

Heisman voters made big mistake by not including Barkley Commentary, 1B



Running back Andre Robinson, kicker Alex Barbir set to transfer 1B



CENTRE DAILY TIMES

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT SCANDAL

Michigan's Conyers leaves Congress

BY EISEN VIEBECK AND DAVID WEIGEL Washington Post

Facing multiple allegations of sexual harassment, Rep. John Conyers Jr. resigned as Congress' longest-serving member on Tuesday, becoming the first lawmaker to step down as Capitol Hill grapples with allegations of inappropriate behavior by lawmakers. Conyers, D-Mich., who repre-



Rep. John Conyers

sented the Detroit area for 52 years, yielded to mounting pressure from Democratic leaders to step aside as a growing number of female former aides accused him of unwanted advances and mistreatment. He has denied wrongdoing. From a hospital in Detroit, the

88-year-old congressman said he was "putting his retirement plans together" and endorsed his son John Conyers III to replace him. Another Conyers family member has already declared his intention to run for the seat, raising the specter of an intrafamily contest.

Asked about the harassment allegations, Conyers said his legacy "can't be compromised or diminished in any way by what

we're going through now."

"This, too, shall pass," Conyers told a local radio station. "My legacy will continue through my children."

Conyers' abrupt departure marks the end of a career that spanned the Watergate hearings, impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton, the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, and the debate over a national health-care system. Conyers influenced debates over each issue as a member and, eventually, as chairman of the powerful House Judiciary Committee. He recently stepped aside as the panel's ranking Democrat.

Conyers is currently hospitalized for what his attorney has described as a stress-related illness. His family has not provided

SEE RESIGN, 3A

MIDDLE EAST

Trump to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital

BY MATTHEW LEE AND JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump forged ahead Tuesday with plans to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital despite intense Arab, Muslim and European opposition to a move that would upend decades of U.S. policy and risk potentially violent protests.

Trump also told the leaders of the Palestinian Authority and Jordan in phone calls that he intends to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. It remains unclear, however, when he might take that physical step, which is required by U.S. law but has been waived on national security grounds for more than two decades.

Trump is to publicly address the question of Jerusalem on Wednesday.

SEE ISRAEL, 3A

CRIME

911 dispatcher charged with unlawful records access

BY JEREMY HARTLEY jhartley@centredaily.com

A Centre County 911 dispatcher faces felony charges stemming from an investigation that allegedly started with an escort and a State College motel.

According to separate affidavits filed by State College police, based on information received, officers set up surveillance detail on Nov. 9 targeting prostitution activities at a South Adirton Street motel. On that date, officers reportedly observed a man, later identified as Alex P. Lieberman, 22, entering the motel, greeted by a woman at the door.

Lieberman left shortly after, police said, and was stopped by police near Old Boalsburg Road. He allegedly admitted to responding to an escort advertisement and made arrangements to meet the woman via text messages, saying he paid \$100 to talk to her before leaving.

Lieberman's cellphone was

SEE DISPATCHER, 3A



ABBY DREY adrey@centredaily.com

The owners of the Rathskeller on Monday announced that they would be closing the historic State College establishment, along with Spats Cafe.

RATHSKELLER BAR

Herlochers, despite sale, say bar to operate 'way you've always known it'

BY SHAWN ANNARELLI sannarelli@centredaily.com

The Herlocher family submitted a statement to Onward State on Tuesday that the new tenants of the Rathskeller's space would continue to operate the bar as patrons have "known it" for decades.

The Herlochers, who bought the property for more than \$6.5 million in July, have given the owners of the Rathskeller and Spats Cafe until the end of February to move out.

The statement said the new tenants would be revealed before 2018 and did not include the new names of the businesses. Duke Gastiger, co-owner of the restaura-

nts, said Tuesday afternoon there had been no changes to any potential negotiations with the Herlochers on purchasing the names. The Herlochers have not responded to requests for comment on Tuesday.

The statement did not say if the new tenants had always

SEE RATHSKELLER, 3A

“THE OUTPOURING OF PUBLIC SENTIMENT IS HEART-WARMING FOR OUR EMPLOYEES. I HAD 647 MESSAGES ON MY PHONE THIS MORNING, MOST RELATING A MOMENT IN TIME AT THE SKELLER OR SPATS THAT WILL REMAIN ETCHED IN THEIR MEMORIES.”

Duke Gastiger, co-owner of the Rathskeller and Spats Cafe

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FROM PAGE 1A

RESIGN

ed further details.

Described by supporters as an icon of liberal policy-making, Conyers was revered on Capitol Hill as a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. The group declined last week to call for his resignation, pitting its members against House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who said he must leave Congress.

Conyers' resignation comes as his colleagues grapple with how to address the growing public outcry over sexual harassment on Capitol Hill, which some female lawmakers and aides have described as rampant. Disclosure of a \$27,000 settlement Conyers reached with a former employee intensified scrutiny of Congress for its secretive system of settling harassment complaints.

Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., is facing multiple allegations of inappropriate touching. He has apologized, and he suggested in a recent statement that any unwanted touching was not intentional. Franken faces pressure to quit as Democrats demand "zero tolerance" for sexual misconduct.

Rep. Blake Farenthold, R-Texas, said Monday that he would reimburse taxpayer money that was allocated that he used \$80,000 in public funds to settle a sexual harassment complaint. He has denied wrongdoing.

And Pelosi called on Rep. Ruben Kihuen, D-Neiv., to resign after his former finance director alleged that he made unwanted advances toward her on the campaign trail. Kihuen, who did not deny the allegations, apologized for any comments or actions that made the staffer "uncomfortable."

In a statement Tuesday, Pelosi said Conyers' accusers "were owed the justice" of his resignation. She

called for the House to approve legislation reforming the system for filing and settling workplace complaints on Capitol Hill.

"Congressman Conyers has served in the Congress for more than five decades, and shaped some of the most consequential legislation of the last half-century. But no matter how great the legacy, it is no license to harass or discriminate," she stated.

News that Conyers has resigned, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder will call a special election to replace him that could pit two Conyers family members against each other.

The grandson of Conyers' brother indicated Tuesday that he plans to run. Ian Conyers, a Michigan state senator, wrote on Twitter, "I look forward to our local and national media taking a thorough look at all candidates to replace my uncle @RepJohnConyers."

He did not respond to messages seeking comment.

Less is known about John Conyers III, the retired congressman's preferred successor and his son with former Detroit City Council member Monica Conyers. A writer and aspiring rapper, he is described as a "partner at Detroit's first minority run hedge fund" and a "seasoned multi-discipline consultant" on his contributor page at the Huffington Post.

He has defended his father in several media interviews as more women emerged to accuse Conyers of misconduct.

"It's disconcerting to me to see the way my father is being treated after he's given so much to this country - not just for black people but for people alike. He fights for everyone," John Conyers III told local reporters last week.

Snyder will begin reviewing possible election dates once he receives Conyers' official resignation letter, a gubernatorial spokesman emailed Tuesday.



Palestinians burn a poster of President Donald Trump during a protest in Bethlehem on Tuesday.

MAHMOUD ILLIEN/AP

FROM PAGE 1A

ISRAEL

U.S. officials familiar with his planning said he would declare Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a rhetorical volley that could have its own dangerous consequences. The United States has never endorsed the Jewish state's claim of sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem and has insisted its status be resolved through Israeli-Palestinian negotiation.

The mere consideration of Trump changing the status quo sparked a renewed U.S. security warning on Tuesday. America's consulate in Jerusalem ordered U.S. personnel and their families to avoid visiting Jerusalem's Old City or the West Bank, and urged American citizens in general to avoid places with increased police or

military presence.

Trump, as a presidential candidate, repeatedly promised to move the U.S. embassy. However, U.S. leaders have routinely and unceremoniously delayed such a move since President Bill Clinton signed a law in 1995 stipulating that the United States must relocate its diplomatic presence to Jerusalem unless the commander in chief issues a waiver on national security grounds.

Trump is likely to do the same, U.S. officials said, though less quietly. That's why he plans to couple the waiver with the declaration of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, according to the officials who weren't authorized to speak publicly on the matter and demanded anonymity. Key national security advisers including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis have urged caution, according to

the officials, who said Trump has been receptive to some of their concerns. The concerns are real: Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital could be viewed as America discarding its longstanding neutrality and siding with Israel while the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has been trying to midwife a new peace process into existence. Trump, too, has spoken of his desire for a "deal of the century" that would end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

U.S. officials, along with an outside adviser to the administration, said they expected a broad statement from Trump about Jerusalem's status as the "capital of Israel." The president isn't planning to use the phrase "undivided capital," according to the officials. Such terminology is favored by Israeli officials including Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu and would imply Israel's sovereignty over east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians seek for their own future capital.

Jerusalem includes the holiest ground in Judaism. But it's also home to Islam's third-holiest shrine and major Christian sites, and forms the combustible center of the Israeli-Arab conflict. Any perceived harm to Muslim claims to the city has triggered volatile protests in the past, both in the Holy Land and across the Muslim world.

Within the Trump administration, officials on Tuesday were still debating the particulars of the president's expected speech as they fielded a flood of warnings from allied governments.

The Jerusalem declaration notwithstanding, one official said Trump would insist that issues of sovereignty and borders must be negotiated by Israel and

the Palestinians. The official said Trump would call for Jordan to maintain its role as the legal guardian of Jerusalem's Muslim holy places, and reflect Israel and Palestinian wishes for a two-state peace solution.

Still, any U.S. declaration on Jerusalem's status ahead of a peace deal

"would harm peace negotiation process and escalate tension in the region." Saudi Arabia's King Salman told Trump on Tuesday, according to a Saudi read-out of their telephone conversation. Declaring Jerusalem as Israel's capital, the king said, "would constitute a flagrant provocation to all Muslims, all over the world."

In his calls to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Jordan's King Abdullah II, Trump delivered what appeared to be identical messages of intent. Both leaders warned Trump that moving the embassy would threaten Mideast peace efforts and security and stability in the Middle East and the world, according to statements from their offices. The statements didn't speak to Trump's plans for recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, the head of the Arab League, urged the U.S. to reconsider any recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, warning of "repercussions." Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Parliament such recognition was a "red line" and that Turkey could respond by cutting diplomatic ties with Israel.

French President Emmanuel Macron said he reminded Trump in a phone call Monday that Jerusalem should be determined through negotiations on setting up an independent Palestine alongside Israel.

Meeting U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in Brussels, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said actions undermining peace efforts "must be absolutely avoided."

FROM PAGE 1A

RATHSKELLER

planned to operate the bar as it had been for decades.

"We are a family of Penn Staters and State College natives who live here, work here and are raising our family here," the statement said. "... We, like many of you, believe that certain things should remain. That is why we acted, to prevent this landmark building from vanishing from the College Avenue landscape. When it became clear that

the current operator arrangement would not continue, we carefully considered the next steps."

News of the Rathskeller and Spats closing spread quickly. The response appeared to be shock, followed by efforts to keep the cateries open and some went as far to say they'd boycott Herlocher's Food Inc. Dave Cole, a State College native, began a petition to save the restaurants on change.org.

"There are a handful of places in State College you walk into and you could be in any era," Cole said.

"And there's obviously a charm and uniqueness about a place like the Rathskeller."

Cole's petition has more than 6,700 signatures in less than 24 hours. He hopes the new tenants do not change the Rathskeller and said he is optimistic and skeptical after reading the Herlocher's statement.

Gastiger refused the claim that the Herlochers offered to buy the busi-

nesses. He said the Herlochers' offer was for the Gastigers' liquor license at about 50 percent of its value.

"The outpouring of public sentiment is heartwarming for our employees, Monica and me," Gastiger said. "I had 647 messages on my phone this morning, most relating a moment in time at the Skeller or Spats that will remain etched in their memories. (They told me) funny or emotionally, sensitive stories that we'll cherish."

The Herlochers insisted

in their letter the restaurant would not change its operations.

"The Skeller has remained a constant across 84 years and multiple operators and building owners," the statement said. "This is the place where our shared memories live. We all want this to endure as a place that has bound people to one another across generations."

Shawn Annarelli: 814-231-3928, @Shawn_Annarelli

FROM PAGE 1A

DISPATCHER

taken by officers as evidence, police said. When officers returned to the police station, they noted the phone had reportedly been wiped by Lieberman.

On Nov. 22, a report containing Lieberman's access into the criminal records management system was generated at the request of the Centre

County Emergency Communication Center, police said. The report, along with information from the center director, allegedly revealed Lieberman had worked eight shifts between Nov. 9-19, and had accessed the management system to conduct searches of his name, phone number and all supplemental re-

cords involving his case.

"Lieberman tracked every aspect of the case in which he was a suspect," police said.

The standard operating procedures for the communication center dispatchers prohibit them from unauthorized access into any system protected by the Criminal History Record Information act of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code, police said.

Lieberman was arraigned before District Judge Car-

mine Prestia on Friday, according to court documents, and was charged with eight felony counts of unlawful use of a computer, eight misdemeanor counts of unlawfully accessing stored communications and misdemeanor charges of tampering with

evidence and patronizing prostitutes. Unsecured bail was set at \$25,000.

A preliminary hearing is set for Jan. 3.

Jeremy Hartley: 814-231-4616, @JHartleyNews

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WEDNESDAY

- 8:00 p.m. Kingston Trio Celebration
- 9:30 p.m. Beyond a Year in Space

THURSDAY

- 8:00 p.m. Our Town: Northern Cambria
- 10:30 p.m. Alabama: Hymns and Gospel Favorites

FRIDAY

- 8:30 p.m. Great British Baking Show: Christmas Master Class
- 10:00 p.m. Victor Borge: 100 Years of Music and Laughter

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