

Groton Daily Independent

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“Kind words and good deeds are eternal. You never know where their influence will end.”

-H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

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Groton Area Schedule of Events

Monday, Sept. 24

Monday Dress up Day: MS/HS: Colleges; Elementary: Red, white and blue Day (let's get patriotic).

10 a.m.: Boys Golf regions at Olive Grove Golf Course. Teams attending are Aberdeen Roncalli, Groton Area, Dell Rapids, Madison, McCook Central-Montrose, Milbank, Sioux Valley, Sisseton, Tiospa Zina, Tri-Valley.

6 p.m.: School Board Meeting in Conference Room.

7:30 p.m.: Homecoming Coronation at GHS Gym.

Tuesday, Sept. 25

Tuesday Dress up Day: MS/HS: Decades; Elementary: Celebrity Day (dress up like someone famous- examples: a singer, movie star, professional athlete, person from history, etc.).

4 p.m.: Cross Country meet at 4 p.m. at Olive Grove Golf Course. Teams attending are Aberdeen Roncalli, Britton-Hecla, Frederick, Groton Area, Leola, Rosholt, Sargent Central, Tiospa Zina and Waubay-Summit.

4 p.m.: Eighth Grade football hosts Aberdeen Central on Doney Field, Groton.

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

Midwest Masonry & concrete Pumping

Greg Heilman, owner

405 E 1st Ave., Groton

Greg: 253/929-9137

Mike: 605/492-7041

midwestmasonry1@yahoo.com



Cranford makes game winning tackle in "Battle of the Tigers"



The Groton Area Tigers gathered together for a photo after beating Mobridge-Pollock in the annual "Battle of the Tigers." The trophy is pictured in the back row and has come back to Groton, once again. (Photo by Camie Heminger)

Thomas Cranford made the tackle to stop Mobridge-Pollock at the one-yard line with no time left on the clock to secure Groton Area's 28-26 win over Mobridge-Pollock.

It was the annual "Battle of the Tigers" with the traveling trophy coming, once again, back to Groton.

Mobridge-Pollock completed a pass on the last play of the game and Cranford grabbed the player and stopped him from entering the endzone. It culminated a game full of penalties (9 for each team) which included two pass interference penalties on Groton Area during Mobridge-Pollock's final drive. There were four turnovers with Groton Area turning the ball over three times. Mobridge-Pollock took advantage of the one of the turnovers to score. Also, Mobridge-Pollock blocked a Groton Area punt that set the home team up in good field position which they later scored on.

Groton Area had more yards rushing, 169-97, but Mobridge-Pollock ruled the air game with 310 yards passing compared to 104 for Groton Area. That led to Mobridge-Pollock having twice as many first downs as Groton Area, 22-11.

Lucas Hinman led the Groton Area offense with 68 yards receiving for a touchdown and 93 yards rushing for two touchdowns. Cranford led the defense with 11 tackles, which included the game winning tackle. Austin Jones and Wyatt Locke each had nine tackles with Jones having two sacks and Darien Shabazz had eight tackles. Brody DeHoet had an interception, a sack and 36 yards receiving. Jonathan Doeden had 76 yards rushing. Having one sack each were Alex Morris and Grady O'Neill.

A blocked punt set up the first scoring opportunity for Mobridge-Pollock. The Tigers started at their own 45 yard line. On third and five Mobridge-Pollock would score on a seven yard pass play. The two-point

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conversion was good and it was 8-0 with 4:35 left in the first quarter.

On Groton's first play after the kickoff, the Tigers would have the ball intercepted. Mobridge-Pollock would start on its own 40 yard line. The Tigers would go for the first down on fourth and 17 at the Groton 20 yard line, but the Groton defense would hold. On the first play after taking over on downs, Groton would fumble the ball and Mobridge-Pollock would have the ball at the Groton 37. Mobridge-Pollock would punt on fourth and 25.

Groton Area would start on its own 29 yard line. Lucas Hinman would have one good play before he scored on a 63 yard pass play from Jonathan Doeden. The two-point conversion was no good and Mobridge-Pollock held an 8-6 lead with 9:40 left in the first half.

Mobridge-Pollock was held on fourth and one at the 50 yard line and Groton Area took over on downs. On Groton's next drive, the Tigers would recover their own fumble. On fourth and 14, Brody DeHoet would make a big first down catch and took the ball down to the Mobridge-Pollock seven yard line. On second and goal from the 12 yard line, DeHoet would catch the ball for a touchdown. The two point conversion was no good and Groton Area had a 12-8 lead at half time.

Groton Area ended up punting right away in the third quarter. Mobridge-Pollock would score on its next possession. This time the PAT run was no good and the home team took a 14-12 lead with 9:42 left in the third quarter.

Lucas Hinman would dash for 50 yards on second and four to score for Groton Area. The two point conversion was good and Groton Area took a 20-14 lead with 8:40 left in the third quarter.

Mobridge-Pollock would punt on fourth and 14 and Groton Area would start on the Mobridge-Pollock 20 yard line. On the next play Lucas Hinman would run for the 20 yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was good and Groton Area took a 28-14 lead with 5:59 left in the third quarter.

Mobridge-Pollock would respond quickly and would score six plays later on fourth and one from the one yard line. The two point conversion was no good and Groton Area held a 28-20 lead with 3:23 left in the third quarter.

Groton Area would fumble the ball on the first play after the kickoff and Mobridge-Pollock would start at its own 44 yard line and take the ball into the end zone with 10:07 left in the game. The two point conversion was no good Groton Area's lead was down to two, 28-26.

Groton Area was third and four but a bad snap made it fourth and 36.

Mobridge-Pollock tried to convert on fourth and 16 and was unsuccessful as Groton Area took over on its own 30 yard line with 6:41 left in the game. The Tigers got a first down but ended up punting on fourth and 12.

Mobridge-Pollock now had the ball with 3:03 left in the game starting at the 50 yard line. A pass interference penalty on Groton Area gave Mobridge-Pollock a first down at the Groton 37 yard line with 1:52 left in the game. It was fourth and 14 with 18 seconds left. On the pass, a pass interference penalty was called on Groton Area and it was first and goal from the five. The Groton Area defense was holding. The Mobridge-Pollock pass was no good with 10 seconds left. Another pass attempt was no good with five seconds left. Another pass attempt was completed on the far side. Thomas Crawford was there to prevent the touchdown and took the player down at the one yard line as time expired on the clock.

Groton Area, now 4-2 on the season, will be hosting Milbank on Friday for Groton Area's homecoming game. Mobridge-Pollock falls to 2-3 and will travel to Cheyenne-Eagle Butte.

- Paul Kosel

Groton Area goes 1-3 in Sioux Falls

Groton Area defeated Hitchcock-Tulare and then lost to Ethan, Western Christian and Rapid City Central in the final three games of the day. The matches were played Saturday as part of pool play at the Sanford Pentagon in Sioux Falls.

Coach Chelsea Hanson said that even though Groton Area only won one match, the day was a very good learning experience for the Tigers. She said that the level of competition is very good. "It's something we're going to see if we get to the final 16. This proved we have room for improvement and have a lot of season ahead of us to make the necessary adjustments."

Groton Area 2, Hitchcock-Tulare 0

Groton Area won the first game, 25-22. That game was tied nine times and there were three lead changes. Groton Area scored the last four points to come from behind to win. Groton Area won the second game, 25-5. Groton Area scored the last 15 straight points of the game.

Serving: 47 of 48 with four ace serves. Kaylin Kucker was 21 of 21 with three ace serves, Miranda Hanson was six of seven with one ace serve, Nicole Marzahn was six of six, Eliza Wanner and Payton Maine were each five of five and Jennie Doeden was four of four.

Attacks: 73 of 82 with 24 kills. Eliza Wanner was 25 of 27 with seven kills, Jennie Doeden was 15 of 18 with eight kills, Nicole Marzahn was eight of 10 with one kill. Also having kills were Indigo Rogers with three, Portia Kettering with two and having one each were Nicole Marzahn, Tadyn Glover, Payton Colestock and Taylor Holm.

Kaylin Kucker had 16 assists. Indigo Rogers had three blocks.



Miranda Hanson

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

Payton Maine, Tadyn Glover and Eliza Wanner each had 10 digs.

Groton Area had 24 kills, four ace serves and three blocks. Hitchcock-Tulare had 10 kills, one block and one ace serve.

Ethan 2, Groton Area 1

Ethan won the first game, 25-22. After a tie at one, Ethan led the rest of the way, having a six point lead at one point. Groton Area closed to within two, 24-22. Groton Area won the second game, 25-19. The game was tied twice. Groton Area had a 10 point rally to take a 14-6 lead. Ethan won the third game, 25-15. After



Jennie Doeden

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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the game was tied three times, Ethan scored nine straight points to take a 16-5 lead.

Serving: 60 of 62 with 10 ace serves. Jennie Doeden was 13 of 15 with two ace serves, Kaylin Kucker was 13 of 13 with three ace serves, Eliza Wanner was 11 of 11 with five ace serves, Miranda Hanson was 10 of 10.

Attacks: 110 of 128 with 35 kills. Eliza Wanner was 30 of 36 with 10 kills, Jennie Doeden was 29 of 32 with 14 kills, Nicole Marzahn was 22 of 26 with six kills. Also having kills were Miranda Hanson with two and adding one each were Portia Kettering, Indigo Rogers and Payton Maine.

Kaylin Kucker had 12 assists and Miranda Hanson had 10. Indigo Rogers had one block. Payton Maine had 15 digs while Eliza Wanner had 13, Tady Glover nine and Kaylin Kucker eight.

Groton Area had 35 kills, 10 ace serves and one



Tady Glover

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

block. Ethan had 10 kills, one block and one ace serve.

Western Christian 2, Groton Area 0

Western Christian won the first game, 25-8. The game was tied at two. Western Christian scored the last 11 points of the game. Western Christian won the second game, 25-17. Groton had cut the lead to two, 19-17, but Western Christian scored the last six points.

Nicole Marzahn had two kills, one block and one ace serve. Indigo Rogers had two kills. Jennie Doeden had two kills and two blocks. Miranda Hanson and Eliza Wanner each had one kill and Taylor Holm had one ace serve. Groton Area had nine kills, three blocks and two ace serves while Western Christian had 20 kills, four blocks and four ace serves.

Rapid City Central 2, Groton Area 0

Rapid City Central won the first game, 25-23. The game was tied nine times and the lead switched sides three times. The game was tied at 21 before Rapid City outscored Groton Area down the stretch, 4-2. Rapid City Central won the second game, 26-24. That game was tied 12 times and the lead switched sides seven times. Groton tied the game at 23 and took a 24-23 lead. Rapid City came back to tie the game at 24 and scored the last two points for the win.

Serving: 38 of 45 with 2 ace serves. Tady Glover was



Indigo Rogers

(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Payton Maine
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

nine of 10 with one ace serve, Payton Maine was seven of nine and Jennie Doeden was eight of nine.

Attacks: 75 of 84 with 20 kills. Jennie Doeden was 24 of 28 with six kills, Eliza Wanner was 20 of 25 with nine kills and Nicole Marzahn was 14 of 15 with two kills. Taylor Holm had two kills and Indigo Rogers had one kill.

Miranda Hanson had 17 assisted sets, Jennie Doeden had one block while in digs, Payton Maine had 16 and Eliza Wanner had 12 with Tadyn Glover and Miranda Hanson each having six.

Groton Area had 20 kills, two ace serves and one block. Rapid City Central had 22 kills, one block and two ace serves.

- Paul Kosel



Nicole Marzahn
(Photo by Jeslyn Kosel)

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jordan Wright

This week, the Minnesota Vikings were not a good team. Good teams don't get annihilated at home by the worst team in the NFL. Good teams don't fail to score a single point until three minutes left in the fourth quarter. Yet that is exactly what happened on Sunday, when the Vikings lost to the Bills 27-6. There is a very good chance the Vikings overlooked the Bills, since they were 16.5-point favorites and will play one of the best teams in the NFL on Thursday, but that doesn't explain how truly horrible the whole team played on Sunday.

On offense, the Vikings were horrible. The biggest issue was the offensive line, a unit that was unable to give Kirk Cousins any time to pass or open holes for the Vikings' running backs. The Vikings were without Dalvin Cook for this game, but he wouldn't have made much of a difference. The Vikings' longest drive in the first half was five plays and 19 yards. All six first-half drives went for 46 yards. Total. That's 7.7 yards per drive. Those are bad numbers for peewee football.

Kirk Cousins was horrible this game. For his first three drives, he completed one of two passes for three yards, was sacked twice for negative eight yards, and fumbled twice. Some of the blame needs to go to the offensive line, and some of the blame needs to go to the coaching staff who were unable to counteract the Bills pass rush, but most of the blame belongs to Cousins. The Vikings payed big bucks to bring him in this offseason, and he is supposed to be able to right the ship when things aren't going well. Instead, he completed 9 of 14 passes for 44 yards in the first half. He finished with a stat line of 40/55, 296 yards, one touchdown and one interception – but most of those yards came late in the fourth quarter when the Bills were simply playing prevent defense.

The Vikings offense fell off a cliff, but at least the Vikings can always count on the defense to come up big, right? Wrong. The Bills put up 27 points and had 226 yards of offense in the first half because the Vikings' defense was unable to stop them. It was one of the worst defensive performances under Mike Zimmer and exposed many flaws that the Vikings will need to fix if they have any hope of making the playoffs.

The player of the game on offense was Dan Bailey, the new kicker the Vikings brought in to replace Daniel Carlson after he missed three field goals against Green Bay. Bailey didn't miss a single kick on Sunday, which is the only bright spot I could find from Sunday's game. (Editor's note, the Vikings didn't attempt a single kick on Sunday).

The player of the game on defense was Stephen Weatherly, the defensive end who got the surprise start with Everson Griffen sitting this game out because of an injury. Weatherly led the Vikings with seven tackles, one sack, one tackle for a loss and two quarterback hits.

Looking ahead, the Vikings travel to Los Angeles to play the Rams on Thursday Night Football. ESPN gives the Rams a 69% chance to win this game. I fully expect the Vikings to come out and play much better than they did on Sunday, but I still expect them to lose, mainly because the Vikings usually lose prime time games. Hopefully I'm wrong, but I don't have a lot of faith in this team right now.

Have any questions, comments, or just need to vent? Reach out to me on Twitter (@JordanWrightNFL)

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Groton Area scores against Tea Area

The Groton Area boys soccer team has done something that no other team has been able to do this year against Tea - score! Groton Area lost Saturday to Tea Area, 6-1, but this was the first goal scored against the number one ranked Tea Area this year.

Hunter Schaller shot a penalty kick over the wall of defenders. It hit the top crossbar then bounced in and out and Cade Guthmiller was there for an insurance kick as he took the rebound and kicked it in to stay.

The girls team lost to Tea Area, 7-0.



Cade Guthmiller

(Photo by Mindy Jones)



Dragger Monson

(Photo by Mindy Jones)



Isaac Smith

(Photo by Mindy Jones)



Jaden Zak

(Photo by Mindy Jones)

Coming up on GDILIVE.COM

Groton School Board Meeting

Monday, Sept. 24, 2018

6 p.m.

GHS Conference Room

It's Homecoming Coronation on GDILIVE.COM



Groton Area Tigers

7:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 24, 2018

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Today in Weather History

September 24, 1986: Thunderstorm high winds along with several tornados brought damage to parts of western and central South Dakota from the late evening in the morning hours of the 25th. Winds were estimated up to 80 mph. Many trees and power poles were downed along with damage to many buildings. The tornadoes occurred near Newell, east of Cedar Butte, west of Murdo, 20 miles northwest of Pierre, and northwest of Ridgeview in Dewey County.

September 24, 1992: South winds gusting to 50 to 55 mph across northeast South Dakota during the day toppled several trees and light poles. In Aberdeen, a front window was blown out of a store.

1926 - The temperature at Yellowstone Park dipped to nine degrees below zero. It was the coldest reading of record in the U.S. during September. Severe freezes were widespread over the northwestern U.S. causing great crop destruction. In Washington State, Spokane County experienced their earliest snow of record. Harney Branch Experiment Station in Oregon reported a temperature of 2 degrees above zero to establish a state record for the month of September. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1939: A thunderstorm on this day dropped 6.45 inches in six hours at Indio, CA. This rainfall preceded "El Cordonazo" or "The Lash of St. Francis", an actual tropical storm. For the entire storm, which started on this day and ended on the 26th, four inches of rain fell across the deserts and mountains as a dying tropical cyclone moved across Baja California into southwestern Arizona. This storm was the second tropical cyclone to impact California during this month. A strong El Niño may have contributed to the activity. The tropical storm produced 50 mph winds over the ocean and estimated seas of 40 feet. September rain records were set in Los Angeles with 5.66 inches and 11.6 inches at Mt. Wilson. 45 people died from sinking boats and harbors were damaged. Total damage was estimated at \$2 million dollars. Californians were unprepared and were alerted to their vulnerability to tropical storms. In response, the weather bureau established a forecast office for Southern California, which began operations in February of 1940.

1950 - A smoke pall from western Canada forest fires covered much of the eastern U.S. Daylight was reduced to nighttime darkness in parts of the Northeast. The color of the sun varied from pink to purple, blue, or lavender. Yellow to grey-tan was common. (24th-30th) (The Weather Channel)

1972 - Lightning struck a man near Waldport, OR, a young man who it so happens was carrying thirty-five pieces of dynamite. (The Weather Channel)

1986: An F2 tornado, unusually strong for one in California, touched down just southeast of Vina on this day and traveled two miles through an agricultural area. A mobile home was destroyed, injuring a 22-year-old occupant. Eleven other buildings were damaged or demolished, and 50 acres of walnut orchards were flattened.

1987 - The first full day of autumn proved to be a pleasant one for much of the nation, with sunny skies and mild temperatures. Thunderstorms again formed over Florida and the southwestern deserts, and also formed along a cold front in the northeastern U.S. A storm spotter at Earp CA sighted a couple of funnel clouds, one on the California side of the state line, and the other on the Arizona side. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

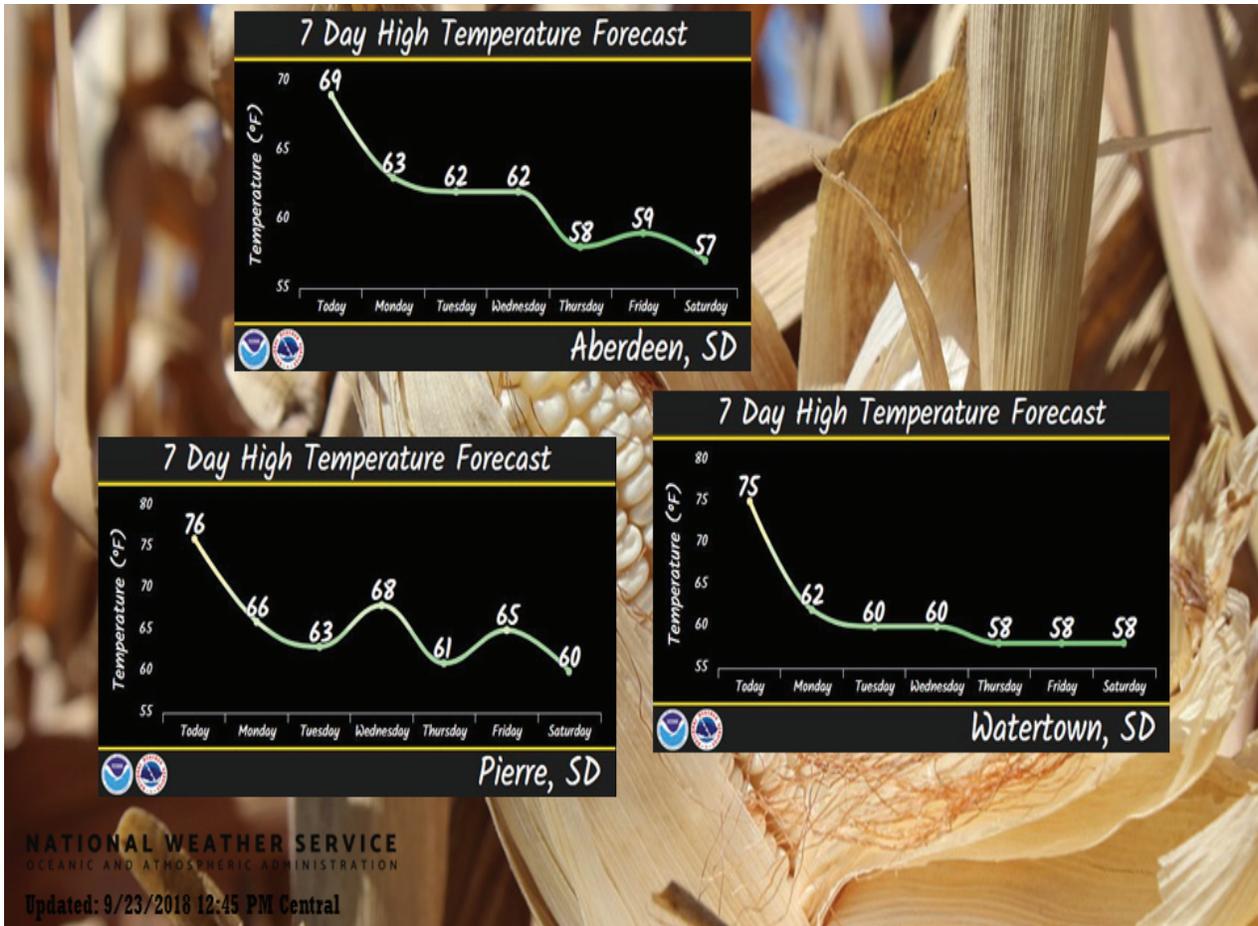
1988 - Thunderstorms developing along a stationary front produced large hail and damaging winds in the southeastern U.S., with reports of severe weather most numerous in North Carolina. Golf ball size hail was reported at Tick Creek and a number of other locations in North Carolina. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Forty-seven cities between the Rockies and the Appalachians reported record low temperatures for the date. Lows of 38 degrees at Abilene TX, 34 degrees at Jackson KY, and 36 degrees at Midland TX established records for the month of September. The low of 36 degrees at Midland smashed their previous record for the date by thirteen degrees. Fayetteville AR and Springfield MO reported their earliest freeze of record. Thunderstorms produced torrential rains in northeastern Florida. Jacksonville was deluged with 11.40 inches of rain, and flash flooding resulted in two deaths. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
				
Areas Fog then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers	Chance Showers	Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance Showers	Partly Sunny then Chance Showers
High: 74 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 62 °F	Low: 45 °F	High: 62 °F



Published on: 09/23/2018 at 12:48PM

Well, here's a look at forecast high temperatures this week at a few locations across the forecast area. There are also a couple of rain chances, first late tonight through Monday, and then again later Monday night through Tuesday night.

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Yesterday's Weather

High Outside Temp: 77.1 F at 4:43 PM

Low Outside Temp: 44.1 F at 5:17 AM

High Gust: 19.0 Mph at 1:52 PM

Precip: 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 90° in 1935

Record Low: 23° in 2000

Average High: 68°F

Average Low: 42°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 1.69

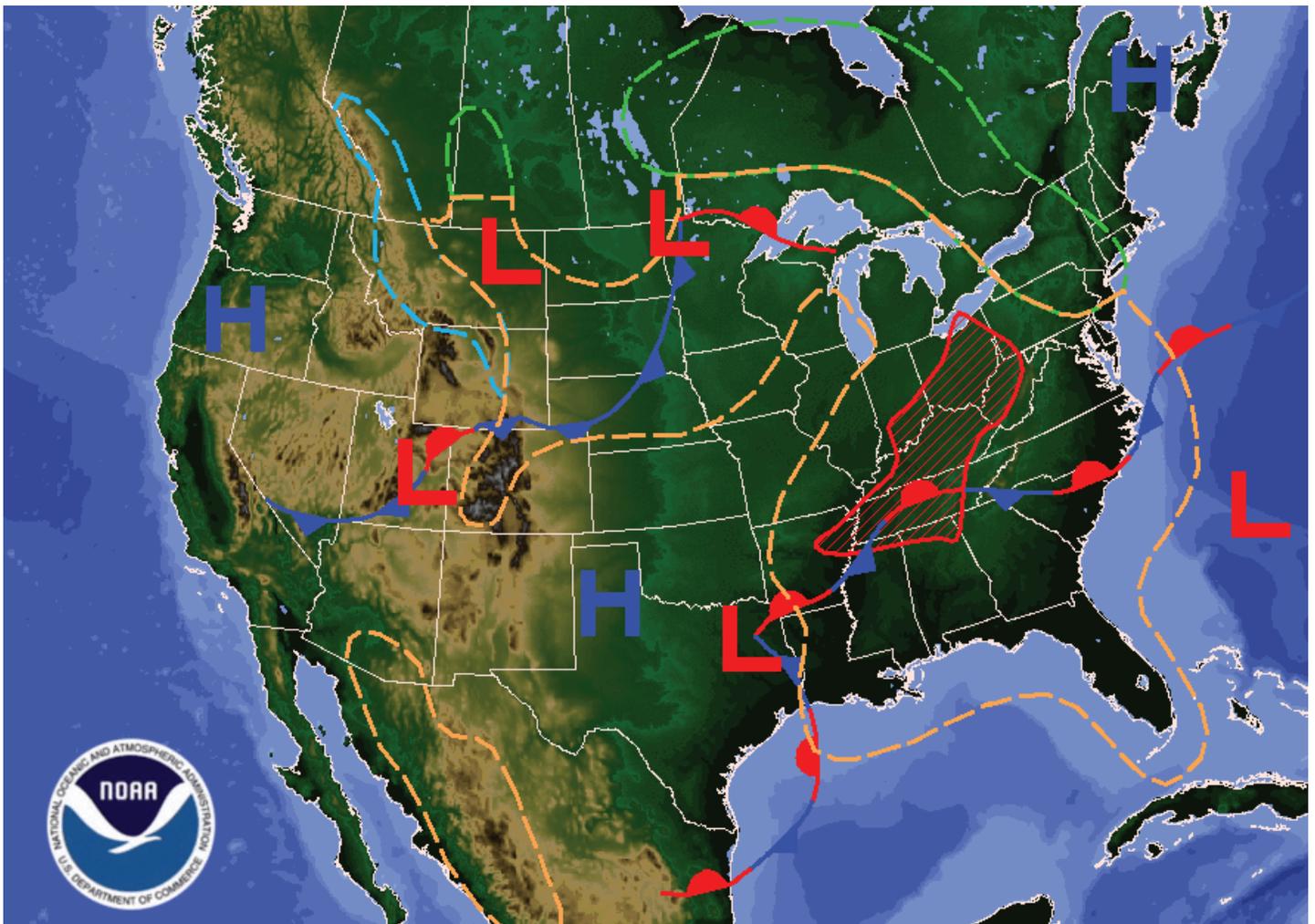
Precip to date in Sept.: 1.80

Average Precip to date: 17.98

Precip Year to Date: 13.01

Sunset Tonight: 7:27 p.m.

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:24 a.m.



Day 1 National Forecast Chart

Valid Mon, Sep 24, 2018, issued 4:43 AM EDT
DOC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Weather Prediction Center
Prepared by McCreynolds with WPC/SPC/NHC forecasts

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

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NEED HELP IN GETTING UP?

Not long ago, shortly after spine surgery, I was walking from one room to another with a cup of coffee in one hand and a book in the other. Although I knew my balance had not returned to its pre-surgical state, I would not allow anyone to help me. Suddenly, I tripped, spilled the coffee on myself and my book and was lying flat on my face wondering what happened.

As I lay there, I soon realized that pride, no doubt, contributed to my fall more than my inadequate balance.

Struggling to get up, my wife asked if she could help me. I said, No, I can do this by myself! When I realized how weak I was, and that I could not get up by myself, I finally asked for her help. Sitting in my chair, I realized that this was an example of my pride and unwillingness to ask for help. First, I fell when I refused her help. Then I refused her help a second time when she offered to help lift me.

As I thought about my experience sometime later, Psalm 145:14 came to mind: The Lord lifts all those who fall; and lifts all who are bowed down. Reflecting on that verse, I came to realize that we often fall in our daily spiritual journey because of pride and vanity. Even after we fall, we often refuse to turn to God for His strength, believing we can do it on our own, without His help.

I can do all things, Paul said, through Christ. He was a man of strength and courage, vision, and victory. He realized that what God called him to do was well beyond his strength. He needed Christ's strength to do Christ's work. Are you down? Reach out for God's hand!

Prayer: Lord, we often fail and fall because of our pride and vanity. May we realize we need You to stay upright. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture for Today: Psalm 145:14 The Lord lifts all those who fall; and lifts all who are bowed down.

2018 Groton SD Community Events

- Groton Lion's Club Bingo- Wednesday Nights 6:30pm at the Groton Legion (Year Round)
- Nov./Dec./Jan./Feb./Mar. 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)
- Transit Fundraiser (Middle Thursday in June)
- SDSU Golf at Olive Grove
- 6/15/2019 Triathlon (Saturday before Father's Day)
- 7/4/2019 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
- 7/14/2019 Summer Fest
- 9/7/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching 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

News from the Associated Press

Teen's nonprofit to help women obtain hygiene products

By DANIELLE FERGUSON, Argus Leader

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Watching a video featuring a homeless woman rolling up toilet paper to use as a makeshift menstrual pad triggered outrage for Tatiana Chance.

The 17-year-old couldn't imagine dealing with a menstrual cycle every month without being able to afford tampons or pads, so she decided to take action.

The New Technology High School senior is in the early stages of forming a nonprofit reorganization called Help 4 Huhas, with the goal of getting necessary feminine hygiene products to homeless and financially unstable women in Sioux Falls, the Argus Leader reported.

"Tampons or pads are 7 to 10 dollars a box," Chance said. "It's women having to decide if they want food or wanting to be clean."

The idea to gather and distribute period products started about a year ago, when Chance saw a video from Bustle that showed how some homeless women cope with their periods.

She put out a call on social media, asking friends on Snapchat and Facebook if they would be interested in donating products. The response was inspiring.

"People want to help. They just don't know how," Chance said.

The thought to create a legitimate nonprofit came from a national period product company.

Chance reached out to Kotex, Always and DivaCup to ask for their help. Kotex responded, saying they can't help unless it was part of a legitimate nonprofit organization, Chance said.

"I'm like, 'OK, I'm going to do that,'" Chance said.

Since then, she's been meeting with attorneys, researching what forms she needs to fill out and raising money for startup costs. She's already started receiving donations of tampons, pads and bags to make period kits.

Chance didn't realize the amount of homeless or financially unstable people in Sioux Falls until the Bishop Dudley House and other local shelter organizations presented to her school.

The St. Francis House can house 46 women. On an average month, they can go through more than 1,500 tampons, said executive director Julie Becker. While the St. Francis House is a transitional facility, Becker said she has seen some women come in from the street seeking feminine products.

"It's part of the basic life needs we all need," Becker said. "How can you function when you're concerned (about your period)?"

If women don't have adequate products, they must deal with the task of cleaning themselves up, something not easy without access to a shower, laundry machines or another set of clothes.

The Bishop Dudley Hospitality House offers products and laundry services, but even then, it can be difficult for women to schedule laundry, and even a bit embarrassing to ask for tampons or pads.

"It's embarrassing to say, 'I don't have enough money to buy tampons,'" said Amanda Stidd, development coordinator for the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House. "People don't want to say that out loud, but it's a very real issue. A woman can't go without that."

Chance is hoping to get more people talking about the issue while taking care of the people in need.

"Menstruation is kind of a taboo subject," Chance said. "If you don't talk about this, you don't know about this issue, and you don't know about their struggle."

The New Technology student is tackling the task of starting a nonprofit on top of her senior year studies, theater group, real estate class and preparing for life after graduation.

"I thought she'd spend most of her time planning her graduation party, but she's really passionate about helping people," Chance's mother, Stacey Harris, said.

Harris, who owns New You Infrared Sauna and Spa, is donating commissions she would get from her beauty product counter to her daughter's startup fees. She's also giving discounts to those who send in

products for her daughter's cause.

"Tatiana has a huge heart," Harris said. "She's only 17. I'm so proud of her and the woman she's growing into."

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

New president of technology college prepares to tackle role

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK, Rapid City Journal

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — President Jim Rankin didn't drive his motorcycle to work one recent morning due to rain, but he's otherwise settled into his new role as president of a college in western South Dakota.

"It's always fun to come back," said Rankin, a native of Draper and Ft. Pierre and '78 South Dakota School of Mines and Technology alum, "I'm amazed at how many connections you have that you don't think about."

A cousin bumped into him at dinner. Another old friend passed through Rapid City and called to say 'hello' and wish him luck. For the former electrical engineering major entering his first full academic year as president of SDSMT, President Rankin finally felt at home when he and his wife took in the beanie hat ceremony.

"You wonder if the students are still engaged like they were (in my days)," Rankin said. "But they crowded around the stage and sang the Hardrockers' fight song."

Traditions remain strong for Rankin, but the college he inherited in January from former president and current U.S. Secretary of the Air Force, Heather Wilson, has its focus trained on the future. From the partnership with the Sanford Underground Research Facility deep below the mountains of Lead to sustaining contributions from international students, Rankin sees his mission broadly as he starts his first full year at the helm.

Inspired by a former mentor at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville, where he served as Vice Provost for Research and Economic Development, Rankin said one of the first things he did when starting the new job was to meet with faculty in each of the departments to find out their needs.

"I wanted to get a feel for what was going on and tried to take the same approach on our strategic plan," he told the Rapid City Journal .

The next step was to meet with faculty and students completing research in the field.

"They never know when I'm going to pop up," said Rankin. In spring, the new president went up to what he calls the "4850 level" of the Sanford Underground Research Facility in the former Lead gold mine where many experiments are being undertaken.

One research breakthrough the university has touted recently directly ties to the old Homestake mine. Researchers in the Composite and Nanocomposite Advanced Manufacturing — Bio Materials Center wrapped graphite sheets around microbes found 5,000 feet underground in the laboratory to conduct electricity, a "novel solution" according to a university release. The findings could lead to better treatment for solid waste on NASA missions or the generation of electricity by wastewater treatment plants.

Rankin admitted the in-depth science in fields unfamiliar to him can sometimes go over his head, but he nevertheless relishes in supporting faculty and students in their endeavors.

"We've got this Science Cafe and one night we talked about whether some of the artifacts down at the Red Cloud Museum were real or had been faked," said Rankin. "It was a fascinating evening. And being a registered professional engineer, I'll sometimes come up to them after the seminars and ask them to sign this piece of paper to show I was there."

Rankin believes this focus on research complements a faculty member's teaching duties.

"If you're doing research as a faculty member, you're bringing that learning back into the undergraduate classroom. It also brings more graduate students."

Numbers from the South Dakota Board of Regents shows that in the Fall of 2017, Mines' enrollment hovered at 2,778, making it the smallest public college in the state. But the school's \$15 million in grant-funded research (Rankin said he wants to raise this by an additional \$5 million) stands out among the

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state's institutions of higher learning.

And Rankin wants to continue to grow on this strong academic tradition.

"We have a core expertise in engineering and science," said Rankin. "But are there things related to that that would make sense? If you talk to some of our alums, they wish they had a few more business courses. We probably won't start our own business school, but how do we team with BHSU (Black Hills State University) or USD (University of South Dakota) to offer those kinds of experiences?"

He also has looked to the school's support services to develop a sense of home for students.

"If you come here from a small town, this (Rapid City) can be overwhelming," said Rankin. "But 70 percent of our students come from a small town." Rankin mentioned the Student Success Center and new campus activities, including the establishment of the new esports program in the athletic department as providing community on campus.

But he believes further fostering ties between Rapid City and the college is a needed step for the school.

"We have a presence in the town, but we really need to find a connection," said Rankin. "If you stopped and asked somebody on the street, 'What is it that they do at the School of Mines,' I'm not sure what kind of answers we'd get."

Rankin mentioned football games, the Apex Art Gallery and the Museum of Geology as avenues for drawing people on campus. But he believes more deliberately can be done in town.

"On the freshman day of service, they went out with food baskets and cleaned," said Rankin. "But we need to make sure they're wearing a sweatshirt that says School of Mines."

He pointed to Mines-born ideas, such as VRC Metal Systems, which creates a cold spray technology that, among other uses, is applied to fix bodies of bombers stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base, that have come out of the Ascent Innovation Center as evidence of entrepreneurship active at the college.

This summer, Mines also announced Ascent will open up a downtown campus.

"It'll be great for economic development, and it just strengthens that connection between the School of Mines and downtown."

He also hypothesized about a trolley system that could connect Main Street and St. Joseph.

But, ultimately, the bread-and-butter for Mines, Rankin said, will be the highly skilled graduates it produces. The president recalled the early days of his career, working as an engineer for Rockwell Collins in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

"I think of my graduating double-e class about 30 people went to Rockwell that year," he said. "I think you find that a lot of our employers know what they get with our students."

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

Steve Stricker wins Sanford International in Sioux Falls

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Steve Stricker won the inaugural Sanford International on Sunday for his third PGA Tour Champions title of the year, closing with a 3-under 67 for a four-stroke victory.

Stricker led wire-to-wire at Minnehaha Country Club after rain limited him to only seven pre-tournament holes.

"I've never felt so unprepared in my life playing a golf tournament," Stricker said. "You usually get around it a couple times at least. But there's something to be said about that, too, where you can just kind of plod your way around, kind of learn as you go around and take each shot really one shot at a time and keep plugging away. That's kind of what my mentality was this week. I didn't know some of the spots to miss it. I wasn't very familiar with it, but all in all, it worked out."

The 51-year-old Stricker birdied three of the first four holes and offset bogeys on 13 and 18 with birdies on 15 and 16. He shared the lead after each of the first two rounds.

"I came out feeling really good, really comfortable," Stricker said. "Hit two really good shots and really played the first five, six, seven holes really solidly. Then once you get that lead, it's like a different mentality sets in. You're trying not to make a mistake. It gets a little bit harder to play. I did my best. I was just

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trying to make pars and keep moving along, so it was good to hang on.”

Stricker also won in Arizona and Mississippi in consecutive starts in May for his first senior victories. Next week in France, he will be one of U.S. Ryder Cup captain Jim Furyk’s assistants.

Stricker finished at 13-under 197, and match Paul Broadhurst for the tour victory lead.

Tim Petrovic (65) and Jerry Smith (70) tied for second.

Brandt Jobe, tied for the second-round lead, had a 72 to drop into a tie for fourth with Kevin Sutherland (67) at 8 under.

National falconry gathering hits roadblock in South Dakota

YANKTON, S.D. (AP) — Efforts to bring a national falconry gathering back to South Dakota hit a roadblock recently.

The North American Falconers Association hasn’t held a national meet in South Dakota in more than 40 years, and it’s unlikely the group will host its annual event in the state any time soon.

The state’s Game, Fish and Parks Commission recently denied the association’s petition for rule changes to ensure an adequate number of hunting licenses for its national meet, the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan reported .

“The North American Falconers Association (NAFA) would love to return to South Dakota, the location of many historic falconry field meets in the past,” said NAFA President Sheldon Nicolle. “The limited number of non-resident waterfowl licenses creates a significant challenge to the planning and execution of our annual field meet.”

Nicolle said the organization’s annual field meet is a weeklong get-together that typically attracts 200-300 falconers and their families to the host city. The meet is a social gathering, not a competition or a falconry exhibition, he explained.

The extended event creates a major economic influx for the host site, Nicolle said.

“The host community can anticipate between \$300,000 and \$500,000 being spent by falconers during the meet week,” he said.

The event has “deep roots in South Dakota,” Nicolle said. Eight of the association’s initial field meets were held in Yankton or Centerville between 1963 and 1975.

NAFA is the largest falconry membership organization in the world, Nicolle said.

Box Elder resident Billy Workman belongs to the falconry association and was hoping to bring the tradition back to the state.

He said the state commission’s decision puts the NAFA national meets on hold for now in the Rushmore State.

“Because of the (state’s wildlife) lottery requirements, (NAFA) can’t include South Dakota in the rotation,” Workman said.

This story has been corrected to correct name of organization to North American Falconers Association instead of North American Falcon Association.

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

Many states’ governor’s races become proxy battle over Trump

By DAVID EGGERT and GEOFF MULVIHILL, Associated Press

LANSING, Mich. (AP) — It’s a resume that reads like an ideal springboard to higher office: investigated sexual assaults of Olympic gymnasts, charged government officials responsible for a tainted water crisis, bucked the governor on tax hikes.

With that background and his party controlling all statewide offices, Republican Attorney General Bill Schuette might be on the fast track to winning the Michigan governor’s race in November. One reason he’s not: President Donald Trump.

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Schuette is an outspoken supporter of the president, who narrowly won the state in 2016 but has declined in popularity since.

"I'm not going to run away from any issue," he said. "I appreciate the support of the president, and I stand by my record of achievement."

As with many races around the country, this year's midterm campaigns for governor are in many ways proxy fights over support or opposition to the Trump administration.

Richard Czuba, a nonpartisan pollster in Michigan, said voters in every age group are more motivated to get to the polls than he's seen in his 35-year career. He said independent voters are leaning toward supporting Democrats this year largely because of their distaste for Trump.

"It's an environment like nothing I've ever seen," said Democratic nominee Gretchen Whitmer, a former legislative leader, who has held an edge in state public opinion surveys.

She has spoken against Trump's policies but said she is much more focused on fixing Michigan problems.

The theme of a Trump-backed Republican and a left-of-center Democrat locked in a close election contest runs through many of the 36 races for governor on the ballot this year.

Trump's relative unpopularity is another challenge for Republicans, who already were bracing for tough governor's races this year after having unprecedented success during former President Barack Obama's tenure.

Republicans have dominated state elections across the country since 2010, the first midterm election after Obama took office. Even after losing in New Jersey last year, Republicans hold a near-record 33 governor's offices compared to 16 for Democrats (Alaska's governor is an independent).

Most of the races expected to be close this year are in states where Republicans currently serve as governor. In addition to Michigan, swing states that include Florida, Maine, Nevada and Ohio have open seats where the current GOP incumbent is termed out. Incumbent Republicans are locked in tough races in Arizona and Wisconsin, drawing millions of dollars in independent expenditures.

The GOP is aiming to pick up governor's seats in Connecticut and Colorado, states with open seats where Democrats now hold the job, and to re-elect incumbents in three other states in New England, a region that overwhelmingly sends Democrats to Congress.

Why does it matter? Aside from holding executive powers and overseeing state agencies, governors in many states can approve or veto the maps drawn once a decade for congressional and state legislative seats. That process determines which party will hold political power for years to come.

The next round of redistricting will happen after the 2020 Census, giving governors who win this year the ability to approve or veto the new maps.

An arcane process typically of interest to political insiders, redistricting has rocketed to national attention in the past two years. Republicans seized control of state legislatures and governor's offices in 2010 and proceeded to draw districts heavily favoring their party in many states, even those where voter registration is about equally split between Democrats and Republicans.

That process, called gerrymandering, has given Republicans outsized influence in Congress and state legislatures, and it's a dynamic Democrats hope to begin reversing by retaking governor's offices.

"People recognized that if we were going to have some bastion of protection for civil rights, it's to have a check on Donald Trump," Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, chairman of the Democratic Governors Association, said in an interview. "And the only way to do that is to stop this gerrymandering."

His group is targeting eight states where governors have a redistricting role. It believes flipping the governor from a Republican to a Democrat would put the party in position to pick up 20 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives with the next maps.

Jon Thompson, a spokesman for the Republican Governors Association, downplays gerrymandering as a motivating issue this year and portrays it as part of the regular push-and-pull of politics.

Redistricting is one of many issues in play in governor's races across the country. Health care is another, and many surveys show it as a top concern for voters.

The Medicaid expansion that was part of Obama's Affordable Care Act is emerging as a key issue in many

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states. That includes Florida and Georgia, which have open races and where the Democratic candidates are trying to become their state's first black governor.

Protecting older Americans from higher insurance premiums and protecting those with pre-existing medical conditions are other hot-button topics. In Michigan, health care is a dividing line between the candidates.

As attorney general, Schuette joined with other Republican attorneys general in litigation seeking to overturn the Affordable Care Act. Democrats are criticizing him for not fighting a separate lawsuit that threatens protections for patients with pre-existing conditions that Obama's law put in place.

That stance alone threatens to undermine any goodwill Schuette had built up by launching investigations into the lead-tainted water crisis in Flint and into Michigan State University's handling of sexual assaults by Larry Nasser, the former team doctor for USA Gymnastics.

Instead, he's campaigning on a pledge to cut taxes, reduce auto insurance rates and improve student reading scores.

Whitmer is focusing her campaign on cleaning up drinking water across the state, rebuilding roads and maintaining the expansion of Medicaid that she helped developed with current Gov. Rick Snyder, a Republican. It provides health coverage to 663,000 lower-income adults.

She voted for the expansion of Medicaid as a lawmaker while Schuette opposed it. He recently suggested that he would not undo the program but said he wants to implement GOP-enacted work requirements that are scheduled to take effect in the state in 2020.

"It is a stark difference," Whitmer said. "I want to keep working to get more people covered, and he wants to take health care away from people."

Mulvihill reported from Cherry Hill, New Jersey.

Follow Eggert at <http://www.twitter.com/davideggert00> and Mulvihill at <http://www.twitter.com/geoffmulvihill>

South Dakota special needs nonprofit expands

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — A nonprofit that connects families caring for children with disabilities to information, training and resources is increasing its presence in northern South Dakota.

The Sioux Falls-based South Dakota Parent Connection opened an office in Aberdeen last month, the Aberdeen News reported .

The group aims to help parents feel informed when talking to doctors or teachers about their child's needs, said Executive Director Carla Miller.

The organization worked with almost 90 families and professionals from Aberdeen from 2015 to 2016, Miller said.

"I thought, 'We need to get up to Aberdeen and make sure that families know how to access us and provide consistent resources up there,'" she said.

The Aberdeen office has worked with 110 people since it opened in August, Miller said.

Julie Huber reached out to the nonprofit in February after her son, who was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and behavioral disturbance, was suspended from second grade. She says she's since learned more about his disability and how to work with the school system.

"They validated those concerns and have supported me beyond my expectations. They empowered me to be an advocate for my son. Nothing is more uplifting than that. I will never forget the day that they told me, 'Every single one of your concerns, as a mother, are sound,'" Huber said.

The nonprofit also has an office in Rapid City. The next goal is to add a location in the Yankton and Vermillion area, she said.

Information from: Aberdeen American News, <http://www.aberdeennews.com>

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Summaries of the governor's races on the ballot in 36 states

By The Associated Press

Governor's races are on the ballot this November in 36 states. The most competitive races are expected to be in states where Republicans now hold the job. Summaries of each race:

ALABAMA

Republican Kay Ivey is being challenged by the mayor of Tuscaloosa, Democrat Walter Maddox, who is seeking to be the first Democrat elected governor in the state in 20 years. Maddox favors expanding Medicaid and starting a lottery. Ivey became governor last year when Robert Bentley resigned amid a sex scandal. Ivey is running on her conservative credentials on issues such as opposing abortion and supporting gun rights.

ALASKA

Independent Gov. Bill Walker has challenges from the right in Republican former state Sen. Mike Dunleavy and from the left in Mark Begich, a former U.S. senator and mayor of Anchorage. The state has been wrestling with the impact of a crash in oil prices, which has made it harder to balance the state budget. Walker has addressed that by cutting the annual dividend checks that Alaskans receive from the state's oil-wealth fund, a decision Dunleavy says is too important to have been made without public involvement. Some Democrats have called for Begich to leave the race to give Walker a clearer shot at winning against the conservative Dunleavy.

ARKANSAS

Democrat Jared Henderson says his top priority in his run for governor against incumbent Republican Asa Hutchinson is education. Henderson, a former state director for Teach for America, is calling for teacher raises of 10 percent in his first year in office and 25 percent over a decade to attract more teachers. In a Republican-dominated state, Henderson's run is a long-shot. Hutchinson also called for a 13 percent one-year raise for teachers.

ARIZONA

Education is the big issue this year, where Democrat David Garcia is challenging incumbent Republican Doug Ducey. Garcia, a former official in the state Education Department, is trying to capitalize on the energy of educators who walked off the job earlier year to call for more funding. Ducey agreed to a 20 percent raise for teachers over time but did not go as far with additional funding as protesters called for.

CALIFORNIA

Democrat Gavin Newsom, the California lieutenant governor and former mayor of San Francisco, is a heavy favorite to be the next governor of California in an election against Republican businessman John Cox. The next governor of the nation's most populous state will replace Democrat Jerry Brown, who is leaving office because of term limits. A homeless and housing crisis, increasing costs and destruction from wildfires, exploding pension obligations for state workers and teachers, and whether to expand the state's water supply and delivery systems will be among the top issues facing the next governor.

COLORADO

In Colorado, which has been a swing state recently, Democratic U.S. Rep. Jared Polis is taking on Republican state Treasurer Walker Stapleton. The governor's seat is open this year because Democrat John Hickenlooper is facing term limits. A Polis victory would make him the first openly gay man to be elected governor in the U.S. Polis, an entrepreneur who has started multiple companies, is calling for universal health care in Colorado and full-day preschool and kindergarten. Stapleton, who previously worked at technology startups, led a campaign against a 2016 ballot measure that would have brought the state universal health coverage. The measure lost by a margin of nearly 4 to 1.

CONNECTICUT

Connecticut has become heavily Democratic, but the race between Democrat Ned Lamont and Republican Bob Stefanowski is rated by some experts as a toss-up. Both candidates are wealthy businessmen. Lamont founded a company that provides TV services to colleges, and ran previously for U.S. Senate in 2006 and governor in 2010. He is largely funding his own campaign. Stefanowski has served as an execu-

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tive at General Electric and UBS Investment Bank. Stefanowski, who has Trump's endorsement, wants to eliminate the state's income tax and has tried to tie Lamont's policies to incumbent Democrat Dannel Malloy, who has a low approval rating. Lamont has criticized Stefanowski as being too much like Trump.

FLORIDA

Florida voters will choose between U.S. Rep. Ron DeSantis, one of Trump's biggest supporters in Congress, and Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, who supports universal health care but has not proposed a state-specific plan for it. One day after the August primary, DeSantis said Florida should not "monkey up" the election — language that drew accusations of racism because Gillum is black. Trump also has taken to Twitter to bash Gillum, whose campaign must contend with an FBI probe of a redevelopment deal in Tallahassee involving an ally of Gillum's.

GEORGIA

Republican Secretary of State Brian Kemp, who has made a priority of opposing illegal immigration, is seeking the governorship against Democrat Stacey Abrams, a former state House of Representatives minority leader who is attempting to become the first black woman to be elected governor in the U.S. The state's white majority is overwhelmingly Republican, but elections have been tightening in part due to demographic shifts. Abrams calls for overhauling the criminal justice system, with changes that include eliminating cash bail. Kemp has made a tough-on-crime stance a centerpiece of his campaign.

HAWAII

First-term Gov. David Ige survived a challenge in the Democratic primary and now faces state Rep. Andria Tupola, the House minority leader. Tupola is calling for more affordable housing and giving native Hawaiians the right to use land that was set aside for them. The state has had only two Republican governors in its history.

IDAHO

Republican Lt. Gov. Brad Little could benefit from a heavily GOP state as he runs for governor against Democrat Paulette Jordan. A win by Jordan would make her the first Native American governor of a state. She's running on a liberal platform, calling for Medicaid expansion and raises for public school teachers. Little also said he supports teacher raises and would abide by a ballot measure calling to expand Medicaid if voters support it in November.

ILLINOIS

In a matchup of self-funding wealthy businessmen, incumbent Republican Bruce Rauner is facing J.B. Pritzker, an heir to the Hyatt hotel fortune. It's expected to be one of the most expensive gubernatorial races in U.S. history. The state's economy and government finances are at the heart of the race. Illinois has struggled with a growing unfunded pension system for public workers and a sour economy outside the Chicago area.

IOWA

Republican Kim Reynolds was elevated from lieutenant governor to the state's top office after longtime Gov. Terry Branstad left to become ambassador to China. Reynolds is being challenged by Democrat Fred Hubbell, a retired businessman. Hubbell wants to end the privatization of Medicaid in the state; Reynolds says she would keep the system.

KANSAS

Secretary of State Kris Kobach, a nationally known advocate of strict voting requirements, narrowly defeated incumbent Jeff Colyer in the Republican primary. Republicans generally dominate in Kansas, but some high-profile members of the party are supporting Democrat Laura Kelly or independent Greg Orman, a businessman, as they find fault with Kobach's hard lines on cutting taxes, cutting spending and immigration. Kelly is a four-term state senator who has pushed back against deep tax cuts. Some Democrats have tried to have Orman removed from the ballot fearing he'll take enough votes from Kelly to assure a Kobach victory.

MAINE

Health care is a major concern in the Maine race between Democratic Attorney General Janet Mills and Republican businessman Shawn Moody. The two are vying to take the seat now held by Republican Paul

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LePage, who is not running again due to term limits. Mills says she would enact an expansion of Medicaid that voters approved last year but that LePage has refused to implement. Moody says he also would not implement the expansion.

MARYLAND

Republican Larry Hogan is a popular incumbent in Maryland, a state that's reliably Democratic. He's being challenged by Ben Jealous, the former president of the NAACP seeking to be the state's first black governor. Trump has criticized Jealous' plan to offer free community college tuition for "dreamers," who came to the U.S. illegally as children. Under a law signed by Hogan, who has distanced himself from Trump, community college tuition is to be free starting next year for Maryland residents.

MASSACHUSETTS

Democrat Jay Gonzalez faces an uphill battle running against Republican incumbent Charlie Baker, who has one of the best approval ratings for a governor in the country, even though Massachusetts is a strongly Democratic state. Gonzalez, a top aide to former Gov. Deval Patrick, is campaigning as a champion of the underserved. Baker has a liberal stance on social issues including abortion and LGBT rights.

MICHIGAN

Republican Bill Schuette, currently the state's attorney general, has focused on a "paycheck" agenda that calls for cutting state income taxes and car insurance premiums. Democrat Gretchen Whitmer is campaigning on keeping the Medicaid expansion that brought health coverage to 680,000 adults. Schuette said he does not plan to undo the expansion but has focused on tax cuts. Whitmer also says she would fix more roads and ensure drinking water is safe.

MINNESOTA

U.S. Rep. Tim Walz, a Democrat, is running against Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson, a Republican, in a Minnesota race full of contrasts. The two began having debates days after they each won their primaries in August, airing differences on gun policy, health care and immigration. Johnson, a lawyer, is focused on tax cuts and reducing the size of the state government; Walz, a former teacher, is campaigning on an agenda that includes promoting civil rights and funding schools.

NEBRASKA

Bob Krist, a state senator who has been an independent and a Republican, became a Democrat earlier this year. He's facing incumbent Republican Pete Ricketts in a heavily Republican state. In an early debate, the two sparred over how to reduce property taxes. Krist supports a Medicaid expansion ballot measure; Ricketts said that if it passes, it would require more state spending, taking money away from education or other priorities.

NEVADA

Republican Attorney General Adam Laxalt faces Democrat Steve Sisolak, chairman of the local governing body for Clark County, which is home to about two-thirds of the state's population. Sisolak beat a challenger from the left during the primary and has pledged to stand up to President Donald Trump and the National Rifle Association while defending Planned Parenthood. Laxalt wants to repeal a commerce tax. The incumbent, Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, has not made an endorsement in the race. Nevada is a political battleground state where the two major parties split control of the Legislature.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

The incumbent governor, Republican Chris Sununu, is being challenged by Democrat Molly Kelly, a former state senator, for a two-year term. Sununu is the son of a former governor; Kelly emphasizes how she raised three children as a single mom as she put herself through college.

NEW MEXICO

Two members of Congress are vying to replace Republican Susana Martinez as governor. The race pits Democratic Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham against Republican Rep. Steve Pearce. Campaign finance filings show oil and gas interests are supporting Pearce, while Lujan Grisham is receiving help from an environmental group's independent expenditures.

NEW YORK

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Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who is seeking a third term, survived a primary challenge from the left from actress and political newcomer Cynthia Nixon and now faces Republican Marc Molinaro, the Dutchess County executive. Molinaro is running as a moderate in a state where Republicans control the state Senate but have not won statewide office in 16 years. He and Cuomo have released ads accusing each other of corruption.

OHIO

Voters in Ohio, a perpetual political swing state, will choose between Democrat Richard Cordray and Republican Mike DeWine. Cordray is a former state attorney general who was defeated in a 2010 re-election effort by DeWine. Cordray later served as director of the federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The winner of the election will replace Republican Gov. John Kasich. Both candidates say they're the right one to help the state deal with an opioid addiction and overdose crisis.

OKLAHOMA

Former state Attorney General Drew Edmonson, the Democrat running to replace term-limited Republican Gov. Mary Fallin, met with teachers to encourage them during a walkout earlier this year over pay. His opponent, Republican mortgage company owner Kevin Stitt, says he would not have signed the law to raise taxes to pay for raises for educators.

OREGON

Oregon is considered a Democratic stronghold, but Republicans believe state Rep. Knute Buhler has a chance against Democratic incumbent Gov. Kate Brown. Buhler, a physician who does not embrace President Donald Trump or his policies, favors raising cigarette taxes to fund health care, taxing carbon and supports abortion rights. Brown, a longtime lawmaker and then state secretary of state, is the nation's first openly bisexual governor. She's campaigning on policy accomplishments that include raising the minimum wage and funding full-day kindergarten.

PENNSYLVANIA

Democrat Tom Wolf is looking to keep the governor's seat in a race against Republican state Sen. Scott Wagner. Wagner says he plans to find another \$1 billion for education in his first year by ending some tax credit programs and making government more efficient. Wolf's campaign has brushed off those claims.

RHODE ISLAND

For the second election in a row, Democratic Gov. Gina Raimondo will face Cranston Mayor Allan Fung. Raimondo has been criticized by public employee unions for a pension overhaul that cut benefits when she was state treasurer, one factor that keeps her from being an overwhelming favorite in a heavily Democratic state. Fung, a Trump supporter, has given few interviews, held no news conferences. His agenda includes cutting sales taxes, rooting out what he says is government fraud and instituting a work requirement for some welfare recipients.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Republican Henry McMaster became governor last year when Nikki Haley left the job to be ambassador to the United Nations. McMaster, who has Trump's endorsement, is being challenged by state lawmaker James Smith, a Democrat. Smith's agenda includes some gun control measures and gender equity.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Republican Kristi Noem, the sole member of the House of Representatives from South Dakota, has received campaign help from Trump in her effort to become governor. She's facing Billie Sutton, a former rodeo star who is running as a "pro-life and pro-Second Amendment" Democrat in a state where no Democrat has been governor in nearly 40 years. The current governor, Dennis Daugaard, cannot run again because of term limits.

TENNESSEE

Democrat Karl Dean, the former mayor of Nashville, is taking on Republican businessman Bill Lee to replace term-limited Republican Bill Haslam. Dean is calling for the state to expand Medicaid to cover more low-income adults, a move Lee has opposed.

TEXAS

In Texas, the nation's most populous Republican stronghold, incumbent Republican Greg Abbott is facing

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Democrat Lupe Valdez, the former Dallas County sheriff. Valdez, the first openly gay and Latina gubernatorial nominee in Texas, has struggled to raise money and has caught flak from some Democratic activists for cooperating with federal immigration authorities when she was sheriff.

VERMONT

Phil Scott, a popular Republican, is seeking a second two-year term in a state that generally favors Democrats. Democrat Christine Hallquist, former CEO of an electric company, is trying to make history as the first transgender governor. Scott upset some Republicans by signing gun control restrictions this year, but he still won the GOP primary by more than 30 percentage points.

WISCONSIN

Republican Scott Walker is pursuing a third term, this time challenged by Democrat Tony Evers, the state superintendent of public instruction. But it's Walker's fourth time on the ballot, after also surviving a 2012 recall attempt. He says he has kept promises to reduce taxes and spending. Evers says he would fix roads and improve schools that have suffered during Walker's time in office. Outside money is pouring into the state, which was a key in Trump's 2016 victory.

WYOMING

Former state lawmaker and current energy industry lawyer Mary Throne, a Democrat, is taking on state Treasurer Mark Gordon to replace Republican Gov. Matt Mead, who is prevented by term limits from running this year. While the state consistently elects only Republicans to Congress, it has frequently had Democratic governors. Throne is emphasizing working across the aisle in her pitch to voters.

Reporting by Associated Press writer Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, N.J.

Will Bill Cosby, 81, go to prison? A judge is set to decide

By MARYCLAIRE DALE, Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Bill Cosby faced the start of a sentencing hearing Monday at which a judge will decide how to punish the 81-year-old comedian who blazed the trail for other black entertainers and donated millions to black causes but preyed on at least one young woman and perhaps many more.

Cosby was the first celebrity to go to trial in the #MeToo era and could be the first to go to prison — perhaps for the rest of his days — after being convicted in April of drugging and sexually assaulting former Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004.

Judges can't help being influenced a little by the "optics" of a case — that it, how it is going to look to the public, said Daniel Filler, dean of Drexel University's Kline School of Law.

In this instance, "the judge is going to get flak," he said. "The judge is going to get less flak if they see Bill Cosby walk out in cuffs."

At the end of the potentially two-day hearing, Montgomery County Judge Steven T. O'Neill could sentence Cosby to as many as 30 years in prison or send him home on probation. The state guidelines for someone like Cosby, with no prior convictions, call for about one to four years behind bars.

"Obviously, the allegations are serious, and, except for his age and poor health, would normally warrant some jail time," said Samuel Stretton, a veteran defense lawyer not connected to the case.

Cosby is legally blind and uses a cane, something his lawyers are certain to point out along with his achievements and philanthropy. Prosecutors hoped to call some of his other accusers to paint Cosby as a sexual predator deserving of prison.

Whatever the sentence, Cosby is likely to be deemed a sexually violent predator and will have to undergo monthly counseling the rest of his life, in prison or out. Neighbors and schools will be warned he is living nearby.

In the years since Constand first went to police in 2005, more than 60 women have accused Cosby of sexual misconduct, though none of those claims have led to criminal charges.

Two of those women, Lise-Lotte Lublin and Chelan Lasha, said Sunday at a Philadelphia news conference that they want prison for him and hope they get to make impact statements at the sentencing.

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"I really think it's important that he spend some time behind bars," said Lublin, who said Cosby assaulted her when she was 23 in 1989. "At some point, he should acknowledge what he's done, and do the time for the crime."

Monday morning, just a few hours before the sentencing hearing was to begin, Constand tweeted Ephesians 4:26, a Bible verse about letting go of anger: "Be wrathful, but do not sin; do not let the sun set while you are still angry; do not give the Devil an opportunity."

Cosby, who grew up in public housing in Philadelphia, became the first black actor to star in a prime-time TV show, "I Spy," in 1965. He remained a Hollywood A-lister for much of the next half-century, hitting his peak in the 1980s with the top-rated "Cosby Show" as the warm, wisecracking dad, Dr. Cliff Huxtable.

But behind the scenes, according to testimony, the married star sought out sexual encounters with young women, including actresses he offered to mentor, models seeking a part on his shows, and flight attendants he met in his travels. He also acknowledged obtaining quaaludes in the 1970s to give to women before sex.

The Associated Press does not typically identify people who say they are victims of sexual assault unless they come forward publicly, which Lublin, Lasha and Constand have done.

Mandela: A life of soaring symbolism, now harnessed by UN

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA, Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Nelson Mandela's South African journey from anti-apartheid leader to prisoner to president to global statesman — the "Long Walk to Freedom" of his autobiography title — is one of the 20th century's great stories of struggle, sacrifice and reconciliation. Now the United Nations is seeking to harness its soaring symbolism.

The unveiling of a statue of Mandela, born 100 years ago, with arms outstretched at the U.N. building in New York on Monday opens a peace summit at the General Assembly, where world leaders will once again address the planet's pressing problems: war, poverty, disease, migration and climate change. They'll do so amid a massive security operation in a city where Mandela was welcomed by exultant crowds in 1990, a few months after he walked out of a South African jail, ending 27 years of imprisonment under the country's white minority government.

"South Africa will be free," Mandela said during that visit, and indeed, he became the country's first black president in its first multi-racial elections four years later. His death in 2013 at age 95 brought a global outpouring of grief and tributes.

But there is something of a distinction between the main global perception of Mandela — the moral colossus whose resolve and generosity of spirit, tactical as well as genuine, inspired people in Colombia, Northern Ireland and other places struggling with seemingly intractable conflicts — and a growing body of opinion at home that he and his party were too quick to accommodate South Africa's white minority, which lost political control but still dominates industry in one of the world's most economically unequal societies.

Despite South Africa's sense of unfinished business, it is a country enormously proud of the tall, charismatic orator with a broad smile and ironclad principles whose image and words were banned by his former captors, rendering him virtually invisible to the outside for decades. Mandela's universality means that he also belongs to the world, which has wrestled with a fresh set of economic and political ruptures of late.

In July, former U.S. president Barack Obama traveled to Johannesburg and spoke about how Mandela, by offering the possibility of "moral transformation," means as much to the globe as he does to South Africa.

"At the outset, his struggle was particular to this place, to his homeland — a fight to end apartheid, a fight to ensure lasting political and social and economic equality for its disenfranchised non-white citizens," Obama said. "But through his sacrifice and unwavering leadership and, perhaps most of all, through his moral example, Mandela and the movement he led would come to signify something larger."

The United Nations is declaring 2019-2028 as the "Nelson Mandela Decade of Peace," and a declaration being adopted at Monday's peace summit identifies the personal qualities that made him a transcendent humanitarian — "humility, forgiveness and compassion" — and connects them with U.N. goals, including

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disarmament, human rights and poverty alleviation.

It also warns of “challenges to the primacy of multilateralism,” a catch-all term that could refer to trade disputes between the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump and other countries, or the European Union’s Brexit challenge, or other pressures testing the idea of shared values on which the U.N. was founded after World War II.

The declaration’s signatories recognize “that the world has changed significantly since the founding of the United Nations, and acknowledge that global peace eludes us to this day,” it says. But the tone is hopeful — “we must make the impossible possible” — and the document singles out South Africa for praise, remembering the country’s dismantling of its nuclear weapons program toward the end of apartheid and Mandela’s appeal for the “total elimination of nuclear weapons.”

Mandela’s plea is no closer to reality, and other elements of his legacy are under threat. In 2016, South Africa said it was withdrawing from the International Criminal Court, though a South African court later ruled against the move to pull out of the Hague-based tribunal, which was launched in 2002 and pursues perpetrators of the world’s atrocities. Mandela had been a strong advocate for the court’s creation.

The shine has come off the “rainbow nation” that was internationally admired in its early post-apartheid years during Mandela’s presidency. South Africa struggles with fallout from allegedly massive corruption under former president Jacob Zuma, and a contentious debate about land reform reflects the frustrations of many in the black majority who think their country has let them down since they got the right to vote.

Still, it has one of the biggest economies in Africa, as well as a relatively robust judicial system and civil society.

“For all our shortcomings and simmering tensions, our country was truly inspirational, and it still is. In recent years it had become harder to sell the South African miracle, as our detractors would point to rampant corruption, cronyism, and the masses who are yet to share in the dividends of peace,” Shannon Ebrahim, foreign editor for the Independent Media Group in South Africa, wrote in a column.

The U.N.’s honoring of Mandela, Ebrahim said, again gives South Africans a chance to inspire the world.

Monday is also a public holiday in South Africa, Heritage Day, introduced when Mandela was president to celebrate the country’s cultural diversity.

According to accounts, Mandela wanted to be seen as a normal human being with both flaws and virtues, and not as an icon or legend. In 2007, he spoke at the dedication of a statue in his likeness opposite the Houses of Parliament in London, and his talk about the symbolism, not the man, seems equally apt for the new statue at the United Nations.

“We trust that the statue will be a reminder of heroes and heroines past,” Mandela said, “as well as an inspiration for continuing struggles against injustice.”

Christopher Torchia on Twitter: www.twitter.com/torchiachris

Trump, at UN, to again confront North Korean nuclear threat

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — As he begins the sequel to his stormy U.N. debut, President Donald Trump will again confront the dangers posed by North Korea’s nuclear threat, though its shadow may appear somewhat less ominous than a year ago.

Twelve months after Trump stood at the rostrum of the U.N. General Assembly and derided North Korea’s Kim Jong Un as “Rocket Man,” the push to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula is a work in progress, although fears of war have given way to dreams of rapprochement. The president, whose bellicose denunciations of Pyongyang have largely given way to hopeful notes, plans to sit down with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who comes bearing a personal message to Trump from North Korea’s Kim after their inter-Korean talks last week.

Trump and Moon were expected to sign a new version of the U.S.-South Korean trade agreement, one of Trump’s first successes in his effort to renegotiate trade deals on more favorable terms for the U.S.

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Even so, some U.S. officials worry that South Korea's eagerness to restore relations with the North could reduce sanctions pressure on Kim's government, hampering efforts to negotiate a nuclear accord.

The nuclear threat was on the agenda at Trump's first meeting, a dinner with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Manhattan on Sunday night. Abe stands first among world leaders in cultivating a close relationship with the president through displays of flattery that he has used to advance his efforts to influence the unpredictable American leader.

"We have our eyes wide open," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "There is a long ways to go to get Chairman Kim to live up to the commitment that he made to President Trump and, indeed, to the demands of the world in the U.N. Security Council resolutions to get him to fully denuclearize."

Redoubling his commitment to "America First" on the most global of stages, Trump will stress his dedication to the primacy of U.S. interests while competing with Western allies for an advantage on trade and shining a spotlight on the threat that he says Iran poses to the Middle East and beyond.

Scores of world leaders, even those representing America's closest friends, remain wary of Trump. In the 12 months since his last visit to the U.N., the president has jolted the global status quo by pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal, starting trade conflicts with China and the West and embracing Russia's Vladimir Putin even as the investigation into the U.S. president's ties to Moscow moves closer to the Oval Office.

Long critical of the United Nations, Trump delivered a warning shot ahead of his arrival by declaring that the world body had "not lived up to" its potential.

"It's always been surprising to me that more things aren't resolved," Trump said in a weekend video message, "because you have all of these countries getting together in one location but it doesn't seem to get there. I think it will."

If there is a through line to the still-evolving Trump doctrine on foreign policy, it is that the president will not subordinate American interests on the world stage, whether for economic, military or political gain.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters in a preview of Trump's visit, that the president's focus "will be very much on the United States," its role and the relations it wants to build.

"He is looking forward to talking about foreign policy successes the United States has had over the past year and where we're going to go from here," she said. "He wants to talk about protecting U.S. sovereignty," while building relationships with nations that "share those values."

In his four-day visit to New York, Trump will deliver major speeches and meet with representatives of a world order that he has so often upended in the past year. On Monday he is also set to participate in a Global Call to Action on the World Drug Problem and then, in addition to Moon, meet with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi and French President Emmanuel Macron.

Trump's address to the General Assembly comes Tuesday, and on Wednesday he will for the first time chair the Security Council, with the stated topic of non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The subject initially was to have been Iran, but that could have allowed Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to attend, creating a potentially awkward situation for the U.S. leader.

Aides say the president will also use the session to discuss North Korea and other proliferation issues. While Trump is not seeking a meeting with Rouhani, he is open to talking with the Iranian leader if Rouhani requests one, administration officials said.

In meetings with European leaders as well as during the Security Council session, Trump plans to try to make the case that global companies are cutting ties with Iran ahead of the reimposition in five weeks of tough sanctions against Tehran. The penalties are a result of Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Trump at the time cited Iran's role as a malign force in the region, particularly its support of terrorist groups, but also its involvement in Syria. U.S. officials say their priority for the region now is removing Iranian forces from Syria.

Trump is also expected to deliver a fresh warning to Syria's Bashar al-Assad that the use of chemical weapons against civilians in the major rebel stronghold of Idlib would have serious repercussions. Britain and France are actively planning a military response should Assad use chemical weapons again, according

to U.S. officials.

"I think he's got a couple major possibilities really to help illuminate for the American people what America's place in the world," national security adviser John Bolton told Fox News Channel's 'Sunday Morning Futures,' previewing Trump's U.N. appearance.

Bolton, like Pompeo, is part of a far more hawkish national security team than the one that surrounded Trump a year ago.

Meetings on the sidelines of the General Assembly often come in rapid succession, a wearying test for even the most experienced foreign policy team. Trump has a robust schedule during his stay in New York, including meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and British Prime Minister Theresa May.

But while some world leaders are still reeling from Trump's deference to Putin in their summer Helsinki summit, there will not be an encore in New York: The Russian president is not expected to attend the proceedings.

Miller reported from Washington.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Miller at <http://twitter.com/@zekejmilller>

New sexual-misconduct accusation rocks Kavanaugh nomination

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A second allegation of sexual misconduct has emerged against Judge Brett Kavanaugh, a development that has further imperiled his nomination to the Supreme Court, forced the White House and Senate Republicans onto the defensive and fueled calls from Democrats to postpone further action on his confirmation.

The new accusation landed late Sunday in a report from The New Yorker, just a few hours after negotiators had reached an agreement to hold an extraordinary public hearing Thursday for Kavanaugh and Christine Blasey Ford, who accuses him of sexually assaulting her at a party when they were teenagers. Kavanaugh denies the claim.

The second claim against Kavanaugh dates to the 1983-84 academic year, which was his first at Yale University. Deborah Ramirez described the incident after being contacted by The New Yorker magazine. She recalled that Kavanaugh exposed himself at a drunken dormitory party, thrust his penis in her face, and caused her to touch it without her consent as she pushed him away.

In a statement provided by the White House, Kavanaugh said the event "did not happen" and that the allegation was "a smear, plain and simple." A White House spokeswoman added in a second statement that the allegation was "designed to tear down a good man."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California, the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, called for the "immediate postponement" of any further action on Kavanaugh's nomination.

Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee said they would investigate Ramirez's accusation. Taylor Foy, a Judiciary spokesman, complained that Democrats "actively withheld information" from the Republicans. He said they appear "more interested in a political takedown" than a bipartisan process.

The New Yorker said it contacted Ramirez after learning of a possible involvement in an incident with Kavanaugh. It said that the allegation came to the attention of Democratic senators through a civil rights lawyer. The Democrats then began investigating.

Ramirez was reluctant at first to speak publicly "partly because her memories contained gaps because she had been drinking at the time of the alleged incident," The New Yorker reported. After "six days of carefully assessing her memories and consulting with her attorney, Ramirez said that she felt confident enough of her recollections" to speak publicly, the report said.

The Associated Press tried reaching Ramirez at her home in Boulder, Colorado. She posted a sign on her front door, indicating she has no comment.

Joining the maelstrom, Michael Avenatti, the attorney representing porn actress Stormy Daniels in her legal

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fight with President Donald Trump, claimed to represent a woman with information about high school-era parties attended by Kavanaugh and urged the Senate to investigate. Avenatti told The Associated Press that he will disclose his client's identity in the coming days and that she is prepared to testify before the committee, as well as provide names of corroborating witnesses.

The accusation from Ramirez raise the stakes further for a dramatic showdown Thursday, as Kavanaugh and Ford testify in public about an incident she characterizes as attempted rape — and that he says simply never happened.

Kavanaugh's nomination hangs precariously. A handful of senators in both parties remain undecided on his nomination. Defections among Republicans would likely block his path to the Supreme Court.

The White House is approaching Ford's potential testimony with trepidation, nervous that an emotional performance might not just damage Kavanaugh's chances but could further energize female voters to turn out against Republicans in November.

Still, the White House and Republicans have cast doubt on Ford's allegations. The Judiciary panel said it had talked to three other people who Ford has told The Washington Post were at the party where the alleged assault took place — Mark Judge, Patrick J. Smyth and Leland Ingham Keyser. All three told investigators that they had no recollection of the evening in question, the committee said.

The Post reported Sunday that Keyser said in a brief interview at her home that she still believes Ford, even if she doesn't remember the party.

As he builds a case for his innocence, Kavanaugh plans to turn over to the committee calendars from the summer of 1982. Those calendars, he says, don't show a party consistent with Ford's description of the gathering in which she says he attacked her, The New York Times reported Sunday. The calendars list basketball games, movie outings, football workouts, college interviews, and a few parties with names of friends other than those identified by Ford, according to the Times.

A person working on Kavanaugh's confirmation backed up the Times account of the calendars to The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the matter.

Even before the latest turns, the carefully negotiated hearing at the Senate Judiciary Committee with Kavanaugh and Ford carried echoes of the Anita Hill hearings in 1991. Then, like now, another Republican president had selected a Supreme Court nominee, now-Justice Clarence Thomas, facing accusations of sexual harassment.

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, wrangled with Ford's lawyers for the last week over the exact terms of her appearance. A breakthrough came over the weekend as Ford agreed to testify.

Ford's lawyers said it was still unclear as of Sunday who will ask questions, as Republicans were trying to hire an outside female counsel for the role. The 11 senators on the GOP side of the dais are all men, creating dangerous optics for a hearing that will be carried on live television.

Democratic senators are expected to ask their own questions. They have protested the panel's treatment of Ford, comparing it to bullying.

Associated Press writers Catherine Lucey, Eric Tucker and Hope Yen in Washington, Nicholas Riccardi in Boulder, Colorado and Jonathan Lemire in Bridgewater, New Jersey, contributed to this report.

US, China hike tariffs as trade row intensifies

By **JOE McDONALD, AP Business Writer**

BEIJING (AP) — China and the United States imposed new tariff hikes on each other's goods Monday and Beijing accused Washington of bullying, giving no sign of compromise in an intensifying battle over technology that is weighing on global economic growth.

U.S. regulators went ahead with a planned 10 percent tax on a \$200 billion list of 5,745 Chinese imports including bicycles and furniture. China's customs agency said it responded at noon by beginning to collect taxes of 5 or 10 percent on a \$60 billion list of 5,207 American goods, from honey to industrial chemicals.

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The conflict stems from U.S. President Donald Trump's complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

American officials say Chinese plans for state-led development of global competitors in robotics and other technologies violate its market-opening obligations and might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

China's leaders offered to narrow their politically sensitive, multibillion-dollar trade surplus with the United States by purchasing more natural gas and other American exports. But they have rejected pressure to change industry plans the communist leadership sees as a path to prosperity and global influence.

Monday's tariff hike follows a report by The Wall Street Journal that Chinese officials pulled out of a meeting to discuss possible talks proposed by Washington. The Chinese government had given no public indication whether it would accept the invitation.

Envoys last met Aug. 22 in Washington but reported no progress.

With no settlement in sight, forecasters say the conflict between the two biggest economies could trim global growth through 2020.

On Monday, the ratings agency Fitch cut its forecasts for next year's Chinese and global economic growth by 0.1 percentage points to 6.1 percent and 3.1 percent, respectively.

"The trade war is now a reality," said Fitch's chief economist, Brian Coulton, in a report. "The downside risks to our global growth forecasts have also increased."

Earlier, the two sides imposed 25 percent penalties on \$34 billion of each other's goods in July and another \$16 billion in August. Business groups say American companies also report Chinese regulators are starting to disrupt their operations through slower customs clearance and more environmental and other inspections.

The first American tariffs targeted goods Washington said benefit from improper Chinese industrial policies. American regulators tried to limit the public impact by focusing on industrial machinery and components, but the latest \$200 billion list includes bicycles, wooden furniture and other consumer goods.

Chinese regulators have tried to cushion the blow on their own economy by targeting American goods such as soybeans, natural gas, fruit, whisky and automobiles that are available from Europe, Latin America and other Asian countries.

Trump threatened last week to add \$267 billion in Chinese imports to the target list if Beijing retaliated for the latest U.S. taxes. That would cover nearly everything China sells to the United States.

On Monday, the Chinese government accused the Trump administration in a report of "trade bullyism" and of preaching "economic hegemony."

The toughly worded report said Beijing wants a "reasonable solution" but gave no indication of possible concessions.

It affirmed China's stance that it is a developing country, a claim that rankles Washington, Europe and other trading partners.

They point to China's status as a major manufacturer and a growing competitor in smartphones and other technology. They say Beijing is no longer entitled to concessions it was granted when it joined the World Trade Organization in 2001, such as the right to limit access to its finance, energy and other markets.

Chinese leaders have tried without success to recruit as allies German, France, South Korea and other trading partners that echo U.S. complaints about Chinese market barriers and industry plans but criticize Trump's approach.

The Trump administration has "has brazenly preached unilateralism, protectionism and economic hegemony, making false accusations against many countries and regions, particularly China, intimidating other countries through economic measures such as imposing tariffs, and attempting to impose its own interests on China through extreme pressure," the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Chinese leaders have announced changes this year including tariff cuts and plans to end ownership limits in their auto industry. But businesspeople who have met senior planners say they express no willingness even to discuss changes to technology development plans.

As the fight intensifies, China is running out of U.S. imports for retaliation.

Imports of American goods last year totaled \$153.9 billion while the United States bought Chinese goods

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worth \$429.8 billion, according to Chinese customs data. Monday's increase leaves Beijing with about \$40 billion of goods for penalties while the Washington has almost \$200 billion.

Maldives' president concedes loss to opposition candidate

By BHARATHA MALLAWARACHI, Associated Press

MALE, Maldives (AP) — Maldives strongman President Yameen Abdul Gayoom conceded that he lost Sunday's election to his challenger, longtime lawmaker Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, in a speech broadcast live on television Monday.

Speaking in the Maldives' native language, Dhivehi, Gayoom congratulated Solih and said, "I know I have to step down now."

The concession and the results were a surprise to Maldives' opposition, who had feared Yameen would rig the vote in his favor. Since getting elected in 2013, Yameen had cracked down on political dissent, jailing rivals — including his half brother and the Maldives' first democratically elected president — and Supreme Court justices.

The election commission released provisional results earlier Monday showing Solih had won the South Asian island nation's third-ever multiparty presidential election with 58.3 percent of the vote. The commission said voter turnout in the country of 400,000 people was 89.2 percent.

After Solih claimed victory just after midnight on Monday, his supporters flooded the streets, hugging one another, waving the Maldivian flag, cheering and honking horns in celebration.

Solih, 56, was a democracy activist during decades of autocratic rule and a former Parliament majority leader. He became the Maldivian Democratic Party's presidential candidate after its other top figures were jailed or exiled by Yameen's government.

Party leader and former President Mohamed Nasheed, in exile in Sri Lanka, had hoped to run again but was disqualified because of an outstanding prison sentence in the Maldives.

India and China, jostling for influence in the Indian Ocean, had been watching the election closely.

India's foreign ministry issued a statement Monday saying it looked forward to working with Solih's new government "in further deepening our relationship."

The Maldives' economy, historically tied to its famed luxury tourism sector, grew under Yameen, in part due to aid and investment from China. China's foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Monday, a public holiday.

Solih campaigned door to door, speaking at rallies about human rights and the rule of law, a message that resonated with voters who saw signs the Maldives was slipping back to autocratic rule, just a decade after achieving democracy.

Ahamed Fiasal, a 39-year-old IT business owner who voted for Solih, said the election result was surprising because "no one thought that Yameen would lose like this. He had all the power — the judiciary, the police, the security forces under him. It seemed he might rig the election even at the last minute and would win somehow or the other."

In his victory speech, Solih called the election results "a moment of happiness, hope and history," but said he did not think the election process had been transparent.

A police raid on Solih's main campaign office the night before the election was seen as a worrying sign that Yameen would attempt to "muzzle his way" to re-election, according to Hamid Abdul Gafoor, an opposition spokesman and former Maldives lawmaker now based in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

The European Union had said that it was not sending election observers because the Maldives had failed to meet the basic conditions for monitoring. The U.S. had threatened to sanction Maldivian officials if the elections were not free and fair.

The State Department congratulated the people of the Maldives for having a peaceful, democratic vote. A statement from spokeswoman Heather Nauert noted the reported opposition victory and urged "calm and respect for the will of the people" as the election process was being concluded.

In a first, Hong Kong bans pro-independence political party

HONG KONG (AP) — Authorities in Hong Kong on Monday took an unprecedented step to quash separatist voices by banning a political party that advocates independence for the southern Chinese territory on national security grounds.

John Lee, the territory's secretary for security, announced that the Hong Kong National Party would be prohibited from operation from Monday.

At a briefing, Lee said the political party led by 27-year-old Andy Chan posed a threat to national security because it wants Hong Kong to be an independent republic and has taken steps to push this agenda. Lee cited as examples alleged plans by the party to recruit members and infiltrate schools to promote its views.

Lee said the party also "spreads hatred and discrimination against mainlanders in Hong Kong," referring to people from mainland China who live in the city. He accused the party of saying that it would employ all means to achieve its goals, including force — though the South China Morning Post newspaper said he acknowledged that the party hasn't actually used violent means to promote its cause.

The ban cites a national security law that has not been invoked since 1997. It is likely to raise further questions about Beijing's growing influence in the former British colony, which was promised semi-autonomy as part of its 1997 handover. Chinese President Xi Jinping and other officials have warned separatist activity would not be tolerated.

The perception that Beijing is renegeing on its promise of semi-autonomy and eroding Hong Kong's free elections and freedom of speech is helping fuel a rising generation of young activists calling for greater autonomy, if not outright independence.

Huge pro-democracy protests erupted in 2014 in response to the decision by China's ruling Communist Party to retain the right to effectively pre-screen candidates for Hong Kong's leadership.

In Beijing, the office in charge of Hong Kong affairs in China's Cabinet, the State Council, expressed support for the ban, saying in remarks carried by the official Xinhua News Agency that the move was necessary to protect China's national security.

A spokesman for the office said China fully supported punishing what Xinhua described as "any acts that jeopardize national security," and that Beijing has "zero tolerance for any organizations preaching 'Hong Kong independence' or engaging in activities of splitting the country."

Chan, the leader of the National Party, had no immediate comment on Monday. He had told The Associated Press in July that police approached him with documents detailing his speeches and activities since the party's formation in 2016.

The party was founded in response to frustration about Beijing's treatment of Hong Kong. Despite a promise of autonomy, activists complain mainland influence over its democratic elections is increasing.

Chan and other pro-independence candidates were disqualified from 2016 elections to the Hong Kong legislature after they refused to sign a pledge saying Hong Kong is an inalienable part of China. The Hong Kong National Party has never held any seats on the council.

Maya Wang, a researcher with Human Rights Watch, said the ban sets a dangerous precedent. "The banning of the Hong Kong National Party is a milestone in the Beijing and Hong Kong governments' assault on Hong Kong's freedoms," Wang said. Though Hong Kong police said the party has not yet used any violence, it justified the ban as a necessary pre-emptive move.

"This justification sets a dangerous precedent, where more non-violent pro-democracy political groups may be similarly banned," Wang wrote in an email.

Inside Democrats' struggle with the Kavanaugh accusation

By LISA MASCARO, AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — By the time Sen. Dianne Feinstein huddled with the other Democrats on the Judiciary Committee in a room just off the Senate floor, the rumors were flying.

The senators already had heard talk of the mysterious letter from a woman. They knew something about a startling allegation about the Supreme Court nominee. They came into that room almost two weeks

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ago with one clear dilemma. "The question is, what should we do about this?" recalled Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who was at the meeting.

Even surrounded by her fellow Democrats, the veteran California senator kept a close hold on the details in that late-night session. She was in possession of a letter that accused Judge Brett Kavanaugh of a sexual assault back when he was in high school. She began to tell them about it. The woman did not want her name made public. Feinstein read excerpts, giving her colleagues only the information they needed to tackle the next step.

Democrats had few options. In the six weeks since Feinstein had received the letter, details had leaked. A report was breaking that night in *The Intercept*, an online publication. In a matter of hours, with confirmation to the court tantalizingly close, Kavanaugh's nomination would be in jeopardy. Republicans' uphill fight to hold control of Congress would face a new hurdle — just six weeks from Election Day. And 3,000 miles away, California college professor Christine Blasey Ford's life would be upended as the nation debated what did or didn't happen to her 36 years ago.

Democrats, and Feinstein in particular, have faced fierce criticism from Republicans for keeping their secret until what they say was the eleventh hour. The timing suggests a coordinated ploy to sabotage a conservative jurist they oppose. Democrats argue they were pulled between the politics and the need to respect Ford's privacy.

This account of how that long-private, deeply personal allegation exploded into public is based on a dozen interviews with senators, aides and others. Some asked for anonymity because they were not authorized to reveal details about the private discussions. Though many of those interviewed disagreed fiercely on motives involved, all aligned on one clear truth: The letter and the story it told was a powder keg.

That night Durbin said they realized, "This has a life of its own."

It didn't start as a letter. It started with a phone call.

In late July, Ford, a psychology professor who grew up in the same tony Maryland suburbs as Kavanaugh, called her congresswoman's office to discuss what she described as private matter. Days later, on a Friday afternoon in her California office, Rep. Anna Eshoo sat with Ford and listened to the story, in wrenching and difficult detail.

Ford said she'd been at a party with Kavanaugh and one of his friends. The two drunken teenage boys pulled her into a room, Ford says, where Kavanaugh pinned her on to a bed, groped her and tried to remove her swimsuit. When she resisted, he put his hand over her mouth, she says. She escaped into a bathroom only after Kavanaugh's friend jumped on the bed.

She was soft-spoken, Eshoo recalled of that first meeting with Ford, but with "an inner strength." She said, "She's not a pushover."

And she had a request.

"What she was seeking was that the story be in the right hands of responsible officials but that her anonymity be protected," the congresswoman recalled.

That weekend, Eshoo contacted Feinstein, a longtime colleague in California's Bay Area politics and the ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee. She told the senator she believed Ford. At Feinstein's recommendation, Eshoo asked Ford to outline the accusation in a letter.

A week later, on July 30, Eshoo had Ford's letter hand-delivered to Feinstein's office in Washington.

"My sense was, I had a passed it over into very capable hands," Eshoo recalled.

Feinstein knows better than most the power of such an allegation.

She won her seat in 1992, shortly after the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas hearing aired an allegation of sexual harassment against a Supreme Court nominee. For many women, the hearing televised the biases of the white, male senators. It spurred women across the country to run for office and to vote for women, Feinstein among them.

At Kavanaugh's public confirmation hearing earlier this month, she grilled the appellate court judge about

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his views on of Roe v. Wade, noting that unlike her, he did not endure a time when abortion was illegal.

Now 85, Feinstein is a centrist facing a re-election fight against a liberal Los Angeles state legislator.

The allegation against Kavanaugh presented a clear problem for Feinstein.

If she told others on the committee — or even Democratic leader Chuck Schumer — about Ford's story without her permission, it risked "outing" Ford, violating a firm belief among advocacy groups that victims of sexual assault should not be compelled to relive the trauma in the pursuit of justice for the accused.

But withholding the information would shield Kavanaugh from having to answer to potentially devastating allegations — and deny Democrats a most potent weapon against a judge that could help solidify a conservative majority on the court.

Feinstein's team stayed in contact with Ford, assessing whether she would decide to come forward. They even considered hiring their own investigator to probe the allegations, but such a move would have run afoul of Senate rules requiring Democrats and Republicans on a committee to consult with each other.

Eshoo never talked to Ford again, although she had her chief of staff send regular messages checking in, she said. And Eshoo says she never told other lawmakers, not California's other senator, Kamala Harris, who sits on the Judiciary Committee, not her close friend, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi. Yet Ford was not far from her mind. "Every waking moment I had I was thinking about her," Eshoo said.

Ford appeared to be preparing to come forward. She hired attorney Debra Katz, a well-connected Democrat with close ties to the #MeToo movement and the Hill. She took a polygraph test and passed, she would later tell The Washington Post. She collected notes from a counseling session where she mentioned the assault and Kavanaugh's name, she said.

By late August, even before Kavanaugh's public confirmation hearings, Ford says she decided not to go public. She decided her story probably wouldn't affect Kavanaugh's confirmation and would certainly be personally painful, she told the Post.

"Why suffer through the annihilation if it's not going to matter?" she said.

Feinstein, experienced as a member of the Senate's intelligence committee with keeping secrets, says she kept mum.

Someone else did not.

Rumors of a sexual allegation trickled out. Kavanaugh allies at the White House started hearing rumors early in September, during the tail end of his confirmation hearing. They did not know details.

Frustrated Democrats and outside groups were agitating to know what was happening and how the situation was being handled. It would soon be too late to affect Kavanaugh's confirmation, they knew. Republicans planned a committee vote on Sept. 20, then a full Senate vote. They hoped to have him seated on the court by Oct. 1, the day the court began its new session.

The story about to break, the powder keg about to explode, the Judiciary Committee Democrats who gathered off the Senate floor that night decided Feinstein should take some action. She should send Ford's letter — her name would be redacted — to the FBI.

The action would, perhaps inevitably, fuel the story. Feinstein would soon announce the move. Republicans would soon accuse her of sitting on an allegation, hiding it from Republicans and revealing it at the last minute to ensure, at the least, a delay in the process.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley of Iowa, who had known none of it, would be particularly upset that Feinstein, a longtime peer, had not shared the information.

Back in California, Feinstein's opponent in her re-election bid would accuse her of a "failure of leadership." She could have withheld the name and still made the allegation public, said Kevin de Leon, a Democrat in the California state Senate, and she should have confronted Kavanaugh with it at his hearing.

But Feinstein would claim she had no other choice.

The next day, the FBI acknowledged it had received some new information.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Jonathan Lemire, Catherine Lucey and Mary Clare Jalonick contributed to this report.

Florence: Severe flooding feared near South Carolina coast

By GARY D. ROBERTSON and MARTHA WAGGONER, Associated Press

BLADENBORO, N.C. (AP) — Rivers swelling with the floodwaters of former Hurricane Florence are threatening to swamp communities near the South Carolina coast, leaving thousands ready to evacuate.

More than a week after Florence crashed into the Carolinas, dumping heavy rains, all that water is nearing the coast. Authorities in Georgetown County, South Carolina, said they have put as many as 8,000 people on alert for possible evacuations starting Monday in expectation of a "record event" of up to 10 feet (3 meters) floodwaters this week.

Officials are especially eyeing gauges along the Pee Dee and Waccamaw Rivers and said people should be ready to leave homes in the potential flood zones before possibly life-threatening flooding begins setting in as early as Tuesday.

Georgetown County's emergency management director, Sam Hodge, said in a video message posted online Sunday that shelters are being opened Monday for area residents and he pleaded with people to alert neighbors and friends to the possible dangers ahead. The community also was distributing free sandbags but said Monday was likely the last day to rush preparations before the affected should get out.

"From boots on the ground to technology that we have, we are trying to be able to get the message out," Hodge said in the video feed, advising people not to await an official evacuation order should they feel unsafe.

The flooding has been going on for days in neighboring North Carolina already, the water slowly meandering to the coast.

In North Carolina, five river gauges were still at major flood stage and five others were at moderate flood stage, according to National Weather Service. The Cape Fear River was expected to crest and remain at flood stage through the early part of the week, and parts of Interstates 40 are expected to remain underwater for another week or more.

Parts of Interstate 95 had also been expected to be underwater for days, but North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper announced Sunday night that the major highway has been reopened to all traffic, as floodwaters had withdrawn faster than expected.

But floodwaters already receding on one stretch of Interstate 40 left thousands of rotting fish on the pavement for firefighters to clean up. Video showed firefighters blasting the dead fish to the highway shoulder with a fire hose in eastern North Carolina.

North Carolina Emergency Management Director Michael Sprayberry said that eastern counties continue to see major flooding, including areas along the Black, Lumber, Neuse and Cape Fear rivers. Elsewhere in North Carolina, state environmental officials also said they're closely monitoring two sites where Florence's floodwaters have inundated coal ash sites.

"Florence continues to bring misery to North Carolina," North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said in a statement Sunday evening. He added that crews conducted about 350 rescues over the weekend and that travel remains treacherous in the southeastern area of his state. But he said National Guard members would be shifting next to more door-to-door and air search wellness checks on people in still-flooded areas.

The storm has claimed at least 43 lives since slamming into the coast Sept. 14.

An economic research firm estimated that Florence has caused around \$44 billion in damage and lost output, which would make it one of the top 10 costliest U.S. hurricanes. The top disaster, Hurricane Katrina in 2005, cost \$192.2 billion in today's dollars, while last year's Hurricane Harvey cost \$133.5 billion. Moody's Analytics estimates Florence has caused \$40 billion in damage and \$4 billion in lost economic output, though the company stressed that the estimate is preliminary.

In Washington, Congress is starting to consider almost \$1.7 billion in new money to aid recovery efforts from Florence. Lawmakers already are facing a deadline this week to fund the government before the start of the new budget year Oct. 1, and members of Congress are expected to try to act on the disaster relief along with separate legislation to fund the government.

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Waggoner and Robertson reported from Raleigh, North Carolina. Also contributing to this report were Associated Press writers Jeffrey Collins in Columbia, South Carolina and Michael Biesecker in Washington.

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

Stop Brexit? UK's Labour party mulls backing new referendum

By JILL LAWLESS, Associated Press

LIVERPOOL, England (AP) — Britain's main opposition Labour Party confirmed Sunday it will hold a major debate on Brexit at its party conference this week, buoying Labour members hoping to stop the country from leaving the European Union.

With the U.K. and the European Union at an impasse in divorce talks, many Labour members think the left-of-center party has the power — and a duty — to force a new referendum that could reverse Britain's decision to leave the 28-nation bloc.

Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has long opposed that idea, but he and other party leaders are under pressure to change their minds. As delegates gathered in Liverpool, one message was emblazoned on hundreds of T-shirts and tote bags: "Love Corbyn, Hate Brexit."

Ever since Britain voted in 2016 to leave the EU, Labour has said it will respect the result, although it wants a closer relationship with the bloc than the one Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government is seeking.

Now, with divorce negotiations stuck and Britain due to leave in March, many Labour members think the party must change its course.

"Labour have to come to a decision. The time has gone for sitting on the fence," said Mike Buckley of Labour for a People's Vote, a group campaigning for a new Brexit referendum.

To drive home the message, several thousand People's Vote supporters marched through Liverpool on Sunday, waving blue-and-yellow EU flags alongside Union Jacks and holding signs reading "Exit from Brexit" and a few ruder slogans.

More than 100 local Labour associations submitted motions to the conference urging a public plebiscite, with a choice between leaving on terms agreed upon by the government or staying in the EU.

Party chiefs said Sunday that members and affiliated unions had selected Brexit as one of the priority issues delegates will consider, with a debate scheduled for Tuesday. But what exactly they will vote on has yet to be decided, and will be crucial.

Margaret Mills, a delegate from Orpington in southern England, said her local party had passed a motion calling on Labour to "stop Brexit by any means — well, short of physical violence."

"I think the time for vagueness is over," she said.

Corbyn — a veteran socialist who views the EU with suspicion — has long been against holding a second public vote on Brexit, although his opposition appears to be softening.

He said Sunday that he would prefer a general election rather than a referendum, but added: "Let's see what comes out of conference."

"Obviously I'm bound by the democracy of our party," Corbyn told the BBC.

Still, Labour faces a major political dilemma over Brexit. Most of the party's half a million members voted in 2016 to remain in the EU, but many of its 257 lawmakers represent areas that supported Brexit.

"For Labour to adopt a second referendum policy would spell political disaster in all those Labour seats that voted leave," said Brendan Chilton of the pro-Brexit group Labour Leave.

Since the 2016 referendum, Labour has stuck to a policy of "constructive ambiguity" in a bid to appeal to both "leave" and "remain" voters. The party opposes May's "Tory Brexit" plan but not Brexit itself. It calls for Britain to leave the EU but remain in the bloc's customs union with "full access" to the EU's huge single market.

Len McCluskey, leader of the Unite trade union, a powerful Labour ally, said British voters had decided to leave the EU and "for us now to enter some kind of campaign that opens up that issue again I think

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would be wrong.”

Yet Pro-EU Labour members, including many lawmakers, say the party’s ambiguous stance is becoming increasingly untenable as the risk of an economically damaging “hard Brexit” grows.

The Conservative government’s blueprint for future trade ties with the bloc was rejected last week by EU leaders at a summit in Salzburg, Austria. That left May’s leadership under siege and Britain at growing risk of crashing out of the EU on March 29 with no deal in place.

Andrew Adonis, a Labour member of the House of Lords who supports holding a second referendum, said Labour can’t sit on the sidelines while the country staggers toward political and financial chaos.

“This is as big a crisis as I can remember in my lifetime,” Adonis said. “And no one has a clue at the moment what is going to happen.

“That’s why I think we now need to take a stand — we the Labour Party and we the country.”

Brexit is one of several challenges facing Corbyn, who heads a divided party. He has strong support among grassroots members, many of whom have joined since he was elected leader in 2015. But many Labour lawmakers think his old-fashioned socialism is a turnoff for the wider electorate.

Labour has also been roiled by allegations that Corbyn, a long-time critic of Israel’s treatment of the Palestinians, has allowed anti-Semitism to fester inside the party. He has denied it and condemned anti-Semitism, but the furor has angered many Jewish party members and their supporters.

Labour backed the “remain” side during the 2016 referendum but Corbyn’s support was lukewarm.

“Jeremy Corbyn is a Brexiteer and always has been,” said Chilton of Labour Leave. “More and more people now support us leaving the European Union and getting on with it. ... they don’t want to re-fight the referendum.”

Follow Jill Lawless on Twitter at <http://Twitter.com/JillLawless>

At UN, unrepentant Trump set to rattle foes, friends alike

By JONATHAN LEMIRE and ZEKE MILLER, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — President Donald Trump is poised to redouble his commitment to “America First” on the most global of stages this week.

In the sequel to his stormy U.N. debut, Trump will stress his dedication to the primacy of U.S. interests while competing with Western allies for an advantage on trade and shining a spotlight on the threat that he says Iran poses to the Middle East and beyond.

One year after Trump stood at the rostrum of the U.N. General Assembly and derided North Korea’s Kim Jong Un as “Rocket Man,” the push to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula is a work in progress, although fears of war have given way to hopes for rapprochement.

Scores of world leaders, even those representing America’s closest friends, remain wary of Trump. In the 12 months since his last visit to the U.N., the president has jolted the global status quo by pulling out of the Iran nuclear deal, starting trade conflicts with China and the West and embracing Russia’s Vladimir Putin even as the investigation into the U.S. president’s ties to Moscow moves closer to the Oval Office.

Long critical of the United Nations, Trump delivered a warning shot ahead of his arrival by declaring that the world body had “not lived up to” its potential.

“It’s always been surprising to me that more things aren’t resolved,” Trump said in a weekend video message, “because you have all of these countries getting together in one location but it doesn’t seem to get there. I think it will.”

If there is a throughline to the still-evolving Trump doctrine on foreign policy, it is that the president will not subordinate American interests on the world stage, whether for economic, military or political gain.

Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters in a preview of Trump’s visit, that the president’s focus “will be very much on the United States,” its role and the relations it wants to build.

“He is looking forward to talking about foreign policy successes the United States has had over the past year and where we’re going to go from here,” she said. “He wants to talk about protecting U.S. sover-

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eighty," while building relationships with nations that "share those values."

In his four-day visit to New York, Trump will deliver major speeches and meet with representatives of a world order that he has so often upended in the past year. Like a year ago, North Korea's nuclear threat will hover over the gathering, though its shadow may appear somewhat less ominous.

The nuclear threat was sure to be on the agenda at Trump's first meeting, a dinner with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Manhattan on Sunday night. Abe stands first among world leaders in cultivating a close relationship with the president through displays of flattery that he has used to advance his efforts to influence the unpredictable American leader.

On Monday afternoon, Trump planned to sit down with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who comes bearing a personal message to Trump from North Korea's Kim after their inter-Korean talks last week. Trump and Moon were expected to sign a new version of the U.S.-South Korean trade agreement, one of Trump's first successes in his effort to renegotiate trade deals on more favorable terms for the U.S.

Even so, some U.S. officials worry that South Korea's eagerness to restore relations with the North could reduce sanctions pressure on Kim's government, hampering efforts to negotiate a nuclear accord.

"We have our eyes wide open," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo told NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday. "There is a long ways to go to get Chairman Kim to live up to the commitment that he made to President Trump and, indeed, to the demands of the world in the U.N. Security Council resolutions to get him to fully denuclearize."

Trump's address to the General Assembly comes Tuesday, and on Wednesday he will for the first time chair the Security Council, with the stated topic of non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The subject initially was to have been Iran, but that could have allowed Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to attend, creating a potentially awkward situation for the U.S. leader.

Aides say the president will also use the session to discuss North Korea and other proliferation issues. While Trump is not seeking a meeting with Rouhani, he is open to talking with the Iranian leader if Rouhani requests one, administration officials said.

In meetings with European leaders as well as during the Security Council session, Trump plans to try to make the case that global companies are cutting ties with Iran ahead of the reimposition in five weeks of tough sanctions against Tehran. The penalties are a result of Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Trump at the time cited Iran's role as a malign force in the region, particularly its support of terrorist groups, but also its involvement in Syria. U.S. officials say their priority for the region now is removing Iranian forces from Syria.

Trump is also expected to deliver a fresh warning to Syria's Bashar al-Assad that the use of chemical weapons against civilians in the major rebel stronghold of Idlib would have serious repercussions. Britain and France are actively planning a military response should Assad use chemical weapons again, according to U.S. officials.

"I think he's got a couple major possibilities really to help illuminate for the American people what America's place in the world," national security adviser John Bolton told Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures," previewing Trump's U.N. appearance.

Bolton, like Pompeo, is part of a far more hawkish national security team than the one that surrounded Trump a year ago.

Meetings on the sidelines of the General Assembly often come in rapid succession, a wearying test for even the most experienced foreign policy team. Trump has a robust schedule during his stay in New York, including meetings with Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, French President Emmanuel Macron, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and British Prime Minister Theresa May.

But while some world leaders are still reeling from Trump's deference to Putin in their summer Helsinki summit, there will not be an encore in New York: The Russian president is not expected to attend the proceedings.

Miller reported from Washington.

Follow Lemire on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/@JonLemire> and Miller at <http://twitter.com/@zekejmilller>

Iran fears plot by US and its Gulf allies as pressure grows

By JON GAMBRELL, Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — On the same day Arab separatists killed at least 25 people in an attack targeting a military parade in southwestern Iran, President Donald Trump's lawyer mounted a stage in New York to declare that the government would be toppled.

"I don't know when we're going to overthrow them. It could be in a few days, months or a couple of years, but it's going to happen," former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani said Saturday. "They are going to be overthrown. The people of Iran obviously have had enough."

For Iran's Shiite theocracy, comments like these only fuel fears that America and its Gulf Arab allies are plotting to tear the Islamic Republic apart.

Those threats so far haven't led to a military confrontation or violence, but the risk is rising.

"Undoubtedly the Islamic Republic of Iran will not ignore this crime. It is absolutely clear for us who did that, what group they are and with whom they are affiliated," Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned before leaving for New York for the United Nations General Assembly. "All of those small mercenary countries that we see in this region are backed by America. It is Americans who instigate them and provide them with necessary means to commit these crimes."

Rouhani is a relative moderate who was elected twice on promises to improve relations with West, and who signed the 2015 nuclear agreement. At the U.N. General Assembly that year, he declared that "a new chapter had started in Iran's relations with the world."

"For the first time, two sides rather than negotiating peace after war, engaged in dialogue and understanding before the eruption of conflict."

An eruption now seems more likely. What changed in the meantime seems to be the politics of the region and the U.S. While America's Sunni Gulf Arab allies in the region criticized the nuclear deal, many later acknowledged that it did what it was designed to do.

Iran limited its enrichment of uranium, making it virtually impossible for it to quickly develop nuclear weapons, something the government insists it has never sought. In exchange, some international sanctions were lifted, allowing Iran to rejoin the global financial system and sell its crude oil to American allies.

Over time, however, Gulf states adopted an increasingly harder tone with Iran. Officials in Tehran point to comments by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, now next in line to the throne in Iran's Mideast archrival.

"We know we are a main target of Iran," Prince Mohammed said in a 2017 interview, shortly before becoming crown prince. "We are not waiting until there becomes a battle in Saudi Arabia, so we will work so that it becomes a battle for them in Iran and not in Saudi Arabia."

He did not elaborate, though the kingdom and its allies were mired then as they are now — in a war in Yemen against Iran-aligned Shiite rebels. While Iran denies arming the rebels, known as Houthis, U.N. investigators, analysts and Western nations all say Tehran supplies weapons ranging from assault rifles to the ballistic missiles, which have been fired deep into Saudi territory.

After Prince Mohammed's comments last year, Saudi-aligned satellite news channels began playing up stories about Iranian opposition and exile groups. They also began publicizing the nighttime pipeline attacks by Arab separatists in Khuzestan, Iran's oil-rich southwestern province, which Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein tried to seize in his 1980s war with Iran.

Those separatists claimed responsibility for Saturday's attack in Ahvaz, Khuzestan's capital, which struck one of many parades in the country marking the start of the 1980s war. Iranian officials, who blame the separatists for the attack, say the militants wore military uniforms and hid their weapons along the parade route ahead of time — showing a level of sophistication previously unseen by the separatists.

There has been no direct evidence linking the separatists to Saudi Arabia. However, Iranian officials

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have seized on the fact the separatists immediately made their claim of responsibility on a Saudi-linked, Farsi-language satellite news channel based in Britain.

The United States has meanwhile been ramping up pressure on Iran since Trump withdrew from the nuclear agreement in May, restoring crippling sanctions and voicing support for anti-government protests fueled by economic woes.

The Trump administration has said its actions aren't aimed at toppling Iran's government. But in the meantime, Giuliani has continued speaking before meetings of an exiled Iranian opposition group. Before being appointed national security adviser earlier this year, John Bolton gave impassioned speeches calling for regime change.

"The declared policy of the United States of America should be the overthrow of the mullahs' regime in Tehran," Bolton told Iranian exiles in July 2017. "The behavior and the objectives of the regime are not going to change, and therefore, the only solution is to change the regime itself.

He added, to cheers: "And that's why before 2019, we here will celebrate in Tehran."

Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at www.twitter.com/jongambrellap . His work can be found at <http://apne.ws/2galNpz> .

Tiger Woods caps off amazing comeback with a win

By DOUG FERGUSON, AP Golf Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Tiger Woods, in his Sunday red shirt, both arms raised in victory on the 18th green. For so many years, the scene was familiar.

This time, it was surreal.

"I can't believe I pulled this off," Woods said Sunday during the trophy presentation at the Tour Championship, where he gave thousands of delirious fans at East Lake, and millions more around the world, what they wanted to see, and what they thought they might never see again.

And at that moment, Woods was overcome with emotion and paused.

After two back surgeries six weeks apart, he couldn't lie down, sit or walk without pain. Golf was the least of his concerns, so much that he once said anything else he achieved would be "gravy."

One year ago, while recovering from a fourth back surgery, he still had no idea if he could come back to the highest level of golf.

"Just to be able to compete and play again this year, that's a hell of a comeback," he said.

Woods delivered the perfect ending to his amazing return from back surgeries with a performance out of the past. He left the competition feeling hopeless as he built a five-shot lead early and then hung on for a 1-over 71 and a two-shot victory over Billy Horschel.

It was the 80th victory of his PGA Tour, two short of the career record held by Sam Snead that is now very much in play. And it was his first victory in more than five years, dating to the 2013 Bridgestone Invitational.

And that brought a new version of Tigermania.

After he hit his second shot to the par-5 18th safely in a bunker in front of the green, the crowd came through the ropes and followed behind in a chaotic celebration. It was like that when he walked from the left side of the 18th fairway at the 1997 Masters he won by 12. It was reminiscent of that walk up the 18th fairway later that summer at the Western Open in Chicago.

This was pure pandemonium. Fans chased after any inch of grass they could find to watch the ending.

"I didn't want to get run over," Woods said with a laugh.

This felt just as big as a major, maybe better considering where Woods had been.

Several players, from Zach Johnson to Rickie Fowler to Horschel, waited to greet him. It was Johnson who unveiled red shirts at the Ryder Cup two years ago in the team room that said, "Make Tiger Great Again."

"They knew what I was struggling with," Woods said. "It was special to see them."

Woods played only one PGA Tour event over two seasons because of his back. Off the golf course, he

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had to overcome the embarrassment of a DUI arrest in the early morning of Memorial Day in 2017 when he was found asleep at the wheel, later found to have a concoction of pain medication in his system.

He was becoming a legend on in video highlights.

And then he brought it back to life this year, especially the last four days at East Lake. The players who have turns at No. 1 during his absence caught the full brunt of Woods in control. McIlroy faded early. Justin Rose faded late.

All that was left was the 42-year-old Woods in that red shirt, blazing brighter than ever, and a smile he couldn't shake walking up the 18th to collect another trophy.

"The 80 mark is a big number," he said. "It's a pretty damned good feeling."

He finished at 11-under 269 and won \$1.62 million, along with a \$3 million bonus for finishing second in the FedEx Cup.

The only disappointment — a minor one under the circumstances — was realizing as he came down the 18th that Rose had made birdie to finish in a three-way tie for fourth, which gave him the FedEx Cup and the \$10 million bonus.

Without that birdie, Woods would have won his third FedEx Cup title after starting at No. 20 going into the Tour Championship.

"Congrats, Rosie," Woods told him. "World No. 1, hell of a season."

Actually, former world No. 1 for Rose. His four bogeys over the last 10 holes cost him the No. 1 ranking back to Dustin Johnson, who shot 67 and finished third.

But this wasn't about the FedEx Cup or even the world ranking.

This is Tiger's big day, and nothing was going to change it.

Woods had never lost when leading by three shots or more going into the final round. That was when he was regularly winning multiple times every season, compiling trophies at a rate never before seen in golf.

Was anything different having gone more than five years without winning?

Rose had said it was a bit more unknown, and "there's a lot on it for him" as well as everyone else.

But this was still Woods' arena. The walk from the putting green snakes some 80 yards across the road and through a gallery, and everyone could hear him coming from the procession of cheering. And within the opening hour, the Tour Championship had that inevitable feeling.

No one brings excitement like Woods, even when he plays so good and so smart that he eliminates any potential for drama.

The buzz was endless. A couple of teenagers climbed into a tree to see him made a 10-foot birdie on the first hole. When the putt dropped and cheers died, there was a wild sprint some 200 yards up the hill as fans tried to get into position for the next shot. He tapped in for par, and another stampede ensued to line the third fairway.

On and on it went. No one wanted to miss a shot.

A year ago, there was no guarantee anyone would see much of Woods, much less Woods winning.

He's back again. This victory, his first since the Bridgestone Invitational at Firestone in August 2013 — 1,876 days, to be exact — brought him to No. 13 in the world. Not bad for a 42-year-old with four back surgeries who returned to competition in December at No. 1,199 in the world.

The next stop for Woods is to board a plane with the rest of his U.S. teammates for France and the Ryder Cup.

After that?

There's no telling.

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

Amid furor, Trump pushes pause on deciding Rosenstein's fate

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP) — As Air Force One streaked across the desert sky and Las Vegas faded in the distance, President Donald Trump began seeking opinions.

The TVs on the plane, tuned as always to Fox News, carried headlines about an explosive new story: Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein had suggested wearing a wire to secretly record Trump, and raised the idea of using the 25th Amendment to remove the president from office.

On the flights both to and from a Missouri rally, Trump polled staff on the plane, called his outside network of advisers and kept a careful eye on what his favorite hosts on his favorite network were recommending.

The messages were mixed, but more were in favor of containing the urge to fire Rosenstein, a move that would declare open warfare with the Justice Department and cast doubt on the future of the special counsel's Russia probe, according to two people familiar with the exchanges but not authorized to publicly discuss private conversations.

Trump, though telling confidants that he felt the moment was another example of the "Deep State" and media conspiring to undermine him, held off dismissing Rosenstein. For now.

But the aftershocks of the story are rattling Washington still.

"He shouldn't fire Rosenstein unless you believe Rosenstein's lying. He says he did not do the things alleged," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. on "Fox News Sunday."

"But there's a bureaucratic coup against President Trump being discovered here. Before the election, the people in question tried to taint the election, tip it to (Hillary) Clinton's favor. After the election they're trying to undermine the president."

The details of the memos written by a former deputy FBI director, Andrew McCabe, triggered immediate speculation that the information would give Trump the justification to do what he has long desired: dismiss Rosenstein, the Justice Department official overseeing special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

The story broke as Trump was in his motorcade heading toward a Department of Veterans Affairs event in North Las Vegas, Nevada, on Friday, though some in the White House had been alerted to the report the day before. Rosenstein immediately put out a statement refuting the story and then, after being summoned to the West Wing that evening by White House chief of staff John Kelly, put out a second, stronger denial.

At the same time, at a rally in Springfield on behalf of Missouri Senate candidate Josh Hawley, Trump made a cryptic remark about removing the "lingering stench" from the FBI and Justice Department but did not explicitly bring up the Rosenstein story.

Later, the president angrily asked confidants, both inside and outside the White House, how to respond. He received mixed messages. Some urged him to fire Rosenstein. Others suggested restraint while seeing if the report was incorrect or if it was planted by some adversary.

Still others believed that firing Rosenstein before the November election would further the Democratic talking point of an administration in disarray and damage the Republicans' chances of keeping control of Congress.

Trump also received conflicting advice from his other team of counselors: the hosts at Fox News. While Laura Ingraham initially urged Trump to fire Rosenstein, Sean Hannity pleaded with the president not to act.

"It is all a setup," said Hannity, seeming to directly address Trump. "Under zero circumstances should the president fire anybody."

And on Saturday, another Trump cable favorite, Jeanine Pirro, took to Twitter to wonder if Rosenstein himself leaked the story "to force" Trump to fire him.

Spending the weekend at his New Jersey golf course, Trump continued to ask allies about the reports and fumed about the involvement of McCabe, whom the president has long believed conspired against him. McCabe was fired this spring not being fully truthful under oath.

But the president's attention was also divided while at Bedminster, as he was focused on developments in Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court confirmation hearings while also being urged by aides to prepare for

the upcoming U.N. General Assembly.

Trump, never shy to loudly express disappointment in the Justice Department, has not tweeted about the matter. The White House did not respond to requests for comment.

"Rod deserves the right to be heard," said Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., on CBS' "Face the Nation."

"And I'm sure at some point the president will bring Rod in and say, 'Rod if you think I am incompetent, if you feel the need to wear a wire when you're talking to me, then why are you serving in my administration?'"

Democrats urged that Rosenstein be spared.

The report "must not be used as a pretext for the corrupt purpose of firing Rosenstein in order to install an official who will allow the president to interfere with the Special Counsel's investigation," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer tweeted.

But the reports create even greater uncertainty for Rosenstein in his position at a time when Trump has lambasted the department's leadership and publicly humiliated both Rosenstein and Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Some of Trump's fiercest congressional allies had already floated trying to impeach the deputy attorney general.

It's also the latest revelation that could affect Mueller.

Sessions withdrew from the Russia inquiry soon after he took office, to Trump's dismay, and Rosenstein later appointed Mueller. Trump has resisted calls from conservative commentators for more than a year to fire both Sessions and Rosenstein and appoint someone who would ride herd more closely on Mueller or dismiss him.

The reported conversation about possibly secretly recording the president took place at a tense May 2017 meeting during the tumultuous period that followed Trump's firing of FBI Director James Comey. The White House said that decision, which upset many rank-and-file agents, was based on the Justice Department's recommendation. The Justice Department issued a statement from one of the participants in the meeting who described the remark as sarcastic.

Associated Press writer Eric Tucker in Washington contributed to this report.

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Iran's president blames US after attack on military parade

By **NASSER KARIMI** and **JON GAMBRELL**, Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president on Sunday accused an unnamed U.S.-allied country in the Persian Gulf of being behind a terror attack on a military parade that killed 25 people and wounded 60, further raising regional tensions.

Hassan Rouhani's comments came as Iran's Foreign Ministry also summoned Western diplomats over them allegedly providing havens for the Arab separatists who claimed Saturday's attacks in the southwestern city of Ahvaz.

The Iranian moves, as well as promises of revenge by Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard, come as the country already faces turmoil in the wake of the American withdraw from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers. The attack in Ahvaz, which saw women and children flee with uniformed soldiers bloodied, has further shaken the country.

Rouhani's remarks could refer to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates or Bahrain — close U.S. military allies that view Iran as a regional menace over its support for militant groups across the Middle East.

"All of those small mercenary countries that we see in this region are backed by America. It is Americans who instigate them and provide them with necessary means to commit these crimes," Rouhani said before leaving for the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

Iran meanwhile summoned diplomats from Britain, Denmark and the Netherlands early Sunday for allegedly harboring "members of the terrorist group" that launched the attack. Danish Foreign Minister Anders

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Samuelsen condemned the attack and stressed that there would be "consequences" if it turns out that those responsible have connections to Denmark.

The ministry later summoned the UAE's envoy as well over what it called the "irresponsible and insulting statements" of an Emirati adviser, according to the semi-official ISNA news agency. The UAE did not immediately acknowledge the summons.

Saturday's attack, in which militants disguised as soldiers opened fire on an annual Iranian military parade in Ahvaz, was the deadliest attack in the country in nearly a decade. Women and children scattered along with once-marching Revolutionary Guard soldiers as heavy gunfire rang out, the chaos captured live on state television.

The region's Arab separatists, once only known for nighttime attacks on unguarded oil pipelines, claimed responsibility for the assault, and Iranian officials appeared to believe the claim. The separatists accuse Iran's Persian-dominated government of discriminating against its ethnic Arab minority. Khuzestan province also has seen recent protests over Iran's nationwide drought, as well as economic protests.

The attack killed at least 25 people and wounded 60, according to the state-run IRNA news agency. It said gunmen wore military uniforms and targeted a riser where military and police commanders were sitting. State TV hours later reported that all four gunmen had been killed.

At least eight of the dead served in the Revolutionary Guard, an elite paramilitary unit that answers only to Iran's supreme leader, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency. The Guard responded to the attack on Sunday, warning it would seek "deadly and unforgiving revenge in the near future."

Tensions have been on the rise in Iran since the Trump administration pulled out of the 2015 nuclear accord with Iran in May and began restoring sanctions that were eased under the deal. It also has steadily ramped up pressure on Iran to try to get it to stop what Washington calls its "malign activities" in the region.

The U.S. government nevertheless strongly condemned Saturday's attack and expressed its sympathy, saying it "condemns all acts of terrorism and the loss of any innocent lives."

The Islamic State group also claimed responsibility for the attack in a message on its Amaaq news agency, but provided no evidence it carried out the assault. They also initially wrongly said the Ahvaz attack targeted Rouhani, who was in Tehran. The militants have made a string of false claims in the wake of major defeats in Iraq and Syria.

On Sunday, IS militants posted a video online of three men, two of whom who spoke in Arabic extolling the benefits of martyrdom. A third who spoke in Farsi said they wanted to attack the Guard. The video included no time stamps, nor any specific references to the Ahvaz attack.

The attack dominated Iranian newspaper front pages on Sunday. The hard-line daily Kayhan warned that Iranians would demand Saudi Arabia feel the "hard slap" of the country's power.

Iran's government declared Monday as a nationwide public mourning day, state-run IRNA news agency reported Sunday.

Also all governmental organizations, banks, schools and universities in southeastern Khuzestan province will be closed on Monday, semi-official Tasnim news agency reported.

An overnight impromptu candle-light vigil in Ahvaz honored the dead and wounded. Among the dead is 4-year-old Mohammad Taha, who was captured by a photographer being carried away from the attack by a Guardsman in full dress uniform and sash. The photograph, showing the boy bloodied and helpless, shocked Iran.

A doctor interviewed on state television said Mohammad had been up the night before marking Ashoura, a commemoration of the death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson Hussein, one of Shiite Islam's most beloved saints. Mourners wear black in honor of his 7th century death in the Battle of Karbala in present-day Iraq.

"He was wearing a black shirt when he was martyred," a doctor said, standing next to the boy's tiny corpse, now wrapped in a blue body bag.

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Associated Press writer Jari Tanner in Helsinki, and

Amir Vahdat in Tehran, Iran, contributed to this report.

Side effect of trafficking law: More street prostitution?

By ALEXANDRA VILLARREAL, Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Recent crackdowns targeting the sex-for-hire industry have reduced the number of commercial ads on the internet and helped fight online trafficking. But activists and police say the efforts may have had unintended consequences — landing women and girls back on the streets, where dangers also lurk.

The impact was almost immediate after the seizure of Backpage.com by the federal government in April and President Donald Trump's signature the same month on the Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act, a law meant to hold internet platforms accountable for facilitating sex trafficking.

The number of sex ads online plummeted by 75 percent, an indication that the law was thwarting human traffickers no longer protected by the anonymity of the internet. But sex workers and their advocates say another casualty was the income of escorts who advertised online, along with the ability to vet clients better than on the street.

Statistics establishing a pattern are hard to come by, but police in some of the nation's biggest cities told The Associated Press they are also seeing a shift, if sometimes only in the age of the sex workers they're encountering.

"I have seen a group of fresher faces, so that would make me think that they're new to the street, maybe from the internet," said Lt. Jimmy Sides, of the San Antonio police.

Law enforcement in San Antonio arrested 296 people for prostitution between March 21, when the Sex Trafficking Act passed Congress, and Aug. 14, according to a public records request — a 58 percent increase from the same span the year before, when police made 187 arrests.

Phoenix police said they experienced a surge in street-prostitution arrests in 2018 but did not provide figures. In Houston, levels have remained constant, but more 14- to 17-year-olds have been working outdoors since May, said James Dale, a police captain.

Police in Sacramento, California, noted three street-prostitution arrests between March 21, 2017, and mid-August of that year. During the same period in 2018, they recorded 15.

Police in many big cities, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Seattle, did not grant requests for interviews or data.

In March, there were about 100,000 adult services ads posted per day worldwide, according to researchers at Uncharted Software, which has monitored such ads since 2014. After the trafficking act passed Congress, that number dropped to around 76,000 ads.

Then, when Backpage shut down, numbers fell again to 25,000 ads per day.

The change was not permanent; by July, the numbers had rebounded to more than 50,000 ads per day, researchers said. Still, a fragmented market with no single replacement for Backpage will likely continue to reduce trafficking, according to counter-trafficking consultant Rob Spectre.

But on the internet, sex workers say, they were able to screen a client and check lists for "bad dates." Now, as they are funneled back onto the streets, they are at a buyer's mercy.

Kara Alexander, who lives in Florida, advertised her services on Backpage, Craigslist and other sites before April. When media companies closed down sections hosting adult services ads, she said, she started working on the streets.

In May, she said, a client raped her and poured alcohol in her body in an attempt to destroy evidence. Alexander, 29, said she had faced violence while working online, but never on this scale.

"It's a different kind of danger," she said.

A sex worker who goes by Quinn and didn't want her real name used because she feared arrest and other repercussions said that in the age of the trafficking act, she hasn't been able to rack up enough jobs. Near the end of April, she started selling herself outdoors in Boston for the first time since she was a teenager, she said.

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"There's no backup plan for people like us," said Quinn, who said she was raped and beaten in August but could not afford treatment.

Laura LeMoon, a sex worker and trafficking survivor who co-founded the Safe Night Access Project in Seattle to help protect street sex workers, said she has seen far more women on Seattle's strolls.

Solicitors have gotten younger, too, she said. She used to primarily serve middle-aged sex workers, she said, but now they often appear 25 or younger.

"I think definitely there's a number of girls we've seen who look pretty young," she said.

Along with the rise in street prostitution has come a resurgence in pimping, which had faded in the internet age, according to sex workers and advocates. Alexander said a friend of hers was attacked by pimps who were incensed she was working without them, and Quinn said pimps have become much more aggressive now that they see a market.

Still, even activists who acknowledge a trend of more street prostitution believe the trafficking act is better than unchecked online exploitation.

Yvonne Ambrose's 16-year-old daughter Desiree Robinson was trafficked in Chicago on Backpage and was killed by a buyer on Christmas Eve 2016. Ambrose joined Trump at the White House when he signed the legislation.

The law, she said, is the change her daughter would have wanted.

"This law is for the bad actors out there," she said, "and to prevent them from doing more harm to more people."

As Venezuelans go hungry, Trump targets food corruption

By JOSHUA GOODMAN, Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — The June meeting was conducted behind closed doors far from the klieg-light attention normally focused on Venezuela.

Around a U-shaped table in a hotel towering above the Panama Canal, U.S. Treasury Department officials distributed a list of suspected shell companies that they believe senior Venezuelan officials have used across the globe to siphon off millions of dollars from food import contracts amid widespread starvation in the oil-rich nation.

The two-day meeting, and several others that have taken place since April, are part of a sustained campaign by the Trump administration to pressure President Nicolas Maduro by striking at the wallets of the top officials in his socialist administration.

"They know we're after them, and they know we're after them on a multinational basis because we're beginning to see the networks morph and new shell companies stand up and existing ones wound down," Marshall Billingslea, the assistant Treasury secretary for terrorist financing, said in an interview on the sidelines of the meeting.

At that gathering, financial forensic investigators from the U.S. and three conservative Latin American allies — Mexico, Panama and Colombia — traced transactions by companies believed to be controlled by a government-connected businessman, according to several participants who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the deliberations were private.

Since Donald Trump became president, dozens of senior Venezuelan officials, including Maduro himself, have been sanctioned by the Treasury Department over allegations of corruption, human rights abuses and drug trafficking.

Last year, Trump even threatened a "military option" to remove Maduro and, with senior aides and Latin American leaders, raised the possibility of invading the South American country. As the country's economic troubles mount, he has sought to rally regional pressure as well.

The focus on food is deliberate, said Billingslea, a key driver of U.S. policy toward Venezuela who led Trump's national security transition team.

A story published by the AP in 2016 revealed how senior Venezuelan officials and members of the military were enriching themselves by diverting money from food contracts. Since then, as hunger has spread,

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Maduro has moved to assert even greater control over food distribution, handing out monthly boxes of staples that critics label a form of dictatorial social control.

Maduro said he began distributing the so-called CLAP boxes — a Spanish acronym for Local Committees for Supply and Production — as a way to circumvent the “economic war” being waged by the U.S. and opponents seeking to oust him from power.

As Venezuela has fallen deeper into political and economic turmoil, the CLAP program has become a tenuous lifeline for millions of citizens suffering due to barren supermarket shelves and hyperinflation estimated by the International Monetary Fund to soon reach 1 million percent.

Critics say Maduro has essentially weaponized food, distributing the boxes primarily to government workers and supporters. According to an April survey by the local pollster Datanalisis, more than 60 percent of Venezuelan households said they received CLAP box in the previous three months — about the same percentage that helped re-elect the embattled leader in May presidential elections boycotted by the opposition.

The allegations are fueling calls from Latin American leaders, including the heads of Argentina, Colombia and Chile, for Maduro to be tried in an international court for crimes against humanity.

“This goes beyond just corruption,” said Billingslea, who led the U.S. delegation to Panama with Kenneth Blanco, the director of the Treasury Department’s financial crimes enforcement network. “This is literally looting the one social safety-net program left in Venezuela.”

On a recent weeknight, word quickly spread among employees of a government-supported cultural center about the downtown Caracas location where they could collect their monthly CLAP ration. Within a few hours, everyone from museum curators to janitors waited in line to sign a clipboard before government loyalists slid a box across the table.

Once outside, some workers tore open the boxes, transferring the contents — cooking oil, flour, rice, canned tuna — to backpacks for fear of becoming walking targets in one of Latin America’s most violent cities. Some said they planned to resell the food on the black market, where a single bag of sugar can easily fetch more than 100 times the heavily subsidized price of the entire CLAP box.

“When the food boxes first came out, we used to get a kilogram of meat or chicken, but we never saw that again,” said Marcos Inojosa, an electrical technician who has been receiving the handout for about a year. “The president turns a blind eye and pretends that everything is working well. But everything is in the dumps.”

Among those under scrutiny by the coalition of countries is an obscure Colombian businessman who struck gold selling to Maduro’s government.

Alex Saab, from the Caribbean city of Barranquilla, was a major focus of the closed-door meetings in Panama City, the participants who spoke on condition of anonymity told the AP. At one point they even studied the movements of a U.S.-registered private jet to identify his current whereabouts: Caracas, Paris, or Lebanon.

Saab gained some prominence in 2011 after signing an agreement to build social housing for the Venezuelan government on behalf of a Colombia-based construction company. He appeared on Venezuelan state television alongside Maduro, the late President Hugo Chavez and then-Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos.

Investigators say Saab entered the food business through a Hong Kong-based company, Group Grand Ltd., which they say bears the hallmarks of a shell company, including no known track record in the food business, a rudimentary webpage that is now inaccessible and an address in Caracas shared with Saab’s construction company.

Group Grand has been awarded contracts to provide at least 11.5 million CLAP boxes, according to a Venezuelan Food Ministry spreadsheet obtained by the AP.

Luisa Ortega, who was ousted as Venezuela’s chief prosecutor and exiled last year after breaking with Maduro, has called for an investigation into Saab, alleging — so far without evidence — that he and Group Grand are fronts for Maduro

Billingslea would not discuss specific individuals or entities on the task force’s radar, but said going after

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what he believes is money stolen from food imports by Maduro and first lady Cilia Flores is a top priority.

Prosecutors in both Miami and Colombia have been investigating Saab for more than a year, four U.S. and Colombian officials with knowledge of those investigations told the AP. All spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive political nature of the ongoing probe.

Saab's Miami-based lawyer, Richard Diaz, rejected allegations of any wrongdoing, saying that Saab has been subjected to undue scrutiny and harsh media coverage because of false testimony leveled against him. He said that if the U.S. had cause to believe the allegations were possibly true, his client would have been charged long ago.

Saab said in a statement that he is being targeted by government opponents looking to sabotage the economy.

"Instead, they should be thankful that despite so much bad press and international blockade there are still businessmen willing to invest and believe in the country," he said.

The U.S. Treasury estimates that at least 70 percent of the CLAP program is being gutted by corruption, citing evidence of overbilling.

Among the transactions that have raised red flags is a September 2017 invoice presented to Venezuela's food ministry by Group Grand for \$41 million worth of powdered milk at a price of \$6,950 per metric ton, or more than double the market price at the time. A copy of the invoice was provided to the AP.

"Never have we seen prices that high, not even in times of crisis," said Roger Figueroa, president of the Venezuelan dairy industry's lobby group.

A study conducted by Figueroa's group also found that the powdered milk distributed in the CLAP boxes regularly contained a third of government-mandated protein levels and twice the level of recommended carbohydrates.

The investigative cooperation between the U.S. and other countries began about a year ago at the urging of Trump officials, and already has yielded some results.

On May 17, three days before Maduro was re-elected, then-Colombian President Santos, acting on information provided by the U.S., announced the seizure of 15 shipping containers filled with more than 25,000 CLAP boxes stamped with Chavez's image and containing beetle-infested rice and other spoiled food.

In testimony to police obtained by the AP, the owner of a Colombian company said he was hired by another firm to assemble and ship the boxes to Venezuela's Corporation of Foreign Trade, or Corpovex, which had for years been under the stewardship of an air force general.

A U.S. Treasury advisory last year warned American banks about the risks of doing business with Venezuelan clients, citing Corpovex as a vehicle frequently used by corrupt officials for embezzling state funds through shell companies.

The seized CLAP shipment, which was valued at over \$500,000, was never sent. It spoiled sitting on the docks because the firm that ordered it, a Portuguese company called Agrovarius, said its bank accounts had been frozen and it could not pay its bills, according to the police testimony.

Little is known about Agrovarius, which is located behind a high white wall in a Lisbon suburb. One of the company's listed owners, Joao Rosa, denied having anything to do with the Colombian shipment and insisted all the company's vendors had been paid.

Agrovarius also was implicated in what has come to be called the so-called pork revolution, which took place last Christmas when angry Venezuelans took to the streets when Maduro failed to deliver on a promise to provide thousands of free hams to poor neighborhoods.

Maduro accused Portugal's government of "sabotaging" the holiday gift, but the long-established Portuguese meatpacker Raporal pinned the blame on Agrovarius, saying it was never paid the more than 6 million euros needed to supply Venezuela's government with the meat.

A spokesman for Raporal said the company is now suing Agrovarius for breach of contract. Rosa said Agrovarius had nothing to do with the botched Christmas ham shipment.

Billingslea, meanwhile, said that Maduro has repeatedly sought to deflect blame for his own mismanagement and refusal to address mounting hunger.

"If they really wanted to feed people, they'd let in the foreign aid that's been offered," he said.

Associated Press Writers Scott Smith in Caracas, Venezuela, and Barry Hatton in Lisbon, Portugal, contributed to this report.

'House With a Clock in Its Walls' ticks to No. 1 in theaters

By JAKE COYLE, AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The gothic family fantasy "The House With a Clock in Its Walls" exceeded expectations to debut with an estimated \$26.9 million in ticket sales at the weekend box office, while audiences showed considerably less interest in Michael Moore's Donald Trump-themed documentary, "Fahrenheit 11/9," than his George W. Bush-era one.

"The House With a Clock in Its Walls" was easily the biggest draw on a quiet weekend at North American movie theaters, where the other three new wide releases all disappointed or downright flopped.

"Fahrenheit 11/9" opened with \$3.1 million in 1,719 cinemas — a huge debut for most documentaries but a fraction of the \$23.9 million opening generated in 2004 by Moore's record-breaking "Fahrenheit 9/11." That film went on to make \$222.4 million worldwide, a record for documentaries.

Moore's new film, which examines the rise of Trump and other developments like the water crisis in his hometown of Flint, Michigan, was the first release from former Open Road chief executive Tom Ortenberg's new distributor, Briarcliff Entertainment. It had been predicted to open with \$5 million to \$8 million.

But despite a surge in success for documentaries at the box office — including "RBG," "Won't You Be My Neighbor" and "Three Identical Strangers" — "Fahrenheit 11/9" didn't catch on.

Dan Fogelman's "Life Itself" and the home invasion thriller "Assassination Nation" both barely made a blip in nationwide release. Though Fogelman's "This Is Us" is one of TV's top-rated series, his "Life Itself" bombed with \$2.1 million despite a starry cast including Olivia Wilde, Oscar Isaac and Antonio Banderas.

The film — an unabashedly sentimental tale of destiny across generations — drew some of the most scathing reviews of the year, landing it a 13 percent "fresh" rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

In an interview last week, Fogelman blamed "primarily white male critics who don't like anything that has any emotion," prompting many female critics to point out that they, too, thought "Life Itself" was, as Variety's Jessica Kiang wrote, "manipulative and contrived."

The Amazon Studios release, which opened in 2,609 theaters, was one of the worst performing wide releases of the year, as was Sam Levinson's "Assassination Nation." The Neon thriller grossed just \$1 million in 1,403 theaters.

But Universal Pictures' "The House With a Clock in Its Walls," based on the classic book written by John Bellairs and illustrated by Edward Gorey, capitalized on a recent dearth of child-friendly options. The film, directed by the horror veteran Eli Roth with a budget of \$40 million, stars Jack Black and Cate Blanchett.

"This was on the high end of any expectations," said Jim Orr, head of distribution at Universal. Orr credited the studio's producing partners at Amblin Entertainment as well as the release date in a normally slow month. "We really saw an opportunity in late September to kick off the fall season with this PG family film, and obviously it was well-positioned."

With the fall movie season getting started, a few specialty films hit theaters, drawing packed theaters in limited release.

Bleecker Street's "Colette," starring Keira Knightley as the iconic French author, debuted with \$156,000 in four theaters, good for a per-screen average of \$39,000. Jacques Audiard's dark Western "The Sisters Brothers," starring Joaquin Phoenix and John C. Reilly, opened with \$122,000 in four theaters for a \$30,500 per-screen average.

Last week's top film, "The Predator," slid fast with a 65 percent drop, earning \$8.7 million in its second week. Holding stronger was Lionsgate's "A Simple Favor." Paul Feig's suburban noir, starring Blake Lively and Anna Kendrick, dropped only 35 percent for a \$10.4 million second weekend.

"Fahrenheit 11/9" may have decent weeks ahead leading up to the November midterm elections. Com-

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Score's PostTrak survey found that 82 percent of viewers gave it four out of five stars. It landed an A CinemaScore.

"Those who did see it really enjoyed it," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for comScore. "People have said: Should they have gone limited? Should they have gone wide? I think they needed to get it out there nationwide with midterms six weeks away. But it's very easy to second-guess how to release a documentary like this. It's one of the most difficult types of films to release."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to comScore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday also are included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "The House With a Clock in Its Walls," \$26.9 million (\$8.7 million international).
2. "A Simple Favor," \$10.4 million (\$5.2 million international).
3. "The Nun," \$10.3 million (\$35.4 million international).
4. "The Predator," \$8.7 million (\$15.2 million international).
5. "Crazy Rich Asians," \$6.5 million (\$5.1 million international).
6. "White Boy Rick," \$5 million.
7. "Peppermint," \$3.7 million (\$1.6 million international).
8. "Fahrenheit 11/9," \$3.1 million.
9. "The Meg," \$2.4 million (\$3.4 million international).
10. "Searching," \$2.2 million (\$3.6 million international).

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada), according to comScore:

1. "The Nun," \$35.4 million.
2. "Golden Job," \$23.2 million.
3. "Johnny English Strikes Again," \$17.2 million.
4. "The Predator," \$15.2 million.
5. "L Storm," \$9 million.
6. "The Great Battle," \$8.9 million.
7. "The House With a Clock in Its Walls," \$8.7 million.
8. "Incredibles 2," \$8.3 million.
9. "Mission: Impossible — Fallout," \$8 million.
10. "Ash Is the Purest White," \$5.9 million.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <https://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

AP Top 25 Heat Check: Basketball schools storm football poll

By RALPH D. RUSSO, AP College Football Writer

The AP college football poll had a basketball feel this week.

Kentucky and Duke moved into the Top 25 for the first time this season Sunday. For the Blue Devils (4-0) it is their first appearance since October 2015. It has been a lot longer for the Wildcats, who were last ranked in November 2007.

The last time the schools that have combined for 13 NCAA basketball championships were ranked in football at the same time was the 1957 AP preseason poll. The last time it happened during the season was Oct. 10, 1955.

The Blue Devils and Wildcats were two of the five teams to move into the rankings this week after seven ranked teams lost Saturday, five to unranked teams. No. 24 California and No. 25 Texas Tech also made their season debuts, and No. 18 Texas re-entered the Top 25.

The voters are churning through teams at the back half of the rankings, which is pretty typical at this point in the season. An interesting omission was Maryland (3-1). The Terrapins beat Texas in the opener

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and added a lopsided victory against Minnesota to its easy win against Bowling Green. The Maryland athletic department is in turmoil, but the team has played well with head coach DJ Durkin on administrative leave — not including a puzzling clunker against Temple.

As the voters try to find teams that can stick on the back end, the best teams are mostly rolling along, giving Heat Check little to complain about there.

No. 1 Alabama (4-0)

Next: vs. Louisiana-Lafayette.

QB Tua Tagovailoa has thrown for 1,033 yards and 12 touchdowns and has yet to attempt a fourth-quarter pass.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 2 Georgia (4-0)

Next: vs. Tennessee

Bulldogs coach Kirby Smart was Saban-esque, with plenty to complain about after beating Missouri comfortably on the road.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 3 Clemson (4-0)

Next: vs. Syracuse.

The Tigers could be double-digit favorites against every team left on their schedule, especially with QB Trevor Lawrence ascending.

Heat check: A touch too hot.

No. 4 Ohio State (4-0)

Next: at No. 9 Penn State

The Buckeyes have four players (Parris Campbell, K.J. Hill, Terry McLaurin and Austin Mack) ranked among the top 15 in receiving yards in the Big Ten.

Heat check: Little too cold.

No. 5 LSU (4-0)

Next: vs. Mississippi

The Tigers could be this year's Miami. Very good. Not quite as good as the ranking.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 6 Oklahoma (4-0)

Next: vs. Baylor

Almost losing to Army is not a good look, but it might not be all that meaningful because nobody plays like the Black Knights.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 7 Stanford (4-0)

Next: at No. 8 Notre Dame

The Cardinal were more fortunate than good against Oregon.

Heat check: Too hot.

No. 8 Notre Dame (4-0)

Next: vs. No. 7 Stanford.

Heat check has been worried about that Notre Dame offense. Less so now, but it should be noted that Wake Forest fired its defensive coordinator Sunday.

Heat check: Too hot, but less so than previous weeks.

No. 9 Penn State (4-0)

Next: vs. No. 4 Ohio State.

The Nittany Lions are lacking only a signature victory. Here's the chance.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 10 Auburn (3-1)

Next: vs. Southern Mississippi.

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The Tigers slipped a bit after beating Arkansas by 31. Clearly penalized by voters for not using a fake fair catch to score a touchdown against the Razorbacks.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 11 Washington (3-1)

Next: vs. No. 20 BYU

The Cougars could really help the Huskies by losing this week and then finishing the season strong.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 12 West Virginia (3-0)

Next: at No. 25 Texas Tech

The competition has been sketchy at best but LB David Long and the Mountaineers' defense has been pretty good. Better tests are coming, though.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 13 UCF (3-0)

Next: vs. Pittsburgh

Most Knights fans understood Scott Frost's leaving for Nebraska, but some can't help but enjoy the Cornhuskers' woes.

Heat check: Little too hot.

No. 14 Michigan (3-1)

Next: at Northwestern

Time to see if the Wolverines' suddenly productive offense travels after three easy wins at the Big House.

Heat check: Bit too cold. Flip with UCF.

No. 15 Wisconsin (3-1)

Next: vs. Nebraska, Oct. 6.

Reason for concern: The Badgers' usually stingy defense ranks 74th in the country in yards per play allowed (5.52) without facing any top-notch offenses.

Heat check: Too hot.

No. 16 Miami (3-1)

Next: vs. North Carolina

The Hurricanes lead the nation in tackles for loss with 46 and DL Gerald Willis III is tops in the country with 10.

Heat check: Too hot.

No. 17 Kentucky (4-0)

Next: vs. South Carolina

Time to rev up RB Benny Snell's Heisman Trophy campaign, Kentucky. Bobbleheads are popular this year.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 18 Texas (3-1)

Next: at Kansas State.

It really is OK to be late to the Longhorns' bandwagon, but this current surge seems like a significant step forward.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 19 Oregon (3-1)

Next: at No. 24 California

The Ducks looked like a legit top-20 team for most of the night against Stanford. They moved up in the poll after the loss, but maybe not enough.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 20 BYU (3-1)

Next: at No. 11 Washington

The Cougars will ride that Wisconsin victory for another week at least.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 21 Michigan State (2-1)

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Next: vs. Central Michigan

The Spartans running game has been bogged down, averaging only 3.29 yards per carry, second-to-last in the Big Ten.

Heat check: Too hot.

No. 22 Duke (4-0)

Next: vs. Virginia Tech

The Blue Devils will try to go 5-0 for the first time since 1994.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 23 Mississippi State (3-1)

Next: vs. Florida

The Bulldogs did a full face-plant against Kentucky, but the biggest issue might be completing less than 50 percent of their passes on the season.

Heat check: Just right.

No. 24 California (3-0)

Next: vs. No. 19 Oregon

If you're ranking BYU, guess you also have to rank the team that won at BYU. And maybe the Bears should even be ahead of BYU. This feels like another short-stay team.

Heat check: Too cold.

No. 25 Texas Tech (3-1)

Next: vs. No. 12 West Virginia.

The Red Raiders are last in the Big 12 in yards per play allowed, but they have forced seven turnovers and have 30 tackles for loss. The defense is better, but still not good.

Heat check: Too hot.

Should be out: Michigan State and Texas Tech. Should be in: Maryland and TCU. The Horned Frogs pass the eye test.

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

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A timeline since Tiger Woods last won a tournament

ATLANTA (AP) — A timeline between the 79th and 80th victories on the PGA Tour for Tiger Woods:

Aug. 4, 2013 — Wins the Bridgestone Invitational for his 18th World Golf Championship title and 79th victory on the PGA Tour.

March 31, 2014 — Has back surgery and announces he will miss the Masters for the first time.

June 26, 2014 — Returns to the PGA Tour and misses the cut at the Quicken Loans National.

Aug. 8, 2014 — Misses the cut in the PGA Championship and says he will take the rest of the year off, including the Ryder Cup, to get healthy.

Dec. 7, 2014 — Returns at the Hero World Challenge and ties for last in an 18-man field at Isleworth, his home course, 26 shots out of the lead.

Feb. 1, 2015 — Looking like an amateur with his short game, shoots 82 in the Phoenix Open to miss the cut. A week later at Torrey Pines, withdraws after 11 holes and says he could never get his glutes activated.

Feb. 11, 2015 — Announces he is taking time off to work on his game, saying that "my play, and scores, are not acceptable for tournament golf."

April 9, 2015 — Returns at the Masters, his chipping issues gone, and ties for 17th.

June 6, 2015 — Shoots an 85 in the third round of the Memorial, his highest score as a professional.

Aug. 14, 2015 — Misses the cut in his third straight major at the PGA Championship.

Aug. 23, 2015 — After sharing the 36-hole lead, ties for 10th in the Wyndham Championship and fails

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for the first time to qualify for the FedEx Cup playoffs when playing at least 10 times on the PGA Tour.

Sept. 16, 2015 — Has a second back surgery.

Oct. 28, 2015 — Has a third procedure on his back.

Dec. 1, 2015 — In a somber press conference at his Hero World Challenge, Woods says of his future, "So where is the light at the end of the tunnel? I don't know." He says he wants to play again and anything else he achieves will be "gravy."

Dec. 4, 2016 — Returns to competition at the Hero World Challenge, makes 24 birdies and finishes 15th in an 18-man field, 14 shots behind.

Jan. 27, 2017 — Makes first PGA Tour start since the Wyndham Championship in 2015 and misses the cut at Torrey Pines.

Feb. 3, 2017 — After opening with a 77 at the Dubai Desert Classic in calm conditions, withdraws before the start of the second round because of back spasms.

April 19, 2017 — Has a fourth surgery, this one to fuse his lower back.

May 30, 2017 — Woods is arrested and briefly jailed in Jupiter, Florida, on suspicion of DUI. Police find him asleep behind the wheel of his car in the early morning with the engine running. He attributes it to a bad combination of pain medication.

Sept. 27, 2017 — A vice captain at the Presidents Cup, Woods says he has no idea what his future holds because he's only hitting 60-yard shots.

Oct. 7-23, 2017 — Woods posts three videos on Instagram of a smooth iron swing, a driver and his stinger.

Oct. 27, 2017 — Woods pleads guilty to reckless driving and agrees to enter a diversion program. Prosecutors drop the DUI charge under the plea agreement.

Dec. 3, 2017 — Returns to competition at the Hero World Challenge, posts three rounds in the 60s and ties for ninth against an 18-man field, 10 shots behind.

Jan. 28, 2018 — In his return to the PGA Tour, makes the cut on the number and ties for 23rd at Torrey Pines.

Feb. 20, 2018 — Ryder Cup captain Jim Furyk announces Woods as one of his vice captains, says Woods still wants to make the team.

March 11, 2018 — Before enormous crowds at Innisbrook, makes par on the 18th hole to finish one shot out of the lead at the Valspar Championship.

March 18, 2018 — One shot behind in the final round at Bay Hill, yanks tee shot out-of-bounds on the 16th hole and ties for fifth.

July 22, 2018 — Takes the lead in the final round of the British Open, only to make double bogey on the 12th hole and finish in a tie for sixth.

Aug. 12, 2018 — Closes with a 64, his lowest final round ever in a major, and is runner-up to Brooks Koepka in the PGA Championship.

Sept. 4, 2018 — Announced as a captain's pick for the Ryder Cup, his first playing appearance since 2012.

Sept. 23, 2018 — Wins the Tour Championship for his 80th career victory on the PGA Tour.

49ers fear QB Garoppolo sustained season-ending ACL injury

By DAVE SKRETTA, AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kyle Shanahan was watching as Jimmy Garoppolo scrambled toward the 49ers sideline and, rather than safely duck out of bounds, stepped back to his right and took a wicked shot from Steven Nelson.

At first, the San Francisco coach thought his quarterback had sustained a concussion.

Turns out it may have been a season-ending knee injury.

Garoppolo's left knee buckled just before the Chiefs' cornerback delivered a shoulder-to-shoulder blow, and that was the reason he went down so hard. Garoppolo was on the turf for a couple of minutes before he was helped to his feet and eventually carted off late in a 38-27 loss to Kansas City.

"We fear an ACL," Shanahan said afterward. "We'll find out more tomorrow."

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That's bad news for the banged-up 49ers (1-2), who already lost top running back Jerick McKinnon to a season-ending knee injury and only have two other quarterbacks on the roster.

C.J. Beathard took over for Garoppolo with just over five minutes left Sunday, and he appeared to throw a touchdown pass to George Kittle before offensive pass interference wiped it out. San Francisco had to kick a field goal and that wound up being the final margin.

Now, Beathard is in line to start next week when the 49ers play the Chargers in Los Angeles, and Nick Mullens could get a call-up from the practice squad to serve as the backup.

"Any time you lose your starting quarterback, that's a big deal. It was when we lost our starting running back, too," Shanahan said. "Feel for him personally. I know how disappointed he is."

Beathard said he spoke to Garoppolo briefly in the trainer's room, and what little of their exchange he was willing to repeat made it quite clear the 49ers' franchise quarterback — who signed a five-year, \$137.5 million extension in February — expects his season to be over.

"I told him I'll be praying for him and I love him and he just told me to lead these guys," Beathard said. "I've never been in that situation with something possibly that serious. I can only imagine how tough it is for him this early in the season."

It's also a big blow for the 49ers, who thought they had the pieces to contend for a playoff spot his season. Now, they've lost two of their most important offensive pieces, to say nothing of a series of injuries on defense Sunday that left them with a piecemeal backfield.

Top cornerback Richard Sherman went down with a calf injury, while backup Tarvarius Moore left with a wrist injury. Strong safety Jaquiski Tartt was inactive with a shoulder injury and free safety Adrian Colbert hurt his ankle, forcing a bunch of backups to play significant snaps.

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes wound up handling them for 314 yards passing and three TDs.

"They do a lot of things. They use their personnel well. They have a lot of guys that are interchangeable and have a lot of tools," said backup safety Antone Exum Jr. "It's a team you have to stay disciplined on and play your assignment."

Still, the 49ers leaned on running backs Alfred Morris and Matt Breida and the strong arm of their quarterback to mount a comeback. And after Garoppolo's TD toss to Marquis Goodwin in the third quarter made it 35-24, there was a sense of optimism on the San Francisco sideline.

The 49ers were still trailing 38-24 when Garoppolo led them inside the Kansas City 5 in the final minutes. The Chiefs answered with sacks by Allen Bailey and Justin Houston on consecutive plays, then flushed Garoppolo from the pocket on third-and-goal from the 20-yard line.

That's when the San Francisco quarterback headed for the sideline, decided to stay in play rather step out of bounds, and ultimately put the rest of the 49ers' season in question.

"Just like we always do, you show up to work tomorrow," Shanahan said. "We'll all be men about it. We'll grade the tape hard and see what we did wrong. And when we show up Wednesday it's time to go.

"It's part of the NFL season. It's what you have to do," he added. "We all feel for Jimmy. There's no doubt about it. We dealt with this with our running back, too. It's part of the NFL. We're not the first team this has happened to."

More AP NFL: <https://apnews.com/tag/NFL> and https://twitter.com/AP_NFL

Today in History By The Associated Press

Today in History

Today is Monday, Sept. 24, the 267th day of 2018. There are 98 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On September 24, 1789, President George Washington signed a Judiciary Act establishing America's federal court system and creating the post of attorney general.

On this date:

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In 1869, thousands of businessmen were ruined in a Wall Street panic known as "Black Friday" after financiers Jay Gould and James Fisk attempted to corner the gold market.

In 1890, the president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Wilford Woodruff, wrote a manifesto renouncing the practice of plural marriage, or polygamy.

In 1896, author F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 1934, Babe Ruth made his farewell appearance as a player with the New York Yankees in a game against the Boston Red Sox. (The Sox won, 5-0.)

In 1955, President Dwight D. Eisenhower suffered a heart attack while on vacation in Denver.

In 1960, the USS Enterprise, the first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, was launched at Newport News, Virginia. "The Howdy Doody Show" ended a nearly 13-year run with its final telecast on NBC.

In 1968, the TV news magazine "60 Minutes" premiered on CBS; the undercover police drama "The Mod Squad" premiered on ABC.

In 1976, former hostage Patricia Hearst was sentenced to seven years in prison for her part in a 1974 bank robbery in San Francisco carried out by the Symbionese Liberation Army. (Hearst was released after 22 months after receiving clemency from President Jimmy Carter.)

In 1988, Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson won the men's 100-meter dash at the Seoul (sohl) Summer Olympics — but he was disqualified three days later for using anabolic steroids. Members of the eastern Massachusetts Episcopal diocese elected Barbara C. Harris the first female bishop in the church's history.

In 1991, kidnappers in Lebanon freed British hostage Jack Mann after holding him captive for more than two years. Children's author Theodor Seuss Geisel (GY'-zul), better known as Dr. Seuss, died in La Jolla, Calif., at age 87.

In 1996, the United States and 70 other countries became the first to sign a treaty at the United Nations to end all testing and development of nuclear weapons. (The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty has yet to enter into force because of the refusal so far of eight nations — including the United States — to ratify it.)

In 2007, United Auto Workers walked off the job at General Motors plants in the first nationwide strike during auto contract negotiations since 1976; a tentative pact ended the walkout two days later.

Ten years ago: Officials reopened Galveston, Texas, to residents who were warned about Hurricane Ike's debris and disruption of utilities. Japanese lawmakers elected Taro Aso, leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, prime minister.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama and new Iranian President Hasan Rouhani appeared separately before the U.N. General Assembly, with both leaders speaking up for improved relations and a resumption of stalled nuclear talks, but giving no ground on long-held positions that had scuttled previous attempts to break the impasse. Kenya's president proclaimed victory over the terrorists who'd stormed a Nairobi mall following a bloody four-day siege in which dozens of civilians were killed. A powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake rocked southwest Pakistan, killing at least 376 people. Tea party conservative Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, began an old-style filibuster lasting nearly 22 hours over President Barack Obama's health care law.

One year ago: More than 200 NFL players kneeled or sat during the national anthem after President Donald Trump criticized the players' protests in a speech and a series of tweets. Trump signed a proclamation to replace his expiring travel ban on visitors from six Muslim-majority countries; citizens from eight countries would now face new restrictions on entry to the country. German Chancellor Angela Merkel won a fourth term in office, but voters weakened her conservatives and a nationalist, anti-migrant party surged into Germany's parliament.

Today's Birthdays: Rhythm-and-blues singer Sonny Turner (The Platters) is 79. Singer Barbara Allbut Brown (The Angels) is 78. Singer Phyllis "Jiggs" Allbut Sirico (The Angels) is 76. Singer Gerry Marsden (Gerry and the Pacemakers) is 76. News anchor Lou Dobbs is 73. Pro and College Football Hall of Famer Joe Greene is 72. Actor Gordon Clapp is 70. Actress Harriet Walter is 68. Songwriter Holly Knight is 62. Former U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II, D-Mass., is 66. Actor Kevin Sorbo is 60. Christian/jazz singer Cedric Dent is 56. Actress-writer Nia Vardalos is 56. Rock musician Shawn Crahan (AKA Clown) (Slipknot) is 49.

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Country musician Marty Mitchell is 49. Actress Megan Ward is 49. Singer-musician Marty Cintron (No Mercy) is 47. Contemporary Christian musician Juan DeVevo (Casting Crowns) is 43. Actor Ian Bohen is 42. Actor Justin Bruening is 39. Olympic gold medal gymnast Paul Hamm (hahm) is 36. Actor Erik Stocklin is 36. Actor Grey Damon is 31. Actor Kyle Sullivan is 30. Actor Ben Platt is 25.

Thought for Today: "There was never a nation great until it came to the knowledge that it had nowhere in the world to go for help." — Charles Dudley Warner, American author and editor (1829-1900).