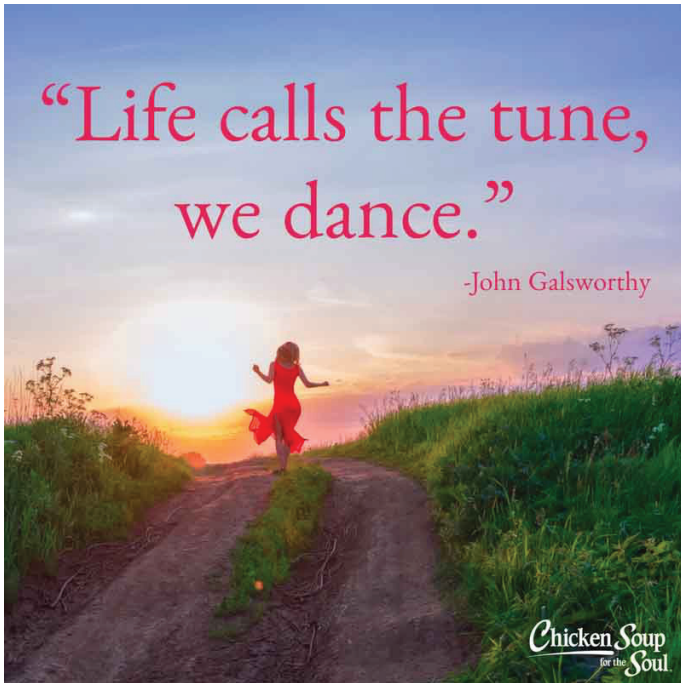


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The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **GONE**

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

"From minor scratches to a complete rebuild . . . we can do it all"

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- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Harr Auto Body Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Netters beat Webster
- 3- Gas Prices Remain Steady Despite High Demand
- 3- Robert B. Johnson Estate Auction
- 4- Groton Care & Rehab Ad
- 4- Today in Weather History
- 5- Today's Forecast
- 6- Yesterday's Weather
- 6- National Weather map
- 6- Today's Weather Almanac
- 7- Daily Devotional
- 8- 2018 Groton Community Events
- 9- News from the Associated Press

Thursday's Events

- 10:00am: Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Aberdeen Central, Aberdeen Roncalli, Dell Rapids, Madison, McCook Central-Montrose, Milbank, Redfield-Doland, Sioux Valley, Sisseton, Tiospa Zina, Tri-Valley @ Olive Grove Golf Course
- 4:00pm: Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. James Valley Christian @ James Valley Christian High School
- 4:30pm: Football: Boys 7th/8th Combined Game (Time Changed) vs. Sisseton @ Groton Area High School
- 6:00pm: Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match vs. Hamlin @ Hamlin High School (JV match starts at 6pm C match starts at 4:30pm)

Friday, September 7, 2018

- 6:00pm: Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. West Central @ West Central High School
- 7:00pm: Football: Boys Varsity Game vs. Beresford @ Groton Area High School Doney Field

Saturday, September 8, 2018

- 1:00pm: Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. S. F. Christian @ Groton Area High School
- 3:00pm: Soccer: Boys Varsity Match vs. S. F. Christian @ Groton Area High School

Sunday, September 9, 2018

- Couples Sunflower Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course. Noon shotgun start. 18 holes - Scramble

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Groton's volleyball team beats Webster in three games

Groton Area's volleyball team improved its record to 7-1 Tuesday with a 3-0 win over Webster Area. The match was played in Groton.

Eliza Wanner finished the first game with two ace serves as Groton Area won the first game, 25-12. The Tigers won the second game, 25-13, and the third game, 25-16. In the third game, the game was tied seven times and there were four lead changes before Groton scored four straight points to take the lead and went on from there to increase its margin.

Webster Area won the junior varsity match, 25-21, 24-26 and 15-8; and the C match by game scores of 25-18 and 25-20.

In serving, Groton Area was 66 of 72 with 16 ace serves. Jennie Doeden was 16 of 19 with five ace serves, Miranda Hanson was 13 of 14 with four ace serves and Eliza Wanner was 13 of 14 with three ace serves. Also having ace serves were Portia Kettering with three and Kaylin Kucker with two. Webster was 31 of 43 with one ace serve.

In attacks, Groton Area was 48 of 63 with 21 kills. Jennie Doeden was 12 of 17 with seven kills, Eliza Wanner was 13 of 15 with seven kills and Taylor Holm was six of eight with three kills. Also having kills were Kettering with two and Indigo Rogers and Payton Colestock with one each. Webster Area was 31 of 39 with 15 kills.

Groton Area was 54 of 55 in sets with 20 assists. Kaylin Kucker was 27 of 27 with eight assists and Miranda Hanson was 19 of 20 with seven assists. Webster Area was 26 of 28 with eight assists.

Groton Area had 27 digs with Payton Maine having nine, Jennie Doeden and Eliza Wanner each having six. Webster Area had 28 digs.

Groton Area had two blocks, one each by Jennie Doeden and Indigo Rogers.

Groton Area will travel to Hamlin on Thursday.



Eliza Wanner
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Taylor Holm
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Miranda Hanson
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Portia Kettering
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)



Jennie Doeden
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Gas Prices Remain Steady Despite High Demand

Sept. 4, 2018 - At \$2.83, the national gas price average is trending toward lower gas prices that motorists haven't seen since early May. Today's national gas price average is one-cent less on the week, four-cents cheaper than last month, but 19-cents more than a year ago.

Motorists took advantage of these stable and lower prices by driving gasoline demand to its highest level ever on record at 9.899 bbl for the week ending August 24, according to the Energy Information Administration. But that spike is not expected to continue.

"With summer in the rearview mirror, demand is expected to significantly drop off in the coming weeks which means motorists can expect to see gas prices steadily decline," said Marilyn Buskohl, AAA spokesperson. "AAA expects the national average to hit \$2.70 or less this fall."

South Dakota Average Gas Prices:

Current Avg. \$2.826

Yesterday Avg. \$2.835

Week Ago Avg. \$2.841

Month Ago Avg. \$2.908

Year Ago Avg. \$2.517

Quick Stats

The nation's top 10 most expensive markets are: Hawaii (\$3.78), California (\$3.62), Washington (\$3.38), Alaska (\$3.31), Oregon (\$3.26), Idaho (\$3.25), Nevada (\$3.19), Utah (\$3.18), Pennsylvania (\$3.05), and Connecticut (\$3.04).

The nation's top 10 largest monthly changes are: Indiana (-16 cents), Kentucky (-12 cents), Illinois (-11 cents), Delaware (-10 cents), Ohio (-10 cents), Idaho (+10 cents), Utah (+10 cents), Alaska (-9 cents), South Dakota (-8 cents) and Michigan (-8 cents).

Central and Great Lakes

Gas prices continue to be volatile in the Great Lakes and Central states with gas price averages as much as seven-cents cheaper in Michigan to six-cents more expensive in Missouri on the week. While some states in the region saw slight increases at the pump due to the holiday weekend, most states are seeing cheaper pump prices, which will likely be the trend for the region in coming weeks as gasoline demand is expected to level off.

Despite a draw in inventory, regional levels remain at a healthy nearly 53 million bbl – which is helping to keep most gas prices down. The EIA reports that total levels are on par with this time last year.

Oil market dynamics

At the close of Friday's formal trading session on the NYMEX, WTI decreased 45 cents to settle at \$69.80. Oil prices reflected modest gains last week, following the release of EIA's report, which showed U.S. crude inventories fell nearly 2.6 million bbl.

International factors are also impacting global supply and demand for crude oil as Iranian oil exports drop as a result of sanctions. The market may react to tightened supply and pressure prices higher as a result of the next round of U.S. economic sanctions against Iran that are expected in November.

Market watchers will keep a close eye on the impacts of additional Iran sanctions and the storm in the Gulf of Mexico. Both factors could affect prices at the pump moving forward.

Robert B. Johnson Estate Auction

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 10AM

Location: 204 Hickory St., Langford, SD

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Pictures & Full Sale Bill at voldrealty.com

Owner: Robert B. Johnson Estate

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Today in Weather History

September 5, 1983: In the late afternoon and early evening, hail up to 2 and ½ inches in diameter pounded crops, trees, buildings, and windows resulting in extensive damage in Spink, Beadle, Turner, and Clay Counties. Trees were stripped of numerous branches broken off.

1666: The Great Fire of London started on September 2nd and continued through September 5th. The fire spread rapidly due to strong westerly winds. This fire consumed 13,200 homes, 87 parish churches, and St. Paul's Cathedral.

1925 - The temperature at Centerville, AL, soars to 112 degrees to establish a state record. Every reporting station in Alabama was 100 degrees or above that afternoon. (The Weather Channel)

1929: Early season snowfall occurred in the mountains of Wyoming and the Black Hills of South Dakota on September 5th and 6th. The highest snowfall amount was 16 inches in Fox Park, Wyoming.

1933 - A hurricane hit Brownsville, TX, killing forty persons and causing 12 million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1950: Hurricane Easy was an erratic and unpredictable hurricane that lingered over the Tampa Bay area for days, dropping torrential rains and causing damage especially in Cedar Key, Florida where the storm eventually made landfall. This hurricane dumped 38.7 inches of rain in 24 hours in Yankeetown, a record for the U.S. at the time, and caused \$3.3 million in damage. Total rainfall amounts in Yankeetown was 45.20 inches.

1975 - Strong winds reduced visibilities to near zero in blowing dust resulting in a 22-car chain reaction accident on Interstate 10 near Toltec AZ. Two persons were killed, and 14 others were injured. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms over the Southern and Middle Atlantic Coast States drenched Charleston, SC, with 5.50 inches of rain, and a total of 13.50 inches in two days, flooding homes, and leaving roads and bridges under water. (The National Weather Summary) A tropical storm which formed off the South Atlantic coast was responsible for torrential rains over coastal regions of South Carolina. Between the 30th of August and the 8th of September, Charleston SC received 18.44 inches of rain. The heavy rains caused extensive flooding around the city of Charleston, seriously damaged cotton crops in the eastern part of the state, and resulted in an unusually high number of mosquitos. (Storm Data)

1988 - Five days of heavy rain commenced in west central Florida. Up to 20 inches of rain in four days resulted in extensive urban flooding, and evacuation of 1000 homes. Flooding claimed four lives, and caused more than five million dollars property damage. (The National Weather Summary)(Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced six to ten inches of rain in south central Kansas between 6 AM and Noon. Serious flooding was reported around Wichita, with water four feet deep along some roads. A cold front crossing the Northern High Plains Region produced wind gusts to 63 mph at Sheridan WY. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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Laundry

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Today



Sunny

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Thursday



Sunny

Thursday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Friday



Mostly Sunny

High: 70 °F

Low: 41 °F

High: 75 °F

Low: 52 °F

High: 76 °F

Pleasant Weather Conditions Today And Tonight

**Highs Today:
Upper 60s to Low 70s**

**Lows Tonight:
Low 40s to Low 50s**



weather.gov/Aberdeen



National Weather Service Aberdeen



[@NWSAberdeen](https://twitter.com/NWSAberdeen)

Updated: 9/5/2018 3:26 AM Central

Published on: 09/05/2018 at 3:29AM

High pressure will build into the region today. Clouds will clear by afternoon and drier, cooler air will move in through tonight.

Groton Daily Independent

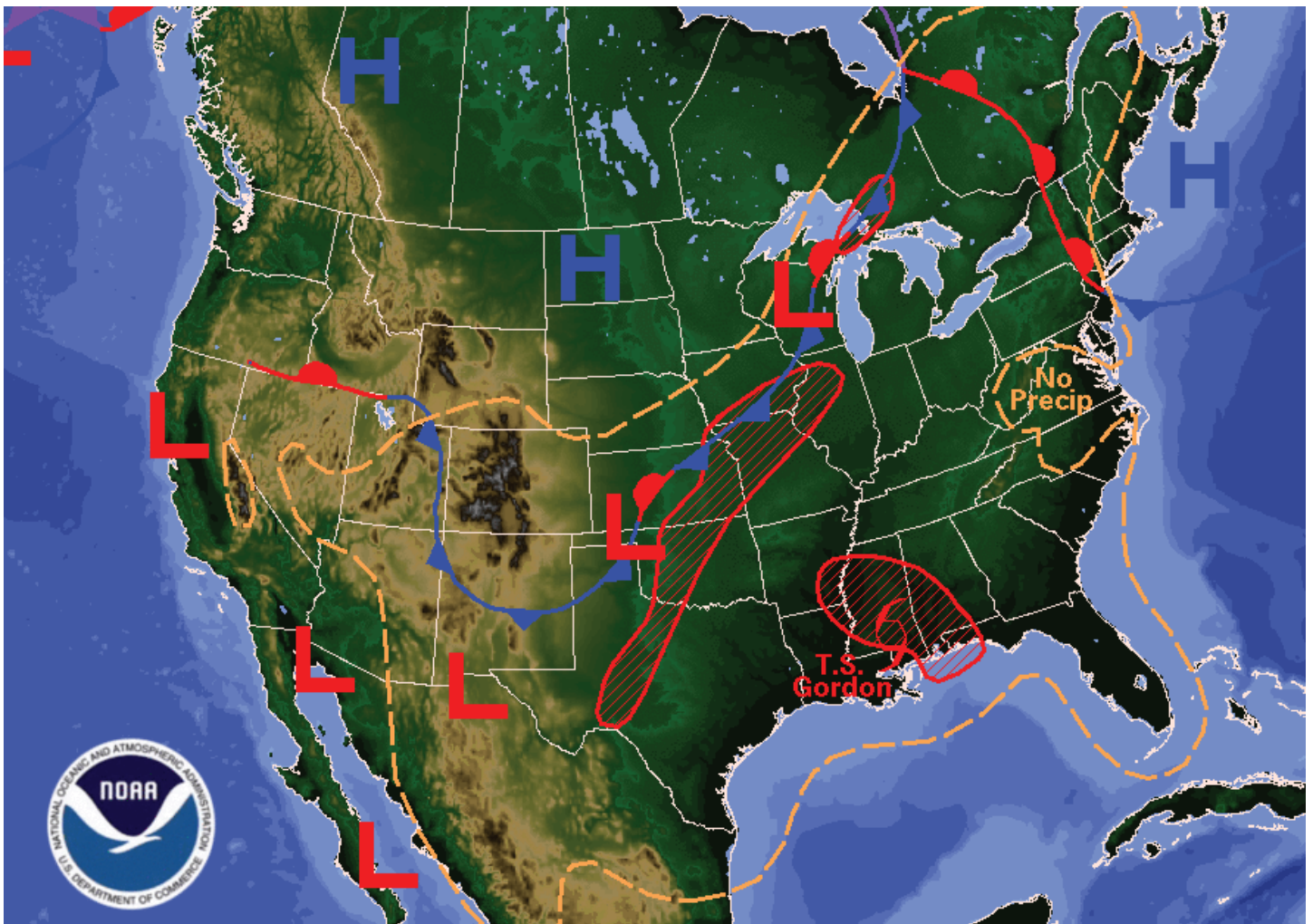
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 79.9 F at 1:31 PM
Low Outside Temp: 64.4 F at 11:27 PM
High Gust: 22.0 Mph at 3:07 PM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 102° in 1945
Record Low: 32° in 1962, 1896
Average High: 77°F
Average Low: 50°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.30
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.10
Average Precip to date: 16.59
Precip Year to Date: 11.36
Sunset Tonight: 8:04 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:01 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Sep 05, 2018, issued 4:46 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by Mcreynolds 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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A GOOD HABIT FOR CHRISTIANS

The word habit cannot be found in the Bible. Now, we might ask, Is that good or bad? Its neither. But that does not mean that it cant be placed in front of the word habit. For surely there are both good and bad habits, and most of us have some of each.

Unfortunately, most of us develop habits without realizing it. They just seem to happen when we least expect them and are troublesome to get rid of once we become attached to them. Some of them can be toxic and troublesome like excessive snacking, texting unnecessary messages or wasting time doing things that lead nowhere. Others can be nourishing and nurturing like walking with a pet, setting aside time for prayer and Bible reading or attending church. So, depending on the nature of a habit it can be helpful or hindering.

A helpful habit for every Christian to cultivate is the habit of praising God for His grace, gifts, and goodness. The Psalmist said, I praise Your name for Your unfailing love and faithfulness. While this sounds straightforward and simple, we receive so many gifts from God that we scarcely recognize most of them. Unless they are out of the ordinary or we see an answer to a prayer we thought He might have overlooked, we rarely pause and praise Him. How very sad!

Might Gods blessings be slow in coming because we do not burst forth in praise each time He shows us His favor? Might His gifts increase if we focus more on His goodness and less on our greed? Lets make praise a habit!

Prayer: How very sad, Father, that we need to be reminded to give You praise. Grant us grateful hearts! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 138:2b I praise Your name for Your unfailing love and faithfulness.

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2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- 11/18/2017-3/31/2018 Groton Lion's Club Wheel of Meat- Saturday Nights 7pm at the Groton Legion (Fall/Winter Months)
- 1/27/2019 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm
- 4/13/2019 Easter Egg Hunt (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 5/4/2019 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday in May)
- 5/27/2019 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Program at the Cemetery, Lunch to follow at the American Legion (Memorial Day)
- 6/14/2018 Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- 6/15/2018 SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/16/2018 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/8/2018 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/6/2018 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/12/2018 Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/31/2018 Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/10/2018 Groton American Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/01/2018 Olive Grove Golf Course 2018 Holiday Party

- Best Ball Golf Tourney
- SDSU Golf Tourney
- Sunflower Golf Tourney
- Santa Claus Day
- Fireman's Stag
- Tour of Homes
- Crazy Dayz/Open Houses
- School Events

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News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Waubay/Summit, 25-22, 25-10, 25-11
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Parkston, 25-19, 25-23, 25-17
Arlington def. Castlewood, 25-12, 25-19, 26-24
Avon def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 16-25, 25-20, 25-17, 25-13
Bowman County, N.D. def. Harding County, 25-23, 25-21, 25-14
Bridgewater-Emery def. Menno, 25-18, 16-25, 25-20, 22-25, 15-7
Britton-Hecla def. Sargent Central, N.D., 27-29, 25-18, 22-25, 25-19, 15-4
Burke def. Chamberlain, 25-14, 25-21, 25-13
Canistota def. Viborg-Hurley, 25-14, 25-12, 25-9
Chester def. Baltic, 25-18, 25-7, 25-15
Cheyenne-Eagle Butte def. McLaughlin, 25-13, 25-11, 25-12
Colman-Egan def. Flandreau Indian, 25-4, 25-11, 25-5
Colome def. Lyman, 25-23, 25-12, 25-15
Edmunds Central def. Aberdeen Christian, 19-25, 25-14, 25-17, 25-10
Elkton-Lake Benton def. DeSmet, 25-10, 25-19, 25-12
Estelline/Hendricks def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-10, 25-16, 25-20
Ethan def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-12, 25-21, 18-25, 25-12
Faith def. Hettinger/Scranton, N.D., 25-20, 15-25, 17-25, 25-20, 15-8
Faulkton def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-17, 25-10, 25-18
Flandreau def. Deubrook, 18-25, 30-28, 25-21, 19-25, 15-11
Freeman def. Centerville, 25-15, 25-18, 25-8
Gayville-Volin def. Scotland, 25-17, 25-10, 25-18
Groton Area def. Webster, 25-12, 25-10, 25-18
Hankinson, N.D. def. Sisseton, 25-10, 25-11, 18-25, 25-23
Hanson def. Howard, 25-14, 25-19, 25-23
Highmore-Harrold def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 20-25, 25-20, 25-12, 25-11
Hill City def. Douglas, 25-20, 25-16, 25-17
Hot Springs def. Red Cloud, 25-6, 25-22, 13-25, 25-23
Ipswich def. Sully Buttes, 21-25, 25-19, 25-20, 18-25, 15-12
Lead-Deadwood def. Edgemont, 25-14, 25-19, 25-23
Lemmon def. McIntosh, 25-16, 25-20, 20-25, 20-25, 15-9
Marty Indian def. Santee, Neb., 25-11, 25-13, 25-20
Mitchell def. Brandon Valley, 25-21, 19-25, 25-14, 25-23
Philip def. Jones County, 25-7, 25-17, 25-4
Pierre def. Spearfish, 25-20, 25-17, 25-20
Redfield/Doland def. Leola/Frederick, 25-13, 25-17, 25-7
Sioux Falls Christian def. Madison, 25-16, 25-22, 25-21
Sioux Falls O'Gorman def. Huron, 25-20, 25-15, 25-10
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-21, 25-14, 23-25, 25-23
Sioux Falls Washington def. Yankton, 25-12, 25-20, 24-26, 25-17
Sioux Valley def. McCook Central/Montrose, 19-25, 25-8, 25-17
St. Francis Indian def. Lower Brule, 25-16, 25-16, 22-25, 25-19
St. Thomas More def. Belle Fourche, 25-18, 25-23, 25-19

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Sturgis def. Custer, 25-15, 25-15, 27-25
Tea Area def. Lennox, 25-8, 14-25, 25-23, 25-21
Vermillion def. Bon Homme, 21-25, 25-13, 25-23, 21-25, 15-6
Wagner def. Platte-Geddes, 25-11, 25-10, 25-20
Warner def. Miller, 25-22, 25-20, 25-23
Watertown def. Brookings, 25-23, 23-25, 18-25, 25-20, 15-8
Wessington Springs def. Mitchell Christian, 25-20, 25-21, 23-25, 25-23
West Central def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-21, 14-25, 25-20, 11-25, 20-18
Wilmot def. Florence/Henry, 25-16, 25-19, 25-19
Tiospaye Topa Triangular
Crazy Horse def. Wakpala, 25-14, 27-25, 25-20
Tiospaye Topa def. Crazy Horse, 25-17, 25-19, 25-11
Tiospaye Topa def. Wakpala, 25-20, 25-18, 25-22
Winner Triangular
Gregory def. Bennett County, 25-17, 27-25, 21-25, 25-21
Winner def. Bennett County, 25-11, 25-9, 25-5

South Dakota Volleyball Polls

By The Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Here is the final South Dakota media volleyball poll for the 2018 season. Teams are listed with first place votes in parenthesis, record, points and previous ranking.

Class AA

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. R.C. Stevens	(16)	8-0	80	1
2. S.F. Washington	-	5-1	63	2
3. S.F. O’Gorman	-	6-1	47	3
4. Mitchell	-	4-1	23	5
5. S.F. Roosevelt	-	3-1	21	4

Others receiving votes: Huron (5-1) 5, Aberdeen Central (3-1) 1.

Class A

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. S.F. Christian	(16)	5-0	80	1
2. Winner	-	5-0	53	5
3. Miller	-	4-1	51	3
4. Dell Rapids	-	5-0	16	2
5. Dakota Valley	-	1-1	10	4
(tie)Elk Point-Jefferson	-	-	1-1	10 NR

Others receiving votes: Parker (3-1) 6, Wagner (5-1) 6, McCook Central-Montrose (6-2) 4.

Class B

Rank-School	FPV	Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Northwestern	(16)	8-0	80	1
2. Warner	-	5-0	64	2
3. Ethan	-	2-0	40	4
4. Chester Area	-	1-1	28	3
5. Phillip	-	2-0	22	5

Others receiving votes: Wall (4-0) 3, Burke (2-1) 1, Arlington (3-3) 1, Herreid-Selby Area (7-0) 1.

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SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

02-07-25-35-44, Mega Ball: 3, Megaplier: 3

(two, seven, twenty-five, thirty-five, forty-four; Mega Ball: three; Megaplier: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$167 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$100 million

US accused of planning crackdown on pipeline protests

By MATTHEW BROWN, Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Civil liberties advocates sued the U.S. government Tuesday, alleging law enforcement agencies have been making preparations to crack down on anticipated protests over the Keystone XL oil pipeline.

Attorneys for the American Civil Liberties Union and its Montana affiliate filed the lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Missoula against the Defense, Homeland Security, Interior and Justice departments.

They asked the court to order the release of all documents about cooperation over the pipeline between federal, state and local law enforcement and private security companies.

The groups cited confrontations between law enforcement and protesters, including many Native Americans, which turned violent during construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline through South Dakota.

The clash over Dakota Access included surveillance and prosecution of protesters, Montana ACLU Attorney Alex Rate said. Planning appears to be underway for a similar response to protesters against Keystone XL, Rate said, citing documents obtained through public records requests submitted to state and local agencies.

"The big question is what level of attention the (federal) government is paying to the issue," Rate said. "If you're an indigenous person in Montana planning to protest peacefully against the construction of the pipeline, you have to be nervous about how the government is going to react."

The pipeline would transport up to 830,000 barrels of crude oil daily from Canada through Montana and South Dakota to Nebraska. It was approved by President Donald Trump in March 2017, a decision that's been challenged in court.

A judge in that case last month ordered federal officials to conduct a more thorough review of the project after the Nebraska Public Service Commission approved an alternative route for the line through Nebraska.

Defense Department spokesman Johnny Michael said the agency was reviewing the lawsuit and takes seriously its obligations to release public records.

Homeland Security spokeswoman Katie Waldman said the agency does not comment on litigation.

The Interior Department referred questions to the Justice Department, which did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The lawsuit included emails in which federal officials discussed the establishment of an "interagency team" to coordinate security of Keystone XL construction.

Also included was a Homeland Security analysis from last year on attacks on pipelines by "environmental rights extremists." The document focused in part on activists who sought to shut down five pipelines along the U.S.-Canada border by illegally closing valves on the lines.

The material was obtained by the ACLU under public records requests submitted to state and local agencies, Rate said.

Man charged in fatal Sioux Falls shooting

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is charged with first-degree manslaughter after police say he fatally shot his friend.

The shooting happened about 9 p.m. Monday in Sioux Falls. Police say the 18-year-old suspect, Stasek Alexandr Stefanyuk, was hanging out with friends and showing them a shotgun he had recently acquired when a round discharged and hit Darius Jae Tiger in the back. The 21-year-old died at the scene.

The Argus Leader reports Lt. Mike Colwill says investigators determined the gun discharged because of reckless behavior. Colwill says a controlled substance was also found in the house.

In court, Stefanyuk received a \$100,000 bond after his application for a court-appointed attorney was accepted.

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

Official apologizes for inviting candidate to event at fair

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The Department of Public Safety's leader is apologizing for inviting the Republican candidate for South Dakota attorney general to introduce a Highway Patrol event at the state fair.

The Rapid City Journal reports that department Secretary Trevor Jones apologized Tuesday after GOP attorney general nominee Jason Ravnsborg introduced the weekend canine demonstration.

Jones says in a statement that the spur-of-the-moment invitation was a "lapse in judgment" and wasn't meant to show support for any particular candidate. Jones sent an apology letter to Democratic candidate Randy Seiler.

Seiler says using state resources to sway elections is illegal. He has contacted Attorney General Marty Jackley and a county prosecutor requesting an investigation of the incident.

Seiler says he also intends to lodge a complaint with the Government Accountability Board. Ravnsborg didn't immediately comment to the newspaper.

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

Sutton tells of life after rodeo accident in his first TV ad

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Democratic governor candidate Billie Sutton is telling voters how his life changed after a rodeo accident that left him unable to walk in his first television ad of the race.

Sutton's campaign says the spot debuted Tuesday, but declined to disclose the total size of the buy. Publicly available records show Sutton has reserved more than \$32,000 in ad time at South Dakota television stations.

Sutton, a state senator, emphasizes his cowboy roots in the 60-second ad that describes his move into public service and banking since the 2007 accident. Sutton says in the message he'll always be a rodeo man, but today his "family, community and South Dakota come first."

Sutton faces Republican U.S. Rep. Kristi Noem and Libertarian Kurt Evans in November. Noem hasn't yet started running general election TV ads.

Midwest economy: August state-by-state glance

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Institute for Supply Management, formerly the Purchasing Management Association, began formally surveying its membership in 1931 to gauge business conditions.

The Creighton Economic Forecasting Group uses the same methodology as the national survey to consult supply managers and business leaders. Creighton University economics professor Ernie Goss oversees the report.

The overall index ranges between 0 and 100. Growth neutral is 50, and a figure greater than 50 indicates growth in that factor over the next three to six months.

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Here are the state-by-state results for August:

Arkansas: The August overall index for Arkansas climbed to 58.7 from July's 56.7. Index components were new orders at 64.6, production or sales at 58.1, delivery lead time at 57.7, inventories at 56.6 and employment at 56.6. The state's durable-goods manufacturing sector has added 1.2 percent more jobs over the past 12 months, while nondurable-goods producers grew jobs at a 3.5 percent pace, Goss said.

Iowa: The state's overall index rose to 59.2 in August from 55.9 in July. Index components were new orders at 67.2, production or sales at 58.7, delivery lead time at 57.4, employment at 56.3 and inventories at 56.3. Iowa's durable-goods sector added 6 percent more jobs over the past 12 months, Goss said, while nondurable-goods producers grew jobs at a 4.6 percent pace.

Kansas: Kansas' overall index dipped to 60.2 last month from July's 60.5. Index components were new orders at 66.8, production or sales at 58.5, delivery lead time at 60.7, employment at 55.4 and inventories at 59.6. The state's durable-goods sector has added 3.3 percent more jobs over the past 12 months, while nondurable-goods producers grew jobs at a 3.6 percent pace, Goss said.

Minnesota: The state's overall index soared to 61.9 in August, compared with 55.8 in July. Index components were new orders at 67.0, production or sales at 62.3, delivery lead time at 61.0, inventories at 59.8 and employment at 59.4. Minnesota's durable-goods sector has added 2.5 percent more jobs, while nondurable-goods producers added 3.6 percent more jobs over the past 12 months, Goss said.

Missouri: Missouri's overall index inched up to 56.5 in August from 56.4 in July. Index components were new orders at 62.7, production or sales at 56.4, delivery lead time at 55.1, inventories at 54.1 and employment at 54.4. The state's durable-goods sector has added 3.1 percent more jobs over the past 12 months, Goss said, while nondurable-goods producers lost 1 percent of their jobs.

Nebraska: The state's overall index increased to 61.9 last month from 61.0 in July. Index components were new orders at 67.0, production or sales at 62.3, delivery lead time at 60.9, inventories at 59.8 and employment at 59.4. The state's durable-goods sector added 4.7 percent more jobs over the past 12 months, while nondurable-goods manufacturers grew jobs at a 5 percent pace, Goss said.

North Dakota: North Dakota's overall index climbed to 76.0 for August from July's 69.6. Index components were new orders at 78.2, production or sales at 78.0, delivery lead time at 76.2, employment at 72.7 and inventories at 74.8. The state's durable-goods sector added 4.8 percent more jobs over the past 12 months, Goss said, while the nondurable-goods sector lost 1.2 percent of its employment base.

Oklahoma: The state's overall index slipped to 60.4 last month from July's 60.6. Index components were new orders at 65.8, production or sales at 60.7, delivery lead time at 59.4, inventories at 58.2 and employment at 58.0. The state's durable-goods sector added 4.9 percent more jobs over the past 12 months, while nondurable-goods producers lost 5.9 percent of their employment base, Goss said.

South Dakota: South Dakota's overall index hit 55.6 in August, compared with 54.3 in July. Index components were new orders at 62.0, production or sales at 55.4, delivery lead time at 54.1, inventories at 53.1 and employment at 53.5. The state's durable-goods sector added 5.4 percent more jobs over the past 12 months, Goss said, while nondurable-goods producers added 2.6 percent more jobs, Goss said.

Zell businessman facing drug charges in Faulk County

ZELL, S.D. (AP) — A Zell businessman is facing drug charges in Faulk County.

The American News reports that the charges against 39-year-old Jessi Fink stem from search of one of his Zell properties on July 13 that allegedly turned up prescription narcotics, methamphetamine, marijuana, drug paraphernalia and guns.

He faces eight counts of unauthorized possession of a controlled substance. He's free on \$10,000 bond. A home telephone listing for him wasn't in service Monday.

Fink owns Fink Plumbing in Redfield. He also owns the historic Catholic boarding school building and old grain elevator in Zell. Court documents don't specify at which property the drugs were found.

Weekend standoff in Mitchell ends peacefully after 4 hours

MITCHELL, S.D. (AP) — A weekend standoff in Mitchell ended peacefully when a suicidal male surrendered after nearly four hours.

The Daily Republic reports that officers were called to the residence about 2:30 a.m. Sunday for a report of an armed suicidal person.

People in several surrounding homes were evacuated or moved to basements. People in a nearby residential youth treatment facility also were ordered to shelter in place.

Officers took the male into protective custody about 6:30 a.m., ending the threat.

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

US's Pompeo arrives in Pakistan hoping to 'reset' relations

By KATHY GANNON, Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in Pakistan on Wednesday at a time when relations between the two countries have sunk to a new low.

The United States last weekend canceled a \$300 million Coalition Support Fund payment to Pakistan and on board the plane to Pakistan, Pompeo announced his appointment of an unpopular figure in Pakistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, as the new U.S. special adviser on Afghan reconciliation.

Pompeo said he wanted to "reset" strained relations with Pakistan, but the appointment of Khalilzad could complicate his job.

"He has been very critical of Pakistan in the past and his appointment will not help move things forward," said Zahid Hussain, defense analyst and author of two books on militancy in the region:

Khalilzad was born in Afghanistan and served as U.S. special envoy to the country following the collapse of the Taliban from 2001-2003 and then as U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan from 2003-2005.

He has been critical of Pakistan, often blaming Afghanistan's deteriorating security and country-wide chaos on Pakistan's military and powerful ISI intelligence agency, accusing them of harboring and aiding Taliban insurgents.

Khalilzad has been criticized for his role in cobbling together an Afghan government of warlords headed by Hamid Karzai following the Taliban's collapse. Afghanistan's corruption-plagued government and, by some accounts, poorly trained Afghan National Security Forces have frustrated Afghans and contributed to the country's deteriorating security situation.

Pompeo met Pakistan's newly elected Prime Minister Imran Khan who said he was "optimistic" the two countries might be able to "reset" their troubled relationship.

"You know I'm a born optimist. A sportsman always is an optimist. He steps on the field and he thinks he's going to win," said Khan, who is revered in Pakistan for his former cricket stardom. He led Pakistan's cricket team to the championship of the 1994 World Cup competition, played only every four years.

There were no immediate details about the talks.

Foreign minister Shah Mehmood Quereshi termed his separate meeting with Pompeo as "excellent." Both he and Pompeo said they were "pleased" with their meeting but offered no details.

During his visit to Pakistan, expected to last only a few hours, Pompeo will also meet the country's powerful army chief Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Afghanistan and the prospects of a negotiated end to the war are likely to dominate talks before Pompeo leaves later Wednesday for neighbor India.

Although neither the U.S. nor Pakistan can afford a complete rupture in relations, Hussain said Islamabad is frustrated that the relationship has been reduced to a single point agenda: Afghanistan.

"The United States seems only to see Pakistan through the prism of Afghanistan," he said. "The main thing is we would like to be allies with the U.S. but with dignity."

Speaking to reporters on his plane Tuesday, Pompeo was conciliatory. He said he wanted to visit Khan

at the beginning of the former cricket star's tenure "in an effort to reset the relationship between the two countries."

"We have worked closely with the Pakistanis in my role as CIA director, our teams have been working together for a long time," said Pompeo, former chief of the U.S. spy agency.

"I hope we can turn the page and begin to make progress, but there are real expectations. We need Pakistan to seriously engage to help us get to the reconciliation we need in Afghanistan," Pompeo said.

As an opposition leader, Khan often chastised Pakistan's reliance on U.S. financial assistance. He briefly stopped trucks supplying fuel and other goods to U.S. and NATO troops from crossing into Afghanistan to protest U.S. drone strikes in Pakistan's tribal regions that border Afghanistan.

In a speech following the July 25 elections that propelled Khan to power, Khan said Pakistan would not participate in the U.S. war on terror, saying it was not Pakistan's role to fight, instead advocating a peaceful end to the protracted war in Afghanistan.

Khan has flatly rejected a U.S. strategy that advocates a heavy military hand to force Afghanistan's Taliban to the negotiating table.

Associated Press writer Matthew Lee in Washington contributed to this report.

LeBron James says in Kaepernick reference: I stand with Nike

By JOCELYN NOVECK, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Clutching his young daughter in his arms, LeBron James said he stands with Nike, a clear reference to the company's Colin Kaepernick ad campaign.

The basketball superstar — and new Los Angeles Laker — made the remarks as he received an award Tuesday for both his style and his philanthropy, from Harlem's Fashion Row. The fashion collective partnered with Nike for the New York event, both a fashion show and an awards ceremony which focused on diversity in the fashion world. The evening culminated in the reveal of the latest LeBron James Nike basketball shoe: a women's sneaker designed by three female African-American designers and inspired by strong African-American women.

In emotional remarks, James paid tribute to the three women in his life — his mother, wife and 3-year-old daughter, Zhuri.

He noted how his mother had raised him alone, and given him "a sense of pride, a sense of strength, a sense of no worry."

"Because of you, Gloria James, I'm able to be in a position today where I can give back and showcase why I believe African-American women are the most powerful women in the world."

The NBA star, who was wearing one of his favored shrunken-fit shorts suits by designer Thom Browne, called his daughter "my rock."

"People always told me if you ever have a girl, she'll change you," said James, who also has two sons. "I was like, nobody's changing me, I'm a man." But she did, he said.

"Not only did she change me, she's made me a better person," James said. "A more dedicated person, a stronger person, I guess a more sensitive person."

Closing his remarks, he said he stood "for anybody who believes in change." He added: "I stand with Nike, all day, every day."

Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback, unveiled his first ad of the new campaign Monday. "Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything," it said.

The new endorsement deal has sparked vigorous debate, with some fans expressing displeasure over the apparel giant's support of a player known for starting a wave of protests among NFL players against police brutality, racial inequality and other social issues.

Some angry fans were even burning and cutting out the signature swoosh logos on their gear — and posting the results on social media.

But Kaepernick and his Nike campaign, which marks the 30th anniversary of Nike's "Just Do It," received

plenty of support from the fashion world in attendance Tuesday.

Bethann Hardison, an activist for diversity in fashion and a former supermodel who was also honored by Harlem's Row, said she was happy with Nike's move. "It's such a divided situation in our world right now," she said of the negative reaction by some fans. "But I'm such a huge, huge, wholehearted supporter of Colin that I'm very proud that someone understands what he's done and (is giving) him some kudos."

Prominent African-American designer Tracy Reese said she loved the new Nike campaign.

"It was tastefully done," she said. "And really, this is the time to stand up for what you believe in. Colin Kaepernick has done that and I think that we need to follow his example and really go where the heart leads, instead of where everybody expects you to go."

Also honored at the ceremony were Harlem streetwear designer Dapper Dan and stylist Jason Rembert. A fashion show highlighted the work of designers Kimberly Goldson, Undra Duncan and Fe Noel, who together helped create the new shoe.

Gordon, never a hurricane, killed child blowing down tree

By STACEY PLAISANCE and KEVIN MCGILL, Associated Press

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) — Tropical Storm Gordon never became a hurricane but it was deadly all the same, killing a child by blowing a tree onto a mobile home as it made landfall late Tuesday just west of the Alabama-Mississippi border.

The National Hurricane Center said early Wednesday that Gordon was weakening on a path into Arkansas after striking the coast at 70 mph, just shy of hurricane strength, near Pascagoula, Mississippi. The remnants will likely cause flash flooding across parts of seven states and as far north as Iowa in the coming days.

Gordon's top sustained winds were down to 40 mph (64 kph) as its tight core moved about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of Hattiesburg, Mississippi. But it was going out swinging: Forecasters said radar spotted possible tornados spun off by the storm overnight in southern Alabama and the Florida panhandle, and more were possible through Wednesday night in Mississippi and western Alabama.

The center predicted total rain amounts of 4-8 inches (10-20 centimeters) in the Florida panhandle and parts of Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa and Illinois. Rainfall could be even more intense in isolated places, dropping up to 12 inches (30 centimeters) through early Saturday.

A storm surge covered barrier islands as the storm blew through, and some inland roadways were flooded as well. The National Weather Service in Mobile cautioned that the Styx River near Elsanor, Alabama, could reach moderate, and possibly major, flood stage later Wednesday.

But the storm's impact could have been worse: Gordon gave only a glancing blow to New Orleans, where Mayor LaToya Cantrell said the city now has "the pumps and the power" needed to protect residents inside the levee protection system.

There were no immediate injury or damage reports, other than the tree that fell on the mobile home in Pensacola. The Escambia County Sheriff's office posted on its Facebook page that responding deputies discovered that the child had been killed. The name and age were not released.

More than 27,000 customers were without power as Gordon began pushing ashore, mostly in coastal Alabama and the western tip of the Florida Panhandle around Pensacola, with a few hundred in south-eastern Mississippi. Crews were already restoring electricity early Wednesday in the wake of the storm.

Rain was still falling but the lights were on Wednesday morning at a Waffle House restaurant in Mobile, where factory worker Jerome Richardson said he lost power in the storm Tuesday night. He was still without electricity as he left for his 12-hour shift.

"I just hope I don't have to throw out everything in my refrigerator when I get home," he said.

Driftwood and other debris on the causeway made for hazardous driving early Wednesday to nearby Dauphin Island, where streets were submerged in seawater overnight. Mayor Jeff Collier had warned ahead of the storm that his community might get cut off.

"When you get the higher waves, water starts splashing across. Sometimes it starts pushing not only water across but debris, logs and things of that nature, which makes it very treacherous to get across,"

he had said.

The last hurricane to strike the U.S. was Nate last October, coming ashore in Biloxi with 75 mph (120 kph) winds.

Governors in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana all declared states of emergency to better mobilize state resources and National Guard troops for the storm. Mississippi shut down a dozen Gulf Coast casinos. Workers on at least 54 oil and gas production platforms were evacuated. Communities along the coast provided sand and bags, and many hustled to protect their properties ahead of the storm.

Gordon was not the only storm being watched by forecasters. Hurricane Florence was some 2,400 miles (3,900 kilometers) away from the U.S., and lining up behind it, another potential storm was likely to form not far off the coast of Africa.

It's way too early to know if either of those storms will have any impact on land, but Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said attention should be paid: "It's the peak of hurricane season. Now is the time to get your plans all set," he said.

McGill reported from Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. Associated Press writers Jeff Martin and Ben Nadler in Atlanta; Jay Reeves in Dauphin Island, Alabama; Emily Wagster Pettus and Jeff Amy in Jackson, Mississippi; Kim Chandler in Montgomery, Alabama; Rebecca Santana in New Orleans; Melinda Deslatte in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina, contributed to this report.

Britain charges 2 Russians over Novichok poisoning

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British officials announced Wednesday that they have charged two Russian men with the nerve agent poisoning of ex-spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in the English city of Salisbury — though they held out little hope of being able to bring them to justice.

The Crown Prosecution Service said the men, who entered the country under the names Alexander Petrov and Ruslan Boshirov, are being charged in absentia with conspiracy to murder, attempted murder and use of the nerve agent Novichok.

Prosecutor Sue Hemming said the U.K. would not ask Moscow to extradite the men because Russian law forbids extradition of the country's citizens. Britain has issued domestic and European arrest warrants for the suspects, meaning they can be detained if they leave Russia for another European country.

But assistant commissioner Neil Basu, head of counterterrorism at London's Metropolitan Police, conceded it was "very, very unlikely" police would be in a position to arrest them any time soon.

Police say the suspects, both about 40, flew from Moscow to London on Russian passports two days before the Skripals were poisoned on March 4. Basu said the passports were genuine but the men were probably using aliases, and appealed the public "to come forward and tell us who they are."

Sergei Skripal — a former Russian agent who had been convicted in his homeland of spying for Britain — and his daughter were found collapsed on a bench in the cathedral city of Salisbury, 90 miles (140 kilometers) southwest of London. They spent weeks hospitalized in critical condition and are now recovering in a secret location for their own protection.

British authorities and the international chemical weapons watchdog say the Skripals were exposed to Novichok, a type of military-grade nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Britain blames the Russian government for the attack, a claim Moscow denies. The poisoning ignited a diplomatic confrontation in which hundreds of envoys were expelled by both Russia and Western nations.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said the names and images of the suspects released by Britain "say nothing to us."

Zakharova called on Britain to cooperate with Russian law enforcement agencies on the investigation. She has criticized London for turning down Moscow's request to see the case files.

Basu would not say whether police believe the suspects worked for Russian security services but, he

said, "this was a sophisticated attack across borders."

Police on Wednesday gave new details about what Basu called "one of the most complex investigations" the force had ever seen.

The police force released a series of images of the men as they traveled through London and Salisbury between March 2 and March 4. Police say the two men flew back to Moscow from Heathrow Airport on the evening of March 4, hours after the Skripals were found collapsed on a park bench in Salisbury.

Police believe the nerve agent used to poison the Skripals was smuggled to Britain in a counterfeit Nina Ricci perfume bottle and applied to the front door of Sergei Skripal's house.

More than three months later, the bottle was found by a local man, 48-year-old Charlie Rowley. He was hospitalized and his girlfriend Dawn Sturgess, 44, died after being exposed to the contents.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons confirmed Tuesday that Rowley and Sturgess were also exposed to Novichok.

Police are still trying to determine where the bottle was between the Skripal poisoning in March and its discovery by Rowley on June 27. As a result, Basu said, police are not yet ready to bring charges in the second poisoning.

Nataliya Vasilyeva in Moscow contributed to this story.

Pressley's upset another win for fresh Democratic voices

By **STEVE LeBLANC, Associated Press**

BOSTON (AP) — Ayanna Pressley is all but assured of becoming the first black woman elected to Congress from Massachusetts, the latest example of the Democratic Party's embrace of diversity and liberal politics as the recipe for success in the Trump era.

The 44-year-old's upset victory against longtime Democratic Rep. Michael Capuano in Tuesday's primary sets the stage for Pressley to represent an area once served by Tip O'Neill and John F. Kennedy. Her win comes at the tail end of a primary season in which black politicians have made a series of advances.

In nearby Connecticut, Jahana Hayes is on track to become that state's first black woman to win a congressional seat if she prevails in November. And black politicians in three states — Florida, Georgia and Maryland — have won the Democratic nomination for governor, a historic turn for a country that has elected just two black governors in U.S. history.

Greeting voters at a Boston polling station, Pressley spoke of "the ground shifting beneath our feet and the wind at our backs."

"This is a fight for the soul of our party and the future of our democracy," she told reporters. "This is a disruptive candidacy, a grassroots coalition. It is broad and diverse and deep. People of every walk of life."

For Pressley, as with many other ascendant candidates of color, unabashedly liberal credentials smoothed her path to victory in the primary. No Republicans were running, so only a write-in campaign in November could possibly stand between her and Washington.

She was endorsed by fellow congressional upstart Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who knocked off veteran Rep. Joe Crowley of New York in June. Pressley backs Medicare-for-all, the single-payer health care proposal, which helped her garner backing from Our Revolution, the offshoot of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign.

Pressley called for defunding the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency, known as ICE, which helped her draw support from Massachusetts' popular attorney general, Maura Healey, who's gained a national following for repeatedly suing President Donald Trump in an attempt to block his policies on immigration, gun control and other issues.

"We have to be disruptive in our democracy and our policymaking and how we run and win elections," she said in an interview this summer with The Associated Press, adding that Ocasio-Cortez's victory challenged "narratives about who has a right to run and when, and who can win" in American politics.

"My mother did not raise me to ask for permission to lead," she added.

Pressley tapped into growing cries within the Democratic Party for newer, more diverse leadership. She and Ocasio-Cortez both defeated older, white congressmen who were reliable liberal votes, but who didn't look like many voters in their districts.

"With so much at stake in the era of Trump, tonight's results make clear what Ayanna Pressley knew when she boldly launched her campaign against a ten-term incumbent: Change in the country and Congress can't wait," said Jim Dean, chair of the liberal group Democracy for America.

The district she's competing in includes a wide swath of Boston and about half of Cambridge as well as portions of neighboring Chelsea, Everett, Randolph, Somerville and Milton. It includes both Cambridge's Kendall Square — development there is booming — and the neighborhood of Roxbury, the center of Boston's traditionally black community.

Pressley has bristled at the notion that race was a defining issue in her campaign.

"I have been really furious about the constant charges being lobbed against me about identity politics that, by the way, are only lobbed against women and candidates of color," she said in one debate. "I happen to be black and a woman and unapologetically proud to be both, but that is not the totality of my identity."

Massachusetts' last Democratic primary upset came in 2014, when Seth Moulton defeated Rep. John Tierney in the state's 6th Congressional District.

Associated Press writers William J. Kole in Boston and Bill Barrow in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Typhoon leaves major airport closed and destruction in Japan

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — One of Japan's busiest airports remained closed indefinitely, a day after the strongest typhoon to hit Japan in at least 25 years flooded a runway, toppled huge cranes, flipped cars on their side, damaged historic shrines and caused at least 11 deaths as it swept across part of Japan's main island.

Typhoon Jebi came ashore with sustained winds of 160 kilometers (100 miles) per hour, cutting a path of destruction in and around Osaka and nearby cities that bore the brunt of the storm.

A large commercial ship was washed onto a breakwater, and shipping containers were left floating in the sea. In Kyoto, the former imperial capital and a popular tourist destination, wooden shrine buildings and tall orange-red entrance gates were knocked down. Soaring trees fell at a shrine in Nara, another historic city.

More than 400,000 households in western and central Japan remained without power Wednesday, and electric utilities warned that it would take time to bring everyone back on line. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at least 11 people had been confirmed dead and 470 people were injured.

Some 3,000 airline passengers who had to spend the night at the offshore Kansai airport were able to leave on boats and buses under sunny skies. They were stranded after a tanker unmoored by the storm's pounding waves and wind slammed into a bridge that is the airport's only link to the mainland.

Officials could not say when the airport, a gateway for Asian tourists visiting Osaka, Kyoto and Kobe, would reopen. The closure of the main airport serving one of Japan's major business and commercial areas triggered concern about the possible impact on tourism and the economy.

Flooding at the airport had largely subsided Wednesday but flight operations equipment needed to be assessed for damage, as did the crushed part of the bridge. The airport was built on artificial islands in Osaka Bay.

Passengers stranded overnight appeared relieved but exhausted after an uneasy night in the dark.

Hideko Senoo, a 51-year-old homemaker planning a family trip to India, said the terminal was hot and dark after losing power, and food at convenience stores was sold out.

"We could not use vending machines or access the wireless network to get information," she told Japan's Kyodo News service.

Miki Yamada, a 25-year-old office worker planning a trip to Thailand with her friend, told Kyodo she spent the night at an airport cafeteria. "It was a rather scary night, as we were so isolated," she said.

The Universal Studios Japan theme park in Osaka was closed for a second day Wednesday but said it

would reopen Thursday.

Factories in the region, including automaker Daihatsu Motor Co., electronics giant Panasonic and beverage maker Kirin Co., were expected to resume operations Wednesday after suspending production during the typhoon, Kyodo said.

The deaths included a man in his 70s who was blown to the ground from his apartment in Osaka prefecture. Police said at least five others died elsewhere in the prefecture after being hit by flying objects or falling from their apartments. In nearby Shiga prefecture, a 71-year-old man died when a storage building collapsed on him, and a man in his 70s died after falling from a roof in Mie, officials said.

In Nishinomiya in Hyogo prefecture, about 100 cars at a seaside dealership burned after their electrical systems were shorted out by sea water, fire officials and news reports said.

Associated Press writer Ken Moritsugu in Tokyo contributed to this report.

Follow Mari Yamaguchi on Twitter at www.twitter.com/mariyamaguchi

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Massachusetts liberal upstart beats incumbent in House race

By **BOB SALSBERG** and **STEVE LeBLANC**, Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — In a political stunner, incumbent Democratic U.S. Rep. Michael Capuano lost Tuesday's primary to Ayanna Pressley, a Boston city councilor who is virtually assured of becoming the first black woman to serve Massachusetts in Congress.

The 44-year-old's upset over a 10-term incumbent congressman underscores the shift underway in a Democratic Party whose base is seeking younger, more diverse candidates who embrace liberal policies. Her victory comes just two months after Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez similarly defeated a top House leader in a primary for a New York congressional seat.

Ocasio-Cortez on Tuesday night tweeted a selfie of both women together and wrote, "In June, I won my primary. Tonight, she won hers. Here's to November." A Pressley campaign insider, meanwhile, posted a video showing the candidate the moment she learned she'd won.

Pressley, the first black woman to serve on the council, is now on track to represent an area of Massachusetts once served by Democratic icons Tip O'Neill and John F. Kennedy.

"Change is coming and the future belongs to all of us," Pressley told wildly cheering supporters Tuesday night.

A subdued Capuano told supporters he did everything he could to win re-election.

"Apparently the district just is very upset with lots of things that are going on. I don't blame them. I'm just as upset as they are, but so be it. This is the way life goes," he said.

The race between Capuano and Pressley was perhaps the most closely watched contest in Massachusetts, especially since Pressley drew comparisons to Ocasio-Cortez.

The 7th Congressional District is the only one in the state where minorities comprise a majority of the population.

"This is a fight for the soul of our party and the future of our democracy," Pressley said Tuesday while campaigning in the district. "And a reliable vote is not good enough."

Capuano is considered one of the most liberal members of the Massachusetts delegation, and Pressley had acknowledged she had few major policy quarrels with him.

There is no Republican on the November ballot in the district, meaning Pressley is virtually assured of entering Congress in January.

Massachusetts' last Democratic primary upset came in 2014, when Seth Moulton defeated Rep. John Tierney in the state's 6th Congressional District.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren sailed through her primary unopposed. She'll face Geoff Diehl, a state representative who served as co-chairman of President Donald Trump's 2016 campaign in the state

and defeated two other Republicans for his party's nomination.

Another veteran congressman, Democratic Rep. Richard Neal, won a spirited primary showdown with Tahirah Amatul-Wadud, a black attorney from Springfield who had hoped to become the first Muslim to serve in Congress from Massachusetts. Neal, the dean of the state's House delegation, first was elected in 1989.

Two other Democratic House incumbents, William Keating and Joe Kennedy, fended off primary challenges on Tuesday. Kennedy, the grandson of the late U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, delivered the Democratic response to Trump's State of the Union address earlier this year.

Another Democrat, U.S. Rep. Niki Tsongas, is retiring at the end of this term, and that open seat touched off a political scramble with 10 candidates on the Democratic primary ballot.

Republican Gov. Charlie Baker won his party's nomination for a second term, defeating Scott Lively, a conservative minister and staunch supporter of Trump who frequently called Baker — a frequent critic of the president — a RINO, or Republican in Name Only. Baker will face Democrat Jay Gonzalez in November.

Baker, a moderate who has been popular with voters in what is perceived as one of the nation's bluest states, will face Gonzalez, who served as secretary of administration and finance under Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick.

"At a time when our country is having trouble finding common ground on so many issues, we in Massachusetts are the exception," Baker told supporters. "We believe that people in public life can, and should, debate the issues respectfully and seek common ground whenever possible."

Neither Gonzales nor his primary opponent Democrat Robert Massie, a longtime political and environmental activist, was well-known outside party activist circles. Both contended that Baker's support among voters was soft and that his administration had failed to make significant strides in many areas, particularly the problems plaguing the Boston-area transit system known as the "T."

Day 2 of hearings finds Kavanaugh in the hot seat

By MARK SHERMAN and LISA MASCARO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh touted the importance of an independent judiciary as his confirmation hearings began with strident Democratic criticism that he would be President Donald Trump's man on the high court.

On Wednesday, Kavanaugh can expect to spend most of the day in the hot seat, sparring with Democratic senators over abortion, guns, executive power and other high-profile issues.

A long day of questioning awaits the 53-year-old appellate judge, whom Trump nominated in July to fill the seat of retired Justice Anthony Kennedy. The change could make the court more conservative on a range of issues.

Barring a surprise, Republicans appear on track to confirm Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, perhaps in time for the first day of the new term, Oct. 1, little more than a month before congressional elections.

However, the first of at least four days of hearings by the Senate Judiciary Committee began with partisan quarreling over the nomination and persistent protests from members of the audience, followed by their arrests.

Strong Democratic opposition to Trump's nominee reflects the political stakes for both parties in advance of the November elections, Robert Mueller's investigation of Trump's 2016 campaign and the potentially pivotal role Kavanaugh could play in moving the court to the right.

Democrats, including several senators poised for 2020 presidential bids, tried to block the proceedings in a dispute over Kavanaugh records withheld by the White House. Republicans in turn accused the Democrats of turning the hearing into a circus.

Trump jumped into the fray late in the day, saying on Twitter that Democrats were "looking to inflict pain and embarrassment" on Kavanaugh.

The president's comment followed the statements of Democratic senators who warned that Trump was, in the words of Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut, "selecting a justice on the Supreme Court who

potentially will cast a decisive vote in his own case.”

In Kavanaugh’s own statement at the end of more than seven hours of arguing, the federal appeals judge spoke repeatedly about the importance of an independent judiciary and the need to keep the court above partisan politics, common refrains among Supreme Court nominees that had added salience in the fraught political atmosphere of the moment.

With his wife, two children and parents sitting behind him, Kavanaugh called himself a judge with a straightforward judicial philosophy.

“A judge must be independent and must interpret the law, not make the law. A judge must interpret statutes as written. A judge must interpret the Constitution as written, informed by history and tradition and precedent,” he said.

The most likely outcome of this week’s hearings is a vote along party lines to send Kavanaugh’s nomination to the full Senate.

Majority Republicans can confirm Kavanaugh without any Democratic votes, though they’ll have little margin for error.

“There are battles worth fighting, regardless of the outcome,” Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, said in an unsparing opening statement that criticized Kavanaugh’s judicial opinions and the Senate process that Democrats said had deprived them of access to records of important chunks of Kavanaugh’s time as an aide to President George W. Bush.

Democrats raised objections from the moment Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, gaveled the committee to order. One by one, Democrats, including Kamala Harris of California, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, all potential presidential contenders, demanded that Republicans delay the hearing. They railed against the unusual vetting process by Republicans that failed to include documents from three years Kavanaugh worked in the Bush administration, and 100,000 more pages withheld by the Trump White House. Some 42,000 pages were released to senators only, not the public, on the evening before the hearing.

As protesters repeatedly interrupted the session, Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, who is fighting for his own re-election in Texas, apologized to Kavanaugh for the spectacle he said had less to do about the judge’s legal record than Trump in the White House.

“It is about politics,” said Cruz. “It is about Democratic senators re-litigating the 2016 election.”

Republicans will hold a slim 51-49 majority in the Senate once Jon Kyl, the former Arizona senator, is sworn in to fill the seat held by the late Sen. John McCain.

Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska are the only two Republicans even remotely open to voting against Kavanaugh, though neither has said she would do so. Abortion rights supporters are trying to appeal to those senators, who both favor abortion access.

Associated Press writers Jessica Gresko and Ken Thomas contributed.

Read more on AP’s coverage of Kavanaugh at <https://apnews.com/tag/Kavanaughnomination>

Trump, others dispute book’s description of unhinged leader

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An incendiary tell-all book by a reporter who helped bring down President Richard Nixon set off a firestorm in the White House, with its descriptions of current and former aides calling President Donald Trump an “idiot” and a “liar,” disparaging his judgment and claiming they plucked papers off his desk to prevent him from withdrawing from a pair of trade agreements.

The book by Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward is the latest to throw the Trump administration into damage-control mode with explosive anecdotes and concerns about the commander in chief. The Associated Press obtained a copy of “Fear: Trump in the White House” on Tuesday, a week before its official release.

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Trump decried the quotes and stories in the book on Twitter as "frauds, a con on the public," adding that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and chief of staff John Kelly had denied uttering quoted criticisms of the president in the book.

And he denied accounts in the book that senior aides snatched sensitive documents off his desk to keep him from making impulsive decisions. He said in an interview with The Daily Caller, "There was nobody taking anything from me."

Later Tuesday, Trump was back on Twitter denying the book's claim that he had called Attorney General Jeff Sessions "mentally retarded" and "a dumb southerner."

Trump insisted he "never used those terms on anyone, including Jeff," adding that "being a southerner is a GREAT thing." Sessions has been a target of the president's wrath since recusing himself from the Russia investigation.

The publication of Woodward's book has been anticipated for weeks, and current and former White House officials estimate that nearly all their colleagues cooperated with the famed Watergate journalist. The White House, in a statement from press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, dismissed the book as "nothing more than fabricated stories, many by former disgruntled employees, told to make the President look bad."

Woodward did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The book quotes Kelly as having doubts about Trump's mental faculties, declaring during one meeting, "We're in Crazytown." It also says he called Trump an "idiot," an account Kelly denied Tuesday.

The book says Trump's former lawyer in the Russia probe, John Dowd, doubted the president's ability to avoid perjuring himself should he be interviewed in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference and potential coordination with Trump's campaign. Dowd, who stepped down in January, resigned after the mock interview, the book says.

"Don't testify. It's either that or an orange jumpsuit," Dowd is quoted telling the president.

Dowd, in a statement Tuesday, said "no so-called 'practice session' or 're-enactment'" took place and denied saying Trump was likely to end up in an orange jumpsuit.

Mattis is quoted explaining to Trump why the U.S. maintains troops on the Korean Peninsula to monitor North Korea's missile activities. "We're doing this in order to prevent World War III," Mattis said, according to the book.

The book recounts that Mattis told "close associates that the president acted like — and had the understanding of — 'a fifth- or sixth-grader.'"

Mattis said in a statement, "The contemptuous words about the President attributed to me in Woodward's book were never uttered by me or in my presence."

A Pentagon spokesman, Col. Rob Manning, said Mattis was never interviewed by Woodward.

"Mr. Woodward never discussed or verified the alleged quotes included in his book with Secretary Mattis" or anyone within the Defense Department, Manning said.

Woodward reported that after Syria's Bashar Assad launched a chemical weapons attack on civilians in April 2017, Trump called Mattis and said he wanted the Syrian leader taken out, saying: "Kill him! Let's go in." Mattis assured Trump he would get right on it but then told a senior aide they'd do nothing of the kind, Woodward wrote. National security advisers instead developed options for the airstrike that Trump ultimately ordered.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley denied Tuesday that Trump had ever planned to assassinate Assad. She told reporters at U.N. headquarters that she had been privy to conversations about the Syrian chemical weapons attacks, "and I have not once ever heard the president talk about assassinating Assad."

She said people should take what is written in books about the president with "a grain of salt."

Woodward also claims that Gary Cohn, the former director of the National Economic Council, boasted of removing papers from the president's desk to prevent Trump from signing them into law, including efforts to withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement and from a deal with South Korea.

Trump did not speak to Woodward until after the book's manuscript was completed. The Post released

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audio of Trump expressing surprise about the book in an August conversation with Woodward and dismay that he did not have an opportunity to contribute. Woodward tells Trump he had contacted multiple officials to attempt to interview Trump and was rebuffed.

"I never spoke to him," Trump told The Daily Caller. "Maybe I wasn't given messages that he called. I probably would have spoken to him if he'd called, if he'd gotten through."

The book follows the January release of author Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury," which led to a rift between Trump and Steve Bannon, his former chief strategist, who spoke with Wolff in terms that were highly critical of the president and his family. Wolff's book attracted attention with its vivid anecdotes but suffered from numerous factual inaccuracies.

Woodward's work also comes weeks after former White House aide and "Apprentice" contestant Omosa Manigault Newman published an expose on her time in the West Wing, including audio recordings of her firing by Kelly and a follow-up conversation with the president in which he claimed to have been unaware of Kelly's decision.

While White House aides have become increasingly numb to fresh scandals, the latest book still increased tensions in the West Wing, especially given the intimate details shared and the number of people Woodward appeared to have interviewed. Some White House officials expressed surprise at the number of erstwhile Trump loyalists willing to offer embarrassing stories of the president and his inner circle.

White House aides on Tuesday coordinated with other officials quoted in the book to dispute troublesome passages. But insiders speculated the fallout could be worse than that from "Fire and Fury," given Woodward's storied reputation.

Woodward's book was already ranked the top-selling book on Amazon on Tuesday.

Trump has been increasingly critical of anonymous sources used by reporters covering his administration. Woodward's account relies on deep background conversations with sources, meaning their identities are not disclosed.

Former George W. Bush press secretary Ari Fleischer defended Woodward's methodology. "I've been on the receiving end of a Bob Woodward book," he tweeted Tuesday. "There were quotes in it I didn't like. But never once - never - did I think Woodward made it up."

He added: "Anonymous sources have looser lips and may take liberties. But Woodward always plays it straight. Someone told it to him."

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey, Robert Burns, Ken Thomas and Eric Tucker in Washington and Hillel Italie in New York contributed to this report.

'It's cruel, sometimes, tennis': Nadal tops Thiem at US Open

By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rafael Nadal began his U.S. Open quarterfinal as poorly as possible, shut out in a set by a 6-0 score for only the fourth time in 282 career Grand Slam matches.

On the previous three such occasions, he'd lost. On this one, he managed to come back to win, although it took 4 hours, 49 minutes and never did get easy for him.

The defending champion and No. 1 seed at Flushing Meadows recovered from his disastrous start and other stumbles along the way to beat No. 9 Dominic Thiem 0-6, 6-4, 7-5, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (5) for a semifinal berth at a third consecutive Grand Slam tournament, winning a physical, back-and-forth tussle that concluded after 2 a.m. on Wednesday.

"Very demanding, in all aspects," said Nadal, who will face 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro on Friday for a berth in the final. "A question of a little bit of luck at the end."

How tense and tight was this one? Not only was Nadal two points from losing at 5-all in the closing tiebreaker, but he finished with fewer total points, 171-166.

"It's cruel, sometimes, tennis," Thiem said, calling the loss "the first really epic match I've played."

When it ended, on an overhead by Thiem that sailed long, everyone in Nadal's guest box — a group

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that included actor Ben Stiller — leaped to their feet to celebrate. Nadal climbed over the net to hug his opponent, then whisper an apology and words of encouragement.

"I'm very sorry for Dominic," Nadal told a rowdy crowd in Arthur Ashe Stadium. "He's a close friend on tour. He's a great guy. A great player."

Asked about that at his news conference, Thiem said with a chuckle: "Well, I don't think he's really sorry."

This rematch of the French Open final in June, won by Nadal, was his first match against a top-20 opponent at the U.S. Open since 2013, when he beat then-No. 1 Novak Djokovic in the final.

It sure seemed at the shocking outset as if Nadal was somehow unprepared for this step up in competition. Thiem collected 24 of the opening set's 31 points, thanks in large part to a 13-3 edge in winners.

Hard to not think back to 24 hours earlier, when Nadal's great rival, No. 2 seed Roger Federer, was upset in the fourth round during similarly muggy conditions. Nadal was sweating so much in the 90-degree heat and 50-percent humidity that a mountain of white towels formed next to his changeover bench.

Thiem made him work for this win. And how.

The depth and strength of Thiem's groundstrokes were doing what Nadal's shots usually do to opponents: robbing them of time and space. Plus, Thiem — an Austrian who turned 25 on Monday — was serving well, taking every point when he put a first serve in, and handling returns without a hitch.

"After that first set," Nadal said, "the match became more normal."

It took a while for Nadal to figure out what was wrong and become Thiem's equal in entertaining, body-punishing baseline exchanges that inspired loud gasps from spectators. Still, this whole contest was filled with challenges for Nadal.

He fell behind by a break in the third set before rebounding. He was two points from victory at 6-5, deuce, in the fourth as Thiem served, but flubbed a forehand volley, leaping for a ball that appeared to be sailing out and dumping it into the net. That mistake might have stayed in Nadal's head, because he played terribly in the ensuing tiebreaker.

In the fifth, Nadal held three break points at 5-all, love-40, but Thiem took the next five points told serve.

That, Nadal would say afterward, managed to "break my heart. But I just keep going."

He usually does.

When Nadal makes it this far in New York, he usually doesn't stumble. He has now won seven U.S. Open quarterfinals in a row when he's made it that far; his only loss in that round came back in 2006.

He is bidding for a fourth title at Flushing Meadows and 18th Grand Slam trophy overall.

Del Potro, the No. 3 seed, got to the semifinals by defeating No. 11 John Isner 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-2.

During that earlier quarterfinal, Isner doubled over and rested his elbows on his knees. He grimaced. He shook his head. He looked as if he wanted to be anywhere but where he was: falling further and further behind in energy-robbing heat.

"Whatever the humidity is on outer courts or in the city, I think it's amplified on center court," Isner said. "It's just very difficult to deal with. I have never seen Roger sweat ever. If he's sweating a lot and has to change clothes, then you know it's pretty humid out there."

Isner was bidding to become the first American man in a dozen years to get to the final four at Flushing Meadows.

But while Isner was playing before what could count as a home crowd, del Potro got all manner of support throughout, from the blue-and-white flags or soccer jerseys dotting the stands to the repeated singsong chants of his nickname, "Delpo," punctuated by clapping.

Those choruses resonated in the arena after key points, such as each time del Potro erased one of Isner's break chances, three in all. Still, it was Isner who struck first, closing the opening tiebreaker with a 132 mph (212 kph) ace down the middle. That was the first set dropped by del Potro in the tournament.

He managed to take the next three, though, and now meets Nadal for the 17th time on tour.

Nadal leads 11-5, including the past three, each at a Grand Slam tournament: in the semifinals of the U.S. Open last year, followed by the semifinals of the French Open and a five-set thriller in the Wimbledon quarterfinals this year.

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

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

North Korean parade a tricky prelude to inter-Korean summit

By KIM TONG-HYUNG, Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — As North Korea prepares for a massive parade Sunday featuring thousands of goose-stepping soldiers and lots of scary-looking missiles, some potentially capable of reaching the U.S. mainland, worry is rising in South Korea that a tentative, hard-won detente is starting to slip away.

An authoritarian nation obsessed with big milestones, North Korea will use the celebration for the 70th anniversary of its national founding to glorify Kim Jong Un as a leader who's standing up for a powerful nation surrounded by enemies.

Kim will also welcome a delegate from his most important ally, senior Chinese official Li Zhanshu, the third-ranking official of the country's ruling party and head of its rubberstamp parliament, whose presence at the parade would underscore Beijing's role as a major player in international efforts to solve the nuclear crisis.

That's a role South Korean President Moon Jae-in covets, and one of several reasons why the pressure will be intense when he travels to North Korea later this month to meet with Kim.

Moon, who previously held summits with Kim in April and May, will arrive in Pyongyang with dual goals: speeding up inter-Korean engagement and breaking an impasse in nuclear negotiations between North Korea and the United States.

It won't be easy.

The current stalemate between Washington and Pyongyang has raised fundamental questions about Kim's supposed willingness to abandon his nukes, questions that were initially brushed aside amid the soaring, and so far largely empty, rhetoric surrounding a June summit between Kim and President Donald Trump that saw very little substance in its wake.

If Moon fails at his upcoming meeting with Kim, he may face a serious political dilemma: whether to continue to engage the North or join another U.S.-led high-pressure campaign against Pyongyang.

"It's worth the gamble for Moon to make bold demands to try to get North Korea back on track in nuclear negotiations with the United States, but current signs indicate the North won't budge," said Choi Kang, vice president of Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

ENDING THE WAR

Declaring a formal end to the 1950-53 Korean War, which was stopped with an armistice that left the Korean Peninsula still technically at war, has been a major point of contention between Washington and Pyongyang and will almost certainly be discussed by Moon and Kim during their summit.

Amid faltering negotiations, North Korea has accused the United States of making "unilateral and gangster-like" demands on denuclearization and delaying a declaration on formally ending the war. There were also complaints about "persistent" sanctions by "hostile forces."

Trump responded by calling off Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned trip to North Korea last week, citing insufficient progress on denuclearization. Seoul expressed regret and urged Washington to commit to continued diplomacy.

Suh Hoon, Moon's spy chief, told lawmakers recently that Pompeo's visit collapsed mainly because North Korea demanded that the United States sign an end-of-war declaration up front, while Washington insisted that the North first hand over a list detailing the components of its nuclear program.

North Korea, which calls for a "phased and synchronized" process in which every action it takes is met with a reciprocal reward from the United States, claims it has already taken serious steps toward denuclearization, including its unilateral dismantlement of a nuclear testing ground and a missile engine test facility.

By denying a peace declaration, Pyongyang says the United States is refusing a corresponding measure

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that would build trust and move the process forward.

U.S. officials maintain that such a declaration cannot come before the North takes more concrete steps toward relinquishing its nukes in a verifiable way. None of North Korea's actions so far have been verified by outsiders or seen as realistically reducing the country's nuclear and missile capability.

The American stance could cause a split with Moon's government, which also wants a quick end-of-war declaration, possibly at the U.N. General Assembly in September.

Moon's critics say he puts too much faith in North Korea. The North has never provided a full account of its fast-growing nuclear and missile program and seemingly has an endless number of cards to play in the "phased and synchronized" game — like dismantling a missile engine test site or removing a launch pad — before it ever has to take concrete steps on denuclearization.

Once a peace declaration is made, Washington and Seoul could struggle to find other points of leverage. Washington is unlikely to provide sanctions relief, diplomatic recognition or the reduction of U.S. forces in South Korea unless North Korea takes major steps on denuclearization. The North, meanwhile, could easily find excuses to drag out the process or even discard it.

North Korea's obsession with an end-of-war declaration may also indicate that it seeks to turn the talks with the United States into an arms reduction negotiation between two nuclear states, rather than a process to surrender its nukes.

ENGAGEMENT OR PRESSURE?

Moon is also running out of goodwill gestures toward North Korea, which has expressed frustration about the slow pace in cooperative projects with the South that it hopes will bring it economic benefits.

The Koreans have staged emotional reunions between aging relatives separated by the war, fielded combined teams in sports competitions and held military talks to ease border tensions. But Moon's more ambitious ideas, such as joint economic projects and reconnecting cross-border railways, are held back by international sanctions against Pyongyang.

South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said recently that Seoul has yet to gain Washington's full endorsement to open a liaison office in a North Korean border town, which some say could violate existing sanctions.

Moon's nightmare may be a return to 2017, when animosity created by the North's barrage of nuclear and missile tests and Trump's responding belligerent tweets raised war fears among South Koreans.

Moon's approval rating, although still above 50 percent, has declined sharply in recent months over a decaying job market. He can't afford a setback on inter-Korean relations, his strongest issue.

South Korean officials say their diplomatic approach will work in tandem with sanctions and pressure until the North takes genuine denuclearization steps.

But in a recent speech, Moon seemed to argue that inter-Korean activities should take the lead.

"The advancement in inter-Korean relations is the driving force behind the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," Moon said. "When inter-Korean relations were good in the past, North Korea's nuclear threat eased."

The Pyongyang summit could reveal whether Moon is ready to push ahead with more engagement with the North despite U.S. frustration over North Korea.

"Denuclearizing North Korea is a process that will take 10 or 20 years, and there are only two ways to do it: either eliminate all the nuclear weapons and missiles or eliminate any reason and intent for the North to push the button," said Bong Young-shik, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Yonsei University. "The Moon government is primarily focused on the second way."

Kim Tong-hyung covers Korean issues for The Associated Press in Seoul. Follow him on Twitter at @KimTongHyung

For US diplomacy, special envoys make a comeback

By **SUSANNAH GEORGE** and **MATTHEW LEE**, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. special envoy is back.

The Trump administration, which had steered away from appointing high-level diplomats to focus on particular world trouble spots, is now embracing the concept to run delicate negotiations for Syria, Iran, North Korea and now Afghanistan.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday he will name Zalmay Khalilzad to be special adviser for Afghanistan. Khalilzad is the fourth such envoy named in the past month, following Brian Hook, who will handle Iran policy; James Jeffrey, who will run Syria policy; and Stephen Biegun, special representative for North Korea.

"Ambassador Khalilzad is going to join the State Department team to assist us in the reconciliation effort, so he will come on and be the State Department's lead person for that purpose," Pompeo told reporters as he flew to Pakistan and India with his new hire.

The appointments are part of a hiring spree under Pompeo to fill vacant posts. Pompeo has made a point of reaching out to veteran diplomats and foreign policy experts who served in past Republican administrations. They are being tasked with intractable foreign policy problems.

Khalilzad is a native of Afghanistan who was educated at the American University in Beirut and the University of Chicago. President George W. Bush tapped him to be his Afghanistan envoy after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and then as ambassador to Iraq and the United Nations. He was considered for secretary of state by the Trump transition team, notably after introducing then-candidate Donald Trump at his first major foreign policy speech during the campaign.

Khalilzad is currently president of an international business consulting firm, Gryphon Partners. He will be charged with integrating Afghanistan into the administration's Indo-Pacific strategy and dealing with an Afghan-Taliban peace process that has struggled to get off the ground as the insurgents escalate attacks and demand direct talks with the United States rather than the government in Kabul. He is accompanying Pompeo on a visit to India this week.

"Khalilzad's appointment means the administration will have a senior official in place with a singular focus on reconciliation. But Khalilzad's harshly critical views of Pakistan suggest that Islamabad could be left on the outside looking in, if a reconciliation process is to be launched and move forward," said Michael Kugelman, senior associate for South Asia at the Wilson Center think tank.

The appointment of special envoys is part of Pompeo's self-described mission to restore "swagger" to the State Department, which suffered significant losses to its senior ranks under his predecessor, Rex Tillerson. More than 70 positions at the department — including ambassadorships, undersecretaries and assistant secretaries of state who are critical to framing and executing policy — were vacant when Pompeo took office in April.

Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said special envoys bring a "singular focus" to complex foreign policy challenges and "the authority to cut across agencies and regions in order to advise the secretary on the overarching strategy." They ensure that all expertise within the department is brought to bear, she said.

Tillerson eschewed special envoys. He eliminated many existing positions, grudgingly appointing people to posts mandated by Congress and creating just one during his brief tenure as secretary of state: Kurt Volcker, who is working on Ukraine. In reducing positions dedicated to a specific country or policy area, Tillerson was following the lead of Bush's first secretary of state, Colin Powell, who cut a host of special envoys that had been created during President Bill Clinton's two terms in office.

Powell, like Tillerson and many in the GOP foreign policy community, was skeptical of the value of special envoys, especially because they required their own staffs and generally operated independently of the State Department's six geographic bureaus that cover the Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, South and Central Asia and the Western Hemisphere.

"Special envoys can offer much more consistent focus on an issue," said Steven Heydemann, a professor of government at Smith College and fellow at the Brookings Institution. But he said that without a clear

division of labor between a special envoy and other diplomats at State, the positions “can be a source of confusion and mixed messaging.”

Some 30 ambassadorships still remain vacant, including those to Mexico, Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, according to American Foreign Service Association records. But recent appointments have signaled Pompeo’s willingness to bring in Trump critics who had previously been shunned for top roles, making it difficult to fill vacancies with experienced candidates.

Jeffrey, the new special envoy to Syria, is a well-respected retired ambassador who holds the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service. He was among dozens of former GOP-affiliated diplomats and national security officials to have signed a public letter during the 2016 presidential campaign saying they would not vote for Trump and declaring him unsuitable for the White House.

When Hillary Clinton took over as America’s top diplomat after the election of President Barack Obama, she embraced special envoys with gusto, creating a slew of positions and appointing Democratic-aligned politicians and analysts to fill them. Those included the late Richard Holbrooke to be special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Pence calls on Myanmar to free 2 Reuters reporters

By AUNG NAING SOE, Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence called on Myanmar to immediately release two journalists who were sentenced to seven years’ imprisonment on charges of possessing state secrets in connection with their reporting on massacres against Rohingya Muslims.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo from the Reuters news agency were sentenced Monday in proceedings that were widely decried as unfair. They had reported about the army’s brutal counterinsurgency campaign that drove 700,000 Rohingya to flee to Bangladesh. The subject is sensitive in Myanmar because of worldwide condemnation of the military’s human rights abuses, which it denies.

Pence on Tuesday tweeted the two should be “commended — not imprisoned — for their work exposing human rights violations & mass killings.”

“Freedom of religion & freedom of the press are essential to a strong democracy,” he wrote in back-to-back tweets. “We call on the Gov’t of Burma to reverse this ruling & release them immediately.”

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also urged Myanmar authorities to review their decision, noting with concern the conviction and sentencing of the two.

“The right to freedom of expression and information is a cornerstone of any democracy. It is unacceptable that these journalists were prosecuted for reporting on major human rights violations against the Rohingya in Rakhine state,” Guterres’ spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said in a statement.

The case drew worldwide attention as an example of how democratic reforms in long-isolated Myanmar have stalled under Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi’s civilian government, which took power in 2016.

Although the military, which ruled Myanmar for a half-century, maintains control of several key ministries, Suu Kyi’s rise to government leader had raised hopes for an accelerated transition to full democracy, and her stance on the Rohingya crisis has disappointed many former admirers.

Wa Lone’s wife, Pan Ei Mon, told reporters that she was saddened and hurt that Suu Kyi had taken a legalistic position in a June interview with Japanese broadcaster NHK by saying that the two reporters were arrested for breaking the Official Secret Act, not because they exposed the army’s abuses.

“I am very sad about what she answered because she was the one whom we always admired and respected,” Pan Ei Mon said Tuesday.

“We loved and respected her so much,” she said. “We feel very sad as our respected person has the wrong opinion about us.”

She said that she never expected such a harsh punishment “because everyone knows that they didn’t do anything wrong.”

The two men testified that they had been framed by the police.

Pan Ei Mon gave birth to the couple’s first child in Yangon on Aug. 10, but her husband has not seen

their daughter.

"After I gave birth, I continued to keep strong with the hope that my daughter and her father will meet soon. But I felt like my hope was broken after the verdict yesterday. I am hopeless now," she said.

Kyaw Soe Oo's wife, Chit Su, also said she had expected her husband would be coming home. They have a 3-year-old daughter.

"I believed he would be free, he felt the same," she said. "But it didn't happen, I felt like I am a crazy person."

She said she still hopes for mercy from the state. At the same time, she remains proud that her husband did his duty as a journalist.

The lawyers for the journalists told the news conference that they would do whatever they could to get their clients freed. They can file an appeal or ask for a pardon, or hope the reporters could be freed under a general amnesty for prisoners.

Woodward book puts White House back in damage-control mode

By ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An incendiary tell-all book by a reporter who helped bring down President Richard Nixon set off a firestorm in the White House on Tuesday, with its descriptions of current and former aides calling President Donald Trump an "idiot" and a "liar," disparaging his judgment and claiming they plucked papers off his desk to prevent him from withdrawing from a pair of trade agreements.

The book by Washington Post journalist Bob Woodward is the latest to throw the Trump administration into damage-control mode with explosive anecdotes and concerns about the commander in chief. The Associated Press obtained a copy of "Fear: Trump in the White House" on Tuesday, a week before its official release.

Trump decried the quotes and stories in the book on Twitter as "frauds, a con on the public," adding that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and chief of staff John Kelly had denied uttering quoted criticisms of the president in the book.

And he denied accounts in the book that senior aides snatched sensitive documents off his desk to keep him from making impulsive decisions. He said in an interview with The Daily Caller, "There was nobody taking anything from me."

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The publication of Woodward's book has been anticipated for weeks, and current and former White House officials estimate that nearly all their colleagues cooperated with the famed Watergate journalist. The White House, in a statement from press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, dismissed the book as "nothing more than fabricated stories, many by former disgruntled employees, told to make the President look bad."

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Mattis is quoted explaining to Trump why the U.S. maintains troops on the Korean Peninsula to monitor North Korea's missile activities. "We're doing this in order to prevent World War III," Mattis said, according to the book.

The book recounts that Mattis told "close associates that the president acted like — and had the understanding of — 'a fifth- or sixth-grader.'"

Mattis said in a statement, "The contemptuous words about the President attributed to me in Woodward's book were never uttered by me or in my presence."

A Pentagon spokesman, Col. Rob Manning, said Mattis was never interviewed by Woodward.

"Mr. Woodward never discussed or verified the alleged quotes included in his book with Secretary Mattis" or anyone within the Defense Department, Manning said.

Woodward reported that after Syria's Bashar Assad launched a chemical weapons attack on civilians in April 2017, Trump called Mattis and said he wanted the Syrian leader taken out, saying: "Kill him! Let's go in." Mattis assured Trump he would get right on it but then told a senior aide they'd do nothing of the kind, Woodward wrote. National security advisers instead developed options for the airstrike that Trump ultimately ordered.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley denied Tuesday that Trump had ever planned to assassinate Assad. She told reporters at U.N. headquarters that she had been privy to conversations about the Syrian chemical weapons attacks, "and I have not once ever heard the president talk about assassinating Assad."

She said people should take what is written in books about the president with "a grain of salt."

Woodward also claims that Gary Cohn, the former director of the National Economic Council, boasted of removing papers from the president's desk to prevent Trump from signing them into law, including efforts to withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement and from a deal with South Korea.

Trump did not speak to Woodward until after the book's manuscript was completed. The Post released audio of Trump expressing surprise about the book in an August conversation with Woodward and dismay that he did not have an opportunity to contribute. Woodward tells Trump he had contacted multiple officials to attempt to interview Trump and was rebuffed.

"I never spoke to him," Trump told The Daily Caller. "Maybe I wasn't given messages that he called. I probably would have spoken to him if he'd called, if he'd gotten through."

The book follows the January release of author Michael Wolff's "Fire and Fury," which led to a rift between Trump and Steve Bannon, his former chief strategist, who spoke with Wolff in terms that were highly critical of the president and his family. Wolff's book attracted attention with its vivid anecdotes but suffered from numerous factual inaccuracies.

Woodward's work also comes weeks after former White House aide and "Apprentice" contestant Omara Manigault Newman published an expose on her time in the West Wing, including audio recordings of her firing by Kelly and a follow-up conversation with the president in which he claimed to have been unaware of Kelly's decision.

While White House aides have become increasingly numb to fresh scandals, the latest book still increased tensions in the West Wing, especially given the intimate details shared and the number of people Woodward appeared to have interviewed. Some White House officials expressed surprise at the number of erstwhile Trump loyalists willing to offer embarrassing stories of the president and his inner circle.

White House aides on Tuesday coordinated with other officials quoted in the book to dispute troublesome passages. But insiders speculated the fallout could be worse than that from "Fire and Fury," given Woodward's storied reputation.

Woodward's book was already ranked the top-selling book on Amazon on Tuesday.

Trump has been increasingly critical of anonymous sources used by reporters covering his administration. Woodward's account relies on deep background conversations with sources, meaning their identities are not disclosed.

Former George W. Bush press secretary Ari Fleischer defended Woodward's methodology. "I've been on the receiving end of a Bob Woodward book," he tweeted Tuesday. "There were quotes in it I didn't like."

But never once - never - did I think Woodward made it up.”

He added: “Anonymous sources have looser lips and may take liberties. But Woodward always plays it straight. Someone told it to him.”

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey, Robert Burns, Ken Thomas and Eric Tucker in Washington and Hillel Italie in New York contributed to this report.

Facebook, Twitter defend efforts to stop election meddling

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and BARBARA ORTUTAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Facebook and Twitter executives plan to defend their companies in two congressional hearings on Wednesday, arguing they are aggressively trying to root out foreign actors who want to do the United States harm just weeks before the midterm elections.

Twitter’s CEO will also face angry Republicans who claim the companies have shown evidence of bias against conservatives. In prepared testimony released ahead of a House hearing Wednesday afternoon, Jack Dorsey says his company does not use political ideology to make decisions.

Congress has sharply criticized the social media companies over the last year as it has become clear that they were at the forefront of Russia’s interference in the 2016 elections and beyond. That scrutiny has led to additional criticism over the companies’ respect for user privacy and whether conservatives are being censored — frustrations that are particularly heightened ahead of the midterms.

“The companies have made progress, the government has made progress, but the bad guys have made progress as well,” said Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate intelligence committee, which will hear from both companies in the morning on the subject of foreign interference. Warner has proposed a series of ways the companies could be regulated for the first time.

The afternoon hearing in the House Energy and Commerce Committee will feature only Dorsey in a hearing focused on bias and the platform’s algorithms. Some Republicans, including President Donald Trump, have pushed the idea ahead of the elections that Twitter is “shadow banning” some in the GOP because of the ways search results have appeared. Twitter denies that is happening.

Missing from the conversation will be Google, which refused to make its top executive available for the Senate intelligence hearing. The panel invited Larry Page, the CEO of Google’s parent company, Alphabet, but the company said it would send a lower-ranking executive instead. The committee rejected that offer, and is expected to have an empty chair at the hearing for Page.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr said Tuesday that Google doesn’t “understand the problem” if it doesn’t want to work with the government to find solutions.

The back-and-forth with Google is the latest in a year’s worth of attempts by Congress to force the companies to focus more sharply on the Russian interference issue. While Burr says he believes Facebook and Twitter do understand the problem, it took both companies several months last year to acknowledge they had been manipulated.

It also underscores how difficult the problem may be to solve. While the companies have made many changes around their policies and have caught and banned hordes of malicious accounts over the past year, their business models — free services that rely on attracting as many users as possible for as long as possible and finding out as much about them as possible — remain the same. Some critics have charged that unless they change this, they will continue to contend with bad actors taking advantage of their systems.

In prepared remarks for Wednesday’s hearing, Facebook’s No. 2 executive, Sheryl Sandberg, details many ways the company is addressing the problem but reiterates that the company was slow to spot it. Thirteen Russians were indicted by special counsel Robert Mueller earlier this year on charges of an elaborate plot to disrupt the 2016 U.S. presidential election by creating fake accounts that pushed divisive issues on social media.

In her testimony, Sandberg details ongoing efforts to take down material linked to the Russian agency, including the removal this year of 270 Facebook pages. Still, Sandberg says the company’s overall under-

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standing of the Russian activity in 2016 is limited "because we do not have access to the information or investigative tools" that the U.S. government has.

"This is an arms race, and that means we need to be ever more vigilant," Sandberg says.

Dorsey says Twitter has continued to identify accounts that may be linked to the same Russian internet agency in Mueller's indictment. He says Twitter has so far suspended 3,843 accounts the company believes are linked to the agency, and has seen recent activity.

On bias, the Twitter CEO is aggressive in defending his company, saying in the prepared House testimony that he wants to be clear about one thing: "Twitter does not use political ideology to make any decisions, whether related to ranking content on our service or how we enforce our rules."

To address the concerns, Dorsey offers an explanation of how Twitter uses "behavioral signals," such as the way accounts interact and behave on the service. Those signals can help weed out spam and abuse.

He says such behavioral analysis "does not consider in any way" political views or ideology.

Dorsey says the San Francisco-based company is also "committed to help increase the collective health, openness, and civility of public conversation, and to hold ourselves publicly accountable towards progress."

Only Dorsey was invited to the House hearing after specific Republican concerns about bias on Twitter. While all three tech companies have been accused of political bias against conservatives, the more public-facing nature of Twitter has made it an especially easy target.

Despite the companies' denials, conservatives have continued to push the issue ahead of the 2018 elections.

"Sadly, conservatives are too often finding their voices silenced," House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said in a statement when the hearing was announced. "We all agree that transparency is the only way to fully restore Americans' trust in these important public platforms."

China points to other gains in hopes of easing US trade ire

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — China is trying to defuse a spiraling tariff war with Washington over technology policy by highlighting gains in other trade-related areas.

The Cabinet press office invited The Associated Press to interview the head of the country's patent and copyright office, as part of government efforts to persuade Washington and other trading partners to tone down objections to Chinese industry policy.

The official, Shen Changyu, pointed to improvements in fighting violations, previously a target of complaints by the United States, Europe and other traders.

"China's work on intellectual property protection is solid and very productive," said Shen, commissioner of the State Intellectual Property Office. "This point should be evaluated objectively and fairly by the international community."

The interview coincided with a series of events organized by Chinese officials, including briefings for foreign reporters by economists and other researchers, seeking to change minds abroad.

They have emphasized China's importance as a market, its plans to end ownership limits in its auto industry and other regulatory changes. But none of those moves directly addresses the policies that prompted U.S. President Donald Trump to impose penalty tariffs on Chinese goods.

Washington says Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology. American officials say Chinese plans for state-led development of global champions in robotics and other fields violate Beijing's free-trade commitments and might erode American industrial leadership.

The Cabinet press office said Shen couldn't address those complaints because his office has no role in technology policy.

The Trump administration has imposed 25 percent duties on \$50 billion of Chinese imports and is poised to add similar penalties on another \$200 billion list of goods as early as this week. Beijing says it will retaliate.

Washington and Beijing went to the brink of a trade war in the 1990s over complaints China allowed rampant unlicensed copying of medicine, movies, software, designing clothing and other goods. Business

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groups say enforcement has improved since then, largely because Chinese companies started creating their own technology in smartphones, solar power and other fields that required protection.

Shen cited promises this year by President Xi Jinping and China's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Keqiang, to strength enforcement and "make infringers pay a heavy price."

"It is an independent choice for us to build an innovative country and promote economic and social development," said Shen.

The conflict has largely moved on from over rampant Chinese copying of Hollywood movies, music, software and medicines to one focused on the bedrock of Beijing's state-led development strategy.

Chinese officials have rejected U.S. pressure to scale back industry plans Beijing sees as the path to prosperity and global influence.

"Ratcheting up U.S. pressure will not work on China," said a foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying, last week. "For people who still think China will give in to intimidation, threats and groundless criticism, I think it's the time for them to wake up."

Chinese leaders also have stressed protection for patents and copyrights in meetings with foreign businesspeople, though their reaction suggested the topic is no longer the irritant it once was.

Li, the premier, asked representatives of some of Europe's biggest companies at a July meeting to give examples of intellectual property theft or measures they wanted changed. None did during the portion of the meeting reporters were allowed to watch. Instead, a German auto executive expressed concern about Chinese industrial standards — part of technology policy.

Shen expressed frustration at the U.S. government's "Section 301" investigation that concluded Beijing improperly obtains foreign technology.

"In the 301 survey, intellectual property was a justification or an excuse," said Shen. "We hope the U.S. government will provide specific infringement cases or clues. We will deal with them seriously and will not tolerate them."

China faces similar, though more muted, criticism from Europe and other trading partners.

The 28-nation European Union challenged China's rules on technology licensing in a June complaint to the World Trade Organization. The EU said Beijing unfairly favors domestic companies in violation of its commitments to treat all competitors equally.

At a government-organized event last week, researchers from official think tanks stressed the potential gains from collaboration between the two biggest global economies and what might be lost if they fight.

"The United States and China are interdependent. Not just trade in goods but in many other areas too," said Wu Baiyi, director of the Institute of American Studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"These are the only two countries with more than \$10 trillion of economic scale," said Wu. "If there is a serious (economic) war between these two countries, then the whole world economic system may collapse. This will be a disaster for the whole world."

Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Phoenix home for sale for \$12.9M

PHOENIX (AP) — A Phoenix home that architect Frank Lloyd Wright designed for his son and was spared from demolition is up for sale.

The Arizona Republic reported Monday that the asking price for the spiral-shaped house in Phoenix's upscale Arcadia neighborhood is \$12.95 million.

Owner Zach Rawling announced in June he would donate the David and Gladys Wright House to the local architecture school established by Wright.

But the School of Architecture at Taliesin disclosed two weeks later that the donation had been called off.

According to the Wright House website, the school and Rawling parted ways after trying to raise funds. Rawling had said previously that his donation of the house to the school was contingent on a \$7 million endowment being raised for the school by 2020.

Rawling is an attorney and developer. He bought the home in 2012 for \$2.4 million to prevent the property from being razed.

He planned to turn the renovated home into a museum but neighbors complained the museum would increase vehicular traffic.

Wright built the house in 1952 for his son and daughter-in-law.

Amazon is 2nd US company to reach \$1 trillion market value

By JOSEPH PISANI and MARLEY JAY, AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Amazon on Tuesday became the second publicly traded company to reach \$1 trillion in market value, hot on the heels of iPhone maker Apple.

The milestone is another sign of Amazon's swift rise from an online bookseller to a behemoth that sells toilet paper, TVs and just about anything. In its two decades, Amazon has expanded far beyond online shopping and into health care, advertising and cloud computing.

Its growth has boosted the fortunes of its founder and CEO, Jeff Bezos. His 16 percent stake in Amazon is now worth more than \$160 billion. Forbes magazine placed him at the top of its list of billionaires for the first time this year, surpassing Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates and investor Warren Buffett.

Amazon's stock has increased almost 600 percent in the last five years, including a more than 70 percent surge so far in 2018 alone. On Tuesday morning, the stock climbed enough to push the company's valuation past the \$1 trillion mark, although it dropped back slightly after that. The stock closed at \$2,039.51 Tuesday, about \$11 short of keeping its valuation above \$1 trillion.

Apple topped the \$1 trillion mark in early August. Saudi Arabia's national energy company, Aramco, is widely believed to be worth much more than either Amazon or Apple.

Amazon's growing power has made it a target of politicians. President Donald Trump has said the company should pay the U.S. Postal Service more in shipping costs. And U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders has frequently noted the disparity between what Amazon's warehouse workers make and Bezos' vast fortune. Amazon has remained publicly silent about Trump's criticism, but has called Sanders' comments "misleading."

Bezos started Amazon after leaving a hedge fund in 1994. He called Amazon the "Earth's biggest bookstore" at the time, but it quickly added more products and eventually opened up a marketplace where others could list and sell their goods.

Amazon has cemented customer loyalty through its Prime membership program, offering fast, free shipping as well as music and video streaming perks. In April, Bezos disclosed for the first time that Amazon had more than 100 million paying Prime members around the world.

Wall Street has become very enthusiastic about Amazon's businesses outside of retail. Amazon Web Services provides cloud computing services to companies and governments, and Amazon's advertising division makes billions by selling ads to companies that want their products to show up when shoppers search on the site.

Those profitable businesses have helped offset the high costs associated with running its online store. Amazon saw its quarterly profit soar past \$2 billion for the first time earlier this year as the online shopping, cloud computing and advertising businesses all kept growing.

Amazon is also building its physical presence: Its purchase last year of the Whole Foods grocery chain gave it hundreds of stores at which to promote its gadgets and offer discounts tied to Prime memberships. It has opened more than a dozen brick-and-mortar bookstores, and has plans for more cashier-less Amazon Go convenience stores.

It's also been trying to have more control over how its packages are delivered. Under a program announced this summer, contractors around the country can launch businesses that deliver Amazon packages. The move gives Amazon more ways to ship its packages to shoppers without having to rely on UPS, FedEx and other delivery services.

Amazon's latest push has been in the health care industry. It has formed a venture with JPMorgan Chase and Berkshire Hathaway to figure out ways to attack rising health care costs for their U.S. employees and possibly for many more Americans. It also announced plans to buy the online pharmacy PillPack, but hasn't revealed what it plans to do with it.

NYC fines unpaid by Kushner Cos.: Over \$500K and counting

By BERNARD CONDON, AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Kushner family real estate firm has amassed over a half-million dollars in unpaid fines for various New York City sanitation and building violations, with much of that bill incurred while President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner was running the company.

City figures compiled for The Associated Press by a tenant watchdog group show that most of the fines — \$350,000 — stretched over the past five years. And just last month the company was fined \$210,000 for filing false construction documents.

The hundreds of violations in dozens of its buildings ranged from the seemingly minor — “loose rubbish” — to the serious, such as not getting permits for electrical work or failing to notify authorities of work that could disturb asbestos. Most of the fines were for a few hundred dollars apiece. But in many cases the company failed to show up for required court hearings, triggering additional penalty fines atop interest payments that allowed the bill to grow.

“This is a company that will cut corners at any cost, even if it comes at the expense of its residents and the rule of law,” said Aaron Carr, executive director of Housing Rights Initiative, which compiled the data.

The Kushner Cos. said the tally is misleading because many of the fines are actually the fault of tenants illegally renting their apartments through Airbnb, and businesses in its buildings not cleaning up properly. It said the fines for illegal renting alone total \$110,000.

“Every significant property owner in New York gets fined at some point for something and a snapshot at any point in time does not tell the whole story,” the Kushner Cos. said in a statement. It added that it has made good on hundreds of other fines totaling nearly \$600,000 over the same five years.

The city's \$210,000 penalty against the Kushner Cos. last month came after an AP report in March that the company filed dozens of applications for construction permits claiming it had no low-paying, rent-stabilized tenants when, in fact, it had hundreds. Those false filings allowed the company to avoid tougher city oversight to keep landlords from harassing tenants to get them to move out so they can raise rents.

The Kushner Cos. said it will fight this latest penalty in court. It doesn't have to be paid until that fight is settled.

The data on the company's unpaid, older bills show it was fined after not appearing at scheduled court hearings more than 450 times stretching back to early 2013, much of that for sanitation violations for dirty sidewalks and not disposing of trash properly. In these “no-show” cases, the city typically doubles or triples the amount originally fined.

Any unpaid fines within 60 days of a judgment by a court or a “no show” at a hearing is kicked to the city's Department of Finance, which then can tap private agencies to collect the debt. A department spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment from the AP.

Asked about the Kushner bill, New York City Comptroller Scott Stringer said, “No landlord with outstanding violations should get away with escaping the consequences — not even if they're related to the President.”

City data suggest the Kushner Cos. is hardly alone among major landlords with big bills for unpaid fines. Landlord Steven Croman racked up \$1 million in unpaid fines before his 2017 guilty plea for fraud, according to a tenant advocacy group Cooper Square Committee.

In general, the city has had a tough time collecting from landlords, restaurant owners, stores and others. In July, unpaid fines of all types in the city reached \$1.5 billion, much of that from building code and construction violations.

And those landlords and others who are fined have a powerful incentive not to pay: If a fine isn't collected in eight years, it “expires” and doesn't need to be paid. In the year through June 2017, \$94 million in fines expired.

The Kushner Cos. figure for unpaid fines doesn't include those by contractors hired in its buildings, but that's a distinction that often means little to tenants.

At Kushner-owned 331-335 E. Ninth St., Trident Structural Corp. was fined for several violations includ-

ing one in 2013 for working without a permit. Trident still owes more than \$10,000 from work at those buildings and the Kushner Cos. owes \$4,000.

Sloppy work resulted in Uta Winkler's ceiling collapsing twice, the first time sending gallons of water into her apartment and spreading mold that made her sick.

"It was like out of a fire hydrant," said Winkler, who withheld rent payments in protest. "Nobody from the management company called me. Nothing. It was unreal."

The Kushner Cos. said it "immediately remediated" when it found out about the water damage but couldn't comment any further because of litigation over Winkler's rent.

Associated Press writer Garance Burke in San Francisco contributed. Bernard Condon can be reached at <http://twitter.com/BernardFCondon>.

This story has been corrected to reflect that Landlord Steven Croman racked up \$1 million in unpaid fines, not \$1 billion.

Cars are cruising down the monthly subscription highway

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — If you already subscribe to digital services like Netflix to binge on TV shows and Spotify to groove to an endless mix of music, the auto industry might have a deal for you: Subscribe to your next car as well.

Make that cars, plural. Some of these packages — which charge a monthly fee for the bundled use of a car, insurance and maintenance — let you trade in your vehicle on a regular basis, sometimes almost as readily as you can skip to a new tune on Spotify.

These still-developing car subscription programs are gaining traction among motorists who don't want to be locked into the hassles of car ownership or even multiyear leasing commitments. All they want is a vehicle available whenever they want or need it.

"It feels like Christmas morning every time they bring me a new car," said Steve Barnes, a video producer who subscribes to a high-end vehicle subscription program offered through Clutch Technologies, a startup operating in the Atlanta area. (Clutch helped The Associated Press find Barnes for this story).

Although they're still in their infancy, car subscriptions are hooking more motorists as both long-established automakers and startups roll out plans.

Ford, a 115-year-old automaker with a network of more than 3,000 dealers, expanded into car subscriptions about 16 months ago through Canvas, a subsidiary in San Francisco.

Canvas offers a variety of used, once-leased Ford and Lincoln models as subscriptions that cost anywhere from \$379 per month (for a Ford Fiesta subcompact) to \$1,125 per month (for a Lincoln Navigator luxury SUV).

Those plans, however, impose driving limits of 500 miles a month. Subscribers can pay extra for higher limits — \$35 per month for an additional 350 miles, for instance, or \$100 per month for unlimited travel. Unused miles in any given month can be rolled over to the next one. If Canvas customers exceed the monthly mileage limits under their plan, they are charged an additional 15 cents per mile for a Ford car and slightly more for a Lincoln vehicle.

So far, Canvas has limited subscriptions to the San Francisco and Los Angeles area. In its first 16 months in California, thousands of subscribers have signed up for its subscription service while collectively driving about 8.5 million miles, according to the company.

"People are generally changing the way they are working, they are changing the way they are living and they are generally changing the way they are consuming things," Canvas CEO Ned Ryan said. "Subscriptions are going to be a very large and growing share of how people consume automobiles."

About a third of Canvas customers decided to subscribe to cars after moving or some other major event that left them reluctant to make a bigger commitment to leasing or owning, Ryan said. Others just like

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the simplicity and convenience offered by a car subscription, he said.

Liz Dreskin of San Rafael, California, signed up for Canvas earlier this year to help her college-age kids get around at home during their summer break. Both are under the company's 21-year-old age limit, so Dreskin got a vehicle for herself while allowing her children to drive the BMW she already owned.

After starting off with a sports utility vehicle from Canvas, she decided to pay \$99 to switch to a 2015 Mustang. Although she plans to suspend her \$500 monthly subscription at the end of September, she intends to start it up again when her kids return for the holidays. She's also recommending the service to a friend whose current car is breaking down.

"I could totally see myself doing this in the future so I don't have to deal with car insurance and car payments," Dreskin, 52, said. (Canvas helped the AP find Dreskin for this story).

Luxury automakers such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche and General Motors' Cadillac brand also are offering subscription programs, but those are primarily catering to affluent drivers who want to try out a variety of expensive vehicles.

Barnes, the video producer, signed up with Clutch in 2016 for access to luxury vehicles. The divorced father will get a sports utility vehicle when he has custody of his daughters or a Tesla sports car or something else fun to drive when he's headed out on the town with his current wife.

He pays about \$1,400 per month for his Clutch subscription, substantially more than the roughly \$900 per month he used to pay for a lease on a Tahoe and his insurance policy. But he says he can't imagine ever owning or leasing a car again now that he's driven dozens of different vehicles that he estimates would have cost him more than \$1 million to own.

"I am definitely a 'tech head' who had always fantasized about being able to get whatever car you want," Barnes said.

This story has been corrected to reflect Canvas requires a minimum age of 21 to subscribe to a car, not 25.

How major US stock indexes fared Tuesday

By The Associated Press

U.S. stocks finished lower Tuesday as losses for health care and technology companies canceled out gains for banks. Another gain for Amazon briefly brought its market value to \$1 trillion.

On Tuesday:

The S&P 500 index slid 4.80 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,896.72.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 12.34 points to 25,952.48.

The Nasdaq composite declined 18.29 points, or 0.2 percent, to 8,091.25.

The Russell 2000 index retreated 7.38 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,733.38.

For the year:

The S&P 500 is up 223.11 points, or 8.3 percent.

The Dow is up 1,233.26 points, or 5 percent.

The Nasdaq is up 1,187.85 points, or 17.2 percent.

The Russell 2000 is up 197.87 points, or 12.9 percent.

Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 5, the 248th day of 2018. There are 117 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Sept. 5, 1972, the Palestinian group Black September attacked the Israeli Olympic delegation at the Munich Games; 11 Israelis, five guerrillas and a police officer were killed in the resulting siege.

On this date:

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In 1698, Russia's Peter the Great imposed a tax on beards.

In 1774, the first Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia.

In 1882, the nation's first Labor Day was celebrated with a parade in New York. (Although Labor Day now takes place on the first Monday of September, this first celebration occurred on a Tuesday.)

In 1939, four days after war had broken out in Europe, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued a proclamation declaring U.S. neutrality in the conflict.

In 1945, Japanese-American Iva Toguri D'Aquino, suspected of being wartime broadcaster "Tokyo Rose," was arrested in Yokohama. (D'Aquino was later convicted of treason and served six years in prison; she was pardoned in 1977 by President Gerald R. Ford.)

In 1960, at the Rome Olympics, American boxer Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) defeated Zbigniew Pietrzykowski (zuh-BIG'-nee-ehf pee-eht-chah-KAHF'-skee) of Poland to win the light-heavyweight gold medal; Wilma Rudolph of the United States won the second of her three gold medals with the 200-meter sprint.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed legislation making aircraft hijackings a federal crime.

In 1975, President Gerald R. Ford escaped an attempt on his life by Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, a disciple of Charles Manson, in Sacramento, California.

In 1986, four hijackers who had seized a Pan Am jumbo jet on the ground in Karachi, Pakistan, opened fire when the lights inside the plane failed; a total of 20 people were killed before Pakistani commandos stormed the jetliner.

In 1997, breaking the royal reticence over the death of Princess Diana, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II delivered a televised address in which she called her former daughter-in-law "a remarkable person." Mother Teresa died in Calcutta, India, at age 87; conductor Sir Georg Solti (johrj SHOL'-tee) died in France at age 84.

In 2002, Afghan President Hamid Karzai (HAH'-mihd KAH'R'-zy) survived an assassination attempt in Kandahar, hours after an explosives-packed car tore through a Kabul market.

In 2005, President George W. Bush nominated John Roberts to succeed the late William Rehnquist as chief justice of the United States. An Indonesian jetliner crashed, killing 149 people, including 49 on the ground; 17 passengers survived.

Ten years ago: Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice became the highest-ranking American official in half a century to visit Libya, where she met Moammar Gadhafi. Europe's Rosetta space probe flew by the Steins asteroid 250 million miles from Earth. Publishing giant Robert Giroux, who'd guided and supported dozens of great writers from T.S. Eliot and Jack Kerouac to Bernard Malamud and Susan Sontag, died in Tinton Falls, New Jersey, at age 94.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in St. Petersburg for a G-20 summit, pressed fellow world leaders to support a U.S. strike on Syria; however, he encountered opposition from Russia, China and even the European Union, who said it was too soon for military action.

One year ago: President Donald Trump announced that he was phasing out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program protecting young immigrants who were brought to the country illegally, but said he was giving Congress six months to come up with an alternative; he later tweeted that if Congress couldn't do so, he would "revisit" the issue. Hurricane Irma strengthened to a Category 5 storm as it approached the northeast Caribbean on a path toward the United States.

Today's Birthdays: Former Federal Reserve Board chairman Paul A. Volcker is 91. Comedian-actor Bob Newhart is 89. Actress-singer Carol Lawrence is 86. Former NFL All-Pro quarterback and college football Hall of Famer Billy Kilmer is 79. Actor William Devane is 79. Actor George Lazenby is 79. Actress Raquel Welch is 78. Movie director Werner Herzog is 76. Singer Al Stewart is 73. Actor-director Dennis Dugan is 72. College Football Hall of Famer Jerry LeVias is 72. Singer Loudon Wainwright III is 72. Soul/rock musician Mel Collins is 71. "Cathy" cartoonist Cathy Guisewite (GYZ'-wyt) is 68. Actor Michael Keaton is 67. Country musician Jamie Oldaker (The Tractors) is 67. Actress Debbie Turner-Larson (Marta in "The Sound of Music") is 62. Actress Kristian Alfonso is 55. Rhythm-and-blues singer Terry Ellis is 55. Rock musician Brad Wilk is 50. TV personality Dweezil Zappa is 49. Actress Rose McGowan is 45. Actress Carice Van Houten is 42. Rock musician Kyle O'Quin (Portugal. The Man) is 33. Actor Andrew Ducote is 32. Actress Kat Graham is

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32. Olympic gold medal figure skater Yuna Kim is 28. Actor Skandar Keynes is 27.

Thought for Today: "Those who foresee the future and recognize it as tragic are often seized by a madness which forces them to commit the very acts which makes it certain that what they dread shall happen." — Dame Rebecca West, Irish author and journalist (1892-1983).