

Groton Daily Independent

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

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

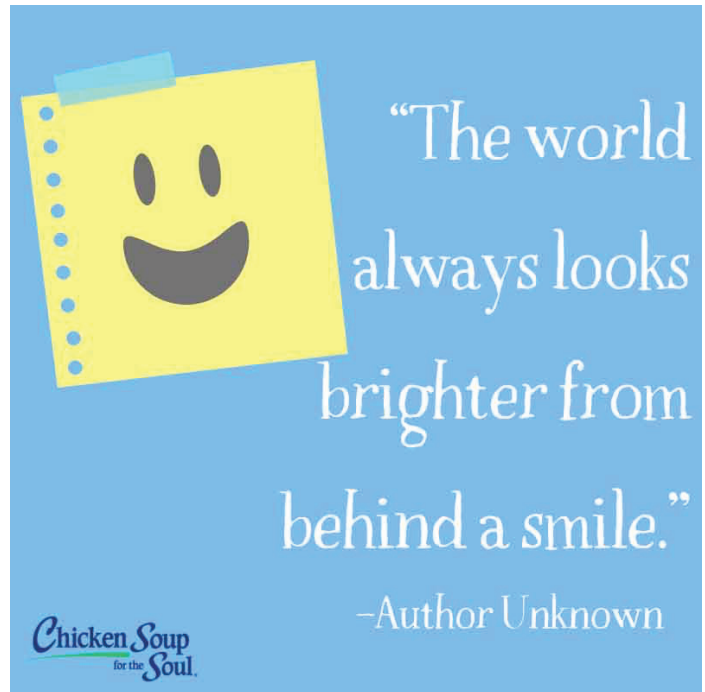
6 - Friday

7 p.m.: Football at Webster
James Valley Threshing Show, Andover
C&MA: Men's Bible Study at Dairy Queen, 6:30 a.m.
Breakfast: Cereal
Lunch: Cheese Sticks with Marinara, Corn
Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, Fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

Service Notice: Dick Voss

Memorial Services for Richard "Dick" Voss, 94, of Andover will be 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 11th at the United Methodist Church, Groton. Rev. Brandon Dunham will officiate. Inurnment will follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens, Aberdeen under the direction of Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

Dick passed away September 3, 2019 at his home.



7 - Saturday

Groton Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales
9 a.m.: Groton 5th-6th FB at WVYF Jamboree, Milbank
9 a.m.: Groton 4th FB hosts Sisseton Black
1 p.m.: Girls Soccer hosts Tea Area
3 p.m.: Boys Soccer hosts Tea Area
4:30 p.m.: Doggie Day at the Groton Pool
James Valley Threshing Show, Andover
SEAS Catholic: Service, 4:30 p.m.

8 - Aunsy

Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
James Valley Threshing Show, Andover
St. John's: Bible Study, 8 a.m.; Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10 a.m.
Emmanuel: Worship/Rally Sunday/Communion, 9 a.m.; Sunday school, 10 a.m.
SEAS Catholic: service, 9 a.m.
C&MA: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; Worship, 10:45 a.m.
UMC: Fellowship, 10 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Presbyterian: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

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Lady Tigers beat Braves

Groton Area's volleyball team went to 3-0 on the season with a 3-0 win over Britton-Hecla.

The match was played in Groton, and was broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Allied Climate Professionals, Bahr Spray Foam, BaseKamp Lodge, DeHoet Trucking, Groton Auto Works, Hanlon Brothers, John Sieh Agency, Milbrandt Enterprises and Professional Management Services. The video of the game has been archived at 397news.com where GDI subscribers will have access.

Under the serving of Eliza Wanner, Groton Area had 15 straight pints including three ace serves as the Tigers won the first game, 25-4. Nicole Marzahn had four kills, Tady Glover had two kills and an ace serve, Stella Meier, Madeline Flihs and Wanner each had one kill and Kaylin Kucker had an ace serve.

Groton Area jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the second game en route to a 25-7 win. Marzahn had four kills, Kucker had four ace serves and a kill, Glover had two ace serves and Wanner had one, and Meier, Indigo Rogers and Flihs each had one kill and Flihs had one block.

Britton-Hecla had the early lead in the third game with that one being tied five times and there were three lead changes before the Tigers took control with six straight points. Groton Area won the third game, 25-11. Rogers had five kills, Flihs and Wanner each had three kills, Marzahn had two kills and an ace serve, Glover and Kucker each had an ace serve and Meier had a kill.

In serving, Groton Area had 10 ace serves with Kucker having five and Wanner four. The Tigers had 37 assists with Kucker having 26 and Glover four. Groton Area had 27 kills with Marzahn having 10, Flihs five and Wanner four. Flihs had one block and Marzahn and Glover each had 14 of the team's 62 digs.

Britton-Hecla had non ace serves, Chloe Furman had two assists, Kadence Haug had three kills and Jenna Werner had two, Werner and Jaden Jenkins each had a block and Katie Freeman had four digs and Werner had three.

The Tigers will be at Webster Area on Tuesday.

It's Football Action on GDILIVE.COM



**Webster Area
Bearcats VS**



Groton Area Tigers

Friday, Sept. 6, 2019
7:00 p.m. at Webster

Sponsored By

Abeln Seed

Aberdeen Chrysler Center

Allied Climate Professionals

Bahr Spray Foam

BaseKamp Lodge

DeHoet Trucking

Groton Auto Works

Hanlon Brothers

John Sieh Agency

Mike-N-Jo's Body-N-Glass

Milbrandt Enterprises

Olson Development

Professional Management Services

Touchdown Sponsor: Patios Plus

Cross Country at Redfield

Boys 5000m Race: 5, Isaac Smith, 17:38.95; 81, Noah Poor, 24:24.03.

Girls 5000m Race: 64, Riley Rosenau, 27:98.89.

Girls JV 4000m Race: 45, Sierra Ehresmann, 21:55.08.

Noem Congratulates Build Dakota Scholarship Winners

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem today congratulated 391 students who have been awarded the Build Dakota Scholarship for the 2019-2020 school year.

“The Build Dakota Scholarship program is an incredible tool that makes it easier for tomorrow’s leaders to receive world-class career training, then stay in South Dakota to work in high-demand fields,” said Noem. “These scholarships allow students to launch their careers with a significantly reduced amount of student loan debt.”

“The Build Dakota Scholarship helps students jump into high-need, well-paying fields in South Dakota,” said Dana Dykhouse, chairman of the South Dakota Board of Technical Education. “Some businesses sponsor students and commit to pay part of their program expenses through industry partnerships that expand the impact of Build Dakota dollars. This year, 249 scholarship recipients have an industry partner, which is 33 more than last year.”

The scholarships cover tuition and fees, books, equipment, and other related program expenses for eligible programs within nine high-need industry areas at South Dakota’s four technical institutes. Recipients were selected by the Build Dakota Scholarship Board from a total of 1,170 applications.

“Receiving a scholarship of this caliber is an accomplishment worth celebrating,” added Noem. “Congratulations to each recipient. You and your families should be very proud.”

The Build Dakota Scholarship program is funded by a \$25 million donation from T. Denny Sanford and \$25 million in Future Funds that were committed by former Governor Dennis Daugaard.

Build Dakota aims to support students entering high-need workforce programs at South Dakota’s technical institutes to fill the state’s technical career fields with skilled professionals.

In-state and out-of-state students of all ages are eligible to apply. Scholarship applicants must be accepted into their approved program of interest. Recipients of the scholarship must enroll full-time, complete their educational program on schedule and commit to stay in South Dakota to work in their field of study for three years following graduation.

Applications for the 2020-21 school year open in January 2020. Find more information at builddakotascholarships.com.

The following local students have been awarded scholarships:

Lake Area Technical Institute

Kagan Cutler, Frederick, Diesel Technology
Jonathon Harmon, Pierpont, Diesel Technology
Trevor Johnson, Pierpont, Electronic Systems Technology
Joshua Punt, Langford, Registered Nursing

Mitchell Technical Institute

Brooklyn Podoll, Frederick, Radiologic Technology
Trevor Sumption, Frederick, Precision Ag Technology

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

September 9, 2019 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of August 12, 2019 school board meetings as drafted.
2. Approval of August 2019 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
3. Approval of August District bills for payment.
4. Acknowledge receipt of Notification of Public School Exemptions #20-08, #20-09, #20-10, #20-11
5. Approve Open Enrollment Application #20-09

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review and approve 2019-2020 school bus routes.
2. Accept resignation from Joann Donley, paraprofessional, effective September 13, 2019.
3. Approve academic lane changes according to the terms of the GTA negotiated agreement.
 - a. Brooke Compton; BS+30 to MS (+\$2,250)
 - b. Ann Gibbs; BS+30 to BS+45 (+750)
 - c. Lance Hawkins; MS to MS+15 (+\$750)
 - d. Julie Milbrandt; BS+30 to BS+45 (+\$750)
 - e. Ashley Seeklander; MS+15 to MS+30 (+\$750)
 - f. Sydney Wilkinson; BS to BS+15 (+\$750)
4. Approve Volunteer Coaches for 2019-2020.
 - a. Harleigh Stange – Girls Soccer
 - b. Katie Kohler – Girls Soccer

ADJOURN

THINKING ABOUT HEALTH

Providers Don't Want To Say What That Surgery Will Cost You

By Trudy Lieberman, Rural Health News Service

You would think that making the prices charged by hospitals and doctors available to their patients would be a no-brainer. After all, we've become accustomed to knowing the price we pay for cars, carrots, comic books, and almost everything else we buy. Why not knee surgery or appendectomies?

The medical establishment, it seems, isn't keen on letting the public in on what health practitioners charge for their services. Despite lots of talk about price transparency from government officials, including the Trump administration, the actions of hospitals and physicians speak otherwise.

"Price secrecy is a calculated strategy," says Jeanne Pinder, founder and CEO of ClearHealthCosts, a digital start-up that works with news outlets to disclose the costs of medical care. "All that money collected from overpriced care and mysterious bills goes into lobbying and behind the scenes pressure. They lobby lawmakers and regulators to protect the current system and to skew it even further to their benefit."

That's what has happened in Ohio where the hospital industry and its lobbyists have succeeded in killing two laws passed by the state legislature, the first in 2015 and the second this summer, that would have allowed patients to know the prices of the medical procedures and services they were about to receive.

The 2015 law would have required hospitals and other health care providers to give patients an estimate of their costs no later than the same day a procedure or medical intervention would take place. The hospitals objected. The governor's office never wrote rules to implement the law, and hospitals and other health care groups sued to prevent implementation.

The law was passed as part of the worker's compensation budget bill, and the medical industry argued that it violated the state prohibition on including multiple subjects in one bill. A lower court judge sided with the hospitals. The matter is now before the Ohio Court of Appeals and likely to go to the state supreme court.

This year Jim Butler, speaker pro tempore of the Ohio House of Representatives and champion of the 2015 law, succeeded in getting a second bill passed that he said took into account the health industry objections. He called it a "much better version of transparency." Health care providers would not give price estimates. Instead, they would have to notify a patient's insurance company within 24 hours of scheduling the procedure and disclose what the service would cost. The carrier would then give patients an estimate of those costs.

Patients would not have to ask for the information. Butler said that requiring patients to ask for a price estimate is not satisfactory since most people won't do it.

In 2012 Massachusetts passed a law requiring medical providers to disclose to patients within two business days the amount their insurer would pay for a procedure or the hospital list price if a patient was uninsured – but only if the patient asked. It turned out very few did, even though the prices for services like MRIs vary widely.

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Butler's latest attempt at price transparency has failed, too.

Using his line-item veto power, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine nixed Butler's second attempt at medical price transparency, saying his veto was "in the public interest" and citing efforts by the federal government to address transparency. It's important the state not put "duplicative or burdensome regulations on health care providers," he said.

What's really at stake for the hospitals?

Armed with price information, patients not in the midst of an emergency may be able to find cheaper providers for their care.

With medical prices rising and insurers demanding larger deductibles and more expensive coinsurance, patients may be looking for all the help they can get. A study by insurance giant United Health Group found that hospital prices for inpatient care increased by 19 percent and physician prices by 10 percent between 2013 and 2017.

"Hospitals certainly don't want transparency because it will create competition," Butler told me.

I've been covering consumer issues for decades. Most businesses I've written about have fought government regulation. Instead, they've pushed for more information and price disclosure to solve whatever consumer abuse was taking place.

As we see in Ohio, sellers in the health care marketplace seem to want neither.

What do you think will lower the cost of care? Write to Trudy at trudy.lieberman@gmail.com.

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Follow Us For Updates

45th Annual James Valley Threshing & Tractor Club Show

www.jamesvalleythreshers.com
jvthreshers@gmail.com

Andover, SD

September
5, 6, 7 & 8th
2019



HOME OF THE WORLD'S
ONLY CASE ROAD LOCOMOTIVE

Kevin Anderson [General Info]
(605) 281-5663
Tim Olson [Vendors]
(605) 881-5978

Charlene Voss [Golf Cart Rentals]
(605) 881-2920
Alan Dixon [Tractor Pull]
(605) 228-1823

2019 Feature: Lettered John Deere Tractors

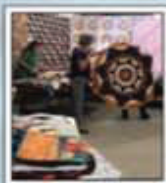
Moonlight
Steamride



Women Teaching
Women Steam



Honoring Bob
& Charlene Voss and
Family



Women's
Activities

Daily Parade 1:30 pm
Moonlight Steam Ride - Friday Evening
Antique Tractor Pull Saturday @ 10:30 am
Heritage Craft Program - Saturday @ 10:30 am
Women Teaching Women Saturday @ 11:30 am
Spark Show Saturday @ Dusk
Church Service Sunday @ 9:30 am
Steam Engine & Gas Tractor Threshing and
Plowing Daily after Parade
Lumber Sawing Daily
Kid's Tractor Pull after the Parade Sat. & Sun.



Steam Powered
Sawmill

Stationary Gas Engines • Quilt Show • Spinning & Weaving
Flea Markets • Food Concessions Daily
Antique Cars • Blacksmith Shop • Souvenir Store
Old Time Accordion Melodies by Robert Witt



Spark Show

2019 Carl M. Johnson Memorial
Free Tractor Giveaway: Oliver 60

Corn shelling demonstration
Massey Harris equipment is featured in the Toy Chest Building
Quilt program Saturday at 10:30am



We need our farmers.

We need them physically strong. We need them mentally strong.

Northeastern Mental Health Center is now offering counseling services for farmers and their families-**at no cost.**

With the current state of the industry, we understand that farm families can feel overwhelmed in times of stress, instability, and uncertainty.

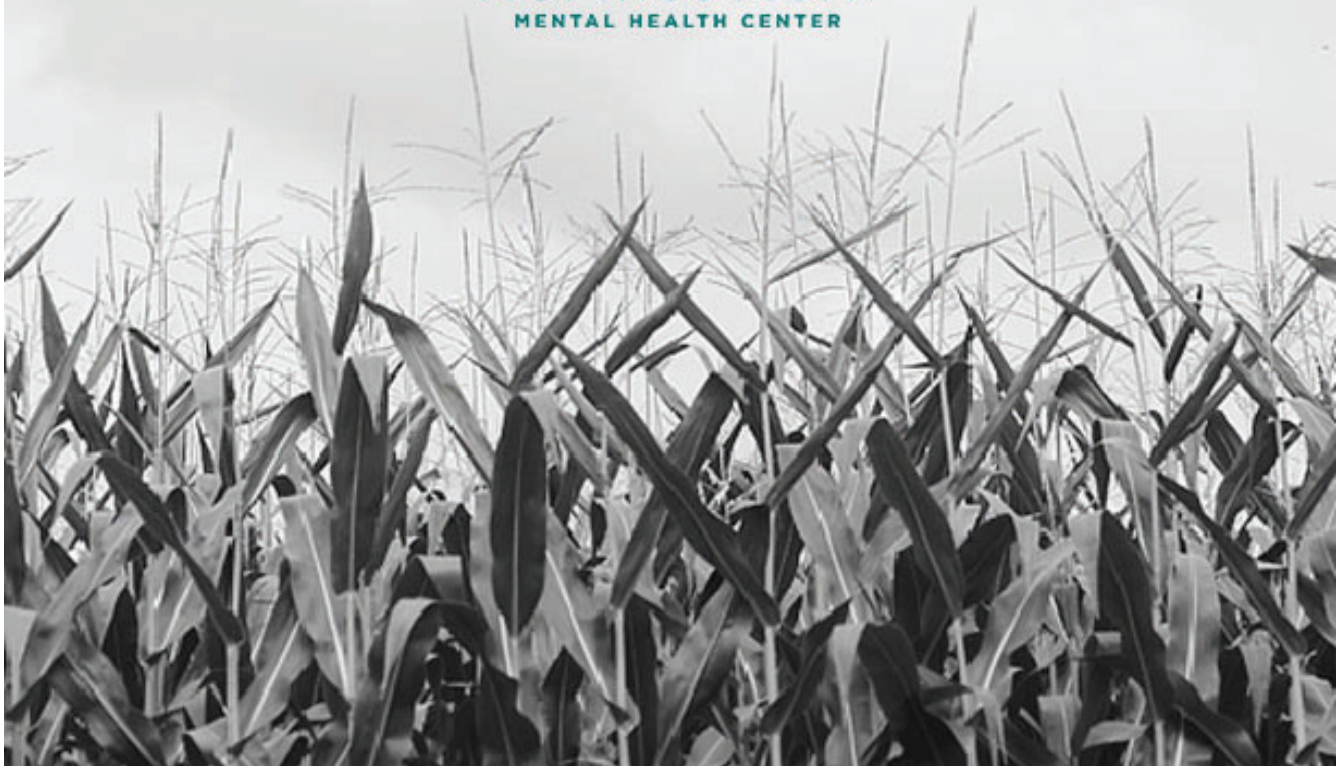
We're here to help.

Call 605-225-1010 for more information.

Northeastern Mental Health Center services the counties of Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Marshall, McPherson, Potter, Spink and Walworth.



Northeastern
MENTAL HEALTH CENTER





*Adults and Students . . . come
learn what social issues are
involving our youth
in our community.*

Solutions

to

Social Issues

SPONSORED BY LOCAL CHURCHES

Youth Groups Welcome ~ Large Groups please RSVP 605/377-0709

Seminars are:

September 11 at United Methodist Church:

Drugs & Alcohol

October 9 at Groton Christian & Missionary Alliance Church:

Sex Trafficking and Date Violence

November 6 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church:

Suicide and Bullying

Light Meal at 5:45 p.m. ~ Seminar begins at 6:30 p.m.

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Today

Tonight

Saturday

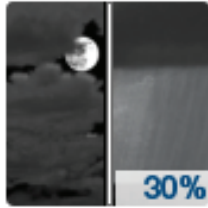
Saturday
Night

Sunday



Sunny

High: 79 °F



Mostly Cloudy
then Chance
Showers

Low: 56 °F



Showers

High: 61 °F



Showers

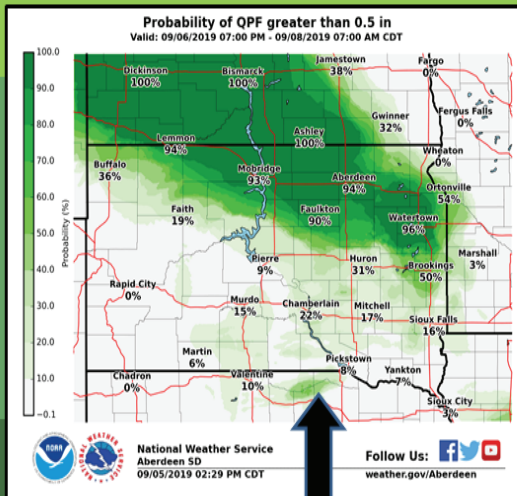
Low: 52 °F



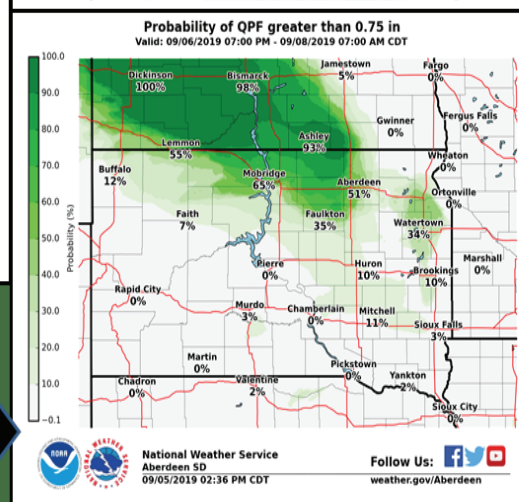
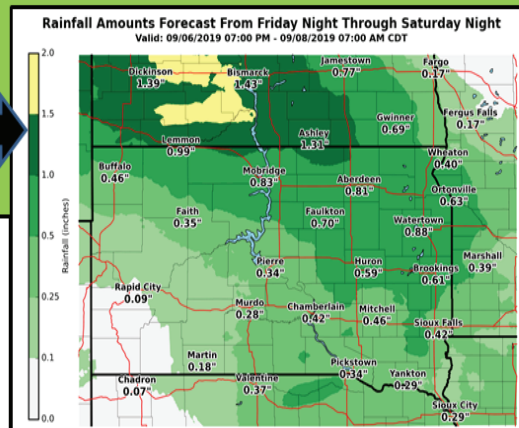
Chance
T-storms

High: 62 °F

How Much Rain Is Forecast From Friday Night Through Saturday Night?



**Likelihood Of Seeing At Least
0.50in (above) and 0.75in (at right)
Of Rainfall Friday Night
Through Saturday Night**



Published on: 09/05/2019 at 10:57 AM

ISSUED: 2:56 PM - Thursday, September 05, 2019

Not a whole lot has changed in the rainfall forecast for Friday night through Saturday night. See the graphics for a current depiction of the two day rainfall total being forecast, along with a couple of confidence level indicators. One graphic depicts the likelihood of the area receiving at least a half inch of rainfall, while the other graphic highlights who stands the best chance of receiving at least three quarters of an inch of rain by the end of Saturday night.

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Today in Weather History

September 6, 2000: Eight miles southwest of Miller, ninety mph winds destroyed three barns and a small garage along with severely damaging a creeper feeder and an enclosed trailer. Another building was moved from its foundation and damaged. An empty school bus was rolled several times before it came to rest atop a fence. Also, a window was broken out of the house.

1776: Called the Pointe-à-Pitre hurricane, this storm is one of the deadliest Atlantic hurricanes on record. While the intensity and complete track are unknown, this storm struck Guadeloupe on this day, killing 6,000.

1881: Forest fires in "The Thumb" of Michigan and Ontario resulted in "Yellow Day" over the New England states. Twenty villages and over a million acres burned in Michigan. The smoke from these fires caused the sky to appear yellow over several New England cities. Twilight appeared at noon on this day.

2003: Hurricane Isabel was first named on September 6th, 2003. It would reach Category 5 status and eventually make landfall in North Carolina as a Category 2.

2017: Category 5 Hurricane Irma affected the US Virgin Island and Puerto Rico. Maximum sustained winds were at 180 mph when the storm hit St. Thomas & St. John. Catastrophic damage was reported over the US Virgin Island & significant damage over Puerto Rico, especially over Culebra.

1667: The "dreadful hurricane of 1667" is considered one of the most severe hurricanes ever to strike Virginia. On the first, this same storm was reported in the Lesser Antilles. The hurricane devastated St. Christopher as no other storm had done before. The "great storm" went on to strike the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Approximately 10,000 houses were blown over. Area crops (including corn and tobacco) were beaten into the ground.

1929 - Iowa's earliest snow of record occurred as a few flakes were noted at 9 AM at Alton. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced more than seven inches of rain in Georgia. Four persons drowned, and two others suffered injury, as three couples attempted to cross Mills Stone Creek at Echols Mill in their automobile. Smoke from forest fires in California and Oregon spread across Utah into western Colorado. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the north central and northeastern U.S. Thirty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Joseph MO with a reading of 38 degrees. A low of 44 degrees at Indianapolis IN was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Hibbing MN and Philips WI. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - An early afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 104 mph at Winterhaven, FL, flipping over four airplanes, and damaging five others. The high winds also damaged a hangar and three other buildings. A cold front produced strong winds and blowing dust in the Northern High Plains, with gusts to 54 mph reported at Buffalo SD. Powerful Hurricane Gabrielle and strong easterly winds combined to create waves up to ten feet high along the southern half of the Atlantic coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

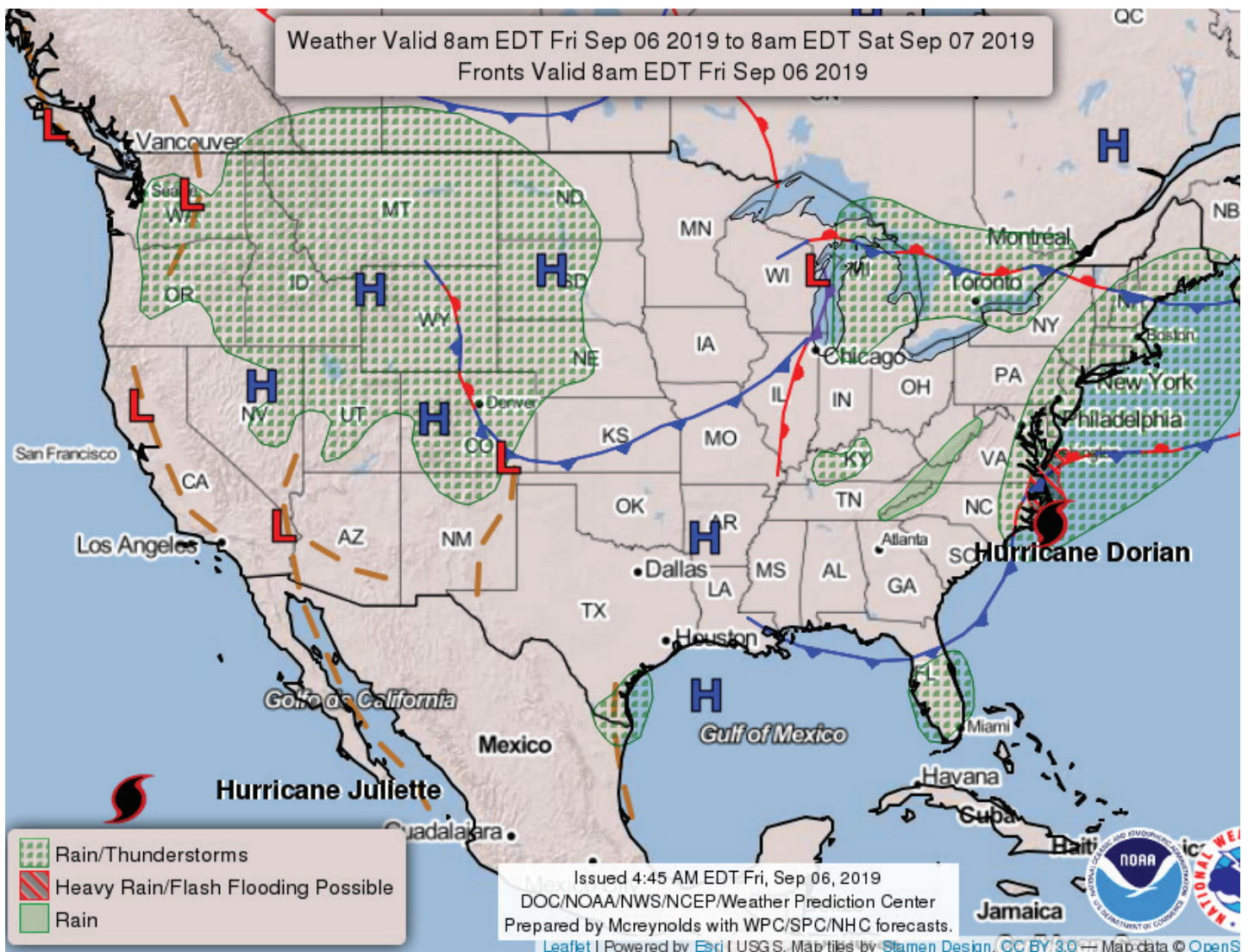
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Today's Info

High Temp: 85 °F at 2:27 PM
Low Temp: 63 °F at 7:13 AM
Wind: 20 mph at 4:55 AM
Day Rain: 0.00

Record High: 103° in 1970
Record Low: 32° in 1956
Average High: 76°F
Average Low: 50°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.37
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 16.66
Precip Year to Date: 19.76
Sunset Tonight: 8:02 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:02 a.m.



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CAME WITH NOTHING LEAVE WITH NOTHING

Alexander the Great was a Macedonian king who conquered Persia, Greece and Egypt. He was considered the conqueror of the world. It was the custom in his day that when a person died, their hands would be wrapped so no one could see them. However, prior to his death, he asked that his hands remain unwrapped. When they asked why, he replied, I want everyone to see that they were empty.

In his letter to Timothy, Paul said, After all, we didnt bring anything with us when we came into this world, and we certainly cant take anything with us when we die. This is a popular verse, used by many, but accepted and followed as a guide for living by only a few judging by the way that most people live: Full hands, empty lives!

In three short verses, Paul gives some astounding advice to all of us. He begins by saying that true religion can be very valuable if it brings one contentment. Might he be implying that if we are not content with what we believe, no amount of money - or things - will bring us peace? Next, he reminds us that we cant take it with us. Finally, he concludes this bit of advice by saying, By the way, if you have enough food and clothing, be content. And, if you are not content with what Gods given you, you will be tempted and trapped by foolish desires that will bring ruin and destruction. If Gods Word controls our heart, we can live with empty hands.

Prayer: Its easy, Lord, to want what has earthly value. However, place in our hearts a desire for what matters most: knowing, loving, obeying, and serving You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: 1 Timothy 6:6-10 After all, we didnt bring anything with us when we came into this world, and we certainly cant take anything with us when we die.

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2019 Groton SD Community Events

- 09/07/2019 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/08/2019 Sunflower Classic at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 09/12/2019 St. John's Lutheran Luncheon
- 09/20/2019 Presbyterian Luncheon
- 09/28/2019 Granary Living History Fall Festival
- 10/11/2019 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
- 10/12/2019 Pumpkin Fest (Saturday before Columbus Day)
- 10/31/2019 Trunk or Treat/Halloween on Main (Halloween)
- 11/09/2019 Legion Post #39 Turkey Shoot (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
- 12/07/2019 Olive Grove Golf Course Holiday Party
- 12/07/2019 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services
- Bingo: every Wednesday at the Legion Post #39

2020 Groton SD Community Events

- 01/26/2020 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 04/04/2020 Groton Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. Sharp (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
- 04/25/2020 Fireman's Stag (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 05/02/2020 Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/25/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/8-10/2020 St. John's VBS
- 07/04/2020 Firecracker Golf Tourney (4th of July)
Groton Hosting State B American Legion Baseball Tournament
- 07/12/2020 Summer Fest/Car Show
- 09/12/2020 Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1st Sat. after Labor Day)
- 10/10/2020 Pumpkin Fest
- 10/31/2020 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
- 11/14/2020 Groton American Legion Post #39 Annual Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)

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News from the  Associated Press

Thursday's Scores By The Associated Press

Volleyball

Aberdeen Christian def. Iroquois/Doland (VB), 25-13, 25-18, 25-13
Aberdeen Roncalli def. Deuel, 25-13, 25-11, 25-10
Avon def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-17, 25-20, 25-19
Brandon Valley def. Brookings, 25-10, 25-13, 25-19
Bridgewater-Emery def. Wessington Springs, 25-14, 25-18, 26-24
Burke def. Kimball/White Lake, 25-14, 25-22, 25-14
Canistota def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 25-16, 25-11, 25-16
Canton def. Irene-Wakonda, 21-25, 25-21, 25-22, 24-26, 15-13
Colman-Egan def. DeSmet, 25-14, 25-18, 25-14
Corsica/Stickney def. Centerville, 25-13, 25-16, 25-23
Crow Creek def. Cheyenne-Eagle Butte, 25-15, 25-22, 13-25, 25-20
Custer def. Belle Fourche, 25-14, 25-23, 25-23
Dakota Valley def. Elk Point-Jefferson, 25-13, 22-25, 25-11, 25-17
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Mitchell Christian, 25-21, 25-9, 25-11
Deubrook def. Castlewood, 25-10, 16-25, 25-19, 18-25, 15-13
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Lake Preston, 25-9, 25-10, 25-9
Estelline/Hendricks def. Arlington, 25-21, 25-21, 25-16
Faith def. McIntosh, 25-8, 25-9, 25-17
Faulkton def. North Central, 25-8, 25-7, 25-10
Garretson def. Baltic, 25-21, 16-25, 25-17, 22-25, 15-11
Gayville-Volin def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-21, 25-14, 25-14
Great Plains Lutheran def. Tri-State, N.D., 25-20, 25-19, 25-19
Gregory def. Lyman, 25-14, 26-24, 25-19
Groton Area def. Britton-Hecla, 25-4, 25-7, 25-11
Hamlin def. Flandreau, 19-25, 19-25, 25-11, 25-12, 15-12
Harding County def. Lemmon, 25-23, 25-19, 26-24
Harrisburg def. Yankton, 25-17, 25-11, 25-19
Herreid/Selby Area def. McLaughlin, 25-20, 25-15, 25-14
Hill City def. Red Cloud, 25-10, 25-11, 25-6
Hitchcock-Tulare def. James Valley Christian, 25-22, 23-25, 25-14, 25-19
Ipswich def. Waubay/Summit, 21-25, 25-13, 25-19, 27-25
Kadoka Area def. Philip, 25-15, 25-17, 25-19
Lennox def. Tri-Valley, 21-25, 26-24, 22-25, 25-18, 17-15
Menno def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-8, 25-15, 25-15
Miller def. Sully Buttes, 25-13, 25-17, 25-15
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Winner def. Ainsworth, Neb., 25-23, 25-16, 25-21
Winner def. Valentine, Neb., 25-20, 25-15, 25-18

1 dead after shed collapse in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Sioux Falls police say one person is dead after a shed collapsed. Crews were called Thursday afternoon to a housing development where someone was demolishing a garden shed and it collapsed.

Police say there was a "subsequent fatal medical event" but did not give details. Authorities are reviewing the incident to determine the sequence of the collapse.

State may repossess former detention center

CUSTER, S.D. (AP) — The state may take repossession of a former juvenile detention campus in Custer that it sold at an auction last year.

SLIC-e Holdings is more than three months behind on its payment to the state. It has until end of Thursday to make a \$116,000 payment. If it fails to do so, state public lands commissioner Ryan Brunner plans to file for repossession.

SLIC-e Holdings was the only bidder for the former STAR Academy at an auction in January 2018. It was to pay \$2.3 million for the property in a series of payments.

The Rapid City Journal says current tenants on the property include about a dozen artists who have studios and a joint gallery, a barbecue restaurant, a woodworking business, and a digital marketing and media company.

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

South Dakota pheasant numbers down, but hot spots remain

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — Wildlife officials had to dig deep Thursday to find positives in South Dakota's annual pheasant brood survey, which showed a 17% decrease from last year, mainly because of an abundance of snow and rain in one of the premier bird hunting states.

The state Game, Fish and Parks Department report showed that the pheasant-per-mile count was 43%

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lower than the 10-year average, with only three of the 13 local areas seeing increases from 2018. Four areas saw minor declines and seven had drop-offs in double digits.

While it's typical for first-time, mostly non-resident hunters to make their plans around those numbers, Matt Morlock, the state coordinator for the nonprofit Pheasants Forever, said South Dakota is still a great place to hunt the birds and that visitors shouldn't be scared away by the survey results. Minnesota and Wisconsin are historically the top two states for non-resident hunting licenses in South Dakota.

"It's a mixed message but overall it's positive considering what mother nature threw at us," Morlock said of the survey. "Overall we're down 17 percent, which is within the margin of error, so that's positive. The rooster population actually increased a little bit from last year and then our bird sizes went up, which are all positive."

North Dakota, which most wildlife experts consider to be a top-five state for pheasants, has also seen plummeting numbers in recent years but for different reasons. It has been hampered by drought and declining habitat exacerbated by farmers planting crops on millions of acres of idled land that had been enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program. South Dakota has seen increased habitat in the last decade, Morlock said.

The South Dakota survey covered 110 routes, with 40 of them showing a higher pheasant-per-mile count than last year. The number of roosters statewide increased 2% from last year and the average brood size expanded by 3%. The number of hens fell by 21%.

There are some potential hot spots. The numbers were up 46% for the Aberdeen area, 12% for western South Dakota and 7% for Sisseton.

A news release outlining the report says "bird numbers are still plentiful" despite a tough winter and wet spring.

"Pheasant reproduction in 2019 is right in there with other years and lands open to public hunting are abundant, which means our second century of pheasant hunting will be off to a good start," Game, Fish and Parks Secretary Kelly Hepler said.

The traditional statewide season opens Oct. 19 and runs through Jan. 5.

States, politicians back gun-maker in Sandy Hook appeal

By DAVE COLLINS Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Ten states and nearly two dozen members of Congress are joining the National Rifle Association in supporting gun-maker Remington Arms as it fights a Connecticut court ruling involving liability for the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting.

Officials in the 10 conservative states, 22 House Republicans and the NRA are among groups that filed briefs with the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday and Wednesday. They urged justices to overturn the Connecticut decision, citing a much-debated 2005 federal law that shields gun-makers from liability, in most cases, when their products are used in crimes.

Remington, based in Madison, North Carolina, made the Bushmaster AR-15-style rifle used to kill 20 first graders and six educators at the Newtown, Connecticut, school on Dec. 14, 2012.

A survivor and relatives of nine victims of the massacre filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Remington in 2015, saying the company should have never sold such a dangerous weapon to the public and alleging it targeted younger, at-risk males in marketing and product placement in violent video games.

Citing one of the few exemptions in the 2005 federal law, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled 4-3 in March that Remington could be sued under state law over how it marketed the rifle. The decision overturned a ruling by a state trial court judge who dismissed the lawsuit based on the federal law, named the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

The federal law has been criticized by gun control advocates as being too favorable to gun-makers, and it has been used to bar lawsuits over other mass killings.

The Connecticut case is being watched by gun control advocates, gun rights supporters and gun manufacturers across the country because it has the potential to provide a roadmap for victims of other mass

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shootings to circumvent the federal law and sue firearm makers.

One of the supporting papers filed this week was by officials in Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Utah and West Virginia.

"The Connecticut Supreme Court's decision reads a narrow exception broadly," the states' brief says. "That reading is inconsistent with the text of the PLCAA. And it creates uncertainty for States seeking to implement sound gun policies consistent with federal law."

Among the Republican members of Congress who filed a brief Wednesday were Reps. Jim Jordan, of Ohio, Jim Sensenbrenner, of Wisconsin, and Greg Walden, of Oregon.

The congressional Republicans' brief says they "have a strong interest in ensuring the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act of 2005 ... is interpreted and applied consistent with Congress's stated purpose, and that the narrow exceptions to the PLCAA are not applied in a way that frustrates congressional intent and renders the PLCAA's protections meaningless."

The NRA filed a brief with the Connecticut Citizens Defense League, a fellow pro-gun rights group, saying the Connecticut ruling threatens the gun rights of all Americans.

"The right to keep and bear arms means nothing if the ability to acquire those arms is not possible because the firearm industry is put out of business by unlimited and uncertain liability for criminal misuse of their products," their brief says.

A lawyer for the victims' relatives suing Remington defended the lawsuit and the Connecticut court decision.

"None of the politically-motivated briefs filed on Remington's behalf undermine the well-reasoned determination by our state's highest court that these families deserve their day in court," Katie Mesner-Hage said in a statement.

Citi Opens State-of-the-Art Operations Site in Sioux Falls

SIoux FALLS, S.D.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sep 5, 2019--

Citi today officially marked the opening of its new, state-of-the-art operations site in Sioux Falls, extending a nearly four-decade-long commitment to South Dakota. Citi CEO Michael Corbat was joined at the ribbon cutting ceremony by South Dakota Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhoden, U.S. Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken, and U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson along with Citi colleagues, local business leaders and members of the community.

"Citi's \$72 million investment in our new state-of-the-art facility affirms our commitment to Sioux Falls and South Dakota," said Citi CEO Michael Corbat. "We are very proud of the role that Citi has played as a catalyst of growth in this city and we look forward to our continued partnership with the city and state."

South Dakota Lieutenant Governor Larry Rhoden commented: "Today, both South Dakota and Sioux Falls are recognized as leaders in the banking industry. Citi's success here motivated other banks to locate their operations in South Dakota. These additional institutions that have followed have only helped stimulate our state's financial sector – providing quality, high-paying jobs to our fellow South Dakotans, not only in Sioux Falls, but around the state. We appreciate the sustainable partnership Citi has built here in South Dakota and look forward to working with them well into the future."

Since 1981, when Citi opened a credit card operations center in Sioux Falls, the breadth of work has diversified, expanding to 22 business functions, including credit operations, technology, finance, treasury and transactions and customer service.

"For years, Citi has been a critical partner in the economic success of Sioux Falls and this new facility starts a new chapter in our relationship," said Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken. "We are honored that they continue to invest in our great city."

The new building features open concept working spaces to foster greater collaboration – a design Citi is using with its new buildings around the world. Additionally, the site has been certified with a LEED gold designation from the U.S. Green Building Council, a testament to Citi's commitment to sustainability.

The modern four-story facility occupies 150,000 square feet on 19 acres in the southwest corridor of

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Sioux Falls. Employees began moving in this summer.

"Employee response to the new location has been fantastic," said Craig Hansen, Citi Sioux Falls Site President. "The abundance of natural light and panoramic views throughout the building, coupled with collaborative work spaces, new amenities and cutting edge technology makes it a great place to come to work."

Citi has played an integral role in the Sioux Falls community, impacting a large number of nonprofit partners through Citi Foundation grants, investments, training, volunteerism and service.

In 2018, Citi made over \$1.5 million in charitable contributions to a number of nonprofit partners in Sioux Falls and South Dakota, including the Sioux Empire Housing Partnership which helps families in South Dakota fulfill the dream of home ownership. As part of Citi's Pathways to Progress initiative, the Citi Foundation has invested in local organizations expanding the skills of over 4,000 young people in Sioux Falls and South Dakota, helping them build networks and connect to the working world. For more than a decade, Citi has partnered with the rural development organization Dakota Resources which serves low-to-moderate-income communities across the state. In 2018, Citi colleagues donated nearly 18,000 hours of volunteer service to a wide range of community causes in Sioux Falls. About Citi

Citi, the leading global bank, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi provides consumers, corporations, governments and institutions with a broad range of financial products and services, including consumer banking and credit, corporate and investment banking, securities brokerage, transaction services, and wealth management.

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Police: Man assaulted, briefly dragged woman

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Police in Sioux Falls are looking for a man they say assaulted his girlfriend, pushed her out of a car and briefly dragged her behind it.

Authorities found the injured woman about 3 a.m. Wednesday. She told police she was dragged for about 15 seconds after an argument.

Police spokesman Sam Clemens says as officers were talking with the woman the suspect drove away. Officers are still looking for him.

Mr Never Wrong: Storm spat underscores Trump's mindset

By JONATHAN LEMIRE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — President Donald Trump doesn't make mistakes. At least according to him.

Trump's relentless justifications of his erroneous warnings that Hurricane Dorian was threatening Alabama on Sunday, which created days of ridicule and skepticism, are just the latest example of the president's lifelong reluctance to admit an error, no matter how innocuous.

His fervent, dayslong pushback has displayed not only his prolonged focus on a personal spat but his willingness, notably again late on Thursday, to deploy government staff and resources to justify an inaccurate claim. Presidential proclamations can move markets, rattle world capitals and, in this case, unnecessarily alarm the residents of a state. Trump's relationship with the truth and accountability threatened to, yet again, diminish the weight of any president's words.

"Great presidents admit when they've screwed up, they fix it, and they move on," said presidential historian Jon Meacham. "Right now, it is a mistake about a hurricane hitting a state. But it can also be a far bigger deal and cost people lives and help create a climate where people can't trust the government."

This was far from the first time Trump has refused to admit a mistake. Examples range from the harm-

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less, like his assertion that he had the largest inauguration crowd in history, to the more serious, like his claim of widespread voter fraud in 2016 that led to the establishment of an election commission to try and back up his claim.

This particular Trump tempest, as so often, began with a tweet.

On Sunday, the Republican president warned that Alabama was "most likely to be hit (much) harder than anticipated." By then, however, Alabama faced no threat at all from Dorian, as the National Weather Service quickly declared.

Rather than dropping it, Trump went into overdrive defending his alert, and he was still at it four days later.

On Wednesday, Trump displayed a map of Dorian's projected path that showed the cone of uncertainty covering much of Florida but stopping in its panhandle. Until, that is, an extension was added in black marker that covered a swath of Alabama.

The president, who is known for his love of Sharpies, pleaded ignorance about the ad hoc alteration. "I don't know, I don't know, I don't know," he responded when questioned.

That night and the next day, he took to Twitter to again insist that certain storm tracking models proved he was right. He tweeted outdated maps, he pushed White House staff to support his claims and he doubled down — eight times over — on his erroneous forecast.

"In the one model through Florida, the Great State of Alabama would have been hit or grazed," he said in one of the tweets. "What I said was accurate! All Fake News in order to demean!"

Then, late Thursday, the White House put out an official statement from Rear Admiral Peter J. Brown, the president's homeland security and counterterrorism adviser.

It was he, Brown wrote under the White House letterhead, who briefed Trump on Sunday, showing him the official National Hurricane Center forecast but also a number of other models, which "showed possible storm impacts well outside the official forecast cone."

The running controversy, stirred daily by the president, has electrified social media, with #Sharpie trending on Twitter and jokes galore. But, for some, it has become a new referendum on Trump and his fitness for office.

"I'm really worried. I feel sorry for the president," said Democrat Pete Buttigieg, who hopes to take Trump on in the 2020 election. "And that is not the way we should feel about the most powerful figure in this country. Somebody on whose wisdom and judgment our lives literally depend."

But White House allies defended the president and accused the media of preferring to overreact to the blunder rather than focus on the lives still in the storm's way.

"This president gets the worst press of any president in the history of the republic," said Geraldo Rivera, a reporter and Trump confidant. "Everything he says and does is cross-checked and scrutinized to reveal him to be stupid, uninformed or a liar."

Even as the hurricane battered the East Coast, Trump's attention was still on Alabama, repeatedly tweeting old forecasts that suggested Alabama could get hit by the storm.

"Americans are in harm's way and the president is laser-focused on ... covering up a small mistake he made," tweeted former FBI Director James Comey, a noted Trump critic. "Narcissism is not leadership. America deserves better."

Trump has made a career of not acknowledging errors, going full steam ahead even when caught in an error or lie.

"I think apologizing's a great thing, but you have to be wrong," he said in a 2016 interview. "I will absolutely apologize, sometime in the hopefully distant future, if I'm ever wrong."

That approach has, at times, served him well, allowing him to plow through controversies assured that many of his followers choose to trust his word over the press. But critics say it is one thing to claim Trump Tower in Manhattan has 68 stories though by any measure it has 58, and it is another to use government resources and push his staff to reverse-engineer something in an attempt to suggest he was right all along.

After he loudly warned of the dangers of a caravan of migrants in 2018, administration officials cited a terrorism arrest statistic that was proven false. When Trump said he had ready a middle-class tax cut plan before the midterm elections, though nothing had been discussed, officials scrambled to craft a plan. When Trump fumed that the size of his inaugural crowd was reported to be smaller than his predecessor's,

White House press secretary Sean Spicer was forced to defend the false claim. And even when Trump mistakenly tweeted the nonsensical word "covfefe" late one night, the president, instead of owning up to a typo or errant message, later sent Spicer to declare, "I think the president and a small group of people know exactly what he meant."

Trump has owned up to a few mistakes: He apologized, once, for the Access Hollywood tape that captured him boasting about groping women — though he later mused that the audio might be fake. And the mistakes he has made in office were, by his account, the appointments of officials who have let him down, like Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell and Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

His attitude is no joke to those who worry about the potential consequences when the matter is far more grave than a weather map.

"The Constitution, with its checks and balances, was drafted on the intellectual foundation that we all make mistakes all the time: a president does, Congress does, the courts do, the people do," said Meacham. "It's remarkable that more harm hasn't come of it. It would be funny if it weren't so serious."

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

Mugabe: Overthrew white minority rule, then turned autocrat

By FARAI MUTSAKA and CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Former Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe, an ex-guerrilla chief who took power after independence from white minority rule in 1980 and presided over a country whose early promise was eroded by economic turmoil and allegations of human rights violations, has died in Singapore at the age of 95.

He enjoyed strong support among the population and even the West soon after taking over as Prime Minister and Zimbabwe's first post-colonial leader. But was reviled in later years as the economy collapsed and human rights violations increased. His often violent takeover of farms from whites who owned huge tracts of land made him a hated figure in the West and a hero in Africa.

His successor President Emmerson Mnangagwa confirmed Mugabe's death in a tweet Friday, mourning him as an "icon of liberation." He did not provide details. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said in a statement that Mugabe died in Singapore, where he has received medical treatment in recent years.

His popularity began to rise again after Mnangagwa failed to deliver on promises of economic recovery and appeared to take an even harsher and more repressive stance against critics. Many began to publicly say they missed Mugabe.

Forced to resign amid pressure from the military, his party and the public in November 2017, Mugabe was defiant throughout his long life, railing against the West for what he called its neo-colonialist attitude and urging Africans to take control of their resources — a populist message that was often a hit, even as many nations on the continent shed the strongman model and moved toward democracy.

A target of international sanctions over the years, Mugabe nevertheless enjoyed acceptance among peers in Africa who chose not to judge him in the same way as Britain, the United States and other Western detractors.

"They are the ones who say they gave Christianity to Africa," Mugabe said of the West during a visit to South Africa in 2016. "We say: 'We came, we saw and we were conquered.'"

Even as old age took its toll and opposition to his rule increased, he refused to step down until the pressure became unbearable in 2017 as his former allies in the ruling party accused him of grooming his wife, Grace, to take over — ahead of long-serving loyalists such as Mnangagwa, who was fired in November 2017 before returning to take over with the help of the military.

Spry in his impeccably tailored suits, Mugabe maintained a schedule of events and international travel during his rule that defied his advancing age, though signs of weariness mounted. He walked with a limp, fell after stepping off a plane in Zimbabwe, read the wrong speech at the opening of parliament, and appeared to be dozing during a news conference in Japan. However, his longevity and frequently dashed

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rumors of ill health delighted supporters and infuriated opponents who had sardonically predicted he would live forever.

"Do you want me to punch you to the floor to realize I am still there?" Mugabe told an interviewer from state television who asked him in early 2016 about retirement plans.

After the fighting between black guerrillas and the white rulers of Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe was then known, ended, Mugabe reached out to whites. The self-declared Marxist stressed the need for education and built new schools. Tourism and mining flourished, and Zimbabwe was a regional breadbasket.

However, a brutal military campaign waged against an uprising in western Matabeleland province that ended in 1987 augured a bitter turn in Zimbabwe's fortunes. As the years went by, Mugabe was widely accused of hanging onto power through violence and vote fraud, notably in a 2008 election that led to a troubled coalition government after regional mediators intervened.

"I have many degrees in violence," Mugabe once boasted on a campaign trail, raising his fist. "You see this fist, it can smash your face."

Mugabe was re-elected in 2013 in another ballot marred by alleged irregularities, though he dismissed his critics as sore losers.

Amid the political turmoil, the economy of Zimbabwe, traditionally rich in agriculture and minerals, deteriorated. Factories were closing, unemployment was rising and the country abandoned its currency for the U.S. dollar in 2009 because of hyperinflation.

The economic problems are often traced to the violent seizures of thousands of white-owned farms that began around 2000. Land reform was supposed to take much of the country's most fertile land — owned by about 4,500 white descendants of mainly British and South African colonial-era settlers — and redistribute it to poor blacks. Instead, Mugabe gave prime farms to ruling party leaders, party loyalists, security chiefs, relatives and cronies.

Mugabe was born in Zvimba, 60 kilometers (40 miles) west of the capital of Harare. As a child, he tended his grandfather's cattle and goats, fished for bream in muddy water holes, played football and "boxed a lot," as he recalled later.

Mugabe lacked the easy charisma of Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader and contemporary who became South Africa's first black president in 1994 after reconciling with its former white rulers. But he drew admirers in some quarters for taking a hard line with the West, and he could be disarming despite his sometimes harsh demeanor.

"The gift of politicians is never to stop speaking until the people say, 'Ah, we are tired,'" he said at a 2015 news conference. "You are now tired. I say thank you."

Torchia reported from Johannesburg.

Hurricane Dorian howling over North Carolina's Outer Banks

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. (AP) — Dorian howled over North Carolina's Outer Banks on Friday, lashing the low-lying barrier islands as a weakened Category 1 hurricane.

A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association weather station at Cape Lookout, located inside the western eyewall of Dorian, reported sustained hurricane-force winds of 74 mph (119 kmh), the National Hurricane Center reported early Friday. At 5 a.m. EDT, the agency said, Dorian's center was passing just east of Cape Lookout, the southernmost point on North Carolina's remote, 200-mile (320-kilometer) long string of barrier islands and spits.

Forecasters said large and destructive waves could reach nearly to the ceilings of one-story structures along the narrow strip of land, where many year-round residents were determined to ride out the storm.

Ann Warner, who owns Howard's Pub on Ocracoke Island, said people did what they could to prepare. "The boats are tied down. Yards are cleaned up. Businesses are closed. People are hunkered down," Warner said by phone on Thursday.

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She lives near the southern end of island chain, and said about half the 1,000 residents of Ocracoke stuck it out. Ferries stopped service on Wednesday, she said, so "If you want to change your mind, it's too late. We're on our own."

Further north, Virginia was also in harm's way, and a round of evacuations was ordered there.

The hurricane hammered the Bahamas with 185 mph (295 kph) winds, killing at least 30 people, but swept past Florida at a relatively safe distance, grazed Georgia, and then hugged the South Carolina-North Carolina coastline. At least four deaths in the Southeast have been blamed on the storm.

Twisters spun off by Dorian peeled away roofs and flipped trailers in South Carolina, and more than 250,000 homes and businesses were left without power. Dorian's winds weakened after sunset Thursday to 100 mph (161 kph), before falling further early Friday to 90 mph (145 kph), making it a Category 1 storm.

As of early Friday, Dorian was centered about 55 miles (90 kilometers) southwest of Cape Hatteras, and 25 miles (35 kilometers) east of Cape Lookout, North Carolina, in the southern Outer Banks, along which hurricane-force wind gusts were reported. The storm was moving northeast at 14 mph (22 kph). It's expected to remain a hurricane as it sweeps up the Eastern Seaboard on Saturday, lashing the New England shore with heavy surf.

In coastal Wilmington, North Carolina, heavy rain fell horizontally, trees bent in the wind and traffic lights swayed as the hurricane drew near. As much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain was forecast, with flash-flooding likely.

Overnight winds were expected to cause trees and branches to fall on power lines, and debris could block repair crews from accessing damaged lines, said Mike Burnette senior vice president of Electric Cooperatives, a utility provider in North Carolina. Customers should prepare for prolonged power outages, he said.

"We have a long night ahead of us. Everyone needs to stay in a safe place and off the roads until the storm passes," North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said Thursday.

About 150 evacuees were camped out at Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina, speedway spokesman Scott Cooper said.

Leslie Lanier, 61, was one of those who decided to stay behind on Ocracoke Island. She boarded up her home and bookstore, making sure to move the volumes higher.

"I think we're in for a great big mess," she said.

Supporters of Republican Greg Murphy and Democrat Allen Thomas, the top candidates to replace the late Rep. Walter Jones Jr., in a special election on Tuesday, found themselves not campaigning, but pulling up signs to keep them from becoming airborne missiles.

Dorian swamped roads in historic downtown of Charleston, South Carolina, and knocked down some 150 trees and toppled power lines. Gusts had topped 80 mph (129 kph) in some areas. The port city of handsome antebellum homes sits on a peninsula that is prone to flooding even from ordinary storms.

Dorian apparently spawned at least one tornado in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, damaging several homes, and another twister touched down in the beach town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina, mangling and overturning several trailer homes in a jumble of sheet metal. No immediate injuries were reported.

The four deaths attributed to the storm in the mainland U.S. took place in Florida and North Carolina. All of them involved men who died in falls or by electrocution while trimming trees, putting up storm shutters or otherwise getting ready for the hurricane.

Navy ships were ordered to ride out the storm at sea, and military aircraft were moved inland. More than 700 airline flights scheduled for Thursday and Friday were canceled. Hundreds of shelter animals were airlifted from coastal South Carolina to Delaware.

Associated Press reporters Meg Kinnard in Charleston, South Carolina; Russ Bynum in Tybee Island, Georgia; Skip Foreman in Charlotte, North Carolina; Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia; Jeff Martin in Atlanta; Seth Borenstein in Washington; and David Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report.

____ For more of AP's coverage of Hurricane Dorian, go to: <https://apnews.com/Hurricanes>

US defense chief Esper cautions Europe to be wary of China

By ROBERT BURNS AP National Security Writer

LONDON (AP) — U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper cautioned European allies against cozying up to China, arguing on Friday that Beijing seeks greater global influence by leveraging economic power and stealing technology.

"The more dependent a country becomes on Chinese investment and trade, the more susceptible they are to coercion and retribution when they act outside of Beijing's wishes," Esper said in a speech at the Royal United Services Institute, a think tank.

Esper's assertion that China is seeking to expand its influence at the expense of others has been a common U.S. government refrain for years, including during President Barack Obama's administration. By taking this message to London, Esper seemed to be suggesting that Europeans do not fully share U.S. concerns, which often center on China's efforts to militarize disputed territory in the South China Sea and its vast trade surplus with the U.S.

"I would caution my friends in Europe — this is not a problem in some distant land that does not affect you," he said.

In a similar vein, Esper blasted Russia for arms control violations and for aggression in Europe, including its annexation of Crimea in 2014 and what he called Moscow's continued aggression in eastern Ukraine. In a question-and-answer session after his prepared remarks, Esper said Russian ground-based cruise missiles aimed at Europe are "probably nuclear-tipped."

Esper's audience of defense experts and officials was as interested in Middle East issues as in the main topic of his speech. In response to a question about the U.S. approach to Iran, Esper acknowledged differences with some allies but stressed that President Donald Trump is determined to stay on his course of "maximum pressure" through economic sanctions.

He said the goal is to compel the Iranians to negotiate an agreement to replace the 2015 nuclear deal, from which Trump withdrew the U.S. last year. Many in Europe consider the U.S. withdrawal a mistake.

Esper said a new nuclear deal would have to assure that Iran "doesn't pursue or acquire a nuclear weapon not just in 10 or 15 years but forever," and he suggested that such talks may be in the offing.

"It seems in some ways that Iran is inching toward that place where we could have talks," he said.

In his prepared remarks, Esper was making the case for the Trump administration's argument that the West must do more to counter what he called efforts by China and Russia to "disrupt the international order" to gain advantage.

"China's technology theft for military gain is staggering," Esper said.

It was the first major policy speech by Esper since becoming defense secretary in July. In tone and substance, the remarks showed Esper subscribes to what has become a common theme in Washington, namely that China is the greatest long-term threat to global security.

"For anyone who wonders what a world dominated by Beijing might look like," he said, "I would argue all you need to do is look at how they treat their own people, within their borders."

Esper cited as an example China's treatment of minority Uighurs since the ruling Communist Party in 2016 launched what it calls a campaign against ethnic separatism and religious extremism in the western region of Xinjiang.

An estimated 1 million Uighurs have since been detained in internment camps and prisons across the region, and advocacy groups say that includes more than 400 prominent academics, writers, performers and artists. Critics say the government is targeting intellectuals to dilute or even erase Uighur culture, language and identity.

"It is increasingly clear that Russia and China want to disrupt the international order by gaining a veto over other nations' economic, diplomatic and security decisions," Esper said.

Esper's speech amounted to a statement of his top strategic priority: to make China and Russia the main focus of U.S. defense planning, shifting from the insurgent wars of recent decades in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

However, some defense analysts question whether Esper and the Trump administration have laid the

groundwork for such a shift.

"Changing the strategic direction of a large nation requires a shift in public opinion, and the Pentagon has not done much to make a convincing case to Americans," Mackenzie Eaglen, a defense expert at the American Enterprise Institute, wrote this week for Foreign Policy.

Meanwhile, China and Russia have denied the U.S. accusations of malign actions and intentions.

Esper also was meeting on Friday with his British counterpart, Ben Wallace, amid a crisis over Prime Minister Boris Johnson's determination to lead Britain out of the European Union on Oct. 31. On Thursday evening, he met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

10 Things to Know for Today

By The Associated Press undefined

Your daily look at late-breaking news, upcoming events and the stories that will be talked about today:

1. NORTH CAROLINA'S OUTER BANKS BRACE FOR DORIAN

The hurricane is closing in for a possible direct hit on the string of low-lying islands, even as it weakened to a Category 1 storm.

2. BELEAGUERED BAHAMIANS SEEK WAY OUT

Some Bahamians who lost homes to the ravages of Hurricane Dorian are waiting to fly out of the disaster zone as international aid picks up and the death toll rises to 30.

3. FORMER ZIMBABWE STRONGMAN DIES

Robert Mugabe, whose 37-year rule was eroded by economic turmoil, disputed elections and human rights violations, was 95.

4. TRUMP DOUBLING-DOWN ON MISTAKES A TREND

The president continues to offer justifications for his erroneous hurricane warnings, the latest example of his reluctance to admit an error, no matter how innocuous.

5. CRACKS IN SAUDI-UAE COALITION RISK NEW WAR IN YEMEN

If Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates can't fix fighting between their allies in southern Yemen, it threatens to tear the country apart into even smaller warring pieces.

6. WHO'S BACK IN THE POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT

Manchester, New Hampshire, as the 2020 field convenes for the state Democratic Party's convention, signaling a more intense phase for the campaign.

7. 'THIS IS MY DESPERATION'

Deb Ware has watch her son Sam overdose on opioids more than 60 times in the past year, illuminating the problem Australia is having in containing the crisis, AP reports.

8. AMERICAN AIRLINES MECHANIC ACCUSED OF SABOTAGING FLIGHT

Abdul-Majeed Marouf Ahmed Alani admitted that he tampered with a navigation system on the plane in Miami so that he could collect overtime work, according to an affidavit.

9. ROBUST JOBS REPORT EXPECTED FOR AUGUST

The trend could power the economy through a rough patch stemming from a global slowdown and Trump's trade war with China.

10. PACKERS BEAT BEARS IN OPENER

In a defensive battle also marked by sloppy offense and penalties, Aaron Rodgers threw for the game's only touchdown as Green Bay beat archrival Chicago 10-3 in the NFL's season opener.

Aid effort picks up momentum as some Bahamians seek way out

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN Associated Press

ABACO, Bahamas (AP) — A few meager possessions stuffed in plastic bags, some of the haggard Bahamians who lost homes to the ravages of Hurricane Dorian are waiting at a small airport hoping to catch planes out of the disaster zone as an international humanitarian effort to help the Caribbean country gains

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momentum and the death toll has risen to 30.

A few hundred people sat at the partly flooded Leonard M. Thompson airport on Abaco island Thursday as small planes picked up the most vulnerable survivors, including the sick and the elderly. The evacuation was slow and there was frustration for some who said they had nowhere to go after the Category 5 hurricane splintered whole neighborhoods.

"They told us that the babies, the pregnant people and the elderly people were supposed to be first preference," said Lukya Thompson, a 23-year-old bartender. But many were still waiting, she said.

Despite hardship and uncertainty, those at the airport were mostly calm. The Bahamian health ministry said helicopters and boats were on the way to help people in affected areas, though officials warned of delays because of severe flooding and limited access.

At least 30 people died in the hurricane and the number could be "significantly higher," Bahamian health minister Duane Sands told The Associated Press in a telephone interview late Thursday. The victims are from Abaco and Grand Bahama islands and include some who died from injuries after being flown to New Providence island, he said.

The hurricane hit Abaco on Sunday and then hovered over Grand Bahama for a day and a half.

On Thursday, emergency officials fanned out across stricken areas to track down people who were missing or in distress. Crews began clearing streets and setting up aid distribution centers.

The United Nations announced the purchase of eight tons of ready-to-eat meals and said it will provide satellite communications equipment and airlift storage units, generators and prefab offices to set up logistics hubs. U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said about 70,000 people "are in immediate need of life-saving assistance" on Grand Bahama and Abaco.

A British Royal Navy ship docked at Abaco and distributed supplies to hurricane survivors. On Grand Bahama, a Royal Caribbean cruise ship dropped off 10,000 meals, 10,000 bottles of water and more than 180 generators, as well as diapers and flashlights.

American Airlines said it flew a Boeing 737 from Miami to Nassau to drop off 14,000 pounds of relief supplies. The airline is also giving frequent-flyer points to customers who donate at least \$25 to the Red Cross.

Troops from the Rhode Island National Guard will be heading to the Bahamas to help. The Guard will mobilize three C-130J cargo aircraft that will depart from the Quonset Air National Guard Base on Friday, state officials said.

Some dazed survivors of Hurricane Dorian made their way back to a shantytown where they used to live, hoping to gather up some of their soggy belongings.

The community was known as The Mudd — or "Da Mudd," as it's often pronounced — and it was built by thousands of Haitian migrants over decades. It was razed in a matter of hours by Dorian, which reduced it to piles of splintered plywood and two-by-fours 4 and 5 feet deep, spread over an area equal to several football fields.

A helicopter buzzed overhead as people picked through the debris, avoiding a body that lay tangled underneath a tree branch next to twisted sheets of corrugated metal, its hands stretched toward the sky. It was one of at least nine bodies that people said they had seen in the area.

"Ain't nobody come to get them," said Cardot Ked, a 43-year-old carpenter from Haiti who has lived 25 years in Abaco. "If we could get to the next island, that's the best thing we can do."

Ked was one of thousands of desperate people seeking help in Dorian's aftermath. With winds of 185 mph (295 kph), the hurricane obliterated houses on the Bahamas' Abaco and Grand Bahama islands.

Crews in Grand Bahama worked to reopen the airport and used heavy equipment to pick up branches and palm fronds. Lines formed outside gas stations and grocery stores.

"People will be out of jobs for months," 67-year-old wood carver Gordon Higgs lamented. "They'll be homeless, no food. Nothing."

Total property losses, not including infrastructure and autos, could reach \$7 billion, the firm Karen Clark & Co. estimated.

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On Thursday, medical officials moved hundreds of people left homeless by the storm out of the main hospital in Abaco to shelters in schools and other government buildings. Some were angry at being asked to leave, or at not being allowed to freely enter to visit hurt relatives, and a shouting match erupted at the main door between a small group of hurricane victims and Bahamas marines.

Abaco and Grand Bahama islands are known for their marinas, golf courses and all-inclusive resorts and are home to many fishermen, laborers and hotel workers.

At the Leonard M. Thompson airport, Rashad Reckley, a 30-year-old saxophonist, played the Bob Marley song "Three Little Birds" for people who had lost their homes.

"I want to lift up everybody's spirits after all the tragedy that happened," said Reckley, who said he had exhausted his repertoire after playing for hours.

"They want me to play more," Reckley said. "But I can't think of songs to play."

Associated Press writers Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Marko Alvarez in Freeport, Bahamas; and Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, contributed to this report.

For more of AP's coverage of Hurricane Dorian, go to: <https://apnews.com/Hurricanes>

Australian mother fights to save addicted son from opioids

By KRISTEN GELINEAU Associated Press

FOUNTAINDALE, Australia (AP) — Deb Ware stared in numb horror at her son, a frail, 22-year-old man in diapers who looked like he'd had a stroke.

This was hardly Sam Ware's first dance with death in the years since his addiction to pharmaceutical opioids began with a simple wisdom tooth extraction; in just the past 12 months, he overdosed more than 60 times.

But on this day in June, inside this hospital in Australia, his mother wondered if it would be his last.

For three years, she had battled to save his life, a lonely war against a system that made pharmaceutical opioids cheap and easy to get, in a country that has quietly endured what was once thought to be a uniquely American crisis of skyrocketing opioid addiction and deaths.

And yet despite all her efforts to rescue her son from an addiction funded largely by her government, here she was: Standing by, helpless, as doctors prepared to place her child in a coma.

"Say goodbye to your son," she heard a doctor say.

Was this goodbye for now, or goodbye for good? How do you say goodbye to your only child?

So she simply kissed him and told him that she loved him. She told him he'd get through this, though she wasn't sure he would.

And then, unable to bear the fear on his face for a moment longer, she turned and walked out of the room.

On the opposite end of the earth from America, where the opioid epidemic has left 400,000 dead, Australia is facing its own crisis of soaring opioid use and fatal overdoses. It has all unfolded despite the glaring warnings from the U.S., and despite more than a decade of warnings from Australian health professionals about a looming disaster.

On the Central Coast, around two hours north of Sydney, the Ware family is one of thousands across Australia locked in a life-or-death fight against opioid addiction. In months of interviews with The Associated Press, years of diary entries, videos, photos and medical records, Deb has shared her own family's fight in the hopes it can alert the world to Australia's plight.

Sam was 19 when it all began, a good kid with a good job as a factory machine operator. He loved photography and walking in the woods and doting on his dog, Holly, and cockatiel, Yazoo. He was close to his mother, who had raised him on her own since he was a toddler, and who shared his fondness for music and the beach. He had little interest in drinking and none in drugs.

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In Oct. 2015, his dentist recommended he have his wisdom teeth pulled. He was sent home afterward with a prescription for an opioid painkiller.

Deb had worked for years as a nursing assistant. She'd seen plenty of kids prescribed opioids after wisdom tooth extractions. And so there was nothing that initially worried her about Sam's pills, medication that combined paracetamol (also known as acetaminophen) and codeine.

The instructions stated that Sam should take two for his pain that night. The next morning, he told his mother he'd taken four.

Disturbed, Deb took the remaining pills away. But Sam loved the buzz they'd given him. The codeine had made him feel safe and warm, like being tucked into a cozy bed on a cold winter's night.

He wanted more.

At first, though, he mistakenly believed that he'd need a prescription to get codeine. It took him a few months and a tip from a colleague before he discovered that Australian pharmacies sold it over the counter. Two more years would pass before Australia — facing a surge of pharmaceutical opioid-related deaths — made all codeine products prescription-only.

But in those days, all Sam needed to do was go to a pharmacy, hand over a few dollars, and walk out with an opioid.

Initially, the codeine was an occasional treat. Soon he realized he felt lousy when he wasn't taking it. He took more, moving quickly from a few pills a week to 40 a day. Then 80. Then 110. His abdomen began to ache, which he feared was a result of all the paracetamol in the drugs. So he went online and learned how to extract the codeine from the pills.

Deb watched the kind-hearted, funny boy she loved rapidly disappear, and be replaced by a deceptive, desperate stranger. Looking back, she marvels at how fast it all happened.

"You become the drug," she said.

When the codeine stopped working, Sam knew he needed something stronger — which meant he needed a prescription. He went to a general practitioner and complained of lower back pain and nerve pain in his leg. The doctor scribbled out a prescription for an opioid called tramadol and sent Sam on his way.

It was so easy. He started going from doctor to doctor, collecting prescriptions for a smorgasbord of opioids: OxyContin, Endone, Targin.

After he got a CT scan that showed a bulging disc in his spine, his quest for opioids became even easier. The CT scan was his golden ticket, proof that he had legitimate pain. He began carrying the scan's results with him everywhere in a plastic shopping bag, along with his pill crusher. Around 70 percent of the time, he could convince a doctor to write him a prescription for whatever he wanted. He also sought out benzodiazepines, used to treat anxiety, and — after a doctor handed him a sample pack — Lyrica, a brand of pregabalin that is typically used for nerve pain.

The drugs were cheap. Most medications in Australia are government subsidized. For people like Sam who have concession cards — those who are older, or on low incomes, or have a disability — the out-of-pocket cost is just 6.50 Australian dollars (US\$4.50) per prescription.

Deb called and wrote letters to the doctors whose names she found on Sam's prescriptions, warning them that he was addicted to the medications.

But Sam just went to other doctors, riding the train up and down the coast and stopping in clinic after clinic. Deb found his pills in the bathroom ceiling, under the mattress, under the computer keyboard. Whenever he came home, she patted him down. It was futile.

She chronicled his swift downfall in a diary that catalogued all the drugs, the hospitalizations, the broken promises:

Sept. 8, 2016: "Said he wants to get off codeine. Withdrawal symptoms: nausea headache stomach cramps. Called paramedics."

Sept. 13: "Sam — tested positive to valium. Suspended from work until Tuesday next week."

Sept. 29: "Sam sacked."

Dec. 25: "Sam evicted from Adam's due to continuing drug abuse."

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Dec. 27: "Sam slept in his car — unable to contact him by phone. I contacted police."

His first overdose came around four months into his addiction. "I don't feel well," he told Deb, heart hammering, face pale.

Deb fetched him a bag, into which he ejected a stream of bright pink vomit. He had mixed codeine pills with a codeine-based, pink cough syrup. Deb called the paramedics.

At the hospital, Deb was furious. Why would he do this to himself?

"I know it's really bad for me," he told her. "I won't do this again."

But he did.

The first time Deb truly began to fear that Sam might die was on Feb. 16, 2017.

He had taken a cocktail of opioids and Lyrica, then walked to a restaurant to pick up a falafel wrap for dinner. His limbs began to jerk. He blacked out.

He woke up in an ambulance, in a panic. The paramedics told him he'd had a massive seizure. They called Deb, and she rushed to meet them at the emergency department.

She found Sam there, lying on a bed, twitching.

She begged him to go to rehab. He refused. One day, he told her he just wanted to take pills until he didn't wake up. She called the police and they took him to the mental hospital. He stayed there for a week. The day he got out, he overdosed again, and ended up back in the emergency department.

His life became an endless pursuit of pills. He lost friends and family and most of his belongings. His phones, laptop and clothes were left behind or stolen while overdosing on trains, in shopping centers, in a library. Eventually, all he owned would fit into his plastic shopping bag.

Inside, always, was his precious CT scan, his fast pass to opioids.

Deb tried to get him committed to the state's involuntary drug and alcohol treatment program, but there are only 12 beds available for New South Wales' population of 8 million. It took her two years to get him a spot. While he was there, she brought him a Bible, in which she had inscribed this verse: "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. Plans to give you hope and a future."

Soon after, he jumped the fence and fled.

Each time the police called, she braced for the worst. She started asking Sam what music he wanted at his funeral.

On the nights he slept at home, she checked to make sure he was still breathing. On the nights he was gone, she would awaken to the sound of the train going by and wonder whether Sam was on board, dead in his seat.

She kept fighting. She contacted politicians, working her way up to federal Health Minister Greg Hunt. In an email, she begged him to implement a national prescription monitoring system. "This is an URGENT situation which must be addressed as soon as possible," she wrote.

An assistant secretary in the health department replied, assuring Deb that the minister took Australia's opioid problem seriously, that a prescription monitoring system was in the works, but that the rollout's timing was left to each state.

"I wish you and your son all the best for the challenges you are both facing," the bureaucrat wrote, infuriatingly, in closing.

One day, she was tending to a patient Sam's age who had just had his wisdom teeth removed. She handed him his discharge papers, along with the prescription a doctor had written for the same opioid Sam was prescribed after his own teeth were pulled.

Deb stared at the young man holding ice to his swollen cheek. She saw Sam.

"Only take it if you really need to," she said of the prescription. "Get your mum to hang onto it."

She paused. "Actually, probably try not to take it."

The patient stared at her strangely.

"No, really," she urged, tearing up. "It's really addictive. Just be really careful."

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"Please. Don't take it."

The day that Sam refused to go to detox was the day Deb hit her limit.

"Get out of the car," she told him.

It had been another horrible morning at the emergency department. A bed in detox was available. Sam agreed to take it. And then, at the last minute, he changed his mind.

She refused to bring him home and tried to drop him off at a shopping center. He refused to get out of her car.

As he sat in the passenger's seat and sobbed, her rage and desperation grew. She had tried almost everything to save him.

Except fear.

"You got your seatbelt on?" she asked, a plan hatching in her head, as she threw the car into gear.

"Why?" he replied.

Her response was matter-of-fact: "I'm going to go as fast as this car can go. And I'm going to swerve off the road into a tree or a barrier. Because you're going to die if you keep doing what you're doing. And if you die, I might as well die, too. Let's just get it over with now."

She steered toward the freeway and jammed her foot on the accelerator. Sam clutched his seatbelt. "Let me out of the car!" he screamed.

Deb jerked the wheel left and right. Sam wailed, pressing his flip-flop clad feet against the dashboard so hard they left scuff marks.

"I'M GOING TO KILL US BOTH!" she roared.

"NO, NO, NO!" he shrieked.

"THIS IS IT!"

Then she heard the beep-beep-beep of the seat belt alarm. Saw Sam unbuckling himself. Watched him yank the emergency brake and open the door.

She pulled over just as Sam commando-rolled out of the car, shredding his knees on the pavement.

She went from manic to calm in two seconds. Sam stumbled along the street, blood pouring down his legs, frantically trying to wave down passing cars. She went after him.

"Don't come near me!" he shouted.

"I'm not going to hurt you, Sam," she said. "But this is my desperation."

She never really intended to hurt either of them that day. But there had been that little voice inside her urging her to do it, just do it, just end the misery now.

The end felt near that day in June, when the doctors told Deb to say goodbye and placed Sam into a coma.

Her son was on life support. Even if he survived, he could spend the rest of his life in a vegetative state. Family and friends gathered. Her sister flew down from Queensland.

The doctors tried repeatedly to bring him out of the sedation, but his body went rigid every time.

Day after day, she sat by his bed and prayed. She held up her phone to his pale face and played a song they both loved, "When the Rain Comes" by Third Day.

"I can't stop the rain

From falling down on you again

I can't stop the rain

But I will hold you 'til it goes away"

She saw tears leaking from his eyes. She cried, too. Maybe Sam was still in there, somewhere.

After 10 days, the doctors successfully awakened him. He looked terrible. Deb went home that night with low expectations.

She returned in the morning to find him sitting in a chair, eating breakfast.

"You're alive!" she cried.

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She began recording the moment on her phone. In the video, dated June 20, a bleary but smiling Sam flashes a triumphant thumbs-up. "Praise the lord," he says.

"Sam the super man!" she declares.

Deb warned him he couldn't do this again, and that if he did, their relationship was over.

Sam agreed. No more drugs, he told her. He'd seen the light.

The day he was discharged, Deb welcomed him back into her home. The next morning, he went to a shopping center to buy a box of chocolates and a thank you card for the hospital staff who had saved his life.

And then he popped into a doctor's office and got himself a prescription for an opioid and a benzodiazepine.

"Open your eyes, Sam."

He is staring vacantly at the camera, eyes flickering, then closing.

"Open your eyes, Sam," Deb orders again, voice tight with rage. "OPEN."

The video was shot on June 29, five days after Sam was released from the hospital. He is slumped on Deb's couch, overdosing on opioids, benzodiazepines and Lyrica.

Deb has called the paramedics. She just has to keep Sam alive until they turn up.

"Why are you doing this?" he asks. "Why are you filming me?"

"So you can see what you're like," she replies. "I thought seeing yourself on life support would help you not do this anymore, but clearly not."

"Do you have any Lyrica left?" he mumbles.

The ambulance arrives. Deb is too fed up to follow. She calls the hospital later and learns that Sam was briefly put back on life support, but that it's not as bad as last time.

When she gets to the hospital the next day, a nurse delivers another blow: Sam has withdrawn his consent for Deb to be updated on his medical care.

Deb goes home, gathers Sam's few belongings, and dumps them at the hospital.

She is done.

And yet, she's not. She is his mother. He is her son.

On July 19, three weeks later, he steps off the bus, carrying his shopping bag. His sweatshirt and sweatpants hang loosely on his skeletal frame. It is clear from the smell that he hasn't showered.

Deb is waiting for him. She wraps him in a hug and rustles his messy hair.

Back at her house, he sits on the porch and stares out at the surrounding gum trees. He ignores the sandwich his mother places in front of him, and begins to talk.

He tries to explain why he withdrew his consent. He was worried she'd say something to the doctors that would get him committed to the mental health ward. He regrets it now.

"For me to say that after everything mum's done for me... especially bringing me up by herself, providing for me. And then with the OD in ICU when I was in the coma, coming to visit me every day, the toll that would have taken — I can't begin to imagine," he says, eyes darting toward his mother, who stares back in silence. "I felt terrible."

A couple weeks ago, he says, he was trying to sleep on the train but couldn't stop crying, thinking about how badly he had hurt his mother. In his bed at the men's shelter in Sydney, he lay awake all night, thinking of her pain.

And then he went to another doctor and got another prescription and had another overdose. He ended up back in the emergency department.

That was the moment he decided, "Enough's enough," he says. That's why he agreed to go into detox for a few days. He says he hasn't touched a drug since. He says he's been staying in a hostel, but has no money left, no place to go. He says he can stay clean, if only he had a roof over his head.

"It doesn't have to be like that, Sam," Deb interjects. "You've been advised what the best thing to do is to get your life back on track, and that's to go to rehab."

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But he doesn't like rehab, he says. He doesn't like the people who go there. He doesn't like the rules. And there's something else.

"What if it doesn't work?" he asks.

"You haven't tried!" she snaps.

The argument goes on in a relentless loop. And in the end, there's the desperate request she knew was coming.

"Can I please stay here tonight?"

She tells herself that coddling him is enabling him. That if she lets him get one foot in the door, he will force his way back into her life until the inevitable, awful end of his own.

"I don't want you staying here, Sam."

"Can I at least have dinner here?"

"And then what?"

"I don't know. Sleep on the footpath or walk to the train station or something."

It is dark now, and they are freezing. Deb lets Sam into the warmth of the living room. He sits on the couch where he overdosed three weeks earlier and wolfs down a sandwich, and toast, and cereal, and cookies. Deb sinks into her armchair, looking broken.

She tells herself to stay strong, not to give in.

But she cannot send him into the darkness. And so she keeps him home for one last night, for one last chance.

This story, part of the AP's reporting on the global opioid crisis, was produced in partnership with the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting. The Global Opioids project can be seen here. <https://www.apnews.com/GlobalOpioids>

Fatal fire foiled rescue attempts by California boat crew

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Crewmembers who survived the fiery sinking of a scuba diving boat off Southern California tried to rescue the 34 people who died but were driven back by flames, smoke and heat, federal authorities and the boat's owner said.

The crew told investigators a "harrowing story" about the moments after a blaze erupted aboard the Conception before dawn Monday as it lay at anchor off the Channel Islands, Jennifer Homendy of the National Transportation Safety Board said Thursday.

Speculation has grown about whether the captain and four other crew members who survived had tried to help others before jumping from the flaming vessel. Authorities said those sleeping in bunks below the main deck were trapped by the fire.

But crew members told investigators that by the time they saw flames, it was too late.

Crew members jumped from the bridge area to the main deck — one breaking a leg in the effort — and tried to get through the double doors of the galley but they were aflame.

That cut off both escape routes for the 33 passengers and a crew member in the bunkroom: a stairway and an escape hatch that exited in the galley area.

The crew then tried but failed to get into windows at the front of the vessel.

"At that point, due to heat, flames and smoke, the crew had to jump from the boat," Homendy said.

Captain Jerry Boylan stayed aboard trying to send radio distress calls and was last in the water, said Glen Fritzler, co-owner of Truth Aquatics, Inc. of Santa Barbara, which operated Conception.

"The other crew at a certain point when the flames had engulfed the boat and they were in the water, they could see Jerry jump from the upper deck, a long jump. And there was a trail of smoke following him. They thought he was on fire," Fritzler told KEYT-TV in Santa Barbara.

"Within minutes they would've been consumed," he said. "So they did their best. They did re-enter the vessel from the back of the boat after they swam around it. They could not get to firefighting equipment

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because everything was engulfed.”

The survivors used a skiff at Conception’s stern to reach a nearby boat and two then returned to see if they could rescue any other survivors but none were found, Homendy said.

Fritzler said the experience has traumatized the survivors.

“They’re breaking down,” he said. “They’re seeking counseling. It’s a very tough time for them.”

Searchers recovered 33 bodies and continued searching in the waters just off Santa Cruz Island for the lone remaining victim.

Meanwhile, Truth Aquatics filed a lawsuit Thursday in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles that uses a pre-Civil War provision of maritime law to limit their liability from any victims’ claims. The lawsuit argues the company and owners Glen and Dana Fritzler made the boat seaworthy and the craft was properly manned and equipped.

Coast Guard records show the boat passed its two most recent inspections with no safety violations.

Previous patrons said Truth Aquatics and the captains of its three boats were very safety-conscious.

The NTSB is just a few days into what will be a lengthy investigation that seeks to determine the cause of the fire and identify potential safety enhancements to avoid future disasters. Investigators are examining potential ignition sources for the fire, including electronics, kitchen stoves and the vessel’s wiring systems. Investigators know photography equipment, batteries and other electronics were stored and plugged in on the Conception.

“We are not ruling anything out at this point,” Homendy said.

None of the names of the victims have been released by authorities but many have surfaced through relatives, friends and employers.

They included two Northern California high schoolers, a hairdresser, software engineers, a special effects designer for Disney, a nature photographer, a nurse and a family of five celebrating a birthday.

On Thursday, California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued a statement identifying two of the victims as Adrian Dahood-Fritz and her husband, Andrew Fritz. Dahood-Fritz had worked for the California Natural Resources Agency’s Ocean Protection Council since April as a senior environmental scientist.

“Adrian led the state’s efforts to manage California’s network of marine protected areas, and she cared deeply about the ocean and biodiversity,” Newsom said. “She embodied marine conservation and was a highly accomplished and respected scientific researcher.”

Associated Press writers Julie Watson in San Diego and Amy Taxin in Santa Ana, California, contributed to this story.

1 more for 24: Serena to face 19-year-old in US Open final

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — By no means was Serena Williams perfect at the start of her U.S. Open semifinal.

She faced three break points in the opening game and managed to pull it out. She trailed 40-love in the second, then came through again. Another trio of break points arrived later in that initial set. Once more, Williams was up to the task. Soon enough, she was on her way to yet another final at Flushing Meadows — and yet another shot at Grand Slam singles trophy No. 24.

Williams turned in an increasingly impressive performance for a 6-3, 6-1 victory over No. 5-seeded Elina Svitolina of Ukraine at Arthur Ashe Stadium on Thursday night, reaching her fourth final in the past six major tournaments.

“To be in yet another final, it seems, honestly, crazy,” said Williams, a six-time U.S. Open champion who will face 19-year-old Bianca Andreescu of Canada on Saturday. “But I don’t really expect too much less.”

Nor does anyone else at this point.

“That’s why she is who she is. You are playing in front of the best tennis player in the world,” Svitolina said. “If you don’t take it, she just grabs it. And there’s no chance to take it back.”

Since returning to the tour last season after more than a year away while having a baby, she was the

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runner-up at Wimbledon twice, losing to Angelique Kerber in 2018 and to Simona Halep in July, and was also the runner-up, of course, a year ago at the U.S. Open, losing to Naomi Osaka.

That one in New York was, and forever will be, overshadowed by Williams' extended argument with chair umpire Carlos Ramos, who docked her a point, then a game — and was barred by the U.S. Tennis Association from officiating any matches her or her older sister, Venus, played in this year's tournament.

Asked whether she prefers to find motivation from that final against Osaka or would rather forget it, Williams stared straight ahead and replied, "I mean, it hasn't really crossed my mind."

The 15th-seeded Andreescu reached her first major title match in only her fourth appearance at a Slam by eliminating No. 13 Belinda Bencic of Switzerland 7-6 (3), 7-5.

"If someone told me a year ago that I would be in the finals of the U.S. Open this year, I would have told them, 'You're crazy,'" said Andreescu, who took her semifinal's last five games after trailing 5-2.

She is the first player to get this far in her debut in New York since Venus Williams was the runner-up in 1997.

"It's just surreal," Andreescu said about the prospect of facing Serena Williams next. "Like, I really don't know what to say."

So much of what the younger Williams does nowadays must be seen through the prism of tennis history, and that is certainly the case in this instance. Her 101st career match win at Flushing Meadows tied Chris Evert's tournament record.

"It's just impressive, I guess," Williams said. "I don't think about it. I just come out here and do what I can."

By getting to the final, Williams set a mark for longest gap between first career Grand Slam title match and most recent such appearance: It's almost exactly 20 full years since she won the 1999 U.S. Open as a teenager.

Most importantly, if she can beat Andreescu, Williams will equal Margaret Court with 24 Grand Slam singles titles, more than anyone else in a sport that dates to the 1800s.

"I watched her win most of her Grand Slam titles. I think she's fighting for her 24th on Saturday. I'm sure she's going to bring her 'A' game," Andreescu said. "I'm going to try to bring my 'A' game, too. Hopefully, I guess, may the best player win."

At the start of the first semifinal, it was the 24-year-old Svitolina who was steadier. She earned those three chances to break from the get-go — but failed to convert. Let the second game slip through her fingers, too. In all, Svitolina held eight game points across that opening pair, and was left with nothing to show for it. Quickly, it was 3-0 for Williams.

"I don't think she played amazing today," Svitolina said, "but she played (at a) very high level at the beginning, where you had to make a difference."

Williams' assessment?

"Today was solid," she said. "It definitely wasn't my best tennis."

Still, she launched serves at up to 119 mph and saved every break point she faced. She smacked three return winners in one game alone. She held a 10-3 edge in points that lasted nine or more strokes. She finished with a 34-11 advantage in winners. She showed no lingering effect from a rolled ankle earlier in the tournament.

As if for good measure, Williams even threw in a serve-and-volley approach while facing break point in the first set — and, naturally, it worked, thanks to a swinging putaway.

"Don't expect that again," Williams said, joking that this was going through her mind: "What am I doing at the net?! Let me get back to the baseline!"

Maybe Svitolina, whose one upset of Williams in five previous matchups came at the 2016 Rio Olympics, was too passive, content to stay back and try to chase down everything sent her way.

Wasn't the proper strategy. At least not against this opponent, in this match, on this day.

"On the important moments, she steps up, always steps up," Svitolina said, "always brings her best game."

That's usually the case for Williams, even as her 38th birthday approaches in three weeks. It just wasn't

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in the three most significant matches of her return so far: three Grand Slam finals, three losses.

She'll try again Saturday.

One more for 24.

"Obviously, there's a lot of things that I've learned in the past," Williams said, "but I just have to go out there (and), above all, most of all, just stay relaxed."

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

Packers' D, Aaron Rodgers beat Bears 10-3 in opener

By BARRY WILNER AP Pro Football Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Aaron Rodgers doesn't have to lay waste to a defense to enjoy Packers football.

He sure had a good time seeing what his guys on the other side of the ball did Thursday night to the archrival Bears.

"Yeah, it was fun to watch," Rodgers said after Green Bay opened the NFL's 100th season with a 10-3 victory over Chicago. "It's been a long time since I've seen a performance like that. Obviously, a lot of credit to Mike Pettine and his staff, but to those players, just incredible.

"We didn't do them a whole lot of favors with our performance on offense. I mean every time we needed something a stop, they came up with some really big plays."

It was a defensive battle also marked by sloppy offense and penalties. A lack of action in the preseason clearly damaged both offenses, and Rodgers at times looked uncomfortable in the attack designed by new coach Matt LaFleur. But he is a two-time league MVP, and he hit Jimmy Graham in the second quarter for the only touchdown.

That aggressive Green Bay defense would have made Vince Lombardi proud in the latest edition of the NFL's longest rivalry, which the Packers lead 98-95-6. Green Bay has won 16 of the last 19 regular-season meetings, and Rodgers is 17-5.

Chicago's defense hardly slacked, getting five sacks — tying the most it has had against Rodgers. But it could do little with the ball and the Packers had five sacks of Mitchell Trubisky, who never found his stride, and was sacked on Chicago's final offensive play. Former Bears safety Adrian Amos picked off an end-zone pass into double coverage with 1:58 remaining, the only turnover of the contest.

"It feels real good," Amos said. "It feels great to come back to win and how we did as a defense."

Mason Crosby made a 39-yard field goal in the final period for Green Bay, while defending NFC North champion Chicago got a 38-yarder from Eddy Pineiro.

The NFL opted to go for a history-tinged opener rather than having the Super Bowl champions host the first game. New England will be at home to Pittsburgh on Sunday night, and it's unlikely that game will be so dominated by D.

Or by mistakes.

Each team had 10 penalties, there was a total of 467 yards of only offense, and several drops. At one point, Chicago had three straight penalties to put it in a first-and-40. No, the Bears didn't convert.

Still, take nothing away from either defense. They both controlled the line of scrimmage almost throughout the night, and Trubisky was particularly bothered by it, going 26 of 45 for 228 yards.

"Three points is ridiculous," coach Matt Nagy said. "Any Chicago Bears fan ... should be upset."

Rodgers was 18 for 30 for 203 yards, hardly vintage A-Rod, and certainly unlike his performance in leading the Packers back from a 20-point hole in the second half of the 2018 opener against the Bears.

Of course, he had all that support Thursday night from the likes of newcomers Preston Smith (1 1/2 sacks), and Za'Darius Smith (a sack), enough to give Green Bay the boost it needed.

The opening series couldn't have been uglier for Green Bay. A run and a pass netted zero yards, then Rodgers was sacked heavily by Roy Robertson-Harris for a 10-yard loss.

Well, maybe it could. Rodgers was sacked again on the next three-and-out and Chicago took over at the Packers 36 after a punt. Chicago had forced 17 yards in losses on those series, and the Packers had

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minus-12 yards through one period.

Rodgers erased such ineffectiveness quickly at the start of the second quarter, launching a 47-yard completion to Marquez Valdes-Scantling. Two more completions got the Pack to the 8, and Graham did what most former basketball players turned tight ends should, winning a jump ball in the end zone.

By halftime, Green Bay had outgained Chicago 119 yards to 98.

GETTING THEIR KICKS

Bears fans rejoiced in relief on the first score of the season: Pineiro's 38-yard first-quarter field goal. The last such kick on Soldier Field was Cody Parkey's double-doink off the goalpost and crossbar that sent Chicago home from the wild-card round. Pineiro, a second-year player from Florida, was an immediate hero in the Windy City.

PASS INTERFERENCE REVIEW

LaFleur made an ill-advised challenge, claiming offensive pass interference on a catch by Chicago's Taylor Gabriel. He lost in the first such challenge in NFL history after interference calls were added to replay reviews this season.

THIRD-DOWN FAILURES

Chicago was a pitiful 3 for 15 on third downs and 0 for 2 on fourth downs. Green Bay was even worse trying to convert, going 2 for 12 on third downs.

"I am not in panic mode," Nagy said.

"It's just we were uncharacteristic tonight of who we are as an offense," added Trubisky. "We were rolling in practice and it just didn't translate."

UP NEXT:

Packers: Host Minnesota on Sept. 15.

Bears: At Denver on Sept. 15.

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

Asian shares rise on optimism over more US-China trade talks

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Asian shares rose Friday as investors cheered plans for more trade negotiations between Washington and Beijing and drew encouragement from positive data about the U.S. economy.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained nearly 0.7% in morning trading to 21,222.86. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.5% to 6,647.80. South Korea's Kospi edged up 0.3% to 2,010.15. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.6% to 26,661.47, while the Shanghai Composite inched up nearly 0.1% to 2,987.94.

"Indeed it is a positive sign that meetings will take place at multiple levels," said Zhu Huani of the Asia & Oceania Treasury Department of Mizuho Bank, referring to the talks between the U.S. and China.

"As limited progress is expected, there will still be many twists and turns along the way and hurdle for more good news is substantially higher. Therefore, we think the rally could be short-lived without more breakthroughs."

The Dow Jones Industrial Average surged nearly 400 points, bond yields jumped and the price of gold fell as investors regained a bigger appetite for riskier holdings.

Markets have been rattled this summer as the longstanding trade war between the U.S. and China escalated. Past rounds of negotiations have failed to yield progress. Even so, news Thursday that envoys from Washington and Beijing plan to hold talks next month elicited fresh optimism on Wall Street that the world's largest economies may yet find a way to resolve their costly trade war.

Investors have been worried that uncertainty over the conflict and the fallout from tariffs goods imposed by both sides will exacerbate a slowdown in global economic growth and hurt corporate profits.

The S&P 500 gained 38.22 points, or 1.3%, to 2,976. The benchmark index is now 1.7% shy of its most recent all-time high set in late July. The Dow rose 372.68 points, or 1.4%, to 26,728.15. The average was briefly up by 480 points. The Nasdaq climbed 139.95 points, or 1.8%, to 8,116.83. Traders also favored

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smaller company stocks. The Russell 2000 index picked up 25.99 points, or 1.8%, to 1,510.75.

Negotiations between the world's largest economies have been tenuous and the trade war has been escalating with expanded tariffs on each other's products.

The latest escalation kicked in Sunday, with the U.S. imposing 15% tariffs on \$112 billion of Chinese imports. Washington is planning to hit another \$160 billion on Dec. 15, a move that would extend penalties to almost everything the United States buys from China. Beijing responded by imposing duties of 10% and 5% on a range of American imports.

U.S. tariffs of 25% imposed previously on \$250 billion of Chinese goods are due to rise to 30% on Oct. 1.

Positive data about the U.S. economy are also boosting shares. Payroll processor ADP reported that U.S. businesses added 195,000 jobs in August, well above economists' expectations.

The private report frequently diverges from the government's own employment report, which is scheduled to be released Friday. Economists expect that report will show 160,000 jobs were added.

The U.S. Labor Department reported that overall productivity rose 2.3% during the second quarter, also beating economists' growth forecasts.

ENERGY:

Benchmark crude oil edged up 11 cents to \$56.41 a barrel. It rose 4 cents to settle at \$56.30 a barrel Thursday. Brent crude oil, the international standard, added 8 cents to \$61.03 a barrel.

CURRENCIES:

The dollar rose to 107.02 Japanese yen from 106.72 yen on Thursday. The euro strengthened to \$1.1033 from \$1.1059.

AP Business Writers Alex Veiga and Damian J. Troise contributed to this report.

Dorian grazes Carolina coast, aims for Outer Banks

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Hurricane Dorian sideswiped the Carolinas with shrieking winds, tornadoes and sideways rain Thursday as it closed in for a possible direct hit on the dangerously exposed Outer Banks. At least four deaths in the Southeast were blamed on the storm.

Twisters spun off by Dorian peeled away roofs and flipped trailers, and more than 250,000 homes and businesses were left without power as the hurricane pushed north along the coastline, its winds weakening after sunset to 100 mph (160 kph). Trees and power lines littered flooded streets in Charleston's historic downtown. Gusts had topped 80 mph (129 kph) in some areas.

North Carolina's Outer Banks, a thin line of islands that stick out from the U.S. coast like a boxer's chin, braced for a hit late Thursday or early Friday. To the north, Virginia was also in harm's way, and a round of evacuations was ordered there.

The damage from the same storm that mauled the Bahamas was mercifully light in many parts of South Carolina and Georgia as well, and by midafternoon many of the 1.5 million people who had been told to evacuate in three states were allowed to return.

But overnight winds will cause trees and branches to fall on power lines, and debris could block repair crews from accessing damaged lines, said Mike Burnette senior vice president of Electric Cooperatives, a North Carolina utility provider. Customers should prepare for prolonged power outages, he said.

"We have a long night ahead of us. Everyone needs to stay in a safe place and off the roads until the storm passes," North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper said.

About 150 evacuees were camped out at Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Carolina, speedway spokesman Scott Cooper said.

After leaving at least 30 people dead when it slammed the Bahamas with 185 mph (295 kph) winds, Dorian swept past Florida at a relatively safe distance, grazed Georgia, and then hugged the South Carolina-North Carolina coastline.

"I think we're in for a great big mess," said 61-year-old Leslie Lanier, who decided to stay behind and

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boarded up her home and bookstore on Ocracoke Island on the Outer Banks, making sure to move the volumes 5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 meters) off the ground.

The National Hurricane Center forecast as much as 15 inches (38 centimeters) of rain for the coastal Carolinas, with flash-flooding likely .

In Charleston, a historic port city of handsome antebellum homes on a peninsula that is prone to flooding even from ordinary storms, Dorian toppled some 150 trees, swamped roads and brought down power lines, officials said, but the flooding and wind weren't nearly as bad as feared.

Walking along Charleston's stone battery, college student Zachary Johnson sounded almost disappointed that Dorian hadn't done more.

"I mean, it'd be terrible if it did, don't get me wrong. I don't know — I'm just waiting for something crazy to happen, I guess," said Johnson, 24.

Dorian apparently spawned at least one tornado in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, damaging several homes, and another twister touched down in the beach town of Emerald Isle, North Carolina, mangling and overturning several trailer homes in a jumble of sheet metal. No immediate injuries were reported.

In coastal Wilmington, North Carolina, just above the South Carolina line, heavy rain fell horizontally, trees bent in the wind and traffic lights swayed as the hurricane drew near.

The four deaths attributed to the storm took place in Florida and North Carolina. All of them involved men who died in falls or by electrocution while trimming trees, putting up storm shutters or otherwise getting ready for the hurricane.

At 11 p.m. EDT, Dorian was centered about 35 miles (56 kilometers) southeast of Wilmington, North Carolina. The Category 2 storm had maximum sustained winds of 100 mph (161 kph) and was moving northeast at 13 mph (21 kph).

As it closed in on the Eastern Seaboard, Navy ships were ordered to ride out the storm at sea, and military aircraft were moved inland. More than 700 airline flights scheduled for Thursday and Friday were canceled. And hundreds of shelter animals were airlifted from coastal South Carolina to Delaware.

Tybee Island, Georgia, population 3,000, came through the storm without flooding. "If the worst that comes out of this is people blame others for calling evacuations, then that's wonderful," Mayor Jason Buelterman said.

By midday Thursday, coastal residents in Georgia and some South Carolina counties were allowed to go home.

Still, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster warned of new dangers ahead.

"Don't be surprised if there was water in your home. You might have animals, snakes. You don't know what might be in there, so be very careful as you return," he said.

Associated Press reporters Russ Bynum in Tybee Island, Georgia; Skip Foreman in Charlotte, North Carolina; Gary Robertson in Raleigh, North Carolina; Jeffrey Collins in Carolina Beach, North Carolina; Jay Reeves in Birmingham, Alabama; Ben Finley in Norfolk, Virginia; Jeff Martin in Atlanta; Seth Borenstein in Washington; and David Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report.

For more of AP's coverage of Hurricane Dorian, go to: <https://apnews.com/Hurricanes>

No conviction in California warehouse fire stuns families

By JANIE HAR and OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — A jury on Thursday didn't convict two men charged after flames tore through a party at a San Francisco Bay Area warehouse that had been converted into a mazelike artist space, stunning families of the 36 victims who had opposed a deal that would have put the pair behind bars.

Jurors acquitted Max Harris of involuntary manslaughter but said they could not agree on whether to convict or acquit Derick Almendra after deliberating over a two-week period.

As the judge declared a mistrial, sobs and gasps erupted from family and friends of the victims who have

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packed the courtroom for the emotional three-month trial. The men were accused of filling the building in Oakland with so much clutter that it trapped people at an electronic music party nearly three years ago.

"I'm in shock," said David Gregory, whose 20-year-old daughter Michela perished in the fast-moving fire. "We were hoping for justice, but we didn't get justice today."

Michela Gregory and her 22-year-old boyfriend, Alex Vega, died when fire roared through the so-called Ghost Ship warehouse, which had been illegally converted into a live-work space for artists and held events.

The building was packed with furniture, extension cords and other flammable material but had only two exits and no smoke detectors, fire alarms or sprinklers, prosecutors say.

The blaze killed many young people trapped on the illegally constructed second floor. Prosecutors said the victims received no warning and had little chance to escape down a narrow, ramshackle staircase.

Almena, 49, and Harris, 29, had pleaded no contest to manslaughter and were set to be sentenced last year to nine and six years in prison, respectively. But a judge threw out their pleas last year after many of the victims' families objected.

Vega's mother, Mary, was angry about Thursday's outcome but didn't regret the plea agreement getting tossed. She said she was glad that Harris served more than two years behind bars awaiting trial.

"It's something. Doesn't matter, it's not going to bring my son back," Mary Vega said.

Prosecutors acknowledged the emotional toll of the trial on the victims' loved ones and said they would meet with families and others to evaluate their next steps in the case against Almena. He remains in custody and is due in court again Oct. 4.

One of Almena's attorneys, Brian Getz, broke down in tears, while another, Tony Serra, said he was pained and anguished but vowed to win the case.

"In the next trial, we'll do better," Serra said. "It may be hung again, or he may be acquitted, but we're not going to lose."

Almena, 49, was the master tenant of the warehouse and Harris, 29, acted like a manager by collecting rent and settling household disputes, prosecutors said.

In closing arguments, Alameda County Deputy District Attorney Autrey James said the men didn't obtain permits because they didn't want inspections and they violated the fire code by refusing to install safety devices.

The defendants argued that city workers were to blame for not raising concerns about fire hazards and said the fire was arson. Investigators have never found its cause, meaning arson cannot be ruled out.

Serra, Almena's attorney, repeatedly brought up instances in which fire, police and other officials toured the two-story building and never said anything about it posing a danger.

Almena cried on his first day on the witness stand, saying that he felt remorse and sorrow for having fostered a space for artists. He said he would never have let his wife and three children live somewhere considered unsafe.

"I built something. I dreamed something, I invited, I attracted beautiful people into my space, and I'm responsible for having this idea," Almena said.

Harris' attorney, Curtis Briggs, argued that his client had no leadership role at the warehouse and that he had not even been there when Almena signed the lease in 2013.

Harris testified that he performed menial tasks such as cleaning the communal space and pooling the monthly rent to reduce his rent. He described a free-floating space where every tenant built on or furnished the building as they saw fit and rejected prosecutors' characterization that the warehouse was a "death trap."

"I would have made sure my friends were not buried there," Harris said.

Hurricane death toll in Bahamas at 30 as aid begins to land

By MICHAEL WEISSENSTEIN Associated Press

ABACO, Bahamas (AP) — Carrying possessions in plastic bags, some weary Bahamians whose homes were smashed by Hurricane Dorian waited Thursday for a flight out of the disaster zone as an international humanitarian effort to help the Caribbean country gained momentum. The death toll rose to 30.

A few hundred people gathered at the partly flooded Leonard M. Thompson airport on Abaco island in hopes of getting a seat on one of the small planes picking up the most vulnerable survivors, including the sick and the elderly. However, the evacuation was slow and there was frustration for some who said they had nowhere to go after the Category 5 hurricane tore through the area, shattering whole neighborhoods.

"They told us that the babies, the pregnant people and the elderly people were supposed to be first preference," said Lukya Thompson, a 23-year-old bartender. But many were still waiting, she said.

Despite hardship and uncertainty, those at the airport were mostly calm. The Bahamian health ministry said helicopters and boats were on the way to help people in affected areas, though warned of delays because of severe flooding and limited access.

At least 30 people died in the hurricane and the number could be "significantly higher," Bahamian health minister Duane Sands told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Thursday night. The victims are from Abaco and Grand Bahama islands and include some who had been injured and flown to New Providence island, he said.

The hurricane hit Abaco on Sunday and then hovered over Grand Bahama for a day and a half.

On Thursday, emergency officials fanned out across stricken areas to track down people who were missing or in distress. Crews began clearing streets and setting up aid distribution centers.

The United Nations announced the purchase of eight tons of ready-to-eat meals and said it will provide satellite communications equipment and airlift storage units, generators and prefab offices to set up logistics hubs. U.N. humanitarian chief Mark Lowcock said about 70,000 people "are in immediate need of life-saving assistance" on Grand Bahama and Abaco.

A British Royal Navy ship docked at Abaco and distributed supplies to hurricane survivors. On Grand Bahama, a Royal Caribbean cruise ship dropped off 10,000 meals, 10,000 bottles of water and more than 180 generators, as well as diapers and flashlights.

American Airlines said it flew a Boeing 737 from Miami to Nassau to drop off 14,000 pounds of relief supplies. The airline is also giving frequent-flyer points to customers who donate at least \$25 to the Red Cross.

Troops from the Rhode Island National Guard will be heading to the Bahamas to help. The Guard will mobilize three C-130J cargo aircraft that will depart from the Quonset Air National Guard Base on Friday, state officials said.

Some dazed survivors of Hurricane Dorian made their way back to a shantytown where they used to live, hoping to gather up some of their soggy belongings.

The community was known as The Mudd — or "Da Mudd," as it's often pronounced — and it was built by thousands of Haitian migrants over decades. It was razed in a matter of hours by Dorian, which reduced it to piles of splintered plywood and two-by-fours 4 and 5 feet deep, spread over an area equal to several football fields.

A helicopter buzzed overhead as people picked through the debris, avoiding a body that lay tangled underneath a tree branch next to twisted sheets of corrugated metal, its hands stretched toward the sky. It was one of at least nine bodies that people said they had seen in the area.

"Ain't nobody come to get them," said Cardot Ked, a 43-year-old carpenter from Haiti who has lived 25 years in Abaco. "If we could get to the next island, that's the best thing we can do."

Ked was one of thousands of desperate people seeking help in Dorian's aftermath. With winds of 185 mph (295 kph), the hurricane obliterated houses on the Bahamas' Abaco and Grand Bahama islands.

Crews in Grand Bahama worked to reopen the airport and used heavy equipment to pick up branches and palm fronds. Lines formed outside gas stations and grocery stores.

"People will be out of jobs for months," 67-year-old wood carver Gordon Higgs lamented. "They'll

be homeless, no food. Nothing.”

Total property losses, not including infrastructure and autos, could reach \$7 billion, the firm Karen Clark & Co. estimated.

On Thursday, medical officials moved hundreds of people left homeless by the storm out of the main hospital in Abaco to shelters in schools and other government buildings. Some were angry at being asked to leave, or at not being allowed to freely enter to visit hurt relatives, and a shouting match erupted at the main door between a small group of hurricane victims and Bahamas marines.



People walk through a neighborhood destroyed by Hurricane Dorian at Marsh Harbour in Great Abaco Island, Bahamas on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2019. (Al Diaz/Miami Herald via AP)

Abaco and Grand Bahama islands are known for their marinas, golf courses and all-inclusive resorts and are home to many fishermen, laborers and hotel workers.

At the Leonard M. Thompson airport, Rashad Reckley, a 30-year-old saxophonist, played the Bob Marley song “Three Little Birds” for people who had lost their homes.

“I want to lift up everybody’s spirits after all the tragedy that happened,” said Reckley, who said he had exhausted his repertoire after playing for hours.

“They want me to play more,” Reckley said. “But I can’t think of songs to play.”

Associated Press writers Danica Coto in San Juan, Puerto Rico; Marko Alvarez in Freeport, Bahamas; and Kelli Kennedy in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, contributed to this report.

For more of AP’s coverage of Hurricane Dorian, go to: <https://apnews.com/Hurricanes>

Tamron Hall’s faith in herself pays off with new show, life

By **NEKESA MUMBI MOODY** AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — When Tamron Hall decided to leave NBC after the network gave her prime “Today” co-hosting slot to Megyn Kelly, the journalist threw herself a party — a pity party.

That included plenty of tears and a bit of feeling sorry for herself— to the point that “my mother said to me, ‘You can always come back to your room here,’ and I’m like, ‘Mom that’s not in the plan!’”

She didn’t have a specific plan when she left in 2017. All she had was faith that something bigger had to be on the horizon.

“I leaned on my mom, and my mother has the saying, ‘God didn’t bring me this far to let you go.’ And so at some point I could not just keep regurgitating the line leap of faith — I had to believe it,” she recalled, laughing, in a recent interview. “I’ve got to believe in something, so why not believe in myself?”

That belief has paid off with amazing dividends for Hall, who not only now has a husband and a 4-month-old son Moses, but her own eponymous show that will debut across the nation on Monday.

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"She loses her job, her dream job of her life, and at that moment, she's what, 45, 46? She doesn't have a job, she doesn't have the kid she thought she was going to have, she doesn't have the husband she thought she was going to have," said Bill Geddie, "The View" creator who came out of retirement to be executive producer on "Tamron Hall" with Hall.

"Instead she rebuilds herself just through force of will," he added, "and everything comes together in 2019. So, it's kind of an amazing story, one you don't see a lot, and a lot of people relate to it."

Hall was hosting the successful third hour of the "Today" show with Al Roker when NBC decided to make room for Kelly; Hall decided to opt out of her contract instead of taking a lesser role. Kelly later imploded in the slot after making racist comments.

"Tamron Hall" will enter an already crowded talk space when it debuts in syndication, including a new entry from Kelly Clarkson, whose talk show bows the same day.

Hall, 48, is not concerned though, because what she thinks "Tamron Hall" will provide is a unique factor—herself.

"At one point I was on four networks at the same time. I was doing MSNBC, the 'Today' show, ID (Investigation Discovery network) and TLC, coupled with Bear Grylls and regularly hosting the Macy's Fourth of July. So at any given time, people know me from six different, versions of my career," she said, while enjoying a glass of wine while sitting at the Harlem restaurant Ruby's Vintage. "And we thought, it's a range of an audience. Let's bring all of those people into one location."

To that end, "Tamron Hall" might focus on a newsy topic one day, and fashion the next. Another show could focus on motherhood. Perhaps dating and relationships. Or crime, which speaks to Hall's work on ID and her personal experience from being the sister of a murder victim.

"The beauty about the show is that it's not about one lane, it's a reflection of who she is in her entirety," said co-executive producer Talia Parkinson-Jones, a veteran of the Wendy Williams show. "We know exactly what she wants, which is to inspire people."

Don't expect a show with a lot of shouting about politics. Says Geddie: "I've had enough of that, and I'd like to do something different now."

It also won't be heavy on celebrity guests.

"We both are from the middle of the country, I'm from Oklahoma, she's from Texas," Geddie said. "I think both of us are aware that most of television is New York talking to Los Angeles. We find that most of television talks past or through the middle of the country, and we hope to change that."

Though she lives in Harlem and has been a New Yorker for years, there's a universal appeal that Hall enjoys that even she didn't realize until her time off, as she traveled the country speaking at events.

"I'll never forget, we were in Houston, right after I had left and there were these couples who happened to be white, and it was the husbands (who said), 'TEAM TAMRON! TEAM TAMRON!'" she said, laughing. "That's what also I think Disney and our partners recognized too, that we were seeing this cross-section of people saying, 'When are you coming back?'"

Hall's comeback might have come sooner had it not been for the Harvey Weinstein scandal. She had entered into a partnership with the Weinstein company before the sexual misconduct scandal involving Weinstein broke and the #MeToo era gave way.

It was another setback.

"I couldn't believe that, but at the same time I felt so guilty thinking about my career, and then thinking about the allegations that the women were making. I'm sitting there going like, 'I can't be thinking about myself,'" she said. "From the first words out there, I couldn't do that. I wasn't raised that way. I just said maybe that wasn't meant (to be)."

But her TV destiny was set, and soon, Disney came calling, and her TV show was put into motion. Unbeknownst to most involved with the show, Hall was also working on another project—having a baby with her husband, music executive Steve Greener, whom she married earlier this year.

Hall went through IVF to conceive and recalls getting shots to prepare for the procedure as she was crisscrossing the country while shooting "Deadline: Crime With Tamron Hall." She laughed as she recalled

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getting a shot from her celebrity hairstylist Johnny Wright while in the back of an Uber.

It was a process Hall had been through several times in the past, unsuccessfully. Though some women might have postponed the process during such a busy time, Hall had learned through past experience that it didn't really matter.

"Both (the show and the baby) were so out of my control and that was the similarity," she said. "I can only put so much into both of those."

Now that both have come to fruition, she finds herself doing the working mother juggle and relishing the opportunity. Tears came to her eyes as she recalled having left her son for a recent trip and returning home to find him sound asleep as her mother watched over him.

"I took that as, 'Mom, 'I'm safe, I'm good, I'm going to sleep restful right here, right now, you go do it Mommy, you go get it, and that's been satisfying for me as a working mom, because there's been a lot of real guilt,'" she said.

She recalled her own mother, a single mom at 19, working multiple jobs to provide for her children.

"So now I get this daytime talk show, far more glamorous to working in a leather factory, and I get to come home to my mom sitting right there, helping me with my son," she said, through tears.

It's an emotional moment, but also a very relatable one, and what she hopes to convey with "Tamron Hall."

"That is my life. That's the show I want to do. That's the voice I want to have. And I think that it's where I'm supposed to be," she said.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 6, the 249th day of 2019. There are 116 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 6, 2006, President George W. Bush acknowledged for the first time that the CIA was running secret prisons overseas and said tough interrogation had forced terrorist leaders to reveal plots to attack the United States and its allies.

On this date:

In 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL-gawsh) at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. (McKinley died eight days later; Czolgosz was executed on Oct. 29.)

In 1909, American explorer Robert Peary sent a telegram from Indian Harbor, Labrador, announcing that he had reached the North Pole five months earlier.

In 1943, 79 people were killed when a New York-bound Pennsylvania Railroad train derailed and crashed in Philadelphia.

In 1949, Howard Unruh, a resident of Camden, N.J., shot and killed 13 of his neighbors. (Found to have paranoid schizophrenia, Unruh was confined for the rest of his life; he died in a Trenton nursing home in 2009 at age 88.)

In 1972, the Summer Olympics resumed in Munich, West Germany, a day after the deadly hostage crisis that claimed the lives of eleven Israelis and five Arab abductors.

In 1985, all 31 people aboard a Midwest Express Airlines DC-9 were killed when the Atlanta-bound jetliner crashed just after takeoff from Milwaukee's Mitchell Field.

In 1995, Baltimore Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's record by playing his two-thousand-131st consecutive game.

In 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris. In Calcutta, India, weeping masses gathered to pay homage to Mother Teresa, who had died the day before at age 87.

In 2002, meeting outside Washington, D.C. for only the second time since 1800, Congress convened in

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New York to pay homage to the victims and heroes of September 11.

In 2003, Justine Henin-Hardenne (EH'-nihn ahr-DEHN') won the all-Belgian women's singles final at the U.S. Open, beating countrywoman Kim Clijsters (KLY'-sturz), 7-5, 6-1.

In 2004, in Iraq, seven members of the First Marine Division from Camp Pendleton, California, and three U.S.-trained Iraqi soldiers were killed by a car bomb near Fallujah.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma, the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic, pounded Puerto Rico with heavy rain and powerful winds; authorities said more than 900,000 people were without power. (Hurricane Maria, which would destroy the island's power grid, arrived two weeks later.) A California parole panel recommended parole for Leslie Van Houten, who at 19 was the youngest of Charles Manson's murderous followers in 1969. (California Gov. Jerry Brown later blocked her release.)

Ten years ago: The White House announced the resignation of President Barack Obama's environmental adviser Van Jones, who'd become embroiled in a controversy over past inflammatory statements; Jones cited what he called a "vicious smear campaign" against him.

Five years ago: President Barack Obama, in an interview taped for NBC's "Meet the Press," said the surge of immigrant children entering the U.S. illegally had changed the politics surrounding the issue of immigration and led him to put off a pledge to use executive action that could have shielded millions of people from deportation.

One year ago: One after another, President Donald Trump's top lieutenants stepped forward to deny being the author of a New York Times opinion piece that purportedly came from a member of an administration "resistance" movement. The agent for actor Burt Reynolds confirmed that Reynolds, known for his roles in "Deliverance," "The Cannonball Run" and "Smokey and the Bandit," had died at the age of 82. Nike aired a controversial ad featuring Colin Kaepernick during the NFL season opener. Twitter permanently banned right-wing conspiracy theorist Alex Jones and his Infowars show for abusive behavior. A Dallas police officer fatally shot her neighbor, saying afterward that she had mistaken his apartment for her own. (Testimony in Amber Guyger's murder trial is scheduled to begin later this month.) India's Supreme Court struck down a law that made gay sex punishable by up to 10 years in prison.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 84. Country singer David Allan Coe is 80. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 76. Actress Swoosie Kurtz is 75. Comedian-actress Jane Curtin is 72. Rock musician Mick Mashbir is 71. Country singer-songwriter Buddy Miller is 67. Actor James Martin Kelly is 65. Country musician Joe Smyth (Sawyer Brown) is 62. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 61. Actor-comedian Michael Winslow is 61. Rock musician Perry Bamonte is 59. Actor Steven Eckholdt is 58. Rock musician Scott Travis (Judas Priest) is 58. Pop musician Pal Waaktaar (a-ha) is 58. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 57. Rock musician Kevin Miller is 57. ABC News correspondent Elizabeth Vargas is 57. Country singer Mark Chesnutt is 56. Actress Betsy Russell is 56. Actress Rosie Perez is 55. Rhythm and blues singer Macy Gray is 52. Country songwriter Lee Thomas Miller (Songs: "The Impossible" "You're Gonna Miss This") is 51. Singer CeCe Peniston is 50. Rhythm-and-blues singer Darryl Anthony (Az Yet) is 50. Actress Daniele Gaither is 49. Actor Dylan Bruno is 47. Actor Idris Elba is 47. Actress Justina Machado is 47. Actress Anika Noni (ah-NEE'-kuh NOH'-nee) Rose is 47. Rock singer Nina Persson (The Cardigans) is 45. Actor Justin Whalin is 45. Actress Naomie Harris is 43. Rapper Noreaga is 42. Actress Natalia Cigliuti is 41. Rapper Foxy Brown is 41. Actor Howard Charles is 36. Actress/singer Deborah Joy Winans is 36. Actress Lauren Lapkus is 34. Rock singer Max George (The Wanted) is 31.

Thought for Today: "The lesson of history is rarely learned by the actors themselves." — James A. Garfield, 20th president of the United States (1831-1881).

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