WORLD IN BRIEF

Associated Press

Oregon official: Statehouse leaders allowed harassment

SALEM — Oregon's labor commissioner on Wednesday accused political leaders in the Legislature and officials in the state Capitol of permitting "a generally hostile environment based upon sex.

The complaint is among the latest in the #MeToo wave of sexual misconduct allegations against men in power to hit Oregon's Legislature and many other statehouses nationwide. It started with an expose last year of movie mogul Harvey Weinstein.

In his complaint, Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian said Senate President Peter Courtney, House Speaker Tina Kotek and others failed to act quickly on complaints that then-Sen. Jeff Kruse was sexually harassing women. Kruse resigned in February after an investigation.

Avakian said that as early as March 2016, the legislative leaders "knew or should have known of Senator Kruse's conduct and the broader sexually hostile environment in the Capitol, but did not take immediate and appropriate action to correct his conduct or otherwise protect individuals from the hostile environment."

Avakian, Courtney and Kotek are all

In response, Courtney and Kotek said in a joint statement: "We welcome additional scrutiny and a thorough investigation related to the Commissioner's Complaint."

Oregon Public Broadcasting earlier reported on Avakian's complaint, which he sent to the civil rights division of the Bureau of Labor and Industries that he heads.

Avakian blamed Courtney and Kotek for allowing Kruse's office to employ two student interns, in late 2016 and early 2017, after complaints had already been made about the senator's behavior by two female senators. Courtney and Kotek are co-chairs of a committee that controls Capitol facilities and performs administrative functions, including personnel.

Financial fruit: Apple becomes first trillion-dollar company

SAN FRANCISCO — Apple has become the world's first publicly traded company to be valued at \$1 trillion.

The milestone marks the triumph of stylish technology that has redefined what we expect from gadgets ever since two mavericks named Steve started the company 42 years ago.

The peak reached today seemed unimaginable in 1997 when Apple teetered on the edge of bankruptcy, with its stock trading for less

To survive, Apple brought back its once-exiled co-founder, Steve Jobs, as interim CEO and turned to its archrival Microsoft for a \$150 million cash infusion to help pay its bills.

Jobs eventually introduced popular products such as the iPod and iPhone that subsethe next generation of iPhone, expected to be vival remained in doubt.



A firefighter runs while trying to save a home as a wildfire tears through Lakeport, Calif.

More than 1,000 homes torched in California wildfires

UPPER LAKE, Calif. — A massive wildfire in Northern California has torched more than 1,000 homes in and around the city of Redding, authorities said Wednesday as some evacuees were allowed to return home and new blazes exploded in what has become an endless summer of flame in the Golden State.

"Whatever resources are needed, we're putting them there," Gov. Jerry Brown said at a news conference. "We're being surprised. Every year is teaching the fire authorities new lessons. We're in uncharted territory."

Just a month into the budget year, the state has already spent more than one-quarter of its annual fire budget, at least \$125 million, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spokesman Mike Mohler said.

Cal Fire said another 488 buildings, including barns and warehouses, have also been destroyed by the fire, which is now the sixth most destructive in California history.

The 121,000-acre Redding-area blaze, which started July 23, forced 38,000 people from their homes and killed six. It has scorched 189 square miles and is 35 percent contained.

At least three new fires erupted Wednesday in the Sierra Nevada region, including a blaze in Placer County that had consumed 1 1/2 square miles of land.

North of San Francisco, a fire threatened homes in an old ranching and farming area near Covelo. About 60 homes were ordered evacuated as the blaze erupted late Tuesday and winds whipped flames through brush, grass, oak, pine and fir near the Mendocino National Forest,

National Park Service officials said the scenic Yosemite Valley and other areas will be closed at least through Sunday due to heavy smoke from the so-called Ferguson Fire. The closure began July 25.

released in September.

Apple shares rose 2.7 percent to an all-time high of \$207.05 around midday. They're up 22 percent so far this year.

Jobs' vision, showmanship and sense of style propelled Apple's comeback. But it might not have happened if he hadn't evolved into a more mature leader after his exit from the company in 1985. His ignominious departure came after losing a power struggle with John Sculley, a former Pepsico executive who he recruited to become Apple's CEO in 1983 — seven years after he and his geeky friend Steve Wozniak teamed up to start the company with the administrative help of Ronald Wayne.

Jobs remained mercurial when he returned to Apple, but he had also become more thoughtful and adept at spotting talent that would help him create a revolutionary innovation factory. One of his biggest coups came in 1998 when he lured quently drove Apple's rise. The stock has been a soft-spoken Southerner, Tim Cook, away from surging this week as anticipation mounts for Compaq Computer at a time when Apple's surones.

Cook's hiring may have been one of the best things Jobs did for Apple. In addition, that is, to shepherding a decade-long succession of iconic products that transformed Apple from a technological boutique to a cultural phenomenon and moneymaking machine.

Trump team wants to roll back Obama-era mileage standards

WASHINGTON — The Trump administration is proposing to roll back Obama-era mileage standards that were designed to make cars more fuel efficient and reduce pollution.

The administration also filed notice today that it wants to revoke the authority of California and other states to set their own, stricter mileage standards — independent of federal

The proposal would freeze an effort by the on high alert.

Obama administration intended to promote auto fuel efficiency and curb tailpipe emissions of climate-changing pollutants. Those rules were to take effect after 2020.

The Environmental Protection Agency said in a statement that relaxing mileage standards in the years ahead would give "the American people greater access to safer, more affordable vehicles that are cleaner for the environment."

The EPA and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said the administration supports freezing the mileage standards after 2020, but would seek public comment now on that proposal and a range of others, including leaving the tighter, Obama administration fuel standards in place.

Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund, called the proposed rule "a massive pileup of bad ideas" that would increase pollution and raise fuel costs for consumers.

He said in a statement that the organization would challenge the administration's action "in the court of public opinion and the court of law."

California and 16 other states sued in the administration over the fuel efficiency standards in May, anticipating the new regulation.

Russia: UN peacekeepers back on Golan Heights-Syria frontier

MOSCOW — U.N. peacekeepers returned today to patrol the frontier between Syria and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, years after an escalation in fighting and abduction of U.N. troops had prompted them to withdraw, Russia's Defense Ministry announced.

For the first time, Russian forces joined the peacekeepers — a sign of Russia's deepening involvement as a mediator between Israel and

Israel for its part acknowledged a return to normalcy along the frontier, which had become particularly volatile in recent months amid a Syrian government offensive to retake territories along the border.

Col. Gen. Sergei Rudskoy of the Russian General Staff told reporters at a press conference in Moscow that Russian military police accompanied the U.N. peacekeepers in the mission. The peacekeeping mission was halted in 2014 amid the violence in Syrian's civil war over security concerns.

Syria has seen spells of fighting between rebels, government forces, and Islamic State militants along the Golan Heights since the civil war erupted in 2011.

Israeli Defense Minister Lieberman said today the situation on the Syrian side of the boundary had returned to its pre-2011 state after Syrian government forces, supported by Russia's military, regained control of the region.

Lieberman said Israel will have "no cause to intervene or operate in Syrian territory" if Damascus respects a 1974 disengagement agreement between the two sides — and as long as Syria doesn't become a staging ground for Iranian forces to attack Israel or transfer arms to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Still, in related violence, Israel's military said today that its aircraft fired on "several armed terror operatives in the southern Syrian Golan Heights" overnight and that troops were

THE DAILY **ASTORIAN**

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Evening listings THURSDAY

THURSD	YAC	EVENING			A - Charter Asto	ria/ Seaside - L - Ch	arter Long Beach					AUGUST 2	
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KING	(5)	(5:00) NFL Football Hall of Fame Game Ch	nicago Bears vs. Baltin	nore Ravens (L)	Evening	Local Lens	Incredible Dog Cha	allenge	Dateline		KING 5 News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show	
6 KOIN		KOIN Local 6 (N) Evening News (N)	Extra	Ent. Tonight	Big Bang Theory	Young Sheldon	Big Brother (N)		S.W.A.T. "K-Town"		News (N)	(:35) Colbert	
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8 KGW		KGW News at 6:00 p.m. (N)	Tonight Cassidy	Inside Edition	Ellen's Game of Ga	ımes	Trial & Error	Trial & Error	Law & Order: Spec	ial Victims Unit	KGW News (N)	(:35) Tonight Show	
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10 KOPB		Travelscope Business (N)	PBS NewsHour (N)		Oregon Art Beat		Midsomer M.	(:50) Midsomer M. "			Burn in Every Drop of		
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20 TBS		Family Guy Family Guy	Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Big Bang Theory		The Last O.G.	The Joker's Wild	Conan		
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29 ESPN		Basketball The Tournament (L)			SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter With		SportsCenter (N)		SportsCenter (N)		
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34 FAM		**** The Lion King ('94) Voices of Ma							Cloak & Dagger "C		The 700 Club		
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36 LIFE		Grey's Anatomy "Be Still, My Soul"	Grey's Anatomy "V			medy) Eva Mendes, K					(:05) Seven Year Sw		
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43 SPIKE			Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends			★★ Meet the Pare			
44 COM		(:15) The Office (:50) The Office "Ba		, ,,		The Office	The Office		The Office	Detroiters (N)	The Daily Show (N)		
45 HIST		Pawn Stars Pawn Stars	Mountain Men "No		Mountain Men "Tir		Mountain Men "La		(:05) Alone "Slayer II		(:05) Blood "Where		
46 A&E		The First 48	Live PD: Patrol	Live PD: Patrol			Live PD: Patrol (N) Live PD: Patrol (N)			Respond.	(:05) Live PD: Patro		
47 TLC		(5:00) 90 Day Fiancé				My 600-lb Life: Supersized "Milla and Cl Naked "Hurricane Aftermath" (N)		To Be Announced		Dr. Pimple "A Lipoma Jackpot" (N)		My 600-lb Life "Milla and Charity" Hard to Kill "Test Pilot"	
48 DISC		Naked and Afraid "Loaded for Bear" Wild Chile "Land Before Time" (N)							DrainOcean "Malaysia Airlines 370"		Atlantis Rising "Secrets Decoded"		
49 NGEO											lle Fanning, Sharlto Copley, Angelina Jolie.		
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58 FNC		Hannity	The Ingraham Ang							Hannity		The Ingraham Angle	
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