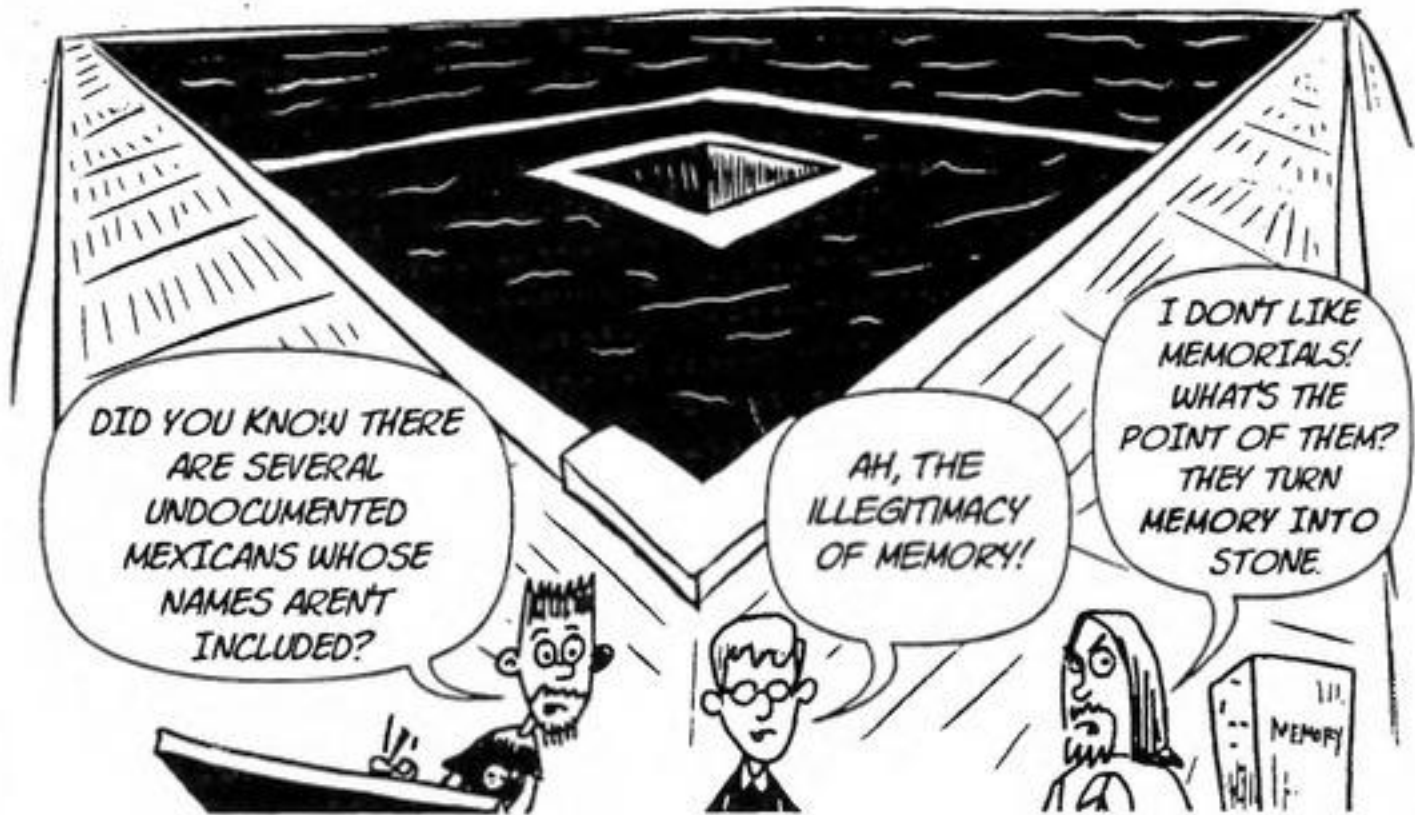




CARTOONING FOR A MORE PERFECT UNION

"Enough with the dead white men!" proclaims Ilan Stavans' new work of graphic nonfiction, *A Most Imperfect Union: A Contrarian History of the United States* (Basic). Through eye-catching illustrations by award-winning cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz, *A Most Imperfect Union* aims to reclaim American history for those it has continuously ignored: "the workers, immigrants, housewives, and slaves who built America from the ground up and made this country what it is today."

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2011, THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM WAS UNVEILED. THE NAMES OF ALL THE VICTIMS ARE RECORDED ON PLAQUES WITHIN THE MONUMENT.



FILM

'Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood'

By Miriam Petty

IN MAY, THE NINA SIMONE BIOPIC *Nina*, starring Zoe Saldana and directed by Cynthia Mort, premiered at the Cannes Film Festival. But the director was unhappy with the version that debuted. Mort is suing the film's British producers for allegedly cutting her out of the editing and decision-making process, in violation of her contract. Meanwhile, no date for a U.S. release has been set. All of this drama suggests that *Nina* is the bearer of some seriously bad karma.

Ever since on-set photographs of Saldana, made up as Simone, began circulating online last year, I have been convinced that the casting and staging of a light-skinned, straight-haired Dominican woman as a brown-skinned

African-American woman with coarse, afro-textured hair is a representational flaw that poisons this entire film.

By putting Saldana in brownface, Afro wigs and prosthetic buck teeth, the producers of *Nina* have taken a conventionally lovely woman and made her ugly and grotesque, even as they have not made her look a damn thing like Simone. It is a choice that recalls the transformation of Charlize Theron into the serial killer Aileen Wuornos for the 2003 film *Monster*. Making Theron into a monster became a way to conjure and project collective feelings of fear and revulsion for a socially degraded subject: a serial-killing, lower-class, sex-working, white lesbian woman.

Similarly, in disfiguring Saldana, *Nina*'s filmmakers have turned the filmic Simone into a monstrous figure of black femininity—ironically, the very product of the white racist and sexist imagination that Simone so fervently challenged throughout her life. Sim-

one's Afrocentric style of dress, with elaborate earrings and headwraps, her hair often worn natural, in an Afro or cornrowed braids, was a defiant assertion of her pride and a celebration of her brand of black beauty. The song "Four Women," one of Simone's most famous, calls out various negative representations of black women: as bitter and angry, as beasts of burden, as sexual objects. Instead, the song celebrates black women—the first verse, for instance, is told in the voice of a woman whose story evokes the grueling lives of black women during slavery: "My skin is black/my arms are long/My hair is woolly/my back is strong/Strong enough to take the pain/inflicted again and again/What do they call me?/My name is Aunt Sarah." Writing Simone's obituary in the *Village Voice*, Thulani Davis called "Four Women" "an anthem" for black women, "affirming our existence, our sanity, and our struggle to

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survive a culture which regards us as anti-feminine."

My own reaction to the film's distortion of Simone's legacy, and the similar responses I heard from African-American friends, colleagues and commentators, made me more cognizant of how seriously black folk take the business of biopics. For people who feel their stories have not been told credibly or fully, the stakes of these narratives are high, especially when they tell the stories of people like Simone whose work transformed and elevated the racial consciousness of generations of black people.

High expectations notwithstanding, *Nina*'s producers failed from the word "go." Saldana's casting is symptomatic of the racism and colorism that pervades Hollywood. Her "brown but not too brown" beauty allows Hollywood to be "diverse" without unsettling its white standard of beauty. Saldana's aesthetic has great cache in this mo-

ment of celebrating "post-racial" multiculturalism, and it's this currency that the film's producers apparently traded in when they cast her in the role. Respect for Simone's own aesthetic was apparently less of a priority.

In his 1977 meditation on historical films, the French director Jean Louis Comolli claimed that "the historical character, filmed, has at least two bodies, that of the [actual subject] and that of the actor who represents him for us. There are at least two bodies in competition, one body too much." In the case of this film, we are confronted not only with *one* "body too much," but *two* excess bodies "in competition" with that of the real Nina Simone. There is the body of the actor—Saldana—which is expected to draw an audience for the film. But there is also the ghoulish body that has been grafted onto Saldana, which mocks and subverts the critical cultural work of Simone.

I've said the movie may have bad



Zoe Saldana put on brownface to play Nina Simone in the soon-to-be-released biopic *Nina*.

karma; really, I suspect it may be cursed. In life, Nina Simone was a driven and exacting diva; in death one can only imagine what bolts of lightning her righteous spirit might hurl. The ghost of the woman who served up vengeful tunes like "Backlash Blues," "Go to Hell" and "Mississippi Goddam" with relish and gusto is not a ghost to mess with. ■

art space



A DRONE'S-EYE VIEW

Since April, pilots flying drones over Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region have found themselves face-to-face with a jarring testament to the collateral damage of America's drone wars: a 60-foot by 90-foot poster, spread out across a field that features a photograph of a girl who lost her parents and two siblings in a drone strike. The work, titled #NotaBugSplat, was designed by a group of international artists working in conjunction with Reprieve/Foundation for Fundamental Rights with the aim of both challenging the mindset of drone pilots (who refer to the people they kill as "bug splats") and raising awareness of civilian casualties in drone warfare.

Photos of the work can be viewed at notabugsplat.com. The artists hope that Google Earth will include the installation in future updates.

—DAN STAGGS

BY: LEON IRBY

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DATED: JULY 23, 2015

(APL) in Laurel, Maryland, have been carrying out a series of orbit corrections that will delay the spacecraft's inevitable crash.

The final maneuver will take place next Friday, April 24.

"Following this last maneuver, we will finally declare the spacecraft out of propellant, as this maneuver will deplete nearly all of our remaining helium gas," Daniel O'Shaughnessy, mission systems engineer at APL, said in a news release. "At that point, the spacecraft will no longer be capable of fighting the downward push of the sun's gravity."

The impact is expected to take place out of view on April 30. However, scientists are hoping the fresh impact crater will give them new insight into the planet.

"Having an impact crater, even a small one, whose origin date is precisely known, will be an important benchmark," Sean Solomon, the mission's principal investigator and director of Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, New York, told Space.com.

The MESSENGER (Mercury Surface, Space Environment, Geochemistry and Ranging) spacecraft was launched in 2004 and entered the planet's orbit on March 18, 2011.

While the spacecraft's mission may be ending, scientists are celebrating all they've learned about Mercury over the past four years.

"For the first time in history we now have real knowledge about the planet Mercury that shows it to be a fascinating world as part of our diverse solar system," John Grunsfeld, associate administrator of the Science Mission Directorate at NASA said in a news release. "While spacecraft operations will end, we are celebrating MESSENGER as more than a successful mission. It's the beginning of a longer journey to analyze the data that reveals all the scientific mysteries of Mercury."

Those mysteries may even hold a clue to the formation of life on Earth.

Mercury is the planet closest to the sun, temperatures can reach 800 degrees Fahrenheit. However, craters at the poles are permanently in shadow – and in 2012, MESSENGER discovered evidence of water ice deposits and other volatile material locked in those polar regions. It also found a dark layer covering the ice, believed to be organic compounds.

Scientists think those materials arrived on the planet much in the way MESSENGER will arrive: by crashing there.

The water now stored in ice deposits in the permanently shadowed floors of impact craters at Mercury's poles most likely was delivered to the innermost planet by the impacts of comets and water-rich asteroids," Solomon said in a news release. "Those same impacts also likely delivered dark organic material."

ice and organic compounds may have played a role in the formation of life on Earth.

First-ever photo of rare monkey species proves they're not extinct

Two researchers working in the humid, swampy forests of the Congo captured the first photograph of a monkey species thought by some to have gone extinct. The monkeys, a mother along with her young offspring, are Bouvier's red colobus monkeys, which had not been seen in more than 50 years, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

The photo was snapped in March by Lieven Devreese, an independent field researcher, who with partner Gaël Elie Gnondo Gobolo, was searching for the rare creature in Congo's newly-created Ntokou-Pikounda National Park. Established in 2013, the park is home to thousands of gorillas, chimpanzees, elephants and other species.

Devreese and Gobolo embarked on their journey in February to try to photograph the Bouvier's red colobus, and gather data about the species' distribution.

According to a WCS press release, Devreese and Gobolo followed advice from local people who knew the red colobus' sounds and behavior. The two eventually found a group of them in the swamp forests along the Bokiba River.

"Our photos are the world's first, and confirm that the species is not extinct," Devreese said.

WCS teams also surveyed the entire park in a systematic way, making about 30 transects, according to Fiona Maisels, a conservation scientist at WCS. But they only heard Bouvier's red colobus monkeys on four occasions.

"By contrast, [Devreese and Gobolo] heard and/or saw the other monkey species fairly frequently," Maisels told Mashable in an email.

The Bouvier's red colobus' numbers had plummeted due to human hunting, and poachers are still a danger due to rising demand for bushmeat. Along with other types of red colobus monkeys, they tend to be friendly toward humans, which makes them an appealing target for poachers.

According to WCS, the Bouvier's red colobus monkey, scientifically known as *Piliocolobus bouvieri*, is a species of monkey endemic to the Republic of Congo. Little is known about the species, however, and the most recent unverified sightings were in the 1970s until WCS surveys recorded red colobus sounds in what is now Ntokou-Pikounda National Park in both 2007 and 2014.

"Red colobus become uncommon pretty rapidly because of their overly trusting behavior vis-à-vis humans on the ground — which is why the colobus and child allowed herself to be photographed so

to occur on the way from where it was recorded on this occasion all the way south to the Lefini Reserve in Congo, but they had already been hunted out of the southern portion of the range by the 1990s."

The photograph suggests there may be other species of swamp-dwelling monkeys that are nocturnal, which no one has seen simply because researchers have not searched so extensively for them, she added.

"It took someone who was specifically oriented towards finding out the distribution of this particular monkey species (Lieven) to get close enough for the confirming photo," Maisels said. "As I said before, hats off to him!"

Gov. WALKER

Wisconsin students team up for Day of Action against proposed state budget

College students across the state teamed up with members of the College Democrats of Wisconsin Thursday to reach out to legislators, requesting they resist the budget cuts on the UW System.

The current status of Gov. Scott Walker's proposed state budget includes a \$300 million cut to the UW System and removes shared governance and tenure from state statute.

The College Democrats of UW-Madison invited students to their office in the Student Activity Center to call legislators, as part of the statewide event.

"It's really good that people know students aren't here, just twiddling our thumbs as all these threats are coming through," said Vice Chair of the College Democrats of UW-Madison Jenny Tasse.

"Continuing this pressure, continuing the conversations is super important," Tasse said. "Most importantly we need to make sure that when we come back to school ... the Regents are held accountable and know that we won't accept being cut."

Chair of the College Republicans of UW-Madison Courtney Mullen said while they do not currently have a campaign in support of the proposed budget, they are preparing statements for a debate with the College Democrats, scheduled for Thursday.

4-17-2015

Scott Walker's Wisconsin approval rating drops in latest poll

As Gov. Scott Walker moves closer to a formal announcement that he will run for president, a new poll shows his approval rating in Wisconsin is slipping and some of his legislative priorities are deeply unpopular.

Still, the poll released Thursday by Marquette University Law School found Walker leading the Republican presidential field in Wisconsin. And nearly two-thirds of GOP-leaning voters in the state want him to run.

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Sen. Russ Feingold. Johnson had 38%, and Feingold had 54%.

Johnson unseated Feingold in 2010. Feingold hasn't announced his plans but is widely expected to run again.

Johnson's lag behind Feingold is a sign "that (Feingold's) not been forgotten, nor has the public seemingly turned against him in his time away from the state," said Charles Franklin, director of the poll.

Franklin added that Johnson's relative anonymity in Wisconsin is not uncommon among first-term members of Congress.

Walker's approval rating dropped to 41%, down from 49% in the last poll on Oct. 26, just before he faced Democrat Mary Burke in his re-election race. The latest poll showed 55% of voters disapproved of how Walker is handling his job.

As he assumes a national profile, a majority of polled voters think the state is now headed in the wrong direction. Also, Walker faces challenges on some of his top goals as Republicans who control the Legislature work on his state budget.

Some of Walker's budget proposals were overwhelmingly unpopular, the poll found.

For instance, 78% of voters opposed Walker's plan to cut aid to schools by \$127 million. Nearly as many, 70%, oppose Walker's plan to cut \$300 million to the University of Wisconsin System.

Walker, who is in Europe this week on a trade mission, told reporters in a conference call that he expected to be able to prevent the cut to schools and possibly could reduce the size of the budget reduction for UW.

Lawmakers will get new revenue estimates soon and they believe the figures will show the state will take in more money than originally believed, giving them the ability to shore up parts of the budget.

Walker said he believed his numbers had dipped because the attention on the budget is focused on areas of disagreement. He said other parts of his budget — such as extending a tuition freeze for two more years — would be popular and his numbers could recover this summer.

In the end, in June, once the budget's completed, as we've signed it and all those other positives are out there, I think (the approval rating) will have a significant change," he said.

In a statement, state Sen. David Hansen (D-Green Bay) said the poll shows a majority of voters oppose many of the governor's proposals.

Wisconsinites are seeing through his strategy to lie and conquer," Hansen said.

Yesterday's poll was released the same day a new campaign manager for Walker formed a new PAC to boost Walker's presidential bid.

Secretary of State Primary Roundup Clinton 52% to 40%. Clinton also led all the other likely Republican candidates.

Among GOP voters, Walker easily led other Republican candidates. He had 40%, compared with 10% for U.S. Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky, 8% for former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, 6% for U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and 6% for New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie.

Franklin noted that a strength of Walker since January is that he has been able to sustain high poll numbers against the field.

"The caution, though, is the dynamic of new candidates entering," Franklin said, noting that Cruz realized an immediate spike when he formally announced his candidacy.

The poll of 803 respondents was conducted between April 7 and April 10 and included landlines and cellphones.

The margin of error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for most questions. The margin of error is more than 5 percentage points for questions that dealt with a subset of voters, such as only Republican- or Democratic-leaning voters.

Since Marquette's polling began in January 2012, Walker's lowest job approval rating was 46% in September 2012.

Walker has reached a high of 51% five times, according to polling data.

Walker's first term focused almost exclusively on running affairs of the state. But in his second term, he has spent an increasing share of his time on his presidential aspirations, making visits to Iowa, New Hampshire and South Carolina and overseas.

Meanwhile, in Wisconsin, 53% of registered voters said the state is now headed down the wrong track, while 43% believe it's headed in the right direction. That's a turnabout from last fall. In October, 51% said the state was headed in the right direction; 44% said Wisconsin was on the wrong track.

Franklin said the drop in Walker's approval rating is driven by myriad factors, ranging from his presidential aspirations to controversial measures in his budget.

"All of those together conspire to create a more negative view of the state right now, coupled with his presidential travels, and the fact that he's not here, if you will, campaigning for his budget, campaigning for his role as governor, then all of those pressures push against his job approval rating."

The poll also showed that 79% of voters opposed public funding for a 700,000-square-foot arena for the Milwaukee Bucks in downtown Milwaukee.

On other topics:

■ Natural Resources Board. A total of 60% said they oppose plans by Walker to take away the

Thirty percent said they support the change.

Legislators have said recently that voters have been telling them that they opposed plans to make the board advisory. The Legislature's Joint Finance Committee dropped Walker's plan from the budget on Wednesday.

■ Vouchers. A slight majority oppose removing limits on the number of students outside of Milwaukee and Racine that can receive publicly funded vouchers. Fifty-four percent oppose removing the limits and 37% favor ending the limits, which is now set at 1,000 students.

■ Right to work. The legislation, which was signed into law last year, bans labor contracts that would make it mandatory for workers to pay union fees. In the poll, 44% said they support the law; 50% said they oppose it.

Cubs will call up Kris Bryant on Friday

Kris Bryant's long-anticipated debut for the Chicago Cubs is less than 24 hours away.

Bryant, baseball's top prospect whose major league debut was delayed so the club could retain his rights another year, will be recalled Friday and will be in the lineup for the Cubs' game against the San Diego Padres at Wrigley Field, according to a person with direct knowledge of the situation.

The person spoke to USA TODAY Sports on condition of anonymity because Bryant's call-up has not been announced.

ESPN Chicago is reporting that Bryant will be called up on Friday, quickly ending the guessing game of when the game's most promising young talent would arrive.

Bryant, 23, was USA TODAY Sports' Minor League Player of the Year in 2014, when he hit 43 home runs and drove in 110 runs in Class AA and AAA ball.

Today I got to tell my family that my dream is coming true. Can't really put into words what that feels like. So excited for this journey!
— Kris Bryant (@KrisBryant_23) April 17, 2015
Despite his stellar year, the Cubs did not recall Bryant during the September roster expansion, and indicated he would not break camp with the club this spring. Keeping Bryant in the minor leagues until Friday will cost him a year of major league service time, ensuring the Cubs retain his rights through 2021. Bryant batted .321 and hit three home runs, including a three-run shot on Thursday, in his three weeks at Class AAA Iowa.

Meanwhile, incumbent third baseman Mike Olt suffered a wrist injury just as the date to delay Bryant's service time neared.

Gov. WALKER

The tank's operator, Noble Energy, discovered the spill Tuesday afternoon and later reported it to the COGCC, the state's regulatory agency for the oil and gas industry. Recent high river flows undercut the bank where the storage tank was sitting, causing the tank to drop and breaking a valve. About 178 barrels of oil dumped into the river.

The well near the tank has been shut in, and a second tank in the area appears to be unaffected, Hartman said in a news release.

COGCC and water quality experts from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment were at the scene of the tank spill, where clean-up efforts were underway Friday. Clean-up crews are working to absorb the spilled oil and a vac-truck is removing oil-filled standing water from a low-lying area around the tank.

The site of the spill is southeast of Fort Collins near the Poudre River Trail.

Alaska Earthquake on Aleutian Islands Is Largest to Hit U.S. in More Than a Decade

The powerful 7.9-magnitude earthquake that shook the Aleutian Islands on Monday was the largest quake to hit the U.S. in more than a decade, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The quake, centered about 13 miles southeast of Little Sitkin Island, triggered more than 21 aftershocks and prompted tsunami warnings and evacuations for the islands near the epicenter. The warning was later downgraded to an advisory as experts ruled out the potential of a destructive tsunami for other Pacific coastlines. The last major U.S. quake, a 7.9 tremor near Alaska's Denali National Park, occurred Nov. 3, 2002.

Monday's earthquake struck at 12:53 p.m. Alaska Daylight Time (4:53 p.m. Eastern time) near Little Sitkin Island in the far western part of the Aleutian Island chain, just west of the International Date Line.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the main jolt was followed by a series of aftershocks. Two significant aftershocks, measuring magnitude 6.0 and 5.8, occurred 18 and 37 minutes after the main shock, respectively. About four hours after the 7.9 temblor, a magnitude-6.9 aftershock rocked the same area.

The National Tsunami Warning Center in Palmer, Alaska, issued a tsunami warning for a portion of the Aleutians stretching from Nikolski to Attu. "Widespread dangerous coastal flooding accompanied by powerful currents are possible and may continue for hours after tsunami arrival," the NTWC bulletin said.

Residents of Adak, Alaska, evacuated the town site and gathered on a nearby hill.

"We're seeing water leave our bay, so we do have everybody up on the Bering Hill area, where our primary evacuation center is at," City Manager Layton Lockett told The Associated Press by telephone as he gathered some last paperwork before heading out himself to join about 300 residents at the center.

The agency downgraded the bulletin to a less-serious tsunami advisory at 2:44 p.m. local time, just under two hours after the quake. At 4:35 p.m. local time, all tsunami advisories were canceled.

The first tsunami measurement came from Amchitka, Alaska, about 25 miles from the quake's epicenter. A tsunami of 0.6 foot (about 7 inches) was recorded at 1:36 p.m. local time. The NTWC said that the depth of the earthquake, some 71 miles below the earth's surface, would mitigate the extent of the tsunami. Later, at 3:22 p.m. local time, Amchitka recorded an 0.7-foot tsunami wave.

Other nearby communities reported tsunami heights of 0.2 to 0.6 foot.

Successful evacuations have occurred in St. Paul, St. George, Adak and Atka. No #tsunami reported in Shemya yet.

Jeremy Zidek, a spokesman for the Alaska Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, told the Associated Press there were no immediate reports of damage from either the earthquake or the small tsunami.

Natasha Ruppert, a seismologist with the Alaska Earthquake Center, said that because the communities that would have suffered damage are under a tsunami warning, people may not have been able to get out and check for damage yet.

The Aleutian Island chain stretches some 1,200 miles across the northern Pacific Ocean between the Alaska mainland and eastern Russia. The epicenter of Monday's earthquake was closer to Russia than it was to Anchorage, Alaska's capital city. At a distance of just over 2,000 miles from Tokyo, it was also closer to the Japanese capital than to Seattle.

Tsunami Concerns Ease for West Coast, Hawaii and Japan

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said the Alaska quake was too deep to pose a tsunami danger to Hawaii, and ruled that state out of the tsunami risk. California, Oregon and Washington were later excluded from the tsunami risk as well.

Large earthquakes in Alaska have caused significant tsunamis in the past. An Aleutian Islands quake in 1946 caused a tsunami that killed 96 people in Hilo, Hawaii, and prompted the establishment of the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

The much stronger magnitude-9.2 Good Friday earthquake of 1964, which took place farther east near Anchorage, caused over 100 tsunami deaths in Alaska, five in Oregon, and 13 in California.

After evaluating the data, the Japan Meteorological Agency ruled out any tsunami risk to Japan from the Aleutians earthquake. Japan has suffered damaging tsunamis from overseas quakes in the past, including the 1964 Good Friday quake. Major earthquakes in Chile also caused damaging tsunamis in Japan in 1960 and 2010.

Burke hits Walker on criminal allegations

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Democratic candidate for governor Mary Burke launched a new television ad Thursday that attacks Gov. Scott Walker for being a part of what prosecutors have called a criminal scheme to evade campaign laws. The ad comes less than a week after Burke said she would not make the accusations a focus of her campaign.

Walker has not been charged as a part of the investigation, which a federal and state judge have halted. Prosecutors are appealing those decisions.

The case against Walker was first revealed in a court filing written in December but made public on June 19. The day after, Burke said she would not make the allegations a focus of her campaign.

"I'm going to focus on getting my message out to the people of Wisconsin," she said in an interview with WISN-TV that was taped on June 20. "The type of governor I'd be, what I believe in, how I'm going to move Wisconsin's economy forward — so it's not going to be a focus of my campaign."

Burke's new 30-second ad, which was airing in the Milwaukee, Madison, Green Bay, Wausau, and La Crosse markets, is titled "June 20." It includes footage of television anchors talking about the allegations as well as a federal economic report released last week that showed Wisconsin ranked 37th in new job creation in 2013.

Burke's spot criticizes Walker for launching his own negative ad on June 20 against her and concludes with the narrator saying, "Scott Walker just isn't working for you."

Burke's spokesman, Joe Zepecki, said the ad isn't about the alleged criminal scheme, but instead about Walker's decision to launch his own negative ad the day after that news and the latest jobs report broke.

But Walker campaign spokesman Tom Evenson said the ad was "yet another desperate attempt to distract voters from her failed record as Jim Doyle's commerce secretary."

Burke is a former Trek Bicycle Corp. executive and was Commerce secretary

that the winning ticket was theirs because they still have the tickets with serial numbers one above and one below the winning ticket's.

They explained their situation to the Lottery Commission last year, they said, and were told to submit a claim form along with the first and third tickets.

"They even told me, 'You don't need a lawyer, don't get one. We know you're in the right,'" Cambria said.

But then nothing happened

It's now been more than a year since the drawing. The men filed their lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Trenton on Tuesday demanding the million-dollar prize and arguing that the lottery was at fault for failing to update its website in a timely way.

In an interview on Wednesday, Cambria said he asked Onyango the night of the drawing to check the lottery's website for the winning Powerball numbers. This was several minutes after the 11 p.m. drawing, Cambria said. But the numbers that Onyango read, they learned later, were from the previous drawing.

"So I took my ticket, which was worth a million dollars, and I put it in a cigarette pack and put it in the garbage in my bedroom," Cambria said.

The men say they saw the drawing's actual numbers the next day and realized that Cambria's ticket was a winner.

"I was losing my mind. We were both losing our minds," Cambria said.

By then, the ticket, the cigarette pack and all their other household trash had been hauled to the curb and trucked away, they say. The men called their garbage company and learned that their trash was on its way to a dump in Ontario, Canada.

Their lawyer, Edward Logan, said Wednesday that there was no way the men could have retrieved their ticket.

"There was talk about getting a bloodhound and finding the bag," Logan said. That idea was eventually abandoned.

The dump has "bulldozers that move the trash around and bury it and get it to cook and digest with the methane," Logan said. "It was just going to be impossible to find."

A spokeswoman for the Lottery Commission, Judith Drucker, declined to comment on the pending litigation.

Customers at the Mahwah 7-Eleven that sold the ticket were divided on Wednesday about

whether Cambria and Onyango should get the money.

Paul Matthews put the blame on the two men. "They should have known better than to throw away the ticket," he said.

But Lisa Iriarte said they should get the money "because it's not their fault the state updated the numbers later."

Cambria and Onyango said they haven't given much thought yet about what they will do with the money if they get it.

"That's the next big question," said Onyango, who suggested that they would put much of it into savings. "You've got to be prudent."

Obama Pushes for Paid Parental Leave, Workplace Flexibility

President Obama shared his own family's experiences and drew on those of others as part of a resounding call for parental leave, workplace flexibility, and overall improvement in U.S. workplace policies in his remarks at Monday's White House Summit on Working Families.

Obama opened by describing a lunch he had with several summit participants that day at a nearby Chipotle—one of several local field trips he's made recently, sans motorcade—and said that though each individual hailed from a different geography, industry, and income level, all participants were bound together by "a recognition that work gives us a sense of place and income," but that "family is also the bedrock of our lives, and we don't want a society where folks are having to make a choice between those two things."

"Most of our days consist of work, family, and not much else, and those two spheres are constantly interacting with each other," said Obama, adding that this dynamic holds true even for the President of the United States.

The bulk of his remarks focused on paid leave for parents and those who serve as a family member's caretaker, and workplace flexibility policies that would allow employees to better cope with the demands of parenting and caretaking, provisions which, he said, "are not frills, they are basic needs" that should be "part of our bottom line as a society." The continued failure of government and employers to address these issues, said, Obama, is holding back families who are "doing everything right" but find themselves unable to get ahead.

"These problems are not typically the results of poor planning or too little diligence on the parts of moms or dads," said Obama, "and they can not just be fixed by working harder or being a better parent. All too often they're the result of outdated policies and old ways of thinking."

Addressing the gendered nature of some of the conversations surrounding workplace policy, Obama noted that men also face the challenges of parenting and caretaking while holding fulltime employment, but said that their motives are questioned less often than their female counterparts. He shared a conversation of which he had recently been part, in which he was reminded that when a man says he's leaving the office early to attend a parent/teacher conference, he's met with remarks of "Oh, isn't that nice," while when a woman does the same, coworkers often ask, "Is she committed to the job?"

Obama's remarks were also a plea for the passage of several pieces of work and family-related legislature, including the Paycheck Fairness Act and the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, and a call for continued support for the Affordable Care Act and raising minimum wage.

In a familiar refrain, Obama said that while he couldn't guarantee Congress would act on any of these issues, he planned to model the workplace values therein with actions at the executive level.

"Today I'm going to sign a presidential memorandum," said Obama, "requiring every federal agency to address flexible work schedules and give employees the right to request flexible work schedules."

He also highlighted companies that have thrived as the result of innovative policies: JetBlue, which allows customer service employees the opportunity to work from home; Google, which increased parental leave to retain female employees who were leaving the company at twice the rate of male; and Cisco, which Obama said saves \$275 million each year by allowing employees to telecommute.

In closing, Obama referenced the women who raised him, and the work-lives he envisioned for his daughters.

"I want them to be able to have families, and I want them to be able to have careers, and I want them to go as far as their dreams will take them," said Obama. "I want a society that supports that."

7,500 gallons of oil spills in Colorado river

FORT COLLINS, Colo. -- A storage tank damaged by recent flooding has dumped 7,500 gallons of crude oil into the Poudre River near Windsor, the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) reported late Friday afternoon.

"At this time we know of no drinking water intakes affected by this spill. The release is not ongoing," COGCC spokesman Todd Hartman said.

The oil has stained vegetation as far as a quarter of mile away from the damaged tank, Hartman said.

formal opening on May 21, found himself sizing up bits of broken and twisted steel for something resembling the piece that had crushed his left foot - changing the direction of his life.

"I was saying, that one's too small, that one didn't do it. That one there, the big one, that one could have done it," Feal said, as he stood flanked by three fellow first responders, who each face an array of health challenges.

Through his Feal Good Foundation, Feal has pushed for funding and health care for first responders, including the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, which expires in 2016.

The museum, eight years in the making, was the subject of innumerable disputes over how best to document the day when hijacked planes slammed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing nearly 3,000 people.

In the hours before Feal's visit, a stream of family members and first responders had universally positive things to say about the museum. The New York Times wrote that it delivered a "gut-punch experience" and New York Magazine called it a "spectacularly mournful institution."

On display are items large and small - a Hudson River retaining wall that survived the attacks and a pair of shattered eyeglasses. Visitors can listen to telephone messages left to loved ones by those who would die in the towers, and cockpit recordings from the doomed airplanes.

"When I come to this area I smell 9/11," said Carol Paukner, a former New York City Transit police officer, who was trapped in one of the towers when it collapsed. "I was glad to have people around me who care about me."

For Paukner and thousands of other first responders, the legacy of September 11 continues as they battle myriad health problems, some linked to breathing in the dust from the collapsed towers. Paukner has just learned she has cancer.

"I hope that a lot of people come down and get educated on what 9/11 is all about and please vote for the politicians who are going to help us with all of our health effects," she said.

As if on cue, U.S. Representative Carolyn Maloney, a sponsor of the Zadroga bill, passed by. A moment later Maloney and Feal were taking in the moment, arm in arm.

"This is an incredible monument," Maloney said. "It's hard to take. Every time I come back I think, maybe I'm over it. But I always start crying."

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The driver had a minor arm injury and all three men were stung by an estimated 50 to 100 bees, he said.

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But thick swarms continued to buzz around the wreck, he said. Police had to get rid of the bees before they could remove the tractor-trailer safely, he said.

Shavack said the response to the bee release was not impromptu because state police had a "what-if" plan ready to activate.

The "bee swarm removal procedure" included a list of experts to contact, he added.

"We got a hold of one of those bee providers and he came right out," he said. "He called for additional resources."

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Gov. WALKER

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And the fate of the bees?

Their long haul is over.

The salvaging keepers - not identified by police - get to keep them. "They were authorized to do that by the trucking company," Shavack said.

No estimate was available of the full bee cargo's value or the count and value of those being salvaged.

Wisconsin media request secret Walker documents

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Attorneys representing Wisconsin media groups say a judge should unseal all documents that don't reveal private information about the subjects of a secret investigation into Gov. Scott Walker's recall election and others.

The groups filed a motion late Wednesday saying unsealing the documents would allow the public to oversee the actions of its judicial and executive branches of state government.

The investigation started in August 2012 and focuses on alleged illegal campaign fundraising, spending and coordination by conservative groups, the governor's campaign and others.

Theodore Boutrous, attorney for the media groups, said keeping the documents secret violates the First Amendment rights of the press and public.

"It is undisputed that the public has a First Amendment right of access to 'any documents' upon which the Court may rely 'in making its decisions,'" Boutrous wrote in a brief filed with U.S. District Judge Rudolph Randa.

Attorneys for Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm agree all the documents should be unsealed. Prosecutor Dean Nickel said in a brief that the investigation had already become so widely publicized that unsealing the documents wouldn't hinder the investigation, known as a John Doe.

Attorneys for the Wisconsin Club for Growth, which is under investigation, want to keep hundreds of pages secret. Two other anonymous groups have asked that all documents from the investigation remain under seal because they say making the documents public would reveal private information about them or their political opinions.

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Boutros said the court needs to take a narrow approach when deciding what information, if unsealed, should remain redacted from public view.

The attorney for the Wisconsin Club for Growth didn't immediately respond to a request for comment on Wednesday's motion.

Randa halted the investigation earlier this month, saying that the Wisconsin Club for Growth's free speech rights were violated by the probe. Prosecutors appealed that ruling and requested a stay in the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which has not yet ruled on the request.

130-year-old Wausau oak removed; residents upset

WAUSAU, Wis. (AP) — Marathon County officials have cut down a 130-year-old oak to make a popular sledding hill safer, a decision that doesn't sit well with residents who say the tree was a local landmark.

A Daily Herald Media report (<http://wdhne.ws/1jYRcFH>) on Monday says city and county officials had been worried about the tree for a while. Because it was in the middle of a popular sledding run, there were concerns that someone could get injured and sue the city.

City Forester Blaine Peterson says the tree showed signs of minor decay, although not enough for that to be the sole reason to remove it.

Jason Kania of Wausau wasn't pleased. He says the tree was a landmark, and now future generations will miss out on experiencing something their parents and grandparents cherished.

UW graduates 'Jump Around' at Camp Randall ceremony

They didn't walk.

But sing, polka, sway, reflect, hug, jump around to House of Pain's iconic "Jump Around," and celebrate, they did.

With blue skies and billowing clouds contributing to a contagious, upbeat vibe, UW-Madison held its spring commencement outside at historic Camp Randall Stadium on Saturday for the first time in a quarter-century.

"It's hard to think about a more appropriate place to celebrate graduation," a beaming Chancellor Rebecca Blank told a sea of graduates who covered the football field and well wishers who filled the cavernous lower

howl of the stadium and extended to the upper deck. "It feels right to be here today."

The move to hold a single ceremony for roughly 5,400 graduates and tens of thousands of family and friends was a bold and dramatic departure from past practice, when the university hosted four events indoors.

The large numbers — the crowd was estimated at 44,000 — meant graduates didn't get to hear their names called or have the chance to walk across the stage to get diplomas. Instead, college deans asked those receiving degrees in various disciplines of study to rise en masse to cheers and screams until all graduates were standing to a standing ovation.

The setting allowed a compact ceremony that featured a call to nonpartisan civic engagement by former Utah governor and U.S. Ambassador Jon Huntsman. The ceremony included a bevy of Badger sights, sounds and people-cam moments via the stadium's massive video screens and powerful sound system.

Huntsman, the commencement speaker who served four presidents in critical assignments around the world, started his remarks by going local, noting the ice has finally melted from Lake Mendota, chairs are back out at the Memorial Union Terrace, and offers of brats and cheese curds were plentiful.

"I think I could hang around for a while around here," he said.

The 2012 GOP presidential candidate's primary theme, however, was displeasure with polarized, partisan politics and the "abomination" of campaign finance laws.

"It doesn't have to be this way," said Huntsman, a leader of a national organization called "No Labels" devoted to consensus building to bridge the political divide. "Your generation can get us out of this mess. Your generation can save our republic."

Senior class president Joe Meeker of Waunakee and vice president Andrew Bulovsky of Lodi reminded the crowd of special moments — three Rose Bowls, a Final Four appearance, two presidential visits — and encouraged classmates to continue striving.

"We should not be satisfied with what we have done here," Bulovski said.

Then, Meeker noted the ceremony was about three-quarters done. The sounds of "Jump Around" rose, sending Blank, Huntsman and others on stage, graduates and much of the crowd into a cap-and-gowned bouncing frenzy akin to the end of third quarter of a Badgers football game.

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the stadium. People gathered on porches but without the beer bongs. There was a line outside Mickey's Dairy Bar.

Before the ceremony, speakers blared Camp Randall sing-along favorites including "Brown Eyed Girl," "Build Me Up Buttercup" and "Sweet Caroline." At its end, Michael Leckrone led the UW Marching Band as the crowd swayed to "Varsity."

A random survey found graduates liked the ceremony and setting but had some regret about not being able to take the traditional walk across the stage. They also suggested displaying graduates' names on the giant screen if future commencements are held there.

"I thought it was pretty good," said Carrie Nelson of Waukesha, who earned a nursing degree. "It was pretty cool to see everyone all together."

Thai military announces coup, gives its chief PM powers

The Thai military has taken control of the government in a coup and has given the country's military chief the power to act as Prime Minister.

Military officials also imposed a curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. local time (11 a.m. to 6 p.m. ET), authorities said in a televised address.

And the military has ordered that the 2007 constitution be thrown out, except for Section 2, which acknowledges that the king is the head of state.

The developments are the latest in a chain of failed attempts to defuse tensions that have simmered since November. The discord has its roots in politics, and led both pro- and anti-government factions to fight over the country's leadership.

The military on Tuesday imposed martial law in an attempt to end the instability, but said it was not a coup. Now, it has taken power outright.

In a statement released by the military, it said the military chief, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, now had the powers to act as Prime Minister until a new Prime Minister is in place.

The move came after rival factions were unable to come up with a suitable agreement to govern, the military chief said in a national address.

Hours earlier, members of the military and opposition parties met for a second day to try to find a solution to the crisis.

Members of the political parties involved in the talks were seen under military escort after the meeting. A lawyer for the pro-government "Red Shirts" confirmed that the military had detained the movement's leaders.

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storm cellar," Kramer said. "When the tornado hit, we all got a dust bath. Everyone in there got shattered with dust and debris falling out of the rafters."

The severe weather, the region's first widespread bout, forced the cancellation of more than 850 flights at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and dozens of others at the city's Midway International Airport. The National Weather Service's "enhanced risk" area had stretched from northeast Texas to Michigan, Wisconsin and across the upper Midwest. Forecasters say Philadelphia, Washington and other parts of the Atlantic coast could see the same weather patterns Friday, including Augusta, Georgia, where the Masters golf tournament is taking place through the weekend.

One severe thunderstorm Thursday night damaged the roof of a nursing home in Longview, east Texas, and prompted the evacuation of about 75 patients, authorities said. No injuries were reported as emergency officials said power was knocked out to thousands in that area of Texas.

A Longview News-Journal report online said police reported other damage, including downed power lines and trees blocking roadways.

Bells Ring To Mark Civil War Anniversary

Bells rang at the First Baptist Church in Watertown, 150 years after General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia, effectively ending the American Civil War. Father and son rang the bells for four minutes, one for each year of the war.

"This war started in 1861 and it ended in 1865," Andrew Smith said. "It was a great day for Black people in America to celebrate."

A statue in Public Square commemorates Civil War soldiers from the north country. Years after Grant's victory -- when he was president -- he fought on behalf of Sackets Harbor.

"He actually fought to keep Madison Barracks open, so things really haven't changed for the north country," history buff Michael Mannigan said. "We're still trying to keep our military installation open."

Commemorating the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War has as much to do with where we're going as where we've been. "It seems like we're kinda going backwards instead of forward," First Baptist Church pastor Jeffrey Smith said, "and our prayer is that if we remember from where we come from that we will not go back to that old way of thinking, that old way of living, and that old way of treating one another, that we treat one another as equals."

So church bells rang from sea to sea as much for the 700,000 Americans who died in the war as for the lessons of freedom for all.

Walker's DNR board proposal

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Assembly Speaker Robin Vos says Gov. Scott Walker's proposal to remove powers of the Department of

Natural Resources board is getting a mixed reception from Republican lawmakers. Vos said Thursday that Assembly Republicans talked about the proposal as they are beginning to discuss elements of Walker's budget. He says the idea to make the seven-member board advisory only got a "mixed reception."

Walker's budget calls for transforming the board into an advisory panel, ending its ability to set policy for the DNR. That would allow the governor to control the agency directly through Secretary Cathy Stepp, a Walker appointee, with no checks or balances.

The proposal has been widely criticized by current board members, Democrats and environmental groups that work closely with the DNR.

Scott Walker embarking on second trade mission of year

The weeklong visit to Germany, France and Spain is being organized by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corp., and Walker's schedule doesn't include visits with those nation's top leaders.

But it comes as Walker rides high among more than a dozen potential GOP presidential candidates, a position that has come with intense scrutiny of his lack of foreign policy experience.

It also comes two months after a trade mission to the United Kingdom, which state officials said Thursday cost taxpayers about \$138,000. After an appearance there at an international affairs think tank, he faced criticism for ducking questions about foreign policy and evolution.

He has since undergone a foreign affairs crash course and hired a team of foreign policy advisers through his political nonprofit group Our American Revival.

This week, President Barack Obama criticized Walker for saying that he would cancel an Iranian nuclear deal on his first day as president. In an interview with National Public Radio, Obama called Walker's approach "foolish" and said maybe Walker "after he takes some time to bone up on foreign policy will feel the same."

Walker responded in an interview Wednesday night with Fox News host Sean Hannity, criticizing Obama and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, a likely Democratic presidential candidate, for their handling of Islamic terrorism and the conflict in Ukraine.

"This is a guy who I think had the audacity to be talking about schooling anyone when it comes to foreign policy," Walker said. "I've talked of late to a number of our allies in the Arab nations in the Gulf states in the Middle East who are frustrated as well because they don't much like the idea of Iran getting this sort of special treatment from the United States when they feel they are a real threat, not just to Israel, but to their own interests in the Middle East."

Walker said he wouldn't negotiate with Iran unless its leaders withdrew all support for

terrorism, something the Obama administration has said was not part of the negotiation.

"We should have been saying, 'Here's the deal, you take it or if not we're going to go back to our allies and push for even stronger sanctions,'" Walker told Hannity. "And the deal is you've got to get out of terrorism and you've got to prove that you don't have any nuclear weapons, and that's the only deal we're negotiating."

Foreign policy study

Scrutiny over Walker's foreign policy experience also surfaced when he said this year that facing 100,000 protesters at the state Capitol over his collective bargaining changes prepares him to confront the Islamic State terrorist threat.

Since mid-February, Our American Revival has hired several foreign policy advisers, including Mike Gallagher, a Green Bay native and former Senate Foreign Relations Committee staffer; former Missouri Sen. Jim Talent; Dan Vajdich, a former lead Russia expert on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and Reagan Thompson, a former national security adviser to New Hampshire Sen. Kelly Ayotte.

Walker recently told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt that he begins his daily briefings with Gallagher, a Marine veteran who served two tours in Iraq.

"Every day, he gives us great information, great briefings, and I obviously reach out to a lot of others," Walker said.

The Washington Post reported last month that Walker was meeting regularly with national foreign policy experts as some Republicans and donors expressed doubts about his experience.

Walker also plans to travel to Israel in May. That trip will be paid for by OAR, according to his OAR spokeswoman.

Trade mission

Over the next week, Walker's schedule includes:

- Speaking about free trade opportunities between the United States and the European Union at the Hannover Messe trade show, the world's largest industrial fair, in Hannover, Germany.
- Meeting with representatives of the German Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases to discuss possible collaboration; Stephan Weil, the prime minister of the German state of Lower Saxony, to discuss economic development opportunities; and Arantz Tapia, the minister of economic development and competitiveness in the Basque Country of Spain, to discuss the region's industries.
- Participating in a business roundtable discussion in Paris hosted by the French-American Foundation and a "Doing Business in the U.S." roundtable in Spain with more than 20 Spanish companies.

WEDC, which is helping coordinate the trip along with Walker's office, reported Thursday that the United Kingdom trip cost \$138,192. The trip included nine people, two of whom paid their own way.

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Walker spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said the primary purpose of the UK trip was to attract foreign direct investment in Wisconsin. She said Wisconsin's total exports have increased 18.3 percent and agricultural exports have increased by 50 percent since Walker took office.

"The increase in export numbers is due in part to our administration's work to build and foster foreign relationships, as well as our proactive outreach and education for small and mid-sized companies through buyer's missions and seminars to make them aware of the export opportunities available to them," she said.

Though Walker has maintained that the taxpayer-funded trips are intended to boost Wisconsin companies in foreign markets, he hasn't shied away from using them to burnish his foreign policy credentials as a potential presidential candidate.

Asked in a Fox News interview in late February how he would address the Islamic State, Walker mentioned his recent meeting with British Prime Minister David Cameron.

"There is a way we could put together a global coalition to take this on," he said.

Walker leaves for Germany after speaking Friday at a National Rifle Association convention in Nashville. The trade mission is scheduled to run through April 20, though Walker's participation ends April 17. On April 18, he joins more than a dozen GOP presidential contenders at a New Hampshire Republican Leadership Summit.

Highway 41 to become I-41, from Illinois to Green Bay

Madison— Highway 41 from northern Illinois to Green Bay is being formally converted to an interstate, Gov. Scott Walker announced Thursday.

The Federal Highway Administration has now granted the designation, which has been years in the making.

About 3,000 signs identifying the highway as Interstate 41 will start to go up this summer and be in place by November.

"The official designation of I-41 is tremendous news that will support the safe, efficient movement of people and commerce for many years to come," said a statement from Walker's transportation secretary, Mark Gottlieb.

Interstate 41 is 175 miles long and follows I-94 from northern Illinois to Milwaukee.

It then follows I-894 through the Zoo Interchange and continues north along Highway 45 and Highway 41 through the Fox Valley and up to Green Bay, where it meets I-43.

It is the first new interstate in Wisconsin since 1996, when Highway 51 between Portage and Wausau was converted to I-39. Upgrading Highway 41 to an interstate has been in the works for nearly a decade, with advocates saying it would help market the area to businesses.

Access to highways is a top concern of businesses.

Gov. WALKER

Putting up the signs is expected to cost \$5 million to \$7 million, Department of Transportation spokesman Kim Rudat said. Another \$6 million went toward other aspects of the project, including its study and design.

Bucks announce game-changing \$1 billion arena package

Envisioning an entertainment hub that would transform downtown, the Milwaukee Bucks plan to build a \$500 million arena just north of the BMO Harris Bradley Center and use that as a springboard for an additional \$500 million in development, much of it in the largely vacant Park East corridor.

The arena site itself is not surprising — it has been the worst-kept secret in the city for weeks — but the conceptual development plans for the Park East are striking in their breadth.

The development would include a 700,000-square-foot, 17,000-seat arena; a 60,000-square-foot public plaza, anticipated as a sort of live entertainment space on what is largely a city-owned parking ramp at the corner of N. 4th St. and W. Highland Ave.; and arena parking across the street in the Park East area. Total amount of space just for that portion of the development: 1 million square feet.

Another surprise is the Bucks' intention to build a state-of-the-art practice facility as soon as possible on Park East land just east of The Brewery development. The Bucks' practice facility is in leased space at the Archbishop Cousins Center in St. Francis; the team would have to buy out the lease. Lastly, the Bucks' plans, still in the conceptual and preliminary phase, call for the demolition of the Bradley Center, first opened in 1988 and now the second-oldest nonrenovated arena in the National Basketball Association.

The land now occupied by the Bradley Center could become some combination of a new hotel and additional commercial or office space.

The plans, first reported Tuesday night by the Journal Sentinel, were outlined by the franchise a Wednesday morning news conference at the Bradley Center. The Bucks had declined to comment in advance on details of the announcement. A rendering obtained by the Journal Sentinel showed what potential development could look like in the years to come, and more renderings were released Wednesday morning.

The entire development — phased in over 10 to 12 years — could potentially take up 30 acres, with 3 million square feet of office, entertainment, retail, residential, hotel, commercial and parking structures.

It also comes as other parts of downtown are poised for a transformation, particularly the Northwestern Mutual tower near Lake Michigan.

'Futuristic looking'

The arena was produced by a design team led by Kansas City-based Populous, which has a worldwide practice and has designed 15 NBA or NHL arenas.

In addition to the proposed Milwaukee arena, the firm is working on arenas in Las Vegas and Quebec City, Canada.

The design team also includes HNTB, an infrastructure solutions firm with an office in Milwaukee, and Eppstein Uhen, a well-known local architectural firm that was involved in the design of Miller Park.

Together, the three were hired in February to design a sports and entertainment complex in Milwaukee.

For several weeks, the renderings of what the arena could look like have been shown to various groups, individuals and team owners. Sources said the arena design had been well-received and is "futuristic looking."

Members of the design team were not available for comment until Wednesday's news conference. But sources said in advance that the designers, working closely with Bucks' owners, worked to produce a design that evokes the state's natural beauty and Milwaukee's rich heritage of industry and craftsmen.

With a rendering now in the public domain and more details of potential development expected to be rolled out this week, the Bucks' efforts to get an arena financing plan would give elected officials both in Madison and Milwaukee more information to work with.

Various funding plans

For now the Bucks are backing Gov. Scott Walker's proposed \$220 million state bonding plan, buttressed by a \$150 million commitment from Bucks owners Wes Edens and Marc Lasry, and a \$100 million commitment from former Sen. Herb Kohl. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett also has continued to back the governor's plan. Last week, he laid out a \$25 million-plus commitment from the city.

The commitment included \$17 million in infrastructure in and around the proposed new arena site; giving up the city-owned parking ramp at N. 4th St. and W. Highland Ave., valued at \$7.4 million; and giving up a \$1.1 million city-owned parcel once occupied by the Sydney Hih building in the Park East corridor.

County Executive Chris Abele has not detailed what the county has in mind but said last week his staff was working on alternative models for arena funding.

County Supervisor Patricia Jursik said Tuesday she was told the Bucks were expected to submit some of their development plans to members of the county's Economic and Community Development Committee in the weeks to come. Jursik is chair of that committee.

In the Legislature, Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) has said he is confident his \$150 million bonding plan through the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands has the support of his fellow GOP senators and the commissioners of that board.

At the same time, Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester) has said whatever

about policy or politics," the administration's attorney said.

Indeed, one major hurdle for those challenging Mr. Obama's policies is showing that they have standing to sue by proving they have been injured. Sheriff Arpaio says he will be injured because Mr. Obama's policy will mean more illegal immigrants in his county committing more crimes and using more services — an argument some lawyers doubted would carry weight with the court. The Pennsylvania case suggests, however, that others could have standing to sue and signals that the president's legal argument may not be as strong as Mr. Obama has asserted.

One of the administration's key arguments is that the policy doesn't create any rights and that the illegal immigrants who gain tentative status could be deported at any time.

Judge Schwab refuted that, saying Mr. Obama couched his policy as a moral imperative to keep families together, so it is not easy to reverse.

The judge also repeatedly used Mr. Obama's own words against him. He listed the times the president said he didn't have the power to take the kinds of actions he has now taken. The case before Judge Schwab, who was appointed to the bench by President George W. Bush, involved an illegal immigrant, Elionardo Juarez-Escobar, who was deported in 2005 but sneaked back into the U.S. and ended up in Pittsburgh, where his brother, a U.S. citizen, owned a landscaping company. Juarez-Escobar went to work for his brother but was snared in a traffic stop by local police this year. He was reported to federal authorities, who charged him with re-entering the U.S. illegally.

Judge Schwab wanted to know why Mr. Obama's amnesty didn't apply to Juarez-Escobar, who pleaded guilty to the illegal re-entry charge. Judge Schwab has said Juarez-Escobar could be allowed to change his plea. The judge questioned why Mr. Obama's policy applied only to parent-child relationships and not to Juarez-Escobar, who has a "close bond" with his brother.

The judge said Juarez-Escobar appears to be "more 'family' than 'felon,'" which would seem to make him a low priority under the president's deportation policies. Immigrant rights advocates said the judge was stretching the limits of the case to rule against the president.

"It's shocking that a federal judge would use an unrelated criminal case to take it upon himself to declare the lawful, discretionary decisions of a sitting president unconstitutional," said David Leopold, a former president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. "I'm confident that this ill-advised and poorly reasoned opinion will be corrected by the Court of Appeals."

The Justice Department didn't respond to a request for comment on the decision.

In the D.C. case, administration attorneys argued that the policy is designed to carry out, not to thwart, what they believed was

Congress' intent that the Homeland Security Department go only after recent border crossers and more serious criminals in the interior of the U.S.

The Justice Department also disputed Sheriff Arpaio's claim that the policy would lead to more illegal immigration.

Larry Klayman, an attorney for Sheriff Arpaio, said the judge in that case should grant a temporary injunction to halt the policy.

"We're seeking to preserve the status quo, and there's absolutely no harm to the Obama administration and the government to preserve the status quo," Mr. Klayman said.

"They are rushing to create law, unconstitutional law, in effect, claiming they have an unbridled right as a policy to do whatever they want because they're trying to jump the gun on the new Congress."

California needs 11 trillion gallons of water to recover from its drought

California is in the middle of its worst drought in 1,200 years, according to one study, with scientists saying it's only going to get worse.

Now Nasa scientists have analysed their satellite data and found that it will take about 11 trillion gallons of water (42 cubic kilometres) for California to recover from its continuing three-year drought.

That's around one and a half times the maximum volume of the largest US reservoir. The scientists also warned that while recent storms may have been helpful in replenishing water resources, they aren't nearly enough.

"It takes years to get into a drought of this severity, and it will likely take many more big storms, and years, to crawl out of it," said Jay Famiglietti of Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Earlier this year, the team found that water storage in the state's Sacramento and San Joaquin river basins was 11 trillion gallons below normal seasonal levels, with the deficit increasing steadily since at least 2002.

Since 2011, the same river basins decreased in volume by four trillion gallons of water each year — more water than California's 38 million residents use each year for domestic and municipal purposes. Two-thirds of the loss is due to depletion of groundwater beneath California's Central Valley.

The new drought maps show groundwater levels across the US south-west in the lowest 2-10% since 1949.

The team used Nasa's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) satellites to develop the calculations. It's the first time the volume of water required to end a drought has ever been calculated.

There's no good news for California's snowpacks either. By measuring how much water is in a snowpack and how much sunlight it absorbs — which affects how fast the snow melts — Nasa's Airborne Snow Observatory was able to estimate how much water will flow out of a basin when the snow melts, helping to guide decisions about reservoir filling and water allocation.

The snowpack in California's Sierra Nevada range was only half of previous estimates. "The 2014 snowpack was one of the three lowest on record and the worst since 1977, when California's population was half what it is now," said Airborne Snow Observatory principal investigator Tom Painter of JPL. "Besides resulting in less snow water, the dramatic reduction in snow extent contributes to warming our climate by allowing the ground to absorb more sunlight. This reduces soil moisture, which makes it harder to get water from the snow into reservoirs once it does start snowing again."

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) submitted a federal study putting the California drought down to a high pressure ridge off the West Coast — typical of droughts, they say — over the past three winters that has blocked the regular wet season storms.

Scientists who didn't participate in the report criticised its stance that man-made climate change wasn't to blame for the drought. They say it didn't consider how record warm temperatures in California — 4.1 degrees warmer than the 20th century average and its hottest year in history, according to the National Climatic Data Centre — affected the drought.

The NOAA's Martin Hoerling, who contributed to the study, disagrees that this is the worst California drought in 1,200 years — saying it isn't even in the top five worst for California.

Winter in California provides snow and rain that replenishes the water resources. More than half of their annual precipitation comes between December and February, but the past two winter wet seasons and the first half of the current one are the driest since records began in 1895.

GAB director defends agency; Walker says he's open to change

Government Accountability Board Director Kevin Kennedy defended the agency in a meeting Tuesday, telling the former judges on the board that changes had already been made since the audit was released.

Kennedy presented the findings of the audit to the full board Tuesday morning, following an audit last week showing agency staff delayed years in checking felon voting records and electronic voting equipment, not enforcing some campaign finance laws and not issuing some administrative rules.

"I get a little defensive when they point out that we're not adhering to the law in terms of how we're enforcing matters or tracking things," Kennedy said. "A lot of it has more to do with how the records are organized and how reporting is getting to the board."

Some judges on the board said the results of the audit were concerning.

"We are a creature of statute, and we owe it to the public and the legislature to fulfill these responsibilities," Judge Elsa Lamelas said.

"I think this is an important management tool that we've got to use," Judge Harold Froehlich said. "I think it's the responsibility

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of the board to understand and watch the follow-through."

The board voted to ask the GAB to give it a list of all 34 recommendations and report progress at the next two meetings.

Republicans in the Legislature are already planning changes to the board as the session begins in the new year.

Gov. Scott Walker, speaking after lighting the menorah at the executive residence Tuesday, said the audit raised "serious questions."

"Honestly, I don't know what the right approach is," Walker said. "It's something I'm willing to work with lawmakers on in both parties. Whether it's modifying the current board, creating something completely new or going back to the model we had of the elections board before, there are pluses and minuses with each of those."

Walker said he hoped lawmakers would wait until later in the session to deal with GAB changes, allowing them time to comply with some audit recommendations.

Rep. Dean Knudson, R-Hudson, who is spearheading GAB legislation in the Assembly, said last week he hoped to bring something forward in January

State high court to take up some Doe cases

The Wisconsin Supreme Court has agreed to hear three cases stemming from a John Doe investigation of fundraising and spending by Gov. Scott Walker's campaign and conservative groups backing him.

The court on Tuesday accepted a legal challenge from two targets of the probe; a separate lawsuit from those two targets and another; and an action by special prosecutor Francis Schmitz to try to reinstate subpoenas that were quashed by the judge overseeing the investigation.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reports the court put off accepting a fourth lawsuit by a group challenging the campaign finance laws that are at the heart of the investigation.

The court would likely hear arguments in the coming months and issue a decision by summer.

Walker to review using hunting fees for mine costs

Gov. Scott Walker says he wants to review whether hunting and fishing fees collected by the state should be used to pay for costs related to sighting an open pit iron ore mine near Lake Superior.

Walker was asked about the issue Tuesday following a report in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel that the state has spent nearly \$260,000 to pay for expenses related to the mine that will not be recovered from mining company Gogebic Taconite.

Money to pay for that has come from landfill tipping fees and hunting and fishing license fees.

Walker says he would prefer that fees collected for anything to do with hunting, fishing and trapping "stay in those particular areas." He says he wants to review the issue across state government.

Wis. ranked as 12th highest taxed

A new analysis finds that Wisconsin is the 12th highest taxed state in the country and third highest in the upper Midwest.

The nonpartisan Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance said that was based on Census data on tax collections Tuesday. It analyzed the tax data as a percentage of personal income. The data shows that Wisconsin moved from 13th worst in 2011 up one spot to 12th in 2012, the most recent year available.

Taxes as a percentage of personal income in Wisconsin were 11.4 percent in 2012. That compares with 10.5 percent for the national average.

Illinois was the highest taxed state in the upper Midwest at 11.7 percent of personal income and ninth highest nationwide.

Minnesota was 10th highest nationwide and second highest in the upper Midwest at 11.6 percent.

Woman taken to 'wrong' hospital faces bankruptcy

Megan Rothbauer would rather be discussing an impending engagement, her future marriage and eventually, children. However, the 30-year-old Madison resident is instead scouring the Internet looking for solutions to stave off bankruptcy.

A project manager for a manufacturing company, she is one year removed from a cardiac arrest and the subsequent physical recovery is being dwarfed by a near-impossible fiscal recovery. She was sent last Sept. 9 to the emergency room at St. Mary's Hospital, which was out of her insurance network, instead of to Meriter Hospital, three blocks away, which was covered by her insurance. It's the difference between a \$1,500 maximum out-of-pocket expense and the now-\$50,000-plus she's facing in bills.

"I was unconscious when I was taken to the hospital," she said. "Unfortunately, I was taken to the wrong hospital for my insurance. 'I was in a coma. I couldn't very well wake up and say, 'Hey, take me to the next hospital.' It was the closest hospital to where I had my event, so naturally the ambulance took me there. No fault to them. It's unfortunate that Meriter is in network and was only three blocks away from St. Mary's," Rothbauer said.

A News 3 investigation revealed Rothbauer's situation -- what's called "balance billing," where patients receive the balance between the hospital charge and what insurance companies will cover -- is not unique. While the local insurance companies that represent roughly 80 percent of those who have insurance in our area will offer out-of-network patients in-network rates during emergency room visits, there remains no guarantee they won't face hefty bills on the back end depending on the treatment they receive.

"My strong suspicion is this happens more frequently than you think," said Meg Gaines, who runs the Center for Patient Partnerships, a consumer health care advocacy group at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School. "I mean every time someone goes

down, they don't have someone around who knows what their insurance is."

In Rothbauer's case, her insurer, Blue Cross Blue Shield, said it paid St. Mary's 100 percent of its in-network rate or \$156,000 to cover part of the original \$254,000 bill that she incurred during 10 days in a medically-induced coma and another six days in the cardiac unit. St. Mary's negotiated with Rothbauer to reduce the remainder of her \$98,000 bill by 90 percent. This is separate from the bills she received from the doctors, the ambulance, the therapist and others. Gaines said consumers have little chance to negotiate against the parties in the health care industry as they don't have the necessary tools.

"I mean, I know this business. I've been doing this for a while, knocking on doors, trying to understand this data and I have no ability to do it. None," Gaines said. "When they don't even disclose the cost (of services), there's the cost. There's the price. There's the charge. There's the accepted payment. Lions, tigers and bears, oh my. How do you even know what's what in this world?"

"It is totally random, and it is the problem with saying consumers have to go to the right hospital and you say, 'What if you're unconscious?'" Gaines said.

Rothbauer's insurance company placed the blame for her situation on St. Mary's Hospital and its cost for services.

"(Megan) received care by a hospital that is not in our Wisconsin network," Scott Larrivee, public relations director for Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, wrote in an email to News 3. "Since we have no contract with this hospital, we have very little influence over what the hospital is charging in this situation."

The hospital, meanwhile, said it empathizes with Rothbauer's situation, but that it already wrote off tens of thousands of dollars in costs and that the conversation should also focus on the fact its doctors and nurses saved Rothbauer's life.

"When you're looking at saving a life, you're not looking at whether or not you can save them money," said Cyn Gunnelson, manager for Managed Care Contracting for the Wisconsin region of SSM Health Care. "I can only do so much. The hospital can only do so much. And I think the best outcome is the person walked away from the emergency room."

Rothbauer credits the doctors and nurses at St. Mary's for the work they did on her behalf. However, her feelings toward the hospital's accounting department and her insurance company are much different. As she sits at her kitchen table with her eventual fiancé, Ben Johnsen, the bills are spread out, covering much of the surface. Her frustration is matched solely by the fear that this could happen to any one of us.

She and Johnsen are holding off getting engaged until her economic situation has more clarity. She is waiting to hear back about her latest appeal to Blue Cross Blue Shield before she can negotiate further with

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seeing it. (In November, a 4-year-old boy survived a 230-foot plunge down a cliff.)
Arachnids on a plane: Woman stung by scorpion on flight

A Portland-bound Alaska Airlines flight out of Los Angeles was delayed Saturday night after a passenger was stung on the hand by a scorpion and crew members had to search the plane for other unwanted arachnids.

Alaska Airlines spokesman Cole Cosgrove said Flight 567 was preparing to depart when the incident occurred.

The female passenger was checked out by medics at the gate and declined further medical attention -- but did not take the flight, Cosgrove said.

The scorpion was killed by the crew, which then searched the plane before takeoff, Cosgrove said. The flight was delayed less than an hour.

It was not clear how the scorpion got on the plane, which had arrived in Los Angeles from Los Cabos, Mexico, he said.

The Oregon State University men's and the University of Portland's women's basketball teams were aboard the flight. As expected, the incident did not go unnoticed on Twitter.

SportsCenter anchor Sara Walsh tweeted: "thought I had plane problems today until I read this- Oregon state's plane delayed bc a woman on it bit by scorpion."

A glum Oregon State Hoops twitter account tweeted this: "Tough week for Beavs just got tougher. A scorpion just bit woman two rows in front of @waynetinkle. Plane had to go back to LAX. True story."

But the team and its Twitter account apparently cheered up later. After arriving in Portland, Oregon State Hoops tweeted: "Just landed safely at PDX. Hope the woman who was stung by the scorpion is okay. Great to be back in the Beaver State. #gobeavs"

All scorpions possess venom, thought not all are damaging to humans. Some scorpions carry a valuable venom being tested for treatment of cancer and other diseases. A scorpion can carry a valuable sting -- a gallon of venom from some species can be worth millions of dollars.

Frozen' Niagara Falls drawing tourists to winter spectacle

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP) — The winter's deep freeze has transformed Niagara Falls into an icy spectacle, encasing the trees around it into crystal shells and drawing tourists who are braving below-zero temperatures.

The Niagara River keeps flowing below the ice over, so the falls aren't completely frozen over. But the massive ice buildup near the rink has become a tourist magnet for the second straight year after several relatively mild winters.

Visitors have been flocking to Niagara Falls State Park, next to the American Falls, one of three waterfalls that make up the natural attraction. Days of subzero temperatures have created a thick coating of ice and snow on every surface near the falls, including railings, trees and boulders.

Gov. WALKER

Assembly Republicans introduce prevailing wage bill

Under current Wisconsin statutes, laborers, workers, mechanics and truck drivers who work on state or local public works projects or on highway projects involving the state must be paid wages equivalent to wages paid for similar projects. The statutes are designed to prevent employers from manipulating their workers' wages enough that they could underbid competitors for government work. The bill would eliminate the laws but leave intact statutes prohibiting local governments from enacting their own prevailing wage laws or ordinances.

The measure has a host of Republican sponsors in the Assembly. Assembly leaders have referred the bill to the chamber's labor committee.

Bill aimed at increasing speed limit gains traction

Rep. Paul Tittl, a Manitowoc Republican, says the bill allows the Department of Transportation to increase speed limits to 70 miles per hour in approved areas. The top speed limit in the state is currently 65 miles per hour.

The bill faced little opposition at an Assembly transportation committee hearing Tuesday. DOT representatives say they would likely raise the speed limit on rural freeways and expressways. They would test individual roads to determine which sections could accommodate increased limits.

Rep. John Spiros, a Marshfield Republican, proposed an amendment that would allow the DOT to set a lower speed limit for commercial vehicles.

The committee is expected to vote on the bill next month.

Walker budget would ax tax funds from Wisconsin parks

MADISON (AP) — Gov. Scott Walker is proposing that Wisconsin cut state tax funding for its parks system and make up for it by raising campsite and park entrance fees. Walker's spending plan would remove \$4.6 million in tax funding from the budget for the state's parks, trails and recreation areas, the Wisconsin State Journal reports.

Tax revenue makes up about a quarter of the current \$16.7 million parks budget, which would decrease to \$15.6 million under Walker's spending plan, with more funding coming from fees.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is reviewing Walker's proposal, according to agency spokesman Bill Cosh. "The governor's budget recognizes the potential of Wisconsin state parks as a user-supported state resource that will allow Wisconsin state parks to stay healthy and visitor-focused," Cosh said.

The price of an annual state park pass would go up by \$3 to \$28, and nightly campsite fees would rise \$2. The group Friends of Wisconsin State Parks backs the "modest" fee increase, group president Bill Zager said.

State tax funding for Wisconsin parks has gone down since the state legislature voted in 1995 to get rid of a requirement that the system be equally funded by fees and the general fund. The National Conference of State Legislatures reported in 2012 that state parks generally have not been able to support themselves. Philip McKnelly, the former head of the National Association of State Park Directors, said Wisconsin's proposed changes "would have a significant impact on the system."

Wisconsin's state parks system includes 46 parks, 14 state trails, four recreational areas and two national scenic trails. The parks account for about \$1 billion in economic activity each year, according to a study by the state Department of Natural Resources and University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Sturgeon spearing on day 1 yields nearly 600 fish

WINNEBAGO SYSTEM — Freezing temperatures and strong winds couldn't keep fishermen off the ice for opening day of the 2015 sturgeon spearing season.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 467 sturgeon were harvested on Lake Winnebago, while 126 were harvested on the Upriver Lakes Saturday. Spearers harvested 93 juvenile females, 245 adult females and 255 males. That adds up to total of 593 fish harvested.

The stations with the largest volume of fish registered were Stockbridge, Payne's Point, Wendt's, Quinney, and Calumet Harbor. The north shore stations of Waverly Beach and Harrison Town Hall combined for 37 fish. On Lake Winnebago, 13 fish at 100 pounds or larger were harvested by the end of day one. The largest was a 127.3 pound, 76.4" female sturgeon speared by Gregory Harma. That fish was registered at Payne's Point.

The Upriver Lakes fishery had a total of 126 sturgeon, with three larger than 100 pounds. Winneconne's Mark Tegelman speared the largest fish at 103.8 pounds, 68.5".

Senior Fisheries Biologist Ryan Koenigs says a clear trend was observed at every registration station Saturday. Overall, the fish were in poorer condition (leaner) than observed during recent seasons.

Koenigs adds he anticipated that this would be the case given the lack of gizzard shad in the system over the past year. Gizzard shad have become a staple food source for lake sturgeon over the past couple of decades. How does this year's opening day harvest compare to past years? Koenigs says the opening day harvest of 467 fish on Lake Winnebago ranks 5th highest since the season moved to the shortened six hour spearing day in 2002.

The average opening day harvest over this 14 year period has been 374 fish, so Saturday's number actually eclipses that by more than 100 fish. In comparison, this year's opening day harvest of 126 sturgeon on the Upriver Lakes was the 2nd lowest opening day harvest since the current lottery structure was implemented in 2007. The average opening day harvest over this 9 day period was 178 fish, making

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bonding amount is approved, it will be less than Walker's initial offering of \$220 million. And Walker himself has circled back and said he's open to whatever plan can garner enough support to get the deal done.

Potential pitfalls

On Tuesday, at a meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands, executive director Tia Nelson told the three largely receptive commissioners the agency could likely help finance a Bucks arena deal, noting that she had met with Walker's staff earlier Tuesday about the possibility.

But Nelson and the commissioners remained cautious since they have yet to receive key specifics about the possible deal from lawmakers and the Walker administration. Nelson also laid out several other potential pitfalls for the board, which would need to sell some of its existing holdings of municipal loans to get the cash needed for a Bucks deal.

Selling about \$100 million in bonds from Wisconsin municipalities would flood the open market for those assets, with negative effects for the board and for local governments in the state that are looking to borrow money through the financial markets, Nelson said.

One way to avoid that would be to find a large private buyer of the bonds held by the board.

That buyer could be the State of Wisconsin Investment Board, which manages the pension funds for state employees, another large institutional investor or even the wealthy Bucks owners themselves since they manage hedge funds, Nelson said.

While much of the massive project is preliminary and conceptual, the Bucks have done their homework in preparation of a public rollout. Principal owners Edens, Lasry and Jamie Dinan have quietly visited 20 arenas around the country to see what they liked and didn't like.

At the same time, Michael Fascitelli, a well-known Manhattan real estate developer, was brought in as a part owner. Fascitelli, said one source familiar with the Bucks' plans, was asked to "quarterback" the proposed development.

Obama set to meet Castro as nations look for truce

President Barack Obama was set to meet face-to-face with his Cuban counterpart Raul Castro on Friday, the first time the leaders have interacted since their nations agreed to renew diplomatic relations after half-a-century of enmity.

Obama arrived in Panama late Thursday to his third Summit of the Americas, a large gathering of Latin American leaders that in years past was tinged with animosity at Cuba's exclusion. Moments after Marine One, Obama's helicopter, touched down in Panama City, Castro's plane landed on the same tarmac. Panamanian television carried both arrivals live.

This year, Obama was expecting a warmer welcome from the dozens of countries

represented at the conference, after announcing in December he was seeking to engage Havana in talks over reopening embassies and removing barriers to commerce and travel.

In Panama, Obama is expected to announce he's removing Cuba from the United States' list of countries that sponsor terrorism, a major advance in building diplomatic ties between the two countries.

The State Department delivered its report on the designation to the White House on Wednesday; Obama said on Thursday a panel of experts was reviewing it before he makes a final determination.

But in remarks during a brief stopover in Jamaica, he strongly hinted he was ready to remove Cuba from the list, which also includes Iran, Sudan and Syria.

"Throughout this process, our emphasis has been on the facts," Obama said. "So we want to make sure that given that this is a powerful tool to isolate those countries that genuinely do support terrorism, that when we make those designations we've got strong evidence that, in fact, that's the case."

"As circumstances change, then that list will change as well," he said.

While some inside Cuba have expressed dissatisfaction at the pace of the diplomatic thaw, U.S. officials insist they're pleased at the progress toward re-establishing diplomatic ties, which the White House argues has helped improve relations with other countries in the region.

Obama said in Jamaica he "never foresaw that immediately overnight everything would transform itself."

The summit meetings Friday and Saturday will mark the first time Cuba participates in the conference, which takes place every three years. At the two Obama previously attended, in Trinidad and Colombia, reception toward the U.S. delegation was icy.

"We felt it was long overdue and takes a huge irritant out of our policy in Latin America and the Caribbean," said Roberta Jacobson, the assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs who's led talks with Cuba re-establishing diplomatic ties.

The overtures to Cuba have not been universally popular in the United States; some lawmakers were irate that Obama was seeking to engage what they regard as a corrupt government.

Obama was planning to meet in Panama with Cuban dissidents, some of whom were violently accosted earlier this week by supporters of the Castro regime.

How a sunken ship explains the U.S. military alliance with South Korea

SEOUL — Defense Secretary Ashton B. Carter honored slain South Korean sailors Friday in a visit to the wreckage of a naval vessel whose 2010 sinking brought tensions on the Korean peninsula to some of their highest levels since the 1953 armistice. It was the first time a U.S. defense secretary visited the memorial to the Cheonan, which went down in the waters off South Korea's

western coast on March 26, 2010, killing 46 people.

What remains of the 1,200-ton patrol vessel, now torn in two, is mounted on a dry dock on a South Korean naval base. Visitors can walk underneath the mangled hull of the ship and inspect the spot where, South Korean officials say, a torpedo launched by North Korea inflicted the fatal damage.

Carter, who visited the base after talks with officials in Seoul, laid a wreath by the ship's wreckage together with South Korean Defense Minister Han Minkoo. "This is a sad reminder that ... peace and stability isn't automatic," Carter said. "It needs to be defended."

For South Koreans, the incident was a national tragedy.

For the United States, it was an illustration of the threat from nuclear-armed North Korea — the core of the military alliance that has anchored U.S.-South Korean ties for half a century.

North Korea has consistently denied sinking the ship.

This week's visit to Seoul gives Carter, a former senior Pentagon official who returned as defense secretary in February, a chance to acquaint foreign leaders with his vision for the U.S. military, and to provide reassurances that shrinking defense budgets and a host of foreign policy crises in Iraq, Ukraine and elsewhere won't distract the United States from its commitments to protect allies in East Asia.

Two days before Carter arrived in Seoul, North Korea fired two surface-to-surface missiles in what appeared to be a response to an annual U.S.-South Korean military exercise.

U.S. officials say North Korea has the world's fourth largest military, including the biggest special operations force and a potent arsenal of missiles and long-range artillery. But the isolated nation's lack of funding and modern technology raise questions about how effective its forces would be in the event of open conflict.

Speaking at a press conference earlier in the day, the South Korean minister said there was no clear indication that North Korea had imminent plans for another nuclear or long-range ballistic missile test. Pyongyang has conducted three nuclear tests since 2006. "However, based on past behavior from North Korea, we believe that should their strategic objective not be met there is always the possibility that they will resort to provocations," Han said.

Past attacks such as the sinking of the Cheonan could pose a challenge to any attempts at rapprochement between Seoul and Pyongyang.

While both South Korean President Park Geunhye and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un have expressed some interest in engagement, the two countries remain estranged. The Obama administration has shunned the idea of talks with Pyongyang.

or more easily resolve complaints against officers. An oft-cited study in Rialto, Calif., for example, found that police shifts without cameras had about twice as many incidents with use of force as shifts with cameras. For Madison, Koval said he would like to learn lessons from other cities first — Minneapolis just approved a pilot program for the next few months, other Minnesota police departments already have the cameras in place, and cities from Los Angeles to New York are jumping on board, many spurred by the confrontations and distrust between police and residents in Ferguson, Missouri, this summer and fall.

"We are blessed in this sense, a lot of the communities that are going to the cameras are starting from a position of mistrust," Koval said. "I really don't think we have the same sort of manifest mistrust in our city toward our police as a lot of those communities."

A handful of Madison residents came to the meeting Tuesday night to testify both for and against the body cameras. Those in favor echoed the idea of enhanced accountability both for officers and the people they interact with. Those against the idea argued that there is strong police distrust, particularly among "black and brown" people — and that won't be solved by adding body cameras or giving more money to police.

"I think the community engagement piece is going to give us a much better understanding of what body cameras will mean for our city," said District 5 Ald. Shiva Bidar-Sielaff. "The issue of trust in the Latino community is a huge issue, and it makes people not even want to call the police."

Koval said he has talked to Lester Moore, a neighborhood police officer in the Darbo-Worthington area who thinks the cameras will have a chilling effect.

"He's sort of petrified at what the implications of cameras will do in terms of relational abilities," Koval said.

To take into account all these implications, the city and police will spend the next year engaging with community members, employees and experts, nailing down a Madison-specific policy for implementation. The Council has requested a report, due Dec. 2, from Madison police on the use of the cameras. It will address key points like benefits, accountability, transparency, privacy rights and community impact. Following the report, an ad hoc committee will work to develop and implement a community and employee engagement process and timeline, develop a policy on body cameras and develop framework for a pilot study to occur in 2016, with \$30,000 designated in 2015 for the process. The capital budget also adds \$75,000 in 2016 for the purchase of about 50 cameras for one police district.

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WALKER

"We can find that sweet spot," Koval said, "but I think if we go in a steady and deliberate path, the end game will be better."

Scott Walker wants jobless, food stamp recipients to face drug tests

Wisconsin could have one of the nation's most sweeping drug-testing requirements for those receiving public benefits if the proposal by Gov. Scott Walker to test those who apply for unemployment checks and food stamps becomes law.

But with scant details, it's unclear whether any expansion beyond the current testing of drug felons would be allowed under federal law governing the state's FoodShare program. It's also unclear how Wisconsin could craft any broad-based testing program for public benefits recipients that would be found constitutional.

The newly re-elected governor and Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester, both say a top priority of the upcoming legislative session is to require that recipients receiving food assistance and unemployment compensation be drug free to qualify for benefits.

In Wisconsin, an estimated 836,000 people receive FoodShare benefits, about 40 percent of them children, according to the state Department of Health Services. As of last week, 39,958 people had filed weekly unemployment compensation claims, according to the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

As part of his re-election campaign platform, Walker vowed to require "a drug test for those requesting unemployment and able-bodied, working-age adults requesting food stamps from the state." But no further details, including the cost and scope of the proposal, were available last week from the Walker administration.

Spokeswoman Laurel Patrick said the governor will work with his Cabinet in the coming weeks "to craft a specific proposal," which is designed toward "moving people from government dependence to independence."

In the past three years, numerous states have proposed drug testing recipients of cash welfare and unemployment benefits, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Eleven states require testing of at least some recipients receiving cash welfare, NCSL data show. Four states have drug-testing requirements for at least some people seeking unemployment compensation, the NCSL said. Two states — Kansas and Mississippi — have both requirements, according to Jeanne Mejeur, senior researcher at the National Conference on State Legislatures. While acknowledging no details on Walker's proposal are yet available, Department of Workforce Development spokesman John Dipko said the agency "is committed to ensuring those who receive public assistance

such as unemployment benefits are ready and willing to work."

But some state programs in which everyone receiving or applying for public benefits is drug tested have been slapped down as unconstitutional. And more narrowly tailored programs testing only suspected drug users have resulted in very few beneficiaries being dropped from welfare rolls.

If Wisconsin attempts to enact broad-based testing for food-stamp recipients, it could run into legal troubles. Earlier this year, Georgia passed a law requiring testing of food stamp recipients suspected of drug use but agreed in July not to enforce it after the state attorney general and the U.S. Department of Agriculture warned it was illegal and could result in loss of federal funding for Georgia's program.

Sherrie Tussler, the executive director of Hunger Task Force of Milwaukee, questioned how the Walker administration would implement such a program.

"In the states where they did do drug testing, they invested tens of thousands of dollars and found very few people," she said. "If they come up with a positive test, is he (Walker) going to help them find treatment?"

Tussler said she sees no upside to such a requirement — for recipients or taxpayers. "For people who are addicted, do we also want to starve them?" she said. "In a nutshell, starving somebody is not any type of drug treatment program that I've heard of, and I've been in social services for 35 years."

Hurdles ahead

Since 1996, federal law has allowed states to deny cash welfare benefits to drug users as a result of sweeping welfare reform enacted during the administration of Democratic President Bill Clinton.

In addition, federal rules bar those convicted of a drug-related felony from receiving food stamps. But states can make exceptions, and 20 states and the District of Columbia have eliminated the ban entirely.

Wisconsin is one of 17 states that allow those with drug-related convictions to receive food stamps if they pass a drug test.

"Exploring options to expand drug testing for individuals in the FoodShare program is one way we can help Wisconsin employers grow our workforce," Department of Health Services spokeswoman Stephanie Smiley said. "Such an initiative will maximize the investment made by state and federal taxpayers."

But federal law does not allow states to require broad-based drug testing of all food-stamp recipients, said Alan Shannon, regional spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service. He said federal law bars states from tacking on additional requirements for food-stamp eligibility beyond what the federal government already requires.

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cont.

Logan's story on what she found on a visit to an American-run hospital treating Ebola patients in Liberia aired Sunday. Among other distressing moments, it spotlighted the wife of an Ebola patient wailing at his death, and a 5-year-old boy named William who was cared for at the hospital by his father but who later died.

At the end of her report, CBS said the team were in voluntary quarantine and directed viewers to a *60 Minutes Overtime* web [interview](#) with Logan and a member of her crew, conducted from a room crowded with TV equipment where they worked on their story.

Logan said they were battling cabin fever while waiting for the quarantine period to end. She also teared up a little talking about William, saying she has a son the same age. "It's so heartbreaking," she said. "It's really been hard on all of us."

Logan's report showed the kinds of precautions they took while in Liberia, including regular hosing with chlorine solution, frequent monitoring of temperature every day and making sure not to touch anyone.

Also, a CBS security worker was along to watch everyone's interactions to minimize any chance of infection with the Ebola virus, which is spread through contact with bodily fluids.

"We wanted to try, as much as possible, to minimize our exposure to anybody while we still had to get our piece done," Logan said. "We were very mindful of the fact that this 21-day period after you've been in an Ebola-affected country is very important to everyone."

It was Logan's second *60 Minutes* story since she [returned](#) in June from an involuntary six-months leave of [absence](#), imposed by the network after her much-ballyhooed story on the deadly 2012 raid at the U.S. mission in Benghazi, Libya, turned out to be embarrassingly flawed.

Logan apologized publicly for the Benghazi story on *CBS This Morning*. "Today the truth is we made a mistake and that's very disappointing for any journalist," she said. "It's very disappointing for me."

But if she were looking for an assignment to put that behind her and highlight her credentials as a plucky foreign correspondent, the Ebola story can't be beat: Other than reporting from a war zone, it's one of the riskiest assignments for even experienced journalists.

A cameraman who was working for NBC News in Liberia contracted the virus but recovered last month. Nancy Snyderman, the NBC News medical correspondent who worked there, was asked to go into voluntary quarantine when she arrived home but that was made mandatory after she was spotted leaving her home. ABC's Richard Besser was not quarantined upon his return from Liberia

because the ABC team was judged not to have had exposure to the virus.

Al Roker sets world record for longest weather report

He did it! Al Roker has set a new Guinness World Record for the longest uninterrupted live weather report broadcast — a remarkable 34 hours.

#Rokerthon began at 10:05 p.m. ET

Wednesday, and wrapped up just after 8 a.m. Friday.

It was all for a good cause. Al asked people to pledge support via his [Crowdrise campaign](#), which benefits our armed forces and United States Service Organizations (USO).

As of 8:25 a.m. Friday, Al Roker raised nearly \$73,000.

Al's effort was part of Guinness World Records Day, an international celebration of record breaking taking place across the globe November 13.

He had to follow specific rules in order for the record to be verified by Guinness:

He must talk about weather for the entirety of the time, outside of breaks.

He can talk about current weather, and weather seven days in the past or seven days ahead.

For every 60 minutes completed, he can take a five-minute break.

The breaks can carry over and be combined, so if he goes four hours without stopping, he can take a 20-minute break.

Two independent witnesses must also be there at all times.

Tweet your congratulations with #Rokerthon — he'll have plenty of time to answer them once he wakes up from a long nap.

UW-Madison researchers discover method to encourage self-renewal of stem cells

UW-Madison cell and regenerative biology professor James Thomson and his team of scientists recently made new strides in their extensive stem cell research.

Thomson and his team members from the Morgridge Institute for Research conducted tests and experiments on mice to advance their research, according to a UW-Madison news release.

Results from the trials led to a developed method which eternally preserves progenitor cells in their pluripotent stages. In other words, the stem cells, which eventually transform into specific tissues, will forever remain in a phase with the potential to become one of at least 200 different cell types.

Maintaining pluripotent stem cells in a controlled environment enables them to undergo constant reproduction. The cells will cyclically divide and grow to produce working endothelial, blood and smooth muscle cells.

David Vereide, one of Thomson's associates at MIR, said the cells are able to self-renew through the regulation of a small quantity of genes.

"Normally, these cells are ephemeral and get used up while differentiating into specific cell types, but we found a way to interrupt that," Vereide explained in the release.

He also said their findings bring researchers very close to finalizing medical uses for stem cells.

Thomson said in the release he and his team have ambitions to progress from examining mouse cells to working with human cells, and motivate other experts to uncover even more valuable information on the topic.

"I'm hoping that other scientists who see this get inspired," Vereide said in the release. "If you dig into the progenitor state of any tissue, you will probably find core factors that will drive the expansion of those progenitors in a dish."

The new discovery will be recorded in the Dec. 9 publication of "Stem Cell Reports."

Body cameras 'an inevitability,' but Madison moving forward slowly

Cities across the country have adopted body camera technology in efforts to increase police transparency and mutual accountability, but the heightened surveillance brings a slew of concerns about privacy and community impact.

The path forward for implementing body cameras for police in Madison will be a slow and thoughtful one, albeit inevitable, according to Madison Police Chief Mike Koval.

Cities across the country have adopted the new technology in efforts to increase police transparency and mutual accountability, but the heightened surveillance brings a slew of concerns about privacy and community impact.

"This is an inevitability and we need to do it right and we want it done properly," Koval said at the city's budget meeting Tuesday night.

At that meeting, the City Council approved the groundwork for studying body cameras in 2015 and launching a pilot program in 2016. The decisions move the pilot program back a few months from the originally suggested 2015 start date, reflecting the desire for ample community input and deliberations.

"We're going to be pushing forward for a body camera pilot, whether it's nine months from now or 12 months from now," said District 8 Ald. Scott Resnick, who sponsored the original amendment. He said the goal is to get the best policy in place that takes into account everyone's input and provides a safe and vibrant community.

Body cameras bring a host of complications that communities are dealing with across the country: Is the footage subject to public records requests? Should officers be able to turn the cameras off? Will the prospect of being filmed dissuade people from calling police?

Studies have shown that the use of cameras can reduce officers' use of force and decrease

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When it comes to cash welfare, broad-based drug testing also has been declared unconstitutional.

Florida's law has been on hold for three years since a federal judge found the requirement violates the constitutional guarantee against unreasonable government searches.

The class-action lawsuit was brought by Luis Lebron, a single father and disabled Navy veteran, who refused to take a drug test on the grounds that it violated his civil rights. U.S. District Judge Mary Scriven agreed with Lebron, finding that mandatory drug testing without a reasonable suspicion of drug use violates the Fourth Amendment.

That decision, involving the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, was upheld by the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals last year. The state of Florida has appealed.

"The evidence in this record does not suggest that the population of TANF recipients engages in illegal drug use or that they misappropriate government funds for drugs at the expense of their own or their children's basic needs," the appeals court found.

"The simple fact of seeking public assistance does not deprive a TANF applicant of the same constitutional protection from unreasonable searches that all other citizens enjoy."

'Suspicion-based' testing

In July, Tennessee implemented "suspicion-based" drug testing for people applying for its federally funded Families First program. The law requires that applicants answer a three-question survey asking whether they have used marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamines or amphetamines or opioids; been fired for drug use; or had a court appearance on a drug-related charge in the previous three months.

If respondents answer "no" to all questions, they are not subjected to drug testing.

In the first three weeks of the program, 812 people applied for assistance, according to figures from the Tennessee Department of Human Services cited by The Tennessean. Four who refused to participate in the process were denied benefits. Six who answered "yes" were tested, and one failed. In all, five were denied benefits.

The Deseret News, reporting on a similar program in Utah, found that in a 12-month period from 2012 until 2013, 12 people were denied benefits after the state spent \$30,000 screening and testing welfare recipients.

About one-fourth of the 466 people required to take drug tests refused and stopped the application process, the newspaper reported. In Missouri, over an eight-month period, 636 drug tests were administered, yielding 20 positive tests at a cost of \$500,000, the Kansas City Star reported in December. Two hundred people refused to take the tests and were denied benefits, the Star reported.

In a letter to Walker in September, Democratic U.S. Reps. Mark Pocan of

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Madison and Gwen Moore of Milwaukee cited the Missouri figures.

They questioned both the legality and the cost of Walker's proposal, which they said could "hurt Wisconsin taxpayers or unfairly limit their access to federal programs."

Mexico arrests alleged leader of Juarez drug cartel Vicente Carrillo Fuentes

The alleged leader of the Juarez drug cartel, Vicente Carrillo Fuentes, has been arrested in the northern city of Torreon, two Mexican officials said Thursday.

Carrillo Fuentes, 51, heads the cartel founded by his late brother, Amado Carrillo Fuentes, and Mexico had offered a reward of 30m pesos (\$2.2m) for his arrest.

It was the second capture of a major drug lord in as many weeks. Mexican authorities nabbed Hector Beltran Leyva as he ate fish tacos in a seafood restaurant in central Mexico on 1 October.

The two officials who revealed the information about Carrillo Fuentes' arrest insisted on speaking anonymously because they were not authorized to speak to the press.

Carrillo Fuentes, better known as "The Viceroy" or "The General," took over control of the Juarez drug cartel after his brother Amado, nicknamed "The Lord of the Skies," died in 1997 in a botched cosmetic surgery.

Amado got his nickname by flying plane loads of drugs into the United States. Vicente carried on trafficking on a more modest scale, but in a much more violent era for the cartel. Based in the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Carrillo Fuentes led the gang in a battle for control of the area's trafficking routes with interlopers from the Sinaloa cartel, engaging in a multi-year war that cost at least 8,000 lives. The area is estimated to be the route of passage for as much as 70% of the cocaine entering the United States.

Carrillo Fuentes, who like many top drug lords was from Sinaloa state, had a \$5m reward on his head from US authorities, and a similar bounty of about \$2m was offered by Mexican prosecutors for information leading to his capture.

Immediately after his brother's death, there were doubts among cartel members about Carrillo Fuentes' ability to lead, according to a profile provided to The Associated Press by the Mexican Attorney General's Office.

"He was not believed to possess the leadership and decision-making skills," according to the document, noting this created internal tensions in the group.

In the end, he was able to consolidate what the profile called "an iron grip" on the cartel, while leading it in new directions. As demand for cocaine declined in the United States, the gang took to selling more of it in Mexico.

"He overcame the initial perceptions about his personality," the document said.

Carrillo Fuentes was also known for establishing a series of shifting alliances that seldom worked out for long.

He initially allied his cartel with the Sinaloa Cartel, Mexico's most powerful drug gang. But that alliance fell apart following the 2004 killing of another brother, Rodolfo Carrillo Fuentes, in Sinaloa. That killing was reportedly ordered by Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, the top Sinaloa drug lord. In revenge, Carrillo Fuentes allegedly ordered the killing of Guzman's brother in a prison a few months later.

From that point on, the Sinaloa and Juarez cartels became locked in Mexico's bloodiest turf battle.

That in turn led Carrillo Fuentes to establish another alliance of convenience with Sinaloa's rivals, the Beltran Leyva cartel, and the Zetas, the most ruthless Mexican gang. Carrillo Fuentes was allegedly protected by an "extremely violent" group of former soldiers, and the Juarez cartel pioneered the use of targeted car-bomb attacks on police.

As with 2008 Olympics, China spends big to look good

HUAIROU, China — In a one-party dictatorship, the need to thank the non-voting masses may not appear obvious. But the Beijing city committee of China's ruling Communist Party went public Wednesday with gratitude to the Chinese capital's 21 million residents for their part in hosting President Obama and other world leaders.

An official letter carried by state-run newspapers and government websites thanked Beijing's citizens for their "unselfish contribution" to a summit of Asia-Pacific nations. The event, which ended Tuesday, was the "largest and highest-profile international activity held in China since the 2008 Olympics," the letter said.

Such gratitude seems more than justified after Beijing spent up to \$5 billion of its residents' tax dollars, and enforced draconian controls for 10 days, including bans on heating and driving, to present a beautiful venue and blue, smog-free skies for a brief forum that city and national leaders took as seriously as China's first-ever Olympics.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, and its annual leaders' summit, never generate the global excitement of an Olympic Games. But Beijing's political agenda and return to the spotlight proved reason enough, in a secretive system with little public input or accountability, to lavish Olympic-like spending on APEC week, and impose severe restrictions on individuals and businesses.

Besides traffic bans that forced half the capital's cars off the roads each day, most government offices shut, preventing citizens from getting married, registering companies or applying for passports. Schools and kindergartens shut, while hospitals reduced services. Delivery companies stopped delivering. Many small restaurants and food kiosks were shuttered, while factories for hundreds of miles closed or cut production to reduce Beijing's infamous air pollution.

I M A G I N E

BY: LEON IRBY

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DATED: JULY 23, 2014

The greatest impact, good and bad, fell on the city's northeast suburbs, 60-plus minutes from the downtown Huairou district, a key APEC venue. Obama and other VIPs spent just seven hours there Tuesday, but Huairou went to town as perhaps only China can. The district spent about \$4.9 billion preparing for APEC, according to state media including the *Beijing Youth Daily* and *China Daily* newspapers.

The outlay includes infrastructure like roads, over 1,000 high-definition surveillance cameras with facial recognition, and the centerpiece development of Yanqi Lake, once a favorite of migrating geese and now the heavily landscaped home of a massive convention center, peppered with goose motifs, that briefly hosted multiple presidents this week.

In Huairou, a mountainous area reliant on tourism, locals welcomed the long-term development boost, but expressed frustration at several temporary measures that left them out of pocket, shivering with cold and unable to buy food. At Xizhuang village near Yanqi Lake, all the farmers' inns were forced to close for over two weeks to "guarantee security", said hostel-owner Bo Zhenping, 47.

"Autumn is the best season in Beijing, we used to have a lot of guests, but nobody will compensate this loss," she said. Moreover, the village markets were shut for APEC, forcing villagers to travel far to buy food. "It's so inconvenient. How could a vegetable market be dangerous to anybody, I can't understand," said Bo. To keep smog at bay, villagers are also banned from using coal or firewood at night. "I can't fall asleep sometimes because of the low temperature," she said.

The last time Huairou hit the headlines came in 1995 when Chinese authorities moved the non-governmental organization forum of the United Nations Women's Conference out here, rather than risk having civil society activists at large in the city proper. Then-first lady Hillary Clinton caused a stir with remarks on human rights, while Beijing taxi drivers flocked here on wild rumors that naked lesbians were protesting in the streets. Environmental writer, historian and activist Dai Qing should have spoken at the 1995 event — until officials took her away to south China's Hainan Island, to prevent her accepting Clinton's invitation to meet. The new-look Huairou fills her with dread. "The investment is absolutely not worth it, and any Beijinger would agree," said Dai.

"Authorities want to create a false impression, for a few foreigners, that China's environment is beautiful, its sky blue and waters clear, when China has serious air and water pollution," she said. "We should show our real face to friends, that is true sincerity, including our weaknesses," said Dai, black-listed in China ever since the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989. "Freedom of

expression is in the Constitution, but I've been unable to publish my works for 25 years," she said.

To reinforce China's green commitment, President Xi Jinping, Obama, Russian President Vladimir Putin and their Asia-Pacific colleagues planted trees Tuesday near Yanqi Lake, where many of the flowers and shrubs appeared to be temporary, potted displays. Several local companies, who run tree-planting programs for visitors in warmer months, said planting in November reduced the likelihood of the trees' survival.

ISIL releases audio of leader days after airstrike

WASHINGTON — The U.S.-led bombing campaign is not weakening the Islamic State's resolve, its leader said in a defiant new audio recording released Thursday.

The 17-minute statement comes just days after reports surfaced that Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi may have been killed or injured in an airstrike.

"God has ordered us to fight," he said. "For that reason the soldiers of the Islamic State are fighting ... they will never leave fighting, even if only one soldier remains."

The news comes as a high-level Syrian opposition official and a rebel commander told the Associated Press that militant leaders in the Islamic State and al-Qaeda's affiliate in Syria — the Nusra Front — agreed on a plan to stop fighting each other and instead work together against their opponents.

The recording could not be independently verified, but the AP said it appeared authentic based on his voice and previous recordings by the group.

In the speech, al-Baghdadi criticized President Obama's decision to increase the number of advisers deploying to Iraq to help security forces battle the Islamic State.

"Here is Obama who has ordered the deployment of 1,500 additional soldiers under the claim that they are advisers because the Crusaders' airstrikes and constant bombardment — day and night — upon the position of the Islamic State have not prevented its advance, nor weakened its resolve," he said, according to SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors jihadi websites.

Earlier this week, Iraqi government officials said they believed al-Baghdadi was killed or injured in a weekend airstrike.

Navy responds after sailors attacked in Turkey

Navy officials said Thursday no decisions have been made on whether to forgo future port calls in Turkey or restrict personnel there after a group of protesters roughed up three Navy sailors in Istanbul.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to publicly disclose the information.

"We have enjoyed a strong relationship with Turkey for many years," the Navy said in a statement Wednesday. "As NATO allies, we

share common interests, and this incident will not diminish that strong relationship. Turkish ports have long been very popular destinations for U.S. Navy ships, and our sailors have enjoyed the warm hospitality that has traditionally been extended."

A group of Turkish protesters shouting "Yankee, go home!" attacked three sailors Wednesday near where the USS Ross, a guided-missile destroyer, was docked on an inlet of the Bosphorus Strait in the Black Sea. "We find you as murderers, as killers, we want you to get out of our land," one of the protesters told the servicemen, according to video of the incident.

Twelve Turkish nationalists detained after the attack were released Thursday, but could face charges for causing insult and injury, Reuters reported, citing local media reports.

The group, which carried a banner of the left-leaning Youth Association of Turkey, threw red paint at the sailors and briefly managed to put white sacks over their heads. The footage ends with the sailors, who were not in uniform, running off while the protesters give chase.

Anti-American sentiment in Turkey is not widespread, but some Turks accuse the United States of meddling in regional affairs. Pentagon spokesman Army Col. Steve Warren said the attacks were carried out by "what appeared to be thugs on the street."

"These attackers are a great discredit upon the Turks and the Turkish reputation for hospitality," he said. "We enjoy a strong relationship with our NATO ally Turkey. We're confident the Turks will rapidly and effectively investigate (the incident)."

The Pentagon said the sailors, who were not injured, were back aboard the ship Wednesday following the cancellation of their shore leave.

"We condemn this disrespectful act, which is in no way tolerable," Tanju Bilgiç, spokesman for Turkey's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said in a statement.

The attack appears to have been inspired by an incident in Iraq in 2003, when U.S. forces detained a Turkish special forces unit and led its members away with hoods over their heads, Reuters reported.

Police hunt for tiger loose near Disneyland Paris

PARIS (AP) — French authorities say a young tiger is on the loose near Disneyland Paris, one of Europe's top tourist destinations, and have urged residents in three nearby towns to stay indoors.

The town of Montevrain sent out a news alert on its Facebook page Thursday saying a young tiger was spotted in the brush behind tennis courts and a soccer field about 9 kilometers (5 1/2 miles) from Disneyland Paris.

An examination of a muddy footprint showed the tiger weighs about 70 kilograms (154 pounds) and is about 1 1/2 years old, said Clement Joly, a Montevrain spokesman.