

The **fast** foursome  
North St. Paul sprinters own one state record, and are pursuing another, as they head to the state meet starting today at Hamline.

SPORTS 1B



St. Paul city pools opening Saturday, with high temps expected to be near 100.

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> CLASSIFIED, SECTION D ★

JUNE 9, 2017

## Comey: 'I was fired because of the Russia investigation'

**Testimony:**  
Ex-FBI chief says White House lied about him

**Trump probe:**  
Told president he wasn't under investigation

**Leaks:** Said he released memo to create need for special prosecutor

## Defense expert: Yanez's actions justified

Prosecution rests in trial of officer in fatal shooting of motorist

By Sarah Horner  
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St. Anthony police officer Jeronimo Yanez had no option but to shoot Philando Castile when he ignored the officer's commands and reached for his handgun during a traffic stop last summer, an expert witness testified Thursday for the defense.

Former police officer and police use-of-force expert Joseph Dutton shared his beliefs on the shooting with the jury hearing the manslaughter trial in Ramsey County District Court.

The state rested its case against Yanez on Thursday morning. As the defense began presenting its case for the police officer, prosecutors cross-examined, sometimes at length, most of the witnesses called by his attorneys, including Dutton.

Prosecutors accused Dutton of leaving out important facts in his analysis and relying too heavily on Yanez's statements about the shooting on the evening of July 6 in Falcon Heights.

The state alleges that Yanez, 29, recklessly shot Castile when the 32-year-old black motorist was trying to access his wallet so he could produce the driver's license that Yanez had requested. Yanez is Latino.

The shooting took place seconds after Castile told Yanez, "Sir, I do have to tell you I have a fire-arm on me." Castile was licensed to carry the gun but hadn't mentioned being licensed before the shooting, which was partially captured by the camera on the dashboard of Yanez's squad car.

The defense maintains that Castile was reaching for his gun despite Yanez's repeated commands not to. At that point, the officer, fearing for his life, opened fire into Castile's car, fatally wounding the St. Paul elementary school cafeteria supervisor, they contend.

YANEZ TRIAL, 7A



HOLLY PETERSON / PIONEER PRESS

## We're as red as, well, strawberries

The list of places where you can pick strawberries was inadvertently omitted from a story on the cover of Thursday's Eat section. The list is on Page 2A today.



ANDREW HARNIK / ASSOCIATED PRESS

Former FBI Director James Comey takes his seat Thursday to testify at a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on Capitol Hill.

By David S. Cloud and Joseph Tanfani  
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Former FBI Director James B. Comey told Congress in a hearing Thursday that he believed President Donald Trump fired him to impede the FBI's investigation of alleged Russian meddling and cooperation with the Trump campaign during last year's presidential election.

And he described the president's claims that the FBI was poorly led and in disarray as "lies, plain and simple."

"It's my judgment that I was fired because of the Russia investigation," Comey told the Senate intelligence committee during a three-hour hearing broadcast live on every major TV network. "I was fired in

On Page 10A: Former Attorney General Loretta Lynch sought to play down Clinton email probe during campaign, Comey says.

some way to change — or the endeavor was to change — the way the Russia investigation was being conducted."

Comey also said he decided to write memos for the FBI after his private meetings and phone calls with Trump because he didn't trust the president to tell the truth.

"I was honestly concerned that he might lie about the nature of our meetings," said Comey, a registered Republican most of his life who previously served under presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

### NO NEW BOMBSHELLS

Comey's charges offered no new bombshells about Russian meddling in the 2016 election or improper contacts by the Trump campaign or the White House with Russian authorities. It concluded with the certainty that what Trump has called the "cloud" of criminal and congressional investigations will not lift anytime soon.

The White House denied Trump was a liar, but left it to Trump's personal lawyer from New York to say Comey's testimony vindicated the president. Trump "never, in form or substance, directed or suggested" that Comey block an FBI investigation, the lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, said.

Comey noted that after he was fired May 9, Trump had

COMEY TESTIMONY, 10A

## Mixed White House reaction to Comey testimony

News services

WASHINGTON — As many Americans sat glued to TV sets and digital screens Thursday, President Donald Trump met with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis and other senior aides, and watched parts of the hearing from the White House dining room, aides said. The president did not tweet once or mention former FBI director James Comey during a speech later that day.

After the hearing, Trump's longtime personal lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, said Comey had "completely vindicated" the president, even as he blasted Comey for leaking memos of his private conversations.

WHITE HOUSE REACTION, 10A

## 4 charged in rapes, robberies in St. Paul

Teens attacked near downtown; suspects alleged gang members

By Mara H. Gottfried  
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After young men repeatedly raped two young women near a St. Paul park, they threw their vic-

tims' car keys into nearby bushes and told them they would be shot if they left the car to go for help, according to charges filed against four people Thursday.

The sexual assaults began

with a robbery. The suspects used a gun to threaten the teens and two of their friends and, before stealing their cellphones, forced them to unlock the phones and turn off applications

used to find stolen cells.

Three of the four young men charged are gang members, the Ramsey County attorney's office said.

"Despite the victims complying with their orders and handing

RAPE ARRESTS, 7A

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Looking for something to do? From dining out to heading outdoors, options abound.

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