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Tuesday, Aug. 1

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken breast, boiled potato, green beans, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Olive Grove: Ladies League, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug 2

Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, macaroni salad, seasoned cabbage, Waldorf salad.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle at 5 p.m.

Thursday, Aug. 3

Senior Menu: Roast turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, baked squash, fresh fruit, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle at 2 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 4

Senior Menu: Baked fish, baked potato, 3-bean sal-

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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Hanlon Brothers
Gravel Hauling

New & Cleaning of
Stockdams with our
60' reach trackhoe

605/395-6531

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“Every moment is
a fresh beginning.”

-T.S. Eliot-



Chicken Soup
for the Soul

Groton Daily Independent

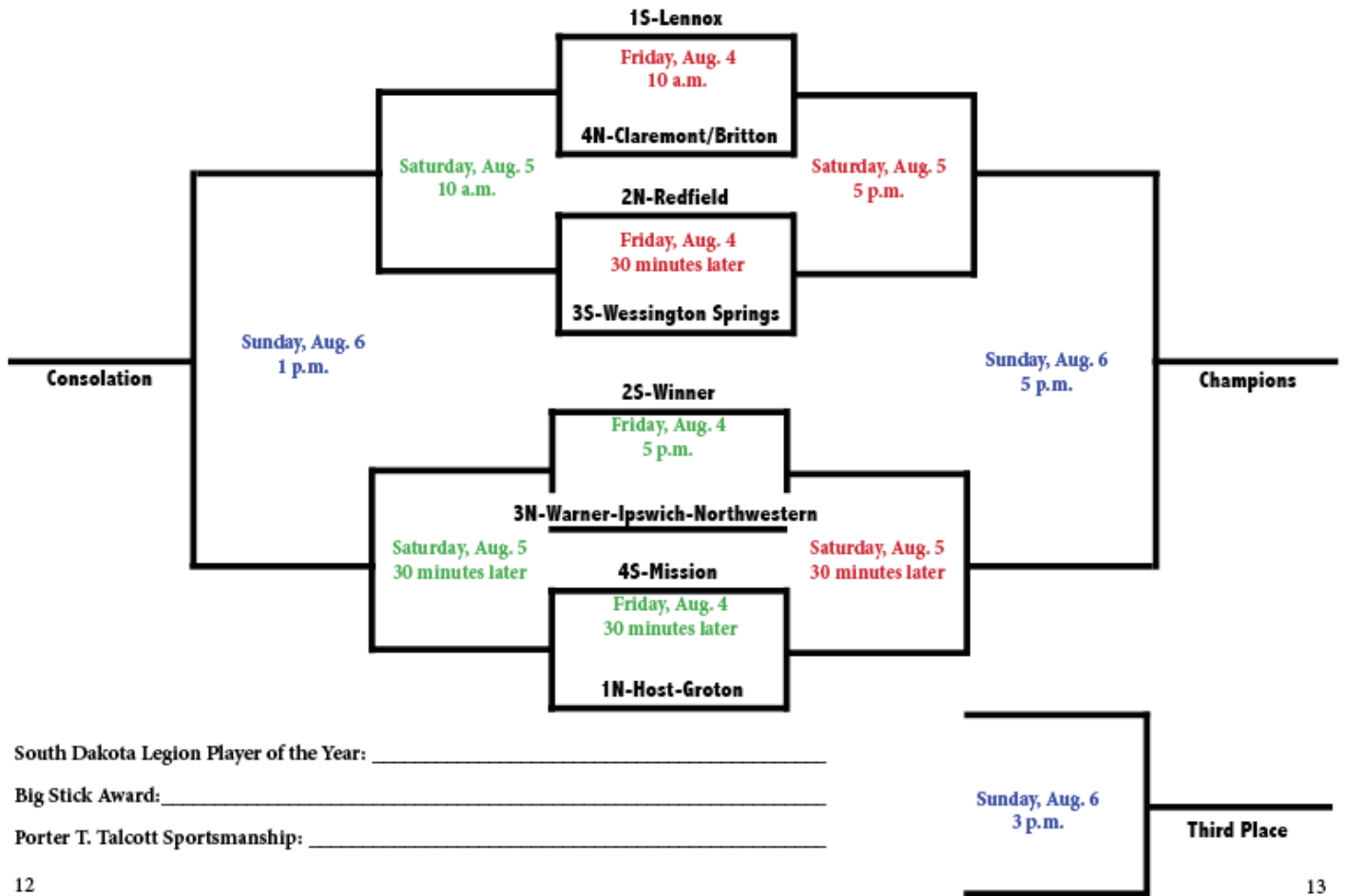
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Three coaches hired Monday afternoon

The Groton Area School Board held a special meeting Monday afternoon to approve the hiring of three coaches. Chance Strom was hired as the head boys soccer coach, Craig Sternhagen was hired as the volunteer assistant boys soccer coach, and Ryan Scepaniak was hired as a junior high football coach.

South Dakota American Legion State "B" Jr Baseball Tournament

Locke-Karst Field, Groton, S.D. ~ August 4 - 6, 2017



South Dakota Legion Player of the Year: _____

Big Stick Award: _____

Porter T. Talcott Sportsmanship: _____

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Northern Division Regional Champions

Groton won the northern half of the American Junior Legion Baseball Tournament held this past weekend. Groton goes into the state tournament as the number one seed for the northern division.

Left to right back row: Alex Morris, Caleb Furney, Grady O'Neill, Austin Jones, Darien Shabazz, Jonathon Doeden, Wyatt Locke, Peyton Johnson, Garrett Schroeder

Left to right front row: Coach Mason Madsen, Caden Kurtz, Corbin Blackmun, Riley Thurston, Anthony Schinkel, Chandler Larson, Hunter Schaller, Asst Coach Tony Madsen (Photo courtesy

Marjae Schinkel)

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State Parks to Host Outdoor Events August 4-6

PIERRE, S.D. – From live music to owl watching, there is an activity for everyone this weekend in South Dakota state parks.

Friday, Aug. 4 – Sunday Aug. 6

Sioux River Folk Festival, Newton Hills State Park, Canton. \$35 for a weekend pass. Info: fotm.org
Saturday, Aug. 5

Halloween at the Ranch, Pierson Ranch Recreation Area, Yankton, 7-10 p.m. CT. Info: 605.668.2985.
Riverman/Riverwoman Sprint Triathlon, Farm Island Recreation Area, Pierre, 7:40 a.m. CT. Info: 605.773.2885.

Lantern Tour, Fort Sisseton Historic State Park, Lake City, 9 p.m. CT. Info: 605.448.5474.

Kayaking For Fun, North Point Recreation Area, Pickstown, 10 a.m. CT. Pre-registration required. Info: 605.487.7046.

Evening with the Owls, Oahe Downstream Recreation Area, Fort Pierre, 8 p.m. CT. Info: 605.223.7722.

Creative Nature Crafts, Oakwood Lakes State Park, Bruce, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. CT. Info: 605.627.5441.

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

-GFP-

Farm Island Triathlon to be Held Saturday

PIERRE, S.D. – Farm Island's Riverman/Riverwoman Sprint Triathlon will be held Saturday, Aug. 5. Registration opens at 6:30 a.m.

A mandatory rules meeting will be held at 7:40 a.m. Participants must be present at the rules meeting in order to compete.

The event costs \$30 for an individual or \$60 for a team. The fee includes a t-shirt.

"The course will be the same as it has been in the past," said event coordinator, Doug Schueller. "It will be just under a half-mile swim, an 18-mile bike on Highway 34 and a three-and-a-half mile run on the island trail."

The competition will be divided into several divisions with separate classes for men, women and teams.

The RiverKid triathlon will be held Aug. 12. There is a \$10 entry fee, and the race is open to kids ages 6-14. Registration for the RiverKid triathlon will be taken until race time.

For more information or a registration form, call Farm Island Recreation Area at 605.773.2885 or visit www.gfp.sd.gov/state-parks/directory/farm-island/.

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SD State Fair to Host Chili Challenge and Pork Butt Battle

HURON, S.D. – The South Dakota State Fair is seeking entries for the Jack’s Campers Chili Challenge and the Pork Butt Battle sponsored by Advanced BioEnergy and South Dakota Pork Producers.

The Jack’s Campers Chili Challenge takes place Friday, Sept. 1, at Horticulture Park. Cooking begins at 8 a.m. with the people’s choice tasting and judging beginning at 1 p.m. The first place team will receive \$225, with \$150 going to second place and \$75 for third place. People’s choice winner will receive \$50. Participants come from all over to compete for the title of best chili.

The Pork Butt Battle, sponsored by South Dakota Pork Producers and Advanced BioEnergy, will also take place Friday, Sept. 1. Cooking begins at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 31. Competitors will cook through the night and the following morning. The people’s choice tasting and judging will take place at 3 p.m. on Friday. Top prize is \$500, with \$225 for second place and \$125 for third place. The people’s choice winner will receive \$100. All winners will receive a trophy.

“These two cook offs are part of the many special events that the State Fair has. The fair offers a fun, competitive, atmosphere and provides added value to fairgoers because the people’s choice judging is open and free to all fairgoers,” said Peggy Besch, State Fair manager.

Rules and entry forms for both cook offs can be found on the South Dakota State Fair website, www.sdstatefair.com, under the Special Events section.

The 2017 South Dakota State Fair will run from Thursday, Aug. 31, through Monday, Sept. 4. Channel Seeds preview night will be Wednesday, Aug. 30. This year’s theme is “Seriously Twisted Fun.” For more information on State Fair events, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit <http://www.sdstatefair.com> or find them on Facebook or Twitter.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota’s economy, generating \$25.6 billion in annual economic activity and employing over 115,000 South Dakotans. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture’s mission is to promote, protect and preserve South Dakota agriculture for today and tomorrow. Visit SDDA online at <http://sdda.sd.gov> or find us on Facebook and Twitter. SD Ag Chat podcasts can be found <http://sdda.sd.gov/news>. You may subscribe to SD Ag Chat, free of charge, through Google Play Music, iTunes or from <https://sdagchat.podbean.com/>.

Sobriety Checkpoints Planned for August

PIERRE, S.D. – More than two dozen sobriety checkpoints are planned for August throughout South Dakota.

The schedule calls for 25 checkpoints in 19 counties. The checkpoints are funded by the Office of Highway Safety and conducted by the Highway Patrol. The checkpoints are designed to discourage people from drinking and then driving

August checkpoints are planned for the counties of Brookings, Brown, Butte, Codington, Davison, Day, Fall River, Hamlin, Hughes, Jackson, Jerauld, Lake, Lawrence, Lyman, Minnehaha, Pennington, Roberts, Stanley and Yankton.

Both the Office of Highway Safety and the Highway Patrol are part of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

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National Pump Prices Hit Six Week High

July 31, 2017 - Today's national average price of a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline is \$2.32. The national average is at its highest price since June 15 and has now increased for 12 of the last 15 days. Pump prices in 47 states and Washington D.C. moved higher on the week, resulting from strong demand, rising exports and declining U.S. crude oil inventory levels.

South Dakota's statewide average today is \$2.30, three cents higher week-over-week and eight cents higher than one year ago.

"As summer moves forward, the days of dropping summer gas prices appear to be behind us for now," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA South Dakota spokesperson. "U.S. crude inventories are moving in the opposite direction of demand – a perfect storm for continued price increases heading into August."

Current Price Averages per Gallon of Regular Gasoline

Sioux Falls – \$2.20, up 13 cents from one month ago ... up 5 cents from 7/31/16

Rapid City – \$2.32, up 7 cents from one month ago ... up 5 cents from 7/31/16

South Dakota – \$2.30, up 5 cents from one month ago ... up 8 cents from 7/31/16

U.S. – \$2.31, up 8 cents from one month ago ... up 19 cents from 7/31/16

Great Lakes and Central States

Prices across these regions have seen significant movement over the past month. States in the region top the list of largest monthly increases: Indiana (+26 cents), Ohio (+20 cents), Michigan (+17 cents) and Kentucky (+15 cents).

The EIA's latest report shows Midwest gasoline inventories dropped by 300,000 bbl, to 32 million bbl last week. Ohio (+10 cents), Michigan (+9 cents), Indiana (+9 cents), Illinois (+6 cents) and Kansas (+6 cents) all topped the list of largest weekly increases. Low inventory and high demand will likely result in continued increases over the coming weeks.

Quick Stats

The nation's top ten least expensive markets are: South Carolina (\$2.02), Alabama (\$2.03), Mississippi (\$2.03), Arkansas (\$2.06), Missouri (\$2.08), Tennessee (\$2.09), Oklahoma (\$2.09), Louisiana (\$2.09), Virginia (\$2.09) and Texas (\$2.10).

The nation's top ten markets with the largest monthly increases include: Indiana (+26 cents), Ohio (+20 cents), Michigan (+17 cents), Kentucky (+15 cents), Florida (+13 cents), Oklahoma (+13 cents), South Carolina (+11 cents), Kansas (+11 cents), Washington, D.C (+10 cents) and Delaware (+10 cents).

Oil Market Dynamics

The price per barrel of crude continues to push higher, with West Texas Intermediate approaching the \$50 line today after increasing 67 cents to hit \$49.71 on Friday. The rally comes amid news that OPEC and non-OPEC nations will meet in Abu Dhabi on August 7 and 8. Their discussion will focus on why some countries participating in the production cut agreement, which is in place until the end of March, 2018, are failing to meet their agreed targets. Compliance has become a major issue for the agreement, as rising production from OPEC and non-OPEC member countries has prevented the agreement from having a larger impact on rebalancing the global market. Moreover, at a meeting last Monday, Saudi Arabia stated its plans to limit crude exports to 6.6 million barrels per day in August, about 1 million bpd below the level last year. Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates also agreed to cut exports, addressing rising fears in the market that growth in production and exports from member countries may be undercutting the cartel's efforts to restrict supplies and raise prices in the global market.

EIA reported a 7.2 million barrel drop in U.S. crude inventories for the week ending on July 21 – a much higher number than expected. However, according to Baker Hughes, Inc.'s latest rig count, the U.S. added two oil rigs, bringing the record-high total to 766. All of the news has given investors mixed signals on where the market is heading, putting greater pressure on OPEC to enhance compliance and reduce exports. The needle may move in favor of higher crude prices this week, which will contribute to rising gas prices. If crude prices continue to push upward, drivers are likely to see it reflected at the pump.

Motorists can find current gas prices along their route with the free AAA Mobile app for iPhone, iPad, and Android. The app can also be used to map a route, find discounts, book a hotel, and access AAA roadside assistance. Learn more at AAA.com/mobile.

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South Dakota journalists concerned about 'fake news'

By Dana Hess

For the South Dakota Newspaper Association



Fake news was the topic of a panel discussion at the Freeman Chautauqua on Saturday. Journalists taking part in the panel included, from the left, moderator Tim Waltner of the Freeman Courier; David Bordewyk, executive director of the South Dakota Newspaper Association; Jeremy Waltner, publisher of the Freeman Courier; Jonathan Ellis, investigative reporter for Argus Leader Media; Cara Hetland, news director for South Dakota Public Radio; Karen Sherman, strategic content manager for KELO-TV; and Teri Finneman, journalism professor at South Dakota State University. (SDNA photo)

FREEMAN — Practicing even better journalism will counter critics who label news stories they don't agree with as "fake news."

That was part of the message more than 60 people heard Saturday afternoon at the Freeman Chautauqua from a panel of South Dakota journalists discussing the challenges represented by the label fake news.

"I think journalists are going to get better," said Cara Hetland, news director of South Dakota Public Radio. She said journalists need to hear from more people like former Gov. Bill Janklow who was noted for holding reporters accountable if he didn't agree with their reporting.

Hetland said journalists had to have their facts straight "when you got that 1 a.m. phone call from the governor."

Journalists could help the public be more media literate if they were more open and transparent about how they write their stories, according to David Bordewyk, executive director of the South Dakota Newspaper Association.

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"If we do more of that," Bordewyk said, "it will go a long way to debunking fake news."

The proliferation of fake news would slow if people would think before they share items on Facebook, according to Teri Finneman, a journalism professor at South Dakota State University. Finneman said she has faced hostility in the past from Facebook friends when she has pointed out that the posts they were sharing were untrue.

"People don't want to be told that what they believe isn't right," Finneman said. "They get their fur up a little bit and get defensive."

Finneman started the panel discussion by talking about the history of fake news, which she said falls into two categories: stories that are actually false and the more recent development of critics labeling stories as fake when they don't agree with the content.

The first publication of a fake news story, according to Finneman, was in 1708 when Jonathan Swift wrote about the prediction of an astrologer's death and followed that story with another falsely reporting that the prediction had come true. That story, as well as others by Benjamin Franklin, Edgar Allen Poe and Mark Twain, while false, were meant to be educational.

"They were trying to point out how gullible people were," Finneman said.

She credited the advent of the Internet for the proliferation of fake news stories.

"The rise of social media has played a tremendous role in that," Finneman said.

Panelists emphasized that the news outlets they work for need to verify their facts before they publish or broadcast a story. The same standards don't apply for some websites or social media posts.

"We have to verify information before it's published," Finneman said.

The journalism professor advised people who question the veracity of what they read on the Internet to visit politifact.com, the fact checker at washingtonpost.com or snopes.com to see if it's true.

Cable news talk shows often blur the line between news and opinion. Bordewyk said it's not uncommon for a political operative to quit that job and go to work the next day as a TV pundit.

"Are you a newsperson now?" Bordewyk asked. "I'm confused."

According to Hetland, shows that mix news and opinion are the result of cable TV's 24-hour news cycle.

"That's part of the problem with the 24-hour news cycle," Hetland said, "we have to fill it."

Jonathan Ellis, an investigative reporter for Argus Leader Media, had a dire prediction about fake news: "I think it's only going to get worse."

Ellis noted an increase in journalism jobs on the East and West Coasts, areas noted for being liberal. As an example, he said cultural values in those areas could color the reporting on topics like firearms ownership.

While national news organizations are often on the receiving end of the fake news label, notably from President Donald Trump, it has worked its way into South Dakota.

Jeremy Waltner, publisher of the Freeman Courier, said a reader labeled as fake news his reporting about a school board decision to ask for a property tax opt out.

While he had once "scoffed" at fake news as a problem for larger news outlets, now "It's in my inbox," Waltner said. "This is having an impact, folks, on everybody."

South Dakotans who work in the media are hurt when they hear their profession dismissed as fake news, said Bordewyk, who works for an association representing 127 weekly and daily newspapers in the state.

"For those of us who are in the industry, we take it personally," Bordewyk said, noting that media outlets are like any other business in that they put people to work and pay taxes. "It is a big issue and it's local."

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By Richard P. Holm M.D.

A Native American Hero

We all need a hero. Whether that person is a religious figure, a parent, a favorite teacher, or a movie star, it's human nature to need someone to serve as a mentor, a champion, or a model for living.

This is a story about someone you may not have heard of, but can definitely serve as an example for us all. Charles Eastman MD, also named Ohiyesa (pronounced oh-ee-suh), which means "winner", was born in 1862 in an Native American village near Redwood Falls, MN. His

mother died during childbirth, but he would go on to have a normal youth within the Native American culture.

Ohiyesa began a formal education when his father enrolled him into the missionary school in Flandreau, SD. He was a bright young man, who after his schooling moved on to Dartmouth college in Nebraska, Wisconsin. Eventually, he would attend medical school in Boston, graduating in 1890.

Doctor Eastman first practiced medicine in South Dakota at Pine Ridge and later at the Crow Creek Reservations. He was one of the first Native American physicians to practice scientific based medicine on a reservation, and was even eyewitness to both the events leading up to and following the Wounded Knee Massacre of December 29, 1890.

Eastman went on to champion Native American rights, became a Washington lobbyist for the Dakota Sioux, and was assigned by Teddy Roosevelt, and later Calvin Coolidge, to several tribal responsibilities.

He wrote about his Native American boyhood, as well as his medical and political experiences, providing a marvelous and unique two-world perspective. But most endearing, perhaps, was how Charles Eastman helped establish more than 30 Native American YMCA groups. He would later help Ernest Seton of the Woodcraft Indians, and Daniel Beard of the Sons of Daniel Boone, to found the Boy Scouts of America.

This Native American physician, organizer, writer, and child-advocate was a native son, a real-life hero, and an example for us all.

I-29 Exit 132 Southbound On-Ramp Closure

BROOKINGS, S.D. – The southbound on-ramp at I-29 Exit 132 near Brookings will close for about 21 calendar days. The closure is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017.

Closure of the ramp will allow crews to regrade and pave the ramp. Signs will be in place routing traffic to Exit 133.

Traffic is also reminded that the newly completed north side of the intersection of 25th Avenue and 6th Street is a right in, right out intersection and therefore left turns onto and off the north side of the intersection are not allowed.

The public is invited to attend weekly meetings to discuss progress and sequencing.

Meetings will be held every Thursday at 9 a.m. at the Department of Transportation building located at 2131 34th Ave. in Brookings.

Interim completion for the project is Nov. 3, 2017, which includes Phases 0-2. Overall field completion date is June 30, 2018, which includes Phase 3.

The prime contractor on this \$16.37 million project is BX Civil & Construction of Dell Rapids.

For complete road construction information, visit www.safetravelusa.com, call 511 or visit the webpage for this project on <http://www.sddot.com/travelers/projects/6thStBrkgs/default.aspx>.

Twitter: @SouthDakotaDOT #6thStBrookings

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S.D. High School Honors Choir taking place next week at NSU

ABERDEEN, S.D. – The 44th annual South Dakota High School Honors Choir is taking place July 30-Aug. 4 at Northern State University.

The Honors Choir, presented by the South Dakota American Choral Directors' Association, brings 150 auditioned high school students together for a week of intensive singing at a choral camp.

The event culminates with a concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 4, in NSU's Johnson Fine Arts Center Harvey and Cynthia Jewett Theater.

Guest Conductor is Dr. Sharon A. Hansen, emerita professor of conducting and choral music at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Retired NSU music faculty member Dr. Allan Jacobson is accompanist.

A list of participating students is below.

Sopranos: Taysia Aasen, Sioux Falls Washington; Kailena Anderson, Platte-Geddes; Brenna Becker, Yankton; Malory Beckler, Aberdeen Central; Leah Berdahl, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Ella Blair, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Allyssa Bohannon, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Joanna Boll, Elkton; Tessie Braga-Henebry, Brookings; Abby Burbach, Vermillion; Issy DeWitt, Brandon Valley; Alexis Fleming, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Nicole Gerdes, Homeschool; Samantha Gortmaker, Pierre T.F. Riggs; Kaylee Gross, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Brittani Hofer, Huron; Hannah Johnson, Aberdeen Central; Peyton Johnson, Aberdeen Central; Emily C Kirschenman, Freeman; Grace Kjelden, Vermillion; Katrina Kramer, SF Lincoln; Maggie Lynch, O'Gorman; Aislynn Manley, Sioux Falls Washington; Margaret L Meierhenry, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Halie Mueller, O'Gorman; Lauren Nelson, Sioux Falls Washington; Elizabeth Nesland, Rapid City Stevens; Annika Paulsen, Harrisburg; Carolyn Rayhons, Sioux Falls Christian; Alannah Rien, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Kristen Schmidt, Brookings; Elisabeth Schwenn, Milbank; **AnneMarie Smith, Groton Area**; Claire Sorenson, O'Gorman; Gracie Swanson, Chamberlain; Claire Trautman, Huron; Tryntje Versteeg, Sioux Falls Roosevelt.

Altos: Kjerstin Aspaas, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Sarah Barnica, Timber Lake; Lily Becker, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Jamie Bitz, Sioux Falls Washington; Miranda Bok, Dakota Valley; Anna J Boldt, Madison; Rebekah Bonnemann, Brookings; Kelsey Brenna, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Riley P Caldwell, Brookings; Annie Carlson, Freeman Academy; Victoria Cass, Yankton; Sarah Christenson, Huron; Madeline Comstock, Aberdeen Central; Annie Denison, Sioux Valley; Abbey Falconer, Sioux Falls Lincoln; **Ashley Garduno, Groton Area**; Symmone Gauer, Aberdeen Central; Haley Haas, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Savannah Heeren, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Sylvia Kattner, Huron; Anna Klocke, Tea Area; Arden Koenecke, T.F. Riggs; Deryn Lewis, Aberdeen Central; Calli Mah, Mitchell; Laurie Marmorstein, Aberdeen Central; Taylor McCoy, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Caitlyn Nielson, Brookings; Morgan O'Neal, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Madeline Paul, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Abbigayle Quinn, Faulkton; Elizabeth Riley, Yankton; Anna Robinson, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Taylor Thue, Milbank; Carli Tomac, O'Gorman; Abby Turner, Miller; Emma Rose Volk, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Karissa West, Lennox

Tenors: Cody Bevers, Miller; Benjamin Brenholt, Tea Area; Ashton Burke, Chamberlain; Jos, Carr, Yankton; Murphy Cauble, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Rylan Craig, Vermillion; Gabe Douvier, Mitchell Christian; Keegan Dykstra, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Andrew Falk, Milbank; Samuel Falk, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Mason Ferner, Dakota Valley; Anthony Finnell, Lennox; Steve Holt, Sioux Valley; Jacob Hotchkiss, Huron; Isaiah Jallow, Elk Point-Jefferson; Andrew Jensen, Dakota Valley; Gabriel Kanta, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Braeden Kluver, Watertown; Noah Kutter, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Adam Lange, Yankton; Dylan Larsen, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Alex Maas, Dakota Christian; Blake Mitchell, Watertown; Matthew Mundt, Rapid City Stevens; Eric Nelson, Elk Point-Jefferson; Johnny Nguyen, Gregory; Ryan Olson, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Milton Padilla, Sioux Falls Washington; Tommy Redig, Chamberlain; Shay Saarie, Freeman; Riley Salzman, Sioux Falls Washington; Mason Schlunsen, Tea Area; Gage Sigl, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Jacob Smilloff, Aberdeen Central; Hudson Wagner, Sioux Valley; Blake Wieseler, Yankton

Basses: David Berman, O'Gorman; Spencer Christensen, Rapid City Stevens; Izaak Colgrove, Spearfish; Curtis Cornish, Sioux Falls Washington; Zachary Dempsey, Rapid City Stevens; Marshall Elkin, Brandon Valley; Jackson Fischer, Sioux Falls Lincoln; Camren Fletcher, Aberdeen Central; **Tylan Glover, Groton Area**; Keaton Hagen, Milbank; Madison Hansen, Viborg-Hurley; Benjamin Harstad, Milbank; Taite Heinz, Dakota Valley; **Mitchell Koens, Groton Area**; Jonas Kulzer, Brandon Valley; Nathan Loutsch, Milbank; Kaleb McConnell, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; Erik Merkle, Rapid City Stevens; Austin Meyer, Sioux Falls Lincoln; James Miller, Elk Point-Jefferson; Marvin Moser, O'Gorman; Justin Nordstrom, Sioux Falls Lincoln; David Park, Brookings; Owen Phillips, Yankton; Chase Pinkert, Milbank; Jordan Riley, Milbank; Benjamin Scaturro, Sioux Falls Lincoln; James Slattery, Sioux Falls Washington; Mathew Smith, Brookings; Trevor Sprik, Platte-Geddes; Shawn Stemsrud, Milbank; Connor Stubbe, Aberdeen Central; Adam Thomas, Milbank; Thomas Thvedt, Brookings; Evan Walicke, Sioux Falls Roosevelt; John, Walker, O'Gorman; Stephen Waltner, Freeman Academy; Jacob Weber, Brookings

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KRISTI NOEM
REPRESENTATIVE FROM SOUTH DAKOTA



Pushing Forward

We're a little over six months into President Trump's first term, and regardless of what national pundits might say, the House has been systematically ticking through a conservative, pro-growth agenda. Altogether, we've passed more than 250 bills, a handful of which have been proposals I wrote. President Trump has signed more than 40 of these bills into law – more so than many presidents at this point in their administration.

One of the largest areas of success – and least reported accomplishments – has been on the de-regulation front. Through the Congressional Review Act, Congress has the authority to repeal regulations. Prior to 2017, however, the provision had been used successfully just once. But this year, we've passed more than a dozen provisions under the Congressional Review Act that, when taken together, have saved hardworking Americans billions of dollars.

As we've reduced regulations and outlined pro-growth policies, the economy has reacted with hundreds of thousands of new jobs. Alongside economic development, I've fought for greater workforce development, helping the House pass the Strengthening Career and Technical Education Act, which would expand our commitments to vocational and technical education training.

At the same time, we've put America's national security first. A year ago, we had an administration that prioritized climate change over terrorism and refused to call our enemies out for what they are: radical Islamic terrorists. Those attitudes have changed, as has our allocation of resources. Earlier this summer, for instance, I helped the House pass an annual defense bill that offered our troops a 2.4 percent pay raise (the biggest increase in eight years). The legislation also boosted end strength and provided needed aircraft, ships and systems. Additionally, we maintained the commitments made to our ally, Israel.

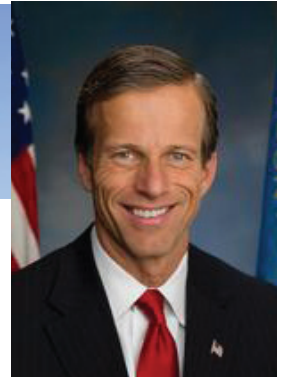
On the border, we've seen illegal crossings decrease by 60 percent. Much of this is due to a tougher U.S. stance. I was proud to help the House pass Kate's Law, which created harsher penalties for those who repeatedly cross the border illegally. We also passed legislation to crack down on sanctuary cities by withholding certain federal grants. Moreover, I'm supporting another bill that would go even further, deploying additional personnel and new technologies to the border.

The House has also passed legislation to repeal Obamacare and replace it with patient-centered solutions. We approved more than a dozen bills to combat human trafficking in our communities. We passed legislation offering the resources necessary to build a strong border wall, invest in our military, and stop the EPA's controversial Waters of the U.S. rule. And we ok'd the bipartisan Presidential Library Donation Reform Act, which would help eliminate the secrecy surrounding some donations to organizations like the William J. Clinton Foundation.

Despite the House's action on these items, the Senate has faced repeated delays and distractions from their Democratic colleagues, making similar progress difficult.

This isn't to say the House doesn't still have work to do. I continue to drive progress on reforming our tax system in a way that simplifies the code; promotes economic growth for businesses, families and individuals; and holds the IRS more accountable. I am working closely with the House Agriculture Committee to develop the next Farm Bill. I'm also working on legislation to combat poverty and promote financial independence and upward mobility, while fighting for fundamental changes to the way the Indian Health Service operates. We need to make progress on driving down spending and getting our budget on track as well. But I am not about to slow down. We need to keep pushing forward.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



The President Needs a Full Roster

I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Christopher Wray. He was nominated by the president to serve as the next director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Christopher is eager to get to work leading the thousands of dedicated men and women at the FBI who work hard to protect the United States every single day. While I'm confident Christopher would report to the Hoover Building tomorrow if he could, my Democrat colleagues have unnecessarily dragged their feet on his and other nominations.

Hundreds of presidential nominees like Christopher must first come before the Senate for vetting, a committee hearing, and ultimately consideration on the Senate floor. This is an important and centuries-old Constitutional process – one that I don't take lightly. Many of these nominees come through the committee I chair, the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. We've worked hard to process as many of them as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

The Senate's duty to provide its advice and consent is critical and should be timely. Yes, it's important for the president to have his team place, but it's more important for these federal agencies to be staffed-up because of the work they do for the American people. These are the folks who help "keep the trains running" at agencies like the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture and help protect the United States at the U.S. Departments of Defense and Homeland Security.

Unfortunately, my Democrat colleagues have ground the confirmation process on the Senate floor nearly to halt – not because they have problems with the qualifications of the nominees, but because they think they're punishing the president. Again, it's ultimately the American people who pay the price when federal agencies don't have the right people in place to deliver the services and safeguards upon which so many folks rely.

To put it in real terms, as of July 25, only 55 of President Trump's nominees, which include judges and administration officials, had been confirmed by the Senate, and more than half of those nominees had to overcome unnecessary filibusters. During that same period of time in 2009, President Obama had more than 200 nominees confirmed. With respect to cabinet nominees, by the end of January 2017, President Trump had just three of his cabinet secretaries confirmed. By the end of January 2009, the Senate had confirmed 10 of President Obama's cabinet secretaries.

This is obstruction for the sake of obstruction. I hope my Democrat colleagues realize sooner rather than later that it's just as important for this president to have a full roster in his administration as it was for the last president. The American people deserve it.

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Government-Run Health Care Does Not Work

Comprehensive health care reform is necessary to relieve American families from our current failing health care system. Following recent votes in the Senate, it's clear that reforming our health care system is no easy task. However, I remain committed to working with my colleagues toward a solution. We believe affordable health care is best achieved through a competitive, market-based system that allows for innovation, competition and optionality.

In the quest to address Obamacare's failures, some have been advocating for a single-payer, government-run health care system in which health care is provided for every single citizen for free and financed by taxes. Care is rationed, and citizens cede their health care decisions to a central government bureaucracy. Additionally, the cost makes it unsustainable for future generations. Either taxes – which are already too high – will continue to skyrocket in order to pay for universal care, our debt will spiral even further out of control, or both. Our ability to make decisions for ourselves and our families will suffer. Bureaucrats don't like taking advice.

And we have many examples to substantiate this: In the U.S., California and Vermont recently tried to implement universal health care at the state level; both were abandoned as quickly as they were enacted due to its cost. In Canada, long wait times in their single-payer system are the norm. According to a Fraser Institute report, British Columbia residents have to wait up to six months just to get an MRI. Ontario's own Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care states that residents may have to wait up to 11 months for hip replacement surgery. Drove of Canadians seek care here in the U.S., at an additional cost to their already-high taxes to pay for government-run health care. Across Europe, where universal health care is prevalent, the cost to governments for this care is exploding, contributing to rising national debts. But instead of increasing taxes, which oftentimes are already over 50 percent of one's income, governments are slowing down care to curb the cost, and innovation is stymied.

Here in the U.S., the federal government has proved inept at running any large, nationwide program effectively, especially when it comes to health care. Look no further than Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) for proof. While there are good employees in South Dakota at both agencies, nationwide these programs have been plagued with decades of long wait times, bureaucratic mismanagement, corruption and – most importantly – providing inadequate quality of care to Americans. In some cases, patients have even died waiting for care. Meanwhile, administrative costs have skyrocketed, wasting countless taxpayer dollars on paperwork instead of focusing on patient care.

I wholeheartedly believe that everyone should have access to quality health care if they want it. No one should be priced out of health insurance for themselves or their families. But forcing all Americans onto a costly, ineffective system that will reduce the quality of care and making them surrender all control of their health care decisions to the federal government is not the answer. America is home to the best health care providers in the world, due to a free market system that allows for innovation and competition. Replacing Obamacare with a competitive, free-market system that actually controls costs, allows for innovation and focuses on the patient will allow us to continue our proud tradition of being the world's health leader.

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No Better Place to Live and Work

When people around the country think about South Dakota, the first image that comes to mind is probably Mount Rushmore. Though we're proud to be the home of Gutzon Borglum's masterpiece, the truth is that we are much more than the stone-carved presidential tribute. South Dakota is a great place to live and work.

First, we have a very low unemployment rate at 3 percent, compared to the national rate of 4.4 percent. We are a state of hard workers and productivity of our workers is high. In fact, many multi-state employers with locations in South Dakota tell us their South Dakota location is their most productive.

Second, the tax burden in South Dakota is low. We are among only a few states without an income tax. We also have no corporate income tax, no business inventory tax, no personal property tax and no inheritance tax. This puts more money in the pockets of our businesses and citizens, creating a more favorable environment for growth.

Third, not only do people keep more of the money they earn in South Dakota, but that money will buy more here than in other places. Type "Regional Price Parity" into your web browser, and you will find the U.S. Department of Commerce report which shows South Dakota is among the states that experience the lowest cost of living. We don't spend as much money on housing, insurance, food and the other everyday needs.

Now some people will say, "There may a low tax burden and low cost of living, but I won't get paid as much if I live in South Dakota." Actually, when it comes to per capita personal income, we fare pretty well. Nationally, we rank in the top half and we do better than states like Texas and Florida. If you adjust the per capita personal income to consider the low cost of living and the lack of income taxes, we rank sixth in the nation.

A person who earns \$45,000 annually in South Dakota is actually better off than the person living in New York or Los Angeles who makes \$65,000 per year. When factoring in after-tax wages and cost of living, the South Dakotan who makes \$20,000 less still has a greater purchasing power.

Beyond the financial reasons, though, South Dakota is a great place to live because we have a good quality of life here. Our communities are safe, our schools are high-quality and our people are friendly. We also have clean air, beautiful scenery and wonderful recreational opportunities.

I know I'm lucky to have spent most of my life in South Dakota. In fact, it took a multi-year absence from the state to help me realize just how lucky I am and how good we have it here. Now I wouldn't trade this place, with its wide open spaces and down-to-earth people, for anything.



Kiwanis News

Lee Schinkel introduced his guest, Rev. Josh Jetto (pictured), new pastor for Groton's CMA church, at Kiwanis Club, on Wednesday. Pastor Jetto, wife, and five small children just moved to Groton.

Josh spoke to Kiwanis on his family, past experiences in the ministry, and his schooling.

North Central Farmers Elevator and Wheat Growers to Revisit Justification for Possible Unification

The Boards of Directors at North Central Farmers Elevator and Wheat Growers have each approved revisiting the unification opportunity that was considered by the cooperatives two years ago.

According to a joint announcement, over the next two weeks the two boards are inviting feedback from their members and re-examining the extensive study done previously to refresh the data, benefits and opportunities of a potential unification. Following that period, both boards will determine whether to proceed to a vote of their respective memberships.

The two cooperatives noted that this decision comes in response to changes in the ag economy and marketplace dynamics that are challenging farmer and cooperative profitability. Meanwhile, the potential advantages of a unification that were identified previously may still exist, even more so today given all of the market changes and pressures.

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Today in Weather History

August 1, 1978: A severe thunderstorm developed in west central Beadle County during the afternoon hours and moved southeast. High winds near 80 mph and hail up to golf ball size pelted several counties along the storm path. Hail piled up to six inches deep and up to three feet in ditches. Hail remained visible in some areas up to thirty-six hours after the storm passed. Approximately 480,000 acres of crops were severely damaged or destroyed. Damage to crops and personal property were estimated to be nearly four million dollars.

August 1, 2000: A severe thunderstorm produced large hail up to golf ball size and damaging winds estimated at 90 to 110 mph across northeastern Wyoming and western South Dakota during the evening hours. The northern foothills of the Black Hills and the communities of Spearfish and Sturgis received the brunt of the storm. Considerable F0 and F1 wind damage (90 to 110 mph) occurred in and around Spearfish. The strong winds blew down trees, business and road signs, and damaged tents for the 60th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, destroying vendor merchandise and mobile homes.

1954 - Mount Rainier in Washington State was still covered with sixteen inches of snow at the 5500 foot level following a big snow season. (David Ludlum)

1983: During the early afternoon hours, a strong microburst swept across Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. Although the base anemometer was not calibrated at extreme wind speeds, the peak gust hit 149 mph. It was reported that Air Force One, with President Reagan on board, landed less than 10 minutes before the peak gust.

1985 - A nearly stationary thunderstorm deluged Cheyenne, WY, with rain and hail. Six inches of rain fell in six hours producing the most damaging flash flood of record for the state. Two to five feet of hail covered the ground following the storm, which claimed twelve lives, and caused 65 million dollars property damage. (Storm Data)

1986 - A powerful thunderstorm produced 100 mph winds and large hail in eastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri causing 71 million dollars damage, and injuring nineteen persons. It was one of the worst thunderstorms of record for Kansas. Crops were mowed to the ground in places and roofs blown off buildings along its path, 150 miles long and 30 miles wide, from near Abilene to southeast of Pittsburg. (The Weather Channel)



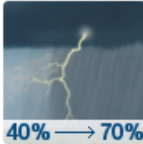




1987 - Record heat gripped parts of the Midwest. A dozen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Lincoln, NE, with a reading of 105 degrees, Moline, IL, with an afternoon high of 103 degrees, and Burlington, IA, with a reading of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Two dozen cities in the Upper Midwest reported record high temperatures for the date, including La Crosse WI with a reading of 105 degrees. Highs of 103 degrees at Milwaukee, WI, and South Bend, IN, were records for the month of August. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Chantal made landfall along the Upper Texas coast about sunrise. Chantal deluged parts of Galveston Island and southeastern Texas with 8 to 12 inches of rain. Unofficial totals ranged up to twenty inches. Winds gusted to 82 mph at Galveston, and reached 76 mph in the Houston area. Tides were 5 to 7 feet high. The hurricane claimed two lives, and caused 100 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	40% → 70% Chance T-storms then T-storms Likely	50% Chance T-storms	Partly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny
High: 85 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 74 °F	Low: 53 °F	High: 73 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 76 °F

Today

Thunderstorms possible this afternoon and evening, mainly along and west of the Missouri River. Highs temperatures the 80s.

Severe Weather Outlook Tuesday, August 01, 2017

Last Updated: Aug 01 2017 12:49 AM CDT
Valid Until: Aug 02 2017 07:00 AM CDT




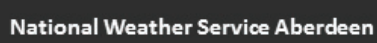


Wednesday

Potential for widespread showers and thunderstorms

High temperatures in the 70s.

Severe Weather Outlook Wednesday, August 02, 2017

Last Updated: Aug 02 2017 07:00 AM CDT
Valid Until: Aug 03 2017 07:00 AM CDT

Published on: 08/01/2017 at 4:37AM

Showers and thunderstorms are possible this afternoon and evening, mainly along and west of the Missouri River. A frontal boundary will slide through on Wednesday, bringing a better chance for the entire area to see measurable precipitation, along with cooler temperatures.

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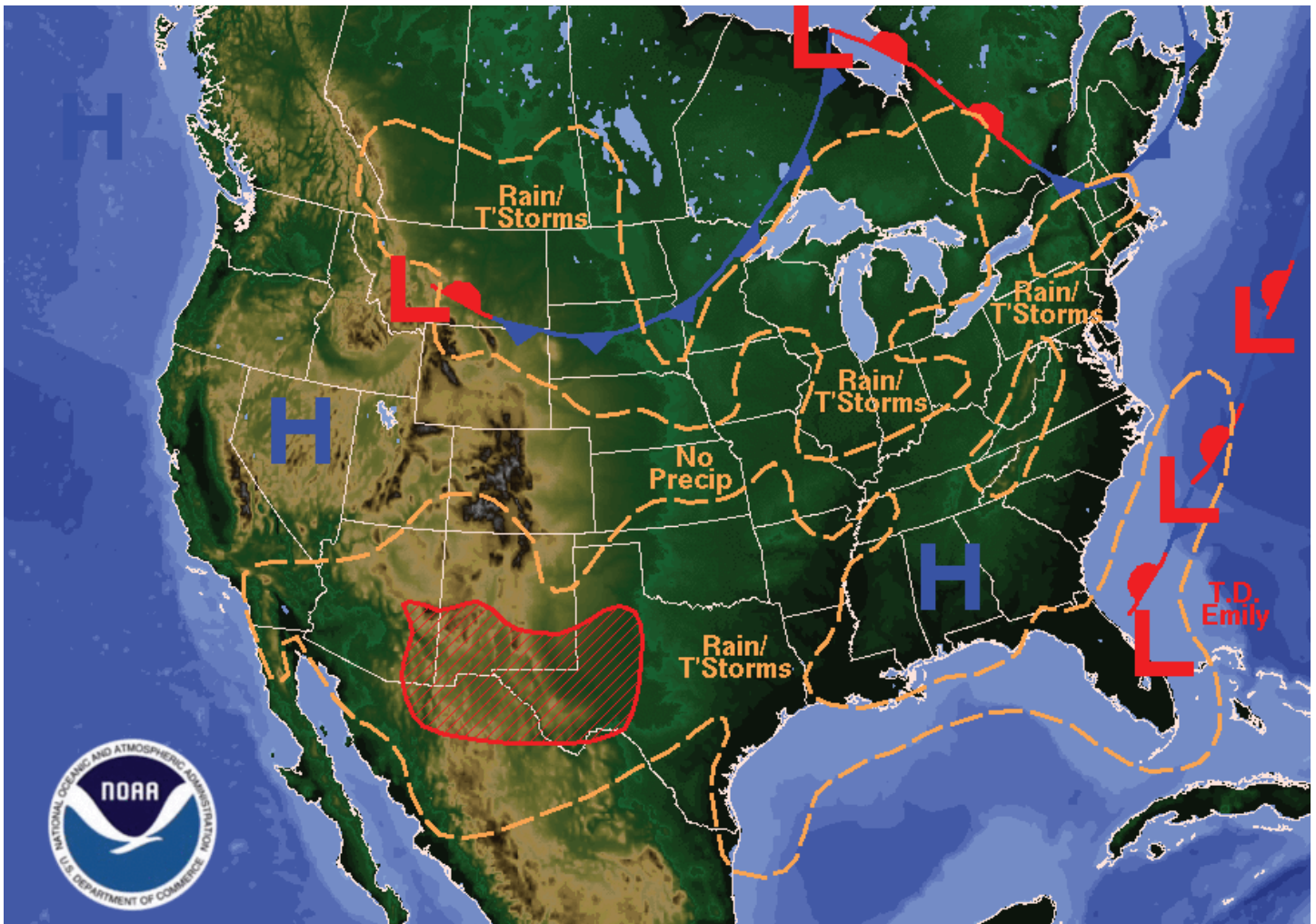
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 86.4 F at 6:20 PM
Low Outside Temp: 63.5 F at 6:17 AM
High Gust: 20.0 Mph at 1:11 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 111° in 1900
Record Low: 44° in 1948
Average High: 84°F
Average Low: 59°F
Average Precip in Aug: 0.08
Precip to date in Aug: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 13.86
Precip Year to Date: 7.35
Sunset Tonight: 9:01 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:19 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Tue, Aug 01, 2017, issued 4:51 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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WHO IS MY SHEPHERD?

Yahweh is my Shepherd are the first words of Psalm 23. These words announce the protection and provisions of a personal God. The emphasis is on the fact that Yahweh – the Creator of the universe – recognizes me as an individual and wants me to speak His name and call on Him for my deepest and most personal needs.

Often when we worship we speak of our God. And He is indeed our God. We come together as believers to worship and praise Him. But David, who once was a lonely shepherd watching his flock, wants us to know that this Shepherd takes a personal interest in the individual needs of each sheep in His flock. Sheep are, perhaps, the most dependent of all animals and cannot survive without the care and constant attention of the shepherd. If any of his sheep have any need at any time, the shepherd is available, night or day, ready and able to meet every and any need of his sheep.

Most of us would not want to depend on anyone for everything the way sheep depend on their shepherd. But Yahweh, our Creator, wants us to depend on Him that way. Why? It keeps us close to Him and makes us rely on Him for all things. He proves our faith and trust in Him and on Him and not ourselves.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to look to You and trust in You to meet our every need in life. May we recognize how blest we are to have You as our personal Shepherd. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

News from the **AP** Associated Press

FBI: Men who spotted polygamous leader will split reward

By **BRADY McCOMBS**, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A pair of pawn shop workers who provided a key tip that helped authorities capture a fugitive polygamous sect leader will split a \$50,000 reward from the FBI, the agency revealed Monday.

The FBI commended the men for writing down the license plate of the truck that Lyle Jeffs was driving when he stopped to sell tools and didn't take off his hat and sunglasses.

Jeffs was arrested last month in a lakeside area near the South Dakota-Nebraska border after a year on the lam.

The men, whose names were withheld by the FBI to protect their privacy, will split the reward based on their level of assistance.

Kevin Haug, owner of River City Treasures and Pawn in Yankton, South Dakota, said he understands that he and a former employee are the recipients but was awaiting confirmation from the FBI.

Haug said he plans to use his portion of the reward to pay for college for two sons who are studying at the University of Nebraska. One plans to be a high school teacher and the other a mechanical engineer.

Haug downplayed his role in the arrest, saying he "just made a phone call."

He said his role made him well-known in Yankton and forced him to talk with a lot of people. But he's not complaining.

"Free advertising is free advertising," he said.

He said the employee who became suspicious and went online to learn the identity of the customer has since quit over safety concerns.

The FBI offered the reward after Jeffs escaped from home confinement in Salt Lake City a year ago while awaiting trial in a food-stamp fraud case. Leads from the public led nowhere until Jeffs stopped at the pawn shop to sell two sets of pliers.

An off-duty Yankton police detective arrested Jeffs after spotting him going into a bathroom at a marina-resort on picturesque Lewis and Clark Lake.

Authorities believe Jeffs had been in the area for about two weeks living out of his truck.

He's a member of a group known as the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, based in a small community on the Utah-Arizona border.

The group is an offshoot of mainstream Mormonism, which disavowed polygamy more than 100 years ago.

Jeffs is back in custody in Utah and facing up to 10 years in prison if convicted on a failure-to-appear charge. Counts of benefits fraud and money laundering carry possible 5- and 10-year sentences.



In this Aug. 4, 2011, file photo, Lyle Jeffs, brother of polygamous religious leader Warren Jeffs, arrives carrying a box of defense materials in the sexual assault trial against Warren at the Tom Green County Courthouse in San Angelo, Texas. A pair of pawn shop workers who provided a key tip that helped authorities capture Lyle Jeffs will split a \$50,000 reward from the FBI, the agency revealed Monday, July 31, 2017. (AP Photo/

Tony Gutierrez, File)

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Rainfall brings little relief to South Dakota farmers

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Rainfall last week has brought little relief to South Dakota farmers and ranchers. According to the federal government's weekly crop report, scattered showers and thunderstorms brought needed moisture to some areas. But rainfall totals varied widely, leaving some areas with little or no precipitation. And while soil moisture ratings improved slightly, soil moisture remains mainly short to very short statewide.

Nearly 80 percent of topsoil moisture supplies were rated short or very short.

South Dakota's spring wheat harvest of 82 percent complete is a little behind last year's pace of 86 percent but well ahead of the five-year average of 63 percent.

Pasture and range conditions are rated 41 percent very poor, 30 poor, 18 percent fair and 11 percent good.

South Dakota deputy shoots man during warrant check

BOX ELDER, S.D. (AP) — Pennington County authorities say a deputy shot and wounded a man during a warrant check.

The shooting happened in Box Elder on Monday afternoon. The man was taken to Rapid City Regional Hospital with what appears to be non-life-threatening injuries. The deputy was not hurt.

The incident will be investigated by the state Division of Criminal Investigation with help from the Rapid City Police Department and the Box Elder Police Department.

South Dakota drought shows far-reaching consequences

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The ripple effects of a drought in South Dakota where agriculture is the state's number one industry are widespread.

The latest figures from the U.S. Drought Monitor put 80 percent of the state in some stage of drought, with 15 percent in extreme drought. Data shows that nearly every part of South Dakota is classified as "abnormally dry," the Argus Leader reported.

Less money in agriculture results in less sales tax revenue to fund state and local governments. A sales tax hike last year forced South Dakota farmers to hold off on the kinds of large purchases that fill state coffers.

The drought also means potentially fewer birds for hunters and less tourism money for counties relying on it through the winter.

State climatologist Laura Edwards said that last week's rains gave some relief, but that the first few weeks of August are looking drier and hotter than usual. She also said that although corn and soybean crops may recover somewhat, it has been too dry for too long for South Dakota to avoid damage.

"We know that there are some impacts already that will carry through the rest of the summer," Edwards said.

Steve Halverson, a farmer near Kennebec, said he's had less than six inches of rain this year. The average is 18 inches.

"In this part of the state, we're used to it being a little drier, but this is something else," he said.

Cattle breeder Peggy Bieber said she sees the farm community in the Midwest pulling together to get by, especially with states like Iowa and Minnesota faring well with agriculture this summer.

"When there was a big fire down in Kansas, we sent some of our hay down there," she said. "That's how the ag industry has always worked."

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

Attorney general explains ballot questions initiated measure

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Attorney General Marty Jackley has released an explanation for a proposed ballot measure that would ban out-of-state political contributions for ballot questions.

Jackley's office said Monday that the explanation has been filed with the secretary of state's office.

The initiative would prohibit contributions to ballot question committees by nonresidents, out-of-state political committees and entities not filed with the secretary of state.

Backers need to submit nearly 14,000 valid signatures to the secretary of state by Nov. 6 to get the measure on the ballot in November 2018.

A similar contribution cap bill failed in the Legislature earlier this year.

Police: Illegal drugs involved in alleged brother slaying

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say illegal drugs were involved in a weekend incident in which a man was arrested for fatally shooting his brother.

Twenty-seven-year-old Jeremy Eischens is charged with manslaughter and drug counts in the incident about 3:30 a.m. Saturday in which 24-year-old Brandon Eischens was shot twice in the upper torso and died. It wasn't immediately clear if he had an attorney. A home telephone listing couldn't be found.

Police say Brandon Eischens went to his brother's apartment to give him vehicle keys so his brother could make a drug run to Denver. Details of how the shooting happened weren't immediately released, but Police Lt. Mike Colwill said it involved "reckless use" of a gun.

Authorities say they found drugs and \$29,000 in cash in the apartment.

US Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta to speak in South Dakota

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — U.S. Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta is traveling to South Dakota this week to speak about workforce development.

Acosta plans to attend Gov. Dennis Daugaard's Workforce Development Initiative workshop in Sioux Falls on Thursday.

Daugaard says the goal is to identify new strategies to meet workforce challenges, which he says is an issue nationwide.

Daugaard was elected chairman of the Western Governors' Association in June, when his colleagues also passed a policy resolution affirming workforce as a priority.

Authorities ID 2 Wessington Springs men killed in crash

WESSINGTON SPRINGS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a Wessington Springs grandfather and grandson who died in a two-vehicle crash in Jerauld County.

The Highway Patrol says 75-year-old Donald Wetzel was driving a pickup truck that 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. Wetzel and 30-year-old passenger Matthew Wetzel both were pronounced dead at the scene.

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

Suspect in armed robbery of Aberdeen casino apprehended

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A suspect is in custody in the armed robbery of a casino in Aberdeen.

Police responded about noon Sunday to a report that the suspect had fled on foot with a handgun and a large amount of cash.

Officers found the 38-year-old man hiding in a garage about 15 minutes later and arrested him. They also recovered the gun and an undisclosed amount of cash.

No injuries were reported.

Rulings on juvenile life sentences affect 3 in South Dakota

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A national debate over juvenile life without parole is real for three inmates in South Dakota.

The U.S. Supreme Court in 2012 banned mandatory life without parole for juvenile killers and last year made its ruling retroactive. State lawmakers in 2016 went further, prohibiting any life term for minors.

Three so-called juvenile lifers have been resentenced in South Dakota.

Paul Jensen killed a cab driver in 1996 and received concurrent terms of 200 years. He's eligible for parole in 2021, at 39.

Daniel Charles killed his stepfather in 1999. He was sentenced to 92 years and is eligible for parole in 2045, at 60.

Jessi Owens pleaded guilty in a 1998 hammer beating death and was sentenced to 40 years. She's eligible for parole in 2018, at 37.

Police take 2 Venezuela opposition leaders from homes

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Two of Venezuela's leading opposition figures were taken from their homes in the middle of the night by state security agents on Tuesday, in President Nicolas Maduro's first moves against his enemies since a widely denounced vote giving his government nearly unlimited powers.

The wife of opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez posted what appeared to be video of him being taken from their home after midnight.

"They've just taken Leopoldo from the house," Lilian Tintori wrote on Twitter. "We don't know where he is or where they're taking him."

Allies of former Caracas Mayor Antonio Ledezma posted video online of a man who appeared to be the opposition leader being taken by state security as a woman screams for help for neighbors.

"They're taking Ledezma!" she cries. "It's a dictatorship!"

Lopez was detained three years ago after protests against Maduro's government and sentenced to more than a decade in prison on charges that include inciting protesters to violence. He was released last month to serve the rest of his term under house arrest. Ledezma, a former Caracas mayor, was also detained in 2015 and has been under house arrest.

Both have recently posted videos online denouncing Maduro's decision to hold a vote for a constitutional assembly with the power to overhaul Venezuela's political system.



In this Saturday, July 8, 2017, file photo, Venezuela's opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez holds a national flag as he greets supporters outside his home in Caracas, Venezuela, following his release from prison and being placed under house arrest after more than three years in military lockup. Allies of two Venezuelan opposition leaders say Lopez and Antonio Ledezma have been taken by authorities from the homes where they were under house arrest. Video posted on the Twitter account of Lopez's wife early Tuesday, Aug. 1, shows a man being taken away from a Caracas home by state security agents.

(AP Photo/Fernando Llano, File)

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Maduro said Monday evening he had no intention of deviating from his plans to rewrite the constitution and go after a string of enemies, from independent Venezuelan news channels to gunmen he claimed were sent by neighboring Colombia to disrupt the vote as part of an international conspiracy led by the man he calls "Emperor Donald Trump."

"They don't intimidate me. The threats and sanctions of the empire don't intimidate me for a moment," Maduro said on national television. "I don't listen to orders from the empire, not now or ever ... Bring on more sanctions, Donald Trump."

A few hours earlier, Washington added Maduro to a steadily growing list of high-ranking Venezuelan officials targeted by financial sanctions, escalating a tactic that has so far failed to alter his socialist government's behavior. For now, the Trump administration has not delivered on threats to sanction Venezuela's oil industry, which could undermine Maduro's government but raise U.S. gas prices and deepen the humanitarian crisis here.

The sanctions came after electoral authorities said more than 8 million people voted Sunday to create the constitutional assembly — a turnout doubted by independent analysts while the election was labeled illegitimate by leaders across the Americas and Europe.

Venezuela's National Electoral Council said turnout in Sunday's vote was 41.53 percent, or 8,089,320 people. The result would mean the ruling party won more support than it had in any national election since 2013, despite a cratering economy, spiraling inflation, shortages of medicine and malnutrition. Opinion polls had said some 85 percent of Venezuelans disapproved of the constitutional assembly and similar numbers disapproved of Maduro's overall performance.

Opposition leaders estimated the real turnout at less than half the government's claim in a vote watched by government-allied observers but no internationally recognized poll monitors.

An exit poll based on surveys from 110 voting centers by New York investment bank Torino Capital and a Venezuela public opinion company estimated 3.6 million people voted, or about 18.5 percent of registered voters.

The national electoral council's vote counts in the past had been seen as reliable and generally accurate, but the widely mocked announcement appeared certain to escalate the polarization and political conflict paralyzing the country.

The constituent assembly will have the task of rewriting the country's constitution and will have powers above and beyond other state institutions, including the opposition-controlled congress.

Maduro has said the new assembly will begin to govern within a week. Among other measures, he said he would use the assembly's powers to bar opposition candidates from running in gubernatorial elections in December unless they sit with his party to negotiate an end to hostilities that have generated four months of protests that have killed at least 120 and wounded nearly 2,000.

Along with the U.S., the European Union and nations including Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Spain and Britain criticized Sunday's vote. Maduro said he had received congratulations from the governments of Cuba, Bolivia and Nicaragua, among others.

Maduro called the constitutional assembly in May after a month of protests against his government, which has overseen Venezuela's descent into a devastating crisis during its four years in power. Due to plunging oil prices and widespread corruption and mismanagement, Venezuela's inflation and homicide rates are among the world's highest, and widespread shortages of food and medicine have citizens dying of preventable illnesses and rooting through trash to feed themselves.

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

Kelly flexes muscle his first day on the job at White House

By VIVIAN SALAMA and JILL COLVIN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Raised voices could be heard through the thick door to the Oval Office as John Kelly — then secretary of Homeland Security — offered some tough talk to President Donald Trump.

Kelly, a whip-cracking retired general who was sworn in as White House chief of staff on Monday, had demanded to speak to the president alone after Trump complained loudly that the U.S. was admitting travelers from countries he viewed as high risk.

Kelly first tried to explain to Trump that the admissions were standard — some people had legitimate reasons to visit the country — but the president insisted that it was making him look bad, according to an administration official familiar with the exchange about a month ago.

Kelly then demanded that other advisers leave the room so he could speak to the president frankly. Trump refused at first, but agreed when Kelly insisted.

It was an early indication that Kelly, a decorated retired Marine general who served three tours in Iraq, is not afraid to stand up to his commander-in-chief.

Tapped to bring order to a chaotic West Wing, Kelly began to make his mark immediately on Monday, ousting newly appointed communications director Anthony Scaramucci and revising a dysfunctional command structure that has bred warring factions. From now on, said White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, all senior staffers — including the president's son-in-law Jared Kushner and chief strategist Steve Bannon — will report to Kelly instead of the president.

Kelly "will bring new structure, discipline and strength" to the White House, Sanders said.

"It definitely has the fingerprints of a new sheriff in town," said Blain Rethmeier, who guided Kelly through the Senate confirmation process for the Homeland Security post. Rethmeier said that what stood out about Kelly during the time they worked together was the way Kelly commanded respect from everyone he encountered — and the way he respected others.

Kelly fostered a reputation as an outspoken commander who didn't shy away from unpopular opinions during his military career. Rethmeier said that Kelly also respects authority deeply — "and that's something that Trump sort of smells out, if you respect him or not."

"If he disagrees with you, he'll disagree respectfully," Rethmeier said.

It was a point Kelly made clear during his confirmation hearing in January.

"I have never had a problem speaking truth to power, and I firmly believe that those in power deserve full candor and my honest assessment and recommendations. I also value people that work for me speaking truth to power," he said.

In April, Kelly bluntly challenged members of Congress critical of the Trump administration's aggressive approach to immigration enforcement to either change the laws or "shut up."



White House Chief of Staff John Kelly appears at event where President Donald Trump was to bestow the Medal of Honor to retired Army medic James McCloughan during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, July 31, 2017. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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But after being confirmed as part of Trump's Cabinet, Kelly also tried to moderate some of the president's hard-line positions, even as he publicly defended them.

Hours after Trump said deportations of people in the U.S. illegally were being carried out as a "military operation," Kelly said the U.S. would not enlist the military to enforce immigration laws.

Kelly and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, another retired general, were also said to have been deeply frustrated with the rollout of Trump's refugee and immigration ban, and made clear to associates that they were not involved in drafting it or aware of its details around the time that Trump signed the original order. Both moved swiftly to address gaps in the measure, with Mattis asking that Iraqis who helped U.S. troops be exempt and Kelly clarifying that green-card holders would not be affected.

Nonetheless, Kelly launched a particularly robust defense of the order to lawmakers and reporters, which was welcomed by the White House.

Mattis and Kelly also agreed in the earliest weeks of Trump's presidency that one of them should remain in the United States at all times to keep tabs on the orders rapidly emerging from the White House, according to a person familiar with the discussions. The official insisted on anonymity in order to discuss the administration's internal dynamics.

Kelly's appointment is being celebrated beyond the White House.

Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn, said Monday that he discussed Kelly's appointment with Trump on Friday and hopes Kelly "will do everything possible to bring the appropriate discipline and focus that needs to be at the White House there."

"I hope that Gen. Kelly will absolutely, forcefully clean the place up," Corker said. "And anybody who's been a violator, who's been a part of public backbiting, part of undermining, who's been part of feathering their own nest at other people's expense, I hope they'll all be gone."

David B. Cohen, a University of Akron political science professor who is co-authoring a book on chiefs of staff, applauded Kelly for doing "things that should have been done on Day One of Reince Priebus's tenure." He said Scaramucci's removal sent a clear message "that going off-script and being undisciplined" would no longer be tolerated at the White House.

But Cohen wondered how long Trump would go before beginning to undermine Kelly.

"None of this works if the president doesn't buy into this 100 percent," he said. "President Trump is his own worst enemy. He instinctively likes to be his own chief of staff and he's a pretty awful one. Will he be able to resist messing with the system once John Kelly cleans everything up? Will he listen to his chief of staff when Kelly has to tell Trump, 'No?'" he asked.

"I'm not sure President Trump is wired to be able to listen to that type of criticism," he said.

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

Associated Press writer Matthew Daly contributed to this report.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press

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

1. KELLY FLEXES MUSCLE FIRST DAY ON JOB AT WHITE HOUSE

All senior staffers — including Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner and chief strategist Steve Bannon — will report to the new chief of staff instead of the president.

2. TRUMP THREATENING TO STOP PAYMENTS TO INSURERS

The president would be handing the industry a solid court case, while undermining his leverage to compel Democrats to negotiate "Obamacare," law professors say.

3. POLICE TAKE 2 VENEZUELA OPPOSITION LEADERS FROM HOMES

The moves were the first by President Nicolas Maduro against his enemies since a widely denounced vote giving his government nearly unlimited powers.

4. ANALYSTS DOUBT NORTH KOREA'S ICBM RE-ENTRY CAPABILITY

Video footage capturing the Hwasong-14's re-entry vehicle suggests it failed to survive the extreme heat and pressure after re-entering the Earth's atmosphere, U.S. and South Korean experts say.

5. DEFIANCE THAT MADE ARIZONA SHERIFF POPULAR LED TO DOWNFALL

Longtime critics of Joe Arpaio say his conviction of a criminal charge for disobeying a court order to stop traffic patrols that targeted immigrants is a long-awaited comeuppance.

6. EGYPT'S UNIQUE WAY OF ISSUING FATWAS

Egypt's Al-Azhar institute, the Sunni Muslim world's foremost religious institution, sets up a booth in a Cairo subway station with clerics offering religious advice to commuters.

7. HOW JUVENILE LIFERS ARE DOING WITH THEIR SECOND CHANCE

For dozens released from prison since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled mandatory sentences amount to cruel and unusual punishment, life on the outside can be a rocky transition, AP finds.

8. 'GHOST FORESTS' ACCELERATE IN RECENT DECADES

Dead trees along vast swaths of coastline are being invaded by rising seas, something scientists call one of the most visible markers of climate change.

9. WHAT TOOK A STAR BY SURPRISE

Actor-playwright Sam Shepard preferred to keep to himself, and word that he died last week at 73 took his former co-star Matthew McConaughey by surprise when asked his reaction by AP.

10. AFTER FINISHING 2ND TO PARIS FOR 2024 GAMES, HUGE 'THANK YOU' DUE TO LA

By agreeing to host the 2028 Olympics, Los Angeles finds that consolation prizes from the IOC aren't all that bad.



President Donald Trump talks with new White House Chief of Staff John Kelly after he was privately sworn in during a ceremony in the Oval Office with President Donald Trump, Monday, July 31, 2017, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Trump on tricky legal ground with 'Obamacare' threat

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump's threat to stop billions of dollars in government payments to insurers and force the collapse of "Obamacare" could put the government in a tricky legal situation.

Legal experts say he'd be handing insurers a solid court case, while undermining his own leverage to compel Democrats to negotiate, especially if premiums jump by 20 percent as expected after such a move.

"Trump thinks he's holding all the cards. But Democrats know what's in his hand, and he's got a pair of twos," said University of Michigan law professor Nicholas Bagley. Democrats "aren't about to agree to dismantle the Affordable Care Act just because Trump makes a reckless bet."

For months, the president has been threatening to stop payments that reimburse insurers for providing required financial assistance to low-income consumers, reducing their copays and deductibles.

Administration officials say the decision could come any day.

The "cost-sharing" subsidies are under a legal cloud because of a dispute over whether the Obama

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health care law properly approved the payments. Other parts of the health care law, however, clearly direct the government to reimburse insurers.

With the issue unresolved, the Trump administration has been paying insurers each month, as the Obama administration had done previously.

Trump returned to the question last week after the GOP drive to repeal the health care law fell apart in the Senate, tweeting, "As I said from the beginning, let ObamaCare implode, then deal. Watch!"

He elaborated in another tweet, "If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly, BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies...will end very soon!"

It's not accurate to call the cost-sharing subsidies a bailout, said Tim Jost, a professor emeritus at Washington and Lee University School of Law in Virginia.

"They are no more a bailout than payments made by the government to a private company for building a bomber," he said.

That's at the root of the Trump administration's potential legal problem if the president makes good on this threat.

The health law clearly requires insurers to help low-income consumers with their copays and deductibles. Nearly 3 in 5 HealthCare.gov customers qualify for the assistance, which can reduce a deductible of \$3,500 to several hundred dollars. The cost to the government is about \$7 billion a year.

The law also specifies that government "shall make periodic and timely payments" to reimburse insurers for the cost-sharing assistance that they provide.

Nonetheless, the payments remain under a cloud because of a disagreement over whether they were properly approved in the language of the health law, by providing an "appropriation."

The Constitution says the government shall not spend money without a congressional appropriation.

Think of an appropriation as an electronic instruction to your bank to pay a recurring monthly bill. You fully intend to pay, and the money you've budgeted is in your account. But the payment will not go out unless you specifically direct your bank to send it.

House Republicans trying to thwart the ACA sued the Obama administration in federal district court in Washington, arguing that the law lacked specific language appropriating the cost-sharing subsidies.

The district court judge agreed with House Republicans, and now the case is on hold before the U.S. appeals court in Washington. A group of state attorneys general are asking the appeals court to join in the case, in defense of the subsidies.

Both Bagley and Jost have followed the matter closely, and they disagree on whether the health law properly approved the payments to insurers. Bagley says it did not; while Jost says it did.



In this July 31, 2017, photo, President Donald Trump pauses during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington. Trump's threat to stop billions of dollars in government payments to insurers and force the collapse of "Obamacare" could put the government in a tricky legal situation. Legal experts say he'd be handing insurers a solid court case, while undermining his own leverage to compel Democrats to negotiate, especially if premiums jump by 20 percent as expected after such a move. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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However, the two experts agree that insurers would have a solid lawsuit against the administration if Trump stops the payments. Insurers could sue in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, which hears claims for money against the government.

"The ACA promised to make these payments — that could not be clearer — and Congress has done nothing to limit that promise," said Bagley.

"I think there would very likely be litigation if the Trump administration tries to cut off the payments," said Jost.

Another way to resolve it: Congress could appropriate the money, even if temporarily, for a couple of years.

"Simply letting Obamacare collapse will cause even more pain," House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, R-Texas, said recently.

If the president makes good on his threat, experts estimate that premiums for a standard "silver" plan would increase by about 19 percent. Insurers could recover the cost-sharing money by raising premiums, since those are also subsidized by the ACA, and there's no question about their appropriation.

But millions of people who buy individual health care policies without any financial assistance from the government would face prohibitive cost increases.

And more insurers might decide to leave already shaky markets.

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra says Trump's tweets will bolster arguments from him and his counterparts in other states to intervene in the case.

"We need somebody who will stand up in court and defend the subsidies against the erratic nature of President Trump," said Becerra.

Analysts doubt North Korea's ICBM re-entry capability

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea after decades of effort has a missile potentially capable of reaching the continental United States, but analysts say Pyongyang has yet to show the ICBM can inflict serious damage once it gets there.

U.S. and South Korean experts on Tuesday said Japanese video footage capturing the Hwasong-14's re-entry vehicle shortly before it crashed into the sea suggests it failed to survive the extreme heat and pressure after re-entering the Earth's atmosphere following its launch from northern North Korea on Friday.

But the apparent failure likely means the North will conduct more flight tests of the Hwasong-14 missile to ensure the warhead could survive the re-entry from space and hit its intended target, the analysts said.

The Hwasong-14 ICBM, which was first tested on July 4, follows decades of effort by North Korea to obtain a nuclear deterrent against the United



In this July 28, 2017, file photo distributed by the North Korean government on Saturday, July 29, 2017, shows what was said to be the launch of a Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile at an undisclosed location in North Korea. North Korea after decades of effort has a missile potentially capable of reaching the continental United States, but analysts say Pyongyang has yet to show the ICBM can inflict serious damage once it gets there. (Korean Central News Agency/Korea News Service via AP, File)

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States. Analysis of the flight data from Hwasong-14's second test has suggested that more of the U.S. mainland, including Los Angeles and Chicago, is now in range of Pyongyang's weapons.

However, whether North Korea can arm the missile with a nuclear warhead and protect it throughout the flight are different questions entirely.

After analyzing video from a rooftop camera operated by Japan's NHK television on the northern island of Hokkaido, U.S. missile expert Michael Elleman concluded that Hwasong-14's re-entry vehicle "disintegrated" before it landed at sea.

In an article posted at the 38 North website, Elleman said the video showed the re-entry vehicle shedding small radiant objects at an altitude of 4 to 5 kilometers (2.5 to 3 miles). He said the re-entry vehicle dims and quickly disappears at an altitude of 3 to 4 kilometers (1.9 to 2.5 miles) before it passes behind a mountain range and is obscured from the camera's view. Had the re-entry vehicle survived, it would have continued to glow until disappearing behind the mountains, Elleman said.

"In short, a reasonable conclusion based on the video evidence is that the Hwasong-14's re-entry vehicle did not survive during its second test," said Elleman, an expert with the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "If this assessment accurately reflects reality, North Korea's engineers have yet to master re-entry technologies and more work remains before Kim Jong Un has an ICBM capable of striking the American mainland."

Granted, it's impossible to know how the warhead would have performed if North Korea had launched the missile for real. Both ICBMs were test-launched at highly lofted angles to reduce the range and avoid neighboring countries, and the near-vertical flight paths meant the re-entry vehicles endured harsher conditions during their descents.

But Kim Dong-yub, a defense analyst at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University in Seoul, said it's obvious North Korea has yet to reach where it wants to be with re-entry technologies.

While North Korea has declared that the Hwasong-14's latest launch confirmed important features of the missile, such as its range and the warhead's atmospheric re-entry, it also described the rocket as "landing in the target waters in the open sea." That probably wasn't an ideal outcome for North Korean engineers because nuclear warheads are usually designed to detonate at lower altitudes shortly before impact, Kim said.

"Considering the cost and efforts they put into tests, North Korea likely would have tried to detonate the warhead properly; they apparently failed this time, but could focus on this aspect in future tests," Kim said.

Mastering warhead re-entries would be one of the most critical military milestones the North has left, along with developing a submarine-launched ballistic missile system and solid-fuel ICBMs, Kim said.

Farmer suicides rise in India as climate warms, study shows

By KATY DAIGLE, Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — When Rani's husband died by drinking pesticide, he left the family in debt. But even if they could pay off the loans, Rani said their farming days are over.

"There are no rains," said the 44-year-old woman from drought-stricken Tamil Nadu, one of hundreds of farmers protesting in the capital for more government support. "Even for drinking, we get water only once in 10 days."

A study suggests India will see more such tragedies as climate change brings hotter temperatures that damage crops and exacerbate drought. For every 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming above 20 degrees C (68 degrees F) during the growing season in India, there are 67 more suicides on average, according to the findings published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, or PNAS.

The message "is that farming is an inherently risky occupation, with annual incomes often held hostage to the weather, and it's getting riskier in the era of climate change," said Vikram Patel, an Indian psychiatrist and mental health expert with Harvard Medical School in Boston who was not involved in the study.

Experts said the study's findings should raise alarms, especially with India's average temperatures

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expected to rise another 3 degrees C (5.4 degrees F) by 2050. That will bring more erratic weather events, more drought and stronger storms.

"Anything that will affect occupational stability is going to affect farmers' mental health," Patel said.

Farming has always been considered a high-risk profession, and a single damaged harvest can drive some to desperation. With agriculture supporting more than half of India's 1.3 billion people, farmers have long been seen as the heart and soul of the country. But they've also seen their economic clout diminish over the last three decades. Once accounting for a third of India's gross domestic product, they now contribute only 15 percent of India's \$2.26 billion economy.

There are many factors that can contribute to suicide, including poor crop yields, financial devastation or debt, access to easy methods of self-harm, or a lack of community support.

In India, many farmers will drink toxic pesticides as a way out of backbreaking debt, with the government in some cases guaranteeing monetary aid to their surviving families. That provides a perverse incentive for suicide, "rewarding people who end their lives by paying family compensation, but only if they die," Patel said.

"We may not be able to stop the world from warming, but that doesn't mean we can't do something to address suicide," including providing more financial stability and paying more attention to mental health, he said.

The study released Monday should make those efforts even more urgent, experts said.

"It provides evidence for a causal pathway — from unfavorable weather to poor crop yields to rural misery to increased suicide," said Dr. Howard Frumkin, a University of Washington environmental health professor who was not involved in the study. "With climate change bringing increasingly chaotic weather in many places, this causal pathway is likely to intensify."

India's farms are already hit regularly by strong storms, extreme drought, heat waves and other extreme weather events. Some still rely on rainfall rather than irrigation to water their crops. Scientists have shown that extreme weather events are already increasing as the planet warms.

For the study, researcher Tamma Carleton looked at suicide data from India's National Crime Records Bureau between 1967 and 2013, along with data on agricultural crop yields and on temperature change.

"I estimate that warming temperature trends over the last three decades have already been responsible for over 59,000 suicides throughout India," writes Carleton, who studies agriculture and resource economics at the University of California, Berkeley. In other words, warmer temperatures were a factor accounting for a 6.8 percent increase in suicides, the study says.

She noted limitations in the study, including an inability to differentiate between urban and rural suicides because the crime records bureau only began classifying farmer suicides in 1995. Other experts also



In this July 22, 2017 file photo, an Indian farmer uses a pair of bulls to plough a vegetable field on the outskirts of Hyderabad, India. Researchers report a link between crop-damaging temperatures and suicide rates in India, where more than 130,000 farmers end their lives every year. (AP Photo/Mahesh Kumar A, file)

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noted that the actual number of suicides may be higher than the crime database counted, but said these concerns were unlikely to undermine the study's core findings.

India's farmers, often complaining about being ignored, hold frequent protests to demand better crop prices, more loan waivers and even water delivery systems to guarantee irrigation during dry spells. Sometimes, they stage sit-ins or dump truckloads of vegetables onto highways to disrupt traffic.

For the past month, hundreds of farmers — some carrying human skulls they say are from farmers who committed suicide in the drought-stricken southern state of Tamil Nadu — have been staging what they say will be a 100-day protest in a central New Delhi square to "prevent the suicide of farmers who feed the nation."

The government recently introduced legislation to subsidize crop insurance aimed at reducing some of the financial risk faced by farmers who take out loans to buy seeds and agrochemicals. But experts note there is almost no discussion about mental health as it relates to India's farming community.

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh told lawmakers Thursday there were 11,458 farmer suicides in 2016 — the lowest number in two decades. It was also a year of mild temperatures and normal monsoon rains.

He acknowledged that the number of farmer suicides had gone up by about 9 percent in each of the previous two years, both of which were marred by drought. The crime bureau found that 58 percent of the 12,602 farmer suicides in 2015 were driven by bankruptcy, indebtedness and other farming-related issues. Most of the victims were marginal cultivators or small-farm holders with less than 2 hectares (5 acres) of land.

"Suicides occur due to extreme economic despair," said M.S. Swaminathan, a geneticist whose work on high-yield rice and wheat crops helped drive India's Green Revolution in the 1960s. His research in the late 1980s found that a 1 degree C (1.8 degree F) temperature rise reduced a crop's duration by about one week, causing losses in the overall weight of harvest. His foundation works to find farming solutions not only to rising heat, but also to drought or salinity from coastal sea rise. Given these growing risks, he said, government policy has a large role to play.

"Suitable crop insurance and a prompt compensation of losses due to climate-related factors will help to avoid a sense of hopelessness that leads to suicide," Swaminathan said.

Follow Katy Daigle on Twitter at twitter.com/katydaigle

Watchdog: Tight security hinders oversight of US Afghan aid

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — The U.S. watchdog tasked with overseeing the spending of billions of U.S. dollars in aid to Afghanistan said unprecedented restrictions on the movement of American government employees is sending a dangerous message to Afghan people and hinder the U.S. work in the country.

He said the message the tight security sends is: "The terrorists should be feared and may actually be winning."

The quarterly report released Tuesday by the special inspector general says American government employees rarely step outside the heavily fortified U.S. Embassy compound in central Kabul and when they do, they stay nearby, in the "green zone" where most foreign embassies are located, protected by guards and fortifications that block streets, often frustrating residents.

"Hunkering down behind blast walls damages not only the U.S. civilian mission but also handicaps the U.S. military mission," Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John F. Sopko said in his report. "In the long run, such extreme risk aversion and avoidance may even contribute to greater insecurity, since it limits U.S. diplomatic reach to the very Afghans necessary to foster stability, rule of law, and economic growth, while sending an unintended, but dangerous message to friend and foe alike that the terrorists should be feared and may actually be winning."

Sopko said the restrictions affect everything from monitoring U.S. aid to interacting with ordinary Af-

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ghans, many of whom would have difficulty accessing the heavily fortified embassy.

Afghanistan, and Kabul in particular, has seen a spike in violence in the last four months. May 31 saw the worst attack since the Taliban's ouster in December 2001 when a massive truck bomb devastated the center of Kabul, killing 150 people and wounding scores more. On Monday the so-called Islamic State group attacked the Iraqi Embassy in the center of Kabul laying siege for four hours before all the attackers were killed.

The May 31 explosion generated outrage toward the government and its security forces and sparked widespread demonstrations by protesters frustrated with a deterioration in security in the capital.

Quoting United Nations figures, Sopko said "security incidents" were up 21 percent from March through June compared to the previous quarter. He did not define the nature of the incidents.

While there is good reason to be cautious, said Sopko, the U. S. government has to strike a balance and right now it is weighted too heavily toward avoiding all risk. He called the precautions "unduly" restrictive. He said risk is part of operating in conflict areas, but the U.S. government has to figure out how to protect its employees as best it can while still allowing them to do their job.

Sopko said his office has the added job handed it by U.S. Congress of assessing the progress of the Afghan government's anti-corruption efforts, however security restrictions were making it hard for his investigators to do their job. That could mean corruption and fraud goes undetected at the expense of U.S. taxpayers.

In more than 15 years, the United States has spent \$714 billion in Afghanistan in both war fighting and reconstruction, according to Sopko's report.

In just the last four months ending Monday, Sopko's inspection teams saved \$5.5 million that would otherwise have been lost to fraud, and managed to collect \$200,000 in restitution. Since being created by Congress in 2008, the special inspector general's office has saved the U.S. taxpayer about \$2.1 billion, according to its report.

Widespread corruption in both the Afghan government and its National Security Forces has been crippling. Transparency International has put Afghanistan among the world's most corrupt countries.

Meanwhile, Sopko urged the U.S. government to make public a report his office prepared into allegations of sexual abuse of boys by some members of the Afghan military. Under U.S. law, it is illegal to provide training or equipment to any foreign military or individual suspected of committing "gross human rights violations."

The report is classified but the special inspector general wants it de-classified and its recommendation made public.

"Child rape is always heinous and certainly could constitute a gross violation of human rights; however,



In this Monday, July 31, 2017 photo, an Afghan man ride his bicycle walks past blast walls in Kabul, Afghanistan. A U.S. watchdog says unprecedented security restrictions are making it difficult to monitor Afghanistan projects that are costing hundreds of millions of U.S. tax dollars.

(AP Photos/Rahmat Gul)

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each case requires a factual and legal review to determine whether it is a credible allegation," U.S. Department of Defense spokesman Adam Stump told The AP in an email reply to queries. He did not say whether the report would be made public or what, if any, action was being taken.

Tuesday's special inspector general report also says the value of the opiate trade in Afghanistan has doubled in just one year, increasing from \$1.5 billion in 2015 to \$3 billion last year.

The rare positive note struck by the report was to congratulate the government for not ceding territory to its enemies in the last four months, saying the government still controls 59.7 percent of Afghanistan's districts. The remaining area is under the sway of insurgents, Sopko says.

But keeping its territory has taken a heavy toll on Afghan National Security Forces, according to the report, noting that in just the first five months of this year 2,531 Afghan service members were killed in action and another 4,238 were wounded.

The report also said U.S. forces in Afghanistan identified more than 12,000 Afghan Ministry of Defense personnel that were "unaccounted for," fearing some could be so-called "ghosts" or personnel who exist only on paper.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri dismissed the claim that the government controlled less than 60 percent of the country saying the Taliban held sway in only a handful of districts.

Associated Press writer Amir Shah contributed to this report.

Kelly shows his clout: Scaramucci out as WH chief moves in

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Firmly taking charge in an unruly White House, former Gen. John Kelly moved in Monday as President Donald Trump's new chief of staff and immediately made sure that Trump's profanity-spouting new communications director was shown the door, ignominiously ousted after less than two weeks on the job.

It was the latest head-snapping sequence of events at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, but Trump dismissed any talk of disarray. He insisted in a morning tweet there was "No WH chaos," then followed up in the evening with a satisfied "great day at the White House."

Aiming to instill some discipline in the White House, Kelly showed Anthony Scaramucci the door just days after the new communications director had unleashed an expletive-laced tirade against senior staff members that included vulgar broadsides at then-chief of staff Reince Priebus. In short order, Priebus was pushed aside and replaced by Kelly, whose arrival led in turn to Scaramucci's departure.

The communication director's tenure was the stuff of Shakespearian drama — though brief enough to be just a morbid sonnet.

Scaramucci's exit underscored the challenges that Kelly, the former homeland security chief, faces in bringing order to a West Wing where a wide swath of aides have reported directly to the president, feeling free to walk into Trump's Oval Office or buttonhole him in the hallway to lobby for conflicting agendas. Backstabbing among aides has been rife, and rival camps have jockeyed for position.

And then there is president himself, who uses tweets at all hours to fling out new policy announcements, insult critics and even go after fellow Republicans who don't toe his line.

The ongoing investigation into Russia's meddling in the election is another source of unease. Monday night, The Washington Post reported that Trump himself had dictated the July 8 statement in which his son Donald Jr. described a June 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer.

The statement said Trump Jr. and other top figures in the Trump campaign "primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children" with the lawyer. Emails released later by Trump Jr. showed that the meeting was suggested to the Trump campaign as a means to deliver damaging material about Trump's election opponent, Hillary Clinton.

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow said Monday night of the Post story, "Apart from being of no consequence,

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the characterizations are misinformed, inaccurate and not pertinent.”

The Associated Press has reported previously that Trump approved of the statement, which was crafted on the flight back from the Group of 20 summit in Germany in early July.

On Kelly’s first day, the White House put out word that the retired four-star general had free rein to tighten the chain of command.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Kelly “has the full authority to carry out business as he sees fit” and that all White House staffers will report to him, including powerful aides such as Trump’s daughter, Ivanka Trump, her husband, Jared Kushner, and chief strategist Steve Bannon.

Kelly “will bring new structure, discipline and strength” to the White House, she said.

The chief of staff took his oath of office early Monday in an Oval Office ceremony thronged by senior staffers, including Scaramucci. But a short time later, Kelly told the communications director he was out, leading Scaramucci to offer his resignation instead, according to four White House staffers and outside advisers not authorized to speak publicly about personnel matters.

In the brief, cold words of the White House announcement, Scaramucci was leaving because he “felt it was best to give Chief of Staff John Kelly a clean slate and the ability to build his own team.” The three-sentence release concluded, “We wish him all the best.”

The statement revived the “clean slate” language that former White House press secretary Sean Spicer had used to describe his own reason for resigning on the day Trump brought Scaramucci aboard.

Scaramucci was escorted from the White House grounds, becoming yet another high-ranking official to leave an administration that is barely beyond the six-month mark. He was the third person to hold the communications director title in that time.

While in most administrations the chief of staff closely manages the president’s time and others’ access to the Oval Office, Priebus never was able to prevent Trump from continuing the same disorderly style he had created atop his business.

Scaramucci had been blocked from joining the administration during the transition by Priebus, only to eventually be hired by Trump a week-and-a-half ago. That decision, over the objections of Priebus and Bannon, led to the resignation of Spicer and fueled Scaramucci’s profane vows of vengeance against White House staffers who had opposed him or leaked to the press.

Days of negative news coverage of Scaramucci’s crass rant did not sit well with the president, though Trump himself is no stranger to using coarse language, including boasts of groping women in a 2005 Access Hollywood tape leaked last year.

“The president certainly felt that Anthony’s comments were inappropriate for a person in his position,” Sanders said when asked about the ouster.

Bannon also told allies that the communications director was a negative distraction. And though Bannon



White House Chief of Staff John Kelly appears at event where President Donald Trump was to bestow the Medal of Honor to retired Army medic James McCloughan during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Monday, July 31, 2017.(AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)

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had clashed with Kelly over the implementation of Trump's first travel ban, he pledged to work closely with the new chief of staff.

Scaramucci's allies floated the idea of Scaramucci returning to his chief strategy officer post at the Export-Import Bank. Sanders said he "does not have a role at this time" with the Trump administration.

As the Scaramucci news spread, Kelly was in the East Room, smiling and taking pictures with guests who had gathered for a Medal of Honor presentation. A jovial Spicer also was in attendance, saying he was there to assist with the communications transition, though Sanders said she was not aware of any plans for him to resume his old job.

After swearing in Kelly, Trump convened his full Cabinet, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the target of recent public rebukes from the president. Sanders later brushed aside talk of yet another abrupt shuffle: the idea of Sessions leaving the Justice Department to replace Kelly at Homeland Security. The president has no such plans, she said.

Trump, for his part, ignored the turmoil and declared that his administration was humming along smoothly. "Overall, I think we're doing incredibly well. The economy is doing incredibly well, and many other things."

Lemire reported from New York. Additional reporting by Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Josh Boak and Vivian Salama.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Lucey at http://twitter.com/@Catherine_Lucey

On the go! Darvish, Gray dealt on busy trade deadline day

By **BEN WALKER, AP Baseball Writer**

Yu Darvish and Sonny Gray headed a parade of prized arms on the move Monday, leaving little doubt on trade deadline day: Top teams made a big pitch for the playoffs.

All-Star Brandon Kintzler, Addison Reed and Justin Wilson were among the many relievers swapped before the cutoff. There were 14 deals involving major leaguers — all six division leaders got someone new.

"We're trying to go from good to great," New York Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said.

The Yankees bolstered their rotation by getting Gray from Oakland for three minor leaguers. That swap came a day after the AL East leaders acquired starter Jaime Garcia from Minnesota.

The Los Angeles Dodgers, owners of the best record in the majors and the top payroll, gave up three minor leaguers for Darvish. The Texas ace will join three-time Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw, currently on the disabled list, as the Dodgers try to reach the World Series for the first time since their 1988 title.

"We're not going to be lining up our playoff rotation quite yet," general manager Farhan Zaidi said.

Los Angeles also added relievers Tony Watson from Pittsburgh and Tony Cingrani from Cincinnati.

A few stars mentioned in trade speculation stayed put — Orioles closer Zach Britton, Detroit starter Justin Verlander and San Diego reliever Brad Hand, among them.

"We just didn't line up at this time," Padres GM A.J. Preller said, adding there was "no rush" to make a move right now.

Teams had until 4 p.m. EDT to make trades without waivers. For the rest of the season, players can be dealt only if every other club passes on a chance to claim them.

A year after the champion Chicago Cubs and Cleveland used deep bullpens to reach the World Series, several teams boosted their relief corps. As did the Cubs and Indians.

Chicago got Wilson, a valuable lefty, along with backup catcher Alex Avila from Detroit. Avila was traded away by his dad, Tigers general manager Al Avila.

"Obviously you think, well, he's your son so you probably feel even worse. Not really. Nobody likes to go through trades," the Detroit GM said.

"Actually, the person that's going to be really worse off, it's not so much my wife, it's my mom — Alex's grandmother. She's the one that might be the most angry," he said.

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Joe Smith, who relieved for Cleveland from 2009-13, was sent from Toronto to the Indians.

"A lot of fans of Smitty in this organization, so getting him back will be a lot of fun," Cleveland manager Terry Francona said.

NL East-leading Washington got Kintzler from Minnesota — the Nationals recently acquired relievers Ryan Madson and Sean Doolittle from Oakland.

The Houston Astros, already running away with the AL West, plucked lefty Francisco Liriano from Toronto. He'll help patch a rotation that's deal with injuries to Dallas Keuchel, Lance McCullers and Collin McHugh this year.

The contending Boston Red Sox added Reed, who had been serving as the New York Mets' closer. Reed is 1-2 with a 2.57 ERA and 19 saves in 21 chances, and he joins a bullpen that includes dominant closer Craig Kimbrel.

Like a lot of other executives, Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski was on the prowl for pitching.

"We liked a lot of the guys. We were inquiring about a lot of the guys," he said at Fenway Park, adding, "My list is long."

How long?

Dombrowski reached into the left pocket of his suit jacket and pulled out an 8x11-inch piece of paper. He then counted — by ones — "20 right-handed relievers that were on our list at one time or another, and a lot of lefties, too."

AP Baseball Writers Mike Fitzpatrick and Janie McCauley, and AP freelance writer Ken Powtak contributed to this report.



In this July 26, 2017, file photo, Texas Rangers' Yu Darvish throws to against the Miami Marlins in the fourth inning of a baseball game, in Arlington, Texas. As the hours tick down to baseball's trade deadline, three standout pitchers remain at the center of attention. Sonny Gray, Justin Verlander and Yu Darvish each have the potential to help a contending team down the stretch, and if any of them are traded Monday, July 31, 2017, it would certainly spice up what has been a fairly pedestrian stretch of deals so far. (AP Photo/Tony Gutierrez, File)

Los Angeles reaches deal with Olympic leaders for 2028 Games

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles has reached an agreement with International Olympic leaders that will open the way for the city to host the 2028 Summer Games, while ceding the 2024 Games to rival Paris, officials announced Monday.

The deal would make LA a three-time Olympic city, after hosting the 1932 and 1984 Games.

With the agreement, the city is taking "a major step toward bringing the Games back to our city for the first time in a generation," Mayor Eric Garcetti said in a statement.

He called it a "historic day for Los Angeles, for the United States" and the Olympic movement.

The agreement follows a vote earlier this month by the International Olympic Committee to seek an

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unusual deal to award the 2024 and 2028 Games simultaneously. Paris is the only city left to host the 2024 Games.

The Los Angeles City Council and U.S. Olympic Committee board of directors will consider the agreement in August. If approved, the IOC, LA and Paris could enter a three-part agreement, clearing the way for the IOC to award the 2024 Games to Paris, and the 2028 Games to LA. The IOC vote is scheduled for September, in Lima, Peru.

In a statement, the Paris bid committee welcomed the announcement in Los Angeles but stopped short of confirming the obvious, that Paris is in line for the 2024 Games.

"Paris 2024 is proud to be working together with the IOC and our friends in Los Angeles to reach a positive solution for both cities, the Games and the whole Olympic Movement for 2024 and 2028," committee co-chair Tony Estanguet said.

In embracing what amounted to the second-place prize and an 11-year wait, LA will receive a financial sweetener.

Under the terms of the deal, the IOC will advance funds to the Los Angeles organizing committee to recognize the extended planning period and to increase youth sports programs leading up to the Games. The IOC contribution could exceed \$2 billion, according to LA officials. That figure takes into account the estimated value of existing sponsor agreements that would be renewed, as well as potential new marketing deals.

The delay to 2028 opens a host of questions for Los Angeles, which is looking at the prospect of retooling its multibillion-dollar plans for more than a decade into the future. It would face challenges from maintaining public interest to recasting deals for stadiums, arenas and housing that have been in the works for months and even years.

Speaking with reporters at a soccer stadium in Carson, just outside LA, Garcetti said the 2028 proposal was the better of the two, promising to bring hundreds of millions of dollars in additional benefits.

The deal "was too good to pass up," the mayor said.

He also suggested the IOC would easily ratify the 2024-2028 deal in September.

LA and Paris were the last two bids remaining after a tumultuous process that exposed the unwillingness of cities to bear the financial burden of hosting an event that has become synonymous with cost overruns.

LA was not even the first American entrant in the contest. Boston withdrew two years ago as public support for its bid collapsed over concerns about use of taxpayer cash. The U.S. bid switched from the east to the West Coast as LA entered the race.

But the same apprehensions that spooked politicians and the local population in Boston soon became evident in Europe where three cities pulled out.

Uncomfortably for IOC President Thomas Bach, whose much-vaunted Agenda 2020 reforms were designed to make hosting more streamlined and less costly after the lavish 2014 Sochi Games, the first withdrawal came from his homeland of Germany.

The lack of political unity for a bid in Hamburg was mirrored in Rome and Budapest as support for bids waned among local authorities and the population. It was clear they did not want to be saddled with skyrocketing bills for hosting the Olympics without reaping many of the economic benefits anticipated.

Just like in the depleted field for the 2022 Winter Games which saw Beijing defeat Almaty, the IOC was left with only two candidates again.

With two powerful cities left vying for 2024, Bach realized France or the U.S. could be deterred from go-



This Feb. 13, 2008, file photo shows the facade of The Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum in Los Angeles. It was announced Monday, July 31, 2017, that Los Angeles has reached an agreement with international Olympic leaders that will open the way for the city to host the 2028 Summer Games, while ceding the 2024 Games to rival Paris.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes, File)

ing through another contest for 2028 if they lost. Bach floated the idea in December of making revisions to the bidding process to prevent it producing “too many losers,” building support that led to LA and Paris being able to figure out themselves how to share the 2024 and 2028 Games.

The dual award of the games relieves the IOC of having to test the global interest in hosting the Summer Olympics for several years until the 2032 Games are up for grabs.

Los Angeles City Council President Herb Wesson called the agreement a “win-win-win scenario.”

The opportunity to host the Games “is a golden occasion further strengthening Los Angeles — not just through bricks and mortar, but through new opportunities for our communities to watch, play and benefit from sport,” Wesson said.

AP Sports Writer Rob Harris in London contributed.

Appreciation: Sam Shepard embodied, examined American myth

By LINDSEY BAHR, AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — No one really got to know Sam Shepard — and that was the way he seemed to like it. Despite dozens of blatantly personal plays to his name, movie stardom and the spotlight of celebrity and acclaim, Shepard remained throughout his life an inscrutable figure, an American myth in plain sight.

Tortured, private and transient in both life and career, Shepard, who died Thursday at age 73, was in some ways the quintessential American: Full of restlessness, contradictions, and mysteries — and as handsome as they come.

He wrote and lived like life was its own jazz composition — skipping from a post-war California avocado ranch to the experimental East Village theater scene of the 1960s, then to London and Hollywood and back again. He wrote a play with Patti Smith and a song with Bob Dylan, and was the drummer for the “amphetamine rock band” The Holy Modal Rounders. His screenplays include Wim Wenders’ western wander poem “Paris, Texas” and Michelangelo Antonioni’s Death Valley shocker “Zabriskie Point.” He also fathered three children, had a passionate 30-year relationship with movie star Jessica Lange, picked up a Pulitzer Prize for playwriting and an Academy Award nomination for acting along the way — and those are just a few of the highlights.

Shepard once said he did his best writing on the road — literally — one hand on the steering wheel and one holding the pen. He advised that this is best done on a wide open highway, and not in Manhattan.

Born Samuel Shepard Rogers VII in Fort Sheridan, Illinois, in 1943, Shepard was both ardently of his



In this Sept. 29, 2011 file photo, actor Sam Shepard poses for a portrait in New York. Shepard, the Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright, Oscar-nominated actor and celebrated author whose plays chronicled the explosive fault lines of family and masculinity in the American West, died of complications from ALS, Thursday, July 27, 2017, at his home in Kentucky. He was 73. (AP Photo/Charles Sykes, File)

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time, innovating new methods of storytelling to impact an anxious era, and also evocative of decades past — forever haunted by the men of his father's generation of World War II vets who he described as "devastated in some basic way." As a kid, he went by Steve Rogers, and claimed that he was unaware until much later that it was also Captain America's civilian name.

Shepard spent his teen years generally apathetic toward school and looking for a way out of the banality of the post-war suburb. In his short stint in college in Walnut, California, he was exposed to the absurdist stylings of Samuel Beckett and decided to leave.

He had a difficult relationship with his father, who he called "a dedicated alcoholic" with a "real short fuse." Although wary of picking at his own traumas, Shepard explored this and other themes in his "Family Trilogy" of plays including "Curse of the Starving Class," "Buried Child" and "True West."

Shepard saw the absurdities in his own life too. In April 1979, Shepard was informed that he'd won the Pulitzer Prize for "Buried Child" on the same day it closed. Whether humble or a restless perfectionist, Shepard throughout his life would downplay his own accolades. Of "Buried Child," Shepard said there were a number of lines he thought were "toe-scrunchers."

Although well-versed in Beckett, Eugene O'Neill and Edward Albee, Shepard spoke of his career as a playwright as though it were an accident.

"I don't know how I began writing plays," Shepard said in the documentary "Shepard & Dark." "I certainly didn't decide to, I just found myself writing plays."

And he cringed at the thought of performing on stage in front of a live audience, which made his transition into film and being a public figure even more curious.

Sam Shepard as movie star and celebrity was perhaps the designation that embarrassed him most.

He made his film debut in Terrence Malick's 1978 dreamy period piece "Days of Heaven," as a wealthy, isolated farmer and romantic foe to Richard Gere. Although he had minimal dialogue, Pauline Kael wrote in *The New Yorker* that Shepard, "Makes a strong impression."

He'd go on to embody classic masculinity as Chuck Yeager in "The Right Stuff," for which he'd score an Oscar nomination, and charm Lange in the Frances Farmer biopic "Frances" and then Diane Keaton in "Baby Boom."

Aside from his acting, his ideas left an indelible mark on cinema: He dreamt up "Paris, Texas" with Wim Wenders and L.M. Kit Carson.

It was almost ironic that later in life, Shepard occasionally found himself playing men like those in his father's generation. He was memorable as the general in "Black Hawk Down," the outlaw older brother of Jesse James in "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," a hot-headed patriarch in the Netflix series "Bloodline," and even as Ryan Gosling's country father in "The Notebook."

Shepard was that perfect bundle of contradictions that only an artist could ever justify: Someone who craved privacy and outwardly resented the opposite and yet acted in movies and revealed his rawest truths on the pages of his plays.

Or perhaps he wasn't so oblique after all — just too complicated for the Hollywood celebrity machine.

"Here is a man who could see right through you, who would smell bullshit from a mile," Wenders once said. "He'd rather hurt you than be dishonest. There is no front. He is just all true. With a dissecting sense of humor."

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ladbahr

Venezuelan leader defiant as US imposes sanctions on him

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN and FABIOLA SANCHEZ, Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — President Nicolas Maduro claimed a popular mandate Monday to dramatically recast Venezuela's political system, dismissing U.S. sanctions imposed on him and condemnations by his domestic opponents and governments around the world.

Washington added Maduro to a steadily growing list of high-ranking Venezuelan officials targeted by

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financial sanctions, escalating a tactic that has so far failed to alter his socialist government's behavior. For the moment Trump administration did not deliver on threats to sanction Venezuela's oil industry, which could undermine Maduro's government but raise U.S. gas prices and deepen the humanitarian crisis here.

The sanctions came after electoral authorities said more than 8 million people voted Sunday to create a constitutional assembly endowing Maduro's ruling party with virtually unlimited powers — a turnout doubted by independent analysts while the election was labeled illegitimate by leaders across the Americas and Europe.

Maduro said Monday evening he had no intention of deviating from plans to rewrite the constitution and go after a string of enemies, from independent Venezuelan news channels to gunmen he claimed were sent by neighboring Colombia to disrupt the vote as part of an international conspiracy led by the man he calls "Emperor Donald Trump."

"They don't intimidate me. The threats and sanctions of the empire don't intimidate me for a moment," Maduro said on national television. "I don't listen to orders from the empire, not now or ever ... Bring on more sanctions, Donald Trump."

Venezuela's National Electoral Council said turnout in Sunday's vote was 41.53 percent, or 8,089,320 people. The result would mean the ruling party won more support than it had in any national election since 2013, despite a cratering economy, spiraling inflation, shortages of medicine and malnutrition. Opinion polls had said some 85 percent of Venezuelans disapproved of the constitutional assembly and similar numbers disapproved of Maduro's overall performance.

Opposition leaders estimated the real turnout at less than half the government's claim in a vote watched by government-allied observers but no internationally recognized poll monitors.

An exit poll based on surveys from 110 voting centers by New York investment bank Torino Capital and a Venezuela public opinion company estimated 3.6 million people voted, or about 18.5 percent of registered voters.

The electoral council's vote counts in the past had been seen as reliable and generally accurate, but the widely mocked announcement appeared certain to escalate the polarization and political conflict paralyzing the country.

"If it wasn't a tragedy ... if it didn't mean more crisis, the electoral council's number would almost make you laugh," opposition leader Freddy Guevara said on Twitter. Maduro has threatened that one of the constitutional assembly's first acts would be jailing Guevara for inciting violence.

The constituent assembly will have the task of rewriting the country's constitution and will have powers above and beyond other state institutions, including the opposition-controlled congress.

Maduro has said the new assembly will begin to govern within a week. Among other measures, he said



Pedestrian walk past the main entrance of Venezuela's National Assembly building in Caracas, Venezuela, Monday, July 31, 2017. Electoral authorities said more than 8 million people voted Sunday to create a constitutional assembly endowing President Nicolas Maduro's ruling party with virtually unlimited powers - a figure widely disputed by independent analysts. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

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he would use the assembly's powers to bar opposition candidates from running in gubernatorial elections in December unless they sit with his party to negotiate an end to hostilities that have generated four months of protests that have killed at least 120 and wounded nearly 2,000.

Along with the U.S., the European Union and nations including Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Spain and Britain criticized Sunday's vote. Maduro said he had received congratulations from the governments of Cuba, Bolivia and Nicaragua, among others.

The monetary impact of the new U.S. sanctions wasn't immediately clear as Maduro's holdings in U.S. jurisdictions, if he has any, weren't publicized. However, imposing sanctions on a head of state is rare and can be symbolically powerful, leading other countries to similarly shun such a leader. For example, the U.S. has had sanctions against Syria's President Bashar Assad since 2011. Other heads of state currently subject to U.S. sanctions include Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe and North Korea's Kim Jong Un.

Maduro called the constitutional assembly in May after a month of protests against his government, which has overseen Venezuela's descent into a devastating crisis during its four years in power. Due to plunging oil prices and widespread corruption and mismanagement, Venezuela's inflation and homicide rates are among the world's highest, and widespread shortages of food and medicine have citizens dying of preventable illnesses and rooting through trash to feed themselves.

The president of the opposition-led National Assembly, Julio Borges, told Venezuelan news channel Globovision on Monday that Maduro's foes would continue protesting until they won free elections and a change of government.

He said Sunday's vote gave Maduro "less legitimacy, less credibility, less popular support and less ability to govern."

Associated Press writers Matthew Lee in Washington and Christine Armario in Bogota, Colombia, contributed to this report.

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

Defiance that made Joe Arpaio popular leads to his downfall

By JACQUES BILLEAUD, Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The political defiance that made Joe Arpaio popular and seemingly untouchable as metro Phoenix's sheriff of 24 years ultimately led to his downfall Monday as he was convicted of a crime for ignoring a U.S. court order to stop traffic patrols that targeted immigrants.

The TV interviews and news releases that the media-savvy lawman used over the years to promote his immigration crackdowns came back to bite him. The judge who found him guilty of misdemeanor contempt of court cited comments Arpaio made about keeping up the patrols, even though he knew he was not allowed.

"Not only did defendant abdicate responsibility, he announced to the world and to his subordinates that he was going to continue business as usual no matter who said otherwise," U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton wrote.

The verdict marked a final rebuke for a politician who once drew strong support from such crackdowns but was booted from office last year as voters got frustrated with his deepening legal troubles and headline-grabbing tactics, such as jailing inmates in tents during triple-degree summer heat and making them wear pink underwear.

Arpaio told The Associated Press that he didn't have an immediate comment on the verdict, but his attorneys said they will appeal. The 85-year-old is set to be sentenced Oct. 5 and could face up to six months in jail, but attorneys who have followed the case doubt someone his age would be incarcerated.

Critics said the verdict that followed a five-day trial in Phoenix was a long-awaited comeuppance for a lawman who had managed to escape accountability through much of his six terms.

Lydia Guzman, a Latino civil rights advocate and longtime Arpaio critic, said the sheriff was partly re-

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sponsible for Arizona's reputation as a place that's intolerant of immigrants.

"He is the one who led the rally against immigrants, and the legislators followed suit," Guzman said, noting Arizona's landmark 2010 immigration law. "I hope a lot of this is erased and that Arizona can go back to being a normal state. I don't know when that will be."

Prosecutors say Arpaio ignored the 2011 order from a different U.S. judge so he could promote his immigration enforcement efforts in an effort to boost his 2012 re-election campaign. That judge later ruled the traffic patrols racially profiled Latinos.

The sheriff had acknowledged prolonging his patrols for nearly a year and a half but insisted it was not intentional. He also blamed one of his former attorneys in the racial profiling case for not properly explaining the importance of the court order.

Bolton rejected all Arpaio's key arguments, saying the attorney had clearly informed him of the order and that a top aide also read part of it aloud to him during a staff meeting.

His lawyers contend the former sheriff's fate should have been decided by a jury, not a judge. They also said Bolton violated Arpaio's rights by not reading the decision in court.

"Her verdict is contrary to what every single witness testified in the case," his lawyers said in a statement. "Arpaio believes that a jury would have found in his favor, and that it will."

His defense had focused on what his attorneys said were weaknesses in the court order that failed to acknowledge times when deputies would detain immigrants and later hand them over to federal authorities.

Unlike other local police leaders who left immigration enforcement to U.S. authorities, Arpaio made hundreds of arrests in traffic patrols that sought out immigrants and business raids in which his officers targeted immigrants who used fraudulent IDs to get jobs.

The efforts are similar to local immigration enforcement that President Donald Trump has advocated. To build his highly touted deportation force, Trump is reviving a long-standing program that deputizes local officers to enforce federal immigration law.

Arpaio's immigration powers were eventually stripped away by the courts and federal government.

The contempt-of-court case marked the first time federal authorities had prosecuted Arpaio on a criminal charge, though his office had been the subject of past investigations.

Federal authorities had looked into Arpaio's misspending of \$100 million in jail funds and his criminal investigations of political enemies. Neither investigation led to prosecution of the sheriff or his employees.

Arpaio's criminal charges are believed to have contributed heavily to his crushing defeat in November to Paul Penzone, a little-known retired Phoenix police sergeant.

He was ousted in the same election that sent Trump to the White House. Trump used some of the same immigration rhetoric that helped make Arpaio a national figure in the debate over the U.S.-Mexico border.



-In this Sept. 16, 2007, file photo, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio shows off vehicles advertising a hotline to report undocumented immigrants in Phoenix, Ariz. Arpaio has been convicted of a criminal charge Monday, July 31, 2017, for disobeying a court order to stop traffic patrols that targeted immigrants in a conviction that marks a final rebuke for the former sheriff and politician who once drew strong popularity from such crackdowns but was booted from office amid voter frustrations over his deepening legal troubles. (Larry Fehr-Snyder/Arizona Republic via AP, file)

Cecilia Wang, an attorney who helped press the racial profiling case against Arpaio, said his fate is a cautionary tale for police bosses who want to get into immigration enforcement.

"What was a lark to him in going after undocumented immigrants was terrible, not only for the people he hurt but also for his own agency and his career," Wang said. "His career will go down as ending with his conviction."

Follow Jacques Billeaud at twitter.com/jacquesbilleaud. His work can be found at <https://www.apnews.com/search/jacques%20billeaud>.

This story has been corrected to show that Arpaio faces up to six months in jail, not six years, and that his trial lasted five days, not eight.

Trump awards Medal of Honor to Army medic 48 years later

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Army medic who "ran into danger" to save wounded soldiers during a Vietnam War battle despite his own serious wounds on Monday became the first Medal of Honor recipient under President Donald Trump, 48 years after the selfless acts for which James McCloughan is now nationally recognized.

McCloughan mouthed "thank you" as Trump placed the distinctive blue ribbon holding the medal around the neck of the former Army private first class. As the president and commander in chief shook McCloughan's hand, Trump said "very proud of you" before he pulled the retired soldier into an embrace.

"I know I speak for every person here when I say that we are in awe of your actions and your bravery," Trump said, describing McCloughan's actions for a rapt audience that included numerous senior White House and administration officials. Among them were Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin and retired Marine Gen. John Kelly, sworn in earlier Monday as the new White House chief of staff.

McCloughan said in a brief statement on the White House driveway after the ceremony that it was "humbling" to receive the medal. Now 71, he pledged to do his best to represent the men who fought alongside him "as the caretaker of this symbol of courage and action beyond the call of duty."

Drafted into the Army, McCloughan was a 23-year-old private first class and medic who in 1969 found himself in the middle of the raging Battle of Nui Yon Hill. McCloughan willingly entered the "kill zone" to



President Donald Trump bestows the nation's highest military honor, the Medal of Honor, to retired Army medic James McCloughan during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House, Monday, July 31, 2017, at Washington. McCloughan is credited with saving the lives of members of his platoon nearly 50 years ago in the Battle of Nui Yon Hill in Vietnam. (AP Photo/Alex Brandon)

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rescue injured comrades despite his serious wounds from shrapnel from a rocket-propelled grenade.

In announcing the honor last month, the White House said McCloughan "voluntarily risked his life on nine separate occasions to rescue wounded and disoriented comrades. He suffered wounds from shrapnel and small arms fire on three separate occasions, but refused medical evacuation to stay with his unit, and continued to brave enemy fire to rescue, treat, and defend wounded Americans."

"He ran into danger," Trump said.

McCloughan, who lives in South Haven, Michigan, told The Associated Press in an interview last month that the battle was "the worst two days of my life."

He described the shrapnel as "a real bad sting" and recalled, "I was tending to two guys and dragging them at the same time into a trench line." He said he looked down to see himself covered with blood from wounds so bad that they prompted a captain to suggest he leave the battlefield to seek treatment.

"He knew me enough to know that I wasn't going," McCloughan said.

The combat medic stuck around until the battle ended, coming to the aid of his men and fighting the enemy, even knocking out an enemy RPG position with a grenade at one point. In all, the Pentagon credits McCloughan with saving the lives of 10 members of his company.

The Medal of Honor is given to Armed Forces members who distinguish themselves by going above and beyond the call of duty in battle.

McCloughan left the Army in 1970 and spent the next several decades teaching psychology and sociology and coaching football, baseball and wrestling at South Haven High School. He retired in 2008.

In 2016, Defense Secretary Ash Carter recommended McCloughan for the Medal of Honor. But since the medal must be awarded within five years of the recipient's actions, Congress needed to pass a bill waiving the time limit. President Barack Obama signed the measure in late 2016, but he didn't get the opportunity to recognize McCloughan with the medal before his term ended this year.

"President Donald Trump will be putting that on me for the first time in his experience of doing such a thing," McCloughan said. "That's pretty special."

Associated Press writer Mike Householder in Detroit contributed to this report.

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Survey suggests more growth ahead for Midwest economy

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — A monthly survey of business leaders suggested a drop in business conditions but still indicated the economy will pick up over the next few months in nine Midwest and Plains states.

A report released Tuesday says the Mid-America Business Conditions Index dropped to 56.1 last month from 62.3 in June. The May figure was 55.5.

Creighton University economist Ernie Goss oversees the survey, and he says it "points to solid growth for both manufacturing and nonmanufacturing for the second half of 2017."

The survey results are compiled into a collection of indexes ranging from zero to 100. Survey organizers say any score above 50 suggests growth in that factor. A score below that suggests decline.

The survey covers Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma and South Dakota.

Asian stocks climb as more economic, earnings data due

By KELVIN CHAN, AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — Asian stock markets advanced Tuesday as investors prepared to assess a fresh round of corporate earnings reports and data releases on the global economy, starting with an upbeat Chinese factory numbers.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index added 0.2 percent to 19,959.41 while South Korea's

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Kospi advanced 1 percent to 2,426.65. Hong Kong's Hang Seng gained 0.4 percent to 27,418.75 and the Shanghai Composite index in mainland China rose 0.4 percent to 3,284.62. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 climbed 0.7 percent to 5,758.90. Southeast Asian indexes were mixed.

DATA DUMP: Investors were focusing on a deluge of economic data due out Tuesday, starting with a private Chinese manufacturing survey showing activity expanded last month, rising to its highest in four months. The Caixin/Markit factory purchasing managers' index contradicts an official Chinese survey on Monday that showed slower growth, providing a glimmer of hope that the world's No. 2 economy is holding up better than thought. That's followed later by second quarter GDP figures for the euro zone and U.S. manufacturing and personal income numbers.

BOTTOM LINES: Japanese electronics giant Sony and automaker Honda are among companies set to release their latest quarterly results. The numbers have been strong so far this earnings season and investors will be looking to see if that trend continues.

TRUMP TROUBLES: President Donald Trump's decision to fire his White House communications director, Anthony Scaramucci, just 11 days into the job raised concerns about spiraling chaos in the administration that could undermine investor confidence and further weigh on the dollar. The firing came the same day that former homeland security secretary John Kelly was sworn in as White House chief of staff.

QUOTEWORTHY: "The biggest question now must surely be if this latest White House firing is indicative of an administration in total meltdown, in which case the U.S. dollar seems unlikely to avoid being swept along with it," Michael Every, head of Asia-Pacific research at Rabobank, wrote in a commentary. "Or could the new chief of staff bring some much-needed discipline and order to the Trump administration?"

WALL STREET: Major U.S. benchmarks had a mixed finish. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.1 percent to close at 2,470.30 but the Dow Jones industrial average continued to build on its record highs to end 0.3 percent higher at 21,891.12. The Nasdaq composite lost 0.4 percent to 6,348.12.

CURRENCIES: The dollar slipped to 110.10 yen from 110.26 yen. The euro dipped to \$1.1830 from \$1.1841.

ENERGY: Oil's rally continued apace. Benchmark U.S. crude added 16 cents to \$50.33 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 46 cents to settle at \$50.17 a barrel on Monday. Brent crude, the international standard, picked up 15 cents to \$52.65 a barrel in London.



People commute past an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm in Tokyo Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2017. Asian stock markets advanced Tuesday as investors prepared to assess a fresh round of corporate earnings reports and data releases on the global economy, starting with an upbeat Chinese factory numbers. (AP Photo/ Eugene Hoshiko)

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Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 1, the 213th day of 2017. There are 152 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On August 1, 1957, the United States and Canada announced they had agreed to create the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

On this date:

In 1714, Britain's Queen Anne died at age 49; she was succeeded by George I.

In 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.

In 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical division, the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

In 1913, the Joyce Kilmer poem "Trees" was first published in "Poetry: A Magazine of Verse."

In 1936, the Olympics opened in Berlin with a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler.

In 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation; the revolt lasted two months before collapsing.

In 1947, Mickey Spillane's first novel, "I, the Jury," featuring the debut of private eye Mike Hammer, was published.

In 1966, Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, went on an armed rampage at the University of Texas in Austin that killed 14 people, most of whom were shot by Whitman while he was perched in the clock tower of the main campus building. (Whitman, who had also slain his wife and mother hours earlier, was finally gunned down by police.)

In 1975, a 35-nation summit in Finland concluded with the signing of a declaration known as the Helsinki Accords dealing with European security, human rights and East-West contacts.

In 1977, former U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, working as a traffic reporter for KNBC-TV in Los Angeles, was killed with his cameraman, George Spears, when their helicopter ran out of fuel and crashed; Powers was 47.

In 1981, the rock music video channel MTV made its debut.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley confirmed they'd been secretly married 11 weeks earlier. (Presley filed for divorce from Jackson in Jan. 1996, citing irreconcilable differences.)

Ten years ago: The eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge, a major Minneapolis artery, collapsed into the Mississippi River during evening rush hour, killing 13 people.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama made his rival's personal millions a front-and-center issue in the race for the White House, telling a swing-state audience in Ohio that Mitt Romney "is asking you to pay more so that people like him can get a big tax cut." Four teams from China, South Korea and Indonesia were kicked out of the women's badminton doubles at the London Olympics for trying to lose on purpose in order to earn an easier matchup in the knockout round. Host country Britain picked up its first two gold medals as Helen Glover and Heather Stanning won the final of the women's pair at the rowing regatta and cyclist Bradley Wiggins took the time trial.

One year ago: The United States launched multiple airstrikes against Islamic State militants in Libya, opening a new front against the group at the request of the United Nations-backed Libyan government. President Barack Obama, speaking at the annual convention of the Disabled American Veterans in Atlanta, said the U.S. had made serious strides in improving services for military veterans, but that work remained to overcome shortcomings in the delivery of health care, housing and mental health services. Vice President Joe Biden officiated a gay wedding, a first for the early proponent of same-sex marriage as he presided over the union of Joe Mahshie and Brian Mosteller, both longtime White House aides, at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Ramblin' Jack Elliott is 86. Former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., is 80. Actor Giancarlo Giannini is 75. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams is 67. Blues singer-musician Robert

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Cray is 64. Singer Michael Penn is 59. Rock singer Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) is 58. Rock singer-musician Suzi Gardner (L7) is 57. Rapper Chuck D (Public Enemy) is 57. Actor Jesse Borrego is 55. Actor Demian Bichir is 54. Rapper Coolio is 54. Actor John Carroll Lynch is 54. Rock singer Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) is 53. Movie director Sam Mendes is 52. Country singer George Ducas is 51. Country musician Charlie Kelley is 49. Actress Jennifer Gareis is 47. Actor Charles Malik Whitfield is 45. Actress Tempestt Bledsoe is 44. Actor Jason Momoa is 38. Actress Honeysuckle Weeks is 38. Singer Ashley Parker Angel is 36. Actress Taylor Fry is 36. Actor Elijah Kelley is 31. Actor James Francis Kelly is 28. Actress Ella Wahlestedt is 19.

Thought for Today: "Pride, like humility, is destroyed by one's insistence that he possesses it." — Kenneth Bancroft Clark, American educator and psychologist (1914-2005).