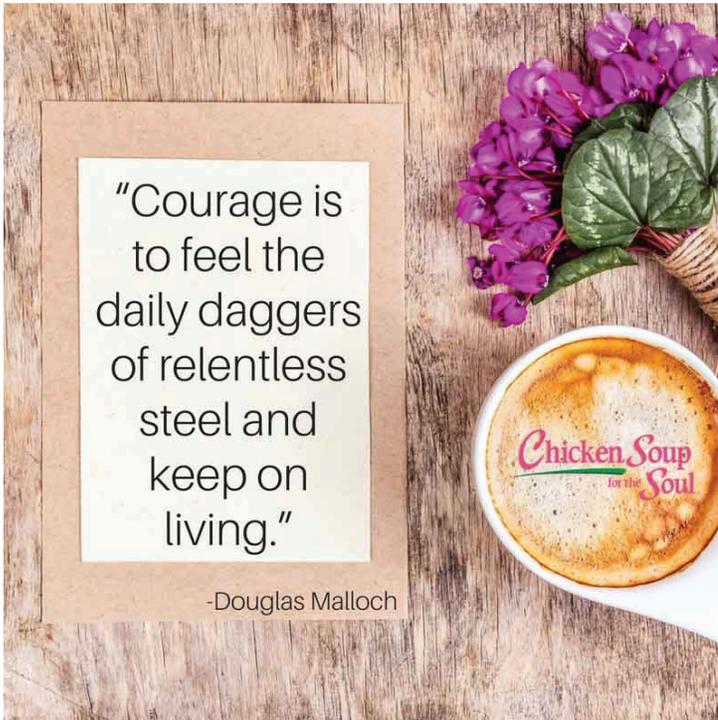


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Open: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located at 10 East Railroad Ave. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

Oven Fresh Sandwiches Hot Desserts Snack Melts

11 E Hwy 12, Groton ~ 397-8627

New **DO BAKES!** OVEN-HOT
DQ
Grill & Chill
Orange Julius

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

Olive Grove Men's League Championship and Banquet

Thursday, September 13, 2018

4:00pm: Cross Country: Varsity Meet vs. Aberdeen Roncalli @ Lee Park Golf Course

4:00pm: Football: Boys 7th Game vs. Aberdeen Central @ Groton Area High School

4:00pm: Volleyball: Girls 7th/8th Match vs. Sisseton @ Sisseton High School (7th Grade; 4:00 PM 8th Grade; 4:00 PM)

6:00pm: Volleyball: Girls Varsity Match vs. Sisseton @ Sisseton High School (C & JV matches start at 6pm)

Friday, September 14, 2018

7:00pm: Football: Boys Varsity Game vs. Chamberlain @ Chamberlain High School

Saturday, September 15, 2018

1:00pm: Soccer: Girls Varsity Match vs. Garretson @ Groton Area High School

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City water rates going up 9-14%

The Groton City Council gave first reading Monday evening to pass along the increase that WEB water will be accessing the city. In a letter to the city sent August 13, it states that the monthly minimum bill will increase from \$4,127.25 to \$4,445.06, a 9 percent increase. City residents will also see a 9 percent increase in their minimum bill going from \$24.50 per month to \$27.05. WEB will raise the city's usage rate by 14 percent, from \$2.70 per 1,000 gallons to \$3.15 per 1,000 gallons. City residents will also see a 14 percent increase in their usage. The city's minimum includes 2,000 gallons. The next 18,000 gallons will increase from \$4.25 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.96 per 1,000 gallons. Any water usage over 20,000 gallons will increase from \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons to \$4.38 per 1,000 gallons. If the second reading is approved at the next council meeting, it has to be published and will not become effective in time for the October bills, so city residents would see the increase in their November bill.

Two Groton Community Center doors will be equipped with new locking mechanisms. The south door and the west door will be retrofitted with a push paddle in the inside. This will allow patrons to exit through those doors without unlocking the door and the door closes, it will automatically lock. The cost will be \$909.13.

In other notes:

- Work has begun on the pool shelter. The fence and rock in the enclosed area on the east side has been removed.
- The Tampo Roller has been revalued at \$400 and has been declared surplus.
- The new backup generator at the Aspen Lift station has been installed.
- Bids will be sought for the airport land for another three years. The bid opening is set for September 24.
- The council thanked the Schaller family for the donation of 10 new bleachers to the city in memory of Orville Schaller. The bleachers are distributed at the pool, park and soccer field.
- The council authorized City Finance Officer Hope Block and one other finance officer to attend the quarterly NEFOG meeting in Aberdeen on September 13, and to attend the SDML 85th Annual Conference October 2-5 in Pierre

BATES TOWNSHIP WEED NOTICE

OWNERS & TENANTS of Bates Township are hereby notified and required, according to law, to cut all weeds and grass in road ditches adjacent to their property or tenanted by them within Bates township on or before October 1, 2018 or same will be hired done by the township board and assessed property taxes at the rate of \$300 per half mile.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors reminds all landowners and tenants that the road right-of-way extends 33 feet from the center of the township road. This ditch is to be maintained and mowed. Any crops planted in the road right-of-way will be mowed and charged to the landowner. Landowner is responsible for spraying all noxious weeds.

Bates Township Board of Supervisors

Betty Geist

Township Clerk

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GHS Homecoming Royalty

Coronation will be on Monday, September 24 at 7:30 in the high school gym.

Front Row left: Jennie Doeden, Portia Kettering, Payton Maine, Emily Thompson, Taylor Holm

Back Row left: Micah Poor, Clark Gibbs, Wyatt Locke, Treyton Diegel, Tylan Glover (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Area beats Moberidge-Pollock in volleyball action

Groton's volleyball team is now 9-1 on the season with a 3-0 win over Moberidge-Pollock Tuesday in Moberidge. Game scores were 25-19, 25-20 and 25-5.

In serving, Groton Area was 67 of 71 with 10 ace serves. Payton Maine was 27 of 29 with four ace serves. Kaylin Kucker had 18 assists and Miranda Hanson had eight in sets. Groton Area was 75 of 90 in attacks with 36 kills. Eliza Wanner was 18 of 23 with nine kills and Jennie Doeden was 18 of 22 with 10 kills.

Doeden had all four of Groton's blocks and Maine had 12 and Doeden six of the team's 34 digs.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 16-25, 25-23 and 15-11.

Groton Area travels to Sisseton on Thursday.

Traphagen has lowest back nine score at Redfield

Two Groton Area golfers were medalists at the Redfield Invitational held Tuesday. Cade Guthmiller placed ninth with a score of 86, shooting a 42 in the front nine and a 44 in the back nine. Tristen Traphagen shot a 48 in the front nine and a 39 in the back nine (the lowest score in the field for the back nine) for a total score of 87. Hunter Kassube shot a 52 and 44 for a total of 96 and Lucas Simon shot a 55 and a 53 for a total of 108.

Groton Coffee Cup League

Team Standings: James Valley 7, Biker Chix 6, Kens 2, Ten Pins 1

High Scores: Vickie Kramp 173; Joyce Walter 165, 160, 149; Mary Jane Jark 142

High Series: Joyce Walter 474, Vickie Kramp 419, Mary Jane Jark 397

Conde National League

Team Standings: Cubs 3, Tigers 3, Mets 2, Pirates 2, Braves 1, Giants 1.

Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 203, John Lowery 202, Russ Bethke 190.

Men's High Series: Butch Farmen 542, John Lowery 487, Russ Bethke 482.

Women's High Games: Vickie Kramp 187, 170, 169; Alice Severson 180; Nancy Radke 165.

Women's High Series: Vickie Kramp 526, Joyce Walter 440, Alice Severson 438.

Volleyball makes quick work of MSU Moorhead in midweek win

Aberdeen, S.D. – The No. 2 Northern State University volleyball team returned home on Tuesday evening, recording a 3-set sweep of MSU Moorhead from Wachs Arena. The Wolves took down the Dragons 25-12, 25-10, and 25-15, improving to 11-0 on the year and 3-0 in the NSIC.

NSU combined for a match high 40 kills, 51 digs, eight aces, and six blocks, hitting a match high .565 in the second set. They finished the contest with a .297 attack percentage, while holding MSU Moorhead to a .000 mark. The Dragons recorded just 18 kills and suffered 18 hitting errors in the loss.

Sally Gaul and Hailey Busch led the team with nine kills each, while Laura Snyder and Jenna Reiff each grabbed eight. Morgan Baufield added six kills, and hit a team high .600 in the match with zero attack errors. She was followed by Snyder hitting at a .467 clip.

Ashley Rozell dished out 35 total assists, and led the team for the seventh time this season with five service aces. The junior added six digs and one block. Bry Goar and Lexi Boesl led the Wolves defense with 13 and ten digs respectively, while Jaiden Langlie notched eight. Baufield, Reiff, and Snyder combined for nine of the team's 12 block assists, notching three apiece.

Busch tallied two blocks of her own, followed by Rozell with one. Langlie and Boesl combined for the final three service aces, while Busch added seven digs and scored a team high 10.0 points.

Northern will remain at home this weekend with a pair of matches versus Bemidji State and Minnesota Crookston. First serve is schedule for 6 p.m. on Friday against the Beavers and 3 p.m. on Saturday versus the Golden Eagles. Fans are encouraged to wear gold on Friday for the Gold Rush contest, while Saturday is tabbed as Youth Night with all kids receiving free admission with a paid adult. A kid zone will also be open through the first two sets of the match.

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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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Today in Weather History

September 12, 1931: On this day in 1931, near record or record heat came to an end across central and northeast South Dakota as well as west central Minnesota. From September 9th through the 12th, many record highs were set at Aberdeen, Kennebec, Mobridge, Timber Lake, Watertown, and Wheaton. High temperatures during this four-day period ranged from 95 degrees to 109 degrees. Aberdeen rose to 107 degrees on the 10th, Kennebec rose to 109 on the 9th, Mobridge rose to 105 on the 9th, Timber Lake's high was 106 on the 9th, Watertown rose to 104 on the 10th, and Wheaton rose to 108 degrees on the 10th.

1950: A hailstorm struck southern parts of Oklahoma City on this day. The storm damaged about 4,000 homes, 300 businesses, and 750 cars, resulting in a loss estimated at \$987,000.

1961: Super Typhoon Nancy was an incredibly powerful tropical cyclone of the 1961 Pacific typhoon season. The system had possibly the strongest winds ever measured in a tropical cyclone and caused extensive damage and at least 173 deaths and thousands of injuries in Japan and elsewhere. A reconnaissance aircraft flying into the typhoon near its peak intensity on September 12 determined Nancy's one-minute sustained winds to be 215 mph. If these values are reliable, they would be the highest wind speeds ever measured in a tropical cyclone. However, it was later determined that measurements and estimations of wind speeds from the 1940s to 1960s were excessive. Thus, Nancy's winds may be lower than its official best-track value.

1999: Hurricane Floyd, a Category 4 storm with top winds of 145 mph, was making residents along the U.S. East Coast very nervous as it steamed steadily westward. Floyd was once forecast to strike Florida but turned away. Instead, Floyd hit the Bahamas at peak strength, causing heavy damage. It then paralleled the East Coast of the United States, causing massive evacuations and costly preparations from Florida through the Mid-Atlantic States.

1882 - Hot and dry winds caused tree foliage in eastern Kansas to wither and crumble. (David Ludlum)

1977 - Thunderstorms deluged the Kansas City area with torrential rains in the early morning hours, and then again that evening. Some places were deluged with more than six inches of rain twice that day, with up to 18 inches of rain reported at Independence MO. Flooding claimed the lives of 25 persons. The Country Club Plaza area was hardest hit. 2000 vehicles had to be towed following the storm, 150 of which had to be pulled out of Brush Creek, which runs through the Plaza area. (The Kansas City Weather Almanac)

1979 - Hurricane Frederick smashed into the Mobile Bay area of Alabama packing 132 mph winds. Winds gusts to 145 mph were reported as the eye of the hurricane moved over Dauphin Island AL, just west of Mobile. Frederick produced a fifteen foot storm surge near the mouth of Mobile Bay. The hurricane was the costliest in U.S. history causing 2.3 billion dollars damage. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Showers and thunderstorms produced heavy rain which caused flooding in North Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Parts of Virginia received 3 to 4 inches of rain in just two hours early in the day. Later in the day, three to five inch rains deluged Cumberland County of south central Pennsylvania. Evening thunderstorms produced seven inches of rain at Marysville PA, most of which fell in three hours time. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - An afternoon tornado spawned a tornado which skipped across northern sections of Indianapolis IN damaging roofs and automobiles. It was the first tornado in central Indiana in September in nearly forty years of records. Hurricane Gilbert plowed across the island of Jamaica, and by the end of the day was headed for the Cayman Islands, packing winds of 125 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Snow whitened the mountains and foothills of northeastern Colorado, with eight inches reported at Buckhorn Mountain, west of Fort Collins. Two to three inches fell around Denver, causing great havoc during the evening rush hour. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Southern Plains Region between mid afternoon and early the next morning. Thunderstorms produced hail three inches in diameter at Roswell NM, and wind gusts greater than 98 mph at Henryetta OK. Thunderstorms also produced torrential rains, with more than seven inches at Scotland TX, and more than six inches at Yukon OK. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today



Mostly Sunny
then Sunny
and Breezy

High: 89 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear
and Breezy

Low: 66 °F

Thursday



Mostly Sunny

High: 85 °F

Thursday
Night



Partly Cloudy

Low: 62 °F

Friday



Mostly Sunny

High: 79 °F

Warm+Windy

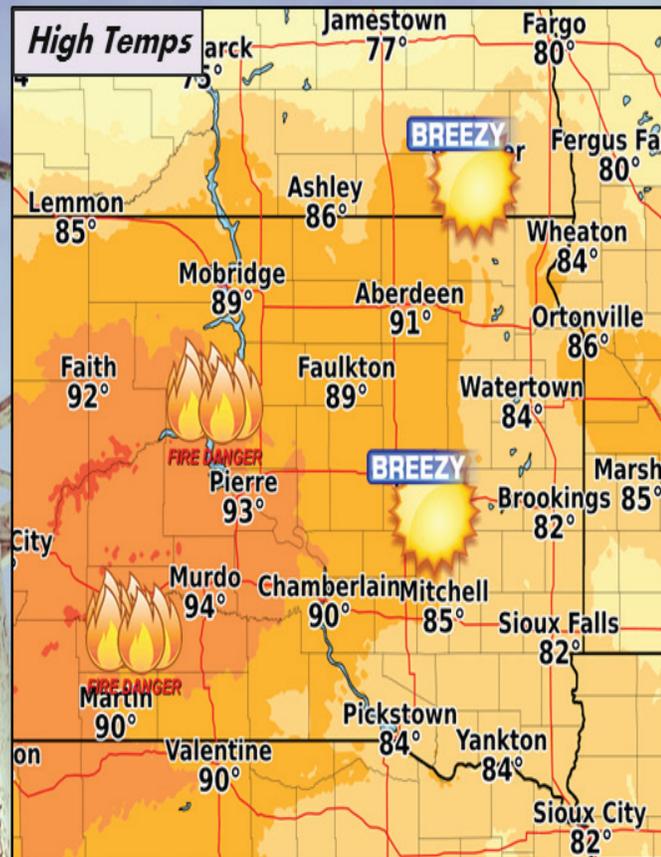
Wed, Sept 12th

Much above average temps,
dry today

Wind gusts of 30-40 mph
and relative humidity of 30-
40 percent will lead to **very
high fire danger** across
portions of central South
Dakota

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Updated: 9/12/2018 6:12 AM Central



Published on: 09/12/2018 at 6:16AM

More heat, wind and sunshine today will lead to fire weather concerns across central South Dakota. The area stays largely dry and warm through the weekend.

Groton Daily Independent

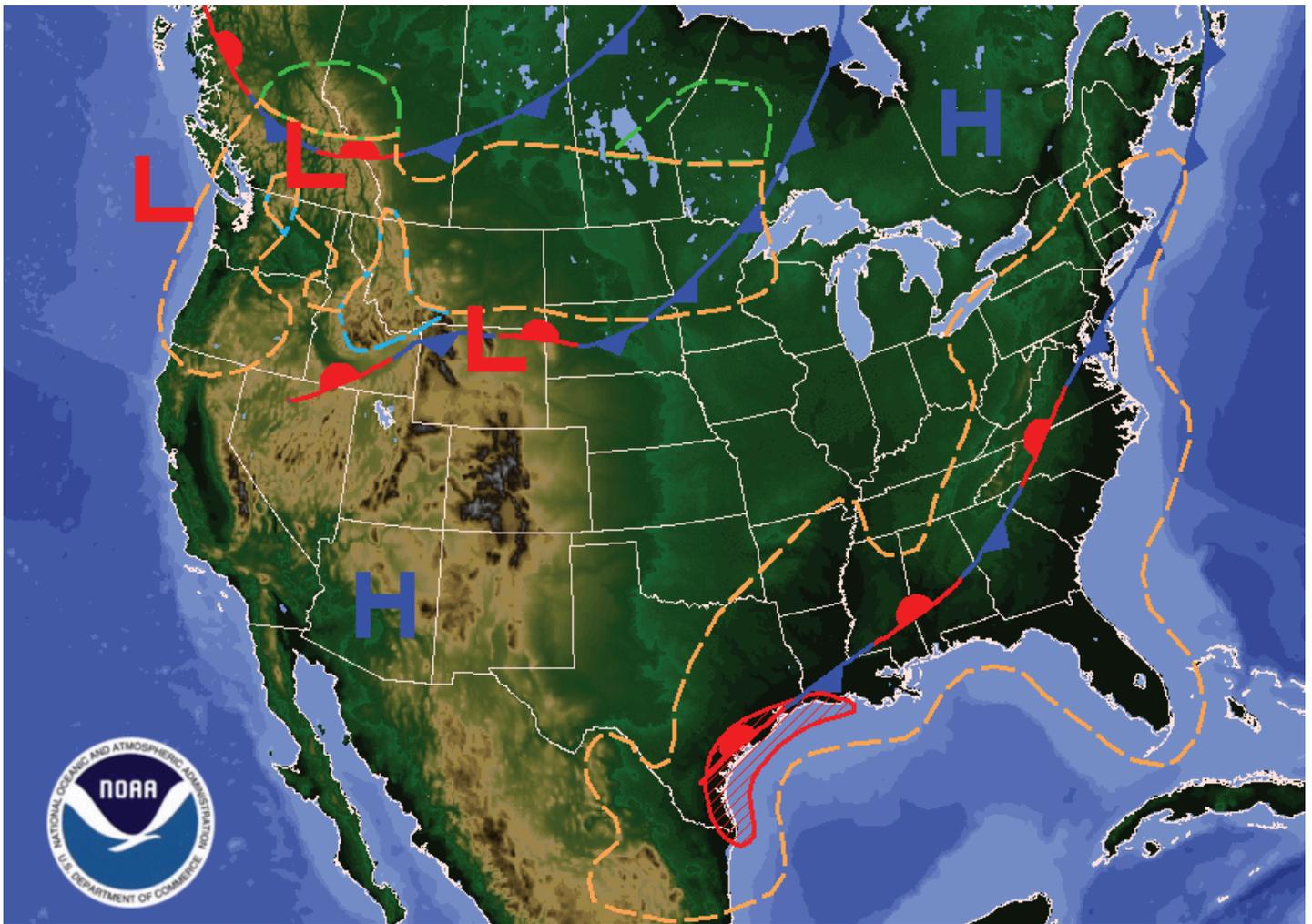
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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 91.6 F at 5:17 PM
Low Outside Temp: 65.1 F at 6:02 AM
High Gust: 33.0 Mph at 11:56 AM
Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 100° in 1927
Record Low: 28° in 1940
Average High: 74°F
Average Low: 48°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.75
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.10
Average Precip to date: 17.04
Precip Year to Date: 11.36
Sunset Tonight: 7:52 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:09 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Wed, Sep 12, 2018, issued 4:45 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

Rain	Flash Flooding Possible (hatched)
Rain and T'Storms	Severe T'Storms Possible (hatched)
Rain and Snow	Freezing Rain Possible (hatched)
Snow	Heavy Snow Possible (hatched)

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LEARNING TO DO GOD'S WILL

Little eight-year-old Betsy knelt beside her bed with her mother to say her night time prayer. I've had a good day today, God. I hope You've planned another good one for me for tomorrow.

Does God have a special plan for each little girl, an old man, and a young lady? A plan for each of us? Really?

Before construction workers begin working on the foundation of a building, an architect has drawn elaborate plans that describe every little detail of the building. The same is true of building a ship, planting fields of grain or laying out the route for a highway. First the plan then the product. It is inconceivable that God would have no plan for us - the crowning achievement of His creation.

Even a superficial reading of the Bible reveals that all of the men and women of the Bible were guided by God's plan for their lives. He had a plan for each of them, and He has a plan for each of us, as well.

Perhaps, the question is not whether or not He has a plan for us, but whether or not we even want His plan for our lives. Many try to outsmart God with their plans and end up as failures.

David prayed, Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground. He believed that God had a plan for his life. He also knew that his willingness to follow it was much like the relationship between a teacher and student. He had to be taught to follow that plan. Quite often students have to go through a time of testing before they get the answers correct. But in the end, a passing grade is worth it all.

Prayer: Lord, may we accept the plan You have designed for each of us and follow it willingly each day of our lives! In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 143:10 Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

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

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

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News from the Associated Press

Tuesday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Hamlin, 25-13, 25-20, 25-23
Alcester-Hudson def. Centerville, 25-19, 25-9, 25-13
Andes Central/Dakota Christian def. Scotland, 23-25, 21-25, 25-17, 25-14, 15-10
Arlington def. Milbank Area, 25-18, 25-10, 26-24
Beresford def. Tri-Valley, 25-23, 25-20, 16-25, 25-17
Bon Homme def. Tripp-Delmont/Armour, 28-26, 25-16, 19-25, 25-22
Brandon Valley def. Harrisburg, 25-22, 25-19, 25-22
Canistota def. Hanson, 22-25, 25-17, 25-15, 25-21
Chamberlain def. Todd County, 28-26, 22-25, 25-18, 25-17
Chester def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 25-11, 25-18, 25-19
Clark/Willow Lake def. Florence/Henry, 25-15, 25-17, 29-27
Corsica/Stickney def. Parkston, 25-20, 25-21, 25-23
Crow Creek def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 21-25, 25-21, 25-23, 25-22
Dakota Valley def. Yankton, 25-16, 25-17, 18-25, 25-19
Dell Rapids def. Canton, 25-16, 25-8, 25-23
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Flandreau Indian, 25-10, 25-7, 25-4
DeSmet def. Sioux Valley, 27-25, 25-22, 13-25, 25-20
Deubrook def. Colman-Egan, 25-15, 25-19, 25-8
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Lennox, 25-20, 25-18, 25-22
Faith def. Herreid/Selby Area, 25-11, 25-16, 23-25, 25-20
Faulkton def. Leola/Frederick, 25-21, 25-14, 25-18
Freeman def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-21, 25-20, 28-26
Groton Area def. Mobridge-Pollock, 25-19, 25-20, 25-5
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-22, 28-26, 17-25, 25-16
Irene-Wakonda def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-22, 25-16, 25-23
Kadoka Area def. New Underwood, 25-22, 25-19, 25-17
Kimball/White Lake def. Mt. Vernon/Plankinton, 25-20, 14-25, 26-24, 25-27, 15-10
Langford def. Eureka/Bowdle, 25-13, 25-15, 25-20
Lemmon def. Mott-Regent, N.D., 25-18, 25-20, 25-17
Madison def. Vermillion, 25-22, 25-15, 25-20
Menno def. Howard, 25-10, 25-16, 25-20
Miller def. Northwestern, 20-25, 23-25, 25-20, 25-19, 16-14
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Iroquois, 23-25, 25-12, 27-25, 25-17
Parker def. Tea Area, 25-19, 25-10, 25-18
Platte-Geddes def. Colome, 25-13, 25-19, 25-27, 25-22
Potter County def. Highmore-Harrold, 23-25, 25-9, 25-23, 25-12
Rapid City Stevens def. Sturgis, 25-8, 25-6, 25-14
Red Cloud def. Oelrichs, 25-13, 25-21, 26-24
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Wessington Springs, 25-21, 25-14, 14-25, 25-15
Sioux Falls Christian def. McCook Central/Montrose, 25-23, 17-25, 25-20, 25-15
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Brookings, 23-25, 15-25, 25-9, 25-18, 15-8
Sioux Falls Washington def. Sioux Falls Lincoln, 25-22, 25-19, 25-14
Spearfish def. Lead-Deadwood, 18-25, 25-18, 25-12, 25-16

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St. Thomas More def. Custer, 25-19, 25-10, 25-20
Sully Buttes def. Edmunds Central, 22-25, 26-24, 25-22, 25-17
Wagner def. Avon, 27-25, 21-25, 25-17, 25-8
Wakpala def. Takini, 25-10, 25-18, 25-19
Wall def. Dupree, 25-19, 24-26, 25-18, 26-24
Warner def. Ipswich, 25-8, 25-11, 25-21
Watertown def. Aberdeen Central, 26-24, 25-18, 25-14
Wheaton/Herman-Norcross, Minn. def. Sisseton, 25-13, 25-21, 20-25, 25-13
White River def. Jones County, 25-22, 25-18, 27-25
Wilmot def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-18, 25-17, 25-16
Wolsey-Wessington def. Mitchell Christian, 25-17, 25-17, 25-19

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press

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

Mega Millions

15-30-51-62-67, Mega Ball: 19, Megaplier: 2

(fifteen, thirty, fifty-one, sixty-two, sixty-seven; Mega Ball: nineteen; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$207 million

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$132 million

Woman charged with manslaughter in boyfriend hit-run death

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Authorities have upgraded charges against a Sioux Falls woman after her boyfriend died from falling off the hood of her car after an argument.

Sioux Falls police spokesman Sam Clemens says 43-year-old Jayme Kae Knudson is now charged with manslaughter. The Argus Leader reports her original charge of aggravated assault has been dismissed, but an additional charge of felony hit-and-run still stands.

Knudson is accused of leaving her boyfriend injured in the street after he fell off the hood of her car as she began to drive away. A passer-by later found 46-year-old Erik Ray Lunstra in the road on Saturday night.

Lunstra died Monday. His family initially invoked Marsy's Law and chose not to name him, but Clemens says the family later changed their minds and wanted him identified.

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

Panel endorses bills for online sales tax special session

By JAMES NORD, Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota would start collecting sales taxes from many out-of-state internet retailers this fall under a bill the Legislature's budget-writing committee endorsed Tuesday ahead of this week's special legislative session to implement a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that cleared the way for the changes.

Lawmakers gather Wednesday at the Capitol for the special session to consider Gov. Dennis Daugaard's legislation, which would allow the collections to start Nov. 1. A second bill the panel recommended would require marketplaces that handle payments such as eBay to collect sales taxes for sellers on their platforms.

"After working with the Department of Revenue and consulting with legislative leaders, I am proposing two bills that will allow the state of South Dakota to benefit from the national tax fairness victory that we

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led," Daugaard said in an earlier statement announcing the measures.

It was a South Dakota case that led to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in June to overturn two decades-old high court decisions that have made it tougher for states to collect sales taxes for certain purchases online. But even after the victory, South Dakota hasn't been able to enforce its online sales tax requirement because of an injunction in place under state law.

That injunction would be lifted under the proposal allowing the state to start collecting the sales taxes, with the companies involved in the state's case exempted as court proceedings continue.

Members of the Legislature's Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations convened Tuesday to discuss the legislation, endorsing the first unanimously and the second on a 15-3 vote. Republican Sen. Deb Peters urged support of the measure allowing the taxes to be collected, called Senate Bill 1, saying it's time to "get moving and going forward."

"Senate Bill 1 is ... 'Hooray we won, oh my gosh, now what do we do?'" Peters said.

The sales tax obligation applies to sellers outside the state who do more than \$100,000 of business in South Dakota or more than 200 transactions annually with state residents under a law passed in 2016.

South Dakota has estimated it loses about \$50 million annually to e-commerce. But any future sales tax windfall isn't likely to result in major new state spending, because current state law aims to give gains from the new collections back to taxpayers.

The governor has said the special session won't address a provision in state law that requires a 2016 sales tax hike for teacher pay be scaled back if the state is able to collect tax on the online purchases. Under the law, the state's 4.5 percent rate is to be rolled back by one-tenth of a percent for every additional \$20 million the state reaps, with a floor of 4 percent.

Decisions on changing or maintaining that law will fall to a new governor and set of state lawmakers after Daugaard leaves office in January 2019.

Lawmakers at this week's special session are also set to debate an unrelated third bill on the timing of the new governor's inauguration in January. The proceedings will include an address from Daugaard to legislators during the joint session.

The state's last special session was held in 2017 to create rules governing the use of lakes on private land for recreation.

Former VA secretary Shulkin joins Sanford Health

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Former U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin is joining Sanford Health as chief innovation officer.

The Dakotas-based Sanford announced Shulkin's appointment Tuesday. In a statement, Sanford says Shulkin will serve as the health care system's top administrator in innovation.

Sanford president and CEO Kelby Krabbenhoft calls Shulkin "one of the most talented health care leaders in the country."

Shulkin was fired as VA secretary by President Donald Trump earlier this year amid ethics charges and internal rebellion at the department over the role of private care for veterans. Shulkin said he was undone by advocates of privatization within the Trump administration.

At Sanford, Shulkin will be a director on the Sanford International Board. He will serve as an ambassador for Sanford on many of the system's domestic and international projects.

South Dakota hospital gets 2 months to address problems

ROSEBUD, S.D. (AP) — A South Dakota hospital on a Native American reservation is no longer in immediate jeopardy of losing key federal funding, but must resolve several shortcomings.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in a letter Friday gave the Rosebud Indian Health Service hospital until Nov. 5 to improve in six areas, including infection control, anesthesia services, quality assurance and performance management, The Argus Leader reported. The hospital has 10 days to assemble plans of correction.

The facility was placed on jeopardy status last month after federal inspectors found it failed to give patients appropriate medical care or ensure their safety.

The hospital maintained its ability to bill Medicare and Medicaid by fixing some deficiencies found in a July inspection, but a follow-up review identified additional issues.

One incident cited involved a drunken 12-year-old girl who tried to hang herself while left alone. The report found that the patient was not properly triaged and should have had a monitor throughout her visit. It also found that there was a faulty call button in her room.

Another incident involved a 35-year-old man who was hallucinating while on methamphetamine and died of a heart attack in the emergency room after being pepper-sprayed and restrained.

The problems come more than two years after the hospital was cited for similar shortcomings, which resulted in the closing of the facility's surgical and obstetrics and gynecology departments. The hospital's emergency room also closed for seven months to address problems, but has since reopened.

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

South Dakota man takes plea deal in fatal Nebraska ATV crash

HARTINGTON, Neb. (AP) — A South Dakota man accused of drinking alcohol before the fatal crash of an all-terrain vehicle has made a plea deal with Nebraska prosecutors.

Cedar County District Court records say 26-year-old Derrik Nelson pleaded no contest Monday to vehicular homicide and false reporting. Prosecutors dropped manslaughter and other charges in exchange. Sentencing is scheduled for Dec. 10.

The records say Nelson was driving the ATV after drinking for several hours before the June 2017 crash near Fordyce that killed his passenger, Jessi Anderson, a South Dakota State University student.

Prosecutors also dropped an accessory charge filed against Nelson's father, J. Douglas Nelson. Prosecutors had accused him of dismantling the ATV to hide evidence. He'd said he was merely repairing damage he'd noticed.

The two men live in Yankton, South Dakota.

Bomb squad called to remove grenade from restaurant

GARY, S.D. (AP) — The bomb squad was called to a restaurant in Gary after workers doing some remodeling work discovered a hand grenade.

The Deuel County Sheriff's Office says the grenade was found Monday at The Alibi. An employee removed the grenade from the premises before calling authorities.

The Argus Leader says deputies secured the area and called the Division of Criminal Investigation's bomb unit to dispose of the grenade. The sheriff's office says authorities were uncertain if the grenade would explode, but treated it as if it would. Officials say the grenade is estimated to be at least 40 years old.

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

Ex-jailer remains free on escape conspiracy charge

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — A former Lawrence County jailer accused of conspiring with an inmate to plan his escape remains free on bond.

Twenty-three-year old Koreena Schultes made an appearance in court Monday on a felony charge of conspiracy to commit escape. She made bail set by a judge ahead of a Sept. 20 arraignment.

A conviction carries a maximum five years in prison. KELO-TV reports the inmate with whom Schultes allegedly conspired, 24-year-old Tyler Statler, is also charged with the same felony. Statler has been in jail on a drug charge. He remains behind bars in Deadwood and never left the jail.

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

“Monster” Hurricane Florence aims to drench Carolinas

By JONATHAN DREW, Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — Coastal residents fleeing a potentially devastating blow from Hurricane Florence encountered empty gasoline pumps and depleted store shelves as the monster storm neared the Carolina coast with 140 mph (225 kph) winds and drenching rain that could last for days.

While some said they planned to stay put despite hurricane watches and warnings that include the homes of more than 5.4 million people on the East Coast, many weren't taking any chances.

Steady streams of vehicles full of people and belongings flowed inland Tuesday as Gov. Roy Cooper tried to convince everyone on North Carolina's coast to flee.

“The waves and the wind this storm may bring is nothing like you've ever seen. Even if you've ridden out storms before, this one is different. Don't bet your life on riding out a monster,” he said.

Forecasters said Florence was expected to blow ashore late Thursday or early Friday, then slow down and dump a torrential 1 to 2½ feet (0.3 to 0.6 meters) of rain. Flooding well inland could wreak environmental havoc by washing over industrial waste sites and hog farms. Up to a foot is predicted in places in the Appalachian mountains. “This rainfall would produce catastrophic flash flooding and significant river flooding,” forecasters said Wednesday.

President Donald Trump declared states of emergency for North and South Carolina and Virginia, opening the way for federal aid. He said the federal government is “absolutely, totally prepared” for Florence.

All three states ordered mass evacuations along the coast. But getting out of harm's way has proved difficult.

American and Southwest Airlines were among the carriers canceling flights to and from the hurricane zone starting Wednesday. Charleston International Airport in South Carolina tweeted that it expected to close runways by midnight Wednesday.

Michelle Stober loaded up valuables on Tuesday at her home on Wrightsville Beach to drive back to her primary residence in Cary, North Carolina. Finding fuel for the journey was tough.

“This morning I drove around for an hour looking for gas in Cary. Everyone was sold out,” she said.

Florence is so wide that a life-threatening storm surge was being pushed 300 miles (485 kilometers) ahead of its eye, and so wet that a swath from South Carolina to Ohio and Pennsylvania could get deluged.

People across the region rushed to buy bottled water and other supplies, board up their homes, pull their boats out of the water and get out of town.

Long lines formed at service stations, and some started running out of gas as far west as Raleigh, with bright yellow bags, signs or rags placed over the pumps to show they were out of order. Some store shelves were picked clean.

“There's no water. There's no juices. There's no canned goods,” Kristin Harrington said as she shopped at a Walmart in Wilmington.

People weren't the only ones evacuating. Eight dogs and 18 cats from a shelter in Norfolk, Virginia, were sent to two shelters in Washington to make room for pets expected to be displaced by the hurricane. Wild horses on the barrier islands were expected to survive.

At 5 a.m., the storm was centered 575 miles (925 kilometers) southeast of Cape Fear, North Carolina, moving at 17 mph (28 kph). It was a potentially catastrophic Category 4 storm but was expected to keep drawing energy from the warm water and intensify to near Category 5, which means winds of 157 mph (253 kph) or higher.

Florence is the most dangerous of three tropical systems in the Atlantic. Tropical Storm Isaac was east of the Lesser Antilles and expected to pass south of Puerto Rico, Hispaniola and Cuba, while Hurricane Helene was moving northward away from land. Forecasters also were tracking two other disturbances.

The coastal surge from Florence could leave the eastern tip of North Carolina under more than 9 feet (2.75 meters) of water in spots, projections showed. The Navy, Air Force and Army were moving ships and aircraft out of harm's way. Thousands of Marines and their families evacuated from Camp Lejeune,

leaving the rest to dig in ahead of what could be a direct hit.

"This one really scares me," National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said.

Federal officials begged residents to put together emergency kits and have a plan on where to go.

"This storm is going to knock out power days into weeks. It's going to destroy infrastructure. It's going to destroy homes," said Jeff Byard, an official at the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Forecasters said parts of North Carolina could get 20 inches (50 centimeters) of rain, if not more, with as much as 10 inches (25 centimeters) elsewhere in the state and in Virginia, parts of Maryland and Washington, D.C.

One trusted computer model, the European simulation, predicted more than 45 inches (115 centimeters) in parts of North Carolina. A year ago, people would have laughed off such a forecast, but the European model was accurate in predicting 60 inches (150 centimeters) for Hurricane Harvey in the Houston area, so "you start to wonder what these models know that we don't," University of Miami hurricane expert Brian McNoldy said.

Rain measured in feet is "looking likely," he said.

Florence's projected path includes half a dozen nuclear power plants, pits holding coal-ash and other industrial waste, and numerous hog farms that store animal waste in huge lagoons.

Duke Energy spokesman Ryan Mosier said operators would begin shutting down nuclear plants at least two hours before hurricane-force winds arrive.

North Carolina's governor issued what he called a first-of-its-kind mandatory evacuation order for all of North Carolina's fragile barrier islands. Typically, local governments in the state make the call on evacuations.

"We've seen nor'easters and we've seen hurricanes before," Cooper said, "but this one is different."

Despite all that, 65-year-old Liz Browning Fox plans to ride the storm out in the Outer Banks village of Buxton, North Carolina, despite a mandatory evacuation order. Her 88-year-old mother refused to evacuate and will stay with her.

"Everyone who is staying here is either a real old-timer, someone who doesn't know where would be better, or someone involved in emergency operations one way or another," said Fox.

Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein in Washington; Jennifer Kay in Miami; Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina; Jeffrey Collins in Latta, South Carolina; Meg Kinnard in Columbia, South Carolina; Jeff Martin and Jay Reeves in Atlanta; and Tamara Lush in St. Petersburg, Florida, contributed to this report.

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes> .

East Coast military bases brace for Florence

By SARAH RANKIN, Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — The Navy is moving people and ships ahead of Hurricane Florence , and the Air Force and Army are both flying advanced aircraft elsewhere as a safeguard. Some remaining Marines, meanwhile, are digging in their heels.

Florence is headed for a region with some of the most well-known military bases in the country, including Camp Lejeune in North Carolina, Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot on Parris Island in South Carolina.

While thousands of Marines and their families have already left Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, North Carolina, the commanding general said Tuesday that anyone remaining at the base would have food, water and protection despite being in the projected path of the storm.

"Since 1941, this base and its Marines have been postured to deal with crises at home and abroad and Hurricane Florence is no exception," said a message from Brig. Gen. Julian D. Alford.

Some military families and others took to Camp Lejeune's Facebook page, venting fears and questioning why there was no mandatory evacuation.

Nonessential personnel were released from duty at Lejeune and told they were free to relocate with

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their families to a site within a 500-mile (800-kilometer) radius of Jacksonville.

Nat Fahy, a spokesman for the command, said the base was the safest place for anyone who had not evacuated already. Shelters on the base are expected to open early Wednesday, he said, and there will be a full complement of resources for those sheltering in place.

Of the roughly 40,000 active duty troops at Lejeune, about three-quarters live off the base. Fahy did not know yet how many remained at the base.

Recruits were set to leave the Marine Corps' largest training installation on the East Coast Tuesday, but those plans changed after South Carolina's governor rescinded an evacuation order as the storm's projected path shifted northward.

Some non-essential personnel and families evacuated, but the bulk of the more than 8,000 Marines and support staff at Parris Island remain on the base.

At Fort Bragg, an inland Army base in North Carolina, officials told The Fayetteville Observer the majority of the 82nd Airborne Division's helicopter fleet was being evacuated to one of two sites in Georgia.

In Virginia, Navy officials on Tuesday issued an emergency evacuation order for active duty and civilian personnel, their families and reservists living in certain coastal areas for which the state had also ordered an evacuation.

The move came after the Navy began sending dozens of its Virginia-based ships out to sea a day earlier. According to the Navy, the final two ships — the hospital ship USNS Comfort and the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln — sailed out of Naval Station Norfolk on Tuesday. More than 30 ships have now moved to safer waters in the Atlantic Ocean.

The U.S. Air Force and the Air National Guard also moved jets from Virginia's coast to Ohio.

Officials from Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton said the base's F-22 Raptors and T-38 Talon training jets would begin flying out Tuesday for Rickenbacker Air National Guard Base in central Ohio.

About 100 personnel were to travel to Ohio to support the jets.

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes> .

New Hampshire to make history with nominees in House race

By **HOLLY RAMER, Associated Press**

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — New Hampshire is set to elect either its first black member of Congress or first openly gay representative.

Eddie Edwards, an African-American former police chief backed by the Trump administration, won the Republican nomination Tuesday in the state's toss-up congressional district. He will face Chris Pappas, an establishment-backed Democrat, in November.

In the governor's race, former state Sen. Molly Kelly defeated former Portsmouth Mayor Steve Marchand and will face Republican Gov. Chris Sununu, who faced no primary opposition.

Edwards, who was endorsed by Trump attorney Rudy Giuliani, defeated six Republican opponents in the 1st Congressional District, which covers the eastern half of the state. A Navy veteran who also served as enforcement chief for the state liquor commission, Edwards is the second African-American to be nominated to a U.S. House seat in New Hampshire.

The district, which covers the eastern half of the state, was once reliably Republican but has flipped in each of the past four cycles. In 2016, it returned Democrat Carol Shea-Porter to Congress but backed President Donald Trump.

Shea-Porter's decision to step down after four nonconsecutive terms resulted in a swarm of candidates seeking to replace her, including Levi Sanders, son of Vermont senator and former presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders. He came up far short Tuesday in an 11-way race won by Pappas, a restaurateur who would be New Hampshire's first openly gay member of Congress.

Former Obama administration official Maura Sullivan raised more money than the 10 other candidates combined, but she faced criticism for being both new to the state and voting in general, having just moved

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to New Hampshire last year and acknowledging she failed to vote in several recent elections.

Pappas is a former state lawmaker who is serving his third term on the governor's Executive Council and runs a family restaurant in Manchester. He had the backing of the state's two Democratic U.S. senators, and said he was proud that most of the money he raised came from within the state.

Pappas told supporters Tuesday evening his campaign will be about decency, unity and progress. He described meeting an LGBTQ student in Manchester who said she was unsure of her place in the community.

"She needs a role model and a champion, too, and I hope this historic victory tonight has some small impact in making her understand this fact: You, too, are welcome here, and regardless of who you are or who you love, the sky's the limit," he said.

Edwards had sought to make the race about character, and said he'd refuse to support his rival, state Sen. Andy Sanborn, as the nominee after he was accused of sexual harassment at the Statehouse.

"People demand change in Washington," Edwards said. "They yearn for honesty, integrity, and leadership. They want to vote for someone who has served our country and understands the honor that comes with that responsibility."

Kelly, the Democratic nominee for governor, said the party's strong turnout should send a message to Sununu that voters want someone who will put the people first, not corporate special interests. A five-term senator from Harrisville, she frequently emphasized her experience as a single mother who raised three children while putting herself through college.

"The people of New Hampshire know that I will fight for them every single day because I understand their struggles," she said in a statement Tuesday night. "Chris Sununu should not underestimate me. I've been underestimated before."

Stewart Levenson, a whistleblower doctor who had flagged abuses at the state's veterans hospital, conceded victory early Wednesday to Republican rival Steven Negrón, a state lawmaker, in a hard-fought primary to face Democratic U.S. Rep. Annie Kuster in the 2nd Congressional District. Kuster, too, faced no opposition in the primary.

Accustomed to going first in the presidential primary, New Hampshire voters were among the nation's last to nominate candidates for November, providing one of the final measures of the country's mood before the midterm election.

Rhode Island holds its primary on Wednesday, and New York follows a day later.

Dallas police respond to shooting with proactive approach

By DAVID WARREN, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police swiftly admitted that a white officer who shot a black man in his own apartment last week had made a mistake. They expressed contrition, turned the case over to independent investigators and reached out to the victim's family.

That proactive approach appeared to tamp down anger in the community in the first few days after the killing on Sept. 6. There have been protests but not large-scale unrest since the death of Botham Jean, a native of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia who went to a Christian university in Arkansas and worked in Dallas for accounting firm PwC.

The killing by officer Amber Guyger — who told officers she believed the victim's apartment was her own — could have led to an "explosive situation" on the streets, said Frederick Haynes, pastor of a Baptist church in Dallas and vice president of the African-American Pastors Coalition.

Haynes praised the actions of Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall, who has been in her job only a year.

"She has gone out of her way to communicate not only to the family but also to community leaders," he said, "and as a consequence that has helped keep calm."

Killings of black men in recent years have prompted protests and sometimes violence in cities from Ferguson, Missouri, to Chicago and Baltimore. Police departments across the country have scrutinized how others have reacted to learn how to manage in such times of crisis.

University of Texas-Dallas criminologist and professor John Worrall said Dallas police officials have taken

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steps to keep their work and data open to the public.

"As big departments go throughout the country, I've been really surprised at how open they've been with their data," Worrall said Tuesday.

The shooting of Jean happened about 10 p.m. Thursday. Within seven hours, police released a statement that the officer erred by entering Jean's apartment. Hall then held a press conference early Friday afternoon during which she acknowledged that "there are more questions than we have answers," but also said authorities wanted to arrest Guyger for manslaughter. She said the officer's blood was drawn at the scene to be tested for alcohol and drugs, and that the Texas Rangers would conduct an independent investigation. She added that she had spoken to Jean's sister to express condolences to the family.

Police released Guyger's name on Saturday after local media began reporting it, and she was charged with manslaughter Sunday. By Monday, four days after the shooting, Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson gathered at a news conference with members of Jean's family. "My commitment is that there's always going to be equal justice in this county," Johnson told reporters. She said a grand jury would hear the case and could decide on more serious charges.

Mayor Mike Rawlings also quickly reached out to community leaders about the killing of Jean.

Not everyone is pleased with the response in Dallas. Lee Merritt, an attorney for the Jean family, said Guyger should have been arrested the night of the shooting and she should have left the apartment complex in handcuffs. Guyger was free until her arrest on Sunday. She posted bond and was released.

Alex Piquero, professor of criminology at the University of Texas at Dallas, said investigations can be a lengthy, laborious process that may not bring an immediate arrest.

"Whether they charge the person five minutes after it happened, five hours or five days, the outcome is still the same, the charge happened," Piquero told The Associated Press.

The balance between police and the community is a delicate matter in Dallas, where five police officers were killed in 2016 by a gunman who was seeking revenge for police shootings elsewhere that killed or wounded black men. The shootings of the officers galvanized support for law enforcement.

Dallas County also prosecuted former Balch Springs officer Roy Oliver, who was sentenced last month to 15 years in prison in the shooting death of a black teenager. Oliver, a white officer who responded to a house party last year, fired into a car filled with teens including 15-year-old Jordan Edwards. Oliver had said he feared the car was moving toward and endangering his partner, prompting him to fire. Edwards, who was in the front passenger seat, was shot.

Haynes, the Dallas pastor, said the Oliver case was an important step to instilling the notion that there's equal justice in Dallas County, but he remains cautious.

"I do believe we're finally moving in a positive direction."

Associated Press writer Jamie Stengle in Dallas contributed to this report.

Follow David Warren on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WarrenJourno>

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Bigger, pricier iPhone expected at Apple event Wednesday

By MICHAEL LIEDTKE, AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Apple is expected to showcase three new iPhones on Wednesday, including its biggest and most expensive model yet, as the company seeks to widen the product's appeal amid slowing sales growth.

Most of the buzz is swirling around a rumored iPhone that is supposed to boast a 6.5-inch OLED screen, up from 5.8 inches on the existing iPhone X. OLED is a step up from traditional LCD technology in offering

a display without a backlight, so black is truly black rather than simply dark.

If the speculation pans out, the even-bigger iPhone would represent Apple's attempt to feed consumers' appetite for increasingly bigger screens as they rely on smartphones to watch and record video, as well as take photos wherever they are.

The iPhone X, a dramatically redesigned model released last fall, got rid of the home button and introduced facial-recognition technology to unlock the device. It was the first mass-market smartphone to demand a \$1,000 starting price. Although the iPhone X didn't fulfill analysts' lofty sales expectations, it fared well enough for Apple to up the ante with the bigger model, whose price is expected to unveil Wednesday.

Apple also is expected to release an iPhone with minor updates to last year's \$1,000 model and another version made of cheaper materials, including a 6.1-inch LCD screen. Even so, the cheaper iPhone is still expected to sell for \$650 to \$750. The cheaper phone also is expected to lose the home button. Price cuts for older models, with the home button, are also likely.

Names for the new devices aren't known. The company may also announce a new smartwatch. Apple didn't comment ahead of Wednesday's event, which is being held at its Cupertino, California, headquarters.

By making more expensive iPhones, Apple has been able to boost its profits despite waning demand as people upgrade phones less frequently. iPhones fetched an average price of \$724 during the April-June period, a nearly 20 percent increase from a year earlier.

Worldwide smartphone sales grew just 2 percent during that period, according to the research firm Gartner Inc. During the second quarter, which is typically slow for Apple, China's Huawei Technologies surpassed Apple as the second-largest seller of smartphones, based on Gartner's calculations. Samsung remained in the lead.

Elizabeth Smart upset 1 of her kidnappers to be freed early

By BRADY McCOMBS, Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A woman convicted of helping a former street preacher kidnap Elizabeth Smart in 2002 will be freed from prison more than five years earlier than expected, a surprise decision that Smart called "incomprehensible" on Tuesday.

Wanda Barzee, 72, will be released Sept. 19 after the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole determined it had miscalculated the time she was required to serve in prison, board spokesman Greg Johnson said.

Barzee pleaded guilty to kidnapping Smart and helping keep her captive for nine months before the then-teenager was found and rescued.

Smart, now 30, said in a statement she was "surprised and disappointed" to learn that Barzee will be freed next week. She said she's exploring her options and plans to speak publicly in the coming days.

"It is incomprehensible how someone who has not cooperated with her mental health evaluations or risk assessments and someone who did not show up to her own parole hearing can be released into our community," Smart said.

The board said previously that Barzee would be released in January 2024 after it denied her an early parole following a hearing that she chose not to attend. At that June hearing, the board said Barzee had refused to take a psychological exam.

At the same hearing, her attorney questioned the calculation of her release date. Lawyer Scott Williams said Tuesday he appreciates that the board reviewed it and agreed with his assessment.

Williams said he's not concerned about Barzee being a danger to the community, but declined to say why. Williams has said Barzee has been diagnosed with several mental illnesses.

Smart's abduction from her Salt Lake City bedroom at knifepoint by a man who came in through an open kitchen window triggered waves of fear around the country.

Smart was found while walking with Barzee and Mitchell on a street in the suburb of Sandy, Utah, by people who recognized the couple from media reports.

Mitchell is serving a life sentence after being convicted of kidnapping and raping Smart. He and Barzee were married at one point.

Barzee has been in custody for a total of 15 years from the time she was arrested in March 2003. She was convicted of both state and federal crimes. She was transferred to the Utah state prison in April 2016 after finishing a federal sentence in Texas.

Smart, now married with two children, has written a book about the ordeal and helped make a Lifetime movie and documentary. She is now a child safety activist who regularly gives speeches.

She said in her statement she appreciates the support she's receiving and vowed to work to address the issue of Barzee's release so the same thing doesn't happen again.

Barzee will be under federal supervision for five years.

Trump says response to Puerto Rico storm 'underappreciated'

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and LAURIE KELLMAN, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Wednesday the government is ready for massive Hurricane Florence and insisted that his administration's response to the devastation in Puerto Rico last year was an "underappreciated great job."

In a series of morning tweets as Florence bore down on the Southeast U.S. coast, Trump bristled over criticism of the response to Hurricane Maria, in which 3,000 people died in Puerto Rico.

"We got A Pluses for our recent hurricane work in Texas and Florida (and did an unappreciated great job in Puerto Rico, even though an inaccessible island with very poor electricity and a totally incompetent Mayor of San Juan). We are ready for the big one that is coming!" Trump tweeted.

His next dispatch warned people about Florence, predicted to dump massive amounts of rain on the already-soggy Southeast later this week.

"Hurricane Florence is looking even bigger than anticipated. It will be arriving soon. FEMA, First Responders and Law Enforcement are supplied and ready. Be safe!"

The administration's efforts in Puerto Rico received widespread criticism, and he battled with Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz. But after visiting the island last September, Trump said that Puerto Ricans were fortunate that the storm did not yield a catastrophe akin to the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Katrina along the Gulf Coast.

All told, about 1,800 people died in that 2005 storm. Puerto Rico's governor last month raised the U.S. territory's official death toll from Hurricane Maria from 64 to 2,975. The storm is also estimated to have caused \$100 billion in damage.

A day earlier, the president praised the response to the series of storms. "I think Puerto Rico was an incredible, unsung success."

The governor of Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rossello, seized on Trump's use of the word "successful" and said in a statement issued later Tuesday: "No relationship between a colony and the federal government can ever be called 'successful' because Puerto Ricans lack certain inalienable rights enjoyed by our fellow Americans in the states."

Rossello called Hurricane Maria "the worst natural disaster in our modern history" and said work still remained before they could move on to other stages of recovery. He also said he was still waiting for Trump to respond to a petition to help Puerto Rico complete work on emergency housing restoration programs and debris removal.

Trump, having long struggled to express empathy at times of national crises, sparked outrage when during his visit to the island he feuded with the mayor of San Juan and passed out paper towels to victims like he was shooting baskets.

While defending the handling of the previous storm, he urged caution in regards to the new one bearing down on North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

"The safety of American people is my absolute highest priority," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "We are sparing no expense. We are totally prepared. We are ready. We are ready as anybody has ever been."

The president, flanked by maps of the storm and the heads of the Department of Homeland Security

and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said Florence was unlikely to change course before it is expected to make landfall with 130 mph winds and potentially ruinous rains in the coming days.

"They haven't seen anything like what's coming at us in 25, 30 years, maybe ever," Trump said of the states in the storm's path. "It's tremendously big and tremendously wet. Tremendous amount of water."

Florence was expected to blow ashore late Thursday or early Friday, then slow down and wring itself out for days, unloading 1 to 2½ feet (0.3 to 0.8 meters) of rain that could cause flooding well inland and wreak environmental havoc by washing over industrial waste sites and hog farms. North and South Carolina and Virginia ordered mass evacuations along the coast.

Associated Press writer Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

Follow Kellman and Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/APLaurie> Kellman and <http://twitter.com/JonLemire>

'Not a pretty sight': Hurricane Florence has experts worried

By **SETH BORENSTEIN, AP Science Writer**

WASHINGTON (AP) — To whip up a monstrous storm like the one chugging for the Carolinas you need a handful of ingredients — and Florence has them all.

Warmer than normal sea temperatures to add energy and rain to a storm. Check.

A wind pattern that allows a storm to get strong and stay strong. Check.

Higher sea levels to make a storm surge worse. Check.

A storm covering enormous area, to drench and lash more people. Check.

And an unusual combination of other weather systems that are likely to stall Florence when it hits the Carolinas, allowing it to sit for days and dump huge amounts of rain. Check.

"The longer it stays, the more wind, the more rain. That means the more trees that could fall, the more power outages," National Hurricane Center Director Ken Graham said.

"This one really scares me," Graham said. "It's one of those situations where you're going to get heavy rain, catastrophic, life-threatening storm surge, and also the winds."

The National Hurricane Center Tuesday afternoon increased its rainfall forecast to 15 to 25 inches of rain and 35 inches in isolated spots. But a computer simulation known as the European model predicts some places could get 45 inches. Sound unlikely? It's the same model that accurately predicted that last year's Hurricane Harvey, which also stalled over land, would drop 60 inches.

"It does look a bit similar to Harvey in a sense that it goes roaring into shore and then comes to a screeching stop," said MIT meteorology professor and hurricane expert Kerry Emanuel. "This is not a pretty sight."

Florence is unusual in that it is aiming at the Carolinas from the east. Usually storms come to the Carolinas and mid-Atlantic from the south — and those usually curve safely out to sea.

But a weather formation known as a high-pressure ridge is parked over the U.S. East coast, preventing Florence from doing the normal turn, said University of Miami hurricane expert Brian McNoldy.

After Florence makes landfall, that ridge, now over Washington and New York, will move east — but be replaced by another one forming over the Great Lakes that will likely keep the storm stuck, McNoldy said.

Florence's path remains uncertain. It may move a little north into Virginia or a little south into South Carolina. But it's such a large storm that the rain will keep coming down in the region no matter where it wanders. And with the Appalachian Mountains to the west, there could be flooding and mudslides, experts worry.

Florence's large size — tropical storm force winds extend 170 miles from the center in all directions — means its fury will arrive long before the center of the storm comes ashore, Graham said.

Some of Florence's behavior, both what has been seen so far and what experts expect, show the influence of climate change.

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Its expected sluggishness is becoming more common, possibly a result of climate change, said National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration climate scientist and hurricane expert Jim Kossin.

The ocean waters that Florence is travelling over are about 2.7 degrees (1.5 degrees Celsius) warmer than normal, McNoldy said. Even normal water is warm enough for a storm to form there, but this adds to the storm's fuel and its rainfall. The air is holding 10 percent more water that can be dumped as rain.

And the storm surge, which could be as much as 12 feet in some areas, will be on top of sea level rise from climate change. For example, the seas off of Wilmington, North Carolina have risen 7.5 inches since 1935, according to NOAA.

Jennifer N. Kay contributed to this report from Miami.

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes> .

Brazil's da Silva names successor, but will voters follow?

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and PETER PRENGAMAN, Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — In a letter from his jail cell, former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva called on tens of millions of supporters to vote for the man he named to lead his Workers' Party ticket in October's presidential election.

"I want everyone who would vote for me to vote for Fernando Haddad for president of Brazil," da Silva, who Brazilians universally call Lula, said on Tuesday, the deadline for the party to pick another candidate after da Silva's candidacy was barred. "From now on he will be Lula for millions of Brazilians."

While long anticipated, the formal designation of Haddad both settled one question and launched another: Will da Silva's supporters actually listen?

The two men are close in their political views and said to be friends, but for many voters in Latin America's largest nation they are also very different.

While da Silva is easily the country's most recognizable politician after being president between 2003 and 2010, Haddad is largely unknown outside of Sao Paulo, where he was governor four years, a liability in a nation slightly larger than the continental U.S. While da Silva is charismatic and has an every-man touch, Haddad is a political science professor turned education minister who comes off as professorial. He also got trounced in his re-election bid as mayor in 2016, raising questions about how well he is at winning over voters.

Haddad, 55, also only begins his campaign in earnest on Wednesday, less than four weeks before voters go to the polls.

Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper university, believes the strength of the party and da Silva's endorsement will be enough to help Haddad get to a second round of voting. If no candidate gets more than 50 percent on Oct. 7, as expected, the top two finishers will meet in an Oct. 28 runoff.

"He was introduced as the candidate very late, we have to see if there is time for him to get all the votes he needs," Melo said.

Before running for mayor in 2012, Haddad served as education minister under da Silva and his predecessor, President Dilma Rousseff.

He was confirmed as the replacement to da Silva on Tuesday after a meeting of his party's executive committee in the southern city of Curitiba, where the former president is jailed for a corruption conviction. He will be joined on the ticket by Manuela D'Avila, a member of Brazil's Communist Party.

Recent polls show Haddad with less than 10 percent of voter intentions, but the party hopes he will now rise with da Silva's endorsement. The current poll leader is far-right congressman Jair Bolsonaro.

A Datafolha poll published on Monday shows Haddad in fourth place, favored by 9 percent support. That

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was a rise of 5 percentage points in just a few weeks, but still behind Bolsonaro's 24 percent, left-leaning Ciro Gomes' 13 percent, centrist Marina Silva's 11 percent and right-leaning Geraldo Alckmin's 10 percent.

The poll had a margin of error of 2 percentage points. All the 2,804 voters sampled were interviewed on Monday, days after da Silva's candidacy was barred by the electoral court and Bolsonaro was stabbed in an incident that might put him in hospital until election day.

The move to put Haddad on the top of the ticket was an acknowledgement that the left-leaning party could not get da Silva on the ballot despite numerous attempts in the courts.

One of the last appeals of the former president was denied by Brazil's top court after Haddad was announced as his replacement.

Haddad met with da Silva after the decision, then delivered his first speech as the candidate in front the federal police building where da Silva is jailed.

"I feel the pain of many Brazilians who won't be able to vote for who they want," he said, standing next to D'Avila and other Workers' Party heavyweights. "But now is not the time to have your head down."

Da Silva is serving a 12-year sentence for trading favors with construction company Grupo OAS for the promise of a beachfront apartment. The former president has always denied wrongdoing, arguing this case and several others pending against him are meant to keep him off the ballot.

Da Silva led polls for more than a year, but his candidacy was recently barred by the country's top electoral court.

The strategy of holding on to da Silva's candidacy until the last minute caused much internal fighting within the party. Many believed that leaving Haddad so little time to present his case to voters was risky, while others thought it was best to keep da Silva front and center as long as possible.

Since the beginning of the year the Workers' Party hinted Haddad could be the candidate. When he was named candidate for vice president in mid-August the choice became obvious.

"Haddad and I are like Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez," da Silva once said, referring to superstar teammates on FC Barcelona's soccer club. "We play together and we don't even need to look at each other to know what the other is doing."

Florence could flood hog manure pits, coal ash dumps

By MICHAEL BIESECKER, Associated Press

Hurricane Florence's heavy rains could cause an environmental disaster in North Carolina, where waste from hog manure pits, coal ash dumps and other industrial sites could wash into homes and threaten drinking water supplies.

Computer models predict more than 3 feet of rain in the eastern part of the state, a fertile low-lying plain veined by brackish rivers with a propensity for escaping their banks. Longtime locals don't have to strain their imaginations to foresee what rain like that can do. It's happened before.

In September 1999, Hurricane Floyd came ashore near Cape Fear as a Category 2 storm that dumped about 2 feet of water on a region already soaked days earlier by Hurricane Dennis. The result was the worst natural disaster in state history, a flood that killed dozens of people and left whole towns underwater, their residents stranded on rooftops.

The bloated carcasses of hundreds of thousands of hogs, chickens and other drowned livestock bobbed in a nose-stinging soup of fecal matter, pesticides, fertilizer and gasoline so toxic that fish flopped helplessly on the surface to escape it. Rescue workers smeared Vick's Vapo-Rub under their noses to try to numb their senses against the stench.

Florence is forecast to make landfall in the same region as a much stronger storm.

"This one is pretty scary," said Jamie Kruse, director of the Center for Natural Hazards Research at East Carolina University. "The environmental impacts will be from concentrated animal feeding operations and coal ash pits. Until the system gets flushed out, there's going to be a lot of junk in the water."

North Carolina has roughly 2,100 industrial-scale pork farms containing more than 9 million hogs — typically housed in long metal sheds with grated floors designed to allow the animals' urine and feces to fall

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through and flow into nearby open-air pits containing millions of gallons of untreated sewage.

During Floyd, dozens of these lagoons either breached or were overtopped by floodwaters, spilling the contents. State taxpayers ended up buying out and closing 43 farms located in floodplains.

To prepare for Florence, the North Carolina Pork Council says its members have pumped down lagoon levels to absorb at least 2 feet of rain. Low-lying farms have been moving their hogs to higher ground.

"Our farmers and others in the pork industry are working together to take precautions that will protect our farms, our animals and our environment," said Brandon Warren, the pork council's president and a hog farmer. "The preparations for a hurricane began long before the past few hours or days. Our farmers take hurricane threats extremely seriously."

The Environmental Protection Agency said Tuesday that it would be monitoring nine toxic waste cleanup sites near the Carolinas coast for potential flooding. More than a dozen such Superfund sites in and around Houston flooded last year in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, with spills of potentially hazardous materials reported at two.

Also of concern are more than two dozen massive coal ash pits operated by Duke Energy, the state's primary electricity provider. The gray ash that remains after coal is burned contains potentially harmful amounts of mercury, arsenic and lead.

Since power plants need vast amounts of water to generate steam, their unlined waste pits are located along lakes and rivers. Some of the pits were inundated during past storms, including during Floyd and Hurricane Matthew in 2016.

After a 2014 spill at a Duke plant coated 70 miles of the Dan River in toxic gray sludge, state regulators forced the Charlotte-based company to begin phasing out its coal ash pits by 2029. Because that work was already underway, wastewater levels inside the ash ponds have been falling, Duke Energy spokesman Bill Norton said Tuesday.

"We're more prepared than ever," said Norton, adding that crews will be monitoring water levels at the pits throughout the storm.

The company is also preparing for potential shutdown of nuclear reactors at least two hours before the arrival of hurricane-force winds. Duke operates 11 reactors at six sites in the Carolinas, including the Brunswick Nuclear Plant located south of Wilmington near the mouth of the Cape Fear River.

The Brunswick plant's two reactors are of the same design as those in Fukushima, Japan, that exploded and leaked radiation following a 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Following that disaster, federal regulators required all U.S. nuclear plants to perform upgrades to better withstand earthquakes and flooding.

Duke Energy did not respond to requests for information about specific changes made at Brunswick, other than to say emergency generators and pumps will remove stormwater at the plant if it floods. The company issued assurances this week that it is ready for Florence, which is predicted to pack winds of up to 140 miles per hour and a 13-foot storm surge.

"They were safe then. They are even safer now," said Kathryn Green, a Duke spokeswoman, referring to the post-Fukushima improvements. "We have backups for backups for backups."

Associated Press writers Seth Borenstein in Washington and Alex Derosier in Raleigh, North Carolina, contributed to this report.

Follow AP investigative reporter Michael Biesecker at <http://twitter.com/mbieseck> .

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes> .

CBS exec's downfall shows the power _ and limits _ of #MeToo

By ALEXANDRA OLSON, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Is Les Moonves' departure from CBS a breakthrough for the #MeToo movement? While he is the most powerful CEO brought down yet by sexual misconduct allegations over the past

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year, CBS is facing criticism for not pushing him out sooner, for thanking him in its announcement and for offering him a potential \$120 million in severance.

Others say his downfall still serves as a warning that even the most powerful bosses cannot hide. And some prominent activists cautiously welcomed the announcement that CBS plans to make a \$20 million donation to organizations that support #MeToo.

"I think a lot of people will wrestle with this. On one hand, it will show awareness and acknowledgment of fault. On the other hand, is a donation enough in terms of reparations? Can decades of abuse be repaired and forgiven?" said Amanda Nguyen, founder and CEO of Rise, a nonprofit organization that promotes the rights of victims of sexual violence.

"Additionally, Mr. Moonves is still potentially walking away with nearly \$120 million. This is still placing more value on a man who abused his position of power than on the survivors fighting for justice and systemic changes."

Moonves was among the most highly paid executives in the nation, making a total of nearly \$140 million over the last two years. Whether he sees any severance money hinges on the outcome of an investigation being led by outside lawyers hired by CBS. Moonves has denied any wrongdoing.

CBS said he will not get the money if the board of directors determines he was dismissed for cause. That decision may not come for months. But #MeToo activists have made it clear that CBS will be judged on the transparency of that investigation.

Time's Up, a movement against sexual harassment created by Hollywood celebrities last year, wrote an open letter demanding that the entirety of Moonves' severance be given to organizations dedicated to gender equality.

Time's Up, which has raised more than \$22 million since January for a legal fund for victims of sexual misconduct, also called for "long-term structural changes from top to bottom."

"It's not simply an issue of sexual harassment. It's an issue of a toxic workplace culture," said Tina Tchen, leader of the Time's Up Legal Defense Fund and head of the workplace cultural compliance practice at Buckley Sandler, a Washington-based law firm.

"So often, the normal response is to conduct an investigation and deal with the alleged perpetrator and you think you are done," said Tchen, a former chief of staff to former first lady Michelle Obama.

CBS has not said who will receive the \$20 million donation but that Moonves himself is involved in the decision.

His departure was announced Sunday, hours after The New Yorker published the second of two stories detailing allegations from about two dozen women, including forced oral sex, groping and retaliation if they resisted him.

In announcing Moonves' departure, CBS thanked him for his 24 years of service and achievements. Pending the results of the investigation, CBS said Moonves will stay on as an adviser to ensure a smooth transition, receiving security and office services. And it was unclear whether the report on the allegations would ever be made public.

Still undetermined is the fate of Jeff Fager, executive producer of "60 Minutes," who is being investigated over allegations he condoned a hostile atmosphere for women.

Toni Van Pelt, president of the National Organization for Women, said CBS has shown no indication that it is "ending the culture that allowed Moonves to thrive. That hasn't ended."

"The fact that they are still talking about giving him a payment is appalling," Van Pelt said.

Similar sentiments came from some CBS employees, celebrities and prominent organizations that arose in the aftermath of the Harvey Weinstein scandal, the event that turned #MeToo into a worldwide phenomenon.

"What is this advisor for a year madness? Is @cbs insane? Are they watching their own news?" tweeted Hollywood producer and writer Judd Apatow.

On "CBS This Morning," news anchor Gayle King called on the results of the investigation to be made public, saying she couldn't see "how we move forward if we at CBS don't have full transparency."

Chris Allieri, founder of the New York-based public relations agency Mulberry & Astor, said the corporate

culture that allows misconduct to occur at CBS was evident in its handling of Moonves' departure.

"Have we learned something or is this just another senior man that has gotten caught?" Allieri said. "Thanking him for his service. That for me, is showing that the bottom line of this company is its stock price and a couple of good series."

Regardless of how CBS decides to move forward, Van Pelt said Moonves' downfall demonstrates that times have changed for people in powerful positions.

She said the hero of the scandal is Phyllis Golden-Gottlieb, a former television veteran now in her early 80s who told *The New Yorker* that Moonves forced her to perform oral sex on him in the 1980s.

"Her entire life, she felt she had no worth. Finally, with this movement, she has been recognized, and her voice has been valued," Van Pelt said. "The big lesson is that women are coming out, this tsunami of women are speaking out."

Dallas leaders' proactive stance helps tamp down protest

By DAVID WARREN, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police swiftly admitted that a white officer who shot a black man in his own apartment last week had made a mistake. They expressed contrition, turned the case over to independent investigators and reached out to the victim's family.

That proactive approach appeared to tamp down anger in the community in the first few days after the killing on Sept. 6. There have been protests but not large-scale unrest since the death of Botham Jean, a native of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia who went to a Christian university in Arkansas and worked in Dallas for accounting firm PwC.

The killing by officer Amber Guyger — who told officers she believed the victim's apartment was her own— could have led to an "explosive situation" on the streets, said Frederick Haynes, pastor of a Baptist church in Dallas and vice president of the African-American Pastors Coalition.

Haynes praised the actions of Dallas Police Chief U. Renee Hall, who has been in her job only a year. "She has gone out of her way to communicate not only to the family but also to community leaders," he said, "and as a consequence that has helped keep calm."

Killings of black men in recent years have prompted protests and sometimes violence in cities from Ferguson, Missouri, to Chicago and Baltimore. Police departments across the country have scrutinized how others have reacted to learn how to manage in such times of crisis.

University of Texas-Dallas criminologist and professor John Worrall said Dallas police officials have taken steps to keep their work and data open to the public.

"As big departments go throughout the country, I've been really surprised at how open they've been with their data," Worrall said Tuesday.

The shooting of Jean happened about 10 p.m. Thursday. Within seven hours, police released a statement that the officer erred by entering Jean's apartment. Hall then held a press conference early Friday afternoon during which she acknowledged that "there are more questions than we have answers," but also said authorities were seeking to arrest Guyger for manslaughter. She said the officer's blood was drawn at the scene to be tested for alcohol and drugs, and that the Texas Rangers would conduct an independent investigation. She added that she had spoken to Jean's sister to express condolences to the family.

Police released Guyger's name on Saturday after local media began reporting it, and she was charged with manslaughter Sunday. By Monday, four days after the shooting, Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson gathered at a news conference with members of Jean's family. "My commitment is that there's always going to be equal justice in this county," Johnson told reporters. She said a grand jury would hear the case and could decide on more serious charges.

Mayor Mike Rawlings also quickly reached out to community leaders about the killing of Jean.

Not everyone is pleased with the response in Dallas. Lee Merritt, an attorney for the Jean family, said Guyger should have been arrested the night of the shooting and she should have left the apartment complex in handcuffs. Guyger was free until her arrest on Sunday. She posted bond and was released.

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Alex Piquero, professor of criminology at the University of Texas at Dallas, said investigations can be a lengthy, laborious process that may not bring an immediate arrest.

"Whether they charge the person five minutes after it happened, five hours or five days, the outcome is still the same, the charge happened," Piquero told The Associated Press.

The balance between police and the community is a delicate matter in Dallas, where five police officers were killed in 2016 by a gunman who was seeking revenge for police shootings elsewhere that killed or wounded black men. The shootings of the officers galvanized support for law enforcement.

Dallas County also prosecuted former Balch Springs officer Roy Oliver, who was sentenced last month to 15 years in prison in the shooting death of a black teenager. Oliver, a white officer who responded to a house party last year, fired into a car filled with 15-year-old Jordan Edwards and other teens. Oliver had said he feared the car was moving toward and endangering his partner, prompting him to fire. Edwards, who was in the front passenger seat, was shot.

Haynes, the Dallas pastor, said the Oliver case was an important step to instilling the notion that there's equal justice in Dallas County, but he remains cautious.

"I do believe we're finally moving in a positive direction."

Associated Press writer Jamie Stengle in Dallas contributed to this report.

Follow David Warren on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/WarrenJourno>

US marks 9/11 with somber tributes; Trump speaks at PA site

By JENNIFER PELTZ and KAREN MATTHEWS, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans looked back on 9/11 Tuesday with tears and somber tributes as President Donald Trump hailed "the moment when America fought back" on one of the hijacked planes used as weapons in the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil.

Victims' relatives said prayers for their country, pleaded for national unity and pressed officials not to use the 2001 terror attacks as a political tool in a polarized nation.

Seventeen years after losing her husband, Margie Miller came from her suburban home to join thousands of relatives, survivors, rescuers and others on a misty morning at the memorial plaza where the World Trade Center's twin towers once stood.

"To me, he is here. This is my holy place," she said before the hours-long reading of the names of her husband, Joel Miller, and the nearly 3,000 others killed when hijacked jets slammed into the towers, the Pentagon and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001.

The president and first lady Melania Trump joined an observance at the Sept. 11 memorial near Shanksville, where one of the jetliners crashed after 40 passengers and crew members realized what was happening and several passengers tried to storm the cockpit.

Calling it "the moment when America fought back," Trump said the fallen "took control of their destiny and changed the course of history."

They "joined the immortal ranks of American heroes," said Trump.

At the Pentagon, Vice President Mike Pence recalled the heroism of service members and civilians who repeatedly went back into the Pentagon to rescue survivors.

The terrorists "hoped to break our spirit, and they failed," he said.

At the United Nations, Security Council members stood for a moment of silence, led by U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley.

Hours after the ceremony, two powerful light beams soared into the night sky from lower Manhattan in the annual "Tribute in Light."

The 9/11 commemorations are by now familiar rituals, centered on reading the names of the dead. But each year at ground zero, victims' relatives infuse the ceremony with personal messages of remembrance, inspiration and concern.

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For Nicholas Haros Jr., that concern is officials who make comparisons to 9/11 or invoke it for political purposes.

"Stop. Stop," implored Haros, who lost his 76-year-old mother, Frances. "Please stop using the bones and ashes of our loved ones as props in your political theater. Their lives, sacrifices and deaths are worth so much more. Let's not trivialize them."

This year's anniversary comes as a heated midterm election cycle kicks into high gear. But there have long been some efforts to separate the solemn anniversary from political campaigns. The group 9/11 Day, which promotes volunteering on the anniversary, asks candidates not to campaign or run political ads for the day. Organizers of the ground zero ceremony allow politicians to attend, but they've been barred since 2011 from reading names or delivering remarks.

If not political speeches, there were politically tinged appeals from some victims' relatives amid the reading. "May we support our president to lead our country," said Joanne Barbara, who lost her husband, Fire Department Assistant Chief Gerard Barbara.

Another victim's family sent a different message.

"My hope is that discrimination, hatred and bigotry will cease and that we all will come together and love," said Debra Epps, a sister of victim Christopher Epps. Another sister, Chaundera, had an answer for anyone who wonders why families still come to such ceremonies after 17 years.

"Because soldiers are still dying for our freedom. First responders are still dying and being ill," Chaundera Epps said, adding, "God bless America that's never, ever, stopped being great."

Trump uses "Make America Great Again" as a slogan.

Other relatives laid bare the toll their losses had taken on their families. Thomas Langer said his brother, Timmy, "drank himself to death" after losing his wife, Vanessa, and their unborn child on Sept. 11.

"I witnessed my brother endure the pain that no one human being was ever meant to bear," Thomas Langer said.

Sept. 11 still shapes American policy, politics and everyday experiences in places from airports to office buildings, even if it's less of a constant presence in the public consciousness after 17 years.

A stark reminder came not long after last year's anniversary: A truck mowed down people, killing eight, on a bike path within a few blocks of the World Trade Center on Halloween.

In December, a would-be suicide bomber set off a pipe bomb in a subway passageway near Times Square, authorities said. They said suspects in both attacks were inspired by the Islamic State extremist group.

The recent attacks scare Ruben Perez, who read names at the trade center Tuesday.

"I get very worried for the state of society. ... It's part of what it means to be human in the 21st century, a fear for public safety," said Perez, 23, who lost his uncle, Calixto Anaya Jr.

Memorials to 9/11 continue to grow at Shanksville, where a newly dedicated Tower of Voices will eventually include a wind chime for each of the 40 people killed there, and ground zero, where work is to begin soon on a pathway honoring rescue and recovery workers.

It will serve as a way to recognize those who became sick or died from exposure to toxins released when the Trade Center's twin towers collapsed. Researchers have documented elevated rates of respiratory ailments, post-traumatic stress disorder and other illnesses among people who spent time in the rubble.

About 38,500 people have applied to a compensation fund, and over \$3.9 billion in claims have been approved.

Meanwhile, a subway station destroyed on 9/11 finally reopened Saturday. In June, doors opened at the 80-story 3 World Trade Center, one of several rebuilt office towers that have been constructed or planned at the site.

Victims' families, too, have evolved and grown.

"Even though I never met you," Isabella Del Corral said of her slain grandfather, Joseph Piskadlo, "I'll never forget you."

Associated Press writers Stephen Groves and Michael R. Sisak in New York, Darlene Superville in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, Lolita C. Baldor at the Pentagon and Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed

to this report.

Reports of pepper-spray projectile use concern Dallas chief

By RYAN TARINELLI, Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas police chief said Tuesday she has called for a full review and plans to meet with protest leaders after learning about reports that police used pepper-spray projectiles at a demonstration over a black man's death.

Chief U. Renee Hall said in a statement that the projectiles, which are called pepper balls and usually contain the chemical in pepper spray, should only be used if there is an immediate threat to the public or if an on-scene commander calls for them to be used. The projectiles irritate the nose and eyes.

Hall said she wants to meet with protest leaders to "address their concerns."

Monday's demonstration came a day after a white Dallas police officer, Amber Guyger, was arrested for manslaughter in the off-duty shooting death of her neighbor, 26-year-old Botham Jean. Authorities have said that Guyger said she mistook Jean's apartment for her own when she fatally shot him last week. She was released on bond.

Demonstrators gathered outside Dallas police headquarters, and several dozen blocked traffic as they marched about half a mile. At one point, police used the pepper-spray projectiles to help control the crowd, according to news reports.

Jean grew up in the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia before attending college in Arkansas. He graduated from Harding University in 2016 and had been working for accounting firm PwC.

Attorneys for Jean's family have criticized the officer's account of the shooting, saying it contradicted statements from neighbors.

The officer's description of what happened was included in an arrest affidavit prepared by a Texas Ranger and released Monday, shortly after the district attorney announced that the case would be presented to a grand jury, which could decide on more serious charges than manslaughter.

Benjamin Crump, an attorney for Jean's family, said Monday that the affidavit is "very self-serving." Lee Merritt, who also represents the family, called it an attempt to "condone what happened, give her a break."

Guyger, a four-year veteran of the police force, told investigators that she had just ended a 15-hour shift Thursday when she returned in uniform to the South Side Flats apartment complex. She parked on the fourth floor, instead of the third, where she lived, according to the affidavit, possibly suggesting that she was confused or disoriented.

When she put her key in the apartment door, which was unlocked and slightly ajar, it opened, the affidavit said. Inside, the lights were off, and she saw a figure in the darkness that cast a large silhouette across the room, according to the officer's account.

The officer told police that she concluded her apartment was being burglarized and gave verbal commands to the figure, which ignored them. She then drew her weapon and fired twice, the affidavit said.

She called 911 and, when asked where she was, returned to the front door to see she was in the wrong unit, according to the affidavit. Authorities have not released the 911 tapes.

The Dallas County medical examiner's office said Jean died of a gunshot wound to the chest. His death was ruled a homicide.

Merritt said Monday that two independent witnesses have told him they heard knocking on the door in the hallway before the shooting. He said one witness reported hearing a woman's voice saying, "Let me in! Let me in!" Then they heard gunshots, after which one witness said she heard a man's voice say, "Oh my God! Why did you do that?"

Merritt said he believes those were Jean's last words.

Dallas County District Attorney Faith Johnson emphasized that her office was conducting its own probe, in addition to the investigation by the Texas Rangers. She will have the option of presenting more serious charges to the grand jury.

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It's not clear if Guyger has an attorney.

Guyger's blood was drawn at the scene to be tested for alcohol and drugs, according to Hall, but authorities have not released results.

Florence could rival North Carolina's 1954 'benchmark storm'

By EMERY P. DALESIO, Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — The last time the midsection of the East Coast stared down a hurricane like this, Dwight Eisenhower was in the White House and Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio were newlyweds.

Hurricane Florence could inflict the hardest hurricane punch North Carolina has seen in more than 60 years, with rain and wind of more than 130 mph (209 kph).

North Carolina has been hit by only one other Category 4 storm since reliable record keeping began in the 1850s. That was Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Hurricane Hugo made landfall in South Carolina as a Category 4 hurricane in 1989.

In comparison, Florida, which is closer to the equator and in line with the part of the Atlantic where hurricanes are born, off the African coast, has had at least five hurricanes in the past century of Category 4 or greater, including Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

Hazel's winds were clocked at 150 mph (240 kph) at the North Carolina coast and kept roaring inland. They were only slightly diminished by the time the storm reached Raleigh, 150 miles (240 kilometers) inland. Nineteen people died in North Carolina. The storm destroyed an estimated 15,000 buildings.

"Hazel stands as a benchmark storm in North Carolina's history," said Jay Barnes, author of books on the hurricane histories of both North Carolina and Florida. "We had a tremendous amount of destruction all across the state."

Twelve hours after its landfall, Hazel was in Buffalo, New York, and had ripped through seven states with winds still swirling at 100 mph (160 kph) or more.

Few people have experienced the ferocity of a storm like Hazel, which also was blamed for at least 60 deaths in Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York state.

Jerry Helms, 86, was on his honeymoon on a barrier island off the North Carolina coast when Hazel hit on the evening of Oct. 14, 1954. He and his new bride had been to a roller skating rink and missed the evacuation warnings from police officers who went door to door.

Hazel obliterated all but five of 357 buildings in the beach community now known as Oak Island. The Helmses barely survived.

As the storm crashed ashore, they abandoned their mobile home for a two-story frame house. Before long, it was collapsing under the waves and "the house was falling in, and all the furniture was falling out through the floor," Helms recalled Monday.

He thought the roof of a neighboring cinderblock house might be safer, but soon a big wave went over that house. When the wave went out, the house was gone, Helms said.

"There was another house — a wooden house that was coming down the road more or less — and it had some guy in that thing and he's hollering for help," he said.

Helms pushed a mattress through the top-floor window, and they hung on as it bobbed in the raging water.

What lessons is he applying now that a similarly powerful hurricane is coming?

"I didn't feel like it was going to be bad enough to leave," Helms said. "I don't know. I just felt better about staying here than I did leaving."

He doesn't have a safer destination in mind and, having recently broken ribs in a fall, Helms fears getting stuck as thousands abandon the coast.

Meanwhile, Aida Havel and her husband, John, made preparations Monday to evacuate their home in the Outer Banks village of Salvo, where they've lived for about a year. They are heading about 200 miles (320 kilometers) inland to their former hometown of Raleigh, where Hurricane Fran hit in 1996. Fran took a similar inland path to what forecasters predict for Florence.

"I had a tree that smashed my car down in my driveway," Aida Havel said. "Even though that was 22 years ago, I have never gotten over it."

The throngs of vehicles heading inland demonstrate the big difference between Hazel's impact and the damage Florence could cause, Barnes said.

"Today, we have thousands and thousands of permanent residents on our barrier beaches," he said. "It's a totally different scenario with regard to human impact."

Follow Emery P. Dalesio on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/emerydalesio>. His work can be found at <https://apnews.com/search/emery%20dalesio>. Associated Press Writer Jonathan Drew in Raleigh contributed to this story.

This story has been corrected to focus the six-decade reference on North Carolina. Hurricane Hugo struck South Carolina in 1989.

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes.

Less snow prompts push to lengthen Grand Canyon visit season

By FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — With snowfall dwindling at the Grand Canyon's North Rim, tourism promoters see an opportunity to stretch out the visiting season at the less popular side of the canyon so more people experience it and spend money in the region.

The canyon's North Rim is fully open less than half of the year and isn't as easy to get to as the South Rim, which attracts 90 percent of the canyon's annual 6.25 million visitors. The North Rim has equally stunning views but is more serene, with cooler temperatures and far fewer tour buses.

The North Rim lodge and its infrastructure weren't meant to handle harsh winters, and most employees are hired seasonally because of the historically heavy snow. Last season, however, saw just a fraction of the area's average, and the snow didn't come until January and February.

Overnight lodging at the North Rim shuts down Oct. 15, as do ranger-led programs and most concession services. The rim is open for visitor day trips until the highway closes Dec. 1 — or with the first significant snowfall — and then the entire area reopens in mid-May.

Advocates of lengthening the visiting season, some blaming or thanking climate change, envision adding a couple of weeks for now to both ends of the tourist season when the highway has little to no snow. They'd like to expand the season even more than that later.

"The end game for us is to get it open year-round or most of the year so we can promote ourselves as a four-season destination," said Camille Johnson, tourism director for Kane County, Utah, in Kanab, the closest major city in Utah to the North Rim.

The 30-year average for snowfall at the North Rim is more than 11 feet (3.4 meters) yearly, but the average over the past decade has fallen by more than 3 feet (0.9 meters) annually, according to the National Weather Service.

The season-to-season amounts can fluctuate greatly. About 3 feet (0.9 meters) fell between last October and May, indicative of a drier weather pattern in the Southwest. More than four times that amount fell in the same period the previous season, making a weather-based decision to extend the visitor season more difficult.

Readjusting the North Rim season makes sense from a climate change perspective, said Jonathan Overpeck, a climate scientist at the University of Michigan.

"There's some caution warranted because we will still get the big snow storms and the big snow years that they want to protect the visitors from," he said Tuesday.

The North Rim sits at more than 8,000 feet (2,440 meters) and is bordered by national forest land where a herd of bison roam. It has few amenities — a 1930s lodge that's a national historic landmark, a

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gas station and a campground.

A drive from the Utah-Arizona border takes three hours roundtrip, so adding services and hiring people to provide them would be key to attracting visitors beyond the May-October period, said Dirk Clayson, chairman of the Kane County Board of Commissioners.

"The problem is solvable," Clayson said. "Whatever we can do to influence, raise funds or lobby back in D.C. for additional staffing, we're willing to do."

A meeting is planned next month to chart out immediate and long-term proposals, but Johnson said she would not expect major changes for five to 10 years.

To provide services beyond the season, the park would have to hire the workers beyond their six-month stints, upgrade its water system because pipes buried just inches below the ground are susceptible to freezing, weatherize cabins and provide more resources for snowplowing, said park spokeswoman Kirby-Lynn Shedlowski.

She said the park hasn't committed to anything but participating in meetings and letting people know when the park shuts down services in October that it's still open for day use until the highway closes.

"That's a low-lying fruit we can tackle this year," Shedlowski said. "Longer-term stuff is going to be understanding what is the true capacity of the North Rim."

Those who visit the North Rim typically aren't seeing the Grand Canyon for the first time and are looking for a quieter experience than the South Rim, Shedlowski said.

Some make the North Rim trip as part of the Grand Circle — a collection of national park sites in the Southwest U.S. that includes Zion in Utah, Mesa Verde in Colorado, the Great Basin in Nevada and Chaco Culture National Historic Park in New Mexico.

One remote and rugged part of the North Rim stays open year-round but has no services and requires high-clearance vehicles.

Will James, the owner of Dreamland Safari Tours in Kanab, Utah, guides visitors to the scenic Toroweap outlook with views of the Colorado River that's lower in elevation and doesn't get much snow.

He wonders if extending hours at the rest of the North Rim is necessary and if the economics would work out like tourism promoters think.

"Part of me feels like, do we have to year-round, over-commercialize everything?" he said.

Active shooter study: Semi-automatic rifles more deadly

By LINDSEY TANNER, AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Active shooters with semi-automatic rifles wound and kill twice as many people as those using weapons that don't self-load, although chances of dying if hit in either type of assault are the same, a new analysis shows.

Researchers examined FBI data on nearly 250 active shooter incidents in the United States since 2000. Almost 900 people were wounded and 718 were killed.

One in four of these attacks involved semi-automatic rifles. These weapons automatically load each bullet after firing although firing requires pulling the trigger for each round.

Recent attacks involving semi-automatics include the shootings at Parkland High School, Orlando's Pulse night club and Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Semi-automatics, which include some assault weapons, often are thought of as being more lethal. Since they can fire rapidly, chances of being hit in those circumstances are high, the study shows.

But in active shooter attacks, which tend to occur in confined spaces and with an intent to kill, the results suggest all types of guns can be equally deadly, said lead researcher Dr. Adil Haider, a trauma surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Overall, 44 percent of people hit in active shooter attacks involving semi-automatic weapons died, the same as those wounded in attacks not involving semi-automatic rifles, showing that "the death rate if you got hit by a bullet was the same," Haider said.

"Active shooters are hell-bent on killing people," he said. "The big difference — and this is not such a

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big surprise — is if you give them a semi-automatic, they're able to shoot twice the number of people." The average number of people wounded in semi-automatic attacks totaled nearly six, versus about three in attacks with other weapons. Roughly four people were killed on average in semi-automatic attacks, compared with about two in other attacks, the study found.

The results were published Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Haider said the study highlights a need to better track details on types of weapons used in active shooter attacks; FBI figures do not detail whether weapons used were semi-automatic so the researchers got that information from court and police documents and news media reports.

Semi-automatic rifles cause more deaths and injuries, but "firearms in general, regardless of the type, are extraordinarily lethal weapons," said Dr. Cassandra Crifasi, deputy director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, who was not involved in the research.

A longtime gun owner and sports shooting enthusiast, Crifasi said her understanding of gun culture brings a different perspective to gun research and safety. "The main thing is that there are gun owners like me ... who support common sense solutions to reducing gun violence," she said.

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner on Twitter at @LindseyTanner . Her work can be found here .

The Associated Press Health & Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

North Carolina's wild horses expected to survive hurricane

By DENISE LAVOIE, Associated Press

For many vacationers on North Carolina's Outer Banks, a trip there is not complete without at least catching a glimpse of the majestic wild horses that roam the islands. As Hurricane Florence approaches, many are expressing concern about how the horses will fare during the powerful Category 4 storm.

The Facebook page of the Corolla Wild Horse Fund was peppered with comments from worried tourists and residents.

"Thinking of all of the horses as Florence approaches. ... Praying for their safety," wrote one concerned woman.

"Prayers for protection from the storm for these beautiful animals & the young foals," wrote another.

Wildlife experts say they needn't worry. Wild horses are believed to have first settled on the Outer Banks hundreds of years ago and have survived many powerful storms.

Sue Stuska, a wildlife biologist based at Cape Lookout National Seashore, where 118 wild horses live on Shackleford Banks, said the horses are highly sensitive to weather changes and instinctively know what to do in a storm. She said they go to higher ground during flooding, including the dunes, and head for shrub thickets and a maritime forest during high winds.

"Naturally, they are meant to be outside and they have high ground and they have thick places to hide," Stuska said.

"Don't worry about them. They've survived for hundreds of years, and we expect that they'll be just fine."

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund, a group devoted to protecting and managing a herd of wild Colonial Spanish Mustangs that roams on the northernmost Currituck Outer Banks, posted a message on its Facebook page Monday to reassure horse lovers that they expect the animals will be just fine.

"The horses have lived on this barrier island for 500 years, and they are well equipped to deal with rough weather," the group wrote.

"They know where to go to stay high and dry and are probably in better shape right now than most of us humans who are scrambling with final preparations. They are much better off without any help from us; anything we might do in the hopes of 'protecting' them would probably end up being more dangerous and stressful for them than the storm."

Horse deaths during storms are not unheard of, however.

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John Taggart, an associate professor emeritus who teaches environmental science at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, said five wild horses drowned after they were swept off the Rachel Carson Reserve near Beaufort, North Carolina, during Hurricane Isabel in 2003. But that kind of loss is unusual during storms, Taggart said.

"They do have an instinct for protection, of trying to head for higher ground, getting out of the wind and then sticking together in a group," he said.

For the latest on Hurricane Florence, visit <https://www.apnews.com/tag/Hurricanes> .

AP Interview: Iran nuclear chief hopes deal will survive

By JON GAMBRELL and NASSER KARIMI, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's nuclear chief said Tuesday he hopes Tehran's landmark atomic deal with world powers will survive President Donald Trump withdrawing the U.S. from it, warning the Islamic Republic's program stands ready to build advanced centrifuges and further enrich uranium.

In an exclusive interview with The Associated Press, Ali Akbar Salehi stressed Iran would be guided by "prudence and wisdom" when weighing whether to abandon the deal if European nations fail to protect it from Trump.

The U.S. withdrawal from the deal already has badly shaken Iran's anemic economy, crashing its currency, the rial. That likely will be compounded by U.S. sanctions coming in November that threaten Iran's oil exports, a major source of government funding.

All this puts further pressure on the administration of Iran's relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani, to whom Salehi reports as one of his vice presidents. But Salehi dismissed out of hand the idea of caving to American demands to renegotiate the accord.

"Yes, we have our problems. Yes, the sanctions have caused some problems for us. But if a nation decides to enjoy political independence, it will have to pay the price," Salehi said. "If Iran decides today to go back to what it was before, the lackey of the United States, the situation would" be different.

Salehi heads the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, whose Tehran campus encompasses a nuclear research reactor given to the country by the U.S. in 1967 under the rule of the shah. But in the time since that American "Atoms for Peace" donation, Iran was convulsed by its 1979 Islamic Revolution and the subsequent takeover and hostage crisis at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

For decades since, Western nations have been concerned about Iran's nuclear program, accusing Tehran of seeking atomic weapons. Iran long has said its program is for peaceful purposes, but it faced years of crippling sanctions.

The 2015 nuclear deal Iran struck with world powers, including the U.S. under President Barack Obama, was aimed at relieving those fears. Under it, Iran agreed to store its excess centrifuges at its underground Natanz enrichment facility under constant surveillance by the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency. Iran can use 5,060 older-model IR-1 centrifuges at Natanz, but only to enrich uranium up to 3.67 percent.

That low-level enrichment means the uranium can be used to fuel a civilian reactor but is far below the 90 percent needed to produce a weapon. Iran also can possess no more than 300 kilograms (660 pounds) of that uranium. That's compared to the 10,000 kilograms (22,046 pounds) of higher-enriched uranium it once had.

Salehi spoke to the AP on Tuesday about Iran's efforts to build a new facility at Natanz that will produce more-advanced centrifuges, which enrich uranium by rapidly spinning uranium hexafluoride gas.

The new facility will allow Iran to build versions called the IR-2M, IR-4 and IR-6. The IR-2M and the IR-4 can enrich uranium five times faster than an IR-1, while the IR-6 can do it 10 times faster, Salehi said. Western experts have suggested these centrifuges produce three to five times more enriched uranium in a year than the IR-1s.

While building the facility doesn't violate the nuclear deal, mass production of advanced centrifuges

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would. Salehi, however, said that wasn't immediately a plan.

"This does not mean that we are going to produce these centrifuges now. This is just a preparation," he said. "In case Iran decides to start producing in mass production such centrifuges, (we) would be ready for that."

Salehi suggested that if the nuclear deal fell apart, Iran would react in stages. He suggested one step may be uranium enrichment going to "20 percent because this is our need." He also suggested Iran could increase its stockpile of enriched uranium. Any withdrawal ultimately would be approved by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

While the U.N. repeatedly has verified Iran's compliance with the deal, Trump campaigned on a promise to tear it up. In May, he withdrew the U.S. in part because he said the deal wasn't permanent and didn't address Iran's ballistic missile program and its influence across the wider Middle East. But Trump meanwhile has tweeted he'd accept talks without preconditions with Tehran.

Asked what he personally would tell Trump if he had the chance, Salehi chuckled and said: "I certainly would tell him he has made the wrong move on Iran."

"I think (Trump) is on the loser's side because he is pursuing the logic of power," Salehi added. "He thinks that he can, you know, continue for some time but certainly I do not think he will benefit from this withdrawal, certainly not."

In the wake of Trump's decision, however, Western companies from airplane manufacturers to oil firms have pulled out of Iran. The rial, which traded before the decision at 62,000 to \$1, now stands at 142,000 to \$1.

Despite that, Salehi said Iran could withstand that economic pressure, as well as restart uranium enrichment with far more sophisticated equipment.

"If we have to go back and withdraw from the nuclear deal, we certainly do not go back to where we were before," Salehi said. "We will be standing on a much, much higher position."

Still, danger could loom for the program. The Stuxnet computer virus, widely believed to be a joint U.S.-Israeli creation, once disrupted thousands of Iranian centrifuges.

A string of bombings, blamed on Israel, targeted a number of scientists beginning in 2010 at the height of Western concerns over Iran's program. Israel never claimed responsibility for the attacks, though Israeli officials have boasted in the past about the reach of the country's intelligence services.

"I hope that they will not commit a similar mistake again because the consequences would be, I think, harsh," Salehi warned.

This version corrects the amount of higher-enriched uranium that Iran once had to 10,000 kilograms (22,046 pounds), not 100,000 kilograms (220,460 pounds).

Bus accident in south India kills at least 55 people

By OMER FAROOQ, Associated Press

HYDERABAD, India (AP) — A bus carrying pilgrims from a Hindu temple in the hills of south India plunged off a road Tuesday, killing at least 55 people including four children, officials said. At least 33 others were injured.

The driver lost control as he hit a speed bump on a road leading from the popular Anjaneya Swamy temple in Telangana state, about 190 kilometers (118 miles) from Hyderabad, the state capital, Transport Minister P. Maneder Reddy said. The overcrowded bus pitched into a gorge.

Crowds often throng the temple on Tuesdays. The temple is dedicated to the Hindu god Hanuman, and Tuesdays are seen as auspicious for offering prayers to him.

Passersby rushed to help after the bus crashed, mangling the front of the vehicle. Volunteers crawled into the bus through broken windows, carrying the dead and injured through thick grass and up the hill to the road. The injured were taken to area hospitals.

Local broadcaster ETV showed chaotic scenes at a hospital in Jagtiyal, where people wailed over bodies

in a mortuary.

Reddy said at a news conference that the bus depot manager had been suspended.

"The bus was carrying more passengers than allowed," Reddy said, adding that the accident appeared to have been caused by a brake failure.

An investigation has been ordered into the cause, officials said.

Among those killed was the bus driver, who lost both of his legs in the accident and later died in the hospital.

"The bus accident in Telangana's Jagtial district is shocking beyond words," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a tweet. "Anguished by the loss of lives. My thoughts and solidarity with the bereaved families. I pray that the injured recover quickly."

President Ram Nath Kovind also said that he was shocked to learn about the accident.

Around 150,000 people die every year on India's roads, often because of reckless driving, badly maintained roads and vehicles overcrowded with passengers.

Deadly bus accidents are common. In July, 48 people were killed when a bus crashed into a gorge in Uttarakhand state.

AP Poll: Voters open to candidates who aren't very religious

By DAVID CRARY, AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Religion's role in politics and public policy is in the spotlight heading toward the mid-term elections, yet relatively few Americans consider it crucial that a candidate be devoutly religious or share their religious beliefs, according to a poll released Tuesday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Just 25 percent of Americans say it's very or extremely important that a candidate has strong religious beliefs, according to the poll. Only 19 percent consider it very or extremely important that a candidate shares their own beliefs, and nearly half say that's not very important or not important at all.

Still, most Americans see a role for religion in shaping public policy. A solid majority of Americans, 57 percent, want the influence of religion on government policy to extend beyond traditional culture war issues and into policies addressing poverty. Americans are more likely to say religion should have at least some influence on poverty than on abortion (45 percent) or LGBT issues (34 percent).

There is little public support for the campaign by some conservative religious leaders, backed by President Donald Trump, to allow clergy and religious organizations to endorse political candidates while retaining their tax exempt status. Such a change is opposed by 53 percent of Americans and supported by 13 percent. The rest expressed no opinion.

Trump's stance on political endorsements by clergy is one of many reasons he has retained strong support among white evangelical Christians, despite aspects of his behavior and personal life that don't neatly align with Christian values. The AP-NORC poll found that 7 in 10 white evangelical Protestants say they approve of Trump, a Republican.

The importance of a candidate's religious faith varied across religious and political groups.

Among white evangelical Protestants, 51 percent consider it very or extremely important that a candidate has strong religious beliefs. An additional 25 percent think it's moderately important. Far fewer Catholics and white mainline Protestants considered this important.

Roughly two-thirds of Republicans said it's at least moderately important that a candidate has strong religious beliefs, compared with 37 percent of Democrats.

Jack Kane, an accountant from Key West, Florida, was among the Republican-leaning poll participants who said it wasn't important to him whether a candidate was deeply religious.

"I'd much rather have a guy run the government and not spend all our money, instead of sounding off on what's going on in the church or on things like abortion," said Kane, 65, who describes himself as nonreligious. "Who is Catholic, Jewish, Southern Baptist — I could care less, as long as they're going to carry the torch of freedom."

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Kent Jaquette, a Republican-turned-independent and a former United Methodist pastor who lives near San Antonio, said he does not base his choice of candidates on their religious faith.

"In politics, you need to look at a person where their morals are, where their values are," he said. "It may or may not have anything to do with their religion."

Jaquette also questioned the motives of evangelicals who support Trump.

"To me, it's supporting someone who gives no indication he intends to live a Christian life," said Jaquette, 63. "I believe that Christians should do things that Christ taught — feed the hungry, visit people in jail, help immigrants."

Veronica Irving, a 55-year-old Roman Catholic Republican who lives near Chicago, says it's extremely important to her that a politician has strong religious beliefs. She's disappointed that Trump doesn't demonstrate this more clearly through his behaviors and actions.

"It's not about what faith you come from — it's just important that you have faith," she said.

At the highest levels of political office, it's still rare for a politician to profess that he or she is an atheist; surveys indicate that roughly 10 percent of Americans do not believe in a higher power. In recent years, only a small handful of members of Congress have identified themselves as nonbelievers.

However, there is some evidence of increasing acceptance of religious diversity — for example, the recent victories by Muslim-American women in Democratic congressional primaries in Michigan and Minnesota.

The AP-NORC poll found broad interest in religion having at least some influence on a range of policy issues.

In addition to the concern about poverty, 49 percent of Americans want to see religion have some influence on education, 44 percent on health care policy, 43 percent on immigration, 38 percent on gun policy, 36 percent on income inequality, 34 percent on foreign policy and 32 percent on climate change.

From each of the largest religious groups, there was strong support for greater religious influence on poverty policy — 71 percent of white evangelical Protestants, 54 percent of white mainline Protestants, 75 percent of nonwhite Protestants and 67 percent of Catholics.

The Rev. Jim Wallis, founder of the Christian social justice organization Sojourners, said the poll findings signaled a potentially broader and more vibrant role for organized religion in U.S. politics.

"Religious issues are much broader and deeper and different from the issues chosen by the religious right," he said. "The issues like poverty, immigration, what happens to the homeless — those are becoming the moral and political and voting issues for more and more Christians."

The findings were welcomed by Maureen Malloy Ferguson, a senior policy adviser for The Catholic Association, which depicts its mission as "being a faithful Catholic voice in the public square."

"It's encouraging to see that so many Americans recognize that religion can be a force for good in society," she said.

However, attorney Emilie Kao, a religious-freedom expert with the conservative Heritage Foundation, questioned whether faith-based organizations might face roadblocks in trying to expand their role in social services. Some jurisdictions, she noted, have sought to exclude religious organizations from various activities, such as adoption and foster care, because of opposition to same-sex marriage and other beliefs.

Associated Press Polling Editor Emily Swanson and AP writer Hannah Fingerhut in Washington contributed to this report.

The AP-NORC poll of 1,055 adults was conducted Aug. 16-20 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 4.2 percentage points.

Online:

AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research: <http://www.apnorc.org>

Labrador dog named Lucy saves Oregon man from sex conviction

By **ANDREW SELSKY, Associated Press**

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The discovery of a black Labrador named Lucy led to the unraveling of a criminal case Monday against an Oregon man who had begun serving a 50-year prison sentence.

Joshua Horner, a plumber from the central Oregon town of Redmond, was convicted on April 12, 2017, of sexual abuse of a minor.

In the trial, the complainant testified Horner had threatened to shoot her animals if she went to the police about the alleged molestation, and said she saw him shoot her dog and kill it to make his point.

Six months after a jury convicted Horner in a verdict that was not unanimous, he asked the Oregon Innocence Project for help. The group took up his case.

When the group raised concerns in April about the case with Deschutes County District Attorney John Hummel, he agreed to work with them.

Horner had insisted he never shot the dog. Finding the dog would show the complainant had lied under oath. But if it was alive, where was it?

An Oregon Innocence Project volunteer and an official from Hummel's office searched for it. The black Lab had reportedly been given away. The investigators were sniffing on the trail, but they had trouble tracking down the purported dog's owner.

"They made a couple trips around Deschutes County; he was not there," said Steve Wax, legal director of the Oregon Innocence Project. "We heard he was in Seattle. Then we learned he had a place on the Oregon Coast."

It was there, in the town of Gearhart northwest of Portland, that the pair finally found Lucy after her owners agreed to rendezvous at a golf course.

"She was drinking a bowl of water and sitting in shade underneath a porch. We played with her. Petted her. It was wonderful," said Lisa Christon, the Oregon Innocence Project volunteer.

Lucy was identified by an undisputed chain of custody and her looks.

"She's a very distinctive-looking black Lab; not purebred. She's got this adorable shaped head and really long ears," Christon said.

That key evidence showed the complainant had not been truthful when testifying, the district attorney said.

"Lucy the dog was not shot. Lucy the dog is alive and well," Hummel's office said in a statement.

Hummel told the court Monday he's not certain that Horner did not sexually abuse the complainant, but that he's now not convinced he did. The Associated Press is not naming her because it typically does not identify alleged victims of sexual abuse.

Deschutes County Judge Michael Adler dismissed the case.

Horner, in a statement released by the Oregon Innocence Project, thanked the group, his family, friends and Hummel.

"Kelli and I are ready to pick up the pieces of our lives," Horner said, referring to his wife. The couple came out of the courthouse Monday holding hands and smiling.

Horner had walked out of a state prison in Pendleton on Aug. 3 after the Oregon Court of Appeals reversed his conviction and ordered a new trial. The appeals court said the defense had not been allowed to present certain evidence that was unrelated to the dog.

Now, Horner no longer faces that second trial. He declined a request for an interview, saying he is not ready to speak with the media yet.

After Lucy was found, the complainant failed to attend a meeting in August to discuss her testimony, Hummel said. Last Wednesday, one of his investigators heard she was at a home near Redmond. When he pulled up to the driveway, she ran away.

Horner had been indicted under a previous district attorney, but the trial and conviction came under Hummel's watch.

Hummel said in an email the issue of the dog being shot was raised for the first time during the trial, so

there was no investigation to be done regarding it prior to trial, "and we had no credible reason to question the statement after it was made."

He said exonerations are a reminder that while the U.S. has "the best system of justice in the world it is not perfect. Mistakes will be made and we should be judged by how we respond to them."

Wax, who was Oregon's former top federal public defender for 31 years before joining the Oregon Innocence Project, said the case is highly unusual.

"To be able to establish that a person should not have been convicted, you need something objective," Wax said in a telephone interview. "In most child sex abuse cases, there is no evidence. Finding Lucy alive showed the complainant lied under oath in her testimony."

It was the first exoneration for the Oregon Innocence Project, launched in 2014 to exonerate the wrongfully convicted and promote legal reforms.

Wax praised Hummel for his willingness to re-examine the case.

"Nationwide, what Mr. Hummel did was unusual," Wax said. "It is to be commended. It should be the model."

Follow Andrew Selsky on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/andrewselsky>

Big safety testing failure rate for California pot products

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD, Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nearly 20 percent of marijuana products in California have failed tests for potency and purity since the state started requiring the checks on July 1, a failure rate some in the industry say has more to do with unrealistic standards and technical glitches than protecting consumer safety.

The testing has been especially tough on cannabis-infused cookies, candies and tinctures: About one-third have been blocked from store shelves.

In much smaller numbers, testing companies licensed by the state are finding unacceptable levels of pesticides, solvents and bacteria, including E. coli and salmonella, according to data provided to The Associated Press by the state Bureau of Cannabis Control.

In the first two months, nearly 11,000 samples were tested and almost 2,000 failed. In some cases, the product must be destroyed. But many involve labeling issues that can be corrected. For example, a marijuana bud that's tested to show a different potency than what's on the label can be relabeled and sold with the right specification.

To the state, the strict testing program is largely doing what it was designed to do: identify marijuana buds, concentrates, munchies and other products that are in some way tainted and unsuitable for eating or smoking.

"Mandatory statewide testing is a new thing and it's going to take some time for everything to run smoothly, but on the whole we're pleased with how things are progressing," Bureau of Cannabis Control spokesman Alex Traverso said.

But as regulators consider recasting rules governing the nation's largest legal pot economy, they are facing pressure to revamp testing requirements that are being alternately described as going too far, not far enough, or an overly costly burden.

The California Growers Association, an industry group, is among those concerned the state is forcing growers and manufacturers to hit too tiny a target when gauging levels of THC, the psychoactive chemical that causes marijuana's high.

Rules require the THC concentration come within 10 percent of what is advertised on a product label. Company executives say some products are being rejected after landing outside the margin by tiny amounts.

The California Cannabis Manufacturers Association, another industry group, is pushing for changes that include allowing companies to challenge lab testing results.

"Even if the lab admits it made an error, there is no way to change those results," said Bryce Berryessa, an association board member who is CEO of TreeHouse dispensary in Santa Cruz County and president

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of La Vida Verde, which produces infused cookies.

"Labs are not perfect. Mistakes get made," he said.

At a state hearing last month, the Santa Ana-based testing company Cannalysis urged regulators to broaden their rules to include a test used in food and pharmaceutical industries that company officials say can detect a large number of potentially harmful species of mold and yeast not currently covered in state guidelines.

The company has seen examples where mold was on cannabis but the sample passed state tests.

Swetha Kaul, the company's chief scientific officer who sits on the board of the California Cannabis Industry Association, said in an interview the state needs to "create a bigger net to catch things."

By limiting its required review to a few mold species the state is "essentially creating a loophole where every other species can get by," she said.

California began broad legal sales on Jan. 1 and gave companies six months to sell off stockpiles of marijuana, oils and edibles produced without strict testing requirements.

The rules require all cannabis products to clear a range of tests at labs before reaching consumers, from ensuring THC is distributed evenly in chocolate bars to making sure buds have not been contaminated by fuzzy blankets of mold.

From July 1 through Aug. 29, labs tested 10,695 product batches and 1,904 were rejected, a failure rate of about 18 percent.

Claims on the label, such as THC content, accounted for 65 percent of the failures, or 1,279 tests.

This is how the rule works: If a bottled juice drink said on the label it was 25 percent apple juice, testers would have to find that the concentration in the juice was within 10 percent of that mark, plus or minus. It's the same with cannabis.

Next in line: About 400 batches were flagged for unacceptable levels of pesticides. Impurities such as bacteria and mold caused 114 rejections.

Ninety percent of the buds that were tested were sent on to shops, suggesting a mostly clean market for legal growers. The rejection rate was double that for concentrates: 20 percent of oils and "waxes" tested didn't make the cut.

In a statement, the California Department of Public Health said it had not received any verified reports of illness resulting from consumption of a cannabis product attributed to mold or bacteria, although three complaints were submitted anonymously and were unverifiable.

The debate over testing isn't just about lab procedures or allowable levels of pesticides. It all comes with a cost, which companies say is straining their budgets.

"Testing is currently costly, slow, and inconsistent," the growers association told the state in a recent letter.

Testing for a small, outdoor marijuana farm can typically run \$5,000 to \$10,000 in California. There have been similar complaints in pot-friendly Colorado, where cultivators are dealing with new, required pesticide tests.

While California now has the nation's largest legal market, a huge black market still exists. Los Angeles Police Department Chief Michel Moore spotlighted the risk of buying on the illegal market last week, warning consumers that the price from money saved "can be their life."

He said unlicensed shops are known to lace their pot with Fentanyl and other narcotics. In an illegal shop "there's no telling what they're actually buying," Moore said.

Associated Press journalist Brian Melley contributed to this story.

Blood is a member of AP's marijuana beat team. Find complete AP marijuana coverage here: <https://apnews.com/tag/LegalMarijuana>

Serena Williams' treatment resonates among black women

By DEEPTI HAJELA, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Serena Williams told the umpire at the U.S. Open final that he owed her an apology, that he had stolen something from her, and then she got penalized for her words, Breea Willingham could relate to her frustration and anger.

Willingham isn't a tennis star, but she is a black woman. She and others like her say Williams' experience resonates with them because they are often forced to watch their tone and words in the workplace in ways that men and other women are not.

And if they're not careful, they say, they risk being branded "Angry Black Woman."

"So much of what she experiences we experience in the workplace, too," said Willingham, a professor of criminal justice at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. "As black women ... we're expected to stay in our lane, that lane that has been created for us. Any time we step out of that lane, then we become a problem."

The stereotype of the "Angry Black Woman" is alive and well, said Felicia Martin, 36, a federal employee who lives in Brooklyn. She recalls once seeing a white female co-worker cursing and throwing things and not facing repercussions, while she's been told to calm down for expressing her own upset in a normal tone of voice.

"If I'm upset about something, I should get to express that to you," Martin said.

During Saturday's championship loss to Naomi Osaka, Williams got a warning from the chair umpire for violating a rarely enforced rule against receiving coaching from the sidelines. An indignant Williams emphatically defended herself, denying she had cheated. A short time later, she smashed her racket in frustration and was docked a point. She protested that and demanded an apology from the umpire, who penalized her a game.

Many people, black women among them, echoed Williams' contention that she was punished while men on the tennis circuit have gotten away with even harsher language.

"A lot of things started going through my head in that particular situation. You know, first and foremost, what was going to be said about her the next day? The typical angry black woman, you know ... when she really was just standing up for herself and she was standing up for women's rights," said former tennis champion Zina Garrison, who is black. "A woman, period, is always, when we speak up for ourselves, then you have the situation where people are saying, you know, they're too outspoken. They're acting like a man, all of that. But then a black woman on top of that, the angry black woman, who does she think she is?"

Martin and others pointed to a cartoon by an Australian artist as the clearest example of the stereotype facing black women. Mark Knight of Melbourne's Herald Sun depicted Williams as an irate, hulking, big-mouthed black woman jumping up and down on a broken racket. The umpire was shown telling a blond, slender woman — meant to be Osaka, who is actually Japanese and Haitian — "Can you just let her win?"

"I was deeply offended. This is not a joke," said Vanessa K. De Luca, former editor in chief of Essence magazine, who wrote a column about the U.S. Open furor.

The cartoonist "completely missed the point of why she was upset," De Luca told The Associated Press. "It was about her integrity, and anybody who doesn't get that is perpetuating the erasure that so many black women feel when they are trying to speak up for themselves. It's like our opinions don't matter."

Some black women say they have to worry perpetually about how they're coming across to make sure they're not dismissed as angry or emotional.

"It's exhausting," said Denise Daniels, 44, of the Bronx, who works in professional development for educators. "It does diminish from the work satisfaction that other people get to enjoy because it is an additional cost."

Willingham thinks that was part of Williams' experience on Saturday as well, but that it was also about a career's worth of frustrations that she has had to endure, such as when the French Open banned the type of catsuit she wore.

"I felt it for her. I felt she was fed up, she was tired of this," Willingham said. "How much is she supposed

to take, really? How much are any of us supposed to keep taking?"

Associated Press video producer Noreen Nasir contributed to this report from Washington.

Deepti Hajela covers issues of race, ethnicity and immigration for The Associated Press. Follow her on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/dhajela>. For more of her work, search for her name at <https://apnews.com>.

Warner Bros. distances itself from 'A Star Is Born' producer

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Just as film festival audiences are swooning over Bradley Cooper's celebrated romance "A Star Is Born," the film's studio is distancing itself from a producer of the project.

Jon Peters is a credited producer of the new "A Star Is Born," the third remake of the Hollywood fable. Peters was instrumental in the making of the 1976 version of "A Star Is Born," which starred his then-girlfriend Barbra Streisand.

But with the new film in the spotlight, Peters' history has come under scrutiny. A report Tuesday by Jezebel took issue with Peters, in the #MeToo era, being a producer on one of the fall's biggest releases.

In August 2011, a Los Angeles jury awarded one of Peters' former employees, Shelly Morita, more than \$3.3 million in a harassment case she filed against the producer. The jury determined Peters subjected Morita to "severe and pervasive" harassment and a "hostile or abusive" work environment.

Peters and Morita entered into a later agreement overturning the judgment in the case. The terms were not disclosed.

Warner Bros., which produced and will release "A Star Is Born" next month, said Tuesday it was contractually bound to credit Peters.

"Jon Peters' attachment to this property goes as far back as 1976," said the studio in a statement. "Legally, we had to honor the contractual obligation in order to make this film."

The Producers Guild of America also confirmed Tuesday that it has ruled that Peters did not work enough on the film to receive a "producers mark." In the film's credits, Peters' name doesn't include the "p.g.a." label of a producers mark.

That has potential ramifications for "A Star Is Born" in awards season, where it is expected to be a heavyweight contender. Peters wouldn't likely be among the listed producers, for example, should the film be nominated for best picture. He would not get an Oscar, if the film were to win.

The new version of "A Star Is Born," which stars Cooper and Lady Gaga, was in development for years. One earlier incarnation was to be directed by Clint Eastwood and star Beyonce.

But while "A Star Is Born" went through multiple iterations, one of the film's producers, Bill Gerber, earlier praised Peters work on it.

"There were a lot of complicated deals on 'Star Is Born,' a lot of heavy-hitters," Gerber told The Hollywood Reporter last year. "And Jon could not have been more helpful in getting it all in line."

After-hours messages left for Peters were not immediately returned.

Asian stocks fall as China reacts to US tariffs

By ANNABELLE LIANG, Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — Asian shares fell on Wednesday as China delayed issuing licenses to American businesses hoping to operate in the country, as the threat of more trade tariffs from Washington loomed.

The approach of Hurricane Florence on the East Coast and upcoming sanctions on Iran's energy industry lifted oil prices. Benchmark U.S. crude surged past \$70 a barrel.

KEEPING SCORE: Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 lost 0.4 percent to 22,571.76, and the Kospi in South Korea fell 0.2 percent to 2,279.70. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index was 0.2 percent lower at 26,372.02. The Shanghai Composite index fell 0.3 percent to 2,656.26. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 shed 0.1 percent to 6,173.30.

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WALL STREET: U.S. stock indexes finished higher as big technology companies like Apple and Amazon rose for a second day after declining last week. The broad S&P 500 index rose 0.4 percent to 2,887.89. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.4 percent to 25,971.06, and the Nasdaq composite was 0.6 percent higher at 7,972.47. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies added 0.1 percent to 1,718.40.

CHINA-US TENSIONS: China is putting off accepting license applications from American companies in financial services and other industries until Washington makes progress toward a settlement, an official of a business group said Tuesday. The disclosure is the first public confirmation of U.S. companies' fears that their operations in China or access to its markets might be disrupted by the battle over Beijing's technology policy. The license delay applies to industries Beijing has promised to open to foreign competitors, according to Jacob Parker, vice president for China operations of the U.S.-China Business Council. The group represents some 200 American companies that do business with China. China is running out of American imports for penalties in response to President Donald Trump's tariff hikes, which has prompted worries that Chinese regulators might target operations of U.S. companies. The U.S. is poised to slap tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods and Trump has said he is considering tariffs on \$267 billion more, or essentially every good that's imported from China.

ANALYST'S TAKE: "China's ability to respond is limited in tariffs, the government is using what they call 'qualitative measures,'" said Robert Carnell, head of research and chief economist at ING Bank. "You can't put a number on that, but it's not an idle threat. They could really make it hard for U.S. companies to operate in China," he said.

ENERGY: Oil prices extended their gains on Wednesday. The approach of Hurricane Florence and its potential to disrupt oil supply on the East Coast spurred gains. The U.S. is also getting ready to put sanctions on Iran's energy industry, and it has been pressuring other countries to reduce their imports. Benchmark U.S. crude added 85 cents to \$70.10 a barrel. The contract gained 2.5 percent to \$69.25 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, used to price international oils, gained 57 cents to \$79.63 a barrel. It jumped 2.2 percent to \$79.06 a barrel in London on Tuesday.

CURRENCIES: The dollar fell to 111.48 yen from 111.59 yen. The euro rose to \$1.1592 from \$1.1586.

China puts off licenses for US companies amid tariff battle

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — Amid a worsening tariff battle, China is putting off accepting license applications from American companies in financial services and other industries until Washington makes progress toward a settlement, a business group says.

The disclosure Tuesday is the first public confirmation of U.S. companies' fears that their operations in China or access to its markets might be disrupted by the battle over Beijing's technology policy. China is running out of American imports for penalties in response to President Donald Trump's tariff hikes, which has prompted worries regulators might target operations of U.S. companies.

The license delay applies to industries Beijing has promised to open to foreign competitors, according to Jacob Parker, vice president for China operations of the U.S.-China Business Council. The group represents some 200 American companies that do business with China.

In meetings over the past three weeks, Cabinet-level officials told USCBC representatives they are putting off accepting applications "until the trajectory of the U.S.-China relationship improves and stabilizes," Parker said.

Chinese authorities have promised to increase foreign access to areas including banking, securities, insurance and asset management.

"There seem to be domestic political pressures that are working against the perception of U.S. companies receiving benefits" during the dispute, Parker said.

As for what improvement might entail, Parker said Chinese officials want an end to Trump's tariff hikes and a negotiated settlement. He declined to identify the officials but, in a sign Beijing wants foreign companies to help lobby Washington, said the meetings represented "unprecedented access" for his group.

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Beijing matched Trump's earlier tariff increase on \$50 billion of imports but is running out of American goods for retaliation due to their lopsided trade balance. China bought American goods worth about \$1 for every \$3 of goods it exported to the United States.

Trump is poised to decide whether to raise duties on \$200 billion of Chinese goods. Beijing has issued a \$60 billion list of goods for retaliation.

A foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, said Monday that China will "definitely take countermeasures" if the tariff hike goes ahead.

Economists have warned Beijing might target service industries such as engineering or logistics, in which the United States runs a trade surplus with China.

Chinese commentators have suggested Beijing might use its multitrillion-dollar holdings of U.S. government debt as a weapon, though that would impose costs on China. State-controlled media have encouraged boycotts of Japanese and South Korean products in past disputes with those governments.

The government said in June it would impose unspecified "comprehensive measures" if necessary. That left U.S. companies on edge about whether Beijing will use its heavily regulated economy to disrupt their operations by withholding licenses or launching tax, anti-monopoly or other investigations.

Chinese leaders reject Trump's demand to roll back official industry plans such as "Made in China 2025," which calls for state-led creation of global champions in robotics, artificial intelligence and other technologies.

Washington, Europe and other trading partners say those plans violate Beijing's market-opening commitments. But Communist leaders see them as a path to prosperity and global influence.

Chinese negotiators agreed in May to narrow their multibillion-dollar trade surplus with the United States by purchasing more American soybeans and other products. Beijing scrapped that deal after Trump's first tariff increase went ahead July 6.

In addition to rolling back industry plans, the Trump administration wants Beijing to reduce the privileges of state-owned companies and eliminate requirements for foreign companies to hand over technology to Chinese partners.

In their meetings with the USCBC, Chinese officials expressed willingness to buy more American exports but "showed no appetite at all" to talk about industry reform, technology policy or other U.S. priorities, Parker said.

"I don't consider that to be very positive for any kind of negotiated outcome in the short term or medium term," he said.

Chinese regulators have shown their willingness to attack foreign companies in disputes with other governments.

Last year, Beijing destroyed South Korean retailer Lotte's business in China after it sold a golf course in South Korea to the country's government for construction of a missile defense system opposed by Chinese leaders.

Beijing closed most of Lotte's 99 supermarkets and other outlets in China. Seoul and Beijing later mended relations, but Lotte gave up and sold its China operations.

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 12, the 255th day of 2018. There are 110 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 12, 1942, during World War II, a German U-boat off West Africa torpedoed the RMS Laconia, which was carrying Italian prisoners of war, British soldiers and civilians; it's estimated more than 1,600 people died while some 1,100 survived after the ship sank. The German crew, joined by other U-boats, began rescue operations. (On September 16, the rescue effort came to an abrupt halt when the Germans were attacked by a U.S. Army bomber; as a result, U-boat commanders were ordered to no longer rescue civilian survivors of submarine attacks.)

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On this date:

In 1846, Elizabeth Barrett secretly married Robert Browning at St. Marylebone Church in London.

In 1914, during World War I, the First Battle of the Marne ended in an Allied victory against Germany.

In 1953, Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy married Jacqueline Lee Bouvier (boo-vee-AY') in Newport, Rhode Island.

In 1958, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Cooper v. Aaron*, unanimously ruled that Arkansas officials who were resisting public school desegregation orders could not disregard the high court's rulings.

In 1959, the Soviet Union launched its Luna 2 space probe, which made a crash landing on the moon. The TV Western series "Bonanza" premiered on NBC.

In 1960, Democratic presidential candidate John F. Kennedy addressed questions about his Roman Catholic faith, telling the Greater Houston Ministerial Association, "I do not speak for my church on public matters, and the church does not speak for me."

In 1977, South African black student leader and anti-apartheid activist Steve Biko (BEE'-koh), 30, died while in police custody, triggering an international outcry.

In 1986, Joseph Cicippio (sih-SIH'-pee-oh), the acting comptroller at the American University in Beirut, was kidnapped (he was released in December 1991).

In 1987, reports surfaced that Democratic presidential candidate Joseph Biden had borrowed, without attribution, passages of a speech by British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock (KIHN'-ik) for one of his own campaign speeches. (The Kinnock report, along with other damaging revelations, prompted Biden to drop his White House bid.)

In 1992, the space shuttle Endeavour blasted off, carrying with it Mark Lee and Jan Davis, the first married couple in space; Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space; and Mamoru Mohri, the first Japanese national to fly on a U.S. spaceship. Police in Peru captured Shining Path founder Abimael Guzman. Actor Anthony Perkins died in Hollywood at age 60.

In 1994, a stolen, single-engine Cessna crashed into the South Lawn of the White House, coming to rest against the executive mansion; the pilot, Frank Corder, was killed.

In 2012, the U.S. dispatched an elite group of Marines to Tripoli, Libya, after the mob attack in Benghazi that killed the U.S. ambassador and three other Americans. President Barack Obama strongly condemned the violence, and vowed to bring the killers to justice; Republican challenger Mitt Romney accused the administration of showing weakness in the face of tumultuous events in the Middle East.

Ten years ago: A Metrolink commuter train struck a freight train head-on in Los Angeles, killing 25 people. (Federal investigators said the Metrolink engineer, Robert Sanchez, who was among those who died, had been text-messaging on his cell phone and ran a red light shortly before the crash.) Hurricane Ike began battering the Texas coast. Grand Ole Opry star Charlie Walker died in Hendersonville, Tenn. at age 81.

Five years ago: Omar Hammami, an American who became one of Somalia's most visible Islamic rebels, was killed by rivals in the al-Qaida-linked extremist group al-Shabab. The U.S. space agency NASA announced that Voyager 1, launched 36 years earlier, had crossed a new frontier, becoming the first man-made spacecraft ever to leave the solar system. American inventor Ray Dolby, 80, founder of Dolby Laboratories, died in San Francisco.

One year ago: Crews worked to repair the lone highway connecting the Florida Keys, where 25 percent of the homes were feared to have been destroyed by Hurricane Irma; more than 9 million Floridians, or nearly half the state's population, were still without power in the late-summer heat. Seattle Mayor Ed Murray announced that he was resigning amid sex abuse allegations. Gay rights pioneer Edith Windsor, whose landmark Supreme Court case struck down parts of a federal anti-gay-marriage law, died in New York at the age of 88.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Freddie Jones is 91. Actor Ian Holm is 87. Former U.S. Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., is 79. Actress Linda Gray is 78. Singer Maria Muldaur is 76. Actor Joe Pantoliano is 67. Singer-musician Gerry Beckley (America) is 66. Original MTV VJ Nina Blackwood is 66. Rock musician Neil Peart (Rush) is 66. Actor Peter Scolari is 63. Former Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback is 62. Actress Rachel Ward is 61. Actress Amy Yasbeck is 56. Rock musician Norwood Fisher (Fishbone) is 53. Actor Darren E. Burrows is

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52. Rock singer-musician Ben Folds (Ben Folds Five) is 52. Actor-comedian Louis (loo-ee) C.K. is 51. Rock musician Larry LaLonde (Primus) is 50. Golfer Angel Cabrera is 49. Actor-singer Will Chase is 48. Actor Josh Hopkins is 48. Country singer Jennifer Nettles is 44. Actress Lauren Stamile (stuh'-MEE'-lay) is 42. Rapper 2 Chainz is 41. Actor Ben McKenzie is 40. Singer Ruben Studdard is 40. Basketball Hall of Fame player Yao Ming is 38. Singer-actress Jennifer Hudson is 37. Actor Alfie Allen is 32. Actress Emmy Rossum is 32. Country singer Kelsea Ballerini is 25. Actor Colin Ford is 22.

Thought for Today: "We must be willing to pay a price for freedom, for no price that is ever asked for it is half the cost of doing without it." — H.L. Mencken, American author and journalist (1880-1956).