

Alabama civil rights march remembered

SELMA, Ala. (AP) — About 1,500 people made their way across Edmund Pettus Bridge in remembrance of the infamous clash between Alabama state troopers and civil rights marchers more than 30 years ago.

"I enjoy repeating history," said James Armstrong, who was there for the original crossing on March 7, 1965 — a day that came to be known as Bloody Sunday. "I hope the young folks get something out of it, because we've got to motivate them to vote."

Also among the marchers Sunday were a congressional delegation led by Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., and Coretta Scott King, the widow of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. It was Lewis who led the 1965 marchers across the

bridge, where they were attacked by troopers. The event sparked the historic Selma-to-Montgomery voting rights march led by Dr. King.

Amelia Boynton Robinson, who was gassed during the original crossing, said Sunday's march marked not only an anniversary — but a celebration of the right to vote.

"It's very sacred," Ms. Robinson said. "When you think of why we marched before and why we're marching now."

Rep. Robert Underwood, D-Guam, said the crossing marked a defining moment in America's democracy.

"Every generation has to make their contribution, and some generations contributed more," Underwood said. "This generation here in Selma certainly did."

Man sentenced in S.C. nightclub shooting

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A Ku Klux Klan member was sentenced to 26 1/2 years in prison last week for his role in a nightclub shooting that wounded three black teen-agers.

Clayton Edward Spires Jr., 28, apologized for the shooting and condemned the Christian Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

"I wish people would stay

out of this organization and put an end to it," Spires said.

Spires and Joshua England, 20, had attended a Confederate flag rally in October 1996 and were driving and drinking later in the day when they came upon a crowd of mostly black individuals outside Club Illusion in Pelion.

England admitted last year that he fired a rifle 11 times

into the crowd while Spires drove. He was sentenced to nearly 26 years in prison.

Spires could face further punishment.

Prosecutors said he may still be charged with perjury and obstruction of justice for testimony he gave in a previous Klan trial.

Horace King, grand dragon of the Christian Knights in South Carolina,

was ordered by a jury last year to pay \$8 million for inciting Klansmen to torch a predominantly black church.

Spires testified at the trial that King suggested to him the idea of shooting up a black nightclub.

Spires later admitted he lied.

King has repeatedly said he does not encourage violence by Klansmen.

Washington radio personality sorry for remark

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Washington-area shock jock who lost his job because of an on-the-air comment he made about the dragging death of James Byrd Jr., says he is willing to go to Texas to apologize to Byrd's family.

"Not even a big mouth like me can explain my own mindless stupidity," said Doug "Greaseman" Tracht, who was fired from his

morning drive job at WARW Radio on Feb. 25.

Tracht said at a news conference Wednesday that he would like to meet with the family of James Byrd Jr. to apologize personally for his racially insensitive reference to Byrd's brutal death.

He said the comment "trivialized" the murder.

After playing a portion of

a song by Grammy-award winning recording artist Lauryn Hill, who like Byrd is black, Tracht had said, "No wonder people drag them behind trucks."

The remark sparked outrage among black leaders and broadcasters. After protests and a deluge of phone calls WARW Radio fired Tracht.

"I'm compelled by the

hurt, pain and distrust that I've caused to apologize to many people," said Tracht. "... I'm here to reclaim my reputation back."

Local radio talk show host Joe Madison is trying to arrange for Tracht to visit the Byrd family in Jasper, Texas. "Whatever I can do physically, emotionally for the Byrd family I will do," Tracht said.

Legislature

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A person can be convicted of a gross misdemeanor if he or she participates in a hazing incident that results in physical injury.

If the hazing incident does not include any physical injury, the participant can be convicted of a misdemeanor.

The terms for conviction include physical harm such as: beating, whipping, and branding as well as any activity that subjects a person to extreme mental stress.

The second criteria for conviction, which includes forced exclusion from social events and forced conduct that results in "extreme embarrassment," is open to vague interpretation.

To read Senate Bill 297 in its entirety, go to www.leg.state.nv.us.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will hear SB 297. Bill sponsor Senator Dina Titus is requesting that the hearing be teleconferenced to Southern Nevada to give students from UNLV the opportunity to testify.

Updates on interesting bills

Assembly Joint Resolution Number 6 passed in the Committee on Constitutional Amendments last week.

The resolution granted ex-felons the right to vote in Nevada.

Assembly Bill No. 307 changed a current law making it illegal for students kindergarten through twelfth grade to bring pagers or cellular phones to school.

The bill will impose a \$25 penalty for the first offense and up to a \$200 penalty for the fourth and any continuing offenses. The bill's fate should be determined soon.

Updates on interesting bill briefs

Senate Bill 149 sponsored by the Senate Judiciary Committee makes changes regarding a convict's sentence for throwing bodily excrement and bodily fluid at a prison employee or another prisoner.

Inmates who commit these acts will be tested for communicable diseases.

If results are positive for a communicable disease, two

to 10 years may be added to the inmate's sentence.

Assembly Bill 407, sponsored by the Assembly Judiciary Committee,

requires anyone convicted of two drunken driving charges in a seven-year period to undergo drug or alcohol treatment.

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Trial begins in plot case

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Prosecutors opened their case against two white supremacists charged with murder by calling a former associate who said one suspect likened Jews and blacks to insects and animals.

Chevie Kehoe, 26, of Colville, Wash., and Danny Lee, 26, of Yukon, Okla., are also charged with racketeering and conspiracy.

Kehoe and Lee are accused of using a campaign of violence to set up a whites-only nation in the Pacific Northwest and could get the death penalty if convicted.

John Shults, a convict who says he has left the white supremacy movement, testified Monday that he joined Kehoe in the Northwest.

"We would make such comments as 'The Jews are nothing but maggots. The Jews should be exterminated.' ... Black people were the beasts of the field, how they were meant to be lower than the white man, how we used them for caretaking," Shults said.

Members of the mostly black jury were expressionless. Shults also said Kehoe spoke of executing judges to spark a revolt.

The crimes associated with the alleged plot include a 1996 bombing at City Hall in Spokane, Wash.; shootouts with Ohio police; the slayings of two people in Idaho; and the drownings of a white Arkansas family of three.


U.S. Attorney Dan Stripling told jurors that Kehoe's beliefs were based on those of Robert Mathews, the founder of the Aryan Nations white supremacist group. Mathews was killed in 1984 when his hideout caught fire during a shootout with federal agents in Washington state.

The prosecutor said Kehoe and Lee robbed the Arkansas family in 1996 and killed them by taping plastic bags over their heads, weighing them down with rocks and throwing them into a bayou.

Later, the defendants told Kehoe's parents that the family was on "a liquid diet," Stripling said. The judge has issued a gag order in the case, but Lee's mother, Lea Graham, said her son is innocent and is no racist.


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