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St. John's Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 a.m.
United Methodist Church: Conde worship, 9 a.m.; coffee fellowship time, 10 a.m., Groton worship, 11 a.m.
Catholic Parish: Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church at 9 a.m., then at St. Joseph in Turton at 11 a.m.
First Presbyterian: Bible Study at 9 a.m., Worship at 10 a.m.
Heaven Bound Ministries: Worship in Pierpont at 10 a.m.

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Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli, garlic toast, orange sherbet.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study at 6:30 a.m.
Olive Grove: Kid's Lessons

Official Notices

Brown County (Updated 7-26)
Groton City Book (updated 7-26)
Groton Area School (updated 7-26)
Frederick Area School Book (updated 7-26)
Westport Town Book (updated 7-26)
Frederick Town (updated 7-18)
Other Official Notices Book
Claremont Town Official Notices 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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FROST
CONSTRUCTION INC.
GENERAL CONTRACTOR
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custom homes | remodels | additions

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Accept the things
to which fate
binds you,
and love
the people
with whom
fate brings
you together,
but do so with all
your heart.

-Marcus Aurelius

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Yard of the Week

Louie and Vinny are pictured with their owners for this week's Yard of the Week. On the left is Diane holding Louie and on the right is Ryan holding Vinny. The Kurtz' yard was chosen by the members of the Groton Garden Club. They are located at 205 W. 5th Ave. The Bulldog puppies were given to Diane for Mother's Day by her children. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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As you can see in this photo, the sewer service line is a little too high for the big storm sewer pipe that is being installed. At least four homeowner sewer service lines had to be removed and reinstalled about 18 inches lower to accommodate the new concrete storm sewer.

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City employees Dwight Zerr, Branden Abeln and Terry Herron were installing the new sewer service line for one of the homeowners. Four services had to be lowered and it is now known yet if a fifth service line will have to be lowered. Also pictured on the left is an employee of Webster Scale.

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Today in Weather History

July 29, 1896: A destructive hailstorm originated in the central part of Edmunds County near Ipswich, passing southeast. This storm destroyed crops and broke glass in many windows along a path to the eastern portions of Spink County.

July 29, 2003: Winds of 70 mph, to over 100 mph caused damage in and around Redfield east to Frankfort and south to Tulare. The winds and hail damaged many roofs, crops, outbuildings, downed power lines, and poles, and also downed many branches and trees. In Redfield, a trailer home with two occupants were rolled three to four times over 75 feet. The trailer home rolled over a pickup truck and damaged it. Much of the contents in the trailer home were damaged, and the trailer home itself was a total loss. The people inside the home received minor injuries. A garage was also blown apart in Redfield with the car damaged inside. At the grain elevator in Redfield, several vehicle windows were broke out by airborne sand and rocks. A street light was ripped from the concrete in Redfield. East of Redfield, a 70-foot silo of over 70 tons was crumbled to the ground and a large tractor shed was blown apart with damage to the contents. Wind equipment by Redfield measured winds at 106 mph before the power went out.

July 29, 2006: Record heat and high humidity affected central, north central, and northeast South Dakota for the end of July. Heat indices rose to 105 to 115 degrees across the area. Record high temperatures were set at Pierre, Mobridge, Kennebec, Timber Lake, and Aberdeen. Pierre rose to 111 degrees on each of the three days. Mobridge rose to 111 degrees on the 28th and 112 degrees on the 30th. Several record highs of 108 and 109 degrees were set at Timber Lake and Kennebec in the three-day period. Aberdeen set a record high of 106 on the 30th.

1898 - The temperature at Prineville, OR, soared to 119 degrees to establish a state record, which was tied on the 10th of August at Pendleton. (The Weather Channel)

1905 - Heavy rain in southwestern Connecticut caused a dam break, and the resulting flood caused a quarter of a million dollars damage at Bridgeport. As much as eleven inches of rain fell prior to the flood. (David Ludlum)

1958: The U.S. Congress passes legislation establishing the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), a civilian agency responsible for coordinating America's activities in space.

1960: Severe thunderstorms brought damaging winds, possibly as high as 100 mph to central Oklahoma. Eight planes and several hangars were damaged at Wiley Post Airfield, while two aircraft and additional hangars were damaged at Will Rogers World Airport. The winds caused seven injuries in the area, including two youths who were injured by flying debris.

1981 - Fifty cattle, each weighing 800 pounds, were killed by lightning near Vance, AL. The lightning struck a tree and then spread along the ground killing the cattle. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from Minnesota to Indiana and Illinois. A thunderstorm at Janesville, WI, produced wind gusts to 104 mph which flipped over two airplanes, and blew another plane 300 feet down the runway. The northeastern U.S. experienced some relief from the heat. Nine cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Johnsbury, VT, with a reading of 42 degrees. Barnet, VT, reported a morning low of 33 degrees, with frost reported on vegetation. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)








1988 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Hail three inches in diameter was reported south of Saint Cloud, MN. Hot weather prevailed in the western U.S. Fresno, CA reported a record thirteen straight days of 100 degree heat. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Morning thunderstorms in the Upper Midwest produced more than five inches of rain west of Virgil, SD. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms deluged the foothills and adjacent plains of Colorado with heavy rain. Rains of six to seven and a half inches fell in eight hours north of Greeley. Hail and heavy rain caused several million dollars damage in Weld County. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

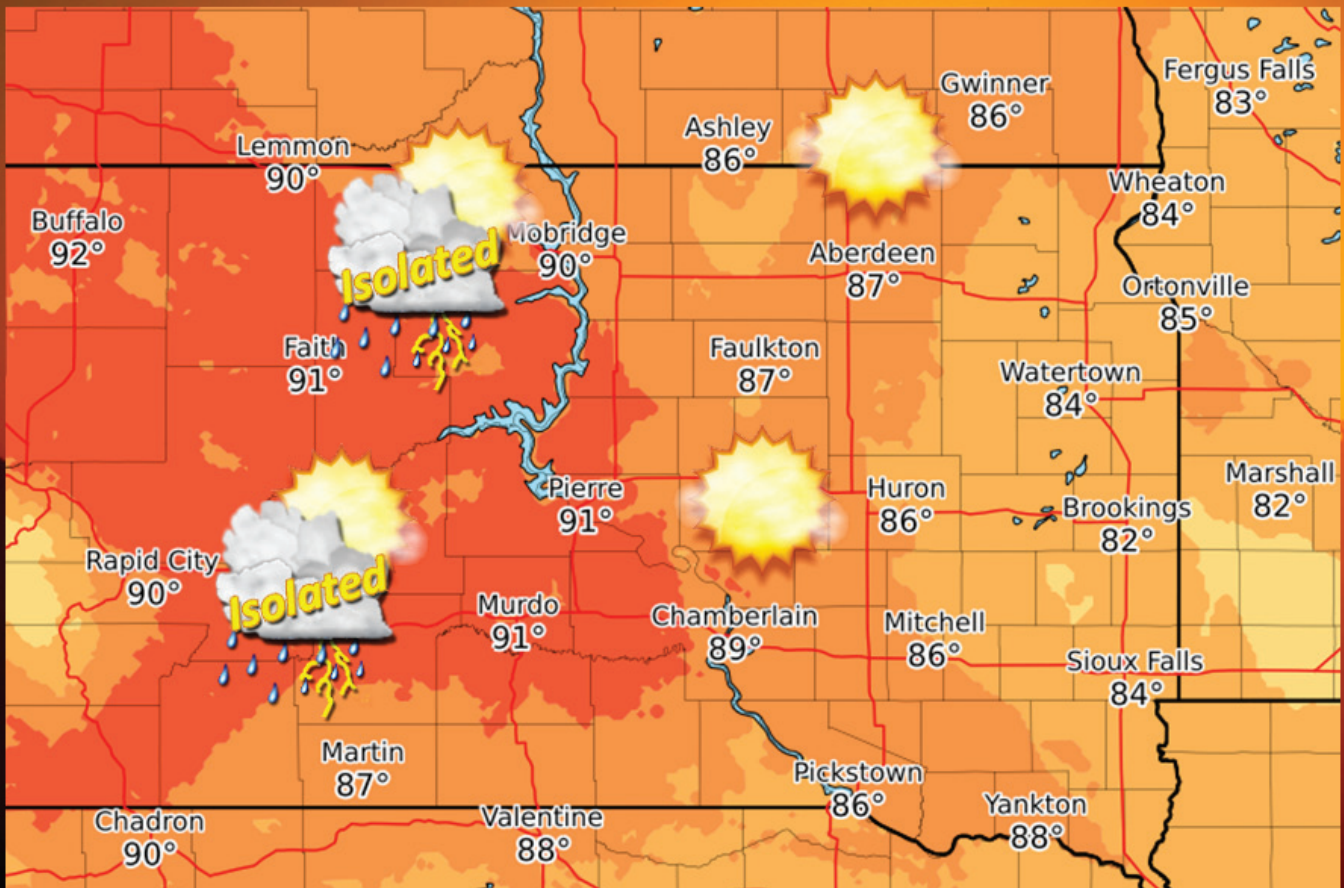
2004: A record-setting flash flood occurred over part of the Greenville, South Carolina, during the morning hours. Six to eight inches of rain fell just east of Berea, a northwestern suburb, which caused the Reedy River through downtown Greenville crested 9 feet above flood stage. This crest was the highest level since 1908.

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Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms
High: 86 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 65 °F	High: 89 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 85 °F

Isolated "Heat of the Afternoon" Storms



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD



Updated: 7/29/2017 8:08 AM Central

Published on: 07/29/2017 at 8:12AM

Temperatures will top out around average. There may be thunderstorm or two this afternoon, mainly west river. However, much of the area will remain dry today and Sunday.

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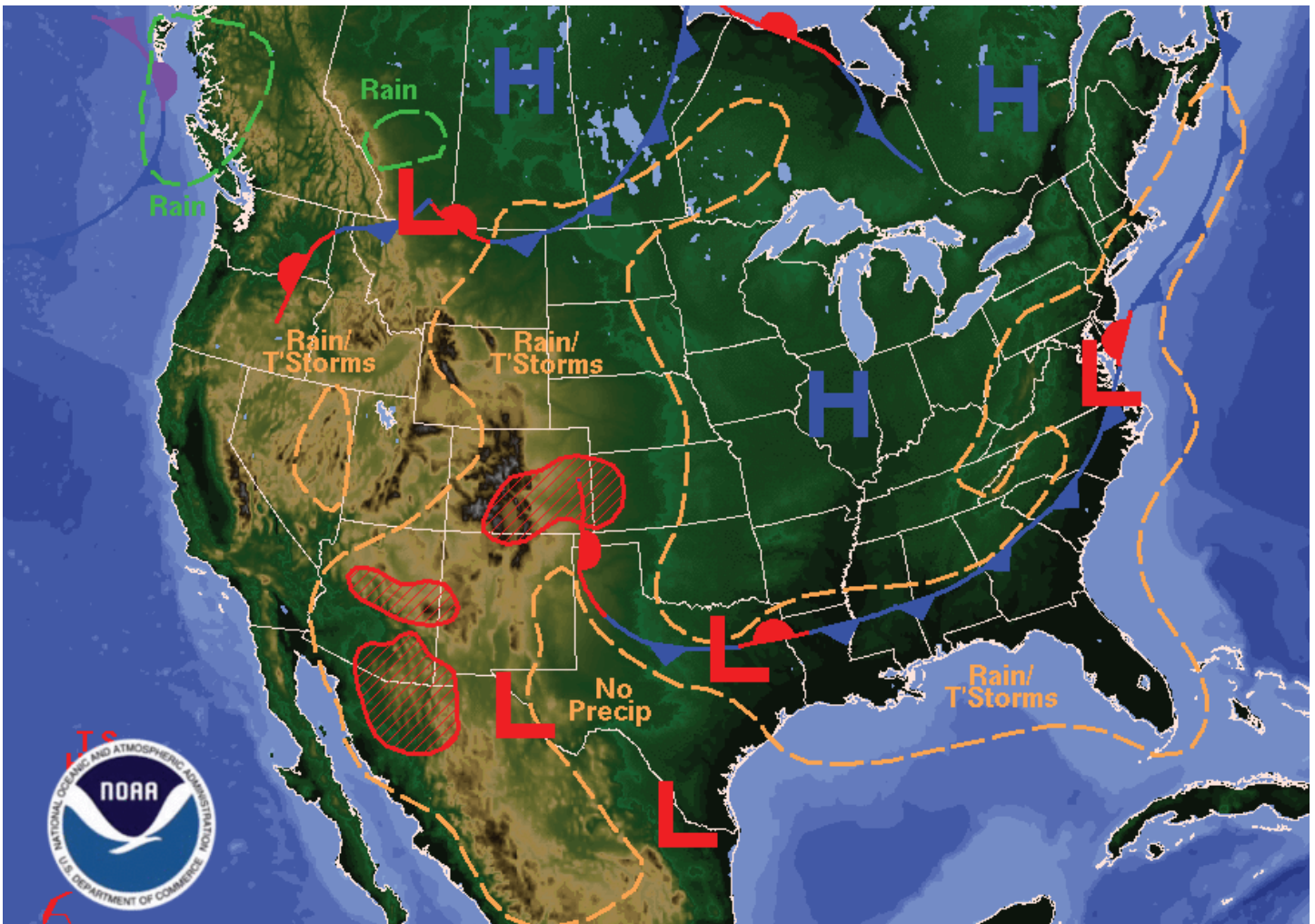
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 84.4 F at 4:35 PM
Low Outside Temp: 67.2 F at 6:04 AM
High Gust: 15.0 Mph at 2:50 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 109° in 1933
Record Low: 42° in 1999
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in July: 2.86
Precip to date in July: 1.47
Average Precip to date: 13.70
Precip Year to Date: 7.24
Sunset Tonight: 9:04 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:15 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Sat, Jul 29, 2017, issued 4:41 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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WHY NOW, GOD?

Feelings of being abandoned and forsaken are, perhaps, among the most painful feelings of life. In desperation we cry for someone or anyone to come to our rescue. Tragedy strikes, hopes are dashed, one whom we deeply loved and have spent our lives with is suddenly taken from us. And there we are: alone. Our cries go unheard – and it seems as though the heavens above have turned to brass and the clouds have become marble. So, we cry out in fear and frustration for our God. But He does not answer. He's not available.

Jesus knew those feelings. As life was ebbing from His body He cried out, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?" David and Jesus felt abandoned, indeed were abandoned, by those who were their closest friends. They had invested time in training them, being open and honest with them, shared the ups and downs of life with them and came to believe and trust in them. And, then in their darkest moments felt the pain of desertion and the fear of being alone.

But they would not give up on God! The lamp of faith may have been dimmed by God's silence but it had not been extinguished by life's tragedies. Both confessed that He is still "My God!"

God never promised that if we believed in Him our lives would be free from the fear of isolation or loneliness. He did, however, promise to be with us in our darkest moments. He did not promise to take us around the dark valleys of life, but through them.

Prayer: We accept Your promises, Lord, and pray that in our moments of despair we will not lose faith in You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish?

News from the Associated Press

South Dakota university centers spend less money on teachers

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's university centers in Sioux Falls, Rapid City and Pierre are spending less money on instructors, and it's not just because they have fewer students.

The Argus Leader reports the decrease in spending is also due to a strategic push to offer fewer courses and hire part-time adjunct instructors.

"All of the centers have been using adjuncts to control costs," said Mike Rush, executive director for the Board of Regents.

Paul Turman is the Board of Regents vice president for academic affairs. He said Capital University Center is using this strategy because it doesn't have enough students to employ many full-time faculty members.

"You couldn't be a full-time math teacher at CUC in Pierre because they only offer one to two math sections per semester," Turman said.

Most classes at Black Hills State University's Rapid City center are taught by adjuncts.

"That's always been a measure that has helped hold down our instructional costs," said Greg Bilodeau, executive director.

Adjuncts make up about 30 percent of the instructional staff in Sioux Falls' university center. The center hasn't made any concerted efforts to increase the number of part-time staff.

Executive Director Craig Johnson said most of the cost savings in Sioux Falls have been the result of a strategic effort to decrease the number of courses offered.

The center offered 290 courses in the fall of last year. Only 166 are scheduled this fall.

Jake Moir, a Sioux Falls student, said it has become more challenging to schedule classes.

"I had to settle for some classes that I didn't want to take," Moir said.

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

Oglala Sioux Executive Director celebrates 3 years at job

By **ABBY PETERSEN**, Rapid City Journal

PINE RIDGE, S.D. (AP) — At first glance, Darrell Brown Bull's office resembles a college dorm room.

The walls are painted bright orange; a mini fridge buzzes in the corner; whiteboards hold lists of important names and tasks; and a Darth Vader bowl filled with Jolly Ranchers candies rests comfortably on his desk.

But behind his chair, there's a dead giveaway that Brown Bull is not a student anymore: Three framed degrees from the University of Minnesota Duluth hang on the wall (though even the degrees are hugged by Star Wars movie regalia).

At 32, Brown Bull is the youngest executive director the Oglala Sioux Tribe has ever had. With July 24 marking his third year in the post, he's also the longest serving director in tribal history.

Brown Bull's office sits in the middle of Pine Ridge, the largest community on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, which is the second-largest Native American reservation in the nation. As executive director, Brown Bull's job on paper is to ensure that 75 tribal programs comply with tribal policies and get their jobs done. He answers to the tribal president, Scott Weston.

Informally, however, Brown Bull also listens to complaints, meets with department heads and does what he calls "firefighting" to ensure those in tribal administration and elected government get along.

They often do not, Brown Bull told the Rapid City Journal (<http://bit.ly/2v9Zgxb>).

Brown Bull was born in 1984 in Kyle but traveled around the U.S. for the first few years of his life because his father was in the Marines. His mother, Edwina, is the head counselor at Little Wound School in Kyle, where Brown Bull attended school as a child.

He's affectionately known as "Tiger" by family and friends, after his grandmother gave him the nickname

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when he would growl instead of cry as a child.

After graduating from high school in 2003, Brown Bull applied to Black Hills State University. He signed up for classes and hiked up to campus, only to leave a few days later when he got a call from the financial aid office. No one had ever told him he needed to apply for it.

Brown Bull headed to Oglala Lakota College in Kyle for a few semesters. He hopped around the country, taking online classes while his girlfriend attended a fellowship at Dartmouth College.

In 2010, he graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth with degrees in American Indian studies and psychology.

Brown Bull had gone into college wanting to be a clinical psychologist, like his mother. After taking a few electives in American Indian studies, he learned about things he'd never been taught in high school: The Dawes Act, the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. By his senior year, he was a teaching assistant for professor Tadd Johnson, who was just beginning to plan for a new master's program to teach future tribal leaders.

When the master's in tribal governance and administration program in Duluth was accepting applications for its first cohort, Brown Bull applied. Through funding from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Tribe Community Endowed Scholarship, Brown Bull could go through the program debt-free. He graduated in 2013.

Brown Bull headed back to Pine Ridge to see how he could help the tribe, which was experiencing a rash of teenage suicides. He applied to be executive director of the tribe without really expecting to get it — he was 29 at the time. He got it anyway, and he's been there ever since.

Brown Bull sports his education proudly and even jokes about competing with his mother, who has a Ph.D. He's also thankful, because he knows his tribe could never have afforded to send him to the master's program with the scholarship.

Johnson, his professor, is an enrolled member of the Bois Forte band of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. He had worked on a reservation for more than 25 years and realized that there was really no place to go to learn how to run a reservation — tribal administrators typically learn by doing.

Johnson created the program he wanted to see.

Around 2009, he began asking various tribal leaders and administrators what they would put in a course for future leadership if they could build one.

"So we created this curriculum, and we kept bouncing these ideas off of people," Johnson said.

Since the masters of tribal governance and administration program was designed for current tribal leaders, classes were offered in the classroom and online. Their first year, they expected about three or four applicants. They got 30, most of whom were people Johnson had consulted on the way.

Brown Bull was among the 22 that graduated from the first of five graduating classes.

"Being a tribal executive director is one of the hardest jobs on the planet," Johnson said. "He has the political and personal skills to pull that off, and I think it's a unique mixture of the right personality and the right skill set to do that job."

Being the youngest and longest running executive director is something Brown Bull is proud of, but it's also what he calls a "big experience." He said he rewrites his resignation letter every week. He's gotten two job offers from other places with better pay and better benefits.

"The idea of being here and knowing what our people struggle through and knowing the avenues available so we don't have to (struggle), that's one of the things that pushes me and keeps me here," he said. "We have so much potential to be progressive and get things done, but we don't."

He's frustrated with the lack of coordination between elected tribal government and tribal administration, as well as the corruption he sees in the way that government operates. He's frustrated with an outdated tribal constitution, the absence of term-limits for council members, and a lack of opportunities for younger generations. Sometimes, he feels like a high school teacher fighting classroom gossip.

"People are literally dying, people are literally killing themselves," Brown Bull said. "And here we are, trying to fight over who has this job or who is in what position. That's not the point. The point is that we need to focus on these services. We shouldn't be such a failure as a government that people are taking their own lives because of it."

Battling back against those negative patterns keeps him motivated to stay.

He takes pride in the fact that the tribe has been taken off high-risk status by the federal government, which previously meant the tribe received its federal funding in small chunks to ensure it wasn't mismanaged. He sees hope in younger people, many of whom he's hired into administrative positions.

"The number of people that just want that chance, that just want to try and feel like they're helping, that's what I've been doing here," Brown Bull said.

For now, Brown Bull still drives the hour from Kyle to Pine Ridge every morning to his office, but he holds higher aspirations, including to one day become a U.S. senator.

"At the end of the day," Brown Bull says, "our people need to understand that what happens in this tribal government, what happens with assistance, what happens with economic development, with everything here, it all rests on the shoulders of our people, because they make that vote."

Information from: Rapid City Journal, <http://www.rapidcityjournal.com>

South Dakota senior living facility celebrates new addition

By PATRICK ANDERSON, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Touchmark at All Saints is inviting the neighbors to celebrate its new addition. The new space includes a fitness center, independent living opportunities for Sioux Falls' aging population and two memory care communities that will help address South Dakota's growing Alzheimer's problem.

But it didn't come without causing a spark of controversy two years ago when nearby homeowners worried about the threat to a grove of trees at the heart of their neighborhood.

Touchmark leadership overcame a rocky start by forging a relationship with the local neighborhood group through time, effort and investment. The block party this past week is representative of that bond.

"We're part of a neighborhood," Touchmark's executive director Amanda Snoozy told the Argus Leader (<http://argusne.ws/2vXD4FU>). "We thought, well, how do we celebrate that?"

Touchmark's approach to the concerns of its neighbors can be a lesson for businesses looking to expand or grow in Sioux Falls' historic core. Engaging nearby homeowners in the planning process was pivotal to forging today's relationship with All Saints residents, and it is a technique that mirrors outreach Sanford Health has done as it grows its own campus just a few blocks away.

But for Touchmark, it was only the beginning.

It's one thing to talk about future construction. Seeing the trees come down in the neighborhood was shocking, said Rachael Meyerink, who serves on the All Saints neighborhood group and the city's historic preservation board.

"There was a really heavy feeling in the neighborhood," Meyerink said. "People enjoyed these trees for decades and decades, and now they're all gone at once."

When Meyerink came up with an idea to replace them, Touchmark helped fund the project. The company helped pay for the 100 saplings that went up throughout the neighborhood last summer.

Meyerink and her husband found a source for the trees, using Touchmark's gift and a grant from the city to cut away at the cost. All Saints residents who wanted to plant a tree only paid about \$30 per sapling.

"It just seems like they do really want to have a good relationship with us," Meyerink said. "We just have a positive atmosphere in the All Saints neighborhood. We want to do good."

The company sends a staff representative to neighborhood meetings and a Touchmark resident serves on the board.

Touchmark belongs to the All Saint's active Facebook group, and Snoozy is well-versed in All Saints' ongoing initiatives, including an effort to make the neighborhood more walkable. The relationship goes both ways, Snoozy said.

"How can we include the association in our events?" Snoozy said. "We're in pretty constant contact with them."

All Saints is one of the strongest, fastest-growing neighborhood associations in the city. Homeowners have transformed the once troubled area into a haven for young families, retirees and others who relish

the older homes and proximity to downtown.

Touchmark's original building is the historic namesake for the neighborhood it anchors. Residents credited the company for saving and restoring the 130-year-old school.

But two separate proposals for the addition failed to pass muster with city and state historic preservation boards. City Councilors approved the project anyway in 2015, making way for the \$20 million expansion.

But before the council's vote, Touchmark hosted a 70-minute input session with neighbors. The company redrafted its designs to preserve the neighborhood's view and use materials more fitting with the original building.

Touchmark's outreach in the following months paid dividends for both sides.

Neighbors think of the business as one of their own, including the people who call Touchmark home.

"We see them daily walking the neighborhood," said Katrina Lehr-McKinney, who heads the All Saints Neighborhood Association. "We want to make sure that their voices are heard."

Meanwhile, Touchmark also benefits from the hard work it put in with All Saints homeowners. The company is building a reputation as a participant in the community and an advocate. Its fitness center will be open to all Sioux Falls residents who are 50 and older, and representatives have already invited any qualifying residents of All Saints to join.

"It made our neighborhood association feel that they were truly trying to right or overcome some of the negativity that had been associated with their addition," Lehr-McKinney said. "They're putting their money where their mouth is."

The independent living section includes 60 apartments with one or two bedrooms. The fitness center will have an exercise room, a therapy pool and a group fitness room for yoga and other classes. The two memory care communities include 16 homes each, offering specialized care for residents with Alzheimer's and dementia.

But Touchmark's growth is two-fold. As the senior living community opens its doors to prospective new residents, the company can now boast a stronger relationship with its surrounding neighborhood. That means more fun events, more collaboration and more teamwork when it comes to improving the area.

Being a good neighbor is important for the people who live at Touchmark.

"This is our residents' home," Snoozy said.

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

Iowa man guilty of vehicle assault on South Dakota officer

TYNDALL, S.D. (AP) — A jury has convicted an Iowa man of assaulting a South Dakota police officer with his vehicle.

Travis McPeek, of Sioux City, Iowa, was found guilty Thursday in Bon Homme County of aggravated assault against a law enforcement officer, the Daily Republic reported .

Court documents show Tyndall Police Officer Kelly Young stopped a pickup truck in August 2016 that was reported to police for engaging in dangerous driving. Young said that after he briefly talked with McPeek, who was driving the pickup, McPeek struck Young with his vehicle and dragged him across a parking lot, driving away.

"If I had gotten to my gun, I was going to shoot him," Young testified. "I was fearing for my life."

Defense attorneys said McPeek wasn't aware Young was an officer.

"(McPeek) comes from a place where officers actually wear uniforms and police cars actually have lights on them," said Defense Attorney Garrett Horn. "... He backed out of the situation because he was scared."

Bon Homme County State's Attorney Lisa Rothschadl said that McPeek should know the dangers of operating a motor vehicle because he owns a company that requires extended travel times.

"He was clearly intentional," she said. "The defendant's story does not make any sense. It's just a story."

Young suffered broken ribs, cuts, bruises and an injured foot. He was out of work for a month.

McPeek was arrested in Arizona in December 2016.

McPeck will be scheduled for sentencing at a later date. His attorney declined to comment on the conviction.

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

House speaker turns to ballot measures over Legislature

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's House speaker plans to put two ballot measures before voters that would ban out-of-state political contributions for ballot questions and raise tobacco taxes to improve tech school affordability, an unorthodox move by a high-ranking lawmaker well-positioned to sway state policy.

But Mark Mickelson, a member of a famous South Dakota political family, has proven unpredictable since joining the Legislature in 2013. The Sioux Falls Republican said he's taking the measures to the voters because it's unlikely they would prevail in the statehouse.

A similar contribution cap bill failed this year, and the Republican-held chambers are unlikely to support a tobacco tax increase, said Mickelson, who has been a booster for South Dakota's four technical institutes. The 51-year-old businessman said he concluded that the ideas would attract public support even if he couldn't get fellow lawmakers to pass them.

Mickelson formed a ballot question committee this week for the out-of-state donation ban and said he hopes to start gathering signatures for both measures in August.

These will be the inaugural initiative campaigns for a lawmaker colleagues describe as a tenacious political tactician.

But they don't mark the first time Mickelson has eyed a statewide race — he had started following his father and grandfather to the governor's office before a surprise decision last year not to run because he didn't enjoy it enough. He returned more than \$860,000 in contributions in the end.

"There's no personal gain," Mickelson said in an interview about the ballot measures. "I'm not seeking a higher political office. I thought I wanted to, and I don't. I'm only doing these for one reason: I believe in them, and I think they'll make a difference, and that's rewarding work."

Mickelson said the 2016 campaign attracted more than \$10 million in out-of-state money for ballot mea-



In this Nov. 8, 2016 photo, South Dakota State Rep. G. Mark Mickelson talks with attendees at the Minnehaha GOP Republican election party at The District in Sioux Falls, S.D. Mickelson plans to put two ballot measures before voters that would ban out-of-state political contributions for ballot questions and raise tobacco taxes to improve tech school affordability, an unorthodox move by a high-ranking lawmaker well-positioned to sway state policy. But Mickelson, a member of a famous South Dakota political family, has proven unpredictable since joining the Legislature in 2013. The Sioux Falls Republican said he's taking the measures to the voters because it's unlikely they would prevail in the statehouse. (Jay Pickethorn /The Argus Leader via AP)

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tures, most of which were brought by people using South Dakota as a testing ground for their ideas. His initiative would prohibit contributions to ballot question committees from nonresidents, out-of-state political committees and entities that haven't filed with the Secretary of State's office for the preceding four years.

Experts have said such measures are unlikely to survive a legal challenge, and critics argue they would restrict free speech.

The tobacco tax plan aims to make state technical institutes more affordable and raise money to offer more programming, and Mickelson said lowering the cost of attendance would help keep young people in South Dakota.

Republican Sen. Stace Nelson, a well-known conservative, asked state residents to reject both initiatives, saying he opposes Mickelson's "tax and spend ideas" and encouraging him to change his party registration to Democrat.

Gov. Dennis Daugaard's chief of staff, Tony Venhuizen, said that Mickelson is an "aggressive" guy who ran for office to get things done. During the 2017 session, the speaker hired his own private lobbyist, an unusual move for South Dakota's part-time, citizen Legislature.

Senate President Pro Tempore Brock Greenfield said Mickelson has seemed freer since deciding not to join the Republican gubernatorial primary because he doesn't have to worry about the campaign. Though he criticized the tax hike plan, Greenfield praised Mickelson's strategic ability.

"He's certainly determined," Greenfield said. "He's a man of means and a man with a good network, and it appears that he's going to utilize his resources in order to try to get something done at the ballot box. I've never even considered doing something like that."

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Friday:

Mega Millions

04-06-31-49-52, Mega Ball: 11, Megaplier: 3

(four, six, thirty-one, forty-nine, fifty-two; Mega Ball: eleven; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$282 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$239 million

IHS: Sioux San emergency, inpatient departments to close

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Indian Health Service says it will permanently close the emergency and inpatient departments at the Sioux San Hospital in Rapid City.

The agency said Friday that it has submitted a report informing Congress about the closures. IHS says the emergency department will be shuttered in July 2018.

IHS says it began focusing on outpatient and urgent care services in 2016. Jim Driving Hawk, acting director of the Great Plains Area, says Sioux San Hospital has a strong commitment to urgent care. He says officials will continue to focus on improving patient care.

IHS says current plans include replacing the hospital with a 200,000 square-foot health center. The agency says it will continue to operate Sioux San Hospital until the replacement is finished.

3 people die in mobile home fire in western South Dakota

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A mobile home fire that killed three people Friday in western South Dakota could be seen for miles and drew firefighters from a dozen agencies, officials said.

Investigators recovered the bodies by mid-afternoon Friday, Rapid City fire officials said. Two of the bodies appear to be adults, but authorities don't know their age, gender and relationship to each other. Investigators were trying to determine the age of the third victim.

Two people were able to escape the home before firefighters arrived. The two had minor injuries. After talking to witnesses, law enforcement and firefighters began looking for three people who were unaccounted for.

Firefighters say they found the mobile home engulfed in flames when they arrived about 5 a.m. Firefighters made several attempts to enter the home and rescue those inside, but could not enter because of the "heavy fire conditions," authorities said in a statement. The mobile home was destroyed.

Firefighters had to move slowly as they searched the home because of concerns about the stability of the structure, Rapid City Fire Lt. Jim Bussell said. The fire damaged a second home at the B & J Mobile Home Park in Rapid City and ignited a small grass fire. Officers were able to quickly evacuate the second mobile home.

Crews reported seeing flames visible from several miles away as they responded to the blaze. The cause remains under investigation.



Emergency responders investigate the scene of a mobile home fire, Friday, July 28, 2017 in Rapid City, S.D. A fire official says multiple people are unaccounted after a fire destroyed a mobile home in western South Dakota. (Chris Huber/

Rapid City Journal via AP)

Liquor sales increase in Nebraska towns near reservation

WHITECLAY, Neb. (AP) — Some Nebraska communities near a South Dakota Native American reservation where alcohol is banned have seen liquor sales boom since beer stores shuttered at a tiny nearby village that long served as the reservation's watering hole, according to figures from the Nebraska Liquor Control Commission.

The agency asked for data from distributors after ordering an end to beer sales in the community of Whiteclay in April. The figures show that overall beer sales in northwestern Nebraska counties have declined, but specific towns have seen liquor sales more than triple between April and June, the Lincoln Journal Star reported .

Whiteclay is next to the Pine Ridge Reservation. Rushville, a town about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of Whiteclay, reported more than 3,700 gallons of beer in April and nearly 13,000 gallons in June.

Whiteclay had drawn criticism for selling alcohol so close to the reservation and for drawing dozens of people a day who drink, pass out and sometimes fight in public. Supporters of closing its beer stores argued that nearby communities with larger populations and the ability to pass local liquor ordinances could better police alcohol sales.

"We haven't heard the complaints" from those larger communities about the vagrancy, violence and

drunken behavior that used to cover Whiteclay, Nebraska Liquor Control Commission Executive Director Hobert Rupe said Thursday.

Opponents of the commission's decision said it hurts the Whiteclay stores' owners and won't help problems with alcohol on the reservation.

"Closing the stores is not ... solving the problem, clearly," said Rushville Mayor Chris Heiser. "The good people in Pine Ridge are still going to get their alcohol."

The liquor store owners in Whiteclay have challenged the closings. The Nebraska Supreme Court has a hearing scheduled for Aug. 29.

Information from: Lincoln Journal Star, <http://www.journalstar.com>

Authorities identify victim of house fire in Fairburn

FAIRBURN, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a woman who died when a grass fire spread to a home in the Custer County town of Fairburn.

The body of 26-year-old Julia Pawelski, of Rapid City, was found Tuesday morning in the home owned by her parents.

The grass fire damaged at least three buildings in the small community in addition to the home, as well as several vehicles and hay bales before being brought under control.

Sheriff Marty Mechaley says a 7-year-old child started the fire by lighting grass with a lighter. The investigation is continuing.

Plastic Surgery Associates announces data breach

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Plastic Surgery Associates of South Dakota has announced a data breach that might have left some patient records open to hackers.

The company has locations in Sioux Falls, Dakota Dunes, Yankton, Mitchell, Watertown and Spencer, Iowa.

The company in a statement said it learned of a ransomware attack on Feb. 12 and hired third-party experts to determine what data was potentially accessed.

Plastic Surgery Associates is providing notice to about 10,200 people that some personal patient information might not have been protected. The company says it has no evidence that there's been any misuse of patient information.

The company is reporting the incident to federal officials, working to guard against future breaches and offering a year of credit monitoring to people who might be affected.

Jerauld County crash kills 2 men, seriously injures a third

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Two people died and another was seriously injured in a two-vehicle crash in Jerauld County.

The Highway Patrol says a pickup truck crossed the center line on state Highway 34 and collided with a large truck shortly before noon Thursday. The pickup went into the ditch and started on fire, about 8 miles west of Wessington Springs.

The 75-year-old man driving the pickup and a 30-year-old male passenger both died at the scene.

The 52-year-old man driving the large truck was flown to a Sioux Falls hospital with what authorities said are life-threatening injuries.

The names of the victims weren't immediately released.

Ship sets record for earliest crossing of Northwest Passage

By FRANK JORDANS, Associated Press

NUUK, Greenland (AP) — After 24 days at sea and a journey spanning more than 10,000 kilometers (6,214 miles), the Finnish icebreaker MSV Nordica has set a new record for the earliest transit of the fabled Northwest Passage.

The once-forbidding route through the Arctic, linking the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, has been opening up sooner and for a longer period each summer due to climate change. Sea ice that foiled famous explorers and blocked the passage to all but the hardiest ships has slowly been melting away in one of the most visible effects of man-made global warming.

Records kept by Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans show that the previous earliest passage of the season happened in 2008, when the Canadian Coast Guard ship Louis L. St-Laurent left St. John's in Newfoundland on July 5 and arrived in the Beaufort Sea off Point Barrow on July 30.

The Nordica, with a team of researchers and Associated Press journalists on board, completed a longer transit in less time — albeit in the opposite direction — setting off from Vancouver on July 5 and reaching Nuuk, the capital of Greenland, on July 29.

While the icebreaker encountered Chinese cargo vessels, Alaskan fishing boats and a German cruise ship in the Pacific, upon entering the Canadian Archipelago, the Nordica traveled alone. Radar indicated the presence of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Sherman near Point Barrow; along the coast an occasional collection of houses revealed evidence of human settlement in the far north.

For the most part, the ship's only companions were Arctic sea birds, seals and the occasional whale, until two-thirds of the way through the voyage, as Nordica was plowing through sea ice in Victoria Strait, a crew member sighted a polar bear.

These animals have come to symbolize the threat posed to Arctic wildlife by climate change because the sea ice they depend on for hunting is disappearing a bit more each year. Scientists predict the Northwest Passage will be largely ice free in the summer by 2050 if current levels of warming continue.

For now, the passage remains a challenge for conventional ships and efforts are being made to prevent frozen waterways that the local Inuit population depends on for travel from being opened up. Yet tourism and other forms of economic development are already under way.

As Nordica sailed through Baffin Bay, the far corner of the North Atlantic that separates Canada and Greenland, it passed cargo ships lining up in the distance. They were preparing to pick up iron ore from



The flag of Finland flies aboard the Finnish icebreaker MSV Nordica as it arrives into Nuuk, Greenland, after traversing the Northwest Passage through the Canadian Arctic Archipelago, Saturday, July 29, 2017. After 24 days at sea and a journey spanning more than 10,000 kilometers (6,214 miles), the MSV Nordica has set a new record for the earliest transit of the fabled Northwest Passage. The once-forbidding route through the Arctic, linking the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, has been opening up sooner and for a longer period each summer due to climate change. (AP Photo/

David Goldman)

a mine on Baffin Island that's expected to operate for decades to come.

On July 26, 1845, an expedition to find the Northwest Passage led by British explorer John Franklin was last sighted off Baffin Island. The expedition never made it. Trapped by sea ice, Franklin and his men perished from cold, illness and starvation. Their two ships were found in 2014 and 2016, not far from where Nordica sighted its first polar bear.

Follow the team of AP journalists who traveled through the Arctic Circle's fabled Northwest Passage. You can find their posts here: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/NewArctic>

Chicago giving departing inmates overdose-reversing drug

By DON BABWIN, Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Chicago now gives at-risk inmates the overdose-reversing drug naloxone upon their release from jail and Los Angeles is poised to follow suit, putting the antidote in as many hands as possible as part of a multi-faceted approach to combatting the nation's opioid epidemic.

The Cook County Jail in Chicago, which is the largest single-site jail in the country, has trained about 900 inmates how to use naloxone nasal spray devices since last summer and has distributed 400 of them to at-risk men and women as they got out. The devices can undo the effects of an opiate overdose almost immediately and are identical to those used by officers in many of the country's law enforcement agencies.

Sheriff Tom Dart, whose office runs the jail, said addicts are most at-risk of fatally overdosing in the two weeks after getting out because of their time away from drugs while locked up.

"We've got to keep them alive (and) if we can get them through that two-week window, they might get treatment, get off drugs," he said.

Dr. Connie Mennella, the chair of Correctional Health for the county's health and hospitals system, which administers the program, said only inmates are being trained to use naloxone, but that she eventually hopes their relatives and friends can also be trained.

"We are trying to saturate this community with this drug and we are educating them to tell their buddy, mother, father how to use it, where they keep it and, 'If you come home and see me not responding, to go get it and use it,'" she said.

Proponents say such jail programs can be the difference between a former inmate living and dying, as the naloxone often can be administered by an overdosing addict, a friend or family member before emergency responders can reach them.

And Dr. Arastou Aminzadeh, the correctional health-medical director for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, said the kits are particularly important for just-released inmates because the



In this June 14, 2017, photo, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart shows Naloxone, an overdose-reveal nasal spray drug at the sheriff's office in Cook County Jail, the largest single site jail in the United States, has joined the growing number of jails to hand to inmates on their way out the door kits containing naloxone. (AP Photo/G-Jun Yam)

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same amount of drugs they once used to get high before they were locked up could now kill them.

"Their threshold has dropped but they may use the amount of drugs they used to use," said Aminzadeh, who is helping Los Angeles jails prepare to begin its naloxone program early next year.

It is too soon to gauge the effectiveness of Cook County's program, but Dart said anecdotal evidence suggests that the kits have saved lives, including a man who was arrested again, returned to jail, and told of how a friend he had trained to use the kit had done so when he overdosed.

In New York City, more than 4,000 kits have been distributed to friends and relatives of inmates at the city's jail at Rikers Island since the program there was launched in 2014.

"We did a survey of their use of the kits after six months and 226 people responded to the survey and found 50 usages (of the naloxone), and found that 87 percent of the overdoses where the naloxone was used, (the victim) survived," said Dr. Ross MacDonald, chief of Medicine, Division of Correctional Health Services, New York City Health and Hospitals.

Others have also seen encouraging results. In Rhode Island, a study of 100 inmates found they were able to successfully administer the drug after being released, with a few using it to reverse their own overdoses. A study in Scotland, meanwhile, found that the number of opioid-related inmate deaths dropped within the first four weeks of release after naloxone kits were distributed.

The growing consensus is that naloxone works. Three years ago, the World Health Organization released guidelines recommending expanded naloxone access to people likely to witness an overdose, including drug users. And the North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition, which tracked the use of naloxone kits by law enforcement, reported that the number of agencies that equip officers with kits climbed from 971 to 1,217 in about eight months last year.

There has been little pushback against efforts to expand the availability and use of naloxone, but there has been some. Richard Jones, the sheriff of Butler County, Ohio, said this month that he was sticking by his long-standing policy of refusing to allow deputies carry the drug because he says people can become hostile and violent after being revived by it. Naloxone can cause severe opioid withdrawal symptoms.

Dart dismisses the criticism that by giving the kits he is coddling inmates, saying that it is just one piece of a public health effort that includes intense treatment programs to combat the opioid epidemic.

"Treatment is fine, but that doesn't recognize the reality that some will use (drugs) again. We can't get them into treatment if they're dead," he said.

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Trump's six-month stall sparks a White House shake-up

By **JULIE PACE** and **JONATHAN LEMIRE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Six months into his presidency, Donald Trump is saddled with a stalled agenda, a West Wing that resembles a viper's nest, a pile of investigations and a Republican Party that's starting to break away.

Trump on Friday indirectly acknowledged the troubled state of his unconventional White House when he abruptly replaced his chief of staff with hard-nosed retired Gen. John Kelly, until now the Homeland Security secretary.

Kelly will take the desk of Reince Priebus, a Republican operative who was skeptical of Trump's electoral prospects last year and ultimately came to be viewed by the president as weak and ineffective.

Kelly's ability to succeed will depend on factors outside his control, including whether Trump's squabbling staff is willing to put aside the rivalries that have sowed disorder and complicated efforts to enact policy.

But the big question is can Kelly do what Priebus couldn't? And that's curbing the president's penchant for drama and unpredictability, and his tendency to focus more on settling scores than promoting a policy agenda.

No other aide or adviser has been successful on that front.

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As a candidate, and now as president, Trump has cycled through campaign chiefs and advisers but has remained easily distracted by his personal interests and only loosely tethered to any policy plans.

"Trump has spent a lot of his political capital on nothing but defending his own reputation," Alex Conant, a Republican strategist, said of Trump's first six months in office. "There is no sustained strategy. His attention seems to shift with whatever is leading cable news at that moment."

Staff shake-ups are a tried-and-true way for struggling presidents to signal that they are ready to shift course.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton elevated budget director Leon Panetta to chief of staff with a mandate to bring more discipline to a loosely organized White House. President George W. Bush made the same move with Josh Bolten in 2006 as the Bush presidency buckled under criticism of his handling of the Iraq war and the federal government's response to Hurricane Katrina.

Rarely, however, do presidents face as much turmoil as quickly as Trump has.

His Friday afternoon tweet announcing Kelly's hiring capped a tumultuous week:

- his new communications director, Anthony Scaramucci, spewed vulgarities in public at Priebus.
- Trump drew blunt criticism from GOP lawmakers over his attacks on Attorney General Jeff Sessions for withdrawing from the federal investigation into Russian campaign interference.
- Senate Republicans' efforts to pass legislation that would have overhauled the nation's health care law collapsed.

Some Trump allies tried to pin the blame for the health debacle on Priebus. The former Republican National Committee chairman had sold himself to Trump as a well-connected Washington operator who could help round up votes on Capitol Hill. He encouraged Trump to press forward with a health care overhaul early in his presidency.

But as Republicans sorted through the rubble of their health care failure, it was Trump, not his chief of staff, who was the target of criticism.

"One of the failures was the president never laid out a plan or his core principles and never sold them to the American people," said Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa. He said Trump "outsourced the whole issue to Congress."

Indeed, Trump's relatively rare public appeals for the passage of health legislation suggested he was more interested in a political win than in the details of policy. A former Democrat who does not adhere to



In this May 17, 2017, file photo, President Donald Trump and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly listen to the national anthem during commencement exercises at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Six months into presidency, Trump is saddled with a stalled agenda, a West Wing that resembles a viper's nest, a cloud of investigations and a Republican Party that is starting to break away. Against that daunting backdrop, Trump moved July 28 to overhaul his senior team, installing Kelly as White House chief of staff. The hard-nosed, retired general replaces Reince Priebus, a Republican operative who was skeptical of Trump's electoral prospects last year.(AP

Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

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all GOP orthodoxy, Trump frequently shifted his own stance as to whether the Republicans should repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act at once or simply repeal the law for now.

By week's end, it was clear that some Republicans simply weren't afraid of breaking with a weakened president. GOP Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, and John McCain of Arizona, who was back in Washington after a brain cancer diagnosis, doomed a last-ditch bill in Friday's early morning hours.

Murkowski, who was targeted by Trump on Twitter for her opposition, showed little sign of being cowed by the president.

"We're here to govern, we're here to legislate, to represent people that sent us here. And so every day shouldn't be about campaigning. Every day shouldn't be about winning elections. How about doing a little governing around here?" she asked.

To this point, Trump has failed to shepherd a single substantial piece of legislation into law. His only major accomplishments have been by executive power — rolling back regulations and undoing a few of his predecessor's achievements, like the Paris climate treaty — along with his successful nomination of Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch.

Kelly, who spent his career in the military before being nominated by Trump to run the sprawling Department of Homeland Security, has limited political and legislative experience. But at least for now, he has the trust of the president.

"He has been a true star of my administration," Trump declared.

Associated Press writers Alan Fram and Kevin Freking contributed to this report.

Follow Pace at <http://twitter.com/jpaceDC> and Lemire at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire>

This story has been corrected to reflect that Leon Panetta was elevated by Bill Clinton to chief of staff from budget director, not from the Cabinet, and corrects the spelling of Josh Bolton's last name to Bolten.

'Time to move on' from health care, Senate GOP leader says

By ALAN FRAM and ERICA WERNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The resounding Senate crash of the seven-year Republican drive to scrap the Obama health care law has led to finger-pointing but also has left the party with wounded leaders and no evident way ahead on an issue that won't go away.

In an astonishing cliff-hanger, the GOP-run Senate voted 51-49 on Friday to reject Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's last ditch attempt to sustain their drive to dismantle President Barack Obama's health care overhaul with a starkly trimmed-down bill.

The vote, which concluded shortly before 2 a.m. EDT, was a blistering defeat for President Donald Trump and McConnell, R-Ky.

"They should have approved health care last night," Trump said Friday during a speech in Brentwood, New York. "But you can't have everything," he added, seemingly shrugging off one of his biggest legislative setbacks.

Trump reiterated his threat to "let Obamacare implode," an outcome he could hasten by steps such as halting federal payments to help insurers reduce out-of-pocket costs for lower-earning consumers.

Senate Democrats were joined in opposition by three Republicans — Maine's Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Arizona's John McCain. The 80-year-old McCain, just diagnosed with brain cancer, had returned to the Capitol three days earlier to provide a vote that temporarily kept the measure alive, only to deliver the coup de grace Friday.

"Republicans in the Senate will NEVER win if they don't go to a 51 vote majority NOW. They look like fools and are just wasting time," Trump tweeted Saturday. He said the "Republican Senate must get rid of 60 vote NOW! It is killing the R Party." But on the crucial vote, a simple majority of 51 votes, including

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a tie-breaker by Vice President Mike Pence, was all that was needed.

"Hello, he only needed 51 in the health care bill and couldn't do it," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., helpfully reminded reporters.

Earlier in the week, Republican defections sank GOP efforts to scrap the 2010 law. One would have erased Obama's statute and replaced it with a more constricted government health care role, and the other would have annulled the law and given Congress two years to replace it.

The measure that fell Friday was narrower and included a repeal of Obama's unpopular tax penalties on people who don't buy policies and on employers who don't offer coverage to workers. McConnell designed it as a legislative vehicle the Senate could approve and begin talks with the House on a compromise, final bill.

But the week's setbacks highlighted how, despite years of trying, GOP leaders haven't resolved internal battles between conservatives seeking to erase Obama's law and moderates leery of tossing millions of voters off of coverage.

"It's time to move on," McConnell said after the defeat.

Friday morning, House leaders turned to singer Gordon Lightfoot to point fingers. They opened a House GOP meeting by playing "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald," a ballad about the 1975 sinking of a freighter in Lake Superior. Lawmakers said leaders assured them it was meant as a reference to the Senate's flop.

The House approved its health care measure in May, after its own tribulations.

In a statement, Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., pointedly said "the House delivered a bill."

He added, "I encourage the Senate to continue working toward a real solution that keeps our promise."

Conservative Rep. Mo Brooks, R-Ala., running for a Senate seat, faulted McConnell for not crafting a plan that could pass. He said if McConnell abandons the health care drive, "he should resign from leadership."

One moderate Republican said Trump shared responsibility.

"One of the failures was the president never laid out a plan or his core principles and never sold them to the American people," said Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa. "Outsourced the whole issue to Congress."

In statements Friday, McCain said the Senate bill didn't lower costs or improve care and called the chamber's inability to craft wide-ranging legislation "inexcusable." He said Democrats and Republicans should write a bill together and "stop the political gamesmanship."

Lawmakers spoke of two possible but difficult routes forward.

In one, balking GOP senators could be won over by new proposals from leaders or cave under pressure from angry constituents demanding they fulfill the party's pledge to tear down Obama's law. But both of those dynamics have been in play all year without producing results.

In the other, there would be a limited bipartisan effort to address the insurance market's short-term concerns. That would provide money to insurers to help them subsidize some customers and prevent



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. leaves the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 27, 2017, after a vote as the Republican majority in Congress remains stymied by their inability to fulfill their political promise to repeal and replace "Obamacare" because of opposition and wavering within the GOP ranks.

(AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)

companies from driving up premiums or abandoning regions.

Schumer said he hoped the two parties could "work together to make the system better" by stabilizing marketplaces.

But many conservatives oppose such payments and consider them insurance industry bailouts, raising questions about whether Congress could approve such a package.

McConnell said it was time for Democrats "to tell us what they have in mind." But saying he was backed by most Republicans, he added, "Bailing out insurance companies, with no thought of any kind of reform, is not something I want to be part of."

Associated Press writers Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar and Stephen Ohlemacher contributed to this report.

North Korean ICBM launches dim South's hopes for talks

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's rapidly accelerating nuclear weapons program is beginning to pose a grave challenge for liberal South Korean President Moon Jae-in, whose dovish proposals for engagement have been met by silence and two intercontinental ballistic missile tests in less than a month.

Throughout the election campaign and his presidency that began in May, Moon has persistently expressed a desire to reach out to North Korea. But in the wake of the North's latest ICBM test, a stern-looking Moon on Saturday sounded more like his conservative predecessor as he ordered his troops to conduct a live-fire exercise with U.S. forces and endorsed stronger pressure and sanctions against Pyongyang. He then told government officials to schedule talks with Washington over increasing the warhead limits of South Korean missiles.

Moon also made a dramatic policy reversal, ordering his military to talk with U.S. commanders in South Korea to temporarily place additional launchers of a contentious U.S. missile defense system, which was seen as a sign that Moon was ready to get tougher on the North. He likely has no other choice as it is well past the point where Seoul could afford being seen as "begging" Pyongyang for talks, said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University and a policy adviser to Moon.

"Ministries related to foreign policy and security must work with our allies including the United States to ensure that today's provocation is met by a stern international response, such as U.N. Security Council measures," Yoon Young-chan, Moon's senior press secretary, quoted him as saying during a National Security Council meeting. Yoon said Moon also directed government officials to consider the possibility of unilateral sanctions against the North.

Through statements released by his office and later by the Foreign Ministry, Moon's government made



South Korean President Moon Jae-in, right, speaks as he presides over a meeting of the National Security Council at the presidential Blue House in Seoul, South Korea, early Saturday, July 29, 2017. North Korea test-fired on Friday what the U.S. believes was its second intercontinental ballistic missile, which flew longer and higher than its first ICBM launched earlier this month, officials said. (Yonhap via AP)

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it clear it isn't giving up on the hopes for talks just yet. But Moon also said the North's latest launch has the potential to "fundamentally change" regional security dynamics and stressed the need for "strong and realistic measures" that could sting Pyongyang and repel its nuclear ambitions.

Moon has criticized the hard-line policies under a decade of conservative rule in Seoul, which he says did nothing to prevent the North's progress in nuclear weapons and missiles and only reduced Seoul's voice in international efforts to deal with its rival.

But some South Korean analysts believe Moon might end up in the same policy rut as his predecessor, Park Geun-hye, who initially vowed to show more flexibility in dealing with North Korea before it conducted two nuclear tests and began what has become a torrent of weapons tests in 2016. South Korea doesn't have many options for dealing with North Korea under ruler Kim Jong Un, who seems to have little interest in meaningful talks with Seoul before he reaches his desired goals in nuclear weapons and missiles, the experts say.

Moon made his most ambitious proposals for engagement in the aftermath of North Korea's first ICBM test on July 4. He reaffirmed his commitment to dialogue in a speech in Berlin days after the launch and then came back to Seoul to propose military and Red Cross talks between the rivals to reduce animosities across their border and resume temporary reunions of aging relative separated by the 1950-53 Korean War. But the North spent the past weeks ridiculing Moon's comments and ignoring his talk proposals before conducting its second ICBM test Friday night.

"North Korea works with its own timetable that is dictated by its plans for nuclear weapons and missile development, and won't be influenced by any South Korean offer for talks or strengthening of sanctions," said Park Hyung-joong, a senior researcher at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

Koh from Dongguk University expressed a similar view, saying that the ICBM tests clearly show that North Korea sees the current situation as a matter between Pyongyang and Washington, and not solvable at the inter-Korean level. He said it would be a mistake to continue seeing North Korea's missile tests as demonstrations aimed at wresting diplomatic concessions when the country is pursuing a real nuclear deterrent against the United States.

"Talks will be difficult. North Korea has yet to respond to the South's proposals and the South can't be seen begging for talks," Koh said. "The ball is now with the Trump administration and the situation will be determined by the options it takes ... All South Korea can do now is to conduct its own military drills to show force and strengthen its defense, such as implementing THAAD."

Washington and Seoul originally planned to complete the deployment of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense anti-missile system by the end of the year. But after taking office in May, Moon had pushed back the deadline by introducing stricter environmental reviews on the site to ease the concerns of locals, who express fear over rumored health hazards linked to the system's radar. During the campaign, Moon had said that Seoul should reconsider the THAAD deployment because it has angered China, South Korea's biggest trade partner, which sees the system as a security threat.

A THAAD battery consists of six launchers and currently two launchers are operational in rural Seongju. Moon's office said Saturday that the environmental reviews will go on as planned even after the four additional launchers are placed.

Follow Kim Tong-hyung at www.twitter.com/@KimTongHyung

North Korea says 2nd ICBM test puts 'entire' US in range

By ERIC TALMADGE and MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Saturday the second flight test of an intercontinental ballistic missile demonstrated his country can hit the U.S. mainland, hours after the launch left analysts concluding that a wide swath of the United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of North Korean weapons.

The Korean Central News Agency said that Kim expressed "great satisfaction" after the Hwasong-14

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missile reached a maximum height of 3,725 kilometers (2,314 miles) and traveled 998 kilometers (620 miles) before accurately landing in waters off Japan. The agency said that the test was aimed at confirming the maximum range and other technical aspects of the missile it says was capable of delivering a "large-sized, heavy nuclear warhead."

Analysts had estimated that the North's first ICBM on July 4 could have reached Alaska, and said that the latest missile appeared to extend that range significantly.

Immediately after the launch, U.S. and South Korean forces conducted live-fire exercises. South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo called for the deployment of strategic U.S. military assets — which usually means stealth bombers and aircraft carriers — as well as additional launchers of an advanced U.S. anti-missile system.

Japanese government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said the missile, launched late Friday night, flew for about 45 minutes — about five minutes longer than the first. The missile was launched on very high trajectory, which limited the distance it traveled, and landed west of Japan's island of Hokkaido.

The KCNA quoted Kim as saying that the launch reaffirmed the reliability of the country's ICBM system and an ability to fire at "random regions and locations at random times" with the "entire" U.S. mainland now within range. The agency said that the test confirmed important features of the missile system, such as the proper separation of the warhead and controlling its movement and detonation after atmospheric re-entry.

Kim said the launch sent a "serious warning" to the United States, which has been "meaninglessly blowing its trumpet" with threats of war and stronger sanctions, the KCNA said.

On the streets of Pyongyang, North Koreans welcomed the news of their country's latest missile test while state media broadcast images of a projectile launched into the night sky. Kim Jong Un was seen in the company of military commanders near a mobile missile launcher.

"I feel really confident. From now on, we will develop and have the strongest weapons, strategic weapons, so we can safeguard our sovereignty and independence, so that we can end up winning against the imperialists and against America," said Pak Gi Nam, a student. It is normal for North Koreans talking in front of TV cameras to stick to the official version of events.

The North Korean flight data was similar to assessments by the United States, South Korea and Japan.

David Wright, a physicist and co-director of the global security program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, said that if reports of the missile's maximum altitude and flight time are correct, it would have a theoretical range of at least 10,400 kilometers (about 6,500 miles). That means it could have reached Los Angeles, Denver or Chicago, depending on variables such as the size and weight of the warhead that would be carried atop such a missile in an actual attack.



People react while watching a news broadcast on a missile launch in Pyongyang, North Korea, Saturday, July 29, 2017. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said Saturday the second flight test of an intercontinental ballistic missile demonstrated his country can hit the U.S. mainland, hours after the launch left analysts concluding that a wide swath of the United States, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of North Korean weapons. (AP Photo/Jon Chol Jin)

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President Donald Trump issued a statement condemning the missile test as a threat to the world, and rejecting North Korea's claim that nuclear weapons ensure its security. "In reality, they have the opposite effect," he said.

Trump said the weapons and tests "further isolate North Korea, weaken its economy, and deprive its people." He vowed to "take all necessary steps" to ensure the security of the U.S. and its allies.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said he told U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in a phone call that the second missile test greatly increased the threat from Pyongyang. He said two sides agreed to consider all means necessary to exert the utmost pressure on North Korea. They reiterated calls for new sanctions and to work closely together with South Korea along with efforts by China and Russia.

China, meanwhile, urged its ally North Korea to abide by U.N. Security Council resolutions and halt any moves that could escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Washington and its allies have watched with growing concern as Pyongyang has made significant progress toward its goal of having all of the U.S. within range of its missiles to counter what it labels as U.S. aggression. There are other hurdles, including building nuclear warheads to fit on those missiles and ensuring reliability. But many analysts have been surprised by how quickly leader Kim Jong Un has developed North Korea's nuclear and missile programs despite several rounds of U.N. Security Council sanctions that have squeezed the impoverished country's economy.

Trump has said he will not allow North Korea to obtain an ICBM that can deliver a nuclear warhead. But this week, the Defense Intelligence Agency reportedly concluded that the North will have a reliable ICBM capable of carrying a nuclear weapon as early as next year, in an assessment that trimmed two years from the agency's earlier estimate.

The French Foreign Ministry condemned the launch and called for "strong and additional sanctions" by the United Nations and European Union. "Only maximal diplomatic pressure might bring North Korea to the negotiating table," the ministry said in a statement.

"This is a 4G threat: global, grave, given and growing," France's U.N. Ambassador Francois Delattre told The Associated Press. That's why we call for a firm and quick reaction including the adoption of strong additional sanctions by the Security Council."

A spokesman for Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that Dunford met at the Pentagon with the commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, Adm. Harry Harris, to discuss U.S. military options in light of North Korea's missile test.

The spokesman, Navy Capt. Greg Hicks, said Dunford and Harris placed a phone call to Dunford's South Korean counterpart, Gen. Lee Sun Jin. Dunford and Harris "expressed the ironclad commitment to the U.S.-Republic of Korea alliance," Hicks said, referring to the U.S. defense treaty that obliges the U.S. to defend South Korea.

Abe, too, said Japan would cooperate closely with the U.S., South Korea and other nations to step up pressure on North Korea to halt its missile programs.

The Hwasong 14 ICBM test-fired earlier this month was also launched at a very steep angle, a technique called lofting, and reached a height of more than 2,500 kilometers (1,550 miles) before splashing down in the ocean 930 kilometers (580 miles) away. Analysts said that missile could be capable of reaching most of Alaska or possibly Hawaii if fired in an attacking trajectory.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missile was launched from North Korea's northern Jagang province near the border with China. President Moon Jae-in presided over an emergency meeting of the National Security Council, which called for an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council and stronger sanctions on North Korea.

July 27 is a major national holiday in North Korea called Victory in the Fatherland Liberation War Day, marking the day when the armistice was signed ending the 1950-53 Korean War. That armistice is yet to be replaced with a peace treaty, leaving the Korean Peninsula technically in a state of war.

___ Yamaguchi reported from Tokyo. Associated Press writers Robert Burns and Darlene Superville in Washington, Kim Tong-hyung and Hyung-jin Kim in Seoul, South Korea, Edith Lederer at the United Nations and Elaine Ganley in Paris contributed to this report.

Homeland security secretary replaces Priebus at White House

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The tenure of Reince Priebus as White House chief of staff has ended after six months.

President Donald Trump announced via Twitter on Friday that he's replacing the former Republican Party chairman with the secretary of homeland security, John Kelly.

Priebus says he offered his resignation after Trump indicated he wanted to go in a different direction.

Kelly is a retired Marine Corps general and could bring military-style discipline to a White House undercut by insider quarrels.

Priebus had been a frequent target of rumors about his job security amid infighting and confusion within the White House and a long whisper campaign by Trump allies. Then, on Thursday, he was assailed in a remarkable and profane public rebuke by Trump's newly appointed White House communications director, Anthony Scaramucci.



White House Director of Social Media Dan Scavino, left, walks with former White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus steps off Air Force One as they arrive Friday, July 28, 2017, at Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Trump says Homeland Secretary John Kelly is his new White House chief of staff.

(AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

Mainstream Model 3 holds promise _ and peril _ for Tesla

By DEE-ANN DURBIN, AP Auto Writer

FREMONT, Calif. (AP) — For Tesla, everything is riding on the Model 3.

The electric car company's newest vehicle was delivered to its first 30 customers — all Tesla employees — Friday evening. Its \$35,000 starting price — half the cost of Tesla's previous models — and range of up to 310 miles (498 km) could bring hundreds of thousands of customers into the automaker's fold, taking it from a niche luxury brand to the mainstream. Around 500,000 people worldwide have already reserved a Model 3.

Those higher sales could finally make Tesla profitable and accelerate its plans for future products like SUVs and pickup trucks.

Or the Model 3 could dash Tesla's dreams.

Potential customers could lose faith if Tesla doesn't meet its aggressive production schedule, or if the cars have quality problems that strain Tesla's small service network. The compact Model 3 may not entice a global market that's increasingly shifting to SUVs, including all-electric SUVs from Audi and others going on sale soon. And a fully loaded Model 3 with 310 miles of range costs a hefty \$59,500; the base model goes 220 miles (322 km) on a charge.

Limits on the \$7,500 U.S. tax credit for electric cars could also hurt demand. Once an automaker sells 200,000 electric cars in the U.S., the credit phases out. Tesla has already sold more than 126,000 vehicles since 2008, according to estimates by WardsAuto, so not everyone who buys a Model 3 will be eligible.

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"There are more reasons to think that it won't be successful than it will," says Karl Brauer, the executive publisher for Cox Automotive, which owns Autotrader and other car buying sites.

The Model 3 has long been part of Palo Alto, California-based Tesla's plans. In 2006 — three years after the company was founded — CEO Elon Musk said Tesla would eventually build "affordably priced family cars" after establishing itself with high-end vehicles like the Model S, which starts at \$69,500. This will be the first time many Tesla workers will be able to afford a Tesla.

"It was never our goal to make expensive cars. We wanted to make a car everyone could buy," Tesla CEO Elon Musk said Friday. "If you're trying to make a difference in the world, you also need to make cars people can afford."

Tesla started taking reservations for the Model 3 in March 2016. Musk said more than 500,000 people have put down a \$1,000 deposit for the car. People ordering a car now likely won't get it until late 2018. Cars will go first to employees and customers on the West Coast; overseas deliveries start late next year, and right-hand drive versions come in 2019.

Lisa Gingerich, a Milwaukee-based attorney, reserved a Model 3 within minutes of the order bank's opening. She doesn't know when she'll get to choose from the limited number of options, including color and wheel size, or when her car will arrive. She's borrowing a friend's Chevrolet Volt plug-in hybrid while she waits.

Gingerich thought about getting a Model S, but found it too expensive and flashy for the charities she often works with. She could get an all-electric Chevrolet Bolt, which is the same price as the Model 3 and has more range. But she wants access to Tesla's fast-charging Supercharger stations, which are strategically placed along U.S. highways.

She also wants to support Musk's bold vision. Musk, the billionaire founder of PayPal, also runs rocket maker Space Explorations Technologies Corp. and dabbles in artificial intelligence research and high-speed transportation projects.

"It's kind of like organic food. The more people buy it, the more it becomes accessible for everybody," Gingerich says.

But car-making has proved a challenge to Musk. Both the Model S and the Model X SUV were delayed and then plagued with pesky problems, like doors that don't work and blank screens in their high-tech dashboards.

Tesla's luxury car owners might overlook those problems because they liked the thrill of being early adopters. But mainstream buyers will be less forgiving.

"This will be their primary vehicle, so they will have high expectations of quality and durability and expect everything to work every time," said Sam Abuelsamid, a senior researcher with Navigant Research.



This undated image provided by Tesla Motors shows the Tesla Model 3 sedan. The electric car company's newest vehicle, the Model 3, which set to go to its first 30 customers Friday, July 28, 2017, is half the cost of previous models. Its \$35,000 starting price and 215-mile range could bring hundreds of thousands of customers into Tesla's fold, taking it from a niche luxury brand to the mainstream. (Courtesy of Tesla Motors via AP)

The Model 3 was designed to be much simpler and cheaper to make than Tesla's previous vehicles. It has one dashboard screen, not two, and no fancy door handles. It's made primarily of steel, not aluminum. It has no instrument panel; the speed limit and other information normally there can be found on the center screen. It doesn't even have a key fob; drivers can open and lock the car with a smartphone or a credit card-like key.

Still, Musk said he's expecting "at least six months of manufacturing hell" as the Model 3 ramps up to full production. Musk wants to be making 20,000 Model 3s per month by December at the carmaker's Fremont factory.

Musk aims to make 500,000 vehicles next year, a number that could help Tesla finally make money. The company has only had two profitable quarters since it went public in 2010. But even at that pace, Tesla will remain a small player. Toyota Motor Corp. made more than 10 million vehicles last year.

Abuelsamid said even if it doesn't meet its ambitious targets, Tesla has done more than anyone to promote electric vehicles.

"A decade ago they were a little more than golf carts. Now all of a sudden, EVs are real, practical vehicles that can be used for anything," he said.

Few heed call for mass protest in Venezuela's capital

By FABIOLA SANCHEZ, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Few demonstrators heeded opposition calls for a mass protest Friday in Venezuela's capital against President Nicolas Maduro's divisive push to rewrite the constitution by a constituent assembly to be elected Sunday.

Streets in Caracas were largely devoid of protests a day after Interior Minister Nestor Reverol announced that authorities were prohibiting any demonstrations from taking place through Tuesday.

Opposition leaders had urged Venezuelans to demonstrate anyway in a protest they billed as the "Taking of Caracas," hoping for a dramatic culmination of three days of protests that started with a 48-hour nationwide general strike. But the hundreds of thousands who have sometimes taken to the streets during nearly four months of anti-government protests were largely absent.

"Here we are in the streets, just like the first day," opposition lawmaker Jose Manuel Olivares said, urging people to reject Reverol's demonstration ban. "Let's not be victims of fear."

There were isolated clashes between National Guard troops and



A poster that shows some of Venezuela's opposition leaders holding a sign with a message that reads in Spanish: "that constituent assembly will not pass" is displayed on a wall near Altamira Square in Caracas, Venezuela, Friday, July 28, 2017. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has provoked international criticism and enraged his political opponents by pushing for a special assembly to rewrite the nation's constitution. Pictured in the poster are Henrique Capriles, left, Lilian Tintori, second left, Maria Corina Machado, second right, and National Assembly President Julio Borges, right. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

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small groups of young demonstrators who call themselves "The Resistance." A few protest barricades went up in opposition-friendly eastern Caracas, but the city was relatively calm two days before Sunday's constituent assembly election.

Maduro has deployed the military and police to clear blockades and protect a vote that he says is meant to end the power struggle with the opposition-controlled National Assembly, which he blames for Venezuela's spiraling political, economic and social crisis. The opposition is boycotting the vote, saying the election rules have been rigged to favor the ruling socialist party and will only serve to tighten Maduro's grip on power.

International pressure to cancel the vote intensified Friday, with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence reiterating in a telephone call with opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez that the United States would respond with "strong and swift economic actions" if the election proceeds.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said he would not recognize the constituent assembly, given that it has "illegitimate origins." His finance minister also told a local radio station the neighboring nation would sanction the same 13 former and current Venezuelan officials cited by the U.S. on Wednesday.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, one of Maduro's most vocal opponents, said in a meeting with two other U.S. legislators that he expects further sanctions if the assembly vote proceeds.

Maduro appeared unconcerned by the mounting international outcry, instead paying homage Friday to the late President Hugo Chavez on what would have been his predecessor's 63rd birthday, telling supporters that with the constitution rewrite, "Chavez is more alive than ever."

"What would Chavez do July 30th?" he asked. "Would he call on us to sabotage the constituent assembly?" "No!" the crowd shouted back.

Delegates elected to the constituent assembly will take on the task of rewriting the 1999 constitution, which was crafted by Chavez to install a socialist administration. That constitution is considered one of his principal legacies, and the move to rewrite it has drawn rebuke even from some longtime government loyalists and Chavez supporters.

Residents in Caracas lined up for hours at grocery stores and banks to stockpile food and cash before what many expected to be a chaotic weekend.

The election has added fuel to near-daily protests that began in early April after the government-packed Supreme Court ruled to strip the opposition-controlled National Assembly of its last powers. The decision was quickly reversed but it sparked a protest movement demanding a new presidential election.

Deaths in the anti-government demonstrations and upheaval climbed to at least 113 on Friday. That number included a police officer slain in the town of Ejido in the western state of Merida, which has been the scene of violent clashes in recent days.

Meanwhile, Alfredo Romero, director of Foro Penal, a lawyers' group, said that Wuilly Arteaga, a young violinist who has become a symbol of anti-government protest in Venezuela, had been detained while performing.

"They took his violin and hit him with it," Romero said.

Air service to Venezuela continued to dwindle. Avianca was offering full refunds to the estimated 13,000 passengers who had booked a flight on the now-suspended service. Delta, one of the last airlines still serving Venezuela, said on Twitter that it could not guarantee service after September. The airline declined further comment.

Trump appears to advocate rough police treatment of suspects

By JILL COLVIN and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

BRENTWOOD, N.Y. (AP) — Talking tough on illegal immigration and violent crime, President Donald Trump appeared Friday to advocate rougher treatment of people in police custody, speaking dismissively of the police practice of shielding the heads of handcuffed suspects as they are being placed in patrol cars.

"Don't be too nice," Trump told law enforcement officers in Suffolk County, New York, during a visit to highlight his administration's efforts to crack down on the street gang known as MS-13. The violent international group has terrorized communities on Long Island and in other parts of the country.

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The president urged Congress to find money to pay for 10,000 Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers "so that we can eliminate MS-13."

Trump said his administration is removing these gang members from the United States but said, "We'd like to get them out a lot faster and when you see ... these thugs being thrown into the back of the paddy wagon, you just see them thrown in, rough, I said, 'Please don't be too nice.'"

Trump then spoke dismissively of the practice by which arresting officers shield the heads of handcuffed suspects as they are placed in police cars.

"I said, 'You could take the hand away, OK,'" he said, drawing applause from many in the audience, which included federal and law enforcement personnel from the New York-New Jersey area.

The Suffolk County Police Department said in a statement after Trump's speech that it has strict rules and procedures about how prisoners should be handled. "Violations of those rules and procedures are treated extremely seriously. As a department, we do not and will not tolerate roughing up of prisoners."

The former chief of the Suffolk County Police Department, James Burke, was sentenced to nearly four years in prison last November for beating a handcuffed man in an interrogation room.

Trump talks regularly about cracking down on MS-13, or Mara Salvatrucha. The gang is believed to have originated in immigrant communities in Los Angeles in the 1980s and then entrenched itself in Central America when its leaders were deported. It is known for violent tactics that include torturing victims and hacking them with machetes. Authorities estimate the group has tens of thousands of members across Central America and in many U.S. states.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions has instructed the Justice Department's law enforcement agencies and federal prosecutors to prioritize the prosecution of MS-13 members, as directed by an executive order Trump signed in February.

Since the beginning of 2017, the Department of Homeland Security's investigative unit has arrested 3,311 gang members nationwide during targeted operations, said Tom Homan, acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The agency could not provide similar numbers for 2016.

Trump's visit to his home state of New York came as Sessions was in El Salvador to increase international cooperation against the gang. But the president did not mention Sessions in his remarks — his latest slight against the man he's been publicly fuming at for recusing himself from all matters related to Russian election meddling.

Trump's comments about the treatment of people in police custody resurrected memories of Freddie Gray, a 25-year-old Baltimore man who was shackled but alive when he was put into a Baltimore police van in April 2015. Gray left the vehicle with severe neck injuries, and his subsequent death spawned rioting. Six officers were charged initially, but prosecutors in July 2016 dropped all remaining charges after acquittals and a hung jury.



President Donald Trump waves before boarding Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Friday, July 28, 2017, on his way to Brentwood, N.Y. for a speech to law enforcement officials on the street gang MS-13. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Gray's family agreed in September 2015 to a \$6.4 million settlement with Baltimore.

Superville reported from Washington.

Follow Colvin on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/colvinj>

Trump ready to sign Russia sanctions bill, Moscow retaliates

By RICHARD LARDNER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump will sign a package of stiff financial sanctions against Russia that passed Congress with overwhelming support, the White House said Friday. Moscow has already responded, ordering a reduction in the number of U.S. diplomats in Russia and closing the U.S. Embassy's recreation retreat.

Trump's willingness to support the measure is a remarkable acknowledgement that he has yet to sell his party on his hopes for forging a warmer relationship with Moscow. His vow to extend a hand of cooperation to Russian President Vladimir Putin has been met with resistance as skeptical lawmakers look to limit the president's leeway to go easy on Moscow over its meddling in the 2016 presidential election.

The Senate passed the bill, 98-2, two days after the House pushed the measure through by an overwhelming margin, 419-3. Both were veto-proof numbers.

The White House initially wavered on whether the president would sign the measure into law. But in a statement late Friday, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Trump had "reviewed the final version and, based on its responsiveness to his negotiations, approves the bill and intends to sign it."

Never in doubt was a cornerstone of the legislation that bars Trump from easing or waiving the additional penalties on Russia unless Congress agrees. The provisions were included to assuage concerns among lawmakers that the president's push for better relations with Moscow might lead him to relax the penalties without first securing concessions from the Kremlin.

The legislation is aimed at punishing Moscow for interfering in the 2016 presidential election and for its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, where the Kremlin has backed President Bashar Assad. It also imposes financial sanctions against Iran and North Korea.



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, July 27, 2017. The Senate voted decisively to approve a new package of stiff financial sanctions against Russia, Iran and North Korea, sending the popular bill to President Donald Trump for his signature after weeks of intense negotiations. The legislation is aimed at punishing Moscow for meddling in the 2016 presidential election and its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, where the Kremlin has backed President Bashar Assad. McCain said the bill's passage was long overdue, a jab at Trump and the GOP-controlled Congress. McCain, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, has called Putin a murderer and a thug. (AP Photo/Cliff Owen)

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Before Trump's decision to sign the bill into law, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said the bill's passage was long overdue, a jab at Trump and the GOP-controlled Congress. McCain, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, has called Putin a murderer and a thug.

"Over the last eight months what price has Russia paid for attacking our elections?" McCain asked. "Very little."

Russia's Foreign Ministry on Friday said it is ordering the U.S. Embassy in Russia to reduce the number of its diplomats by Sept. 1. Russia will also close down the embassy's recreational retreat on the outskirts of Moscow as well as warehouse facilities.

Meanwhile, some European countries expressed concerns that the measures targeting Russia's energy sector would harm its businesses involved in piping Russian natural gas. Germany's foreign minister said his country wouldn't accept the U.S. sanctions against Russia being applied to European companies.

A spokesman for the European Commission said Friday that European officials will be watching the U.S. effort closely, vowing to "remain vigilant."

Trump had privately expressed frustration over Congress' ability to limit or override the power of the president on national security matters, according to Trump administration officials and advisers. They spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal White House deliberations.

But faced with heavy bipartisan support for the bill in the House and Senate, the president had little choice but to sign the bill into law. Trump's communications director, Anthony Scaramucci, had suggested Thursday that Trump might veto the bill and "negotiate an even tougher deal against the Russians."

But Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said that would be a serious mistake and called Scaramucci's remark an "off-handed comment." If Trump rejected the bill, Corker said, Congress would overrule him.

"I cannot imagine anybody is seriously thinking about vetoing this bill," said Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "It's not good for any president — and most governors don't like to veto things that are going to be overridden. It shows a diminishment of their authority. I just don't think that's a good way to start off as president."

Still, signing a bill that penalizes Russia's election interference marks a significant shift for Trump. He's repeatedly cast doubt on the conclusion of U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia sought to tip the election in his favor. And he's blasted as a "witch hunt" investigations into the extent of Russia's interference and whether the Trump campaign colluded with Moscow.

The 184-page bill seeks to hit Putin and the oligarchs close to him by targeting Russian corruption, human rights abusers, and crucial sectors of the Russian economy, including weapons sales and energy exports.

The bill underwent revisions to address concerns voiced by American oil and natural gas companies that sanctions specific to Russia's energy sector could backfire on them to Moscow's benefit. The bill raised the threshold for when U.S. firms would be prohibited from being part of energy projects that also included Russian businesses.

Lawmakers said they also made adjustments so the sanctions on Russia's energy sector didn't undercut the ability of U.S. allies in Europe to get access to oil and gas resources outside of Russia.

The North Korea sanctions are intended to thwart Pyongyang's ambition for nuclear weapons by cutting off access to the cash the reclusive nation needs to follow through with its plans. The bill prohibits ships owned by North Korea or by countries that refuse to comply with U.N. resolutions against it from operating in American waters or docking at U.S. ports. Goods produced by North Korea's forced labor would be prohibited from entering the United States, according to the bill.

The sanctions package imposes mandatory penalties on people involved in Iran's ballistic missile program and anyone who does business with them. The measure would apply terrorism sanctions to the country's Revolutionary Guards and enforce an arms embargo.

Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and Rand Paul, R-Ky., voted against the sanctions bill.

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Western nations decry Iran space launch; US levies sanctions

By JOSH LEDERMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States punished Iran on Friday for launching a satellite-carrying rocket into space by hitting six Iranian entities with sanctions targeting the country's ballistic missiles program.

Three European nations that helped broker the landmark Iran nuclear deal in 2015 joined the U.S. in condemning the launch, and said it was too close for comfort to the type of intercontinental ballistic missiles used to deliver a nuclear payload. At the United Nations, U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said Iran was "breaking its obligation" and added, "We can't trust them."

"Under this administration, the United States will not let Iran off the hook for behavior that threatens our interests and our allies," Haley said. "We will continue to impose consequences until Iran stops its provocations and complies fully with Security Council resolutions."

The U.S. sanctions hit six Iranian subsidiaries of the Shahid Hemmat Industrial Group, described by the Treasury Department as "central" to Iran's ballistic missiles program. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin cast the sanctions as part of an ongoing U.S. effort to aggressively oppose Iran's ballistic missile activity, including what he called a "provocative space launch" carried out by the Islamic Republic on Thursday.

In another allegation against the U.S. adversary, Mnuchin said that missile attacks on U.S. partner Saudi Arabia over the weekend by Houthi rebels in Yemen had likely come with the support of Iran. The U.S. has long accused Tehran of shipping weapons to the Houthis, a Shiite group that controls part of Yemen and is being fought by a Saudi-led coalition.

The sanctions came a day after Iran successfully launched its most advanced satellite-carrying rocket into space, in what was likely a major advancement for the country's space program. The "Simorgh" rocket is capable of carrying a satellite weighing 550 pounds (250 kilograms), Iran state television said.

The U.S. National Air and Space Intelligence Center said in a report released last month that the Simorgh could act as a test bed for developing the technologies needed to produce an intercontinental ballistic missile, or ICBM.

In a joint statement, the U.S., Britain, Germany and France called the launch "inconsistent" with the U.N. Security Council resolution enshrining the nuclear deal, adding that such activities destabilize the region. The grouping represented all of the Western nations that are part of the nuclear deal, which also includes Russia, China and the European Union.

"We condemn this action," the countries said. "We call on Iran not to conduct any further ballistic missile launches and related activities."

Yet beyond the U.S. sanctions, it was unclear what, if anything, the group could do to increase pressure quickly on Tehran. Notably, the nations stopped short of saying the launch had "violated" the U.N. resolution, saying only that it was "inconsistent" with the text. That's because the resolution calls upon, but doesn't oblige, Iran to refrain from ballistic missile development.

Yet Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif pushed back on any suggestion his country had done anything wrong by launching the satellite into space. He said Friday that Iran is complying with the nuclear deal and drew a contrast with the U.S., accusing Washington of not complying with "the letter and spirit" of the deal.

"Rhetoric and actions from the U.S. show bad faith," Zarif said.

He also rejected the notion that Iran was working to develop missiles that could carry a nuclear warhead.

"Iran is not and will not be developing nuclear weapons; so by definition cannot develop anything designed to be capable of delivering them," Zarif wrote on Twitter.

Britain, Germany and France also said they were raising their concerns directly to the Islamic Republic. Despite brokering the nuclear deal, the U.S. doesn't maintain regular diplomatic relations with Iran.

The U.S. penalties reflect an attempt by President Donald Trump's administration to show it's staying tough on Iran even though Trump has yet to scrap the 2015 nuclear agreement, despite threatening to do so as a candidate and labelling it a bad deal.

Under Trump, like under President Barack Obama, the U.S. has continued to sanction Iran for nonnuclear

behavior such as ballistic missile activity that isn't explicitly covered under the nuclear deal. Trump's administration has also been pushing for inspections of sensitive Iranian military sites where U.S intelligence agencies believe Iran may be conducting illicit activity prohibited by the nuclear pact.

The six entities being sanctioned contribute to Iran's liquid propellant ballistic missiles, the Treasury Department said, including development and manufacturing of engines, launchers, guide-and-control systems and ground support as well as the liquid propellant itself. The sanctions freeze any assets the entities may have in the U.S. and prohibit Americans from doing business with them.

Associated Press writers Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed to this report.

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

Ohio Star Fair reopening kiddie, other "low-impact" rides

By JULIE CARR SMYTH, Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Rides at the Ohio State Fair's Kiddieland and some elsewhere in the amusement park reopened Friday with the OK of inspectors two days after the governor shut them all down following a thrill ride malfunction that killed a teen who had recently enlisted in the Marines.

The 18-year-old man's girlfriend was among seven other people who were injured when the Fire Ball flung riders — some still strapped in their seats — through the air Wednesday night. A few people on the midway were hit by debris.

The ride's Dutch manufacturer has told operators of the attraction at fairs and festivals worldwide to stop using it until more is learned about what caused the malfunction. Ohio Gov. John Kasich shut down all rides for new inspections after the accident.

Agriculture Department spokesman Mark Bruce said Friday that 28 rides were cleared to resume operations Friday afternoon. Those reopened include the children's carousel, bumper boats and other "low-impact" attractions including the Giant Slide and SkyGlider.

More than half of the fair's rides remained closed. It runs through Aug. 6 .

Federal and state investigators have begun working to find what caused the wreck on the fair's opening day.

Video taken by a bystander of the swinging, spinning Fire Ball ride in action captured a crashing sound. A section holding four riders came apart, and screams could be heard as at least two people were ejected



Passers by look at the fire ball ride as Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers stand guard at the Ohio State Fair Thursday, July 27, 2017, in Columbus, Ohio. The fair opened Thursday but its amusement rides remained closed one day after Tyler Jarrell, 18, was killed and seven other people were injured when the thrill ride broke apart and flung people into the air. (AP Photo/Jay LaPrete)

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and plunged toward the ground. Other riders were still in their seats as they fell.

Tyler Jarrell, of Columbus, was thrown about 50 feet (15 meters) and pronounced dead on the midway. The Marine Corps and school officials said Jarrell enlisted last week and was to begin basic training after his high school graduation next year.

"That was just this past Friday. Then he goes to the state fair and he is involved in this horrible tragedy. It's just devastating," said Capt. Gerard Lennon Jr., a naval science instructor in the Junior ROTC program at Jarrell's high school.

Jarrell's family has hired a law firm to look into the possibility of filing a wrongful death lawsuit.

The injured ranged in age from 14 to 42. At least two were listed in critical condition.

Jarrell's girlfriend, Keziah Lewis, doesn't remember the accident and has pelvis, ankle and rib injuries, her mother told The Columbus Dispatch.

Lewis, a University of Cincinnati student, underwent one surgery and faces a second.

"She kept asking for her boyfriend," Clarissa Williams said. "I had to tell her he was the one who was deceased."

Inspectors looked over the ride while it was assembled and signed off on it hours before it flew apart, according to authorities and records released Thursday.

The ride's manufacturer, KMG, said the one at the Ohio fair was built in 1998. Forty-three of the rides, also known as the Afterburner, are in use around the world, 11 of them in the U.S., according to KMG. None has had a serious malfunction before, the company told the AP.

The Fire Ball swings 24 riders back and forth like a pendulum 40 feet (12 meters) above the ground while they sit facing each other in four-seat carriages that spin at 13 revolutions a minute, according to the company's website.

Ohio Department of Agriculture records provided to The Associated Press showed passing marks on inspections of about three dozen items, including possible cracks, brakes, proper assembly and installation.

All rides at the fair are checked several times when they are being set up to ensure the work is done the way the manufacturer intended, said Agriculture Director David Daniels.

Michael Vartorella, Ohio's chief inspector of amusement ride safety, said the Fire Ball was inspected three or four times before the fair opened.

Amusements of America, the company that provides rides to the state fair, said its staff also had inspected the ride before it opened.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is also investigating. It estimates there were 30,900 injuries associated with amusement attractions last year that required an emergency room visit.

It said there have been at least 22 fatalities associated with amusement attractions since 2010.

The Ohio State Fair is one of the biggest state fairs in the U.S. It drew 900,000 people last year.

AP writers John Seewer in Toledo, Ohio; Dan Sewell in Cincinnati; Mark Gillispie in Cleveland; Denise Lavoie in Boston; Mike Corder in Brussels, and news researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this story.

Wisconsin governor calls special session on Foxconn deal

By SCOTT BAUER, Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — A wide array of Wisconsin environmental regulations would be waived in an effort to speed up construction of a \$10 billion Foxconn electronics factory under a proposal Gov. Scott Walker unveiled Friday.

Walker called on the Republican-controlled Legislature to consider the measure as early as Tuesday. It also would borrow \$252 million to finish rebuilding Interstate 94, which connects Milwaukee with Chicago and runs near where the massive display panel factory is expected to be built.

The plant would be the first outside of Asia to produce liquid crystal display monitors used in computers, televisions and other areas. Walker calls it a once-a-generation opportunity to transform Wisconsin's

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economy.

The envisioned factory, expected to open in 2020, would be 20 million square feet on a campus that spans 1.56-square-miles in what Walker is calling the "Wisconn Valley." It would initially employ 3,000 people, but the deal calls for that to grow to 13,000 within six years.

An exact location has not been determined, but Foxconn is looking at sites in Racine and Kenosha counties.

Walker took to the air on Friday in a campaign-style airplane tour to make the case that the entire state would benefit from a plant three-times the size of the Pentagon.

"There's a whole lot of people out there scrambling to try and come up with a reason not to like this," Walker said in Eau Claire. "I can tell you, that's fine but I think they can go suck lemons. The rest of us are going to cheer and figure out how we get this thing going forward."

Walker's tour also took him to La Crosse, Eau Claire and Wausau.

The bill Walker unveiled Friday would allow Foxconn, without permits, to discharge dredged materials, fill wetlands, change the course of streams, build artificial bodies of water that connect with natural waterways and build on a riverbed or lakebed.

Foxconn would also be exempt from having to create a state environmental impact statement, something required for much smaller projects.

A number of environmental groups did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Lobbyist Bill McCoshen, who helped negotiate economic development deals in Gov. Tommy Thompson's administration, said bipartisan support for the project should help ease the bill's passage.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin attended President Donald Trump's White House announcement of the deal on Wednesday and two-time Walker challenger Democratic Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett praised it at a signing event on Thursday. Other Democratic lawmakers have spoken in support.

Because Wisconsin already waives all taxes on manufacturing credits in the state, the incentives for Foxconn would be paid as cash up to \$200 million a year rather than a credit against taxes owed. They would be pro-rated based on job creation and money spent by Foxconn and could be recouped if jobs are lost.

"Gov. Walker has to come explaining to do to taxpayers in every corner of the state who will foot the bill for this deal on the Illinois border," said Scot Ross, director of the liberal activist group One Wisconsin Now.

University of Wisconsin-Madison agricultural economist Steve Deller said Friday that based on what he knows of the deal, the state structured it in the most responsible way possible.

"It seems as though, if you're going to do this, this is the way to go about it," he said.

One of the harshest critics within the Legislature is Democratic state Sen. Dave Hansen, who represents Green Bay. He said moving quickly on the \$3 billion incentive package would be "a serious case of legislative malpractice."

Hansen expressed concerns that Foxconn would replace jobs at the plant with robots, as it has done at



Foxconn Chairman Terry Gou, left, and Gov. Scott Walker hold the Wisconsin flag to celebrate their \$10 billion investment to build a display panel plant in Wisconsin, at the Milwaukee Art Museum in Milwaukee, Wis., Thursday, July 27, 2017. (Mike De Sisti/Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel via AP)

other facilities.

"Before the governor and legislators mortgage the future of Wisconsin taxpayers, possibly for decades, they should think very carefully about the long-term needs of the state rather than their own re-election," Hansen said.

A group of four Republican lawmakers from northeast Wisconsin pushed back against Hansen's claims. Rep. David Steffen, of Green Bay, said there will be countless economic benefits across the state. Walker's administration has estimated that there will be 22,000 other new jobs in construction and other associated fields thanks to the project.

"To think that someone would actively cheer against this type of economic growth is insane," Steffen said.

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McCain, expected to save health bill, became the executioner

By ERICA WERNER, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — John McCain seemed poised to be the savior of the GOP health bill when he returned to the Capitol despite a brain cancer diagnosis.

He turned out to be the executioner.

The longtime Arizona senator stunned pretty much everyone Friday by turning on his party and his president and joining two other GOP senators in voting "no" on the Republicans' final effort to repeal "Obamacare."

That killed the bill. And it also dealt what looks like a death blow to the Republican Party's years of promises to get rid of Barack Obama's health law, pledges that helped the GOP win control of the House, the Senate and the White House.

It was a moment burning with drama, irony and contradictions, playing out live on a tense Senate floor.

Eighty years old and in the twilight of a remarkable career, McCain lived

up to his reputation as a maverick. When he walked into the well of the Senate around 1:30 a.m. and gave a thumbs-down to the legislation, there were audible gasps. Democrats briefly broke into cheers, which Minority Leader Chuck Schumer quickly waved his arm to quiet.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell stood stone-faced, his arms crossed. McCain had just saved the signature legislative achievement of the man who beat him for the presidency in 2008, a law the senator himself had vigorously campaigned against while seeking a sixth Senate term last year.

Friday afternoon, McCain's office announced he was returning to Arizona to begin radiation and chemotherapy treatments for his brain tumor.



Sen. John McCain, R-Az., front left, is pursued by reporters after casting a 'no' vote on a measure to repeal parts of former President Barack Obama's health care law, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, July 28, 2017. (AP Photo/Cliff

Owen)

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After so many years as a senator, with so little left to lose, McCain had taken a stand for the Senate he used to inhabit, the one where he made deals across the aisle with the likes of Ted Kennedy, not the riven, stalemated Congress of today.

"We have seen the world's greatest deliberative body succumb to partisan rancor and gridlock," McCain said in a statement. "The vote last night presents the Senate with an opportunity to start fresh. It is now time to return to regular order with input from all of our members — Republicans and Democrats — and bring a bill to the floor of the Senate for amendment and debate."

President Donald Trump tweeted his disapproval of McCain's "no" vote, as well as those of fellow GOP Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska whose opposition had been expected. But a president who once mocked McCain's years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam did not have much sway with the senator when it counted.

"John McCain is blessed with an internal gyroscope of right and wrong," said Schumer, who negotiated a sweeping immigration bill with McCain several years ago and has been talking with him frequently of late. "He gets angry, for sure, but when push comes to shove and there are brass tacks, that internal gyroscope of right and wrong guides him."

Vice President Mike Pence lobbied McCain right up to the end. The two men huddled on the Senate floor for about a half hour before the vote.

As their conversation ended, McCain and Pence smiled and patted each other on the back, and McCain walked across the floor to talk with Schumer. About a dozen Democrats gathered around him. McCain held out his hands, looked upward and mouthed an expletive. His face looked exasperated.

And then, as Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut described it later in a post on the website Medium, "Time seems to stand still."

The roll was called, and Collins and Murkowski both voted no. With Democrats unanimously opposed, McConnell could lose only two Republicans in the 52-48 Senate.

Finally McCain came to the front, raised his arm to get the attention of the tally clerk, gestured no, and walked away past the glowering McConnell. With that one moment, seven years of urgent GOP promises were dead, likely never to be revived.

McConnell's remarks in the immediate aftermath were a bitter rebuke.

"I and many of my colleagues did as we promised and voted to repeal this failed law," the majority leader said on the Senate floor. "We told our constituents we would vote that way and when the moment came, when the moment came, most of us did."

Just days earlier, on Tuesday, McCain had buoyed the efforts of McConnell — and Trump — when he returned to the Capitol for the first time after being diagnosed with a brain tumor, and cast a decisive vote to open debate on the GOP repeal legislation. Yet even then he forecast that his support could not be counted on, as he took the floor to lecture his colleagues, the scars from his surgery etched severely along the left side of his face.

"Why don't we try the old way of legislating in the Senate, the way our rules and customs encourage us to act," he said. "If this process ends in failure, which seems likely, then let's return to regular order."

The outcome McCain predicted came to pass — he made sure that it did. And now if Republicans want to get anything done on health care, they will have little choice but to return to regular order, and turn to Democrats.

Associated Press writer Stephen Ohlemacher contributed to this report.

FDA to target addictive levels of nicotine in cigarettes

By CARLA K. JOHNSON, AP Medical Writer

For the first time, the federal government is proposing cutting the nicotine level in cigarettes so they aren't so addictive.

U.S. Food and Drug Administration chief Scott Gottlieb on Friday directed the agency's staff to develop new regulations on nicotine. The FDA has had the power since 2009 to regulate nicotine levels but hasn't done so. Stocks of cigarette makers plunged after the announcement.

As part of the new strategy, the FDA is giving e-cigarette makers four more years to comply with a review of products already on the market, Gottlieb said. The agency intends to write rules that balance safety with e-cigarettes' role in helping smokers quit, he said.

"A renewed focus on nicotine can help us to achieve a world where cigarettes no longer addict future generations of our kids," Gottlieb said in a speech to staff in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Tar and other substances inhaled through smoking make cigarettes deadly, but the nicotine in tobacco is what makes them addictive.

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable heart disease, cancer and death in the United States, causing more than 480,000 deaths annually. Smoking rates, though, have been falling for decades and are at about 15 percent.

Gottlieb said he has asked the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products to explore whether lowering nicotine could create a black market for higher nicotine products and what role e-cigarettes and other products play in reducing harm from smoking. Battery-powered e-cigarettes turn liquid nicotine into an inhalable vapor. He also wants new rules to address flavored tobacco products and kids.

The FDA announcement is great news, said Eric Donny, a University of Pittsburgh researcher who has studied what happens when smokers puff on cigarettes with lower levels of nicotine. Donny and other researchers found that reducing nicotine substantially — by around 90 percent — leads to smokers being less dependent on cigarettes and smoking fewer of them.

There have been concerns that smokers might react to lower nicotine levels by smoking more. But the research shows that's not what happens — not if enough nicotine is taken out, Donny said.

"Most of the harm associated with smoking is related not to the nicotine but everything else in the smoke. Reducing nicotine doesn't make a cigarette safe, it just makes it less addictive," said Donny, director of Pitt's Center for the Evaluation of Nicotine in Cigarettes.

There's additional research underway to see how often people who smoke lower-nicotine cigarettes switch to e-cigarettes or other, less harmful tobacco products, he said.

Kenneth Warner, a retired University of Michigan public health professor who is a leading authority on



In this Thursday, Nov. 10, 2016 photo, test cigarettes sit in a smoking machine in a lab at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta. On Friday, July 28, 2017, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced that it wants to lower nicotine levels in cigarettes so they aren't so addictive. (AP Photo/Branden Camp)

smoking and health, said he was pleasantly surprised to learn of the FDA announcement.

"If you can separate the nicotine people are craving from the smoke that's killing them, then you may be doing something very important," Warner said.

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids president Matthew Myers praised the overall approach as "a bold and comprehensive vision" but called the e-cigarettes delay "a serious error."

"This long delay will allow egregious, kid-friendly e-cigarettes and cigars, in flavors like gummy bear, cherry crush and banana smash, to stay on the market with little public health oversight," Myers said in a statement.

Altria Group, which sells Marlboro, other brands and e-cigarettes in the U.S., said it would be "fully engaged" in FDA's rule-making process.

"It's important to understand that any proposed rule such as a nicotine product standard must be based on science and evidence, must not lead to unintended consequences and must be technically achievable," the company said in a statement.

Gottlieb touched on premium cigars in his announcement, saying the agency wants to hear from the industry about their patterns of use and public health impacts. He said the FDA will "seriously consider" new data relevant to how premium cigars should be regulated.

AP Medical Writer Mike Stobbe contributed from New York.

British baby Charlie Gard at center of legal battle dies

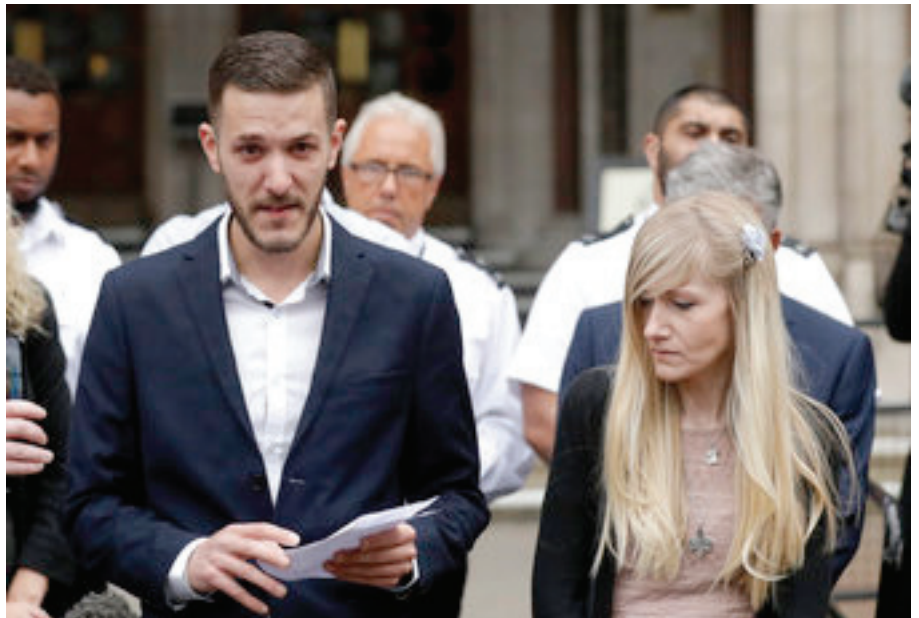
By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Charlie Gard, the terminally ill British baby at the center of a legal and ethical battle that attracted the attention of Pope Francis and U.S. President Donald Trump, died Friday. He was one week shy of his first birthday.

Charlie's parents fought for the right to take him to the United States for an experimental medical treatment for his rare genetic disease, mitochondrial depletion syndrome, which left him brain damaged and unable to breathe unaided. His case ended up in the courts when doctors opposed the plan, saying the untested therapy wouldn't help Charlie and might cause him to suffer.

A family spokeswoman, Alison Smith-Squire, confirmed Charlie's death on Friday, a day after a judge ordered that he be taken off a ventilator at the Great Ormond Street Hospital in London and moved to an undisclosed hospice for his final hours.

"Our beautiful little boy has gone, we're so proud of him," his mother, Connie Yates, said in a statement. Charlie was seemingly healthy at birth but soon began to weaken. He was admitted to Great Ormond



In this file photo dated Monday, July 24, 2017, Chris Gard, the father of critically ill baby Charlie Gard reads a statement next to mother Connie Yates, right, at the end of their case at the High Court in London. British media are reporting a family announcement that 11-month old Charlie Gard, has died Friday July 28, 2017. (AP Photo/Matt Dunham, FILE)

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Street Hospital, Britain's premier children's hospital, when he was two months old and remained there until almost the end of his life.

His legal case became a flashpoint for debates on the rights of children and parents, on health-care funding, medical interventions, the responsibilities of hospitals and medical workers and the role of the state. It gained international attention last month when Pope Francis and President Trump expressed their support for Charlie and his family.

The intervention of two of the world's most powerful men made the case a worldwide talking point. Images of Charlie hooked to a tube while dozing peacefully in a star-flecked navy blue onesie graced websites, newspapers and television news programs.

The pope reacted quickly to the news of Charlie's death, tweeting late Friday "I entrust little Charlie to the Father and pray for his parents and all those who loved him."

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence tweeted "Saddened to hear of the passing of Charlie Gard. Karen & I offer our prayers & condolences to his loving parents during this difficult time."

Charlie's parents raised more than 1.3 million pounds (\$1.7 million) to pay for the experimental treatment they believed could prolong his life. But British courts consistently accepted the hospital's position, ruling that it was in Charlie's best interests that he be allowed to die.

After months of legal battles, High Court judge Nicholas Francis ruled Thursday that Charlie should be transferred to a hospice and taken off life support after his parents and the hospital failed to agree on an end-of-life care plan.

Under British law, it is common for courts to intervene when parents and doctors disagree on the treatment of a child. In such cases, the rights of the child take primacy over the parents' right to decide what's best for their offspring. The principle applies even in cases where parents have an alternative point of view, such as when religious beliefs prohibit blood transfusions.

The case made it all the way to Britain's Supreme Court as Charlie's parents refused to accept earlier rulings.

Offers of help for Charlie came from Dr. Michio Hirano, a neurology expert at New York's Columbia Medical Center, and from the Vatican's Bambino Gesù pediatric hospital. Both said an experimental treatment known as nucleoside therapy had a chance of helping Charlie.

Great Ormond Street Hospital disagreed. It said the proposed treatment had never been tried on someone with Charlie's condition and no tests had even been done on mice to see whether it would work on a patient like Charlie.

The case caught the attention of Trump and the pope in late June after the European Court of Human Rights refused to intervene. Their intervention triggered a surge of grassroots action, including a number of U.S. right-to-life activists who flew to London to support Charlie's parents.

Great Ormond Street soon reported that its doctors and nurses were receiving serious threats over the case. London police were called in to investigate.

On Friday night, the hospital offered its condolences to Charlie's family.

"Everyone at Great Ormond Street Hospital sends their heartfelt condolences to Charlie's parents and loved ones at this very sad time," the hospital said.

Medical ethicist Arthur Caplan said the Charlie Gard case shows how the medical profession is struggling to adjust to the age of social media, which puts the general public in the middle of decisions that in the past would have been private issues for doctors and the family.

"I do think that in an era of social media, it is possible to rally huge numbers of people to your cause," said Caplan, of New York University's Langone Medical Center. "The medical ethics have not caught up."

The heated commentary over Charlie prompted Judge Francis to criticize the effects of social media and those "who know almost nothing about this case but who feel entitled to express opinions."

In the end, the increased attention did little for Charlie.

His parents gave up their legal battle on Monday after scans showed that Charlie's muscles had deteriorated so much that the damage was irreversible.

"Mummy and Daddy love you so much Charlie, we always have and we always will and we are so sorry

that we couldn't save you," his parents wrote when they announced their decision. "We had the chance but we weren't allowed to give you that chance.

"Sweet dreams baby. Sleep tight, our beautiful little boy."

Associated Press Writer Leonore Schick contributed to this story

US economy expanded at stronger 2.6 percent rate in Q2

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy revved up this spring after a weak start to the year, fueled by a surge in consumer spending. But the growth spurt still fell short of the optimistic goals President Donald Trump hopes to achieve through tax cuts and regulatory relief.

The Commerce Department said Friday that growth in the gross domestic product, the economy's total output of goods and services, expanded at a 2.6 percent annual rate in the April-June quarter. That's more than double the revised 1.2 percent pace in the first quarter.

The improvement was powered in large part by robust consumer appetite for items such as clothing and furniture.

The 2.6 percent GDP gain came in close to economists' expectations.

"Consumers continue to drive the economy's growth, but firmer business investment is also a plus," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "Weaker housing construction was the only significant drag on growth in the quarter."

Trump campaigned on a pledge to boost growth to rates of 4 percent or better. So far, his economic program has not advanced in Congress. But on Friday he still hailed the latest acceleration in growth.

"GDP is up double from what it was in the first quarter — 2.6 percent," Trump told a crowd in New York. "We're doing well. We're doing really well. And we took off all those restrictions."

Trump told the crowd that he was proud that he had appointed wealthy people to his Cabinet including Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

"I want a rich guy at the head of Treasury. I want a rich guy at the head of Commerce," Trump told the audience on Long Island. "We've been screwed so badly on trade deals. I want people that made a lot of money now to make a lot of money for our country."

Trump in May put forward a budget for next year that projects growth to steadily advance in the coming years, hitting a sustained pace of 3 percent annually by 2021. The Congressional Budget Office and most private economists are less optimistic, believing growth rates have the potential of improving only slightly from the lackluster rates seen in the current recovery, the weakest in the post-World War II period.

Also on Friday, the department's Bureau of Economic Analysis issued an annual benchmark revision of its data going back three years. The revision slightly boosted growth over the past three years, enough



In this July 12, 2017, photo, construction workers build a residential complex in Nashville, Tenn. On Friday, July 28, 2017, the Commerce Department issues an economic report on how the U.S. economy is performing. (AP Photo/Mark Humphrey)

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to lift the average growth in this recovery, now the third longest in U.S. history, to annual gains of 2.2 percent, up from the previous estimate of 2.1 percent.

The 2.6 percent growth in the second quarter was the fastest pace since the economy expanded at a 2.8 percent rate in the third quarter of last year.

Much of the strength in the April-June period came from consumer spending, which grew at a 2.8 percent rate, up from a 1.9 percent growth rate in the first quarter. Consumer spending accounts for 70 percent of economic activity. The economy also benefited far more modest inventory reductions, which was a big drag on first quarter growth.

In the other major categories, business investment in plant and equipment grew at a 5.2 percent rate. But housing construction tumbled at a 6.8 percent rate, a payback after an 11.1 percent surge in the winter due to warmer-than-normal weather. Economists believe housing will resume growing in coming quarters.

A shrinking trade deficit added a modest 0.2 percentage point to growth as exports rose while imports, which subtract from the GDP, grew at a slower pace.

The government sector grew at a 0.7 percent rate, driven entirely by a big jump in defense spending. Domestic federal programs and state and local governments all showed small declines.

Weakness in the first quarter that is followed by a stronger spring expansion has become a familiar pattern in recent years, prompting the government to launch a concerted effort to deal with flaws in the government's seasonal adjustment process.

Even with the spring rebound, analysts believe the economy will be unable to meet the ambitious targets set by Trump. For this year, many analysts believe growth will come in around 2.2 percent, essentially where growth has been since the recovery began in mid-2009.

During last year's presidential campaign, Trump attacked the Obama administration's economic record and said he could jump-start growth through a program of tax cuts for individuals and businesses, regulatory relief, tougher enforcement of trade laws to lower U.S. trade deficits and an increase in spending on infrastructure projects.

But given the fact that the program has failed to advance in Congress, many economists have trimmed their expectations for growth this year, saying any boost from Trump's efforts will not likely show up until 2018.

The GDP report released Friday was the first of three estimates the government will issue.

Associated Press White House reporter Darlene Superville contributed to this report.

Higher prices, fewer options lurk after health bill collapse

By TOM MURPHY, AP Health Writer

The health care law of the land has survived for now, but it needs help — and it needs it soon.

Soaring prices and fewer choices may greet customers when they return to the Affordable Care Act's insurance marketplaces this fall, in part because insurers are facing deep uncertainty about whether the Trump administration will continue to make key subsidy payments and enforce other parts of the existing law that help control prices.

Assurances don't look to be coming anytime soon. "As I said from the beginning, let ObamaCare implode, then deal. Watch!" President Donald Trump tweeted early Friday, soon after the Senate narrowly rejected the latest push to dismantle the Obama-era health care law.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price said in a statement after the Senate vote that the Trump administration would pursue its health care goals through regulation.

That kind of uncertainty rattles insurers, many of whom have already stopped selling policies through public insurance markets established by the health law because they were losing money.

Their main concern now is that the Trump administration will stop paying crucial subsidies called for in the law that help reduce costs like deductibles for people with low incomes. The subsidies, estimated at \$7 billion a year, have been challenged by Republicans in court, and Trump has only guaranteed them

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through this month.

If they stop, insurers will have to raise prices for coverage, known as premiums, because by law they must still offer the same reduced deductibles for their low-income customers.

Leerink analyst Ana Gupte surveyed several states and has said that insurers are asking for price hikes of around 36 percent when they assume the subsidies go away, compared with about 18 percent if they stay.

People with low incomes might be shielded from these hikes in part because the law provides tax credits that cover much of the premium.

But those who make too much to qualify for that help — and tend to vote Republican — could get hit hard, noted health care consultant Robert Laszewski, a former insurance executive.

“(Trump’s) hurting his own people,” Laszewski said.

Of course, all shoppers will be hurt if insurers leave markets, noted Urban Institute health economist Linda Blumberg.

“Then there’s nowhere to use your subsidy,” she said.

The Blue Cross-Blue Shield insurer Anthem has already withdrawn from markets in Ohio, Wisconsin and Indiana. CEO Joseph Swedish said Wednesday the company may cut back further if it doesn’t get certainty on the subsidies “quickly.”

Insurers have until the middle of next month to finalize their 2018 prices, industry officials say. They must leave enough time for the rates to be submitted to the marketplaces, and then for the on-line exchanges that sell the coverage to be tested before enrollment for next year’s plans begins on Nov. 1.

If insurers want to back out of a market, they have until about late September to do so.

Options already have grown thin. About a third of the U.S.’s approximately 3,000 counties have only one insurer selling coverage on their exchange, which is the only place where shoppers can get tax credits based on their income to help buy coverage. Those credits are separate from the subsidies for low-income customers.

Nearly 40 counties currently have no choices for next year on their exchanges.

Dan Mendelson, president of the consulting firm Avalere, says there is some hope that the Trump administration could yet shore up the system. He thinks the administration could recognize that it will be held accountable by voters for the condition of the law’s marketplaces. Further deterioration “would be very negative for them,” he said.

“I think in the end they’re going to have to stabilize these markets,” he said.



Mario Henderson leads chants of “save Medicaid,” as other social service activists, Medicaid recipients and their supporters stage a protest outside the building that houses the offices of U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., Thursday, June 29, 2017, in Jackson, Miss. Soaring prices and fewer choices may greet customers when they return to the Affordable Care Act’s insurance marketplaces in the fall of 2017, in part because insurers are facing deep uncertainty about whether the Trump administration will continue to make key subsidy payments and enforce other parts of the existing law that help control prices. (AP Photo/Rogelio V. Solis)

Pakistan's prime minister resigns after high court ruling

By MUNIR AHMED and ZARAR KHAN, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's beleaguered Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stepped down Friday after the Supreme Court ordered him removed from office over allegations of corruption, plunging the nuclear-armed nation into a political crisis.

The five-judge panel acted on petitions filed by Sharif's political opponents alleging that he and his family failed to disclose assets stemming from last year's "Panama Papers" leaks. The court ordered that criminal charges be filed against Sharif and four relatives.

In a unanimous decision, the court said he had not been "truthful and honest," and it also dismissed him from the National Assembly — the lower house of Parliament.

Sharif immediately resigned in what he called a show of respect for the judiciary, even though he said the court's decision was unjustified.

The landmark ruling threw Pakistan, which is battling attacks by Islamic militants, into political disarray and raised questions about who will succeed Sharif — and even who is running the country at the moment.

The court asked Pakistan's figurehead President Mamnoon Hussain to "ensure continuation of the democratic process." He is expected to convene the National Assembly once Sharif's ruling Pakistan Muslim League party, which enjoys a comfortable majority, nominates a successor to serve as prime minister until general elections are held in June 2018.

Sharif's political opponents danced in the streets and opposition leader Imran Khan urged them to gather Sunday in the capital of Islamabad to celebrate their legal victory against the "corrupt ruling elite."

Khan, a former cricket star, described the disqualification as a "good omen" for Pakistan. He said at a news conference that he hopes all those who "looted" the nation's wealth would face a similar fate.

Sharif's party expressed its disappointment and urged supporters to keep calm and avoid confrontations. "This decision is not surprising, but we are disappointed," Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb told reporters.

The 67-year-old Sharif, who has served three separate stints as prime minister, has a history of rocky relations with Pakistan's military, the country's most powerful institution. He was first dismissed from power by the army's hand-picked president in 1993 about midway through his five-term term. In 1999, military dictator Gen. Pervez Musharraf overthrew Sharif in a bloodless coup and exiled him to Saudi Arabia.

Sharif's supporters suggested the military applauded the court decision because it viewed him as an upstart who sought to challenge its authority.

The military has ruled Pakistan for more than half of its 70-year history and has been unwilling to see its influence challenged.



In this Thursday, June 15, 2017, photo, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif speaks to reporters outside the premises of the Joint Investigation Team, in Islamabad, Pakistan. Pakistan's Supreme Court in a unanimous decision has asked the country's anti-corruption body to file corruption charges against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, his two sons and daughter for concealing their assets. (AP

Photo/B.K. Bangash)

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Sharif's relations with the military reached a new low in recent months after a respected English-language newspaper published a front-page article claiming a rift between civilian and military leaders over fighting militancy. The army suspected Sharif's government leaked the story and tweeted its dissatisfaction with his attempts to make amends by firing a government minister suspected of links to the reporter.

Political analyst Mehdi Hassan said the army may not have played a direct role in Sharif's dismissal, but representatives of the powerful ISI and Military Intelligence on the court-appointed investigation team may have contributed to the final decision.

Sharif's political opponents, many of whom have questionable records concerning corruption themselves, saw the decision as a vindication of their months-long battle and proof that even the politically powerful can be held accountable.

The court ordered that criminal charges be filed against Sharif, his two sons, his son-in-law and his daughter, Maryam Nawaz. It said the charges must be brought within six weeks and decided within six months.

The case dates back to the "Panama Papers" disclosures in 2016, when documents leaked from a Panama-based law firm indicated that Sharif's sons owned several offshore companies.

Sharif's son, Hussain Nawaz, at the time acknowledged owning offshore companies but insisted they used legally acquired funds to set up businesses abroad.

The court-appointed investigators in July concluded, however, that a significant disparity existed between the Sharif family's declared wealth and its known sources of income.

Maryam Nawaz tweeted that her father would "return with greater force," and she asked her party to "stay strong."

The court on Friday also ordered Pakistan's anti-corruption body to file corruption charges against Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, a close relative of Sharif's.

Hashmat Habib, a legal expert, said the court's order was final and that Sharif and his family could not appeal.

It was the second time Pakistan's Supreme Court has disqualified a prime minister. In 2012, the court found Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani guilty of contempt and ordered him to step down.

Zafar Ullah, a senior leader from Sharif's ruling party, said he did not know whether it was "an irony of history or it was because of some conspiracy," but no elected prime minister has served a full term in Pakistan.

Associated Press writer Kathy Gannon in Kabul, Afghanistan, contributed.

Muslim prayers end peacefully at Jerusalem mosque

By IAN DEITCH, Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Prayers at the Al-Aqsa Mosque ended peacefully on Friday amid two weeks of unrest over security devices at the major holy site in Jerusalem, Israeli police said, but violence flared in the West Bank, where a Palestinian was killed after he attacked soldiers and another died in clashes along Gaza's border with Israel.

Tensions have been high since Arab gunmen killed two police officers in the sacred Jerusalem compound on July 14, prompting Israel to install security devices at entrances to the site that is holy to both Muslims and Jews.

The move outraged Muslims and sparked some of the worst street clashes in years, threatening to draw Israel into conflict with other Arab and Muslim nations. Under intense pressure, Israel removed the metal detectors this week and said it planned to install sophisticated security cameras instead.

By nightfall Friday, Jordan's religious body that administers the Jerusalem site said the situation at the compound had returned to what it was before the July 14 attack — a key Palestinian demand for protests to end. The Waqf said "all doors are opened in front of worshippers without restrictions or conditions," adding that the development was a result of "pressure from the Jordanian government on the Israeli government."

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Firas Dibs, an official from Waqf, said earlier that tens of thousands attended Friday prayers.

The prayers ended without incident, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said. There were some sporadic, low-level scuffles between Palestinians and Israeli forces nearby, but nothing on the scale of recent violence.

Police had barred men under 50 from the Jerusalem site during the day and braced for violence following security assessments indicting Palestinians had planned protests there. There were no restrictions on women. Israeli police lifted the age restrictions and other measures Friday night.

Muslims only returned to the site on Thursday — after about two weeks of praying in the streets nearby to protest the new security measures. They had claimed Israel was trying to expand its control over the site. Israel denied the allegations, insisting the measures were meant to prevent more attacks and pointed to similar measures at sensitive sites around the world.

Five Palestinians have died in the past week and scores were wounded in violent clashes with Israeli security forces over the holy site.

The fate of the shrine is an emotional issue at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Even the smallest perceived change to delicate arrangements there can increase tensions.

Jews revere the hilltop compound as the Temple Mount, site of the two Jewish biblical temples. It is the holiest site in Judaism and the nearby Western Wall, a remnant of one of the temples, is the holiest place where Jews can pray.

The walled compound is home to both the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock. It is Islam's third-holiest site after Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. Muslims believe the site marks the spot where the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven.

Jordan is the custodian of the Muslim shrine in Jerusalem and was involved in behind-the-scenes negotiations to end the latest escalation. But there has been growing outrage in the kingdom over the crisis at the shrine and over a deadly altercation at the Israeli Embassy compound in Amman earlier this week. Jordan's 1994 peace treaty with Israel remains deeply unpopular in the kingdom.

King Abdullah II of Jordan scolded Netanyahu's handling of the incident, in which an Israeli guard shot and killed two people after he was attacked by one of them with a screwdriver.

Netanyahu praised the guard and gave him a warm personal welcome when he returned to Israel, following a diplomatic standoff this week.

Jordan's attorney general on Friday filed murder charges against the guard and hundreds of Jordanians marched in Amman, chanting, "Death to Israel."

Israel's foreign ministry said Friday night it is probing the incident and will update Jordan on developments. Netanyahu has been trying to halt the unrest while not appearing to his hard-line base as caving into



Palestinians pray outside the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City Friday, July 28, 2017. Muslim prayers at a major Jerusalem shrine ended peacefully Israeli police said Friday but violence continued in the West Bank where a Palestinian was killed attacking soldiers as forces were on high alert following two weeks of violence over the sacred site, holy to both Muslims and Jews. (AP Photo/Tsafrir Abayov)

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Arab demands. He has been criticized by nationalist members of his coalition government who accused him of capitulation.

In Gaza, which is run by the militant Hamas group, the Health Ministry said a Palestinian teen was killed in clashes Friday with Israeli soldiers stationed near the strip's border fence with Israel. It said the 16-year-old was killed while protesting tensions in Jerusalem.

There were several such protests Friday in the Gaza Strip. The Israeli military said Palestinians threw rocks and rolled burning tires at them. It said troops opened fire when "main instigators" ignored warnings to stop damaging the security barrier.

In the violence in the West Bank, a Palestinian was shot and killed after he brandished a knife and ran at troops, Israel's military said. No soldiers were hurt in the incident at the Gush Etzion Junction, the military added.

The busy intersection south of Jerusalem has been the site of multiple Palestinian attacks in the past two years.

Palestinians threw firebombs and rocks, and rolled burning tires at soldiers who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets at several protests in the West Bank, the military said.

On July 21, a Palestinian sneaked into a Jewish settlement in the West Bank and broke into a home where he stabbed three people to death and wounded a fourth as they ate the traditional Sabbath meal and celebrated the arrival of a new baby in the family.

Israel has been coping with a wave of Palestinian violence that began in 2015 over tensions at the holy site in Jerusalem. Attacks at times were a daily occurrence.

Since then, Palestinians have killed 48 Israelis, two visiting Americans and a British tourist in stabbings, shootings and car-ramming attacks Israeli targeting civilians and soldiers. During that same period, Israeli forces have killed more than 256 Palestinians; Israel has said that most of them were attackers, others died in clashes.

Israel blames the violence on incitement by Palestinian religious and political leaders compounded on social media sites that glorify violence and encourage attacks. Palestinians say the attacks stem from anger and frustration at decades of Israeli rule in territories they claim for a state.

NOT REAL NEWS: A look at what didn't happen this week

By The Associated Press

A roundup of some of the most popular, but completely untrue, headlines of the week. None of these stories are legit, even though they were shared widely on social media. The Associated Press checked these out; here are the real facts:

NOT REAL: President Trump Moves To SHUTDOWN JIHAD TRAINING CAMPS In AMERICA - ISLAMBERG IS FINISHED

THE FACTS: Several widely shared articles report on last month's arrest of 64-year-old Ramadan Abdullah after a police raid found a weapons cache in a storage locker in Union in upstate New York. The raid was ordered by state police, not President Donald Trump. And the town of Union is more than 40 miles from Islamberg, a tiny enclave in the Catskills founded decades ago by Muslim families who moved from New York City. Sites sharing the piece include topsecretleaks.com and freedomdaily.com, which bills itself as the conservative news headquarters.

NOT REAL: The 14 Fake Olive Oil Companies Are Revealed Now - Avoid These Brands

THE FACTS: The story from healthylivingthread.com cites a University of California study in stating that "almost 70% of olive oil on the American market is somewhat non-genuine." It goes on to suggest that olive oils in the U.S. market are being diluted with sunflower and canola oils. In reality, the 2010 UC-Davis study found that 69 percent of samples taken from 14 brands of imported extra virgin olive oil on sale in California failed to meet extra virgin standards. The study didn't find canola or sunflower oils present in the samples.

NOT REAL: Comedian Kathy Griffin Is Facing Jail Time

THE FACTS: The actress and comedian caused a firestorm in May after a photo was released showing her carrying a fake severed head that looked like President Donald Trump's. Griffin wasn't charged with a crime, but she did apologize for the photo. A story shared by borntoberight.com and patriotsontheright.com claims Griffin was jailed last month after walking around New York wearing fake blood and a Trump Halloween mask. That didn't happen.

NOT REAL: Wisconsin to build wall to keep Illinois residents out

THE FACTS: This item from "prank" site channel23news.com may be a reference to a joke presidential candidacy by a Wisconsin man last year who put up billboards calling for such a wall. Even if Wisconsin wanted to ban Illinois residents from visiting the Badger State, such a move would be illegal since the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the right for Americans to travel between states is guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution.



In this June 2, 2017, file photo, comedian Kathy Griffin, left, listens as her attorney Lisa Bloom speaks during a news conference in Los Angeles, to discuss the backlash since Griffin released a photo and video of her displaying a likeness of President Donald Trump's severed head. The AP reported on July 28, 2017, that a story claiming Griffin was jailed last month for walking around New York wearing fake blood and a Trump Halloween mask is a hoax. (AP

Photo/Mark J. Terrill, File)

NOT REAL: If You Are Using This Toothpaste. Throw It Away Immediately!

THE FACTS: The article shared by womandailytips.com claims the Food and Drug Administration has banned the use of antibacterial chemical triclosan, an ingredient in Colgate Total toothpaste, because of "a high-degree of health risks and side effects." While the FDA prohibited the use of triclosan and other agents in hand soaps last September, its ruling didn't affect Colgate. Colgate says in a statement on its website that Colgate Total has been approved as "safe and effective."

This weekly fixture is part of The Associated Press' ongoing efforts to fact-check claims in suspected false news stories.

Find all AP Fact Checks here: <https://www.apnews.com/tag/APFactCheck>

Russia orders cut in US diplomats in reaction to sanctions

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA, Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's Foreign Ministry ordered a reduction in the number of U.S. diplomats in Russia on Friday and said it was closing down a U.S. recreational retreat in response to fresh sanctions against Russia.

The U.S. Senate approved a new package of stiff financial sanctions Friday against Russia, Iran and

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North Korea and sent it to President Donald Trump to sign.

The legislation bars Trump from easing or waiving the penalties on Russia unless Congress agrees. It is aimed at punishing Moscow for interfering in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and for its military aggression in Ukraine and Syria, where the Kremlin has backed President Bashar Assad.

The Russian Foreign Ministry said, in response, it is ordering the U.S. Embassy in Russia to reduce the number of its diplomats by Sept. 1. Russia will also close down the embassy's recreational retreat on the outskirts of Moscow as well as warehouse facilities.

The ministry said the number was being cut to 455 diplomats. U.S. Embassy spokeswoman Maria Olson could not immediately say how many people had to leave to meet Russia's new requirements.

Olson said Ambassador John Tefft "expressed his strong disappointment and protest" with the move and passed the Russian government's notification to Washington for review.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in a phone call later on Friday that Moscow was forced to respond to what he described as "illegal sanctions against Russia, libelous statements against it, a massive expulsion of diplomats and expropriation of our diplomatic property."

Lavrov added, however, that Moscow was ready to "normalize the bilateral ties with the U.S. and cooperate on important international issues."

Relations between Russia and the United States dropped to a post-Cold War low following Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 and its support for separatists in eastern Ukraine, where fighting since 2014 has left 10,000 people dead. Reports of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election have put a damper on hopes for better ties that the Kremlin had pinned on Trump's presidency.

The new package of sanctions aims to hit President Vladimir Putin and his inner circle by targeting allegedly corrupt officials, human rights abusers and crucial sectors of the Russian economy, including weapons sales and energy exports.

The bill underwent revisions to address concerns voiced by American oil and natural gas companies that sanctions specific to Russia's energy sector could backfire on them to Moscow's benefit. Lawmakers said they also made adjustments so the sanctions on Russia's energy sector didn't undercut the ability of U.S. allies in Europe to get access to oil and gas resources outside of Russia.

Russia's Foreign Ministry dismissed the new sanctions as "creating unfair competitive advantages for the U.S. economy."

"This kind of blackmail aimed at restricting the cooperation between Russia and other nations is a threat for many countries and global businesses," the statement said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told Russian news agencies later Friday that he would not rule out further steps, adding that Russia's "toolbox" of how to react to the new sanctions "doesn't come down to" cutting the embassy staff and seizing the recreational retreat.

Russia's response mirrors moves by outgoing President Barack Obama last December to expel 35 Rus-



U.S. and Russian flags hung at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, Russia, Friday, July 28, 2017. Russia's Foreign Ministry on Friday ordered a reduction in the number of U.S. diplomats in Russia and said it was closing down a U.S. recreation retreat in response to fresh sanctions against Russia. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko)

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sian diplomats and shut down two Russian estates in the U.S.

Moscow said it would cut the U.S. diplomatic corps even further if the U.S. decides to expel more Russian diplomats.

The Kremlin had previously said it would not impose any sanctions on the U.S. until Trump signs the bill.

This story has been corrected to reflect that the Lavrov-Tillerson call was Friday, not Wednesday.

Dull, Boring and Bland communities forge international bond

LONDON (AP) — Dull and Boring, meet Bland.

Dull, Scotland and Boring, Oregon, two small communities united by unexciting names, have joined forces with a third: Bland Shire, Australia.

Dull and Boring became sister communities in 2012, after a Scottish woman passed through the U.S. town on a cycling holiday. Officials say the relationship has boosted the profile of both places.

Dull officials on Friday hosted the mayor of the region of Bland Shire, New South Wales, at a reception to celebrate the third member of a club dubbed the League of Extraordinary Communities.

Bland Shire and Boring are both named after early residents, William Bland and William Boring, while Dull's name may come from a Gaelic word for meadow.

Boring has a population of about 10,000 while Bland Shire has about 6,000 people and Dull is a hamlet with just 84 occupants.

Dennis Melloy, provost of the Perth and Kinross region that's home to Dull, said the relationship with Boring and Bland had "created a real feel-good factor for their communities with quirky names."

And he said the alliance could expand.

"We've found Ordinary and Dreary, both in America, and I think they could soon be part of it all," he said.

Scaramucci tirades ignite smoldering White House tensions

By JULIE BYKOWICZ and JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's new communications director exploded the smoldering tensions at the White House into a full-fledged conflagration Thursday, angrily daring Trump's chief of staff to deny he's a "leaker" and exposing West Wing backstabbing in language more suitable to a mobster movie than a seat of presidential stability.

In a pull-no-punches, impromptu CNN interview that he said was authorized by the president, Anthony Scaramucci went after chief of staff Reince Priebus in graphic terms. "The fish stinks from the head down," he said. "I can tell you two fish that don't stink, and that's me and the president."

Not even a week into his new job, Scaramucci accused unidentified senior officials of trying to sabotage him and committing a felony by leaking information. But the personal financial information that he said someone had "leaked" about him had simply been obtained through a public records request.

Then in an expletive-laden interview published by The New Yorker late Thursday, an angry Scaramucci accused Priebus of being a "f----- paranoid schizophrenic." He also used a graphic sexual reference to make the point that he believes White House chief strategist Steve Bannon used Trump's election win to burnish his own reputation.

He also threatened to fire White House staffers who leaked news about a dinner he had with the president.

"They'll all be fired by me," Scaramucci told the magazine. "I fired one guy the other day. I have three to four people I'll fire tomorrow. I'll get to the person who leaked that to you. Reince Priebus — if you want to leak something — he'll be asked to resign very shortly."

By day's end Scaramucci sounded calmer, though not regretful.

"I sometimes use colorful language. I will refrain in this arena but not give up the passionate fight for @realDonaldTrump's agenda. #MAGA," he tweeted. The tag at the end stands for Trump's "Make America Great Again."

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He also blamed the reporter, Ryan Lizza, for reporting the conversation. "I made a mistake in trusting in a reporter," he added later. "It won't happen again."

White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders referred reporters to the first tweet.

The president's senior counselor, Kellyanne Conway, had earlier speculated in a Fox News interview that unnamed forces were out to get Scaramucci, saying: "Somebody is trying to get in his way and scare him off."

"There are leaks and then there are people using the press to shiv each other in the ribs," she said.

Meanwhile, no one in the White House took up for Priebus — including Priebus himself. Sanders avoided giving a direct answer when asked whether Trump has confidence in Priebus.

The past 24 hours provided the clearest evidence yet that Scaramucci and Trump, both brash New Yorkers, are cut from the same cloth. One of their shared techniques: publicly shaming members of their own team.

Scaramucci's goading of Priebus came as Trump continued to fume publicly and privately about his attorney general. Trump has been critical of Attorney General Jeff Sessions for recusing himself from the Justice Department investigation into whether the president's campaign had anything to do with Russian interference in the election last fall.

"It hasn't been my best week ... for my relationship with the president," Sessions acknowledged in an interview with The Associated Press in El Salvador, where he was on a mission to increase international cooperation against gangs.

He said he would stay in his post and fight for Trump's agenda "as long as he sees that as appropriate."

Newt Gingrich, a former House speaker and frequent outside adviser to Trump, said in an interview that Scaramucci's attacks on Priebus are problematic. "They've got to get this sorted out between the two of them, and it would be nice if they didn't do it in public," he said.

Yet after Scaramucci's call-in CNN performance — a move lifted from his boss' playbook — it was difficult to see how the two could mend fences.

"I don't know if this is repairable or not — that will be up to the president," Scaramucci said on air. He compared their relationship to that of brothers who are "rough on each other," invoking the biblical story of Cain and Abel. Cain murdered Abel.

The bad blood stems from Scaramucci's view that Priebus was insufficiently supportive of Trump at the end of the election campaign and his belief that Priebus persuaded the president to keep him out of the White House in January. Six months later, Scaramucci's close relationship with the president trumped opposition to his hiring from Priebus and Bannon.

Scaramucci's arrival in the West Wing last Friday marked the first in a series of falling dominoes that seemed to be leading toward Priebus. Press secretary Sean Spicer, a close ally of Priebus, resigned last week. Scaramucci then forced out another communications aide close to Priebus.

Scaramucci then tweeted that someone had illegally leaked financial information about him, conspicuously



White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci speaks to members of the media at the White House in Washington, Tuesday, July 25, 2017. (AP Photo/Pablo

Martinez Monsivais)

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mentioning Priebus' Twitter handle. Scaramucci later deleted that tweet and said he had only mentioned Priebus to show that all senior leaders are taking leaks seriously.

"In light of the leak of my financial disclosure info which is a felony, I will be contacting @FBI and the @JusticeDept #swamp @Reince45," his since-deleted tweet read.

Scaramucci's financial disclosure form wasn't leaked at all. It was released after a public records request by a Politico reporter.

In the CNN interview, Scaramucci said he'd be reaching out to his "buddies" in the FBI about the matter.

If Scaramucci tries to direct the FBI to conduct a leak investigation, that could brush up against the Justice Department's obligation to function independently from the White House, said Mark Zaid, a national security lawyer in Washington.

"It starts to potentially smell and approach an inappropriate line," Zaid said.

Brad Gerstman, a New York lobbyist and public relations executive, said it probably doesn't matter to Trump that Scaramucci and Priebus don't get along. Gerstman has done projects for the Trump Organization and is a neighbor and longtime friend of Scaramucci's.

"In my experience, he's of the belief that sometimes a little friction in the ranks is how you surface the best ideas," Gerstman said of Trump.

But another rule of thumb in Trump's inner circle is that it's never wise to outshine the president.

Trump has reacted angrily when certain aides — including Bannon and, briefly, son-in-law Jared Kushner — received outsized media attention.

Ari Fleischer, who served as press secretary under George W. Bush, said, "Ask Steve Bannon what happens if you get too much publicity and go too far."

"It reminds me of Icarus flying too close to the sun."

___ Lemire reported from New York. Associated Press writers Vivian Salama, Eric Tucker and Jill Colvin contributed to this report.

Sri Lanka, China sign long-delayed \$1.5 billion port deal

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI, Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's government on Saturday signed a long-delayed agreement to sell a 70 percent stake in a \$1.5 billion port to China in a bid to recover from the heavy burden of repaying a Chinese loan obtained to build the facility.

The agreement comes after a nearly six-month delay since the signing of the framework deal, which immediately drew public criticism and protests.

The document was signed between the government-run Sri Lanka Ports Authority and the state-run China Merchants Port Holding Co. in the capital, Colombo, in the presence of senior government officials from Sri Lanka and China. According to the agreement, the Chinese company will invest \$1.12 billion in the port, which sits close to busy east-west shipping lanes. Under the original framework



In this Tuesday, March 15, 2016, file photo, a Sri Lankan couple walk on the Galle Face green as the China Port City project is seen behind in Colombo, Sri Lanka. A Chinese company said Tuesday it will resume construction of a \$1.5 billion port city project in Sri Lanka, about a year after it was suspended because of questions about its environmental impact. (AP Photo/Eranga Jayawardena, File)

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agreement, an 80 percent stake would have been sold to China.

Two local companies whose shares will be split between the Chinese enterprise and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority will be set up to handle the port's operations, security and services. The Chinese company will be responsible for commercial operations while the Sri Lanka Ports Authority will handle security. The lease period is 99 years.

The port, built with a Chinese loan during the administration of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa, is seen as a white elephant because it has failed to become financially viable since it began operations in 2011.

Before they were elected in 2015, opposition parties had criticized the project, but the government later sought help from China to make the port viable because of its severe underperformance and the heavy burden of loan repayment.

The port's annual loan repayment commitment stands at \$59 million, and by the end of 2016 the port had suffered a loss of \$304 million, according to the government.

The port is part of Beijing's so-called string-of-pearls plan for a line of ports stretching from its waters to the Persian Gulf. Rajapaksa relied heavily on China for infrastructure projects. During his administration, China provided loans for an airport, sea port, highways and power plants, and became the largest investor in Sri Lanka.

China's influence in Sri Lanka makes neighboring India anxious because it considers the Indian Ocean region to be its strategic backyard. President Maithripala Sirisena has been trying to balance both Asian giants.

Sri Lankan officials have repeatedly reiterated that the port's security will be handled by Colombo in an attempt to allay the fears that the port could be used by Chinese as a military hub.

The agreement has ignited protests inside the country too and in January, hundreds of farmers and opposition supporters protested the plan to lease the port, saying the proposed partnership was akin to a sellout of the country.

Appeals court blocks California gas facility from reopening

By BRIAN MELLEY, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A California appeals court judge temporarily blocked a Los Angeles natural gas storage facility Friday from reopening a year and a half after a major blowout spewed methane that drove thousands of families from their homes.

The order late in the day by Associate Justice Lamar Baker of the 2nd District Court of Appeal came after Los Angeles County lawyers unsuccessfully tried to get a lower court to stop Southern California Gas Co. from resuming operations at Aliso Canyon.

State regulators last week gave approval to allow the company to pump gas into underground storage wells after an overhaul and rigorous testing. The county said it feared operations would resume Saturday.

The facility above the San Fernando Valley has been largely out of commission since an old well failed in October 2015, unleashing methane for nearly four months and leading 8,000 families to evacuate.

The utility said in response late Friday that it has met and sometimes exceeded the state's safety requirements for the field, and that "unnecessary delays will challenge our ability to meet" the inventory requirements regulators are asking for to avoid an energy shortage.

The appeals court gave the parties until 6 p.m. Saturday to file arguments. The judge can then extend the temporary stay, or lift it.

The blowout released the largest-known amount of climate-changing methane in U.S. history and led to widespread complaints of nosebleeds, nausea, headaches and symptoms that persisted even after the leak was capped last year.

The county's effort to keep the facility closed hinges on a claim that the state's extensive safety review had not taken into account the risk of an earthquake from a fault that runs through the field.

In rejecting the county's petition earlier in the day, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge John Wiley said he didn't have authority to overturn orders by the California Public Utilities Commission.

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"So what's my power?" Wiley said. "Zero. I have zero power. Because in the 1950s the Legislature said, 'Hands off. The PUC owns this problem.'"

County lawyer Skip Miller disagreed and said the county would file a last-minute request for a stay with the higher court.

"I think your honor is just dead-bang wrong," Miller told the judge. "This is super important to the county of LA and the 30,000 people who live out there."

The county's appeal said it needed to block operations because it was notified the company planned to resume operations Saturday, and if that happened its legal bid would be moot.

Chris Gilbride, a SoCalGas spokesman, said the utility has a few steps to complete before it can resume storing gas and wasn't sure when it would restart.

The state allowed SoCalGas to resume limited operations last week under stricter rules put into effect after the blowout. Fewer than half the 114 wells in the field have passed tests that would allow them to be used.

The county, however, said the state's review didn't adequately address the threat of a strong quake rumbling across the Santa Susana Mountains where the field is located.

"That's a recipe for disaster," Miller said. "We think they're jumping the gun."

The county's legal filing included emails and a declaration from a former SoCalGas manager who raised concerns several years ago about the danger. Jim Mansdorfer, who managed the company's gas storage wells for years, said the Santa Susana fault could rupture all wells and release gas at 100 to 1,000 times the rate of the 2015 blowout.

In response, the state said the facility has likely undergone more scrutiny from a regulatory agency than any facility in the U.S. and the county didn't have a valid claim but could appeal to regulators.

The county's claims are based on "the vague possibility of a future, hypothetical catastrophic earthquake," the state said.

"Fearmongering and heated rhetoric aside, the county fails to allege a legal or factual basis upon which relief, let alone emergency relief, may be granted," Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Rosenfeld said.

SoCalGas echoed the state's arguments in a legal filing. In a letter to politicians and policymakers Monday, it said the county's claims were "baseless and wrong."

The company said it didn't agree with Mansdorfer's opinion, but it had forwarded his concerns to regulators.

While the company and the state have deemed the facility necessary for home heating and to fuel gas-fired power plants, Southern California has avoided predictions of blackouts over the past year while the facility was closed.



In this Dec. 9, 2015, file pool photo, crews work on a relief well at the Aliso Canyon facility above the Porter Ranch area of Los Angeles. A California judge denied a motion to halt the reopening of the massive natural gas storage facility in Los Angeles County that has been offline since a major blowout. Lawyers for the county had asked Superior Court Judge John Wiley to stop Southern California Gas Co. from restarting operations at Aliso Canyon because of earthquake risks. The judge tentatively ruled against the county on Friday, July 28, 2017, according to court filings made public before a hearing. He made the ruling final during the hearing. (Dean Musgrove /Los Angeles Daily News via AP, Pool, File)

Many residents want to see Aliso Canyon permanently shuttered. They have held boisterous protests at the facility's gate, at public meetings and demonstrated in red T-shirts Friday that said "Shut it down."

"It's very scary," Porter Ranch resident Richard Mathews said after the hearing. "So many people are feeling such terrible symptoms from this. People are still getting sick, and if they start the injections, if they increase the pressure 60 percent as expected, it increases the risk to all of us enormously."

Usain Bolt is down to his last, blazing curtain call

By EDDIE PELLIS, AP National Writer

Muhammad Ali stood alone on many fronts, but Joe Frazier, George Foreman and a few others still stood toe-to-toe with him in the ring. Jack Nicklaus contended with Arnold Palmer on the front end of his career and Tom Watson on the back end.

Usain Bolt? Nobody has been a match for him, on or off the track.

The man who reshaped the record book and saved his sport is saying goodbye. His sprints through the 100 meters and Jamaica's 4x100 relay at the world championships, which begin Friday, are expected to produce golds yet again, and leave track with this difficult question: Who can possibly take his place?

"You would have to have someone who's dominating, and no one's doing that," said Michael Johnson, the former world-record holder at 200 and 400 meters and perhaps the sport's brightest star in the 1990s. "You'd have to have someone who has that something special like he has, in terms of personality and presence. You're not going to have that."

Though he will not retire undefeated, Bolt stands in the rarest of company: an athlete who was never beaten when the stakes were greatest. And with a showman's flair as transcendent as his raw speed — Chicken McNuggets for dinner, his fabled "To The World" pose for dessert and dancing away at nightclubs till dawn — he hoisted his entire, troubled sport upon his shoulders and made it watchable and relevant.

Since his era of dominance began in 2008, Bolt went undefeated at the Olympics — 9 for 9 — in the 100, 200 and 4x100 relay. (One of those medals was stripped because of doping by a teammate on the 2008 relay team.) He has set, and re-set, the world records in all three events. His marks of 19.30, then 19.19, at 200 meters, were once thought virtually impossible. He set a goal of breaking 19 seconds in Rio de Janeiro last summer, and when he came up short, it became clear the barrier will be safe for years.

At the world championships, Bolt's only "loss" came in 2011, when he was disqualified for a false start in the 100 meters. Jamaican teammate Yohan Blake won the title that year, as well as the Jamaican national championships at 100 and 200 meters leading to the London Olympics. Heading back to London five years later, Blake is an afterthought.



In this Aug. 18, 2016, file photo, Usain Bolt celebrates winning the gold medal in the men's 200-meter final during the athletics competitions of the 2016 Summer Olympics at the Olympic stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The man who reshaped the record book and saved his sport along the way is saying goodbye. His runs through the 100 meters and Jamaica's 4x100 relay at next week's world championships are expected to produce golds yet again, along with leaving people to wonder who could possibly take his place. (AP Photo/David J. Phillip, File)

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And Bolt's mastery of this sport remains unchallenged.

"I'll be sad to see someone like him go," said America's Justin Gatlin, Bolt's longest and sturdiest challenger, who has been disingenuously portrayed as the brooding bad boy set against Bolt's carefree party guy. "He's such a big figure in our sport. Not only is he a big figure, but the kind of guy who always will be a competitor when he steps onto the line."

Though it's tricky to compare dominance in track to that in any other sport, there's an element of Nicklaus in Bolt's dominance. Impressive as his 18 major championships are, Nicklaus' 19 second-place finishes and 73 top-10s spoke to his ability to get into the mix in most of the majors over the quarter-century while he was collecting titles. Nicklaus had to fend off Palmer, Watson, Johnny Miller and a dozen other legitimate contenders at every event. Bolt hasn't faced anything like that.

Yet they shared this important similarity: Often, the contests were over before they even began. Or, as Tom Weiskopf once said: "Jack knew he was going to beat you. You knew Jack was going to beat you. And Jack knew that you knew that he was going to beat you."

At the worlds two years ago, Gatlin had Bolt beaten in the 100 but leaned in at the finish line a micro-second too early. Bolt passed him and won by 0.01 seconds. The American all but admitted he psyched himself out.

Speaking to the pressure of racing someone such as Bolt, the Scottish sports historian and former Olympic coach Tom McNab compared sprinting to running in a tunnel.

"And once you become aware of what's happening outside your tunnel, you're in trouble," he said.

In boxing, Ali wasn't necessarily unbeatable, but he was incomparable as both a sharp-witted showman and an athlete with a social conscience, using his platform to preach tolerance and oppose war.

Bolt hasn't sought that sort of impact, at least not yet, but it's hard to overstate the mark he made on his troubled sport and, thus, the Olympics, which have long featured athletics as the must-see event of the final two weeks.

Over years and decades, the showcase sport of the Olympics has devolved into a sordid litany of doping scandals. The latest concerns widespread corruption and cheating in Russia, and heading into Rio, it undermined not only the sport and its managers, but the Olympics and their leaders' willingness to deal with it.

But when Bolt sauntered onto the track, flashed a peace sign and blew a kiss to the crowd, all was forgotten. Not just for the 9, or 19, seconds while he was running, but for the entire evening and beyond. He made track, and thus, the Olympics, eminently watchable.

He'll do it one more time on a smaller stage — track's world championships — but a stage with plenty of symbolic meaning.

When he headed to London for the Olympics in 2012, Bolt held all the records, but was portrayed as vulnerable, following the false start, a long list of nagging injuries and his losses to Blake.

By the time he left, he had pretty much anointed himself as the greatest. Four years later, he said that was precisely his goal: "To be among Ali and Pele," he said.

He's on that list, but when the lights go out after the relays Aug. 11 — 10 days before his 31st birthday — it will be time to say goodbye.

"Once he's gone," McNab says, "there's no major personality that would make any significant impact at the world level."

AP Sports Writer Pat Graham contributed to this report.

Faces of Concussions: Football families share lives with CTE

By JIMMY GOLEN, AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Jim Hudson's wife came home one day and found him sitting on a couch, clutching a golf ball, with tears streaming down his face.

The former New York Jets defensive back, a star of the team's only Super Bowl championship, had played a lot of golf; he was a single-digit handicap at the time. But he was watching the Golf Channel because he had forgotten what the ball in his hand was for, or how to play.

"You watch the life go out of someone's eyes," Lise Hudson said.

A college national champion whose interception in the Super Bowl helped clinch the 1968 NFL title for Joe Namath and the Jets, Hudson was among more than 100 former football players diagnosed with chronic traumatic encephalopathy in a study published this week.

The disease can cause memory loss, depression, violent mood swings and other cognitive and behavioral issues in those exposed to repetitive head trauma.

Boxers. Members of the military.

Football players — including not only Hudson but also Earl Morrall, whose pass he intercepted in Super Bowl III to help seal what is still considered the greatest upset in NFL history.

"I hope it doesn't kill the game, but that it stops killing the players," Lise Hudson said. "We'd better get on it and figure it out."

"He was told, 'Put your head down and go for the guy's chin and then lift up. Use that head. And he told us those stories even before any of this came out.'" -- Rani Lenzion, daughter of Don Paul, a leather helmet-wearing linebacker and center for the Los Angeles Rams.

In the largest update on CTE so far, Boston University and VA researchers reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association on Tuesday that they found signs of the disease in nearly 90 percent of the 200 brains examined, including 110 of 111 from NFL players.

This week, The Associated Press asked the surviving relatives of more than a dozen players involved in the study to describe living and dying with CTE.

These are the people who saw the disease up-close. Some gave up the game. Others just want it to be safer.

"It's something parents should be discussing with their kids: 'You're not going to feel it now, but you'll feel it later,'" said Scott Gilchrist, the son of Buffalo Bills star Cookie Gilchrist. "Would you like to try golf?"



In this Jan. 12, 1992 file photo, East's Kevin Turner, of Alabama, dives over the top for a touchdown in the fourth quarter of the Japan Bowl, the American collegiate all-star football game, at the Tokyo Dome. A fullback at Alabama before playing eight years in the NFL for New England and Philadelphia, Kevin Turner was 46 when he died in 2016. He had been diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease, but after studying his brain researchers declared that it was actually CTE. (AP

Photo/Itsuo Inouye, File)

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"We're still trying to recover from the financial damage. To say nothing of the loneliness and the sorrow that losing him to this disease has brought, it's brought a lot of financial distress, also." -- Kay Morris, wife of Larry Morris, a member of the NFL's All-1960s team.

John Grimsley died in 2008 at the age of 45 from an accidental gunshot wound. It was a new gun — a Christmas present — and his wife thinks he may have forgotten a bullet was in the chamber.

Virginia Grimsley was at church making funeral arrangements a friend brought her a message from Chris Nowinski, one of the founders of the Concussion Legacy Foundation.

"I looked at her and said, 'He wants John's brain doesn't he?' And she said, 'Yeah, he does,'" Grimsley said. "I said, 'What do I have to sign?'"

"You feel like you got cheated out of some of the best years of your life, not having your father." -- Ollie Matson Jr., son of the two-time Olympic medalist and a Hall of Fame running back for the Chicago Cardinals, who barely spoke for the last four years before he died.

Lew Carpenter wasn't just a CTE victim. He was also a carrier of the disease.

A running back who won three NFL championships in a 10-year career with the Lions, Browns and Packers, Carpenter stuck around the sidelines for another 31 years as an assistant coach. He preached what he heard from Hall of Fame coaches like Vince Lombardi: walk it off, or we'll find someone who can.

"He was promulgating it," his daughter, Rebecca Carpenter, said: "Rub a little dirt in it. Get back out there. There are 1,000 guys who want your job. Is this the moment that you're going to choose to be weak, and let everybody down?"

"That's a distillation of who he was. Not because he's a (jerk)," she said. "My father really understood something about football at the professional level: You can't let anybody see your vulnerability, because then you're dead."

"I'd be very, very concerned if I was a professional football player who had concussions or head hits and I'm 40 years old and I'm saying, 'I'm fine.' That's not how this movie's going to end." -- Mike Keating, whose uncle, Oakland defensive tackle Tom Keating, was diagnosed with CTE.

Add them all up, as Kevin Turner once did for his father, and he probably had more than 100 concussions.

"That's probably the sad part of it. He'd probably do it again," Raymond Turner told a reporter at his lakeside home in suburban Montgomery, Alabama.

Kevin Turner died last year at 46.

One room at the house remains filled with memorabilia from his son's career. Next to the front door hangs a drawing of Kevin in a football jersey, wearing his No. 34.

"He was given this life because he was strong enough to live it," the inscription read. "And he lived it well."

Contributing to this report: Pro Football Writers Dave Campbell, Schuyler Dixon, Arnie Stapleton, Teresa M. Walker, and Sports Writers David Ginsburg, Bernie Wilson; Steven Wine and John Zenor.

For more NFL coverage: <http://www.pro32.ap.org> and http://www.twitter.com/AP_NFL

Rio's Olympics 1 year later: The good, the bad and the ugly

By STEPHEN WADE and RENATA BRITO, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Neymar kissed the ball, delivered a gold medal and then wept with other Brazilians.

Look no further if you're searching for an iconic image of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

"It's the only medal that really mattered," Salvador Gaeta said recently while cycling in the deserted Olympic Park. "Every Brazilian will remember it."

Other memories have faded at home since the Olympics opened a year ago. A few expectations were met, but many fell short of those promised by IOC President Thomas Bach and organizing committee head Carlos Nuzman.

Bach boasted at the closing ceremony of "a Rio de Janeiro before, and a much better Rio de Janeiro after the Olympic Games."

Nuzman called Rio the next Barcelona, one of the cities clearly transformed by the games.

Save for minor cosmetic changes, a city fractured by mountains and searing inequality remains as it was. Violent crime mostly concealed during the Olympics is soaring, tied to Brazil's deepest economic downturn in 100 years and unpaid policemen leaving in droves. Brazil's military has been called in to quell Rio's untethered violence.

Rio barely managed to keep it together for the Olympics, needed a government bailout to hold the Paralympics and then collapsed under a grinding recession and sprawling corruption scandals.

The games took place mostly in the south and west of the city, which remains white and wealthy. The rest is still a hodgepodge of dilapidated factories and hillside slums of cinderblocks, tin roofs and open troughs of raw sewage.

Brazil says it spent \$13 billion in public and private money to organize the Olympics — some estimates suggest \$20 billion — and many games-related projects since then have been tied to corruption scandals that marred the games and drove up costs. Federal police and prosecutors have linked overpriced projects to graft between politicians and construction companies.

A look at the fallout since the Olympics opened on Aug. 5:

THE GOOD

The Olympics left behind a new subway line extension, high-speed bus service and an urban jewel: a renovated port area filled with food stands, musicians and safe street life in a city rife with crime.

These probably would not have been built without the prestige of the Olympics. But the games also im-



In this July 4, 2016 file photo, Sugar loaf mountain and Guanabara bay are seen behind the Christ the Redeemer statue in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Rio organizers promised to clean up polluted Guanabara Bay in their winning bid in 2009. During the Olympics, officials used stop-gap measures to keep floating sofas, logs, and dead animals from crashing into boats during the sailing events. Since the Olympics, the bankrupt state of Rio de Janeiro has ceased major efforts to clean the bay, with the unwelcome stench usually drifting along the highway from the international airport. (AP Photo/Felipe Dana)

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posed deadlines and drove up the price. A state auditor's report said the 9.7 billion real (\$3 billion) subway was overbilled by 25 percent.

Igor Silverio lives nearby the port in a favela — or shantytown — and came the other day to kick around a soccer ball with his two young boys. The area in his youth was known for decay and drunkenness.

"For sure it's better," he said. But, he added, he "expected more from the Olympics."

"From my point of view, the Olympics only benefited the foreigners. Local people themselves didn't get much. The security situation isn't good, the hospitals. I think these are investments that didn't benefit many local people."

He said he skipped the Olympics because they were "too expensive" and located far away in the suburbs.

Standing outside the new subway line, 57-year-old domestic worker Isa Trajano Fernandes said public transportation had improved but was still deficient.

"When the Olympics were going on it was better, but then they let it slide," she said.

She complained about crowding on the new express buses and the lack of security.

"People have no dignity using public transportation in Rio de Janeiro," she said.

THE BAD

The Olympics left a half-dozen vacant sports arenas in the Olympic Park and 3,600 empty apartments in the boarded-up Olympic Village. Deodoro, a major complex of venues in the impoverished north, is shuttered behind iron gates.

Standing across the street, Jose Mauricio Pehna de Souza was asked if Rio benefited from the Olympics.

"I don't think so, not us in Brazil," he said.

A \$20 million golf course is struggling to find players and financing.

A few dozen were on the course on a recent, sunny Saturday. The clubhouse is mostly unfurnished, and it costs non-Brazilians 560 reals (\$180) for 18 holes and a cart.

Organizers and the International Olympic Committee say Rio needs time to develop these venues, and faults Brazil's deep recession for most of the problems.

A prosecutor several months ago disputed this, saying the Olympic Park "lacked planning how to use white elephant" sports venues. Many were built as part of real estate deals that have yet to pan out.

Juliana Solaira, a 30-year-old pharmacist who lives across from the park, called the space "an excellent legacy" but said "few people use it."

"Here we see all this money spent," she said. "Unfortunately, we see most of the arenas are closed. So I think it could have been used in a better way."

The park offers few amenities: no restaurants, no shade and nothing much to do except gawk at deserted arenas. City hall officials and the federal government say they're planning an event for Aug. 5 to "fill all the arenas" for the day.

THE UGLY

Rio organizers promised to clean up polluted Guanabara Bay in their winning bid in 2009. During the Olympics, officials used stop-gap measures to keep floating sofas, logs and dead animals from crashing into boats during the sailing events.

Since the Olympics, the bankrupt state of Rio de Janeiro has ceased major efforts to clean the bay, its unwelcome stench often drifting along the highway from the international airport.

"I think it's gotten worse," Brazil's gold-medal sailor Kahena Kunze said in a recent interview. "There was always floating trash, but I see more and more. It's no use hiding the trash because it comes back. I figured it would get worse because I haven't seen anything concrete being done."

Avenida Brasil, the main north-south artery through the city, is a snarl of unfinished roads and express bus lanes, viaducts to nowhere and detours through miles (kilometers) of traffic cones.

Some of the politicians behind the Olympics have been accused of graft, and organizers still owe creditors about \$30 million to 40 million.

Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who wept when Rio was awarded the games, was convicted last month on corruption charges and faces a 9 1/2-year prison term. He is appealing.

Former Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes, the local moving force behind the Olympics, is being investigated for allegedly accepting at least 15 million reais (\$5 million) in payments to facilitate construction projects tied to the games. He denies wrongdoing.

Another early booster, former Rio state governor Sergio Cabral, is in jail on corruption charges.

Carlos Nuzman, president of the organizing committee, was defeated earlier this year in an election to lead the Pan American Sports Organization. He ran on his record leading the Rio Olympics and finished third in a three-man race.

Stephen Wade on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/StephenWadeAP> .

His work can be found at: <https://apnews.com/search/stephen%20wade>

Stocks sag following disappointing profit reports

By STAN CHOE, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Stock markets around the world sagged on Friday after Amazon and other big companies reported quarterly results that underwhelmed investors.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 3.32 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,472.10 and closed a week packed with corporate earnings reports almost exactly where it started. It set a record during the middle of it.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 33.76 points, or 0.2 percent, to 21,830.31 and set another all-time high. The Nasdaq composite fell 7.51, or 0.1 percent, to 6,374.68.

A little more than half the companies in the S&P 500 have now shown how much profit they made during the spring, and the results have been mostly encouraging. Earnings for the index are on pace to be about 9 percent higher than a year earlier, according to FactSet. But expectations were high coming into the reporting season, and the few companies that have fallen short of forecasts have seen their stock prices punished.

Amazon dropped \$25.96, or 2.5 percent, to \$1,020.04 after its profit missed expectations. Its forecast for operating income this fiscal year was also below many analysts' forecasts, though revenue for the latest quarter beat expectations.

Earnings reports were the main focus for markets during a busy week, where the Federal Reserve also decided on Wednesday to hold interest rates steady and the government on Friday gave an update on the economy's health.

The economy grew at an annual rate of 2.6 percent in the second quarter, revved up by a rise in consumer spending, the Commerce Department reported. Last quarter's growth rate was more than double



This Friday, Oct. 7, 2016, file photo shows a sign for Wall Street carved into a building located near the New York Stock Exchange. U.S. stocks followed other markets lower on Friday, July 28, 2017 after Amazon and several other big companies reported quarterly results that underwhelmed investors. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

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that of the year's first quarter, which was revised down to 1.2 percent. The faster growth, though, was still a shade below the 2.7 percent that economists expected.

"Overall, the economy continues to move along, but it's hard to see where the fuel is going to come from for further acceleration," said Rich Weiss, chief investment officer of multi-asset strategies at American Century Investments. He says the economy reminds him of what golfers call a "son-in-law" shot, one that's not bad but not great.

"We're not throwing new money into the stock market at this point," Weiss said. Instead of U.S. stocks, he prefers foreign markets where he says economies have more potential for improvement. Many other investors have shifted their money using a similar philosophy, and the falling value of the dollar against other currencies has helped boost foreign stocks' returns.

Excitement about the U.S. economy had been higher earlier in the year, when many investors expected the Republican takeover of Washington to lead to more pro-business policies. But inaction in the Capitol, capped by the Senate's latest failed attempt to revamp the nation's health care system, is raising doubts about whether tax reform or a big infrastructure plan will happen.

Tobacco stocks were some of Friday's worst performers after the U.S. government said it's considering limiting the amount of nicotine in cigarettes so that they're no longer addictive. Altria Group, which sells Marlboro and other cigarettes in the U.S., fell \$7.02, or 9.5 percent to \$66.94. It had been down as much as 18.9 percent shortly after the Food and Drug Administration's announcement.

Flowserve, which sells pumps, valves and other parts for the oil and gas industries, dropped to the biggest losses in the S&P 500 after reporting weaker earnings for the latest quarter than Wall Street had forecast. It sank \$5.06, or 10.9 percent, to \$41.30.

Starbucks fell \$5.50, or 9.2 percent, to \$54.00 after it lowered its forecast for earnings this fiscal year, and Goodyear Tire & Rubber sank \$2.97, or 8.4 percent, to \$32.51 after it gave a forecast for 2017 operating income that fell short of analysts' expectations.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.28 percent from 2.32 percent late Thursday. The two-year yield dipped to 1.34 percent from 1.36 percent, and the 30-year yield dropped to 2.90 percent from 2.93 percent.

Stock markets around the world were weak. Japan's Nikkei 225 index dropped 0.6 percent, South Korea's Kospi lost 1.7 percent and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong fell 0.6 percent.

France's CAC 40 lost 1.1 percent, the FTSE 100 in London fell 1 percent and Germany's DAX dropped 0.4 percent

The dollar fell to 110.60 Japanese yen from 111.09 yen late Thursday. The euro rose to \$1.1760 from \$1.1681, and the British pound rose to \$1.3149 from \$1.3070.

The price of oil capped off its best week since early December with another gain. Benchmark U.S. crude rose 67 cents to settle at \$49.71 per barrel and touched its highest level since May. Oil gained nearly 9 percent over the week.

Brent crude, the international standard, gained \$1.03 to \$53.53 a barrel Friday. Natural gas fell 3 cents to \$2.94 per 1,000 cubic feet. Heating oil rose 4 cents to \$1.64 per gallon, and wholesale gasoline gained 3 cents to \$1.68 per gallon.

Gold rose \$8.80 to settle at \$1,275.30 per ounce, silver added 12 cents to \$16.70 per ounce and copper was close to flat at \$2.88 per pound.

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, July 29, the 210th day of 2017. There are 155 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 29, 1967, an accidental rocket launch on the deck of the supercarrier USS Forrestal in the Gulf of Tonkin resulted in a fire and explosions that killed 134 servicemen. (Among the survivors was future Arizona senator John McCain, a U.S. Navy lieutenant commander who narrowly escaped with his life.)

On this date:

In 1030, the patron saint of Norway, King Olaf II, was killed in battle.

In 1588, the English attacked the Spanish Armada in the Battle of Gravelines, resulting in an English victory.

In 1890, artist Vincent van Gogh, 37, died of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound in Auvers-sur-Oise, France.

In 1914, transcontinental telephone service in the U.S. became operational with the first test conversation between New York and San Francisco. Massachusetts' Cape Cod Canal, offering a shortcut across the base of the peninsula, was officially opened to shipping traffic.

In 1921, Adolf Hitler became the leader ("fuehrer") of the National Socialist German Workers Party.

In 1948, Britain's King George VI opened the Olympic Games in London.

In 1957, the International Atomic Energy Agency was established. Jack Paar made his debut as host of NBC's "Tonight Show."

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the National Aeronautics and Space Act, creating NASA.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford became the first U.S. president to visit the site of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz in Poland.

In 1981, Britain's Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in a glittering ceremony at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. (However, the couple divorced in 1996.)

In 1994, abortion opponent Paul Hill shot and killed Dr. John Bayard Britton and Britton's bodyguard, James H. Barrett, outside the Ladies Center clinic in Pensacola, Florida. (Hill was executed in September 2003.)

In 2004, Sen. John Kerry accepted the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Boston with a military salute and the declaration: "I'm John Kerry and I'm reporting for duty."

Ten years ago: British Prime Minister Gordon Brown arrived at Camp David in Maryland for a private dinner as well as meetings with President George W. Bush. Tens of thousands of Iraqis celebrated after Iraq beat three-time champion Saudi Arabia 1-0 to take the Asian Cup. Alberto Contador of Spain won the doping-scarred Tour de France. Cal Ripken Jr. and Tony Gwynn took their places in the Baseball Hall of Fame. TV talk show host and newsman Tom Snyder died in San Francisco at age 71. French actor Michel Serrault died at age 79.

Five years ago: Standing on Israeli soil, Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney declared Jerusalem to be the capital of the Jewish state and said the United States had "a solemn duty and a moral imperative" to block Iran from achieving nuclear weapons capability. At the London Olympics, 123-pound North Korean weightlifter Om Yun Chol won a gold medal by lifting a then-Olympic-record 370 pounds in the clean and jerk. Dana Vollmer of the United States set a world record to win the 100-meter butterfly in 55.98 seconds. Yannick Agnel rallied the French to the gold medal in the 4x100-meter freestyle relay in 3 minutes, 9.93 seconds, pulling ahead of American star Ryan Lochte on the final lap. French film director Chris Marker died on his 91st birthday.

One year ago: Pope Francis visited the former Nazi death factory at Auschwitz and Birkenau in southern Poland, meeting with concentration camp survivors as well as aging saviors who helped Jews escape certain doom. Former suburban Chicago police officer Drew Peterson was given an additional 40 years in prison for trying to hire someone to kill the prosecutor who put him behind bars for killing his third wife.

Today's Birthdays: Former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum-Baker is 85. Actor Robert Fuller is 84. Former Sen. Elizabeth H. Dole is 81. Actor David Warner is 76. Actress Roz Kelly is 75. Rock musician Neal Doughty

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(REO Speedwagon) is 71. Marilyn Tucker Quayle, wife of former Vice President Dan Quayle, is 68. Actor Mike Starr is 67. Documentary maker Ken Burns is 64. Style guru Tim Gunn is 64. Rock singer-musician Geddy Lee (Rush) is 64. Rock singer Patti Scialfa (Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band) is 64. Olympic gold medal gymnast Nellie Kim is 60. Actor Kevin Chapman is 55. Actress Alexandra Paul is 54. Actor/comedian Dean Haglund is 52. Country singer Martina McBride is 51. Rock musician Chris Gorman is 50. Actor Rodney Allen Rippey is 49. Actor Tim Omundson is 48. Actor Ato Essandoh is 45. Actor Wil Wheaton is 45. Rhythm-and-blues singer Wanya Morris (Boyz II Men) is 44. Country singer-songwriter James Otto is 44. Actor Stephen Dorff is 44. Actor Josh Radnor is 43. Hip-hop DJ/music producer Danger Mouse is 40. Actress Rachel Miner is 37. Actress Allison Mack is 35. Actress Kaitlyn Black is 34. Actor Matt Prokop is 27.

Thought for Today: "An idea is not responsible for the people who believe in it." — Don Marquis (MAHR-kwihs), American journalist-author (born this date in 1878, died 1937).