

## World News Roundup

## Politics

## High-stakes race

## Minnesota primary tests Pawlenty 'comeback' bid

ST PAUL, Minn., Aug. 13, (AP) — Seven years after his presidential aspirations fizzled, **Tim Pawlenty** is hoping to regain his winning touch and restart his political career in a familiar spot: Minnesota's Republican primary for governor.

The former two-term governor's name is the biggest in both parties in the wide-open and high-stakes race for the state's top job. Tuesday's primary will determine which of three Democrats and two Republicans succeed outgoing Democratic Gov. Mark Dayton.

The race not only gives Pawlenty a shot at redemption but also could be a chance for Republicans to seize full control of Minnesota's traditionally blue state government. Unless Democrats recapture the state House — a tall order — a victory in the governor's race would be the party's only blockade against GOP-backed policies that already rule most of the Upper Midwest.

The primaries for governor were just one piece of a stacked election that also included races for US Senate, several competitive congressional matchups and a rare open race for the attorney general seat that Swanson was vacating to run for governor. Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison was leaving Congress to try for that seat, but his candidacy was hit over the weekend by an allegation from an ex-girlfriend that he physically abused her. Ellison denied the charge.

In the gubernatorial race, Democrats treated Pawlenty as their November opponent even as they tried to figure out their own candidate. He was the most frequent target in campaign ads and stump speeches from southern Minnesota's US Rep. Tim Walz, state Rep. Erin Murphy and Attorney General Lori Swanson. And the liberal outside political organization Alliance for a Better Minnesota spent months and millions of dollars on attack ads to remind voters of the \$6.1 billion deficit Pawlenty handed Dayton in 2011.

After Pawlenty quit the 2012 presidential race, he declared himself retired from politics and moved on to a lobbying job in Washington. But in April, after months of flirting with a run, he jumped into the governor's race. His opponent, Jeff Johnson, the party's 2014 nominee and loser to Dayton.

## Cleared

Pawlenty's resume quickly cleared most other GOP hopefuls from the race, and big money immediately flowed his way from such national groups as the Republican Governors Association, which quickly reserved \$2.3 million in ad buys.

But the self-described "Sam's Club Republican" didn't have an easy time reintegrating himself in a party that has changed drastically since he left office in 2011. He quickly abandoned a quest for the party's support, which went to Johnson.

He also struggled to live down his blistering critique of President Donald Trump in the weeks leading up to the 2016 election, when he called then-candidate Trump "unhinged and unfit for the presidency." He has since said he still voted for Trump and supports the president's agenda.

Johnson gleefully circulated those comments, calling himself the true conservative and branding Pawlenty part of the "status quo." In one debate, Pawlenty and Johnson sparred for several minutes over who had insulted the president worse, with Pawlenty reminding radio listeners that Johnson had once referred to Trump as "a jackass."

"I supported him," Johnson said in response. "You told people not to vote for him."

Longtime Republican political operative Gregg Peppin said it remains to be seen whether GOP voters want Pawlenty back, noting that unlike Terry Branstad — the former Iowa governor who left office for more than a decade but stayed in Iowa before seeking his old job — Pawlenty sought work elsewhere. He spent more than five years working for the Financial Services Roundtable in Washington.

"I don't know if voters will penalize him for that or not," said Peppin, who worked on Johnson's 2014 campaign but isn't working for either candidate this year.

But Pawlenty was the last Republican to win statewide in Minnesota when he won his second term in 2006. And Johnson couldn't keep up with weeks of attack ads statewide branding him a phony conservative who supported Dayton's push to expand the state sales tax and supported a property tax increase as a Hennepin County commissioner.

## Theme

While countering Pawlenty was a unifying theme for the Democrats, their primary turned ugly in the closing days. Swanson, who entered the race late after three terms as attorney general, attacked Walz last week with an ad dubbing him "No-Show Walz" for missing more than 60 percent of votes in Congress this year.

Walz admitted it's a fair figure and that he's struggled to balance his congressional duties with campaign and personal life, but accused Swanson of taking the low road with name-calling.

"We get plenty of that from the White House right now," he said during a Minnesota Public Radio News debate on Friday.

Walz portrayed his background — rural Minnesota roots, former teacher, National Guard veteran — as making him best suited to reverse a trend of Democrats struggling away from state's urban core.

Murphy, a former nurse and longtime state lawmaker, hoped to energize loyal Democratic voters with her endorsement from both the party and Dayton. Swanson touted her electoral success as the party's highest vote-getter during three terms and her work as attorney general.

But Swanson came under scrutiny in the final week after a former staffer in her office accused her of pressuring employees to help with her political ambitions. D'Andre Norman told The Intercept he spent years rounding up young staffers to volunteer on Swanson's behalf at political conventions before he was fired in 2014 — an allegation that Swanson called a lie.

It wasn't the first blow to Swanson's campaign. She stood by her running mate, Rep. Rick Nolan, after Nolan acknowledged mishandling an allegation of sexual harassment against an aide in his congressional office.

Meanwhile, the counting of the last ballots in the tight and contentious Republican primary for Kansas governor will stretch out over the week and still might not settle the race.

Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and Gov. Jeff Colyer were locked in a tight race after late mail-in ballots from all 105 counties were added to totals from advance voting and ballots cast at the polls on Aug. 7. The state's 105 counties still must review nearly 9,000 provisional ballots and determine how many of them were cast in the Republican primary — and how many will be counted. They have until Aug. 20 to finish that process and certify their local results.



Pawlenty



Demonstrators rally near the White House on the one-year anniversary of the Charlottesville 'Unite the Right' rally, on Aug. 12, in Washington. (AP)



California firefighters stand vigilantly as they provide hose lays around a vegetation fire along Oak Drive and Buck Mountain Road near Alta Sierra, California on Aug. 12. (AP)



Medvedev



Trudeau

## North America

**Sanctions hit economic nerve:** Russia typically brushes off new US sanctions. Not this time.

The Trump administration announcement of export restrictions in response to accusations Moscow used a nerve agent to poison a former Russian spy in Britain sent the ruble tumbling to a two-year low and drew a stern warning from its prime minister. While the initial sanctions may have a limited impact, a second batch expected within months could hit the Russian economy much harder and send already tense relations into a tailspin.

If sanctions are expanded even further to target Russia's top state-controlled banks, freezing their dollar transactions — as proposed under legislation introduced in the Senate this month — it would amount to a "declaration of economic war," Russian Prime Minister **Dmitry Medvedev** said Friday.

So much for President Donald Trump's hopes for better relations with Moscow.

On his watch, the US has imposed a slew of sanctions on Russia for human rights abuses, meddling in the U.S. election and Russian military aggression in Ukraine and Syria. For the most part, they have punished Russian officials and associates of President Vladimir Putin rather than targeting broad economic sectors.

In 2014, both the US and European Union introduced sanctions that restricted Russia's access to global financial markets and to equipment for new energy projects. Those measures were punishing, but the sanctions announced by the Trump administration this past week could be even worse. (AP)

**Rubio looks for his place:** After flailing out in the GOP presidential primary — and enduring rival Donald Trump's taunts along the way — Sen. Marco Rubio is entering his next act in politics.

The once-rising star used to be criticized for being in too much of a hurry, but now he's hunkered down in the Senate with nothing, it seems, but time.

Rubio passes his days buried in the work of the Senate Intelligence Committee and is a leading advocate of bolstering election security and slapping sanctions on Russians if they interfere again in 2018. In the hallways of the Capitol, he brushes past reporters looking for reaction to the news of the day, focusing instead on legislative proposals or policy speeches on the Senate floor. And back in Florida, he's involved in long-running disputes over the Everglades and toxic algae blooms.

But one thing Rubio isn't doing, he says,

## Charlottesville

## Counter-protest overwhelms white supremacist rally

## Charlottesville 'versary protests peaceful

WASHINGTON, Aug. 13, (Agencies) — Thousands of people wanting to send a message that racism is unwelcome in the United States gathered in a park outside the White House to protest a white nationalist rally on the anniversary of the deadly violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In the end, fewer than two dozen white nationalists showed up.

The events held in both Charlottesville and Washington, largely peaceful though tense at times, were part of a day of speeches, vigils and marches marking a year since one of the largest gatherings of white nationalists and other far-right extremists in a decade. One person was arrested in Washington on Sunday, and four others were arrested in Charlottesville.

In Charlottesville, the mother of the woman killed at last summer's rally visited the site of the attack, saying the country's racial wounds still have not healed. In Washington, a phalanx of police and a maze of metal barriers separated the small group of white nationalists from shouting counter-protesters within view of the White House.

Jason Kessler, the principal organizer of last year's "Unite the Right" event, led the Sunday gathering he called a white civil rights rally in Lafayette Square. Kessler said in a permit application that he expected 100 to 400 people to participate, but the actual number was far lower: only around 20.

Kessler's group was dogged by jeering crowds from the moment they emerged from the Foggy Bottom Metro station; they marched about a mile to the White House surrounded by uniformed officers and police vehicles. Behind the barricades, in the northern half of Lafayette Park, thousands of counterprotesters struggled to even catch a clear glimpse of the white nationalist rally.

The counterprotesters had gathered hours earlier in Lafayette Park and nearby Freedom Plaza. Makia Green, who represents the Washington branch of Black Lives Matter, told Sunday's crowd in Freedom Plaza: "We know from experience that ignoring white nationalism doesn't work." After about 90 minutes, the white nationalists were packed into a pair of vans and driven to safety.

President Donald Trump, who fur-

ther enflamed tensions last year by blaming "both sides" for the violence, wasn't at home this year — he has been at his golf club in New Jersey for more than a week on a working vacation.

Washington Police Chief Peter Newsham credited his forces for successfully avoiding violence and keeping the two sides separated. Newsham called it, "a well-executed plan to safeguard people and property while allowing citizens to express their First Amendment rights." Earlier in the day in Charlottesville, the mother of Heather Heyer, the 32-year-old killed during last year's rally, said there's still much healing to be done.

Susan Bro laid flowers at a makeshift memorial at the site of the attack in downtown Charlottesville. With a crowd gathered around her, she thanked them for coming to remember her daughter but also acknowledged the dozens of others injured and the two state troopers killed when a helicopter crashed that day.

## Problem

"There's so much healing to do," Bro said. "We have a huge racial problem in our city and in our country. We have got to fix this, or we'll be right back here in no time." Hundreds of neo-Nazis, skinheads and Ku Klux Klan members and other white nationalists descended on Charlottesville on Aug. 12, 2017, in part to protest over the city's decision to remove a monument to Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from a park.

Violent fighting broke out between attendees and counter-protesters. Authorities eventually forced the crowd to disperse, but chaos erupted again when the car barreled into the crowd.

James Fields Jr., of Maumee, Ohio, is charged in state court with murder in Heyer's killing and faces separate hate crime charges in federal court. He pleaded not guilty last month to the federal charges.

The day's death toll rose to three when a state police helicopter crashed, killing Lt. Jay Cullen and Trooper-Pilot Berke Bates.

Among the other anniversary events was a Sunday morning community gathering at a park that drew more than 200 people. The group sang and listened to speakers, among them Courtney Commander, a friend of Heyer's

who was with her when she was killed. "She is with me today, too," Commander said.

Law enforcement officials faced blistering criticism after last year's rally for what was perceived as a passive response to the violence that unfolded. A review by a former US attorney found a lack of coordination between state and city police and an operational plan that elevated officer safety over public safety.

The anniversary weekend was marked by a much heavier police presence, which also drew criticism from some activists.

Demonstrators on Sunday marched through Charlottesville chanting, "Cops and Klan go hand in hand," and "Will you protect us?" After the white nationalists departed, police had a tense standoff with about 150 masked anti-fascist, or antifa, protesters who marched through downtown Washington blocking traffic after the white nationalists left. Police shoved back advancing members of the far-left-leaning militant group, and an officer used pepper spray, but no tear gas was deployed.

The city of Charlottesville said four people were arrested in the downtown area. Two arrests stemmed from a confrontation near the Lee statue where a Spotsylvania, Virginia, man stopped to salute, a Charlottesville woman confronted him and a physical altercation took place, officials said.

Police were also investigating the assault of a Charlottesville police officer who was knocked down during a demonstration related to the rally. The officer was knocked to the ground and swarmed after approaching a man whose face was covered, according to police. The officer wasn't hurt, but the investigation is ongoing.

A small white supremacist rally took place outside the White House on Sunday when only some 20 far-right supporters showed up, but they were massively outnumbered by counter-protesters.

Washington police closed streets and threw a ring of steel across a park where the rally was held to keep the demonstrators and counter-protesters apart.

The day appeared to end without major incident, though officers used pepper spray on rowdy anti-fascists a few blocks from the White House.

is gearing up for a White House run in 2020. (AP)

**Cooler weather helps crews:** Aided by slightly cooler temperatures, firefighters

made steady progress Sunday in battling a wildfire that destroyed 16 structures as it raged through Southern California's Cleveland National Forest.

The Holy Fire was 41 percent contained Sunday afternoon after burning across 35.5

square miles (92 kilometers) of dry timber and brush, said Lynne Tolmarchoff of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

"The weather out here in California seems to be cooling down today and over the next couple days, and that should hopefully help firefighters get even more containment," Tolmarchoff said. "They should make better progress over the next couple of days."

They'll need to, with temperatures, expected to again reach 100 degrees or more by the end of the week. (AP)

## Trudeau meets victims' families:

Prime Minister **Justin Trudeau** met Sunday with the families of victims of a fatal shooting in eastern Canada — but said "now is not the time" to discuss gun control.

Matthew Vincent Raymond, 48, opened fire in the sleepy city of Fredericton, New Brunswick, early Friday, killing four people, including two police officers.

Trudeau met the families privately, and laid a wreath at a makeshift memorial in front of the city's police headquarters.

"This is a moment to remember the two brave officers who fell in the line of duty and the other two victims and all of their families and the communities that are pulling together," he said.

"Obviously, reflecting on this loss, but remembering that resilience comes from leaning on each other and being there for each other." (AFP)



Mike Mathews and friends of Richard Russell talk to the media on Aug. 11, at the Orting Valley Police and Fire Department, in Orting, Washington. Russell is presumed dead after stealing a plane from SeaTac International Airport and crashing it into Ketron Island on Aug. 10. (AP)