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- 1- Chicken Soup for the Soul
- 1- Schultz Construction Ad
- 1- Recycling Trailer
- 2- Girls Soccer Photos
- 5- Boys Soccer Photos
- 7- Robert B. Johnson Estate Auction
- 7- St. John's Luncheon ad
- 7- Groton Care & Rehab Ad
- 8- Sen. Rounds' Weekly Column
- 9- City Council Agenda
- 10- Rev. Snyder's Column
- 12- Today in Weather History
- 13- Today's Forecast
- 14- Yesterday's Weather
- 14- National Weather map
- 14- Today's Weather Almanac
- 15- Daily Devotional
- 16-2018 Groton Community Events
- 17- News from the Associated Press

Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.



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 Community 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. Red-field-Doland @ Doland High School (7th Grade 4:00 PM; 8th Grade 5:00 PM)

5:00pm: Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match vs. Mobridge-Pollock Schools @ Mobridge-Pollock High School (C & JV matches start at 5pm)

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Olive Grove Men's League Championship and Banquet

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Allyssa Locke
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Sam Geffre (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Emma Schinkel
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Kaylin Kucker (Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Sydney Leicht
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Reagan Leicht
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Madeline Fliehs
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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The seniors were recognized Saturday at the soccer game in Groton. On the left are Devan Howard with her parents, Lauri Harry and Jesse Howard. On the right is Sam Geffre with her parents, Corey and Tammi Geffre. (Photo by Tricia Keith)

The Groton Area soccer girls team lost to Sioux Falls Christian on Saturday in Groton, 6-1. Regan Leicht scored Groton's lone goal. Goalie Devan Howard had 14 saves.

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Hunter Schaller and Cade Guthmiller
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Garrett Schroeder and Anthony Schinkel
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Hunter Schaller
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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Tucker Carda (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Austin Jones
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

The boys
soccer team
hosted
Sioux Falls
Christian on
Saturday.
The
Chargers
from the
south won
the game.



Dragr Monson
(Photo by Paul Kosel)



Jamie Ruiz de Medina
(Photo by Paul Kosel)

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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
VOLD AUCTIONEERS & REALTY
BRITTON, SD • 605-448-0048

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Kavanaugh Imminently Qualified to be Supreme Court Justice



Earlier this summer, President Trump nominated U.S. Circuit Court Judge Brett Kavanaugh to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. If confirmed, Judge Kavanaugh will replace Justice Anthony Kennedy, who recently retired

from the court after 30 years. President Trump made an excellent decision when he picked Judge Kavanaugh as the nominee. After watching his Judiciary Committee hearing, studying his judicial philosophy and meeting with him in person, it's clear that he is imminently qualified to serve on the Supreme Court.

Judge Kavanaugh served on the D.C. Circuit Court—widely referred to as the "second highest court in the land"—for the past 12 years. During his time there, he issued more than 300 opinions and heard more than 2,000 cases. In fact, the Supreme Court endorsed his opinions more than a dozen times. A graduate of Yale Law School, Kavanaugh clerked for Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, whose seat on the bench he will take if confirmed. Before his time on the D.C. Circuit Court, he worked as White House Staff Secretary and Associate White House Counsel for President George W. Bush and as a partner at a law firm.

While on the D.C. Circuit Court, Judge Kavanaugh made it clear that he understands a judge's responsibility is to interpret the Constitution and apply the law as written and not based on a judge's personal views or political ideologies. I believe it is very important he or she recognize their job is not to make laws, it is to interpret them. Throughout his career, Judge Kavanaugh has shown that he respects the separation of powers and will not overstep his authority as a member of the Supreme Court. His opinions have shown that he is and will continue to be an independent and impartial judge.

In a speech to a group of law school students in 2016, Judge Kavanaugh expanded upon Chief Justice John Robert's premise that judges should be umpires, calling balls and strikes. He said, "At its core, in our separation of powers system, to be an umpire as a judge means to follow the law and not to make or re-make the law—and to be impartial in how we go about doing that. That has to be our goal." I couldn't agree more. The legislative branch is responsible for making law and the job of the judiciary is to interpret it in a fair and impartial manner.

I recently sat down with Judge Kavanaugh in my office where I had the opportunity to gain additional insight into his judicial philosophy. We spoke at length about his time as a D.C. Circuit Judge, as well as about issues important to South Dakotans, including the role of limited government, states' rights, privacy and cybersecurity. I appreciated hearing his thoughts on the delicate balance between liberty and order and the thoughtful analysis that he exhibits in his opinions.

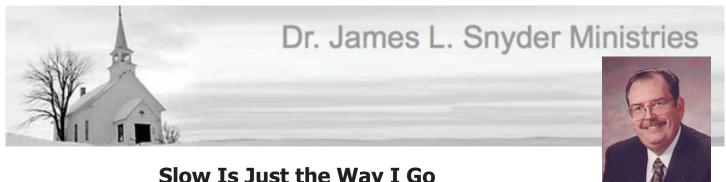
In my meeting with him, it became abundantly clear that Judge Kavanaugh holds a deep respect for the federal bench and the United States Constitution. Based on his extensive record and my own interactions with him, I believe Judge Kavanaugh has the aptitude and qualifications for a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court. I look forward to supporting his nomination when it comes to the floor in the coming weeks.

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda September 10, 2018 – 7:00pm Groton Community Center

- 1. Minutes
- 2. Bills
- 3. Department reports
- 4. Community Center doors
- 5. Bid for rollers
- 6. Web Water rate increase
 First reading of Ordinance #721 Water Rates for Municipal Utility Customers
- 7. Airport land rent bid
- 8. Thank you to the Schaller family for the donation of 10 benches
- 9. Quarterly NEFOG meeting September 13 Aberdeen
- 10. SDML 85th Annual Conference October 2-5 Pierre
- 11. Second reading of Ordinance #720 2019 Appropriation Ordinance
- 12. Public Comments pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1 (Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
- 13. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
- 14. Adjournment

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Slow Is Just the Way I Go

One of the main complaints in the Parsonage has to do with my procrastination.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage often refers to me as, Sir Procrastinator, as if it was a bad thing. Anything that needs doing in our house, my wife is the first one to jump up and try to do it. She fixes things before they are even broken. How she does that, I will never know. It is a wife thing.

I, on the other hand, am slower than a politician trying to explain him or herself. For some reason, I was born in no hurry and that has been my motto all of my life. I am really not in a hurry for anything.

I take my time, relax whenever possible and just do not get excited about anything. I have found out that when I get excited about something and want to go fast forward, I always get into trouble. Trouble has become my middle name in this regard.

As a child, my parents wanted me to speed up and get things done guickly. I never could figure out why. Very few things need to be done in a speedy order.

I just do not have the energy, these days, to hurry up and get something done.

Last year, for example, the doctor gave me a little package to take home that I was supposed to put in a personal "sample" and send to the company. Certainly, I meant to do it as soon as I got home. But I took the slow way home, stopped and got a delicious banana split. I can only get these banana splits when I am driving by myself, for the other companion in our home has strict laws about such "nonsense," as she calls it.

I actually enjoyed my "nonsense" very much.

When I got home, however, I had forgotten about the box in which I was supposed to put in my "sample" and send to the company. I put it somewhere and I just forgot about it.

"When," my wife said, "are you going to take care of that and send it in?"

I almost said, "When pigs fly." But because I was slow in getting that phrase out, it never got out. Of course, I am so glad I was slow in that regard.

Sometimes being slow has its rewards. Some people say being fast has its rewards. I would not know about that personally.

Several months went by. "Did you send that package in?"

"What package?" I said.

Then she reminded me of that package and that I had to send in my "sample" for the doctor had ordered it.

Doctors! What do they really know? After all, they are only "practicing" medicine. When they get it to perfection, then maybe I'll believe them.

Several mornings when I would get up, I would hear the question, "Are you going to take care of what you're supposed to do?"

I really meant to do it, but procrastination is the name of the game I play. I do not mean to play it that way, it just happens.

And it is not that I do not have a good memory. I do have a good memory in fact, I have locked several sections of my memory to save for when I get old. I will use that memory when I need it.

"You know," argued my wife, "you're not doing yourself any favors by putting this off. Why don't you do

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it today?"

Finally, and I am not sure what motivated me to do it, but I did do the process and got my "sample" and mailed it to the company.

My wife was happy when she heard that I did it and said, "Now, don't you feel good?"

I had to smile at her, but I really did not feel good. I really did not feel anything.

Several weeks later, I got a letter in the mail from the company where I sent my "sample." I was not sure what they were writing to me about. At first, I thought maybe something went wrong and I was in a lot of trouble.

Slowly, I opened the envelope and found inside a letter thanking me and it included a \$50 gift card. I could not believe what I just saw.

I could not wait for my wife to get home so I could share with her my good news.

I gave her the letter with the gift card and said, "I guess it really does pay to procrastinate."

She looked at the gift card and then looked up at me and said, "I did not know your 'sample' was worth that much money."

"Well," I said rather sarcastically, "now you know."

It only proved to me that sometimes procrastination does pay off. Sometimes when you jump into a problem or circumstance, you pay dearly for it. And sometimes, like my "sample" when you procrastinate you get paid.

I then reminded my wife of what King David said. "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord" (Psalm 27:14).

Of course, the key here is not waiting, but who you are waiting on. I like to procrastinate until I really know what God wants me to do. Sometimes it takes longer than I figured, but when I wait, I am never disappointed.

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Today in Weather History

September 9, 1961: A young girl in Bullhead, Corson County, was killed by lightning on the afternoon while walking on the highway. Her little brother was slightly injured.

September 9, 1983: High winds from the late evening into the early morning hours of the 10th blew through east central South Dakota damaging crops, downing hundreds of trees, breaking windows, damaging roofs and buildings, downing power poles and damaging vehicles. Gusts to 75 mph in Huron moved a semi-trailer a half block. Scattered power outages of up to 24 hours were reported in numerous areas as branches fell across power and telephone lines. Thirty power poles were downed in Kingsbury County alone. Corn, beans, and sunflowers suffered extensive damage in many areas with up to 50 percent losses reported. Gusts up to 90 mph were reported at Lake Poinsett, Lake Norden, and Estelline, where roofs and shingles were ripped from buildings and numerous windows, were broken. At Lake Poinsett, extensive damage was done to boats, docks, and automobiles.

1775: The Independence Hurricane slammed into Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. Many ships were sunk and buildings demolished. 4,000 people died in what is considered to be Canada's deadliest hurricane disaster.

1821: A tornadic outbreak affected the New England states of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont on this day. Five tornadoes reportedly touched down from this event. One storm in New Hampshire had a path width of a half mile and tracked an estimated 23 miles. This tornado killed at least six individuals, which could be the deadliest tornado in New Hampshire history.

1965: Hurricane Betsy slammed into New Orleans on the evening of September 9, 1965. 110 mph winds and power failures were reported in New Orleans. The eye of the storm passed to the southwest of New Orleans on a northwesterly track. The northern and western eyewalls covered Southeast Louisiana and the New Orleans area from about 8 PM until 4 AM the next morning. In Thibodaux, winds of 130 mph to 140 mph were reported. The Baton Rouge weather bureau operated under auxiliary power, without telephone communication.

2013: Historic rainfall occurred in northern Colorado from September 9 to September 16 and resulted in severe flash flooding along the northern Front Range of Colorado and subsequent river flooding downstream along the South Platte River and its tributaries. The heaviest rain fell along the Front Range northwest of Denver on September 11–12.

1921 - A dying tropical depression unloaded 38.2 inches of rain upon the town of Thrall in southeastern Texas killing 224 persons. 36.4 inches fell in 18 hours. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1944 - The ""Great Atlantic Hurricane"" ravaged the east coast. The storm killed 22 persons and caused 63 million dollars damage in the Chesapeake Bay area, then besieged New England killing 390 persons and causing another 100 million dollars damage. (The Weather Channel)

1971 - Hurricane Ginger formed, and remained a hurricane until the 5th of October. The 27 day life span was the longest of record for any hurricane in the North Atlantic Ocean. (The Weather Channel)

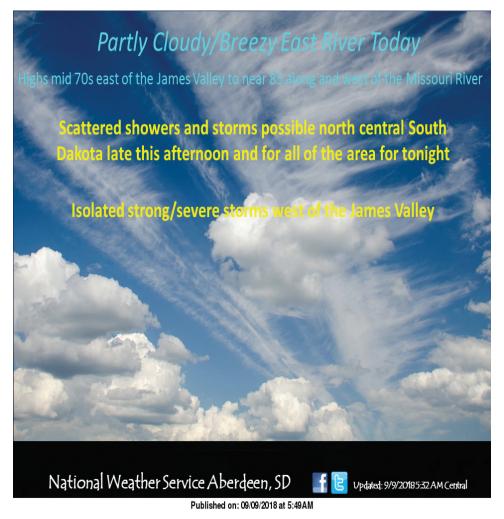
1987 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the central U.S. Thunderstorms in West Texas spawned four tornadoes in the vicinity of Lubbock, and produced baseball size hail and wind gusts to 81 mph at Ropesville. Thunderstorms produced hail two inches in diameter at Downs KS and Harvard NE, breaking car windows at Harvard. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Florence became a hurricane and headed for the Central Gulf Coast Region. Florence made landfall early the next morning, passing over New Orleans LA. Winds gusts to 80 mph were recorded at an oil rig south of the Chandeleur Islands. Wind gusts around New Orleans reached 61 mph. Total property damage from Florence was estimated at 2.5 million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - The first snow of the season began to whiten the mountains of Wyoming early in the morning, as for two days a moist and unusually cold storm system affected the state. By the morning of the 11th, a foot of snow covered the ground at Burgess Junction. Thunderstorms developing along a cold front crossing the Ohio Valley produced severe weather in Indiana during the late afternoon and early evening hours. Strong thunderstorm winds blew down a tent at Palestine injuring seven persons, and frequent lightning interrupted the Purdue and Miami of Ohio football game, clearing the stands. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today Tonight Monday Monday Tuesday Night Sunny then Partly Sunny Chance Mostly Sunny Mostly Clear and Breezy T-storms Mostly Sunny and Breezy High: 78 °F Low: 58 °F High: 81 °F Low: 61 °F High: 89 °F



Breezy south winds will continue today mainly east of the Missouri River as highs range from the mid 70s east to near 85 degrees far west. Otherwise, a cool front moving into the region is expected to bring some showers and storms to the area late this afternoon and tonight. There is marginal risk of severe weather mainly west of the James Valley.

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Yesterday's Weather High Outside Temp: 78.4 F at 3:41 PM

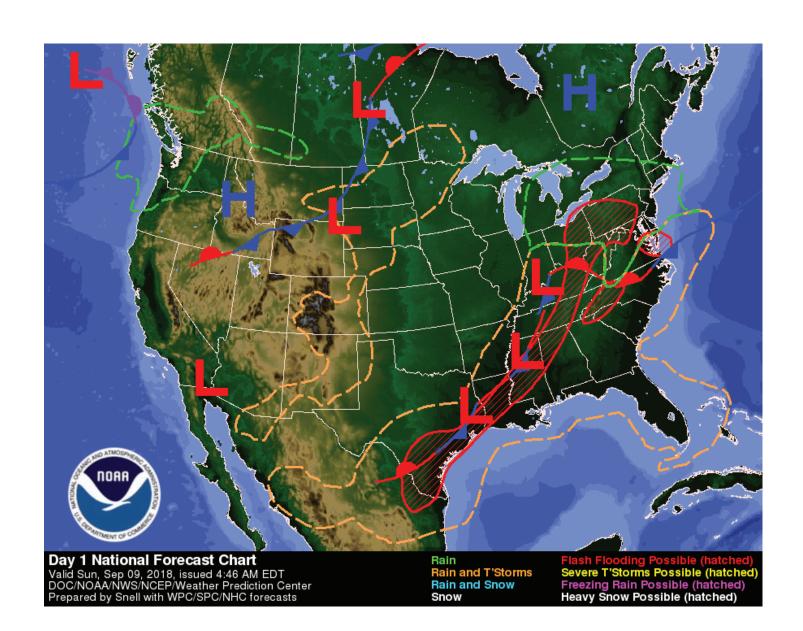
High Outside Temp: 78.4 F at 3:41 PM Low Outside Temp: 50.8 F at 6:43 AM High Gust: 26.0 Mph at 5:26 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info Record High: 101° in 1931

Record High: 101° in 1931 Record Low: 26° in 1898 Average High: 75°F Average Low: 49°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.60 Precip to date in Sept.: 0.10 Average Precip to date: 16.89 Precip Year to Date: 11.36 Sunset Tonight: 7:56 p.m. Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:06 a.m.



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GODS BRIDGE

Mr. Rushing was a great Sunday school teacher who had a real gift to get his eighth-grade boys class involved in the lesson. One Sunday, he decided to ask a question to get them involved in the lesson. If gold stood for good deeds and grey for bad deeds what color would you be?

Id be streaky, answered Ron. Ive done a bunch of things that are really bad. As a matter of fact, I would probably end up looking kind of blurry.

No doubt all of us end up looking rather blurry. We all fall short when measured against Gods definition of good.

God is holy, and we are unholy - or sinful. There is a great space between the righteous Creator - God - and guilty sinners us. We may try to build a bridge of good works and kind deeds from where we are to where God is. But sooner or later the works and deeds would fall short of the gate into heaven, and we would find ourselves out there dangling in space. In words that are clear and impossible to misunderstand the Psalmist wrote, For no one living is righteous before You.

But God built a bridge from where we are to where He is. It is called the cross of Calvary. Its where His Son hung on a cross one day until He was dead. Then, He was laid in a tomb until His Father brought Him back to life. And it is this bridge - this cross of Calvary - that we cross by faith alone.

Any person at any time from any place can cross this Bridge of Faith and be cleansed of sin and made righteous.

Prayer: It seems impossible, Father, that all we have to do is to reach out, grasp Your hand and cross that Bridge. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 143:2b For no one, living is righteous before You.

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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

Saturday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Central def. Pierre, 16-25, 25-12, 25-23, 25-9

Crow Creek def. Little Wound, 25-13, 15-25, 26-24, 27-25

Freeman Academy/Marion def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-17, 25-19, 25-20

Huron def. Harrisburg, 25-22, 25-12, 22-25, 25-22

Miller def. Potter County, 25-11, 25-22, 25-14

New Underwood def. Dupree, 25-18, 25-11, 25-16

Northwestern def. Madison, 25-14, 25-20, 25-17

Red Cloud def. Todd County, 25-21, 25-19, 25-18

Arlington Tournament

Arlington def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-17, 26-24

Arlington def. Faulkton, 25-17, 25-23

Arlington def. Burke, 21-25, 25-21, 26-24

Arlington def. Deubrook, 25-21, 25-20

Burke def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-21, 25-19

Deubrook def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-19, 30-32, 25-12

Deubrook def. Burke, 26-24, 25-23

Faulkton def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 28-26, 20-25, 25-18

Faulkton def. Burke, 23-25, 25-19, 25-19

Faulkton def. Deubrook, 26-24, 17-25, 25-23

Warner def. Faulkton, 25-22, 26-24

Warner def. Burke, 25-19, 22-25, 25-12

Warner def. Deubrook, 25-15, 25-17

Warner def. Arlington, 25-17, 24-26, 25-21

Warner def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-17, 25-22

Big East Conference Tournament

Seventh Place

Flandreau def. Garretson, 24-26, 25-9, 25-14, 25-10

Fifth Place

Baltic def. Sioux Valley, 25-4, 23-25, 21-25, 25-21, 25-9

Third Place

Beresford def. Parker, 27-25, 25-20, 25-15

Championship

McCook Central/Montrose def. Chester, 25-22, 19-25, 25-17, 25-20

Clark-Willow Lake Tournament

Pool Play

Pool 1

Clark/Willow Lake def. Waverly-South Shore, 25-23, 25-19

Clark/Willow Lake def. Great Plains Lutheran, 26-24, 25-19

Waverly-South Shore def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-12, 25-16

Pool 2

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Lake Preston, 25-13, 17-25, 25-17

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Flandreau Indian, 25-13, 17-25, 25-17

Lake Preston def. Flandreau Indian, 25-13, 25-11

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Pool 3

DeSmet def. Wilmot, 25-11, 25-22

Redfield/Doland def. Wilmot, 25-17, 25-12

Redfield/Doland def. DeSmet, 25-20, 25-16

Pool 4

Britton-Hecla def. Florence/Henry, 24-26, 25-23, 25-23

Britton-Hecla def. Deuel, 25-20, 21-25, 25-21

Deuel def. Florence/Henry, 15-25, 25-17, 25-14

Gold Tournament

Clark/Willow Lake def. Hitchcock-Tulare, 25-23, 25-21

Hitchcock-Tulare def. Britton-Hecla, 25-13, 25-13

Redfield/Doland def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-16, 25-22

Redfield/Doland def. Britton-Hecla, 20-25, 25-21, 25-21

Silver Tournament

DeSmet def. Lake Preston, 19-25, 25-20, 25-22

Deuel def. Lake Preston, 26-24, 18-25, 25-17

Waverly-South Shore def. DeSmet, 25-14, 25-18

Waverly-South Shore def. Deuel, 25-17, 25-19

Bronze Tournament

Florence/Henry def. Flandreau Indian, 25-15, 25-20

Great Plains Lutheran def. Wilmot, 20-25, 25-8, 25-16

Great Plains Lutheran def. Flandreau Indian, 25-3, 25-10

Wilmot def. Florence/Henry, 25-16, 25-17

Lennox Tournament

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Belle Fourche, 25-18, 25-16

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Lennox, 25-22, 25-22

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Tea Area, 25-21, 25-23

Mobridge Tournament

Faith def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-9, 25-6

Faith def. Timber Lake, 25-16, 25-16

Leola/Frederick def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-19, 19-25, 25-21

Philip Tournament

Pool Play

Pool A

Kadoka Area def. Lyman, 25-22, 25-16

Kadoka Area def. Bennett County, 25-14, 25-20

Kadoka Area def. Philip, 25-23, 25-17

Philip def. Bennett County, 25-16, 25-6

Philip def. Lyman, 15-25, 25-11, 25-13

Pool B

Sully Buttes def. Harding County, 18-25, 25-22, 25-19

Sully Buttes def. Jones County, 25-16, 25-12

Sully Buttes def. White River, 25-23, 26-24

Southwest Minnesota Challenge

First Round

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Tracy-Milroy-Balaton, Minn., 23-25, 25-20, 15-9

Semifinal

Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Burnsville, Minn., 25-16, 23-25, 15-9

25th Place

Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, Minn. def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 25-18, 13-25, 15-13

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PREP FOOTBALL(equals)
Brandon Valley 35, Aberdeen Central 14
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 42, Sioux Falls Washington 33

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Dakota Cash 16-18-24-30-35

(sixteen, eighteen, twenty-four, thirty, thirty-five)

Estimated jackpot: \$268,000

Lotto America

04-11-34-50-52, Star Ball: 8, ASB: 2

(four, eleven, thirty-four, fifty, fifty-two; Star Ball: eight; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$7.39 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$207 million

Powerball

03-13-20-32-33, Powerball: 21, Power Play: 3

(three, thirteen, twenty, thirty-two, thirty-three; Powerball: twenty-one; Power Play: three)

Estimated jackpot: \$114 million

Christion, Johnson help South Dakota St. beat Montana St.

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Taryn Christion passed for four touchdowns and ran for another and Cade Johnson tied South Dakota State's single-game record with four TD receptions to help the Jackrabbits beat Montana State 45-14 on Saturday night.

Christion was 21-of-29 passing for 319 yards and Johnson finished with nine receptions for 138 yards. Montana State (1-1) had just 44 total yards and one first down in the before halftime. The Bobcats, who had eight first-half possessions, went three-and-out seven times with one interception.

Johnson caught scoring passes of 2, 24 and 19 yards and Chase Vinatieri made a 42-yard field goal to give South Dakota State a 24-0 lead at the break and Christion's 1-yard touchdown run capped an 11-play, 75-yard drive to open the third quarter. Johnson added a 7-yard TD catch that capped the scoring early in the fourth.

Montana State had its streak of 42 consecutive games with at least 100 yards rushing snapped, finishing with 29 yards on 23 carries.

Simmons in on 5 TDs; South Dakota beats N. Colorado 43-28

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Austin Simmons threw for 462 yards and four touchdown passes, and ran for another score, as South Dakota held off Northern Colorado for a 43-28 victory on Saturday.

The Coyotes (1-1) rebounded from its 27-24 loss at Kansas State for its 16th consecutive home-opening win and 40th opener at the DakotaDome.

Simmons threw all four TD passes in the first half, each to a different receiver, as South Dakota jumped out to a 34-14 halftime lead. Northern Colorado (0-2) rallied back in the fourth quarter when Jacob Knipp threw two touchdown passes to make it 34-28.

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But Simmons answered with a 60-yard pass to Shamar Jackson and capped the drive racing into the corner of the endzone from the 2-yard line, stretching the Coyotes' lead to 40-28 with 5:19 remaining. The Bears fumbled the ball away on the ensuing kickoff.

Simmons was 31-of-40 passing and ran for 80 yards on eight carries. Jackson had seven catches for 146 yards and a touchdown. Trystn Ducker had four receptions for 131 yards, including a 76-yard touchdown catch off a screen pass.

Knipp was 26 of 35 for 331 yards passing and finished with three touchdowns.

Obama tells voters to step up or 'things can get worse' By ELLIOT SPAGAT, Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Former President Barack Obama says the November midterm elections will give Americans "a chance to restore some sanity in our politics," taking another swipe at his successor as he raises his profile campaigning for fellow Democrats to regain control of the House.

Obama didn't mention President Donald Trump by name during a 20-minute speech Saturday in the key Southern California battleground of Orange County but the allusions were clear.

"We're in a challenging moment because, when you look at the arc of American history, there's always been a push and pull between those who want to go forward and those who want to look back, between those who want to divide and those are seeking to bring people together, between those who promote the politics of hope and those who exploit the politics of fear," he said.

His appearance — one day after a strongly worded critique of Trump at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign — touched on themes of retirement security, climate change and education.

"If we don't step up, things can get worse," the former president told the audience at the Anaheim Convention Center. "In two months, we have the chance to restore some sanity to our politics. We have the chance to flip the House of Representatives and make sure there are real checks and balances in Washington."

Obama gave shout-outs to seven Democratic candidates in competitive 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 bastion that went for Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election.

"We're going to put on our marching shoes, we're going to start knocking on some doors, we're going to start making some calls," he said to cheers.

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 their 39-14 advantage in the state's congressional delegation, are eyeing Republican seats in districts that Clinton won in 2016. Each of the seven candidates that Obama campaigned for on Saturday fit that description.

In Orange County, GOP Rep. Mimi Walters faces a 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 fending off a challenge from Democratic real estate investor Harley Rouda to secure a 16th term in Congress despite barely winning 30 percent of the primary vote. In the other Orange County race, Gil Cisneros, a Democratic philanthropist and Navy veteran, is vying for an open seat created by retiring Republican Ed Royce.

Obama also highlighted two races in the state's Central Valley, praising venture capitalist Josh Harder in his bid to unseat four-term Republican Jeff Denham, and T.J. Cox, who is challenging David Valadao in a

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district where Democrats hold a 17-point advantage in voter registration.

He also made a plug for nonprofit executive Katie Hill in her Los Angeles-area race to unseat sophomore Republican Steve Knight, who won an underwhelming 53 percent of the vote in 2016.

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 reminds the Republicans why these midterms are important."

Vice President Mike Pence says it's disappointing that Obama is back on the campaign trail criticizing Trump.

Says Pence: "The truth is, the American people in 2016 rejected the policy and direction of Barack Obama when they elected President Donald Trump." Pence comments came in a taped interview set to air on "Fox News Sunday." Fox released an excerpt on Saturday.

Obama is expected to deliver a similar message in Cleveland on Thursday, when he campaigns on behalf of Richard Cordray, the Democratic nominee for Ohio governor, and other Democrats.

Associated Press writer Jeff Horwitz in Washington contributed to this report.

Lawyer: Trump doesn't think Stormy Daniels' deal is valid By MICHAEL BALSAMO and CATHERINE LUCEY, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump does not believe porn actress Stormy Daniels' hush-money deal, which his former personal lawyer said was done to influence the 2016 presidential election, is valid and will not carry out threats to sue her for breaking the agreement by discussing details of their alleged affair, Trump's attorney said in a court filing Saturday.

Hours earlier an attorney for the company set up to handle the deal offered to rescind Daniels' nondisclosure agreement. The company, Essential Consultants, also scrapped a threatened \$20 million lawsuit against Daniels.

The two developments could kill efforts by Daniels' attorney, Michael Avenatti, to force the president to give sworn testimony about what he and his former lawyer, Michael Cohen, might have known about the deal, if a judge agrees to now dismiss the case. The offers remove any legal risk to Daniels stemming from her public discussion of the alleged affair and the alleged efforts to hide it.

Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, has said she had sex once with Trump in 2006 and carried on a platonic relationship with him for about a year. She was paid \$130,000 as part of the agreement signed days before the 2016 election and is suing to dissolve the contract. Daniels has argued the agreement should be invalidated because Cohen signed it, but Trump did not.

In Saturday's court filing, Trump's attorney, Charles Harder, said the president doesn't dispute Daniels' assertion that the contract isn't valid and never considered himself as a party to the agreement. Both Trump and Cohen have asked Daniels to now drop her lawsuit.

Essential Consultants was set up by Cohen, who pleaded guilty in federal court last month to campaignfinance violations and other charges. Though Cohen originally denied having made a hush-money payment to Daniels on behalf of Trump, he told the court that he and Trump arranged payments to both Daniels and a former Playboy model to influence the election.

In addition to the offer to quash the agreement, Essential Consultants also agreed to back off its plan to fight Daniels in private arbitration and will not pursue a lawsuit against her, Brent Blakely, an attorney for the company, said in a letter to Daniels' lawyer. Cohen had said that Daniels could owe \$20 million for violating the agreement.

The company wants Daniels to repay the \$130,000 she was paid, Blakely wrote.

Avenatti told The Associated Press that he did not have to accept the offer and would not settle the case without deposing Trump and Cohen. He said he was still reviewing his options but wasn't worried about the developments.

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Avenatti said he thought Harder's court filing was "worthless," had "numerous problems" and "means nothing."

"We are tired of the constant delays and games being played," he said. "We want these depositions as soon as possible."

Regardless of how a court views the offer by Trump and Cohen's company to drop efforts to enforce the agreement, Avenatti has other possible legal routes to pursue the president. Daniels is also suing Trump and Cohen for defamation.

N. Korea stages huge parade, holds back on advanced missiles By ERIC TALMADGE, Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North Korea rolled out some of its latest tanks and marched its best-trained goose-stepping units through Kim Il Sung Square in a major military parade on Sunday to mark its 70th anniversary, but held back its most advanced missiles and devoted nearly half of the event to civilian efforts to build the domestic economy.

The strong emphasis on the economy underscores leader Kim Jong Un's new strategy of putting economic development front and center.

Tens of thousands of North Koreans waving brightly colored plastic bouquets filled Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square as the parade began. Pyongyang residents have been training for months for the anniversary and held up the bouquets to spell out words and slogans that can be seen from the VIP viewing area.

Kim attended the morning parade but did not address the assembled crowd, which included the head of the Chinese parliament and high-level delegations from countries that have friendly ties with the North.

At the end of the two-hour event he strolled to the edge of the balcony with the Chinese special envoy, Li Zhanshu, who is also the third-ranking member in China's ruling Communist Party. The two held up their joined hands to symbolize the countries' traditionally close ties, though the absence of Chinese President Xi Jinping could indicate Beijing still has some reservations about Kim's initiatives.

Senior statesman Kim Yong Nam, the head of North Korea's parliament, set the relatively softer tone for the event with an opening speech that emphasized the economic goals of the regime, not its nuclear might. He called on the military to be ready to work to help build the economy.

After a truncated parade featuring tanks and some of its biggest artillery, fewer than the usual number of missiles and lots of goose-stepping units from all branches of the military, the focus switched to civilian groups ranging from nurses to students to construction workers, many with colorful floats beside them.

The combining of military and civilian sections is a familiar North Korean parade format.

The past two big anniversaries of North Korea's founding, in 2008 and 2013, did not feature the Korean People's Army, only the civil defense units, which are officially called "Worker Peasant Red Guards."

Although North Korea stages military parades almost every year, and held one just before the Olympics began in South Korea in February this year, Sunday's parade came at a particularly sensitive time.

Kim's effort to ease tensions with President Donald Trump has stalled since their June summit in Singapore. Both sides are now insisting on a different starting point. Washington wants Kim to commit to denuclearization first, but Pyongyang wants its security guaranteed and a peace agreement formally ending the Korean War.

With tensions once again on the rise, a parade featuring the very missiles that so unnerved Trump last year, and led to a dangerous volley of insults from both leaders, could have been seen as a deliberate provocation. The North also refrained from immediately televising the event, though North Korean media were out in force to film it, deploying booms and — for possibly the first time — drones with cameras.

Capital residents unable to attend at the square lined the streets around town to cheer and applaud convoys carrying the troops after they complete the parade duties.

Soon after the Sunday celebrations end, Kim will once again meet in Pyongyang with South Korean President Moon Jae-in to discuss ways to break the impasse over his nuclear weapons.

The "new line" of putting economic development first has been Kim's top priority this year. He claims to

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have perfected his nuclear arsenal enough to deter U.S. aggression and devote his resources to raising the nation's standard of living.

This year's celebrations also mark the revival of North Korea's iconic mass games after a five-year hiatus. The mass games involve tens of thousands of people holding up placards or dancing in precise unison and are intended to be a display of national unity. This year's spectacle — tickets start at just over \$100 and go up to more than \$800 per seat — also has a strong economic theme.

An unofficial translation of its name this year is "Our Shining Nation."

Talmadge is the AP's Pyongyang bureau chief. Follow him on Twitter and Instagram: @EricTalmadge

Dallas officer who killed black man also shot a man in 2017 By RYAN TARINELLI, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas police officer who says she mistakenly went to the wrong apartment after work earlier this week and fatally shot a black man also fired her weapon and wounded a man during an on-duty confrontation in 2017, according to court documents.

Dallas police on Saturday named Amber Guyger, a four-year force veteran, as the off-duty white officer who shot and killed 26-year-old Botham Jean Thursday night.

According to police, Guyger said she returned home in uniform after her shift and entered the wrong apartment, believing it was her own. She called dispatch to report she had shot a man. Jean died later at a hospital. Few other details have been released, although police said they took a blood sample from her for testing.

Jean's mother wondered whether race was a factor in the shooting.

"If it was a white man would it have been different? Would she have reacted differently?" Allison Jean told Dallas' NBC affiliate, KXAS, on Friday.

An attorney for Jean's family, Lee Merritt, said Saturday that an arrest warrant should be issued for Guyger. Dallas police initially said they would seek her arrest but then handed the case over to the Texas Rangers, who asked for more time to investigate.

An affidavit from a case a year ago shows that Guyger shot another man while on-duty in Dallas.

On May 12, 2017, police were looking for a suspect when Guyger was one of two officers called to assist another officer. Suspect Uvaldo Perez got out of a car and became combative with Guyger and another officer, according to an affidavit filed in the case against Perez. A struggle began and Guyger fired her Taser at Perez, who then wrested away her Taser. Guyger pulled out her gun and fired, wounding Perez in the abdomen.

Guyger was not charged in the 2017 shooting.

On Saturday, two days after Guyger killed Jean, friends and family gathered at the Dallas West Church of Christ to remember him.

"Botham did everything with passion," Allison Jean told the prayer service. "God gave me an angel."

Botham Jean grew up in St. Lucia, a Caribbean island country. He attended Harding University in Arkansas and, after graduating in 2016, lived and worked in Dallas at accounting and consulting firm PwC. The Arkansas private school said Friday that he often led campus religious services while he was a student.

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.

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Powerful hurricane could be headed to southeast US By PAMELA SAMPSON, Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — The U.S. East Coast could be hit with a powerful hurricane next week as Tropical Storm Florence continues to strengthen as it moves toward the mainland, forecasters said Saturday.

Florence is expected to become a major hurricane by Monday, the National Hurricane Center said, adding that "a rapid intensification" is forecast to begin Sunday.

The storm is forecast to become a "major hurricane" Monday, travel between Bermuda and the Bahamas on Tuesday and Wednesday before approaching the southeastern U.S. coast on Thursday, the Miami-based weather center said.

Officials in the Carolinas warned residents to prepare and to brace for impact.

Governors in both South Carolina and Virginia declared a state of emergency Saturday to give their states time to prepare for the possible arrival of the storm. South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster emphasized that there's no way to know yet when and where the storm will hit land, or when evacuations might be called.

On Friday, North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency and urged residents to use the weekend to prepare for the possibility of a natural disaster.

"We are entering the peak of hurricane season and we know well the unpredictability and power of these storms," Cooper said.

The U.S. Navy is making preparations this weekend for its ships in the Hampton Roads area to leave port. The U.S. Fleet Forces Command said in a news release Saturday that the ships will get ready in anticipation of getting under way Monday to avoid storm damage.

Adm. Christopher Grady said in a statement that the decision was based on Florence's current track, which indicates the area could see strong sustained winds and storm surges.

The news release notes that plans could change if forecasts indicate a decrease in the strength or change in the track of the storm.

Swells generated by Florence are affecting Bermuda and starting to reach parts of the Eastern Seaboard, the National Weather Service said.

At 11 p.m. EDT, the hurricane center said Florence's maximum sustained winds were estimated to be 70 mph (110 kph). The storm was centered about 790 miles (1,270 kilometers) southeast of Bermuda and moving west at 6 mph (9 kph).

Williams loses game for arguing during US Open loss to Osaka By HOWARD FENDRICH, AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The events and the arguing and the booing that would make this a U.S. Open final unlike any other began when Serena Williams' coach made what she insisted was an innocent thumbs-up, but the chair umpire interpreted as a helpful signal.

It was the second game of the second set Saturday, in a packed Arthur Ashe Stadium, and Williams' bid for a record-tying 24th Grand Slam title already was in real trouble because she was being outplayed by first-time major finalist Naomi Osaka.

Chair umpire Carlos Ramos warned Williams for getting coaching during a match, which isn't allowed. She briefly disputed that ruling, saying cheating "is the one thing I've never done, ever." A few games later, Williams received another warning, this time for smashing her racket, and that second violation cost her a point, leading to more arguing. Eventually, Willams called Ramos "a thief," drawing a third violation and costing her a game.

"I have never cheated in my life!" Williams told Ramos. "You owe me an apology."

Soon, Osaka was finishing off a 6-2, 6-4 victory that made her the first player from Japan to win a Grand Slam singles title. That is not, however, what will be remembered about this chaotic evening.

With jeers bouncing off the arena's closed roof, both players — the champion, Osaka, and the runner-up,

Williams — wiped away tears during a trophy ceremony that was awkward for everyone involved. "I just feel like I had a lot of emotions," Osaka said, "so I had to kind of categorize what was which

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emotion."

Williams whispered something to Osaka and wrapped an arm around her shoulders.

"I felt, at one point, bad, because I'm crying and she's crying. You know, she just won. I'm not sure if they were happy tears or they were just sad tears, because of the moment. I felt like, 'Wow, this isn't how I felt when I won my first Grand Slam.' I was like, 'Wow, I definitely don't want her to feel like that," said Williams, who missed last year's U.S. Open because her daughter, Olympia, was born during the tournament. "Maybe it was the mom in me that was like, 'Listen, we've got to pull ourselves together here."

This was the only the latest in a series of high-profile conflicts with match officials for Williams at Flushing Meadows. It all dates back to 2004, when an incorrect call during a quarterfinal loss to Jennifer Capriati was cited as the main reason for the introduction of replay technology in tennis. Then came Williams' infamous tirade after a foot fault in the 2009 semifinals against Kim Clijsters, and a to-do over a hindrance call in the 2011 final against Sam Stosur.

"It's always something," Williams said.

Osaka is just 20, 16 years younger than Williams — and grew up idolizing the American, even asking her to pose for a selfie together at a tournament just a handful of years ago. Their age difference was the second-widest gap between women's finalists at a Slam in the professional era.

"I know that everyone was cheering for her," Osaka told the crowd, "and I'm sorry it had to end like this." What was most problematic for Williams on the scoreboard was that she was unable to keep up with a version of herself. Osaka, who happens to be coached by Williams' former hitting partner, hit more aces, 6-3. Osaka hit the match's fastest serve, 119 mph. She had fewer errors, 21-14. She saved five of six break points. And she covered the court better than Williams did.

"She made a lot of shots," Williams said. "She was so focused."

Indeed, that was what might have been most impressive. Osaka never let Williams' back-and-forth with Ramos distract her, never wavered from playing terrific tennis. The one time Osaka did get broken, to trail 3-1 in the second set, she broke back immediately, prompting Williams to smash her racket.

That cost her a point, because of the earlier warning for coaching. While Williams was adamant that she never receives coaching, her coach, Patrick Mouratoglou, acknowledged afterward that he did try to signal Williams, but didn't think she had seen him.

It's true that it is something of an open secret in professional tennis that plenty of coaches do get away with offering help without any sort of sanction.

"I never had any warning in my career for coaching. Strange to do that in a Grand Slam final," Mouratoglou said. "Second, we all know that all the coaches coach at every match, all year long, from the first of January all the way to the 31st of December. We all know it."

When Ramos called both players over to explain the game penalty, which put Osaka ahead 5-3, Williams began laughing, saying: "Are you kidding me?" Then she asked to speak to tournament referee Brian Earley, who walked onto the court along with a Grand Slam supervisor. Williams told them the whole episode "is not fair," and said: "This has happened to me too many times."

"To lose a game for saying that is not fair," Williams said, and raised the idea that Ramos was being sexist: "There's a lot of men out here that have said a lot of things and because they are men, that doesn't happen."

It was the second Grand Slam final defeat in a row for Williams, after Wimbledon in July. She's appeared in only seven tournaments this season since returning to the tour after having a baby during last year's U.S. Open.

Williams asked what she'll tell her daughter, Olympia, about what happened Saturday.

"I'll tell her, first of all, if she sees it, that, you know, I stood up for what I believed in. I stood up for what was right," Williams replied. "Sometimes, things in life don't happen the way we want them, but always stay gracious and stay humble. I think that's the lesson we can all learn from this."

AP Sports Writers Dan Gelston and Brian Mahoney contributed to this report.

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

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 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."

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"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 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

Q&A: With severe storms approaching US, what to expect? By COLLIN BINKLEY, Associated Press

Emergency officials are urging residents to prepare for severe storms that are forecast to hit the East Coast and Hawaii over the next week at what is the peak of this year's hurricane season.

Coming in from the Atlantic Ocean, Tropical Storm Florence is expected to make landfall Thursday as a level 3 hurricane or greater, steered by winds that could guide it as far south as Florida or as far north as New England.

Meanwhile, Hurricane Olivia is forecast to hit the Hawaiian Islands as a tropical storm on Wednesday, bringing heavy rains just two weeks after Hurricane Lane caused major flooding.

A look at what forecasters are predicting for those storms and the rest of the season:

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT THE STORMS RIGHT NOW?

Tropical Storm Florence was gathering strength Saturday, with the National Hurricane Center expecting it to become a hurricane overnight. Five days out from expected landfall, there's still wide uncertainty about where it will hit and at what intensity, but the latest models show that it's most likely to make landfall in

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the southeast U.S., between northern Florida and North Carolina.

Still, there's a chance it could be pushed farther north and strike along the mid-Atlantic or New England coast, threatening to make landfall between Virginia and Massachusetts. No matter where it lands, there's a chance it could stall out and pummel the coasts for days.

The latest models on Saturday show that it's becoming less likely the storm will veer north and miss the mainland U.S. entirely. At minimum, residents along the East Coast are being told to expect heavy rainfall and storm surges, with the possibility of heavy winds.

Forecasters are also keeping an eye on two storms gathering behind Florence. Tropical Storm Helene was expected to reach the Cabo Verde islands on Saturday but is predicted to miss the mainland U.S. A tropical depression that was upgraded to Tropical Storm Isaac on Saturday is headed toward the Caribbean and brings a greater chance of curving north toward Puerto Rico and the mainland, potentially as a hurricane.

It's still uncertain whether Hurricane Olivia will make landfall in the Hawaiian Islands, but at minimum meteorologists believe it will come very close and deliver a new round of rainfall.

The National Weather Service has also issued a typhoon watch in the U.S. territory of Guam, where Tropical Storm Mangkhut is approaching from the east and is expected to bring damaging winds by Monday evening.

WHEN WILL WE HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHETHER THEY POSE A THREAT?

Each day brings a clearer picture of the risks posed by the storms. Jeff Masters, co-founder of the Weather Underground service, says airplanes gathering weather information began flying into Florence on Saturday, which should provide data that will lead to a major boost in the reliability of models on Sunday. Isaac's route is still wildly uncertain and will be for days. Forecasters are more confident that Olivia will affect Hawaii, with its path and intensity sharpening in the next few days.

WHAT FACTORS GIVE FLORENCE A CHANCE OF BEING A PARTICULARLY STRONG HURRICANE?

By the time it reaches the East Coast, Florence could strengthen into a major hurricane. Winds higher up in Florence have been weakening, giving it time to gather itself and gain strength over the ocean, experts say. And it's also approaching water where the temperature is slightly warmer than average, providing heat that the storm can convert into stronger winds.

HOW SHOULD PEOPLE IN AREAS VULNERABLE TO HURRICANES STAY PREPARED?

Residents in evacuation zones are urged to have a plan to flee if the order comes. Others should have at least a week's supply of food, water and medication for their families and their pets.

Brian McNoldy, a senior researcher at the University of Miami's school of marine and atmospheric science, says residents who stick it out should have gas cans to fuel their cars and power generators, and should take out some cash in case electronic payment systems are down after the storms pass.

To avoid a headache down the line, residents are also encouraged to keep insurance documents in a safe place ahead of time.

North Carolina's governor already issued a state of emergency on Friday as the storm advanced, while officials in other coastal states say they're monitoring forecasts.

WHAT EXPECTATIONS DO FORECASTERS HAVE FOR THE REST OF THE HURRICANE SEASON?

The second week of September is the peak of hurricane season, so the flurry of activity is no surprise to forecasters. After the current round of storms, though, long-range models suggest a lull for several weeks. Masters said there's a chance for another active period by mid-October, which would mark the end of the busiest stretch of the season.

"I don't think we're quite done yet," he said, "but certainly as far as September goes, this is the big week."

Collin Binkley can be reached at https://twitter.com/cbinkley

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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.

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

Bill Daily, sidekick on hit 60s and 70s sitcoms, dies at 91 By ANDREW DALTON, AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bill Daily, the comic sidekick to leading men on the sitcoms "I Dream of Jeannie" and "The Bob Newhart Show," has died, a family spokesman said Saturday.

Daily died of natural causes in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on Tuesday, at his home where he had been living with his son, J. Patrick Daily, spokesman Steve Moyer told The Associated Press.

Daily was not a household name but he was a household face, familiar to many millions of baby-boomer viewers in the 1960s and '70s from two of the era's biggest shows.

He played Major Roger Healy in all five seasons of "I Dream of Jeannie" from 1965 to 1970. Healy was the astronaut partner to Larry Hagman's Major Anthony Nelson as both men tried to contain the antics of Jeannie, the childlike blond bombshell who lived in a bottle played by Barbara Eden.

Eden said on Twitter Friday night that Daily was "Our favorite zany astronaut."

"Billy was wonderful to work with," Eden said. "He was a funny, sweet man that kept us all on our toes. I'm so thankful to have known and worked with that rascal."

Just two years later he landed a very similar role and had an even longer run on "The Bob Newhart Show," playing aviator Howard Borden behind Newhart's psychologist Dr. Bob Hartley for 140 episodes between 1972 and 1978.

Newhart, now 89, said in a statement Saturday that he and Daily had been friends since both were trying to break into comedy in Chicago in the 1950s, and Daily was a clutch comedian that could make anything work on the sitcom.

"I called him our bullpen man. Whenever we were having trouble with a script on the show, we'd have Bill make an appearance," Newhart said. "He was one of the most positive people I ever knew, and we'll dearly miss him."

Daily saved scenes instead of stealing them like other sidekicks of the era. He specialized in support, upping the comic moments of his co-stars — his Newhart character was, fittingly, a co-pilot — with a

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goofy warmth.

Actor James Urbaniak called him the "king of affable vulnerability" on Twitter Friday.

But like all co-stars on long-running shows, he got occasional episodes of his own, including one where he stole the role of Jeannie's master from Hagman.

Daily was born in Des Moines, Iowa, but raised in Chicago, which he always considered his hometown. He said he was always a class clown despite losing his father while still a child.

Before acting, he tried to make it in show business as a jazz bass player, playing in a combo called "Jack and the Beanstalks." Appearing in variety shows drew him into standup comedy and then acting.

He landed one-off roles on the oddball shows of the early 1960s like "My Mother the Car" and "Bewitched," which brought him to the attention of the creators of "I Dream of Jeannie."

He said his work at first was derivative — and not very good.

"I was doing Bob Hope and Bing Crosby," Daily said in a 2003 interview with the Archive of American Television. "I was terrible. I think I was funny, but I didn't know what I was doing."

After "Jeannie" he returned to guest-starring roles, including one on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show," before his old friend Newhart came seeking a sidekick.

On "The Bob Newhart Show," Daily's Howard Borden was the neighbor across the hall who always popped in looking to borrow or mooch something, like Kramer on "Seinfeld" two decades later.

He said the writers and his co-stars made the part a breeze.

"I just think the scripts were just written so beautifully," Daily said in the TV archive interview. "And Bob was a brilliant straight man, he'd just give you everything."

Daily later appeared on game shows and in reunion specials for his two shows, and in later years hung out with his co-stars on the nostalgia convention circuit.

In his last well-known role, he played a psychiatrist on the cult hit alien-puppet sitcom "Alf" from 1987 to 1989.

Daily was married three times. His third wife, Becky Daily, died in 2010 after 17 years of marriage.

He adopted two children, daughter Kimberly and son J. Patrick Daily. He had been living for several years in New Mexico with his son and son's wife Sharon.

At Bill Daily's request no funeral is planned. He just wanted his loved ones to have a party, which is tentatively planned for next year, the family said.

Follow Andrew Dalton on Twitter: https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton.

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 messaging 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.

And on Saturday, Syrian government and Russian warplanes targeted the province's southern edge in what activists described as the most intense airstrikes in weeks. More than 60 air raids killed at least four civilians in southern Idlib, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and rescue workers.

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

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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.

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

AP Top 25 Takeaways: Already looking ahead to Georgia-'Bama By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

Two weeks into the season and it is already tempting to ponder another Georgia-Alabama game in Atlanta with big stakes.

The loudest statements are made on the road and No. 3 Georgia made quite a racket on Saturday. The

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Bulldogs coasted past No. 24 South Carolina in a game that was supposed to represent the toughest test among East Division competition for the Bulldogs.

If that is the case, just pencil in Georgia for the SEC championship at Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Dec. 1. The Bulldogs have their annual rivalry game against No. 7 Auburn in November and that trip to Death Valley to face No. 11 LSU in mid-October could prove tricky. But if Saturday was any indication, Georgia has a gear that few will be able to match.

The Bulldogs come with waves of talent and speed everywhere. Receiver Mecole Hardman here. Running back D'Andre Swift there. Cornerback Deandre Baker returning a pick for six. Safety Richard LeCounte hitting everything.

Georgia's performance seemed even more impressive compared with how No. 2 Clemson had to fight and claw to win at Texas A&M . That's not a knock at the Tigers. They showed their championship mettle against a team that was making one remarkable play after another. Clemson has now won 23 of its last 28 one-possession games since 2011.

But when you make it look easy in hostile territory the way Georgia did, it is notable.

Any thought Georgia might take a step back — even just a small one — after its breakout 2017 should be dismissed. The Bulldogs, who lost the national championship game to the Tide last season, are looking more and more like what they strive to be: Alabama East.

While Georgia should cruise to an SEC East title, Alabama could have some work to do.

The SEC West has posted five nonconference victories against Power Five teams (two from the ACC, two from the Big 12 and one from the Pac-12) by a combined score of 178-84, including No. 18 Mississippi State running all over Kansas State . Add to that A&M giving Clemson all it could handle and the SEC West has been the best. Though Arkansas might get relegated .

FOOTBALL SCHOOLS

Kansas had not won a road games since 2009, losing 46 straight. Kentucky had not beaten Florida since 1986, losing 31 straight to its SEC East rival.

On the same day, those two basketball blue bloods got off the schneid.

Kansas thumped Central Michigan , giving some sign that things are getting better for the Jayhawks under fourth-year coach David Beaty. Don't expect many more Ws for Kansas this season, but Rutgers comes to Lawrence next weekend. Two in a row?

Kentucky's accomplishment was even more stunning because it came in Gainesville, where the Wildcats had not won since 1979. First-year coach Dan Mullen is not likely to lose the Gator faithful so quickly, but this one has to sting. Even Will Muschamp and Jim McElwain were able to keep the streak going against Kentucky.

The best two college football teams in Florida might be playing in the American Athletic Conference: UCF and USF.

HEISMAN TALK

Early Heisman Trophy hype can be fleeting at best. But the new starting quarterbacks for No. 4 Ohio State and No. 1 Alabama are putting up eye-popping numbers.

We are all familiar with Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa, national championship game hero and winner of the most interesting quarterback competition in the country.

Through two games Tagovailoa has thrown for 555 yards and six touchdowns in just 35 attempts (25 completions). That's 15.9 yard per attempt and a TD every six passes.

Ohio State's Dwayne Haskins has been equally ridiculous: 546 yards and nine touchdowns in 53 attempts (44 completions). That's 10.3 per attempt to go with a touchdown pass every six throws.

Alabama coach Nick Saban has never had a quarterback like Tagovailoa. Ohio State coach Urban Meyer has not had a quarterback like Haskins since he coached Alex Smith at Utah. It will be interesting to so how much the coaches allow for the quarterbacks to compile gaudy stats.

MISSING THE BIG EIGHT

The first game of the Scott Frost era at Nebraska was a loss, but, boy, was the Cornhuskers' game against former Big 12 (and Big Eight) rival Colorado fun .

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Huskers freshman quarterback Adrian Martinez was dynamic and turnover-prone before he was injured. Colorado receiver Laviska Shenault Jr. was spectacular, running for a touchdown and catching another.

Through almost two decades of mostly mediocre football, Nebraska fans have probably never left Memorial Stadium after a loss feeling so hopeful. The atmosphere seemed electric in a way it has not been in years. The day mixed both the promise of a better tomorrow and a cool sense of nostalgia. In the 1990s, Colorado and Nebraska games helped determine national championships.

It has been eight years since Nebraska left the Big 12 for the Big Ten, a move that has made all the sense in the world financially for the school. Colorado left the Big 12 for the Pac-12 right after Nebraska bolted. Complaining about the rivalries destroyed by conference realignment is not a productive way to spend time. There is no turning back the clock. But it was difficult to watch the Buffs and Huskers play for the first time since 2010 and not think that while everybody is making more money now, college football is less fun.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

UCLA's Chip Kelly, Arizona's Kevin Sumlin and Florida State's Willie Taggart are 1-5, the only victory coming from the Seminoles, who needed a fourth-quarter rally to beat FCS Samford ... Good day for the American Athletic Conference with Houston throttling Arizona , USF outlasting Georgia Tech and East Carolina trouncing North Carolina . No, there is no Power Six, but the American again looks to be the best of the non-Power Five conferences and victories like that can help when it comes time for the selection committee to pick the best Group of Five league champion. ... Kyler Murray accounted for five touchdowns for No. 6 Oklahoma against UCLA , but there was also bad news for the Sooners. Star RB Rodney Anderson, one of the more underrated players in the country, left with a knee injury. Anderson' versatility and power is huge for Lincoln Riley's offense ... Shea Patterson connected with two wide receivers for touchdowns in No. 21 Michigan's easy win against Western Michigan . So? Well, Michigan wide receivers had not caught a touchdown pass since last September.

Follow Ralph D. Russo at www.Twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP and listen at https://www.podcastone.com/AP-Top-25-College-Football-Podcast

More AP college football: https://apnews.com/tag/Collegefootball and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Nike's Kaepernick campaign signals change in shoe politics By JESSE J. HOLLAND, Associated Press

A pair of shoes are set aflame with a cigarette lighter, captured on video and shared widely online to protest a political statement made by the manufacturer.

The New Balance shoes were burned by their owners two years ago after a spokeswoman indicated the company's support for President Donald Trump's trade policies.

Nike now finds itself in a similar position on the other side of the political spectrum as some customers cut up its products or burn them because of the company's decision to make Colin Kaepernick the face of its "Just Do It" 30th anniversary campaign.

With the Kaepernick campaign , Nike is embracing activism and racial justice at a time when shoe companies can no longer avoid the nation's political division. After years of building billion-dollar brands around sports celebrities, shoe and apparel makers now find themselves flashpoints in the political, racial and cultural clashes surrounding the Trump administration.

Nike took this route as its biggest representatives — most notably LeBron James and Serena Williams — have spoken out about police shootings of African-American men and problems facing the black community.

Those same athletes are increasingly using their shoes as a form of expression. James' "Equality" Nike signature shoe was unveiled earlier this year, with the word emblazoned across the back of the shoes. Steph Curry has worn a Barack Obama-themed shoe.

NBA players in recent years have worn shoes with messages of "R.I.P. Trayvon Martin" and "Sideline Racism" and images of Ebenezer Baptist Church, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached. Such

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statements could become more common in the next season after the NBA relaxed the rules over the types of shoes players can wear.

"I stand with Nike, every day, all day," James said Tuesday at a Nike fashion show and awards ceremony in New York.

Trump has blasted the NFL for allowing players to follow Kaepernick's decision to kneel during the national anthem to protest police shootings of African-Americans. Now the president has turned against Nike, which is making the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback one of its main spokesmen.

"Nike is getting absolutely killed with anger and boycotts," Trump tweeted Wednesday .

Athletic apparel companies have straddled the entertainment and cultural worlds for years partly with their emulation of black culture — think Run-DMC's Adidas shoe deal in the wake of the group's rap hit "My Adidas" and Nike's "Air Jordan" campaigns featuring Michael Jordan and Spike Lee. This has created a billion-dollar industry and the cultural challenge of how to appeal to minority and youth communities as well as to the country's white, sometimes conservative, majority.

But the companies and major sports leagues have been careful not to stray into real politics, famously symbolized by Jordan, who reportedly said Republicans buy shoes, too. While Jordan and others in his era were thrilled to have lucrative shoe deals, the current generation is going farther by using their sneaker deals as a platform to promote social justice.

And with that shift, Nike is taking the side of its superstar athletes — even if it means alienating Trump supporters and intertwining shoes and politics.

Many companies "feel the need to align with players, because players help them move the product," said Michael Lewis, director of the Marketing Analytics Center at Emory University in Atlanta.

Clothing and shoe makers have always had a back-and-forth relationship with minority communities. Business boomed as black athletes became spokesmen and spokeswomen, but questions arose over how much the companies invested financially in black communities, compared with how much they made by exploiting African-American trends.

The relationship began in the 1980s, when Nike, Adidas, Reebok and Converse became staples of black fashion, and African-American youth sought to emulate the stars of the day, like Jordan, Run-DMC and other figures associated with the burgeoning hip-hop culture. Footwear came to symbolize status and street style. Sneakerheads lined up outside stores to get the newest shoes.

Companies "have made millions off of following trends from the black community, and so they have to be cognizant of the feelings of that community," said Antonio S. Williams, who teaches sports marketing at Indiana University. "It only takes one or two incidents for shoes to be pushed aside and declared uncool and left behind, so they are very aware of the cultural exchanges and trends going on in their base communities."

New Balance tried to steer clear of politics in 2016 after coming out in support of Trump's desire to remove the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. A company official said "things are going to move in the right direction" under a Trump presidency. Protesters took that as support for Trump and began burning New Balance shoes and posting videos. At least one white supremacist declared that New Balances were the shoes of "The Trump Revolution."

New Balance quickly released a statement saying the official's remark was taken out of context. The company insisted that it "does not tolerate bigotry or hate in any form" and "believes in humanity, integrity, community and mutual respect for people around the world."

Unlike New Balance, Nike doesn't seem to be backing down. Its two-minute commercial, highlighting Kaepernick, James, Serena Williams and others, aired Thursday during halftime of the NFL's season opener.

Nike has likely figured out that its core consumers — the people who regularly buy its sneakers and clothes — are probably the millennials and minority youth who already support Kaepernick or at least don't mind the stance he is taking, Antonio Williams said.

"Nike wants to be on the right side of history and the right side of its core consumers," he said.

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Twitter at http://www.twitter.com/jessejholland or on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/jessejholland . You can read his stories at AP at http://bit.ly/storiesbyjessejholland .

Today in HistoryBy The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 9, the 252nd day of 2018. There are 113 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 9, 1850, California became the 31st state of the union.

On this date:

In 1543, Mary Stuart was crowned Queen of Scots at Stirling Castle, nine months after she was born.

In 1776, the second Continental Congress made the term "United States" official, replacing "United Colonies."

In 1919, some 1,100 members of Boston's 1,500-man police force went on strike. (The strike was broken by Massachusetts Gov. Calvin Coolidge with replacement officers.)

In 1942, during World War II, a Japanese plane launched from a submarine off the Oregon coast dropped a pair of incendiary bombs in a failed attempt at igniting a massive forest fire; it was the first aerial bombing of the U.S. mainland by a foreign power.

In 1948, the People's Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) was declared.

In 1956, Elvis Presley made the first of three appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

In 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the first civil rights bill to pass Congress since Reconstruction, a measure primarily concerned with protecting voting rights and which also established a Civil Rights Division in the U.S. Department of Justice.

In 1971, prisoners seized control of the maximum-security Attica Correctional Facility near Buffalo, New York, beginning a siege that ended up claiming 43 lives.

In 1976, Communist Chinese leader Mao Zedong died in Beijing at age 82. JVC unveiled its new VHS videocassette recorder during a presentation in Tokyo.

In 1986, Frank Reed, director of a private school in Lebanon, was taken hostage; he was released 44 months later.

In 1991, boxer Mike Tyson was indicted in Indianapolis on a charge of raping Desiree Washington, a beauty pageant contestant. (Tyson was convicted and ended up serving three years of a six-year prison sentence.)

In 1997, Sinn Fein (shin fayn), the IRA's political ally, formally renounced violence as it took its place in talks on Northern Ireland's future. Actor Burgess Meredith died in Malibu, California, at age 89.

Ten years ago: President George W. Bush announced he would keep U.S. force strength in Iraq largely intact until the next administration, drawing rebukes from Democrats who wanted the war ended and a bigger boost of troops in troubled Afghanistan. Asif Ali Zardari (AH'-seef ah-LEE' zahr-DAH'-ree), the widower of assassinated former Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto, took office as Pakistan's president.

Five years ago: Four days of vehicular gridlock began near the George Washington Bridge when two of three approach lanes from Fort Lee, New Jersey, were blocked off; the traffic jam was later blamed on loyalists to New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie over the refusal of Fort Lee Mayor Mark Sokolich to endorse Christie for re-election. (Christie denied any prior knowledge of the lane closures.) Rafael Nadal won his 13th Grand Slam title and second at the U.S. Open by withstanding Novak Djokovic with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 victory.

One year ago: Hurricane Irma hammered Cuba with punishing winds and rain as it headed toward the Florida Keys and the southeastern United States; hundreds of shelters opened in Florida for people looking to escape the potentially deadly winds and storm surge. Dutch officials said Irma had damaged or destroyed 70 percent of the homes on St. Maarten in the Caribbean, leaving it vulnerable to the approach

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of Hurricane Jose. Sloane Stephens beat her close friend Madison Keys 6-3, 6-0 at the U.S. Open in the first Grand Slam final for both. Guillermo del Toro's "The Shape of Water" won the top prize at the Venice Film Festival.

Today's Birthdays: Actress Sylvia Miles is 84. Actor Topol is 83. Rhythm-and-blues singer Luther Simmons is 76. Singer Inez Foxx is 76. Singer Dee Dee Sharp is 73. Rock singer-musician Doug Ingle is 72. College Football Hall of Famer and former NFL player Joe Theismann is 69. Rock musician John McFee (The Doobie Brothers) is 68. Actor Tom Wopat is 67. Actress Angela Cartwright is 66. Musician-producer Dave Stewart is 66. Actor Hugh Grant is 58. Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., is 55. Actor-comedian Charles Esten (formerly Chip) is 53. Actress Constance Marie is 53. Actor David Bennent is 52. Actor Adam Sandler is 52. Rock singer Paul Durham (Black Lab) is 50. Actress Julia Sawalha is 50. Model Rachel Hunter is 49. Actor Eric Stonestreet is 47. Actor Henry Thomas is 47. Actor Goran Visnjic (VEEZ'-nihch) is 46. Pop-jazz singer Michael Buble' (boo-BLAY') is 43. Latin singer Maria Rita is 41. Actress Michelle Williams is 38. Actress Julie Gonzalo is 37. Neo-soul singer Paul Janeway (St. Paul & the Broken Bones) is 35. Actress Zoe Kazan is 35. Author-motivational speaker-businessman Farrah Gray is 34. Contemporary Christian singer Lauren Daigle is 27. Country singer-songwriter Hunter Hayes is 27.

Thought for Today: "To be happy with a man you must understand him a lot and love him a little. To be happy with a woman you must love her a lot and not try to understand her at all." — Helen Rowland, American writer, journalist and humorist (1876-1950).