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Official Notices

Brown County Book (Updated 7-16)

Groton City Book (updated 7-11)

Groton Area School Book

Other Official Notices Book

Claremont Town Official Notices Book

Frederick Area School Book

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave.

The cardboard/paper
recycling trailer at the school is **Open**

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Senior Menu: Hot roast beef combination, carrots, fresh oranges, peanut butter cookie.

Softball: at Clark, U10 DH at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., U14 DH at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Olive Grove: Ladies League, 6 p.m.

Jr. Legion: Groton hosts Clark, 6 p.m., DH

19

Senior Menu: Bratwurst with bun, mashed potatoes, sauerkraut, green beans, German chocolate cake.

United Methodist: Wednesday Coffee time, 9 a.m.; Ad Council, 7:15 p.m.

Outdoor Story Time: at the Little Free Library located south of the Methodist Church, 10:30 a.m.

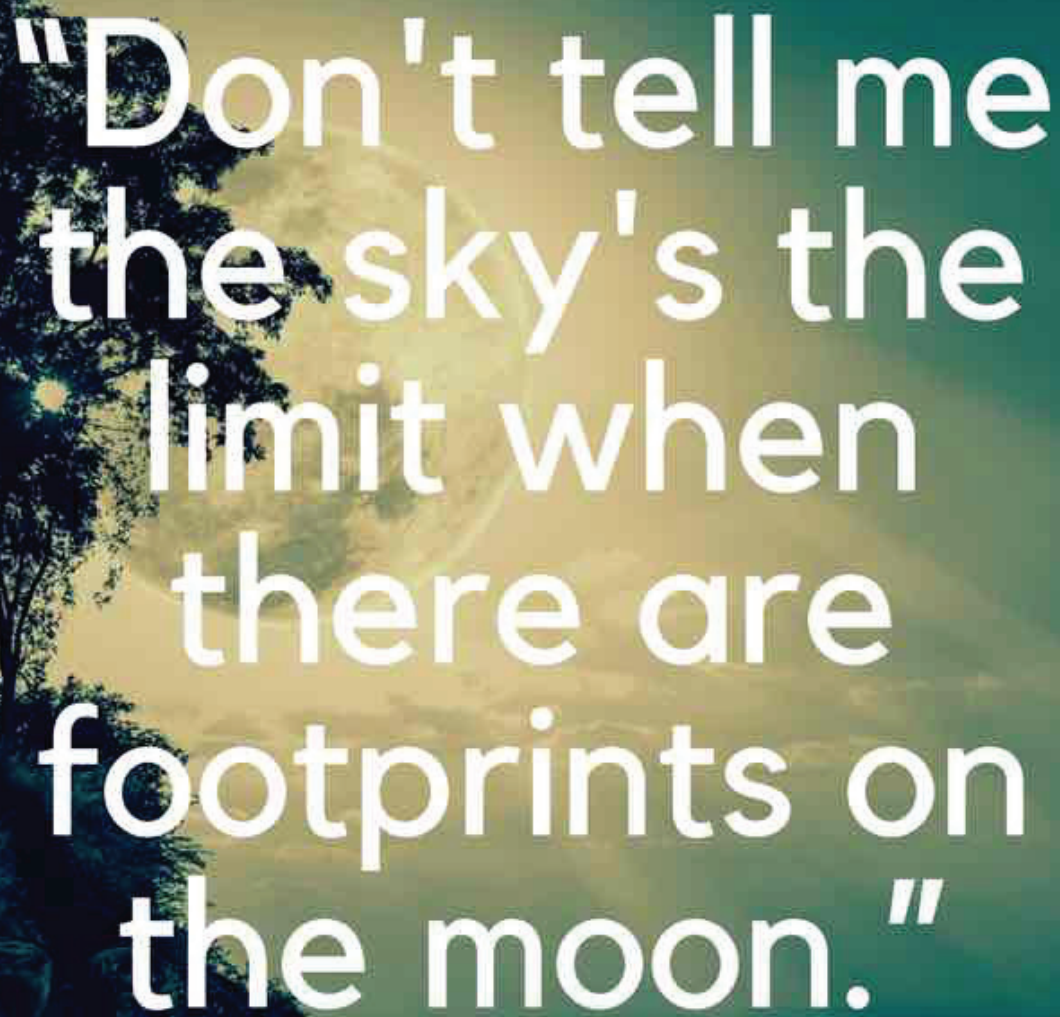
Olive Grove: Men's League, 6 p.m.

20

Senior Menu: Lemon chicken breast, creamy noodles, spinach salad, baked apple slices, whole wheat bread.

Jr. Legion: host Northville, 6 p.m., DH





"Don't tell me
the sky's the
limit when
there are
footprints on
the moon."

-Paul Brandt

Chicken Soup
for the *Soul*

South Dakota Ends Fiscal Year With Surplus

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota state government closed the 2017 budget year on June 30 marking the sixth consecutive year with a surplus, Gov. Dennis Daugaard announced today. Despite lower revenue, the state general fund budget for Fiscal Year 2017 ended with a \$7.9 million cash surplus due to lower expenditures than budgeted.

The fiscal year ended better than anticipated due to reduced expenses that sent more funds back to the general fund. In total, state agencies spent \$15.6 million, or 1 percent, less than was appropriated by the Legislature. Revenue for Fiscal Year 2017 finished lower than estimates adopted by the Legislature in February by \$7.6 million, or 0.48 percent. Combined, the state's budget for Fiscal Year 2017 ended with a \$7.9 million surplus.

"Finishing Fiscal Year 2017 with a surplus, without using our reserve funds, was a major accomplishment given the weakness we have experienced in our general fund revenue. This spring, I asked state agencies to reduce spending by \$10 million to \$15 million because of our lower revenues" Gov. Daugaard said. "State agencies responded, and all areas of state government were able to spend fewer tax dollars than appropriated to contribute to the budget surplus."

Collectively, the three branches of state government spent \$15.6 less than appropriated. Of the general fund reversions, \$14.4 million came from Executive Branch agencies, and \$1.2 million came from the Unified Judicial System, the Legislature, the Board of Regents and constitutional offices.

South Dakota's sales and use tax receipts, the state's largest revenue source, finished the fiscal year slightly above revised budgeted levels, growing 10.49 percent compared to the prior year. This high rate of growth is due to the increase in the sales tax rate that took effect on June 1, 2016. Collections from the sales and use tax accounted for nearly 61 percent of total general fund receipts in Fiscal Year 2017.

Sources of revenue with notable increases were the severance tax, the bank franchise tax and the contractor's excise tax, which grew 46.3 percent, 39.7 percent and 5.3 percent, respectively, over FY2016. Ongoing receipts to the general fund totaled \$1,540.9 million which grew 7.1 percent compared to the previous year.

South Dakota state government ended FY2017 by transferring \$7.9 million to the Budget Reserve Fund, as required by law. The state's Budget Reserve Fund now has a \$121.3 million balance and the General Revenue Replacement Fund has a \$44 million balance. The combination of those two funds, totaling \$165.3 million, represents a combined reserve of 10.7 percent of total general fund spending for FY2017.



4-H Rodeo competition was held recently in Watertown and Groton's Trey Wright won the All-Around Senior Boy award. He placed first in steer wrestling, second in team roping and fifth in calf tie-down. At the Huron 4-H rodeo, he placed first in team roping and second in steer wrestling. Wright is pictured on the right. On the left is his roping partner, Blake Kontz from Flandreau. (Photo by Janet Wright)

GFP Licensing Login Improved

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks has made it easier for outdoor enthusiasts to purchase hunting and fishing licenses online.

Online usernames and passwords are in abundance these days and keeping track of them all is difficult.

The GFP online licensing system now allows customers who have forgotten or misplaced their username and password to log into their profile by entering their last name, date of birth and the last four digits of their social security number.

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2017 South Dakota American Legion State Class "B" Sr. Baseball Tournament

Friday - July 21, 2017

Saturday - July 22, 2017

Sunday - July 23, 2017

Monday - July 24, 2017

Tuesday - July 25, 2017

South Dakota American Legion
State Class "B" Sr. Baseball Tournament
Winner, SD
July 21nd - July 25th, 2017

Groton Post 39
Region 6B Champion

GAME 1
10:00 AM

Vermillion Post 1
Region 3H Champion

Platte/Geddes Post 115
Region 4B Champion

GAME 3
5:00 PM

Dell Rapids Post 65
Region 2D Champion

Milbank Post 9
Region 1B Champion

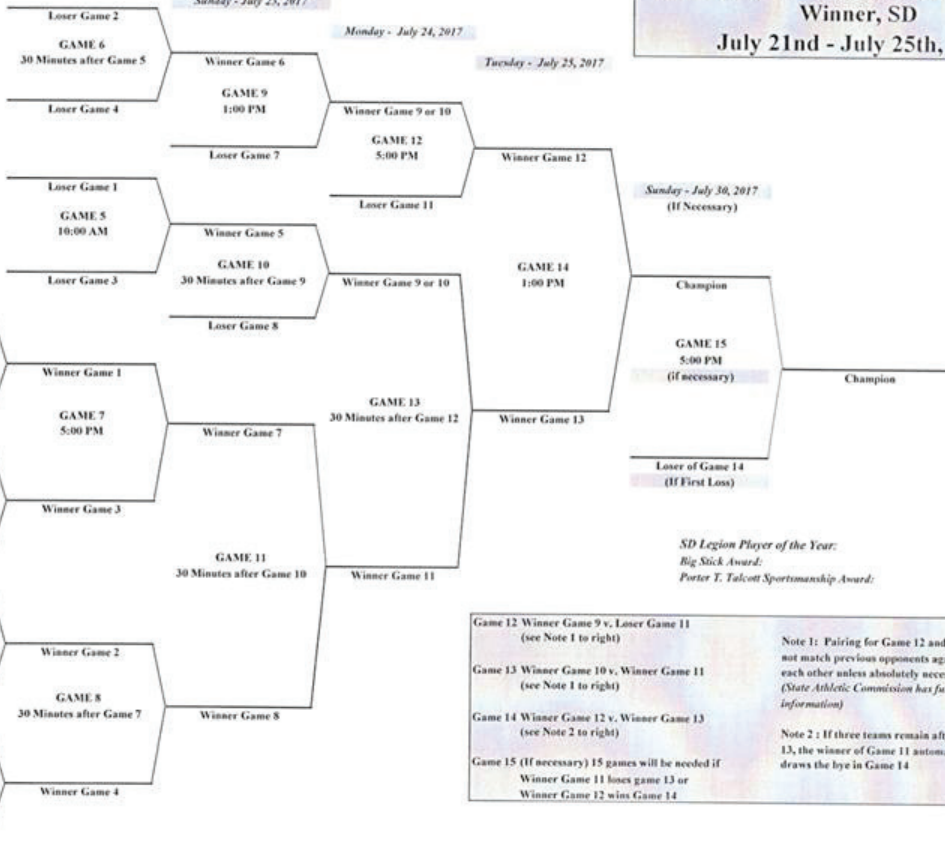
GAME 2
30 Minutes after Game 1

Spearfish Post 164
Region 7H Champion

McCook/Miner-Salem Post 140
Region 5B Champion

GAME 4
30 Minutes after Game 3

Winner/Colome Post 169
Host



SD Legion Player of the Year:
Big Stick Award:
Porter T. Talcott Sportsmanship Award:

Game 12 Winner Game 9 v. Loser Game 11
(see Note 1 to right)

Game 13 Winner Game 10 v. Winner Game 11
(see Note 1 to right)

Game 14 Winner Game 12 v. Winner Game 13
(see Note 2 to right)

Game 15 (If necessary) 15 games will be needed if
Winner Game 11 loses game 13 or
Winner Game 12 wins Game 14

Note 1: Pairing for Game 12 and 13 will
not match previous opponents against
each other unless absolutely necessary.
(State Athletic Commission has further
information)

Note 2: If three teams remain after Game
13, the winner of Game 11 automatically
draws the bye in Game 14



By Richard P. Holm M.D.

Good Medicine

The other day an 80 plus year old woman came into my office asking if she could get off some of her pills. "I take too many," she said, and I agreed with her. We were able to consolidate her medications and reduce her total number of pills from 14 to only 4.

We live in a pill-taking society. Some of this probably comes from the human tendency to find an easier way to do things. If we have a choice between walking or riding to work, we will likely ride. Similarly, if we have a choice between exercising or taking a pill to lower our blood pressure, we will likely take the pill. A pill is easier than a lifestyle change, and pharmaceutical companies are all too willing to sell us more pills.

Make no mistake, there is nothing wrong with taking certain medications; some significant medical conditions just call for it. However, as the conditions pile up, so can the medications. Sometimes it takes 2-5 different drugs to get a blood pressure down, or to control a diabetic's blood sugar, or to help a weak heart pump better. If you happen to struggle with a combination of these or other conditions, you can end up taking a smorgasbord of pills.

Many drug companies work very hard to convince doctors and patients that there is a drug for almost every ailment. Think about how providers are asked to solve a new problem each time a patient comes in, and how simple and pleasing it would be if there was a pill to satisfy their every need.

We live in a culture that is inclined to over-rely on drugs and over-play their benefits; what's worse is that we under-play their risks. This is a fact: the more drugs, the higher the likelihood for a significant side effect or a dangerous interaction between medicines. Additionally, there are many conditions that can be improved, or even reversed, with positive life style changes like diet and exercise. A pill might seem like the better and easier choice initially, but with the multiple side-effects and potential interactions, as well as the expense of multiple medications, it can end up costing you dearly in the long run.

I am not saying that all medicines are bad, and I'm not encouraging you to stop taking your medicines without careful direction by your doctor. I'm simply asking that you be aware of the number of medications your taking and the potential risks and interactions associated with them. The next time you see your provider, however, ask her or him to review the pills you take and try to get the number reduced. That would be good medicine.

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South Dakota State Parks to Host Outdoor Activities July 21-23

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is celebrating Christmas this July in multiple state parks and recreation areas in addition to offering kayaking, hiking and craft-making events.

Friday, July 21

Christmas in July, Lake Cochrane Recreation Area, Gary. Friday, July 21-Saturday, July 22. Info: 605.882.5200

Christmas in July, Sandy Shore Recreation Area, Watertown. Friday, July 21-Saturday, July 22. Info: 605.882.5200

Christmas in July, Pelican Lake Recreation Area, Watertown. Friday, July 21-Saturday, July 22. Info: 605.882.5200

Night Hike, Oakwood Lakes State Park, Bruce. Friday, July 21. 9:30 p.m. CT. Info: 605-627-5441

Saturday, July 22

Tin Punch Lanterns, Oakwood Lakes State Park, Bruce. Saturday, July 22, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. CT. Info: 605.627.5441

Christmas in July, Chief White Crane Recreation Area, Yankton. Saturday, July 22. 7 p.m. CT. Info: 605.688.2985

Kayaking for Fun, Randall Creek Recreation Area, Pickstown. Saturday, July 22. 10 a.m. CT. Pre-registration is required: 605.487.7046

All events are free with park entrance license.

For more information on activities in South Dakota state parks, visit gfp.sd.gov, contact the individual park office or call 605.773.3391.



"Always Being Made New"

Ladies' Luncheon & Program

Wednesday, July 19 – Noon

Bethesda Lutheran Church, Bristol

Silent Auction at 11 a.m. – Door Prizes
Pastor Rhia Strohm, Bethlehem Lutheran
Church – speaker

Advance tickets please: \$10

Call Kay Espeland 492-3507

Alice Jean Peterson 492-3351

or contact any WELCA member

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

The Minnesota Vikings have many of their positions set (barring an injury, knock on wood). We all know Sam Bradford will be the quarterback when the season starts, we know Kyle Rudolph will be the team's starting tight end, we know Harrison Smith will be one of the starters at safety... and so on. However, just like every team around the league, the Vikings enter the 2017 season with some positional battles, many of which will be hard-fought and will last through the preseason. For the next few weeks, I'll be breaking down the biggest position battles entering training camp.

So far, we've covered the running back, offensive line, and defensive tackle position battles. The last one of this series will also be on defense: linebacker. There were a few different positions that were considered for this final position battle review, like cornerback, defensive end, or safety, but the linebacker position is the one with the biggest question marks.

Last season, the Vikings started Anthony Barr, Eric Kendricks, and Chad Greenway at linebacker. Greenway was the one who came off the field when the Vikings went into a nickel defense, since the other two are better at pass defense. With Greenway now retired, the Vikings will be looking to find his replacement.

The third linebacker position isn't nearly as important as it once was, because opposing offenses are passing more and utilizing more wide receiver sets. Defenses have compensated by relying on the nickel defense, which removes a linebacker and replaces him with a cornerback who is better at pass coverage. With that said, however, the third linebacker still has a role in today's NFL – primarily in run defense.

The Vikings currently have nine linebackers listed, but they will likely keep only five or six on the final 53-man roster. Anthony Barr and Eric Kendricks are the only two who are guaranteed spots on the roster, leaving the other seven to battle it out for the remaining three or four. Out of those seven, there are five who have a realistic shot of becoming a starter: Kentrell Brothers, Ben Gedeon, Emmanuel Lamur, Elijah Lee, and Edmond Robinson.

Ben Gedeon is 6'2", 244 pounds, and was drafted in the fourth round of this year's draft. He is limited athletically, but he is good at run defense and has good instincts. Elijah Lee is 6'3", 228 pounds, and was drafted in the seventh round of this year's draft. He is almost the polar opposite of Gedeon, in that he has tons of athleticism, but doesn't have the size and strength to provide adequate run support. Both of these players are long shots to become starters, but nothing is impossible.

The three linebackers who have the best shot of earning the starting spot are Kentrell Brothers, Emmanuel Lamur, and Edmond Robinson.

Kentrell Brothers is 6'0", 245 pounds and is entering his second season, after being drafted by the team in the fifth round of last year's draft. Brothers is very similar to Gedeon, as he's very instinctive but limited athletically. I was intrigued by him entering this offseason, but the Vikings drafted a similar linebacker in Gedeon, so it's possible the team doesn't feel Brothers is up to the task of being a starter in the NFL.

Emmanuel Lamur is 6'4", 245, and is the oldest player amongst the linebackers at 28 years old. Lamur played with Zimmer when they were in Cincinnati, and Zimmer signed him away from the Bengals before the 2016 season. He only got on the field for 38 snaps last season according to Pro Football Focus, and had an abysmal 48.0 player grade. My guess is the Vikings would like to have a younger player take the third linebacker position, but if none step up, Lamur would likely fill in this year until a better option could be found.

The last option is Edmond Robinson. He is 6'3", 245 and is entering his third season with the team after being signed from the CFL before the 2015 season. Robinson didn't see the field last year (outside of special teams), but he did start two games in 2015.

The competition will likely come down to Lamur and Robinson, with the winner getting the third linebacker spot and the loser becoming the primary backup at linebacker. There is always a chance one of the rookies makes an impression and claims the position, but Zimmer seems like the type that wants to see consistency before handing out starting spots.

Do you have any questions for next week's article? Send them to me on Facebook ([facebook.com/skoljwright](https://www.facebook.com/skoljwright)) or on Twitter (@SkolJWright). I'll be answering the best ones next week!

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

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THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVORS BENEFITS

Most people don't like to think about death. We plan for life, for that day when we retire, for the places we'll go and the things that we'll do then. Unfortunately, death is a part of life we must prepare for. The death of a worker is devastating for the entire family, not only emotionally, but also financially.

Social Security is here to help you secure today and tomorrow with financial benefits, tools, and information to help support you throughout life's journey. Part of that promise is protection for your family when a worker dies. Some of the Social Security taxes you pay go toward survivors benefits for your family. When an income earner dies, certain members of the family may be eligible for survivors benefits, such as widows and widowers, including divorced widows and widowers; children; and dependent parents. The amount of benefits your family receives depends on your lifetime earnings. The higher your earnings are, the higher the benefits will be. The value of your survivors benefit is probably more than the value of your individual life insurance.

You can check your Social Security Statement by visiting <https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html>. The statement provides an estimate of survivors benefits we could pay your family. It also shows an estimate of your retirement and disability benefits, and provides other important information. To review your Social Security Statement online, create a personal my Social Security account. Your my Social Security account is secure and gives you immediate access to your earnings records, Social Security benefit estimates, and a printable Statement.

When a worker dies, we recommend that their survivors apply for benefits right away. You can apply by telephone or at any Social Security office. For more information about survivors benefits, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/survivors. If you think you qualify, please don't wait. Apply today.

O'Neill earns Miss Siouland and talent awards



Kaitlyn O'Neill is the daughter of Robin O'Neill and Steve O'Neill. (Courtesy

I am Kaitlin O'Neill from Groton and am now a junior at Minnesota State University Mankato majoring in dance, pre-chiropractic, and a minor in business administration. I have just competed in the Miss Siouland pageant in Sioux Falls.

I was very fortunate to have received the highest score and won the title of Miss Siouland 2017 along with the top talent award! I have now qualified to compete for the Miss South Dakota 2018 pageant which will be held in June of 2018! For those who didn't know, whoever wins Miss South Dakota will also get to advance onto the Miss America pageant!

For my talent I did a tap dance to the song Begin' by Mad-con. My platform is called Real People, Real Abilities and it is all about working with children with disabilities, helping them find their passions in life, gain skills in different aspects of life, be friend they can look up to and so much more. With my platform I am trying to inspire as many people as I can to get out there and volunteer with organizations like the Special Olympics or event local organizations like Camp DreamMakers in Aberdeen.

My favorite part about the Miss America system is that there are more phases of competition that really set individuals apart. Having a platform you are passionate about and a talent that showcases your personality is what makes the Miss America System special and sets it apart from other pageant systems.

If anyone is at all interested in competing in any pageants I would love to hear from you and can help you get signed up! There are about 6 more pageants this year that will give away multiple titles to amazing woman competing! you can go to MissSD.org to sign up and get more information as well. The Teen division is from ages 13- 17 and Miss division 18 (or a senior in high school) - 24.

Could a Gap Year After High School Make Financial Sense?

By Nathaniel Sillin

In some parts of the world, a gap year – a year-long break between high school and college – is the norm. It's starting to catch on in the U.S. as well.

It's a chance for recent high school graduates to earn money, challenge themselves, explore the world and build their resume while experimenting with different career paths.

Those who take full advantage of the opportunity often find the experience to be rewarding and beneficial. And colleges report that students who start school after a gap year tend to earn higher grades, are more involved with campus life and graduate within four years at a higher rate than their non-gap-year peers.

Lessons you could learn along the way. Many people spend at least part of the year traveling, working or volunteering away from home. During the year, they may discover that what they originally wanted to study isn't a good fit, or may come away with a newfound passion.

Entering college with this knowledge can help them focus on a major, plan their classes and graduate early. Or, at least avoid changing majors and extending their schooling. In either case, they can save tens of thousands of dollars.

During a gap year, young adults also often take a more direct role in their day-to-day finances. They can develop a greater appreciation for earning, and spending, money. In turn, this can give them a framework when taking out student loans and an extra push to apply for scholarships.

Finding structure for your gap year. To avoid squandering the year, you can look into formal programs that can help you achieve or define your personal, academic or career goals. According to the American Gap Association (AGA), a nonprofit based in Portland, Oregon, over 80 percent of gap year students say the skills they acquired helped them be successful in their career after school.

Many choose service-oriented work. The federally backed AmeriCorps programs place volunteers throughout the U.S. to help communities in need. Once you complete a full-time 10- to 11-month commitment, you may be eligible for a scholarship worth up to \$5,815 (in fiscal year 2017). Some colleges and universities will also match a portion of the award.

Working for a local business could be another great option. You can earn money, see if you truly enjoy the work, network and may be able to line up work during school or for future summer jobs. The industry connections and mentorship you receive can also be valuable for your post-graduation job search.

Another resource for finding a program is the USA Gap Year Fairs, which profiles a broad range of gap year experiences. Privately run programs may not offer compensation, but sometimes you can work in exchange for room and board. The experience can also serve as a foundation for cover letters when you apply for jobs or college admissions essays.

Funding your gap year. There are gap year options for students from all socio-economic backgrounds.

The AGA maintains a list of financial aid opportunities that can help you fund a gap year. The mix of merit- and need-based scholarships could cover the cost of a program or offset the cost of traveling or volunteering. If you have a particular program, ask the organization for recommendations.

Also, inquire with your university to see if it recommends or runs any programs. Some schools offer scholarships to admitted students who take a gap year, and a few will give you college credit for completing certain programs.

Once you start your college education, you can try to capitalize on your year off. There are many scholarships available to continuing college students and your experience could be a good jumping-off point for an essay.

Bottom line: Taking a gap year between high school and college is increasingly popular, although still not as common as it is in some other parts of the world. While jumping right into college and getting a degree is the traditional path towards employment, some parents and students see the benefit of taking a year off to better define one's goals and gain real-world experience before going to college.

Nathaniel Sillin directs Visa's financial education programs. To follow Practical Money Skills on Twitter: www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney.

NOP Alert: Fraudulent Certificates Posted

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) National Organic Program (NOP) has revised its webpage for posting fraudulent organic certificates. The text-based list of fraudulent certificates has been replaced with a more user-friendly, downloadable spreadsheet. The new spreadsheet makes it easier for users to review, search, and sort the list.

In addition, the NOP is alerting the organic trade about the presence of several additional fraudulent organic certificates. Eleven fraudulent organic certificates listing the following businesses are in use and have recently been reported to the NOP:

MySpiceSage
Aphrodite Group
Hamsch Family Vineyards, LLC
Gulda Afro Group Sanayi Ticaret Wix
Wayne Food Co Ltd
Dong Duong Export Company Limited
Pichuberry LLC
Shad Enterprises
Campo Agricola Agua Azul
BioOrganic CIA LTDA
Societe Aparma Sarl

Access the revised website and see the fraudulent certificate listing

These eleven certificates falsely represent agricultural products as certified organic under the USDA organic regulations, violating the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990.

Fraudulent certificates may have been created and used without the knowledge of the operator or the certifying agent named in the certificate. The posting of fraudulent certificates does not necessarily mean that the named operator or certifying agent was involved in illegal activity. If an operation named on a fraudulent certificate is certified, its certifying agent, identified in the list of certified operations, can provide additional information and verification to the organic trade.

The vigilance of the organic community is a vital force in ensuring organic integrity. Organic handlers should continue to review certificates carefully, validate with their certifying agents where needed, and send any suspicious certificates to the NOP Compliance and Enforcement team.

Any use of this certificate or other fraudulent documents to market, label, or sell non-organic agricultural products as organic can result in a civil penalty of up to \$11,000 per violation.

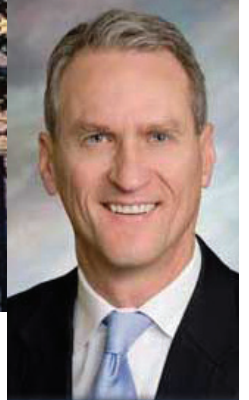
Persons with information regarding the production or use of this or other fraudulent NOP certificates are asked to send information to the NOP Compliance & Enforcement Division.

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South Dakota Governor
Dennis Daugaard



The Direct Effects Of Financial Stewardship

As Governor of South Dakota, financial stewardship is one of my top priorities. When it comes to balancing the budget, managing the retirement system and maintaining our AAA credit ratings, I dive into the details. Although it may take time, responsible stewardship can bring financial rewards.

The latest example of this can be found in South Dakota's unemployment insurance trust fund. In 2004, the cost of our state's unemployment benefits began to exceed normal revenue. Continuing on the same path would mean the trust fund would decline and eventually become insolvent. The Rounds Administration and the Unemployment Insurance Advisory Council addressed the problem by adopting a series of comprehensive solvency packages which began working to restore solvency.

Then in 2008, the Great Recession arrived in full force. Thousands of South Dakotans lost their jobs and made claims for unemployment. Weekly benefit payments from the trust fund were unprecedented. The trust fund balance was dropping faster than any predictions. By the end of 2009, South Dakota was forced to obtain federal loans to make benefit payments.

Emergency legislation was proposed during the 2010 Legislative Session which increased the taxable wage base through 2015, established higher tax rates for employers with negative account balances and raised the maximum tax rate to 9.5 percent. These reforms did the trick. In June 2010, the trust fund had steadily increased, and South Dakota was able to repay the federal loan of \$24 million and start rebuilding.

Four years later, the trust fund was back in a good position, so we brought legislation reducing employer taxes starting Jan. 1, 2015. Even with the reduction, the trust fund continued to grow at a steady pace. Recognizing the need to plan for the future, the Advisory Council recommended that the unemployment trust fund be maintained at a level which could pay 19 months of benefits at the average highest cost rate.

As a result of this recommendation, last legislative session, the Legislature passed and I signed a bill to revise the current UI tax rates and provide a tax break to employers. Under this new law, employers receive a permanent tax break of 0.05 percent effective Jan. 1, 2018. This will save employers \$2.3 million annually. Additionally, each year, if the trust fund balance on June 30 reaches the 19-month safety net threshold, employer tax rates will be reduced by another 0.1 percent. Based on the current balance of the trust fund, this means employers will save an additional \$5 million for 2018.

Through much diligence and ongoing evaluation, South Dakota's unemployment insurance trust fund is healthier now than it has ever been. I thank the Advisory Council, the SD Department of Labor and Regulation, and legislators for advancing policies that have put the fund in this unprecedented condition. They recognize, as I do, that employers have enough hurdles in front of them and we should give them a break when we can.

Why Should You Be Physically Active? It's Great for You

The American Heart Association recommends that adults get at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity each week. You know exercise is good for you. But have you ever considered why it matters?

"Physical activity can improve your health and reduce the risk of developing several chronic diseases like type 2 diabetes, cancer and cardiovascular disease," said Elaine Auld, CEO of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE).

Even better, physical activity and exercise can have immediate and long-term health benefits. Regular activity can improve your quality of life. Physical activity strengthens your heart, lungs, bones and muscles. It also gives you more energy and strength. Exercise helps control your weight and blood pressure, while assisting you with handling stress. It can also improve your sleep quality and help you feel better about how you look.

While scheduling gym time and workouts can make a huge difference in your activity level, it also helps if you can integrate your physical activity into your lifestyle. Here are some tips to help:

Try standing while at your desk. Get a standing desk. Or try a balance ball. If you have a conference call or long phone call, stand.

Get up and move around regularly. For every hour you sit, move for 5 minutes. If you cannot do this every hour, do it every two hours and increase the time to 10 minutes.

Walk more. A recent 2017 study showed over the last decade men and women are walking more. You can be part of this trend by walking for pleasure or to get around.

Move your meetings outside and keep them active. Try a walking meeting. If just 25 percent of your meetings are active, you will make big strides in health.

Add steps to your day. Park at the back end of the parking lot. Take the stairs instead of the elevator or escalator. Walk to run errands. When you get to a store, do a few laps around the outer edge of the aisles before starting your shopping.

Be intentional about walking. Go for a walk in the evening with your family or in the early morning with a pet. If the weather is bad, go to a shopping mall to walk around. Many malls have "walking fitness" programs.

Find a partner. A friend can motivate you to be active and encourage you when you need it. Having a buddy to meet up with will encourage you to stay active.

Use technology to get active. Try a smartwatch, Fitbit or pedometer. Many smartphones have pedometers and nutrition apps installed. Websites offer charts, activity ideas and more.

Auld points out that earlier this year, the U.S. Surgeon General has called on Americans to walk more, and for communities to be more walkable too.

To help promote healthier communities, SOPHE partnered in a three-year national initiative, Partnering-4Health, which has projects in 97 communities across the country. The Plan4Health project is part of the

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initiative's work and led by the American Planning Association (APA). The project encourages city planners to consider public health when making decisions about how cities are structured and developed.

That means they are working to help communities be more pedestrian and bike friendly. That includes helping communities figure out how to calm traffic so it's safer to walk, and encouraging people to embrace the idea of walking or biking instead of driving.

In Ajo, Arizona, a diverse coalition is working to increase opportunities for active living. Combining access to bicycles and bicycle education, opportunities for residents to create short videos about their relationship to Ajo and active living, and work to build a safe and accessible bike path throughout the town, the coalition has energized an often overlooked community.

In Springfield, Missouri, APA and coalition partners used orange cones and plants to set up a pop-up traffic calming area to encourage drivers to slow down. Data from the project is shared with city traffic planners.

In addition to SOPHE and APA, Partnering4Health partners also include the National WIC Association, the American Heart Association, and the Directors of Health Promotion & Education.

The American Heart Association's initiative, Oregon Kids Move with Heart partnership, collaborated with the Beaverton School District to create a Physical Activity Toolkit. Elementary schools in the program are increasing physical activity by 50 minutes each week by beginning each school day with 10 minutes of activities from the toolkit. Participating middle schools are incorporating "Brain Boosts" throughout the day too.

Learn more about #Partnering4Health: www.partnering4health.org.



**Call or Text
Paul at
397-7460
or Tina at
397-7285
for
membership
Information**

GDI Living Fitness
25 Main St., Downtown Groton

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Today in Weather History

July 18, 1883: An estimated F3 tornado moved southeast from south of Redfield to north of Hitchcock, to 6 miles southeast of Crandon in Spink County. At least one farm house was destroyed and swept away. Three people were killed on one farm.

July 18, 1986: In the afternoon, an F2 tornado that touched down in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis became one of the most observed and photographed tornadoes ever. The detailed coverage included video from a Minnesota DOT traffic camera and a remarkable aerial video taken from a helicopter by a television camera crew. The tornado began in Brooklyn Park and moved slowly northeast, causing light to moderate damage. It then turned east and slowed as it crossed the Mississippi River. Also on this day, an F2 tornado touched down two miles southeast of Bryant, in Hamlin County. This tornado traveled near Dolph Creek and moved east along the creek to the Lake Norden area. The tornado damaged many trees and destroyed a barn. A second F2 tornado touched down three miles west of Toronto and moved southeast. The tornado destroyed a barn, silo, and six other buildings and caused extensive damage to farm equipment on a farm one mile south and a half mile west Astoria.

July 18, 2008: Severe thunderstorms developed across parts of central and north central South Dakota bringing large hail up to the size of golf balls and damaging winds to near 80 mph. Some tree, vehicle, and building damage occurred with some of the storms. Eighty mph winds or higher brought down many branches along with some trees in Fort Pierre. Power was cut off for parts of Fort Pierre when branches fell on power lines. Several truck trailers and feed silos were tipped onto their sides by the high winds. Also, some buildings were damaged. A loaded train was pushed down the tracks almost a quarter of a mile by the strong winds. Seventy mph winds or greater brought down many tree branches along with some trees in Pierre. There were power outages in Pierre along with some buildings receiving damage. Damaging thunderstorm winds also downed six power poles between Sully Buttes and Onida knocking power out to over 800 homes in and around Onida.

64: The great fire of Rome breaks out and destroys much of the city on this day. Despite the well-known stories, there is no evidence that the Roman emperor, Nero, either started the fire or played the fiddle while it burned. The fire began in the slums of a district south of the legendary Palatine Hill. The area's homes burned very quickly, and the fire spread north, fueled by high winds. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1889 - A cloudburst in West Virginia along the small creeks in Wirt County, Jackson County and Wood County claimed twenty lives. Rockport, WV, reported nineteen inches of rain in two hours and ten minutes that Thursday evening. Tygart Creek rose 22 feet in one hour, and villages were swept away on Tygart, Slate, Tucker, and Sandy Creeks. (The Weather Channel)

1942 - A record deluge occurred at Smethport in northern Pennsylvania, with 30.7 inches in just six hours. The downpours and resultant flooding in Pennsylvania were devastating. (David Ludlum)

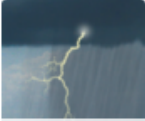






1986 - One of the most photo-genic tornadoes touched down in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis, MN, during the late afternoon. The very slow moving tornado actually appeared live on the evening news by way of an aerial video taken by the KARE-TV helicopter crew. The tornado, unlike most, was quite the prima donna, staying visible to tens of thousands of persons for thirty minutes. It was moderate in intensity, with winds of 113-157 mph, and caused 650 thousand dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - Cool weather prevailed in the western U.S. Seven cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Alamosa, CO, with a reading of 38 degrees. The low of 52 degrees at Bakersfield, CA, was a record for July. Up to eight inches of snow covered the Northern Sierra Nevada Range of California from a storm the previous day. During that storm, winds gusting to 52 mph at Slide Mountain, NV, produced a wind chill reading of 20 degrees below zero. Susanville, CA, reached 17 degrees that previous day, Blue Canyon, CA, dipped to a July record of 36 degrees, and the high of 44 degrees at Klamath Falls, OR, smashed their previous record for July by ten degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

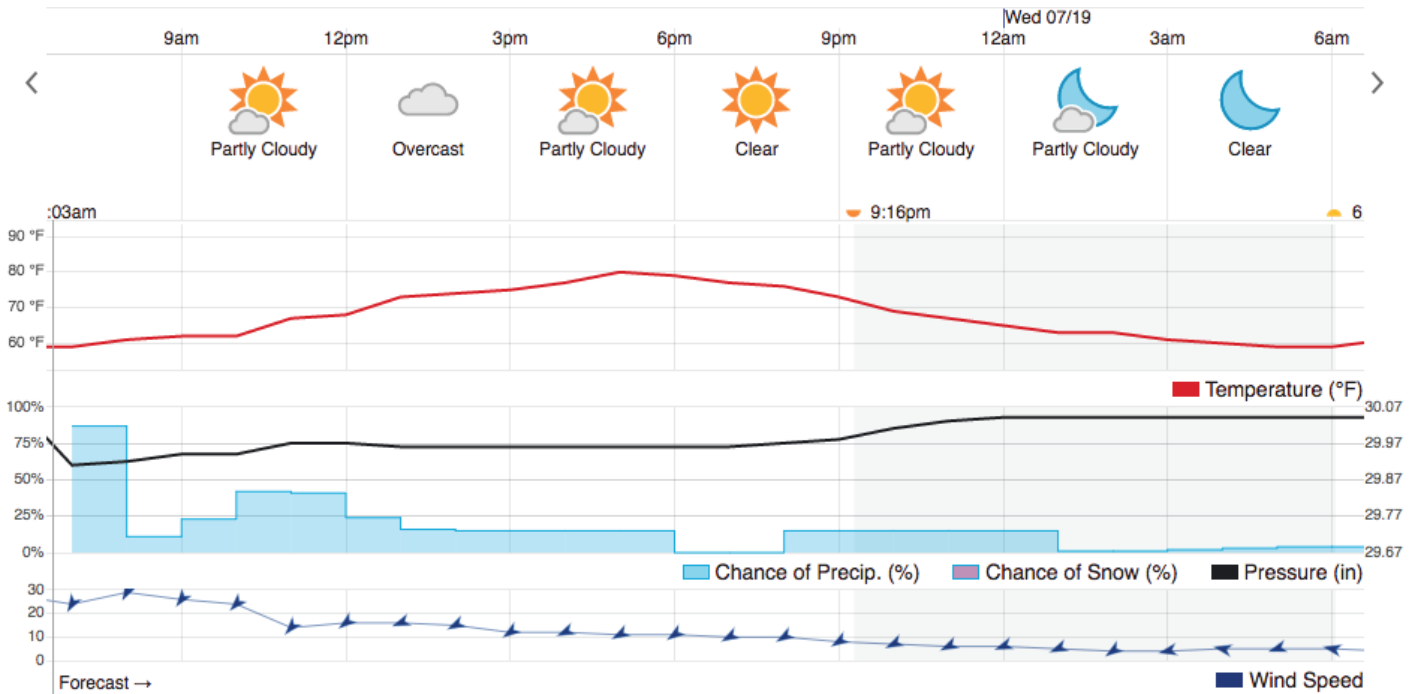
1996: A massive rainstorm in north central and northeast Illinois led to widespread flooding. Aurora reported 16.94 inches of rain, establishing a state record for the most rain in a single day. Other heavy totals included 13.60 inches at Joliet, 9.24 inches in Wheaton, 8.09 inches in DeKalb, and 7.82 inches at Elgin. This event is often called "the second most damaging weather disaster in Illinois History."

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
100% → 40%		30%	40%		30%	40%
T-storms and Windy then Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Hot	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms
High: 81 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 91 °F	Low: 67 °F	High: 87 °F

Hourly Forecast



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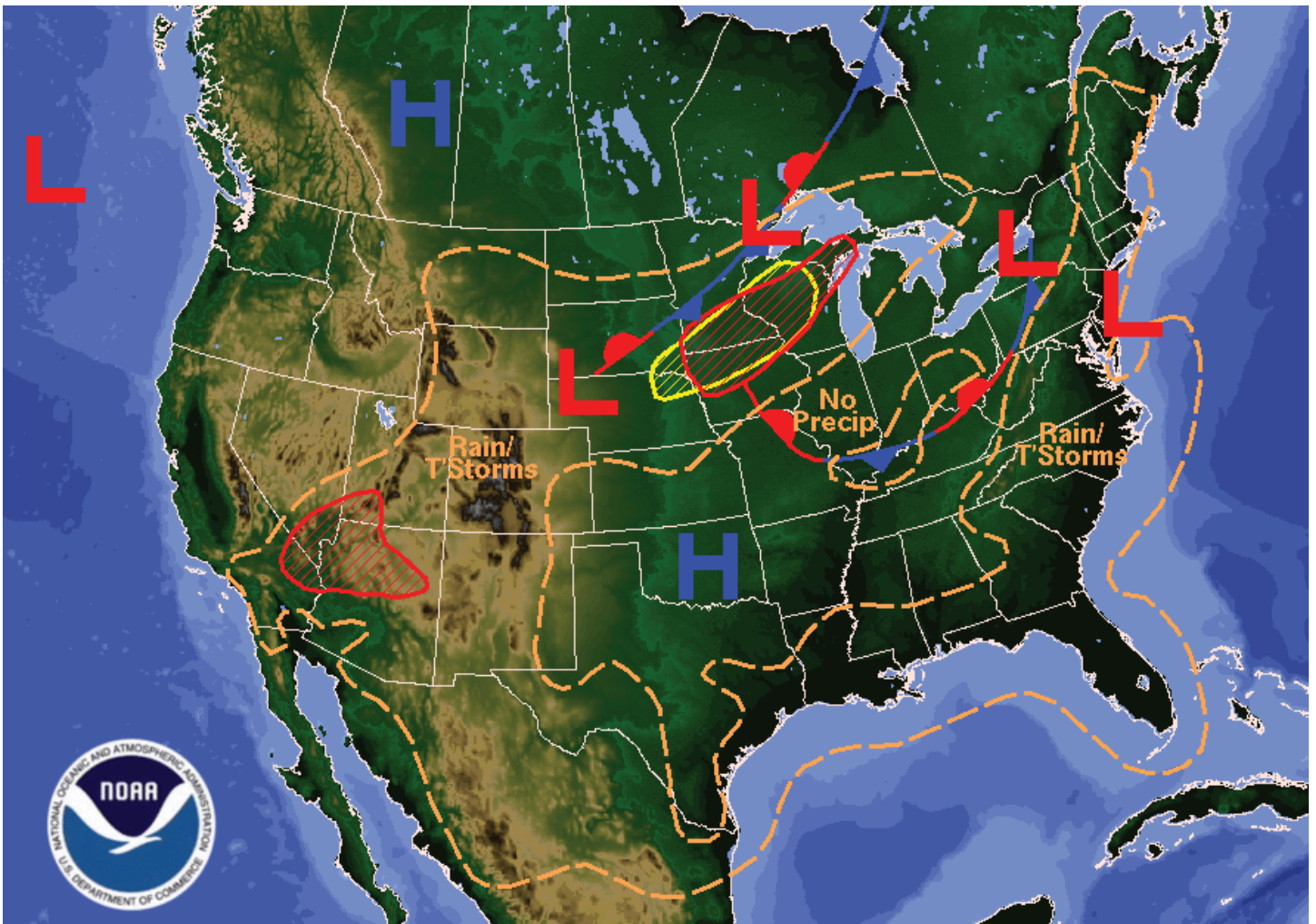
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 101.2 F at 5:04 PM
Heat Index: 111.0 at 2:51 PM
Low Outside Temp: 72.9 F at 6:01 AM
High Gust: 28.0 Mph at 1:45 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 106° in 1936
Record Low: 40° in 1915
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 60°F
Average Precip in July: 1.87
Precip to date in July: 0.17
Average Precip to date: 12.71
Precip Year to Date: 5.94
Sunset Tonight: 9:16 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:03 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Jul 18, 2017, issued 4:46 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain
Rain and T'Storms
Rain and Snow
Snow

Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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FROM HEAD TO HEART

JoAnn was watching her grandfather mulch the soil around his smiling pansies. "PaPa," she asked, "may I please have the yellow one with a purple face?" "Of course, my dear," he said, handing her a flower with a stem that was once near the center of the plant.

After carefully examining its intricate details she said, "Here, now take it back and put it where it was."

"I can't do that, my dear," he replied. "It came from the heart of the plant and there is no way to put it back."

Words are like that pansy. They come from the heart. Whatever we say or whatever anyone else says comes from the heart and words once spoken can never be returned to their source. Our words either help or harm, do good or cause damage, build up or tear down, bring out the best in people or make them fearful to act.

How wise of David to want his words and thoughts to be pleasing to God. God wants us to love Him, worship Him, serve Him and please Him. But if we do not know Him we will never be able to honor Him. And we cannot know Him unless we study His Word and allow its message to penetrate our minds.

Then, as we think Godly thoughts we will speak Godly words and do Godly deeds that come from Godly hearts and our lives will be pleasing to Him. Whatever is in our heart will eventually come out in our words and deeds.

Prayer: We ask, Father, for hearts that are filled with Your Word and lives that are pleasing in Your sight. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 19:14 May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer.

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota teen killed in Nebraska crash, authorities say

BRUNSWICK, Neb. (AP) — Authorities say a South Dakota teenager has been killed in a car accident in northeast Nebraska.

The accident was reported around 6 a.m. Monday, about 3 miles (5 kilometers) southwest of Brunswick. The Antelope County Sheriff's Office says the car was northbound on Nebraska Highway 14 when it ran off the roadway into the west ditch and rolled before hitting a tree. The 16-year-old driver was ejected.

The Sheriff's Office says the boy died later at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk. His name and hometown haven't been released.

Rounds defends GOP efforts to replace Obama health care law

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Sen. Mike Rounds has defended Republican efforts to both repeal and replace the Obama administration's health care law.

The South Dakota Republican discussed the Senate GOP's health care bill during a Monday evening tele-town hall.

At least two questioners announced their support for repealing the Affordable Care Act. Rounds says a replacement is also necessary to help people afford transitioning away from the law.

After the town hall, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced he would push for a clean repeal bill after two more Republican senators announced opposition to his replacement measure.

A spokeswoman for Rounds didn't immediately return a request for comment on the development.

Rounds says tele-town halls are a tool that allows him to connect with people statewide while work requires him to be in Washington.

Medical marijuana advocate to mount independent US House bid

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A medical cannabis advocate known at the South Dakota Legislature for fighting for a non-intoxicating compound in marijuana to treat his son is planning an independent congressional bid.

George Hendrickson tells the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2vbin9Y>) that he hopes a conservative platform and pledge to reject money from political action committees will set him apart.

The 46-year-old from Sioux Falls says he would work to overhaul federal medical marijuana policy and push to consolidate federal agencies.

Hendrickson's son has a rare type of epilepsy, and he has advocated for looser state medical marijuana laws. Hendrickson says he wants to be a more responsive federal representative for residents.

Shantel Krebs and Dusty Johnson are competing in the Republican primary for the seat, while Tim Bjorkman is a Democrat in the 2018 contest.

Information from: Argus Leader, <http://www.argusleader.com>

Governor: South Dakota closes budget year with \$8M surplus

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota burnished its reserves after closing the 2017 budget year with a surplus built on state spending reductions that offset lower-than-expected tax collections, Gov. Dennis Daugaard said Monday.

The state finished the budget year with roughly \$8 million left over, marking South Dakota's sixth straight year of surplus, the Republican governor said in a statement. The 2017 fiscal year ended June 30.

Daugaard said finishing the year with a surplus is a "major accomplishment." He had asked state agencies this spring to cut spending by as much as \$15 million in the face of weaker-than-anticipated revenues.

"State agencies responded, and all areas of state government were able to spend fewer tax dollars than

appropriated to contribute to the budget surplus," Daugaard said in the statement.

The state collected \$7.6 million, or about 0.5 percent, less in revenue than estimates lawmakers adopted in February. But the state also spent \$15.6 million — or about 1 percent — less than budgeted. That left about \$8 million for budget reserves, which now total roughly \$165 million.

The bulk of the spending reductions came from the Social Services and Human Services departments, according to state figures.

Ongoing general fund receipts totaled more than \$1.5 billion. Sales tax collections, the biggest state revenue source, accounted for nearly 61 percent of general fund receipts in fiscal year 2017.

Bureau of Finance and Management Deputy Commissioner Jim Terwilliger, the state economist, said it's good that sales tax receipts "perked up" a little bit in June. But looking forward, he said officials "don't think there's going to be a big windfall in 2018 by any means."

Breeding peregrine falcons found in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Breeding peregrine falcons have been found in South Dakota for the first time in 50 years.

The Game, Fish and Parks Department confirmed that two pairs of peregrines successfully nested in the Black Hills earlier this year, the Capital Journal (<http://bit.ly/2tiXNXZ>) reported. A third pair was spotted but didn't appear to have a nest.

American peregrine falcons were removed from the federal endangered species list in 1999 but are still listed as endangered in South Dakota, where there's limited habitat.

The birds were found in part because of the department's effort to establish delisting criteria for all the species on the state's threatened or endangered-species list. The effort led the department to hire retired Wyoming biologist Bob Oakleaf, who specializes in peregrine falcons, to help identify potential nest sites.

The search included an aerial survey of the Black Hills to identify which cliffs peregrines may use, as well as a ground survey to see if any birds were already there.

"We basically sat in lawn chairs and watched," said Casey Heimerl, a wildlife biologist with the department.

The criteria are expected to be finalized over the next few months. They will require a certain number of nesting pairs over a certain number of years. Currently the falcons can only be removed from the list if the department finds five nesting pairs for five consecutive years, but Heimerl said those numbers may change as new data is evaluated.

Information from: Pierre Capital Journal, <http://www.capjournal.com>

Yankton man pleads in pursuit that ended with shooting

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — The man accused in a police pursuit that ended with an officer-involved shooting in Yankton has pleaded not guilty to most of the charges against him.

Fifty-eight-year-old Curtis Adams Sr., of Yankton, appeared in court Monday where he entered not guilty pleas to attempted murder, aggravated assault against an officer and intent to distribute methamphetamine. Adams pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity to a charge of eluding law enforcement.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan (<http://bit.ly/2u22xQt>) reports First Circuit Judge Glen Eng ordered another mental health evaluation for Adams. A similar exam was done last spring. Adams was deemed incompetent for trial and was committed to the Human Services Center. He later received a certificate of recovery.

Adams was shot by a state Highway Patrol trooper last December following a chase.

Weekend rollover crash near Bison kills 36-year-old man

BISON, S.D. (AP) — A weekend crash in Perkins County killed a 36-year-old man. The Highway Patrol says the man lost control of the sport utility vehicle he was driving on a rural road south of the town of Bison about 9 a.m. Saturday. The SUV went off the road and rolled. The man was pronounced dead at the scene. His named wasn't immediately released.

No one injured when grain train derails near Kimball

KIMBALL, S.D. (AP) — No one was injured in a freight train derailment in Brule County over the weekend. The sheriff's office says 14 cars on a Dakota Southern Railway grain train went off the tracks Saturday 6 miles east of Kimball. The Daily Republic reports (<http://bit.ly/2uuKJOE>) that the railroad is arranging for cleanup.

Information from: The Daily Republic, <http://www.mitchellrepublic.com>

5,000 acres burn near Wanblee

WANBLEE, S.D. (AP) — A wildfire near Wanblee has burned more than 5,000 acres. The Martin volunteer fire department says efforts to stop the fire from spreading appear to be working. The fire department tweets that burnouts appear to be working to stop the fire's progress. That's areas that are intentionally burned to control how the fire spreads. KELO-TV (<http://bit.ly/2u0ISR6>) reports the fire started Sunday afternoon.

Information from: KELO-TV, <http://www.keloland.com>

10 Things to Know for Today By The Associated Press

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. GOP WAVES WHITE FLAG ON HEALTH CARE REFORM

The latest Republican effort to repeal and replace "Obamacare" is all but dead in the Senate when two more GOP senators announced their opposition to the bill.

2. WHY US, BRITISH VOLUNTEERS ARE ON FRONT LINES AGAINST IS

They joined the U.S.-allied militias in Syria for different reasons — some motivated by testimonies of survivors of the unimaginable brutality that the extremists flaunted.

3. TRUMP TOWER MEETING BRINGS CLOSE FOCUS ON RUSSIAN LAWYER

Natalia Veselnitskaya had been on the radar of U.S. officials long before revelations about her 2016 meeting with Donald Trump Jr. emerged.



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, walks towards the Senate floor on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, July 17, 2017. (AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

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4. AUSTRALIANS SEE WOMAN'S SHOOTING BY POLICE AS 'AMERICAN NIGHTMARE'

Half a world from where Sydney native Justine Damond was shot dead by a Minneapolis officer, the story is front-page news.

5. FAMILY THAT LOST 9 TO ARIZONA FLOODS WERE TIGHT-KNIT

Hector Miguel Garnica's parents were dining at a restaurant where their son worked when they received word that he had been swept up in a flash flood at a popular swimming hole and went missing.

6. US: IRAN COMPLYING WITH NUCLEAR DEAL

The Trump administration says Tehran can keep enjoying sanctions relief, even as it insists the Islamic Republic will face consequences for breaching "the spirit" of the deal.

7. WHO'S GOING ON TRIAL IN HOLY SEE SCANDAL

Former Vatican children's hospital president and ex-treasurer face between three to five years in prison and fines if found guilty of embezzling donations.

8. WHAT STATE IS CELEBRATING BIPARTISAN CAP-AND-TRADE WIN

California's fight against global warming will get another decade of life after lawmakers extend the law credited with reducing the state's carbon footprint.

9. DOGNAPPING IS 'SICKENING'

Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Lucky Whitehead is asking for help locating his pitbull Blitz after burglars took the dog and demanded a \$10,000 ransom.

10. GOLF IN POST-TIGER WOODS WORLD DOING FINE

The 146th British Open gets underway later this week at England's Royal Birkdale, where huge crowds will turn out to see the game's many young stars.

Questions remain surrounding fatal Minnesota police shooting

By **AMY FORLITI** and **JEFF BAENEN**, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — An Australian woman who called 911 to report what she believed to be an active sexual assault was shot and killed by a Minneapolis police officer in a case that has left many relatives and neighbors searching for answers.

Authorities have released no details about what led to the shooting of Justine Damond, a meditation teacher and bride-to-be who was killed late Saturday by an officer who reportedly fired his weapon from the passenger seat of a squad car.

There were no known witnesses other than the two officers in the squad car. A newspaper report said Damond was shot while standing alongside the car in her pajamas.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's office on Monday night said the woman died of a gunshot wound to the abdomen. She was identified in the report by her maiden name, Justine Ruszczuk. The Star Tribune reported



This undated photo provided by Stephen Govel/www.stephengovel.com shows Justine Damond, of Sydney, Australia, who was fatally shot by police in Minneapolis on Saturday, July 15, 2017. Authorities say that officers were responding to a 911 call about a possible assault when the woman was shot. (Stephen Govel/www.stephengovel.com via AP)

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that she was engaged to be married in August and was using her fiancé's last name.

Her death was ruled a homicide.

Her fiancé, Don Damond, said the family has been given almost no additional information.

"We've lost the dearest of people, and we're desperate for information," he said. "Piecing together Justine's last moments before the homicide would be a small comfort as we grieve this tragedy."

Damond's Sydney-based family issued a statement Monday saying they were trying to come to terms with the tragedy and understand why it happened. On Tuesday, her father spoke out publicly for the first time.

"We thought yesterday was our worst nightmare, but we awoke to the ugly truth and it hurt even more," John Ruszczuk told reporters. "Justine was a beacon to all of us. We only ask that the light of justice shine down on the circumstances of her death."

Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension is investigating the shooting. In a statement Monday, the BCA said more information would be provided once the officers were interviewed.

The BCA also said no weapons were found at the scene.

Local media identified the officer who fired his gun as Mohamed Noor, a Somali-American. A city newsletter said he joined the police department in March 2015.

His attorney, Tom Plunkett, released a statement saying Noor offered his condolences to the family "and keeps them in his daily thoughts and prayers."

"Officer Noor is a caring person with a family he loves, and he empathizes with the loss others are experiencing," the statement said.

Noor was sued earlier this year after a May 25 incident in which he and other officers took a woman to the hospital for an apparent mental health crisis. The lawsuit claims Noor and the other officers violated the woman's rights when they entered her home without permission and Noor grabbed her wrist and upper arm. Noor relaxed his grip when the woman said she had a previous shoulder injury, the lawsuit says.

KSTP-TV reported that city records show Noor had three complaints on file. The station did not provide details on the nature of the complaints, but said one was dismissed with no disciplinary action and the other two are pending.

The Star Tribune, citing three people with knowledge of the shooting, said the officers pulled into the alley in a single squad car, and Damond talked to the driver. The newspaper's sources, which it did not name, said the officer in the passenger seat shot Damond through the driver's-side door. A BCA spokeswoman did not return messages seeking to confirm that account.

Neighbor Joan Hargrave called the killing "an execution."

"This is a tragedy — that someone who's asking for help would call the police and get shot by the police," Hargrave said.

Officials said the officers' body cameras were not turned on and a squad car camera did not capture the shooting. Investigators were still trying to determine whether other video exists.

It's not clear why the officers' body cameras were not on. The department has phased in body cameras for all of its officers over the last year. Department policy allows for a range of situations in which officers are supposed to turn cameras on, including "any contact involving criminal activity" and before use of force. If a body camera is not running before use of force, it's supposed to be turned on as soon as it's safe to do so.

Once the investigation is complete, Hennepin County Attorney Mike Freeman would decide whether to charge the officer. Freeman would not comment on the broader case Monday, but said both officers likely should have turned on their body cameras as they were approached by Damond in an alley.

Police Chief Janee Harteau called the killing a "tragic death" and said she understands why the community has questions.

"I've asked for the investigation to be expedited to provide transparency and to answer as many questions as quickly as we can," Harteau said.

The Fulton neighborhood where the shooting happened is a mix of middle- and upper-middle-class homes about a half-mile from city lakes that are a popular destination for residents and tourists.

Damond's death is the latest high-profile police shooting in the Twin Cities area in recent years. Last

year, 32-year-old Philando Castile was killed by an officer during a traffic stop in a nearby suburb after he told the officer he was armed. And in November 2015, a Minneapolis police officer shot and killed Jamar Clark during a struggle in which the officer said Clark grabbed his partner's weapon.

Damond's business website indicates she relocated to Minneapolis and worked as a yoga instructor, meditation teacher and personal health and life coach.

Originally trained as a veterinarian, Damond indicated on the site that she was "most passionate about supporting individuals and organizations to discover the power and potential within their own brains and hearts."

Nancy Coune, administrator at the Lake Harriet Spiritual Community in Minneapolis, said Damond came to Minneapolis about three years ago to be with her fiancé, and she had been teaching and speaking at the center for more than two years.

Damond's mother was Australian, and she spent her formative years there, but also spent some of her early childhood in the Buffalo, New York, area, said Peter Suffoletto, a cousin of Damond's father.

Associated Press writers Doug Glass and Kyle Potter contributed to this report from Minneapolis. AP researcher Rhonda Shafner contributed from New York.

Sign up for the AP's weekly newsletter showcasing our best reporting from the Midwest and Texas: <http://apne.ws/2u1RMfv>.

Australians see woman's shooting by police as US nightmare

By KRISTEN GELINEAU, Associated Press

SYDNEY (AP) — Half a world from where an Australian woman was shot dead by a Minneapolis police officer, Tuesday's front-page headline in her hometown Sydney newspaper summarized Australia's reaction in blunt terms: "AMERICAN NIGHTMARE."

In Justine Damond's native country, news of the meditation teacher's baffling death has dominated the airwaves, newspapers and websites for days, feeding into Australians' long-held fears about America's notorious culture of gun violence.

"The country is infested with possibly more guns than people," said Philip Alpers, a gun policy analyst with the University of Sydney who has studied the stark differences in gun laws between the nations. "We see America as a very risky place in terms of gun violence — and so does the rest of the world."

While police officers carry guns in Australia, deadly shootings by police are exceedingly rare; there are only a handful reported each year, according to the Australian Institute of Criminology. And though the U.S.



In this image made from video, John Rusczyk, father of Justine Damond, an Australian woman who was shot dead by a Minneapolis police officer, holds a press conference with his family in Sydney Tuesday, July 18, 2017. The death of Damond, a 40-year-old meditation teacher who was reportedly dressed in her pajamas, was shot late Saturday. The story has led Australian network newscasts and was splashed across newspapers' front pages on Tuesday. (Chan-

nel 9 via AP)

And though the U.S.

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doesn't keep a national database of deadly police-involved shootings, even incomplete statistics show there are hundreds every year.

America's reluctance to strengthen its gun regulations and its seemingly endless stream of shooting deaths have long been a source of confusion and concern in Australia, which instituted tough gun ownership laws in 1996 following a deadly mass shooting. At the time, then-Prime Minister John Howard — a conservative — warned Australians against following America's lead on gun control, saying: "We have an opportunity in this country not to go down the American path."

The Australian government's official travel advice to those heading to the U.S. specifically warns tourists to be on guard for gun crime, and urges Australians living in the U.S. to be familiar with "active shooter" training drills. Australian media coverage of America's frequent mass shootings is often tinged with disbelief — "another day, another shooting in America" is a common refrain on newscasts.

The death of Damond, a 40-year-old meditation teacher who was reportedly dressed in her pajamas when she was shot by a police officer late Saturday, has sparked a similarly stunned reaction. The story has led network newscasts and was splashed across newspapers' front pages. Sydney's Daily Telegraph ran an editorial headlined "A senseless and tragic death."

Authorities have released no details on what prompted Saturday's shooting, which occurred after Damond called police to report what she believed to be an active sexual assault in an alley near her home.

Damond's Sydney-based family issued a statement on Monday saying they were trying to come to terms with the tragedy and understand why it happened. On Tuesday, her father spoke out publicly for the first time.

"We thought yesterday was our worst nightmare, but we awoke to the ugly truth and it hurt even more," John Ruszczuk told reporters. "Justine was a beacon to all of us. We only ask that the light of justice shine down on the circumstances of her death."

Health care bill collapse leaves divided GOP at crossroads

By ALAN FRAM and ERICA WERNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The implosion of the Senate Republican health care bill leaves a divided GOP with its flagship legislative priority in tatters and confronts a wounded President Donald Trump and congressional leaders with dicey decisions about addressing their perhaps unattainable seven-year-old promise of repealing President Barack Obama's law.

Two GOP senators — Utah's Mike Lee and Jerry Moran of Kansas — sealed the measure's doom late Monday when each announced they would vote "no" in an initial, critical vote that had been expected as soon as next week. Their startling, tandem announcement meant that at least four of the 52 GOP senators were ready to block the measure — two more than Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., had to spare in the face of a wall of Democratic opposition.

"Regretfully, it is now apparent that the effort to repeal and immediately replace the failure of Obamacare will not be successful," McConnell said in a late evening statement that essentially waved a white flag.

It was the second stinging setback on the issue in three weeks for McConnell, whose reputation as a legislative mastermind has been marred as he's failed to unite his chamber's Republicans behind a health overhaul package that's highlighted jagged divides between conservatives and moderates. In late June, he abandoned an initial package after he lacked enough GOP support to pass.

The episode has also been jarring for Trump, whose intermittent lobbying and nebulous, often contradictory descriptions of what he's wanted have shown he has limited clout with senators. That despite a determination by Trump, McConnell and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., to demonstrate that a GOP running the White House and Congress can govern effectively.

Now, McConnell said, the Senate would vote on a measure the GOP-run Congress approved in 2015, only to be vetoed by Obama — a bill repealing much of Obama's statute, with a two-year delay designed to give lawmakers time to enact a replacement. Trump embraced that idea last month after an initial version of McConnell's bill collapsed due under Republican divisions, and did so again late Monday.

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"Republicans should just REPEAL failing ObamaCare now & work on a new Health-care Plan that will start from a clean slate. Dems will join in!" Trump tweeted.

But the prospects for approving a clean repeal bill followed by work on replacement legislation, even with Trump ready to sign it, seemed shaky. Trump and party leaders had started this year embracing that strategy, only to abandon it when it seemed incapable of passing Congress, with many Republicans worried it would cause insurance market and political chaos because of uncertainty that they would approve substitute legislation.

McConnell's failed bill would have left 22 million uninsured by 2026, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, a number that many Republicans found unpalatable. But the vetoed 2015 measure would be even worse, the budget office said last January, producing 32 million additional uninsured people by 2026 — figures that seemed likely to drive a stake into that bill's prospects for passing Congress.

That would seem to leave McConnell with an option he described last month — negotiating with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. That would likely be on a narrower package aimed more at keeping insurers in difficult marketplaces they're either abandoning or imposing rapidly growing premiums.

"The core of this bill is unworkable," Schumer said in a statement. He said Republicans "should start from scratch and work with Democrats on a bill that lowers premiums, provides long-term stability to the markets and improves our health care system."

Similar to legislation the House approved in May after its own setbacks, McConnell's bill would repeal Obama's tax penalties on people who don't buy coverage and cut the Medicaid program for the poor, elderly and nursing home residents. It rolled back many of the statute's requirements for the policies insurers can sell and eliminated many tax increases that raised money for Obama's expansion to 20 million more people, though it retained the law's tax boosts on high earners.

Besides Lee and Moran, two other GOP senators had previously declared their opposition to McConnell's bill: moderate Maine Sen. Susan Collins and conservative Rand Paul of Kentucky. And other moderates were wavering and could have been difficult for McConnell and Trump to win over because of the bill's Medicaid cuts: Alaska's Lisa Murkowski, Cory Gardner of Colorado, Rob Portman of Ohio, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia and Dean Heller of Nevada, probably the most endangered Senate Republican in next year's elections.

The range of objections lodged by the dissident senators underscored the warring viewpoints within his own party that McConnell had to try patching over. Lee complained that the GOP bill didn't go far enough in rolling back Obama's robust coverage requirements, while moderates like Collins berated its Medicaid cuts and the millions it would leave without insurance.

McConnell's revised version aimed to satisfy both camps, by incorporating language by Sen. Ted Cruz



Capitol Hill police officers prepare to arrest a group protesting the republican healthcare bill outside the offices of Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, July 17, 2017. The Senate has been forced to put the Republican's health care bill on hold for as much as two weeks until Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., can return from surgery. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik)

of Texas allowing insurers to sell skimpy plans alongside more robust ones, and by adding tens of billions of dollars to treat opioid addiction and to defray consumer costs. His efforts did not achieve the intended result.

2 more GOP senators oppose health bill, killing it for now

By ALAN FRAM and ERICA WERNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The latest GOP effort to repeal and replace “Obamacare” was fatally wounded in the Senate Monday night when two more Republican senators announced their opposition to the legislation strongly backed by President Donald Trump.

The announcements from Sens. Mike Lee of Utah and Jerry Moran of Kansas left the Republican Party’s long-promised efforts to get rid of President Barack Obama’s health care legislation reeling. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced that he will retreat, and try to pass the more straightforward Obamacare repeal bill that Republicans approved while Obama was still in office and certain veto it. That looks unlikely to succeed that it could actually become law unleash wide-ranging effects likely frighten off senators.



Protesters against the Republican health care bill gather inside the office of Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Monday, July 17, 2017.

(AP Photo/Manuel Balce Ceneta)

“Regretfully, it is now apparent that the effort to repeal and immediately replace the failure of Obamacare will not be successful,” McConnell said in a statement that sounded like a death knell to the GOP’s promises to repeal Obamacare and replace it with something better.

Trump, who had predicted success for McConnell’s repeal-and-replace legislation just hours earlier, urged over Twitter: “Republicans should just REPEAL failing ObamaCare now & work on a new Healthcare Plan that will start from a clean slate. Dems will join in!” But Republican leaders rejected that clean-repeal approach months ago because it could not pass Congress.

Lee and Moran both said they could not support McConnell’s legislation in the form unveiled last week. They joined GOP Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Rand Paul of Kentucky, both of whom announced their opposition right after McConnell released the bill on Thursday.

McConnell’s bill “fails to repeal the Affordable Care Act or address healthcare’s rising costs,” said Moran.

Lee said, “In addition to not repealing all of the Obamacare taxes, it doesn’t go far enough in lowering premiums for middle class families; nor does it create enough free space from the most costly Obamacare regulations.”

That left McConnell at least two votes short in the closely divided Senate from being able to move forward with his bill. Instead he said he would try to open debate on a repeal-and-replace bill passed by the House, and the first allowed amendment would be on the legislation approved by Congress in 2015 repealing much of Obamacare, with a two-year delay for the repeal to take effect.

Obama was in the White House when that bill passed, and he vetoed it. Few Republicans reckoned then

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with the reality of sending the bill to a president of their party who might actually sign it and invite all the consequences, including casting tens of millions off the rolls of the insured and off of Medicaid. This year's debate has already shown Republicans are highly wary of any such move, and a similar straightforward repeal was rejected early on.

Monday night's retreat was the second straight failure for McConnell, who had to cancel a vote on an earlier version of his repeal-and-replace bill last month when defeat became inevitable.

Trump had kept his distance from the Senate process, but Monday night's development was a major blow for him, too, as the president failed to rally support for what has been the GOP's trademark issue for seven years, ever since Obama and the Democrats passed the Affordable Care Act. Republicans won the White House and full control of Congress in large part on the basis of their promises to repeal and replace "Obamacare," but have struggled to overcome their deep internal divisions and deliver on those promises.

The Senate bill, like an earlier version that barely passed the House, eliminated mandates and taxes under Obamacare, and unraveled an expansion of the Medicaid health care program for the poor and disabled. For conservatives like Lee and Paul, it didn't go far enough in delivering on Republican Party promises to undo Obama's law. But moderates like Collins viewed the bill as too extreme in yanking insurance coverage from millions.

McConnell's latest version aimed to satisfy both camps, by incorporating language by Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas allowing insurers to sell skimpy plans alongside more robust ones, and by adding billions to treat opioid addiction and to defray consumer costs. His efforts did not achieve the intended result.

"This second failure of Trumpcare is proof positive that the core of this bill is unworkable," said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York. "Republicans should start from scratch and work with Democrats on a bill that lowers premiums, provides long term stability to the markets and improves our health care system."

Some Republicans, including Sen. John McCain of Arizona, also called for a new bipartisan approach, but McConnell opted to go in the other direction. One outcome could be to prove to conservatives agitating for a repeal-only vote that such repeal-only legislation cannot pass the Senate.

Prior to the stunning announcements from Lee and Moran, the GOP bill stood on the knife's edge, with zero votes to spare but not dead yet. It was apparent that no GOP senator wanted to be the third to announce opposition and become responsible for killing the bill, so the news from Lee and Moran came simultaneously.

It arrived as about a half-dozen senators were at the White House meeting with Trump and Vice President Mike Pence about the next steps in the GOP effort to ensure passage of the bill.

US: Iran complying with nuclear deal but defying its spirit

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration told Congress for a second time Monday that Iran is complying with the nuclear deal and can keep enjoying sanctions relief, even as it insisted Tehran would face consequences for breaching "the spirit" of the deal.

President Donald Trump, who lambasted the 2015 pact as a candidate, gave himself more time to decide whether to scuttle it or let it stand. Instead, senior Trump administration officials sought to emphasize their deep concerns about Iran's non-nuclear behavior and vowed that those transgressions won't go unpunished.

In a shift from Trump's previous threat to "rip up" the deal, officials said the administration was working with U.S. allies to try to fix the deal's flaws, including the expiration of some nuclear restrictions after a decade or more. The officials also said the U.S. would slap Tehran with new sanctions penalizing it for developing ballistic missiles and other activity.

Trump, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and "the entire administration judge that Iran is unquestionably in default of the spirit" of the agreement, one official said. That assessment carries no legal force, while Trump's certification that Iran is technically complying clears the way for sanctions to remain lifted.

The late-night announcement capped a day of frenzied, last-minute decision-making by the president,

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exposing deep and lingering divisions within his administration about how to deal with a top national security issue.

Since early last week, Trump's administration had been prepared to make the certification, a quarterly requirement. Trump first told Congress in April that Iran was indeed complying. With no final decision on his broader Iran policy, the White House had planned to let the status quo stand for another three months.

As planned, a public rollout began Monday morning involving close choreography among the White House, the State Department and other parts of government. The White House National Security Council distributed talking points to other agencies while national security adviser H.R. McMaster and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin briefed outside policy experts who frequently comment on such issues in the media.

Then, just as the White House was preparing to brief reporters, the announcement was abruptly halted and the talking points temporarily recalled as the president reconsidered the decision, according to officials and others briefed by the administration. Among the options Trump discussed with Tillerson and other aides was to extend the sanctions relief but refuse to certify Iran's compliance, several officials said.

With a midnight deadline just hours away, officials disclosed the final decision to reporters on a chaotic conference call on the condition that it not be published until the White House had a chance to formally notify Congress.

Ultimately, the president's decision was the same on the substance to what his administration had been planning all along. Although the language was toughened to add the declaration that Iran is "in default of the spirit" of the deal, Iran will continue receiving the same sanctions relief that it did under former President Barack Obama.

In April, when Trump made his first certification, he paired it with new sanctions for non-nuclear behavior to show there was no softening of his stance toward the Islamic Republic. Earlier Monday, the White House had told outside experts it would repeat that playbook, by punishing more than a dozen Iranian individuals, organizations and procurement networks involved in ballistic missiles and other nefarious behavior.

But the day came and went with no such announcement, although officials said they expected more sanctions would eventually be coming. It was unclear why the administration held off or for how long, but typically the Treasury Department prefers to issue new sanctions during business hours.

"We receive contradictory signals," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Monday at the Council on Foreign Relations before the decision was announced. "So we don't know which one to interpret in what way."

For Trump, a vocal critic of the deal, the obligation to report to Congress on Iran's conformity has created an unwelcome, tri-monthly headache. Still undecided about whether to withdraw from the deal, Trump must either vouch for Tehran's compliance or try to claim Iran is breaching it — even though the International Atomic Energy Agency that monitors the deal says it is not.

In its condemnation of Iran, senior officials emphasized several longstanding U.S. concerns about Iran's



President Donald Trump speaks during a "Made in America," product showcase featuring items created in each of the U.S. 50 states, at the White House, Monday, July 17, 2017, in Washington. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

ballistic missile programs, human rights abuses and support for terrorism in the region. They also criticized Iran for detaining U.S. citizens and limiting freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf.

Under the deal struck by Obama and other world leaders, Iran agreed to roll back its nuclear program — long suspected of being aimed at developing atomic weapons — in return for billions of dollars in sanctions relief. The deal does not address global concerns about Iran's non-nuclear activities, but also doesn't prevent the U.S. and others from punishing Iran for those activities. Iran remains on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism for its support of anti-Israel groups.

Scuttling the deal would put further distance between Trump and foreign leaders who are already upset over his move to withdraw from the Paris global climate change accord. Other powers that brokered the nuclear deal along with the U.S. have said there's no appetite for renegotiating it.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee in Washington and AP writer Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

Follow Josh Lederman on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/joshledermanAP>

Whose side are you on? Separate lawyers defend Trump, aides

By JULIE PACE and JULIE BYKOWICZ, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the government's Russia investigations heat up, a growing cast of lawyers is signing up to defend President Donald Trump and his associates. But the interests of those lawyers — and their clients — don't always align, adding a new layer of drama and suspicion in a White House already rife with internal rivalries.

Trump himself has both an outside legal team and a new in-house special counsel, Ty Cobb, for Russia-related matters. White House senior adviser Jared Kushner, who is also Trump's son-in-law, has a pair of high-powered attorneys working for him. The president's son, Donald Trump Jr., recently hired his own lawyer. And former campaign aides who expect to be caught up in the expanding probes are also shopping for representation — and dealing with sticker-shock over the price tags.

The result is a crowded group of high-priced attorneys bent on defending their own clients, even if it means elbowing those clients' colleagues.

"Any one of those individuals can anticipate that they will be in a position to provide information adverse to any of the other individuals,"



In this June 8, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump's personal attorney Marc Kasowitz, speaks at the National Press Club in Washington. As the federal and congressional Russia probes mount, a growing cast of lawyers is signing up to defend President Donald Trump and his associates. But the interests of those lawyers don't always align, adding a new layer of uncertainty to a White House rife with internal rivalries. Trump will continue to work with the outside legal team representing his personal interests: Jay Sekulow and Kasowitz. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais, File)

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said Stephen Gillers, a New York University law professor and legal ethics expert. "They have to have their own lawyer."

The diverging interests began to emerge more clearly during last week's fallout over a June 2016 meeting with a Russian attorney that both the president's son and his son-in-law attended during the heat of the presidential campaign. Legal teams for the president, Trump Jr. and Kushner all discussed the matter before the meeting was first reported by The New York Times. But the lawyers couldn't agree on a single, public explanation for the meeting and ultimately settled on a statement that had to be repeatedly amended as new information dripped out.

On Monday, Alan Futerfas, the attorney for the president's son, said Trump Jr. had been "absolutely prepared" to make a "fulsome statement" about how the meeting was arranged and what discussions took place. He did not respond to questions about why the initial statement about the matter, which was seen by the president, lacked some of those details.

The job of coordination was especially challenging because the lawyers couldn't always speak freely about what they knew, out of concern for attorney-client privilege, according to people with knowledge of the discussions. With each new disclosure that followed, the lawyers tweaked their public statements — and anxiously speculated over who in the group was disclosing the damaging information to the media.

People with knowledge of the legal wrangling insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

In Trump's inner circle, a group long split into factions, the potential for fueling other officials' legal difficulties could be high.

It's all going to get even more complicated as both Justice Department special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation and three separate congressional probes gather steam. Kushner is expected to talk to the Senate intelligence committee soon, and Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley wants to summon Trump Jr. for testimony.

The president and his son have both tried to downplay last year's meeting with Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya.

"Most politicians would have gone to a meeting like the one Don jr attended in order to get info on an opponent. That's politics!," the president tweeted Monday.

But emails about the meeting that were released by Trump Jr. rattled some White House advisers, particularly his enthusiastic response to being told directly that the attorney had damaging information about Democrat Hillary Clinton that was being provided by the Russian government.

Last week's revelations helped prompt the president to bolster his own legal defense. He hired Cobb, an experienced white-collar attorney, who is slated to join the White House staff on July 31, according to Cobb's law firm. Cobb is expected to play a public role, crafting official White House responses to developments.

His hiring came with an acknowledgement that the current arrangement wasn't working. Trump's personal lawyers were supposed to take the pressure off the White House to respond to Russia inquiries. But it's become untenable for the West Wing staff to keep punting questions about the president.

"We end up spending a lot of time talking to the counsel's office about what can and can't be referred to outside counsel, what still remains in our purview," White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Monday. Spicer said he did not believe Cobb had vetted the president's tweet on Monday.

Trump will continue to work with the outside legal team already representing his personal interests: Jay Sekulow, a frequent television commentator, and New York-based attorney Marc Kasowitz, whose unconventional style has left some aides to the president unimpressed.

Kasowitz and Sekulow don't work out of the White House, though both are there on occasion for meetings with the president. Sekulow made multiple appearances at the White House last week as the controversy over the meeting with the Russian lawyer unfolded.

The expanding legal teams come at a cost.

The Trump presidential campaign has spent almost \$1 million on legal fees since the beginning of the year, according to a campaign finance report filed Saturday with the Federal Election Commission. That

includes a \$50,000 charge for the law firm of Alan Futerfas, who is representing Trump Jr. The payment was made nearly two weeks before news reports about the younger Trump's Russia meeting.

A large chunk of the campaign's legal expenses are for Jones Day, White House Counsel Don McGahn's former employer. The firm has continued to represent the campaign for standard services affiliated with any political committee. But Jones Day's fees more than doubled in the most recent quarter, compared to the first three months of the year, the FEC reports show, a period that coincides with the deepening Russia quagmire.

Several former campaign advisers who expect to have to testify before Congress are also hiring lawyers, but they're picking up the cost themselves. The House intelligence committee had planned to interview longtime Trump confidant Roger Stone and campaign digital director Brad Parscale before the August recess, but both interviews have been delayed.

Michael Caputo, another former campaign aide, met with House lawmakers last week and says he expects to testify again in front of senators and potentially Mueller's team. Caputo is being represented by former New York State Attorney General Dennis Vacco, and said he's liquidating his children's college funds to pay the bills.

Asked about the campaign money covering Don Jr. and other folks' legal fees, he responded: "Lucky for them. And unlucky for me. And unlucky for my children who are now going to community college."

AP writers Eric Tucker, Jill Colvin and Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Follow Julie Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC>, Julie Bykowicz at <http://twitter.com/bykowicz> and Eric Tucker at <http://twitter.com/ETuckerAP>

Arizona flash flood kills 9 relatives celebrating birthday

By ANITA SNOW and ALINA HARTOUNIAN, Associated Press

TONTO NATIONAL FOREST, Ariz. (AP) — The flash flood that killed nine people in an Arizona river canyon began its deadly descent as an impressive but avoidable surge of churning water, black with cinders from a recent wildfire and choked with tumbling tree trunks and limbs.

By the time it reached a rocky swimming hole several miles downstream, it was a roaring torrent 6 feet (1.8 meters) high, and an extended family celebrating a birthday while seeking refuge from the summer heat had no warning — and no chance to escape.

The bodies were found up to 2 miles (3 kilometers) away. Five other people were rescued, some of them clinging desperately to trees, and were treated for hypothermia and released.

As rescuers searched Monday for a 27-year-old man still missing about 100 miles (160 kilometers) north-east of Phoenix, authorities identified the victims, who ranged in age from 2 to 60.

Among them were three generations of a family. Five of the dead were children.

The victims had been lounging Saturday in the swimming hole, where rocks create pools and a series of small waterfalls. There the river narrows, squeezing the flow of water and increasing its deadly force.

The river roared to life after a thunderstorm had dumped up to 1.5 inches (3.8 centimeters) of rain in an hour, prompting a flash-flood warning from the National Weather Service.

Though the service sent out a flash-flood warning over cellphone networks, service in the remote area is patchy at best. Unless they had a weather radio, the swimmers would have been unaware.

"They had no warning. They heard a roar, and it was on top of them," said Fire Chief Ron Sattelmaier of the Water Wheel Fire and Medical District.

Carrie Templin, a spokesman for the Tonto National Forest, said people headed to the forest should check weather alerts ahead of time to determine whether it's safe. It is hard to predict where rain will fall in the desert Southwest, and people should know that heavy downpours can cause flash flooding, Templin said.

One hiker who was stranded by the flood said she can't get the sound of the rushing water out of her head.

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Nancy Coto, 17, said she was stuck for four hours on a slab of rock with her boyfriend and his family before they were able to walk out.

"We're all just saying that we got blessed, but I don't like to use that word because other families weren't blessed," Coto said. "Children died."

About 40 volunteer workers and four search dogs looked for the missing man, whom authorities identified as Hector Garnica.

The search was suspended late Monday afternoon by an approaching thunderstorm, but was scheduled to resume at dawn Tuesday weather-permitting.

Detective David Hornung of the Gila County Sheriff's Office said more dogs and crews from around the state would be joining the search.

There still is hope Garnica would be found alive, he said. "I've seen miracles happen before," Hornung said.

Garnica had come to celebrate his wife's birthday with their three children and other family. All were among those killed.

Authorities and a family member identified the dead as 2-year-old Erica Raya-Garcia; Emily Garnica, 3; Mia Garnica, 5; Danial Garnica, 7; and Jonathan Leon, 13. Also killed were Javier Raya-Garcia, 19; Celia Garcia Castaneda, 60; Maribel Raya-Garcia, 24; and 26-year-old Maria Raya-Garcia, Hector Garnica's wife.

The group went up the mountain early Saturday, said Tom Price, the general manager at The Horny Toad, a restaurant where Hector Garnica worked.

Garnica's parents were eating at the restaurant in a Phoenix suburb Saturday night when they got a call that something had happened, Price said.

"Very tight knit," he said of the family. "They're just extremely close."

About 5 miles up the mountain from where the family was relaxing Saturday, Scott Muller spotted the water rumbling down the nearly dry East Verde River.

Muller was spending the day with a dozen other members of AZ Krawlers, a volunteer group of Jeep owners that was checking dirt roads and trails for dangerous erosion and missing signs.

It was an area where a June wildfire burned 11 square miles of the Tonto National Forest. Flooding is worse after a wildfire because the scorched land repels water and the lack of vegetation makes soil unstable.

Muller began making a video with his phone from the river bed, and comfortably scampered to the bank before water clogged with debris whooshed past. The river was wide enough that the water was not the inescapable wall it became downstream.

"We had no idea how fast and big it was going to be," Muller said.

Muller and the others rushed down the mountain on a fire control road to get another look at a phenomenon notorious in the West which they had not seen. Flash floods killed seven hikers in Utah in 2015; 11 hikers died in Arizona in 1997 after a wall of water swept through a narrow, twisting series of walls on



First responders gather near the entrance to the First Crossing recreation area during the search and rescue operation for a victim in a flash flood along the banks of the East Verde River Monday, July 17, 2017, in Payson, Ariz. The bodies of nearly a dozen children and adults have been found after Saturday's flash flooding poured over a popular swimming area in the Tonto National Forest. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

Navajo land.

Emerging onto a paved road, the group drove up to a bridge that was about a mile below where the waters would sweep through the swimming hole.

There, Muller said, they warned a couple with two young children playing in the placid river to get out because the river would soon become a monster.

Several minutes later, he said, it did.

Neither Muller nor the group's leader, Ken Maki, said they knew of the swimming hole.

They didn't learn of the deaths until that night.

Hartounian reported from Phoenix. Contributing were Justin Pritchard and Michael Balsamo in Los Angeles, Clarice Silber in Cave Creek, Arizona, Angie Wang in Tonto National Forest and Jacques Billeaud in Phoenix.

This story has been corrected to show that the victims ranged in age from 2 to 60, not 3 to 57.

Venezuela opposition calls strike, Trump threatens 'actions'

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and FABIOLA SANCHEZ, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuela's opposition called Monday for a 24-hour nationwide strike to pressure President Nicolas Maduro to drop plans to rewrite the constitution while the United States threatened "strong and swift economic actions" against his socialist administration if it ignores the will of voters in a referendum.

President Donald Trump joined other world leaders in urging Maduro to heed Sunday's symbolic plebiscite in which millions of voters rejected the plan to remake Venezuela's political system, which the opposition calls a power grab by the ruling party as it struggles with shortages, inflation and more than 100 days of anti-government protests.

The vote came two weeks before Venezuela's government will hold an election to select a constituent assembly charged with rewriting the constitution. Canada, Mexico, Brazil and the European Union have also come out against the effort.

"The United States will not stand by as Venezuela crumbles," Trump said in a statement. "If the Maduro regime imposes its Constituent Assembly on July 30, the United States will take strong and swift economic actions."

The U.S. president lauded voters in Sunday's referendum, saying "their strong and courageous actions continue to be ignored by a bad leader who dreams of becoming a dictator."

Despite the global and domestic calls for him to cancel the constituent assembly, Maduro vowed to press



National Assembly first Vice President Freddy Guevara speaks to the press accompanied by fellow lawmakers in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, July 17, 2017. Venezuelan opposition leaders called Monday for escalated street protests after more than 7 million people rejected a government plan to rewrite the constitution and consolidate power over the country, which has been stricken by shortages and inflation and riven by more than 100 days of clashes between protesters and police. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

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ahead with it.

"I won't be intimidated," Venezuela's president said in a speech at the presidential palace. Maduro's allies have called on the assembly to impose executive branch authority over the few remaining institutions outside the control of the ruling party.

On Monday, opposition leaders laid out their plans about how they will resist Maduro in the wake of the referendum.

They said the opposition-controlled National Assembly would name new members to the government-dominated Supreme Court, setting up a showdown with Maduro. Opposition parties also said they plan to sign a declaration calling for the formation of an alternative "government of national unity," a step toward total rejection of government authority.

"Overall the package is pretty radical, especially the idea of a parallel government," said David Smilde, a Tulane University expert on Venezuela. "I think it could lead to real chaos."

He noted, however, that the opposition moves were to be implemented in phases over the next week, giving both sides the opportunity to negotiate possible concessions.

After some procedural moves in the National Assembly on Tuesday, the opposition said it would launch a plan it called "zero hour" on Wednesday that includes an agreement to form an alternate government and create 2,000 local committees that would function as street-level support for the opposition.

That will be followed Thursday by a nationwide strike, which could bring much of Venezuela's already sputtering economy to a standstill. Venezuela's largest chamber of commerce told The Associated Press that its members would not punish employees for participating in the strike.

On Friday, the opposition will name 13 judges to the supreme court to replace those named by the outgoing, ruling party-dominated congress in 2015 in a process that legal experts say violated nomination procedures. The nominations would not give the opposition a supreme court majority but are almost certain to be rejected by the current court and the executive branch, making them a largely symbolic tactic to increase pressure on Maduro.

"We call on the whole country to launch a 24-hour national strike this Thursday, a massive, non-violent protest, as a way to pressure the government and to prepare for the final steps, which will be next week, to confront this fraud ... and to restore constitutional order," opposition leader Freddy Guevara said. He didn't say what the final steps would be.

More than three months of street protests, which have left at least 93 people dead and 1,500 wounded. More than 500 protesters and government opponents have been jailed.

The opposition said 7.6 million Venezuelans participated in Sunday's symbolic referendum, which the government labeled an internal party poll with no relevance for the country.

Sunday's vote was marred by violence when a 61-year-old woman was killed and four people wounded by gunfire after government supporters on motorcycles swarmed an opposition polling site at a church in western Caracas.

In smaller numbers in many parts of the capital, government supporters also went to polling stations on Sunday in a rehearsal for the July 30 vote.

"I just want to say what I've already said, that the right-wing parties' internal poll took place in peace," Maduro said earlier Monday. "I guaranteed it and it took place peacefully ... now they should respect the feelings of the country, which is that there's a right to peace."

Opponents of Venezuela's government blame it for turning one of the region's most prosperous countries into an economic basket case with a shrinking economy, soaring inflation and widespread shortages. The government blames the crisis on an economic war waged by its opponents and outside backers.

Fabiola Sanchez on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/fisanchezn>

Michael Weissenstein on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mweissenstein>

Netflix still piling up viewers -- and big programming bills

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Netflix is pulling in new viewers and award nominations in droves, but the online video service still faces a long-term problem: Its acclaimed programming line-up is costing far more money than what subscribers pay for it.

That hasn't been a big issue so far, thanks to investors' willingness to accept scant profits in exchange for robust subscriber growth.

Netflix delivered on that front again Monday, announcing that it added 5.2 million subscribers in the second quarter covering April to June. That's the largest increase ever during the period, which has always been the company's slowest time of year.

Wall Street rewarded Netflix by driving up its stock by more than 10 percent to \$178.30 in extended trading, putting the shares on track to hit a new high in Tuesday's regular trading.

INTERNATIONAL COSTS

The Los Gatos, California, company now has 104 million subscribers worldwide. For the first time in its history, most of those subscribers (slightly more than 52 million) are outside the U.S.

That milestone could further complicate Netflix's cost issues, since the company will need to keep creating more shows that appeal to the unique interests of viewers in countries such as Japan, India and Indonesia.

"It is going to be imperative for them to have more locally produced content," says CFRA Research analyst Tuna Amobi. "They can't afford to pursue a 'one-size-fits-all' strategy."

As part of its efforts to boost its profits, Netflix is becoming more aggressive about dumping shows that aren't drawing enough viewers to justify their costs. In the second quarter, Netflix jettisoned both the high-concept science fiction show "Sense 8" and the musical drama "The Get Down."

In a Monday letter to shareholders, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings made it clear that the company plans to exert more discipline in the future. So far, Netflix has renewed 93 percent of its original series, much higher than the historical rate of traditional TV networks.

"They are becoming more like any other Hollywood studio and paying more attention to the economics of their shows," Amobi said.

PROGRAMMING COUPS

The subscriber growth further validates Netflix's decision to expand into original programming five years ago. Two of its longest running shows — "House of Cards" and "Orange Is The New Black" — recently launched their latest seasons.

Those two series, along with new hits like "Master of None" and "13 Reasons Why," helped Netflix easily surpass the average 1.8 million subscribers it has added in the second quarter over the past five years.

This fall, new seasons of two other hits, "Stranger Things" and "The Crown," are due. Those two series accounted for about a third of the 91 Emmy nominations that 27 different Netflix programs received last



In this Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, file photo, a person displays Netflix on a tablet in North Andover, Mass. Netflix, Inc. reports financial results, Monday, July 17, 2017. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola, File)

Amendola, File)

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week — more than any other TV network except its role model, HBO, which landed 111 nominations.

CASH BURN

But the success hasn't come cheaply.

Netflix is locked into contracts requiring it to pay more than \$13 billion for programming during the next three years, a burden that has forced the company to borrow to pay its bills.

After burning through \$1.7 billion in cash last year, Netflix expects that figure to rise to as much as \$2.5 billion this year. It's continuing to invest in more original programming amid increasing competition from the likes of Amazon, Hulu and YouTube.

"We have a long way to go to please more and more members," Hastings said Monday during review of Netflix's second-quarter results.

Netflix expects to be spending more money than it brings in for several more years. It posted a more detailed explanation about its negative cash flow to give investors a better grasp of its programming expenses.

Hastings on Monday described the negative cash flow as "an indication of tremendous success," reasoning that Netflix wouldn't be able to finance new programming if it wasn't attracting so many new subscribers.

Netflix is still profitable under corporate accounting rules, although its earnings remain puny by Wall Street standards. It earned \$66 million on revenue of \$2.8 billion in revenue during its latest quarter.

Netflix could make more money by raising its prices closer to the \$15 per month that HBO charges for its streaming service, but the company has said no increases are planned in the near future. Netflix's U.S. rates currently range from \$8 to \$12 per month.

Health plan hinges on the young, but they're a tough sell

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Julian Senn-Raemont isn't convinced he needs to buy health insurance when he loses coverage under his dad's plan in a couple of years — no matter what happens in the policy debate in Washington, or how cheap the plans are.

The 24-year-old musician hasn't known a world without a health care safety net. But he hates being forced by law to get coverage, and doesn't think he needs it.

"I'm playing the odds," said Senn-Raemont, who lives in Woodstock, Illinois. He will go without insurance, he said, until he starts a family or gets a job with benefits. "I feel comfortable I could get care if I needed it."

Senn-Raemont's outlook could pose a major problem for Republicans who await a delayed vote on a replacement for the Affordable Care Act. Insurers need young and healthy enrollees like him to buy insurance because they keep premiums down for everyone. The current law attempts to do that by mandating that everyone get coverage. The Republican plan replaces that mandate with penalties for those who let coverage lapse, and aims to entice young adults by allowing insurance companies to sell bare-bones coverage that could be cheaper.

But cheap isn't free, which turns off people like Senn-Raemont. And other young adults worry that opening the door to these bare-bones plans will make the more comprehensive coverage they know now too expensive or even unavailable.

In Houston, 29-year-old Jimmieka Mills pays \$15 a month for a government-subsidized "Obamacare" health plan. She fears Congress will weaken the health law's guarantees of free preventive care, so she made an appointment to get a birth control implant that will last for years.

"I'm scared," Mills said. "I'm like a bear getting ready for hibernation. That's how I feel."

Language is still being nailed down in the retooled bill, but it includes a proposal from conservative Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, which would let insurers sell plans with minimal coverage, as long as they also sell policies that meet strict coverage requirements set by the Obama-era health care law. Insurers could deny the slimmer coverage to people with pre-existing conditions or charge them more.

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Georgetown University health policy researcher Sabrina Corlette said young adults may find the "Cruz plans" more affordable, but they should "read the fine print."

"You may end up with unexpected costs," Corlette said. "And if, God forbid, you do end up needing better coverage, you will be blocked from that coverage for six months." To encourage continuous coverage, the GOP plan installs a six-month waiting period for anyone with a two-month gap in coverage. The skimpy policies wouldn't qualify as continuous coverage.

The insurance industry also sharply questioned this approach. In a statement last week, the industry group America's Health Insurance Plans said the proposal would create an "un-level playing field" that would lead to "unstable health insurance markets."

Other features of the proposal aimed at young adults include allowing them to stay on their parents' insurance until they turn 26, as they can now, and shifting costs to older enrollees.

Current law restricts how much insurers can charge for insurance based on age. "Obamacare" limits the ratio to 3-to-1, meaning a 50-year-old can be charged only three times as much as a 20-year-old. The Republican plan shifts that ratio to 5-to-1.

More flexible pricing could attract young adults, the Congressional Budget Office said in a review of a previous draft of the Senate plan. But other provisions, including cuts to Medicaid, would result in 22 million people losing insurance over the next decade. All ages and income levels would have higher uninsured rates. For low-income young adults, CBO said, the uninsured rate would double.

A CBO analysis was expected Monday but has been postponed, according to the Senate Budget Committee. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell announced late Saturday he was delaying the vote on the bill while Sen. John McCain recovers from surgery.

"On the whole, the bill is bad for young people," said Jen Mishory, executive director of the youth advocacy group Young Invincibles. "It is particularly concerning for the most vulnerable young people, those who are low-income and folks with pre-existing conditions."

Young Americans, ages 18-34, remain more likely to be uninsured than older age groups, but the rate of uninsured young Americans dropped under "Obamacare" to 16 percent from 29 percent.

Obama's health law also gives them job flexibility because good health insurance was no longer tied to employment, said Republican labor economist Craig Garthwaite of Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

"That gives young adults the opportunity to find a first job that's right for their talents," Garthwaite said.

Alexandra Flores, 29, works as a library assistant at University of South Florida in St. Petersburg while pursuing a master's degree in library science. She credits the Obama health law for her decision to go back



In this July 12, 2017, photo, Julian Senn-Raemont poses for a portrait in downtown Woodstock, Ill. The 24-year-old writer-musician hasn't known a world without a health care safety net and hates being forced by law to get coverage. Insurers need young, healthy enrollees like him to keep premiums down for everyone something Republicans building a replacement for the Affordable Care Act have addressed with gap-in-coverage penalties and lower prices for some young adults. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

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to school rather than be locked into her previous office job. She pays \$77 a month for her "Obamacare" health plan. The government kicks in about \$100.

"Without health care, I wouldn't feel comfortable growing my career the way I have," Flores said.

Republican proposals to ban federal funding of Planned Parenthood for a year would affect 34-year-old Renee Wsol of Chicago. A Medicaid beneficiary, she received a free IUD for long-acting birth control from the organization this year. Planned Parenthood is now her regular source of women's health care, including cancer screenings.

"I feel comfortable and safe at Planned Parenthood," she said. "It makes no sense to pluck that care away from people who already have limited choices."

Jackie Todd, 28, of Chicago, feels hemmed in by the health care debate because she would like to pursue a master's in filmmaking, but doesn't want to risk losing the insurance she has through her job. She has an implanted device for a heart rhythm problem, which will need to be replaced in two years, "and I cannot be uninsured when that happens."

"The GOP doesn't think I deserve a shot at an even playing field because being sick is somehow my fault," she said.

Follow AP Medical Writer Carla K. Johnson on Twitter: @CarlaKJohnson

No Trump slump in tourism but there could be a Trump bump

By BETH J. HARPAZ, AP Travel Editor

NEW YORK (AP) — Last winter, the U.S. tourism industry fretted that Trump administration policies might lead to a "Trump slump" in travel.

But those fears may have been premature. International arrivals and travel-related spending are up in 2017 compared with the same period in 2016.

There might even be a "Trump bump," says Roger Dow, CEO of the U.S. Travel Association, a nonprofit representing the travel industry.

A few months ago, Dow and others warned that President Donald Trump's anti-immigrant rhetoric and ban on travel from a handful of mostly Muslim countries could send an anti-tourism message.

But "impending doom hasn't manifested itself," Dow said in an interview. "Right now we cannot identify a loss. It's contrary to everything we've heard, but travel is in slightly better shape than it was a year ago. Everyone wants me to tell the story of the sky is falling, but for the travel industry, the sky is not falling."

Latest numbers from the U.S. Travel Association's Travel Trends Index showed 6.6 percent growth in international travel to the U.S. in April and 5 percent growth in May compared with the same months last year. The Travel Trends Index uses hotel, airline and U.S. government data.

Individual sectors have good news, too. Hotel occupancy for the first five months of 2017 was "higher than it has ever been before," said Jan Freitag, senior vice president with STR, which tracks hotel industry data. American Express Meetings & Events has "not seen a slowdown in either domestic U.S. meetings or international meetings from the U.S. in the past six months," according to senior vice president Issa Jouaneh. Even New York's National September 11 Memorial and Museum has more international visitors: 554,381 at the museum Jan. 1-July 11, up from 517,539 the same period last year.

Florida's Orlando International Airport, a gateway for theme park visitors, reported growth for domestic and international passengers year to date, though Visit Orlando CEO George Aguel said it was "still premature to determine a specific impact" from Trump administration policies.

International trips are often planned months in advance, so decisions made this year about travel may not be evident yet.

"For us, we already planned before the election," said Alban Michel, waiting with a group of Swiss tourists to see One World Trade's observatory in New York on Monday.

Companies that track online behavior say searches for U.S. travel are down. Yet tour companies that bring foreigners here are "not only holding year over year, but in many cases they're having a record year,"

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according to Chris Thompson, CEO of Brand USA, which markets the U.S. to the world. Thompson thinks it's "too early to tell" how the industry will fare, adding that the travel industry's ups and downs may have "little or nothing to do" with Trump and more to do with the strong dollar and lackluster economies elsewhere.

Asked if there's a "Trump slump" in travel to the 12 Southern states marketed by Travel South USA, CEO Liz Bittner said, "The truth of the matter is no. I think it was a lot of media hype." Bittner agreed that the challenge for U.S. tourism "isn't so much Trump. It's the strong U.S. dollar against some of the other currencies," which makes the U.S. an expensive destination for foreigners.

Daniele Biron, an Italian visiting the 9/11 memorial Monday while in New York for a conference, agreed that "the value of the dollar" is a factor for many travelers, but "I don't know if the politics" matter to most visitors.

Isabelle Bornemann, owner of Alaska Travel Connections, said her international group bookings are down 30 percent, mainly because of the strong dollar. But some European travel agencies tell Bornemann the decision to stay away is political, based on the perception that foreigners aren't welcome in the U.S.

Charlie Mallar, owner of the 1785 Inn in Conway, New Hampshire, had his busiest July 4th weekend in 34 years, but says "foreign visitors were off a bit — Trump effect. We have to assure foreign visitors that they are welcome in America."

The Travel Trends Index predicts slower growth for the rest of 2017, but still nearly 2 percent higher than last year through November.

New York City's tourism agency, NYC & Company, predicts that 300,000 fewer international travelers will visit the city this year than last, according to spokesman Chris Heywood. Concerns about Trump administration's policies include "rhetoric surrounding the travel ban, laptop bans on certain airline carriers and the threat of having visitors reveal social media accounts," along with "the lack of a proactive welcome message on behalf of the nation," Heywood said. New York has put up its own signs saying "New York City - Welcoming the World" in England, Germany and Mexico.

Comprehensive international arrivals data from the U.S. Commerce Department takes seven months to compile, so it will be next year before definitive 2017 statistics are available. But the Commerce Department has seen a 5 percent increase January-March over the same period last year in collections from ESTA fees, which are electronic travel authorization fees paid by foreigners who don't need visas to enter



In this July 11, 2017 photo, visitors to the Foundation Hall at the National September 11 Memorial and Museum view the slurry wall, rear, and a beam from one of the World Trade towers, right, that was preserved by rescue and recovery workers at the site in New York. Last winter the U.S. tourism industry worried about a "Trump slump," fearing that Trump administration policies might discourage international travelers from visiting the U.S. But statistics from the first half of 2017 suggest that the travel to the U.S. is robust and a number of sectors have reported increased international visitation, with one expert calling it a "Trump bump." The museum is among those reporting more international visitors this year compared to the same period in 2016. (AP Photo/Kathy Willens)

the U.S. That suggests increased visitation from visa-waiver countries like the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany and Australia.

Associated Press reporter Rachel D'oro contributed from Anchorage, Alaska.

Vatican trial dawns for alleged misuse of hospital donations

By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Other than St. Peter's Basilica, there is hardly better real estate in Vatican City than the sprawling penthouse apartment in the Vatican gardens, where the rooftop terrace has in-your-face views of the dome itself and overlooks the hotel that Pope Francis calls home.

The 300-square-meter (3,230-square-foot) bachelor pad, belonging to the previous pope's second-in-command, looked even better after undergoing a 422,000-euro (\$481,000) face-lift.

Who footed the bill? The Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital foundation, which raises money for sick children at the "pope's hospital" in Rome.

A recent Associated Press investigation uncovered a secret 2014 Vatican probe that found that the hospital's mission under its past administration had become "more aimed at profit" than patient care. Now the renovations at Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone's flat have sparked a criminal trial that shines a light on how some of that money was spent.

The Vatican on Tuesday will put its past hospital president, Giuseppe Profiti, and former hospital treasurer, Massimo Spina, on trial on charges they diverted hospital donations to renovate Bertone's retirement fixer-upper.

If found guilty of embezzlement, the pair face between three to five years in prison and fines starting at 5,000 euros. The penalty can be reduced if the amount diverted is repaid before the trial starts.

The scandal is the latest to strike the Holy See as Francis works to clean up centuries of shady business dealings in the walled-in, 44-hectare offshore city state, the world's smallest. And it comes as Francis copes with the fallout from the embarrassing exit of his top financial adviser, Cardinal George Pell, who returned to his native Australia last week to face trial on sex abuse charges.

Profiti, appointed hospital president by Bertone in 2008, has said the 422,000 euros in hospital foundation funds he used to spruce up Bertone's home was an investment, since he intended to use it for fundraising events for the hospital.

"The presence of Your Illustrious Eminence as a guest at these events would be a guarantee of a certain success in terms of participation and relative economic and institutional return," Profiti wrote Bertone in



In this Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015 file photo, Italian journalists Gianluigi Nuzzi and Emiliano Fittipaldi talk to reporters outside the Vatican City from the Perugino gate. Other than St. Peter's Basilica, there's hardly better real estate in this tiny city state than the sprawling penthouse apartment in the Vatican gardens, where the rooftop terrace has in-your-face views of the dome itself and overlooks the Vatican hotel that Pope Francis calls home. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia, File)

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a Nov. 7, 2013 letter pitching the idea.

He proposed that the soirees take place in Bertone's own home, with its glorious views and close-to-the-pope pedigree, to "give a further sense of exclusiveness and privilege" to potential benefactors.

Bertone readily agreed, replying the following day that he would take care to ensure that "third parties" — and not the foundation — would pay for any renovations. Whatever happened to those "third parties" is unclear, but Bertone spent 300,000 euros of his own money for the work on top of the 422,000 that came from the foundation.

Bertone's successor as Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, has said the trial is evidence of the transparency Pope Francis wants to bring to the Catholic Church's finances.

"And it's only right that everyone accounts for his or her own behavior," Parolin said last week when the indictments were handed down.

Bertone wasn't charged or placed under investigation, even though he personally benefited from the donations. After the scandal broke in 2015, Bertone made a 150,000-euro "donation" to the hospital for research, but insisted he had no idea the foundation had paid for his flat repair.

Also spared were the Castelli Re construction company and its owner, Gianantonio Bandera, a longtime Bertone associate who received around 800,000 euros for the whole project.

The indictment accuses Profiti and Spina of a conspiracy to "illicitly use money belonging to the Baby Jesus foundation to benefit Bandera." The indictment, however, makes no suggestion of kickbacks or any other wrongdoing, merely that money belonging to the hospital foundation instead went to "completely extra-institutional" uses.

Profiti has told AP none of the donations were intended for childcare.

Spina's lawyer, Alfredo Ottaviani, said the expenses for the renovations were in the "general interest" of the foundation for fundraising purposes, and that regardless, his client had no authority to make any decisions about how the money was spent.

It wasn't the first time the foundation's cash had been used for eyebrow-raising ends: In 2012, the foundation headed by Profiti spent 24,000 euros to ferry Bertone by helicopter to southern Potenza to open a branch of Bambino Gesù. Profiti justified the expense in terms of Bertone's busy schedule.

Bertone's apartment is owned by the Vatican, but was assigned to Bertone for his personal use after he retired in 2013. Located on the edge of the Vatican gardens, the third-floor apartment in the Palazzo San Carlo sits just across the street from the hotel where Francis preaches his "church of the poor and for the poor" gospel from a two-room suite. Ironically, Bertone's downstairs neighbor is the Vatican's financial intelligence agency.

Bertone has defended his apartment's size by saying other cardinals have even bigger apartments and that he lives there with a secretary and three nuns who help care for him, and that he needed the space for his archive, library and chapel. His former boss, Pope Benedict XVI, has occupied similarly prime real estate on the other side of the Vatican gardens, taking over an entire converted monastery with his household staff following his retirement.

Profiti resigned suddenly as president of the hospital in January 2015, nine months into a new three-year term. According to the AP investigation, a secret Vatican-authorized task force concluded in 2014 that under his administration, the hospital's mission had been "lost" and was "today more aimed at profit than on caring for children."

Also in 2014, a Vatican-ordered external audit by PricewaterhouseCoopers confirmed that the hospital's mission had been "modified in the last few years" to focus on expansion and commercial activities without sufficient governance controls. The audit, portions of which were obtained by the AP, found that five years after it was created, the hospital foundation still didn't have an executive committee, audit board or organizational model as called for by its statutes.

The audit and details of the Bertone apartment renovation were first revealed in a 2015 book, "Avarice," by Italian investigative journalist Emiliano Fittipaldi.

Fittipaldi and another Italian journalist were subsequently put on trial at the Vatican for having obtained leaked Vatican documents. The court ultimately ruled it had no jurisdiction to prosecute them, primarily

because they weren't Vatican public officials.

Profiti and Spina were employed by the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesu and headed its affiliated fundraising foundation.

The Vatican tribunal, which roughly follows the Italian penal code, has jurisdiction over crimes committed on Vatican territory, or by Vatican citizens or public officials. The prosecutors' request for indictment identifies the pair as "public officials" of the foundation, and accuses them of committing a crime on Vatican territory between November 2013 and May 28, 2014, presumably when the foundation paid a series of bills to the construction company.

In April of last year, Fittipaldi published the exchange of letters between Profiti and Bertone detailing Profiti's proposal to use the cardinal's apartment for fundraising.

"I'm just sorry that Bertone was allowed to stay in his penthouse, while the journalist who discovered the scandal ended up on trial," Fittipaldi said in an email last week. "Different standards for different people."

Follow Nicole Winfield at www.twitter.com/nwinfield

Delta tells Ann Coulter her insults are 'unacceptable'

NEW YORK (AP) — Delta Air Lines has pushed back at Ann Coulter after the conservative commentator berated the carrier on Twitter over a changed seat assignment.

Coulter began tweeting about the episode Saturday in which she said the airline gave away an "extra room seat" she reserved before a flight from New York to Florida departed. Coulter had booked an aisle seat, but got a window seat.

She joked that Delta hires people who seek to be prison guards, animal handlers or East German police. She also tweeted a photo of a woman she said took the seat she booked and labeled her "dachshund-legged."

Delta responded to Coulter on Twitter on Sunday night that it was refunding her the extra \$30 she paid for her preferred seat. It added that "your insults about our other customers and employees are unacceptable and unnecessary." In a separate statement on its website, the company called Coulter's comments "derogatory and slanderous."

Coulter was moved to a window seat at the time of boarding as the airline was "working to accommodate several passengers with seating requests," Delta said in the statement. Delta said that during some confusion over the assignments, a flight attendant asked everyone to move to the seats listed on their tickets. Coulter and the other passengers complied, according to the airline, and the flight departed.

Coulter continued her online rant against Delta on Monday.



In this Feb. 10, 2012, file photo, Ann Coulter gestures while speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington. Delta pushed back at Coulter after the conservative commentator berated the carrier on Twitter over a changed seat assignment for a July 15, 2017, flight from New York to West Palm Beach, Fla. (AP

Photo/J. Scott Applewhite, File)

Jordanian soldier gets life term for killing 3 US troops

By REEM SAAD and OMAR AKOUR, Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — A Jordanian soldier was sentenced Monday to life in prison after being convicted of killing three U.S. military trainers last year, but some said questions lingered about his motive for the shooting at a Jordanian air base.

Jordan has ruled out terrorism in the November shooting in which the convoy of the U.S. Army Green Berets came under fire at the base entrance.

The defendant has said he felt no animosity toward Americans and opened fire because he believed the base was coming under attack.

However, relatives of the slain U.S. troops have described security camera footage that they say shows him shooting for six minutes, reloading and aiming at the Americans, even as they identify themselves as friendly forces.

After a "not guilty" plea, the Jordanian soldier, 1st Sgt. Marik al-Tuwayha, was tried by a military court in Jordan's capital of Amman for the killings of Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Lewellen, 27, of Kirksville, Missouri; Staff Sgt. Kevin J. McEnroe, 30, of Tucson, Arizona; and Staff Sgt. James F. Moriarty, 27, of Kerrville, Texas.

During the monthlong trial, he watched the proceedings silently while standing in a cage in the courtroom. He did not react Monday when the judge announced the verdict and the maximum possible sentence, life in prison with hard labor. When he was led out of the cage, he said: "I have all the respect for the king, but I was doing my job."

Relatives of two of the U.S. soldiers sat quietly as the judge read the ruling.

Charles Lewellen, 53, whose son was killed, later told The Associated Press that the verdict "won't take the pain away," but that it proved "what we have been saying all along ... that he murdered our sons."

Some of the relatives criticized Jordan's handling of the case and said the defendant should have received the death penalty. Jordan allows the death penalty, but it is usually handed down in terrorism cases or in a murder coupled with another crime.

The Americans were killed Nov. 4, as their convoy waited at the gate to the al-Jafr base in southern Jordan. Jordan initially said the Americans triggered the shooting by disobeying entry rules, a claim that was later withdrawn.

The trial "confirmed that the deceased U.S. service members followed all established procedures when accessing the base the day of the incident, as we have noted before," the U.S. Embassy in Jordan said. "We are reassured to see the perpetrator brought to justice."

Jordan is a member of a U.S.-led coalition fighting Islamic State group extremists in neighboring Syria and Iraq. Jordan hosts troops, including trainers, from the U.S. and other countries as part of the anti-IS battle.

"We are pleased to see that the perpetrators have been brought to justice," said U.S. Navy Capt. Jeff



A military court convenes in the case of a Jordanian soldier accused of shooting to death three U.S. military trainers at the gate of an air base, in Amman, Jordan, Monday, July 17, 2017. The defendant had pleaded "not guilty," saying he opened fire because he feared the base was coming under attack. He was sentenced Monday to life in prison with hard labor. (AP Photo/Omar Akour)

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Davis, a Pentagon spokesman. He said the U.S. respects Jordan's military process and praised Jordan for adhering to its own laws in resolving the case expeditiously.

Davis wouldn't comment on possible motives for the killing.

At the trial, al-Tuwayha and some of the gate guards testified they heard what might have been a pistol shot coming from the direction of the U.S. convoy. Al-Tuwayha said he opened fire because he feared the base was under attack. Other guards said they held their fire because they couldn't determine the source of the sound.

Al-Tuwayha has said he had "no intention of killing anyone" and felt no resentment toward Americans.

According to the surveillance video described by the relatives, Lewellen and McEnroe were the first to be hit by gunfire. Moriarty and another soldier jumped out of their cars to take cover and returned fire from their pistols, according to the descriptions of the video. They yelled that they were friendly forces, the relatives said.

The defendant kept shooting, they said. He was seriously wounded in the exchange.

The video was shown to the family by U.S. law enforcement, but has not been released to the public.

Some of the relatives have questioned why the video was not screened at the trial and why the court did not ask a surviving U.S. soldier to testify, despite what they said was his willingness to do so.

Moriarty's father, Jim, wrote in a letter Monday to the Jordanian Embassy in the U.S. that the "successful prosecution" was a "good first step, but it is only the first step."

In the letter, a copy of which was given to the AP, Moriarty listed several demands to Jordan. These included allowing the defendant to be re-interviewed by the FBI about his motive and releasing the security video to the families. Moriarty, a lawyer, said the video had been entered into evidence at the trial.

Cynthia Lewellen, 53, the mother of Matthew Lewellen, expressed sympathy for all those affected by the shooting, including the family of the defendant.

"In this verdict, nobody comes out happy," she said. "I mean for us as losing our sons and knowing the man that killed him will spend 20 years in prison, but also for his family that because of his actions ... lost a father, a husband, a provider."

In Jordan, life in prison can mean 20 years, with time off for good behavior.

Defense lawyer Subhi al-Mawas said he would appeal Monday's court ruling.

Earlier this year, a Jordanian soldier who killed seven Israeli schoolgirls in a 1997 shooting rampage was released after 20 years.

UN reports rise in Afghan war deaths, blames insurgents

By AMIR SHAH, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Afghanistan's protracted war killed a record number of civilians during the first six months of this year, according to a U.N. report released Monday, which blamed the majority of the deaths on bombings by insurgents.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein said the "horrifying" figure of 1,662 people killed between January and June of this year "can never fully convey the sheer human suffering of the people of Afghanistan."

"Each one of these casualty figures reflects a broken family, unimaginable trauma and suffering and the brutal violation of people's human rights," he added.

The report confirmed that a massive truck bomb in the center of Kabul on May 31, which killed at least 90 people, was the deadliest attack since the U.S.-led invasion that toppled the Taliban in 2001. It also noted that more women and children were among the dead this year.

Insurgent attacks killed 1,141 civilians, a 12 per cent increase over the same period last year, according to the report, which said such attacks wounded another 2,348 people.

The report commended Afghanistan's security forces, saying fewer civilians were caught in the crossfire compared to last year. It said 434 civilians were killed during military operations against insurgents.

Gen. Dowlat Waziri, a Defense Ministry spokesman, blamed the high toll on the insurgents' use of hu-

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man shields. "The army is being very careful during operations to prevent civilian deaths," Waziri told The Associated Press.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid rejected the "biased" report, saying it did not take into account civilians killed by Afghan and coalition forces in areas controlled by the Taliban. He did not provide any figures and there was no way to verify his claims.

The insurgents have expanded their footprint in Afghanistan since U.S. and NATO forces formally concluded their combat mission at the end of 2014, and the Taliban now control a number of districts across the country.

The Afghan government said Monday that troops retook a key district in the southern Helmand province from the Taliban. The fighting in the Naway district was fierce, with more than 50 Taliban killed, according to Waziri, who said just five security forces were wounded. There was no immediate comment from the Taliban.

Naway is located just 16 kilometers (10 miles) from Lashkar Gah, and had been a staging area for militant attacks on the provincial capital. U.S. and NATO forces are assisting Afghan troops in Helmand.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, the Taliban snatched three border police officers from their car in the western Herat province, including a woman, and killed them, said Jelani Farhad, the provincial governor's spokesman.



In this May 31, 2017 file photo, an injured man is seen after an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan. A U.N. report released Monday, July 17, 2017, said Afghanistan's protracted war killed a record number of civilians during the first six months of this year, blaming the majority of the deaths on bombings by insurgents. U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein says the "horrifying" figure of 1,662 people killed between January and June of this year "can never fully convey the sheer human suffering of the people of Afghanistan." (AP

Photo/Rahmat Gul, File)

AP Explains: Korean border village, site for rivals' talks

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Straddling the world's most heavily fortified border, the Korean truce village of Panmunjom is a potential flashpoint where North Korean soldiers hacked to death two American officers at the height of the Cold War.

It's also where the rival Koreas have held rare high-profile talks, and top American officials have visited to demonstrate American commitment to defending South Korea.

A look at Panmunjom, a day after South Korea's new liberal president offered talks with North Korea at the village in what would be the Koreas' first face-to-face meeting since late 2015.

FARMING VILLAGE TO ARMISTICE SITE

Panmunjom, once an obscure farming village, is where an armistice was signed to pause the 1950-53 Korean War, with North Korea and China on one side and the American-led U.N. Command on the other. No civilians live there, and a cluster of blue huts form a Joint Security Area overseen by North Korea

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and the U.N. Command.

It's located in the 248-kilometer (154-mile) -long Demilitarized Zone that forms the de facto Korean border. The DMZ is guarded on both sides by hundreds of thousands of combat-ready troops, razor-wire fences and tank traps. More than a million mines are believed to be buried inside it.

At Panmunjom, South Korean troops wearing aviator sunglasses stand in taekwondo poses with their legs apart, arms bent and fists clenched. North Korean soldiers use binoculars to monitor the South. The soldiers are often only several yards (several meters) from each other.

These days, it's also a popular tourist spot drawing visitors on both sides. Tourists from the South are often told by their guides to be extremely careful about what gestures they make so as not to antagonize the nearby North Korean soldiers.

The 1953 armistice has yet to be replaced with a peace treaty, leaving the Korean Peninsula technically in a state of war. About 28,500 U.S. troops are deployed in South Korea.



In this July 27, 2013, file photo, North Korean soldiers watch the south side with cameras as Gen. James D. Thurman, the commander of United Nations Command, South Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea, and Korean War veterans and officials visit after attending a ceremony marking the 60th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement at the truce villages of Panmunjom in Paju, South Korea. Straddling the world's most heavily fortified border, the Korean truce village of Panmunjom is a potentially dangerous flashpoint where North Korean soldiers hacked to death two American soldiers at the height of the Cold War. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man, File)

DEADLY CLASHES

In August 1976, two American army officers were killed by ax-wielding North Korean soldiers. The U.S. officers had been sent out to trim a 40-foot (12-meter) tree that obstructed the view from a checkpoint. The attack prompted Washington to fly nuclear-capable B-52 bombers toward the DMZ to intimidate North Korea.

In 1984, North Korean and U.N. Command soldiers traded gunfire after a Soviet citizen defected by sprinting to the South Korean sector of the truce village. The incident left three North Korean soldiers and one South Korean soldier dead.

In 1996, North Korea sent hundreds of armed troops into Panmunjom after declaring the armistice a "useless piece of paper." South Korea boosted its surveillance to its highest level in 15 years, and the North Korean troops later withdrew.

The rival Koreas have had similar violent confrontations along other parts of the DMZ in the past. No deadly clashes have occurred in recent years, but a 2015 land mine blast that maimed two South Korean soldiers pushed the Koreas to the brink of an armed conflict. South Korea blames North Korea for the explosion.

PRESIDENTIAL VISITS

U.S. presidents and other top officials have often traveled to Panmunjom and other areas of the DMZ at times of heightened tension on the Korean Peninsula. They have peered through binoculars across the

border and vowed to boost the U.S. military alliance with South Korea.

In 1993, then President Bill Clinton visited Panmunjom when the North Korean nuclear crisis first flared. In 2002, President George W. Bush visited the truce village a few weeks after he labeled North Korea part of an "axis of evil."

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert Gates visited in July 2010, four months after the sinking of a South Korean warship blamed on North Korea killed 46 sailors. North Korea has denied responsibility.

In 2012, ahead of a planned North Korean long-range rocket launch, President Barack Obama visited a frontline U.S. military camp just south of the DMZ and told American troops they are protectors of "freedom's frontier." Obama's trip came days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visited Panmunjom.

In March, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson began a visit to South Korea by touring Panmunjom. Hours later, in Seoul, he declared that all options, including pre-emptive military action, were on the table regarding North Korea.

In April, Vice President Mike Pence visited Panmunjom and later warned North Korea not to test America's resolve and military power.

SITE FOR RARE TALKS

Military officials from North Korea and the U.N. Command used to meet irregularly at Panmunjom to oversee the armistice. In recent years, it has been used for talks between the two Koreas.

South Korean President Moon has proposed that an initial round of talks on easing cross-border tensions be held Friday in a North Korean building in the northern part of the village, followed by a second round on Aug. 1 in a South Korean facility in the southern portion to discuss reunions of families separated by the Korean War.

The most recent high-profile meeting in Panmunjom was in August 2015, when negotiators for the rivals met for nearly 40 hours and reached a deal that allowed them to pull back from a military standoff triggered by the land mine explosion. Animositities flared again after North Korea conducted a fourth nuclear test in January 2016.

Panmunjom has also been used to arrange civilian exchanges and humanitarian programs, such as temporarily family reunions.

S. Korea offers talks on tension, family reunions with North

By HYUNG-JIN KIM, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea on Monday offered talks with North Korea to ease animosities along their tense border and resume reunions of families separated by their war in the 1950s.

It was unclear how North Korea will react since it remains suspicious of new South Korean President Moon Jae-in's outreach to it. But Moon's overture, the first formal offer of talks since his inauguration in May, indicates he wants to use dialogue to defuse the international standoff over North Korea's weapons programs, despite having condemned the North's first intercontinental ballistic missile test on July 4 and vowed a firm response.

If realized, the talks would be the first inter-Korean dialogue since December 2015. Ties between the Koreas have plunged over the North's expanding missile and nuclear programs and the hard-line policies of Moon's conservative predecessors.

South Korean Vice Defense Minister Suh Choo Suk proposed on Monday that defense officials from the two Koreas hold talks at the border village of Panmunjom on Friday on how to end hostile activities along the border. South Korean acting Red Cross chief Kim Sun Hyang told a news conference that it wants separate talks at the border village on Aug. 1 to discuss family reunions.

North Korea's state media didn't immediately respond to South Korea's proposals. But analysts say North Korea may accept the defense talks because it wants the South Korean army to halt loudspeaker broadcasts at the border that began after North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January 2016. Prospects for

talks on family reunions are less good because North Korea has previously demanded that South Korea repatriate some North Korean defectors living in the South before any reunions take place, according to the analysts.

Earlier this month, Moon said in a speech in Germany that he's willing to meet North Korean leader Kim Jong Un if certain conditions are met. Moon also said the two Koreas must halt hostile activities along the border, restart family reunions and cooperate on the 2018 Winter Olympics to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Moon has said he will use both dialogue and pressure to resolve the standoff over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs. But he has achieved little progress, with North Korea test-firing a series of newly developed missiles.

North Korea is believed to possess hundreds of missiles capable of striking South Korea and Japan. Its recent test of an ICBM put it one step closer to its goal of developing nuclear-armed missiles capable of reaching anywhere in the United States.

After the ICBM launch, Kim said he would never negotiate over his weapons programs as long as U.S. hostility and nuclear threats persist.

The two Koreas have been divided since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. About 28,500 American troops are stationed in South Korea.



In this Oct. 22, 2015, file photo, North Korean Son Kwon Geun, center, weeps with his South Korean relatives as he bids farewell after the Separated Family Reunion Meeting at Diamond Mountain resort in North Korea. South Korea's Red Cross said on Monday, July 17, 2017, it wants separate talks at the border village on Aug. 1 to discuss family reunions. (Korea Pool Photo via AP, File)

What we learned at Wimbledon: Never count out Roger Federer

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

LONDON (AP) — Never count out Roger Federer. Seems obvious, right? Especially after he won his record-breaking eighth Wimbledon championship and second Grand Slam title of this resurgent season.

There have been times, though, when folks wondered whether he was done winning major tournaments. He was getting older. He went 4½ years without such a title. He was surpassed in the rankings by the other members of tennis' Big 4 as they began accumulating Grand Slam trophies — first Rafael Nadal, then Novak Djokovic, then Andy Murray.

Even Federer himself began to wonder. He took the last half of 2016 off to let his surgically repaired left knee heal properly and has returned to the top of the game. First, he ended his Slam drought by winning the Australian Open in January. Then, after skipping the French Open, he raised his major total to 19 by winning Wimbledon without a dropping a set, finishing the fortnight with a 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 victory over 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic in Sunday's final.

"Honestly, I'm incredibly surprised how well this year is going. How well I'm feeling, as well. How things are turning out to be on the courts. How I'm managing tougher situations. Where my level of play is on a daily basis. I am surprised that it's this good," Federer said. "I knew I could do great again, maybe one day, but not at this level. So I guess you would have laughed, too, if I told you I was going to win two Slams

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this year. People wouldn't believe me if I said that. I also didn't believe that I was going to win two this year."

Here's what else we learned during the 131st edition of Wimbledon:

DJOKOVIC AND MURRAY

Both Djokovic and Murray will consider taking some time off, the way Federer did, after their bodies caused them problems at the All England Club. Murray, the defending champion and No. 1 seed, lost in the quarterfinals while clearly hampered by a sore left hip. Djokovic, a three-time champion and No. 2 seed, stopped playing in the same round because his right elbow was too painful. "We both had a very long, very tough year, a lot of matches, a lot of emotions, a lot of things in play," Djokovic said. "Our bodies have taken a lot physically."

THE WILLIAMS SISTERS

When Serena Williams missed a Grand Slam tournament, as she did at the French Open and Wimbledon because she is pregnant, the whole complexion of the event changes. Everyone knows it. All of a sudden, her older sister, Venus, is once again a title contender at age 37. Venus is the only woman to have reached at least the fourth round at each of the past six majors. She proved that her run to the Australian Open final (where she lost to Serena) was no fluke by getting to the Wimbledon final — her first at the grass-court tournament since 2009. She was the oldest finalist at the All England Club since 1994. Like Federer, no sense in trying to write her off.

MUGURUZA AND OSTAPENKO

Venus faded in Saturday's final, losing the last nine games against Garbine Muguruza, who became the only woman to have won a major title match against each Williams sister. Muguruza, who got past Serena in the 2016 French Open final, has stamped herself as a fearless, powerful force at 23, in position to accumulate big titles for years. Another woman who fits that description is Jelena Ostapenko, 20, who won the French Open last month, then followed that up by reaching Wimbledon's quarterfinals.

AMERICANS

It's still been nearly 14 full years since an American man won a Grand Slam singles title (Andy Roddick at the 2003 U.S. Open), but one of them did get to the semifinals of a major for the first time since 2009: Sam Querrey, who upset Murray in the quarterfinals, a year after he upset Djokovic in the third round. "American tennis isn't that bad. I know it kind of gets a bad rep. That's just 'cause guys don't win majors. We've got four guys in the top 30, a great group of young guys," said Querrey, a 29-year-old from California. "To be in the semis is great. Hopefully myself and the other guys up there can have more weeks like this. Hopefully, you know, American tennis will get a little boost from this, maybe, and other guys will gain some confidence, and we can just have more and more guys go deeper in Slams."



Switzerland's Roger Federer celebrates with the trophy after beating Croatia's Marin Cilic in the Men's Singles final match on day thirteen at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London Sunday, July 16, 2017. (AP Photo/Tim Ireland)

Follow Howard Fendrich on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/HowardFendrich>

More AP tennis coverage: <https://apnews.com/tag/apf-Tennis>

Asian stocks sink as US politics weigh on market outlook

By YURI KAGEYAMA, AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares fell Tuesday as setbacks for a health care overhaul in the U.S. cast doubt over prospects for a range of reforms backed by President Donald Trump. Expectations the U.S. Federal Reserve will move cautiously in raising interest rates also sent the dollar lower.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 0.6 percent to 19,991.86 in morning trading as the yen gained against the dollar. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 dipped 1.1 percent to 5,692.00. South Korea's Kospi edged 0.1 percent lower to 2,422.30. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 0.3 percent to 26,391.60, while the Shanghai Composite slipped 0.2 percent to 3,169.57.

WALL STREET: All markets ended virtually flat, with the Standard & Poor's 500 index down 0.13 points at 2,459.14. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 8.02 points to 21,629.72. The Nasdaq composite gained 1.97 points to 6,314.43. The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks rose 2.79 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,431.60.

HEALTHCARE REFORM: The Senate Republican health care bill appeared doomed when two more GOP senators announced they would vote no in an initial, critical vote expected as soon as next week. The implosion leaves the divided GOP with its flagship legislative priority in tatters.

THE QUOTE: "The U.S. health care bill is back in the limelight," Stephen Innes of OANDA said in a commentary. "This headline has massive implications to amend Obamacare and brings a huge element of doubt over the tax reform. Equity futures are wobbling, the dollar is selling off. Gold has picked up its allure again given the heightened political risk landscape."

POLICY OUTLOOK: After Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen's dovish comments last week on the pace of future interest rates, attention turns to meetings of the Bank of Japan and the European Central Bank. Given weak recent inflation trends, both central banks appear wary of major policy tightening moves.

ENERGY: Benchmark U.S. crude added 8 cents to \$46.10 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. It lost 52 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$46.02 a barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, rose 9 cents to \$48.51 a barrel in London.

CURRENCIES: The dollar has been weakening as investors conclude the U.S. government is unlikely to enact a significant infrastructure spending package to boost the economy. The dollar slipped to 112.12 yen from 112.66 yen late Monday in Asia. The euro rose to \$1.1536 from \$1.1460.



Men walk past an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm in Tokyo Tuesday, July 18, 2017. Asian shares fell Tuesday as setbacks for a health care overhaul in the U.S. cast doubt over prospects for reforms backed by President Donald Trump. Expectations the U.S. Federal Reserve will move cautiously in raising interest rates also sent the dollar lower. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

Trump wants new NAFTA deal to cut trade deficit with Mexico

By JOSH BOAK, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump vowed Monday to boost U.S. manufacturing by cutting the \$64 billion trade deficit with Mexico as he showcased products made in all 50 states — everything from a fire truck to a baseball bat.

“No longer are we going to allow other countries to break the rules, to steal our jobs and drain our wealth,” Trump said at a White House event that spilled from the East Room to the South Lawn.

Shortly after Trump’s remarks, the U.S. trade representative released an 18-page report about its goals for updating the decades-old North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico. In addition to reducing the trade deficit, the administration wants to insert a chapter on the digital economy into the deal. It also wants to strengthen labor and environmental obligations, as well as amending the rules of origin so that more of the products traded come from the United States and North America.

Facing an investigation into his campaign’s ties with Russia and a tax and health care agenda struggling to make headway as quickly as promised, Trump is turning his focus to trade this week. Administration officials are to meet Wednesday with economic officials from China, a nation the president has accused of dumping steel on the global market to hurt U.S. steelmakers. The White House emphasis on trade follows a string of other recent theme weeks on energy, job-training and infrastructure that mostly failed to draw much attention away from the Russia inquiry.

The president took his time checking out products from all over the country: Trump donned a cowboy hat from Texas. He swung a baseball bat from Louisiana. And he even climbed into the cab of a Wisconsin-built fire truck and pretended to be a firefighter, saying, “Where’s the fire? Where’s the fire? Put it out fast!”

The new NAFTA objectives, a requirement to begin talks on updating the agreement in the next 30 days, contain the first specifics for a Trump administration that has made bold promises on trade. Trump has pledged to recover factory jobs and boost wages by crafting new trade deals. Supporters note that NAFTA enabled companies to charge cheaper prices for products that range from cars to vacuum cleaners, helping many U.S. consumers.

The president said he only seeks a level playing field for U.S. companies and workers, but “if the playing field was slanted a little bit toward us, I would accept that, also.”

But the president has a conflicted relationship with global trade. His namesake clothing business depended on the work of low-wage workers living overseas, as does the fashion line of his daughter and White House aide, Ivanka Trump.

As of now, Ivanka Trump’s firm continues to have its products made overseas. Her lawyer, Jamie Gorelick, said in a statement Monday that the president’s daughter “has resigned from the company, does



President Donald Trump tries on a Stetson hat during a “Made in America,” product showcase featuring items created in each of the U.S. 50 states, Monday, July 17, 2017, at the White House in Washington. Stetson is base in Garland, Texas. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

not control its operations, and has been advised that she cannot ask the government to act in an issue involving the brand in any way, constraining her ability to intervene personally.”

Trump has blasted trade deficits as hampering the economy by sending money abroad. But the trade deficit has actually improved from \$762 billion in 2006 to \$505 billion last year, a change brought about largely because U.S. consumers cut back spending during the Great Recession. His administration already is pursuing multiple trade cases on individual products and is weighing whether to impose tariffs and quotas on foreign steel in hopes of curbing production in China, even though that country represents a fraction of U.S. steel imports.

The Mexican government said in a statement that the administration’s NAFTA objectives will give greater clarity to the negotiations.

Chrystia Freeland, Canada’s minister of foreign affairs, said, “NAFTA supports millions of middle class jobs” across North America and Canada welcomes the opportunity to add “progressive, free and fair approaches” to the pact.

Despite the report, it’s still not clear exactly how Trump will renegotiate NAFTA to reduce the trade deficit, said Phil Levy, a senior fellow for the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and a business professor at Northwestern University.

“There’s no detail,” Levy said. “There’s nothing in there where you could say, this is how we get rid of the trade deficit.”

When NAFTA went into effect in 1994, the United States ran a small trade surplus in goods with Mexico and a slight deficit with Canada. But the size of the deficits steadily began to increase afterward.

By last year, the United States ran a \$64 billion trade deficit with Mexico and a nearly \$11 billion gap with Canada. Neither trade deficit is near its peak level. The trade deficit with Canada hit a high in 2008, while the trade gap with Mexico nearly reached \$75 billion in 2007.

Beef and brains are on the menu at the British Open

By **TIM DAHLBERG, AP Sports Columnist**

SOUTHPORT, England (AP) — Beef is back on the menu at the British Open, and Andrew Johnston can only hope there’s as much sizzle to be found at Royal Birkdale as there was last year when he made an entertaining run on the weekend at Royal Troon.

There are brains here, too, thanks to a last minute win Sunday by Bryson DeChambeau, who defies golf convention with his swing thoughts and has physics formulas stamped on the back of his wedges.

Golf in what seems now to be a permanent post-Tiger era remains alive and somewhat well. That’s especially true on this side of the pond, where huge crowds will turn out this week for the 146th version of what they prefer here to call simply The Open.

The winner on Sunday will be crowned championship golfer of the year. Based on the small sample size of recent ma-



Bryson DeChambeau celebrates with the trophy after winning the John Deere Classic golf tournament, Sunday, July 16, 2017, at TPC Deere Run in Silvis, Ill. (AP Photo/Charlie

Neibergall)

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for championships, it is likely to be someone you know little about.

The last seven major championships have been won by players who had never won a major in their lives. That could go to eight this week if an up and coming player the likes of John Rahm — who dominated the Irish Open in his last outing — can win this Open.

Or maybe local resident Tommy Fleetwood, who didn't exactly come in through the front door of the pro shop when he played a few holes here and there growing up.

"It was a course I would have crept on now and again," Fleetwood said.

The revolving cast of new winners is part of the reason this Open — and golf itself — seems to be struggling for a story line. The course may be the best in England and the field full of great talent, but even the bookies here can't figure out who should be favored.

Gone forever are the days when Woods dominated and every conversation in the sport revolved around what he was doing.

"It shows the quality of golf that everybody plays at right now," said Sergio Garcia, the Masters champion who is still looking for his first Claret Jug. "It's a really high level and it doesn't matter if you've won a major or not, everybody can definitely do it."

That everybody certainly includes Garcia himself, who spent the better part of the last two decades tantalizing fans with his talent but never delivering in a major before a brilliant back nine comeback gave him the green jacket at Augusta National this year.

His Open career began as an amateur at Royal Birkdale in 1998, and he's had several legitimate chances to win the Open, only to kick them away. But he's now a major champion and, with a wedding set for next week, he could be a storybook champion should he emerge with the iconic jug engraved with winners of years past.

"Obviously I am excited about it," Garcia said. "I am confident about my possibilities but I can't tell you if I'm going to be right up there on Sunday with a chance. I'm hoping that I will be, but unfortunately it doesn't work like that every week."

The player nicknamed Beef certainly understands that. The bearded, portly Johnston entertained the crowd at last year's Open, nearly upstaging a tremendous duel between Phil Mickelson and eventual winner Henrik Stenson in the final round before finishing eighth.

But Johnston has struggled to make cuts ever since, as did DeChambeau until he came through Sunday with a blistering back nine to win for the first time in the John Deere Classic.

That gave him the final qualifying berth in the Open, and a chance to demonstrate some unusual theories he has about golf, including using the same length shaft in all of his irons.

A win here would be an extreme longshot, but strange things can happen in golf. That's especially true at a tournament where just a few years back 59-year-old Tom Watson came within a par of winning before losing to Stewart Cink in a playoff.

So maybe the search for a new hero will focus on the hometown kid with the flowing bangs who used to sneak onto Royal Birkdale to play a few holes while his dad walked the dog around the course perimeter.

A win for Fleetwood — now the No. 1 player on the European Tour — might even get him noticed in the town where he grew up. So far, his appearance here has been welcomed with a collective shrug.

"There's nobody fainting in the street as I walk past," Fleetwood said. "So I'm still waiting."

Tim Dahlberg is a national sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at tdahlberg@ap.org or <http://twitter.com/timdahlberg>

OJ Simpson faces good chance at parole in Nevada robbery

By KEN RITTER, Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — O.J. Simpson, the former football star, TV pitchman and now Nevada prison inmate No. 1027820, will have a lot going for him when he asks state parole board members this week to release him after serving more than eight years for an ill-fated bid to retrieve sports memorabilia.

Now 70, Simpson will have history in his favor and a clean record behind bars as he approaches the nine-year minimum of his 33-year sentence for armed robbery and assault with a weapon. Plus, the parole board sided with him once before.

No one at his Thursday hearing is expected to oppose releasing him in October — not his victim, not even the former prosecutor who persuaded a jury in Las Vegas to convict Simpson in 2008.

“Assuming that he’s behaved himself in prison, I don’t think it will be out of line for him to get parole,” said David Roger, the retired Clark County district attorney.

Four other men who went with Simpson to a hotel room to retrieve from two memorabilia dealers sports collectibles and personal items that the former football star said belonged to him took plea deals in the heist and received probation.

Two of those men testified that they carried guns. Another who stood trial with Simpson was convicted and served 27 months before the Nevada Supreme Court ruled that Simpson’s fame tainted the jury. Simpson’s conviction was upheld.

Prison life was a stunning fall for a charismatic celebrity whose storybook career as an electrifying running back dubbed “The Juice” won him the Heisman Trophy as the best college player in 1968 and a place in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1985.

He became a sports commentator, Hollywood movie actor, car rental company spokesman and one of the world’s most famous people even before his Los Angeles “trial of the century,” when he was acquitted in the killings of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Simpson, appeared grayer and heavier than most remembered him when he was last seen, four years ago.

He will appear Thursday by videoconference from the Lovelock Correctional Center, to be quizzed by four state parole commissioners in Carson City, a two-hour drive away.

Two other members of the board will monitor the hearing, said David Smith, a parole hearing examiner.

The commissioners will have a parole hearing report that has not been made public, plus guidelines and worksheets that would appear to favor Simpson. It plans to make its written risk assessment public after a decision.

They will consider his age, whether his conviction was for a violent crime (it was), his prior criminal his-



In this May 14, 2013 pool file photo, O.J. Simpson sits during a break on the second day of an evidentiary hearing in Clark County District Court in Las Vegas. Simpson, the former football star, TV pitchman and now Nevada prison inmate, will have a lot going for him when he appears before state parole board members Thursday, July 20, 2017 seeking his release after more than eight years for an ill-fated bid to retrieve sports memorabilia. (AP Photo/

Ethan Miller, Pool, File)

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tory (he had none) and his plans after release, Smith said.

Nevada has about 13,500 prison inmates, and the governor-appointed Board of Parole Commissioners has averaged about 8,300 annual hearings for the past four years. The rate of inmates who are granted parole in discretionary hearings held as they approach their minimum sentence, like Simpson's, averages about 82 percent.

The same four board members also have experience with Simpson, having granted him parole in July 2013 on some charges — kidnapping, robbery and burglary — stemming from the 2007 armed confrontation. The board's decision left Simpson with four years to serve before reaching his minimum time behind bars.

Board members Connie Bisbee, Tony Corda, Adam Endel and Susan Jackson noted at the time that Simpson had a "positive institutional record," with no disciplinary actions behind bars.

Simpson's lawyer, friends and prison officials say that hasn't changed.

"He's really been a positive force in there. He's done a lot of good for a lot of people," said Tom Scotto, a friend from Florida whose wedding Simpson was in Las Vegas to attend the weekend of the robbery.

Scotto said he visits or talks with Simpson every few months.

Simpson leads a Baptist prayer group, mentors inmates, works in the gym, coaches sports teams and serves as commissioner of the prison yard softball league, Scotto said.

Scotto will be among the 15 people with Simpson in a small conference room at the prison, along with Simpson's lawyer, Malcolm LaVergne, daughter Arnelle Simpson and sister Shirley Baker.

A parole case worker, two prison guards and a small pool of media also were expected, along with Bruce Fromong, one of the memorabilia dealers who was robbed.

Fromong said he will attend as a victim of the crime but will be "trying to be good for O.J." He said he suffered four heart attacks and severe financial losses as a result of the robbery but later forgave Simpson.

The other collectibles broker, Alfred Beardsley, died in 2015.

Andy Caldwell, a retired Las Vegas police detective who investigated the Simpson case, will be at the prison but won't be in the room.

"I don't want to offer an opinion," said Caldwell, now a Christian minister in Mill City, Oregon. "I'm just curious to see how everything unfolds."

In a nod to Simpson's celebrity, officials will let the proceedings be streamed live, and the board plans a same-day ruling. A decision usually takes several days.

Laurie Levenson, a Loyola Law School professor and longtime Simpson case analyst, predicted a "tsunami" of public attention if Simpson wins release.

"If this is the ordinary case, he will be paroled," Levenson said. "But O.J. is never the ordinary case."

Al Lasso, a Las Vegas defense attorney who has followed the case but does not represent Simpson, said any other defendant in a similar case probably would have gotten probation, not prison.

"I think he spent more than enough time in prison for a robbery in which he didn't even have a gun himself," Lasso said.

But Michael Shapiro, a New York defense lawyer who provided commentary during Simpson's conviction in Las Vegas in 2008 and his acquittal in Los Angeles in 1995, said freedom was no certainty.

"The judge believed he got away with murder," Shapiro said. "That's the elephant in the room. If the parole authorities feel the same way, he could be in trouble."

This story has been clarified to show that former police Detective Andy Caldwell will be at the prison but not in hearing room and corrects that his church is in Mill City, Oregon, not Lyons, Oregon.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 18, the 199th day of 2017. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 18, 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a Presidential Succession Act which placed the speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore next in the line of succession after the vice president.

On this date:

In A.D. 64, the Great Fire of Rome began, consuming most of the city for about a week. (Some blamed the fire on Emperor Nero, who in turn blamed Christians.)

In 1536, the English Parliament passed an act declaring the authority of the pope void in England.

In 1792, American naval hero John Paul Jones died in Paris at age 45.

In 1817, English novelist Jane Austen died in Winchester at age 41.

In 1927, Ty Cobb hit safely for the 4,000th time in his career during a game between the Philadelphia Athletics (his new team) and the Detroit Tigers (his old one) at Navin Field. (The Tigers won, 5-3.)

In 1932, the United States and Canada signed a treaty to develop the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In 1944, Hideki Tojo was removed as Japanese premier and war minister because of setbacks suffered by his country in World War II. American forces in France captured the Normandy town of St. Lo.

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin, British Prime Minister Anthony Eden and French Premier Edgar Faure held a summit in Geneva.

In 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick Island near Martha's Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne (koh-PEHK'-nee), 28; some time later, Kennedy's car went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but Kopechne drowned.

In 1976, 14-year-old Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci, competing at the Montreal Olympics, received the first-ever perfect score of 10 with her routine on uneven parallel bars. (Comaneci would go on to receive six more 10s in Montreal.)

In 1984, gunman James Huberty opened fire at a McDonald's fast food restaurant in San Ysidro (ee-SEE'-droh), California, killing 21 people before being shot dead by police. Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

In 1994, a bomb hidden in a van destroyed a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85. Tutsi rebels declared an end to Rwanda's 14-week-old civil war.

Ten years ago: Senate Republicans torpedoed legislation to force the withdrawal of U.S. combat troops from Iraq. An underground steam pipe exploded on a New York City street, swallowing a tow truck and claiming the life of a woman who suffered a heart attack. Armed men kidnapped two Germans and five Afghans working on a dam project in central Afghanistan. (One of the Germans, Ruediger Diedrich, was found shot dead three days later; the others were later released.) Opera tenor Jerry Hadley, 55, died at a hospital in Poughkeepsie, New York, a week after shooting himself with an air rifle.

Five years ago: Rebels penetrated the heart of Syria's power elite, detonating a bomb inside a high-level crisis meeting in Damascus that killed three leaders of the regime, including President Bashar Assad's brother-in-law and the defense minister. A bus bombing at the Burgas airport in Bulgaria killed five Israeli tourists, the bus driver and the suspected perpetrator.

One year ago: Republicans opened their national convention in Cleveland as they prepared to nominate Donald Trump for president; Trump's wife, Melania, delivered a speech in which she assured delegates and voters that her husband had the character and determination to unite a divided nation. (Mrs. Trump's well-received address was marred by two passages with similarities to a speech first lady Michelle Obama delivered at the 2008 Democratic convention; a speechwriter accepted responsibility for the passages in question.) President Barack Obama awarded the Medal of Honor to retired Lt. Col. Charles Kettles, a helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War credited with helping rescue more than 40 American soldiers under heavy fire. A 17-year-old Afghan asylum-seeker wounded five people with an ax before being killed by

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police near the German city of Wuerzburg in an attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

Today's Birthdays: Skating champion and commentator Dick Button is 88. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tenley Albright is 82. Movie director Paul Verhoeven is 79. Musician Brian Auger is 78. Singer Dion DiMucci is 78. Actor James Brolin is 77. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Torre is 77. Singer Martha Reeves is 76. Pop-rock musician Wally Bryson (The Raspberries) is 68. Country-rock singer Craig Fuller (Pure Prairie League) is 68. Business mogul Richard Branson is 67. Actress Margo Martindale is 66. Singer Ricky Skaggs is 63. Actress Audrey Landers is 61. World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Faldo is 60. Rock musician Nigel Twist (The Alarm) is 59. Actress Anne-Marie Johnson is 57. Actress Elizabeth McGovern is 56. Rock musician John Hermann (Widespread Panic) is 55. Rock musician Jack Irons is 55. Talk show host-actress Wendy Williams is 53. Actor Vin Diesel is 50. Actor Grant Bowler is 49. Retired NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway is 46. Bluegrass musician Jesse Brock (The Gibson Brothers) is 45. Alt-country singer Elizabeth Cook is 45. Actor Eddie Matos is 45. MLB All-Star Torii Hunter is 42. Dance music singer-songwriter M.I.A. is 42. Rock musician Daron Malakian (System of a Down; Scars on Broadway) is 42. Rock musician Tony Fagenson (Eve 6) is 39. Movie director Jared Hess is 38. Actor Jason Weaver is 38. Actress Kristen Bell is 37. Actor Michiel Huisman (MIHK'-heel HOWS'-man) is 36. Rock singer Ryan Cabrera is 35. Actress Priyanka Chopra is 35. Christian-rock musician Aaron Gillespie (Underoath) is 34. Actor Chace Crawford is 32. Actor James Norton is 32. Musician Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers) is 31. Actor Travis Milne is 31. Bluegrass musician Joe Dean Jr. (Dailey & Vincent) is 28.

Thought for Today: "It isn't what we say or think that defines us, but what we do." — From "Sense and Sensibility" by Jane Austen (1775-1817).