreneur and leader of the West Bank settler movement before entering politics.

In order to secure the required parliamentary majority, Lapid had to bring together eight parties that had little in common.

Their partners include a pair of left-wing parties that support Palestinian independence and three hard-line parties that oppose major concessions to the Palestinians and support West Bank settlements. Lapid’s Yesh Atid and Blue and White, a centrist party headed by Defense Minister Benny Gantz, and the United Arab List are the remaining members.

The coalition members hope their shared animosity toward Netanyahu will provide enough incentive to find some common ground.

“Today, we succeeded. We made history,” said Merav Michaeli, leader of the Labor Party.

To form a government, a party leader must secure

the support of a 61-seat majority in the 120-seat parliament. Because no single party controls a majority, coalitions are usually built with smaller partners. Thirteen parties of various sizes are in the current parliament.

As leader of the largest party, Netanyahu was given the first opportunity by the country’s figurehead president to form a coalition. He was unable to secure a majority with his traditional religious and nationalist allies.

After Netanyahu’s failure to form a government, Lapid was then given four weeks to cobble together a coalition.

Lapid already faced a difficult challenge bringing together such a disparate group of partners. Then war broke out with Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip on May 10. The fighting, along with the eruption of Arab-Jewish mob violence in Israeli cities during the war, put the coalition talks on hold.

After a cease-fire was reached May 21, negotiations resumed, and Lapid raced to sew up a deal. He reached a breakthrough Sunday when Bennett agreed to join the opposition coalition.

State seeks 30 years for Chauvin

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS — Prosecutors are seeking a 30-year sentence for the former Minneapolis police officer convicted of murder in George Floyd’s death.

Chauvin is scheduled to be sentenced June 25 following his conviction on murder and manslaughter charges. Judge Peter Cahill previously ruled there were aggravating factors in Floyd’s death.

“No sentence can undo Mr. Floyd’s death, and no sentence can undo the trauma Defendant’s actions have inflicted. But the sentence the Court imposes must show that no one is above the law, and no one is below it,” prosecutors wrote.

“Defendant’s sentence must hold him fully accountable for his reprehensible conduct.”

According to court documents filed Wednesday, defense attorney Eric Nelson cited Chauvin’s age, lack of a criminal record, and the support from family and friends when he requested a sentence of probation and time served.

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BRIEFS

Feds: Thieves stole thousands in stimulus money

MIAMI — Federal authorities say a ring of thieves from Venezuela living in South Florida and Mexico stole hundreds of thousands of dollars in U.S. government stimulus checks from people who were struggling financially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jesus Felipe Linares Andrade, 34, was charged with identity theft and conspiring to steal government money, the Miami Herald reported.

Federal prosecutors said as many as four co-conspirators may be added to an indictment.

The indictment said Linares and the unnamed co-conspirators are accused of stealing stimulus checks and cashing them using fraudulent identification documents.

Linares, who was arrested in May and pleaded not guilty, is being held without bond. Defense attorney David Scott Markus declined to comment Tuesday.

In January, an FBI informant met in a mall parking lot near Miami with one of the four co-conspirators to discuss cashing about 30 Treasury checks totaling \$36,000, the indictment said. The checks were addressed to different U.S. taxpayers with addresses in Mexico.

In April, Linares met with the two FBI informants at another Miami area mall to discuss picking up a UPS package at a post office in Deerfield Beach, the newspaper reported. The package contained 416 checks worth about \$249,000.

Ex-officer pleads guilty in connection with drug raid

HOUSTON — A former Houston police officer pleaded guilty to federal charges in connection with a 2019 drug raid that killed both homeowners.

Steven Bryant admitted in his guilty plea Tuesday that he lied and obstructed the resulting investigation in the raid, the Houston Chronicle reported. His plea was the first time a law enforcement officer connected to the raid has pleaded guilty or been convicted. Bryant was charged in August with tampering with a government record. Police accused him of providing false information in a report after the raid that supported the story of his partner, Gerald Goines, about a confidential informant. Goines also was charged with two counts of felony murder after police accused him of lying in a search warrant about having a confidential informant buying heroin at the home. He later acknowledged there was no informant and that he bought the drugs himself, authorities said. The fabricated drug deal was part of the justification for the raid, which ended in gunfire that killed Dennis Tuttle and Rhogena Nicholas and injured five police officers.

Child found dead believed to be missing Houston boy

JASPER — A child found dead in a Texas motel room is likely a boy reported missing in Houston, police said Wednesday.

Authorities had been searching for Samuel Olson, who was first reported missing May 27. On Tuesday night, police recovered a child's body from a motel room in Jasper, about 135 miles northeast of Houston. A suspect has been arrested, police said.

Investigators believe the body is Olson but are awaiting official confirmation from a medical examiner who will also determine how and when the child died, Assistant Police Chief Heather Morris said.

The boy would have turned 6 over the weekend, family members said.

Theresa Balboa, the father's girlfriend, reported the boy missing and told officers that Samuel's mother and a police officer took the boy from the home, Morris said. On Tuesday, police in Jasper received an anonymous tip and searched the motel room, where they discovered the body.

Balboa was also at the motel and was taken into custody, Morris said. Prosecutors in Houston have authorized a charge of tampering with evidence against Balboa, but Morris said more charges are possible once an autopsy is complete.

Ex-CEO pleads guilty to Make-A-Wish theft

DES MOINES, Iowa — The former CEO of Make-A-Wish Iowa has pled guilty to charges of embezzling tens of thousands of dollars from the charity that supports sick children and their families.

Jennifer Woodley admitted in a written guilty plea last week that she made unauthorized charges on a foundation credit card, gave herself unapproved pay increases and made false entries into foundation records related to those expenses.

Woodley, 40, pled guilty to two counts of first-degree theft and one count of fraudulent practices, all felonies. Under a plea agreement, prosecutors will recommend a sentence of five years' probation, along with fines and restitution.

A charging document alleges that Woodley's embezzlement totaled nearly \$41,000, but restitution has not yet been set.

A sentencing hearing is set for July 20.

The theft began shortly after Woodley became the group's president and CEO in 2019 and continued until the group discovered financial irregularities last summer. That's when the organization fired Woodley and sought a criminal investigation.

Woodley turned herself in to face the charges in January and has been free on bond.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



JACQUELYN MARTIN / ASSOCIATED PRESS

George Ripley, 72, a Washington resident, holds up his free beer after receiving the J & J COVID-19 vaccine, at The REACH at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in May 6. Free beer is the latest White House-backed

incentive for Americans to get vaccinated for COVID-19. President Joe Biden announced a "month of action" on Wednesday to get more shots into arms before the July 4 holiday.

I'LL DRINK TO THAT

Biden tries gimmicks to get shots in arms

BY ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

Dangling everything from sports tickets to a free beer, President Joe Biden is looking for anything that will get people to roll up their sleeves for COVID-19 shots. Biden announced a "month of action" to urge Americans to get vaccinated before the July 4 holiday, including an early summer sprint of incentives and a slew of new steps to ease barriers and make getting shots more appealing to those who haven't received them. He is closing in on his goal, 70% of adults at least partially vaccinated by Independence Day.

"The more people we get vaccinated, the more success we're going to have in the fight against this virus," Biden said from the White House. He predicted that with more vaccinations, America will soon experience "a summer of freedom, a summer of joy, a summer of get togethers and celebrations. An All-American summer."

The Biden administration views June as "a critical month in our path to normal," Courtney Rowe, the director of strategic communi-

cations and engagement for the White House COVID-19 response team, told the AP.

Biden's plan will continue to use public and private-sector partnerships, mirroring the "whole of government" effort he deployed to make vaccines more available after he took office. The president said he was "pulling out all the stops" to drive up the vaccination rate.

Among those efforts is a promotional giveaway announced Wednesday by Anheuser-Busch, saying it will "buy Americans 21+ a round of beer" once Biden's 70% goal is met.

"Get a shot and have a beer," Biden said, advertising the promotion even though he himself refrains from drinking alcohol.

Additionally, the White House is partnering with early childhood centers such as KinderCare, Learning Care Group, Bright Horizons and more than 500 YMCAs to provide free childcare coverage for Americans seeking shots or assistance while recovering from side effects.

The administration is also launching a new partnership to bring vaccine education and even doses to more than a thousand Black-owned barbershops and beauty salons, build-

ing on a successful pilot program in Maryland.

They're the latest vaccine sweeteners, building on other incentives like cash giveaways, sports tickets and paid leave to keep up the pace of vaccinations.

"The fact remains that despite all the progress, those who are unvaccinated still remain at risk of getting seriously ill or dying or spreading the disease to others," Rowe said.

Aiming to make injections more convenient, Biden is announcing that many pharmacies are extending their hours this month — and thousands will remain open overnight on Fridays. The White House is also stepping up its efforts to help employers run on-site vaccination clinics.

Biden will also announce that he is assigning Vice President Kamala Harris to lead a "We Can Do This" vaccination tour to encourage shots. It will include first lady Jill Biden, second gentleman Doug Emhoff and Cabinet officials. Harris' travel will focus on the South, where vaccination rates are among the lowest in the country, while other officials will travel to areas of the Midwest with below-average rates.

CORONAVIRUS AROUND THE WORLD

NEW YORK

Pfizer and Moderna officials said people might need yearly shots. The companies plan to have some candidates ready this fall. Each country's health officials would decide when boosters get used.

LONDON

British health officials say three-quarters of the U.K.'s adult population has received at least one dose of a coronavirus vaccine. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said reaching the milestone in less than six months was "an incredible step forward."

NICOSIA, Cyprus

Cyprus has confirmed two samples of the Indian COVID-19 variant in its population. The Ministry said the possibility of new variants entering the country remains high, despite the strict measures at Cyprus' two international airports.

BANGKOK, Thailand

AstraZeneca's partner in Thailand started its first deliveries of vaccines. Siam Bioscience said the first locally produced doses were delivered Wednesday to Thailand's Ministry of Health before the start of the country's official mass vaccination program.

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

Officials in the Norwegian capital of Oslo decided to temporarily suspend the traditional celebrations for high school seniors who drive around in buses and drink, after a coronavirus outbreak tied to the festivities.



ADOLPHE PIERRE-LOUIS / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melanie Stansbury addresses supporters at the Hotel Albuquerque, Tuesday, after winning the election in New Mexico's 1st Congressional District race to fill former U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland's seat. Haaland resigned to become U.S. secretary of the interior.

Democrat wins NM House seat

BY MORGAN LEE AND SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN
Associated Press

SANTA FE, New Mexico — The Albuquerque area delivered a resounding victory to a Democratic congressional candidate who embraced the Biden administration's economic recovery plans, as voters rebuffed Republican overtures across its heavily suburban and Latino political landscape.

Tuesday's special election vaulted 42-year-old Democrat Melanie Stansbury, a second-term state representative, into the congressional seat held previously by secretary of the interior Deb Haaland.

The election is a precursor to a handful of races to fill vacancies in Congress ahead of the 2022 midterm elections. Democrats held a 219-211 majority in Congress going into Tuesday's vote in New Mexico's 1st Congressional District. Stansbury won roughly 60% of the vote in a four-way race, defeating three-term Republican state Sen. Mark Moores.

Uncertified election results on Wednesday showed a victory margin of 24.5 percentage points for Stansbury — far greater than Haaland's 16-point win in 2020. That even edged past Biden's 23-point win in New Mexico last year.

Stansbury highlighted a working-class, public school upbringing in Albuquerque, and she embraced top-line Democratic initiatives on pandemic relief, infrastructure spending and interventions to slow climate change.

State Democratic Party officials said they used the election to rebuild advocacy infrastructure and return to in-person political events.

'Meme stock' skyrockets

AMC launches Investor Connect program

BY MICHELLE CHAPMAN AND STAN CHOE
AP Business Writers

After its movie theaters were shut and its stock nearly left for dead because of the pandemic, AMC Entertainment is embracing the horde of investors who shocked its shares back to life as part of this year's "meme stock" buying spree.

The company said Wednesday it's launching a program called AMC Investor Connect to stay in direct contact with those 3.2 million investors. Many bought AMC stock early this year, even as professional investors ran away, and helped lift it from less than \$2 a share on Jan. 5 to as high as \$72 on Wednesday.

AMC called them an "extraordinary base of enthusiastic and passionate individual shareholders," but investors are more likely to call themselves supporters who are taking the stock price "to the moon" and shaking up Wall Street along the way.

"After all, these people are the owners of AMC, and I work for them," AMC CEO Adam Aron said in a statement.

These smaller-fry buyers are known in the industry as "retail investors," to separate them from the pension funds, mutual funds and other institutional investors that typically dominate a company's ownership. At AMC, retail investors made up more than 80% as of mid-March.

Retail investors have become a much more powerful force across the market as easy-to-use trading apps and zero trading commissions have drawn in a new generation of traders.

Social media has amplified their power, with threads on Reddit, Twitter and elsewhere quickly building momentum for some stocks. The investors' power was most apparent early this year

when AMC, GameStop and a handful of other beaten-down stocks suddenly surged.

AMC soared 525.5% in January alone, after plunging nearly 71% the prior year. GameStop had an even more breathtaking move, vaulting 1,625%. In some cases, the quick gains short-circuited heavy bets made by hedge funds that the stocks would fall, which ultimately escalated the upward move.

Besides sharp swings, the increased weight of retail investors has also heightened critics' warnings that prices for investments across markets have inflated into dangerous bubbles, such as in the volatile world of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin.

Bitcoin climbed above \$60,000 early this year, only to fall back toward \$38,000, according to CoinDesk. Dogecoin, which is trying to shed its image as a joke cryptocurrency, has soared more than 8,000% in 2021.

At AMC, much of professional Wall Street said the stock has also climbed too high. Some analysts peg its value closer to \$5 than its closing price of \$62.55 on Wednesday.

Instead of focusing on such analysts, though, AMC Investors Connect will send communications from its CEO directly to retail investors. It will also offer special screenings, discounts and other promotions to shareholders.

Other meme stocks were also big movers Wednesday, with GameStop rising 13.3%, in sharp contrast to the rest of the listless stock market. The S&P 500 inched up by 0.1%.

AMC's announcement came a day after it said it was raising \$230.5 million through a sale of 8.5 million shares of stock, cashing in on the frenzy that has sent its stock price up 2,850% this year.



MOVIES TO WATCH THIS SUMMER

June 4 — The Conjuring (R) ■ June 10 — In The Heights (PG-13) ■ June 11 and 18 — 12 Mighty Orphans (PG-13) ■ June 16 — Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard (R) ■ June 25 — F9 (PG-13) | June 30 — Zola (R) ■ July 9 — Black Widow (PG-13) ■ July 30 — The Green Knight (R) ■ Aug. 6 — The Suicide Squad (R) ■ Aug. 13 — CODA (PG-13) ■ Aug. 27 — Candyman (R)

VISIT THE SOUTHWEST JOURNALIST ONLINE FOR MORE

Record of LGBTQ Mexicans campaign

BY FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — For years, transgender activist Roshell Terranova protested in the streets and knocked on the doors of Mexico's Congress to make the demands of the country's LGBTQ community known. Now, thanks to her efforts and an electoral rule change, Terranova is running for Congress — a first for Mexico.

Terranova will be one of more than 100 members of Mexico's LGBTQ community participating in Sunday's midterm elections that will fill the 500 seats of the lower chamber of the Congress, as well as state and local posts across the country. This election will have the largest number of LGBTQ candidates in Mexico's history, according to Carla Humphrey, an official with the National Electoral Institute.

The likelihood of success of the candidates for some of the more than 20,000 posts remains unknown, but activists, analysts and members of the LGBTQ community say the sheer number of candidates signals a departure from a history of hiding sexual identity to pursue a political career.

The surge in LGBTQ participation follows an order from electoral authorities for political parties to include those candidates on their slates as part of their "affirmative action" efforts, which seek "to generate and open spaces to vulnerable groups," Hum-



FERNANDO LLANO/AP

Marven launches colorful smoke flares during her campaign event for a seat on Mexico City's Congress outside a restaurant in Mexico City, May 29.

phrey said.

"They must be made visible and have a voice and be able to influence," Humphrey said.

Electoral authorities plan to track their progress as they do with other groups that have faced discrimination and benefited from actions to promote their participation. Such groups include women, Indigenous groups, Afro-Mexicans, people with disabilities and Mexicans who live abroad, she said.

Patria Jiménez, another activist and candidate to become a local lawmaker,

was in 1997 the first openly gay federal congresswoman. She said the high level of participation this year is the result of a "social evolution" that LGBTQ activists won by protesting in the streets.

Minority political parties such as Citizen Movement, Progressive Social Networks and the Democratic Revolution Party registered dozens of LGBTQ candidates, exceeding the quotas set by electoral authorities. The largest parties just met the requirements.

Marven, a transgender woman from the state of Oaxaca, is running for a seat in Mexico City's legislative

body as a candidate for the small party Elige.

"We have marched for many years to be taken into account," she said.

If she wins, Terranova said she will fight to bring same-sex marriage to the whole country.

"Before, you couldn't come out of the closet because you were condemned to a life of physical, mental, social workplace torture and you were excluded everywhere," Terranova said.

Mexico's Supreme Court has ruled that bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional, but some states still have not passed legislation allowing it. In those cases, couples have been able to go to court to be allowed to marry. Terranova also plans to push legal reforms to allow the civil registration of transgender youth and require medical attention "without discrimination."

Ana Labambarri, an analyst at the Mexican Institute for Competition, expressed doubt about the influence winning LGBTQ candidates could have. Based on the institute's study of women who have won seats in local legislative bodies, they still have not been able to access positions that allow them to make important decisions because of structural problems associated with a patriarchal system. She said LGBTQ lawmakers would likely face similar obstacles.

BRIEFS

French writer wins Booker Prize with WWI story

LONDON — A harrowing but poetic tale of comradeship, colonialism and the horrors of war won the International Booker Prize for fiction Wednesday.

"At Night All Blood is Black" by French writer David Diop beat five other finalists to take the \$70,000 prize, which is open to fiction in any language that has been translated into English. The prize money will be split between the author and his translator, Anna Moschovakis.

Diop is the first French author to win the prize, a counterpart to the prestigious Booker Prize for English-language fiction.

British author Lucy Hughes-Hallett, who chaired the judging panel, said the "hypnotically compelling" book was both "appalling" and poetic.

Diop's novel was chosen by five judges over contenders including "In Memory of Memory" by Russian writer Maria Stepanova and the short story collection "The Dangers of Smoking in Bed" by Argentina's Mariana Enriquez.

Diop's novel, which was published in French in 2018, resonates with present-day debates about racism and colonialism.

Hughes-Hallett said the judges favored the book not "because it speaks to the current conversation about racial politics" but because "it spoke to us with the most power."

Lufthansa gets green light to resume flights to Russia

BERLIN — German airline Lufthansa said late Wednesday that it has received the green light from Russia to resume flights there, after being briefly denied permission, which resulted in a reciprocal blocking of flights by Germany.

In a statement, Lufthansa said Russian authorities approved its flights from Frankfurt to Moscow and St. Petersburg in June.

Lufthansa had been forced to cancel two flights Tuesday and Wednesday after failing to get approval from Russia's Federal Agency for Air Transport.

"Due to the underlying reciprocal practice, the German Federal Aviation Authority also did not issue any further permits for flights of the Russian carriers as long as the permits were pending on the Russian side," Germany's Transport Ministry said in a statement.

The move affected connections operated from Russia by Aeroflot and budget carrier S7.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the green light for Lufthansa would prompt German authorities to issue approval for Russian airlines to resume flights to Germany.

The ministry said "as soon as the FATA approvals for Lufthansa flights are granted by the Russian side, the flights of Russian companies will also be approved."

Paralympic swimmer wins Spanish prize

MADRID — Paralympic champion swimmer Teresa Perales won Spain's annual Princess of Asturias award for sports Wednesday.

When announcing the prize, the judges said the Spanish athlete had become "an example for millions of disabled people of how to overcome difficulties and an icon of international Paralympics."

Perales, 45, lost the use of her legs at age 19 because of neuropathy and switched from karate to swimming. She has won numerous medals at the Paralympic Games over the past two decades. She is also a motivational speaker and physiotherapist.

The \$60,900 award is one of eight Asturias prizes handed out each year by the foundation. Other categories include art, social sciences and scientific research.

Former winners include American Alpine skier Lindsey Vonn and Formula One racing driver Michael Schumacher.

The awards are among the most prestigious in the Spanish-speaking world. An awards ceremony typically takes place in October in the northern Spanish city of Oviedo.

Largest meat producer online after cyberattack

CANBERRA, Australia — The world's largest meat processing company has resumed most production after a weekend cyberattack, but experts say the vulnerabilities exposed by this attack and others are far from resolved.

JBS told the federal government the ransom demand came from the ransomware gang REvil, which is believed to operate in Russia, according to a person familiar with the situation who is not authorized to discuss it publicly.

JBS said late Tuesday that it had made "significant progress" in dealing with the cyberattack and expected the "vast majority" of its plants to be operating Wednesday. The attack affected servers supporting JBS' operations in North America and Australia. Backup servers weren't affected and the company said it was not aware of any customer, supplier or employee data being compromised.

"Our systems are coming back online, and we are not sparing any resources to fight this threat," Andre Nogueira, CEO of JBS USA, said in a statement.

Ransomware expert Allan Liska of the cybersecurity firm Recorded Future said the attack on JBS was the largest yet on a food manufacturer. The attack was the second in a month on critical U.S. infrastructure.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



VADIM GHIRDA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A little girl adjusts testing glasses during an eyesight examination performed by volunteer ophthalmologists working with the humanitarian organization Casa Buna, or Good House, in Nucsoara, Romania, May 29. Dozens of disadvantaged young Romanian children got a chance to get their eyesight examined for the first time in a remote village in the southern Carpathian Mountains.

Dozens of children in Romania examined for poor eyesight

BY STEPHEN MCGRATH
AND ANDREEA ALEXANDRU
Associated Press

NUCSOARA, Romania — Dozens of Romanian children had their eyes examined for the first time in a remote area of the southern Carpathian Mountains.

The humanitarian organization Casa Buna, or Good House, arranged the eye tests in Nucsoara.

Many children in the impoverished rural community had never been screened by an ophthalmologist.

"Given that out of 30 children tested, 20 needed glasses, I think such ophthalmic caravans are needed in as many villages in the country as possible," said Mioara Marinescu, the ophthalmologist at Saturday's event.

"Unfortunately in our country, children do not receive education or health equally," the eye doctor said.

Valeriu Nicolae, who founded Casa Buna in 2007, said poor eyesight can have a serious negative impact on children's educational outcomes.

"Teachers think the kids hate to read, but in fact, they hate to read because they cannot read because their eyesight is poor," Nicolae said. "Kids who cannot read because their eyes are really bad are useless in the educational process. They get fed up and they drop out."

The volunteer organization supports more than 300 children and families and emphasizes education.

Casa Buna arrived in Nucsoara more than a year ago. Volunteers visit

every two weeks to bring aid to 94 children and their families.

Dozens of volunteers participated in the eye-screening event and organized activities and games to entice as many children as possible. Casa Buna also brought youngsters gifts for International Children's Day, which Romania observes on June 1.

"We'll do [eye testing] this year in nine villages. We hope to make anywhere between 600 to 1,000 pairs of glasses," Nicolae said.

Child poverty is most prevalent in the country's rural communities, where one in two children lives in poverty. Romania has the highest percentage of children at risk of poverty and social exclusion in the entire 27-nation European Union.



ROMANIA
Population 19 million
35.8% of children at risk of poverty

AMBLYOPIA is known as "lazy eye."
20 out of 30 children needed glasses.

Canada PM Trudeau asks for apology from pope

BY ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO — Canada's Indigenous services minister said Wednesday that Pope Francis needs to formally apologize for the role the Catholic Church played in Canada's residential school system, days after the remains of 215 children were located at what was once the country's largest such school.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government also pledged again to support efforts to find more unmarked graves at former residential schools — institutions that held Indigenous children taken from families across the nation.

Rosanne Casimir, chief of the Tkemlups te Secwepemc First Nation in British Columbia, said the remains were confirmed last month at the school in Kamloops, British Columbia, with the help of ground-penetrating radar. So far none has been excavated.

The Kamloops Indian Residential School was Canada's largest such facility. The Roman Catholic Church operated the school between 1890 and 1969 before the federal government took it over as a day school until 1978, when it was closed.

A papal apology was one of the 94

recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was set up as part of a government apology and settlement over the schools. Trudeau personally asked the pope to consider such a gesture during a visit to the Vatican in 2017.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops announced in 2018 that the pope could not personally apologize for residential schools, even though he has not shied away from recognizing injustices Indigenous people around the world faced.

"I think it is shameful that it hasn't been done to date," Indigenous Services Minister Marc Miller said. "There is a responsibility that lies squarely on the shoulders of the Catholic bishops of Canada."

Carolyn Bennett, the Indigenous Relations Minister, said an apology by the pope would help those who suffered heal.

"They want to hear the pope apologize," she said.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment for the latest call for a formal public apology by the pope.

Former Pope Benedict met with a group of former students and victims



SEAN KILPATRICK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Flowers, children's shoes and other items rest at a memorial at the Eternal flame on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on June 1, in recognition of discovery of children's remains at the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia.

in 2009 and told them of his "personal anguish" over their suffering, Phil Fontaine, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said at the time.

Until the 1970s, more than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a program to assimilate them into Canadian society. They

were forced to convert to Christianity and not allowed to speak their native languages. Many were beaten and verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died.

The Canadian government apologized in Parliament in 2008 and admitted that physical and sexual abuse in the schools was rampant.



77°/68°
Thunderstorms

FREE SPEECH THREATENED

Countries around the world are cracking down on expression — from Myanmar to the United States. See more on Page 4.



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SWJOURNALIST.COM ■ FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE
Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., the GOP's lead negotiator on a counteroffer to President Joe Biden's infrastructure plan, speaks at a news conference.

Biden, GOP seek deal on tax code

JOSH BOAK
Associated Press

President Joe Biden is trying to break a logjam with Republicans on how to pay for infrastructure improvements, proposing a 15% minimum tax on corporations and the possibility of revenues from increased IRS enforcement as a possible compromise.

The offer was made Wednesday to Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia as part of the bipartisan negotiations and did not reflect a change in Biden's vision for funding infrastructure.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Biden examined all the tax overhauls from his campaign and administration to look for potential common ground with Republicans and found that imposing a minimum corporate tax seemed like an option.

"He looked to see what could be a path forward with his Republican colleagues on this specific negotiation," Psaki told reporters Thursday. "This is a component of what he's proposed for a pay-for that he's lifting up as a question as to whether they could agree to that."

Biden has proposed increasing the corporate tax rate to 28% from 21% to help fund his plans for roads, bridges, electric vehicles and broadband internet, which remains one of his preferred approaches. But the rate hike is a nonstarter with Republicans because it would undo the 2017 tax cuts signed into law by former President Donald Trump.

By floating an alternative, Biden was trying to give Republicans a way to back infrastructure without violating their own red line of keeping corporate tax rates at their current level. The Washington Post first reported the offer.

On Thursday, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said he spoke with Capito after the session and is "still hoping" to reach a deal with the administration. McConnell prefers the GOP approach of a scaled-down package, paid for by

■ DEAL, Page 2

NO RELIEF

New state bills could raise energy prices for everyday Texans

ERIN DOUGLAS
AND MITCHELL FERMAN
Texas Tribune

The first day, Melissa Hutchins and her husband burned furniture to keep warm. Friends of theirs burned their children's toys. A neighbor's roof caved in.

When the Hutchinses lost water because the pipes froze, they went to a hotel.

Three nights and four maxed-out credit cards later, they returned to their Arlington condominium when power was restored to Texans after one of the deadliest — and costliest — disasters in state history.

"Texas is not prepared for weather like that," Hutchins said. "We're not equipped for that at all down here."

State lawmakers responded to February's deadly power outages during a winter storm with a few key changes to the state's power grid that experts said will begin to address some issues exposed by the storm — such as requiring power companies to upgrade plants to withstand more extreme weather and creating a statewide

emergency alert system.

But lawmakers did not provide direct relief for everyday Texans for whom the outages were an emotionally and financially taxing crisis because of the outages.

The storm caused the deaths of as many as 700 people, according to a BuzzFeed analysis. Insurance costs for property damage alone are about \$18 billion, Reuters reported, citing Karen Clark & Co., a Boston consulting firm. The total economic damage to the state may be \$86 billion to \$129 billion, according to The Perryman Group, a Texas economic firm.

Lawmakers approved a bill that will likely increase most Texans' electricity bills by at least a few dollars each month for possibly the next two decades to bail out the state's utility and electricity companies. Patricia Zavala, senior policy analyst at Jolt, a Latino progressive advocacy group in Texas, said even a small increase in living costs can put Texans who are "teetering on the edge" into financial jeopardy.

Doug Lewin, an Austin-based en-

ergy and climate consultant, said that while the Legislature took positive steps in requiring power companies to prepare for future storms, nothing was done to provide direct assistance to people harmed by the power crisis or to help Texans reduce electricity use to take pressure off the grid during extreme weather.

He and others said the changes this session are not the sweeping reforms necessary to avoid another power grid catastrophe.

"There was really no focus at all to address ... the millions of Texans struggling to pay their electric bills," Lewin said during a press conference with Texas environmental advocates. "There's two sides of the equation: supply and demand. The Legislature has stayed almost entirely focused on supply and almost completely neglected the demand side."

Lawmakers made the case in the final minutes of the legislative session that overhauling the board that oversees the power grid will provide the structural change necessary to prevent another grid-related disaster.

"I always get questions, 'What have y'all done to fix the disaster that we saw in February?'" state Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, said before the Senate passed Senate Bill 2, which changes the makeup of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas' board of directors. "It starts with leadership, and it starts with the structure [of people who] make the hard calls."

Still, both Republican and Democratic lawmakers acknowledged that they did not do enough this session to aid the people — like the Hutchinses and their neighbors — who struggled financially after the winter storm caused medical emergencies, damaged property, spoiled food and sent many Texans' utility bills soaring.

Hutchins estimates that the hotel, food, repairs to their condo, and lost work cost them \$5,000. Her husband, a manager at a food and beverage manufacturer, made an early withdrawal on his retirement account so they could repair broken plumbing to restore their water and fix their dish-

■ EVERYDAY, Page 2

WORLD PRIDE



ARIEL SCHALIT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Thousands of people marched through Jerusalem on Thursday in the annual Pride parade, celebrating LGBTQ rights in the conservative city amid heavy police security. Pride events in Jerusalem, which is home to a large ultra-Orthodox Jewish community, tend to be less raucous than those in more liberal Tel Aviv. A radical ultra-Orthodox Jew stabbed a 16-year-old girl to death at a Pride event in 2015, an attack that was condemned across the political spectrum. Only a few dozen people turned out to protest the parade this year, and were largely drowned out by the blaring music.

Texas jobless rate shrinks by half a year after historic losses

ANNA NOVAK,
MITCHELL FERMAN AND
MANDI CAI
Texas Tribune

The unemployment rate in Texas was 6.7% in April, which is down from the record high of 12.9% in April 2020.

The decrease comes as Gov. Greg Abbott in May said in May that Texas will opt out of federal jobless assistance to encourage people to go back to work. Jobless Texans will lose access to all additional federal pandemic unemployment aid — including a \$300-per-week supplemental benefit — on June 26.

Hundreds of thousands of Texans were receiving federal pandemic assistance as of the week ending May 1. For many, one month isn't enough time to apply for and find a job. But economists are optimistic that increased coronavirus vaccinations will help stabilize and improve the state's economic recovery.

Throughout the pandemic, the state's outdated and understaffed

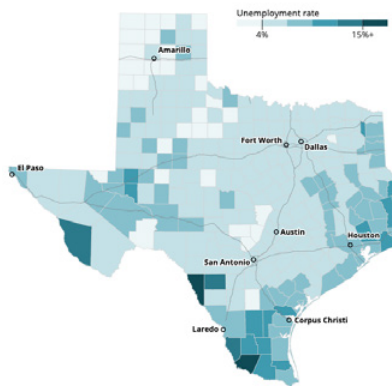
unemployment insurance office left countless Texans struggling to receive unemployment benefits as they navigated the Texas Workforce Commission's confusing processes.

Business shutdowns and limits battered Texas companies, which can now largely operate at full capacity. But businesses must choose whether customers are required to wear masks.

During the legislative session, Texas lawmakers approved a \$248 billion two-year state budget for 2022-23 that is headed to the governor's desk. The plan takes into account federal funding for coronavirus relief. Earlier in May, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar increased the projection for state funds available for the 2022-23 budget by \$3 billion — to a total of \$116 billion — eliminating the budget deficit from the pandemic.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASED IN APRIL

Texas' unemployment rate in April was 6.7%, a decrease from the 6.9%



UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY, APRIL 2021
Note: Unemployment rates for each county are not seasonally adjusted.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Texas Workforce Commission

March jobless rate, according to a Bureau of Labor Statistics report released May 21. The state gained around 1 million jobs in the last year after shedding over 1.4 million jobs due to the pandemic, according to TWC. In April 2021, 13,000 jobs were added in Texas.

Although jobs have been added, many are still facing obstacles reentering the workforce. On June 26, hundreds of thousands of Texans will lose the assistance they received through two federal unemployment aid programs after Abbott opted the state out of federal aid.

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

The impact of the coronavirus recession varies widely across Texas. The latest data showing how the unemployment rate varies in Texas counties is from April.

Joblessness is the worst in South Texas, where many people work in oil fields, but the region is slowly recovering. Several counties, including Starr, Cameron, Hidalgo and Willacy, re-

corded lower unemployment rates in April than in March. Unemployment in Austin's Travis County is at 4.5%, the lowest rate among Texas' most populous urban counties. And some rural counties throughout the state have unemployment rates below 4%.

SALES TAX REVENUE RISES IN MAY

In May, Texas collected \$3.4 billion in sales tax revenue, up 30.1% from what the state collected in May 2020. The revenue came mostly from purchases made in April. The total revenue for March, April and May was up 17.3% compared with the same period in 2020.

Spending at restaurants exceeded pre-pandemic levels, and sales at retailers like clothing stores and electronics and appliance stores rebounded from last spring, according to the comptroller. Oil and gas receipts were still down.

BY THE NUMBERS

6.7%

Texas unemployment rate, April 2021

12.9%

Texas unemployment rate, April 2020

\$3.4 billion

Sales tax revenue collected in May

30.1%

Sales tax revenue increase since May 2020

\$248 billion

Amount of Texas budget

SOURCE: Text

Biden, GOP seek tax deal

■ DEAL from Page 1

tapping unspent COVID-19 relief funds, rather than taxes.

"Let's reach an agreement on infrastructure that's smaller but still significant, and fully paid for," McConnell said in Paducah, Kentucky.

The president is essentially staking out the principle that profitable corporations should pay income taxes. Many companies can avoid taxes or

minimize their bills through a series of credits, deductions and other ways of structuring their income and expenses.

The president has insisted that the middle class should not bear the cost of greater infrastructure spending. Yet a chasm exists in negotiations because Republicans say corporate tax increases will hinder economic growth.

The idea of imposing a minimum corporate tax is not new for Biden, who proposed the policy during the presidential campaign last year, and that could turn off some Republicans. The center-right Tax Foundation estimated that a minimum tax would subtract 0.21% from long-run U.S. gross domestic product.

"He's been pushing it since the primaries over a year ago," said George Callas, managing director of government affairs for the law firm Steptoe and a former tax counsel to House Republicans. Callas said the minimum tax would mostly hit firms such as electric utilities and telecoms that make substantial capital investments as well as companies that rely on paying their employees with stock.

At the same time, both Democrats and Republicans have eyed revenues that could come from stepped-up IRS enforcement of unpaid taxes. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has suggested it could amount to some \$1 trillion, but others say the estimate is far lower.

Biden is seeking roughly \$1 trillion in infrastructure spending, down from an initial pitch of \$2.3 trillion. Republicans, so far, have countered with only \$257 billion in additional spending on infrastructure as part of a \$928 billion package. The GOP's new spending on infrastructure would be a fraction of what the president says is necessary to compete globally and boost economic growth.

Talks over Biden's top legislative priority have been moving slowly, a daunting undertaking given the massive infrastructure investment, and time for a deal is running out. The administration has set a Monday deadline to see clear direction and signs of progress.

Biden and Capito are set to meet again today.



McConnell

PAUL WISEMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell last week for a fifth straight week to a new pandemic low, the latest evidence that the U.S. job market is regaining its health as the economy reopens further.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that jobless claims dropped to 385,000, down 20,000 from the week before. The number of weekly applications for unemployment aid, which generally reflects the pace of layoffs, has fallen steadily all year, though it remains high by historical standards.

The decline in applications reflects a swift rebound in economic growth and the job market's steady recovery from the coronavirus recession. More Americans are venturing out to shop, travel, dine out and congregate at entertainment venues. That renewed spending has led companies to seek new workers.

Employers have added 1.8 million jobs this year — an average of more than 450,000 a month — and the government's May jobs report that will be released today is expected to show that they added an additional 656,000 last month, according to a survey of econ-



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rob Bondurant, a supervisor at packaging company Great Southern Industries, loads a machine in the Jackson, Miss., facility May 28. Charita McCarroll, human resources manager at the company, said a steady paycheck and benefits like health care are not enough of an incentive for some people to pass up COVID-19 benefits.

omists by the data firm FactSet. The economy remains down 8.2 million jobs from February 2020, just before the virus tore through the economy.

AnnElizabeth Konkell, economist at the Indeed Hiring Lab, noted that the number of people collecting traditional state unemployment benefits rose by 169,000 in the week of May 22 to nearly 3.8 million.

"Reviving a labor market after a deadly pandemic is complicated," she said. "Not all indicators move at the same speed or take the same recovery path. Hopefully, the COVID-19 cases continue to decline as the number of fully vaccinated individuals rises. Fully returning to pre-COVID normal is essential to a full labor market recovery."

In the meantime, U.S. employers are

posting a record number of available jobs. Many of them have complained that they can't find enough workers to meet rising customer demand.

Job posting slowed sharply in April compared with March, a pullback widely attributed to a labor shortage in some industries, especially restaurants and others in the hospitality sector.

At least 25 states have responded by announcing plans to cut some emergency federal aid to the unemployed — including a \$300-a-week federal benefit — as early as next week. Critics argue that the extra federal unemployment aid, on top of regular state jobless benefits, discourages some people from seeking work.

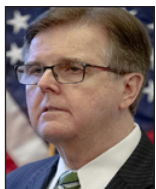
Weekly applications for unemployment aid, which topped 900,000 in early January, have fallen steadily all year. Before COVID-19 all but paralyzed the economy in March 2020, claims were regularly coming in below 230,000 a week.

In the week that ended May 15, 15.4 million people were receiving some form of jobless aid, including special federal aid programs for the unemployed during the pandemic. That was down from 15.8 million the previous week. That figure has steadily declined from about 20 million in December.



"Put me on the side of consumers who suffered through this storm."

GREG ABBOTT
Texas governor



"We have to help the people of Texas and their electric bills."

DAN PATRICK
Lieutenant governor



"I always get questions, 'What have y'all done to fix the disaster that we saw in February?'"

LOIS KOLKHORST
State senator

New state bills could raise costs

■ EVERYDAY from Page 1

washer — all of this, she said, after a year in which her husband was sick with COVID-19 and missed a month of work.

"It was just crazy," Hutchins said. "It's one thing after another. Like water, we can't live without water. We have to have electricity."

Lawmakers said the measure they passed to give utilities and electricity companies access to billions of dollars in bonds and loans will prevent a larger financial crisis in the state in the aftermath of the storm. Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has called for additional legislation that would provide direct financial relief to consumers.

"The next time, for this lieutenant governor, that we're going to spend billions of dollars concerning the storm, it's going to be to help the people of Texas and the ratepayers, or I won't call that bill up," Patrick said. "We have to help the people of Texas and their electric bills."

Gov. Greg Abbott is expected to call lawmakers back for a special session later this year to revive certain bills that died during the regular session. Abbott said he would likely support a proposal to aid consumers, but he hasn't announced whether he would add the issue to lawmakers' plates in a special session.

"Put me on the side of consumers who suffered through this storm," Abbott said.

LITTLE RELIEF FOR EVERYDAY TEXANS

Senate Bills 2 and 3, the two major power grid bills that lawmakers passed Sunday and sent to Abbott, focus on ERCOT's board and weatherizing the power plants that serve the electrical grid.

Senate Bill 2 reduces the number of ERCOT board members from 16 to 11 and requires that instead of what lawmakers called "industry insiders" appointing the board, Abbott, Patrick and House Speaker Dade Phelan will appoint a committee to make ERCOT board selections.

Senate Bill 3 requires power companies and some natural gas companies to make upgrades so their facilities can withstand extreme weather. The bill also requires regulators to create an emergency alert system, similar to an Amber alert, for power outages and inclement weather.

The Senate did not approve a \$2 billion plan, approved by the House, to help companies pay for weatherization. Therefore, companies alone will pay the costs to retroactively equip their power plants to withstand extreme weather.

The state likely won't require companies to make weatherization upgrades until 2022 at the earliest.

Another package of bills sent to the governor would increase rates on Texans' power bills for likely the next two decades to cover at least \$7 billion of gas utilities' electric cooperatives' and electric companies' debt from the storm.

Many companies, particularly rural electric co-

operatives, were financially wrecked after the winter storm due to state electricity regulators' decision to set power prices at the maximum rate of \$9,000 per megawatt-hour and keep them there for an additional 32 hours after power began to return. Natural gas fuel prices also spiked during the storm; some gas utility companies said their customers' bills would increase several times the normal amount if the companies had to finance their storm-related debt without state help.

If Abbott signs the bills into law, the legislation will prevent customers from having to pay huge bills from the storm by allowing companies to seek billions of dollars in state-approved bonds backed by the new charges on customers' bills. The state's plan will help the companies get cheaper, longer-term loans.

Some electric companies also owe massive debts to ERCOT; under House Bill 4492, ERCOT will receive \$800 million from the state's Economic Stabilization Fund, known as the rainy day fund, to pay off those debts — an effort to prevent most retail electric providers from passing huge bills on to their customers and to reimburse power generation companies.

Aaron Gonzales, 27, a graduate student at the University of Texas and a volunteer for Jolt Action, said the rising cost of living has delayed his plans to purchase a home. "It's a straw that gets put on the camel's back, and we have to ask ourselves, how many before it breaks?" he said. "A lot of people in my family were laid off this year or on reduced wages. At a time when we don't have jobs or money, you're asking us to pay even more."

11 students head to editing internships after 10-day training

Eleven college students and recent college graduates are headed to editing internships after completing eight days of intensive preparation at the University of Texas at Austin — virtually.

The interns are among a group of undergraduate and graduate students placed in internships in copy editing, business reporting and digital journalism. The program is operated by the Dow Jones News Fund and, for the first time this year, the Texas Press Association.

The Associated Press allowed students to use the wire services for content and instructional material and School Newspapers Online hosted the Southwest Journalist website.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated the sessions in this 23rd residency program at UT-Austin.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a model daily newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online and social media product, svjournalist.com.

The UT-News Fund interns serve internships of 10 to 12 weeks. Grants from the News Fund and contributions from participating news organizations cover the participants' training. This year, for the second time, the training was held virtually, using more

than eight hours of classroom instruction and production per day via Zoom and Google Hangouts. The internships themselves will also be virtual.

Beth Butler and Bradley Wilson served as co-directors of the workshop with assistance from Kathleen McElroy, director of the UT School of Journalism, and Angela Martinez, administrative associate.

Faculty also included Mark Grabowski, associate professor at Adelphi University and Griff Singer, retired senior lecturer at the University of Texas School of Journalism and former director of the Center for Editing Excellence.

The 2021 participants, their schools and their internship assignments are as follows:

- **Lauryn Azu**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Chicago Tribune
- **Caleigh Bartash**, University of Maryland, Stars & Stripes
- **Lilly Chandler**, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Hill Country News
- **Emily G. Eddins**, Texas A&M University, Tyler County Booster
- **JJ Kim**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, San Francisco Chronicle
- **Megan Menchaca**, University of Texas at Austin, Houston Chronicle
- **Kaylee Pippins**, Tarleton State University, Azle News
- **Gabriella Ruiz**, Texas A&M-Corpus



- Christi, Pleasanton Express
 - **Abigail Russ**, University of Maryland, Patch.com
 - **Jason Sanchez**, Cal State-Fullerton, Los Angeles Times
 - **Jennifer Zhan**, Northwestern University, San Francisco Chronicle
- Guest speakers included:
- **Erin Ailworth**, Midwest reporter, The Wall Street Journal, erin.ailworth@wsj.com
 - **Shirley Carswell**, executive director,

- Dow Jones News Fund, shirley.carswell@dowjones.com
- **Ken Cooke**, publisher, Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post
- **Rod Hicks**, director of ethics and diversity, Society of Professional Journalists
- **Mike Hodges**, executive director, Texas Press Association
- **Corrie MacLaggan**, statewide managing editor for the public radio stations of The Texas Newsroom

- **Kathleen McElroy**, director, University of Texas School of Journalism and G.B. Dealey Regents Professor in Journalism
- **Yvonne Mintz**, editor and publisher, The Facts (Clute, Texas)
- **Krissah Thompson**, managing editor of diversity and inclusion, The Washington Post
- **Paul Weber**, Austin-based reporter, Associated Press.



Southwest Journalist

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The Southwest Journalist is a teaching publication of the Dow Jones News Fund, the Texas Press Association and the Center for Editing Excellence at The University of Texas at Austin. The Southwest Journalist is edited and designed by students attending the 2021 pre-internship training program funded by a grant from the DJNF, the TPA and the news organizations hosting the interns.

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BRIEFS

Attorney F. Lee Bailey
dead at 87

WALTHAM, Mass. — F. Lee Bailey, the celebrity attorney who defended O.J. Simpson, Patricia Hearst and the alleged Boston Strangler, but whose legal career halted after disbarment in two states, has died. He was 87.

The death was confirmed Thursday by Peter Horstmann, who worked with Bailey as an associate in the same law office for seven years.

In a legal career that lasted more than four decades, Bailey, was seen as arrogant, egocentric and contemptuous of authority. But he was also acknowledged as bold, brilliant, meticulous and tireless in the defense of his clients.

Bailey was a member of the legal “dream team” that successfully defended Simpson, the former star NFL running back and actor. He was acquitted on charges that he killed his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, in 1995.

Some of Bailey’s other high-profile clients included Dr. Samuel Sheppard — accused of killing his wife — and Capt. Ernest Medina, charged in connection with the My Lai massacre during the Vietnam War.

Louisiana cops shoot
3rd person in 3 days

VINTON, La. — Louisiana State Police say a city police officer shot and wounded a Texas woman who had pulled a gun on him.

The shooting early Wednesday was the third in three days by police around Louisiana. The other two were fatal.

Annette Odegar, 54, of Orange, Texas, was taken to a hospital after the shooting in Vinton, about 11.5 miles northeast of Orange, state police said in a news release Wednesday evening.

The release said the Vinton Police Department officer had been sent to investigate an argument between two motorists parked on the shoulder of the Interstate 10 westbound entrance ramp from Louisiana Highway 108.

Odegar got out of her car and pointed a gun at the officer, according to the statement by Trooper First Class Derek Senegal.

“During the confrontation, the officer discharged his weapon, striking Odegar,” Senegal wrote.

State police, as is standard in shootings by local officers, are investigating the shooting. Vinton police are investigating the motorists’ dispute.

3 children die playing
with hand grenade

QUETTA, Pakistan — Three children were killed Thursday in southwestern Pakistan when a hand grenade they were playing with went off, police said. Two other children were wounded in the explosion.

Police said it was not known who had left the grenade in an open area in a residential neighborhood in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan province.

Balochistan has been the scene of a long-running insurgency by secessionist groups that often target security forces with bombs to push for independence from the central government in Islamabad. The Pakistani Taliban and the Islamic State group also have a presence in the province.

Final options set for
Cleveland team’s new name

CLEVELAND — Like expecting parents, the Cleveland Indians are trying to settle on a name.

The team said Thursday it has a final list from an initial pool of nearly 1,200 entries. It is vetting the possible team names for legal purposes after months of research and discussions with fans.

In December, the Indians said they were changing their name for the first time since 1915. The decision came during a national movement, including strong push from Native Americans, to replace prejudicial racist names and symbols. Owner Paul Dolan said months ago the new name will not have any Native American themes or connotations.

The name change will complete a rebranding by the Indians, who removed their contentious Chief Wahoo logo from their game jerseys and caps several years ago. The team, however, continues to sell merchandise featuring the grinning, cartoonish mascot.

Utah governor asks citizens
to pray for drought to end

SALT LAKE CITY — Utah’s governor asked residents Thursday to pray for rain this weekend to relieve the state from drought.

Gov. Spencer Cox released a statement calling on Utah residents to pray for “divine intervention” as an excessive heat warning has been issued for areas around the state this weekend.

“I’ve already asked all Utahns to conserve water by avoiding long showers, fixing leaky faucets, and planting water-wise landscapes,” Cox said. “But I fear those efforts alone won’t be enough to protect us. We need more rain and we need it now.”

Cox, a Republican, has issued two drought-related emergency orders in the last three months. He declared a state of emergency March 17 due to the ongoing drought and issued another executive order May 3 requiring water conservation practices at state facilities.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Postmaster under investigation

BY ERIC TUCKER AND
ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is investigating Postmaster General Louis DeJoy over political fundraising activity at his former business, his spokesman confirmed Thursday.

In recent weeks federal authorities have subpoenaed DeJoy and interviewed current and former employees of DeJoy and his business, The Washington Post reported.

Mark Corallo, a DeJoy spokesman, confirmed an investigation in a statement to The Associated Press.

“Mr. DeJoy has learned that the Department of Justice is investigating campaign contributions made by employees who worked for him when he was in the private sector. He has always been scrupulous in his adherence to the campaign contribution laws and has never knowingly violated them,”

Corallo said.

The agency declined to comment on news of the investigation.

DeJoy, a former logistics executive, has been mired in controversy since taking over the Postal Service last summer and putting in place policy changes that delayed mail before the 2020 election, when there was a crush of mail-in ballots.

Last year, DeJoy faced additional scrutiny after The Post reported that five people who worked for his former company, New Breed Logistics, said they were urged by aides of DeJoy or by DeJoy himself to write checks and



USPS Postmaster General Louis DeJoy

attend political fundraisers at DeJoy’s North Carolina mansion. Two former employees told the newspaper that DeJoy would later give bigger bonuses to reimburse

them for the contributions.

Under federal law, it is not illegal to encourage employees to contribute to candidates. It is illegal to reimburse them as a way of avoiding federal campaign contribution limits.

DeJoy, who has not been charged with a crime, denied during questioning before a congressional committee last year that he repaid executives for contributing to President Donald

MENTAL HEALTH



LYNNE SLADKY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Naomi Osaka, of Japan, returns to Maria Sakkari, of Greece, during the quarterfinals of the Miami Open tennis tournament. Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam champion, said Monday she was withdrawing from the French Open for mental health issues.

Osaka gets sponsors’ support
Brands praise her mental health advocacy

BY MAE ANDERSON
AND ANNE D’INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A few years ago, a star athlete dropping out of a major tennis tournament over mental health issues might have been seen as a sign of weakness.

Today, at least for Naomi Osaka’s corporate sponsors, it is being hailed as refreshingly honest.

That would explain why so many have stuck by Osaka after the four-time Grand Slam champion announced Monday that she was withdrawing from the French Open because she didn’t want to appear for the requisite news conferences that caused her “huge waves of anxiety.”

Osaka, who also acknowledged suffering “long bouts of depression,” received criticism by some who say the media events are just “part of the job.” But Nike, Sweetgreen and other sponsors put out statements in support of the 23-year-old star after she revealed her struggles.

Allen Adamson, co-founder of marketing consultancy Metaforce, said that Osaka’s disclosure has made her a more authentic spokesperson — and more valuable to corporate sponsors.

“Every athlete gets a sports sponsorship because they win games or perform well,” he said. “But the best ones become true brand ambassadors when they have a broader persona. The best brand ambassadors are real people. (Osaka) is talking about an issue that is relevant to many people. Mental health is a bigger issue than winning or losing tennis.”

Reilly Opelka, a 23-year-old American tennis player seeded 32nd at the French Open who plays his third-

**DON'T GIVE UP.
YOU ARE NOT ALONE.**
VISIT TWLOHA.COM
for crisis resources.

round match Friday, told The Associated Press he’s glad Osaka is taking time to get better.

“She’s one of the best players in the world — she’s very influential,” Opelka said. “The sport needs her. She’s an icon. It’s bad for the sport to have one of the main attractions not around.”

Forbes listed Osaka as the world’s highest-paid woman athlete, earning \$37 million in 2020 from sponsors such as Tag Heuer, AirBnB, and Louis Vuitton as well as Mastercard and Nike.

Nike has stood by sports stars after other controversies, including Tiger Woods after his 2009 sex scandal and former 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick after he knelt during games to protest police brutality. But it recently dropped Brazilian soccer star Neymar after he refused to cooperate with an internal investigation into sexual assault allegations from a Nike staffer.

Osaka joins a growing list of top-tier athletes speaking out about mental health. Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps, NBA players Kevin Love and DeMar DeRozan, and the WNBA’s A’ja Wilson have all spoken publicly about their bouts with depression, sharing both the successes and setbacks.

The episode also could serve as a tipping point for the professional tennis tours — and leagues in other sports — to safeguard athletes’ mental health as well as their physical health,

said Windy Dees, professor of sport administration at the University of Miami.

“It’s absolutely a growth opportunity for the (Women’s Tennis Association) and all leagues. There’s a lot of work to be done,” Dees said.

Marketing consultant Adamson said Osaka’s decision to come forward could encourage more athletes to divulge their own mental health battles. He noted that if Osaka had revealed her bouts with depression 10 years ago, her corporate sponsors likely would have stayed on the sidelines because the issue had been taboo. But, he noted, the pandemic has raised awareness around mental illness.

From August 2020 to February, the percentage of adults with recent symptoms of anxiety or a depressive disorder increased from 36.4% to 41.5%, based on a survey by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Census Bureau.

The survey also found the percentage of those reporting that they didn’t get the help they needed increased from 9.2% to 11.7%. Increases were largest among adults 18–29 years old and those with less than a high school education.

Ken Duckworth, chief medical officer for the National Alliance On Mental Illness, said Osaka’s decision to go public is a positive development for all people who feel isolated.

“We are moving from mental health and mental illness as a ‘they’ thing to a ‘we’ thing,” he said. “These are ordinary common human problems. And I firmly believe that isolation and shame directly contributes to people not getting help. I look at a great athlete, an exceptional athlete, as one potential role model.”

Trump’s election campaign..

Campaign finance disclosures show that between 2000 and 2014, when New Breed was sold, more than 100 employees donated a total of more than \$610,000 to Republican candidates supported by DeJoy and his family. He and his family also contributed more than \$1 million to Republican politicians.

Corallo said DeJoy will cooperate with the investigation.

“Mr. DeJoy fully cooperated with and answered the questions posed by Congress regarding these matters. The same is true of the Postal Service Inspector General’s inquiry which after a thorough investigation gave Mr. DeJoy a clean bill of health on his disclosure and divestment issues. He expects nothing less in this latest matter and he intends to work with the DOJ toward swiftly resolving it,” Corallo said.

Uyghur exiles
report torture
in west China

BY AYSE WIETIN
Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Three Uyghurs who fled from China to Turkey have described forced abortions and torture by Chinese authorities in China’s far western Xinjiang region.

The three, who will be witnesses before a people’s tribunal, include a woman who said she was forced into an abortion at 6 1/2 months pregnant, a former doctor who spoke of draconian birth control policies and a former detainee who alleged he was “tortured day and night” by Chinese soldiers while imprisoned.

While the tribunal’s judgment is not binding on any government, organizers hope the process of publicly laying out evidence will compel action to deal with growing concerns about alleged abuses in Xinjiang against the Uyghurs, a largely Muslim ethnic group.

One witness, Bumeryem Rozi, a mother of four, said authorities in Xinjiang rounded her up along with other pregnant women to abort her fifth child in 2007. She said she complied because she feared that otherwise authorities would have endangered her family.

“I was 6 1/2 months pregnant . . . They put me and eight other pregnant women in cars and took us to the hospital,” Rozi, 55, told the Associated Press from her home in Istanbul.

“They first gave me a pill and said to take it. So I did. I didn’t know what it was,” she continued. “Half an hour later, they put a needle in my belly. And sometime after that I lost my child.”

Semsinur Gafur, a former obstetrician-gynecologist who worked in a Xinjiang hospital in the 1990s, said she and other female clinicians used to go from house to house with a mobile ultrasound machine to check if anyone was pregnant.

“If a household had more births than allowed, they would raze the home.”

A third exile, Mahmut Tevekkul, said he was imprisoned and tortured in 2010 by Chinese authorities.

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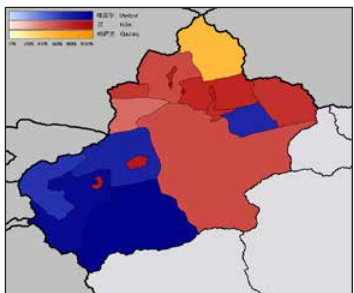
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CHINA



Blue represents regions in Xinjiang, China with a majority of Uyghurs.

■ Uyghurs are a Turkic ethnic group originating from and culturally affiliated with Central and East Asia.

Volunteers drop out 50 days before Tokyo Olympics

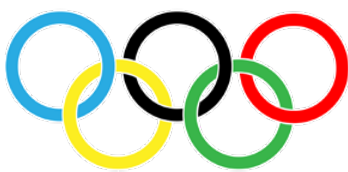
BY STEPHEN WADE AND
KANTARO KOMIYA
Associated Press

TOKYO — The countdown clock for the Tokyo Olympics hit 50 days Thursday, and the day brought another problem for the delayed games.

About 10,000 unpaid volunteers for the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics have told organizers they will not participate when the games open July 23.

Organizers said some dropped out due to worries about COVID-19. Few volunteers are expected to be vaccinated since most will have no contact with athletes or other key personnel.

Only about 2-3% of Japan’s general population has been fully vaccinated. Conversely, the International Olympic Committee expects at least 80% of



athletes and residents of the Olympic Village to be fully vaccinated.

“We have not confirmed the individual reasons,” organizers said in a statement. “In addition to concerns about the coronavirus infection, some dropped out because they found it would be difficult to actually work after checking their work shift, or due to changes in their own environment.”

Organizers said the loss would not affect the operations of the postponed Olympics.

Unpaid volunteers are a key work-

force in running the Olympics and save organizers millions of dollars in salaries. Volunteers typically get a uniform and meals on the days they work. Their daily commuting costs are also covered.

To celebrate the 50-day mark, organizers unveiled the podiums, costumes and music that will be used during the medal ceremonies.

Tokyo is officially spending \$15.4 billion to organize the Olympics, but several government audits say it’s much more. All but \$6.7 billion is public money. The IOC’s contribution is about \$1.5 billion.

Japan has attributed just over 13,000 deaths to COVID-19, far lower than most comparable countries, but higher than many Asian neighbors.

BY THE NUMBERS

2-3%
Japan vaccinated

80%
Olympic Village Vaccinated

\$15.4 billion
spent

\$6.7 billion
is public money

\$1.5 billion
is IOC’s contribution

13,000
Japan COVID-19 deaths

SOURCE: Associated Press

FREE SPEECH

Myanmar sentences 2 reporters

More than 90 journalists arrested since military coup

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BANGKOK — A military court in Myanmar has sentenced two journalists to two years in prison for their reporting, a move decried by rights groups as the latest assault on press freedom since the country's coup.

Aung Kyaw, 31, a reporter for the Democratic Voice of Burma, and Zaw Zaw, 38, a freelance reporter for the online news agency Mizzima, were convicted Wednesday by the court in Myeik, a city in southern Myanmar.

The two had been charged under a recently revised provision in the penal code with spreading misinformation that could incite unrest, a charge that critics say criminalizes free speech.

The convictions are the latest moves against journalists since the military overthrew the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in a February coup. According to Myanmar's Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, about 90 journalists were arrested since the takeover, with more than half still in detention, and 33 still in hiding.

The coup sparked massive civilian protests against military rule that have been met with a crackdown that has left hundreds dead.

The Democratic Voice of Burma and Mizzima are among five local media outlets that were banned in March from broadcasting or publishing after their licenses were canceled. Like many other banned media outlets, both have continued operating.

The Democratic Voice of Burma said Aung Kyaw was arrested March



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-coup protesters gesture during a march in Yangon, Myanmar on March 26. A military court in Myanmar sentenced two journalists to two years in prison on June 2 for their reporting, a move decried by human rights groups and free speech advocates.

1 for reporting about anti-junta demonstrations in Myeik. It said Aung Kyaw defended himself in court after authorities threatened his lawyer.

A statement from Mizzima said Zaw Zaw was detained about two months ago at his home while covering events for them in Myeik and Dawei, also in southern Myanmar.

The news agency said it “categorically opposes the two-year prison

sentence handed to Zaw Zaw and calls for the immediate release of all journalists unjustly detained by the ruling junta, including Zaw Zaw and another four detained Mizzima journalists.”

The military’s move to go after journalists from respected media outlets is “all about strangling any independent narratives about what’s happening in Myanmar,” said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for the New York-

based group Human Rights Watch.

“The junta is systematically arresting and imprisoning journalists whenever they can, vaulting Myanmar into the position of being one of the newest, most dangerous countries to report from in the region,” Robertson said.

He called the charges against the journalists “politically motivated and bogus.”

Vet’s mic cut at Memorial Day speech

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HUDSON, Ohio — Organizers of a Memorial Day ceremony turned off the microphone when a former U.S. Army officer began talking about how freed Black slaves had honored fallen soldiers after the Civil War.

Retired Army Lt. Col. Barnard Kemter said he included the story in his speech because he wanted to share Memorial Day’s origins.

The organizers of the ceremony in Hudson, Ohio, said that part of the speech was not relevant to the program’s theme of honoring the city’s veterans.

Cindy Suchan, chair of the Memorial Day parade committee and president of the Hudson American Legion Auxiliary, said either she or Jim Garrison, adjutant of the American Legion Post 464, turned down the audio, the Akron Beacon Journal reported.

Before the ceremony, Suchan said she reviewed the speech and asked Kemter to remove certain portions. Kemter said he didn’t see the changes in time to rewrite the speech and talked with a Hudson public official who told him not to alter it.

“This is not the same country I fought for,” said Kemter, who spent 30 years in the Army and served in the Persian Gulf War.

The decision to turn off the audio disrespected Kemter and all veterans, Hudson’s mayor and City Council said in a statement.

“Veterans have done everything we have asked of them during their service to this country, and this tarnished what should have been a celebration of their service,” the statement said.

Dallas HS valedictorian rebukes Texas abortion ‘heartbeat bill’

BY TERRY WALLACE
Associated Press

DALLAS — A Dallas high school valedictorian scrapped a speech approved by her school administrators and delivered an abortion rights call in its place.

Paxton Smith, the 2021 valedictorian at Lake Highlands High School, submitted an address on the effect of the media on young minds to school officials.

But when she spoke at Sunday’s graduation ceremony, she talked of what she called “a war on the rights” of her body and those of other girls and women by the “heartbeat bill” signed into law by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott.

“I cannot give up this platform to promote complacency and peace when there is a war on my body and a war on my rights. A war on the rights of your mothers, a war on the rights of your sisters, a war on the rights of your daughters. We cannot stay silent,” she told the crowd.

School officials did not turn off her microphone and she was allowed to complete the unapproved version.

The new law outlaws, without exception, any abortion after a first heartbeat can be detected. That could come as early as six weeks after conception when many women could be unaware that they are pregnant.

The law, which would take effect in September, also would allow anyone to sue a Texas abortion provider or anyone who helped someone get an abortion for as much as \$10,000. Federal courts have mostly blocked states from enforcing similar measures.

“I am terrified that if my contraceptives fail, I am terrified that if I am raped, then my hopes and aspirations and dreams and efforts for my future will no longer matter. I hope that you can feel how gut-wrenching that is, I hope that you can feel how dehumanizing it is, to have the autonomy over your own body taken from you,” she said.

Smith, who plans to study the music business at the University of Texas at Austin, said this week she had already submitted her original speech to school officials and was trying to finish an end-of-year project in the school’s music room when she decided to scrap that speech.

“I couldn’t keep my mind on the project. My mind kept wandering to the ‘heartbeat bill’ and what it meant. So, I started making some notes,” she told The Associated Press.



JUAN FIGUEROA / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Paxton Smith, Lake Highlands High School valedictorian, scrapped a speech approved by her school administrators and delivered an abortion rights call in its place.

Smith said she expected to have her microphone cut off or to have her diploma withheld (it wasn’t but she was told later it was considered). And she was stunned by the response to her message.

“I thought it would die right there,” she said. But she saw tears in her audience midway through the speech. In the days since the video of her address posted on social media and retweeted broadly has drawn social media kudos including one from former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton: “This took guts. Thank you for not staying silent, Paxton.”

A statement from the Richardson Independent School District, which controls Lake Highlands, was less enthusiastic. It said student speech protocols would be reviewed before next year’s graduation ceremonies.

Upcoming Texas Abortion Restrictions

Gov. Greg Abbott signed the “heartbeat bill” into law during the legislative session. ■ Abortions will be banned after the first detected heartbeat, which could be as early as six weeks. ■ **The law makes no exceptions for rape or incest.** ■ Restrictions will take effect in September, but federal courts have typically blocked states from enforcing similar measures

Biden pledges to stop spying on news organizations

BY ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

One of the Biden Justice Department’s first big moves was to alert reporters at three major news organizations that their phone records were seized as part of leak investigations under the Trump administration, with President Joe Biden promising to abandon the practice of spying on journalists.

But while Biden’s stated commitment has won support from press freedom groups, whether the promise can be kept remains unclear, especially because Democratic and Republican administrations alike have relied on reporters’ phone records to suss out leaks of classified information. Biden’s commitment was all the more striking given his pledge to uphold the tradition of an independent Justice Department.

“In this case, it seems bad policy to institute an absolute ban on logical investigative actions geared to finding out who violated the law, particularly in instances where the journalists



MARY ALTAFER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A police officer stands outside The New York Times building on June 28.

themselves whose records may be at issue are not the subject or target of criminal investigation,” said David Laufman, a former Justice Department official who led the section that oversaw investigations into leaks.

The Justice Department in recent weeks disclosed that federal investigators had secretly obtained call records of journalists at The Washington Post, The New York Times and CNN in an effort to identify sources who had provided national security information published in the early months of the

Trump administration.

Past administrations also have struggled to balance the media’s First Amendment newsgathering rights against government interests in safeguarding national security secrets. Inside the Justice Department, officials have revised internal guidelines to afford media organizations better protection without removing from their arsenal the prerogative to subpoena reporters’ records.

Biden appears to be looking to change that.

He told a reporter last month that seizing journalists’ records was “simply wrong” and that the practice would be halted under his watch. After the most recent revelation — that four New York Times reporters had their records secretly seized last year — White House press secretary Jen Psaki reaffirmed the commitment to freedom of the press. But she also said discussions with the Justice Department were still underway and that new policy was ready to be announced.

Michael Weinstein, a former Justice

Department prosecutor and criminal defense lawyer in New Jersey, said he understood Biden’s comments as clarifying his disdain for the practice without closing the possibility that it could ever be used.

“I don’t think he’s saying you can never do it,” he said. “I think he’s saying the standards have to be higher.”

The Justice Department says it has concluded notifying the media organizations whose phone records were accessed. The latest revelation came Wednesday when The Times said it had learned that investigators last year secretly obtained records for four reporters during a nearly four-month period in 2017.

The department said the reporters are neither subjects nor targets of the investigation but did not reveal which leak was under investigation.

The four reporters shared a byline on an April 2017 story that detailed the FBI’s decision-making in the final stages of the Hillary Clinton email investigation. The latest revelation came Wednesday.

BRIEFS

Russian police release dissident held for 2 days

MOSCOW — Russian police on Thursday released a well-known opposition politician from custody after holding him for two days.

Dmitry Gudkov was detained at his country house on Tuesday in connection with an investigation into money allegedly owed to the city for office space rental. Gudkov’s attorney, Mikhail Biryukov, said it was not clear whether his release meant the investigation was still active, according to Russian news reports.

His detention comes as authorities continue to crack down on dissidents ahead of September’s parliamentary election, in which Gudkov aspired to run. He was a parliament member from 2011 to 2016.

On Wednesday, a court sent prominent opposition figure Andrei Pivovarov to jail for two months pending a probe into his actions as head of the Open Russia group, which authorities have declared an undesirable organization. Pivovarov had announced the group was disbanding several days before his arrest.

WHO: Vaccinating kids ‘not a high priority’

GENEVA — The World Health Organization’s top vaccines expert said Thursday that immunizing children against COVID-19 is not a high priority from a WHO perspective, given the extremely limited global supply of doses.

During a social media session, Dr. Kate O’Brien said children should not be a focus of COVID-19 immunization programs even as increasing numbers of rich countries authorize their coronavirus shots for teenagers and children.

Canada, the U.S. and the European Union have all given the green light to some COVID-19 vaccines for children aged 12 to 15 as they approach their vaccination targets for adults.

O’Brien said it might be appropriate to immunize children against the coronavirus “in due course, when the supply increases much more substantially.”

She added that it wasn’t necessary to vaccinate children before sending them back to school, as long as the adults in contact with them were immunized.

Princess Diana’s wedding dress displayed in London

LONDON — The dress Princess Diana wore at her 1981 wedding to Prince Charles went on public display Thursday at the late princess’s former home in London.

The taffeta-ruffled white dress designed by David and Elizabeth Emanuel, with a 25-foot sequin-encrusted train, helped seal the fairytale image of the wedding of Lady Diana Spencer and the heir to the British throne.

Diana died in a car crash at 36. Prince William and Prince Harry have loaned their mother’s wedding dress for the exhibition “Royal Style in the Making.” The exhibit also features sketches, photographs and gowns designed for three generations of royal women, including Princess Margaret and the Queen Mother. It runs until Jan. 2, 2022.

Pakistan acquits Christians facing death for blasphemy

ISLAMABAD — A Pakistani appeals court Thursday acquitted a Christian couple sentenced to death on blasphemy charges for allegedly insulting Islam’s Prophet Muhammad, their defense lawyer said.

Shagufta Kausar and her husband, Shafqat Emmanuel, from the country’s eastern Punjab province were arrested in 2013 and tried on suspicion of sending a blasphemous text message to a local cleric in Punjab.

On Thursday, the Lahore High Court overturned the death sentence and ordered the couple released. They had been on death row in two separate prisons, and would be freed after all the paperwork was done, said their lawyer, Saiful Malook.

“I fought a legal battle for this innocent couple for years,” Malook told The Associated Press. “I am happy that justice has been done to this poor wife and her husband.”

Domestic and international rights groups say blasphemy allegations have often been used to intimidate religious minorities in Pakistan and settle personal scores.

Some Namibian tribal chiefs accept German payments

WINDHOEK, Namibia — A group of traditional chiefs in Namibia have accepted an offer of compensation by Germany and a recognition that the colonial-era massacre of tens of thousands of their people in the early 20th century was genocide.

Germany pledged last week to give \$1.3 billion over a 30-year period for projects to help communities of people descended from those killed between 1904 and 1908, when Germany ruled the southern African country. Germany asked the victims for forgiveness, in a statement by the foreign minister.

The chiefs accepted the offer but said it could still be improved through further negotiations.

Other traditional chiefs have rejected the offer, and say they want around \$590 billion paid over 40 years, and pension funds for affected communities.

They say that about 65,000 of the Herero were killed, as were at least 10,000 Nama people.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



94°/74°

Scattered showers

TOM CRUISE SETS CAREER MILESTONE

Forget breaking the sound barrier: Tom Cruise just flew past a major career milestone. "Top Gun: Maverick" surpasses \$100 million opening weekend.

See [swjournalist.com](#).



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN



DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE



SWJOURNALIST.COM



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2022



Hurricane Agatha slams Mexico, kills none

JOSÉ MARÍA ÁLVAREZ
Associated Press

SAN ISIDRO DEL PALMAR, Mexico — Hurricane Agatha made history Tuesday as the strongest hurricane ever recorded to come ashore in May during the eastern Pacific hurricane season.

Agatha formed on Sunday and quickly gained power; it ripped off roofs and washed out roads before fading in southern Mexico.

The storm hit Oaxaca state Monday afternoon as a strong Category 2 hurricane with maximum sustained winds of 105 mph, then quickly lost power as it moved inland over the mountainous interior.

Remnants of Agatha were moving northeast Tuesday into Veracruz state, with sustained winds down to 30 mph. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm should dissipate by the

evening, but warned the system's heavy rains still posed a threat of dangerous floods for Mexico's southern states.

Oaxaca Gov. Alejandro Murat told local media the state's emergency services office had received no reports of deaths. Several municipalities near the coast remained without power Tuesday and mudslides blocked a number of the state's highways.

San Isidro del Palmar, only a cou-

ple miles inland from the coast, was swamped by the Tonameca River flowing through town.

Residents waded through neck-deep water to salvage what items they could from their homes and walked gingerly with piles of clothing atop their heads and religious figures in their arms.

Argeo Aquino, who has lived in the town his whole life, could recall only

two other occasions when he saw such flooding.

"The houses are totally flooded, so they are getting everything out," Aquino said Monday as he watched his neighbors. "There are stores, houses. More than anything else, we have to try to save all the good material, because everything else is going to be

■ HURRICANE, Page 2



JAE C. HONG/AP PHOTO

Socorro Valencia, 78, lays flowers at a memorial at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde on May 31 to honor the victims killed in last week's school shooting.

Uvalde funerals begin: White gloves, small casket

NATHAN ELLGREN, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON AND JIM SALTER
Associated Press

UVALDE — A week after a gunman ran into a Texas grade school and started shooting, the first of 21 funerals began on Tuesday. Meanwhile, at least one family still hasn't seen the body of their loved one.

Hundreds of mourners crowded into an afternoon Mass to remember Amerie Jo Garza. Six pallbearers wearing white shirts and gloves carried her small casket into Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Several mourners after the church reached capacity. Maite Rodriguez's funeral was scheduled for later Tuesday at a funeral home in Uvalde.

The two 10-year-old fourth graders were among 19 children and two teachers killed when 18-year-old Salvador Ramos burst into a classroom on May 24 and began firing a semi-automatic rifle.

Visitation for one of the teachers, 48-year-old Irma Garcia, also was Tuesday, along with visitations for children Nevaeh Bravo and Jose Flores Jr.

Amerie loved purple, and Erika Santiago, her husband and their two children wore purple shirts adorned with images of

the victims to Amerie's funeral. Santiago described her as "a nice little girl who smiled a lot," and who was "so humble and charismatic but full of life."

Santiago said her 10-year-old son, Adriel, watched in horror when the first images came out on the news after the shooting, and he recognized his friends Amerie and Maite.

"It affected him so much," Santiago said. "He told me he did not want to go to school fearing that could happen. He told me, 'Mom, I just don't feel safe.'"

Funerals will continue over the next 2 ½ weeks. Vincent Salazar's 11-year-old daughter, Layla, has the last of the scheduled services: Her visitation is June 15 with the funeral the following day. Salazar said the family likely won't see Layla's body until soon before the visitation.

"It's strange because usually when somebody dies, these things happen in three or four days," Salazar said. "It's not something that goes on this long. I understand there were other children as well, but we're just waiting to get her back. That's all we're focused on."

Uvalde County Justice of the Peace Eulalio Diaz Jr. said the

■ FUNERALS, Page 2

School police chief's response raises concerns

ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON AND JAMIE STENGLE
Associated Press

UVALDE — The blame for a delay in killing the gunman at a Texas elementary school has been placed with the school district's police chief.

It's left residents in Uvalde struggling to reconcile what they know of Pete Arredondo, the commander at the scene, after the director of state police said Arredondo made the "wrong decision" not to breach a classroom at Robb Elementary School sooner, believing the gunman was barricaded inside and children weren't at risk.

Steven McCraw, the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, said Friday that after following the gunman into the building, officers waited over an hour to breach the classroom, where 19 children and two teachers were eventually killed.

Arredondo, who grew up in Uvalde, was recently elected to the Uvalde City Council. He was sworn in Tuesday without a ceremony, according to reports from CNN.

Arredondo spent much of his career in law enforcement in Uvalde, and is now the school district's head police officer.

"He was a good boy," said Maria Gonzalez, who used to drive him to Robb Elementary school. "He dropped the ball maybe because he did not have enough experience. Who knows? People are very angry."

Juan Torres, a U.S. Army veteran, knew Arredondo from high school.

"You sign up to respond to those kinds of situations," Torres said. "If you are scared, then don't be a police officer. Go flip burgers."

After Arredondo's election to city council, he told the Uvalde Leader-News he was "ready to hit the ground running."

■ CHIEF, Page 2

Biden moves to battle inflation

JOSH BOAK, CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Focused on relentlessly rising prices, President Joe Biden plotted an inflation-fighting strategy Tuesday with Jermone H. Powell, the chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Tuesday was Biden's latest effort to show his dedication to containing the 8.3% leap in consumer prices over the past year. Rising gas and food costs have angered many Americans heading into the midterm elections, risking Democrats' control of the House and Senate.

Like Biden, the Fed wants to slow inflation without knocking the U.S. economy into recession, a highly sensitive mission that will include increasing benchmark interest rates this summer. The president said he would not attempt to direct that course as some previous presidents have tried.

Biden's endorsement of the Fed's policies — a stance echoed by congressional Republican Party leaders — gives Powell important political cover for a series of sharp interest rate hikes intended to rein in higher prices. Yet the higher rates could cause layoffs and even tip the economy into recession.

Stock prices have dropped in recent months because of this concern, though markets rallied last week.

Biden faces an increasingly global challenge: Energy and food costs jumped after Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the invasion of Ukraine in February and China imposed lockdowns tied to coronavirus outbreaks further straining supply chains. This has left the European Union nursing record inflation and the risks of a recession, while U.S. consumers are increasingly disgruntled by gas prices averaging a nominal record of \$4.62 a gallon.

Inflation has shown signs of slowing but is likely to remain far above the Fed's 2% target through the end of this year.

Republican lawmakers were quick to criticize Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package from last year as pumping too much money into the economy and causing more inflation. That narrative also has held some sway with leading economists who say the financial support was excessive even though it helped the job market roar back.

Clinton campaign lawyer acquitted

ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A lawyer for Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign was acquitted Tuesday of lying to the FBI when he pushed information meant to cast suspicions on Donald Trump and Russia in the run-up to that year's election.

The case against Clinton's lawyer, Michael Sussmann, was the first courtroom test of special counsel, John Durham, since his appointment three years ago to search for government misconduct during the investigation into potential ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign. The verdict represents a setback for Durham's work, especially since Trump supporters had looked to the probe to expose what they contend was egregious bias by law enforcement officials who investigated the former president's campaign.

The jury deliberated for several hours on Friday afternoon and Tuesday morning before reaching its verdict.

Speaking to reporters outside the courthouse after the verdict was delivered, Sussmann said he "told the truth to the FBI, and the jury clearly recognized that with their



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP PHOTO

Michael Sussmann, a lawyer who represented the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign in 2016, was acquitted Tuesday of lying to the FBI when he pushed information meant to cast suspicions on Donald Trump and Russia in the run-up to the 2016 election.

unanimous verdict today."

He added: "despite being falsely accused, I am relieved that justice ultimately prevailed in this case."

In a separate statement, Durham said that although he and his team were disappointed

in the outcome, they respected the jury's decision. He thanked the investigators and prosecutors on his team for their "dedicated efforts in seeking truth and justice in this case."

The trial focused on whether Sussmann, a cybersecurity attorney and former federal prosecutor himself, concealed from the FBI that he was representing Clinton's campaign when he presented computer data that he said showed a possible secret communication backchannel, which links computers to have real-time interactions, between Russia-based Alfa-Bank and Trump's business company, The Trump Organization. The FBI investigated but quickly determined that there was no suspicious contact.

The bureau's former general counsel and the government's star witness, James Baker, testified that he was "100% confident" that Sussmann had told him that he was not representing any client during a September 2016 meeting the two men had. Prosecutors alleged that Sussmann was actually acting on behalf of the Clinton campaign and another client — a technology executive — and that

■ CLINTON, Page 2



Coco Gauff of the U.S. returns the ball to Sloane Stephens of the U.S. during their quarterfinal match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium May 31 in Paris.

Gauff reaches first Paris Slam semi

HOWARD FENDRICH
Associated Press

PARIS — Coco Gauff left Roland Garros 12 months ago crestfallen, knowing she let a big lead slip away in her major quarterfinal debut. She vowed to remember that and learn from it.

Consider that done.
Gauff, still only 18, returned to that stage Tuesday for a second time and was not about to let this tournament end similarly, beating 2017 U.S. Open champion and 2018 French Open runner-up Sloane Stephens 7-5, 6-2 in a matchup between Americans at Court Philippe Chatrier to reach her first Grand Slam semifinal.

“It was just a mental challenge today,” said Gauff, who began this trip to Paris by taking photos near the Eiffel Tower while holding her recently earned high school diploma. Gauff seems to have been preparing for this sort of moment for quite some time, even before she became the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history at age 15 and beat Venus Williams en route to the fourth round there in 2019; even before she won the French Open junior title a year prior.

“Even last year, I was too focused on try-

ing to fulfill other people’s expectations,” said Gauff, who hasn’t dropped a set through five matches. “That’s a good message for young people... Just know: If you love yourself, who cares what anyone else thinks?”

Her quick rise is quite a contrast from the long road her next opponent, Martina Trevisan of Italy, traveled along the way to her own first Slam semifinal at age 28.

The 59th-ranked Trevisan is highly emotive, and she screamed while thrusting both arms overhead and letting her racket fly after eliminating U.S. Open finalist Leylah Fernandez, who was seeded 17th, by a 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-3 score.

Fernandez received treatment for a problem with her right foot after the match’s fifth game and her movement was hampered throughout. About three hours following the match, reporters were told that Fernandez would not speak to the media “on advice of the tournament medical team” due to the injury.

Trevisan eventually finished things off nearly an hour after holding her first match point while serving for the victory at 5-4 in the second set. She double-faulted twice in the ensuing tiebreaker.

After that lapse, Trevisan took a trip to the locker room.

“It gave me a chance to regroup. I threw some water on my face,” she said. “I was playing to get to a semifinal, and I still had a set in front of me, so I had to start from scratch.”

The reset worked wonders.
Trevisan grabbed the initial seven points of the third set and took a 4-0 lead in what would become her 10th consecutive victory on the heels of earning her first Women’s Tennis Association title in Rabat, Morocco, the week before the French Open.

In 2020, Trevisan beat Gauff in the second round at Roland Garros on the way to reaching the quarterfinals.

About two months beforehand, Trevisan wrote a blog post that discussed in detail her experience with anorexia as a teenager. At 16, Trevisan was a promising prospect whose mother taught tennis and whose brother played professionally.

Beset by pressure, Trevisan quit her sport and took a 4 1/2-year break, before returning in 2014.

“I’m happy on the court. I’m doing what I love,” she said Tuesday.

Clinton 2016 campaign lawyer acquitted for lying to FBI

■ Continued from Page 1

he hid that information to make the data seem more credible and to boost the chances of getting the FBI to investigate.

Lawyers for Sussmann denied to jurors that he lied, saying it was impossible to know with certainty what he told Baker since they were the only participants in the meeting and neither of them took notes.

They argued that if Sussmann said he was not acting on the Clinton campaign’s behalf that it was technically accurate since he did not ask the FBI to take any particular action, and campaign officials did not authorize him to meet with the FBI. They also said that even if he did make a false statement, it was ultimately irrelevant since the FBI was already investigating Russia and the Trump campaign and, given the urgency of that probe, would have looked into the Alfa-Bank data no matter the source.

During the two-week trial, jurors heard from a slew of witnesses, including current and former FBI officials who described efforts to assess the legitimacy of the Alfa-Bank data, former Clinton campaign aides, lawyers, colleagues and friends of Sussmann who vouched for

his character.

The original Trump-Russia investigation, overseen for two years by former special counsel Robert Mueller, found multiple efforts by Russia to interfere on the Trump campaign’s behalf but did not establish that the two sides had worked together to sway the outcome of the election.

After Mueller’s work was done, former U.S. Attorney General William Barr named a new Department of Justice prosecutor, former Connecticut U.S. Attorney Durham, to examine whether anyone from the FBI or other agencies violated the law as the government opened its investigation into Russian election interference and the Trump campaign.

Durham has brought three criminal cases so far, though only one has been against a federal government employee and none of them has established any sort of sweeping conspiracy to frame Trump or derail his candidacy. The Alfa-Bank matter, for instance, was peripheral to the Trump-Russia probe, with the since-discredited allegations not even warranting a mention in Mueller’s 448-page report.

A former FBI lawyer, Kevin Clinesmith, was given probation after pleading guilty in 2020 to altering an email related to secret surveillance of a former Trump campaign aide, and a Russian analyst, Igor Danchenko, who contributed to a dossier of Democratic-funded research into ties between Russia and Trump awaits trial this October on charges of lying to the FBI about his sources of information.

“Local law enforcement has not made any public comments about the specifics of the investigation or (misled) anyone,” he said Monday.

Arredondo started his career in law enforcement working for the Uvalde Police Department. After 16 years, he went to Laredo where he worked at the Webb County Sheriff’s Office before working for a local school district, according to the Uvalde Leader-News. .

Ray Garner, Arredondo’s police chief of the district in Laredo, told the San Antonio Express-News that when Arredondo worked in Laredo he was “easy to talk to” and was concerned about the students.

“He was an excellent officer down here,” Garner said. “Down here, we do a lot of training on active shooter scenarios, and he was involved in those.”

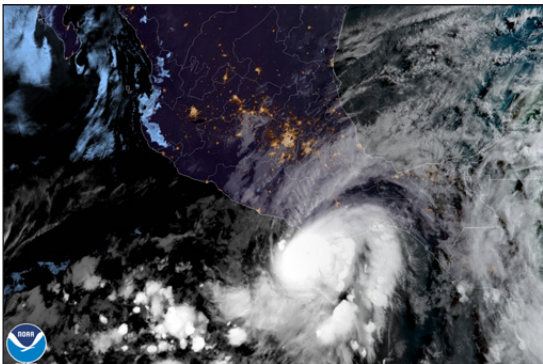
After that news conference, members of the media converged at Arredondo’s home and police cruisers took up posts there. At one point, a man answering the door at Arredondo’s house told a reporter for The Associated Press that “the truth will come out,” then closed the door.

State Sen. Roland Gutierrez said that he’s asking a lot of questions after “so many things went wrong.”

He said one family told him that a first responder told them that their child, who was shot in the back, likely bled out. “Absolutely, these mistakes may have led to the passing away of these children as well,” Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez said while the issue of which law enforcement agency had or should have had operational control is a “significant” concern.

“At the end of the day, everybody failed here,” Gutierrez said.



This satellite image shows Hurricane Agatha off the Pacific coast of Oaxaca state, Mexico, on May 30 at 8:30 a.m. EDT.

Hurricane Agatha sweeps through Mexico

■ Continued from Page 1

washed away.”

The Tonameca’s brown waters reached the windows of parked cars and the minibuses used for local transportation.

Nearby, heavy rain and high winds lashed the beach town of Zipolite, known for its clothing-optional beach and bohemian vibe.

“The sound of the wind was really loud, high-pitched,” said Silvia Ranfagni, manager of the Casa Kalmar hotel in Zipolite. “It started at 1 p.m. when the telephone coverage went out and it didn’t calm down until 7:30. A lot of trees were down, roads washed out. A lot of metal and thatched roofs were blown off.”

Funerals begin for Uvalde shooting victims

■ Continued from Page 1

bodies of all 21 victims were sent to the medical examiner’s office in San Antonio for autopsies, which he said is standard for a major crime.

“Our thing is to have all the facts,” Diaz said. “Even though there is a deceased shooter and we probably won’t have a trial, we still need to have the facts.”

Diaz said the autopsies are complete but declined to discuss preliminary results and said final reports will take three to four months.

Meanwhile, he said there simply isn’t enough space at Uvalde’s two funeral homes to keep all of the bodies, so many were sent to out-of-town funeral homes until services near. He said the Uvalde funeral homes are working with the families on when they can see the bodies. A message left at Hillcrest Memorial Funeral Home wasn’t immediately returned. A woman who answered the phone at Rushing-Estes-Knowles Mortuary declined an interview request.

“It’s mainly because of the number of victims,” Diaz said. “Where do you store that many people?”

Salazar said he and his family are going to as many visitations as they can to pay respects to the other victims and their families.

“Not necessarily going to the funerals because we’re still taking care of things hour by hour, day by day, here,” Salazar said. “We’ve got so much stuff going on with our own. You have to set everything up — obituaries, death certificates, funeral arrangements.

“That’s all we’re focused on right now — her, getting her back and being able to put her to rest,” Salazar said of Layla. “That’s it.”

Investigators continue to seek answers about how police responded to the shooting, and the U.S. Department of Justice is reviewing law enforcement actions.

The blame for an excruciating delay in killing the gunman — even as parents outside begged police to rush in and panicked children called 911 from inside — was placed on the school district’s home-grown police chief, Pete Arredondo, after the director of state police said Arredondo made the “wrong decision” not to breach the classroom, believing the gunman was barricaded inside and children weren’t at risk.

Steven McCraw, head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, said Friday that after following the gunman into the building, officers waited over an hour to breach the classroom. The revelation raised new questions about whether lives were lost because officers did not act faster to stop the gunman, who was ultimately killed by Border Patrol tactical officers.

Authorities said Ramos legally purchased two guns not long before the school attack: an AR-style rifle on May 17 and a second rifle on May 20. He had just turned 18, permitting him to buy the weapons under federal law.

President Joe Biden’s long-planned meeting Tuesday with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was to center on trade, climate and security in the Indo-Pacific. But after what happened in Uvalde and a week earlier in Buffalo, New York, where 10 Black people were killed by a shooter espousing racist “replacement theory,” the conversation turned to gun control.

Ardern successfully won passage of gun control measures after a white supremacist killed 51 Muslim worshippers at two Christchurch mosques in 2019. Less than a month later all but one of the country’s 120 lawmakers voted in favor of banning military-style semi-automatic weapons.

Biden told reporters that he will meet with the Congress on the issue but the White House has acknowledged that winning new gun legislation will be an uphill climb in an evenly divided Congress.

That’s all we’re focused on right now — her, getting her back and being able to put her to rest. That’s it.

VINCENT SALAZAR



Southwest Journalist

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2022 ATTENDEES

MAYA CHADDA
Boston University
WGBH (Boston)

SHIFRA DAYAK
University of Maryland
Stars & Stripes

LAUREN GUZY
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Fredericksburg Standard

KERI HEATH
Wittenberg, BA; Dublin, MA
Galveston Daily News

OWEN HENDERSON
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
San Francisco Chronicle

JESS HUFF
Lufkin Daily News

ANNA JACKSON
Belmont University
Houston Chronicle

ANASTASIA JOHNSON
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
Los Angeles Times

DANIA KALAJI
University of Georgia
Bay City News Foundation

GAYLA MURPHY
The Brazosport Facts

REEGAN SAUNDERS
Kent State University
San Francisco Chronicle

CLAIRE SCHNATTERBECK
Columbia University
patch.com

BRADY STONE
Texas A&M University
Kansas City Star

VICTOR SWEZEY
Columbia University
Tampa Bay Times

CJ VETTER
Texas State (2022)
Hays Free Press

ISAIAH WASHINGTON
American University
WGAL (Lancaster, PA)

PAYTON WILLIAMS
Cameron University (2022)
The Lawton Constitution

CATHERINE WILSON
University of Maryland College Park (2022)
New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

BRIEFS

Supreme Court blocks Texas law on censorship

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A divided Supreme Court has blocked a Texas law championed by conservatives that aimed to keep social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter from censoring users based on their viewpoints.

The court voted in an unusual 5-4 alignment Tuesday to put the Texas law on hold, while a lawsuit plays out in lower courts.

Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor, Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett voted to grant the emergency request from two technology industry groups that challenged the law in federal court.

Republican elected officials in several states have backed laws like those enacted in Florida and Texas that seek to portray social media companies as hostile to ideas from the political right.

NFL player Jeff Gladney dies in Dallas car crash

DALLAS — Jeff Gladney, a defensive back for the Arizona Cardinals, died Monday in a car crash in Dallas. He was 25.

"We are devastated to learn of Jeff Gladney's passing. Our hearts go out to his family, friends and all who are mourning this tremendous loss," the team said.

The crash occurred on the service road of Woodall Rodgers Freeway in Dallas, KTVT-TV reported. Another person also died.

No one from the Dallas County Sheriff's Department was available on the Memorial Day holiday to talk about the crash.

Gladney played at TCU before becoming a 2020 first-round draft pick of the Minnesota Vikings, where he played in 16 games. He was released before the 2021 season, when he was charged with assaulting a woman.

Gladney was found not guilty in Dallas County in March and was subsequently signed by the Cardinals where he participated in team drills last week.

Nick Saban dismisses feud with Jimbo Fisher

DESTIN, Fla. — Alabama football coach Nick Saban tried to end his feud with Texas A&M's Jimbo Fisher on Tuesday as Southeastern Conference leaders gathered for spring meetings.

"I have no problem with Jimbo at all," Saban said.

Saban set off Fisher two weeks ago when he called out Texas A&M and other schools regarding the need for name, image and likeness regulation in college sports.

Fisher said Saban's comments were despicable and called his former boss at LSU a "narcissist." He also denied any wrongdoing with his program, which landed the No. 1 recruiting class in the country in 2022.

Reporters asked Saban about Texas A&M, and he quickly pivoted into trying to make a broader point about name, image, and likeness, transparency was needed to ensure athletes are signing legitimate deals that pay them for their services and that boosters needed to be kept out of recruiting.

The NCAA lifted most of its rules barring athletes from earning money from sponsorship and endorsement deals last July, but many worry that name, image and likeness deals are being used as recruiting inducements and de facto pay-for-play.

Browns QB Watson facing lawsuit from 23rd woman

CLEVELAND — Another massage therapist has filed a civil lawsuit against Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson, raising the number of women who have accused him of sexual misconduct to 23.

Attorney Tony Buzbee, who is representing all the women, filed the latest lawsuit Tuesday in Texas and said in a text to the AP he will be filing a 24th case soon.

The previous 22 lawsuits were filed in 2021. Both women provided graphic details of their encounters with Watson, who was traded from Houston to Cleveland in March. Watson has denied any wrongdoing.

Watson is also facing a possible suspension from the NFL, which is independently investigating his behavior to see if he violated the league's substance-abuse policy.

Watson, who has been giving depositions in the lawsuits over the past month, is scheduled to be back on the field Wednesday as the Browns continue their offseason team activities.

Jury deliberates verdict in 'We Build The Wall' trial

NEW YORK — A prosecutor told jurors in closing arguments at a criminal trial Tuesday that there is overwhelming evidence that organizers of a "We Build The Wall" campaign to raise millions of dollars for a wall along the U.S. southern border defrauded investors.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Sobelman urged Manhattan federal court jurors to deliver guilty verdicts on fraud and conspiracy charges against the lone defendant, Timothy Shea.

Jurors deliberated for a short time late Tuesday without reaching a verdict.

Former presidential adviser Steve Bannon was once a defendant in the case, but ex-President Donald Trump pardoned him.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

'We're gonna take your AR-15'

O'Rourke bets school shooting will shake up race

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the wake of a Texas mass shooting in 2019, Democrat Beto O'Rourke told a national audience that it was finally time for action to curb the increase of high-powered guns in the country.

In a debate while running for president, he declared, "Hell, yes, we're gonna take your AR-15," after a gunman killed 23 people in O'Rourke's native El Paso.

Last week, following the massacre of 19 elementary school students and two teachers by an 18-year-old man with an AR-15-style rifle in Uvalde, governor hopeful O'Rourke seized the national political spotlight again. O'Rourke crashed Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's press conference, declaring the carnage was "on you."

This tragedy could impact voter decisions ahead of the Texas governor's race in the state where gun culture looms large. However, Abbott won the last two elections by landslides and began his campaign with \$55 million in the bank.

It's too early to tell what will happen in the governor's race, but the shooting has already affected both parties.

Abbott canceled a planned visit to the annual National Rifle Association meeting to remain in Uvalde, and Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, who is open to strengthening firearm laws, also skipped the meeting.

O'Rourke spent two nights in Uvalde after the shooting, then attended a rally against gun violence in Houston.

"To those men and women in positions of power who care more about



PHOTO BY BRADLEY WILSON

Texas gubernatorial candidate Beto O'Rourke spoke to a crowd of about 100 people in Wichita Falls on Dec. 12, 2021.

your power than using that power to save the lives of those that you are supposed to serve ... we will defeat you and we will overcome you," O'Rourke told protesters.

Last year Texas loosened firearm restrictions to allow any resident 21 and older to carry guns without a license.

Former Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, a Republican famous for carrying multiple guns nearly everywhere he went, said O'Rourke's supporters will be "even more determined to vote for Beto," after his confrontation with Abbott.

But the clash could backfire, alien-

ating otherwise potentially sympathetic swing voters who might think O'Rourke was putting on a self-serving show, Patterson said.

"Sometimes your method overwhelms your message, and his method gutted whatever benefit he might have accrued," said Patterson. "It's a net loss."

Abbott hasn't mentioned O'Rourke much since the shooting but answered questions about possible new state gun limits by slamming high crime rates in cities primarily run by Democrats.

"There are more people shot every weekend in Chicago than there are in schools in Texas," the governor said.

COMMENTARY

Attention fades on gun policy

ROSS RAMSEY
The Texas Tribune

Time is the enemy. A week has passed since 21 people were killed in an elementary school in Uvalde, an atrocity still at the center of public concern.

Gov. Greg Abbott and other politicians bound to gun culture are squirming, but history tells us that public attention will subside.

The elected officials who have done little to protect Texans and other Americans after any of the mass shootings that came before Uvalde have something in common with the dumbfounding inaction of the 19 first responders who idled in a hallway at Robb Elementary for more than an hour last Tuesday while a gunman killed 21 children and teachers.

Officials are frozen by their fear of what might happen if they act. Politicians are hypersensitive to voters, and if the mandate is for anti-violence, that's what the conversations in the capitals will be about. That's not just about gun safety. It happens with foster care, pandemic restrictions, just about everything. We're concerned with the headline issues, for a minute, and then go back to what we were doing. Politics is about words, but also actions. The Texas responses to shooting after shooting amount to an institutional defense of gun culture.

If what lawmakers were doing was out of line, we'd be punishing or correcting them, and that hasn't happened. There aren't a couple of bumper-sticker solutions we can put into law to fix it. Politicians don't have to lose elections to get the message; they just have to get the message.

JAMES BARRAGÁN AND ZACH DESPART
The Texas Tribune

Texas Democratic candidate for governor Beto O'Rourke spoke Friday on stage at a protest of the National Rifle Association's convention.

After the Uvalde school shooting, Texas Democrats are once again urging state leaders to enact gun control measures.

O'Rourke confronted state leaders last week during a news conference, telling his Republican opponent, Gov. Greg Abbott, he was "doing nothing." The party's candidate for lieutenant governor, Mike Collier, has blamed Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick for loosening gun laws in the state Texas Senate Democrats sent a letter to the governor demanding a special session to pass gun control legislation.

The question moving forward is whether Democrats will be able to put enough pressure on lawmakers to move on a previously intractable issue in gun-friendly Texas and that Republicans will fight.

Mark Owens, a political scientist at the University of Texas at Tyler, said there is an opportunity for Democrats because Texans have been dissatisfied with the state's response to previous mass shootings. Last April, 59% of Texans surveyed in a poll by the university and The Dallas Morning News said they disagreed that elected officials were doing enough to prevent mass shootings. Only 21% of respondents agreed.

The letter from Texas Senate Democrats laid out five specific gun control proposals it urged the Legislature to pass immediately in a special session: raising the minimum age to purchase a gun from 18 to 21; requiring universal background checks for all firearm sales; implementing "red flag" laws to allow the temporary removal of firearms from those who pose imminent danger; require a waiting period for the purchase of a gun; and regulating civilian ownership of high-capacity magazines.

Collier said he would push to eliminate the law passed



DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS/AP PHOTO

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott speaks during a news conference in Uvalde on May 25. The 18-year-old gunman who slaughtered 19 children and two teachers at a Texas elementary school barricaded himself inside a single classroom and "began shooting anyone that was in his way," authorities said Wednesday in detailing the latest mass killing to rock the U.S.

shootings and the state's response to them are becoming more negative, Owens said.

In last April's poll, 51% of Republicans and 37% of independents said state officials were doing enough to prevent such events.

Joshua Blank, research director for the Texas Politics Project at the University of Texas at Austin, expressed skepticism that O'Rourke's decision to confront Abbott would backfire politically.

"Anyone who thinks it was a bad idea probably wasn't going to vote for O'Rourke anyway," Blank said. "What O'Rourke was doing was expressing the frustration and anger that a lot of Democrats feel, and independents feel and Republicans feel. That's not something he could wait two weeks to do; it wouldn't have the same weight."

Thomason said any policy change will be a heavy lift that will require compromise, something that is in short supply in politics these days.

Family fights to save farm from highway expansion

TIMIA COBB
The Texas Tribune

With fresh flowers in hand, Rosalind Alexander-Kasparik walked from her family farm on a spring afternoon to the adjacent private cemetery where generations of her relatives are buried.

She stopped at the cemetery's entrance, picking up trash blown in from U.S. Highway 183.

Alexander-Kasparik was 9 in 1968 when the Texas Department of Transportation used eminent domain to forcibly buy 5 acres of the family land and cut off what once was the farm's entrance, leaving a portion of the property isolated on the other side of the freeway.

Decades later, history is threatening to repeat itself. TxDOT plans to add more lanes to the highway. This time around, Alexander-Kasparik is determined to see a different outcome. "They are not taking any more of our historic, hard-fought-for, blood-ridden land," she said.

The widening project is still in the

planning stages — making it unknown how much, if any, of the Alexander Farm will be needed to support the added concrete.

She remembers watching her grandfather fight to keep their land intact in the '60s. Milton Everett Alexander enlisted the help of lawyers, but ultimately, TxDOT won.

"The taking of it was something that my grandfather saw as his defeat," Alexander-Kasparik said.

She hopes the historic nature of the property will divert TxDOT from forcibly buying any more of the land. It was almost unheard of in 1847 when Daniel Alexander founded the farm. His enslavers granted him ownership even though he remained enslaved.

Alexander was born into slavery in 1810. The McKinney family made a verbal agreement with Alexander in 1847 allowing him to own 73 acres of land. Alexander officially bought the land in 1879.

The cemetery on the north end of the property — where Alexander was

buried in 1883 — was seen as a way to provide dignity to generations.

"The best way to make sure that the family stayed together forever was to have a cemetery," Alexander-Kasparik said. "A family cemetery, not a burial ground for enslaved people, but a place where your family is interred and the remains are part of the earth that is part of your land."

The property's dairy farm thrived and serviced various establishments in the area under the leadership of Milton Everett Alexander in the middle of the 20th century. Though he tried, Milton was unsuccessful at stopping TxDOT from building Highway 183 through the family's property.

In November 2019, Alexander-Kasparik received a postcard notifying her of a TxDOT meeting Highway 183 expansion plans.

In February 2020, family members met with TxDOT staffers to dissuade the agency from taking any more of the Alexander Farm.

Alexander-Kasparik adopted a new

life mission: convincing state and regional officials that her family's land is important enough to be saved.

She is also working with organizations to guarantee the farm and cemetery Alexander founded and left behind will continue to be around for years to come.

The family now believes that the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 could have helped prevent TxDOT's use of eminent domain decades ago. They're now using the act to try to preserve the land. It requires transportation departments to conduct an investigation and determine if land impacted by projects receiving federal funds have historical significance. But it doesn't prevent the use of eminent domain if the government agency determines no other routes are feasible.

Alexander-Kasparik sees hope on some fronts. TxDOT halted a highway improvement project in Houston as The Federal Highway Administration investigates civil rights complaints about its impacts.



ERIC RISBERG

A worker in a Chinatown storefront under renovation looks out at a tour group on Grant Avenue in San Francisco. Chinatowns and other Asian American enclaves across the U.S. are using art and culture to show they are safe and vibrant hubs nearly three years after the start of the pandemic.

Chinatowns see post-pandemic revivals

TERRY TANG
Associated Press

The last week of April was a whirlwind for San Francisco's Chinatown.

The storied neighborhood debuted the "AAPI Community Heroes Mural," a mostly black-and-white depiction of 12 largely unsung Asian American and Pacific Islander figures on the wall of a bank. Three days later "Neon Was Never Brighter," the first ever Chinatown contemporary arts festival, took over the streets at night. Traditional lion and dragon dances, a couture fashion show and other public "art activations" were featured in the block party-like event.

Cultural and arts organizations in Chinatowns across North America have worked for decades on bringing greater appreciation and visibility to these communities. But they faced an unprecedented one-two punch when the pandemic caused shutdowns and racist anti-Asian attacks increased. As painful as those events are, they also indelibly influenced the reemergence of various Chinatowns as close-knit hubs of vibrancy and culture.

Cynthia Choi, co-founder of the Stop AAPI Hate reporting center, is still "blown away" to be one of the heroes painted in the San Francisco mural. But being at the festival was equally touching for her.

"I got really emotional because it's been so long since I'd seen so many people come out to Chinatown, especially at night. I had heard so many of my friends or family saying, 'I don't want to go to Chinatown,'" she said.

There has been renewed attention from cities, companies and younger Asian Americans from outside these historic Chinatowns. Wells Fargo partnered with the Chinatown Media & Arts Collaborative on the "heroes" mural. Everyone wanted to "really address anti-Asian hate and to uplift Asian American voices," said Jenny Leung, executive director of the Chinese Culture Center of San Francisco, which is part of the collaborative. Youths voted on whom to put on the mural.



ERIC RISBERG

Jenny Leung, executive director of the Chinese Culture Center, poses by the entrance to the center's art gallery in San Francisco.

"Frequently the way that Chinatown looks is imported as a tourist kind of attraction and fantasy for visitors to see," Leung said. "It's never really about celebrating the community's perspective and voice."

The idea for the "Neon" festival was briefly discussed pre-pandemic. But the events of the last two years lent urgency to it.

"We wanted to kind of push that deadline a little bit earlier in order to be able to address the 20, 30, 40 empty storefronts that are increasingly rising in the community," said Leung, who characterizes Chinatown as a "museum without walls."

Josh Chuck, a local filmmaker behind the documentary "Chinatown Rising," has noticed younger generations dining or participating in events in Chinatowns. A friend who works in tech began picking up orders for friends who wanted to support Chinatown restaurants last year. Soon he was making spreadsheets to track 400 deliveries.

"Honestly, there's no way I could have imagined something that would galvanize these people that I know. Even myself, like, I feel much more connected and committed," Chuck said. "It's a silver lining."

In New York, the first of five summer night

markets start next month in the city's Chinatown. It will be the biggest event to date for nonprofit Think!Chinatown. Last year after a series of verbal and physical assaults against Asians, they partnered with Neighborhoods Now, a local pandemic relief initiative, on Chinatown Nights.

The event started as a small-scale gathering of fewer than 10 artist booths and food trucks in Forsyth Plaza park. Despite a "crazy" two-month prep window, there was a collective feeling of "we just need to be together," said Yin Kong, Think!Chinatown co-founder and director.

"It reprioritized these other organizations that traditionally would have funded other things to focus on how to support communities of color in a different way," Kong said.

The expanded event next month will have 20 booths and sponsorships, and will be scheduled when most Chinatown restaurants are closed so owners can participate.

"The mechanisms that got us there would not have happened without the pandemic," said Kong, who feels Think!Chinatown is now seen as more "legit" with better funding, full-time staff and the possibility of an office space instead of her dining table.

There are fewer than 50 Chinatowns across the U.S. Chinatowns elsewhere have shrunk to a block or disappeared altogether because of gentrification. It is a tricky juxtaposition for a city to tout Chinatowns to tourists while offering few resources to residents.

"So you have these huge festivals to bring in businesses. You have these parades and all this stuff. But definitely, it's important that the needs of the community, especially the working class and the poor, are addressed," Dong said.

Meanwhile, Chinatown Media & Arts Collaborative in San Francisco is designing a \$26.5 million media and arts center set to open in 2025. In New York, Think!Chinatown plans to lease a space with a kitchen for art exhibitions and cooking classes. The hope is to keep engaging with the community.

BRIEFS

North Carolina trooper kills man during traffic stop

SILER CITY, N.C. — A North Carolina trooper fatally shot a man who authorities said "presented a pistol" during a traffic stop initiated for a seat belt violation.

The trooper stopped a Ford pickup truck in Siler City late Monday afternoon, the State Highway Patrol said in a news release. During the stop, the release said, Mark Anthony Diaz, 21, "presented" a pistol and Trooper Rodney N. Cook fired his service weapon, striking Diaz. Diaz was taken from the scene and later pronounced dead, officials said. A passenger fled the scene, but returned during the investigation.

Cook was not injured and has been placed on routine administrative duty during an internal investigation, the Highway Patrol said. The State Bureau of Investigation is also examining the case.

Florida man found dead in gator-filled lake

LARGO, Fla. — In an email on May 24, Florida police say that a man died searching for Frisbees in a lake at a disc golf course where signs warn visitors to beware of alligators.

The unidentified man was looking for Frisbees and other discs in the water and "a gator was involved," the Largo Police Department said. No other details were immediately released.

The website for John S. Taylor Park in Largo, where the incident occurred, advertises that patrons can "discover the sport of disc golf on a course set in the natural beauty of this park." The course is set next to the lake, which has no-swimming signs posted alongside it.

Police are now telling people to avoid the lake while the investigation continues.

US-Canadian regulators tie hepatitis B to strawberries

TEXAS — U.S. and Canadian regulators are investigating a hepatitis outbreak that may be linked to fresh organic strawberries.

In a joint weekend statement, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Public Health Agency of Canada said illnesses in Minnesota, California and Canada occurred after people consumed FreshKampo and H-E-B brand strawberries.

The agencies said the strawberries were purchased between March 5 and April 25. They were sold at various U.S. retailers, including Aldi, Kroger, Safeway, Walmart and Trader Joe's. The potentially affected strawberries are past their shelf life, but health officials say consumers who purchased them and froze them to eat later should throw them away.

The FDA has reported 17 illnesses and 12 hospitalizations in the U.S.

Hepatitis A is a virus that can cause liver disease and, in rare cases, liver failure and death. Consumers who ate the potentially affected berries in the last two weeks and have not been vaccinated against hepatitis A should immediately consult with a physician, the FDA said.

Arrest made in 1984 killing linked to famed mobster

BOSTON — The suspect in a nearly four-decade-old killing in South Boston that authorities have linked to notorious mobster James "Whitey" Bulger and his iron-fisted control of the neighborhood's drug trade was held without bail on Tuesday.

Michael Lewis, 61, pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder at his arraignment in Suffolk Superior Court in connection with the July 1984 shooting death of Brian Watson.

Lewis "adamantly denies the allegations and looks forward to his day in court," defense attorney James Sultan said.

The slaying took place when Bulger, who was killed in a federal prison in West Virginia in 2018, terrorized the neighborhood. Although neither the suspect nor the victim had a direct link to Bulger, his influence played a role, Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden said after the arraignment.

"We had a glimpse in the courtroom today of a very different Boston, a Boston that we can never allow to happen again," Hayden said.

Watson, 23, was last seen alive on July 16 or 17, 1984, and was reported missing by his mother on July 28 that year, authorities said. His body was found hidden among the trees and bushes by a motorist who had pulled over on Interstate 93 in Manchester, New Hampshire, on Sept. 16, 1984.

Pelosi's spouse arrested after California crash

NAPA, Calif. — The weekend arrest of Paul Pelosi, the husband of U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, on suspicion of driving under the influence came after the 2021 Porsche he was driving was hit by another vehicle in Northern California's wine country, authorities said.

Paul Pelosi, 82, was taken into custody shortly before midnight Saturday in Napa County, according to a sheriff's office online booking report.

He was driving into an intersection near the town of Yountville and was hit by a 2014 Jeep, the California Highway Patrol said in a statement late Sunday.

No injuries were reported and the 48-year-old driver of the Jeep was not arrested.

Pelosi could face misdemeanor charges including driving under the influence and driving with a blood alcohol content level of 0.08 or higher. He was released early Sunday on \$5,000 bail, records showed.



CHRIS MACHIAN

A man sprays down the roof of a neighboring building while also filming the scene of a three-alarm fire, May 30.

Fire destroys chemical plant

ASSOCIATED PRESS

OMAHA, Neb. — A large fire that raged through a Nebraska chemical plant was extinguished by firefighters Tuesday morning, and nearby residents who were initially evacuated were allowed to return to their homes, authorities said.

Thick smoke billowed from the Nox-Crete facility just southwest of downtown Omaha that could be seen as far away as the Elkhorn River Monday evening, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) to the west.

Battalion Chief Scott Fitzpatrick said the first call for help came shortly before 7 p.m. Monday, and firefighters who initially entered the building found a much bigger fire than anticipated, forcing them to retreat.

Fire crews then fought the fire from outside the building, noting the presence of chemicals and propane bottles inside. Explosions could be seen and heard as propane tanks ruptured.

No injuries were reported from the fire or explosions. Officials said the smoke posed no major toxicity risks to the public.

The cause of the fire wasn't immediately known.

Omaha Public Power District said more than 2,500 customers were without electricity in the neighborhoods near the fire Monday night, but power had been restored to all but a handful of customers by Tuesday morning.

Representatives from the Nox-Crete chemical company could not be immediately reached for comment.

Pa. fights 'corridor of death'

CLAUDIA LAUER
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Black communities in the United States have been hit hardest in a surge of traffic fatalities that federal officials are describing as a crisis.

An example is Philadelphia's Roosevelt Boulevard, an area some of its residents call the "corridor of death."

Roosevelt is a nearly 14-mile maze of chaotic traffic patterns passing through some of the city's most diverse neighborhoods with the highest poverty rates. Driving can be dangerous as cars traverse between inner and outer lanes. Biking or walking on the boulevard can be even worse as some pedestrian crossings are longer than a football field and take four light cycles to cross.

Many of the city's ideas for fixing Roosevelt were championed under new federal strategies. In the wake of increasing fatalities, Transporta-

tion Secretary Pete Buttigieg has pushed a "safe system" approach, encouraging cities and states to take into account more than just driver behavior when designing roads.

The Biden administration also created funding for safety improvements, including the bipartisan infrastructure law and a \$5 billion federal aid package to cities over the next five years. Federal officials pledged to prioritize equity when deciding on funding in the wake of a disproportionate 23% jump in Black traffic fatalities in 2020.

Kelley Yemen, director of Philadelphia's Complete Streets program, said the city hopes for federal money to begin a long-term redesign of Roosevelt outlined in a study released in 2019.

Around Philadelphia, aggressive driving during the pandemic drove fatalities to 156 in 2020, a sharp increase from 90 deaths in 2019. Preliminary data from the Philadelphia Police Department showed a decrease in 2021 to 133 fatalities.

Canceled flights stall vacations

DENVER — The unofficial start of summer over the Memorial Day weekend offers a troubling glimpse of what lies ahead for travelers during the peak vacation season.

U.S. airlines canceled more than 2,800 flights from Thursday through Monday, according to tracking service FlightAware.

Delta Air Lines, had the worst record among major carriers with more than 800 canceled flights over the five-day span.

"This was a chance for airlines to show that last summer's delays would not be repeated this summer, and yet, it was not to be," said Helene Becker, an analyst for banking firm Cowen.

"We expect a busy summer and are concerned about the industry's ability to handle the demand," Becker said.

The good news was that cancellations were down sharply on Tuesday. FlightAware reported only about 60 cancellations on the East Coast.

Various forecasts of high numbers of travelers over the weekend proved to be accurate. The Transportation Security Administration reported screening more than 11 million people from Thursday through Monday.



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI

Travelers queue up at the main terminal of Denver International Airport on Thursday.

That was down 9% from the same days in 2019, but an increase of almost 25% over last year. Crowds of some 2.4 million on both Thursday and Friday nearly matched the pandemic high set on the Sunday after Thanksgiving last year.

Delta, when asked to comment Tuesday about its weekend troubles, pointed to a statement it issued last week. The Atlanta airline said it was being challenged by several factors including rising COVID-19 cases among workers, and it trimmed its July and August schedules in an effort to improve reliability.

BRIEFS

Illinois senator visits Taiwan as China ups military threat

TAIPEI, Taiwan — U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth, D-Illinois, reiterated America's support for Taiwan on Tuesday during her second visit in a year to the self-governing island claimed by China.

Duckworth, meeting with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, emphasized the close economic, political and security relations between Taipei and Washington.

China sent 30 military aircraft toward the island on Monday in an ongoing campaign of regular flights. Taiwan's Defense Ministry said it responded by scrambling jets, putting air defense missile systems on alert and issuing radio warnings.

Duckworth said she wanted to "emphasize our support for Taiwan security." The former Army helicopter pilot and lieutenant colonel in the National Guard cited strong bipartisan backing for a bill she has put forward promoting cooperation between Taiwan's armed forces and the U.S. National Guard.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the visit was counterproductive and urged the U.S. to end all official contacts with Taiwan.

"What the U.S. government should do is to put into practice President Biden's remarks that the U.S. does not seek a new Cold War with China, does not aim to change China's system ... and does not support Taiwan independence," Zhao said.

Sievierodonetsk mayor says Russians have seized city

SLOVIANSK, Ukraine — Russian forces have seized half of Sievierodonetsk, the eastern Ukrainian city key to Moscow's efforts to complete the capture of the industrial Donbas region, the city's mayor Oleksandr Striuk said Tuesday.

"The city is essentially being destroyed ruthlessly block by block," Striuk said. He described continued heavy street fighting and artillery barrages that threatened the lives of the estimated 13,000 civilians still sheltering in the ruined city that once was home to more than 100,000.

Serhiy Haidai, governor of the eastern Luhansk region, said Tuesday that "most of Sievierodonetsk" was under Russian control, though he added that fierce fighting continued and the city wasn't surrounded.

Sievierodonetsk is important to Russian efforts to capture the Donbas before more Western arms arrive to bolster Ukraine's defense. Moscow-backed separatists have been fighting Ukrainian troops in the region for eight years and held swaths of territory even before the invasion.

Israel signs first trade deal with an Arab country

JERUSALEM — Israel and the United Arab Emirates signed a free trade agreement on Tuesday, the first of its kind that Israel has concluded with an Arab country.

The UAE agreed to normalize relations with Israel in a U.S.-brokered deal in 2020, the first of the so-called Abraham Accords that Israel eventually concluded with four Arab nations — the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan. Since then, the two countries have boosted cooperation in a number of economic sectors.

"Israel & the UAE just signed a historic Free Trade Agreement - the first of this scope to be signed between Israel & an Arab state," Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett tweeted. "This was the fastest FTA to be signed in Israel's history."

Mohamed Al Khaja, the UAE ambassador to Israel, called the deal "an unprecedented achievement."

"Businesses in both countries will benefit from faster access to markets and lower tariffs as our nations work together to increase trade, create jobs, promote new skills and deepen cooperation," Al Khaja tweeted.

Dorian Barak, president of the UAE-Israel Business Council, predicted that bilateral trade would exceed \$2 billion this year, rising to \$5 billion in the next five years.

1 billion pills seized; East, SE Asia hits drug peak

BANGKOK — The number of methamphetamine tablets seized in East and Southeast Asia exceeded a billion last year for the first time, highlighting the scale of illegal drug production and trafficking in the region and the challenges of fighting it, the U.N. said Monday.

The 1,008 billion tablets — which would weigh about 91 tons altogether — were part of a regionwide haul of almost 172 tons of methamphetamine in all forms, and was seven times higher than the amount seized 10 years earlier, the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime said in a report.

"The region is literally swimming in methamphetamine," said Jeremy Douglas, Southeast Asia regional representative for the U.N. agency, at a news conference in the Thai capital. "There's going to have to be a radical policy shift by East Asia to address this problem or it's just going to continue to grow."

The drugs are largely consumed in Southeast Asia but are also exported to New Zealand and Australia, Hong Kong, Korea and Japan in East Asia, and increasingly to South Asia.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BY ROB GILLIES
Associated Press

TORONTO — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government introduced legislation Monday that would put a freeze on importing, buying or selling handguns.

"We are capping the number of handguns in this country," Trudeau said.

The regulations to halt the growth of personally owned handguns is expected to be enacted this fall.

"It will be illegal to buy, sell, transfer or import handguns anywhere in Canada," the prime minister said. Families of shooting victims joined him at a press conference in Ottawa.

Canada has plans to ban 1,500 types of military-style firearms and offer a mandatory buyback program that will begin at the end of the year.

Trudeau said if someone really wants to keep their assault weapon, it will be made completely inoperable.

Canada already expanded background checks.

Trudeau has long had plans to enact tougher gun laws but the introduction of the new measure comes after mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, N.Y., this month.

Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino called the legislation the most significant step that Canada has taken

in a generation.

"Countries that do a good job of controlling guns do a good job of controlling gun violence," Mendicino said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Bill Blair, minister of emergency preparedness, said Canada is very different from the United States.

"In Canada, gun ownership is a privilege not a right," Blair said. "This is a principle that differentiates ourselves from many other countries in the world, notably our colleagues and friends to the south."

Canada has had far fewer mass shootings than the U.S. in part because of a lack of easy access to guns, though the U.S. population also is far larger than Canada's.

Blair noted guns are often smuggled in illegally from the U.S., which he noted has one of the largest small arms arsenals in the world.

The government plans to fight gun smuggling and trafficking by increasing criminal penalties, providing more

tools to investigate firearms crimes and strengthening border measures. Trudeau said increased funding already helped border officials double the amount of smuggled guns confiscated at the U.S. border.

The government said the bill would allow for the removal of gun licenses from people involved in acts of domestic violence or criminal harassment, such as stalking.

The bill would create a new "red flag" law, allowing courts to require that people considered a danger to themselves or others surrender their firearms to police. The government said the measure would guard the safety of those applying through the process, often women in danger of domestic abuse, by protecting their identities.

The government also said it will require rifle magazines to be permanently altered so they can never hold more than five rounds and will ban the sale and transfer of large-capacity magazines under the Criminal Code.



Justin Trudeau

PATRICK DOVLE



MICHAEL O'BRIEN

Young girl gives Queen Elizabeth II a picture she walks through the crowd at the Great Aussie Barbecue in Perth, Australia, Saturday, 2011. After seven decades on the throne, Queen Elizabeth II is widely viewed in the U.K. as a rock in turbulent times.

Queen's jubilee brings protests, apathy in Commonwealth

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — After seven decades on the throne, Queen Elizabeth II is widely viewed in the U.K. as a rock in turbulent times. But while the U.K. is celebrating the queen's Platinum Jubilee — 70 years on the throne — with pageantry, some in the Commonwealth are using the occasion to push for a formal break with the monarchy and the colonial history it represents.

"It's not about her," said Jamaican academic Rosalea Hamilton, who campaigns for her country to break away from the Commonwealth and become a republic. "It's about her family's wealth, built on the backs of our ancestors."

The empire that Elizabeth was born into is gone, but she is still head of state in 14 other nations, including Canada, Australia and the Bahamas. Barbados cut ties with the monarchy in November. Several other Caribbean countries say they plan to follow suit.

Britain's jubilee celebrations, which

climax over a four-day holiday weekend starting Thursday, aim to recognize the diversity of the U.K. and the Commonwealth. Britain's image of itself as welcoming was battered by the revelation that hundreds of people from the Caribbean who had lived legally in the U.K. for decades were denied housing, jobs or medical treatment — and in some cases deported — because they didn't have paperwork to prove their status.

The British government apologized and agreed to pay compensation.

A jubilee-year trip to Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas in March was intended to strengthen ties, but it appears to have had the opposite effect. Cynthia Barrow-Giles, University of the West Indies professor of political science, said the British "seem to be very blind to the visceral sort of reactions" that royal visits elicit in the Caribbean.

Protesters in Jamaica demanded Britain pay reparations for slavery, and Prime Minister Andrew Holness

politely told William that the country was "moving on," a signal that it planned to become a republic. U.K. officials hope countries that become republics will remain in the Commonwealth, the 54-nation organization made up largely of former British colonies. Out of those nations, 14 still recognize the queen as their ceremonial head.

As Commonwealth heads of government prepare to meet in Kigali, Rwanda, some question whether the organization can continue once the queen's eldest son, Prince Charles, succeeds her. Sue Onslow, director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London, said the queen has been the "invisible glue" holding the Commonwealth together.

But she says the organization has proven remarkably resilient and shouldn't be written off. The Commonwealth played a major role in galvanizing opposition to apartheid in the 1980s, and could do the same over climate change.

WHO'S COMING:

Zimbabwe was suspended from the Commonwealth in 2002 under late authoritarian President Robert Mugabe. The nation began the process to rejoin in 2018

WHO HAS LEFT:

Barbados cut ties with the monarchy in November, and several other Caribbean countries say they plan to follow.

Higher prices could blunt boycott of Russian oil

LORNE COOK
AND SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union's decision to ban nearly all oil from Russia to punish the country for its invasion of Ukraine is a blow to Moscow's economy, but its effects may be blunted by rising energy prices and other countries willing to buy some of the petroleum, industry experts say.

EU leaders agreed late Monday to cut Russian oil imports by about 90% over the next six months.

The 27-country bloc relies on Russia for 25% of its oil and 40% of its natural gas, and European countries that are even more heavily dependent on Russia had been reluctant to act.

European heads of state hailed the decision as a watershed, but analysts were more circumspect.

The EU ban applies to all Russian oil delivered by sea. At Hungary's insistence, it contains a temporary exemption for oil delivered by the Russian Druzhba pipeline to certain countries

in Central Europe.

In addition to retaining some European markets, Russia could sell some of the oil previously sold in Europe to China, India and other customers in Asia, though it will have to offer discounts, said Chris Weafer, CEO at consulting firm Macro-Advisory.

"Now, for the moment, that's not financially too painful for Russia because global prices are elevated. They're much higher than last year," he said. "So even Russia offering a discount means that it's probably selling its oil for roughly what it sold for last year."

Moscow has traditionally viewed Europe as its main energy market, making Monday's decision the most significant effort yet to punish Russia for its war in Ukraine.

"The oil embargo will speed up the countdown to the collapse of the Russian economy and war machine," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

Matteo Villa, an analyst at the Insti-

tute for Political Studies a Milan think tank, said Russia will take a pretty significant hit now but cautioned that the move could eventually backfire.

"The risk is that the price of oil in general goes up because of the European sanctions. And if the price goes up a lot, the risk is that Russia starts to earn more, and Europe loses the bet," he said.

Moscow seized on the new sanctions to try to rally public support against the West, describing the West as bent on destroying Russia.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council and former Russian president, said the oil ban aims to reduce the country's export earnings and force the government to scale down social benefits.

"They hate us all!" Medvedev said on his messaging app channel. "Those decisions stem from hatred against Russia and against all of its people."

Russia has not shied away from withholding energy to get its way. Russian state energy giant Gazprom said

it is cutting off natural gas to Dutch trader GasTerra and Denmark's Oersted company and is also stopping shipments to Shell Energy Europe that were bound for Germany. Germany has other suppliers, and GasTerra and Oersted said they were prepared for a shutoff.

Russian oil delivered by sea accounts for two-thirds of the EU's oil imports from Moscow. In addition to cutting off seaborne imports, Germany and Poland have agreed to stop using oil from the northern branch of the Druzhba pipeline.

Agreeing on sanctions against Russian natural gas is likely to prove much tougher because it represents a larger percentage of Europe's energy supply.

"The very loud and clear message that Moscow will hear is that it will be near impossible for the European Union to get any agreement on blocking because gas will not be as easily replicated from other sources in Europe as oil will be," Weafer said.



LM OTERO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ronan Kotiya, 11, holds his father Rupesh Kotiya's tracheostomy tube as his mother prepares to clean and change the tube's dressing at their home in Plano, Texas, April 10. Ronan helps care for his father who suffers from Lou Gehrig's disease. Millions of Americans with serious health problems depend on children ages 18 and younger to provide some or all of their care at home. An exact number is hard to pin down, but researchers think millions of children are involved in caregiving in the U.S.

IN THE SHADOWS

YOUNG CAREGIVERS OFFER CRUCIAL HELP

TOM MURPHY
Associated Press

PLANO, Texas — Ronan Kotiya leans over his father, fingers wrapped around a plastic tube he's about to slide from a tracheostomy hole in dad's neck.
"3, 2, 1, go," the 11-year-old says as he removes the tube. His mom, Siobhan Pandya, slips a padded neck brace on her husband and lifts him into a sitting position on their bed.

Lou Gehrig's disease

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as **Lou Gehrig's disease**, is a neurodegenerative disease that results in the progressive loss of motor neurons that control voluntary muscles.

ALS is the **most common** type of motor neuron disease.

Early symptoms of ALS include stiff muscles, muscle twitches, and gradual increasing weakness and muscle wasting.

Ronan's 9-year-old brother, Keaton, waits nearby, ready to connect their dad, Rupesh Kotiya, to a portable ventilator.

"Thanks, buddy. Good job," says Kotiya from a tablet he uses to speak.

So begins another weekend for the brothers — two Harry Potter fans with mouths full of braces and some heavy caregiving responsibilities.

Their father has Lou Gehrig's disease, a fatal illness that has taken his ability to speak and walk.

As many as 10 million children in the U.S. may provide care at home, according to researcher Melinda Kavanaugh. Some kids are the only caregivers patients have, while others fill in when visiting nurses or other help is not available. They're often too young to drive, and their work frequently goes unnoticed outside the home.

"They exist in the shadows," said Kavanaugh, an associate professor of social work at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Kavanaugh and other researchers say the number of young caregivers is growing, and they need support. Pandya hopes caretaking will shape her sons into empathetic, strong young men.

But getting there involves a daily struggle between being a kid and living in a very grown-up world.

The two boys joined a group of kids in the Texas Neurology clinic in Dallas to learn more about caring for people with Lou Gehrig's disease, or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. These children help care for a parent or grandparent with ALS, an illness that destroys nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control muscle movement.

Kavanaugh lined up several specialists to teach as part of a program called YCare that she has taken to several cities. A dietitian showed the kids how to make food

"To be honest, they're doing tasks some adults don't want to do."

SIQBHAN PANDYA

the right consistency so patients don't choke. A respiratory therapist explained the important parts of a device that helps people cough to clear mucus.

Aside from providing training, one of Kavanaugh's main goals was to simply let the young caregivers meet. "A 10-year-old at school is not going to talk about toileting or bathing their parent, but they are going to talk about it here," Kavanaugh said.

Doctors diagnosed Rupesh Kotiya with ALS in October 2014, a month before his boys turned 4 and 2. Ronan and Keaton have no memories of him without the illness.

They started pitching in with care a few years ago, first by wiping away their dad's tears or propping up his head during car rides.

Then they started helping Pandya move their father in and out of bed or onto the toilet. They pull down his shorts and underwear while she lifts him to the seat.

They also put on his socks and shoes, help change his shorts, crush medicines or mix mouthwash with water.

Pandya has daytime and evening caregivers for her husband during the week but no paid assistance overnight or on the weekends, so the boys have had to step up.

"To be honest, they're doing tasks some adults don't want to do," Pandya said.

Pandya tries to balance the boys' caregiving with activities that offer some normalcy. Keaton takes tennis lessons and coding classes. Ronan plays on a youth soccer team.

Keaton shows his frustration sometimes, especially with the amount of care his dad needs.

"He's been having a few accidents these last few days," Keaton said. "One time he went three times that day, and I was really looking forward to doing something that day, but I couldn't do it because ... yeah."

Pandya sees the boys' caregiving as a positive. She hopes Ronan and Keaton eventually look back and recognize how much they gained.

"If you're caring for somebody that ... has a clock ticking, then you don't want to take that time away," she said. "Being able to wipe their tears or wipe their mouth or hold their hand, those are some of the memories that they're going to cherish."

Lou Gehrig's disease

There is **no known cure** for ALS.

The **goal of treatment** is to improve symptoms.

A **medication** called riluzole may extend life by about two to three months.

Non-invasive ventilation may result in both improved quality and length of life. Mechanical ventilation can prolong survival but does not stop disease progression.

READ MORE ONLINE AT SWJOURNALIST.COM



LM OTERO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Therapist Sarah Sutton, right, listens to an animated Keaton Kotiya, 9, as is brother Ronan Kotiya, 11, sits and listens during a counseling session in Plano, Texas, April 8.



LM OTERO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Charlie Warlick, right, gets an explanation from Tom Simon on using modified eating utensils during a workshop for young caregivers of ALS-diagnosed family members in Dallas, April 9.



LM OTERO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Melinda Kavanaugh, right, a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee social work professor, listens to Ronan Kotiya, 11, as they take a lunch break during a clinic for young caregivers of ALS family members.



93°/74°
Partly sunny

FOR THE LOVE OF GUNS

After a school shooting that killed 19 children and 2 teachers in their community, Uvalde residents — many of whom have used guns from a young age — are re-thinking their relationship with guns. TEXAS, 3.



Southwest Journalist

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ DOW JONES NEWS FUND CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SWJOURNALIST.COM ■ THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 2022



\$7.68 > \$7.50

U.S. gas prices top federal minimum wage

VICTOR SWEZEY
Southwest Journalist

With the dramatic rise in gas prices across the country showing no signs of abating, a handful of the most expensive stations have crossed a crucial milestone: the federal minimum wage.

The federal minimum wage is \$7.25 for “covered nonexempt employees,” according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

According to CBS News, 15 gas stations in California had gas prices higher than the federal minimum wage Wednesday. Furnace Creek Fuel in Death Valley National Park, topped the list with a price of \$8.55 per gallon. The average price of gas nationally was \$4.63 per gallon, according to AAA.

Texas shares the federal government’s minimum wage, meaning motorists in California are paying

more for a gallon of gas than many Texans make for an hour of work. California’s minimum wage currently sits at \$14 an hour — almost two times more than what people are paying at the pump.

Texas’ gas prices sit below the national average at \$4.29 per gallon.

“The gas prices are really hurting my pocket right now,” Houston driver Dominic Ballair told KHOU 11 News. “I really have to use a credit card to pay for gas.”

America faces its highest inflation rate in 40 years, and the global oil market is in turmoil in the wake of Russia’s February invasion of Ukraine. The U.S. responded by banning all imports of Russian oil in March, further diminishing supply in a sector already producing below capacity due to pandemic-related supply chain and staffing issues.

Gas is not the only essential consumer good that has become more expensive in recent months, leading national consumer confidence to drop to its lowest levels since the end of the Great Recession in 2009, according to Gallup. The study found that 46% of Americans believe the economy is “poor,” and 77% of Americans believe it is “getting worse.”

President Joe Biden recently announced that tackling inflation is his top priority, as consumer prices rose by over 8.3% in the last year, The Associated Press reported.

Oil industry experts believe that the gas prices are not likely to decline significantly soon.

“We could have \$6 a gallon gasoline prices before this summer’s over, I’m afraid,” said independent energy analyst David Blackmon, FOX 4 News in Dallas-Fort Worth reported.



FRANCISCO SECO/AP PHOTO

A man walks next to heavily damaged buildings and destroyed cars following Russian attacks in Bakhmut, Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine, on May 24. The region, along with neighboring Luhansk, is part of the Donbas, where Russian forces have focused their offensive.

Pentagon: US will share missiles to aid Ukraine

LOLITA C. BALDOR AND BEN FOX
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. will send the Ukrainian military four sophisticated, medium-range rocket systems and ammunition to help try to stall Russian progress in the Donbas region of its country, but it will take at least three weeks to get the precision weapons and trained troops onto the battlefield, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

Colin Kahl, the defense undersecretary for policy, said the U.S. has received assurances at the highest government levels that Ukraine will use the rockets to defend its nation and not launch them into Russia. The agreement underscores U.S. concerns about provoking a wider war with Russia while still providing Ukraine the weapons it has desperately requested in recent weeks.

The rocket systems are part of a new \$700 million tranche of security assistance for Ukraine from the



TONY OVERMAN/THE OLYMPIAN VIA AP

A launch truck fires the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System produced by Lockheed Martin during combat training in the high desert of the Yakima Training Center, Washington.

U.S. that also includes helicopters, Javelin anti-tank weapon systems, radars, tactical vehicles, spare parts and more.

“It is a grinding fight,” he said during a Pentagon briefing. “We believe that these additional capabilities will arrive in a timeframe that’s relevant and allow the Ukrainians to very precisely target the types of things they need for the current fight.”

The U.S. decision to provide the advanced rocket systems tries to strike a balance between helping Ukraine battle ferocious Russian artillery barrages and not providing arms that could allow Ukraine to hit targets deep inside Russia and trigger an escalation in the war.

In a guest essay published Tuesday evening by The New York Times, President Joe Biden confirmed that he would “provide the Ukrainians with more advanced rocket systems and munitions that will enable them to more precisely strike key targets on the battlefield in Ukraine.”

■ UKRAINE, Page 2



IAN MAULE/TULSA WORLD VIA AP

Two people hug outside at Memorial High School where people were evacuated from the scene of a shooting at the Natalie Medical Building Wednesday.

Four killed in Tulsa shooting

TULSA, Okla. — Four people were killed Wednesday in a shooting at a Tulsa medical building on a hospital campus, a police captain said.

Tulsa Police Department Deputy Chief Eric Dalglish confirmed the shooter was also dead, apparently from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

The unidentified gunman carried a handgun and a rifle during the attack, Dalglish said.

“Officers are currently going through every room in the building, checking for additional threats,” police said in a Facebook post just before 6 p.m.

Police responded to the call three minutes after dispatchers received the report and made contact with the gun-

man one minute later, Dalglish said.

Police Capt. Richard Meulenberg also said multiple people were wounded and that the medical complex was a “catastrophic scene.”

Police and hospital officials said they were not ready to identify the dead.

St. Francis Health System locked down its campus Wednesday afternoon because of the situation at the Natalie Medical Building, which houses an outpatient surgery center and a breast health center.

Tulsa resident Nicholas O’Brien, whose mother was in a nearby building when the shooting occurred, told reporters that he rushed to the scene.

“I was pretty anxious. So once I

got here and then I heard that she (his mother) was OK, the shooter had been shot and was down, I felt a lot better. It still is horrible what happened,” O’Brien said.

The shooting Wednesday comes eight days after an 18-year-old gunman armed with an AR-style semi-automatic rifle walked into Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, and killed 19 children and two teachers before being fatally shot himself; and more than two weeks after a shooting at a Buffalo supermarket in which a white man is accused of killing 10 Black people in a racist attack.

A reunification center for families was set up at a nearby high school.



CRAIG HUDSON/AP PHOTO

Actor Johnny Depp waves to supporters as he departs the Fairfax County Courthouse May 27 in Fairfax, Va. The jury in Depp's high-profile libel lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard found that both were defamed but awarded Depp more money.

Jury: Heard defamed Depp

DENISE LAVOIE
Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va. — A jury on Wednesday awarded Johnny Depp \$10.35 million in his libel lawsuit against ex-wife Amber Heard, vindicating his stance that Heard fabricated claims she was abused by Depp before and during their brief marriage.

The jury also found in favor of Heard, who said she was defamed by Depp's lawyer when he called her abuse allegations a hoax. The jury awarded her \$2 million in damages.

Heard, who was stoic in the courtroom as the verdict was read, said she was heartbroken.

"I'm even more disappointed with what this verdict means for other women. It's a setback. It sets back the clock to a time when a woman who spoke up and spoke out could be publicly humiliated. It sets back the idea that violence against women is to be taken seriously," she said in a statement posted on her Twitter account.

Depp, who was not inside the courtroom Wednesday, sued Heard for libel in Fairfax County Circuit Court over a December 2018 op-ed she wrote in *The Washington Post* describing herself as "a public figure represent-

ing domestic abuse." His lawyers said he was defamed by the article even though it never mentioned his name.

While the case was ostensibly about libel, most of the testimony focused on Heard's claims of physical and sexual abuse. Heard enumerated more than a dozen alleged assaults.

Depp said that he never hit Heard and that she was the abuser, though Heard's attorneys highlighted years-old text messages Depp sent, apologizing to Heard for his behavior, as well as profane texts he sent to a friend in which Depp said he wanted to kill Heard.

In the case, Depp had to prove not only that he never assaulted Heard, but that Heard's article defamed him. He also had to prove that Heard wrote the article with actual malice. And to claim damages, he had to prove that her article caused the damage to his reputation as opposed to any number of articles before and after Heard's piece that detailed the allegations against him.

Depp, in his final testimony to the jury, said the trial gave him a chance to clear his name.

"No matter what happens, I did get here and I did tell the truth and I have spoken up

for what I've been carrying on my back, reluctantly, for six years," Depp said.

Heard, on the other hand, said the trial has been an ordeal inflicted by an orchestrated smear campaign led by Depp.

"Johnny promised me — promised me — that he'd ruin my life, that he'd ruin my career. He'd take my life from me," Heard said in her final testimony.

Both performers emerge from the trial with reputations in tatters and unclear prospects for their careers.

Depp, a three-time best actor Oscar nominee, had until recent years been a bankable star. His turn as Capt. Jack Sparrow in the "Pirates of the Caribbean" film helped turn it into a global franchise, but he's lost that role.

Heard's acting career has been more modest, and her only two upcoming roles are in a small film and the upcoming "Aquaman" sequel due to come out next year.

Depp's lawyers fought to keep the case in Virginia, in part because state law provided some legal advantages compared with California, where the two reside. A judge ruled that Virginia was an acceptable forum for the case because *The Washington Post's* printing presses and online servers are in the county.

U.S. sends medium-range rockets to aid Ukraine

■ Continued from Page 1

Biden had said Monday that the U.S. would not send Ukraine "rocket systems that can strike into Russia." Any weapons system can shoot into Russia if it's close enough to the border. The aid package unveiled Wednesday would send what the U.S. considers medium-range rockets — they generally can travel about 45 miles, officials said.

"The Ukrainians have given us assurances that they will not use these systems against targets on Russian territory," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Wednesday. "There is a strong trust bond between Ukraine and the United States."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Wednesday that the U.S. is "deliberately and diligently pouring fuel on the fire." He added that the Kremlin doesn't trust Kyiv's assurances that the multiple rocket launch systems supplied by the U.S. will not be used to attack Russia.

The expectation is that Ukraine could use the rockets in the eastern Donbas region, where they could both intercept Russian artillery and take out Russian positions in towns where fighting is intense, such as Sievierodonetsk.

Sievierodonetsk is important to Russian efforts to capture the Donbas before more Western arms arrive to bolster Ukraine's defense. The city is in an area that is the last pocket under Ukrainian government control in the Luhansk region of the Donbas.

Biden added in his *New York Times* essay: "We are not encouraging or enabling Ukraine to strike beyond its borders. We do not want to prolong the war just to inflict pain on Russia."

It's the 11th package approved so far and will be the first to tap the \$40 billion in security and economic assistance recently passed by Congress.

The rocket systems would be part of Pentagon drawdown authority, meaning the arms transfer would involve taking weapons out of existing U.S. inventory and getting them into Ukraine quickly. Ukrainian

troops would also need training on the new systems, which could take at least a week or two.

Officials said the plan is to send Ukraine the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, or HIMARS, which is mounted on a truck and can carry a container with six rockets.

The system can launch a medium-range rocket, which is the current plan, but is also capable of firing a longer-range missile, the Army Tactical Missile System, which has a range of about 190 miles and is not part of the plan.

Since the war began in February, the U.S. and its allies have tried to walk a narrow line: send Ukraine weapons needed to fight off Russia, but stop short of providing aid that will inflame Russian President Vladimir Putin and trigger a broader conflict that could spill over into other parts of Europe.

Over time, however, the U.S. and allies have amped up the weaponry going into Ukraine. To that end, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has been pleading with the West to send multiple launch rocket systems to Ukraine as soon as possible to help stop Russia's destruction of towns in the Donbas.

The rockets have a longer range than the howitzer artillery systems that the U.S. has provided Ukraine. They would allow Ukrainian forces to strike Russian troops from a distance outside the range of Russia's artillery systems.

"We are fighting for Ukraine to be provided with all the weapons needed to change the nature of the fighting and start moving faster and more confidently toward the expulsion of the occupiers," Zelenskyy said in a recent address.

Ukraine needs multiple launch rocket systems, said Philip Breedlove, a retired U.S. Air Force general who was NATO's top commander from 2013 to 2016.

"These are very important capabilities ... and they not only need them, but they have been very vociferous in explaining they want them," said Breedlove. "We need to get serious about supplying this army so that it can do what the world is asking it to do."

Russia has been making incremental progress in the Donbas, as it tries to take the remaining sections of the region not already controlled by Russian-backed separatists.



EVAN VUCCI/AP PHOTO

President Joe Biden speaks in the Oval Office of the White House on Tuesday. The Biden administration is expected to announce it will send Ukraine a small number of high-tech, medium-range rocket systems, a critical weapon that Ukrainian leaders have been begging for as they struggle to stall Russian progress in the Donbas.



MATIAS DELACROIX/AP PHOTO

A protester holds a rainbow flag as she drinks water during a rally against homophobia, transphobia and biphobia in Caracas, Venezuela, May 28.

Pride Month returns; community honors history

OWEN HENDERSON
Southwest Journalist

AUSTIN — June is Pride Month, a month-long celebration of the LGBTQ community. As the month's celebrations get underway, here's a rundown of what you need to know:

Why June? Pride Month is June to honor the Stonewall uprising and to celebrate the LGBTQ community, its history and the effect its members have had on the world.

What happened at the Stonewall uprising? On June 28, 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn, a Manhattan gay bar, which sparked resistance from patrons. Protests ensued outside the bar and around the city over the next week. Many regard these uprisings as a turning point in the fight for LGBTQ civil rights.

Who can celebrate? Anyone is welcome to celebrate Pride, whether or not they are a member of the LGBTQ community.

Why the rainbow flag? The original rainbow flag was commissioned from artist Gilbert Baker by one of the first openly gay elected officials, San Francisco city supervisor Harvey Milk, for Pride celebrations in 1978. The stripes nod to the stripes of the American flag, while the colors represent the diversity of the community and its values. In recent years, the pride flag has been amended to be more inclusive, with the addition of pink, blue and white stripes to honor transgender people and black and brown stripes to honor people of color.

What will be happening in Texas this year? After two years without a Pride celebration because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Austin Pride parade will return Aug. 20.

Dallas Pride takes place on June 4 at the city's Fair Park, with a parade on June 5.

San Antonio will host a Pride Week starting June 17 with a kickoff party at the San Antonio Zoo, including a drag show, interfaith service and golf tournament. Festivities will finish with a parade on June 25.

Houston's celebrations will last throughout the month of June and include a movie showcase, a fashion show, and a 5K and 10K walk/run. The month will conclude with a Pride festival and after-party on June 25.



AP PHOTO/EVAN VUCCI

Adm. Linda Fagan attends a change-of-command ceremony at U.S. Coast Guard headquarters Wednesday.

Biden: 'About time' for 1st female armed services chief

WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden hailed Adm. Linda Fagan as new commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard and the armed forces' first female service chief, declaring during a change-of-command ceremony on Wednesday, "It's about time."

"The trailblazing career of Adm. Fagan shows young people entering the services, we mean what we say: 'There are no doors — no doors — closed to women,'" Biden told around 2,000 cheering guests at Coast Guard headquarters.

Fagan relieved Adm. Karl L. Schultz, becoming the first woman in U.S. history to lead a branch of the armed forces.

"This is what an admiral and service chief in the United States armed forces looks like," the president said.

He thanked Fagan for all the work she did throughout her career to "open the doors of opportunity just a little bit wider."

"Now we need to keep working to make sure Adm. Fagan may be the first but not the only," Biden said. Biden didn't mention Russia's war with Ukraine in his address but said "the choices the world makes today" will "shape the direction of the world throughout the 21st century."

The Biden administration will call on the Coast Guard more frequently to combat the threats of climate change, he said. Wednesday marked the first day of a hurricane season that is anticipated to be "the seventh straight year of above-average hurricane activity in the Atlantic."

Biden also called the Coast Guard an "essential element" of his administration's Indo-Pacific strategy and said he plans to guard against overfishing by Chinese interests.



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2022 ATTENDEES

MAYA CHADDA
Belmont University
WGBH (Boston)

SHIFRA DAYAK
University of Maryland
Stars & Stripes

LAUREN GUZY
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Fredericksburg Standard

KERI HEATH
Wittenberg, BA; Dublin, MA
Galveston Daily News

OWEN HENDERSON
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
San Francisco Chronicle

JESS HUFF
Lufkin Daily News

ANNA JACKSON
Belmont University
Houston Chronicle

ANASTASIA JOHNSON
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism
Los Angeles Times

DANIA KALAJI
University of Georgia
Bay City News Foundation

GAYLA MURPHY
The Brazosport Facts

REEGAN SAUNDERS
Kent State University
San Francisco Chronicle

CLAIRE SCHNATTERBECK
Columbia University
patch.com

BRADY STONE
Texas A&M University
Kansas City Star

VICTOR SWEZEY
Columbia University
Tampa Bay Times

CJ VETTER
Texas State (2022)
Hays Free Press

ISAIAH WASHINGTON
American University
WGAL (Lancaster, PA)

PAYTON WILLIAMS
Cameron University (2022)
The Lawton Constitution

CATHERINE WILSON
University of Maryland College Park (2022)
New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

BRIEFS

Cuellar, Cisneros runoff too close to call

The Texas primary runoff between Democratic U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar and his progressive challenger, Jessica Cisneros, was too close to call Wednesday, more than a week after the election.

After a final update in Bexar County, Cuellar leads Cisneros by 136 votes, or 0.3%, out of 45,282 ballots counted as of Wednesday afternoon.

The race doesn't qualify for an automatic recount, but Cisneros can request and pay for one. Counties have until Friday to certify their results from the May 24 runoff. The state has until June 11 to complete its canvass.

Cisneros also ran against Cuellar in 2020, losing by 4%.

Cuellar, one of the last anti-abortion Democrats in Congress, was endorsed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and others. Cisneros had the support of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders and New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

The winner of Texas' race will face Cassy Garcia, who won the Republican runoff for the seat.

Mourners bury Uvalde teacher and her husband

UVALDE — Mourners gathered Wednesday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church to say goodbye to Robb Elementary School teacher Irma Garcia, who died in the shooting at the Uvalde grade school and her husband, Joe, who died two days later from a heart attack.

Nineteen children and two teachers — Garcia and her co-teacher, Eva Mireles, 44 — were killed May 24 when a teenage gunman burst into their classroom.

Irma, 48, was finishing up her 23rd year as a teacher at Robb Elementary. In a letter posted on the school's website at the beginning of the school year, Garcia told her students that she and Joe had four children.

Joe, 50, collapsed and died after dropping off flowers at his wife's memorial. The couple would have been married 25 years on June 28.

DPS: School door shut, didn't lock before attack

An exterior door at Robb Elementary School did not lock when it was closed by a teacher shortly before a gunman used it to get inside, leaving investigators searching to determine why, state police said.

State police initially said a teacher had propped the door open shortly before Salvador Ramos, 18, entered the school.

They have now determined that the teacher, who has not been identified, propped the door open with a rock, but then removed the rock and closed the door when she realized there was a shooter on campus, said Travis Considine, chief communications officer for the Texas Department of Public Safety. The door was designed to lock when shut but did not lock, Considine said.

Investigators confirmed the detail through additional video footage.

Indicted protest officers sue Austin for \$1M

Austin police officers facing indictments over their use of force during racial justice protests two years ago are suing the city, saying they didn't receive training on how to use the "less than lethal" rounds employed during the demonstrations. They also contend that city officials knew the rounds were defective and "did nothing to remove them from service."

When protesters flooded the streets of Austin in May 2020 after the murder of George Floyd, Austin police officers used 12-gauge shotguns to fire beanbag rounds — small cloth baggies filled with lead — at demonstrators. Several people were seriously wounded and sued the city, resulting in over \$13 million in settlements.

The five officers who filed the lawsuit Wednesday were Joshua Jackson, Rolan Rast, Todd Gilbertson, Derrick Lehman and Alexander Lomovtseva.

The officers are seeking over \$1 million in compensation for the physical injuries, post-traumatic stress and lost wages that resulted from their involvement in the protests and what they are calling negligent leadership.

The lawsuit also names activist groups as defendants, including Black Lives Matter and the Austin Justice Coalition, for encouraging "rioting, looting and violence."

Longhorns, Aggies to host NCAA tourney games

OMAHA, Neb. — Texas and Texas A&M will be sites for NCAA baseball tournament play starting later this week.

Texas, with a 42-18 record, is hosting for the 29th time and Texas A&M (37-18) is hosting for the 12th time while Georgia Southern and Maryland are first-time hosts among the crop of 16 Division I sites.

Each regional will be made up of four teams playing in a double-elimination format. All are scheduled from Friday through Monday. Regional winners advance to best-of-three super regionals, and those eight winners go on to the College World Series in Omaha beginning June 17.

Tennessee (53-7) is expected to be the No. 1 overall seed after sweeping the SEC regular-season and tournament championships.

Other SEC hosts are Auburn (37-19), Florida (39-22) and Texas A&M (37-18).

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AND TEXAS TRIBUNE



KAYLEE GREENLEE BEAL/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Dolores Contreras, 75, lives next door to her childhood home and a few houses down from Robb Elementary School, where she, her nine siblings, children and grandchildren all attended classes in Uvalde.



KAYLEE GREENLEE BEAL/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Rene Nolasco explained the appeal of owning an assault rifle by equating it to owning a sports car: "People don't need sports cars to get around, but they like the way it feels to drive them."



KAYLEE GREENLEE BEAL/THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

Ricky Freitag sits in his father-in-law's office in Uvalde. He said of hunting for sport in the area: "That's always been the culture here."

For the love of guns

Uvalde questions relationship with weapons

BRIAN LOPEZ
The Texas Tribune

UVALDE — For most of his life, Ricky Freitag has been a hunter. From shooting his first hog when he was 10 to teaching his own 10-year-old how to handle a firearm, it's a tradition etched into his family.

His father and grandfather, who was a state game warden, introduced him to the sport. His father-in-law is an avid hunter, and Freitag often tags along with him.

In this South Texas town, many young boys grow up dreaming of that perfect shot.

"That's always been the culture here," Freitag, 31, said. "When I shot my first animal, it was just a surreal experience."

Longtime Uvalde residents say the city is a hunting mecca and the love for guns goes along with it.

For 40 years, the town has held its annual Hunters Roundup event, which brings thousands of hunters together to talk game, eat food and raffle guns.

Uvalde is an attractive location for hunters. Ranches, lush with wildlife like white-tailed deer, surround the city.

Freitag hunts on a ranch about 8 miles out.

But after a shooter used an AR-15-style rifle to kill 21 people at Uvalde's Robb Elementary School last week, some residents are rethinking what gun ownership means.

It remains to be seen how lawmakers will react.

For now, Republican state leaders are signaling they will reject stricter gun control measures once again and instead try to steer the conversation toward mental health resources and arming teachers.

Texas Democrats, on the other hand, have already called for a special session to pass sweeping gun reform, which would include raising the minimum age to buy a gun from 18 to 21; requiring universal background checks for all firearm sales; implementing "red flag" laws to allow the temporary removal of firearms from those who pose imminent danger; requiring a waiting period after purchasing a gun; and regulating civilian ownership of high-capacity magazines.

In Uvalde, where guns are often used for home protection or hunting, opinions differ on what new gun laws would look like in the aftermath of the shooting.

Dolores Contreras, 75, who lives a few houses down from Robb Elementary, doesn't own any guns herself but said she understands the culture and the need to own them in a town like this one.

Her nephews hunt and have taken part in that sport since they were little.

Before the shooting, most of her safety concerns had little to do with gun violence and more with drug and human smuggling, she said.

But even then, there is no need for military-style assault rifles to be sold in Uvalde, she said.

"There's no war here," Contreras said. "Why even sell those guns? I don't think that was right for [the gun store] to be selling those big, big guns."

Hunting and gun ownership holds a sentimental value in the Freitag family.

From an early age Freitag was taught that guns aren't a toy — they're something you have to respect.

Freitag has obtained all the correct licenses and

taken shooting classes.

"Me growing up and actually having the opportunity to [hunt] — that's something that I can maybe pass on to my kids," he said.

Freitag owns about 50 guns, ranging from hunting rifles to AR-15s, the same military-style weapon the gunman used in last week's shooting.

He said it's easier to hunt wild pigs with that weapon.

Other than using guns for sport, Freitag usually carries a handgun as he goes about his day. His job in Uvalde is to tow cars and sometimes people get angry when he takes someone's vehicle.

While he's out late on the job, his wife also keeps a gun handy.

Alex Covarrubias, a resident of Uvalde for more than 25 years, also has his own gun at home for protection.

But before last week's shooting, he never had really thought about the kinds of weapons that are available to people once they turn 18.

Now he's also calling for a change in the age limit to buy high-powered rifles that can cause so much harm in a matter of seconds.

Authorities say the gunman in last week's shooting picked up a rifle at a nearby gun store after his 18th birthday.

That should've been a warning sign, Covarrubias said.

"Taking out a rifle on the first buy — it should have been a red flag right there," he said. "It's too big of a gun for here."



DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS/AP PHOTO

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott speaks May 27 about the elementary school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Abbott called for recommendations in response to the shooting.

Abbott seeks input on school violence

BY PATRICK SVITEK
The Texas Tribune

Gov. Greg Abbott on Wednesday called on the Texas Legislature to form special committees to make legislative recommendations in response to the Uvalde school shooting.

In a letter to House Speaker Dade Phelan and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, the Senate's presiding officer, Abbott told his fellow Republicans the state "must reassess the twin issues of school safety and mass violence." He said the committee process should start immediately and outlined five topics he would like the committees to take up.

Notably, the topics include firearm safety. Last week, Abbott essentially ruled out gun restrictions as a response to the massacre, in which a gunman killed 19 students and two adults last week at Robb Elementary School. He focused his attention on mental health care and school security in his public comments.

The other topics Abbott charged leadership with making recommendations on were school safety, mental health, social media and police training.

Phelan responded to Abbott's call by saying in a statement that "conversations about the issues outlined by Gov. Abbott are already underway in the Texas House and will continue to be a top priority in the months leading up to the next school year and the legislative session."

He added that the House "will get to work immediately."

A spokesperson for Patrick did not immediately respond to comment.

The committees are different from a special legislative session, which Democrats — and at least a couple

Republicans — have asked for since the shooting. Abbott has not ruled that out.

Abbott's critics quickly argued that the time for committees has passed. They pointed out that the Legislature also formed special committees after mass shootings in 2019, and those discussions did not prevent the Uvalde school shooting from happening.

Abbott's Democratic challenger for reelection, Beto O'Rourke, panned Abbott's push for legislative committees.

"Anyone can call for a committee. Only a governor can call a special session," O'Rourke tweeted. "Do your job."

The 2019 committees on gun violence followed the anti-Hispanic massacre at a Walmart in El Paso. A Democratic state senator from the area, César Blanco, sent Abbott a letter Wednesday saying that he appreciated the call for committees since the Uvalde shooting but noted, "We have solutions ready now."

He cited nine bills he filed in the first session after the Walmart shooting, including a proposal to extend background checks to cover private gun sales. While Patrick initially showed interest in that idea — even suggesting he would stand up to the National Rifle Association to pass it — it was a short-lived crusade and the legislation never got a Senate committee hearing.

The Texas State Teachers Association called Abbott's announcement Wednesday "very weak."

"The victims' families and all Texans deserve better than that," the association's president, Ovidia Molina, said in a statement.

Anyone can call for a committee. Only a governor can call a special session. ... Do your job.

BETO O'ROURKE

Booming Austin fights US Census headcount

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Associated Press

Austin became the largest U.S. city to challenge its 2020 census figures when it filed an appeal with the Census Bureau last week, saying it has more than the 961,855 residents tallied during the nation's once-a-decade head count.

City officials believe around 7,000 housing units were missed, mostly in newly developed neighborhoods. In some cases, housing units were placed in the wrong location, said Lila Valencia, Austin's city demographer.

Among the 50 biggest U.S. cities, Austin's growth rate of 21.7% between 2010 and 2020 was the second-largest in the nation, trailing only Fort Worth, which grew by 24%. As of last July, Austin was the 11th most populous city in the U.S.

Austin is at the center of one of the most booming metro areas in the U.S., attracting about 150 new residents a day in the middle of the past decade. Figures released last week show that two Austin suburbs, Georgetown and Leander, were the two fastest-growing cities in the U.S. last year, expanding by more than 10% each.

Recently, the Austin metro area has been a jobs magnet.

It's home to Tesla's corporate headquarters as well as a high-tech hub for entrepreneurs attracted to its highly educated workforce and the University of Texas' flagship school.

The census figures were used to divvy up congressional seats among the states and redraw political districts.

Nothing can be done to change numbers for those purposes, but the outcome of any challenges can determine whether the cities and counties get their fair share when it comes to the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in annual federal funding.

Valencia said an inaccurate count would cause Austin to miss an unknown amount of funding for affordable housing, parks and low-income students.

It's unknown how many people live in the 7,000 housing units. However, an average of almost 2.4 people live in each household in Austin, which translates into 16,800 people.

"This affects the quality of life of residents, so it's worth it to make sure we get every single dollar that we deserve," Valencia said.

The 2020 census undercounted the overall U.S. population by only 0.24%. The count was challenged by the coronavirus pandemic, natural disasters and political interference from the Trump administration. But some minority groups were undercounted at greater rates than the previous decade. Historically, racial and ethnic minorities, renters and young children are the people who have been undercounted.

A report released several weeks ago by the Census Bureau showed that Texas was undercounted by 1.9%, which translates to about 560,000 residents. Several states that were undercounted, including Texas, spent less money on promoting census participation. Texas was among several states with undercounts that did not direct as many resources as other states did to encourage residents to fill out census forms.

Until Austin filed an appeal, Detroit had been the largest U.S. city to challenge its 2020 census numbers.

The Census Bureau told Detroit officials that they needed to provide more information before the city's appeal could move forward, a city spokesperson said in an email Wednesday.

States and municipalities have until the middle of next year to appeal their census figures. Challenges are rarely successful, but almost 30 have been launched. They have been filed primarily by small towns and counties, about half of which are in the South.

Residents of prisons, nursing homes and college dorms — places known as group quarters — were among the most difficult people to count during the 2020 census since students on campus were sent home when the pandemic began in the U.S. in March 2020, and prisons and nursing homes went into lockdowns against the spread of the coronavirus.

Because of the difficulties in counting these residents, the Census Bureau created a separate program for challenges of group quarter counts. The bureau will start accepting those appeals next week.

AUSTIN BY THE NUMBERS

21.7%
Growth between 2010 and 2020
150
Number of new residents a day for the past decade
10%
Growth of Georgetown and Leander in last year
7,000
Suspected number of housing units missed in Census count
2.4
Average number of people per household

‘NO JOKE’



Dhroov Bharatia, 13, from Plano competes during the Scripps National Spelling Bee, in Oxon Hill, Md. “The prelims is no joke. Every stage of the bee is so important,” said Dhroov. Leaner and meaner in its post-pandemic iteration, the spelling bee returned to its usual venue this week for the first time in three years, and spellers were greeted with a new preliminary-round format that gave them no time to get comfortable. Read more at www.swjournalist.com.

Biden, formula makers meet

BY ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden on Wednesday acknowledged the strain on families from nationwide shortages of infant formula as he met with manufacturers while his administration tries to address the situation by importing foreign supplies and using the Defense Production Act to speed domestic production.

The White House said a third round of formula shipments from overseas will begin next week, from producer Kendamil in Britain. Shipments from Bubs Australia will be delivered next week as well.

“There’s nothing more stressful than feeling you can’t get what your child needs,” Biden said, adding that as a father and a grandfather, he understands how difficult the shortages have been for parents and their children.

Biden hosted a roundtable with leaders of manufacturers ByHeart, Bubs Australia, Reckitt, Perrigo Co. and Gerber. The list is notable for the absence of Abbott Nutrition, whose Michigan plant was shut down in February over safety concerns, sparking the shortage in the United States.



Workers unload a Fedex Express cargo plane carrying 100,000 pounds of baby formula at Washington Dulles International Airport.

He was joined by Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra and Surgeon General Vivek Murthy. The meeting was a chance to provide an update on what the administration is calling “Operation Fly Formula.” The plan involves importing formula and using the Korean War-era production law that requires suppliers to prioritize their orders, which should ease production bottlenecks.

The White House also said the latest shipments would bring Kendamil formula from Heathrow Airport in London to U.S. airports over a three-week period, starting June 9. The flights will carry about 3.7 million 8-ounce bottle equivalents, shipped free of charge by United Airlines.

The first shipments will include Kendamil Classic Stage 1 and Kendamil Organic formulas, which will be

available at Target stores across the United States.

Bubs Australia will ship the equivalent of 4.6 million 8-ounce bottles of its infant formula on Defense Department-contracted commercial aircraft from its hub in Melbourne, Australia, to Pennsylvania and California on June 9 and June 11, respectively.

Biden said that without such efforts, “it would have taken three weeks to get this product to the United States,” but it arrived “in three days.”

The push on imports will help but will not immediately bring an end to supply shortages that have left people who depend on formula facing empty shelves or limits on purchases.

The Food and Drug Administration began focusing on Abbott’s plant last fall while tracking several bacterial infections in infants who had consumed formula from the facility. The four cases occurred between September and January, causing hospitalizations and two deaths.

After detecting positive samples of rare but dangerous bacteria in multiple parts of the plant, the FDA closed the facility and Abbott announced a massive recall of its formula on Feb. 17.



Lt. Cmdr. Sam Urato points to decals on the fuselage of the Lockheed WP-3D Orion “hurricane hunt” aircraft representing the hurricanes it has penetrated during a hurricane awareness tour at Washington National Airport.

Record-breaking storm season begins

BY SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press

BILLOXI, Miss. — Batten down the hatches for another nasty hurricane season.

Nearly every natural force and a bunch of human-caused ones — more than just climate change — have turned the last several Atlantic hurricane seasons into deadly and expensive whoppers. The season started Wednesday and looks like another note in a record-breaking refrain, experts warn.

They say many factors point to, but don’t quite promise, more trouble ahead: the natural climate event La Nina, human-caused climate change, warmer ocean waters, the Gulf of Mexico’s deep hot Loop Current, increased storminess in Africa, cleaner skies, a multidecade active storm cycle and massive property development along the coast.

“It’s everything and the kitchen sink,” Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach said.

In the past two years, forecasters ran out of names for storms. It’s been

a costly rogue’s gallery of major hurricanes — with winds of at least 111 mph — striking land in the past five years: Harvey, Irma, Maria, Florence, Michael, Dorian, Humberto, Laura, Teddy, Delta, Zeta, Eta, Iota, Grace and Ida.

More Category 4 and 5 hurricanes made U.S. landfall from 2017 to 2021 than from 1963 to 2016, National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said.

Graham, echoing most experts and every preseason forecast, said “we’ve got another busy one” coming.

Last year, the Atlantic set a record for six above-average hurricane seasons in a row, smashing the old record of three in a row, and forecasters predict a seventh in 2022.

The only contrary sign is that for the first time since 2014, a storm didn’t form before the official June 1 start of the hurricane season, but forecasters are watching the Eastern Pacific’s record-setting Hurricane Agatha that looks likely to cross over land and reform as Alex in the Gulf of Mexico later this week.

It’s everything and the kitchen sink
PHIL KLOTZBACH

Gridlock may delay extra COVID funds

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is headed for “a lot of unnecessary loss of life,” the Biden administration said, if Congress fails to provide billions more dollars for the pandemic’s next wave. Yet the quest for that money is in limbo as the latest victim of the election-year gridlock that has stalled or killed a host of Democratic priorities.

President Joe Biden’s appeal for vaccine funding, testing and treatments has hit opposition from Republicans, who’ve fused the fight with the precarious politics of immigration. Congress is in recess, and the next steps are uncertain, despite admonitions from White House COVID-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha of damaging consequences from “every day we wait.”

Administration officials say they’re running low on money to stock up on, or even begin to order, the latest vaccines, tests and treatments. Also lacking are funds to reimburse doctors treating uninsured patients and

to help poor countries control the pandemic.

House and Senate Democrats have been wrangling over how to resolve the stalemate and which chamber should vote first. It’s an open question whether they’ll ever get the Republican Party votes they’ll need to pull the legislation through the 50-50 Senate. Prospects in the narrowly divided House are unclear as well.

“There is still an urgency to pass a COVID relief package,” Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said last week. “It’s very, very much needed.”

Optimists hope the measure could start rolling once Congress returns. Pessimists say without quick resolution, Democrats may not have enough leverage to push the money to passage until early fall. That’s when they could stuff it into legislation that may be needed to finance government — a bill that would avert a federal shutdown, a pre-election distraction Republicans will be desperate to avoid.

John Hinckley released after 41 years in custody

BY JESSICA GRESKO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Hinckley, who shot President Ronald Reagan in 1981, will be freed from all restrictions June 15 as long as he continues to do well living in the community in Virginia as he has for six years, a federal judge said Wednesday. The ruling caps Hinckley’s four-decade journey through the legal and mental health systems.

The judge noted that Hinckley, who turned 67 on Sunday, was profoundly troubled when he shot Reagan but that he had been able to get mental health help. Hinckley has shown no signs of active mental illness since the

mid-1980s, the judge noted Wednesday, and has exhibited no violent behavior or interest in weapons.

Hinckley was confined to a mental hospital in Washington for more than two decades after a jury found him not guilty by reason of insanity in shooting Reagan. Starting in 2003, Friedman began allowing Hinckley to spend longer and longer stretches in the community with requirements such as attending therapy and facing travel restrictions.

Hinckley’s longtime lawyer, Barry Levine, said the case had “started with a troubled young man who inflicted great harm” but that, in the end: “I think we have salvaged a life.”

BRIEFS

Sheryl Sandberg, No. 2 exec at Facebook, steps down

SAN FRANCISCO — Sheryl Sandberg, the No. 2 executive at Facebook owner Meta, is stepping down. Sandberg has served as chief operating officer at the social media giant for 14 years. She’s leaving Meta in the fall and will continue to serve on the company’s board.

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg said in his own Facebook post that Javier Oliván will serve as Meta’s new COO, although it will be a different job than the one Sandberg held for the past 14 years.

While Sandberg has long been Zuckerberg’s No. 2 in the company’s Menlo Park, Calif., headquarters, she also had a very public-facing job, meeting with lawmakers, holding focus groups and speaking out on topics such as women in the workplace and, most recently, abortion.

Sandberg, who lost her husband Dave Goldberg suddenly in 2015, said she is “not entirely sure what the future will bring.”

Accused gunman indicted on terror, hate charges

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The white man accused of killing 10 Black people in a racist attack on a Buffalo supermarket was indicted by a grand jury Wednesday on domestic terrorism and hate crime charges that would carry a mandatory life in prison sentence.

Payton Gendron will be arraigned Thursday on the new, 25-count indictment, building on a previous murder charge prepared in the hours after the May 14 shooting.

The 18-year-old has now also been charged with using a weapon while committing a felony and for the attempted murders of three people who were shot during the attack, but survived. Murder charges were filed for each of the victims including eight customers, the store security guard and a church deacon who drove shoppers to and from the store.

Gendron has pleaded not guilty. The crime and number of victims was likely to guarantee a life sentence if Gendron is convicted.

Shooting kills 1, wounds 2 after Louisiana graduation

NEW ORLEANS — An elderly woman was killed and two men wounded when an argument between two women erupted into gunfire Tuesday morning near the Xavier University of Louisiana Convocation Center after a high school graduation, New Orleans police said.

The males received wounds that were not life-threatening, authorities told news outlets.

Deputy Superintendent Chris Goodly told reporters he did not know whether the people who fought in the parking lot were the ones who pulled guns, or how many guns or bullets were fired.

Three people were being questioned, The Times-Picayune and The New Orleans Advocate reported.

The shooting comes as New Orleans is grappling with rising homicides. The Metropolitan Crime Commission reported 120 homicides as of May 30, up from 80 a year earlier and 51 at this time in 2019 — a year when killings marked a 49-year low.

Mom killed, 2 kids hurt parasailing in Florida Keys

PIGEON KEY, FLORIDA — A woman from Illinois was killed and two young children were injured when a sudden storm prompted a boat captain to cut loose their parasail, which then dragged them across the ocean and slammed them into a bridge in the Florida Keys, authorities said.

A nearby boater saw them hit the water and rushed to rescue them, pulling the victims into his boat and taking them to waiting paramedics, the U.S. Coast Guard said in a news release sent Tuesday night.

The 33-year-old woman from Schaumburg, Illinois, had already died by the time they arrived at the nearby Sunset Grill Marina, authorities said. Her 10-year-old son and 9-year-old nephew were taken to hospitals.

John Callion, a fishing guide, raced around Pigeon Key to reach them and told the Miami Herald that the Memorial Day storm developed suddenly.

The Coast Guard and the state’s wildlife agency are investigating. Neither responded to questions about the boat’s captain Wednesday.

Colorado boat flips 13 people, kills two

PUEBLO, COLORADO — A boat flipped over in high winds on a Colorado lake over Memorial Day weekend, sending 13 people into the water and leaving two dead.

The eight children and three adults were on the large, flat boat at Lake Pueblo State Park when it capsized Sunday evening.

One adult — Jessica Prindle, 38, of the community of Pueblo West — died at the scene, the Pueblo County coroner’s office said.

A Colorado Parks and Wildlife rescue team found a second victim’s body Tuesday morning after an all-night search, the state agency said in a statement. The coroner’s office identified the second victim as Prindle’s husband, 30-year-old Joshua Prindle.

The 11 others in the boat survived and were treated for hypothermia at hospitals, Colorado Parks and Wildlife said in a statement.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIEFS

Colombian drug lord dies in Miama prison

MIAMI — Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela, an elderly leader of the former Cali cartel that smuggled vast amounts of cocaine from Colombia to the United States in the 1980s and 1990s, has died in a U.S. prison, his lawyer said Wednesday.

In 2020, a judge denied Rodríguez Orejuela, who was in his 80s, early release on compassionate grounds from a prison in Butner, North Carolina.

Rodríguez Orejuela and his brother, Miguel, built a huge criminal enterprise that succeeded the Medellín cartel once run by drug lord Pablo Escobar.

The Rodríguez Orejuela brothers were captured in 1995 and imprisoned in Colombia. Gilberto Rodríguez Orejuela's prison release date was scheduled for Feb. 9 2030. His younger brother is serving his sentence at a Pennsylvania prison.

Pipeline rupture spews oil into Libyan desert

CAIRO — A pipeline rupture on Tuesday in Libya is spewing thousands of barrels of oil into the desert, as workers strive to seal off the leak.

The damage to a land pipeline linking the Sarir oil field to the Tobruk terminal on the Mediterranean was the latest blow to Libya's struggling oil industry, as renewed tensions divide the country.

The Arabian Gulf Oil Company, which operates the pipeline, estimates that some 22,000 barrels a day were being lost from the leak. The company blamed lack of pipeline maintenance for the leakage.

The spill comes as crucial oil facilities including the country's biggest field were still closed amid a political impasse that threatens a return of violence. Libya has been wrecked by conflict since the NATO-backed uprising-turned-civil war toppled and later killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

China-based earthquakes kill two, injure 14

BEIJING — Two earthquakes killed at least four people and damaged houses in southwestern China on Wednesday, authorities and state media said.

Fourteen others were injured, at least one seriously, a state broadcaster CCTV said. All of the dead and injured were in Baoxing county in Sichuan province.

A magnitude 6.1 quake struck at a depth of 10 miles in Ya'an city, about 65 miles southwest of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan, the China Earthquake Network Center said. A magnitude 4.5 quake, also in Ya'an, followed three minutes later, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

China's deadliest earthquake in recent years was a 7.9 magnitude quake in 2008 that killed nearly 90,000 people in Sichuan.

Malaysia freezes chicken exports, worries Singapore

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia suspended exports of live chickens Wednesday to guarantee adequate supplies for domestic markets, prompting distress in neighboring Singapore, where chicken rice is a national dish.

Singapore consumers rushed to stock up on fresh chicken ahead of the ban, with local media reporting that shelves in some wet markets and supermarkets have been cleared of the meat.

The Singapore government has urged consumers to switch to frozen chicken and other alternative meats, and is exploring new markets for fresh chicken.

Malaysia's ban comes as countries worldwide grapple with soaring food prices, fueled partly by the Ukraine war. Ukraine is a major exporter of corn and grains that are key components of chicken feed.

Apart from the export ban, Malaysia also abolished import permits for chicken and other foods to boost food supply and curb prices amid public anger.

COVID lockdown removed; Shanghai returns to life

SHANGHAI — China's largest city, Shanghai, began returning to normalcy amid the easing of a strict two-month COVID-19 lockdown that has drawn unusual protests over its heavy-handed implementation.

Shanghai's Communist Party committee issued a letter online proclaiming the lockdown's success and thanking citizens for their "support and contributions." The move came amid a steady rollback in compulsory measures that have upended daily life for millions while severely disrupting the economy and global supply chains.

While defending President and Communist Party Chief Xi Jinping's hardline "zero-COVID" policy, the country's leadership appears to be acknowledging the public backlash against measures seen as trampling already severely limited rights to privacy and participation in the workings of government.

The government says all restrictions will be gradually lifted, but local neighborhood committees still wield considerable power to implement sometimes conflicting and arbitrary policies. The country's borders also remain largely closed and the government has upped requirements for the issuance of passports and permission to travel abroad.

ASSOCIATED PRESS



FRANCISCO SECO / ASSOCIATED PRESS

A volunteer helps a man leaving his home in a building damaged by an overnight missile strike, in Sloviansk, Ukraine.

Food security drops amid Ukraine war

ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS — The U.S. ambassador to the U.N. on Tuesday said the Biden administration supports the shipment of Russian grain and fertilizer to address increasing global food insecurity sparked by the war in Ukraine.

Linda Thomas-Greenfield told reporters at U.N. headquarters that there are no U.S. sanctions on Russian shipments of grain and fertilizer, but she said companies are "a little nervous" and have been holding back.

Thomas-Greenfield said the United States is prepared to give "comfort letters" to grain and fertilizer exporters and insurance companies in an attempt to get badly needed agricultural products out of Russia.

She said the Biden administration is "very supportive" of efforts by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to allow grain exports out of Ukraine by train and the Black Sea, as well as his work to ensure Russian food and fertilizer have unrestricted access to global markets.

A U.N. spokesman said Tuesday that Rebeca Grynspan, the secretary-general of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development, visited Moscow on Monday and held "constructive discussions" with First Deputy Prime Minister Andrei Belousov on facilitating Russian grain and fertilizer exports.

Global hunger levels are at a new

high, Guterres said. He said Ukraine and Russia together produce almost a third of the world's wheat and barley and half of its sunflower oil, while Russia and its ally Belarus are the world's number two and three producers of potash, a key ingredient of fertilizer.

BRUSSELS

The European Union urged its international partners to avoid placing trade barriers on farm products as Russia's war on Ukraine risks further fueling a possible global food crisis.

"We call on all partners not to restrict trade on agricultural products," European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said after an EU summit Tuesday in Brussels.

Ukraine has said Russia is blocking the export of 22 million tons of its grain, some of it destined for Africa. African countries imported 44% of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine between 2018 and 2020, according to the U.N.

Von der Leyen said the EU is trying to help get food out by road and rail, but land transport assistance might only provide for a fifth of Ukraine's usual monthly exports.

"It is of course more tedious and expensive, but it is necessary to get this wheat out," she said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said the EU's sanctions are making things worse. Putin said he's willing

to help ease concerns if the restrictive measures are lifted.

Also in Brussels, the chair of the African Union, Senegal's President Macky Sall, has told European Union leaders that Russia's blockade of Ukraine ports is paving the way for a "catastrophic scenario" of widespread shortages and price hikes across his continent.

In another addressed to the summit, Sall said that a halt to grain and fertilizer exports via the Black Sea is very worrying for a continent hosting 282 million undernourished people. He said that the price of fertilizer across Africa has already tripled compared to 2021.

Charles Michel, the EU Council president, said that "the EU is sparing no efforts to free Ukraine's exports over land and exploring alternative sea routes."

African countries imported 44% of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine between 2018 and 2020, according to U.N. figures. The African Development Bank is already reporting a 45% increase in wheat prices on the continent.

KYIV

Russia's top diplomat has again blamed the hampering of exports of Ukrainian grain and a global food crisis on Kyiv and the West.

Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said earlier in the week that Russia guarantees "free export of Ukrainian grain by ships that are now locked in Ukrainian

ports," but Ukraine first needs to "determine the coastal waters that are in the territorial sea of Ukraine."

Lavrov told a news conference after meeting with his Bahraini counterpart Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani that if that is done, "in the open sea ... Russia's naval forces will ensure the unimpeded passage of these ships to the Mediterranean Sea and further to their destinations."

Lavrov added that the West must consider whether it wants to prioritize "PR" over taking "concrete steps" to solve the issue of food security.

ISTANBUL

Turkey's foreign minister Mevlut Cavusoglu reported Russia's Lavrov will visit Turkey on June 8 for talks that will address among other things opening a Black Sea corridor for Ukrainian grain exports.

Cavusoglu also said in a video interview with the state-run Anadolu news agency that the French and German ambassadors had been summoned to the Foreign Ministry over demonstrations in their countries by groups considered by Ankara to be terrorists.

Turkey has said activities of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, in Sweden and Finland are one of its objections to those countries joining NATO. The PKK is designated a terrorist organization by the European Union and U.S.

Costa Rica hospital hacked

BY JAVIER CÓRDOBA AND CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Another attempted hacking of a Costa Rican government agency's computer system led the country's public health agency to shut down its systems Tuesday to protect itself, complicating the medical care of thousands of people.

At least 30 of the Social Security agency's 1,500 servers were infected with ransomware, according to the government.

The latest breach follows an attack by the Russian-speaking Conti gang in April. That ransomware attack targeted multiple Costa Rican government agencies, especially its finance ministry, which still has not recovered control of some of its systems.

This time the attack appeared to come from another ransomware gang known as "Hive."

Conti and Hive were separate ransomware operations, said Brett Callow, a ransomware analyst at Emsisoft. Some analysts more recently, however, suspect they have established some sort of working relationship.

"Conti likely partnered with other ransomware operations because it's been increasingly challenging for them to collect payments since declaring their support for Russia and threatening attacks on U.S. critical infrastructure," Callow said.

Álvaro Ramos, president of the Social Security agency, said in a news conference Tuesday that the quick shutdown of their systems prevented the cyber criminals from gaining control and encrypting their data as happened in the earlier attacks.

Later Tuesday, however, a portal Hive uses to negotiate with its targets appeared to indicate otherwise.

"To decrypt your systems you have to pay \$5,000,000 in Bitcoin," Hive's message said.

Payroll and pension were not affected, according to the Social Security agency's general manager Roberto Cervantes. He added that some 300 systems experts were working on the issue.

But for Costa Ricans who depend on the public health system, Tuesday was a confusing mess.

Roger González, a retired publicist in San Jose, said he was also told he would not be able to fill his prescriptions in the health center's pharmacy for the next two days and that an electrocardiogram that he was supposed to schedule Tuesday would be put off until systems were back up.

"The first thing the guard told us was that there was no system to wait for the doctor because she would attend to us with the physical (medical) file, not with the computer, because they do not want to turn them on allowing the virus to spread," he said.

The shutdown was also keeping the government from updating its COVID-19 infection numbers and issuing orders to those infected to isolate, according to the Ministry of Health.

Social Security agency officials said they expected their systems to be back up in the coming days.



MYANMAR MILITARY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Four injured people lie on the pavement after an explosion at a bus stop in downtown Yangon on Tuesday. One person was killed and nine wounded when what authorities described as a handmade bomb exploded.

1 killed in Myanmar bombing

BY GRANT PECK
Associated Press

BANGKOK — Myanmar's military government and its opponents traded accusations over a bomb that exploded Tuesday in the middle of the country's largest city, Yangon, killing one and wounding nine others.

Photos and videos of Tuesday's bombing that circulated on social media showing the bloodied victims sprawled on the sidewalk were a sharp reminder of the violence that has engulfed the country since the military seized power last year.

A story in Wednesday's edition of The Global New Light of Myanmar, a state-run newspaper, blamed the People's Defense Forces, the opposition movement's armed wing, but did not supply any evidence linking them to the blast.

The article said the attack was made with a "handmade bomb planted by PDF terrorists at a bus stop" roughly one block from the Sule Pagoda, a city landmark. The blast occurred at 3:20 p.m., and a 30-year-old man died of wounds in his chest and abdomen, state media said.

The Global New Light of Myanmar said a headmistress died and six educational personnel and a civil servant were injured. The blast occurred as state schools were preparing for their seasonal reopening.

The school system has been a battleground

between the military government and its foes, who generally have pressed for a boycott as a sign of rejection of army rule.

The nongovernmental organization Save the Children said in a statement issued Wednesday that there were at least 260 attacks on schools between May 2021 and April this year, and that explosions in and around school buildings accounted for almost three-quarters of that total.

"Attacks on schools, teachers and students have surged over the past year due to the conflict, leaving many of them scared to return to the classroom and, in some cases, with no schools left to attend," the group said.

A spokesperson for the self-styled National Unity Government, the main opposition body that loosely commands the PDF and its various local units, pinned the blame on the military government.

"The brutal genocidal military has been carrying out senseless bombings and killings against its own civilian population across Myanmar," said Sasa, the NUG's Minister of International Cooperation, said in a statement. Sasa uses only one name.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since last year's army takeover seized power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, sparking widespread nonviolent protests that were quashed with lethal force by the army and police. In turn, opponents of military rule took up arms and are now conducting an active insurgency in many parts of the country.

The brutal genocidal military has been carrying out senseless bombings and killings against its own civilian population across Myanmar

SASA



DOMINIC LIPINSKI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II smiles while receiving the President of Switzerland Ignazio Cassis and his wife Paola Cassis during an audience at Windsor Castle in Windsor, England, April 28. Britain is getting ready for a party featuring mounted troops, solemn prayers — and a pack of dancing mechanical corgis during four days of pomp and pageantry in central London.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

UK to hold days-long bash to celebrate queen's 70-year reign

BY DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

The nation will celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's 70-year reign this week with four days of celebration in central London. But behind the music, parties and a planned appearance by the queen on the balcony of Buckingham Palace lies a drive to show the royal family still remains relevant after seven decades of change.

The royals want to show that their support comes from all parts of a society that has become more multicultural amid immigration from the Caribbean, South Asia and Eastern Europe.

As part of the jubilee pageant, dancers from London's Afro-Caribbean community will don costumes of giant flamingos, zebras and giraffes to reimagine the moment in 1952 when Princess Elizabeth learned she had become queen while visiting a game park in Kenya.

The jubilee has caught public attention. Located around the corner from Buckingham Palace, the Cool Britannia gift shop has run out of Platinum Jubilee tea towels. Spoons are sparse. Mugs are in short supply.

It's not just foreign tourists who are buying all things Elizabeth. Visitors from around the U.K. are also hunting for jubilee mementos, said Ismayil Ibrahim, the man behind the counter.

Since assuming the throne after the death of her father on Feb. 6, 1952, Elizabeth has been a symbol of stability as the country negotiated the end of empire, the birth of the com-

puter age and the mass migration that transformed Britain into a multicultural society.

Yet through it all, the queen has built a bond with the nation through a seemingly endless series of public appearances as she opened libraries, dedicated hospitals and bestowed honors on deserving citizens.

The past two years have highlighted the monarchy's strengths as the queen alternately consoled a nation isolated by COVID-19 and thanked doctors and nurses battling the disease.

But the royal family's frailties were also on display as the 96-year-old monarch buried her husband and was slowed by health problems that forced her to turn over important public duties to Prince Charles. The passing came amid the all-too-public tensions with Prince Harry and his wife, the Duchess of Sussex, who made allegations of racism and bullying in the royal household, as well as the sordid allegations about Prince Andrew's links to the convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

"There is no blueprint for a reign of this length, and, subsequently, I think the palace and courtiers are having to improvise all the time," said Ed Owens, a royal historian and author of "The Family Firm: Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public 1932-1953."

"In the case of Elizabeth II, we haven't had a monarch this elderly who has reigned for so long and is so meaningful to so many people having to essentially transfer her role to the next in line."

Thursday, June 2

- 10 a.m.Trooping the Colour will begin early on Thursday, and members of the Royal Family will leave Buckingham Palace at 10.30am for the parade ground. "Trooping the Colour" will be broadcast on BBC One.
- 11 a.m.Trooping the Colour is expected to begin.
- 1 p.m.The RAF flypast over Buckingham Palace is expected, and the Queen and other royals will watch from the palace balcony.
- 9.25 p.m.The Royal Family will gather at Buckingham Palace to watch the Platinum Jubilee's principal beacon be lit.
- 9.45 p.m.Beacons across the UK, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands will then be lit up to mark the Queen's 70-year reign.

For British royalty, there's a Silver Jubilee (25 years), Ruby Jubilee (40 years), Golden Jubilee (50 years), Diamond Jubilee (60 years), Sapphire Jubilee (65 years) and Platinum Jubilee (70 years).



Long in shadow, Charles takes on bigger role

BY DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

Queen Elizabeth II shows no signs of stepping aside after 70 years on the throne. But the aging sovereign is giving Prince Charles, her heir, an increasingly prominent role.

Last month Prince Charles, 73, accompanied by his wife, Camilla, presided over the State Opening of Parliament, one of the monarch's most important duties.

The subtle transition illustrates challenges confronting the royal family as the 96-year-old queen remains on the throne while Prince Charles becomes the ever more public face of the monarchy. As Britain celebrates the queen's Platinum Jubilee this week, the royals are working to cement the position of a sometimes misunderstood heir and demonstrate that the House of Windsor will live on.

It took years for many in Britain to forgive Prince Charles, whose infidelity and longtime links to Camilla torpedoed his relationship with Princess Diana, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997, five years after splitting from Prince Charles.

But the public mood has softened since Prince Charles married Camilla Parker Bowles in 2005.

Earlier this year, the queen sought to bolster the couple's position by expressing her "sincere wish" that Camilla be

known as "Queen Consort" when Prince Charles becomes king.

Prince Charles, meanwhile, has been ready to step in whenever required, most dramatically when he presided over the opening of Parliament and delivered the Queen's Speech, laying out the government's legislative program.

The event is a symbol of the monarch's constitutional role as the U.K.'s head of state.

The choreography of the day emphasized a queen who was absent, yet still present. Her throne was removed, but in its place the Imperial State Crown sat propped on a cushion. Prince Charles wore the uniform of an admiral of the fleet — rather than sweeping ermine robes.

Because he has been waiting in the wings for so long, his passions are well known.

For example, he began campaigning for environmental causes long before they were mainstream concerns. He has been accused of meddling in politics, something the monarch is barred from, by speaking up about property developments he opposed and other issues.

It may be the shape of things to come.

Prince Charles and Camilla will surprise residents at a street party held to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the long-running BBC show "EastEnders."



CARL COURT / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla, the Duchess of Cornwall, listen as Queen Elizabeth II delivers the Queen's Speech during the State Opening of Parliament at the Palace of Westminster in London, June 4, 2014. After spending much of his adult life in the shadow of Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles has taken on a greater public role in recent years, increasingly standing in for his mother in her twilight years.



90°/73°
Partly cloudy

JOURNALISTS GROW IN WORKSHOP
The Center for Editing Excellence welcomed 18 students and working journalists for a 10-day training, where they learned tools of the trade from newspaper professionals and visiting faculty. **FEATURE, 2**



Southwest Journalist

25TH ANNIVERSARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN ■ CENTER FOR EDITING EXCELLENCE ■ SWJOURNALIST.COM ■ FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 2022



With photos of the young victims in Uvalde, Texas, behind her, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Texas Democrat, speaks in support of Democratic gun control measures at the Capitol in Washington on Thursday.

House panel proposes gun safety bill

KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House is swiftly working to put its stamp on gun legislation in response to mass shootings in Texas and New York by 18-year-old assailants who used semi-automatic rifles to kill a total of 31 people, including 19 children.

Debate on the legislation came as the the White House announced President Joe Biden would give a prime-time speech about the shootings and his plans to press Congress “to pass commonsense laws to combat the epidemic of gun violence that is taking lives every day.”

The Judiciary Committee held a hearing Thursday on legislation that would raise the age limit for purchasing semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21. The bill also would make it a federal offense to import, manufacture or possess large-capacity magazines and would create a grant program to buy back such magazines.



PHOTOS BY J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE / ASSOCIATED PRESS

House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., calls to advance a series of gun control measures Thursday.

It also builds on the administration’s executive action banning fast-action “bump-stock” devices and “ghost guns” assembled without serial numbers.

The Democratic legislation, called the Protecting Our Kids Act, was quickly added to the legislative docket after last week’s school shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., promised in a letter to Democratic colleagues Thursday that the House will vote on the measure next week. She also promised other votes in the weeks ahead, including on a bill to create an Amber Alert-style notification during a mass shooting. Pelosi also pledged a hearing on a bill banning military-style semi-automatic rifles.

But with Republicans nearly all in opposition, the House action will mostly be symbolic, merely putting lawmakers on record about gun control ahead of this year’s elections. The Senate is taking a different course. A bipartisan group is striving toward a compromise on gun safety legislation that can win enough GOP support to become law. Those talks are

■ GUN, Page 2

Biden appeals for tougher gun laws

ZEKE MILLER
AND WILL WEISSERT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden delivered an impassioned plea to Congress to take action against gun violence in an address to the nation Thursday night, calling on lawmakers to restore a ban on the sale of assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines after a string of mass shootings. If legislators fail to act, he warned, voters should use their “outrage” to turn gun violence into a central issue in November’s midterm elections.

Speaking at the White House, Biden acknowledged the stiff political headwinds as he sought to drive up pressure on Congress to pass stricter gun limits after such efforts failed following past attacks.

He said if Congress won’t embrace all of his proposals, they must at least find compromise on

other measures, like limiting access to firearms to those with mental health issues or raising the age to buy assault-style weapons from 18 to 21.

“How much more carnage are we willing to accept?” Biden said after two shootings last week. An 18-year-old gunman killed 19 students and two teachers at an elementary school in Uvalde, and on Wednesday in Tulsa, Oklahoma a gunman shot and killed four people and himself at a medical office.

“This time we have to take the time to do something,” Biden said, calling out the Senate, where 10 Republican votes would be needed to pass legislation.

“I know how hard it is, but I’ll never give up and if Congress fails, I believe this time a majority of the American people won’t give up either,” he added. “I believe the majority of you will act to turn your outrage into making this issue central to your vote.”

All major broadcast networks broke away from regular programing to carry Biden’s remarks at 7:30 p.m. EDT, before the start of primetime shows. Biden has given major speeches on the coronavirus pandemic and the chaotic withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan. But the president has used such addresses sparingly during his nearly 18 months in office, especially during evening hours.

Earlier Thursday, Vice President Kamala Harris spoke about the Oklahoma shooting, saying, “All of us hold the people of Tulsa in our hearts, but we also reaffirm our commitment to passing common sense gun safety laws.”

Before marking Memorial Day on Monday, Biden told reporters at the White House that there may be some bipartisan support to tighten restrictions on the kind of high-powered weapons used by the gunman in Uvalde. But he also noted that, while he had taken some steps via ex-

ecutive actions, he didn’t have the power as president to “outlaw a weapon.”

He also said that “things have gotten so bad that everybody’s getting more rational, at least that’s my hope,” adding, “There’s realization on the part of rational Republicans” who realize “we can’t keep repeating ourselves.”

Visiting Uvalde on Sunday, Biden mourned privately for three-plus hours with anguished families. Faced with chants of “do something” as he departed a church service, the president pledged: “We will.”

His Thursday night address coincided with bipartisan talks that are intensifying among a core group of senators discussing modest gun policy changes. Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said the group is “making rapid progress,” and Biden has spoken to Connecticut Sen. Chris

■ BIDEN, Page 2



(Right) Royalist Anita Atkinson, who has collected more than 12,000 items of memorabilia on her way to a tea party in Durham, England, Thursday, for the Platinum Jubilee.

OWEN HUMPHREYS / PA VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Platinum Jubilee continues

Queen leads ceremony, misses Jubilee service

DANICA KIRKA
AND JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth II stepped gingerly onto the Buckingham Palace balcony Thursday, drawing cheers from the tens of thousands who came to join her at the start of a four-day celebration honoring her 70 years on the throne.

Fans sported Union Jack flags, party hats or plastic tiaras. Some had camped overnight in hopes of glimpsing the 96-year-old queen and a chance to watch the Trooping the Color — a military parade marking each sovereign’s official birthday since 1760.

It was one of the first big gatherings in the U.K. since the COVID-19 pan-

demic began.

“Everybody has got the same mission,” said Hillary Mathews, 70, from Hertfordshire. “All the horrors that’s been going on in the world and in England at the moment are put behind us for a day, and we can just enjoy really celebrating the queen.”

Elizabeth, who became queen at 25, is Britain’s longest-reigning monarch and the first to reach seven decades on the throne.

Yet age has begun to catch up with her. Buckingham Palace announced the queen would not attend a thanksgiving church service today after experiencing “some discomfort” at Thursday’s events.

The queen has had trouble moving around in recent months and has

pulled out of many public events, but she took part Thursday night in lighting a chain of ceremonial beacons at Windsor Castle as planned.

“The queen greatly enjoyed” Thursday’s events, according to the palace.

She basked in her moment, chatting with her great-grandson Prince Louis, 4, who occasionally covered her ears as 70 military aircraft swooped over the palace in salute. The display included a formation of fighter jets flying in the shape of the number 70.

The queen was joined on the balcony by more than a dozen royals — though not Prince Harry and his wife, Meghan, who gave up front-line royal duties two years ago. The couple trav-

■ POMP, Page 2



(Back) Claire Schnatterbeck, Victor Swezey, Gayla Murphy, Brady Stone, Jess Huff, Griff Singer, Mark Grabowski, Dania Kalaji, Isaiah Washington, Lauren Guzy, Anna Jackson; (Middle) Anastasia Johnson, Beth Butler, Reegan Saunders, Owen Henderson, Payton Williams, CJ Vetter, Bradley Wilson; (Front) Maya Chadda, Shifra Dayak, Keri Heath, Catherine Wilson.

18 interns, journalists finish training

Eighteen college students and early-career journalists are headed to editing internships or returning to their newsrooms after completing 10 days of intensive preparation at the Center for Editing Excellence at the University of Texas at Austin.

Some of the participants have been placed in internships in multiplatform editing as part of the Dow Jones News Fund internship program. Other participants were sponsored by the Texas Press Association or Southern Newspapers Inc.

The Associated Press allowed students to use the wire services for content and instructional material, and School Newspapers Online hosted the Southwest Journalist website.

Newspaper professionals, visiting faculty and UT journalism faculty moderated training sessions in the first half of the 25th residency program.

In the latter half of the pre-internship training, participants produced three issues of a model daily newspaper, the Southwest Journalist, as well as a companion online and social media product, swjournalist.com.

Grants from the Dow Jones News Fund and contributions from participating news organizations cover the cost of training. After two years of virtual training because of COVID-19, this year's program returned to UT Austin. Participants spent more than eight hours each day on classroom instruction and production of the newspaper and website.

Beth Butler and Bradley Wilson served as co-directors of the workshop with assistance from Kathleen McElroy, Candace Misko and Alice Rentz in the UT School of Journalism.

Faculty also included Mark Grabowski, associate professor at Adelphi University, and Griff Singer, retired senior lecturer at the UT School of Journalism and former director of the workshop.

THE 2022 PARTICIPANTS:

- **Maya Chadda**, Boston University, *WGBH* (Boston)
- **Shifra Dayak**, University of Maryland, *Stars & Stripes*
- **Lauren Guzy**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, *Fredericksburg Standard*
- **Keri Heath**, Wittenberg, BA; Dublin, MA; *Galveston Daily News*
- **Owen Henderson**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, *San Francisco Chronicle*
- **Jess Huff**, Northern Arizona University, *Lufkin Daily News*
- **Anna Jackson**, Belmont University, *Houston Chronicle*
- **Anastasia Johnson**, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, *Los Angeles Times*
- **Dania Kalaji**, University of Georgia, *Bay City News Foundation*
- **Gayla Murphy**, University of Houston-Victoria, *The Brazosport Facts*
- **Reegan Saunders**, Kent State University, *San Francisco Chronicle*
- **Claire Schnatterbeck**, Columbia University, patch.com
- **Brady Stone**, Texas A&M University, *Kansas City Star*
- **Victor Swezey**, Columbia University, *Tampa Bay Times*

- **CJ Vetter**, Texas State University, *Hays Free Press*
- **Isaiah Washington**, American University, *WGAL* (Lancaster, PA)
- **Payton Williams**, Cameron University (2022), *The Lawton Constitution*
- **Catherine Wilson**, University of Maryland College Park, *New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung*

GUEST SPEAKERS:

- **Abigail Allen**, managing editor, *Pilot Point Post-Signal*
- **Ken Cooke**, publisher, *Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post*
- **S. Mitra Kalita**, CEO/co-founder, URL Media Holdings Inc.
- **Corrie MacLaggan**, statewide managing editor for the public radio stations of *The Texas Newsroom*
- **Kathleen McElroy**, director, University of Texas School of Journalism and G.B. Dealey Regents Professor in Journalism
- **Yvonne Mintz**, editor and publisher, *The Facts* (Clute, Texas)
- **Philana Patterson**, deputy editor, newsroom standards and ethics, *The Wall Street Journal*

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- **Shirley Carswell**, executive director, Dow Jones News Fund
- **Mike Hodges**, executive director, Texas Press Association
- **Yvonne Mintz**, editor and publisher, *The Facts* (Clute, Texas) and Southern Newspapers Inc.

Choose small-town news instead of big-city blues

**LAUREN GUZY
AND GAYLA MURPHY**
Southwest Journalist

Working for the “big guys” may be the goal of many young journalists fresh out of college, but the greatest impact might be on a smaller scale.

The Dow Jones News Fund Center for Editing Excellence hosted a Texas Press

Association panel May 27. Award-winning writers and editors spoke to aspiring journalists about the impact they have in their communities, the relationships they have built, and the changes reporters can make at the local level.

All of the panelists are from small Texas towns and spoke on how their journalism careers have been impacted by the people of their communities.

Yvonne Mintz has spent 25 years with The Facts, where she now serves as editor and publisher of the Brazoria County-based paper. She spoke of her active role in the town of Clute, outside of her job.

Mintz is a member of the Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce, and takes an active role at her children's school. She is connected to her role in the community, which motivates her to get important information to her readers.

“I fell in love with the community and my ability to make change within the community. ... I have a job that makes a difference,” Mintz said.

While being a part of the community comes with great reward, being a journalist also

comes with great responsibility, the panelists said. As a member of a newspaper staff, Mintz said there's a delicate balance between her work and her personal life. Mintz and Ken Esten Cooke, publisher and editor of the Fredericksburg Standard-Radio Post, both emphasized the need to maintain a standard of integrity.

“I realize that I have a bully pulpit where I am,” Cooke said. There are numerous outlets where people can choose to get their news, but as long as he reports responsibly, Cooke knows he can effect change, he said.

Cooke said local journalists should be prepared to run into the subjects of their stories around town and in the grocery store aisles. This demonstrates that being a journalist in a small, tight-knit community enables journalists to see the impact their stories have more easily than they can in a large city.

Abigail Allen, managing editor of The Pilot Point Post-Signal, said she frequents her local coffee shop and is known by her readers for her distinctive laugh wherever she goes.

“Those relationships matter a lot,” Allen said. “There's things like that where you make those connections.”

Allen said the most meaningful compliment she can receive from her readers is when a member of the community asks her if she grew up in Denton County.

Allen is not a native, but she has ingrained herself into the area, which impacts her reporting and the work she has put into connecting with the community.

She also accepts that she has an active role as an agent for news.

“I try to be kind when I'm interacting with people because I try to keep in mind I'm an ambassador for the paper,” Allen said.

In wake of two shootings Biden calls for gun law change

Continued from Page 1

Murphy, among those leading their party's efforts on the issue.

The private discussions in the Senate, which is split 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans, are not expected to produce the kinds of sweeping reforms being considered by the Democratic-led House — which has approved expansive background check legislation and will next turn to an assault weapons ban.

But even a House package debated Thursday that is less sweeping but includes a provision raising the required age for buying semi-automatic firearms to 21, faces slim chances in the Senate.

Bipartisan senators are likely to come up with a more incremental package that would increase federal funding to support state gun safety efforts — with incentives for bolstering school security and mental health resources. The package may also encourage “red-flag laws” to keep firearms away from those who would do harm.

While the Senate approved a modest measure to encourage compliance with background checks after a 2017 church mass shooting in Texas and one in Parkland, Florida, the following year, no major legislation cleared the chamber following the devastating massacre of 20 children at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012.

Pomp, celebration fills queen's jubilee

Continued from Page 1

eled to London from California with their two young children to take a low-key part in the celebrations. The monarch decided only working members of the royal family should appear on the balcony. The decision also excluded Prince Andrew, who stepped away from public duties amid controversy over his links with convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Andrew will also miss Friday's church service after testing positive for COVID-19.

The Jubilee is being commemorated with a four-day holiday and events, including a concert at Buckingham Palace on Saturday. Thousands of street parties are planned nationwide, repeating a tradition that began with the queen's coronation in 1953.

Not everyone in the U.K. is celebrating. Many took advantage of the long weekend to go on vacation. Twelve protesters were arrested Thursday after getting past barriers and onto the parade route. The group Animal Rebellion claimed responsibility, saying the protesters were “demanding that royal land is reclaimed.”

Yet the Jubilee gave many people a chance to reflect on the state of the nation and the huge changes that took place during Elizabeth's reign.

John Major, one of the 14 prime ministers during the queen's reign, said the monarch's stoic presence helped steer the country over the decades.

“The queen has represented our better selves for over 70 years,” he told the BBC.

Congratulations arrived from world leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden and Pope Francis. French President Emmanuel Macron called Elizabeth “the golden thread that binds our two countries” and former President Barack Obama recalled the queen's

“grace and generosity” during his first visit to the palace.

Cheers and the clomp of hooves rang out Thursday as horse-drawn carriages carried members of the royal family from Buckingham Palace to a ceremonial parade ground about half a mile away for the Trooping the Color ceremony.

The annual tradition is a ceremonial reenactment of the way battle flags were once displayed for soldiers.

Prince Charles, the 73-year-old heir to the throne, stood in for his mother during the event Thursday.

He rode onto the parade ground on horseback and took the salute of troops in their scarlet tunics and bearskin hats, flanked by his sister, Princess Anne, and oldest son, Prince William.

“I'm very proud of the queen,” said Celia Lourd, 60, one of the spectators. “She's been my queen all my life, and I think we owe her an awful lot for the service she's given to the country.”



EVAN VUCCI / ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Joe Biden speaks about the latest round of mass shootings, from the White House Thursday. Biden is attempting to increase pressure on Congress to pass stricter gun laws after such efforts failed following past shootings.

Gun safety bill spurs debate in congress

Continued from Page 1

making “rapid progress,” according to Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, one of the Republican negotiators.

Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, defended his chamber's proposals as popular with most Americans, dismissing Republican criticism.

“You say that it is too soon to take action? That we are ‘politicizing’ these tragedies to enact new policies?” Nadler said. “It has been 23 years since Columbine. ‘Too soon?’ My friends, what the hell are you waiting for?”

Rep. Jim Jordan of Ohio, the top Republican on the committee, said no one wants another tragedy. But he insisted the House bill would do nothing to stop mass shootings.

A chief feature of the House bill requires those buying semi-automatic weapons to be at least 21. Only six states require someone to be at least 21 years old to buy rifles and shotguns. The shooters in Uvalde and Buffalo were both 18 and used AR-15-style weapons.

Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., said it should be a red flag when an 18-year-old wants to buy “an assault weapon.”

Rep. Dan Bishop, R-N.C., pointed to a U.S. appeals court ruling last month, however, that found California's ban on the sale of semi-automatic weapons to adults under 21 unconstitutional.

“I can tell you this, and let me be clear: You are not going to bully your way to stripping Americans of fundamental rights,” Bishop said.

The hearing featured emotional pleas from Democratic lawmakers for Congress to respond to the mass shootings after years of gridlock on gun issues, including from Rep. Lucy McBath of Georgia. She recalled how her son, Jordan, was shot and killed at a gas station by a man who complained about the loud music he was listening to.

Several lawmakers participated in the hearing remotely, including Rep. Greg Steube, R-Fla., who brandished various pistols in arguing that the bill's provision banning large-capacity magazines of more than 10 rounds amounted to stopping law-abiding citizens from purchasing guns of their choice.

When Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, remarked that she hoped one of the guns Steube was holding was not loaded, Steube replied, “I'm in my house. I can do whatever I want with my guns.”



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2022 ATTENDEES

MAYA CHADDA
Boston University
WGBH (Boston)

SHIFRA DAYAK
University of Maryland
Stars & Stripes

LAUREN GUZY
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Fredericksburg Standard

KERI HEATH
Wittenberg, BA; Dublin, MA
Galveston Daily News

OWEN HENDERSON
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
San Francisco Chronicle

JESS HUFF
Lufkin Daily News

ANNA JACKSON
Belmont University
Houston Chronicle

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Los Angeles Times

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REEGAN SAUNDERS
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San Francisco Chronicle

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BRADY STONE
Texas A&M University
Kansas City Star

VICTOR SWEZEY
Columbia University
Tampa Bay Times

CJ VETTER
Texas State (2022)
Hays Free Press

ISAIAH WASHINGTON
American University
WGAL (Lancaster, PA)

PAYTON WILLIAMS
Cameron University (2022)
The Lawton Constitution

CATHERINE WILSON
University of Maryland College Park (2022)
New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

BRIEFS

Vallejo declares victory in Democratic primary runoff

AUSTIN, Texas— Michelle Vallejo declared victory Wednesday in the Democratic primary runoff for the national battleground 15th Congressional District in South Texas.

Her declaration came eight days after election night, when she emerged with a 23-vote margin over opponent Ruben Ramirez.

Coming out of election night in the 15th District, both Vallejo and Ramirez had agreed the race was too close to call.

By Wednesday, Vallejo's lead had expanded to 33 votes.

But Ramirez was not ready to concede. His campaign said in a statement that "it is essential that every voter has their say before a final call is made." Counties had until the end of day on Thursday to report final numbers to the state.

Candidates can request recounts if their margin is less than 10% of the number of votes their opponent received. Ramirez is currently well within that range.

The Republican nominee for the open seat in the 15th District is Monica De La Cruz, who won her primary in March.

Uvalde PD unaware of incoming 911 calls

UVALDE — The commander at the scene of the Uvalde school shooting was not informed of 911 calls coming from students trapped inside the building, a Texas state senator said Thursday.

Sen. Roland Gutierrez said the Commission on State Emergency Communications told him the pleas for help from people inside Robb Elementary School on May 24 did not make their way from city police to school district police Chief Pete Arredondo. The Democratic senator called it a "system failure."

Since the shooting, much of the focus has turned to Arredondo. Steven McCraw, the head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, said Arredondo made the "wrong decision" to not order officers to attempt to breach the classroom as 911 calls were being made to the outside.

Texas tops No. 5 seed UCLA in softball World Series

OKLAHOMA CITY — Texas freshman Mia Scott went 4 for 4 and helped the Longhorns defeat No. 5 seed UCLA 7-2 in the opening game of the Women's College World Series.

She had a triple, a double and two singles for the Longhorns (44-19-1), who hadn't won a World Series game since a semifinal run in 2013.

Texas' Hailey Dolcini held the Bruins to six hits in a complete game victory.

Texas advanced to play the winner of Thursday's Oklahoma-Northwestern game on Saturday. UCLA (48-9) will play an elimination game against the Oklahoma-Northwestern loser on Friday.

Texas' Bella Dayton hit a two-run homer in the sixth that chased Holly Azevedo. It was just Dayton's fifth homer of the season, and it put the Longhorns up 7-0.

Former Cowboys' back found dead at 38

FRISCO — Former Dallas Cowboys running back Marion Barber III, who is fourth in franchise history with 47 rushing touchdowns, has died at 38, the team said Wednesday.

Barber played a final season with Chicago in 2011 after spending his first six years with the Cowboys. He had issues with mental health after his career.

Police in the Dallas suburb of Frisco said Wednesday they made a welfare check at an apartment "believed to be leased" by Barber and were investigating an unattended death there.

The Cowboys, who have their headquarters in Frisco, said they were "heartbroken by the tragic death."

Barber, a former Minnesota player, was third on Dallas' career list for rushing touchdowns before getting passed in 2021 by two-time NFL rushing champion Ezekiel Elliott. He finished with 53 overall and never had fewer than four in any of his seven seasons.

Efforts to shrink dead zone in Gulf not working

NEW ORLEANS — Decades of work haven't shrunk the oxygen-depleted "dead zone" that forms each year in the Gulf of Mexico.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is forecasting that this year's will be about the 35-year average. The dead zone is forecasted to be about 5,364 square miles, NOAA said in a news release.

A federal-state task force — the Interagency Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force — has set a long-term goal of reducing the dead zone to 1,900 square miles, which is about 35% of the current average.

The Gulf dead zone is largely created by urban and agricultural runoff and discharges of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Mississippi River. In the Gulf of Mexico, the nutrients feed an overgrowth of algae, which die and sink to the bottom, using up oxygen from the ocean floor.

The dead zone that stretches along most of Louisiana's coast and into Texas waters is the second largest human-caused dead zone, University of Louisiana scientists Nancy Rabalais and Eugene Turner wrote.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AND THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

W-I-N-N-E-R



AP PHOTO/ALEX BRANDON

Harini Logan, a 14-year-old from San Antonio, competes in the Scripps National Spelling Bee finals during the first spell-off in 100 years. She spelled words like "charadriiform" and "taumachian" before correctly rattling through 21 words in a row in the spell-off, six more than Vikram's 15.

Mental health plans failed town

KAREN BROOKS HARPER
The Texas Tribune

By most accounts, the Uvalde school gunman was the type of person a \$290 million Texas youth mental health program was designed to reach — before his apparent instability could escalate to mass violence.

But it hadn't reached Salvador Ramos when the 18-year-old high school dropout — whose adolescent years were reportedly beset by truancy, cruelty to animals and violence — walked into Robb Elementary with an assault rifle and killed 19 kids and two teachers, health officials said.

Created by state lawmakers in 2019 and already present in 300 school districts comprising some 40% of the state's school population, the Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium of experts has treated more than 6,000 students identified by school staff and doctors as being at high risk for hurting themselves or others.

Ramos' school district was on the list to be offered entry into the program but has not been formally included yet because the program is still ramping up, said Dr. Steven R. Pliszka, chair of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at UT Health San Antonio.

The teen gunman, many in the



WONG MAYE-E/ ASSOCIATED PRESS

Uvalde resident Eloise Castro, 75, visits a memorial site on May 27 in the town square for the victims killed in last week's elementary school shooting.

mental health community say, might have been identified early and perhaps even diverted from that devastating path had more resources been available to him and those around him as he grew up in an underserved area.

Abbott, a pro-gun Republican who pushed for the creation of the consortium after the deadly 2018 mass shootings in El Paso and Odessa, insisted in the hours after the Uvalde massacre that the problem was rooted in the lack of mental health services in that rural area, not lax Texas gun laws.

That was at least part of the reasoning behind the state's creation of the child mental health consortium, which first appeared in 2018 in a School Safety Action Plan pushed by Abbott to avoid more mass shootings, particularly in schools.

A day after the shootings, Abbott said authorities were unaware of any criminal or mental illness history that could have identified Ramos as a potential threat.

But he also said mental illness was described by the sheriff and other local

officials as "the problem here."

According to media interviews with Ramos' friends, family and others who knew him, the teenager was about to be denied high school graduation in Uvalde because of excessive truancy.

He was characterized as a bully who had at one point been teased about a stutter and a lisp. Social media posts he made were threatening and, by classmates' accounts, he had a hard time making and keeping friends.

His father didn't have much contact with him, and family members have described his mother as a drug user. The house the teen once shared with her was visited by police several times during arguments between the two, with Ramos accusing his mother of trying to kick him out.

But when it comes to services for Uvalde's troubled youth and mentally ill, there is little debate about how much access they have there.

"It's a fairly underserved area," Pliszka said.

Because the shooting both highlighted the more urgent need for services there and likely created the need for them for those left behind, Uvalde schools are now being offered access to those services immediately, Pliszka said.

Gutierrez calls exclusion a 'slap in the face'

JAMES BARRAGÁN
The Texas Tribune

UVALDE—Texas state Sen. Roland Gutierrez, a Democrat who represents Uvalde, said his exclusion from a special legislative committee designed to make recommendations in response to the Uvalde shooting was an insult to Uvalde residents.

"I do consider it a slap in the face to the people of Uvalde," said Gutierrez, who has been vocal on the need for gun safety since the shooting. "They didn't have their representative there."

The committee members are appointed by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, a Republican whom Gutierrez has been critical of in the past.

The three committee leaders Patrick selected are conservative Republicans who are unlikely to entertain legislative recommendations tightening gun control.

Sen. Bob Nichols, a Republican from Jacksonville, will chair the com-

mittee. Sens. Brandon Creighton, a Conroe Republican, and Lois Kolkhorst, a Brenham Republican, will be co-vice chairs.

"These three leaders have the experience and knowledge to lead this important committee," Patrick said in a statement announcing the members.

Eight Republicans and three Democrats are on the committee.

The special committee was formed after Gov. Greg Abbott called for legislators to come up with solutions regarding school safety, mental health and other topics.

Gutierrez has been critical of Abbott, saying legislators studied these issues after mass shootings in the state in 2018 and 2019.

"We've seen this show before from Greg Abbott," Gutierrez said. "The same roundtables that he did after Sutherland Springs, the same recommendations that he issued after El Paso and the same concerns that were

Man ravages artwork at Dallas museum

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — A man broke into the Dallas Museum of Art and caused more than \$5 million in damage, including smashing three ancient Greek artifacts before he was arrested, police said.

Brian Hernandez, 21, is charged with criminal mischief of more than or equal to \$300,000, which is punishable by five years to life in prison. He was booked Thursday into the Dallas County jail with bond set at \$100,000. Jail records list no attorney for Hernandez.

According to police, Hernandez used a metal chair to break into the museum about 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

and began a destructive rampage.

He broke into a display case and smashed a sixth-century B.C. Greek amphora and a Greek pot dating to 450 B.C. Police say those two items alone were worth about \$5 million.

Hernandez also smashed a bowl from the sixth century B.C., worth about \$100,000, and a ceramic Caddo effigy bottle valued at about \$10,000.

Building security rushed to apprehend Hernandez, who was unarmed, police said. Police did not immediately know what prompted the incident.

The attack came three days after a man, disguised as an elderly woman, threw cake at the glass protecting the Mona Lisa in the Louvre Museum in Paris. The painting not damaged.

Employers: ‘Where is everyone?’

Teens hold power in summer job market as wages rise

PAUL WISEMAN
AND MAE ANDERSON
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Employers in America’s vast hospitality sector all have similar laments: They can’t fill many of their summer jobs because open positions far exceed the number of people willing and able to fill them, even at increased wages.

But some help may be coming. School’s out for summer, cutting loose millions of high school and college students.

Teens are in an unusually commanding position. Researchers at Drexel University predicted that an average of 33% of 16- to 19-year-olds will be employed each month this summer, the highest such rate since 2007.

Lara Beckius, a junior at Connecticut College, said she went from being stressed about finding a job to being stressed about choosing among multiple offers. Beckius settled on an internship at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

“It was a little crazy,” said the 19-year-old from Avon, Connecticut. “It went from, ‘Am I going to have something this summer?’ to having four opportunities and, ‘Which one am I going to take?’”

Today’s level of teen employment isn’t close to what it used to be. In August 1978, 50% of America’s teenagers were working. Around 2000, teenage employment went into a decadelong slide before slowly rising again as the economy recovered in 2010.

Longer-term economic forces and changing personal choices kept teens away from work, too. The U.S. econ-



ROBERT F. BUKATY / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beth Duckworth fills a display cabinet with sweet treats at The Goldenrod, a popular restaurant and candy shop on Wednesday in York Beach, Maine. The business is looking to hire 30 to 40 more workers in addition to the 70 or so it now employs.

omy now offers fewer low-skill, entry-level jobs than in the 1970s and 1980s. Many jobs that do remain are increasingly likely to be taken by older workers, many of them immigrants.

COVID and its economic damage changed everything, but now, the U.S. unemployment rate has dropped to 3.6%, just above a half-century low. On average, there are now roughly two jobs available for every unemployed American.

Suddenly, teenagers are in greater demand. The pay available to them — \$15 or \$16 an hour for entry-level work — is drawing some back into the job market. Teenage employment has already topped pre-pandemic levels even though the overall employment still hasn’t.

“We have this big gap in the market now,” said Julia Pollak, an economist at ZipRecruiter. “There are no takers for jobs that are typically given to teens for

pocket money.”

Lauren Gonzalez, who operates two hostels with her sister, is looking for a barista, a bartender, an events manager and a sales manager. She recently raised pay for housekeepers and receptionists, jobs she had previously had little trouble filling.

Gonzalez said, “I definitely throw my hands in the air sometimes and say: ‘Where is everyone?’”

Surgeon target of gunman

SEAN MURPHY
AND JILL BLEED
Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — A gunman who killed his surgeon and three other people at a Tulsa medical office Wednesday blamed the doctor for his continuing pain after a recent back operation and bought an AR-style rifle just hours before the rampage, police said Thursday.

The gunman called the clinic repeatedly, complaining of pain, and specifically targeted the doctor who performed the surgery, Tulsa Police Chief Wendell Franklin said.

That physician, Dr. Preston Phillips, died, along with Dr. Stephanie Husen, receptionist Amanda Glenn and medical center visitor William Love, police said.

The attack occurred on the campus of Saint Francis Health System in Tulsa. The chief identified the shooter as Michael Louis, 45, of Muskogee, Oklahoma.

Police have received reports that 73-year-old Love, who was accompanying a patient to the doctor’s office, held a door shut in hopes of allowing others to flee from the gunman through another door, Franklin said.

Louis carried a letter that “made it clear that he came in with the intent to kill Dr. Phillips and anyone who got in his way,” Franklin said.

He said Louis called the doctor’s office “several times over several days” reporting he was still in pain.

Police responded to the call about three minutes after dispatchers received the report at 4:52 p.m. and made contact with the gunman at 5:01 p.m., authorities said Wednesday.



SETH WENIG / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stormy Daniels and her attorney Michael Avenatti leave federal court in New York in 2018. Avenatti was sentenced Thursday to four years in prison for cheating Daniels, his client.



MARKUS SCHREIBER / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adult film actress Stormy Daniels arrives at the adult entertainment fair “Venus” in Berlin 2018. Daniels was Avenatti’s client and a porn actor who catapulted him to fame.

Michael Avenatti gets 4 years for defrauding Stormy Daniels

BOBBY CAINA CALVAN
AND LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEWYORK — Michael Avenatti was sentenced Thursday to four years in prison for stealing book proceeds from Stormy Daniels, the porn actor who catapulted him to fame when he represented her in courtrooms and on cable news programs during her legal battles with then-President Donald Trump.

The incarcerated California lawyer learned his fate in Manhattan federal court, where Judge Jesse M. Furman said Avenatti will spend another 2 1/2 years in prison on top of the 2 1/2 years he is already serving for a previous fraud conviction.

At trial earlier this year, Avenatti represented himself, cross-examining Daniels for hours about their experiences in early 2018, when she signed a book deal that provided an \$800,000 payout. Prosecutors said he illegally pocketed about \$300,000 of her advance on “Full Disclosure,” published in fall 2018.

At the time, Avenatti represented Daniels in lawsuits meant to free her from a \$130,000 hush payment she received shortly before the 2016 presidential election to remain silent about a tryst she said she had with Trump a decade earlier. Trump denied it.

The judge said Avenatti’s crime against Daniels was made “out of desperation” when his law firm was struggling. He called Avenatti’s behavior “craven and egregious” and blamed it on “blind ambition.”

Avenatti was also convicted of aggravated identity theft and wire fraud in the Daniels case. Furman said he believed the four-year sentence “will send a message to lawyers” that,

if they go astray, they will lose their profession and their liberty.

Avenatti, wearing a drab beige prison uniform and shackled at the feet, choked up several times as he delivered a lengthy statement before the sentence was announced, saying he had “disappointed scores of people and failed in a cataclysmic way.”

Daniels was not in court. Her current attorney, Clark Brewster, spoke on her behalf, saying it was “truly shocking” that Avenatti tried to portray himself as a champion of his clients during his statement.

Avenatti is already serving a 2 1/2-year sentence for trying to extort Nike. He was convicted in 2020 of threatening to ruin the shoemaker’s reputation if it did not pay him up to \$25 million.

He also faces a retrial in California on charges that he cheated clients and others out of millions of dollars there.

In a presentence submission, Avenatti’s lawyers cited an apology letter Avenatti wrote to Daniels in which he said: “I am truly sorry.”

But last week, prosecutors in a sentencing submission urged that he face “substantial” additional time in prison for a wire fraud conviction and criticized his apology letter, saying the 51-year-old failed to apologize for his actual crime.

They recalled that, during “an extremely lengthy” cross-examination with Daniels, he “berated his victim for lewd language and being a difficult client, questioned her invasively about marital and familial difficulties, and sought to cast her as crazy, much as he did during the course of his fraud to prevent her own agent and publisher from responding to her pleas for help.”

Local governments turn away \$73M of federal aid

DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — From small towns to big cities, every government across the U.S. was offered a slice of \$350 billion in federal coronavirus relief funds to help shore up their finances, cover pandemic-related costs and invest in community projects.

Officials in 1,468 local governments effectively said “no,” turning away a potential total of \$73 million, according to an Associated Press analysis of data from every state. The declined money ranged from \$177 for the one-person village of Monowi, Nebraska, to \$3.9 million for DeWitt County, Texas, and its population of about 20,000.

West Alton, Missouri, with 500 residents, turned down \$106,341 in federal aid. Though that amount was almost half as much as the city’s budget, there wasn’t much discussion about accepting it during a city council meeting.

“The conversation probably lasted 15 seconds. Without having really any need for it, it wasn’t something we felt like we wanted to get in the middle of,”

Mayor Willie Richter said.

Other small-town mayors and village administrators provided a variety of reasons for rejecting the federal money. Some thought they had no eligible uses for it. Others didn’t want to deal with the federal bureaucracy or were politically opposed to the financial aid approved last year by the Democratic-led Congress.

The AP analysis identified 1,460 small cities, towns, villages or townships that declined a potential allocation of \$61 million. That amounts to about 5% of the nation’s roughly 28,000 small local governments, but just 0.3% of the total dollars allotted for those entities. Eight counties also have forgone a total of \$12 million. No states or territories declined funds.

The U.S. Treasury Department said it was pleased with the overall re-

sponse to the American Rescue Plan, which was the first time it had distributed money to such a broad swath of governments.

“The vast, vast, vast majority of recipients saw a need to use these funds,” said Jacob Leibenluft, the Treasury’s chief recovery officer.

Data released by the Treasury shows that, as of the end of 2021, 1,756 states, territories and larger cities and counties had budgeted about \$106 billion of the initial \$208 billion they received. That money helped expand high-speed internet, assist residents with housing costs, provide aid to small businesses, shore up depleted unemployment funds and pay for public health initiatives and government services, among other things.

The Treasury hasn’t released data yet on how smaller governments used

the money.

The Village of the Branch, on New York’s Long Island, probably could have used the federal aid to improve the village hall, pave streets or repair water drainage systems, Mayor Mark Delaney said. But that wasn’t clear to him and other board members when they declined the funds before New York’s decision deadline. At that time, the eligible uses seemed limited and the federal reporting burdensome, Delaney said.

Under a final Treasury rule issued in January, the village could have used its entire \$183,149 allotment for almost any government services. But by then, the village’s share had been reallocated among other local governments.

“Because you did the right thing and you responded quickly, you basically lost out on an opportunity,” Delaney said.

The Treasury Department said it worked with states and associations for local governments to simplify the application process, clarify the rules and encourage participation.

BRIEFS

Harvey Weinstein’s rape conviction upheld

NEW YORK — A New York appeals court on Thursday upheld Harvey Weinstein’s rape conviction and 23-year prison sentence, rejecting his claim that the judge at his landmark #MeToo trial unfairly allowed women to testify about allegations that weren’t part of the case.

The ruling by a five-judge panel affirmed one of the highest-profile verdicts to date.

Weinstein, 70, was convicted in New York in February 2020 of forcibly performing oral sex on a TV and film production assistant in 2006 and raping an aspiring actress in 2013. He was acquitted of first-degree rape and two counts of predatory sexual assault stemming from allegations of a mid-1990s rape.

Weinstein is jailed in California, where he was extradited last year and is awaiting trial on charges he assaulted five women in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills from 2004 to 2013.

Man denies kidnapping charge in alleged murder-for-hire plot

Man denies kidnapping in alleged murder-for-hire plot

BURLINGTON, Vt. — A Colorado man pleaded not guilty Thursday in federal court in Vermont to kidnapping a man who was later found shot to death in a snowbank in 2018. Federal prosecutors allege it’s a murder-for-hire case stemming from a financial dispute.

Prosecutors say they believe Jerry Banks, 34, of Fort Garland, Colorado, killed Gregory Davis, 49, of Danville, Vermont, but Banks has not been charged in the killing.

Davis was abducted from his Danville, Vermont, home on Jan. 6, 2018, and found shot to death the next day in a snowbank on a back road.

In a filing Monday, prosecutors wrote that Davis threatened to go to the FBI with information that Serhat Gumrukcu, 39, defrauded Davis in a 2015 multimillion-dollar oil deal.

Gurumkcuc was facing felony fraud charges in California in 2017 and was working on a deal that came together soon after Davis’ death that gave him a significant ownership stake in Enochian Bioscience, which the filing says gave him motive to prevent Davis from reporting another fraud.

Brittney Griner answering WNBA players’ emails

MOSCOW — WNBA player Brittney Griner has been able to receive emails and letters from fellow players to an account Griner’s agent set up to allow them to communicate with her.

The emails are printed out and delivered sporadically in bunches to Griner by her lawyers after being vetted by Russian officials.

Griner doesn’t have access to email, her lawyers said. She either writes a response on paper and her lawyers take a photo of it or she dictates a response.

The two-time Olympic gold medalist has been detained in Russia for 105 days after vape cartridges containing oil derived from cannabis were allegedly found in her luggage at an airport near Moscow.

She now faces drug smuggling charges that carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Last month, the Biden administration said Griner is being wrongfully detained. In May, her detention was extended another month until at least the middle of June.

Sea turtle delivers eggs after shark attack

MIAMI — A loggerhead turtle whose left fin was destroyed in a shark attack is rehabbing at Zoo Miami’s new Sea Turtle Hospital, where veterinarians were able to save more than 100 of her eggs after she was rescued.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission sent the turtle to the hospital on May 22.

An ultrasound determined that the 50-year-old, 388-pound turtle was pregnant. She also had scars on the shell that indicated she had been previously hit by a boat and attacked by another shark earlier in life, officials said.

The hospital staff stabilized the turtle in a recovery tank and gave her fluids, vitamins and food. By Tuesday morning she had deposited over 100 eggs. Then they treated her shark bite injury during a 7-hour surgery.

Officials said she’ll be closely monitored for several weeks until she’s healthy enough to return to the wild.

Boston explosions send 1 to hospital, force evacuations

BOSTON — Two manholes exploded in downtown Boston on Thursday morning, forcing the evacuation of two buildings and sending one person to the hospital with burns, authorities said.

The explosions were reported around 8:30 a.m. near the High Street and Federal Street area in the Financial District.

The cause remains under investigation, but Deputy Fire Chief Brian Tully said at a news conference at the scene that there “may have been an overpressure situation.”

Electric utility Eversource also responded to assist with the investigation, spokesperson William Hinkle said. No utility crews were working in the area at the time, and no customers lost power, he said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BRIEFS

Protester killed in Guinea anti-junta demonstration

CONAKRY, Guinea — One person was killed in Guinea's capital during protests against fuel price hikes, said opposition leaders and witnesses. It was the first demonstration since a junta seized control in September during a coup d'état in the West African nation. The young man was shot dead Wednesday at nightfall in Hamdallaye, a suburb of the capital that is considered to be a stronghold of opposition parties and junta critics.

The National Front for the Defense of the Constitution, a coalition of civil society groups that oppose the junta, accused the defense and security forces of using live ammunition.

"The bloody repression of the demonstrations by the defense and security forces contrasts with Col. Doumbouya's takeover speech, in which he castigated the (previous government's) killings of demonstrators and who had pledged not to commit the same," the groups said.

Russian bishop escapes EU sanctions thanks to Orban

BRUSSELS — The head of the Russian Orthodox Church has been removed from the latest round of European Union sanctions punishing Russia's invasion of Ukraine, four EU diplomats told The Associated Press.

Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church had been initially among individuals the 27-nation EU bloc wanted to sanction, but the proposal needed to be approved unanimously. It was removed at the insistence of Hungary, a nation perceived as Moscow's closest ally in the bloc.

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban threatened to derail the whole package of sanctions at the leader's summit unless he got guarantees his country would not immediately be affected by the oil embargo. Hungary is more heavily dependent on Russian energy than most EU nations.

Kirill, the head of one of the largest and most influential churches in Eastern Orthodoxy, has justified Russia's invasion on spiritual grounds, describing it as a "metaphysical" battle against the West and its "gay parades."

Croatia will begin using euro, says EU top official

BRUSSELS — The European Union's chief executive said Wednesday that Croatia is ready to join the group of countries using the euro, the common currency of the EU, at the start of next year.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said in a tweet that the EU executive branch she heads believes "Croatia is ready to adopt the euro on 1 January 2023."

The move would bring the number of countries using the euro to 20. But the commission's recommendation must first be approved by member countries, likely in the first half of July.

Joining the single currency, "will make Croatia's economy stronger, bringing benefits to its citizens, businesses and society at large. Croatia's adoption of the euro will also make the euro stronger," von der Leyen said.

4 Kenyans shot dead in wildlife protest

NAIROBI, Kenya — A demonstration in Kenya against the threats posed by wildlife turned deadly when four protesters were shot and killed, police said Thursday.

The protesters clashed with security forces, resulting in the fatal shootings, Mashuru town police chief Charles Chepkonga said, adding that police would investigate what happened.

In a statement, Kajiado county Gov. Joseph Ole Lenku called on police to avoid using "excessive force" and urged Kenyan wildlife authorities to "keep their animals away from our people."

Thursday's demonstration blocked the Nairobi-Mombasa highway for hours as protesters placed rocks and burning tires on the road, leading police to intervene.

Residents have repeatedly called on the Kenya Wildlife Service to find a solution to the conflicts between people and animals, with farmers upset that elephants destroy their crops and at times kill people.

Gauff, Nadal advance in French Open

PARIS — American tennis standout Coco Gauff, 18, has reached her first Grand Slam final after beating Martina Trevisan of Italy 6-3, 6-1 at the French Open.

The 18th-seeded Gauff will face No. 1 Iga Swiatek for the championship Saturday.

Polish player Swiatek, meanwhile, advanced to the final after beating Daria Kasatkina of Russia 6-2, 6-1 in a dominant victory that ties her with Serena Williams for the second-longest winning streak of this century at 34 victories in a row.

On the men's side, No. 5-seeded Rafael Nadal will play No. 3 Alexander Zverev in a semifinal game Friday. The winner will advance to Sunday's final against either 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic of Croatia or No. 8 Casper Ruud of Norway, who meet in Friday's other semifinal.

Facing chronic pain in his left foot with "no idea" how long is left in his Paris career, Nadal, 36, beat No. 1 seed and defending champion Novak Djokovic on Tuesday to make the semifinal.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

China's policy aims toward Taiwan

JOE MCDONALD
Associated Press

BEIJING — China's government accused Washington of jeopardizing peace Thursday, after U.S. envoys began trade talks with Taiwan aimed at deepening relations with the self-ruled island democracy claimed by Beijing.

Talks that started Wednesday cover trade, regulation and other areas based on the countries' "shared values" as market-oriented economies, according to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

The office did not mention China but the talks add to gestures that show U.S. support for Taiwan amid threats of invasion by Beijing.

Trade dialogues "disrupt peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Zhao Lijian, a foreign ministry spokesperson said.

Lijian called on Washington to "stop negotiating agreements with Taiwan that have sovereign connotations and official nature."

Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a civil war that ended with the ruling Communist Party's victory on the mainland. They have multibillion-dollar trade and investment ties but no of-



LIU ZHENG / ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTO

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian briefs the media at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs office on April 6 in Beijing.

ficial relations. Beijing says Taiwan has no right to conduct foreign relations.

The United States has diplomatic relations only with Beijing but extensive informal ties with Taiwan. The U.S. government is committed by federal

law to see that the island has the means to defend itself.

Zhao accused Washington of encouraging calls for independence, a step Beijing has said previously would be grounds for an invasion.



SALVADOR MELENDEZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maria Dolores Garcia, the mother of Esmeralda Dominguez, looks out at the plants dying in her daughter's unattended garden, in the Sisiguayo community in Jiquilisco, El Salvador, on May 12. Her daughter is among thousands arrested since the congress granted President Nayib Bukele a state of emergency declaration suspending civil liberties after street gangs killed dozens of people in late March.

El Salvador gang arrests called arbitrary by amnesty groups

MARCOS ALEMÁN
AND CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN
Associated Press

LA LIMONERA, El Salvador — Esmeralda Dominguez was about 100 yards from home April 19 when soldiers and police blocked her. Her aunt, who lived nearby, protested. Domínguez was no criminal, she insisted. A soldier loaded the young woman into a truck.

Over the past 10 weeks, El Salvador's security forces have arrested more than 36,000 people since the congress granted President Nayib Bukele the power to suspend some civil liberties to pursue powerful street gangs. Lawmakers extended those powers another 30 days last week as public opinion polls showed broad popular support.

However, a growing number of

the arrests appear unjustified, human rights groups allege.

Cristosal, a nongovernmental organization, has documented more than 500 cases of arbitrary arrests since the state of exception was imposed March 27, according to its director, Noah Bullock. Amnesty International said Thursday its investigators found thousands of people had been arrested without legal requirements met.

Bukele sought the expanded powers after El Salvador's street gangs killed dozens of people in late March. Two weeks into the mass detentions, the president acknowledged there could be an "error," and 1% of those arrested may not have any ties to the gangs.

Now, under the new powers, authorities do not have to give a reason to arrest. Detainees can be held 15

days without seeing a judge and without access to lawyers.

When those arrested finally get a lawyer, the public defender's office is overwhelmed. Domínguez's family and some 50 others made filings with the courts which order that someone in custody be brought before a court and place the burden of proof on the government. Cristosal has been helping with many of those cases, including Domínguez's.

The most common crime attributed to those arrested, including Domínguez, is illegal association for allegedly belonging to a gang. Judges have ordered nearly 26,000 people held in jail, prosecutors say.

In a court hearing May 2, the judge ordered Domínguez to six more months of pretrial detention.



NAYIB BUKELE

Party:
Nuevas Ideas

Age: 40

Bukele's presidency has been marked by bold gestures and a disregard for the rule of law.

High prices could blunt impact of Russian oil ban

LORNE COOK
AND SAMUEL PETREQUIN
Associated Press

BRUSSELS — The European Union's decision to ban nearly all oil from Russia to punish the country for its invasion of Ukraine is a blow to Moscow's economy, but its effects may be blunted by rising energy prices and other countries willing to buy some of the petroleum, industry experts say.

EU leaders agreed late Monday to cut Russian oil imports by about 90% over the next six months.

The 27-country bloc relies on Russia for 25% of its oil and 40% of its natural gas, and European countries that are even more heavily dependent on Russia had been reluctant to act.

European heads of state hailed the decision as a watershed, but analysts were more circumspect.

The EU ban applies to all Russian oil delivered by sea. At Hungary's insistence, it contains a temporary exemption for oil delivered by the Russian Druzhba pipeline to certain landlocked countries in Central Europe.

In addition to retaining some European markets, Russia could sell some of the oil previously sold in Europe to China, India and other customers



MICHAŁ DYJUK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Polish President Andrzej Duda and Poland's Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki brief the media during a joint news conference at the headquarters of Poland's Power Grid in Konstancin-Jeziorna, Poland on Thursday.

in Asia, though it will have to offer discounts, said Chris Weafer, CEO at consulting firm Macro-Advisory.

"Now, for the moment, that's not financially too painful for Russia because global prices are elevated. They're much higher than last year," he said. "So even Russia offering a dis-

count means that it's probably selling its oil for roughly what it sold for last year."

Moscow has traditionally viewed Europe as its main energy market, making Monday's decision the most significant effort yet to punish Russia for its war in Ukraine.

"The oil embargo will speed up the countdown to the collapse of the Russian economy and war machine," Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said.

Matteo Villa, an analyst at the Institute for Political Studies a Milan think tank, said Russia will take a pretty significant hit now but cautioned that the move could eventually backfire.

"The risk is that the price of oil in general goes up because of the European sanctions. And if the price goes up a lot, the risk is that Russia starts to earn more, and Europe loses the bet," he said.

Like previous rounds of sanctions, the oil ban is unlikely to persuade the Kremlin to end the war.

Moscow seized on the new sanctions to try to rally public support against the West, describing the West as bent on destroying Russia.

Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's Security Council and former Russian president, said the oil ban aims to reduce the country's export earnings and force the government to scale down social benefits.

"They hate us all!" Medvedev said on his messaging app channel. "Those decisions stem from hatred against Russia and against all of its people."



EDUARDO MUNOZ ALVAREZ / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rev. Dante Quick, preaches during a church service at the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens on May 22, in Somerset, New Jersey. Quick says he copes by taking time for “joy seeking” activities – like a nice restaurant meal, an Anita Baker concert or joining his mother in watching her favorite TV show. He also now has a personal phone and a church phone “so I can put one down from time to time.”

CLERGY OF COLOR

face unprecedented mental health challenges

DEEPA BHARATH of the Associated Press
and ADELLE BANKS of Religion News Service Associated Press

About two years ago, when COVID-19 cases began to peak in her impoverished San Antonio neighborhood, the Rev. Norma Fuentes-Quintero found herself taking on an additional duty – helping congregants deal with anxiety.

The pastor, who leads the largely-Latino El Templo Cristiano Assembly of God, spent hours with one congregant in particular — a woman with seven children who was consumed by the fear that the virus would kill her and leave her children motherless.

“Each phone call with her would last 30 minutes to an hour,” Fuentes-Quintero said. “Some days, she would knock on my door. I would give her water, massage her head and rub her arm until she fell asleep. It got that personal.”

Fuentes-Quintero’s situation is common in communities of color where a lack of resources, poor access to health care and stifling stigma over mental health issues turned pastors into counselors and caregivers. These were also communities that were disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

In addition to the pandemic, difficult conversations about anti-Asian hate and systemic racism after the Atlanta spa killings and the murder of George Floyd, have significantly raised stress levels in these communities. Faith leaders say they are overwhelmed, exhausted, burntoutand left with serious questions about how to care for their own physical and mental well-being while helping congregants in a meaningful way.

Such self-care is not simple, especially in some cultures where pastors are expected to always be present physically and spiritually, said the Rev. Pausa Kaio Thompson, head pastor of the Dominguez Samoan Congregational Christian Church in Compton, California.

In his state, Pacific Islanders died at a higher rate from COVID-19 than any other racial group and pastors like Thompsonofficiated two or three funerals, sometimes for members of the same family.

In Pacific Islander communities, pastors tend to a variety of needs:from food, healthcare and employment to housing and immigration, he said. The pandemic was a unique situation because the source of everyone’s grief – whether you were in the pulpit or the pews – was the same.

“How do I talk about my own mental instability and doubt at a time when I cannot relay that to someone I’m there to uplift and comfort?” Thompson said.

He sought psychiatric counseling and took the time whenever possible to unwind.

It is important to remember that “clergy are human beings,” said Bishop Vashti McKenzie, interim president and general secretary of the National Council of Churches and a retired African Methodist Episcopal leader.

“When you add racial unrest on top of burying more congregants than you’ve ever had in your whole entire ministry,” on top of losing loved ones in one’s own family, it can all add up, McKenzie said.

The challenges facing clergy of color were on display during a virtual event hosted by the Christian organization Live Free, two days after a mass shoot-



MARK BLACK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pastor Juliet Liu of Life on the Vine church closes Sunday services with the sign of the cross on May 22 in Long Grove, Illinois.

ing at a supermarket where 10 Black people were killed in Buffalo, New York.

The Rev. Julian Cook, pastor of Buffalo’s Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church, described a clergy colleague who was unable to meet a request and provide grief counseling to local bank employees.

“She had to tell them flat out, ‘I’m just not in a place where I can even talk about grief right now,’” he said during the online event.

The strain of having discussions about race and racism led to burnout for Pastor Juliet Liu, who co-leads Life on the Vine, a Christian congregation in Long Grove, Illinois. She is getting ready to start a six-month sabbatical in July. Liu said she is not sure if she will return to ministry.

Liu, who is of Taiwanese and Vietnamese descent, said she started seeing

a therapist three years ago. That helped her understand she cannot hold herself responsible for “how white people understand and respond to racial justice,” she said.

Yet she feels disillusioned when some white congregants — who make up about 80% of her congregation — question the existence of systemic racism.

“I’m asking myself if I’m in the right place,” Liu said. “I’m questioning my calling.”

Many pastors found comfort during this time knowing they are not alone, said Washington D.C.-based psychologist Jessica Smedley, who saw an increase in requests for assistance from Black clergy and African American congregations. She held virtual webinars as a form of support.

“It gave them the opportunity to hear from other clergy that they were experiencing some of the same grief or stressors of not being in person or not knowing how to show up for their congregants in the same way and not being able to visit the hospital because of safety issues,” she said.

A recent Rice University study found that Black and Latino churchgoers often rely on their pastors for mental health care, but their clergy feels limited in being able to help them. Smedley said there is need for more research about clergy of color and rates of depression.

The Rev. Danté Quick made Black mental health an area of focus at the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Somerset, New Jersey. The senior pastor has also attended to his own mental health needs and advises his congregants and seminarians to do the same.

Quick said Black clergy face various stressors. But social justice advocacy “brings its own stress,” he said.

“Preaching about George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, and the (psychological) trauma that we have to try to shepherd people of color through requires an intense amount of empathy that wears on one’s spirit.”

Quick says he copes by taking time for “joy seeking” activities – like a nice restaurant meal, an Anita Baker concert or joining his mother in watching her favorite TV show.

“I want to live to see my children’s weddings,” he said. ☞

RELIGION IN THE UNITED STATES

Christians 65% • Protestants 43% • Catholics 20% • Mormons 2%
No formal religious identity 26%