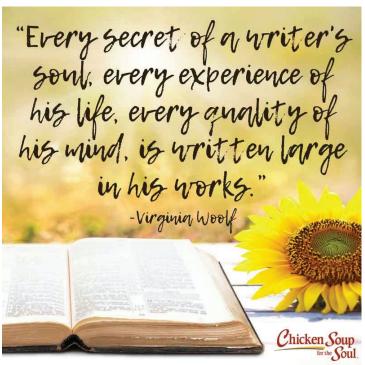
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The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **GONE**

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

Midwest Masonry & Concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner



405 E 1st Ave., Groton Greg: 253/929-9137 Mike: 605/492-7041 midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



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- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
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- 3- Beresford edges Groton Area
- 5- West Nile Update
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- 6- St. John's Luncheon ad
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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

Monday, September 10, 2018

2:00pm: Cross Country: Varsity Meet vs. Webster Area High School @ Webster Golf Course

5:00pm: Football: Boys JV Game vs. Redfield-Doland @ Doland High School

7:00pm- 9:00pm: School Board Meeting Groton

Area High School 7:00pm: City Council Meeting at Groton Com-

munity Center

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

10:00am: Golf: Boys Varsity Meet vs. Redfield-Doland @ Redfield Golf Course

Noon: Olive Grove Bridge Party

4:00pm: Football: Boys 7th/8th Game vs. Redfield-Doland @ Doland High School (7th Grade 4:00

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Groton Area	1st 13		7	4th 0	32
Beresford	14	14	0	7	35
First Downs Rushing	Groton .13			30-131 Tyer Kı Brad C Brady	
Passing					
Receivers	. Austin Jones 1-44 Thomas Cranford 2-33 Lucas Hinman 1-16 Korbin Blackmun 1-5	}		Blake F Tyler K	ntonson 2-101 Peterson 3-32 Kropuenske 2-18 Peterson 1-35
Penalties	. Had 2, lost 1	ackles s, 2 sacks		N/A Brady Carter	Peterson: 10 tackles Kennedy: 9 tackles
Next Game Record Scoring	at Chamberlain . 2-2			Host C 3-1	Canton
First Quarter	.Beresford 11:42: Jack PAT: Tyler Kropuenske	Antonson 6 kick	9 yard pa	ss from	Tyler Kropuenske
First Quarter	. Groton 9:41: Jonathan PAT: Hunter Schaller k	Doeden 4	yard run.		
First Quarter	. Groton 2:24: Jonathar PAT: Pass failed	Doeden, 2	yard run.		
First Quarter	. Beresford 2:08: Brad (PAT: Tyler Kropuenske		75 yard k	ickoff re	turn.
Second Quarter	. Groton 8:46: Jonathar PAT: Pass failed		yard run.		
Second Quarter	. Beresford 5:54: Carter PAT: Tyler Kropuenske		2 yard run.		
Second Quarter	. Groton 2:38: Brody De PAT: Pass failed	eHoet 34 ya	ırd interce	ption ret	turn.
Second Quarter	.Beresford 0:56: Jack A PAT: Kick no good	Antonson 32	2 yard pas	s from B	Brad Christenson.
Third Quarter	. Groton 4:26: Jonathar PAT: Hunter Schaller k		yard run.		
Fourth Quarter	. Beresford 5:54: Carter PAT: Tyler Kropuenske	•	yard run.		

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Jonathan Doeden breaks
through the
Beresford defensive line. A bunch
of white jerseys
were then in pursuit of Doeden.
The lead runner
slowed up Doeden enough,
but not before
he had a big gain
on the run. (Photo by

Julianna Kosel)

Beresford edges Groton Area in an evenly matched game

It was an explosive game from end to end as Beresford edged out Groton Area in football action Friday in Groton, 35-32. Four touchdowns would be scored in each the first and second quarter as the half time score was 28-25 with Beresford leading.

The two teams were evenly matched in the exciting game that had the fans on their feet many times during the evening. Beresford would have one more first down than Groton, 14-13, one more yard rushing, 131-130, but would have the edge on passing, 186-96. Each team would have one fumble that they lost and Beresford had one interception that Groton scored on.

Jonathan Doeden would have 120 yards rushing, 96 yards passing and seven tackles. Austin Jones would have 44 yards receiving and Thomas Cranford would have 33 yards receiving. Wyatt Locke would have six tackles and two sacks while Alex Morris had six tackles and Brody DeHoet would have one interception for a touchdown. Doeden would score the other four touchdowns on runs of 4, 2, 2 and 5 yards. An injured Hunter Schaller kicked two PATs for Groton while the three PAT pass attempts failed. Schaller injured his ankle the night before in soccer.

Groton Area, now 2-2, will travel to Chamberlain on Friday. Beresford is now 3-1.

"I was happy with the way our kids played," said Coach Shaun Wanner. He added that Beresford has nine seniors on the team. "I was worried about that as we have a lot of young and inexperienced kids on the field." Last year Groton Area beat Beresford by one at Beresford.

Beresford would score first and it would score on the second play from scrimmage as Jack Antonson would make a 69 yard catch play from Tyler Kropuenske with just 18 seconds gone in the game. Kropuenske would kick the PAT and it was Beresford leading, 7-0.

Groton would respond in quick fashion as Jonathan Doeden had a big play that took the Tigers down to the Beresford 10 yard line on the 64 yard run. On fourth down and a foot to go, Doeden would break free to score from four yards out. Hunter Schaller kicked the PAT and the game was tied at seven.

Beresford was forced to punt on fourth and four as the Tigers took over on their own 46 yard line. But a penalty would make it first and 20. On third down with 18 yards to go, Doeden would connect with Austin Jones for 44-yard pass play taking the Tigers down to the Beresford 18. Doeden would score on a two yard run. Groton Area opted for the two-point conversion which failed. Groton now led, 14-7.

The game featured big plays and Beresford came up with one as Brad Christensen scored on a 75-yard kickoff return. Tyler Kropuenske kicked the PAT and the Watchdogs now led, 14-13 as the first quarter ended. Beresford tried going for the down on fourth and eight but was unable to get the job done and the

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Wyatt Locke goes for the kickoff. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)



Jonathan Doeden (6) hands the ball off to Lucas Hinman. (Photo by Julianna Kosel)

Tigers took over on downs. Thomas Cranford would make a big catch and get the ball down to the Beresford 19 yard line. Doeden would score on a two-yard run and the Tigers were back on top, 19-14.

The Watchdogs would have a big pass play of their own to get down to the Groton two yard line before Carter Kennedy would score and Kropuenske would kick the PAT and Beresford was back on top, 22-19.

Groton had to punt and Beresford took over on their own 22 yard line. After getting a first down, a pass was intercepted by Brody DeHoet and he ran the back 34 yards for a touchdown. The PAT pass failed and Groton Area was leading, 25-22.

Beresford would score with less than a minute left in the half and the PAT kick was blocked. Beresford led at half time, 28-25.

Groton Area had the ball to start the third quarter. Thomas Cranford had a big catch to take the ball down to the Beresford 33, but the Tigers ended up punting on fourth and 14. Beresford also had to punt on fourth and 18 as the defense picked up in the second half. Doeden would score on a five yard run and Hunter Schaller kicked the PAT and the Tigers reclaimed the lead, 32-28.

On the punt, the ball bounced off of a Beresford player and the Tigers pounced on the loose ball to get the ball back on the Beresford 47. The Tigers were unable to capitalize on the opportunity and had to punt on fourth and 13 early in the fourth quarter.

Beresford would start on its own 25 and the drive took over five minutes off the clock before they would score on a Carter Kennedy five yard run. Kropuenske would kick the PAT and Beresford took the lead, 35-32.

Groton was down to the Beresford 27 yard line and tired to get the first down on fourth and four, but fell short. The Watchdogs now had the ball on their own 25 yard line with 2:32 to go in the game. Beresford ended up punting on fourth and 20 and Groton still had a chance. The ball was on the Beresford 35 yard line with only 50 seconds to go in the game. A bad snap that went over Doeden's head allowed the football to roam free and Beresford was first to land on it with 42 seconds to go. Time would expire and the Watchdogs would pull out a 35-32 win.

"Our kids played hard," Wanner said. "They are getting better each week with four games under our belt. If we keep getting better and stay away from injuries, we should have a good football season."

The game was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM with over 1,300 viewers.

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West Nile Virus — South Dakota

September 5, 2018

Human West Nile Virus (WNV) reported to SD Department of Health (SD-DOH)

Human cases: 101 (Median age: 48; range 2-89)

Hospitalized: 32

Deaths: 2

County Counts

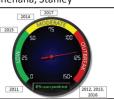
Human cases: Beadle (4), Bon Homme (1), Brookings (3), Brown (12), Brule (1), Buffalo (1), Charles Mix (2), Clark (1), Clay (2), Codington (5), Corson (1), Davison (1), Day (3), Dewey (2), Edmunds (4), Faulk (4), Grant (1), Hanson (1), Hughes (3), Hutchinson (1), Hyde (1), Kingsbury (1), Lake (1), Lincoln (4), Lyman (1), Marshall (2), Mellette (1), Miner (1), Minnehaha (9), Pennington (9), Potter (2), Roberts (2), Spink (3), Stanley (1), Sully (1), Todd (1), Tripp (2), Union (1), Walworth (2), Yankton (3)

<u>Viremic blood donors</u>: Brown (2), Edmunds (2), Faulk (1), Hand (1), Hanson (1), Lawrence (1), Minnehaha (4), Pennington (2), Potter (1), Spink (2), Todd (1), Tripp (1)

<u>Positive mosquito detections</u>: Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Custer, Davison, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha, Stanley

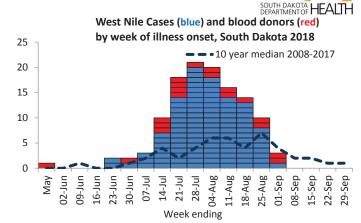
SDSU WNV Risk Assessment Projected Cases for 2018 mosquito.sdstate.edu

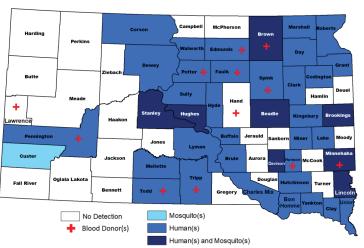
123 Detections Forecast



SD-DOH: Phone 800-592-1861; westnile.sd.gov

CDC West Nile: cdc.gov/westnile





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St. John's Soup, Sandwich, and Pie Luncheon

September 13, 2018, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. \$2.00 per item For take-out orders, call 397-2386 at 10:30 a.m. or after.

We Are Hiring!

Housekeeping Laundry Stop in or call

We are an equal employment opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status or any other characteristic protected by law.



1106 N 2nd Street ~ Groton, SD ~ 605-397-2365

Robert B. Johnson Estate Auction

Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 10AM Location: 204 Hickory St., Langford, SD

Selling an amazing assortment of Guns, 1972 Harley Davidson, Cushman, Vehicles, Fish House & Sporting, Collectibles, Collectible Coins, Metal Signs. Something here to fit all your needs!

Pictures & Full Sale Bill at voldrealty.com
Owner: Robert B. Johnson Estate

www.voldrealty.com
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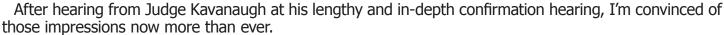
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John Thune U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA

Confirm Kavanaugh

After the president nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court several months ago, based on what I had read about him as a judge on one of the nation's most prominent circuit courts, I said he seemed like the kind of judge who interprets the law and the Constitution as they are written. From what I had seen, he didn't





Something else became abundantly clear during Judge Kavanaugh's hearing. It helped clarify for the American people that my Democrat colleagues, who engaged in a coordinated and purely political attempt to delay the hearing to appease the far-left of their base, were more interested in scoring political points than considering Judge Kavanaugh on the merits of his nomination, which are indisputable.

In fact, Judge Kavanaugh's resume is nearly impeccable. He graduated from Yale Law School, lectures at Harvard Law School, clerked for Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, was given the highest possible rating by the American Bar Association (unanimously), and has spent the last 12 years ruling on cases at the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, a court from which several other Supreme Court justices, including Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Clarence Thomas, and Chief Justice John Roberts, have also served.

If someone were tasked with drawing up the background and qualifications of what a good Supreme Court justice would look like, Judge Kavanaugh's record would be a good example at which he or she could look.

Since my Democrat colleagues are finding it difficult to land any punches with respect to Judge Kavanaugh's qualifications, they've shifted their focus to the amount of written material that's available to be examined.

Aside from the fact that Judge Kavanaugh has written more than 300 opinions at the circuit court level, all of which are publicly available, nearly half of a million additional pages of documents from his time serving in the executive branch have also been made available to the Senate. Not only is that a record number of pages for any Supreme Court nominee, but it's more pages than the committee received for the last five Supreme Court justices (including both of President Obama's nominees) – combined.

For Democrats, 12 years of publicly decided cases and hundreds of thousands of pages of documents from his previous service aren't enough, though. They say they want more. I would take their concerns more seriously if nearly half of them hadn't announced their opposition to his nomination before the first day of the confirmation hearing even began. Some of my colleagues announced they would vote against him before they even knew he was the nominee!

To summarize, Judge Kavanaugh is more than qualified to serve on the Supreme Court, he has hundreds of cases and a record number of pages of documents from which he himself can be judged, and he faced hours upon hours of questioning from Republicans and Democrats on the Judiciary Committee, despite my colleagues' best attempts to unnecessarily delay the hearing.

I'm hopeful his nomination will come to the Senate floor without delay, and when it does, I look forward to casting my vote to replace "judge" with "justice" in front of Brett Kavanaugh's name.



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Breaking Barriers Surrounding Mental Health

In South Dakota today, about 30,000 adults and 9,000 kids live with serious mental health conditions. With nearly every family and every community affected, it's overloaded the system. As a result, too many are falling through the cracks, landing in a jail cell, homeless shelter, or worse.

The reasons for this are numerous. Some people may lack the financial resources for treatment. Others may be able to afford help, but there are no spaces available. Still others may fear what their friends or family may think, so they never seek assistance. We need to break these barriers down.

While not everything can be solved on the federal level, we've worked over the last few years to aggressively address this issue in the U.S. House. In 2016, for instance, we passed legislation I cosponsored to help make sure families can be meaningful partners in caring for those with serious mental illnesses. That same legislation made advances in tele-psychiatry to better reach rural communities and offered more tools for suicide prevention, especially in tribal communities. Other provisions were included to fix the shortage of crisis mental health beds, improve the transition from one level of care to another, and even offer alternatives to institutionalization for those with serious mental illnesses.

More recently, the House passed a bill I introduced that aims to dig into the mental health resources available to those on Medicare. Today, millions of seniors lack adequate access to mental health services. By taking a data-driven approach, I'm hopeful we can quickly and accurately target resources to do the most good with the fewest amount of taxpayer dollars.

At the same time, we've been working to increase access to mental healthcare for veterans. In 2016, we got the Clay Hunt SAV Act signed into law, which I'm hopeful will help as nearly two dozen American veterans lose their life to suicide daily. We have also dedicated more resources to exploring how factors like military service, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injuries can put one at higher risk for suicide.

Still, there is much that must be done in this area. While this is not true in every circumstance, the consequences of not addressing mental health concerns could be a matter of life and death.

This month is Suicide Prevention Month in South Dakota. We have one of the nation's highest suicide rates, so please be aware of the people in your life. If someone you know is struggling with their mental health, act now. If it's an emergency, dial 911 immediately. If not, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) is open around the clock for help. Don't wait to call. Together we can work to overcome this.

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Aging can be a difficult thing. Whether it's harder on the one growing older, or their loved ones, I'm not sure. When a spouse or a parent grows older and starts to need help with everyday tasks, there are many difficult decisions to make. You want them to be close, to have as much independence as possible and you want to be there as much as you can.

Many families are dealing with these decisions today. As the Baby Boomer generation has aged, South Dakota is seeing a growing need for services. That need will continue to grow: By 2035, it is estimated that within our state the number of elders (65 and older) will increase by 84 percent and the number of elders with disabilities is expected to be 71 percent higher than it is today.

Anticipating these changes, we are redoubling our efforts to ensure that South Dakotans can access a variety of long-term services and supports. Last year, I signed an executive order to establish the Division of Long-Term Services and Supports, within the Department of Human Services. This reorganization aims to create a more integrated approach to providing long-term services in South Dakota and to ensure that people get the services they need within their own communities. The Division supports individuals 60 years and older as well as adults with disabilities.

Following the reorganization, we have focused on a program called "Dakota at Home" which assists elders, those with disabilities and caregivers by pairing them with services offered in their communities. These services are designed to help people stay in their homes as long as possible. For instance, those who qualify can receive assistance with day-to-day household tasks like grocery shopping, meal preparation, laundry, vacuuming, sweeping and dusting. "Personal care" is available as well for individuals who need a hand with routine personal hygiene tasks. We also work with our local partners to offer "adult day services" which allow individuals to spend a part of their day outside of the home through structured activities. And Emergency Response Systems are available for those who may be at risk for falls.

Caregiving can exact a heavy emotional, physical and financial toll. It can be especially difficult for those who are juggling full-time work schedules while acting as caregivers for other family members. To make things easier, we offer caregiver services throughout the state. "Respite Care" is available – which can provide some temporary relief for caregivers who need a break. Counseling and training is also available. Some caregivers may be eligible for a program which provides financial assistance for supporting everyday activities.

There's no need to navigate the system on your own. The process of aging is difficult enough as it is, so we have people throughout the state who are ready to help. You can reach the Dakota at Home advocates by calling 1-833-663-9673 or visiting DakotaAtHome.org. Call today, and find help to allow more South Dakotans to live longer, healthier, more fulfilled lives at home in their own communities.

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Today in Weather History

September 8, 1959: High winds and areas of blowing dust occurred across parts of central South Dakota from Walworth to Mellette. During the evening, wind gusts of 40 to 50 mph affected the counties either side of the Missouri River. Low visibility in blowing dust was blamed for a four-car crash near Pierre, injuring five persons, another accident near Mobridge injured one person. Barn buildings were blown over or unroofed near Delmont in Douglas County. Lightning started grass fires and burned several thousand acres of rangeland in Mellette and Lyman counties. In the late afternoon, high winds associated with a cold front gusted to 70 mph and destroyed six buildings on a farm north and east of Reliance. At 500 pm, winds ripped a camper off a pickup truck 12 miles south of Pierre. Winds were measured at 68 mph at Pierre. At 6 pm CDT winds gusting to 70 mph damaged many trees in the Watertown area, power lines, and some buildings. A trailer and truck, twelve miles north of Watertown, were blown over while traveling on Interstate 29. A large oil tank was also destroyed.

1900: An estimated Category 4 storm made landfall in Galveston, Texas on this day. This hurricane killed between 6,000 and 12,000 individuals, making it the deadliest US Atlantic hurricane on record. The highest point in the city of Galveston was less than nine feet above sea level. The hurricane brought a storm surge of over 15 feet, which overwhelmed the entire island.

1998: A severe thunderstorm rapidly developed over the south end of the Las Vegas Valley in Nevada and moved north focusing damaging winds and heavy rain mainly across the eastern half of the metro area. Henderson Executive Airport recorded wind gusts of 80 mph. Air traffic control personnel temporarily evacuated the airport tower. Approximately 15 homes and trailers in Moapa were severely damaged by thunderstorm winds estimated at 80 to 90 mph.

1900 - The greatest weather disaster in U.S. records occurred when a hurricane struck Galveston TX. A tide fifteen feet high washed over the island demolishing or carrying away buildings, and drowning more than 6000 persons. The hurricane destroyed more than 3600 houses, and total damage was more than thirty million dollars. Winds to 120 mph, and a twenty foot storm surge accompanied the hurricane. Following the storm, the surf was three hundred feet inland from the former water line. The hurricane claimed another 1200 lives outside of the Galveston area. (8th-9th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

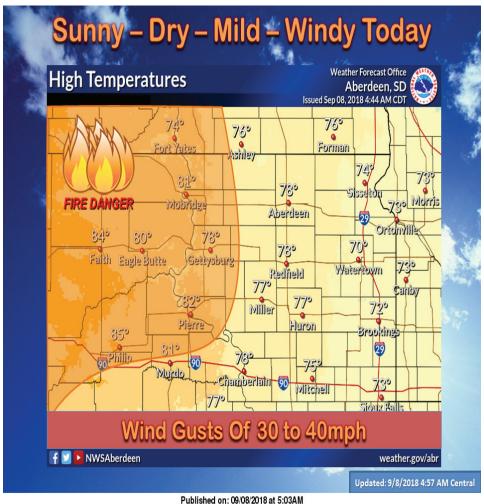
1987 - A tropical depression off the coast of South Carolina brought another round of heavy rain to the Middle Atlantic Coast Region and the Upper Ohio Valley. Showers and thunderstorms produced extremely heavy rain in eastern Pennsylvania, where flooding caused more than 55 million dollars across a seven county area. The afternoon high of 97 degrees at Miami FL was a record for the month of September. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Eighteen cities in the south central and eastern U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Roanoke VA with a reading of 42 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced very heavy rain in the central U.S. Thunderstorms during the late morning and afternoon produced five to nine inches of rain around Lincoln NE, with an unofficial total of eleven inches near Holmes Park. Up to six and a half inches of rain soaked northern and western Iowa. Eighty to ninety percent of the homes in Shenandoah IA, where 5.89 inches of rain was received, reported basement flooding. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Sunny, dry and mild conditions are expected today, with a gusty south wind. This will result in high to very high fire danger across a good part of the state as winds peak between 30 and 40mph this afternoon. Little in the way of moisture is anticipated with a pair of weak systems that will cross the region, the first tonight and the second late Sunday. Warm and dry conditions will then follow for next week.

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Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 80.9 F at 3:45 PM

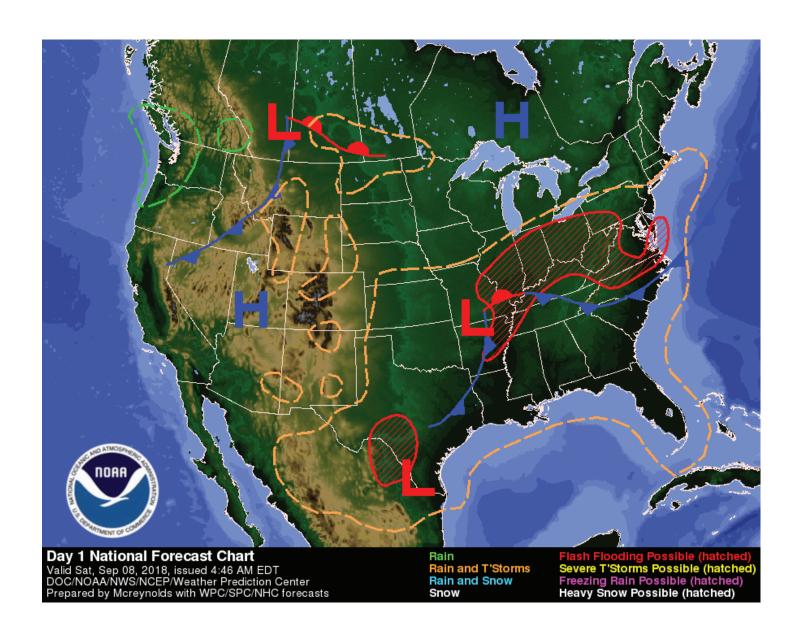
Low Outside Temp: 53.6 F at 6:51 AM High Gust: 20.0 Mph at 1:52 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 101° in 1933, 1931

Record Low: 32° in 1992 Average High: 76°F Average Low: 49°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.52 **Precip to date in Sept.:** 0.10 **Average Precip to date: 16.81 Precip Year to Date: 11.36 Sunset Tonight:** 7:58 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:05 a.m.



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WHO CARES FOR THE LONELY?

Some time ago, the body of a man was found in a deserted building in New York. In his pocket was a note that read, Im nobody. Nobody cares for me. Im like a peanut inside of a shell on the walkway in Yankee Stadium. So, I decided to stomp on myself once and for all.

There is no feeling that runs so deep, is so acute or more widespread than loneliness. The feeling of being abandoned or uncared for or unloved is one that grips the souls of far too many - even the Christian.

We read a store in the Bible about a man who had been forced to run and hide from others to save his life. Years later he wrote, Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for me. His words are all too familiar and his feelings universal.

But notice: He looked around, but he did not look up. Had he looked up he could have discovered some-One who cared deeply for him, was looking for him and loved him. This One not only cares, but He did something to show us that He cares.

The Bible states that Since God did not even spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, wont He also give us everything else?

Remember the stories of Noah in the ark, Job in the pile of ashes, Moses being hid in a basket, Jonah in the belly of a fish, Daniel in the lions den and Paul in prison?

God carefully cared for them, and He will also carefully care for us!

Remember: I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Prayer: In moments of loneliness, Lord, may we look upward and find Your outstretched arms waiting for us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm142:4 Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one cares for me.

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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 App Associated Press

Friday's Scores By The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL(equals)

Alcester-Hudson 48, Scotland 14

Arlington/Lake Preston 42, Elkton-Lake Benton 0

Baltic 28, Viborg-Hurley 24

Beresford 35, Groton Area 32

Bon Homme 25, Kimball/White Lake 7

Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 21, Madison 0

Britton-Hecla 32, Deuel 22

Brookings 51, Spearfish 0

Burke/South Central 26, Corsica/Stickney 22

Canistota 52, Chester 0

Canton 29, Sioux Falls Christian 12

Castlewood 56, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 7

Chamberlain 49, Wagner 7

Clark/Willow Lake 56, Great Plains Lutheran 0

Colman-Egan 58, Deubrook 20

Dakota Hills 48, Tri-State 18

Dakota Valley 55, Sisseton 0

DeSmet 20, Estelline/Hendricks 6

Dell Rapids 41, Belle Fourche 38

Douglas, Wyo. 28, Hot Springs 13

Eureka/Bowdle 60, Northwestern 20

Faith 44, Newell 6

Faulkton 40, Ipswich/Edmunds Central 8

Garretson 63, Menno/Marion 20

Gayville-Volin 56, Avon 6

Howard 50, Hanson 8

Huron 14, Harrisburg 0

Irene-Wakonda 48, Parker 22

Kadoka Area 36, New Underwood 26

Lead-Deadwood 62, Little Wound 14

Lemmon/McIntosh 48, Dupree 0

Lennox 29, Milbank Area 21

Mobridge-Pollock 14, Aberdeen Roncalli 8

Mt. Vernon 42, Redfield 0

Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 42, Redfield/Doland 0

Philip 22, Rapid City Christian 18

Pierre 69, Douglas 7

Platte-Geddes 44, Herreid/Selby Area 6

Potter County 32, Parkston 12

Rapid City Central 54, Sturgis 27

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 34, Sioux Falls Lincoln 7

Sioux Valley 26, Flandreau 6

Stanley County 43, Custer 21

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Sully Buttes 56, Hitchcock-Tulare 14
Tea Area 50, Elk Point-Jefferson 0
Timber Lake 58, Harding County 6
Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 38, Centerville 6
Vermillion 18, Tri-Valley 6
Wall 51, Hill City 0
Warner 48, Langford 8
Watertown 46, Rapid City Stevens 13
Webster 36, Waverly-South Shore 14
West Central 33, St. Thomas More 0
Wolsey-Wessington 63, Iroquois 0
Yankton 42, Mitchell 21

Some high school football scores provided by Scorestream.com, https://scorestream.com/

Firefighter, homeowner die in blaze near Rapid City

TILFORD, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have identified a firefighter and a homeowner killed in a structure fire in western South Dakota.

Rapid City Fire Lt. Jim Bussell tells KBHB radio that 43-year-old firefighter David Fischer of Sturgis died after he was hit by a piece of propane tank that exploded as a result of the fire Friday afternoon.

Bussell identified the homeowner as 82-year-old Raymond Bachmeier of Tilford. Backmeier's remains were found Saturday.

A Meade County sheriff's deputy also suffered non-life-threatening injuries as a result of the fire. The cause of the blaze is unknown.

Information from: KBHB-AM, http://www.kbhbradio.com

Long-missing man's mom: The uncertainty never gets easier By JANET McCONNAUGHEY, Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Carolyn Johnson has been sure her son is dead since he disappeared in north-west Louisiana. But more than a decade later, she says the uncertainty of not knowing what happened or where his body is never gets easier.

"You learn to live with it. But it's always there," she said in a phone interview Thursday from Sturgis, South Dakota, where she lives.

Clinton Devon Nelson was last seen about 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 1, 2006, leaving a party in the unincorporated community of Princeton. Now he's one of three missing people that Bossier Parish officials are asking the public for help in finding. The others are a woman missing for 39 years, and a man last seen 18 years ago.

Bossier Crime Stoppers put up billboards about Arrilla Webb-Vaul, Gregory Vice Jr. and Nelson on Wednesday in the parish nearly 280 miles (450 kilometers) northwest of New Orleans.

All were in their early 20s when they disappeared: Webb-Vaul in March 1979, and Vice in March 2000.

As many as 600,000 people a year are reported missing in the United States, according to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) based in Fort Worth, Texas. Most are resolved fairly quickly, but there are no good national figures for cold cases, spokesman Todd Matthews said Thursday.

Lt. Bill Davis, a Bossier Parish Sheriff's Department spokesman, said it is rare for someone to intentionally disappear.

"Every blue moon you have somebody who goes missing who wants to be missing. But that's not usually the case," Davis said.

Johnson said a private donor anonymously put up a \$100,000 reward Friday for information received by

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Dec. 31 that leads to arrest and conviction in her son's case.

Nelson had moved about six months earlier from South Dakota to work in the oilfields and be closer to his biological father, whom Johnson had divorced when he was small.

His father had taken him to a party, Johnson said. She said she learned that there had been drugs, and that Nelson, who had two broken ribs, his arm in a sling and stitches over his collarbone from a recent work injury, had a lot of money with him, and bragged about how much he was making.

"He grew up in Spearfish, South Dakota. He didn't know he couldn't trust everybody," she said.

Johnson said that the night of the party she had a horrible feeling that something was wrong but convinced herself she was overreacting. A few days later her ex-husband called, asking if she'd talked to Nelson, and saying nobody had seen him since the party. Johnson set up a Facebook page asking help finding her son.

He was 6-foot-1 (1.8 meters), about 160 pounds (72 kilograms), with blond hair and blue eyes. He wore round, wire-rimmed eyeglasses. He had faint scars above his right eye, at the corner of that eye, his right temple and jaw, from being bitten by a dog when he was 2, Johnson said.

She said Nelson's son was born about six weeks after his father disappeared and is now nearly 12.

Vice was 23 when he left his home in Princeton, about 13 miles (21 kilometers) northeast of Shreveport, to visit a friend in Taylortown, a community about 11 miles (18 kilometers) southeast of Shreveport and 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of Princeton. He left about 8 p.m. March 21, 2000, in his 1984 Chevrolet S-10 pickup truck. The truck was found three days later in Taylortown, with Vice's wallet and other personal belongings inside.

He was 5-foot-8 (1.7 meters) and 135 pounds (61 kilograms), with brown hair and hazel eyes. He had a tattoo of a white tiger on his back just behind his right shoulder.

Investigators don't think there was any connection between the two men's cases, Davis said.

Webb-Vaul had dropped her husband off at a K-Mart the evening of March 15, 1979. Her vehicle was found at the foot of the Jimmie Davis Bridge in Bossier City, with a slashed or punctured tire, and her belongings inside. Witnesses told investigators that she pulled over and a white man in a white truck immediately pulled up behind her.

She's described as 5-foot-1 (1.5 meters), 100 pounds (45 kilograms), with blonde hair, blue-grey eyes, and a small mole on the right side of her nose.

"You think, 'Gee, nobody's going to know something that far back," Davis said. But he said the billboards may spark someone's memory.

Johnson said she's not out for vengeance or even justice.

"I just simply want to bring my son home. And I want to give him some form of a resting place and be able to tell his son that we know where he is," she said.

Pennington County to open social services complex

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A western South Dakota county is preparing to open an all-in-one social services complex.

Workers are putting the finishing touches on the new Care Campus in the former National American University building in Pennington County, The Rapid City Journal reported. The 70,000-square foot facility's services will range from transitional housing to treatment services.

The facility is scheduled to open Sept. 24. The renovation cost about \$14 million and comes three years after the County Commission voted to purchase the old NAU campus.

The campus will act as a centralized location for the county's public services, which are currently scattered. "It's no more kicking the can down the road or finger-pointing," said Willie Whelchel, Chief Deputy of the Pennington County Sheriff's Office. "How we help folks will have a big impact on the community."

The facility will service as a "single point of entry" for substance abuse and mental health services, said Barry Tice, Director of Pennington County Health & Human Services.

"We won't have to drive people across town or schedule appointments two weeks out," he said. "We've

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built an environment for efficient, quality care."

The additional beds will help save taxpayers money, Tice said.

Officials also hope to use the facility to provide people temporary housing in the winter, he said.

"During these cold winters, we hope to house people and keep them from freezing to death," said Tice.

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

US Marshals find missing juror through Facebook videoSIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Social media helped U.S. Marshals track down a Sioux Falls woman who was selected to be on a federal jury and then disappeared during a lunch break.

The 30-year-old woman had been selected to sit on the jury of a financial criminal trial that ended last week, The Argus Leader reported. But she didn't return from lunch during the trial's first day, court officials said.

"Nobody knew where she was," said Gary Bunt, a senior inspector with the U.S. Marshals Service. "The court tried to call her, and she wouldn't answer her phone."

Judge Karen Schreier sent two U.S. Marshals to find the woman.

Bunt said they discovered the woman's whereabouts after she posted a live-stream video on Facebook to promote her business, while supposedly home with a sick child.

"This juror chose to abscond, so to speak, and not take her civic responsibility seriously," Bunt said.

It's not uncommon for a juror to get sick or have a family emergency, which is why juries have alternates, said Matt Thelen, the clerk of the U.S. District Court in Sioux Falls. But he said he's never seen an instance where a juror simply decided not to return to court.

An alternate juror ultimately took the woman's place.

Schreier sentenced the woman to perform 40 hours of community service.

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

South Dakota works to create safer road with new treatment By CHRIS HUBER, HOLLY EDMISTON, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Department of Transportation is creating more grip so your car won't slip on some of the Black Hill's windiest roads.

The process is called High Friction Surface Treatment, and the state DOT is the first in the nation to use it to reduce road-departure crashes on curvy roads in winter conditions.

Statistics show the new treatment is leading to less crashes, and it has earned the department some national recognition.

Andy Vandel, DOT's highway safety engineer, told the Rapid City Journal that the treatment is created by bonding an aggregate, made of calcined bauxite, to the roadway via an epoxy. Calcined bauxite is an alumina-based mineral that resists "polishing" better than standard road surfaces, according to Vandel. Polishing can cause a loss of traction, making the new material ideal for sharp corners where more traction is needed.

Vandel estimates the cost of each curve treated with this new material at roughly \$150,000. He said the DOT has plans to add the material to other locations across the state in the coming years.

Last year, the state applied the treatment to 15 locations in the Black Hills, focusing on some of the highest-crash areas.

The 15 sites where the treatment was added averaged a total of 21 winter road condition crashes, including seven injury or fatal crashes per year for the five years prior to this project. Through one winter season, there was a total of one crash and zero injuries at these sites, according to the DOT's statistics.

"This project was the first demonstration in the country of how the technology of a high-friction surface treatment could be used to reduce road-departure crashes with winter road conditions as a contributing

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factor," state Secretary of Transportation Darin Bergquist said in a release. "Driver safety is a high priority for the department, and the innovative use of this treatment is already reducing crashes and saving lives." Some of the areas that have the new highway treatment include tight curves on U.S. Highway 14A in Boulder Canyon and a stretch of Interstate 90 near Tilford. U.S. Highway 16 a mile west of the Keystone Wye Bridge and U.S. Highway 85 between Deadwood and Spearfish also received the new treatment.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol said they have noticed a decrease in crashes where the new treatment has been applied.

"As the South Dakota Highway Patrol continues its mission to reduce overall traffic crashes, I am proud to see the South Dakota Department of Transportation taking such proactive steps toward a similar mission," state Highway Patrol Capt. Jason Ketterling said in a letter support the DOT's application. "Without their research into new roadway materials and their application of them, it is reasonable to believe we would have seen similar crashes from years before."

Aside from reducing crashes, the DOT's new treatment has also been selected as a top-12 finalist in the 2018 America's Transportation Awards competition.

Sponsored by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the project is a contender to be named best transportation project in the nation, as well as eligible to win a People's Choice award decided by online voting.

Seventy-nine projects were entered in the competition sponsored by AASHTO, AAA and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The Grand Prize (selected by a panel of experts) and People's Choice award winners will each receive \$10,000 from AASHTO on behalf of the winning state's Department of Transportation for donation to a nonprofit charity or transportation-related scholarship of its choosing.

Online voting for the People's Choice award will continue through Sept. 22.

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

South Dakota State kicker makes a name for himself By MATT ZIMMER, Argus Leader

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Though Chase Vinatieri was a standout wide receiver at Roosevelt, there was no escaping that he was expected to be the team's kicker, and a good one, too. After all, his coach at Roosevelt was Kim Nelson, the same guy who coached Chase's famous uncle, future Hall of Famer Adam Vinatieri, at Rapid City Central.

It didn't always come easy, though. At times Chase Vinatieri struggled enough for Nelson to audition other kickers. But by the end of his career, Chase was an all-state kicker (in addition to honorable mention all-state receiver).

That landed him a scholarship at South Dakota State University, his uncle's alma mater, where Chase Vinatieri is about to enter his junior season as one of the most promising kickers in all of college football.

As a sophomore in 2017, Vinatieri made 13 out of 14 field goals, including all seven attempts from at least 40 yards out and both of his more than 50-yard attempts. Those numbers, combined with his famous name mean expectations are sky-high for Chase Vinatieri, but it's still a work in progress.

John Stiegelmeier was recently asked about his kicker and the coach chuckled and said, "I don't know if he made a kick yesterday." But if history is any indication, that's little reason for concern.

Chase Vinatieri straightened himself out in high school. As a redshirt freshman in 2016 he had a wildly inconsistent preseason, and the coaches were genuinely unsure what to expect when they opened the year at TCU, at least until he went out and went 5-for-5 on extra points and 2-for-2 on field goals in his college debut. He capped off a strong freshman season by hitting a game-winning 40-yarder in wintry conditions to beat Villanova in the Football Championship Subdivision playoffs.

Maybe, like his famous uncle, Chase Vinatieri just has a knack for coming through when it matters most. "We had a phenomenal team last year — really good players, and I think that motivated me and focused me up to where I felt like I had to go out and do the job because I knew those guys were definitely going

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to do theirs," Chase Vinatieri told the Argus Leader . "Everybody knows our team always talks about going 1-0 every week. Well that's how it is for me, too. I just try to go 1-0 on every kick."

It'll be hard for Chase Vinatieri to top last season, at least statistically, but he looks bigger and stronger in camp, and the ball is rocketing off his foot in practice. He's listed at 6-foot-1 and 210 pounds, and clearly isn't unfamiliar with the weight room. And if Jacks fans doubted his skills as a receiver at Roosevelt could translate to the college game he proved them wrong in last year's win at Montana State, where he took a pitch from holder Brady Hale on a fake field goal and raced 31-yards for the game-winning touchdown.

Still, it was Chase Vinatieri's success on field goals that made 2017 such a big year. His only miss was a relative chip shot from 24 yards out in the wind and rain in a home loss to Northern Iowa. He hit a 51-yarder against Drake, his first career 50-plus kick, and added a 55-yarder in a playoff win against Northern Iowa, a game in which he also notched two tackles, one of which qualified as a legit highlight-reel hit.

What does he do for an encore?

"There's always things to work on and last season is in the past," Vinatieri said. "It's just tons of repetition and consistency. Every kick should be the same — steps, swing, plant foot — you just have to make sure all of those factors are the same every single time and hopefully the flight of the ball takes care of itself."

But there's still the mental side of it. And that's where Chase Vinatieri tapped his uncle for advice. They got together in the summer of 2017 to catch up as uncle and nephew, and yes, they kicked together. Adam made a few minor tweaks to Chase Vinatieri's foot positioning but for the most part left his mechanics alone.

Adam Vinatieri was already in the NFL when Chase Vinatieri was born, and became a household name not through his statistics but by making some of the most clutch kicks in NFL history. So if you're a young college kicker and you have perhaps the best kicker of all time as a resource, what do you ask him?

"I wanted to know how he handled all of those big kicks mentally," Chase Vinatieri said. "The snow game in Oakland — how he handled that, what he was thinking. Kicking game winners in the Super Bowl. I wanted to know what he was feeling in those moments and what he did to zone everything out and just focus on the job, because that's the biggest spotlight in football. What made him so strong and so confident in those situations?"

And Adam Vinatieri's answer?

"You just have to go in your own zone," Chase Vinatieri remembers being told. "You know what you have to do, don't let anything get in the way of that. Visualize the kick and where it's going to go. Staying in that zone and not letting anything distract you — that's the big thing."

Chase Vinatieri should get the opportunity to follow in his uncle's footsteps. His strong leg and name alone will almost certainly draw interest from NFL teams when his career is over. But he wants to earn an NFL gig, and eventually have a long career similar to his uncle's. The formula to do that is nothing special, but Chase Vinatieri knows exactly how it goes.

"(The NFL) is the ultimate goal and what I want to do," he said. "But I can't think about that now. I try to go every day practice to practice, kick to kick. I can still get a lot better and I need to get a lot better. Hopefully I get the opportunity at the next level, and I have two seasons to prove that I deserve it."

And if he gets a chance to run another fake or two, that'd just be icing on the cake.

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

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

08-10-41-54-68, Mega Ball: 10, Megaplier: 2

(eight, ten, forty-one, fifty-four, sixty-eight; Mega Ball: ten; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$187 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$114 million

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Lawyer: South Dakota pet store owner not 'terrible person'

RAPID CITÝ, S.D. (AP) — The attorney of a South Dakota pet store owner whose business was raided last month said Friday that his client doesn't abuse animals and isn't the "terrible person" people are portraying her to be.

Attorney Timothy Rensch told The Associated Press that Marinda Parks, 38, was in the process of opening her new store and didn't have everything set up when animal control seized 90 living animals, including dogs and cats, on Aug. 16. Rensch said she had been sick with the flu and had been unable to clean her business the day animal control officers responded to a call about two puppies sitting in a puddle inside.

Animal control officers said they also found 36 dead animals and squalid conditions at the Pitter Patter Pet Store in Rapid City and issued Parks 203 municipal citations of animal cruelty and neglect.

But Rensch said the dead animals were cockroaches, goldfish and snails.

"These dogs and animals were not in any danger at all," Rensch said. "This gal is not an animal abuser, she's an animal lover. It's her passion. She's had a pet store for years."

Rensch said that as a result of the citations Parks faces, she lost her lease and all of her inventory.

"She's far from this terrible person she's been portrayed as," he said.

Parks first court appearance is Sept. 19.

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

Trump: Russia probe 'really, really unfair for the midterms' By KEN THOMAS and DARLENE SUPERVILLE, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — President Donald Trump said Friday that the ongoing investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election is not only bad for the country, it's "really, really unfair for the midterms."

Trump said the inquiry should have been wrapped up a "long time ago."

Asked about the investigation he has repeatedly denounced as a "witch hunt," Trump reiterated his insistence that there was no collusion between anyone on his presidential campaign and the Russian government. He said it was long past time for the investigation to have ended.

"We have to get it over with. It's really bad for the country. It's really unfair for our midterms. Really, really unfair for the midterms," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. "This thing should have been over with a long time ago."

Trump has portrayed the probe as a waste of time that has lasted too long and been a distraction for the country. He again argued that the case was being prosecuted by partisan Democrats, even though Robert Mueller, who runs the investigation, is a lifelong Republican.

The president spoke to reporters in the midst of a two-day campaign swing through states where Republicans hope to expand their narrow 51-49 majority in the Senate by knocking off vulnerable Democratic Sens. Jon Tester of Montana and Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota.

Trump was flying from Montana to North Dakota to attend a fundraiser for Republican Rep. Kevin Cramer, Heitkamp's opponent, when he spoke to reporters accompanying him on the trip, part of an intense campaign schedule Trump has planned through the Nov. 6 elections.

He commented hours before a former campaign aide, George Papadopoulos, was sentenced to 14 days in prison by a federal judge in Washington for lying to the FBI as part of the Russia investigation.

In Fargo, Trump rattled off a list of what he considers his administration's accomplishments as he sought to bolster his staunch ally Cramer.

The president pointed to the Republican congressman as the best choice for the state's Native American community, reprising an argument he made to black voters in 2016. "I go right back to where I was two years ago when I was campaigning: What do you have to lose?" Trump asked.

He brought one man to the stage to talk about how his administration was helping the coal industry. "What your administration has done is bringing us back to life," the man told Trump.

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Afterward, Trump stopped in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to attend a fundraiser for Republican Rep. Kristi Noem, who is running for governor.

"I'm not doing this for every governor," he said, noting that he's busy trying to help send more Republicans to Congress. "I fully support Kristi."

Trump was returning to the White House late Friday.

Trump has shown increasing concern about the stakes for Republicans and, by extension, himself in the elections that will determine political control of Congress for the next two years.

Democrats hope to ride a wave of anger among liberals toward Trump to take back control of at least the House, while Republicans aim to keep control of the House and the Senate, partly to protect the president from possible impeachment proceedings and congressional investigations.

Underscoring his concern, Trump recently suggested on Twitter that the Justice Department had put Republicans in jeopardy for the midterms with the indictments of two GOP congressmen who were among Trump's earliest supporters, saying "two easy wins now in doubt."

Rep. Duncan Hunter of California has been indicted on charges that include misuse of campaign funds, and Rep. Chris Collins of New York has been charged with insider trading. Both have denied the charges.

Trump has pledged to spend more time on the road campaigning than his immediate predecessors. His campaign operation has scheduled back-to-back rallies late next week in Missouri and Mississippi.

In Montana, Trump warned that a Democratic-controlled Congress would pursue impeachment despite the strong economy and set a precedent that would hurt future presidents. A few Democratic lawmakers want to see Trump removed from office.

"Let's say a Democrat gets elected and let's say we have a Republican House. We will impeach that Democrat, right?" Trump said. "You're going to have a country that's going to turn into a Third World country, because if the opposite party becomes president, every time before it even starts, before you even found out whether or not he or she is going to do a great job, they'll say, 'We want to impeach him!" "If it does happen, it's your fault because you didn't go out to vote," Trump said.

Superville reported from Washington.

South Dakota inmate, jail officer, charged with escape plot

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota prosecutors say an inmate and a correctional officer have been indicted for allegedly working together to plan the inmate's escape.

A grand jury on Wednesday indicted 24-year-old Tyler Statler and 23-year-old officer Koreena Schultes on one count each of conspiracy to commit escape, a felony. Statler was serving time at the Lawrence County Jail but prosecutors did not say what crime led to his sentence.

Prosecutors announced the indictment Friday.

Prosecutors say they began investigating the pair last month after receiving information about a jail security matter. Authorities did not provide any more details.

If convicted, Statler and Schultes face up to five years in prison.

The case is being prosecuted by the Lawrence County States Attorney's Office.

Powder River military complex to increase max altitude

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The U.S. Air Force's Powder River Training Complex is expanding the air space where flight crews will be allowed to train over the Northern Plains.

The 35,000-square-mile (90,650-square-kilometer) training complex is increasing its maximum altitude limit over the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming, the Rapid City Journal reported. The Powder River complex is the largest air training complex in the continental U.S.

The altitude threshold increase will allow detection-evading stealth aircraft to fly at altitudes of 52,000 feet (15,850 meters), double the current 26,000-foot (7,925-meter) limit.

"What we want to practice is using our stealth aircraft to avoid the most powerful and capable radars

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systems," Sen. Mike Rounds said Thursday. "The way you do that is by practicing in an area that not only you can fly at the height you normally would, you can also coordinate with (non-stealth) aircraft, because they have to work together."

The complex's officials will only allow aircrafts to reach the maximum altitudes for training exercises over a 10- to 15-day period each year, Rounds said. Commercial passenger air traffic, which generally operates at altitudes between 28,000 and 35,000 feet, would be restricted during the training held for a couple of hours each day.

"It should mean minimal impact to commercial air traffic," Rounds said.

The altitude threshold will be necessary once the U.S. Air Force and Ellsworth Air Force Base begin transitioning to a new bomber called the B-21 Raider in 2023, he said. The bomber is expected to replace the current B-1B Lancer and B-2.

The altitude increase will make the Powder River complex more vital and help Ellsworth increase its value to the military more than a dozen years after a Pentagon Base Realignment and Closure commission considered shuttering the base, Rounds said.

"This is a game-changer for Ellsworth in terms of its stability," he said. "This basically ensures that Ellsworth isn't going to go any place for at least another 50 to 75 years."

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

Official: South Dakota road safety system working well

TRIPP, S.D. (AP) — An alert system designed for rural intersections appears to be improving safety in southeastern South Dakota, according to a state transportation official.

The Bon Homme County intersection of South Dakota Highways 37 and 46 was the first in the state to get a Rural Intersection Conflict Warning System, The Daily Republic reported.

The \$150,000 system is similar to a regular traffic signal and has a flashing light to alert drivers of oncoming traffic. Before the system was installed in August 2017, the intersection about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of Tripp had a blinking stop light and a blinking yellow caution light.

South Dakota Department of Transportation officials said the goal of the new system is to help drivers' reaction time and eliminate deadly T-bone crashes.

"You have drivers who might not be aware of a stop sign and that flashing beacon is there," said Mark Leiferman, the department's program manager for project development. "It's not going all the time and it's making you aware of what's happening on the opposite leg of the intersection."

The intersection, which sees about 1,100 vehicles daily, only had one right-angle crash and no fatal collisions since the system was installed, officials said. Before the system, the intersection had nine injury incidents and one fatal crash since 2006.

The system's effectiveness in South Dakota can't be proven yet since it's still in the early stages, Leiferman said.

"We still need to monitor it and research it, but we've seen generally good things so far," he said.

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

National Guard dedicating memorial plaza in Rapid City

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota National Guard this weekend will dedicate a new memorial plaza to honor fallen soldiers.

The plaza at Camp Rapid in Rapid City will honor 171 Guard members who died in wars or conflicts since the organization's formation in 1862. It includes a metallic globe, a stone wall and metal plaques with the names of the soldiers.

The dedication ceremony is at 2 p.m. Saturday. It's open to the public.

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Sioux Falls man pleads guilty to killing brother SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man charged with fatally shooting his brother has pleaded guilty to manslaughter in an agreement with prosecutors.

Twenty-eight-year-old Jeremy Eischens also pleaded guilty to possession of marijuana with intent to distribute Friday in a Minnehaha County courtroom. The Argus Leader says Eischens was charged in July 2017, after he brought his 24-year-old brother, Brandon Eischens, to the emergency room with gunshot wounds.

Eischens initially said his brother had been shot in a drive-by shooting, but later admitted that he accidentally shot him.

The plea agreement caps Eischens' time in prison at 30 years, with the possibility for more time in a suspended sentence.

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

Trump boosting Kristi Noem's governor bid at SD fundraiser

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — President Donald Trump is making a brief visit to South Dakota to raise money for Republican Kristi Noem's governor campaign.

No public event is planned by Trump, who will appear at the Denny Sanford Premier Center to meet with donors who will have paid hundreds or thousands of dollars to see the president.

Noem's campaign says a \$5,000-per-couple option to get a photo with Trump sold out guickly. Noem, South Dakota's U.S. representative, has emphasized her role negotiating the Republican federal tax cuts with Trump and has commended his regulatory rollbacks.

Noem faces Democratic state Sen. Billie Sutton and Libertarian Kurt Evans in November.

Sutton's campaign says Noem called in "help from Washington" when she realized her political career is at risk.

Spearfish man sentenced for Belle Fourche shooting in 2016

BELLE FOURCHE, S.D. (AP) — A Spearfish man has been sentenced to three years of probation for a shooting in Belle Fourche two years ago stemming from an apparent romantic dispute.

The Black Hills Pioneer reports 34-year-old Clayton Maynard pleaded guilty but mentally ill to charges of discharge of a firearm at a motor vehicle and aggravated assault.

Authorities say Maynard rammed a vehicle Sept. 20, 2016, then fired five shots into the vehicle. He was arrested after a pursuit. No one was hurt.

Maynard entered Alford pleas, meaning he doesn't admit quilt but acknowledges there's enough evidence to convict him. The court treats it like a guilty plea. He was given credit for about eight months spent in jail. Maynard earlier was given four months in jail and three years of probation for the pursuit.

Information from: Black Hills Pioneer, http://www.bhpioneer.com

2 National Guard units to deploy for training in Europe

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Yankton- and Watertown-based National Guard units will be deployed to Europe this winter for a noncombat training operation.

The Yankton-based 1-147th Bravo Battery field artillery battalion and its supporting Watertown-based 147th Forward Support Company will be mobilized in December for eight months.

The deployment affects about 115 soldiers. They'll get final training at Fort Bliss in Texas before heading overseas, where they'll take part in multinational exercises.

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Arrest made day after high-speed pursuit

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A Sioux Falls man is facing charges following a high-speed chase through several counties in eastern South Dakota.

The Brookings County Sheriff's Office says the pursuit began Wednesday evening when the 49-year-old driver was spotted speeding along several township roads before hitting a rock on private property.

KELO-TV reports the suspect then hit a deputy's squad car and the chase continued with speeds in excess of 100 mph. The deputies lost track of the man after he drove into a cornfield.

On Thursday, someone saw the man walking near the area where he was last seen and called authorities who made an arrest.

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

October trial set for Sioux Falls man in daycare abuse case

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — One October trial has been scheduled for a 76-year-old Sioux Falls man accused of inappropriately touching girls on his property when he ran an in-home daycare with his wife.

The Argus Leader reports that David Hirsch is charged with three counts of sexual contact with a child under 16 and one count of sexual exploitation based on accounts from two girls whose alleged experiences were five years apart.

A judge on Thursday ruled that the charges can be joined for one trial. Hirsch's defense had sought to separate the charges.

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

Vandals destroy walleye sculpture in Yankton worth \$15,000

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Vandals destroyed a popular riverwalk sculpture near the Meridian Bridge in Yankton.

The Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reports that the 9-foot-tall granite sculpture of a walleye was tipped Wednesday night. The bottom section of the sculpture that weighed more than a ton was shattered.

The piece of art is valued at nearly \$15,000. Sculptor Scott Luken says it can't be salvaged. Police did not immediately identify any suspects.

Information from: Yankton Press and Dakotan, http://www.yankton.net/

United Tribes Technical College powwow set this weekend

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck is celebrating its 49th annual International Powwow in a renovated arena.

The Bismarck Tribune reports festivities begin Friday morning and continue through the weekend. There is a charge to attend.

Powwow leaders estimate about 10,000 people will attend, giving a \$1.3 million boost to the local economy. College President Russ McDonald says additions to the arena include a new roof for shaded seating and new lighting for evening performances. The college also expanded the space for food vendors.

Tribal leaders gathered in Bismarck this week ahead of the powwow to discuss topics ranging from education to economics.

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2 Mission residents plead not guilty to drug trafficking

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Two Mission residents accused of trafficking methamphetamine in South Dakota have pleaded not guilty to federal drug and weapons charges.

The U.S. attorney's office says 36-year-olds Walter Wright and Micole Menard were indicted in a case conducted by the Northern Plains Safe Trails Drug Enforcement Task Force and Rosebud Sioux law officers.

Wright has been released on bond and Menard has been jailed until trial. Their trial dates weren't immediately scheduled. They could face up to life in prison if convicted.

Win or lose, Kavanaugh confirmation fight defines Democrats By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats don't have the votes to block Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh. But that didn't stop them from putting up a rowdy, leave-nothing-on-the-table fight during four days of Senate confirmation hearings that marked a new stage in the party's resistance to President Donald Trump.

From the moment that the Senate Judiciary Committee chairman gaveled in the first session, the proceedings were tumultuous, disrupted first by Democratic senators objecting to the rules and then by protesters shouting "Sham president, sham vote" and other chants.

Sen. Chuck Grassley, an 84-year-old Iowa Republican, later said it was like nothing he had ever experienced during 15 Supreme Court confirmation hearings.

The bedlam is unlikely to change any votes in the Senate. The mathematic march toward Kavanaugh's confirmation at month's end remains the same in the Senate, where Republicans hold a51-49 edge. Still, the battle may have changed the Democrats, who are being transformed by a new generation of politicians spoiling for a fight with Trump, even if it creates political challenges for some Democratic candidates in the November election.

"Sometimes you just have to make a stand," said Brian Fallon, a former top adviser to Hillary Clinton and the Senate's top Democrat, New York's Chuck Schumer. Fallon's organization, Demand Justice, is leading the opposition to Kavanaugh.

Fallon compared the decision on the court nominee to big votes of the past such as the Iraq War authorization that end up defining lawmakers' careers.

"This vote is not going to age well," Fallon said. He is holding out hope that not only will Democrats reject Kavanaugh, but that two pivotal Republicans, Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska and Susan Collins of Maine, will join in to help stop the confirmation.

"Democrats should fight like hell," he said, "even if it's not going to sway Susan Collins."

Republicans have been eager to capitalize on the political "circus," as they called the hearing, particularly as potential 2020 presidential hopefuls Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey took turns aggressively questioning Kavanaugh in what many saw as a prelude to presidential primary campaigns.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., portrayed the Democratic Party as dominated by "unhinged" protesters and aligned with liberals calling to abolish U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The second-ranking Republican, Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, bemoaned the "mob rule" at the hearings.

Trump took on his potential 2020 rivals directly. During campaign stops for GOP candidates challenging Senate Democrats this fall in Montana and North Dakota, states where Trump remains popular, he ridiculed Democrats as "making fools out of themselves."

"The way they're screaming and shouting, it's a disgrace to our country actually," Trump said Friday during a fundraiser in Fargo, North Dakota, for the GOP opponent to Democratic Sen. Heidi Heitkamp. "I'll be running against them and I look so forward to it."

With the midterms less than two months away, Kavanaugh's nomination carries political risks for both parties as they potentially alienate the large swath of independent voters who have big say in elections.

"Independents are looking for things to work," said David Winston, a Republican pollster. But he said the showy, disruptive display at the Kavanaugh hearing "reinforces their concerns of people not focusing

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on the challenges the country faces."

Democratic senators running for re-election in states where Trump is popular have the most to lose from the party's Supreme Court fight.

Sens. Joe Donnelly in Indiana or Claire McCaskill in Missouri may benefit from a court battle that energizes the Democratic base. They need heavy voter turnout in metro Indianapolis and Kansas City, Democratic strongholds, if they have any hope of carrying otherwise red states that Trump won in 2016.

Yet the court fight might be unhelpful as some Democrats, including Heitkamp in North Dakota and Sen. Joe Manchin in West Virginia, try to appeal to the moderate Republicans and independents they need to win over.

"It's probably the last thing that Democrats running for re-election in red states want to be talking about," said Alex Conant, a Republican strategist and former top aide to Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.

Before the hearings began, Schumer gathered Democrats for a weekend conference call to plot strategy. They debated options, Schumer said, but decided on a strategy of staying in the room for questions, protest and disruption.

At a time when Democrats are churning as a party, they're also awakening to the political potency of judicial nominees, a longtime GOP priority.

Gone are the niceties and overtures of an earlier era, when senators deferred to a president's prerogative to put in place a qualified nominee of the commander in chief's choosing.

Trump is a different kind of president, they say, and the Senate a changed institution after President Barack Obama's pick for the Supreme Court, Merrick Garland, was denied a hearing or vote.

Schumer, on Friday, seemed pleased with the result of the hard-edged approach. He said in a statement that Democrats "were able to shine a bright light — for the American people and Republican Senators to see — on Judge Kavanaugh's troubling views on women's rights, presidential power, and protections for people with pre-existing conditions."

"This was a good week."

Follow on Twitter at https://twitter.com/lisamascaro

For Sessions, Trump's constant attacks may define his legacy By ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Attorney General Jeff Sessions has vigorously pushed President Donald Trump's agenda at the Justice Department, and before that, spent 20 years championing conservative causes in the Senate.

Yet as Sessions enters what may be the final stretch of his tenure, those efforts are at risk of being eclipsed by his boss' relentless verbal jabs that have made the attorney general seem like a perpetual presidential punching bag. It's a role Sessions never sought but perhaps could have anticipated.

The steady diatribes , most recently a tweet excoriating Sessions for the federal indictments of two Republican congressmen, reflect Trump's single-minded outrage over the special counsel's Russia investigation and are all the more striking because Sessions is the cabinet member most clearly aligned with Trump's values.

The treatment has largely overshadowed the attorney general's work on violent crime, illegal immigration and opioid addiction, clouding a legacy that in other times would be more broadly cheered in conservative circles.

"There are folks that ask me constantly, 'What's wrong with Sessions?" said former Cincinnati mayor Ken Blackwell, a longtime friend who says the criticism is "eroding what otherwise would be a very respectable portfolio."

"The punches that he throws in Sessions' direction are landing and they're distorting the track record," Blackwell added, "and they're having people start to question not just his loyalty to the president but his competency — when his record is a very successful record and could be compared to any other Cabinet

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secretary."

Sessions has mostly absorbed the blows quietly while marching through a tough-on-crime agenda, bringing to the job the same hard-line principles that once placed him far to the right of many other Republican senators.

He has encouraged more aggressive marijuana enforcement, directed prosecutors to bring the most serious charges they can prove, announced a zero-tolerance policy for immigrants crossing the border illegally and targeted the MS-13 gang. He also has alarmed his critics, who fear he has degraded civil rights protections by not defending affirmative action, police reform or transgender legal rights.

But neither Sessions' work nor his loyalty seems to resonate with Trump. The president has belittled his attorney general since Sessions stepped aside from an investigation into ties between Trump's 2016 campaign and Russia. Trump interpreted the move, which legal experts said was inevitable given Sessions' campaign support, as an act of disloyalty that led to special counsel Robert Mueller's appointment.

Trump has said if he had known Sessions would take that step, he would not have picked the Alabama Republican to be attorney general. The president now asserts that Sessions never has had control of the department, and accuses Sessions of failing to aggressively pursue Trump's political rivals and to investigate potential bias in the Russia investigation.

Trump told Bloomberg News last week that Sessions' job was safe through the November election. The president gave no reassurances about after that. Meanwhile, the solid Republican support in the Senate that has buffered Sessions is showing signs of cracking.

The most recent broadside Monday, about the charges against the two GOP lawmakers, was stunning for its norm-shattering obliteration of the bright line between the White House and Justice Department. Trump said the indictments, coming before an election when control of Congress is at stake, had left "two easy wins now in doubt." He ended the tweet with a sarcastic "Good job Jeff."

"You're harassing the attorney general for not dealing with political bias at the DOJ and then conversely accusing him of not engaging in political bias at the DOJ," said Cameron Smith, a former Sessions counsel in the Senate. "Those cannot both be simultaneously consistent positions."

Sessions didn't respond to that criticism, though in the past he's issued statements saying the department won't bend to political considerations and promising to serve with integrity and honor. His only mentions of Trump are laudatory, and in public appearances, Sessions is far more likely to focus on the work that has impassioned him for decades than on the controversies around him.

The Justice Department declined to comment.

The criticism has created an unusual dynamic where Trump-aligned Republicans who ordinarily would praise Sessions are joining in the condemnation, while progressives opposed to his agenda fear that his firing for political reasons could destabilize democracy.

Vanita Gupta, the Justice Department civil rights chief in the Obama administration, said she believed Sessions was terrible for civil rights but she did not want him dismissed as a means of crippling Mueller's investigation.

"It isn't about protecting Jeff Sessions," Gupta said. "It's about protecting the notion that nobody is above the law in this country and that the Constitution applies to everybody."

It wasn't always this way for Sessions, a federal prosecutor during the 1980s-era "war on drugs."

His conservative Senate positions, including opposing bipartisan legislation that would have created a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants in the country illegally, made him a natural fit for Trump. Sessions was the first senator to endorse Trump, joining the candidate for campaigning and foreign policy meetings. The loyalty paid off with the attorney general post, but it also wound up entangling him in the Russia investigation.

Even as Sessions has pushed the Trump agenda, he's confronted headlines about his campaign interactions with the Russian ambassador and about his attendance at a campaign meeting where the prospect of a Trump-Vladimir Putin meeting was broached.

"It's not as if Trump's background didn't have a lot of red flags in it and Sessions decided, 'Hey, I want to get on board with this person' and it frankly turned out poorly for him as a person," said Smith, the

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former Sessions aide. "I do think that's a lesson in discretion."

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo in Washington and Jay Reeves in Alabaster, Alabama, contributed to this report.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at https://twitter.com/etuckerAP

Obama to campaign for congressional candidates in California By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Barack Obama is jumping back into campaign-mode with a visit to a once-solid Republican stronghold in California, promoting Democratic congressional candidates and reminding voters of the stakes in the November elections.

His appearance Saturday in Orange County comes on the heels of his strongly worded critique of his successor in the White House, saying President Donald Trump was "capitalizing on resentments that politicians have been fanning for years."

Obama was to share billing with seven Democratic candidates in competitive U.S. House districts across California that are considered crucial to the party's efforts to oust Republicans from control. Four of those districts are at least partly in Orange County, a formerly reliable GOP area that went for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election.

In Obama's comments Friday in a speech in Illinois, he noted the history of former presidents avoiding the rough and tumble of politics after leaving office. He acknowledged that his remarks were something of a departure from tradition but said the political moment required a pushback and he called for better discourse.

It was the kind of message he was expected to deliver both in California and then in Cleveland Thursday, when he campaigns on behalf of Richard Cordray, the Democratic nominee for Ohio governor, and other Democrats.

Clinton trounced Trump by more than 4 million votes in California in 2016 and carried Orange County by 9 percentage points. A surge in immigrants has transformed California and its voting patterns. The number of Hispanics, blacks and Asians combined has outnumbered whites in the state since 1998. Meanwhile, new voters, largely Latinos and Asians, lean Democratic.

In Orange County, Republicans held a 13-point edge in voter registration 10 years ago but that has shrunk to 3 points while independents, who tend to vote like Democrats in California, have climbed to 25 percent. Democrats, hoping to build on its 39-14 advantage in the state's congressional delegation, are eyeing Republican seats in districts that Clinton won in 2016.

They include an Orange County seat held by Rep. Mimi Walters, who is facing a stiff challenge from Katie Porter, a law professor at University of California at Irvine. Environmental lawyer Mike Levin is seeking an open seat to replace retiring GOP Rep. Darrell Issa in a district that includes part of Orange County.

Republican Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, whose district encompasses part of Orange County, is hoping to secure a 16th term in Congress despite barely winning 30 percent of the primary vote. He is being challenged from Democratic real estate investor Harley Rouda.

California Republicans said Obama's appearance would have little impact and may even help their party. "I wish he would come more often because he reminds Republicans of eight years of misery," said Republican National Committeeman Shawn Steel, who lives in Orange County. "It's a good for the base. ... It reminds the Republicans why these midterms are important."

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Catholic faithful demand change after sex abuse scandals By AMY FORLITI, Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The day after a grand jury report revealed that Roman Catholic clergy in Pennsylvania molested more than 1,000 children over decades, Adrienne Alexander went to Mass at a Chicago church and waited for the priest to say something about the situation.

He didn't. And that left Alexander fuming. So she went on Facebook to vent — then organized a prayer vigil in Chicago that became the catalyst for similar laity-led vigils in Boston, Philadelphia and other cities nationwide.

Alexander is among countless Catholics in the U.S. who are raising their voices in prayer and protest to demand change amid new revelations of sex abuse by priests and allegations of widespread cover-ups. They are doing letter-writing campaigns and holding prayer vigils and listening sessions in an effort to bring about change from the pews, realizing it's up to them to confront the problem and save the church they love after years of empty promises from leadership.

"I think it's important that the large body hears from us," Alexander said. "We actually make up the church."

Their grassroots efforts are gaining momentum. In the last week more than 39,000 people have signed their names to a letter demanding answers from Pope Francis himself.

Another effort, sponsored by reform groups, has seized upon the "Time's Up" and #MeToo movements and is organizing events across the country this weekend under the CatholicToo hash tag.

Some of the efforts are calling for specific reforms, such as laity-led investigations and transparency, while others are still brainstorming solutions. One woman in Michigan founded a website to make it easy for anyone to speak up and write to church officials.

"I've never seen anything like this before," Marjorie Murphy Campbell, a civil and canon lawyer in Park City, Utah, said of the laity's engagement. She said many Catholics feel they have no choice.

"You either have to get involved now, because you cannot trust the bishops to solve this themselves, or you leave. ... It's our job to help the mother church get through this."

The actions come as the church is facing a global crisis over clergy abuse following the scathing Pennsylvania grand jury report and the pope's removal of ex-Cardinal Theodore McCarrick from public ministry amid allegations McCarrick sexually abused a teenage altar boy and preyed upon adult seminarians decades ago.

Francis wrote a letter to Catholics in August, saying the laity must help end the clerical culture that has placed priests above reproach. He then found himself immersed in the scandal amid claims that he knew about allegations against McCarrick in 2013, but rehabilitated him anyway.

A collective of individual Catholic women last week wrote a letter urging Francis to deliver answers. The letter, which had more than 39,000 signatures by Friday, declared "we are not second-class Catholics to be brushed off while bishops and cardinals handle matters privately."

"In short, we are the Church, every bit as much as the cardinals and bishops around you," the letter said. Robert Shine, a Catholic in Boston and vice president of the Women's Ordination Conference, said he believes Catholics are now ready to confront what's been happening in the church and talk about how they can be involved in reform, reflecting a broader trend in the U.S. with people getting more active in protests. Other denominations have been struggling with the issue as well.

"People are less willing to look the other way ... This new consciousness and new honesty about politics is sort of being transferred to the Catholic Church as well."

Miriel Thomas Reneau of Ann Arbor, Michigan, founded a website to make letter-writing easy. Her site lists the names and addresses of local dioceses and includes templates for people to write letters to church leaders.

Others are withholding donations in protest. Legatus, an association of Catholic businessmen, announced it would put its annual tithe to the Holy See in escrow. Thousands of people have also signed a statement that calls on Catholic bishops in the U.S. to consider resigning as a public act of repentance.

There are examples of laity forcing change in other countries. In the city of Osorno, Chile, a group of

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lay members organized themselves to raise attention to the sex abuse crisis, and their movement helped throw out a bishop. It took more than three years, but they decided it was necessary to try to change their church from within.

Lori Carter of Ocean Springs, Mississippi, and two other women started a "Wear Gray" campaign in which they are urging "prayer warriors" like themselves to wear gray to Mass and fast as a symbol of repentance. They are also asking people to write letters to the pope and local bishops.

"I'm assuming it's going to have to go back to sort of how it was — a church of the people and prayer and holiness," she said.

In Minneapolis, Chris Damian believes having more nuanced conversations can bring about change. Damian, 27, organized a group of Catholic young adults to respond to the church crisis. The group has held a public prayer session, which St. Paul-Minneapolis Archbishop Bernard Hebda attended, as well as a discussion session where more than 100 people gathered to learn about the issue and brainstorm solutions.

The group is sending a letter to Hebda that urges pastors to listen to lay people, instead of telling them what to do. The letter also lists concrete recommendations, such as waiving confidentiality agreements for all past settlements and reopening the investigation into a former St. Paul-Minneapolis archbishop who resigned in 2015 after prosecutors filed criminal charges against the archdiocese for failing to protect children from an abusive priest.

"We're all really frustrated because things continue to pop up and that's just not acceptable," Damian said. "I think we can spend all this time complaining about how churches aren't being more proactive ... but there's no reason why we can't take this issue and make the solution our own responsibility."

Associated Press writer Eva Vergara contributed to this report from Santiago, Chile.

Echoes of Watergate in Trump tumultBy CALVIN WOODWARD and NANCY BENAC, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House seethes with intrigue and backstabbing as aides hunt for the anonymous Deep (state) Throat among them. A president feels besieged by tormentors — Bob Woodward is driving him crazy — so he tends his version of an enemies list, wondering aloud if he should rid himself of his attorney general or the special prosecutor or both.

For months, the Trump administration and its scandals have carried whiffs of Watergate and drawn comparisons to the characters and crimes of the Nixon era. But this week, history did not just repeat itself, it climbed out of the dustbin and returned in the flesh.

There was John Dean again, testifying on the Hill, warning anew about a cancer on the presidency. Nearly every element in Trump's trouble has a Watergate parallel.

Special prosecutor Robert Mueller is leading an independent investigation sparked by a break-in at the Democratic National Committee, the same target that opened the Watergate can of worms, though this time the burglary was digital and linked to Moscow, not the Oval Office.

President Richard Nixon first ordered his attorney general, and then the deputy, to fire the Watergate special prosecutor; they refused and quit on a convulsive weekend that gave history the Saturday Night Massacre but did not derail the independent investigation or Nixon's collapse for long. Trump, for his part, fired the acting attorney general as well as FBI Director James Comey, triggering the Mueller investigation that has dogged him for more than a year.

Some of the same reporters are causing the president's pique.

It was Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the reporters who uncovered the Watergate break-in, getting under the president's skin once again. "Dem operative," Trump fumed about Woodward. "Degenerate fool," he said of Bernstein, who helped report a CNN Russia-probe related story that Trump contends is "a major lie."

"Everybody's trying to get me," Trump told an aide, according to the new Woodward book, "Fear." The book describes a tragi-comedy inside the White House with top aides dismissing the president as an "idiot." In Nixon's time, top lieutenant Henry Kissinger called his boss "meatball mind" behind his back.

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But in those days, the world did not have Twitter or a U.S. president who would have been publicly airing his visceral feelings on it even if he could.

"This is a president who says things publicly that we know from the tapes that Nixon said privately," says Timothy Naftali, a New York University historian who directed the Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum. "It's as if Trump is wrestling with the history of Watergate openly. It's the president who is inviting these parallels."

Trump's list of those he considers enemies is obvious on his Twitter feed. It includes former political opponents, his own attorney general, his predecessor and former national security officials, whose security clearances he's threatened.

Now he's added an anonymous senior official who authored a New York Times op-ed describing the president as amoral. The aide described a "steady state" within the administration working to temper Trump's erratic impulses — a portrait just a degree away from the "deep state" Trump says is resisting his policies. Trump said Friday he thinks the Justice Department should investigate the unnamed official's identity.

In Nixon's time, on Aug. 16, 1971, a White House memo laid out thoughts about "how we can use the available federal machinery to screw our political enemies." Prosecution, litigation and the withholding of grants and contracts were considered and Nixon loyalists were asked to contribute names to the list.

Nixon's enemies list was written by Dean, the lawyer-fixer who abandoned loyalty to Nixon and helped bring down his presidency. Democrats asked Dean to appear at the Senate's Supreme Court hearings as an expert of executive power. He presented himself as an older and wiser man.

"There is much to fear from an unchecked president who is inclined to abuse his powers," Dean told senators. "That is a fact I can attest to from personal experience."

As counsel to the president, Dean arranged hush money to the Watergate burglars who tried to find material helpful to Nixon's 1972 re-election at Democratic offices in the Watergate complex. Dean participated broadly in the cover-up of Nixon's culpability before breaking with the president and delivering devastating testimony to the Senate Watergate committee. He served four months for obstruction of justice; Nixon resigned from office under threat of being removed by impeachment.

Dean's loose counterpart today: Michael Cohen, who as Trump's personal lawyer arranged hush money to women alleged to have had affairs with Trump.

Cohen pleaded guilty to eight criminal charges and said in federal court he broke campaign finance laws as part of a cover-up that Trump had directed, an accusation the president denies.

Or perhaps Dean's equivalent is Don McGahn, the White House counsel who has cooperated with investigators and sat for hours of interviews. It's not yet clear whether McGahn gave up material damaging to the president.

Trump is not accused of any crime and the series of convictions Mueller has achieved against Trump campaign aides has not unearthed collusion between Moscow and the campaign. There's no smoking gun. The parallels with Watergate only go so far, thus far, says Naftali.

Yet "Nixon's playbook for dirty tricks and abuse of power and political espionage is a useful source of questions for any investigation of an impulsive, erratic and potentially criminal presidency," he said. "We'll be watching. The Nixon presidency makes us smarter as we try to make sure that our presidents don't do what Nixon did."

Follow Nancy Benac on Twitter at http://twitter.com/nbenac

US lacks leverage as assault on Syrian enclave looms By MATTHEW LEE and SUSANNAH GEORGE, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite dire U.S. warnings and fears of a humanitarian disaster, the Trump administration has little leverage to stop Russia, Iran and Syria pressing ahead with a massive military assault against Syria's northwest Idlib province.

Washington has threatened military action in case of a chemical weapons attack but its mixed messag-

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ing on retaining a U.S. presence in Syria and a cut in aid has diminished its already limited influence over the seven-year conflict.

So the administration, which has criticized former President Barack Obama for his inaction on Syria after the war started in 2011, risks appearing powerless to prevent the three nations' plan to retake Syria's last rebel-held area. It's an operation that many warn will cause major bloodshed among a vulnerable population of 3 million people.

While the new U.S. special envoy for Syria said this week that America will stay in Syria until the complete eradication of the Islamic State group, there's little assurance that President Donald Trump won't again seek the withdrawal of the roughly 2,000 U.S. troops in the country. And in a sign of the administration's shrinking commitment to Syria, it has pulled more than \$200 million in stabilization funding for liberated areas, telling other nations they should step up to pay.

A summit in Tehran on Friday between Russian President Vladimir Putin, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was seen as a chance for a diplomatic solution before a full-scale assault on Idlib. The three nations are all tacitly allied against IS and in support of a unified, stable Syria, but have differing views of how to achieve those ends.

After Friday's talks, the U.N. envoy for Syria told the U.N. Security Council there were indications that the three leaders intend to continue talking to avoid a catastrophe. But above all, the summit highlighted the stark differences among these allies of convenience, with Putin and Rouhani opposing Erdogan's call for a cease-fire.

As they discussed the fate of Idlib, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley was talking tough in New York, telling the Security Council that the United States would consider any assault on the province as a "dangerous escalation" of the conflict that has already claimed more than 400,000 lives and forced more than 5 million Syrians to flee the country.

"If (Syrian President Bashar) Assad, Russia, and Iran continue, the consequences will be dire," said Haley, who was chairing the council meeting. "The Assad regime must halt its offensive ... Russia and Iran, as countries with influence over the regime, must stop this catastrophe. It is in their power to do so."

Those remarks capped a week of rising U.S. rhetoric opposing the Idlib operation.

On Monday, Trump tweeted: "President Bashar al-Assad of Syria must not recklessly attack Idlib Province. The Russians and Iranians would be making a grave humanitarian mistake to take part in this potential human tragedy. Hundreds of thousands of people could be killed. Don't let that happen!"

A day later, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo expanded on the tweet, and renewed calls for the conflict to be resolved through the U.N.-led Geneva Process, which has been stalled for years. And on Thursday, the man Pompeo chose to be his point-man on getting the Geneva process back on track, veteran diplomat James Jeffrey, reiterated Trump's message, saying the U.S. would use all the "tools" it has to respond to a chemical attack.

Another "tool" in the U.S. arsenal is economic pressure. The U.S. Treasury Department slapped sanctions on nine people and companies for assisting weapons or fuel transfers to the Assad regime on Thursday. But sanctions have been ineffectual since they first began to be applied during the Obama administration.

Even American airstrikes launched against the Assad government have had limited impact in the past.

Twice before the U.S. has resorted to missile strikes in response to chemical weapons attacks, only to see them used again. As Syrian forces prepare for the assault on Idlib, U.S. and UN officials again see signs that those internationally prescribed weapons are being readied for the battlefield.

"There's lots of evidence that chemical weapons are being prepared," Jeffrey told reporters Thursday. Officials and analysts will be watching Idlib closely over the next week ahead of U.N.-led talks on Syria in Geneva on Sept. 14.

"The Trump administration is really at a Hail Mary moment," said Nicholas Heras, a Syria analyst and fellow at the Center for New American Security. Idlib is the last opportunity for the U.S. to increase leverage in Syria, he said, and if the province falls before the Geneva talks, Trump administration efforts to re-engage with peace talks will likely fail.

Heras warned that the Trump team is late to formulate a coherent Syria policy.

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"It's like trying to save the house as it's burning down," he said.

Full loan relief rare for students at for-profit colleges By MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is granting only partial loan forgiveness to the vast majority of students approved for help because of fraud by for-profit colleges, according to preliminary Education Department data obtained by The Associated Press.

The figures demonstrate the impact of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' new policy of tiered relief, in which students swindled by for-profit schools are compensated based on their earnings after the program.

Of the roughly 16,000 fraud claims approved thus far by the Education Department under DeVos, slightly more than 1,000 students received full forgiveness on their loans, according to an AP analysis of the data.

DeVos has been pushing to ease regulations for the for-profit sector and raise the bar for students seeking relief for fraud. Critics say DeVos, who has hired officials from the for-profit sector to top positions in her agency, is favoring industry interests. But DeVos counters that the previous approach was unfair to taxpayers who ended up paying for those forgiven loans. She says the new process will enable students to get their claims considered more quickly and efficiently and will be more balanced instead of an "all-or-nothing" approach.

More than 165,000 claims have been filed since the loan forgiveness program launched in full in 2015 under the Obama administration. A total of nearly 48,000 claims have been approved through the end of lune

Since DeVos took over, the agency has reviewed more than 25,000 claims.

Partial forgiveness awards have covered on average about 30 percent of a student's outstanding loan, with the median loan of roughly \$11,500 reduced to about \$7,800, according to the data. The department computes the amount erased by comparing their income to peers in similar programs.

The statistics were collected over the summer in preparation for a report on loan relief claims that the agency must submit to Congress. The department has previously not provided such information publicly.

More than 9,000 loan forgiveness claims have been denied under DeVos, according to the data. The Obama administration didn't issue any denials, but DeVos' Education Department has said many of the claims that it rejected had actually been identified for denial, but never acted on, by the previous administration.

Of the total number of claims approved by the Obama and Trump administrations, about 31 percent have received partial relief, according to the data provided to the AP. However, the Obama administration didn't grant partial loan forgiveness on any of the claims it approved.

Asked for comment, Education Department spokeswoman Liz Hill pointed to DeVos' remarks in December rolling out the partial relief program.

"No fraud is acceptable, and students deserve relief if the school they attended acted dishonestly," DeVos said at the time. She said the new process "will allow claims to be adjudicated quickly" and "also protects taxpayers from being forced to shoulder massive costs that may be unjustified."

Kimberly Fe, 53, studied medical administration and billing at a Corinthian college in California. She said she received poor quality education and was deceived into believing that her credits would transfer to four-year colleges, which wasn't the case. The Education Department recently notified Fe that it has forgiven some \$2,000 out of \$7,000 of her federal student loan.

"It was just a money- making machine," Fe said. "I want my money back, I want my time back."

The for-profit industry experienced a boom over the past two decades, with enrollment rising from around 230,000 in the early 1990s to a record 2 million in 2010. The sector benefited from federal student loans and the fact that the global financial crisis left many Americans jobless and eager to go back to school to master new skills and get new credentials.

The schools recruited aggressively, often making deceptive statements about job prospects and delivering subpar education, which left many students with meaningless degrees and a mountain of debt. The

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Obama administration went hard after the sector, closing down two major for-profit chains, Corinthian and ITT, and spent \$550 million to forgive students' loans. Tens of thousands of students had their loans fully erased under the Obama administration, but an even bigger backlog remained.

DeVos took a different approach. In December she announced a new system of partial relief that would be determined by how students fared financially after graduating or participating in a program. DeVos is also seeking to weaken or scrap Obama-era regulations meant to police for-profits and help defrauded students get their loans forgiven.

"It's very self-evident in the policies that they are proposing and implementing that they are there to look out for the for-profit colleges," said Clare McCann, a higher education expert with New America, a Washington-based think tank.

The tiered system was challenged in a lawsuit filed by Project on Predatory Student Lending at Harvard University, a legal aid clinic that is representing defrauded students. In June, a federal judge ordered the department to halt partial relief for students, ruling that the method that it used to calculate the amount was unacceptable.

But Michael Dakduk of Career Education Colleges and Universities, the industry's largest trade group, hailed DeVos' efforts to reform industry regulations.

"Unlike the previous administration, the current administration appears to more concerned with supporting students at all colleges and universities — regardless of tax status," Dakduk said in a statement. "Now is the time to move beyond ideological attacks on any one sector of higher education and establish a uniform commitment to transparency of outcomes that can stand the test of time."

Preston Cooper, an analyst with the conservative American Enterprise Institute, said the tiered system reflected DeVos' attempt to strike a balance between protecting the interests of students and taxpayers.

"This partial forgiveness operation, it's not perfect, it's hard to come up with a perfect solution," Cooper said. "I would say the administration is pursing partial relief and they are trying to find one way to negotiate this balance."

Ex-Trump campaign adviser sentenced to 14 days in prison By CHAD DAY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — George Papadopoulos, the Trump campaign adviser who triggered the Russia investigation, was sentenced to 14 days in prison Friday after he told a judge he was "deeply embarrassed and ashamed" for lying to the FBI about his contacts with Russian intermediaries.

Papadopoulos, the first campaign aide sentenced in special counsel Robert Mueller's ongoing investigation, acknowledged that his actions hindered an investigation of national importance, a move that the judge in his case said resulted in the 31-year-old putting his own self-interest above that of his country.

"I made a dreadful mistake, but I am a good man who is eager for redemption," Papadopoulos said.

The punishment was far less than the maximum six-month sentence sought by the government but more than the probation that Papadopoulos and his lawyers had asked for.

Papadopoulos, who served as a foreign policy adviser to President Donald Trump's campaign, has been a central figure in the Russia investigation dating back before Mueller's May 2017 appointment. He was the first to plead guilty in Mueller's probe and is now the first Trump campaign adviser to be sentenced. His case was also the first to detail a member of the Trump campaign having knowledge of Russian efforts to interfere in the 2016 presidential election while it was ongoing.

U.S. District Judge Randolph Moss said Papadopoulos' deception was "not a noble lie" and said he had lied because he wanted a job in the Trump administration and didn't want to jeopardize that possibility by being tied to the Russia investigation.

"In some ways it constitutes a calculated exercise of self-interest over the national interest," the judge said. Moss noted that many similar cases resulted in probation but said he imposed a sentence of incarceration partly to send a message to the public that they can't lie to the FBI.

The sentence drew a quick response from Trump on Twitter, as he scoffed at the two weeks of prison

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time by comparing it to an unverified cost figure for the Mueller probe.

"14 days for \$28 MILLION - \$2 MILLION a day, No Collusion. A great day for America!" the president tweeted.

Memos authored by House Republicans and Democrats , now declassified, show that information about Papadopoulos' contacts with Russian intermediaries triggered the FBI's counterintelligence investigation in July 2016 into potential coordination between Russia and the Trump campaign. That probe was later taken over by Mueller.

According to a sweeping indictment handed up this summer, Russian intelligence had stolen emails from Hillary Clinton's campaign and other Democratic groups by April 2016, the same month Papadopoulos was told by a professor that Russian officials had told him they had "dirt" on Clinton in the form of "thousands of emails."

Papadopoulos later used his connections with the Maltese professor, Joseph Mifsud, and other Russian nationals in an attempt to broker a meeting between then-candidate Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

He admitted last year to lying to the FBI about those contacts with Russians and Russian intermediaries, false statements that prosecutors say caused irreparable harm to the investigation during its early months.

Prosecutors say those false statements, made during a January 2017 interview with federal investigators, led the FBI to miss an opportunity to interview Mifsud while he was in the United States in early 2017.

In court Friday, prosecutor Andrew Goldstein said Papadopoulos' cooperation "didn't come close to the standard of substantial assistance."

"It was at best begrudging efforts to cooperate and we don't think they were substantial or significant in any regard," he said.

He said Papadopoulos' deception required investigators to scour more than 100,000 emails and gigabytes of data to reconstruct the timeline of his contacts with Russians and Russian intermediaries.

Even after his arrest and plea agreement last year, Goldstein said, Papadopoulos continued to be difficult, only providing information after being confronted with documents such as emails and text messages.

In response, defense lawyer Thomas Breen said his client was "remorseful" that his lies impeded the investigation.

Papadopoulos lied because he was torn between wanting to cooperate and wanting to remain loyal to a president whose administration he hoped to join, Breen said. His client was also affected by Trump's cries of "fake news" and his casting of the Russia investigation as a "witch hunt" just days before his FBI interview.

"The president of the United States hindered this investigation more than George Papadopoulos ever could," Breen said.

Breen described his client as a "patriot," who wasn't trying to help Russia. But he acknowledged that Papadopoulos was unsophisticated, naive and even a "fool" for having made contacts with Russia intermediaries during the campaign.

Breen said his client's primary interest was brokering a meeting between Trump and Putin, a move he believed the campaign supported. In court papers, Breen wrote that during a March 2016 meeting attended by Papadopoulos, Trump nodded with approval at the idea, and then-Senator Jeff Sessions "appeared to like" it and said the campaign "should look into it."

That clashes with what Sessions, a key campaign aide and now Trump's attorney general, told the House Judiciary Committee last November. In that testimony, Sessions said he resisted the idea of any Russia meeting proposed by Papadopoulos.

Outside the courthouse Friday, Breen said Papadopoulos didn't recall ever telling anyone in the campaign about the fact that Russia had dirt on Clinton in the form of emails.

Breen also rejected the idea that Papadopoulos was the victim of a witch hunt or prosecutorial misconduct. "We have seen no such thing. We have seen no entrapment. We have seen no set up by U.S. intelligence people," he said, noting that he also had no reason to believe that Papadopoulos was the subject of a warrant obtained under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

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Asked if Papadopoulos still remained loyal to Trump, Breen smiled wryly and paused for a beat. "We don't talk politics," he said.

Follow Chad Day on Twitter: https://twitter.com/ChadSDay

Read Papadopoulos' sentencing memo: http://apne.ws/CY7UI9Q Read prosecutors' recommendation: http://apne.ws/YkyZTfC

Letter confirms Vatican received McCarrick complaint in 2000 By NICOLE WINFIELD, Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — A 2006 letter from a top Vatican official confirms that the Holy See received information in 2000 about the sexual misconduct of now-resigned U.S. cardinal, lending credibility to bombshell accusations of a cover-up at the highest echelons of the Roman Catholic Church.

Catholic News Service, the news agency of the U.S. bishops' conference, published the letter Friday from then-Archbishop Leonardo Sandri to the Rev. Boniface Ramsay, a New York priest who made the initial allegation.

Ramsay informed the Vatican in a November 2000 letter about then Cardinal Theodore McCarrick's misconduct with seminarians from Seton Hall University's Immaculate Conception Seminary. Ramsay, who in 2000 was on the faculty at the seminary, has said he sent the letter at the request of the then-Vatican ambassador because he had heard so many complaints from seminarians that McCarrick would invite them to his beach house and into his bed.

Sandri, now a top-ranked Vatican cardinal who was the No. 3 in the Vatican's secretariat of state at the time, wrote Ramsay on Oct. 11, 2006, seeking his recommendation for a former seminarian for a Vatican job.

In it, he referred to Ramsay's 2000 letter, saying: "I ask with particular reference to the serious matters involving some of the students of the Immaculate Conception Seminary, which in November 2000 you were good enough to bring confidentially to the attention of the then-Apostolic Nuncio in the United States, the late Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo."

Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, at the center of a storm rocking Pope Francis' papacy, cited Ramsay's 2000 letter in his own expose of a cover-up about the McCarrick affair. He named Sandri among a long list of Vatican officials who knew about McCarrick's penchant for seminarians. Vigano also accused Francis of knowing in 2013 of McCarrick's misconduct but of rehabilitating him from sanctions purportedly imposed by Pope Benedict XVI.

Sandri's letter is significant because it corroborates Ramsay's story as well as Vigano's claims. It shows the Vatican knew about allegations against McCarrick in 2000, a year before St. John Paul II made him a cardinal. And it further implicates the Benedict's papacy for failing to take action against McCarrick for years even as more allegations against him arrived.

Vigano says Benedict eventually imposed some form of sanction on McCarrick in 2009 or 2010, nearly a decade after Ramsay's letter arrived. The fact that Sandri cited it so readily suggests it wasn't lost in a pile of unread mail somewhere, but was relevant even for a simple job reference.

Significantly, Sandri appeared more concerned about the sexual purity of the seminarian-candidate than that McCarrick might have sexually abused or harassed him, or abused his power over him.

McCarrick resigned as a cardinal in July after a U.S. church investigation determined an accusation that he groped a teen-age altar boy in the 1970s was credible. Since then several seminarians have come forward to say he routinely bedded them, or harassed them when they refused.

His lawyer has said the accusations are serious and that McCarrick looks forward to invoking his right to due process at the right time.

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Another day at Tesla: Execs depart, Musk invites controversy By TOM KRISHER, AP Auto Writer

Another executive departure, another controversy over the CEO's behavior, another stock drop. Another typical day at Tesla.

Although the details change, the pattern stays the same. This time, the executive departure is David Morton, chief accounting officer at Tesla Inc., who called it quits after just a month on the job. The controversy is over Elon Musk taking a hit off an apparent marijuana-tobacco joint during a podcast interview that made its rounds on YouTube. And the stock dropped more than 6 percent Friday to close at \$263.24 a share — its lowest point since April.

All of it comes as the electric automaker continues to struggle to convert itself from a money-losing boutique to a mass-production profit machine. It's doing so while under investigation by the government and facing shareholder lawsuits after Musk revealed a plan to take the company private on Twitter, boosting the share price. The estimated \$24 billion plan eventually was scrapped and the stock fell.

Tesla only has a few weeks left to deliver on Musk's promise to post sustained profits starting in the third quarter after losing more than \$700 million in the second quarter. Moody's Investor Service downgraded the company's debt into junk territory back in March, warning that Tesla won't have cash to cover \$3.7 billion for normal operations, capital expenses and debt that comes due early next year. Tesla has said cash from producing more Model 3 mass-market electric cars will pay the bills and drive profits.

Amid the mounting pressure, Musk must now dig himself out of a fresh controversy of his own making. About two hours into the YouTube video of "The Joe Rogan Experience," the CEO accepts a sip of whiskey and a drag off a joint offered to him by Rogan, a comedian and podcast host who makes it a point to note that pot is legal in California.

Shortly after smoking, Musk — dressed in a black T-shirt that says "Occupy Mars" — looks at his phone and laughs, telling Rogan he is getting texts from friends asking why he's smoking weed during the interview. Later, Musk says he doesn't notice any effect from the joint.

"I'm not a regular smoker of weed," he says. When Rogan asks how often he smokes it, Musk replies: "Almost never." He knows a lot of people like weed, but "I don't find that it is very good for productivity," he tells Rogan.

Meanwhile, the company announced in a regulatory filing the departure of Morton, who is quoted by Tesla as stepping down due to the level of public scrutiny and the pace at the company but not over any disagreements with Tesla's leadership or its financial reporting. This followed a report by Bloomberg on Friday that Gabrielle Toledano, head of human resources, would not return to Tesla after a leave of absence. And communications chief Sarah O'Brien confirmed to The Associated Press that her last day on the job was Wednesday. She wouldn't give a reason for her departure, which she said has been in the works for two months.

Late Friday, replacements were named for Toledano and O'Brien, and Musk also promoted Vice President Jerome Guillen to president for automotive, overseeing all auto operations including the parts supply chain. He'll report directly to Musk, the CEO said in a note to employees.

Paul Argenti, a Dartmouth College professor of corporate communication, said the latest controversy is not surprising.

"The behavior on YouTube is obviously in line with what we've seen in the past," he said. But, he added, "You can't go on like that forever. It catches up with you."

Musk's conduct has been questionable since the first-quarter earnings conference call when he criticized Wall Street analysts for asking "bonehead" questions about the company's finances. Then he labeled a British diver who aided in the cave rescue of Thai soccer players a pedophile, and after apologizing, doubled-down on his accusation again this week in emails to Buzzfeed News.

But the most questionable action came when Musk tweeted Aug. 7 that he had secured funding to take the company private at \$420 per share to get away from the short-term pressure of Wall Street. The tweets pushed the electric vehicle and solar panel maker's stock price up 11 percent that day. But it subsequently fell when Musk revealed that funding wasn't locked down.

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On Aug. 24 Musk put out a statement saying the go-private deal was off, drawing scrutiny from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Some analysts and investors have called on the board to replace Musk as CEO but keep him as chief product officer, or hiring a chief operating officer to handle daily operations. Messages were left Friday with board members, including lead director Antonio Gracias.

Trump wants Justice to help find 'resistance' writer By KEN THOMAS, ZEKE MILLER and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — President Donald Trump declared the U.S. Justice Department should investigate and unmask the author of a bitingly critical New York Times opinion piece purportedly written by a member of an administration "resistance" movement straining to thwart his most dangerous impulses.

Trump cited "national security" Friday as the reason for such an extraordinary probe, and he called on Attorney General Jeff Sessions to get it going. He also said he was exploring bringing legal action against the newspaper over publication of the essay two days earlier.

"Jeff should be investigating who the author of that piece was because I really believe it's national security," Trump said. If the person has a high-level security clearance, he said, "I don't want him in those meetings."

A White House official later said Trump's call for a government investigation was an expression of his frustration with the essay, not an order for federal prosecutors to take action.

Though the article was strongly critical of Trump, no classified information appears to have been revealed by the author or leaked to the newspaper, which would be a crucial bar to clear before a leak investigation could be contemplated.

"The department does not confirm or deny investigations," said Sarah Isgur Flores, a spokeswoman.

Trump's call is the latest test of the independence of his Justice Department, which is supposed to make investigative and charging decisions without political interference from the White House.

It also reflects an expansive view of White House authority that cuts to the heart of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

Trump's lawyers and supporters have argued that as president he is empowered not only to hire and fire whomever he chooses but that he can also inject himself into law enforcement matters.

Former FBI Director James Comey has said Trump asked him to go easy on former national security adviser Michael Flynn, an allegation that Mueller is scrutinizing. Trump's lawyers have said that even if that happened as Comey described — they say it didn't — it can't be a crime because the president has the constitutional authority to involve himself in the activities of the Justice Department.

Trump's call for an investigation came a day after his top lieutenants stepped forward to repudiate the op-ed in a show of support for their incensed boss, who ordered aides to unmask the writer. The denials continued Friday, when U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley published an opinion piece of her own in The Washington Post titled, "When I challenge the president, I do it directly. My anonymous colleague should have, too."

Democrats were quick to condemn the president's call for a federal investigation.

Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware said, "President Trump continues to show a troubling trend in which he views the Department of Justice as the private legal department of the Trump organization rather than an entity that is focused on respecting the Constitution and enforcing our laws."

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar said she wished Trump "would put the same vigor into getting to the bottom of what Russia has been doing to our country in the elections."

But Rudy Giuliani, the president's attorney, suggested that it "would be appropriate" for Trump to ask for a formal investigation into the identity of the op-ed author.

"Let's assume it's a person with a security clearance. If they feel writing this is appropriate, maybe they feel it would be appropriate to disclose national security secrets, too. That person should be found out and stopped," Giuliani said.

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Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a key ally of Trump's, called for the president to order those suspected of being the author to undergo lie-detector tests.

"People are suggesting it," Trump said Friday, steering clear of explicitly endorsing the proposal. "Eventually the name of this sick person will come out."

In an interview Thursday with Fox News, Trump said the author "may not be a Republican, it may not be a conservative, it may be a deep state person who has been there for a long time."

The anonymous author, claiming to be part of the resistance "working diligently from within" the administration, wrote that, "Many Trump appointees have vowed to do what we can to preserve our democratic institutions while thwarting Mr. Trump's more misguided impulses until he is out of office."

"It may be cold comfort in this chaotic era, but Americans should know that there are adults in the room," the author continued. "We fully recognize what is happening. And we are trying to do what's right even when Donald Trump won't."

Miller and Tucker reported from Washington. AP writers Mike Balsamo, Mary Clare Jalonick, Eric Tucker, and Darlene Superville in Washington and Jonathan Lemire reported in New York contributed reporting.

Follow Thomas on Twitter at http://twitter.com/@KThomasDC, Miller on Twitter at http://twitter.com/@zekejmiller and Tucker at http://twitter.com/@ETuckerAP

Obama issues scathing critique of Trump, 'politics of fear' By JUANA SUMMERS and SARA BURNETT, Associated Press

URBANA, Ill. (AP) — Former President Barack Obama issued a scorching critique of his successor Friday, blasting President Donald Trump's policies and his pattern of pressuring the Justice Department.

Obama also reminded voters that the economic recovery — one of Trump's favorite talking points — began on his watch.

Obama's speech at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign was delivered less than two months before midterm elections that could determine the course of Trump's presidency. The remarks amounted to a stinging indictment of political life in the Trump era.

"It did not start with Donald Trump," Obama said. "He is a symptom, not the cause. He's just capitalizing on resentments that politicians have been fanning for years."

Noting the history of former presidents avoiding the rough and tumble of politics, Obama acknowledged his sharp critique of Trump was something of a departure from tradition. But he said the political moment required a pushback and called for better discourse.

"Appealing to tribe, appealing to fear, pitting one group against another, telling people that order and security will be restored if it weren't for those who don't look like us or don't sound like us or don't pray like we do — that's an old playbook," he said. "It's as old as time. And in a healthy democracy, it doesn't work. Our antibodies kick in and people of good will from across the political spectrum call out the bigots and the fear-mongers and work to compromise and get things done and promote the better angels of our nature."

But, Obama added, when there is a vacuum in democracy, "other voices fill the void. A politics of fear and resentment and retrenchment takes hold."

Trump, meanwhile, claimed he fell asleep watching Obama's speech. "I found he's very good for sleeping," Trump said at a campaign appearance in Fargo, North Dakota. He said Obama was trying to take credit for this "incredible thing that's happening to our country."

Even as he has largely remained out of the spotlight, Obama made clear he's paid close attention to the steady stream of headlines chronicling the Trump administration and said the news is a reminder of what's at stake in the November midterm elections.

"Just a glance at recent headlines should tell you this moment really is different," Obama said. "The stakes really are higher. The consequences of any of us sitting on the sidelines are more dire."

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He later added, "This is not normal."

He was especially stern in his condemnation of Trump's pattern of pressuring law enforcement officials, including Attorney General Jeff Sessions. The president has repeatedly called on Sessions to fire special counsel Robert Mueller and earlier this week blamed the Justice Department for indicting two incumbent Republican members of Congress, arguing the moves could jeopardize their seats.

"It should not be a partisan issue to say that we do not pressure the attorney general or the FBI to use the criminal justice system as a cudgel to punish our political opponents," Obama said. "Or to explicitly call on the attorney general to protect members of our own party from prosecution because an election happens to be coming up. I'm not making that up. That's not hypothetical."

As Obama spoke, Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One that he believed Sessions should investigate the identity of the author of an anonymous New York Times opinion piece that was sharply critical of his leadership, saying the essay was a "national security issue."

Obama, reacting to the op-ed account, said, "That's not how our democracy is supposed to work."

"The claim that everything will turn out OK because there are people inside the White House who secretly aren't following the president's orders, that is not a check," Obama said. "I'm being serious here. ... These people aren't elected. They're not accountable."

Obama also jabbed Trump on the issue the current president frequently heralds as one of his greatest achievements: the strong economy. Obama reminded the audience that the economic recovery began during his administration and defended his handling of the 2008 economic collapse.

"When you hear how great the economy's doing right now, let's just remember when this recovery started," he said.

He also criticized Trump's response to the violence last year at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, that resulted in the death of a counter-protester.

"We're supposed to stand up to discrimination," Obama said. "And we're sure as heck supposed to stand up clearly and unequivocally to Nazi sympathizers. How hard can that be, saying that Nazis are bad?"

The speech was a preview of the argument that Obama is likely to make throughout the fall. On Saturday, the former president will stump for House Democratic candidates at an event in Orange County, a conservative-leaning part of California where Republicans are at risk of losing several congressional seats.

Next week, Obama plans to campaign in Ohio for Richard Cordray, the Democratic nominee for governor, and other Democrats.

Obama's campaign activity will continue through October and will include fundraising appearances, according to an Obama adviser. The adviser was not authorized to discuss Obama's thinking publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. While the former president will be visible throughout the general election, the adviser said Obama will not be a daily presence on the campaign trail.

Republicans said voters won't find Obama's argument appealing.

"In 2016, voters rejected President Obama's policies and his dismissiveness towards half the country," Republican National Committee spokesman Michael Ahrens said in response to the Friday speech. "Doubling down on that strategy won't work in 2018 either."

Meanwhile, Michelle Obama is also stepping up her political involvement ahead of the November midterm election. She will headline voter registration rallies in Las Vegas and Miami later in September as part of a week of action by When We All Vote, the new nonpartisan organization she co-chairs.

Summers wrote from Washington. Associated Press writer Darlene Superville in Washington contributed to this report.

Senate concludes Kavanaugh hearing; confirmation likely By JESSICA GRESKO, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — After two marathon days questioning Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh, senators concluded his confirmation hearing Friday by listening to others talk about him — friends stress-

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ing his fairness and warmth but opponents warning he'd roll back abortion rights and shield President Donald Trump.

One of the Democrats' star witnesses was John Dean, Richard Nixon's White House counsel who cooperated with prosecutors during the Watergate investigation. He told lawmakers that the high court with Kavanaugh on it would be "the most presidential powers-friendly court in the modern era."

Senators on the Judiciary Committee are likely to vote on Kavanaugh's confirmation on Sept. 20 with a vote by the full Senate the following week. Republicans hope to confirm the judge, who would nudge the high court further to the right, in time for the first day of court's new term, Oct. 1.

With special counsel Robert Mueller deep into his investigation of Russia's meddling in the 2016 election, committee Democrats expressed concerns throughout the weeklong hearing that Kavanaugh would side with Trump on questions such as whether a president can be forced to testify. Kavanaugh, like previous nominees, declined to answer hypothetical questions that might come before him as a justice.

Trump, campaigning in Fargo, North Dakota, said the Democrats had made fools of themselves and crowed that he was looking forward to running against "one of those people" in 2020. Committee members Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California are among the Democrats considered possible candidates in the next presidential campaign.

Abortion was another main focus throughout the hearing, with Democrats portraying Kavanaugh as a judge who might vote to undercut or overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision establishing a constitutional right to abortion. Senate Democrats, in the minority 51-49, hope to appeal to two Republican senators who support abortion rights to break from their party and vote against Kavanaugh.

On Friday, New York University law professor Melissa Murray told lawmakers that Kavanaugh would provide the "necessary fifth vote that would utterly eviscerate" Roe v. Wade.

On the Republican side, witnesses testifying in support of Kavanaugh included longtime friends and former law clerks. They talked about his intelligence and open-mindedness, calling him "thoughtful," 'humble," 'wonderfully warm" and a "fair-minded and independent jurist." A number praised his concerted efforts to hire as law clerks both minorities and women.

Senate Democrats had worked into the night Thursday on Kavanaugh's final day of questioning in a last, ferocious attempt to paint him as a foe of abortion rights and a likely defender of President Donald Trump. But the 53-year-old appellate judge stuck to a well-rehearsed script throughout his testimony, providing only glimpses of his judicial stances while avoiding any serious mistakes that might jeopardize his confirmation.

On Friday, Democratic witnesses expressed concern about Kavanaugh's record on a range of issues including affirmative action, the rights of people with disabilities, access to birth control and abortion. Democratic witnesses also included a student who survived the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, and Rochelle Garza, the legal guardian for a pregnant immigrant teenager whose quest for an abortion Kavanaugh would have delayed last year.

Yale law school professor Akhil Reed Amar, a liberal testifying in support of Kavanaugh, had a message for Democratic senators: "Don't be mad. He's smart. Be careful what you wish for. Our party controls neither the White House nor the Senate. If you torpedo Kavanaugh you'll likely end up with someone worse."

Associated Press writers Darlene Superville, Mark Sherman, Lisa Mascaro and Kevin Freking in Washington contributed to this report.

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

Trump urges Justice Department to unmask 'resistance' writer By KEN THOMAS, ZEKE MILLER and ERIC TUCKER, Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — President Donald Trump declared Friday that the Justice Department should investigate and unmask the author of a bitingly critical New York Times opinion piece purportedly written by

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a member of an administration "resistance" movement straining to thwart his most dangerous impulses. Trump cited "national security" as the reason for such an extraordinary probe, and he called on Attorney General Jeff Sessions to get it going. He also said he was exploring bringing legal action against the newspaper over publication of the essay two days earlier.

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Trump's call is the latest test of the independence of his Justice Department, which is supposed to make investigative and charging decisions without political interference from the White House.

It also reflects an expansive view of White House authority that cuts to the heart of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

Trump's lawyers and supporters have argued that as president he is empowered not only to hire and fire whomever he chooses but that he can also inject himself into law enforcement matters.

Former FBI Director James Comey has said Trump asked him to go easy on former national security adviser Michael Flynn, an allegation that Mueller is scrutinizing. Trump's lawyers have said that even if that happened as Comey described — they say it didn't — it can't be a crime because the president has the constitutional authority to involve himself in the activities of the Justice Department.

Trump's call for an investigation came a day after his top lieutenants stepped forward to repudiate the op-ed in a show of support for their incensed boss, who ordered aides to unmask the writer. The denials continued Friday, when U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley published an opinion piece of her own in The Washington Post titled, "When I challenge the president, I do it directly. My anonymous colleague should have, too."

Democrats were quick to condemn the president's call for a federal investigation.

Sen. Chris Coons of Delaware said, "President Trump continues to show a troubling trend in which he views the Department of Justice as the private legal department of the Trump organization rather than an entity that is focused on respecting the Constitution and enforcing our laws."

Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar said she wished Trump "would put the same vigor into getting to the bottom of what Russia has been doing to our country in the elections."

But Rudy Giuliani, the president's attorney, suggested that it "would be appropriate" for Trump to ask for a formal investigation into the identity of the op-ed author.

"Let's assume it's a person with a security clearance. If they feel writing this is appropriate, maybe they feel it would be appropriate to disclose national security secrets, too. That person should be found out and stopped," Giuliani said.

Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul, a key ally of Trump's, called for the president to order those suspected of being the author to undergo lie-detector tests.

"People are suggesting it," Trump said Friday, steering clear of explicitly endorsing the proposal. "Eventually the name of this sick person will come out."

In an interview Friday with North Dakota television station KVLY, Trump said he could think of "four or five" possible writers — "mostly people that either I don't like or respect, but they're there because in some cases they have to be governmentally, meaning they're protected."

The anonymous author, claiming to be part of the resistance "working diligently from within" the administration, wrote that, "Many Trump appointees have vowed to do what we can to preserve our democratic institutions while thwarting Mr. Trump's more misguided impulses until he is out of office."

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"It may be cold comfort in this chaotic era, but Americans should know that there are adults in the room," the author continued. "We fully recognize what is happening. And we are trying to do what's right even when Donald Trump won't."

Miller and Tucker reported from Washington. AP writers Mike Balsamo, Mary Clare Jalonick, Eric Tucker, and Darlene Superville in Washington and Jonathan Lemire reported in New York contributed reporting.

Follow Thomas on Twitter at http://twitter.com/@KThomasDC, Miller on Twitter at http://twitter.com/@zekejmiller and Tucker at http://twitter.com/@ETuckerAP

Dallas officer in wrong apartment fatally shoots neighbor By RYAN TARINELLI, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Authorities are seeking a manslaughter warrant for a Dallas police officer who shot and killed a neighbor after she said she mistook his apartment for her own, police said Friday.

It was not clear what the officer may have said to 26-year-old Botham Jean after entering his home late Thursday. But given what investigators currently know about the case, they decided to pursue a manslaughter case, police said.

"Right now, there are more questions than we have answers," Police Chief U. Renee Hall said at a news conference Friday afternoon. She said she spoke to Jean's sister to express condolences to the family.

It was also unclear if the officer was in custody. Hall said she did not know the whereabouts of the officer, whose name was not released.

According to police, the officer returned home in her uniform after her shift. She called dispatch to report that she had shot a man, and she later told the officers who responded that she believed the victim's apartment was her own when she entered it.

The responding officers administered first aid to Jean, a native of the Caribbean country of St. Lucia who attended college in Arkansas and worked for accounting and consulting firm PwC. Jean was taken to a hospital, where he died.

Hall said the officer's blood was drawn to be tested for drugs and alcohol. She declined to speculate as to whether fatigue or other factors may have factored into the shooting. She also said the Texas Rangers will conduct an independent investigation.

Jean grew up in St. Lucia and attended Harding University in Searcy, Arkansas, where he majored in accounting and information systems and often led campus worship services before graduating in 2016, the school said in a statement. That July, he went to work for PwC in risk assurance. The company in a statement that it was "simply heartbroken to hear of his death."

Family and friends described Jean as a devout Christian and a talented singer. His uncle Ignatius Jean said the slaying left relatives devastated and looking for answers.

"You want to think it's fiction ... and you have to grapple with the reality," he said.

He called Jean a "brilliant" man of "impeccable character" and said news of his death had rippled across the small island nation of St. Lucia.

"Botham was in the prime of his life," his uncle said.

Nathan Monan, a friend from Harding University, said Botham Jean was kind to everybody and would often lead people in song during chapel at the private university in Arkansas.

"He lived what he spoke," Monan said, adding that Jean's death has stirred emotions of overwhelming sadness and anger. "This doesn't make sense to anybody right now."

A YouTube video posted in 2014 shows Jean making his pitch to become the university's student association president.

"I want to serve," he says in the video. "My Harding experience has really inspired me to want to serve and I want every student at Harding to have the best Harding experience possible."

Authorities have not said how the officer got into Jean's home, or whether his door was open or unlocked.

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The apartment complex is just a few blocks from Dallas police headquarters.

Residents of the complex said they can access their units with a key or through a keypad code.

Jeffrey Scherzer, who lives there, said when he returned home after the shooting, an officer escorted him to his apartment and warned him to steer clear of a blood trail.

Two women who live on the second floor near where the shooting happened said they heard a lot of noise late Thursday.

"It was, like, police talk: 'Open up! Open up!" Caitlin Simpson, 20, told The Dallas Morning News.

Yazmine Hernandez, 20, was studying with Simpson when they heard the commotion.

"We heard cops yelling, but otherwise had no idea what was going on," Hernandez said.

Attorney Lee Merritt, who has been involved with high-profile cases in North Texas, said Friday the officer should have already been arrested, like any other person in a similar situation.

Associated Press writers Jamie Stengle and David Warren contributed to this report.

For the latest information about the shooting: https://www.apnews.com/5418f50edde448e79f16be75178bea6a.

Stabbing of candidate shakes Brazil's presidential race By SARAH DILORENZO and PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — The stabbing of a leading Brazilian presidential candidate jolted an already wildly unpredictable campaign to lead Latin America's largest nation, with doctors saying Friday that Jair Bolsonaro will be hospitalized for at least a week.

Supporters of the far-right congressman who wants to crack down on crime said the attack would only boost his chances in next month's election, but it was unclear when he would be able to return to campaigning in person.

A knife-wielding man whose motive was unknown stabbed Bolsonaro during a rally Thursday in Juiz de Fora, a city about 125 miles (200 kilometers) north of Rio de Janeiro, as he was being carried on the shoulders of a supporter.

Bolsonaro, 63, suffered intestinal damage and serious internal bleeding, said Dr. Luiz Henrique Borsato, one of the surgeons who operated on the candidate. He was in serious but stable condition and would remain in intensive care for seven to 10 days, Borsato said.

The candidate was transferred Friday to a premier hospital in Sao Paulo, Brazil's largest city. Supporters outside the hospital carried a giant inflatable doll of Bolsonaro dressed in a formal suit with a sash that said "President."

"No matter what you think about him, he did not deserve this," said Mauro Rodrigues, owner of a construction business who went to the hospital to support Bolsonaro. "It will definitely increase his chances of winning the election because people will be more sympathetic toward him."

The attack is likely to have a major impact on the remaining four weeks of the campaign, from how candidates interact with supporters to their message.

For Bolsonaro, there will be questions about his physical ability to campaign — a key factor in a country slightly larger than the continental United States — as well as whether the attack will give him a boost among voters.

"He probably won't go back to the streets during this campaign, so he can't do it, but we can," his son, Flavio, said in a video posted on Facebook. "More than ever I count with each one of you."

Bolsonaro's vice presidential running mate, retired Gen. Hamilton Mourao, told reporters that the candidate will "come out of this process stronger than he went in."

The sentiment was echoed by Flavio Bolsonaro, who tweeted: "Jair Bolsonaro is stronger than ever and ready to be elected President of Brazil in the 1st ROUND!"

About a dozen candidates are competing in the Oct. 7 voting. If no one wins an outright majority, a

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second round will be held Oct. 28.

In a video posted on the Facebook page of a senator who visited him in the hospital, Bolsonaro thanked his doctors in a weak and scratchy voice and said: "I never did harm to anyone."

He described a painful wound, saying he had worried about an attack on the campaign trail.

"I was preparing for this sort of thing. You run risks," he said.

The leader in the polls is former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, but he is serving a 12-year sentence for corruption and has been barred from running. Bolsonaro is currently second, and while he has enthusiastic followers, his disapproval rating is higher than any other major candidate.

Friday was Independence Day in Brazil, and Bolsonaro had planned to attend a military parade in Rio de Janeiro.

The former army captain openly praises Brazil's 1964-85 dictatorship and has long argued the country is in chaos and needs a strong hand. That message has resonated with Brazilians, but his often derogatory comments about women, blacks and gays have also repulsed many.

The attack "will turn into a dispute between the left and right," said Mauricio Santoro, a political science professor at Rio de Janeiro's state university. "It's time that all presidential candidates make a declaration together to stop the aggressiveness."

Videos on social media show Bolsonaro on the shoulders of a supporter, looking out at the crowd and giving a thumbs-up with his left hand. He suddenly flinches and then goes out of view. Other videos show supporters carrying him to a car and hitting a man who was apparently the attacker.

The suspect, identified by authorities as 40-year-old Adelio Bispo de Oliveira, was arrested within seconds. The internet news portal G1 posted cellphone video, apparently obtained from police, of de Oliveira being questioned. Sitting on the floor with his hands cuffed behind him, a voice can be heard asking him who had sent him to attack Bolsonaro.

"I didn't say anybody sent me," said de Oliveira. "He who sent me was God on high."

Luis Boudens, president of the National Federation of Federal Police, told The Associated Press that agents believed "they were not dealing with a mentally stable person."

Eraldo Fabio Rodrigues de Oliveira, who is married to a niece of the suspect, told the newspaper Folha de S.Paulo that he appeared to be "disturbed" and would often lock himself in a shed when he visited his family.

"I can't say he was crazy, but, from the way he acted, he wasn't normal, no," the relative was quoted as saying.

Lt. Col. Marco Rodrigues of the Minas Gerais state police told reporters that de Oliveira, who was once affiliated with a leftist party, said he acted because he disagreed with Bolsonaro. G1 quoted a lawyer for de Oliveira, Pedro Augusto Lima Possa, as saying his client did not mean to kill the politician, only wound him.

Federal police said another suspect was detained in connection with the attack and questioned. That suspect was released overnight but remains under investigation.

Minister of Public Security Raul Jungmann said the number of federal police providing security to candidates would be increased because of the attack, adding that Bolsonaro had been warned against launching himself into crowds as he did Thursday, according to the government-run news agency Agencia Brasil. Currently, 80 federal police protect five presidential candidates who requested security, and 21 were assigned to Bolsonaro, according to Jungmann.

Brazilians surged onto social media to argue over whether the attack supports Bolsonaro's assertions that the country is off the rails or if his heated rhetoric contributed to inciting the attack.

Flavio Bolsonaro, a state legislator who is running for a seat in the federal Senate, rejected the idea that his father incited the attack, saying the candidate was engaged in a campaign of ideas. He said the mainstream media bear some responsibility, accusing them of portraying his father as a "monster."

"They made Bolsonaro a martyr," said Jonatan Valente, a student who joined a small vigil in Sao Paulo for the wounded candidate. "I think the left shot itself in the foot because with this attack they will end up electing Bolsonaro."

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After more than four years of revelations of widespread political corruption, anger is running high.

Despite being a congressman since 1991, Bolsonaro has harnessed much of the anger and presented himself as a maverick who will clean up a corrupt system. He also promises to confront a surge in crime, in part by giving police a freer hand to shoot and kill while on duty. He has promised to fill his government with current and former military leaders.

It was not the first incident of political violence this year. In March, while da Silva was campaigning in southern Brazil before his imprisonment, gunshots hit buses in his caravan, although no one was hurt. That same month, Marielle Franco, a councilwoman in Rio de Janeiro, was shot to death along with her driver.

"The campaign will become much more emotional than it already was," said Marcos Troyjo, co-director of the BRICLab at Columbia University. "Ideas will take a back seat."

Associated Press writer Sarah DiLorenzo reported this story in Sao Paulo and AP writer Peter Prengaman reported from Rio de Janeiro. AP writers Stan Lehman and Victor Caivano in Sao Paulo and Marcelo Silva de Sousa and Yesica Fisch in Rio de Janeiro contributed to this report.

Full loan relief rare for students at for-profit colleges By MARIA DANILOVA, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Trump administration is granting only partial loan forgiveness to the vast majority of students approved for help because of fraud by for-profit colleges, according to preliminary Education Department data obtained by The Associated Press.

The figures demonstrate the impact of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' new policy of tiered relief, in which students swindled by for-profit schools are compensated based on their earnings after the program. Of the roughly 16,000 fraud claims approved thus far by the Education Department under DeVos, slightly

more than 1,000 students received full forgiveness on their loans, according to an AP analysis of the data.

DeVos has been pushing to ease regulations for the for-profit sector and raise the bar for students seeking relief for fraud. Critics say DeVos, who has hired officials from the for-profit sector to top positions in her agency, is favoring industry interests. But DeVos counters that the previous approach was unfair to taxpayers who ended up paying for those forgiven loans. She says the new process will enable students to get their claims considered more quickly and efficiently and will be more balanced instead of an "all-or-nothing" approach.

More than 165,000 claims have been filed since the loan forgiveness program launched in full in 2015 under the Obama administration. A total of nearly 48,000 claims have been approved through the end of June. Since DeVos took over, the agency has reviewed more than 25,000 claims.

Partial forgiveness awards have covered on average about 30 percent of a student's outstanding loan, with the median loan of roughly \$11,500 reduced to about \$7,800, according to the data. The department computes the amount erased by comparing their income to peers in similar programs.

The statistics were collected over the summer in preparation for a report on loan relief claims that the agency must submit to Congress. The department has previously not provided such information publicly.

More than 9,000 loan forgiveness claims have been denied under DeVos, according to the data. The Obama administration didn't issue any denials, but DeVos' Education Department has said many of the claims that it rejected had actually been identified for denial, but never acted on, by the previous administration.

Of the total number of claims approved by the Obama and Trump administrations, about 31 percent have received partial relief, according to the data provided to the AP. However, the Obama administration didn't grant partial loan forgiveness on any of the claims it approved.

Asked for comment, Education Department spokeswoman Liz Hill pointed to DeVos' remarks in December rolling out the partial relief program.

"No fraud is acceptable, and students deserve relief if the school they attended acted dishonestly," DeVos said at the time. She said the new process "will allow claims to be adjudicated quickly" and "also protects taxpayers from being forced to shoulder massive costs that may be unjustified."

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Kimberly Fe, 53, studied medical administration and billing at a Corinthian college in California. She said she received poor quality education and was deceived into believing that her credits would transfer to four-year colleges, which wasn't the case. The Education Department recently notified Fe that it has forgiven some \$2,000 out of \$7,000 of her federal student loan.

"It was just a money- making machine," Fe said. "I want my money back, I want my time back."

The for-profit industry experienced a boom over the past two decades, with enrollment rising from around 230,000 in the early 1990s to a record 2 million in 2010. The sector benefited from federal student loans and the fact that the global financial crisis left many Americans jobless and eager to go back to school to master new skills and get new credentials.

The schools recruited aggressively, often making deceptive statements about job prospects and delivering subpar education, which left many students with meaningless degrees and a mountain of debt. The Obama administration went hard after the sector, closing down two major for-profit chains, Corinthian and ITT, and spent \$550 million to forgive students' loans. Tens of thousands of students had their loans fully erased under the Obama administration, but an even bigger backlog remained.

DeVos took a different approach. In December she announced a new system of partial relief that would be determined by how students fared financially after graduating or participating in a program. DeVos is also seeking to weaken or scrap Obama-era regulations meant to police for-profits and help defrauded students get their loans forgiven.

"It's very self-evident in the policies that they are proposing and implementing that they are there to look out for the for-profit colleges," said Clare McCann, a higher education expert with New America, a Washington-based think tank.

The tiered system was challenged in a lawsuit filed by Project on Predatory Student Lending at Harvard University, a legal aid clinic that is representing defrauded students. In June, a federal judge ordered the department to halt partial relief for students, ruling that the method that it used to calculate the amount was unacceptable.

But Michael Dakduk of Career Education Colleges and Universities, the industry's largest trade group, hailed DeVos' efforts to reform industry regulations.

"Unlike the previous administration, the current administration appears to more concerned with supporting students at all colleges and universities — regardless of tax status," Dakduk said in a statement. "Now is the time to move beyond ideological attacks on any one sector of higher education and establish a uniform commitment to transparency of outcomes that can stand the test of time."

Preston Cooper, an analyst with the conservative American Enterprise Institute, said the tiered system reflected DeVos' attempt to strike a balance between protecting the interests of students and taxpayers.

"This partial forgiveness operation, it's not perfect, it's hard to come up with a perfect solution," Cooper said. "I would say the administration is pursing partial relief and they are trying to find one way to negotiate this balance."

Jobs to left, tariffs on right: Can US economy defy threats? By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER, AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy is showing consistent strength even after nearly a decade of growth, with Friday's jobs report for August signaling that employers remain optimistic enough to hire freely and are finally paying more generously.

Consumers, the principal drivers of growth, are more confident than they've been in nearly 18 years. Americans are splurging on restaurant meals, clothes and cars.

Still, potential problems loom: The Trump administration is ramping up its trade fights, and interest rates appear likely to keep rising. The result is that businesses and consumers will likely find it somewhat more expensive to spend and borrow.

For now, though, the economy is expanding steadily, fueled by tax cuts, confident consumers, greater business investment in equipment and more government spending. Economic growth reached 4.2 percent

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at an annual rate in the April-June quarter, the fastest pace in four years.

Here are some key vital signs of the U.S. economy, roughly two months before the November midterm elections, which could transform the balance of power in Congress and reshape the economy:

HIRING IS BOOMING

U.S. employers added a robust 201,000 jobs in August, the Labor Department said Friday, in line with the past year's average monthly gain of 196,000. The unemployment rate remains at an ultra-low 3.9 percent, a rate that most economists say could fall even further if the pace of hiring remains vigorous.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, forecasts that the jobless rate could reach 3.5 percent or even lower by next year. That would be the lowest level in roughly 50 years.

Other measures of the job market are also brightening. Companies are asking their part-time workers, for example, to work more hours, which has the effect of increasing their weekly pay.

The number of part-time workers who would prefer full-time work fell in August and is now at its lowest level since the Great Recession ended more than nine years ago.

A broader measure of unemployment, which includes those involuntary part-timers as well as discouraged workers who are no longer seeking jobs, dropped to 7.4 percent last month, the lowest level in 17 years.

BUT TRADE FIGHTS LOOM

On Friday, President Donald Trump ramped up his trade war with China by threatening to impose tariffs on an additional \$267 billion in Chinese imports. That is on top of previous threats the president has made to slap tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods. The administration has already imposed 25 percent taxes on \$50 billion of Chinese imports, a step for which Beijing retaliated against U.S. exports.

If all the threatened U.S. tariffs were imposed, they would cover everything the U.S. buys from China — from toys to handbags to smartphones.

Zandi estimates that if just the new tariffs on \$200 billion in goods were put in place, U.S. economic growth would slow by a quarter-percentage point over the following year — and roughly 400,000 fewer jobs would be created.

WAGES ARE RISING

For many economists, the brightest spot in the August jobs report was that average hourly pay rose 2.9 percent compared with a year ago, the healthiest such increase in nine years.

As the job market has tightened and unemployment has dropped, businesses have complained that they can't find enough qualified workers to fill all their open jobs. Some economists note that if employers offered more generous pay, they would attract more job candidates, including people who aren't now looking for work and therefore aren't counted as unemployed.

Friday's jobs report, with its evidence of faster wage growth, suggested that some employers might finally be ramping up pay. Larger paychecks would underpin healthy consumer spending in the months ahead.

"It looks like we're finally seeing that acceleration in wage growth that we've been waiting for," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Services. "It's good news for workers' paychecks, it's good news for consumers and it's good news for the overall economy."

Jason Mazzarone, chief executive of SoBol, a restaurant chain that sells a variety of acai bowls, says he's paying his employees more, mostly because of higher minimum wage laws in New York and other states where his 26-store chain operates. He has also raised pay for other workers who were already earning more than the minimum.

On New York's Long Island, for example, where many of his outlets are located, the minimum wage will reach \$12 an hour by year's end. For shift managers now making \$16 an hour, Mazzarone said, "their pay has to go up too."

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Solid hiring and greater wage growth, though, have made it a near-certainty that the Federal Reserve will raise short-term interest rates when it meets later this month. Most Fed watchers also expect another rate hike in December and perhaps three more next year.

Those rate increases are intended to prevent the economy from overheating and control inflation, which reached 2.9 percent in July — above the Fed's 2 percent target level. The Fed's benchmark rate is between 1.75 percent and 2 percent, still very low by historical standards.

But higher borrowing rates tend to squeeze consumers and businesses, weaken home buying, undercut stock prices and eventually slow growth. At some point, Fed policymakers might inadvertently raise rates high enough to weaken the economy and perhaps even trigger a recession.

Mortgage rates already reached their highest levels in seven years this year, thereby making it more expensive to buy a home. The average 30-year fixed mortgage rate rose to 4.54 percent this week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac said. That's up from 3.78 percent a year ago.

MOOD OF CONSUMERS

Whether consumers respond to higher borrowing rates by pulling sharply back on spending will help determine whether the economy can maintain its vigor indefinitely.

Americans are already holding back on home sales, which have fallen for four straight months. High home prices in many cities, which reflect a limited supply of properties for sale, are probably the primary reason why the pace of purchases has weakened. Rising mortgage rates have hurt, too.

For now, consumers are expressing confidence. Most Americans say they feel jobs are widely available and expect the economy to remain healthy in the coming months, according to the Conference Board's consumer confidence survey.

Faucher, like most economists, says he is optimistic that higher pay and spending will drive healthy growth at least into next year.

"Wage growth will accelerate further as firms raise pay to recruit workers," he said. "Stronger wage growth will bolster consumer spending into 2019."

How major US stock indexes fared Friday

By The Associated Press

U.S. stock indexes fell Friday after President Donald Trump said he may intensify his trade battle with China. A strong jobs report also pushed investors to gird for higher interest rates.

On Friday:

The S&P 500 index lost 6.37 points, or 0.2 percent, to 2,871.68.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 79.33, or 0.3 percent, to 25,916.54.

The Nasdaq composite fell 20.18, or 0.3 percent, to 7,902.54.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller-company stocks dipped 1.29, or 0.1 percent, to 1,713.18.

For the week:

The S&P 500 is down 29.84 points, or 1 percent.

The Dow is down 48.28 points, or 0.2 percent.

The Nasdaq is down 206.99 points, or 2.6 percent.

The Russell 2000 is down 27.57 points, or 1.6 percent.

For the year:

The S&P 500 is up 198.07 points, or 7.4 percent.

The Dow is up 1,197.32 points, or 4.8 percent.

The Nasdaq is up 999.15 points, or 14.5 percent.

The Russell 2000 is up 177.67 points, or 11.6 percent.

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Today in HistoryBy The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 8, the 251st day of 2018. There are 114 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 8, 1974, President Gerald R. Ford granted a "full, free, and absolute pardon" to former President Richard Nixon covering his entire term in office.

On this date:

In 1504, Michelangelo's towering marble statue of David was unveiled to the public in Florence, Italy.

In 1565, a Spanish expedition established the first permanent European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine, Fla.

In 1664, the Dutch surrendered New Amsterdam to the British, who renamed it New York.

In 1892, an early version of "The Pledge of Allegiance," written by Francis Bellamy, appeared in "The Youth's Companion." It went: "I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

In 1900, Galveston, Texas, was struck by a hurricane that killed an estimated 8,000 people.

In 1930, the comic strip "Blondie," created by Chic Young, was first published.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, a Louisiana Democrat, was shot and mortally wounded inside the Louisiana State Capitol; he died two days later. (The assailant was identified as Dr. Carl Weiss, who was gunned down by Long's bodyguards.)

In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared a "limited national emergency" in response to the outbreak of war in Europe.

In 1941, the 900-day Siege of Leningrad by German forces began during World War II.

In 1951, a peace treaty with Japan was signed by 49 nations in San Francisco.

In 1985, Pete Rose of the Cincinnati Reds tied Ty Cobb's career record for hits, singling for hit number 4,191 during a game against the Cubs in Chicago.

In 1994, USAir Flight 427, a Boeing 737, crashed into a ravine as it was approaching Pittsburgh International Airport, killing all 132 people on board.

Ten years ago: In a pointed but mostly symbolic expression of displeasure with Moscow, President George W. Bush canceled a once-celebrated civilian nuclear cooperation deal with Russia. Roger Federer salvaged the 2008 season by easily beating Andy Murray 6-2, 7-5, 6-2 to win his fifth consecutive U.S. Open championship and 13th major title overall.

Five years ago: NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Jealous, credited with boosting finances at the nation's largest civil rights organization and helping to stabilize it, announced plans to step down at year's end. Top-seeded Serena Williams won her fifth U.S. Open championship and 17th Grand Slam title overall by beating No. 2 Victoria Azarenka 7-5, 6-7 (6), 6-1 in a windy final. The International Olympic Committee voted wrestling back onto the program for the 2020 and 2024 Games. Perennial pitchman and car dealer Cal Worthington died in Orland, California, at age 92.

One year ago: Hurricane Irma regained Category 5 status, battering Cuba with 160-mph winds and taking aim on the Miami area; the death toll across the Caribbean climbed past 20 after the storm ravaged islands including St. Martin, St. Barts, St. Thomas, Barbuda and Anguilla. In one of the country's largest evacuations, officials in Florida told more than 5 million people to leave their homes ahead of the hurricane; parts of interstates 75 and 95 northbound were bumper-to-bumper. Singer Troy Gentry, half of the country music duo Montgomery Gentry, died in a helicopter crash in Medford, New Jersey; pilot James Robinson was also killed.

Today's Birthdays: Ventriloquist Willie Tyler is 78. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., is 77. Actor Alan Feinstein is 77. Pop singer Sal Valentino (The Beau Brummels) is 76. Author Ann Beattie is 71. Secretary of Defense James Mattis is 68. Cajun singer Zachary Richard (ree-SHARD') is 68. Musician Will Lee is 66. Actress Heather Thomas is 61. Singer Aimee Mann is 58. Pop musician David Steele (Fine Young Cannibals) is 58.

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Actor Thomas Kretschmann is 56. Rhythm-and-blues singer Marc Gordon (Levert) is 54. Gospel singer Darlene Zschech (chehk) is 53. Alternative country singer Neko (NEE'-koh) Case is 48. TV personality Brooke Burke-Charvet is 47. Actor Martin Freeman is 47. Actor David Arquette is 47. TV-radio personality Kennedy is 46. Rock musician Richard Hughes (Keane) is 43. Actor Larenz Tate is 43. Actor Nathan Corddry is 41. Rhythm-and-blues singer Pink is 39. Singer-songwriter Eric Hutchinson is 38. Actor Jonathan Taylor Thomas is 37. Rapper Wiz Khalifa is 31. Actor Gaten Matarazzo (TV: "Stranger Things") is 16.

Thought for Today: "Fools act on imagination without knowledge, pedants act on knowledge without imagination." — Alfred North Whitehead, English philosopher and mathematician (1861-1947).